Olympic Scandal
Swimmer swears he didn’t use flotation devices
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 “floation 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 flotation 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.”

N 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 drop 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 Chemistry 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” “HBGrubbFS”. 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 tarnished 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?

Amazingly, this isn’t the first time Grubbs has been mired in controversy. He once created a baseball bat injected with a polymer that could be 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 redeicate 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.”

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 flotation 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.

The 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 copy to Kirschvink to help his charity, Olympic Gold Medal Winning Geobiologists Against the Closing of Natural Hot Springs to the Public, or OGMWGACNHSP. –Hamiltony Falk
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 interesting, very intense, and, at large, full of mostly positive surprises.”

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 in 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 at other schools. Referring to a dinner prepared by Mannion’s cooking class that was attended by Stephen Hawking, Chameau, 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 even 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 travel 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 recommended the creation of a staff manual and the online publication of The Tech, both of which have recently been 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.”

In This Issue

Mark Eichenlaub reflects on running, one last time
Rotation Rules don’t work for frosh
BoC secrecy shrouds shortcomings
Runner reflects on Caltech green
Math family powerhouse

The Tech gives its thumbs-up for 06-07

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Page 7
New Opinion

New Opinion rules unfair to frosh

By Keegan McAllister

The proposed change to Ro¬
tation for next year is a troubling
departure from the principles of
equity, that form the basis of under¬
student life at Caltech. Previously,
incumbent freshmen were allowed
to reject a house by declining to rate
t it. This was the only form of
control that the frosh 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 give
the frosh more choice?
The numerical scale now equates
taking a house from “good” to “rather than “good to “neutral” –
doesn’t this change ensure that
frosh have an obligation under the
Honor Code to mitigate this possibility?
We should be confident that frosh ratings are given appropri¬
ately, even if the world of a few representatives, even those
with best of intentions, is not sufficient. Thus, if Rotation pro¬
cedures remain secret, we must assume that the potential for unfair
result does exist. We then have
an obligation under the History
dodge, to mitigate this possibility; this is all the more
important, for the frosh do not in general have a choice of whether
to participate in Rotation. Giving them some 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 that being placed
into their least-desired house. The unfortunate rumors
from last year about the effect of rating certain houses would be re¬
placed by even more unfortunate rumors about how to behave in or¬
der to avoid being picked by cer¬
tain houses. This would prevent frosh from approaching Rotation
with an open mind and a willing¬
ness to be honest, which would compromise the entire process.

The simple fact is, most peo¬
pilots and frosh would potentially take any frosh, for strategic reasons unrelated to either that frosh's well-being or their suitability for the house in question. By remov¬
ing the only direct control that frosh have and giving it to a small committee which operates in se¬
cret, we not only jeopardize the effectiveness of the House Sys¬
tem; 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 trou¬
bled by these proposed changes to attend the open house this
Thursday, May 31 from 4:00 to 6:30 PM in the Burbank courtyard,
and to talk with house presidents or other IHC members about any specific concerns you may have.

The California Tech

Calaeh-80, Pasadena, CA 91125

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All letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions are preferred at...
Reviving old Caltech traditions: Honor Keys

HISTORY: FROM PAGE 2

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

* First, 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 sometime 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 A.S.C.T. Wiki (located under A.S.C.T. Info on the dotnet 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 A.S.C.T. as providing a service to the school.

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

City has begun to purchase 2.00 Burger Continental

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It has been called "the greatest entry-level job in California" — and for good reason. Our officers earn a great salary, and a retirement package you just can’t find in private industry. We even pay you to attend our academy. There has never been a better time to join. We’re the largest law enforcement agency in California, and we’re growing. So apply today, and discover why thousands of men and women are proud to wear our uniform.

Peace Officers must be a U.S. Citizen (or applied); possess a HS Diploma/GED; be in good physical condition; and have no felony convictions. Must be at least 21 yrs old to apply; no age limit. Veterans receive hiring preference points.
Congratulations

CALTECH 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.
Asking forbidden questions: questioning cherished institutions.

In most established communities, there are certain institutions that do not lend them- selves to serious discussion with- out shutting down the debate, for the reason that the controversy is rendered intractable due to the 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 issues) to the mundane (the visibility of American Idol on American Idol before it even airs)

I write these words here to address a similar third rail in the Caltech community, and the aim of my criticisms is to at least start a discussion, or provoke people asking more questions about a system that will impact many under- graduate students during their years in Caltech.

My subject is the Board of Control, or BoC.

Charged with enforcing the campus Honor Code and handling student cases, the BoC is given wide-ranging powers, including the ability to censure members, dismiss witnesses regarding possible violations, the Honor Code, determine when cases are resolved with guilty, and, in the last decade, decide upon which cases might involve suspending students for up to two years. The BoC is composed of 11 undergraduate students: the non-voting chair and secretary, and ten panelists, seven of whom sit for two years and three for one. In my senior year, I served as one such panelist.

My central objection to the BoC is that this is a small body of students who were given a large amount of power, and that this power is often exercised in ways that are not only unconscionable, but wrong. My objection arises from an incident that occurred in the trial of a student who was facing a potential multi-term suspension. I have not addressed the un- related issues of institutional interests, the BoC’s lack of transparency and inability to conform to any level of acceptable due process combine with its immense power to determine students’ futures 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 student has not been turned in and will be handed out. The grader may notice striking similarities in two students’ homework, and some document that the student is, at best, injudicious, and at worst, brutal and full of trans- parency, intimidation.

