Students banned from Ricketts House
Charges of harassment, pornography

By Sarah Marzen
NEWS EDITOR

On Thursday April 16, Dean Hall asked two Ricketts students, David Koëntzer and Aryan Safaie, to move out of Ricketts House by the end of next weekend. Both are also being asked to go through sexual harassment training.

This ruling effectively deems the two students to be persona non grata (PNG) in Ricketts House. PNGs are given either as punishments to students who violate Institute policies or by a House vote to an individual that makes House members feel uncomfortable. This restriction can be revisited in next fall term, according to Dean Hall.

The ruling is based on emails sent to Ricketts House’s email list; the emails resulted in at least one anonymous complaint to the Deans.

According to Dean Hall’s ruling, both Koëntzer and Safaie’s emails violated Caltech’s Unlawful Harassment Policy by making “demeaning comments about women” and violated the Caltech Policy on the Appropriate Use of Electronic Resources by displaying “sexually suggestive material”.

Dean Hall’s ruling was based on recommendations made by two other administrators, and the rulings were made after all three administrators spoke to both students individually.

“Generally speaking... when the Deans, CRC or whatever, are considering the severity of actions to be taken in response to some incident, the things considered include context, the violation itself, and the attitude of the student during the investigation,” said Dean Hall in an email.

According to Koëntzer, Dean Hall objected to the context of the email as well as to the content. Koëntzer and Safaie said they were unsure of what prompted the RAs’ email.

“The email was completely vague and seemingly nitpicky as possible” for legal reasons. However, Safaie doesn’t believe that the Deans ruled correctly on Koëntzer’s case.

Koëntzer plans to appeal the Deans’ decision. “The emails were intended as a joke,” said Koëntzer. “If I had known that they would have been blown out of proportion and interpreted as an attack, I would not have sent them.”

“The punishment doesn’t fit the crime,” said Koëntzer.

Undergraduates have responded strongly to the PNGs, and most of the response is in support of the Deans’ decision. Two nights after the PNG’s were announced, a group of students to be persona non grata in Ricketts house held a candlelight vigil in the coffeehouse with flowers, candles, a picture of

Grades for non-core freshman classes proposed

By Chris Kennelly and Noel Nikolaus
EDITORS-REVIEW

The Core Curriculum Steering Committee (CCSC) is considering changing the long standing freshman grading policy. Under the new policy, students would no longer be able to take some classes Pass-Fail during freshman year.

Core classes, core-replacement classes, humanities and social sciences taken during the first two terms would still be on Pass-Fail, but Professor Brad Filipponi, the chair of the CCSC, said that other classes would have to be taken on grades.

So while freshman placing out of C1a and Chab could still take the first two terms of C14 pass-fail, freshmen who choose to enroll in courses such as C151 would have to take the class on grades.

One of the reasons for this particular change was concern by CCSC members that the current policy encourages students to take certain classes out of the expected sequence and overwhelm themselves. In addition, there is concern that taking such classes draws the focus away from Core. Records from the Registrar support the notion that a significant number of freshmen traditionally take courses such as C151 and C152 while on-pass-fail.

Over this last week, Swati Bhanderi, the student representative on the committee, held meetings at the various Houses to discuss the proposal. This feedback supplemented the results from an earlier ARC survey, in which people didn’t make comments, according to Bhanderi.

The House discussions revealed “a lot of holes” in the proposal. Notably, students thought that changes might affect a lot of things that the committee, looking at the academic side of things, did not see.” Specifically, the policy might only exacerbate the problem, that “students would spend more time with classes on grades” and that as a result it only further “devolves core.” Other concerns include a loss of a proper context to teach the honor code, a loss of pass-fail as a safety net, and a loss of the opportunity to try things.

Still, while there were some outspoken criticism of the proposal, Bhanderi said that “plenty of people took a positive view as well.” In addition there were those that felt it was unfair that students could take classes in their option on pass-fail, and that introducing grades earlier was a good way to for students to learn study habits.

The BMW Hydrogen 7 sits on the beckman lawn after a demonstration ride.

