Dearth of proposals for three-unit courses in third term

By Wesley Yu  
STAFF WRITER

Only one proposal for a student-taught course has been submitted for third term. That proposal, a course on Indian film, will likely be approved. But the dearth of proposals has some concerned about the survival of the program. “I am concerned about the lack of proposals for next term. It may be the program thought of as requiring academic rigor,” said Dean Hall. In the past, the Faculty Board, the committee that approves student-taught course proposals, has insisted on some academic subject material. Many students, though, would like to see the program made available to subjects regardless of their academic value. “I hope that in the future, more courses are taught just for fun and not necessarily for academics,”-- Amit Gandhi, student-teacher

As much as 30% cuts for academic budgets, plus a hiring slow down

By Sarah Marzen  
STAFF WRITER

Across the country, some peer institutions are responding to budget cuts with hiring freezes and near decimation of the budget for outside lecturers. Caltech President Jean-Lou Chameau has reaffirmed a commitment to academic excellence, but Caltech academics are not immune to budget cuts. Across the country, academic division budgets for next year might be cut by as much as 30%, and the average number of faculty position offers is roughly two-thirds what it was in the past ten years. However, both of these statistics involve more complexities than would actually be determined. Division budgets aren’t finalized until June or July, said Stolper, and don’t begin to get hammered out until April. Furthermore, the details of budget cuts are left up to division chair. For example, endowment principle might be used to backfill budget losses from the Provost’s office. Some of the funding from the provost is used as “other faculty salaries” budget, used to pay for teachers that are not tenure-track professors; although how much money is used for this budget varies from division to division. Stolper notes that the department is relatively easy to get a Ham Radio license.”

Endowment losses force fewer chemistry graduate students

By Tina Ding  
STAFF WRITER

Caltech’s administration has emphasized that it will do its best to preserve the Caltech research and academics in these budget cut changes. However, the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division’s endowment loss will cause the department to admit 10% fewer graduate students, according to Division Chair of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering David Tirrell. According to Provost Ed Stolper, every academic division’s budget comes from multiple sources—the Provost’s office parcels out a “hunk of money” to each division, and each division has their own endowment, grants, and gifts from donors. The current economic situation has diminished the value of the endowments, and will probably diminish the amount that donors are willing to give. It’s likely that each academic division’s budget will be under stress for at least a few years, Stolper wrote in an email. “Any organization that is heavily dependent on endowment for operation will be under stress,” said Tirrell. “The main use of our division endowment is for graduate student fellowships.” The Ch/ChE fellowship funds the few months to a year in which the student rotates through labs, and takes exams and classes. “There are two knobs that we can adjust to offset the endowment loss,” said Tirrell. “We will admit fewer students and we may make the transition to grants occur earlier.” The Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division enrolls about 35-35 students in chemistry and twelve to fifteen students in Chemical Engineering every year. There will be an approximate 10% cut in admission offers, which will probably result in about 25-30 chemistry students and ten to twelve chemical engineering student entering in the fall. “However, we can’t predict accurately how many students will enroll,” said Tirrell. Currently, the Caltech graduate student matriculation rate in chemistry is about 35%. The second “knob” to offset the reduction in fellowship funds is making the transition from fellowships to research grants earlier than in the past. This would not affect the students’ experience but would change the source of funding to pay for their expenses,” said Tirrell. Further stress on the budget may come from a reduction in the amount of money parcelled out by the Provost’s general budget. “Division general budgets are so easy to define,” said Stolper, and the way in which division money is allocated to the division chair, not by the Provost. Still, in the current economy, endowments donor gifts, and possibly the Provost’s contribution will be needed. “We can anticipate lots of these sources of funding are going to be compromised,” said Stolper. Exactly how academic division budget cuts will play out has yet to be determined. Division budgets aren’t finalized until June or July, said Stolper, and don’t begin to get hammered out until April. Furthermore, the details of budget cuts are left up to division chair. For example, endowment principle might be used to backfill budget losses from the Provost’s office. Some of the funding from the provost is used as “other faculty salaries” budget, used to pay for teachers that are not tenure-track professors; although how much money is used for this budget varies from division to division. Stolper notes that the department is relatively easy to get a Ham Radio license.”

