“Caltech will survive,” but without a few familiar faces

By Sarah Marzen
COPY EDITOR

Tim Chang, Senior Director of Housing, has been a staple of Caltech student life for thirteen years. Just a little over a week ago, undergraduates found out that Senior Director of Dining Peter Daly would be taking over both Housing and Dining departments—and Tim Chang would no longer be a Caltech employee.

Scheduling an interview with Chang was easier than it had ever been. He responded to his email in characteristic alacrity, writing, “Sure. I’m in from 9:30 until 3 with a few meetings here and there. Pick a time and I’ll let you know if it works.” Perhaps this was just luck, but the very first time I suggested was open.

There weren’t many smiles in the Housing office—most doors closed, the visible faces longer than usual. Soon-to-be-former Director of Housing Tim Chang sat at his desk, looking less stressed than he had in years.

“Caltech will survive,” he said, when asked about the many layoffs. And he repeated that phrase again and again, when asked about how Caltech would fare with only one person in charge of both Housing and Dining.

“People remaining will do their best to do the same thing,” he said. “But I don’t know how could you do the same type of thing” with, for example one supervisor and one call center staff instead of three of each.

“You’ll wait longer for more self-service,” he predicted, “and the services will not be as complete.”

Why him?

Chang was told that there was only enough money in the slimmed-down budget for one Auxiliaries Director.

In Chang’s understanding, the reasoning for his layoff is vaguely ironic: he had done his job so well that he was no longer needed. Seven years ago, he reorganized the Housing office, and the Housing staff can function well without constant supervision; but Daly is still in the midst of reorganizing Dining.

“The learning curve for me to step into Dining would be steep,” said Chang, “but for Peter, the learning curve is not as steep... Why should we have to recreate the wheel?”

Some of Chang’s colleagues were surprised by the decision nonetheless—they thought the administration would have wanted to recreate Housing’s successful organization in Dining, he said. Chang was also surprised, since he had not been consulted about the decision.

Seniors rush on grad schools

But incoming grad students will find Caltech stipends mostly unaffected by the recession

By Marissa Cevallos
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the shrinking job market makes fewer offers to the Class of 2009, more seniors are dashing for cover in graduate school. Applications to Caltech graduate programs increased by 5 percent from last year, while applications increased by 15 percent to Duke, 5 percent to Stanford, 9 percent to Yale, 9.5 percent to Princeton, and 7 percent to Michigan, according to the Harvard Crimson.

“We’re going to see a steady increase as the job market is in flux,” said Natalie Gilmore, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies at Caltech.

For at least this year, money for these prospective students isn’t drying up at Caltech. Gilmore expects the average minimum stipend of $25,500 to remain unchanged this year, but admits no guarantees can be made in this economic climate.

The number of Caltech seniors applying to graduate school hasn’t changed drastically, according to Registrar Mary Neary Morley, who talks to every senior before graduation, but the days of six-figure starting salaries at hedge funds are over.

“No one has told me they’re working at a financial company,” said Morley. The vast majority of seniors are waiting to hear back from graduate schools, or just started to hear a week or two ago. Morley suspects their offers may be more meager than in the past.

Some departments at Caltech saw a greater surge in applicants this year than others—Humanities and Social Science applications increased by about 40 percent and Engineering and Applied Science increased by about 20 percent.

Money matters

Though endowments have taken a hit nation-wide, Caltech may be better positioned than its competitors to continue funding research because most of its money comes from outside grants.

“We don’t rely on the endowment as much as Princeton or Harvard does,” said Graduate Dean John Hall. “We may be a

Cafe Verde

makes the grade

Page 7

In This Issue

Super savings on stimulus
ASCIT Election statements
Animated film not up to hype

By Chris Kennelly
STAFF WRITER

With the endowment suffering losses due to the recession, Caltech is preemptively restructuring its budget. The institute will now avoid spending money from the principal of the endowment, even though losses in endowment revenue could otherwise cause Caltech to dig into endowment principal.

