Caltech-led CA team awarded $122 million for solar initiative

By Gloria Tran

Caltech Security Halts MIT Prank

On July 22, 2010, the Department of Energy announced a $122 million award for a partnership between Caltech and the Lawrence National Berkeley Lab in Berkeley, CA to lead breakthrough research in cost-effective solar sustainable energy. These two collaborative sites in northern and southern California will collectively be known as the Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis (JCAP). JCAP is one of three Energy Innovation Hubs, integrated research centers that will implement a multidisciplinary team for advancement in energy technology and infrastructure.

Leading the JCAP Fuels from Sunlight Energy Innovation Hub will be Dr. Nathan S. Lewis, the George L. Argyros Professor and Professor of Chemistry at Caltech, supported by Caltech's Bruce Brunschwig and Harry Atwater and Berkeley Lab's Peidong Yang. In addition to the main sites of Caltech and Berkeley Lab, other members include the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego.

The proposal for JCAP submitted to the DOE is the third largest proposal in Caltech history.

By Sarah Marzen

In the early morning of September 10, Caltech Security officers put a halt to a prank being carried out by five MIT undergraduates.

The exact details of the prank are still under investigation by the Tech, as the two MIT pranksters that the Tech was able to obtain contact information for did not respond to an email inquiry and Caltech Security Chief Gregg Henderson was unsure as to what the prank would be. According to the Security incident report, the two Caltech Security officers involved found a parked Budget moving truck outside the east double doors of Baxter Hall, an unlocked roof door, and several perfumes and five boxes, a large white banner with red writing, and a sign labeled "CaliforniaMDx." A prank.

"Security did what they should have done, since there is no protocol for dealing with MIT pranks," said Vice President for Student Affairs Tom Mannion, who has been heavily involved in many of Caltech's previous pranks. "But if MIT says they're coming and they're doing something that I think is okay, I'll probably let them do it."

This MIT-almost-prank is the latest in a long line of pranks filed against the two neighboring institutions. In 2005, Caltech re-ignited the MIT-Caltech prank war when a group of Caltech undergraduates funded out pro-Caltech t-shirts at MIT's Campus Preview Weekend (CPW). In spring of 2006, MIT retaliated by stealing the Fleming Canon by posing as a moving company, and Caltech retrieved the canon the week after. In spring of 2007 during MIT's CPW, Caltech distributed fake MIT newspapers around the public Cambridge streets near the MIT campus, after being removed from the MIT campus proper by MIT's Security.

In 2008, Caltech undergraduate Tim Chen, who currently works at Caltech alumni Dr. Wayne Chen, who currently works at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. Also in October will be a workshop focused on succeeding in interviews for medical school and other health professions.

"By end of 5 years, we hope to achieve a combinatorial system for viability in the prototypes. Beyond the goal for a working prototype, JCAP has proposed several potential applications. The team proposes to focus on accelerated discovery of earth-abundant, robust materials to expand the existing range of available light absorbers, catalysts, membranes, and other system components. Additionally, JCAP wishes to develop a high-throughput screening system for testing these newly discovered compounds."

One of the pranking items found in room 17 of Baxter Hall was this black and white banner of uncertain purpose.

Permanent pre-Health Advisor Hired

By Yang Hu

Last January, the pre-med community at Caltech was worried after the sudden departure of former pre-med adviser, Angela Wood. An interim replacement, Melanie Resnick, initiated last year.

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This summer brought some changes to the Admissions Office at Caltech. The Assistant Director of Admissions, Cameron Pinckney, left Caltech in order to take a position at Dartmouth College.

The new Director of Admissions, Jarrid Whitney, officially starts his position today. He was kind enough to call by Security, stop by his office in general or to the admissions office in order to get a feel for the admissions office and the people working there.

Jarrid is a native of California and has been a part of the Caltech community before he could carry out his duties effectively. When asked if any new ideas might be happening to the admissions office or to the admissions process, he stated frankly that “I don’t know enough about Caltech right now to even suggest any changes.” However, he likes what he’s seen so far.

“I just got back from fresh camp, and it was an eye opening experience. The fresh were collaborating, working together. I don’t think I ever saw a frosh alone,” said Jarrid.

security caltech.edu

Black pranked MIT’s Mystery Hunt when he distributed a fake first question that directed MIT students to a Caltech transfer phoneline.