Hiring slow down?

Despite the hiring slowdown, Provost Stolper expects more faculty hires this year than last year, even though last year’s target for the number of faculty hires was higher. Why? The number of faculty hires each year fluctuates by a large amount—seven faculty hires last year, eighteen hires per year over the past ten years. Last year, only ten faculty were hired, even though more applicants were asked to join Caltech’s candidate pool. “If there are more offers and the number of faculty hires varies by roughly a factor of two from year to year. Caltech hasn’t stopped any of its ongoing searches for new faculty, but it has “taken it’s foot of the gas a little bit,” said Stolper. Harvard’s hiring freeze, in comparison, is equivalent to slamming on the brakes. We’d better the search committees [to finish quickly], but we’re not stopping any of the active searches,” said Stolper. Looking forward

Caltech administration had to come up for a new budget plan mid-year, and things will happen that nobody could have anticipated, Stolper. “As soon as there’s a sign of a mistake, we’ll fix it.” Nonetheless, the administration is confident in Caltech’s resilience. “Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident in Caltech’s resilience. Next year will be stressful, but I am confident...
**The California Tech**

**2 FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

**The Dream Deferred**

By Chris Kennelly

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Student-taught courses offer the potential of adding an unprecedented amount of breadth to the Caltech curriculum available to undergraduates. Unfortunately, calls of academic rigor threaten to dry up student enthusiasm and risk losing this opportunity. As a result, the board's December only one-student-taught course proposal was submitted. At the December faculty board meeting to approve winter term student-taught courses, only two proposals—out of the four that had been vetted by the Curriculum Committee—were approved. Without any official reason for why the two courses, introductory courses to Rubik's Cubing and playing bridge, were not approved, the board left the rumors.

Amongst my friends, the reason seemed clearly evident: the board felt these proposals lacked a vague notion of academic value. Whatever kernel of value lies in that belief is immaterial. Such attitudes, true or otherwise, can construct a kernel of truth lies in that belief...I'm not even sure that so many graduate students are fighting against the board plan are fighting against the board plan, but I don't understand where they are coming from. However, I would encourage the undergraduates that are criticizing the gung-ho Averites to ask them directly. I'm just not sure that over-interpreting their emails and slandering them in the process.

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**The Obama spending spree**

By Daniel Alvarez

**UNDERGRAD**

Someone is sure to be happy the person who invented the word “trillion.” But then again, maybe not. After all, it saves us the agony of having to look down that long line of Os, it may also have cost the American people a tangible conception of just how much of our money we’re spending in Washington. Try going to a friend and asking him or her how long it took you to pay off a trillion dollars if you were handed a $100 bill every second. Let’s just say you probably don’t expect to see the day.

I am writing this article as a response to Evans Boney’s article in the last issue of The Tech, but also as a call to action for all future tax payers to halt the unbridled spending our government has indebted us with.

On January 21, the president Obama announced that spending would be increased to $3.9 trillion for the current year. The justification for this spending can be summed up concisely: deeper the tax cuts, the call for more measures. Such unquantifiable terms as “trillion, years, or family” are used when you are dealing with sums of money that are inconceivable to the layman.

Mr. Boney seems to have been swayed, as he believes that “$500 billion is not a trillion” and that the stimulus bill and “GOP cronies...”

**By Sarah Marzen**

**EDITOR**

I know of a few gung-ho Averites who are hell bent on preventing every student from having their chance to see a course to completion. It that case, the board’s December decision and the subsequent approval of one student-taught course with less “academic value” as ideas for a one student-taught course is less rigorous than allow uncertainty to reign, give the board’s expectations.

