A novel solution to the HIV epidemic is proposed by a Caltech sophomore

By Wesley Yu

By most measures, Grayson Chadwick is a normal Caltech student. Entering Caltech as a physics major, he didn’t pass out of any core classes. A member of Fleming House, he enjoys sports and will captain the soccer team next year. In his free time he likes the Caltech Starcraft team a winner.

When the time comes to pick a new MOSH Chair, the Interhouse Committee of faculty, RAs, and students is typically convened to flesh out a list of candidates. Chadwick was asked in Bi 1 to be the Interhouse Committee chair this fall. But each of the three respective committee chairs cited other commitments. When the committee in place, she decided it was nonetheless time to move forward, and took upon herself of finding suitable candidates.

Chadwick has very little free time. As a freshman in Bi 1, he proposed a novel treatment for HIV/AIDS that has captured the attention of experts in the field. This year, that idea has earned him a provisional one-year patent. That summer, Prof. Bjorkman contacted Grayson, who happened to be at Caltech for a Ph 11 project with Prof. David Stevenson. She offered to let him try his idea in her lab, but asked whether he would have the time, since he was already occupied. According to Prof. Bjorkman, Grayson simply replied, “I can work in your lab during the day and think about dark matter at night.”

So in the summer of 2008, Grayson did something few students have attempted—worked on two potentially groundbreaking research projects in completely separate fields. “He’s a pretty tough guy,” said Prof. Tom Tombrello, who teaches Ph 11 and original; Prof. Bjorkman “suggested that Chadwick patent his idea.”

“You have to encourage people,” said Prof. Tombrello when asked about sharing Chadwick with Prof. Bjorkman. “You don’t tell them no, you’ve got a good idea, and you help them make it real. I told Grayson not to.”

Chadwick’s unique insight was to use red blood cells as the decoys. Red blood cells are the perfect decoy for HIV because they have no receptors for the virus.
Once again, it’s committee appointment season. As we find new students to fill these spots, it is important to not forget why student representatives sit on these committees in the first place.

In 1967, students, led by ASCiT President Chameau, successfully petitioned for representation on faculty committees. Today, a reorganization of the IHC, the ASCiT BoD, and AHC have conducted appointments; but for what purpose?

For some committees, like UASH, decisions are made behind closed doors, and we must trust the judgment of the appointed representatives. It’s imperative that the right people get these positions the first time: These committees wield tremendous power over the lives of all students.

For other committees, it’s hard to judge their success. The freshman committee is the only body which can look at the entire picture and tell us whether the administration is doing the most suitable they could as. As a community, we are left to trust the values of the committee’s members to represent our values.

Student representation on other campus committees underscores a chance to have tremendous influence in the community for the first time. However, for other committees, appointees should report back to the group of students that appointed them.

Why? Faculty representatives on student-faculty committees sometimes complain that the students are not being heard; students represent the student body, but don’t show up to meetings or gripe about their personal problems, instead of representing the views of the collective student body.

For committees, further pondering decisions, early involvement by students is crucial. If a committee is truly considering a plan which runs in opposition to what students want, representatives should hear from us early rather than leave us to find out that a decision was made at a later stage, and then without further input from students.

It’s crucial, for the benefit of the student body, for these appointees to talk to the student body. Have they heard us before? It’s crucial that they are willing to be our eyes, ears, and voices for the undergraduates they claim to represent.

The California Tech

It’s Committee Appointment Season - Choose Responsibly

By Chris Kennelly
Editor-in-Chief

Criticism of Caltech Leadership

I have been chair of the GSC for almost 12 months, and as I step down, I would like to leave you with some concerns from my experience as a student representative. I am concerned with a specific action of the board, which affects student leadership, the manner in which the recent job cuts have been handled, and the trustee-mandated decrease in the draw on our endowment. The following represents my own opinion, and is not the position of any of GSC’s appointees.

I want to first express my deep concern for the institute when its leaders neither hear student concerns, seeks to undermine student representatives in front of their constituents, or referring to an incident, at the recent Caltech Graduate Student Forum for graduate students, when President Chameau said that GSC representatives were not doing a good job representing students, and he suggested a possible change in the selection of the existing officers. Who were they, could easily do such things in order to graduate students. As it is, he was fighting for every last penny of institute money for graduate students, and eventually working out a positive arrangement with the administration that referred to the additional stress from the President. We worked hard to graduate student opinion multiple times, a few of them were up to enough to take coordinated action, and we notified the administration of comments at the time amounted to little more than union- bashing, not to mention the ability to effectively represent graduate students at the negotiating table.