The more recent prank attempts at both schools have been stopped by Security officers. Last year during Thanksgiving weekend, a team of ten Caltech undergraduates organized a large-scale prank on MIT, in which Caltech had allegedly bought MIT and renamed it “Caltech East, a New School of the Humanities.” The pranksters, led by former Caltech undergraduate Anthony Chong, had almost finished putting up a “SOLD” banner and a “Caltech East” banner on MIT’s main building in addition to relabeling all of the nameplates along MIT’s Infinite Corridor. The pranksters got worried by the suspicious activity and called the police. The group of pranksters still managed to distribute a few copies of a fake newspaper, available online at east.caltech.edu.

“The most disappointing part was when the real cops showed up,” said Caltech undergraduate Jordan Theriot, who helped with the Thanksgiving prank, co-wrote the Thanksgiving prank newspaper, and is now in charge of the funding for Caltech’s Pranking Club. According to Theriot, the group of Caltech students had to plead with the police in order to take a picture of the half-flung “SOLD” banner on the building before taking all but a few of the prank newspapers back to Caltech.

MIT’s recent almost-prank seems to be a retaliation for Caltech’s uncompleted “Caltech East” break prank. “I’m glad MIT retaliated in any way,” said Theriot. “I want to see Caltech come up with something great.” However, the way in which Security has responded to the pranks recently has some of Caltech’s most avid prankers worried.

“The [pranking] game’s on, but we have had two shutdowns. We need to see what we can do to promote a pranking culture.”

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The California Tech

/sep/2010

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“The [pranking] game’s on, but we have had two shutdowns. We need to see what we can do to promote a pranking culture.”
MOSH moves to Olive Walk

By Tina Ding
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Over the summer, the west room of the Tech Express on the Olive Walk was cleaned out and renovated to become the new Master of Student Houses (MOSH) office. In September, current MOSH Geoffrey Blake moved from his old office in the Center for Student Services to the new room. "I wanted to be closer to the students," said Blake, "By being right on the Olive Walk, students can more easily drop in and chat."

With an office in the center of the undergraduate houses, Blake plans to initiate activities to encourage more student faculty interactions. "We’ll get some tables out there during lunch time, allowing faculty and students to eat together," said Blake. Additionally, Blake and his wife, Karen, plan to use the Lloyd kitchen to make snacks and desserts for students after dinner. He will be available on most nights after dinner.

About fifteen years ago, before the Tech Express was built, the MOSH office also resided in its current location. After speaking to former MOSHes Sunny Chan and Christopher Brennen who voiced the benefits of having MOSH close to the Houses at that time, Blake began efforts to reinstall the office on the Olive walk. To reduce the size of the Tech Express, copying and faxing are no longer available.

The MOSH serves as the faculty mentor to the residential associates of the Houses, and meets with them weekly. The more "fun and major role" of the MOSH is encouraging student outings and faculty student interactions. These activities range from taking students to musicals and plays to hosting manners dinners and activities at the MOSH house, located at 500 South Hill Avenue.

The MOSH also works with IHC on Rotation and other House traditions. Blake has served as the MOSH for one year, and is also the faculty chair for freshmen admissions. He is the Professor of Cosmochemistry and Planetary Science, and teaches Ch21b and Ge133. "My research group definitely sees less of me," commented Blake on taking up the position on top of his faculty duties, "but [as MOSH] you can’t make the difference without putting in the time."

Security charges students $50 for using the new secure bike cage

By Amol Kamat
STAFF WRITER

To help combat the history of bike theft at Caltech, security has installed a new bike cage. The cage, located on the second floor of the Holliston Parking Structure, is available to members of the Caltech Bicycle Program and costs $50 per year.

Caltech had problems with bike thefts on campus in the past, although there has been a definite decrease in burglary in the past few years, according to Gregg Henderson, chief of Caltech Security. However, according to a security report released in the summer, there were six bikes reported stolen between August 4th and August 25th. Furthermore, just a few weeks ago, a bike was stolen from Avery despite the use of a steel U-lock.

Opinions of this solution have been mixed, at best. One undergrad, who would prefer to remain anonymous, said, "I think it’s ridiculous for security to charge $50 to keep your bike safe instead of doing the job that we are paying them to do."

Henderson defended the cage. "I totally agree with that, but I don’t have enough personnel to ensure that they’re there at every moment. That’s virtually impossible. Yes, we do charge, but it was very expensive to build. I really wish we could be everywhere at all times, but we can’t."

Undergrad Scott Yantek feels his money would be better spent elsewhere: "I’d buy a good lock. My bike costs $90. It would be cheaper for me to just buy a new one every two years."

Alan Menezes, who had his bike stolen this year, was concerned about location: "It seems kind of pointless since you have to walk to Holliston to get your bike."