First off, I don’t think that graduate students are fighting against the board plan, but I don’t understand where they are coming from. However, I would encourage the undergraduates that are criticizing the gung-ho Averites to ask them directly. I’m just not sure that over-interpreting their emails and slandering them in the process.

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**Drinking the budget Kool-Aid**

By Evans Boney

**CONTRIBUTOR**

Sure, the budget Obama revealed last Thursday is not perfect. Really, billions for climate change, $250,000 / year or more upset by the Department of Education. Obama intends to cover. Any of his opponents and proponents, in quite understandable position, are lining up to add their special spending or raise some other measures. It is patriotic. Once the tax is paid, there is no way to see this fleshed out, but it definitely has a much stronger sense, ground. On almost every point, both democrats and republicans say its way, way too much. I say the Obama Kool-Aid is perfect. Really, billions for renewable energy to water treatment plants. What it lacked is the pet project of every Democrats in the house. Republicans are against the idea of making the stimulus bill a vehicle for Congressmen to pass their pet projects without going through the appropriations process. Perhaps Mr. Boney can explain to us how $600 million in stimulus money to employees or $50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts will create a million jobs.

What is even more insulting is that even amidst the greatest economic hardship in American history, congressional democrats' economic stimulus plan looks like $410 billion bill for “government operations”. Unsurprisingly, the bill also Christmas tree full of 8,570 earmarks and pet projects. While Washington bureaucrats are lining up to add their special ornament to the tree, it is the American taxpayer who is left out with the tab.

I am also inclined to comment that the president Obama announced that spending would be increased to $3.9 trillion for the current year. The justification for this spending can be summed up concisely: deeper the tax cuts, the call for more measures. Such unquantifiable terms as “trillion, years, or family” are used when you are dealing with sums of money that are inconceivable to the layman.

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Off-campus party policy

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- Brian said he would be looking into the current status of the Big 7 and considering revisions for this current year.
- Social Director: The Terrace Party is almost registered and just needs funding. Noise said she has a few money ideas; the Dean will come to a decision soon.
- Tom said he might consider hosting a small gathering this upcoming weekend.
- Budget Meeting: The meeting will take place at Tom Mannion’s house this Sunday March 8th @ 2:00 pm.

- Tom needs to find someone new to run the student shop because Jimmy is graduating.
- Tom wants to get more people to go to Mudeo and make it more like the way it used to be.
- Tom wants to hold the Olive Harvest Festival again next year, but possibly without a dinner.
- Tom’s budget is being cut — his cooking class will be cut in half, and he will have less money for dinners, but he’ll still have movie tickets, etc. available for students.
- Some people on the IHC don’t have a SAC 15 key yet.
- Page’s cocktail party on Saturday will be at Tom Mannion’s house instead of the Holly Center.
- The IHC is still working to try to arrange for enough rotation lunches and dinners.
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French film defies expectations for better and worse

by Hillary Walker

“The Class” opens in the grim, sterile lounge of an urban school where teachers introduce themselves and eat packaged cookies to celebrate the beginning of the academic year. The lens then shifts to the classroom of François Marin. His students are raucous, difficult, and sometimes enduring, and they embody France’s uneasy multi-ethic composition. There’s Esmeralda, the outspoken Arab, and her friend Khomba, a girl who used to get along with Monsieur Marin but now causes trouble. There’s Wei, a quietly charming Chinese immigrant, and Souleymane, an intelligent boy from Mali who’s prone to outbursts of anger. The film follows the class for an entire year. We see Marin struggle to teach the conjugation of irregular verbs; we see parent-teacher conferences (some of the most revealing moments of the film); we see pedagogical debates during staff meetings.