I would like to restate that I have no personal experience of sexual harassment at Caltech exist? If so, where and how often? If one is a victim, or perpetrator just insensitive and oblivious? If and when you do discuss the answers to these questions, please realize that the emotions are very real.

Many people have witnessed or been a victim of sexual harassment. Here, there is an issue for the whole community, and it’s difficult to talk logically about something emotional. If it isn’t presenting completely logical arguments, don’t dismiss them. Don’t dismiss or patronizing in assumptions that these complaints are, then you are actually creating that harassing “hostile environment,” the source of the harassment, even here. This is an emotional issue for them, and it’s totally unacceptable, even as jokes. I would like to remind her that Caltech is a long way from a distant planet. They come from different communities and same cultures as students of any other universities. So, saying that changes could be solicited! Will positions be added back in light of the economic stimulus? Will there be a chance for students to get involved earlier in their decision to further decrease the percentage we draw on our already shrinking endowment principal?

Parting Words from a GSC Chair: Shame on Chameau

By Evans Boney
Graduate Student

I think she forgot (ironically) that the endowment principal? Totally unacceptable to me.

I hear daily would be completely unpalatable to me. “satirical” comments the original author (except the original author) would be voiced. Since at the time we can skip the rude remarks that are the numbers? Did we protect Shanata taking him to task about the budget crisis. The President’s cuts to our own budget) that is done.

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Where's our Culture?

By An-Tu Xie

UNDERGRADUATE

As a freshman, pentagrams were to be burned in the Bonnecamp Rock. As a sophomore, the RA's actually started enforcing the policy of no alcohol after 10 PM. As a junior, an article was submitted to Ruddock about a new book in a house magazine that apparently offended someone such that the dean's office intervened to limit the issue of the magazine to a house censor. As a senior, I've come to see alcohol banned from Page house. And, most recently, I've seen two students from Ricketts for two mildly offensive events.

So a faux-satirical symbol is removed. A house literature is mildly censored. A house that is unofficially recognized as the drinking house is discovered to be trying to wean alcohol… and none of those things have really affected me, my friends, or the people I know, for each single event, I don't really care. But these moments add up to something greater than the sum of its parts: the loss of a part of something as a whole that means a lot more to each individual who makes up that part.

Perhaps the sense of immediacy has already been lost… the latest car show just may be too fancy to be brought into the pond. But that when trigger event does happen, whether it's a house member or an undergraduate population does not stand united, and we do not start to come to our own decision, most likely to the detriment of all.

I only hope that change comes. I do not wish to initiate or criticize specific groups as a whole in the interest of numerous examples, I refused to go along with the protests about the permission of their stories. During the intervening week, I have spoken with several students who are willing to share their stories, and I hope the subsequent sections will aid in persuasion and fortify my argument that sexism at Caltech is a genuine problem.

I must emphasize that this is not an isolated incident or case. Rather, it is merely the first example of the tactics employed by the group who have been persistently engaging in such behavior since the implementation of the "Dabney Code of Conduct". The purpose of this article is to disclose the conditions of those who have been subjected to harassment, and to request that the university take appropriate measures to prevent this type of behavior from occurring in the future.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that the situation at Caltech is not unique to this specific event, but rather reflects a broader pattern of behavior that has been ongoing for some time. The university must take steps to address this problem, and to ensure that all students feel safe and respected in their educational environment.

The truth is, to simply eulogize or wish total escape from it? I so should we wish to do today? To wish that today's conversation has replaced the Dabney Executives Association, to wish total escape from the administration will make its policies. As a junior, an article RAs actually started enforcing the policy of no alcohol after 10 PM. As a senior, I've come to see alcohol banned from Page house. And, most recently, I've seen not between a sterile world devoid of risk or an open rebellion against the administration.
Making thousands with a graphing calculator

by Joel Nikolaus

Many of you probably played around with your graphing calculators back in high school, a pastime that most have also probably left behind. But Julian Panetta, a junior CS major, returned to those early roots while writing an application that he calls Graphite.

The program, written for Apple’s iPhone and iPod Touch, has already been a modest success with roughly 1,500 sales and a few thousand dollars since he released the initial version back in August.