“We’re not going to spend as much out of the endowment as that calculation because the money’s not there,” said Dean Currie, Vice President for Business and Finance. “When someone gives you an endowment for perpetuity, you want the same real amount of money forever.”

Losses on specific endowments are expected to hammer division budgets, according to Currie. “The divisions... have a lot of their own endowed funds, so they’re just getting a lower payout,” he said. “Many universities are having hiring freezes, but we aren’t.”

The lower endowment payouts for academic divisions will correlate to about half of $25 million in planned cuts.

Other operating cuts will affect the Caltech auxiliaries, which consist of organizations like Student Affairs, public events, and human resources. The Caltech catalog will be published online only. Mail will be delivered once a day, rather than twice a day. New buildings will add to the campus square footage, but new custodians won’t be added.

However, the cuts shouldn’t directly affect undergraduates, according to Currie. “One thing that’s being increased is undergraduate financial aid,” he said. “Most undergraduate financial aid comes out of endowed funds. Our commitment for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 is unchanged.” According to Annella Sargent, Vice President for Student Affairs, some programs won’t even experience cuts. “I made no cuts to the music and performing arts budgets,” she said. In addition to the music and performing arts budgets, Sargent expects that Study Abroad program will be unchanged.

Other programs aren’t so lucky. “We made some changes, for budgetary reasons, for athletics,” said Sargent.

Each year, the Board of Trustees decides how much money from the endowment to spend in the general budget, according to Sargent. The Board usually chooses the size of the payout based on the average return of the endowment over the past twelve quarters and a recommendation from management.

Correction: In the Feb 2 issue, we reported that Vice President for Student Affairs Annella Sargent was not available for comment on “Housing director gone in deep budget cuts” when in fact the California Tech had not attempted to contact her, a result of a miscommunication. We apologize for the error.

Cutting back across the board

Financial aid, however, sees increase; arts and Study Abroad safe

Head of Human Genome Project talks on God

page 5
By Evans Boney

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s no big secret that if you are a Republican, I probably disagree with you. About almost everything.

I think their goal is that Limbaugh appears to be the strongest voice for opposition to government intervention at all), virtually are the 2nd incarnation of the people who are doing it only for political points. I’ll grant that they won the points, but I think they have put (and still leave) the country in dire straits for their ideals. For a dead idea.

Many know that in the House have said they were for a bill only if they could strip out unwanted spending (the whole bill perhap?). They say they recognize the severity of the problem, but can’t agree on their conscience. Forgetting, for a moment, those in the Republican party who actually are the 2nd incarnation of Hoover (the few who are against government intervention at all), we are in agreement that something needs to be done about this crisis.

It’s like we all live in the same apartment complex. The central air has gone off and the outside temperature is above 100 with 100% humidity. People have actually begun to die in the summer. And the neighborhood association (led by community organization) asks the people of the block to turn on the central air.

The GOP, even the fiscal watchdogs (except for the trillions of dollars in debt they gave us over the past 8 years... oops), are holding out. They think it costs too much to fix the central air, and that we shouldn’t buy until the central air unit is at least 25% off retail. They don’t see that it’s hot, and they don’t deny that people are hurting.

They say they recognize the severity of the problem, but still they are stalling for a 2% sale? Ask your favorite retailer if that kind of sale brings in the customers. They need to be done about this crisis.

Where do I get the 2% from? It’s the sum total of ALL those from the Congressional GOP leaders, who voted unani-

mously against the bailout. From the sound of it, you’d think ‘com-

promise’ meant ‘give everything the GOP wants or else’. There’s already hundreds of billions in trickle-down this bailout (42% of the bill is tax cuts at last count).

They say they recognize the severity of the problem, but still they are stalling for a 2% sale? Ask your favorite retailer if that kind of sale brings in the customers. They need to be done about this crisis.