Newspaper Page 2
Dance show
By Zenan Chang
STAFF WRITER

Superficially, the words “Clean Energy” that are emblazoned in large sky-blue letters on the sides of the two cars in the construction zone parking lot look like a simple advertisement. The newest in Caltech’s Chauffeur Services fleet could easily be mistaken as just another rich guy’s silver-blue BMW 7 Series luxury sedan, runs on hydrogen combustion and boasts the latest in eco-friendly luxury. The eco-friendly luxury vehicle, modeled after their high-powered luxury vehicle, has found its way to Caltech.

One of twenty such cars in the United States, the BMW Hydrogen 7 was loaned to Caltech by BMW for six months. Other cars have been loaned through public figures in politics and business, and eco-friendly celebrities such as Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, and Leonardo DiCaprio.

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**On Opinion**

The Tech story became an article, it was crucial to consider the implications of publishing the photos in question. Those who urged publication of the photos understood that they were repugnant. They described the photos as "benign." Others told me it was not right to print the photos in whole or in part. For them, it wasn't a question of whether or not the photos are so repugnant that our obligation to be abridged. The reason for this is probably the result of a generational gap. Kids in my generation grew up in a world where real racism and sexism were much more prevalent. When I hear someone seriously say something that is truly racist or sexist, I cringe and back away. But such events are rare enough that real racism and sexism are unequivocally unacceptable. When we hear someone seriously say something that is truly racist or sexist, we cringe and back away. But suppose that someone is circulating戌d out of Ricketts will not be prevented from making offensive or intimidating environment" as a way to prevent sexual harassment and the punishment is disproportionat.
ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes
April 17, 2009
This is an abridged version of the minutes. Please look to the donut website or the ASCIT bulletin board for complete minutes.

Officers Present: Anthony Chong, Andrey Poletayev, Pallavi Gunalan, Michael Maseala, Murat Mazrooei, Nadia Iqbal, Laura Conwill
Officer Absent: None
Guests: Sarah Marzen

President’s Report:
Harvey Mudd Party: Eric Madson is meeting with Chris Hallacy regarding the
MHF proposal for the Harvey Mudd Party. The party will be from 9 PM to 1
AM. Buses will be planned accordingly.

Officer Reports:
V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair): The ARC has reorganized the structure
of their meetings, and they are going to meet in smaller groups to deal with indi-
vidual issues. They also decided to have discussions between ARC reps and
their houses when any issues arise. Pass/fail discussions have been held in ev-
every house; the main opinion is that putting courses on grades may not solve the
problem of freshmen taking upper-level classes during their first two terms.

V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair): Alcohol was banned in Page on Fri-
day; residents are being sure to follow the dean’s requests. The IHC recently
appointed the stewardship chair, interhouse admin, and food chair. They will be
doing the rest of the appointments soon. The IHC is communicating with
the administration regarding finding a new MOSH.

Operations Director: The club funding meeting is tomorrow at 9 in the MCR in
SFL. Mike will deal with the yearbook and shuttles after club funding is over.
Mike is meeting about the student center with Pallavi, Tim Black, and Will
Steinhardt tonight.

Social Director: Nadia tried reserving Dabney Gardens for ASCIT Formal and
it was completely booked for May and June. Pallavi suggests Nadia talk to
Dean Hall about an alternate location, possibly in Avery.

Other:
Anthony has received complaints about the number of ug-list emails that have
been sent out over the past couple of months. Everyone will work to consoli-
date their mailings and spam the undergraduate population less often.

Submitted by Laura Conwill

Caltech Personal Account
Statements will be available on line
only beginning in July.
If others should view and/or pay
your bill, please go online to access.
caltech, then select CASHNet and
set up a user name and password for
them.

All previous payment methods
including checks will still be accepted.

Thank you in advance for
supporting our effort to economize
and go green!

The Bursar’s Office

Student Awards from the Dean’s Office
2008-2009

The Dean and Associate Dean of Students will host lunch at the Athenaeum on
April 22nd to honor and recognize this year’s winners of the leadership awards.

The Hallett Smith Committee of the Caltech English Faculty is pleased
to announce the winner in the 2009 contest for the finest essay devoted to
Shakespeare. The prize is awarded to Hillary Walker.

