

# Sports Illustrated

MAY 29, 2007

## Olympic Scandal

Swimmer swears he didn't use flotation devices



# Nobel Scandal

Two years ago, he won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. Now, mired in a steroid scandal, can forsaken chemist **Robert Grubbs** defeat his demons, restore his tattered reputation, and save his career—and himself, too?

Story by HARRISON STEIN

Photograph by JONATHAN TSAI

ON A DARK and gloomy Friday, a forlorn Robert Grubbs gazes through the abyss that is his office window. The skies in beautiful Pasadena, California are usually sunny, but the last few weeks have been all clouds for the Nobel Prize winning chemist who stands to lose everything he worked so hard to gain.

Grubbs, of course, reached the pinnacle of the academic world almost two years ago when he won the 2005 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. Grubbs, along with Richard Schrock and Yves Chauvin were pioneers in the study of olefin metathesis, an important organic chemistry reaction. With his Nobel victory, Grubbs's life struggles were validated as he was recognized as one of the greatest minds in the world. In his victory speech, Grubbs thanked his hundreds of co-workers that helped him make his great discoveries, but there was something else that assisted Grubbs on his path that he neglected to mention.

Before a routine trip to Boston to visit Richard Schrock, Grubbs was attacked by a LAX guard dog that sniffed something suspicious. Inside Grubbs's knapsack was a vial of a creamy and clear drug that was later confirmed to be HBGH, or Human Brain Growth Hormone.

Ever since that moment, the scrutiny has become unbearable for the proud professor. Did he ingest this brain-capacity-enhancing drug before he made his great discoveries? Did he plan to slip the drug into Richard Schrock's food to shame him instead? Was this just some drug that he created in lab that just happened to have the unwanted side effects of HBGH?

The allegations have been flying ever since that fateful moment, and even students at his own school are beginning to turn on him. The sophomore members of Chem-

istry 41a, an organic chemistry taught by Grubbs, staged a protest before the last day of class. The signs were vicious and unforgiving. "Dope-bel Prize". "HBGrubbsH". "If he [Grubbs] doesn't do his own work, why do I have to?"

When asked to comment, one could see the lines forming all over Grubbs's face that looked so fresh and alive just last year.

"I'm a firm believer in the American judicial system, that you are innocent until proven guilty. Unfortunately, the media is not a court of law and clearly, I've been executed before I've even had a chance to defend myself."

Talks in Stockholm, Sweden center around whether Grubbs should be allowed to keep his Nobel Prize, amidst all of the scrutiny. Recalling a Nobel Prize is unprecedented but so is being caught with HBGH. Obviously, nothing can be done until it is proven that Grubbs ingested the steroid, but in the eyes of the public, it's only a matter of time before that day arrives.

While the Nobel Prize will probably remain in Grubbs's office for the rest of his life, his name has been sullied and the committee is thinking of ways to distance itself from the controversy. There is already a figurative asterisk next to Grubbs's name in the court of public opinion, but might a real, physical asterisk in the annals of the Nobel Prize be next?

**Despite scandals, Grubbs says he is continuing with his research and trying to maintain a positive outlook.**

Amazingly, this isn't the first time Grubbs has been mired in controversy. He once created a baseball bat injected with a polymer he developed in lab. This polymer binds to the wood and strengthens it enough

that the bat won't break for 400 or 500 swings. Unfortunately, it is suspected that he also built a corked version that enables a player to cheat repeatedly without worry of the bat breaking. However, in a unique twist, both Albert Belle and Sammy Sosa still managed to break the corked Grubbs's bat in a real-life game leading to massive suspensions. Belle and Sosa kept a tight-lip but in light of recent events, that scandal will definitely be revisited.

For now, all Grubbs can do is dispiritedly gaze out of his morose office, fantasizing of what could have been and what still can be. "This isn't over by a long-shot. I've already made my life discoveries, so I have time to rededicate myself. I will not stop until I've cleared my name and I trust that in a few years, you'll be writing a much different story." □



## Olympic athlete swimming in dangerous waters

When Joe Kirschvink won the 10,000, 17,000 and 50,000 meter swimming events at last year's Olympics, defeating the heavily favored Australian Ned Bunkley, America cheered. Recently though, the achievement has been shadowed by accusations of cheating. Just over a month ago a report appeared in a French newspaper suggesting Kirschvink did not swim the race unassisted but instead used banned "floatation devices" to help him conserve his energy. The Olympic committee has refused to

comment, but it is believed that Kirschvink is under investigation. All this has come at a time when Kirschvink, who has denied any wrong doing, was in the process of training for future Olympics, hoping to become one of the rare athletes who can be competitive in multiple Olympics at what is considered more of an athletic sport than a skill one. The allegations arose from pictures of Kirschvink taken by photographers from SI and the New York Times swimming with floatation devices. Kirschvink claims he uses the devices only for training, and that swimming with them would slow a swimmer down more than it would help them. A source close to Kirschvink, who asked to remain anonymous, agreed "I don't know if you've noticed, but those inner tubes aren't exactly streamlined."

Kirschvink himself has avoided the issue entirely, claiming he wishes to focus on training rather than a silly scandal.

Although he could lose his medals and be banned from future Olympics if the allegations turn out to hold weight, Kirschvink believes he will win gold again in the next summer games, and is thought to be one of the favorites for his events. The French paper, *Le français Voyage Tous les jours par la poste*, has had a history of reporting juicy sports scandals before the facts are known, reporting in 1996 that Lance Armstrong had been caught using steroids, when in fact Armstrong had been diagnosed with cancer, and reporting that Barry Bonds was half-man and half-machine, when in fact Bonds likely just used steroids.

Kirschvink's agent has issued a statement that when he is cleared of the charges, Kirschvink will auction off a number of signed copies of the paper with the story in it to help his charity, Olympic Gold Medal Winning Geobiologists Against the Closing of Natural Hot Springs to the Public, or OGMWGACNHSP. --Hamiltony Falk

Left: Kirschvink in last year's SI Swimsuit Edition centerfold. Right: The photograph that launched the scandal.



## A year in the life of Jean Lou Chameau President a fan of student activities

BY NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

Everybody has different experiences during their first year at Caltech, some positive and some less so. For President Chameau, this year has been intense but, according to him, quite exciting.

Having to adjust to the new institute and become acquainted with the faculty, administration, staff, and students, Chameau could waste no time and had to immediately take care of responsibilities as the new president.

"I expected it to be a pretty hectic year," said Chameau, "especially because I expected to meet lots of students, professors, and staff, and all kinds of people. Very hectic, very intense, and, at large, full of mostly positive surprises."

Chameau discovered one of such surprises through the course of his communication with students. "My wife and I have really found the interaction with the students to be more exciting and more fun than we knew from the reputation," said Chameau.

"We knew Caltech students would be smart and interesting, but they were even more interesting."

Among several ways that students surprised the President was, according to him, the professional

way in which they handled relations with the administration. The students impressed Chameau with their maturity and cooperation during the reconstruction and reopening of the South Houses as well as the planning of the big In-

*"I don't know many universities where young students can have the opportunity to sit at the same table as the President of the university and, more importantly, Stephen Hawking."*

*-President Jean Lou Chameau*

terhouse Party. At the same time, Chameau found informal interactions with student even more insightful and pleasant than those related to administrative issues.

"We see students at the Red Door Cafe, or we see them playing music at Dabney Hall or playing tennis and basketball. The interaction with students at the famous Tom Mannion's cooking class, the random [everywhere else] interactions are marvelous."

It is thus not surprising that the President and his wife, Dr. Carol Carmichael, were often seen participating in a wide variety of student activities from Frosh Camp in the fall to house dinners and events to teaching students how

to open oysters this Saturday at Mannion's.