They say they recognize the severity of the problem, but still they are stalling for a 2% sale? Ask your favorite retailer if that kind of sale brings in the customers. They need to be done about this crisis.

The current GOP stance on the stimulus is downright disgusting, and I think they are doing it only for politi-
cal points. **“**

Deep discounts: a 2% off sale in DC

By Giri Gopalan

I am writing this article in re-

sponse to Evans Boney’s letter in the February 2nd issue of the Tech, which details the Gradu-

ate Student Council’s opposition to CDS strikes. 

In my mind, many of the points made by Mr. Boney are tenuous, and a call for a CDS strike seems terribly drastic and misguided. Let me begin by addressing why the original policy was flawed. There is absolutely no justifi-

cation to force families to spend thousands of additional dollars towards a solution that already have it. I believe in an individual’s right to make financial decisions on their own, and if one can find alternate health insurance outside of Caltech, they should be allowed to exercise their right to choice.

The old policy should have gone irrespective of the current dismal economic climate, as it was inherently nonsense. Mr. Boney seems to be directed towards the appro-

priation of savings derived from reduced financial aid, and that the purpose of the cuts should to cut indicate simply that; they are trying to reduce costs (not necessarily spend more on financial aid, which is Mr. Boney’s critical assumption). Just like any other firm struggling to survive in the current recession, Caltech must find ways to make itself relevant.

This is crucial to the Institute’s survival in the future, and its ability to maintain itself as a world class center for fundamental re-

search. For the student body to willful-

ly hamper the Institute’s efforts to cut curial costs because of financial aid, is making an incredibly

Can the meaning of community be restored? Is Caltech hopelessly divided by house and age?

By Travis Scholten

The dictionary on my Mac of-

fers several definitions of community, but the one that seems to me it is that “the people of a dis-

trict or country considered collec-

tively.” What these pages have culled directly from the successes of the New Deal, which substan-

tially lowered unemployment. And, really, they are opposing a jobs program for youngsters? That 2010 attack ad writes itself. Who are these people?

The GOP of today is letting people die of the heat to save 2% and this is supposedly good for the people? Either that or they are doing this for purely political reasons while people die in the heat. Oh, and they of course oppose funding Medicaid to get those people proper treatment as well. $40 B in aid to distressed states (like California, where all the money from the stimulus goes), $2 B for 10% pay cut... excuse me, fur-

lough) was the first in their target for a ‘compromise’.

So, after gripping about the above spending in the bill, what actually got the axe in the com-

promise? Education. $16 B for school construction, $3.5 B for higher education construction, $1100 graduates. Just around 35% more: a healthy bit larger. This should test mean that no dialogue should go on between the two groups. Regardless of if we are all students of this Institute; that alone should unite us. A dialogue of this kind must continue no matter the force—enough to enact changes that all students want.

Finally, the issue of budget cuts. Regardless of House af-

filiation or status as a student (grad/undergrad), the Institute as a whole must find ways to sur-

vive this recession. If history has taught us anything, it is that in times of trouble the entire com-

munity must come together and re-

act, or else the entire community will suffer.

This leads me to consider the definition of community I presented at the outset. Is the student body here at Caltech truly a community? Or are we a group of students segregated by age and House affiliation who happen to be present on the same campus? If we more of the former, we will weather these problems and survive; we will go on to grow even more as a united campus. But if we are more of the latter, it seems very unlikely that any positive changes could be enacted.

Although it’s worth noting that going to Caltech is a pretty high temperatures—perhaps after we have tackled these issues before we will realize how far we’ve come toward creating a genuine community of students.
Chang worked for 13 yrs

By Wesley Yu

Over twelve hundred people filled Beckman Auditorium last Thursday to hear Dr. Francis Collins speak at Caltech’s first Veritas Forum ever. “I joined the organizing team of the Caltech Christian Fellowship, which the Forum was designed to incite discussions about religion and science,” said Dr. Collins, former Director at the NIH’s National Human Genome Research Institute, is the author of The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief, a personal testimony for Christianity and a belief in God. Collins is best known for his work as the founder of the Human Genome Project and later as the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to genomics and biotechnology.