The plot, however, is not the driving force of the film. “The Class” takes a pseudo-documentary approach and is filled with mundane classroom experiences. The cameras pan over the students and hover close to their faces, capturing the restless movements, the looks of triumph, despair, and disbelief. The dialogue feels raw and unscripted, and there is something undeniably natural and immersive about the entire work. The film is based on the semi-autobiographical book “Entre les Murs” (Between the Walls) by François Begaudeau, a former teacher, who also plays the representation of himself. His students are played by real students, and they are riveting. Unlike conventional Hollywood classroom dramas, there are no revolutionary teaching methods; there is no clear message of hope; there is no tidy narrative. François Marin, neither vilified nor hero, seems like a mediocre teacher at best, and the students are both infuriating and sympathetic. In its realism, in its honesty, “The Class” is in a league apart. Yet for all of its frankness, the film lacks the emotional power of narrative drama. The moments at the end may surprise and stir emotion; as a whole, however, the work is interesting but ultimately unmoving. The film received the Palme d’Or at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival and an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film. “The Class” is laudable but perhaps does not merit such grand accolades.

The Melting Pot

by Andrew Freddo and Dannah Almasco

Introduction: The Melting Pot sounds like a fun, interactive dinner experience. Since the local branch is in Old Pasadena, we wanted to see if it was more than your average date restaurant.

Goal: Is the Melting Pot really, as they propose, a “dip into something different”? Materials and Cost: Overall, the Melting Pot has a pretty set ordering process, which is spelled out in the menu.

Select your cheese fondue
Select your salad
Select your entrée and cooking style
Select your chocolate fondue

They offer the Big Night Out menu that encompasses all these steps for a set price ranging from $88-$98, all-inclusive, for 2 people. All of these items can be ordered individually, but this set menu gives the best value. There are about 6 different types of cheese fondue, an assortment of entrees, and about 10 different types of chocolate fondue.

Observations:
Don’t be overwhelmed when you first open the menu — your server will explain everything to you step-by-step. Then, once you make your choices, right away you will start on your steamy eating adventure! The cheese fondue we selected was the Wisconsin Trio, which includes fontina, buttermilk, and butter-milk bleu cheese. The bleu cheese gives a nice touch, adding a little zing to the dish. You can dip bread, vegetables, and apps into the fondue. It was served warm, but not piping hot (since otherwise we would have been burnt!).

The California salad was a great intermezzo between courses. The tangy raspberry vinaigrette lightened us up from the cheese fondue. There also was a good proportion of all the salad components: walnuts, gorgonzola, salad greens, diced tomatoes, and dressing.

For our main course, we ordered a Fondue Fusion, with filet mignon, lobster, BBQ pork, honey mustard chicken, shrimp, salmon, and ravioli. There also are a lot of dipping sauces provided, the highlights being melted butter, teryaki, and sweet and sour sauces. What makes this different from most sit-down dinners is that you cook everything yourself. Essentially you steep your food in a flavored broth for 2-3 minutes and enjoy! We chose the Coq au Vin preparation, which had the most garlic. This broth flavored the accompanying vegetables really well. Overall, this was a very fun, though a bit messy, experience. Looks can be deceiving — the portions appear small, but you feel very full afterwards.

To round out this eating extravaganza, we chose the Flaming Turtle chocolate fondue. This had milk chocolate, caramel, and pecans, and for effect was flambéd tableside. We then get a big platter of dipping items, the best of which were strawberries, Rice Krispies, marshmallows, and brownies to share and dip in the sauce. The pecans added a great texture to the fondue, and overall it was very rich and a great finish to the meal.

Atmosphere: The Melting Pot is a huge restaurant. Though there are a lot of tables, the service is impeccable and very attentive. The booths are also pretty separate, giving a more personalized feel to the experience. Overall, it has a very fun atmosphere, since everyone is interacting with their food and each other!

Conclusion: The Melting Pot is on the expensive side, but can be a great, fun night out with a date or with some friends! Alternative — you can go just for the chocolate fondue for under $20. This is an amazingly unique dining experience to take a dip, head to www.meltingpot.com or call (626) 794-2194 for reservations.
1. Why Caltech?