The California Tech is publishing this notice as a public service to the
Dean’s Office.
Hannah Montana: Cheesy, but not worthless

by Vibha Laljani

D id you just glance over the title? And now you’re probably thinking “Hannah Montana – this is silly! This is for tweens. A college newspaper has no place for this review!” When I walked into the AMC Century 14 theatres with my friend Caryn, free passes, a large popcorn and a soda, I realized that we were two of the very few adults who were not parents chaperoning their kids. At this point, I was re-thinking my decision to watch the movie for this review. Of course I stayed because anything seemed more appealing than that problem set that I was avoiding.

However, as the movie played, I was quite surprised to see how much a teen singing star can have in common with a Techer! I mean how many teens have you gotten so caught up in homework, study, and social life? “… get the best of both worlds”, or in our case all three: study, sleep, social life.

“…get the best of both worlds”, or in our case all three: study, sleep, social life.

Warning: Depending on your sense of humor, you might have to try laughing at the movie rather than with it at some points.

Both of us are very excited about the opportunity to represent our class as Senior Class Presidents. Joules has been the Avery Chancellor in the past and has lots of experience leading others. Before that, she was the Avery House social director. Dano has been the Dabney Vice President for two years, so both of us have lots of experience organizing events. Since he gets to be a senior for two years in a row, Dano’s also on the senior committee this year, so he has experience with what is required of the Senior Class Presidents behind the scenes. If we’re elected, we promise to pick an awesome speaker for graduation, organize ditch day effectively, and put together a memorable senior gift. We promise not to pick the graduation speaker based on what we want, but rather on what the class as a whole wants.

A lot of us can’t wait to get out of here, but at the same time we want our senior year to be fun. Commencement is something we’ve been counting down to since frosh year. The commencement speaker can either make the event more memorable or turn it into a painful hour or two of listening to some old guy speak in monotone. We want an exciting graduation just as much as the rest of you so we will try our hardest to find a speaker that will both entertain and motivate us. Along with commencement, Ditch Day is a huge part of being a senior. We want our Ditch Day to be an unforgettable one for both the underclassmen and ourselves, promising that it will run smoothly.

Once we leave this school, we want to leave something that will benefit the future classes. We will be sure to listen to all your ideas to pick a really great senior gift. Finally, we want our senior trip to leave us with lasting memories and some good stories to tell. Between the two of us, we’ve had a lot of experience organizing social events on and off campus and interacting with facility and the administration. We are both involved in various extracurriculars that give us a chance to hang out with people from all the houses. We want to have a really fun senior year and would like to make that happen for you too.

Bettina Chen
Ankita Mishra

Joules Gould & Daniel Obenshain

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Daniel Obenshain

Senior Class Co-President Candidate Statements

Bettina Chen & Ankita Mishra

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20 Questions with Professor Frautschi

...as interviewed by Helen Kondos

Professor Steven C. Frautschi graduated from Harvard College in 1954 and received his Ph.D from Stanford University in 1958. He has been teaching physics at Caltech since 1962. Now a Professor Emeritus, he was also the Master of Student Houses from 1997 to 2002.

1. Why Caltech?
After attending college on the East coast, I decided to try the West coast for graduate school. There were three possible schools in Physics: Caltech, Stanford, or Berkeley. At that time Caltech was a men's school, and I'd already spent 4 years at one of those, so I didn't even apply to Caltech. I went to Stanford.

Eight years later, when Caltech offered me an Assistant Professorship, I had a different perspective: Murray Gell-Mann and Richard Feynman were the most awesome pair of theorists in the world, and the other pros and students at Caltech were second to none. I accepted without hesitation, and I've never regretted that.

2. You are a Professor of Theoretical Physics. What does a theoretical physicist do?
Of course a theoretical physicist calculates. Another activity, when the situation is too complicated to make a full calculation, is to make models. It takes a lot of insight to include suitable ingredients to capture the essence of the situation, without getting lost in detail. The most celebrated activity is to create a completely new theory to explain data [Newton, Schrodinger, Heisenberg] or to overcome an apparent paradox or inconsistency by reinterpreting or extending existing concepts in a new way [Einstein, Maxwell]. A theorist is very fortunate if he gets to do even a pale reflection of that once in a lifetime.