Dr. Collins started his talk by asking the audience: “What do you believe?” and followed by, “I don’t know.” He then presented a slide showing the different ways people answer this question and how they are compatible. His talk, like his book, focused on his personal journey from agnosticism to atheism to faith. Growing up without faith, Dr. Collins was considered an agnostic until grade school, when he was convinced about the existence of God. He believes that the discussion of religion and science continues to be a topic of importance today. "We haven’t begun planning any future events, but they’re coming up very soon," said Wen-Dy Mercy, a chemistry graduate student involved in the earliest planning stages, in an email. The first Veritas Forum was at Harvard University in 1992. According to the Veritas website, a Veritas Forum “seeks to explore the possibility of truth, beauty and goodness in every aspect of our academic and personal lives… inspired by the idea that Jesus Christ has something relevant to offer our modern university in its search for knowledge, truth and significance.” Forums have been held at over 80 campuses around the world. A recording of the Caltech forum will be posted at http://www.veritas.org/caltech/recordings.

Christian, scientist says you can believe in Jesus and the Big Bang

By Staff Writer

President Obama has proposed a $800 billion plus economic stimulus package to Congress, and the House and Senate are currently clashing over competing versions of this plan. The plans in the House and Senate both: are in the range of $800 billion—the House version is $819 billion and the Senate version is $827 billion; include a major tax cut costing $140 billion that saves up to $500 for individuals and $1,000 for families who fall under income thresholds; and give emergency assistance to those hardest hit by the recession.

The biggest differences are in areas where the money might not be used in 18 months. Senate moderates argued successfully that long-term spending should be reduced in favor of programs that create or save jobs sooner. And for anyone who isn’t tired of elections, look for Val Kilmer’s election bids in the Senate for the Democrats and a number of weakly held House seats that now seem open to Republican bids as Democrats increasingly appear linked to the very corruption that they promised to eliminate prior to the 2006 and 2008 elections.

Applications to Caltech graduate programs have been relatively stable over the past 20 yrs. The largest spike and decline around 2003-2004 is due to concerns among international students, who make up between 2/3 and 3/4 of graduate applicants, about obtaining visas.

But there is no hiring freeze

If you approach science,” said Dr. Collins. “Both approaches can be rigorous and rational, but they are different.” The talk was not so much to tell people what to believe, but rather to get people thinking about the issue. “All of these people were talking with each other. That’s exactly what we wanted,” said Peter Liu, one of the event organizers. “We didn’t want to put this event on to make converts… we are just glad we’ve brought the curious, the skeptics, and the believers to one table.” There was a wide range of reactions from the audience. “I am not sure that I agree with everything he said, but his presentation got me thinking about science and religion in a new way that I had never considered before,” said Renee Thomas, a graduate student in Chemistry. “I thought that Collins made his talk and in his superb book a very cohesive argument that he believes in a personal God beyond science,” wrote Christof Koch, a director Professor of Cognitive and Behavioral Biology. “What amazed me about yesterday night was that he addressed for two hours a packed house at Caltech, a seemingly robustly secular high temple dedicated to Science and Technology. Even here, the hunger for the numinal, the search for meaning, cannot be denied.” Organizers of the event hope that the discussion of religion and science continues beyond Thursday’s event.

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Chang, from Page 1

“I felt... shocked. You think you’re doing a good job,” he said. “I’d like to believe this was the only solution—I’d hate to believe I was one of the lifers,” he said. “…the people that stay at Caltech until they retire.

What’s next?

In the past several days, about six students have come in to talk, crying over his departure, he said. Faculty members have offered to refer his concerns, or even babysit his two children.

“It’s been a great ride,” he said. “I’ve worked at other schools—that doesn’t happen.”