There are sixteen assigned parking spots available in the bike cage. The spots are on a first come first served basis. For more information, contact Kristina Valenzuela in the transportation office.

Cardreader replaces North House combination locks

By Casey Jao
STAFF WRITER

Over the summer, Caltech Housing replaced the rickety front entrance doors to the North houses, Marks, and Braun. The old combination locks have also been replaced by cardreaders, which were activated approximately four weeks ago. The cardreaders are different from the magnetic cardswipes in the South houses and Avery house, and require updated student ID cards. Students were issued updated cards when they checked in this fall.

The renovations were done in the interest of security, according to Housing director Peter Daily. "The North house doors were 1960s vintage. We now have doors with newer technology that work with the cardreaders," he said.

While Daily declined to discuss specific costs, he acknowledged that the project, which replaced five entrances over the past twelve months, was "very expensive." The money financed the cardreaders as well as the cardswipe-compatible doors.

No plans are on the table to update the older cardswipes, but "from my understanding, all new installations will be similar to the new cardreaders," said Daily. The door replacements were part of a broader renovation program by Housing. Contractors installed new electrical equipment in the North house basement, increasing the power to each North house room, and are in the process of installing energy-efficient air conditioners in the North house rooms. Two weeks ago the carpet in the North houses was replaced. Furniture in Avery, Ricketts, and the North houses is also being updated. "We’ve been busy this summer making sure that quality-of-life issues are done well," said Daily.

Write for the Tech.

We pay up to $30 for news articles.

email tech@caltech.edu
of time. We hope to find more semi-con- 
ductors than in all of history, screen them 
for future use. We don't want to spend 10 years try 
ning to develop a catalyst only to find that 
the device has to be almost free be 
cause gasoline is very cheap. So one of the 
important considerations is that we will not use pre-
cious metals such as platinum.

Along with a strong central manage-
ment, a necessary aspect of the JCAP proposal was the geographical re-
stricction of collaborators within California with the purpose of maintaining communi-
cation and accountability between depart-
ments. Each site will host scientists from other member sites for short term and 
long term visits. Researchers will also utilize video conferencing developed by Caltech's 
EVO Collaboration Network, which will enable highly accessible communication 
such as from a desktop to a large confer-
ence room scratchboard.

Both the JCAP North and South will 
combine the efforts of synthetic chemists, 
chemical engineers and builders. More-
over, each site has all of the projects, but 
differentially sized. For example, while re-
searchers investigate membranes on a m
ano-scale at one site, other researchers will 
examine them at a nanoscale at the other 
site. Some of the problems JCAP will 
be closely observing across scales include fluid 
flow, carbon dioxide input and diffusion, 
how bubbles affect light absorption, etc.

"This will be a vertically-integrated project. We will build prototypes on all 

cales in parallel, which will allow 
us to tackle problems on that individual 
level," describes Brunschwig. "The point here being that you want a critical mass; 
you want various groups to talk and inter-
face to be intellectually one site."

Roughly half the researchers at JCAP 
South will consist of Caltech graduate stu-
dents and postdoctoral fellows, while the 
other half will be newly hired staff acquired 
over the next few years.

However, "this is not normal research, as in single PI [principal investigator]-
oriented as in most university or industry 
labs," says Brunschwig. "All science and 
engineering will be focused on the device, 
with much more control over the science 
by a science management team, keeing an 
eye on where we're going. The PIs can't 
decide by themselves what to pursue."

We didn't want more than two sites 
-- Steve Chu envisioned "Bell Labs", not an initiative involving 100 PIs spread 
across 7 sites."

"Many of the existing solar research 

orts are largely on fundamental science; JCAP will do transformational science and 
develop technology of solar-fuels genera-
tion that can be potentially implemented in 
large scale. So we will not only do break-
through science, we also have an aggres-
sive agenda to develop a true revolution-
ary technology and bring it to the market," 
says Yang. 

To advance its goal as quickly as possi-
able, JCAP will incorporate the latest dis-
covers from the scientific community 
including national research centers as well 
as industrial university groups. "JCAP is 
committed to the rapid transfer of research 
results to private industry for commercial-
ization," declares the DOE Office of Basic 
Energy Sciences in the JCAP Technical 
Summary.

"JCAP wants to use everybody's best 
ideas. We don't want to spend 10 years try-
ing to develop a catalyst only to find that 
there are 10 people out there with better 
catalysts," adds Brunschwig.

Brunschwig expects that there will be regular 6-month reviews in which they will 
consider current goals, funding of various projects and its reallocation, if necessary.