It is through such interactions that Chameau came to realize the significance of the size difference between Caltech and Georgia Tech, where he served as a Provost and Dean prior to making the move to California. Because Caltech is small, students have more opportunities than at other schools. Referring to a dinner prepared by Mannion's cooking class that was attended by Stephen Hawking, Chameau, some members of faculty and about twenty five students,

"I don't know many universities where young students can have the opportunity to sit at the same table as the President of the university and, more importantly, Stephen Hawking," said Chameau.

Heavy involvement with student life as well as running the Institute does come with its price.

"We haven't had a free time with my wife for quite a while," said Chameau. "This weekend is the first that we don't have a string of function that we are going to." Chameau did, however, catch himself, realizing that he does have to attend Tom Mannion's cooking class finals and that he also made some commitments with other student groups.

After taking a few days to trav-

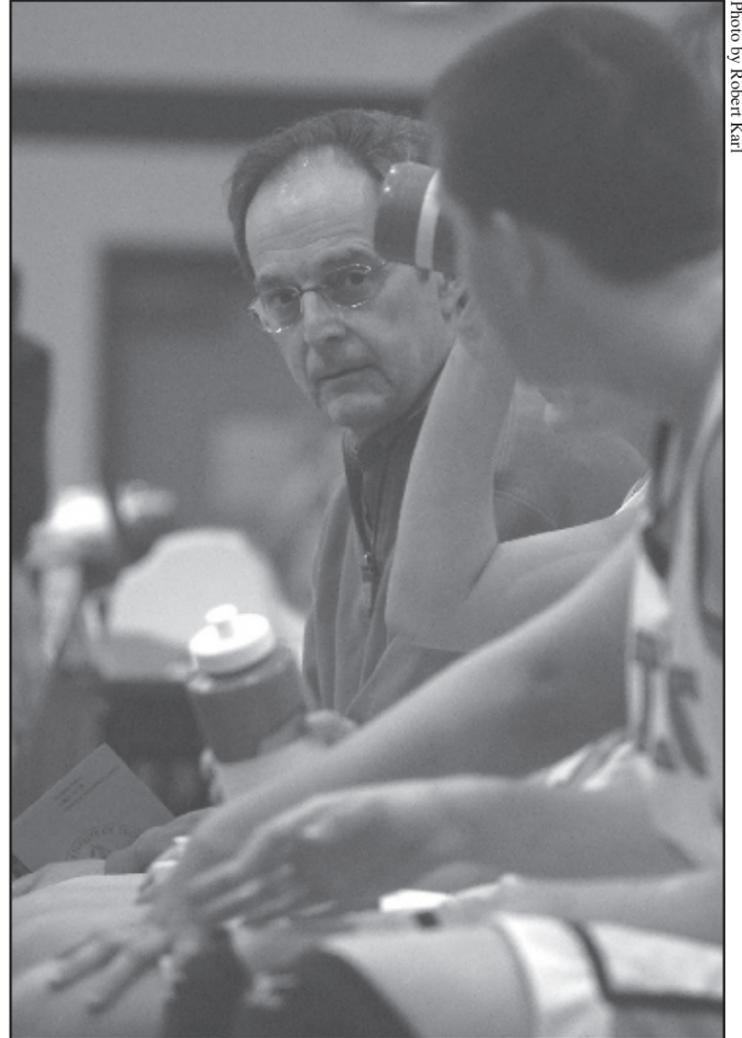


Photo by Robert Karl

President Chameau made time this year to cheer for both the men's and women's basketball teams.

el to France, President Chameau and Dr. Carmichael will return to Caltech to stay for the summer and get ready for the next academic year. As his priority, Chameau wants to make sure that students who study at Caltech have a very

special experience, emphasizing the need for them to blow off some steam after they work hard. According to Chameau, "students deserve to be young and great at the same time."

## Who are these Caltech students?

See Page 8 to find out which three siblings all got into Caltech.



## News writing to be offered

BY HAROLD MARTIN

Beginning first or second term, students will be able to take a journalism course that has been over a year in the making.

EN 89 News Writing is a nine unit course that will be instructed by a professional journalist and will count towards general humanities credit.

The idea for a journalism class came out of a committee formed last year to investigate concerns about The Tech's quality, especially after the Tech published a porn review. The committee, which addressed the publication of offensive content, concluded that, "There is no course to educate students about the nature of journalistic writing and about the responsibilities of the journalist," and went on to recommend the creation of a journalism course.

The committee also recom-

mended the creation of a staff manual and the online publication of The Tech, both of which have been recently implemented.

Last term, Marissa Cevallos, Tech editor, and Sonia Tikoo, Tech staff, submitted an MHF proposal to provide funding for the recommended course. The proposal included funding to hire an instructor, as well as to invite guest speakers to discuss journalism. The proposal was approved two weeks ago, paving the way for the creation of the new journalism class.

"I'm really excited about having a class in journalism," said Cevallos. "A lot of people come to the newspaper without ever having written an article before, so they have to learn news writing on the fly. The class would make it easier for potential writers to get feedback and improve quickly."



**Mark Eichenlaub reflects on running, one last time**

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### In This Issue

Rotation Rules don't work for frosh  
BoC secrecy shrouds shortcomings  
Runner reflects on Caltech career  
Math family powerhouse

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**The Tech gives its thumbs-up for 06-07**

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## From the Editors

# Year in Review



Moving out of the mods.

Men's and women's basketball broke losing streaks and received campus and national fame.

The *California Tech* pranked MIT's newspaper during their Campus Preview Weekend.

Next year's incoming class boasts a record 37% female profile.

President Jean Lou Chameau dramatically improved student-administration relations, and with a cool accent.

Super seniors get to graduate with their class.

Pranking.

Getting to put out three joke issues in one term.

Interhouse came back after the newly renovated South Houses reopened.

New head of CDS Peter Daily: not only is the food better, but the events are kinda fun too.

The renovated South Houses.

Baseball and men's and women's water polo failed to win an NCAA game this year.

MIT had a 69% yield for the Class of 2011, while Caltech only had 37%.

Next year's incoming class is 37% female, an all-time high.

High turnover in administration--don't you like working at Caltech?

Caltech classes are still really hard.

Vandalism.

All our humor writers are graduating.

A year and a half of construction, and the construction company was still working when we moved back in.

Mandatory board. Like we're ever going to get rid of that.

# New Rotation rules unfair to frosh

BY KEEGAN MCALLISTER

The proposed change to Rotation for next year is a troubling departure from the principles of equality that form the basis of student life at Caltech. Previously, incoming freshman were allowed to reject a house by declining to rate it. This was the only form of 'hard' control that the freshman had -- the only piece of input which could not potentially be ignored or overridden. Now this control is being removed.

But don't the numerical ratings given by the frosh mean anything? The numerical scale now equates to a rating from "good" to "bad" rather than "good" to "neutral" -- doesn't this change ensure that frosh input is considered? Only a handful of us know the answer to this question. If Rotation procedures were made public knowledge, we could be confident that frosh ratings are given appropriate weight along with the wishes of the houses. But as is, the procedure for using this information is known only by a small group of representatives, who are sworn to secrecy.

To be certain that Rotation contains no hidden potential for unfairness, we would need to open up the procedures for full scrutiny. This is simply the nature of complex systems; the word of a few representatives, even those with the best of intentions, is not sufficient. Thus, if Rotation procedures remain secret, we must assume that the potential for an unfair result does exist. We then have an obligation under the Honor Code to mitigate this possibility; this is all the more important because frosh do not in general have a choice of whether to participate in Rotation. Giving the frosh some verifiable control over the process is a crucial way to avoid unfair outcomes.

Even aside from the direct effect this change may have on how frosh are placed into houses, it will also have a large psychologi-

cal effect. Under the new system, frosh would inevitably wonder if they have any control at all, and would likely worry about being placed into their least-desired house. The unfortunate rumors from last year about the effect of rating certain houses would be replaced by even more unfortunate rumors about how to behave in order to avoid being picked by certain houses. This would prevent frosh from approaching Rotation with an open mind and a willingness to be honest, which would compromise the entire process.