Faculty aren’t the only ones who are sad to see him go.

“Many students don’t give Tim Chang a lot of credit,” said senior Kevin Neenker, who has worked with Chang during honor code talks for RA training.

Christian, scientist says you can believe in Jesus and the Big Bang

By Staff Writer

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In my time here at Caltech, I have been continually surprised and pleased with the amount of power undergrads have on campus. We are fortunate enough to have a great deal of control in decisions that affect our daily life. It is with faith in our shared goals and optimism for our ability to attain them that I am running for Vice President of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair). I am running for this office in particular, because I have not seen a more positive, accurate representation of Caltech students than through the Interhouse Committee.

I must admit, initially I only saw the IHC side of this position. During the events leading up to the recent bylaw change, however, I have become much more aware that I am not only running for a position alongside the house presidents, but also as a member of the newly restructured Board of Directors. This newfound understanding, and my belief that it is important to learn from our mistakes, and learn quickly, pushed me to ask people throughout the houses, and from various forms of student leadership, what they believed was the core problem with the BoD and the IHC.

Though opinions varied, the most consistent answer I received was that the student body, and the different student committees, has a pervasive communication problem. Students don’t know what the people they have elected are accomplishing, student leaders don’t know what other student leaders are doing, and this combination can lead to misrepresentation of undergraduates to the administration. This is a significant, but fixable, problem.

In the past, the BoD and the IHC have taken turns in being the proactive student leadership body on campus. Recently, we have seen this simply will not work. Ideally the BoD and the IHC should work together—instead of opposing or ignoring each other—in order to best represent students across campus. The IHC Chair is a critical position, because it serves as liaison to and from both of these leadership bodies, and is key in ensuring misunderstandings don’t create unnecessary obstacles.

In addition to fulfilling the designated responsibilities of VPNA/IHC Chair, I hope to emphasize the importance of communication. I want to ensure that important and relevant information is transmitted accurately between the students on the IHC and the BoD and the larger student body, for the benefit of all of us students who actually have similar intentions: improving student life at Caltech.

I am currently a Sophomore majoring in Applied Physics, and I would be honored to serve as your Board of Control Chair.

Since the position of Honor Chair has been eliminated, it falls again to the Board of Control Chair to take on the role of representing the Honor Code. In addition to my role organizing cases, I will be talking to faculty, administration, and incoming students about the Honor Code. I am very enthusiastic about the Honor Code and believe that clear explanation of BoC proceedings will benefit the whole community.

A recently appointed Honor Code Taskforce is examining the Honor Code in more detail. I am always open to change that makes BoC procedure as clear and equitable as possible.

In the past year in have served as the Student Experience Trip committee, I recognize that a lack of a school identity is one of the most significant differences that Caltech exhibits compared to other schools. One of the many ways to remedy this, is to have a strong and effective student government. Determined to make a difference, I got involved with the AS- Cit Excomm, which played a role in the recent restructuring of ASCIT.

With the current economic situation, there are many budget cuts across campus. Although ASCIT’s budget is not directly affected, we still need to be fiscally responsible. I plan to efficiently allocate funds to clubs by holding them accountable for their contribution to the Caltech community. Many clubs become inactive after receiving funding, and I would like to explore the possibility of regaining this money if they do not follow through. Additionally, my wide interaction with the undergraduate population will help me voice your opinions to the rest of the ASCIT board and administration.

“Treasurer

Maral Mazrooei

In the wake of the latest ASCIT bylaw change, it is our chance to make ASCIT a bigger part of the undergraduate experience. As a member of the Student Experience Trip committee, I recognize that a lack of a school identity is one of the most significant differences that Caltech exhibits compared to other schools. One of the many ways to remedy this, is to have a strong and effective student government. Determined to make a difference, I got involved with the ASCIT Excomm, which played a role in the recent restructuring of ASCIT.