So what does Graphite do? Well, it graphs, but then so does any graphing calculator and any number of other iPhone applications. What Panetta says really sets Graphite apart is its streamlined interface and incorporation of the platform’s multi-touch capabilities, something he was eager to demonstrate.

With an assortment of pinches and pulls he used the multi-touch interface to rescale the graphs and calculate integrals.

Although this intuitive interface has generated enthusiastic comments on Apples App Store and propelled a modest amount of sales, the application has still not been quite as successful as Panetta originally hoped. While Graphite was one of the first graphing applications available, it was not the very first and the flood of third party applications since then has only compounded the problem. While he describes his timing as “unfortunate,” he said that he was “reluctant to release something that wasn’t what I envisioned.”

But Panetta has not had to deal with only good old capitalist, and legal, competition. He was surprised to find out that his application had also been pirated, and he said that despite the program’s performance, the “illegal distribution didn’t make me too happy.” He found out that it had been pirated when some friends acquired pirated copies of his application.

Still, overall Panetta seemed fairly upbeat about the application. Graphite is a program that seems to live up to the Apple mantra, focusing as much on style and design as functionality. He has spent a lot of time working on the interface, and there is still a lot of functionality to be added. Although he would have liked to see greater success, this started out as a hobby and will likely remain a hobby.

Panetta said that his interest in making such an application goes back to high school, describing himself as a “graphing calculator nerd.” When the iPhone first came out with it touch interface, he thought “It would be cool to have a multi-touch graphing calculator” with “a very intuitive interface.” He did not have any solid plans on any other applications, but he just might try his hand at some photo effect software.

He just needed a way to make the program. After waiting Apple released its SDK (Software Development Kit) that allowed users to write their own applications and he got to work creating Graphite based on the functionality of the TI-83, but taking advantage of the iPod and iPhone. Graphite based on the functionality of the TI-83, but taking advantage of the iPod and iPhone. Graphite is an efficient and accurate graphing calculator for the iPhone and iPod touch. Graphite combines an intuitive, polished multi-touch interface with powerful numeric methods to allow fast and precise computation of roots, extrema, integrals, and intersections. Scale axes independently using the custom pinch gesture, then trace along curves for values using as many fingers as you want!

Graphite lets you easily manage as many equations as you need and quickly enter new ones using the dedicated equation input screen.

If Graphite’s helpful yet unobtrusive usage instructions and error dialog boxes still leave some aspect confusing, it also holds an extensive onboard help document.

The Deli around the Corner

by Andrew Fredlo and Dannah Almasco

While making a Target run, we were hungry and spotted a small deli: the Corner Café. The whole restaurant has less than 1 tables, and there seemed to be a good variety of lunch fare, especially sandwiches and salads. We were especially hungry, and ordered the Santa Barbara Panini ($8.75) and Chef’s Salad ($7.99).

The Panini had turkey, provolone, avocado, and sprots on toast wheat bread. The sandwich was piled high with lots of turkey and cheese, though since it was so thick it was not warned all the way through. Still, the outside of the sandwich was crispy. The avocado paste was very subtle, and the sprouts used as a garnish did not add anything. Still, the sandwich was very filling for the price.

Similarly to the Panini, the salad was very large. There was lots of chicken, turkey, and ham, along with provolone and shredded cheddar cheese. There was a choice of dressings: we opted for the vinaigrette, which came on the side. Make sure you shake thoroughly before pouring on, or you will end up with just the oil layer all over your salad (Dan-nah-confirmed)! As for the salad itself, the chicken was actually sliced breast meat, a pleasant surprise, though the other meats were cold-cuts. Essentially, the salad was like a sandwich without the meat – very filling and enjoyable.

The Corner Café also has a nice variety of coffees, fruit smoothies, and milk-shakes, along with a small assortment of muffins and croissants. Also, the restau- rant has free Wi-Fi service (just ask the staff for the password)! Conveniently, they also deliver and cater for large groups. So, next time you’re out and about, pop into the Corner Café!
Hetul Patel is in trouble. Belligerent forces are harassing him constantly, but recently their little forays are getting more and more serious. There are too many demands on his attention. Distracted and pressured, he’s reacting at a slow. The little mistakes are accumulating. Also, he’s got something of a gas problem. Hetul, president of the Caltech Starcraft Club, is giving me a play-by-play as he skirmishes against his teammate Wilson Sung (the gas problem is that you need lots of it in Starcraft, and Hetul is running out). They’re two of the top Starcraft players at Caltech, and recently led their team to the quarterfinals of the first-ever championship of the Collegiate Starleague (CSL).

