



Stephen Hawking makes his entrance into Beckman Auditorium on Tuesday, January 18, greeted by an enthusiastic audience. He gave a talk to the public at 8:00 PM, but spectators lined up early in the morning in order to secure coveted tickets for the free event. On Wednesday, his talk was open exclusively to the Caltech community. Aided by a computerized voice, he touched upon events in his life as well as his overall experience as a scientist. Listeners were treated to humor and anecdotes from the living legend and left with memories of an experience that they will not soon forget.

- courtesy of the LA Times

Winter Career Fair is largest yet | Bed Bugs Quelled

By Gloria Tran

STAFF WRITER

Early last week, the Career Development Center (CDC) announced its plan to host the biggest Winter Career Fair that Caltech has seen in 10 years. 79 participant organizations have registered to appear at the Fair this Tuesday, January 25 at Brown Gym. Of these, 34 are new attendees and join the firms that have appeared regularly at Caltech to recruit.

Low participation in the both Fall and Winter Career Fairs in recent years has been attributed to the economic downturn. "Things were very difficult for all firms and universities last year - many firms pulled back from campus recruiting all over the US due to the recession," remarked Lauren Stolper, director of the CDC.

Fall Career Fairs exhibit firms who recruit for full-time employment from students completing their undergraduate or graduate degrees.

In winter, firms additionally offer internships for students not yet graduating. Fall Career Fairs are traditionally larger than Winter Career Fairs. The Fall Career Fairs boasted over 100 companies

several times in pre-recession years.

Only 25 companies had committed to the Career Fair last winter so Stolper was forced to take last-minute action in order to bring the total up to 55 firms. However, Stolper commented, "We did very well in the circumstances and most students looking

“Hopeful students and job seekers should look forward to an array of diverse recruiters...a full list can be found on the Directory e-mail”

for full-time employment via on-campus recruiting had offers at the end of the year.”

Upon acquiring the CDC directorship last year, Stolper realized that the department had been lacking in regular outreach to new firms.

Accordingly, she attributes the high number of participants this year to CDC's decision to seek out and recruit additional firms for the fair.

"Due to the issue of the recession, last year was not the right time enact outreach and we wanted to consolidate and keep our core firms," she explains.

Stolper especially credits this year's successful outreach to Mandy Casani, her assistant director at CDC.

"She single-handedly brought in several dozen new firms. This is indeed a major accomplishment and I hope students really appreciate the effort it took to 'recruit recruiters'," said Stolper. The CDC hopes to continue this trend through more recruiting in future years. Hopeful students and job seekers should look forward to an array of diverse recruiters, from entrepreneurial start-ups to large biotech and finance firms.

A full list can be found on the Directory e-mail as well as through NACELink on the CDC website. Handbooks and a floor plan of the booths are also available and may be picked up at the CDC office. Stolper advises that students look over the list of recruiters and their locations to allow for sufficient time management.

Many firms will remain on campus for active interviewing and further informational sessions for the week of the fair and after. For a list of these companies, contact Kathy Miles, CDC Recruiting Coordinator.

By Joel Nikolaus

STAFF WRITER

Bedbugs made a rather brief return to campus earlier this month, but they have since been cleared out by Housing. Over the course of the last two weeks, dogs specially trained to detect bedbugs were brought in and discovered six infested rooms. The last of these was heat-treated on Thursday.

"We have students that float in and out all the time," said Peter Daily, Assistant Vice President for Housing and Dining. "But hopefully we are safe for the time being. The temporary nature of this assurance reflects the fact that bedbugs are not a problem unique to Caltech. The pests are a national (and increasingly international) obstacle. The current infestation is most likely unrelated to the infestations this last fall and spring and was probably brought in by students returning to Caltech from Winter Break (think Frosh Plague).

"You know a lot of people left and when they come back from wherever they've been, they basically brought stuff (bedbugs) back with them, because to the best of

our knowledge there were none there before," Daily surmised.

