After 3 years Caltech Students Get Another Concert

Alternative Rock Band Third Eye Blind performs to Crowd This Last Saturday

Caltech-Occidental Concert Band Gives First Concert of Year

By Mythili Iyer
Contributing Writer

The Caltech Occidental Concert Band gave its first concert of the 2009-2010 year on Friday evening, finishing to a standing ovation from a packed auditorium. The ensemble, played a varied program that was fitting end to a term that included a feature article in the LA Times and an opportunity to work with one of the preeminent living composers of band music.

The first half of the concert, the audience was treated to the band's Carnegie Hall performance, the highlight of a trip last spring to New York City. After intermission the band opened with Tetsunosuke Kashida's "Collage for Band," a piece inspired by Japanese folk songs, coaxing new sounds from their instruments. William Bing, the band's longtime conductor, said he had recently been introduced to the sound of Asian band music and hoped to incorporate it more into the band's repertoire.

The concert continued with a guest conductor, assistant professor of Geology Paul Asimow, who led the band in a rendition of Richard Strauss' "Allesseelen." Asimow's introduction of the piece elicited laughs from the crowd as he related the spirited tale of a young Strauss secretly studying the works of Richard Wagner under his disapproving father's nose. The piece, a wistful recollection of the beginning of a romance, gave the band the chance to demonstrate its dynamic range, with dramatic outbursts followed by lyrical song.

Next up was composer and serial soloist Les Deutch. A member of the JPL staff, he performed an impressive piece of his own composition in which he played no less than four instruments - a swingin' tuba, a saxophone playing a march, a dulcet piccolo melody, and trumpet fireworks. His piece, "Themes and Pertubations," was an odd but spirited combination of instruments.

The band finished with its tour de force "Angels in the Architecture," written by noted composer Frank Ticheli. The band was fortunate to have the opportunity to rehearse with Ticheli himself prior to the concert.

The Caltech Occidental Concert Band - which is open to students, faculty, alumni, and community members associated with Caltech, Occidental, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory rehearses once a week and gives three major concerts, one per academic quarter, the next of which is this coming February at Occidental College.

CLUE to make a comeback

By Casey Jao
Staff Writer

After nearly two years of disuse, the ASCIT student course review service is coming back. The CLUE - the name of the service - grew inactive in 2007 as students turned to the online Teaching Quality Feedback Reports (TQFR) for course evaluations. But student dissatisfaction with last year's revision of TQFR is spurring a revival of the earlier system.

From its debut in 2004 to last winter, TQFR served students, faculty, alumni, and community members associated with Caltech, Occidental, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as an online forum for students to provide and view feedback on courses and professors. At the end of each term students were asked to complete anonymous questionnaires for their courses, and their evaluations were published along with those of their peers. But unlike with CLUE, TQFR results could be viewed by the entire Caltech community, not just the undergraduates.

With the help of the Academics and Research Committee (ARC), the administration renovated TQFR last winter to be more faculty-centric.

"To improve teaching at Caltech, we need to give faculty constructive feedback," wrote vice-provost Melany Hunt, the TQFR administrator, in an email. "When we revised the survey, we changed the questions so that they focused more on teaching effectiveness rather than course popularity."

The revisions also removed students' written comments from public view. Previously the completed questionnaires were reviewed prior to release for the entire Caltech community.
will the Calzookie ever return to Caltech?
How long will royal decree keep http://imgx.xkcd.com/comics/

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
www.caltech.edu
tech@caltech.edu

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes

November 9, 2009

Officers Present: Anthony Chong, Andrey Polateyev, Pallavi Gunalan, Nadia Iqbal, Michael Maseda, Laura Conwill, Maral Mazrooei

Guests: Tim Black, Daniel Obenshain, Chris Hallacy

Call to order: 12:11 PM

Funding Requests:

Call to order:

Guests: Mazrooei, Nadia Iqbal, Michael Maseda, Laura Conwill, Maral Mazrooei

Vote on the Veritas Forum proposal from last week (seeking funding for advertising and recording the November 18 event).

VOTE: Approved (6-0-0) $100 for advertising.