3. Tell us about your research. What are you working on?
My most influential work was done, thinking concepts in a new way [Einstein, Heisenberg] or to overcome an apparent paradox or inconsistency by reinterpreting or extending existing concepts in a new way.

4. Do you mean that your most famous contribution was to draw a straight line between two points?
Indeed, in a comic book oversimplification, you might say that I won tenure by drawing a straight line between two points, and that David Politzer won the Nobel by calculating a sign right. Of course you have to find the right space to draw the straight line in, and explain its significance, and you have to find the right quantity to calculate the sign of, and explain its significance.

5. What first made you interested in Physics?
When I was growing up, my father used to take us to church, and then we would walk home. On one of these walks, when I was about twelve, he then told me that physicists had been able to express the essence of everything that happens in the natural world in just a few basic equations. I thought that was remarkable, and I still do. My dad was a scientist, he just managed the family furniture store, but he tried to follow modern ideas.

6. What is your favorite era of music?
Music is too complicated to make a full calculation. I like a broad range of classical music. We've been delighted that our daughters took that a step further and became concert violonists.

7. If you could have a superpower, what would you want it to be?
I know, my wife and I are going to Wagner's Ring Cycle at the L.A. Opera. There Wotan, king of the gods, is the superpower. But he faces lots of constraints and other power centers he has to negotiate with – giants, dwarfs, his wife, and so forth. Eventually everything slips out of his control and falls apart.

14. What is your favorite piece of literature? Are you a fiction or non-fiction reader mostly?
No unique favorite. I read a lot of novels when I was younger, but now I prefer non-fiction such as cultural history.

15. What do you think is the most viable renewable energy option?
Nate Lewis is right -- solar.

16. If you could have a superpower, what would you want it to be?
You and my readers – where did the special numbers in the Bible come from? Seven on the seventh day he rested, seven fat years and seven lean years, seven deadly plagues... I may have been special because with the naked eye one sees seven objects making regular motions in the sky (sun, moon, and planets). That's certainly why we have seven days in the week.

17. What is your favorite dish at the Athenaean?
I order something different every day. The food is good, but I go mainly for the superb service.

18. What is the most important quality in a library?
I like to browse.

19. What is your favorite kind of ethnic food? Favorite dish?
Since my wife is Japanese, we eat a lot of Asian food and we use chopsticks more than half the time.

20. What are your thoughts on the number 42?
None at all. But I have a question for you and your readers – where did the special numbers in the Bible come from? Seven on the seventh day he rested, seven fat years and seven lean years, seven deadly plagues... I may have been special because with the naked eye one sees seven objects making regular motions in the sky (sun, moon, and planets). That's certainly why we have seven days in the week.

But why 40 (forty days and forty nights, forty years in the wilderness...)? And why right in the Far East (Eight Fold Way of Buddhism, Beijing Olympics starting at 8:08 on August 8, 2008, wedding banquet hall of 888 square meters at the new Hong Kong airport...).

21. Converse high tops...tell us your thoughts.
I've been wearing Converse high tops for decades. For a while they were hopelessly out of fashion. Then one day I was riding the subway in Tokyo, where people are much more clothes-conscious than I, and along came two sporty young fellows in high tops. My shoes were back in style!

After they get too dingy to bring to school, I wear them on short morning hikes in the Alpaca foothills until they get too formal for sport.
Bans from Ricketts provoke strong undergrad response

PNG, FROM PAGE 1

“Even if the ‘deans’ response to the issue was at all appropriate,” wrote Cohen, “Koenitzer’s response to the students is disheartening and heartwarming,” said Safie. “It is proof that Caltech undergraduates do care about the community and the office for the LGBTQ community and the office for the LGBTQ has not been improved by this decision,” said Koenitzer. “My friends and I are uncomfortable being ourselves under the threat of sexism.”