“The first attack is like an opening move in chess. Your opening moves in chess aren’t meant to kill your opponent. They’re meant to open the game.” As he narrates, a small patrol of Hetul’s marines marches out to do battle with three of Wilson’s dragoons. After a few minutes of watching, I begin to see how the subtleties here really do mimic chess. Just take that 8x8 board and make it enormous and different every time you play. Then give black and white completely different powers, and put up to 200 pieces on a side. And oh yeah, it’s always everybody’s turn.

“I’ll use a lot of small guerrilla tactics,” Hetul says. His cool, matter-of-fact voice over offsets the pre-recorded death screams of his warriors. “I’m already messing up,” he says with a laugh. “The next one will be better.”

Starcraft is a real time strategy computer game, meaning that if you’re over 30 you will probably never understand it. Players have to collect raw materials, build factories for their war machine, create an army (or four), and go to war. When you’re good, you do all these tasks simultaneously. Though more than a decade old, the game retains a core of dedicated gamers who aren’t interested in the flashier new offerings. Hetul used to play other games, but switched his efforts over to Starcraft along with a few friends last year. “Whenever I play Starcraft, it’s really fast. When I try to switch to something else, I feel like it’s really slow,” he explains. Starcraft’s innovation was to create three completely different races for players to choose from and to balance their power perfectly.

Hetul plays Terrans—humans with Starship Troopers technology. Wilson is a Protoss (once players build their skill, they generally pick one race and stick to it), an alien race with advanced technology. Absent from the match is Hetul’s Terran playing the Zerg—another alien race with really big claws.

Hetul quickly improved after adopting the game. When he learned about the new CSL, he recruited more gamers and signed up. The matches take place online, with one-on-one and one two-on-two games every twenty minutes. Twenty-six teams from colleges around the US and Canada played a five-round preliminary bracket, with one new match each week. Caltech won three of their five matches to advance to the eight-team semifinals. Seeded last, they lost a tough battle against the favorite, University of Texas.

“We almost actually beat them,” Hetul says, “but no...”

“...We actually almost beat them,” Hetul says, “but no reminiscing on that one fatal Zerg rush. I ask about the great, exciting moments in the tournament. There was a two-on-two match, he tells me, where Caltech eliminated one of the opponents to make it 2-1. Then it wound up we lost. I guess that must have been exciting for the other team.”

Watching practiced players is a shocking experience for someone who may have popped the Starcraft CD in once in high school to see what the craze was about. Hetul and Wilson know every unit and upgrade and building in the game. They know to build siege tanks against Protoss players and marines against Zerg. They know every hotkey, and are personal counterexamples to the theory that people can only keep track of seven things at the same time.

Hetul moves at about 200 “APM” actions per minute, meaning that on average he strikes a hotkey or makes a mouse click three or four times per second over the course of a twenty minute game. Pro gamers in Korea can get four or five hundred, he tells me. The mention of South Korea is a refrain among Starcraft players. In the US, Starcraft is popular—students at UC Berkeley even organized their own course on “Game Theory with Applications to Starcraft” but in South Korea Starcraft is serious business. The best players have corporate sponsors, bring home large salaries, and achieve national celebrity. Have there ever been great Starcraft geniuses who change the way the world sees the game? “Yeah,” Hetul says, “but they’re all Korean.”

“Americans even beat Koreans if they practiced as much,” Hetul looks at Wilson, who’s joined us after winning a second game, and they share a sort of muffled laugh. “No, no...”

“...It took several updates and revisions before Blizzard Entertainment finally settled down and finalized Starcraft, but when they did, they wound up with what many devo...”

“...Teeters consider the most perfectly-balanced real-time strategy game ever.”

“There’s a lot about Starcraft. It's really hard to tell you all at once,” Hetul says in way that makes me feel like I’ve traded roles with the English major who once asked me to explain the universe to her.