As a result, infestations are something that Caltech, both Housing and students, will continue to deal with in the immediate future. Although Caltech's problems are relatively mild compared to those in some universities, particularly those on the East Coast, student cooperation in reporting incidents could be improved.

"Part of our problem is that people never report things," said Daily. "If you have a problem we'll deal with it." Admittedly, to those unfamiliar with them bedbugs can be hard to detect. However, when not caught and dealt with early, the problem grows exponentially. And when students move between rooms, whether it is sleeping on a friend's couch or dropping off their backpack, they risk spreading the infestation.

Next week students will see a flyer appear across campus reminding them to report incidents. This latest effort was a preemptive sweep because Housing knew that most students would be traveling. To catch infestations it is important to have students promptly reporting problems.

Baseball team wins!

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Cultural castration promotes prudery

By Evans Boney
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For some reason, I hear “g-spot” edited out on the radio, along with almost any direct or indirect reference to sexual pleasure. Listening closer, a lot of words are slipping away. What’s happening to my radio?

Something bad is happening, and it’s not the reception. If the ‘70s were defined by hippies and free love, then the new decade is being defined by the dumbass grizzlies and borderline fascism. Our TSA agents now have to actually physically touch your genitals just to make sure that’s really not a gun in your pocket.

Oh, and if you are happy to see the TSA agent, that will land you in jail also. Now I may be forced into a situation where my ability to play boner limbo with a TSA agent’s hand is all that stands between me and being a felon. How did we get here? I am sure most people associate pleasure with sex. So why do we collectively insist on such stringent self-censorship of our sexuality?

The ability to discuss our sexuality, whether in subtle allusions or straightforward details, is protected speech, as much as the ability to discuss overseas diplomacy in the light of day, despite anything

the Fox News wing of the Republican party might have told you. Our cultural self-censorship has gotten so drastic that I wonder: why are we being encouraged to deny our very sexuality? Is there something wrong with it?

Somewhat, somewhere along the line, we decided to be a castrated culture, a culture that not only doesn’t practice free love and allow adult talk about adult behavior, but that finds no trouble with censorship, as long as it’s “only” sex that’s being censored. As if this will not have an effect.

What is being lost in this cultural castration, in our collective public denial of our sexuality? Are there any signs of what has happened to our culture when we pack away adult sexual behavior behind increasing barriers to discussion?

Maybe I’ll be more direct: America, do you need to talk about something?

Could your rise in unwanted pregnancies be due to a rise in willful ignorance caused by an inability to forthrightly discuss sexuality? Does making Bristol Palin the spokesperson for abstinence send mixed messages?

Are all these blowhards on TV only spouting this ill-directed vitriol at the poor and Obama because of a little pent up...frustration? Why do we use euphemisms to say what some members of congress did to get kicked out of office?

An interesting agent of our cultural castration is the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Just for fun, I looked up their policies (which I have heard are subject to overbroad interpretation and thus encourage self-censorship). The FCC notes that the Supreme Court has determined obscene material (the only sort of speech not protected by the First Amendment right now) must meet a three pronged test:

(1) An average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the material, as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;

(2) The material must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable law; and

(3) The material, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

In case you needed to look up “prurient”, let me save you the trouble: “Having or encouraging an excessive interest in sexual matters.” (Google)

So you can see that points one and two are direct tenets of our cultural castration. And point 3 is the sort of McCarthyist bull that really shouldn’t have any place in law.

It’s what allows Eric Cantor to get art pulled out of museums without having to read the heart-wrenching story of the artist on whose grave he is spitting.

Actually, it seems this broad interpretation of the law gives the majority (“average person”, “community standards”, “lacking serious value”) quite a lot of power to silence the minority,

provided they are only discriminating based on sexuality.

Maybe it’s time we stopped touching each other’s groins until we’re culturally mature enough to talk about the subject at hand. I agree FCC, it’s not an inspired rhyme, but Lil Wayne is entirely entitled to nickname his bedroom the “G-Spot”.