Changes to Core in the works

CORE, FROM PAGE 1

Professors of some of the classes concerned agree to some extent with both sides. Professor Glenn Lipa, a member of the EE51, said that “of the about 20 freshmen in the class there might be 1 or 2 that seriously abuse the P/F,” and he has some concerns that the passing threshold is too high. Professor Chris Umans, instructor for CS 21, said that although he has noticed the abuse, “I have felt somewhat uncomfortable about the potential for abuse. As an alternative, this past term he changing the passing threshold to a pass/fail, an arrangement he said he is happier with.”

Women’s Center combined with Cultural Diversity

BY NATALYA KONSTONDIA STAFF WRITER

In wake of recent budget cuts, the Women’s Center (WC) has not been able to avoid restructuring. Prior to the change, the WC was a separate entity. Now, the Center no longer exists on its own, and is incorporated into the new Center for Cultural Diversity (CCD). CCD, formally supported by the Office of Student Inclusion, will now carry out most of its programs put in place by the Women’s Center, with a few exceptions.

However, staffing will change. The Women’s Center was directed by Felicia Hunt, while the new CCD will be directed by Eva Graham, with Portia Harris, who was heavily involved in the work done by the Women’s Center, and Luz Rivera, currently on staff.

The Graduate Women’s Discussion Group, and First Year Programming and Weekly Lunches, meant to encourage an open and confidential discussion to facilitate exploration of academic, professional, and personal aspects of students’ lives, will now have less funding, which may be reflected in the decreased number of related sponsored events as well as fewer provided lunches.

Support for Reading Women, a monthly reading group, is currently undergoing change, as is programming related to self-defense issues and workshops. Support for students as well as the administration of the room will remain unchanged.

One of the programs set up by the WC, Women in Science, will remain unchanged throughout the transition. The program, which recognises graduate student post-doctoral scholars, matches up women for one-on-one mentoring and includes resources such as monthly mentoring opportunities, including presentations and seminars, books, coffee stipends, and workshops.

Steve Chu to speak at Caltech’s commencement

BY TINA DING STAFF WRITER

Steve Chu, Obama’s Secretary of Energy and Nobel Laureate in Physics, will be Caltech’s commencement speaker at the ceremony on June 12 for the graduating class of 2009.

"When he was nominated by President Obama, we felt he would be perfect match for commencement speaker,” said Robert O’Rourke, Vice President of Public Relations.

Unlike many universities such as Harvard and MIT, Caltech does not pay honorarium, a monetary payment, to its commencement speakers. Universities sometimes award their speaker an honorary degree, such as the degree Bill Gates received from Harvard at the commencement in 2007, 32 years after he dropped out of high school to start Microsoft. With Caltech granting neither honorarium nor honorary degree, "it has been difficult obtaining famous renowned individuals in the past," said current senior class co-President Calyani Ganeshan.

According to O’Rourke, President Chameau made the contact to Secretary Chu.

Chu has a history of advocating for an "earth-friendly" planet. Before he was inaugurated into office, he was the director of the Berkeley Lawrence National Laboratory, where he focused the lab towards developing renewable in biofuels and wind energy. He gave speeches on "environmental interests in energy, he shared the Physics Nobel Prize in 1997 for his work in developing methods of using laser light to cool gases to microKelvin temperatures and capture atoms in "atom traps," according to Chu’s Nobel Prize autobiography, he was a mediocris high school student and “the academic black sheep in [his] family of accomplished scholars,” Caltech’s Richard Feyman’s textbook Feyman for Physics professors, although Chu’s Nobel Prize was awarded for original work in theoretical physics.

The lectures were mesmerizing and operational." Chiu wrote, “Feynman made the physics seem so beautiful.”

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Steve Chu to speak at Caltech’s commencement
Tennis team wins a match in SCIACs, ranking them seven out of eight

By Sarah Marzen
With reporting by Wesley Yu

Tennis team wins a match in SCIACs, ranking them seven out of eight

In their final SCIAC match, the Caltech men’s tennis team scored a close win against La Verne, 5-4, clinching seventh place in the SCIAC Tournament.

“I’m really happy for the seniors to end their athletic career at Caltech on a win,” said tennis team Coach Mandy Gamble.