The simple fact is, most people here would not be accepting of nor accepted in every single house. Yet under the new policy, any house could potentially take any frosh, for strategic reasons unrelated to either that frosh's well-being or their suitability for the house in question. By removing the only strong control that frosh have and giving it to a small committee which operates in secret, we not only jeopardize the effectiveness of the House System; we also risk taking unfair advantage of the newest members of our community, in one of the most important events of their time here.

I urge anyone who is also troubled by these proposed changes to attend the open house this Thursday, May 31 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in the Dabney courtyard, and to talk with house presidents or other IHC members about any specific concerns you may have.

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# Honor Keys and historical tidbits

*A packet of historical documents yields a treasure trove of information on Tech traditions and history: bonfires, Mudeo and pig-catching, plus Honor Keys for recognition of student efforts on the school's behalf.*

BY CRAIG MONTUORI

As this paper is coming out the day after Memorial Day, I figure it relates to a few historical tidbits I've found recently.

This past week, I was given a packet of documents dating back to the late 30s and the war years from Tom Mannion from an alumnus named John McClain, Lieutenant in the USN during World War II, as part of a project to restore an old, traditional recognition of service to the school, Honor Keys. More on the Keys later. First, let me say something about this packet of history.

In this packet, there are news-

papers from '38 through '41, including the three papers immediately preceding the Pearl Harbor attack, after which I assume Lt. McClain dropped out to serve our country. I just wonder what the paper that came out after Pearl Harbor happened looked like.

As a comparison, after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, there was nothing about it in the Tech, followed a few weeks later by a letter to the editors by a History professor criticizing Techers for letting the event "barely make a ripple at Caltech." (18 April 1968) I don't see anything at all in the '63 and '68 Techs about either Kennedy assassination.

What I do have is a paper from 12 October 1939, shortly after Hitler launched the blitzkrieg into Poland saying, "American War Participation Out; Maritime Rights Minor, Poll Indicates," showing the strict isolationism that was prevalent at the time. However, it did show strong support for entering the war in the eventually of America being attacked.

Dealing with events closer to campus, there was a mention of the 'Pajamarino,' an annual bonfire attended by Techers in their pajamas, with the frosh tradition-

ally collecting the wood for the giant bonfire. The 1939 edition of this bonfire included a parade, BBQ, and free movie. It sure would be nice to see more social events of that nature, like the awesome bonfire on the Beckman lawn last year, no?

For more on events that don't usually happen around here anymore, how about the 'Extra' edition of the Tech from 24 November 1938? Apparently there was a riot involving Tech and PJC (now PCC) students. To quote, "At about nine o'clock last night, a 'deligation' [sic] of some 400 PJC students came over to Tech. The crowd, which included almost 50 girls, milled around Ricketts House, bombarding it with rocks and milk bottles, and in turn being treated to an assorted attack of ammonia water, firecrackers, and other miscellaneous material, until the police arrive and the lawn sprinklers were turned on under them."

Apparently, this was due to a miscommunication about a proposed pre-football game rally involving a "greased pole flag rush" and a "mud fight."

And speaking of football, did you know that Jackie Robinson of Brooklyn Dodger fame used to

regularly help whoop Tech's football team as QB of PCC's team?

Here is something from 30 October 1941 involving something called a "Rodeo," or the "annual muddy clash between sophomore and freshman classes," judged by the juniors, later known as the Mudeo. It says that frosh and sophomores were excused from classes for the day's events, and interestingly enough there was an event called the mudeo, but with no details about what it was.

Also in that issue were details about 'frosh induction' into the Houses, including references to a Dabney Skating party and Throop Club's main event: "two little pigs will be turned loose, and the lucky frosh who catch them will receive a dollar apiece." Interesting times, that's for sure.

Anyway, this is a treasure trove of new information, but unfortunately, the only thing related to what I was initially looking for was a photocopy of a page from the 1921 Big T about Honor Keys.

According to this photocopy from the first year they were given out, Honor Keys "provide an appropriate recognition to those

Please see **HISTORY, Page 3**

# Caltech should commit to becoming a leader in campus sustainability

BY ASA HOPKINS

Have you been frustrated by the amount of water that Caltech uses to maintain our gorgeous grounds? Looked for a recycling bin and found none? Wondered how much electricity we use as our computers run full speed all day and night? You're not alone, and the time has come to address those questions and reduce Caltech's environmental impact.

The Institute leads the world in our laboratory research and the quality of education we provide, and yet has set a poor (but improving) example in sustainability. The Chameau presidency, with the additional leadership of Carol Carmichael, provides us as a community with leadership from the top to change the status quo.

Caltech has begun to purchase "green power" (from wind) from Pasadena Water and Power for off-campus buildings, and gets a significant fraction of our electricity from our own efficient natural gas power plant. However, there are many more changes that the Institute could implement to increase sustainability. Here are a few simple examples:

- \* Caltech catering and dining services could significantly reduce trash waste and increase recycling by making sure that recycling bins are always available, and encouraging the use of reusable dishes, glasses, and flatware.
- \* Many of our older buildings have poor insulation, and roofs that absorb the hot summer sun instead of reflecting it. Building renovations could significantly reduce our heating and cooling load, and even add solar panels on our roofs.

- \* Over the course of several years, some of our expanses of water-hungry grass could be replaced with native, drought-tolerant plants.

While Institute staff can implement many changes behind the scenes, other changes will require that all of us consider and change our own behaviors:

- \* Choose reusable dishes at Chandler, instead of cardboard pizza boxes and take-away containers.

- \* Put your computer to sleep when you're done for the day, and

even while you are in class or at lunch.

- \* Agree to indoor temperatures that are a degree or two warmer in the summer and cooler in the winter.

Significantly reducing Caltech's environmental impact will not happen over night. A new informal Institute committee tasked with coordinating this reduction is just getting off the ground. This committee will set Caltech's sustainability policy and evaluate different means of reducing our environmental impact.

If this committee has broad support from the Caltech community it will be able to implement stronger policies, faster. In order to indicate your support for this committee, and to press it to take bold steps to change the status quo, please sign the Caltech Sustainability Petition online, at <http://iorich.caltech.edu/sustainability/>.

The petition reads as follows: "Caltech is a leader in many areas of scientific research, and it should also set a leading example for campus sustainability.

We are committed to doing our part to fight global climate change and preserve our environment. We respectfully request that the California Institute of Technology take the following actions:

- \* Measure, and report online to

the public and Caltech community, the Institute's environmental impact in three critical areas: greenhouse gas emissions, water use, and waste. Annual audits in each area should include, but are not limited to, on-campus operations (including the Institute's water, electricity and natural gas use, as well as paper use and other solid waste), Caltech-related travel, and the daily commutes of all community members.

- \* Establish a Campus Sustainability Committee, with representation from undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and administration, to propose and enforce a campus-wide environmental sustainability policy, and monitor progress towards its full implementation.

- \* Require this Committee to establish quantifiable goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and water use, while increasing recycling.

- \* Commit to emit no more net greenhouse gas in subsequent years than is emitted in 2006-2007.

We commit to do our part, as members of this community, to help it reach these goals."

Please visit <http://iorich.caltech.edu/sustainability/> to sign this petition and help Caltech take the lead.

# Reviving old Caltech traditions: Honor Keys

HISTORY. FROM PAGE 2

students who have contributed most to the success of student activities."

From the few pictures I've seen, a Key is about six inches long and hung on a chain, though I've not yet seen one in person. The tradition lasted until somewhere in the mid-60s when they were sporadically issued, according to the Tech, and the plan is to bring these back to acknowledge people that are providing service to the school, outside the House system.

The ASCIT Wiki (located under ASCIT Info on the donut website) has an Honor Point listing from the 1957 little t, as well as the introduction from that year. The original plan was to get everything done to restore the Keys for the fall, but at this point the project is definitely going to roll over into the summer. What needs to be done now is figure out what jobs, positions, and other time sinks should be recognized by ASCIT as providing a service to the school.