See, because, besides the sex reference, there’s another meaning. That meaning is also edited out, just by virtue of being associated with the perceived evils of sensual lovemaking! And, on the

The only possible unprotected speech in this country is sexual speech. And even this is defined with such a sliding scale that one must be careful about letting Wayne be too clever with his double entendres, lest someone find out what the sexual reference is and discover the (presumably disallowed) pleurability of orgasm!

Maybe naive children will just assume Fred has Barney over (you know, like Bert and Ernie), and they are chilling in the bedroom, just two G’s in their G-Spot as it were. How much of that summary sentence has to be edited on the radio?

And what about pronouns? If a word is bad, shouldn’t indirect references to it via pronouns also be stricken, lest a child look up the antecedent?

Rather than going down that rabbit hole any further, let us consider another example of what a majority might consider obscene, but is, in obvious fact, protected speech.

A graphic description of a murder, perhaps something like the psychologically thrilling traps in the Dark Knight or the brutally/beautifully vivid Death Rooms of Dexter. It doesn’t matter how graphic, or how big the majority of people it would upset if they accidentally saw it, it is protected speech.

I happen to think it should be that way, but I’m sure there’s some group out there trying to take away the right to create Dexter as we speak. Just as no doubt somebody raved against David’s raw depiction of the Death of Marat in 1793.

It has always been in the interest of the boring to stifle the creative.

(As a brief aside: you may remember that Mastercard and Visa

recently stopped allowing donations to Wikileaks... well here’s some news: they still process donations to the KKK. Good thing the KKK isn’t on our bad side!)

How can we go around the world fighting for “freedom” when I can’t even quote General Patton, who did as much cursing as he did freedom fighting, on the radio or in print? Are only the “family friendly” parts of him a hero? Are some of what he says not ok to say between 6am and 10pm local time?

Why is the government entitled to rewrite some words they don’t like? Why are you, average reader, allowed to censor what I have to say just because of your norms regarding sexuality? Have we not found books and movies that push these boundaries touching in unique ways?

Are we losing something as a culture by forcing artists to censor themselves on the radio, on network TV, between the hours of 6 and 10, near a church or school, etc? You can see eventually the “First Amendment Zones” outside events will be all that’s left, little parts of America where you can still speak your mind.

Just like the founding fathers intended when they wrote “provided small zones of freedom are available within 100 miles of one’s house, congress shall make no additional laws concerning freedom of expression.”

Tea Party, if you wanted to say something, would you want your government to be able to restrain you? We’re either free for everybody or we’re free for nobody.

We should stop being so ridiculously uptight about sex because the tension is killing our society. By not allowing sexual terms on TV and radio, we create a culture that dwells on other human vulgarities.

Perhaps we aren’t getting enough...back rubs.

If we had more sexually explicit shows on in prime time, maybe we’d see those obesity rates take a dip too. Monkeys see, monkeys



“Maybe naive children will just assume Fred has Barney over (you know, like Bert and Ernie), and they are chilling in the bedroom, just two G’s in their G-Spot as it were.”

flip side, when he makes the bed rock, that is also a sexual double entendre.

Apparently this is allowed because a majority of Americans can stomach vague sexual metaphors via the Flintstones, but cannot stomach a similarly indirect discussion of sexual pleasure via some G’s bachelor pad. If that’s the case, then maybe we need Flintstone-shaped chewable birth control pills to help lower unwanted teen pregnancy.

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An illustrated appeal to Caltech students

By Alexandra Souverneva
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Stephen Hawking reminds scientists how to maintain modesty and sense of humor

By Jonathan Schor
STAFF WRITER

I'm sure there were at least a few people who attended Stephen Hawking's talk on either Tuesday or Wednesday who expected to have the world of astrophysics elucidated.