President's Report: Anthony is meeting tonight rather than work. You may look at it as a fine meal; and certainly better than not only fast food, but even the very food served by Impinger only found out in which incoming freshman had been complaints about the quality of the food, especially those foods which were fried and grilled. I can say with certainty that – at least during the shift on which I toiled in a 24 hr. – every dish was served with relative speed and the best of quality. We may be4 aware of the quality of the food we had, and if any customer had issue with this, I and my compatriots were more than willing to make it once more. The food was significantly better than not only fast food, but even the very food served by Dining Services for our evening meals; and certainly better than any other fresh food served on campus, particularly for the Calzookie, especially for D-Bal. If the food quality was that bad, we wouldn't have made the positive profit margin that we routinely did – we would have had cease of food poisoning throughout the student body. The proposed solution was to hire a CDS employee (non-student) to oversee Calzookie. We were unhappy with this, in that it seemed unnecessary, but acquiesced since (as we are often made aware), students have the short end of the power stick. However, weeks then passed with no hint as to when it would open. It has since been revealed that the search for an employee who was a dishwasher to work those hours began less than two weeks ago, when we were told it would start before the beginning of term.

As a compromise, I offered as a solution that each employee be given more rigorous, CDS overseen training. Then allowing us to work alone, as we have for years without too much incident. To this, I was told “Student employees are different than regular employees. You are first and foremost students and you have no set schedule of full time employees are here to work, and it that does not interfere with your studies.”

Woah. Back up. Never were our grades the issue here. Each employee of Calzookie, just like every student waiter, like every library employee, like every student working in the Y or the Housing office, is fully aware of how to manage their own time; if they aren’t, we don’t shut down the library in response, do we?

Are we not adults, or at the very least, college students who need to learn how to manage just this kind of thing? Does administration not think we can handle having paying jobs? What is the whole point of frequently singled out, David is going to create a proposal to submit to the house Excoms to vote on whether Avery is a house (a similar proposal was unsuccessful last year). Tim and Pallavi wrote articles for the Tech about rotation committee and the mural policy.

Operations Director: Since Thursday, Michael met with the student reps on the library committee on the books. It’s only the old books that need synopses added.

Social Director: We have forty-five volunteers for the concert! Nadia’s going to figure out exactly what jobs we need volunteers for with Tom and Lorri. They will also figure out the gorgeous committee.

Secretary: The chart looks good now.

Treasurer: ASCIT will not have to contribute funding for the Noodle Team. All of the club funding requests for fall term have been submitted. Checks will be ready soon. We received $2000 from the alumni fund for the concert; other donors are the Gnome Club, Student Life, MHB, and ASCIT.

Scheduling: Midnight dining will be Wednesday, November 18! Tonight the BoD is eating dinner in Lloyd.

Meeting adjourned: 12:35 pm

Submitted by Laura Conwill
ASCIT Secretary

New CLUE to be more useful for students

CLUE FROM PAGE 1

“profanity and hateful comments.” As TQFR expanded to cover all divisions, screening for “profanity and hateful comments...became a very time consuming process” and “delayed the release of the survey results,” wrote Hunt.

As students can no longer view their peers’ comments, the revised TQFR is “not very useful to students,” said Andrey Polateyev, ASCIT VP of Academic Affairs. He noted that response rates have dropped substantially since the TQFR was revised.

Since TQFR is for professors, students can’t work anything for the students,” said he.

Polateyev is working with the Tech on teams to restart CLUE. Last Friday he invited undergraduates to complete an online survey about what they want in a course review system. He expects the new CLUE questionnaire to ask about course specifics, such as teaching quality, in addition to the general evaluation.

“We’re planning on expanding the questionnaire a little to make it more useful,” said Karthik Sarna, a dev member.

New CLUE will be operating independently of TQFR. In response to student feedback, TQFR respondents can now make a follow-up question, said Polateyev. But ultimately “we have to have a student feedback system,” he said. Sarna remained open to the possibility of融合CLUE and TQFR in the future.

“I have had some discussions with ARC on how to support both CLUE and TQFR but we haven’t done anything yet,” wrote Hunt.

For more on the new team, planning to send out course surveys to the students, during which CLUE was inactive. Sarna hopes that the system will be back and running by the end of second term.