Clearly having to talk to the administration is a necessary job and participating in sports is good for the body and mind, as well as the school as a whole, but there's the question of appropriately re-

warding service in clubs and publications. After all, we want to make it difficult to get a Key, not impossible. The proportion I'd like to shoot for is the historical average of around 10-15 students receiving Keys.

So why is this sort of thing necessary? Well, it's not technically necessary to having a good school, but it has the potential to be a small step towards a better school, like the athletic BBQs or even Interhove (December 1 next fall).

For everything our Houses do for us and all that they mean to both current students and alumni, we're still all Techers and things like this remind us of that from time to time. It shouldn't take a riot from PCC to unite us.

If you're willing to help out, send me an email, and hopefully we'll be asking for Honor Point applications to be sent to the Honor Chair and Directors at Large next spring. If you're interested in the history of the Institute, you want to get involved with this. Honor Key holders are the Who's Who of Caltech's past.

Finally, here are my thanks to any and all veterans that read this. God bless America. And to everyone, since this is the last paper of the year, have a great summer. See you in the fall.

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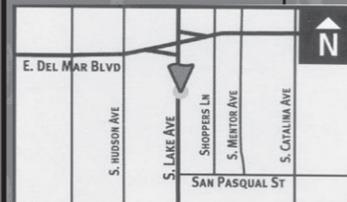
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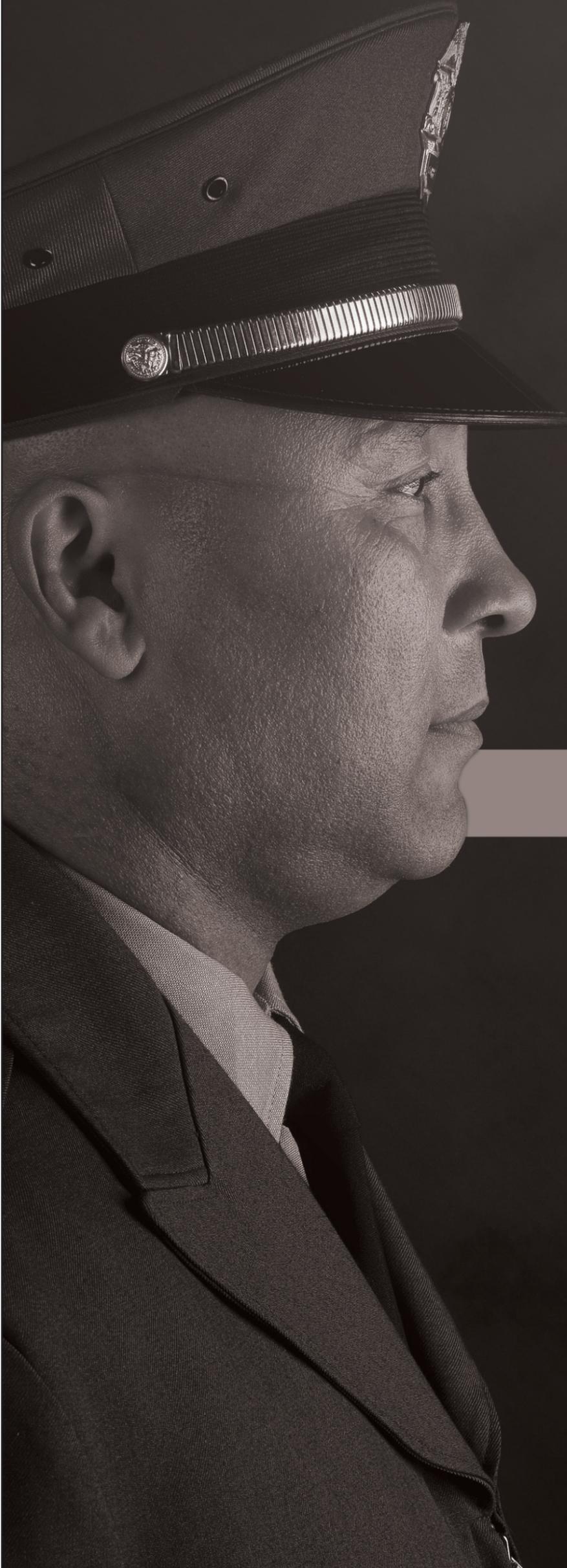


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Graduates

The Susquehanna International Group of Companies (SIG) would like to congratulate the following students on their upcoming graduation and welcome them to SIG for full-time opportunities:

### Warner Leedy

is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

### Vera te Velde

is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

### Jonathan Senn

is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Philosophy and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

### Daniel McLaury

is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

### Daniel Barroll

is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

In addition, SIG welcomes the following students to our 2007 Summer Internship Program:

### Michael Inadomi

is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader Intern.

### Craig Vieregg

is working towards a Master of Biological Science in Mathematics and Economics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader Intern.

### Akshay Singal

is working towards a Bachelor of Science in BEM, Engineering and Applied Science and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader Intern.

### Jonathan Seitel

is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Economics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader Intern.

### Sarah Stokes

is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Physics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader Intern.

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# BoC policies unjust and fundamentally flawed: a former BoC rep speaks out

Asking forbidden questions; questioning cherished institutions.

In most established communities, there are certain topics, or institutions, that do not lend themselves to serious discussion without inflaming people on all sides of the debate, where reform is rendered intractable due to deep-seated prejudices of those with vested interests.

These so-called “third rails” exist in all walks of life, ranging from the momentous (Social Security or energy policy in American politics) to the mundane

(the viability of Sanjaya on American Idol before he was given the boot). I write these words here to address a similar third rail within the

Caltech community, and the aim of my criticisms is to at least start a discussion that could lead to people asking more questions about a system that will impact many undergraduates during their years at Caltech.

My subject is the Board of Control, or BoC.

Charged with enforcing the campus Honor Code for undergraduate students, the BoC is given wide-ranging powers, including the ability to subpoena evidence and witnesses regarding possible violations of the Honor Code, determining a defendant's innocence or guilt, and, in the latter case, deciding upon the appropriate punishment, which can involve suspending students for up to two years. The BoC is composed of 11 undergraduates: the non-voting chair and secretary, and ten panelists, seven of whom sit on any given case. During my senior year, I served as one such panelist.

My central objection to the BoC is that such a small body of students has been invested with such a large amount of power, and that this power is often exercised in ways that are, at best, injudicious, and at worst, Draconian. The BoC's basic lack of transparency and inability to conform to any level of acceptable due process combine with its immense power to determine students' fates to make the institution one of the most potentially corrupt and damaging at Caltech.

Before I delve into the details, let me be perfectly clear: the majority of BoC cases tend to be open-and-shut. For example, a student will turn in a homework assignment late, after the answer key has been handed out. The grader may notice an uncanny similarity between the student's homework and the key, and so will refer the case to the BoC, where the student immediately confesses and is given the appropriate punishment.

But it is in those ambiguous cases—where sound judgment and judiciousness are paramount—that the BoC shows its true colors. And let there be no doubt about the BoC's record: its history in dealing with difficult cases, and the cavalier attitude with which it treats students and their academic futures, should make any fair-minded individual weep.

What really happens in a BoC case. Opacity, se-

crecy, intimidation.

While one would expect that any judicial body would conduct itself with as least some transparency—even if not to the level of the American court system—complete and utter opacity is the name of the game when it comes to BoC cases. And this lack of clarity is found at the inception of any case.

A possible violation of the Honor Code can be reported anonymously to the BoC Chair, who, as far as I know, decides with the Secretary whether or not the case should be tried by the entire BoC (this process is a bit murky to me,

*“The BoC's basic lack of transparency and inability to conform to any level of acceptable due process combine with its immense power to determine students' fates to make the institution one of the most potentially corrupt and damaging at Caltech.”*

even after having served on the BoC).