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I won’t waste money and will issue checks within a week.
It's midterms week, and most of you probably have a load of work to do. As you begin to prepare for that exam you're planning to start at 1 am, certain thoughts will cross your mind: “I wish the professor could have gone a little slower through this material,” or “I wish last week's homework covered more concepts and less tedious algebra,” or “if only I could go to sleep after this exam, but for that 5-hour problem set that's due on the same day in the same class.” This is where ARC takes its responsibility. If elected Vice President of Academic Affairs, I will work for all the changes the student body would like to see in the academic and research aspects of Caltech. I will list just a few:

The most important duty of ARC is to ensure teaching quality. While it is currently extremely expensive in dealing with problematic courses, I believe that ARC should take the initiative to prevent these courses from appearing in the first place. There should exist a set of official rules set by faculty and students for teaching at Caltech that will prevent professors from setting unreasonable expectations. ARC should advocate consistency from year to year in required courses within each option so that seniors won't be stuck with needing to take one more course that is not offered. Professors need incentive to focus more on teaching rather than just research, and exceptional teaching methods need to be publicized among the faculty, perhaps through peer-review. ARC should aim for the use of a standardized feedback website, such as Moodle, so that course feedbacks can be given continuously throughout the term to accurately reflect the work load each week rather than a generalization of the entire term. ARC should work with the administration to see to the consequences of poor teaching reflected in the surveys.

Advising also has much room for improvement. Many students interact with their advisors on a purely sign-my-drop-card basis. Actual meetings with faculty advisors can be extremely valuable for academic, research, and career advice, and should be mandatory and maybe even given a designated time campus-wide.

The ARC is a very dependable student organization, and I am willing to put in all the effort to make the improvement of undergraduate academics and research ever more efficient process.

I don’t want to bother you with flowery political statements, so here is what I want to do as VPAA/ARC chair:

I want to implement the suggestions voiced at the Student Experience Trip (wherever it comes out) and the Student Experience Conference (SEC). While serving as Ricketts ARC Rep. in the past year, I was in charge of writing the following-up report from SEC that was distributed to all houses, faculty, and administrators. The conference and the report have proposed improvements and catalyzed the discussion of TQFR surveys and the feedback advising system. Serving as a student representative on the Curriculum Committee, I am also pushing for improving under-utad courses across Caltech. As VPAA, I want to see these and other proposed changes carried out and implemented.

We also need a more effective feedback system for course and academic policy issues (this has also been one of the major points of the SEC). While in the long run the conference itself is an example of a working feedback venue, short-term (on the scale of a term or a course) mechanisms are currently lacking. For academic issues, ARC should be the first venue for such feedback. As soon as any ARC rep hears a legitimate complaint, the VPAA and ARC must act quickly to alleviate the issue. For example, this term it only took the ARC one week to work with the professor of ACM 95B and change the grading scheme of the course to better reflect student opinion. Waiting for TQFR results would have only done something for next year or some other future time. I hope that these ARC rep. will encourage more open communication, because there are many complaints that never get voiced and delivered to the SEC. I want to make sure that these complaints are in fact addressed. If elected, VPAA, I will be in the premier position to make the ARC actively seek feedback and respond to it immediately.

Lastly, ASCIT is in need of people willing to not only try to “improving the academics of the Institute for all undergraduates” (ASCIT By-laws, office of VPAA), but also commit to accomplishing it. In the past year, the ARC rep. have put in the work and effort that it takes to make it happen. I want this office to get things done, so please vote for me.

We need people in ASCIT who will do their jobs well.

It's great that we have restructured ASCIT, but it is now even more important that everyone in ASCIT does what they are supposed to do. So here's what I'm going to do: I will work with the editors of the Big T, little t, Totem, Donut and the Tech to make sure they stay on track. I will maintain a list of active clubs. I will make sure student organizations can easily get what they need from ASCIT - without having to attend a BoD meeting every time they want something.