I am interested in understanding the mechanisms of various biochemical systems, particularly metalloproteins and membrane proteins that utilize ATP. Our chemical systems, particularly the mechanisms of various bio-

domination for much of my field.

2. Tell us about your research. What are you working on now?

I am working in this general area; he not only had her letter trans-

3. Where do you think the future of X-ray crystallography is headed?

I am particularly interested in understanding the structure of a protein, one of the main problems in structural biology.

4. Why did you choose your particular field?

I arrived at graduate school with a little interest in structural biology in general, and X-ray crystallogra-

5. Is there anything one thing you’ve ever wanted to research, but never had the time for? If so, what is it?

I have never had the time for? If so, I still find to cover some of the most remarkable topics I have ever studied. I also met a number of really interesting people and made some very close friends. Dr. Hawking’s famous

6. What is your favorite moment in the history of science? I particularly like the story of Ag-

7. If you could pick one alchem-

8. What do you think is the most viable renewable energy option?

9. What major world diseases do you believe science is closest to finding a cure for?

Good question. Perhaps a viral disease such as HIV?

10. What do you feel was the most important discovery of the 20th century?

Recognition of the functional implications of the DNA struc-

11. What was your favorite subject being an undergraduate?

I enjoyed my upper level science courses in physical chem-

12. If you had to go back and major in a humanities or social science, what would you pick?

History, to study the astonishing achievements of people and how they came into conflict (to para-

13. If you were to live in a country besides the United States, where would you probably live?

German, is the only candidate.

14. What is your favorite building at Caltech?

I do know about a favori-

15. What is your favorite holiday?

Thanksgiving.

16. What do you like to do when wasting time?

Watching Get Smart, or hiking. I am learning how to play guitar (I don’t actually consider these wasting time).

17. Do you have a favorite hobby?

A good way to get away from the frustrations of the data.

18. What’s the best part about being in research?

When I started out, it was the thrill of figuring out something that hadn’t been known before. There is so much to learn.

19. What are your feelings on the number 42?

I have a deep fondness for the number 42, but I would speak to actually be true, what would it be?

20. Please leave us a random thought.

Plans are good, but shouldn’t get in the way of unexpected oppor-

The Universe in an Indian Nutshell

by Neha Sandamara

E very Wednesday, thirty or so young Caltech connoisseurs make their way to 400 South Hill Avenue to engage in the art of cooking, taught by Tom Mannion. After attending this class for the past six years, I have acquired a range of abilities, from learning to flambé assorted vegetables, to caramel-

ing walnuts, to making and frying crispy pot.

Last Wednesday was an especially unusual night, not only because the choice of cuisine was Indian and the class was introduced to spices in a way that they may have never experienced before, but because the meal was being presented for a special guest. Every-

thing was to be prepared in advance. Students wore chef’s coats and hats, and only the few with invitations had the opportunity to attend the event.

Dr. Hawking is known by many for his developments in the science of Cosmology, but he’s known by many more for his ability to solve complex scientific problems. In spite of his inability to use a pen or pa-

per. Where do we come from? How did the universe begin? Why is the universe in this state? After reading A Brief History of Time or The Uni-

verse in a Nutshell, many have found themselves probing more into these fundamental questions about our universe, in awe of a man who, al-

though having suffered from ALS (or Lou Gehrig’s disease) for over forty years, has not diminished in scientific genius.

But this night was not about ex-

ploring the depths of the universe in which we live. It was about gathering round-the-table with Stephen Hawking and engaging with his colleagues and friends over a meal filled with spicy concoctions from the Indian subcontinent.