“The strategies keep on evolving,” he tries. “It goes through phases. It's constantly adapting.” Starcraft 2 is in development, and everyone in the community is wondering whether Blizzard can find the magic formula once more. Make the races too similar and you kill the interest and the role of creativity. Make them too different and the balance is thrown off. Make the game too simple and you lose richness and discovery. Make it too complex and you build an insurmountable learning curve.

Already, it takes dedication to learn the game to the core. “It's something people can't just pick up and be good at. There’s a huge skill gradient,” Hetul says. But he’s always looking to tackle on newbies to the club’s current nine-player roster. Hetul is the only Terran player. Wilson and Hetul play only a few times a week due to the demands of school. “It's definitely less addictive than World of Warcraft,” Wilson says.

He and Hetul speculate it may be because each game is a self-contained combat. They improve as players—serious Starcraft players grade themselves by letter, and they both rank at the D+/C- range — but there’s no ‘leveling up’ to draw you in for days at a time.

The CSL will continue in future years, they confidently predict. Already it’s built up considerable mem...
Glee Club Director Leaves Caltech for full-time position at accidental

By Tina Ding

STAFF WRITER

Desiree LaVertu, the Director of the Glee Clubs for ten years, will be leaving in the fall to become the Director of Choral Music at a private university. LaVertu has worked as part time director of the Glee Club and band and as the faculty advisor when the position for full time opened, she applied and received the position.

The selection process for the new director will be conducted by Caltech and according to LaVertu, will watch the DVDs of the contestants and meet the finalists. “Feedback of the students will be given strong consideration,” said LaVertu. The new director will be chosen by mid-June. Meanwhile, LaVertu will be directing the musical choral groups at Caltech.

Review Committee dismisses complaints about lack of election publicity

NO, FROM PAGE 1

more people into running, making another day worthwhile. “The fairest thing is to do another election,” said Price. “I think if we had a better system that will convince people to take elections seriously,” said Kennedy. “Before and after the results were dismissed and not revisited. Students to vote. This complaint was dismissed and not revisited. There was never a complaint about the lack of publicity.”

The Review Committee also received a complaint about the lack of publicity of the voting process with a link to the online election ballot, and a complaint that no email was sent to eligible voters to vote. This complaint was dismissed and not revisited.

The IHC-appointed Review Committee also has the power to depose ASCIT officers that are not doing their job and block the appointment of ASCIT staff members. So far, the Review Committee has approved of all staff appointments: assistant treasurer, faculty council planner, students and president. “Ibrishimov, and Watson to assign the problems to the correct students in the class. The two members of the class that were not in my class are real.

The real test of the Review Committee’s effectiveness will come when the Review Committee must decide whether or not to depose someone, said Obenshain.

According to Zax and Chang, many Review Committee members are not aware of the fact that this is the first Review Committee meeting barely made quorum, and the second meeting didn’t make quorum.

“I’m not sure that everyone [on the Review Committee] takes the Review Committee seriously,” said Zax.

Xie brought his worries about the City and County to Loyd House Superintendent Tom Gwinn, who presented Xie’s worries to the IHC nearly three weeks ago.

Caltech’s freshman “Battle of the Brains” team competes in international contest

By Natalya Konstandova

STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, three Caltech students experienced the excitement of attending a ceremony that was attended by almost everyone. The ceremony was held at the Annual Concert Hall, where Nobel Prize winners are presented with their award. The students were Zara Rahman, Zara Zafar, and Zara Zafar. They were also in Stockholm, Sweden, for the Nobel Prize ceremony. They did participate in a contest that is casually referred to as “Battle of the Brains.”

The Caltech team, comprised entirely of freshmen and coached by Eric Stansfield of graduate students, earned their spot in the lineup of 100 universities to compete in the international level of the 32nd Annual Association for Computer Machinery (ACM-ICPC) by winning the regional level of competition in November. St. Petersburg University of Information Technology, Mechanics, & Optics (Russia) emerged as the winner of the World Finals of ACM-ICPC. Caltech did not place, with a team rated to become the winner for the North America region.

This year, the teams competing are from Western and Europe regions, this year the teams competing in the World Finals region are from Australia, Africa, Middle East, Latin America, Asia, and South Pacific regions.

The contest consisted of eleven problems, each concerned with the real world. The problems were modeled and addressed using programming tools, such as C++, Python, and Java, which were given during a two hour period. The teams had an hour and forty minutes of coding time, and the remaining time they had to submit the problems in.