While many cases are reported by professors and instructors who notice striking similarities in two students' work, some defendants are deprived of the basic right to be informed of and confront their accuser. This happened to a roommate of mine from freshman year; while he was subsequently acquitted, he experienced considerable stress during the case, and, as we had been having disputes at the time, blamed me for the entire debacle, though I had nothing to do with it.

The opacity only continues as the trial ensues, and grows even more insidious. At the initial meeting with a possible defendant, rather than stating why the person is there, the Chair begins with the question: “Do you know why you are here?” Many people simply respond “no,” but some feel compelled to spill their guts, thereby revealing other information that should be nobody else's business. As the trial progresses and the BoC members investigate the case further, the defendant is not allowed to examine all of the evidence against him, nor is he made aware of any developments.

If there is another defendant (if two papers look similar and the BoC is questioning both students,

*“The BoC would rather play a game of entrapment, baiting a defendant into incriminating himself by making statements that contradict this evidence, and then using this pattern of apparent dishonesty in order to bolster the case for conviction... This situation occurred in the trial referred to above.”*

for example), the only information that one defendant would receive would be that his paper is similar to that of another student whose identity is not revealed. If there are other witnesses, they are sometimes questioned before the case by only the chair and the secretary; to those questioned during the proceedings, BoC members often ask leading questions seeking confirmation of a defendant's guilt if they have developed an opinion, and rarely ask questions that could lead to

exoneration. In either case, the defendant is unable to confront any witness.

Obviously, if the defendant were able to cross-examine the witness, he could point out flaws in their testimony and generally advance his side of the case—putting aside, for a moment, the fact that he is not even entitled to some sort of counsel (more on that later). A sharp defendant could easily show that what a witness has testified to does not necessarily imply guilt. For example, if a witness indicated that two events transpired in succession, BoC members could construe that to imply guilt; a defendant should emphatically point out that such reasoning is illogical, as it falls prey to the post hoc fallacy and is circumstantial at best.

The evidence in a case is also handled with the utmost secrecy so that a defendant has neither seen nothing nor been told of anything until he is called to testify. The situation is designed so that the defendant will have to explain anything questionable on a homework paper or an exam on the spot, and any mistakes—often made in good faith and caused by nervousness or a less-than-perfect memory—will be pounced upon as possibility of dishonesty to the board.

The defendant also cannot remove any evidence from the meeting room, and thus can only examine it during the interrogation. Moreover, if the BoC feels that the defendant has been hiding something, it will pursue other means of obtaining evidence, such as examining computer access logs (as was the case with a trial on which I sat) and other methods of a questionable ethical nature, which it will, doubtless, not show to the defendant.

Rather than forthrightly present any new evidence and ask for an explanation, the BoC would rather play a game of entrapment, baiting a defendant into incriminating himself by making statements that contradict this evidence, and then using this pattern of apparent dishonesty in order to bolster the case for conviction and to increase the sentence doled out thereafter. This situation occurred in the trial referred to above.

This perversion of justice reaches its nadir at the end of the case, when a defendant is summoned back to the BoC's meeting place where, ignorant of the totality of the evidence or testimony against him and with absolutely no explanation as to the reasoning behind the decision, he is convicted of violating the Honor Code and is given a punishment deemed appropriate—multiple-term suspensions are not uncommon, and these sentences are often issued with very little compunction from board members.

Furthermore, under the guise of protecting the privacy of the defendant and others involved in

a particular case, the BoC

shrouds its operations in darkness, regardless of whether or not the defendant would prefer a public trial. I suspect that many would prefer secrecy, but these will be the people who are guilty and confess willingly. Those who are wrongly accused would no doubt appreciate their case being aired out in the open so that they can be content in the knowledge that dispassionate, critical parties can observe both sides of the case, as opposed to the closed-door nine-on-one ambush that results from the current situation. While this assertion may bring the rejoinder that BoC cases should not be tried in the court of public opinion as cases in the justice system often are inappropriately, it is only fair that more eyes be allowed to see the body that governs all undergraduate students in action. And the ASCIT Board of Directors does not count, as its decisions do not have any meaningful impact on students.

**No help for the defendant: the problem with the “silent witness” policy.**

A further grievance is that the current system allows for only one possible associate of the defendant to be available during BoC proceedings, the so-called “silent witness.” The concept of the silent witness is baffling, as there is no especially good reason to have someone be with a defendant but to not be able to offer any help.

Of course, there are some people who tend to be prone to emotional outbursts, and it is beneficial to have a comforting presence nearby. But in most cases, the witness is only there for moral support, and is often forced to look upon in horror as a friend or classmate is subjected to an interrogation that can be brutal and full of questions that are either irrelevant or probing for conformation of the BoC's preconceived notions about

the guilt of the defendant. One such witness even told me that he and the defendant felt compelled to contact one of the deans after a questioning due to its severity—during testimony, one BoC member retorted to a statement by the defendant with a non sequitur about drunk driving, another heckled the defendant upon hearing something he perceived to be illogical. I was told that the dean instructed the BoC to not be so overbearing during the remainder of the investigation.

The problem with the silent witness is inherent in the term. Why not allow the witness the chance to speak? Members of the BoC often feel that they are the prime arbiters of morality on campus and assume an air of smug self-righteousness when they sit on a case. In their minds, they are the most reasonable

BY PARAG BHAYANI

and upstanding members of the Caltech

community. But perhaps this is not necessarily the case.

Many of the BoC's questions are relevant and designed to get the facts, but many are simply inappropriate. After all, members of the BoC are fallible—they have no more life experience than any of us—and are just as prone to asking improper questions as anyone else. One might say that it should be incumbent upon the defendant to point out such questions, but this person is already being questioned, and, guilty or not, most likely has been feeling rather uneasy and nervous in the days leading up to the case. He or she may not have the cognitive wherewithal to respond to all the questions that BoC members might throw out, and an advocate who is at least partially detached from the proceedings may be of some help in this situation.

**Presumption of guilt and witch-hunts. Circumstantial evidence and poisonous tradition.**

While I have been condemning the BoC's procedures and methods, I have not addressed the underlying philosophy of the Board, one which would explain the many apparent injustices perpetrated by this panel. In the American justice system, one is innocent until proven guilty. It is the responsibility of the prosecutor to show a defendant's culpability beyond all reasonable doubt. The BoC operates in a somewhat retrograde fashion, presuming guilt and placing the burden of proof on the accused.

BoC members will state that their goal is to get at the truth of the matter, rather than hammer out

*“I suspect that many would prefer secrecy, but these will be the people who are guilty and confess willingly. Those who are wrongly accused would no doubt appreciate their case being aired out in the open.”*

a conviction. But once they get a theory into their heads as to the likelihood of a defendant's guilt, they only seek out evidence to corroborate their viewpoint

without weighing exculpatory evidence, no matter how much more convincing. Note, that while in any justice system, it is the role of the prosecution to seek out evidence of guilt, the BoC system has two flaws: first, it acts out this prosecutorial role while also acting as judge, jury, and executioner; and second, the current system does not give rise to any sort of “defense,” so that this side is only presented by the occasional devil's advocate and counterarguments to a prosecution are not given with as much vehemence or earnestness.

TO READ THE REMAINDER of this article, including a discussion of circumstantial evidence, groupthink, and suggestions for reforms, please follow the link from the front page of [tech.caltech.edu](http://tech.caltech.edu).

# The Education of a Long Distance Runner

BY MARK EICHENLAUB

*It is always difficult to be born. You know the chick does not find it easy to break his way out of the shell. Think back and ask yourself: was the way all that difficult? Wasn't it beautiful too?*

— Hermann Hesse, *Demian*

This is an article about my last collegiate track race, the SCIAAC 5000m championships, where one month ago at Whittier College I took fourth place. It was the fifth-best time ever by a Caltech runner. When the gun shot I ran slowly, because that is the first thing I know. You cannot force the start of a race. It begins on its own accord, not when an official fires a gun. Until the race is ready for you, you must wait

I asked Marissa for this column space without knowing precisely what I would write. I didn't how to say it, because what I wanted was to write words that say nothing.