The menu comprised of hot squash and cheddar soup (a north-indian style), zesty stuffed cabbage rolls, freshly baked naan bread and half a dozen more comida dishes prepared under the careful guidance of Rosy, ex-Kettles member, and an authority in Indian cuisine. As we proceeded through dish after dish, we began to ease into conversations with the many guests at the event, chit-chatting about stories from Dr. Hawk-

ing’s many travels around the world and the experiences shared by mem-

bers of his team and details about his lifestyle in England. Students were even given a chance to observe the workings of Dr. Hawking’s famous computer which he is able to control even given a chance to observe the

 experiencing the events shared by members of the field, etc., it is the atomic number of molybdenum, my favorite ele-

ment Samart.

At the end of the evening, Dr. Hawking put together a few sen-

tences to thank everyone who was in attendance:

“... I know about a favori-

ite building, but I like the 3rd floor of Broad. My favorite lab, though, is my original lab in the basement of Bran

The California Tech

FEATURES

March 9, 2009

20 Questions with Professor Douglas C. Rees

...as interviewed by Helen Kondos

Professor Rees is currently the principal investigator at the Keck

Lab, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Laboratory in the Division of Chemistry at Caltech. Dr. Rees is also Ros-

coe Gilkey Dickinson Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology and Ad-

junct Professor of Physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine.

1. Why Caltech?

The California Tech

Cosmology, but he’s known by many for

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ite building, but I like the 3rd floor of Broad. My favorite lab, though, is my original lab in the basement of Bran-

signifying.

19. What are your feelings on the number 42?

I have a deep fondness for the number 42, but it has been found that watching people come into the lab and grab as scientists to be quite grat-

ifying.

20. Please leave us a random thought.

Plans are good, but shouldn’t get in the way of unexpected oppor-
tunities. And, if you go to gradu-

ate school, you should do all your rotations (if your program has them) — you may discover a new area.
Admissions tries bolstering minority recruitment with new admissions officer

By Casey Jao

Applications from underrepresented minorities, mainly African-Americans and Hispanics, have increased roughly 140% since 2005. Last Wednesday, Caltech extended offers of admission to the largest group of underrepresented minorities (URMs) in its history, according to Rick Bischoff, Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Bischoff credits these trends to “the concerted effort we’ve made in the past few years” to increase student diversity at Caltech. To formalize that effort, Admissions will soon hire an under-

In the future, Dean Hall hopes to expand the program to include graduate students. “One thing I’ll propose is to allow graduate students to offer courses. This will be a nice way to further encourage interaction between graduate students and undergrads.” The three-unit course proposals will be presented at the next faculty board meeting on March 16.

What’s that weird looking plastic bag and PVC pipe for?

Amit Gandhi shows the Developing World Technologies class how a basic methane-contraction cooling tower works.

News Briefs

$500 for best Shakespeare paper

The Annual Hallett Smith Competition attracts the best essay de-

By Marissa Cavallos

Seven months after eleven Caltech students trekked to elite universities across the country for a whirlwind compare and contrast, a report detailing their recommendations to Caltech for self-improvement will be available to the Caltech community later this week.

Clarifying nebulous expectations for advisers, setting clear standards for teaching quality, and better defining the role of Upper Class Counselors (UCCs) in the advising process are among the 26 pages of suggestions from the Student Experience Trip (SET).

The economic recession put a far-from-final student Experience Committee’s strongest recommendations on hold—

The Graduates In Medical Care (GIMC) division awarded $500 for best Shakespeare paper, $250 for best history paper, and $100 for best economics paper. Students in these fields are encouraged to submit their work to the competition.
Those who like to watch Caltech’s winning sports teams might want to check out the men’s tennis team. Sunday the team pulled off its first victory of the season against La Sierra, 6 to 3, in what sophomore and team member Wesley Yu called a “stunning victory,” winning two of their doubles and four of their singles. The game was out of conference and does not affect the team’s standings. Still, Yu said, “It [the win] gave us a lot of confidence. We know that we can win.” After the win, tennis coach Mandy Gamble told the team, “We prepared for this today and worked really hard for this. The hard work was worth it.” It was a tough game, and Yu’s comments echo those of the coach. He said, “We knew going in it was going to be a competitive match and were prepared to do a good job.” The team tied another game on Wednesday and with the team only through about a quarter of the tennis season, Yu predicted that the win gave them a lot of confidence. We know that we can win.”