Perhaps they were even waiting for Hawking to announce a new discovery, some momentous find, at the very least to speculate on something.

Instead, they were treated to a Hawking autobiography of sorts, a chronicle of the life of the physicist and some of his most memorable moments.

There were stories of triumph, some of disappointment, even a few concerning regret, but the most surprising element was the one that punctuated the whole event: humor.

I'm not exactly sure why I was so befuddled to hear Hawking cracking jokes with the aid of his computer, but I think it may have something to do with my past experiences.

Just about every scientist that I have heard talk has been genuinely unfunny.

True, it's hard to embellish hard science with humor, but many of these speakers still managed to talk about themselves for a good portion of their presentation. The least they could have done was throw a few one-liners out to keep the crowd's interest.

Even doing this, though, Hawking would still have them beat. Rather than scattering jokes in between long-winded tales affirming his greatness, Hawking kept a humble, almost self-deprecating demeanor.

He explained that he was not able to read until the age of eight,

citing his "much smarter" sister's ability to read at age four. He talked of how he was simply an average student in school, even though he quickly earned the

teaches his graduate students, implying that he's learning it along with them.

How can such a behemoth in the science world, a true living

Hawking is a truly remarkable human being. But in the sense that I use these words, I do not imply his scientific achievements, but his achievements in ego. In a field

name, and yet you would never know it from hearing him talk. Instead, you receive the portrait of a man who is wise from age, but still an excited young scientist at heart. Someone who does not need to validate himself by constantly relating his numerous achievements, but who can, instead, afford to let loose and show the world a side of science they don't often see; namely, its ability to laugh, and especially to laugh at itself.

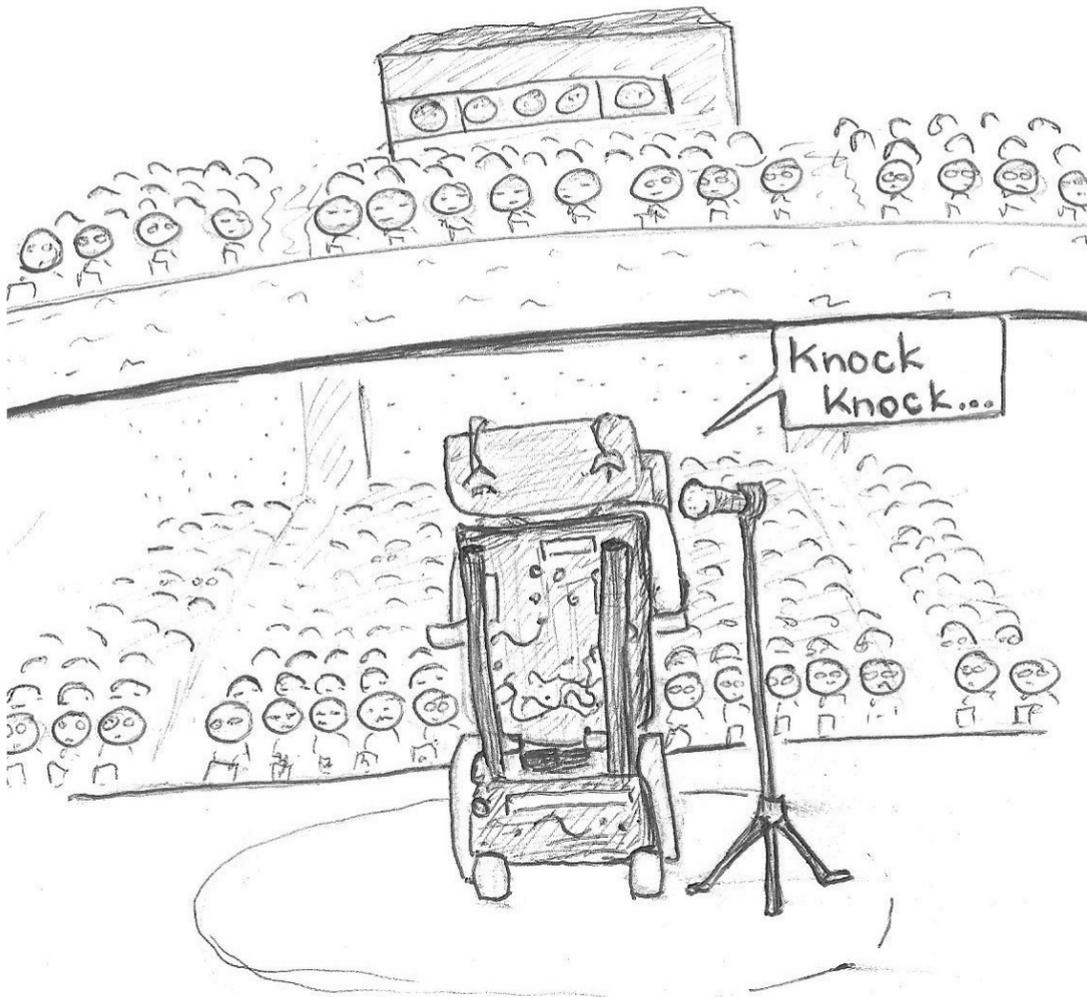
Even when Hawking humorously noted that my own field of Biology was often perceived as "easier" and for the "less bright" boys at Oxford, I couldn't help but smile. As scientists, we tend to get an inflated view of our role in the world, as shapers and movers and shakers.