After I crossed the finish line, hands on my knees, I saw the win-

ner standing not far away, waiting calmly to shake everyone's hand. I stood back up straight and shook it, not completely comprehending that it was over, because that is the second thing I know. When the race is over, you come back to the world.

Every day for several months when I was a child, my father used to read me any story I chose from a book of fables. The one I made him read over and over was the story of a master craftsman who devoted his life to building the perfect bow. He built the bow a thousand times over, stopping only to sleep and take his meals.

Every time, his bow was better than the one before it, but as soon as he noticed a slight hitch in the way it strung or the smallest deviation in the arrows' paths, he broke the bow in two and threw it out.

He was so devoted to his task his wife and children left him, his friends abandoned him, and finally, even his loyal dog, neglected for years, slunk away. Finally, decrepit with old age, the craftsman lay on his death bed. His last bow stood on his workbench, the surest, truest bow ever made. It had only the slightest imperfection, so fine that only the master himself could feel it in the coursing grain of the wood. With his last bit of strength

he rose, broke his bow in two, and lay back down, smiling, to die.

Two days before the race, when the

sprinters were running their prelims, I took off, a way from the track, into

the mountains behind. Sweat rubbed under my arms and hot air whisked at my throat. I plodded up. That is the third thing I know. If you are going somewhere, you

do not rush.

When I reached the top of the first mountain, I looked back. Far away I could still distinguish, a few arcminutes across, hundreds of tiny forms wandering across the infield. A favorable breeze blew to me intimations of the music that was blasting from the PA system, and I turned and descended into the valley beyond.

When I reached the top of the second mountain, I came up underneath power lines that buzzed overhead, unable to contain their excitement at carrying the electric blood of a nation to all its cells, tens of thousands of squat houses laid out in neat developments, sprawling across the wide plain below me.

I thought about how the electrons, buffeted about more by their thermal energies than any manmade generator in a plant somewhere, are rushing around in a pattern so close to being random that only by examining millions at once might you know there's some net drift emerging: something we can use.

In the land beneath me, steel person-boxes zigzagged through the messy networks of roads in all directions, wandering around so close to randomly I couldn't tell if taken together they were going anywhere at all, or simply all running past each other and smashing against each other in a mad,

fruitless, heat-driven battle raging continuously across the planet. A planet getting hotter.

Yesterday I learned a little tidbit about Zen Buddhism. The ultimate goal of Zen is to find yourself, suddenly, in satori. Satori is when you suddenly see through the crass particulars of existence and straight into truth. It can come on any time — while gardening or cooking or handing out pamphlets in an airport.

But the thing about satori is that while you're there, you never know it. When you experience satori, your mind ceases to exist, yielding its sense of individual self to an instantaneous experience of enlightenment. What all the meditations and "one hand clapping" and Noble Truths and Eightfold Path are meant to do, at the very end, is to make you disappear.

Just before the race, I ran out in front of the lineup, and stared back at the men who would run with me. They jumped and jostled and joked and let jittery nerves loose. We're beautiful, I realized, us runners, standing on the start line and nervous as hell because for once, we've made ourselves believe, if only for a moment, that there's something out there that actually matters.

Maybe if we race this way, circling this track together, we'll get a hint at what it is we're search-

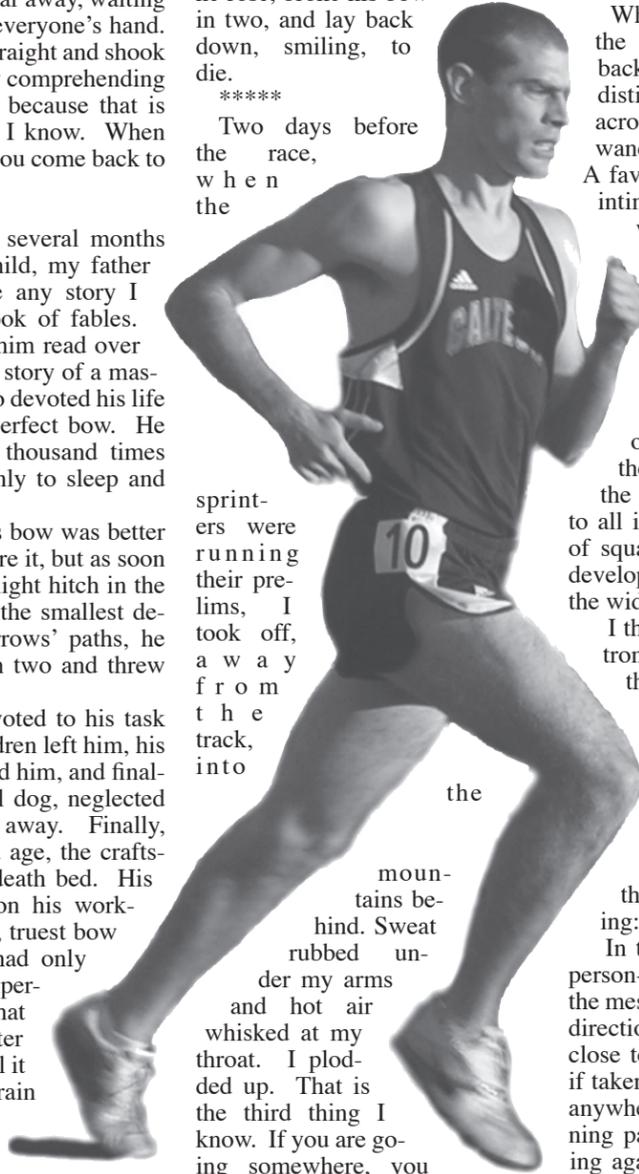


Photo by Katherine Breeden

Please see **RUNNING**, Page 8

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# The Caltech Po Loh Dynasty

*Three Wisconsin siblings have made Caltech their legacy*

BY RADHIKA MARATHE

They say it is difficult to get into Caltech. But when three members of the same family manage to get in, it's a spectacular success.

The "Loh-clan," three siblings from Madison, Wisconsin, did just that. Po-Shen Loh, Po-Ru Loh, and Po-Ling Loh have all attended Caltech as math majors.

The decision to attend Caltech was a conscious one for only the eldest brother, Po-Shen, who was a member of Blacker House.

"Po-Shen decided to come to

in a subject."

Po-Shen, who graduated with a B.S. in Math in 2004, is currently a graduate student at Princeton studying combinatorics, but will join his siblings in Southern California when his advisor moves to UCLA at the end of this year.

The Loh-clan has some admirable achievements under their belts. To cut a long list short, Po-Ru has been on the teams leading Caltech to national success on the Putnam and ACM programming contests and won prizes in the Putnam, Google Code Jam and Topcoder Open on an individual

*"They work hard, but are quite social and involved in things. The Caltech community owes them a lot."*

*-Austin Webb, friend*

Caltech after graduating from high school," said younger sister Po-Ling, now a sophomore in Avery.

"I'd actually never heard of Caltech before, and I was a little disappointed, since all my friends and teachers kept asking me where Po-Shen was going to college, and I'd have to keep repeating 'Caltech,' since they'd never heard of it before, either."

Three years later, Po-Ru followed his brother, and into Blacker House as well.

"After Po-Ru decided to come to Caltech," said Po-Ling, "I told myself that there was no way I would follow both of my brothers here. But that's exactly what ended up happening in the end."

Incidentally, all three siblings decided to pursue a math major.

"I was pretty sure from the start that I wanted to do math, mostly because I'd had fun with math contests in high school," said Po-Ru, "In retrospect, maybe that's not a particularly good reason, but it's an easy way to get started

basis. He also won the Hixon Writing Prize during his freshman year at Caltech.