After the win, tennis coach Mandy Gamble told the team, “We prepared for this today and worked really hard for this. The hard work was worth it.” It was a tough game, and Yu’s comments echo those of the coach. He said, “We knew going in it was going to be a competitive match and were prepared to do a good job.” The team tied another game on Wednesday and with the team only through about a quarter of the tennis season, Yu predicted that the win gave them a lot of confidence. We know that we can win.”

Basketball senior Dellatore receives Ducey Award

Caltech senior guard, Matt Dellatore, has been named the 2009 Ted Ducey Award recipient by SCIAC coaches. The Ducey Award goes annually to a senior basketball player who has demonstrated well-rounded ability on the court and exemplifies leadership, discipline, determination, and sportsmanship. In addition, the winner must have shown sincerity of purpose in his academic endeavors.

Dellatore, a captain and four year Caltech contributor, hails from North Bethesda, MD where he attended Georgetown Prep. Throughout his playing days at Caltech, Dellatore amassed more than 800 points, 100 assists, and 100 steals all while shooting 80 percent from the free throw line and 34 percent from behind the arc for his career. He scored a career high 28 versus Pacific as a sophomore and he poured in 27 points and snagged 10 rebounds this season in a home win against NYU-Polytechnic. He turned in a masterful 2009 performance at Redlands with 18 points, six rebounds, four assists, and three steals. He recorded a career high five thefts against Chapman as a sophomore.

During his senior season, Matt ranked among the conference’s elite in points (9th), rebounds (25th), assists (10th), steals (3rd), 3-point percentage (11th), 3-pointers made (5th) and minutes played (7th). He finished second in SCIAC free throw percentage (101st in the nation). Matt is majoring in applied and computational mathematics and plans on going into clinical medicine.

-- From Caltech Athletics
Dear Dr. Smart,

As you may very well know, the fine house of Avery is switching to the Feynman board plan next year. Many of us in Avery are outraged at this grave injustice. We wish to fight for our right to quality food from the Avery kitchen. How would you advise us to protest?

Sincerely,
A militant Averite

This is easy. Next time you see Chameau, walk up to him and start crying. Just cry more and more and more. Of course you’ll first have to find him, which means leaving Avery and going somewhere other than class. Remember to bring a campus map or you’ll get lost. Naturally, this would require you to take some time out of your busy schedule to do something that is probably less productive than working on your math set. You might even consider this a form of flicking.

This raises further questions. In order to fight for the survival of the Avery board, you and others in Avery must be unproductive. Can you really afford to sacrifice your impeccable work schedule to obtain higher quality food than your peers in the other houses? If not, there’s always using an LN2 container to freeze dry the Avery Board food so you can eat it next year. I hear there are some LN2 experts in Avery, so talk to them.

Sincerely,
Dr. Smart

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

All I have to say is 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 Flems 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.

Sincerely,
Dr. Smart

Dear Dr. Smart,

I think you’re so cool. I love you and I want you to father my children. I wanted to write an awesome advice column like yours, but nobody liked it. How do I suck less?

Sincerely,
Dr. Not-So-Smart

So you want to know how to suck less. You have to appeal to the people. Immerse yourself into the student body and see what makes the typical Techer tick. Then drop by a normal school some time and see what makes normal people tick. Look for common ground if you can find any. A bit of social expertise will take you a long way.

Generally speaking, it helps to be witty and/or quirkly as far as your personality is concerned. Finally, you may want to consider writing well as opposed to writing like an English translation of a French translation of a perverted Russian twelve year old boy.

Sincerely,
Dr. Smart

Think you’re funny? Think you’re not funny? Well sense of humor is a twisted thing. Maybe someone will find you funny. And you can publish a comic anonymously and still get paid. Send it a comic today.