While Lewis will oversee JCAP's en-
deavors, he will maintain his research group in chemistry with basic research projects 
developing components for a functional 
device on a microscale level. Lewis's other 
projects include an NSF-funded initiative known as Powering the Planet, run by the 
Center for Chemical Innovation. The ini-
tiative is also working on a prototype, but 
its collaborators span across the nation.

The proposal for JCAP of creating 
carbon-neutral fuels from sunlight and wa-
ter was selected for DOE funding among 
many other collaborator teams across the 
nation with different though very interest-

ing and worthy ideas.

"We wanted to partner with LBL be-
cause of their intellectual power, expertise, 
facilities, their light source, and molecular 
foundry," says Brunschwig.

"Even if we had not been selected, we 
thought it was valuable enough to try and 
find other ways to get it off the ground," 
comments Brunschwig. "From my point of 
view anyway, I would have loved to see labs working on making solar fuels. It has both high pay-off and high risk, but gas emis-
sions are high risk..." 

JCAP will be given $22 million this 
fiscal year, with $25 million for the next 
four years. JCAP's staff will occupy tem-
porary space in the next month, as Jor-
gensen will not be completed for another 16-18 months. The team does not expect to 
undertake a lot of research, as most of the 
money for this year will go toward the 
building and installment of equipment. 
The JCAP team hopes to sign the co-
operative agreement this week.

Changes to Ma1a

This year, Prof. Dinakar Ramakrishnan will teach Math 1a, the freshman course on 
calculus and proofs. He replaces Prof. Tom 
Graber, who taught the previous two years. 
A twenty-two year veteran of Caltech's 
faculty who is teaching the course for the 
first time, Ramakrishnan has been thinking of ways to make the course more "user-
friendly." Because some students have had little 

posure to the level of rigor in Math 1a, 
Ramakrishnan plans to dedicate a few days 
in early fall specifically to writing math-
ematical proofs, though he anticipates that, 
due to time constraints, he may have to 
shorten a section near the end of the quar-
ter.

"The purpose of Math 1a is to teach [stu-
dents] the mathematical method...using calculus, which most people have seen," 
said Ramakrishnan. "Students are real-
ly learning about argument." 

Malc Prof Jerry Marsden Passes Away

Professor Jerry Marsden, who teaches 
the freshmen Core course Malc (Practical 
Physics), and is the author of the textbook for 
the course, passed away on September 21. 
A detailed article will be published soon. 

Amongst the 603 admitted students, 226 matriculated to Caltech. The class of 
2014 is 31 students less than the previous class of 257. The percentage of 
women in the freshmen class is 40% women, down from class of 2013's 43%. 
The yield is approximately the same as previous years, dangling at about 37%. 
Recently appointed Director of Admissions, 
JCAP continued from page 1.
Nearby caffeine: coffee, tea, and a nice place to work
by Sarah Marzen

Coffee shops and tea shops can merely be places to buy a delicious alternative to sleep or energy drinks. But coffee shops are also an alternative to a cubicle or messy desk. Most coffee shops now have electrical outlets and offer free Wi-Fi. Here are some of my favorite alternative work spaces.

**Starbucks**

You want a spot for your laptop but didn’t show up before 8 AM? Tough luck. Starbucks has never been empty since it offered free Wi-Fi. The overpriced drinks don’t taste very good, the pastries are so-so, and the store on the corner of Lake and California doesn’t offer any of mega-Starbucks’ healthy, warm breakfast items except for oatmeal. The Starbucks-produced music is just loud enough that you can’t tune it out. On the plus side, Starbucks provides nutritional information for all of its menu items, and it’s open from 5 AM to 11 PM.

**Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf**

With tastier drinks and a wider tea selection, the Coffee Bean sets itself from the Starbucks that’s thirty seconds down the road by offering its patrons a completely different atmosphere. There’s only about five seats inside, near electrical outlets. Most of the seats are at small tables outside, which are filled with people talking, not working. Try their iced tea lattes if you’re tired of Starbucks’ flavorless tea lattes.

**Peet’s Coffee and Tea**

Better than Starbucks, plenty of space indoors and outdoors, and an extensive tea selection. Most importantly, it’s next to Noah’s, which makes delicious fresh bagels.

**Tazza Bianca**

No one is ever here, and that makes this place a gem for the wandering workaholic. The tea selection is large enough, if overpriced, and the friendly barista is happy to play a different radio station for you if you just ask. The snacks are barely mediocre and the place closes at 5 PM.

**Zona Rosa**

Not a great place to work, and not a great place for food, but their Mexican hot chocolate is delicious if you like cinnamon. Grab a cup after a romantic movie date. Cash required.