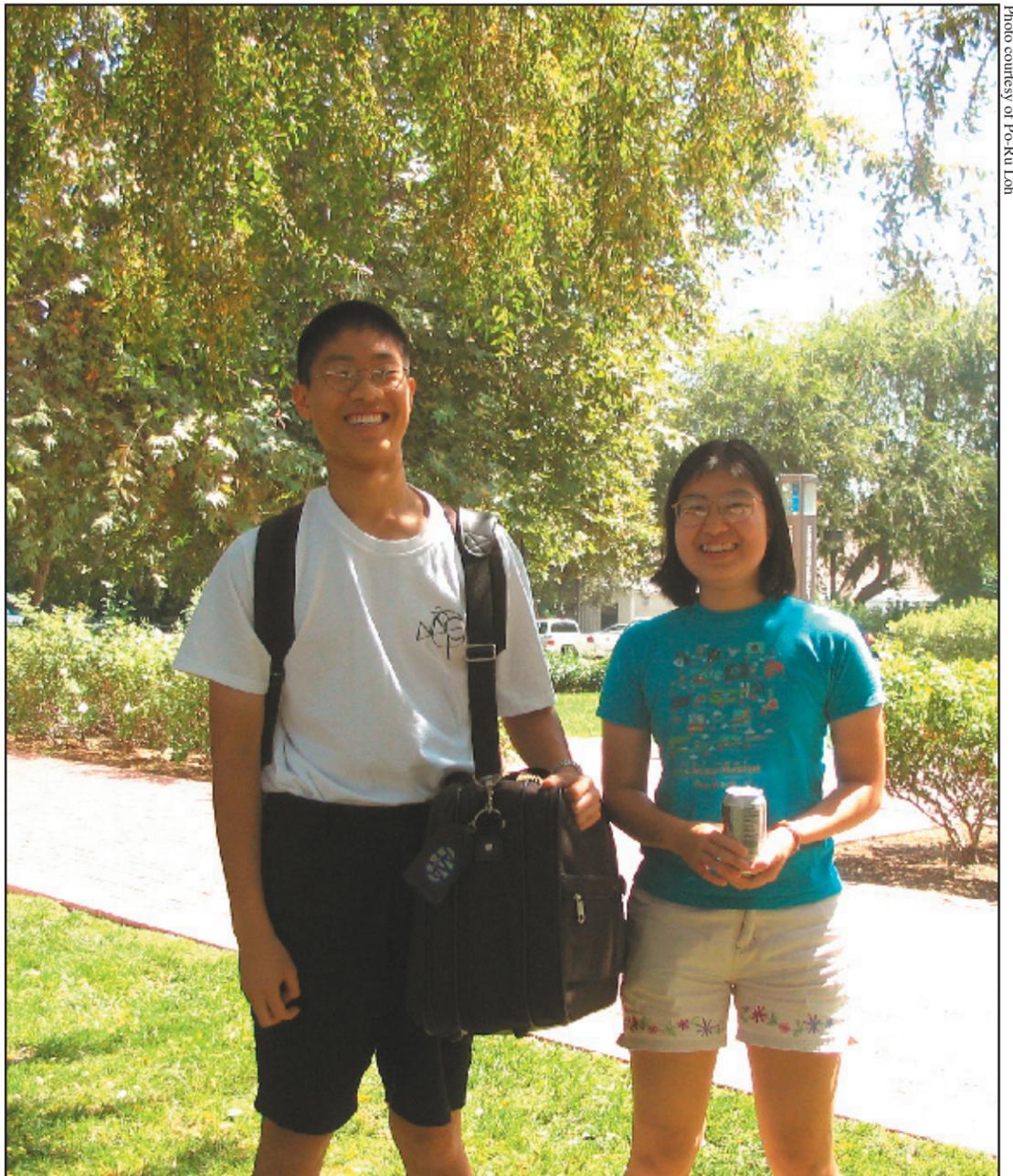
Po-Ling, a first-place winner in Intel's Science Talent Search and a member of the USA Today 2005 All-USA High School Academic Team for her math research in high school, has recently won the prestigious math department Zeigler award and is also a two-time winner of the Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking contest.

The friends of the Loh siblings extol their math skills.

"Whatever legends you've heard are most likely true – they just are that good, period," said Austin Webb, a sophomore in Avery. Webb has been Po-Ling's next-door neighbor in Avery for the past year.

"Po-Ling has had the misfortune of being designated the math go-to girl," said Webb, "so it is quite common to see her holding court outside her door, using the whiteboard to explain a problem to one or more Techers."

Po-Ling is not the only sibling



Po-Ru Loh and Po-Ling Loh, siblings and math stars, followed their older brother Po-Shen through a major math at Caltech.

to have a knack for teaching. Po-Ru was a TA for a section of Math 1b as a junior last year, a rare opportunity for an undergraduate.

"I had the good fortune to be in his section last year," said Webb. "He's pretty impressive to watch while figuring out a problem on the board and has an ability to communicate math clearly that is rivaled only by the best professors here, at least in my opinion."

There is more to the Loh-clan than just being smart mathematicians. Both Po-Ling and Po-Ru are prolific cooks.

Webb spoke excitedly about the "birthday parties and dessert nights organized by Po-Ling in the alley kitchens where she

bakes various goodies like cakes, cookies and brownies."

She is also involved in the Women's Glee Club and Caltech Christian Fellowship and is the UCC of her alley.

"I have been roommates with Po-Ling for two years now," said Chen Yee, sophomore. "She's a great friend, always being there to listen. She has great personality."

Webb said that apart from "sharing his sister's cooking inclinations, Po-Ru is pretty strong. I've seen him bench press something in excess of 170 pounds."

Po-Ru is also quite the Karaoke fiend. "When the Karaoke Revolutions craze was still going strong here in Avery, he was a regular at

the gatherings that took place in the lounges," remembered Webb. Po-Ru himself spoke about spending weekends hiking and playing Ultimate as well as some random Interhouse sports.

Po-Shen too was involved in campus life as a BOC and ITS rep while he was an undergraduate here.

The Loh-clan "remains some of the most understated, humble, and unassuming people I know," said Webb.

"They work hard, but are quite social and involved in things. The Caltech community owes them a lot."

## Memoir of a runner

RUNNING, FROM PAGE 7

ing for. That is the fourth thing I know.

It was after I had run two miles that I realized the race had begun. Just as suddenly, I forgot. Feet, legs, lungs, and arms ceased to be, and only drive, relentless forward drive, stood in their place. Competitors coursed by my side but I rushed past them, straining, unfeeling, towards something out in front.

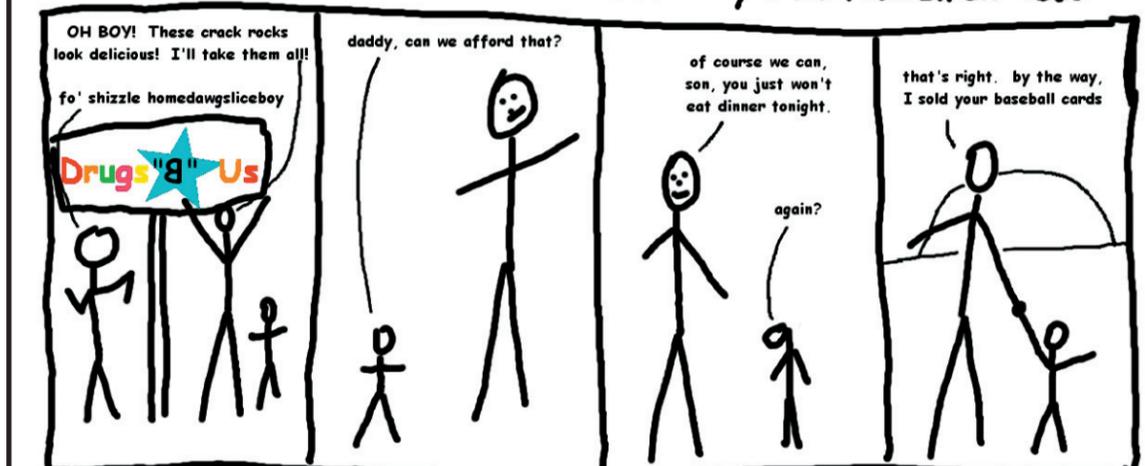
You could call it flow, or you can call it Nirvana. You can call it awakening or oblivion, freedom

or hell, bliss, epiphany, paradise, ecstasy glory harmony impermanence pain. You can call it all of these, or none. I will not try to know it. I will simply run. I will head back to the fields and the trails, the roads, the hills, and at last again to the track, where maybe I will glimpse it again, with you by my side.