While one would expect that any judicial body would conduct itself in a manner befitting the accusa- tion—even if not to the level of the American court system—complete lack of transparency is the name of the game when it comes to BoC cases. The infamous “third rail” of this is the case with no one to be held accountable for the inaction of any case.

A possible violation of the Honor Code can involve suspending a student (including a witness) who, according to the BoC’s chair, has been involved in a situation that one of the most potentially cor- rupt and damaging at Caltech.

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’ futures to make the institution one of the most potentially corrupt and damaging at Caltech.

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BY PARAG BHAYANI

I would like to start by making an important statement that would set the context for what follows. Simply put, I would like to make it clear that my criticisms are with the BoC’s history in dealing with difficult cases, and the cavalier attitude with which it treats students has been invested with such vested interests.

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Many of the BoC’s questions are reasonable in nature, and they reflect the facts, but many are simply in- appropriate. After all, members of the BoC are not necessarily students, so they do not necessarily have the same life experience as any— and are just as prone to asking improper questions. One might say that it should be incumbent upon the defendant to point out such questions. This person is already being questioned, and, guilty or not, most likely has been feeling rather uneasy and ner- vous 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 ad- vocate who is at least partially de- tached from the proceedings might 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 un- derlying philosophy of the system, or what would explain the many apparent injustices perpetrated by the system. The current system, one is innocent until proven guilty, and in the case of the prosecutor to show a defen- dant’s culpability beyond all rea- sonable doubt, is a policy that has been seen in a 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 to put someone in a conviction. But in most cases, the witness is free to ask questions that could lead to the conviction of the defendant, or as the prosecution to seek out evidence that would be the people who are guilty and confess will...
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? Was it only difficult? Wasn’t it beautiful too?

– Hermann Hesse, Demian

This is an article about my last collegiate track race, the SCIAC 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 things, and I know. If you are going to run you must wait a bit until the race is ready for you, you must wait too.

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.

The last bow stood on his work bench, while he rubbed its unstrung length. He was so devoted to his task that his wife and children left him, his friends abandoned him, and finally, even his loyal dog, neglected for years, slunk away. Finally, despite the withering criticism from the craftsman’s wife, who threw any plans for marriage to the wind, the craftsman lay on his death bed. His last bow stood on his workshop bench, the last, truest bow ever made. It had only the slightest imperfection, so fine that only the master himself could feel it, the slight grain in the curving 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 mounds behind sweat rubbered under my arms and hot air whisked at my throat, I plotted. Wasn’t it beautiful? Wasn’t it? Wasn’t the third thing I know? You cannot force things, and I know. If you are going to run you must wait a bit until the race is ready for you, you must wait too.

After I crossed the finish line, hands on my knees, I saw the winning. I knew it. I knew it. When you experience 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.

Yesterday I learned a little tidbit about Zen Buddhism. The ultimate goal of Zen is to find yourself, suddenly, in satori. Sa-tori is when you suddenly see through the cross particulars of existence and you see a direct 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 I reached the top of the second mountain, I came upon 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 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, 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.

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 across the valley. I turned and descended into the valley.

When I reached the top of the second mountain, I looked back at the10654-106935 man lay on his death bed. His last bow stood on his work bench, the last, truest bow ever made. It had only the slightest imperfection, so fine that only the master himself could feel it, the slight grain in the curving grain of the wood. With his last bit of strength he rose, broke his bow in two and lay back down, smiling, to die. 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 drift emerging: something we can use.

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When I reached the top of the second mountain, I looked back at the

Photo by Katherine Brooks

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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 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 had heard of it before,” said Po-Ling.

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

“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 done well in 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 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 story 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 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 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-Ru 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 Revolution crosses 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 Intramural 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.”

Po-Ru Loh and Po-Ling Loh, siblings and math stars, followed their older brother Po-Shen through a major math at Caltech.
Prominent among those who programs bowling alley computers for a living, said it's all about practice and dedication to the sport. At the World Crowling Championships (WCC) last Fall, Ling did not fair so well, but claims it was because someone sabotaged him by removing the kiddy bumpers.

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.”

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 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 Crowling Championships (WCC) last Fall, Ling did not fair so well, but claims it was because someone sabotaged him by removing the kiddy bumpers.

Ron Intome
FALLING WALNUT > Cannibalism
Intome, 112, has suffered so many second-place finishes to Takern Kobayashi in competitive eating contests, he finally became fed up. Although his original boast that he would 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.

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.

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 Crowping Championships (WCC), including victory over the dreaded “Dirty Dozing” team of geriatrics. Layers has also expressed her desire to branch out into tantrum-throwing.

Drew Away
TIJUANA > Pogo Stick Mountain Climbing
Away descended Mount Improbable in 2 minutes 14 seconds to set a new pogo-stick world record, erasing the previous mark set by Captain Kangaro in 1971. In the process he won the World Crevasse-jumping Championship (WCC) by becoming the first person to enter, ever.

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 beeling 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.

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?”
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 months 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 themselves in an obscure pseudo-sport.”

“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.”

Although a year apart in age, the boys were in the same grade after Billy missed a year of elementary 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 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 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 not cut out for whatever niche sport you love, think of Billy and Hamiltwan and remember that people can overcome almost anything.