**Intelligentsia**

This new coffee shop in Old Pasadena looks like an interior decorator’s conception of a mad scientist’s lair. Blue walls on one side are opposite from a brick wall, and in between is an amazing collection of beakers and rudimentary hot plates. They have a very precise procedure for brewing coffee that involves evaporating water into a coffee filter using a halogen lamp two different times and stirring in between, and the effort shows—the coffee is artwork. However, a latte is $4. The food is similarly pricey and similarly tasty. By the way, don’t order tea here unless you feel like wasting money.

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**Website:**  [www.starbucks.com](http://www.starbucks.com)

**Location:** Everywhere. Seriously, type “Starbucks near Pasadena” into Google maps.

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**Website:**  [coffeebean.com](http://coffeebean.com)

**Location:** 415 S Lake Ave #108

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**Website:**  [www.peets.com](http://www.peets.com)

**Location:** 605 South Lake Avenue

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**Website:**  [www.teaspots.com](http://www.teaspots.com)

**Location:** 1443 E Colorado Blvd

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**Website:**  [www.intelligentsiacoffee.com](http://www.intelligentsiacoffee.com)

**Location:** 55 E. Colorado Blvd.
For the next several minutes I listen. Upon hearing Pasadena, he
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Hours after conference seminars.
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T W E L V E

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OPINION

Class of 2013 gipped of an off-campus frosh camp

By Amol Kamat

New Writer

The new frosh have arrived and
are facing the time honored tra-
tition of rotation. But these
frosh experienced one thing
that the Class of 2013 did not:
Frosh Camp at Ventura Beach.
Last year, as some of you may
recall, Frosh Camp was held on
campus, with prefresh living in
houses and attending lectures
across campus.
The high value placed on this
important experience is appar-
tently not as valuable as the dollar;
gargled one anonymous sopho-
more, “Caltech definitely needs
this to make it up to us because
I am paying the same tuition as
the new frosh.”
The general consensus amongst
dentists, and this law is that they
did not get to know each other as
well as the new class. “I personal-
ly feel that I met most of our class,
but I also had the added benefit of
preseason. But, I feel that Frosh
Camp is an invaluable experi-
ence to meet our class before we
are separated into houses, and I
feel without Frosh Camp, many
groups of people did not get the
chance to know their class as well
as they might have liked,” said Vishnu
Manoranjan.

According to the September
1970 issue of “The Month of Caltech,” Frosh Camp began in
1919 when the Caltech Y held an
evening reception for the incom-
ing freshmen.

Later, that became an all
day event. Eventually, it grew
to an overnight camping in the moun-
tains before becoming a multiple
day affair. In 1970, Frosh Camp
was held on campus for the first
time since 1926, featuring a simi-
lar slate of activities as last year’s
Frosh Camp. The reasoning be-
hind that switch was to allow the
new students to become more
familiar with the Caltech Los
Angeles area.
Last year’s change was more
due to finances. Dean Green clar-
ified, “Frosh Camp was held on
campus last year due to financial
issues related to the economy. It
was reinstated this year because
Vice President for Student Af-
airs Anneila Sargent and others
at Caltech place a high value on
new students having this off cam-
pus experience where they can in-
teract easily with each other and
with the many faculty, staff and
upperclassmen who participate.”

“They were a nice senior trip, an
expensive one,” said Blaine
Matulevich, “Like Europe.”

This confuses me. Excuse my
ignorance, but throughout the en-
tire talk, President Chameau re-
treated over and over that he had
balanced the budget. But... how?
Did chopping those 100 jobs re-
ally save enough money to offset
the loss in the endowment? Or
Did we use stimulus money to bal-
ance the budget?

Luckily, we have facts and
figures available on Caltech’s
website. I encourage all of you,
particularly interested faculty,
to check out the past 5 annual re-
ports. Caltech has had a “system-
ic deficit”. That is to say, even in
the good times, Caltech’s costs ex-
ceeded its revenues (from grants, interest, and the like).

But somehow, last year, despite
lowered revenues from the en-
dowment (which were offset par-
tially by the Draconian job cuts)... we did it! Chameau seemed
to have expected quite a celebration,
and got tepid applause.

I’m confused. Is the goal of the
institute to balance the budget?
If so, bully for President Cha-
meau. He has horded the stim-
ulus right into the endowment, fixing our systemic deficit with
donations from American citizens.
Or am I missing the computer
logic? The new professors? The
new buildings? (Schlinger was,
for instance, started in 2007).