The game was clinched when senior Rico Chiu, three-time MVP for Caltech, won his last match 4-6, 5-2, 6-2.

“This was one of my most memorable matches in my four years,” said Chiu.

Senior Ilia Shadrin, tennis team co-captain, said, “In the deciding 3-set epic match, what impressed me most about Rico was his calmness after every point, even when he hit amazing passing shots like I’d never seen before. And that’s why he’s been our MVP for the last few years.”

Chiu’s match started out with Chiu losing the game, 4-6. “I was tentative and holding back on hitting my shots because I was afraid of hitting them out,” said Chiu. “My opponent took full advantage of my meekness to take the first set with not too much resistance... At this point, I resolved to not let him control the point.”

The match started with the Caltech tennis team losing two out of three doubles matches, 8-2, 5-8, 1-8. The lone doubles win came from freshman Sam Barnett and Rico Chiu.

The loss in doubles meant that Caltech would have to win four out of six singles matches in order to win the overall match. Tennis team members Rico Chiu, Sam Barnett, Anuj Arora, and Wesley Yu all won their singles matches, clinching an overall win for Caltech’s tennis team.

Upcoming Games

April 24

Tennis at Oxnard, Ojai Tournament
9:00 AM

Women’s Water Polo vs. Cal Lutheran
SCIAC Tournament at CMS

April 25

Tennis at Oxnard, Ojai Tournament
9:00 AM

Women’s Water Polo vs. Cal Lutheran
SCIAC Tournament at CMS

April 26

Baseball at La Sierra
12:00 PM and 3:00 PM

Tennis at Oxnard, Ojai Tournament
9:00 AM

Women’s Water Polo vs. Cal Lutheran
SCIAC Tournament at CMS
Dr. Smart, Ph. D. - solving problems since 1973

...PREVIOUSLY on DR. SMART, PhD

Dear Dr. Smart,
The deans are cracking down on us for playing beer pong. This sucks! What can we do?
Yours truly, a concerned Pageboy

Stop being stupid. There isn’t much you need to keep in mind to do this. As I always say, everyone needs a vice. If your vice ruins another person’s good time, then your ass deserves to be lynched. So pick a better vice. If some people are being stupid, keep them from being stupid. It’s not hard. This is Caltech, not Faber. While Flemms may resemble Omegas, Pageboys are not Delta Taus. Under no circumstances can anybody at Caltech be as incredibly badass as John Belushi. Maybe you need to find a scapegoat. Pick the most obvious frat boy in the house and blame him for anything stupid that happens. Of course this is an asshole thing to do. Instead, how about this: when you get in trouble for doing something stupid, don’t do more stupid things. Give it a chance to blow over or you’re asking for it.

...AND NOW, BACK TO DR. SMART, PhD

"Does your life suck? Drop me a line at Dr.SmartPhD@gmail.com."

"Also, I would like to wish everyone a very happy April 20th. Remember: everyone needs a vice, as long as it doesn’t ruin someone else’s good time."

Dear Dr. Smart,
The deans have taken away our rights to alcohol. What do we do now?
Yours truly, a very concerned Pageboy

Told you so. I’ll be taking bets on how soon the next screwup will be.

Dear Dr. Smart,
I’m getting mixed messages from the upperclassmen - some say I should cut back on my substance abuse, but others say there’s no such thing as too much substance abuse! Who should I believe?
Sincerely, A confused frosh

Everyone needs a vice. Some vices are better than others. Try to find the right vice for you. It’s important to distinguish substance abuse from substance use. If your vice is adversely affecting your life, you’re abusing, so switch vices. You’re the best one at calling this, but it’s important to understand that your relationships with others can be impacted from substance use. Pick and choose your friends like grapes, eating the delicious ones and throwing out the crappy ones, leaving the mediocre ones to enjoy your company. The grape is the fruit of hope; learn from it and use what you learn to develop your life skills. Whether you become a hedonist or a miser, as long as you’re fine with it, nothing else matters. Because at the end of the day, everyone sucks. You just have to suck less than them. The only one you can’t dream to suck less than is me. Nobody sucks less than I do.
P.S.
Happy 4/20!!!