Hixon Writing Center moved to the Dean’s tutoring program

By Sarah Marzen
Copy Editor

Former peer tutors of the suspended Hixon Writing Center are now Dean’s tutors for “writing”, but will be paid for by the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Division.

This is only an interim arrangement, according to Dean Barbara Green and Executive Officer of Humanities Cindy Weinstein. Neither Green nor Weinstein could comment on how long this interim arrangement would be in place.

“It's a great thing that they're doing this,” said senior Wesley Yu, who suggested the compromise arrangement to Katz and Weinstein after hearing from Hixon peer tutors that the peer tutoring component of the Hixon Writing Center had been cancelled. “It's a bridge between the old system and the new.”

No one yet knows what form the “new” system will take. The Hixon Writing Center’s role in the undergraduate writing curriculum will be reevaluated next term, according to HSS Division Chair Professor Katz. Yu asked Katz and Weinstein to put a student representative on the Hixon reevaluation committee, but his request was declined.

The uncertain future of the Hixon worries some. “It's a good short-term fix to make sure writers have a resource to turn to, but I’m much more concerned with what the program is going to look like over the next few years,” said peer writing tutor Erik Madsen.

Initially, HSS faculty planned to replace the Hixon peer tutoring program by helping students themselves. However, Yu believes that peer tutoring can sometimes be more comfortable for students who might shy away from approaching busy professors.

The impetus for axing the peer tutoring component of the Hixon Writing Center was the falling value of the Hixon Center endowment, according to HSS Division Chair Professor Katz. This year, the endowment dropped below the value of the original gift. “Cries are sometimes a just focus attention onto things that could be improved,” said Katz. “There was concern among HSS faculty that Hixon wasn’t performing the way that they want,” said Katz. In particular, peer tutors often focused on the nuances of essay writing instead of writing fundamentals, although HSS faculty had hoped peer tutors would focus on writing basics.

Suspending the peer tutoring component of the Hixon Writing Center is a large budget saving measure for HSS, according to Yu. The Hixon Writing Center peer tutors were paid a fixed amount regardless of how many students they tutored. All HSS tutors, these same students will get paid only when another student schedules an appointment.

A Ruddock House member stands on a ladder and grabs olives off of the olive trees on Caltech’s Olive Walk using a pole fruit picker. Ruddock House picked the most olives of any of the undergraduate houses, and won dinner with President Chameau.

Student-led Caltech iGEM project rated gold

Project loses to MIT, but no American teams make finals

By Sarah Marzen
Copy Editor

Caltech’s Internationally Ge-
netically Engineered Machine (iGEM) team won a gold medal at the iGEM 2010 Jamboree, but failed to qualify as one of the six finalists. This year Caltech’s team, led by senior Lucas Hart-
sough, tried to build a 3-D printer out of cells that produced plastic when hit by two different wave lengths of light.

Unlike most of the other iGEM teams, Caltech’s six-member iGEM team this year worked without a faculty supervisor. Bioenginee-
ring professors Niles Pierce, Richard Murray, and Rob Phil-
tips lent support, advice, and lab space to the supervisor-less iGEM team. Hartso-
ugh used $30,000 from the Hoessor Fund and $15,000 from the Student Faculty Programs office to fund the iGEM project. Caltech’s iGEM team two years ago worked under the supervision of Professor Chris-
na Smolke, who funded the team using $50,000 from her Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant.