Nope. This also can be checked
online. Despite taking much,
much more related government and
academic support increased 0.5%,
I thought grant money, particular-
ly stimulus money, came with the
expectation we will be spent sup-
porting research, not hoarded into
the endowment.
I’m sure there is some fancy fi-
nancial footnote that we can do
with this sort of chicanery. I hope
to see a cogent ex-
planation of his balanced budget from the President, and
finally get an answer to the question asked at
his town hall last year.
But it sure helps explain why
the stimulus package isn’t work-
ning, if Herbert Savers like Presi-
dent Chameau are padding their
balance sheets instead of moving
aggressively to gain an edge (as,
for instance, UT Austin is doing).
I hold President Chameau person-
ally responsible for a part in the
failure of the Stimulus Package.
Somewhere in the neighborhood of
$20-30 M, depending on what
items count as research support, appears to have been griffed.
I look forward to seeing an
update from the President on
Caltech’s careful stewardship of
Stimulus Funds. Particularly,
I would ask him to publicly de-
fer his reaction of the Faculty
Healthcare Committee’s recom-
mendation that we reinstate the
old mental health plan, in light of
the recent rash of suicides.

Apparently, despite receiving
30% more funding for just such
research support, we just don’t
have the money for such frivol-
ity.

By Eva
vans Boney

I attended the staff town hall
that President Chameau held
at the end of last year. In it, he
outed the increased grant fund-
ing that we had been able to se-
cure due to the stimulus (this led
to a mind-boggling 30% increase
in grant funding year-over-year).

When asked about when we
would see the income from the
stimulus trickle down to campus
improvements or additional jobs,
Chameau said, “I don’t know how
it works.”

Next question.

Presumably, President Cha-
meau, had he been asked to elabo-
rate, would have droned on
about how terribly complicated
the budget is, but that he has ev-
ery assurance from Dean Currie
that everything is completely on

The California Tech
Letter to the Editor

Big T Update

First, some statistics: 594 pages (144 color, 458 black and white), 2,682 pictures, 27,869 submitted pictures, 1,460 days, 1,586 mailing addresses on file, 982 current addresses (45 international, 937 domestic), 2,250 printed books, 9 cover designs, 329 pages of proofs, 13 tested printing configurations, countless man-hours.

The upfront? Everyone will be receiving every Big T promised by the ASCIT bylaws. We didn't have the money to print four sets of books—so we ended up combining the three backdated years (2007, 2008, and 2009) into one ‘mega-book’ that will be distributed without regard to the local laws of intermediate localities. Disregarding any scientific arguments for the benefits or harmful side-effects of smoking marijuana, I believe that Prop 19 is a flawed legislation because it is poorly worded.

One major pitfall of the proposed initiative is that the state government does not set the regulatory policies. Instead those powers are set by local governments, thereby creating a patchwork quilt of regulatory policies that vary from city to city and county to county within California. Consequently, the economic benefits of legalizing marijuana to the state are somewhat unclear—it is true that the state government will undoubtedly receive some revenue from local districts but the estimated appear rosey. It seems more sensible to create a statewide policy on marijuana and remit any taxes directly to the state treasury. Furthermore, by permitting residents to grow cannabis, the legislation not only undermines any potential economic benefits but also creates new enforcement problems for the state’s already strapped regulatory agencies. It seems more sensible to ban private cultivation and only authorize purchase from licensed growers. By permitting private cultivation, the law increases the probability of drug proliferation amongst minors and associated crime.

Lastly, since the sale of marijuana is federally prohibited by the Controlled Substances Act, the legal implications of legalization are potentially grave. Anti-cannabis groups can appeal to the higher courts and set the stage for a protracted and costly legal battle for years to come. For these reasons and more, I believe that Prop 19 is not a practical ballot initiative; the state legislators should seize the issue at hand and design a feasible proposal. Until then, I urge you to vote NO on Prop 19!

by Alexandra Souverneva
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meal</th>
<th>Arry</th>
<th>Blacker</th>
<th>Dabney</th>
<th>Fleming</th>
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<th>Ruddock</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1:00</td>
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<td>Fri, Oct 1</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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All dinners are preceded by receptions, so arrive at the house where you are assigned to eat dinner 30 minutes before the time listed above. The last dinner is on Friday, Sept 30. Note that dinner parties of the fall are early. **Come to dinner once you get out of class.** The final Saturday lunch is treated as a dinner, so arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled time for a reception. **If you are going to miss a rotation meal for any reason, including a class or sports practice, you need to inform the HMC Chair, Tom Block (tblock@caltech.edu) or the HMC Secretary, Laura Cowell (lcowell@caltech.edu) ahead of time.**
The story behind the creation of Facebook, a site that has revolutionized the way people around the world communicate, is a typical story about the big and brutal world of business. Several people quite innocently and eagerly attempt to start companies and work their way up from the very bottom of the pyramid, only to find themselves crushed somewhere along the way. Even worse, a group of people at the brink of success find their friendship jeopardized in the process.