Hawking has a way of bringing us all back to Earth, keeping us grounded but excited to trudge forward.

As for those speculations and predictions some people were expecting, I drew some predictions of my own. The first was that, unfortunately, Hawking is one-of-a-kind, the type of person that comes around once in a great many years, and that there likely won't be another like him in my lifetime.

However, my second prediction was that his achievement, his drive, but especially his humor and humility would become the new ideal for burgeoning scientists, seeking their own sense of discovery.

And because of Hawking, they'll even know what this elusive goal feels like. Ended Hawking on Wednesday afternoon, invoking his wry wit, "I won't compare it to sex, but it lasts a lot longer."



nickname "Einstein" from his classmates.

Now, Hawking says, he must work to always stay one week ahead on the course material he

legend, still remain so modest, still be able to joke about his perceived shortcomings? It would probably be unnecessary for me to inform you that this is because

known for its big shots and loud mouths,

Hawking stands heads and shoulders above the rest. He is universally known, a household

Letters to the Editor

The Fleming Flag

Tech sports pages

By Alex Lapidés
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

By Alex Lapidés
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last weekend, an unknown assailant or assailants removed the giant flag that resides over Fleming's dining hall. While RFs (pranks) are permitted on the flag, it is against the IHC resolution on RFs to remove the flag from its resting location. No identification was left as to the identity of the removers, and the flag has not appeared on campus since its removal. This seems less like a prank and more like thievery. Caltech's campus centers on trust.

Undergraduates are given keys to buildings and labs, we leave our doors unlocked and open, we take tests wherever and whenever we feel like it, and even though we occasionally prank other each other, we follow rules to do it.

Please, if you know anything about what happened to our flag, let Tom Mannion or me know. My house and I just want it back.

I STRONGLY PREFER Amol's whimsical articles over the Caltech Athletics articles. Amol's articles are fresh, and put a human spin on Caltech sports, which is usually funny, probably to almost everyone except the basketball coach. When articles are taken from Caltech Athletics, it comes off not only as boring, but lazy.

If people want the Caltech Athletics articles, they can read the Caltech Athletics website.

You could even have a link for the more traditional articles on the Sports page, and let Amol do his thing, which is honestly what I look forward to in the Tech the most every week.

If you have a concern or opinion that you would like printed in the Tech, especially if you wish to be heard on a matter pertaining to the Tech, feel free to email us: tech@caltech.edu

Don't talk, do for MLK

By Caroline Yu
STAFF WRITER

saying that generation by generation, we are achieving more social progress.