The job of ASCIT Operations Director is one that I feel qualified and capable to perform. I started as a member of the President's Staff working on the MHF for the Student Experience Trip, creating actionable items from the Hunt Report on Student Life, and working to make Donut easier to use and more informative. I was then promoted to the position of ASCIT Communications Manager, where I currently work on improving communication between ASCIT and the rest of the Caltech community. So yes, I am the guy who sends out the Digest every week. Among the main responsibilities of the Ops is oversight of publications, upkeep of ASCIT property, and essentially making sure ASCIT runs smoothly. I already have experience in publishing, my involvement in recruiting students to work for The Tech and communicating with schools' newspapers about the SET. I want to see ASCIT run more efficiently, and I want to help make things better for everyone. I care about Caltech, and I know that as Ops I will make a difference.
ASCIT
FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Social Director

Nadia Iqbal

My name is Nadia, and I'm a sophomore in Dabney House. Since I am incredibly responsible and outgoing, I believe that I am perfect for the job of ASCIT Social Director. Also, I will keep up good contacts with other top members of the ASCIT structure, as well as the SEXCOMM, the social executive committee, composed of social team members of all eight houses. In light of the success of last term's BDR, a joint party funded by Blacker, Dabney and Ricketts, I will make sure to coordinate and meet with the SEXCOMM to organize more Interhouse parties that need little construction, and create a greater sense of community. I will do my best to create campus wide social events, like the Jimmy Eat World concert, to attract all members of the undergraduate body, and take charge of projects and endeavors to promote Interhouse activities. I will get the job done and get it done right.

Heather Widgren

I’d like to introduce myself to those who don’t know me, especially the many frosh I still need to meet. After spending first term abroad, there are a lot of new faces out there for me. So, Hi, ‘New Faces’. I’m Heather, a junior chemistry major in Page. Nice to meet you. I’m back from Denmark with fresh ideas about how to liven up the Caltech experience. While I realize that Caltech possesses its own unique social environs, I think there are some areas where we have a lot of potential! Both on and off campus lie opportunities waiting to be explored, and the social director should bring them to the attention of the general Tech popula-

Chris Kennelly
Hanna Liu
Sarah Marzen

Heather Widgren (cont.)

...tion. I posit that Caltech has room for more medium-scale events. ‘Why medium? Why not BIG?’ I think that medium-sized events can bring together people from different social groups in a way that large parties sometimes can’t. How about an all-campus scavenger hunt or a Tour de Cuisine around Pasadena? I welcome your ideas, and as your social director, I would love to help make them happen! Thanks!

Tech Editor

My name is H. Christina Kondos, and as Tech editor, I would include more editorials and features that are interesting to students and faculty. I’d like to include the results of a poll that people respond to online during the week, such as favorite superheroes or favorite class in core. Also, it would be nice to convince one faculty member, or engineer at JPL, to write a short editorial about their research, their classes, their hobbies, or just thoughts on the universe. I’d like to replace the restaurant reviews with reviews of movies to rent, graphic novels, and books people are reading. An advice column, written by either a graduate student or an upper-classman that dealt with the day-to-day oddities of studying at Caltech would be fun. There are a lot of students with photography as a hobby, so the Tech could support them by including a few photographs in each edition. Finally, the pets on campus fascinate me, so I’d like to have a weekly “Get to Know a Caltech Pet” section. As editor, I would shift the focus of the Tech to a quirky periodical filled with both important news and community insights for the school.

ASCIT Elections

Polls are open on Monday, February 9 from 10:00 AM until 11:59 PM. We’re voting on the following positions:

- Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Vice President of Non-Academic Affairs
- Director of Operations
- Treasurer
- Director for Social Activities
- Board of Control Chair
- Board of Control Secretary
- Conduct Review Committee Student Chair
- Tech Editor(s)

There will be a vice presidential debate on Monday, February 9, at noon on the Olive Walk, near the sundial. If there is rain, the debate will likely be moved to Wimnett Lounge.