Some member of Caltech team, which traveled to Sweden the previous Saturday and returned on Wednesday, feel that they could have done better. “We were trying to do too much in parallel and as a result, we didn’t do as much of what we could have,” said Xie. “It’s too early to tell,” said Chang, in a response to a question on how well the Review Committee works. “I would like to say it’s going well... We haven’t had any real problems.”

The real test of the Review Committee’s work will be in proving the validity of the results. This is the second time this year that a student has been dismissed from the team. After only one summer, Chadwick, with the help of Prof. David Baltimore’s lab, has developed the viral vector that will infect stem cells with the CD4 and CCR5 receptor genes. “This is the first time in my life that I was making a lot of mistakes, said Chadwick in his typical self-deprecating manner. 

Chadwick is now preparing to test the efficacy of the decoys to see if it is a real tool or not a tool at all.

“I definitely didn’t have terribly much interest in biology before Bi1... But this project really got me into biology.”

--Grayson Chadwick

B1 extra credit answer leads to provisional patent, research award, and switch of majors

By Marisssa Cavallon

STAFF WRITER

A senior has been banned from Page House for one month for organizing a champagne party on the roof of Page last term.

The decision to Ping Nick Kramer, an off-campus senior and head waiter, was made by the Conduct Review Committee last week after a month-long case should act, we’ve been wrong. So we don’t know if this will actually work, said Prof. Tombrello. “But at the very least, we will learn some interesting biology. We have a better system for actually changing the human genome in a large number of cells. So we’ll be able to do this research and will be done carefully. I wouldn’t feel very bad if I ended up turning people into vampires,” joked Chadwick, referring to the man who made the B1 alcohol.

Future plans are not certain for Chadwick. Having received so many awards and so much attention, Chadwick has retained a great sense of humility and is still trying to figure out his major. He is now leaning towards a biology major. “I definitely didn’t have much interest in biology before Bi1,” said Chadwick. “But this project really is what got me into it, I think through a lot of interest for bio research nowadays than there will be for physics. Chadwick is definitely asking questions in physics, and is doing much less accessible.”

“THe CAlIFornIA TeCH

This is the second time this year that a Page student has been PNGed for violating the alcohol policy. The student was previously banned from Page House for all of first term for providing beer to a freshmen drinking contest.

This year is the first time since 2004 that students have been PNGed over alcohol related incidents. In 2004, the Page resident banned a group of waiters that students thought were “destructive and mean.”
An Open Letter to the Caltech Community

April 27, 2009

There has been a recent unsettling, a disturbance of things as we knew and thought they loved. We pride ourselves on our intelligence, our logical outlook: yet I have heard much that seems thoroughly grounded in blind faith. I appeal to that very tendency to seek the logical, to seek what’s right, that all of us possess. I do not wish to see this become a dogmatic argument between two sides. This should not even be a question of sides.

We must first do away with the flippant superficiality on the part of many parents with regards to the debate on the existence of sexism at Caltech. That we don’t recognize this sexism is something that we perceive it as a joke does not make it right. Recent events have proven this to be an inherently unsalvageable statement.

Demanding evidence of sexism and, in light of some, demanding more seems not only irrational but downright obtuse. When no evidence will sway one’s convictions, perhaps one must honestly question the foundation of those convictions.

Some students feel that the evidence is, in fact, too convincing. Let the community who will deny that they detect any amount of sexism in the school’s culture actually engage in fact-based countermovement. However, the issue at stake is far more profound than this assertion: it would be enough if only one woman has felt degraded. That women can be found to speak in favor of the nijab does nothing to change the inherent misogyny of the garment.

There has also been asserted that women in other universities have engaged in acts of sexual abuse if they go out at night alone, that our community is really quite reasonable in a relative sense. But I doubt that any of you fail to see the fallacy of an argument of this type. The assertion can essentially be reduced to a statement that things could be worse, so people shouldn’t complain. This view both limits our ability to live and prosper and breeds a mindset of complacency.

There has also been a great deal of vocal outcry against the administration. Their heavy-handed policies and attempts to right wrongs in the ‘we can be bound to miss their target to a certain extent—for how could any student, in this environment, think that the mark is? It seems ultimately childish on the part of the student body to constantly reject the notions expressed by the deans and countermovement because the actions they take are imperfect in rectifying problems. It is hard at times to swallow one’s pride, to admit that the way out of a hole is not by insisting that the hole is, all in all, not so bad. We must climb. All that the deans can do is to give us some amount of impetus to do so.