Ben Mezrich’s fictionalized account of the tale, “The Accidental Billionaires”, is a very vivid chronicle of how two Harvard social outcasts came together and grew apart all in the span of a few life-altering years. Through his book, Mezrich boldly attempts to recreate the events of Facebook history. I say “boldly” because he lacks key information that would otherwise dissuade this pursuit; I say “attempts” because he consequently fails.

The author’s note reads, “Trying to paint a scene from the memories of dozens of sources – some direct witnesses, some indirect – can often lead to discrepancies. I re-created the scenes in the book based on the information I uncovered from documents and interviews, and my best judgment as to what version most closely fits the documentary record.”

This is essentially Mezrich’s version of a disclaimer for the incredibility of his book. By whimsically incorporating fluff to patch up the gaps in his information sources, Mezrich treads the line between fiction and nonfiction. The purpose of the book is undoubtedly to provide information on Facebook history; however, the overly descriptive phrases and cinematic scenarios make the whole situation unreal. Readers looking for the actual historical account could look elsewhere on news sites, and those looking for a good read could just as easily go to the library and find a mentally-stimulating novel, rendering Mezrich’s book completely and utterly useless.

The wide holes in Mezrich’s research, sporadically replaced with nonsensical wadding, resulted mainly from Mark Zuckerberg declining to interview or contribute to the book in any way. Without any assistance from the star of the show, the creator of this world wide web-pandemic, Mezrich turned to a man who was more than eager to provide his generally overlooked version of the events, Zuckerberg’s best friend-turned-enemy, Eduardo Saverin. In fact, Mezrich credits Saverin as a person “without whom this story could not have been written”. Placing that much importance on a person so polarized in the events that took place elsewhere on news sites, and those looking for a good read could just as easily go to the library and find a mentally-stimulating novel, rendering Mezrich’s book completely and utterly useless.

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Despite the commendable characterization Mezrich employs, his book is a distorted, elementary read. Which only makes the reader wonder whether Mezrich’s so-called “national bestseller”, The Accidental Billionaires, is the real accident.
Top Dog

By Erik Peterson

Michael Vick is top dog again. “Slick” Vick has been renamed a starter and is looking better than ever, much to the chagrin of Nancy Grace viewers and PETA activists everywhere. Eagles coach Andy Reid made the decision to bench starting QB Kevin Kolb earlier this week, caving to vocal pressure from both pundits and Philadelphia fans alike. Pressure had been mounting on Reid following Vick’s performance against the Packers in Week 1, where he filled in for an injured Kolb during the second half and led the Eagles on a comeback to within 7 of the heavily favored Packers, despite him ultimately falling short. The injured Kolb remained out for Week 2’s game against the Detroit Lions, and the Vick-led Eagles managed to win 35-32, prompting even heavier pressure to make Vick the starter for the remainder of the season.

ESPN panelists may disagree over whether beating the Lions (who have gone 2-33 in their last 35) merits a starting position for Vick, or whether Reid is making a mistake by in effect throwing away all the offensive planning and training done around Kolb throughout training camp and preseason. Ultimately for the fans however, the story is simple: “We want Vick.” A recent polling on SportsNation.com showed almost 85% of fans nationwide felt Vick was a better choice than Kolb.

Will Vick lead the Eagles where McNabb never could and help Philadelphia attain the Lombardi Trophy its fans so desperately crave? Smart money says “no.” Statistical computer simulations, courtesy of AccuScore.com, have however suggested that Philadelphia does indeed have a better chance of winning the NFC East with Vick at the helm rather than Kolb. Only time will tell how the Eagles fare under Vick, in the meantime Philadelphia fans can continue to stockpile their supply of D batteries and eagerly await the return of McNabb to Lincoln Financial Field on October 3rd.

Addendum: Vick fantasy holders had much to be pleased with Sunday afternoon, as Vick threw for 3 TD’s and ran in for a fourth, with the Eagles crushing the Jaguars 28-3. Perhaps this will be enough quell Reid and Vick’s critics for the time being.