When we finished the race, we stood, dazed by what we had just learned, and wandered past each other on unsure legs, in random directions.

## COMICS

WGP "Like Father Like Son" by Mark Eichenlaub



# Faces in the Crowd



## Ray Uvlight

ONTARIO, CANADA > Curling

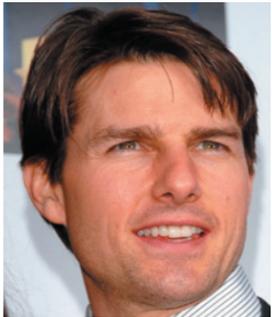
Uvlight, best known for his sweep of the World Curling Championships (WCC) experienced a brush with death this spring after breaking the ice in his new sport, pearl diving. Known to clam up if asked his secrets, he recently exclaimed, "Oyster? I hardly even know her!" After beefing up his resume as a competitive USDA meat inspector, Uvlight realized what was at steak and wrote a book chronicling his experiences: Dive, Grade, Curl, and all That.



## Patty Ass

SEATTLE, WASH. > Meteorology

Ass took the meteorology world by storm last week. When he woke up on the morning of May 18 to find tiny little cocktail umbrellas raining from the sky, he immediately yelled "Oh yeah, I totally called it! I am the champion of the World Calling it Championships (WCC)" and enjoyed nine celebratory drinks in an attempt to stay ahead of his hangover before driving to work for CBS.



## Larry Lowe

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. > Smash Brothers

Lowe, 35, last week competed from the basement of his mother's house to win the largest Smash Brothers tournament ever organized that he knew of, defeating both of his friends from the comic book store and declaring himself "World Champion of the World Championships Championship". They had pizza there, too. Lowe has declared his next step will be the World Champion Championships (WCC) to be held in Sri Lanka next November.

## Ron Intome

FALLING WALNUT > Cannibalism

Intome, 112, has suffered so many second-place finishes to Takeru Kobayashi in competitive eating contests, he finally became fed up. Although his original boast that he would respond by eating Kobayashi in under 12 minutes was not originally taken seriously by his grandchildren or mental health practitioner, Intome made good on his claim at the World Cannibalism Championships (WCC), consuming the diminutive Kobayashi in 11 minutes 51 seconds by first splitting him in half, swallowing both halves at once, and dipping the remainder in water before swallowing it whole.



## Drew Awway

TIJUANA > Pogo Stick Mountain Climbing

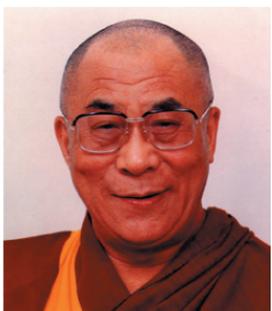
Awway descended Mount Improbable in 2 minutes 14 seconds to set a new pogo-stick world record, erasing the previous mark set by Captain Kangaroo in 1971. In the process he won the World Crevasse-jumping Championship (WCC) by becoming the first person to enter, ever.



## Fanny Layers

CINCINNATI, OHIO > Pants-crapping

Layers, a three year old, 38-pound southpaw formerly coming out of the bullpen for the Reds, made a smooth and warm transition into her new sport of diaper-filling this month with fifteen consecutive victories over all comers at the World Crapping Championships (WCC), including victory over the dreaded "Dirty Dozing" team of geriatrics. Layers has also expressed her desire to branch out into tantrum-throwing,



## Bo Ling

KHARTOUM, EGYPT > Bowling

Ling did what many mathematicians said was impossible when he won a local bowling tournament last weekend with a score of scored 23,577,901 points. Second place was 246. Ling, who programs bowling alley computers for a living, said it's all about practice and dedication to the sport. At the World Cbowling Championships (WCC) last Fall, Ling did not fair so well, but claims it was because someone sabotaged him by removing the kiddy bumpers.

## WHO'S Hot

### Kiesz

Caltech Junior Matt Kiesz won three Olympic gold medals at a recent SCIAC meet, just two days after winning 5.2 million dollars in the lottery.

### Men's Baseball

The Caltech men's team won last week for the third time this season, 13-5. They are looking forward to possible playoff contention next year.

### Eagles

The Philadelphia football team has upgraded on defense and is among the favorites to win the NFC next year, and the bird is a symbol of America.

### Harrison Stein

Correctly predicted that Sports Illustrated would ask players who their favorite Jessica was (assuming Simpson or Alba) and that a player would respond "Jessica Rabbit."

## WHO'S Not

### Keys

Sometimes you lose them, and can't get into your car even though you're already late. Also, singer Alicia Keys is not an athlete.

### Men's Baseball

The Caltech men's team won only three games this year, one against old people, one against their own alumni, and one against girls, in ultimate frisbee.

### Falcons

The Atlanta football team may lose its star quarterback to a suspension for dog fighting, and the bird was voted "not that cool" compared to Eagles.

### Shaquille O'Neil

Was quoted spelling idiot "I-D-O-U-T" in last weeks Sports Illustrated, and is very old. Plus, no one is buying Shaq Fu anymore, or Kazaam or Steel.

# They Said It

MATTHEW GLASSMAN, catcher for the Caltech baseball team, upon learning his teammate was from Scotland:

"I know they do everything opposite, so do they run the bases backwards? Or just bat left-handed?"

## Life of Hamiltony

# A Dog Racing Phenomenon

Growing up in Trenton, New Jersey, half brothers Wylliam (Billy)

McGee and Hamiltwan Willis didn't own a pet except for a stray cat that would occasionally creep into their bedroom through a broken window and catch some of the mice infesting their mother's small apartment. The boys didn't have time to take care of a dog because they spent their time helping their single mother raise their five younger siblings. And living in the city, they rarely saw

snow worth sledding on. That is why you might be surprised to see this pair in the news after next

**“Billy and Hamiltwan always loved racing, and dogs, and snow, and they were very competitive. I always thought they could make a name for themselves in an obscure pseudo-sport.”**

weeks Ketchikan Dog Sled race as the winning pair. While the national media is in awe of the Willis-McGee teams' success in a sport not

normally welcoming to African Americans, the mother of the boys isn't surprised at all. Theresa Parker (the boys each took their fathers name in a failed attempt to solicit child support money) said “Billy and Hamiltwan always loved racing, and dogs, and snow, and they were very competitive. I always thought they could make a name for

school after a drug conspiracy conviction. The pair turned down football scholarships at Temple University to travel to Alaska and work on crabbing boats. In between seasons at sea the boys took to adopting stray dogs and one day had enough to pull a sled left in the basement of their rented apartment. “It was crazy, we had

realize dogs love pulling (things) so much!” said Hamiltwan. “Do we get any money from this?” added Billy. After that the brothers were living off sponsorships winnings from dog racing in less than two years, and will be introducing their own line of ‘urban winter wear’ this fall. So next time you think that circumstances are too hard and you're

this old rusty sled and we thought we might see if the dogs could pull it. We hooked them into the harnesses, and they just took off. We didn't

not cut out for whatever niche sport you love, think of Billy and Hamiltwan and remember that people can overcome almost anything.



Hao Ye knocks 'em down at Bowling With Lloydies, a Polish Constitution Day Eve Ricketts House sporting event. “Hao shows real promise,” says coach Scott Santos.

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