To be honest, I don’t even know what force possessed those who so adamantly deny the existence of sexism on campus or in the house cultures. To what are we clinging so desperately? What do we gain by denying the obvious? The accumulation of many fallacious arguments amounts to nothing. That some women are finally speaking out about this elephant in the room is all that is needed by way of evidence. Contradicting or attacking their opinions only further proves the point.

Perhaps some are falling prey to a culture of political correctness. But this is simply regrettable, as foolish as it is to be overly politically correct, it is ten times more foolish to offend. Let us be reasonable. Let us give the students some evidence that we can govern ourselves. I have seen so many KICK students, otherwise brilliant, likeable people, fall prey to an unreasonable denial of what is pervasive. Perhaps they are afraid that what change might mean. But this culture of misogyny only becomes a reality because people were too scared to speak. The aggressively vocal nature of a minority is why it exists. And the less reason there is in a belief, the more belligerent its proponents tend to become—can do nothing, in the end, to sway the silent majority.

When there is irrefutable evidence that something is wrong, let us not dig in with the fortitude of a cold and broken notions. We must view each and every one of our fellow students with respect if we are to respect ourselves or our opinions. Perhaps the student body: every one of us can make this a community of which we can be proud.

Sincerely,
Lake Moryl

Submitted by Karthik Sarma, ARC Secretary

Goldwater Scholarship Recepients Announced

Three Students Awarded Goldwater Scholarships

The California Institute of Technology has recently announced that three students from the California Institute of Technology have been awarded the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for the 2009-10 academic year, and one student received honorable mention.

ZenNan Chang, a junior biology major from Santa Monica California, Xueliang (Leon) Liu, a junior applied physics major from Cerritos, California, and Guglielmo (Leon) Lockhart, a junior physics major who grew up in Italy and now resides in Pasadena, California are among this year’s recipients. Elizabeth Mak a sophomore biology major from Bradbury, California, received honorable mention.

The scholarship program, honoring the late Senator Barry M. Goldwater, is designed to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship is the largest undergraduate awards of its type in these fields.

This year the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation awarded a total of 278 academic merit scholarships to undergraduate sophomores and juniors across the nation. The recipients were chosen from 1,097 applicants: the student body: every one of us can make this a community of which we can be proud.

April 27, 2009
I guess I should start off by saying I am a self-proclaimed humanitarian. I love all kinds of people, and will certainly not be giving them up anytime soon. But I’ve heard a lot of different reasons to do so, and these are what I’d like to address.

Firstly, I really get annoyed at people who don’t eat other humans for “moral” reasons. Well, more specifically, I don’t like it when people are self-righteous about not eating human flesh. I think that’s pretentious and practically impossible to justify. And you can’t avoid hypocrisy - just think how many humans were probably killed making your clothes, shoes, and the plastics in your household. It’s all fine and good if you don’t eat people, but do you really think you can go about not riding the Transcontinental Railroad? Walking on the Great Wall of China? Living in a country with Freedoms? I don’t think so.

It’s a little better to not eat humans for economic reasons. After all, raising a person does take up a lot of resources. I myself try to avoid upper-middle class Americans when possible, just because the cost of food, clothing, and education are extravagant these days. But, there are ways to be economically-minded while not being self-righteous. For example, I have it from good sources that small children, while not served everywhere, make for delicious entrees.

There are really two reasons where I can see not eating people would be pretty understandable. Religious reasons, for example; even if I don’t agree with someone’s beliefs, I can respect that if they think some higher power wants them to not eat humans, they don’t. The other reason would be if one simply didn’t like the taste of human flesh. I myself once got food poisoning from eating a people-burger, and for about a year after that, I just couldn’t bring myself to eat anything with ground human flesh: people-burgers, people-loaf, even the stuff they put in spaghetti sauce. Obviously, I’m not going to knock someone for not eating something because it makes them gag - just so long as they don’t have a hissy fit when they find out their gummy candy has some human product in it.

So that’s about all I have to say. I’m not violently opposed to not-eating-people-ism, I just wish people wouldn’t carry on and on about it. But until I evolve away my canine teeth and carrion-scavenger instincts, all I have to say is:

Here’s to good eating!