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Soccer Preview ‘10

A message from team captain Jonathan Yeung

“...The team is hoping to build on the progress we made last year. Every year that I have been here, our team has gotten progressively better. We have the players that will allow us to play competitively with most of the teams in SCIAC, but what we must do is to play to our full potential. But playing competitively is not enough, at the end of the game the scoreboard is what matters. Last year, we won twice. This year, we need to do even better than that.

This is also the final year for a large and strong senior class: Me, DJ Seo, Becky Scholz, Tyler Hannasch, Grayson Chadwick, Alan Pezeshki, Tom Lampo. We all have been playing together for 4 years now and have always been the core of the team. Making this final season the best one is more motivation for the seven of us to play well.”

Beavers Take on Bulldogs

By Amol Kamat

On a cold September night, the Beavers took on the soccer powerhouse that is the University of Redlands. Two early strikes from the Bulldogs quickly put the game out of reach, but an inspired Caltech defense, led by goalie Marcus Lucas, allowed only one goal in the remainder of the half.

The defense continued to hold tight for the first twenty minutes of the second half before allowing four more Bulldog goals. The second half also saw the first major Caltech offensive attacks of the night, though they all sizzled before coming to fruition. Still, the Beavers were entertaining to watch, typically drawing more cheers than boos from the five assembled Beaver fans.

Notable highlights from the game include Jonathan Yeung’s almost goal in the waning minutes of the game and watching the Redlands fans’ reactions as Sarah Wright and Sara Venkatesh took the field at the same time, even cheering when Wright slide tackled a Redlands player.

The Caltech soccer team (now 0-3, although gocaltech.com counts the alumni game, making them 1-3) is ready to look past the 7-0 blowout. They will finish up a tough series of away games against Whitter and Chapman before a home stand against Pomona-Pitzer on Wednesday afternoon.

Gray Chadwick goes up for a header in a match against Oxy.

Photo courtesy of Radka Dancikova
Hello and welcome to Caltech. Initial membership to the Caltech community is free for all students, and will remain so for as long as you’re a student.

Free membership services include:

Chandler: Where you get your lunch (you won’t wake up for breakfast)
North or South kitchen: where you eat your dinner
One room in House: you get a room in a House that you rotate into
Blazing fast broadband: download anything you want in seconds, HD streaming!

For most people, these services are enough. But some people simply want more. For those people, we offer Caltech Gold memberships.

Caltech Gold offers many new services free membership doesn’t have, including:

Access to all Houses: Now, feel free to walk into any House on campus. Interhouse communication has also been opened up. Is there someone in another House that you want to talk to? Now you can!
Access to Professors: Ever see a professor and wonder “I wonder what having a dri-lunch with him would be like?” We offer programs where we will pay for lunch and dinner so you can do exactly that.
Varsity and club sports: Want to ball someone up? Do you just want to join in some fun.
And More!: Such as the MOSH, ASCIT, as well as Tom Mannion (read – delicious food).

Caltech Gold is a special service for special people. However, for a finite time only, membership is offered for a low, low price of simply asking any upperclassmen if you can join in something fun.

Whichever membership you choose, we’re sure you’ll enjoy your time here and wish you the best of luck. Feel free to utilize the free membership services as long as you want. If you ever feel like you want something more, join Caltech Gold, and get access to a secret Gold only handshake.

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Excitement
“Wow, the world’s foremost playground for math and science. I’m so excited to be here.”
“I can’t wait for the lab classes. I’m really looking forward to Chem 3a. How is that class?”

Confusion
“Um, you guys are also having some problems right? Right? Please? …”
“So, can someone explain what induction is?”

Depression
*sobs* “What’s going on?”
“Oh no, at this rate I won’t be able to get a P plus.”

Newfound wonder
“Woo, did you know Professor Makarov also plays water polo?”
“I never knew you could do that. That’s so cool.”

Newfound purpose
“Yeah I’ve been spending a lot of time on this project. It’s really exciting.”

“Hopefully I can work in Professor BLANKS lab this summer. It’s gonna be legend - wait for it - dary.”

Disillusionment
“SHUT UP FROSH”
“Hey I’m having some problems understanding contour integration, can anyone help me?”

“SHUT UP FROSH”
“Hey, I’m having some problems understanding contour integration, can anyone please help

“SH… oh hey baby of course I can help you. Call me Mr. Dependable.”

Release
“Ah, I’ve finally graduated. Time for the real world.”

“FREEDOOOOOMMM!”

Rebirth
“Ah, the University of BLANK Graduate School of INSERT DEPT HERE. The top place for INSERT FIELD HERE.”

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The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

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APPLIES AND ORANGES

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BY REBECCA LAWLER