Any questions and concerns should be addressed to the Review Committee: revcomm@ugcs.caltech.edu

Committee Chair: Jason Cerundolo (jcc@caltech.edu)
Avery Representative: Ben Picker
Blacker Representative: John Hasier
Dabney Representative: Ashley E. Potts
Fleming Representative: Heejae Kim
Lloyd Representative: Ben Zax
Page Representative: Ryan Newton
Ricketts Representative: Dana El-Awady
Ruddock Representative: Stephanie Chang

Prefrosh Weekend 2009
April 2-5, 2009

T-shirt Design Competition!!!
Winning Prize: $50!!!

Competition Guidelines:
Shirts will be white with black font/graphics
Any combination of front & back design is allowed
Prefrosh Weekend 2009 must be included in the design
T-shirt designs must be appropriate for the occasion

Submit designs to your House Prefrosh Rep by February 27, 2009
**Movie Review**

"Waltz with Bashir" falls short of its accolades

By Hillary Walker  
Staff Writer

As Israel's first animated feature, "Waltz with Bashir" is certainly brave and ambitious. The film has won the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film and has been nominated for the Academy Award in the same category, among many other critical recognitions.

I was prepared to be spellbound but instead left the theater greatly disappointed. I regret to write...
Dear Dr. Smart,

I might be addicted to Odwalla juice. Is this a bad thing?
Sincerely, Walla-Walla

Probably not. See, everybody needs a vice, something that will take your mind off work. Some use drugs like marijuana, alcohol, or crystal meth. Others use video games like WoW and Dota. Odwalla is healthy and not addictive. If you so wish, you can turn it into a powerful vice, a vice almost as strong as drug use. The trick is to drown your sorrows in fruit juice while refraining from letting your addiction destroy your life. If you find that you’ve spent an entire month’s salary on Odwalla, you’re doing it wrong.

Dear Dr. Smart,

I’m a UCC and one of the frosh in my group keeps annoying me with questions. What should I do?
Sincerely, Ambivalent and Ambiguous

Obviously you have a problem with avid curiosity. This is especially ironic because, as a student at the California Institute of Technology, the world’s playground for math and science, you should be rather curious yourself. If you cannot appreciate the curiosity of another person, you have several options. First, you can transfer to another school, maybe Pomona College or Loyola Marymount. A fine liberal arts education can steer you right. Another option is for you to resign from your position as UCC, but that is a bit excessive. After all, there’s no sense quitting just because one frosh is giving you a hard time. The third option, the one I most recommend, is to accept that the frosh’s curiosity stems from its naivety. In order to have it stop asking you questions, you must crush its spirit and make it bitter. You can wait a year for core to do that, or you can expedite the process by insulting the frosh’s mother at the deepest level possible in a most explicit manner. Make the little fool cry.

Dear Dr. Smart,

I want to write for The California Tech but that’s under the control of ASCIT, an organization that I do not trust. What should I do? Yours faithfully, the majority of CIT

Obviously you must man up and take one for the team. A revolution cannot start with one man. The recent bylaw amendment is the first step on the long and winding road to freedom, paved with icing and marked with donuts at every intersection. The first thing you must do is realize that the best way to take down an evil and corrupt organization is to infiltrate it. If you’re too much of a wimp to do this at this point, try to practice your guerilla tactics. Next time you go turn in a set at Sloan, do it commando style. Get prone on the ground and crawl as if you’re under fire from the evil strafing fire of the ASCIT trench guns. When security starts questioning you, you scream to their face “I WILL NOT TALK!” until you get waterboarded. Remember: it’s not a form of torture! It is sad to think that this kind of content ends up in The Tech, so the sooner you grow a pair and start writing for The Tech, the less we have to deal with mindless drivel inspired by Call of Duty, which on an unrelated note is far less addictive than Crack of WarCrack.

Do you have any questions about emotional problems or issues in your life? Contact Dr. Smart at: Dr.SmartPhD@gmail.com