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Details on Caltech’s iGEM proj-
ect can be found at http://2010.
igem.org/Team:Caltech.
The first image that strikes up in my mind are the words “Big Love” is that of a big happy family. Nothing can be further from the truth. Set in Italy, Chuck Mee’s Big Love (directed by BrianBruphy) examines the contradictions between individualism and societal pressures. The plot revolves around a group of women forced to marry fifty cousins in a deal that was sealed before the sisters and cousins were even born. While the cousins are quite delighted at the prospect of having guaranteed grooms, the sisters demand freedom to make their own choices. In reality, only three sisters and three cousins interact throughout the play, representing not only their forty seven other siblings but also different gender stereotypes. Thyona (Rebecca Lawler) represents the angry feminist, who’s best characterized by New Hampshire’s motto “Live Free or Die.” She hatches up a twisted plan to have her sisters kill all their husbands. Her act brings about a虽ful side character, Allen, who brightened the show with his performance. The three sisters’ counterparts are Constantine, the leader of the three, who is more down to earth than his other two, and Lydia (Julia Jester), polar opposite of Thyona, represents the simple-minded woman, who desires to be loved and cared for by a husband and at the expense of her autonomy. Lydia’s (Julia Jester) Parise) is the compromise between the two, who wants both her freedom to choose but who can also make concessions. Lydia was also the scribes her thirteen sons using tomatoes to emphasize her preference. For every bad son, Bella would angrily smash a tomato to the stage floor, with such brute force, the tomato juice would splatter around in multiple directions. This comes to show how the actors and actresses are at portraying anger. Time was t orn, the sisters realize they cannot escape their fate and so, coordinated together captured the image of a harassed and angry Thyona. Olympia (Julie Jester), polar opposite of Thyona, represents the simple-minded woman, who desires to be loved and cared for by a husband and at the expense of her autonomy. Lydia (Julia Jester) Parise) is the compromise between the two, who wants both her freedom to choose but who can also make concessions. Lydia was also the scribes her thirteen sons using tomatoes to emphasize her preference. For every bad son, Bella would angrily smash a tomato to the stage floor, with such brute force, the tomato juice would splatter around in multiple directions. This comes to show how the actors and actresses are at portraying anger. Time was t orn, the sisters realize they cannot escape their fate and so, coordinated together captured the image of a harassed and angry Thyona. Olympia (Julie Jester), polar opposite of Thyona, represents the simple-minded woman, who desires to be loved and cared for by a husband and at the expense of her autonomy. 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Ohio State. In the following two one or two matches of defeating larly women's sabre, came within of the women's teams, particu teams took a heavy loss, but some the top five nationally. The men's round Caltech faced OSU, a Cleveland State, and John Hop any part of the blade. [36x433] allows hits from the waist up with the least like the other two, and their opponent's chest. Sabre is score points by hitting their tip to tip of their blade. Foil is similar, if they depress a button on the score a touch, but can only score of the blade. In very basic terms, rules and style of play, including weapon. Each weapon has its own ons in fencing: sabre, epee, and foil. From men's foil, Eugene Vinisky ended in seventh place, following a tough match against the soon-to-be men's foil champion. AK: That's all? TMA: I panicked. Now I know what it feels like to be one of those NFL stars. AK: How 'bout them cowboys? AW: Anything with a fast beat, you know, stuff like Vampire Weekend, Red Hot Chili Poppers. AK: Tuling, what's your favor- ite sundae? TMA: It's delicious. French va- riety. AW: It involves running. A lot of running. Teamwork. First day of tournament, we went 3-1. And then next day, we lost everything. Ah, forget the next day. AK: Tuling, what's your favorit- e music to listen to while running? TMA: Never. Now get out. AK: cute TMA: Never. Now get out. You're not welcome here. anyways, my point is that play- ing a sport at Caltech is a fun and healthy way to de-stress and be- come a better student. It teaches discipline, time management, and forces you to shower on a daily basis (midterms are a rough time for everybody). Tuling and Alex are not the world's greatest athletes. They are not even the best athletes at Caltech. They will never be laud- ed for their athletic prowess, nor will they seek to go professional in their respective sports. Still, just having the heart to represent Caltech in athletic competition should warrant the title 'hero.' So, follow in the footsteps of Wang and Ma. You won't regret it.

Hey, you! Been to a Caltech sporting event recently? Angry that your sport has not been fea- tured in the Tech? Think I have portrayed your team in a negative light? Think you can do a better job than me? Then submit articles to the sports section of the Tech! Do it, or I'll be forced to write more stuff like this.
How to put together the perfect last-minute NSF application

by Sarah Marzen and Tina Ding

1. Preach stat mech on the streets of downtown LA, in between the lady with the shopping cart and the guy waiting for the alien to land.

2. Describe how you overcame the obstacle in your scientific pursuit when you got a C+ on a germination project in sixth grade.

3. Remember that “paper” you wrote in high school on the applications of GFP? Remember how your teacher loved it and framed it? It’s now one of your “publications”.

4. Maybe none of your teachers framed any of your scientific essays, ever. You’re not out of luck! Spam the grad student email lists and make deals with them. Convince them to let you do yet another positive control in exchange for a position as sixth author on their upcoming paper in Slovenian Journal of Applied Statistical Mechanics to Biophysics of the Cell.

5. Start asking your professors if they need you to do their laundry or deliver their lunch. Don’t screw up their order. If you’re applying to the interdisciplinary section due Monday, it’s too late for this.

6. Make a list of unanswered questions in your field and ask them during class. Pretend you came up with them on your own. Find any way you possibly can to connect the class discussion to these random topics.

7. NSF loves interdisciplinary work. Curing cancer is always better when you apply group theory, and string theory would benefit from experiments on the sugar intake of E. coli.

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Better than expected

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