Discussions like Samad's are important; indeed, MLK week is commonly celebrated by hosting lectures similar to Samad's. However, the question becomes

African Americans but all other minorities as well. Lectures like Samad's help to facilitate talks about problems and possible solutions, topics that are not normally brought up. This type of communication has certainly helped to spark large scale movements in the past. On the other hand, while these talks make it clear that racism is a societal problem, they fail to emphasize the importance of the individual's role in achieving social progress.

After all, bigotry is something that happens on an individual level, and change can only be achieved starting from a conscious effort on the individual scale. As a whole, MLK week has veered towards a passive, academic approach to the problem of social inequality when what we really need is a call to action.

This movement needs to be expanded to recognize inequality in all of its forms, whether it be racism, sexism, and or any other types of discrimination.

The Caltech MLK Week Planning Committee has made a good effort to start the discussion, but now it is our job to take action. Like Obama said, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change we seek."

Martin Luther King, Jr. spent his life fighting to achieve "a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Every year, MLK week serves as a celebration of MLK's work and a reminder to continue the ongoing fight to achieve MLK's dream.

The Caltech MLK Week Planning Committee celebrated MLK week by hosting several movie screenings, inviting a guest lecturer and organizing a volunteer event. The lecturer, Anthony Asadullah Samad, is a professor of political science and African American studies at the East Los Angeles College, and is an acclaimed author, columnist and scholar.

According to Samad, we are in a very racial period: underlying multifocal racial hostility is evidenced by the rise of the Tea Party, immigration reform, the crushing of the Dream Act, and tension against gay marriage. However, Samad ended on a positive note,

whether we ever move from theoretical discussions to concrete actions. In other words, does MLK week have a real impact in society or is it largely symbolic?

On the one hand, MLK week raises awareness about the social inequality that still exists throughout society, not just for



Anthony Asadullah Samad delivers his talk on MLK day's significance.

Glossing over the Golden Globes



THE GOLDEN GLOBES TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO WATCH IT, YOU'RE NOT ALONE (AND BY THAT, I MEAN, NEITHER DID I). IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS QUITE AN EVENT, SO HOPEFULLY THE RECAP BELOW FILLS YOU IN ON EVERYTHING YOU NEEDED OR WANTED TO KNOW.

Highlights:

- Ricky Gervais kept the show interesting with controversial jabs at several of the celebrities in attendance. So many, in fact, that it is quite certain that he will not be hosting the Golden Globes for a very long time to come.
- The Social Network definitely stole the show, similar to how Facebook stole the hearts (and free time) of millions, winning awards for best motion picture, best director, best screenplay, and best original score.
- Glee was not far behind, acquiring three awards for best television series (comedy or musical), best supporting actress and best supporting actor. It seems that the show really struck a chord with the committee, beating out original shows like Modern Family in all three categories.
- The Fighter did put up a noteworthy fight, snagging two awards in the best supporting actor and actress categories.
- Boardwalk Empire walked all over its competition in its nomination categories, grabbing the awards for best television series (drama) and best actor.



BEST MOTION PICTURE - DRAMA

Social Network

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A MOTION PICTURE - DRAMA

Natalie Portman – Black Swan

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A MOTION PICTURE - DRAMA

Colin Firth – The King's Speech

BEST MOTION PICTURE - COMEDY OR MUSICAL

The Kids Are All Right

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A MOTION PICTURE - COMEDY OR MUSICAL

Annette Bening – The Kids Are All Right

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A MOTION PICTURE - COMEDY OR MUSICAL

Paul Giamatti – Barney's Version

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A MOTION PICTURE

Melissa Leo – The Fighter

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE IN A MOTION PICTURE

Christian Bale – The Fighter

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

Toy Story 3

BEST SCREENPLAY - MOTION PICTURE

Aaron Sorkin - The Social Network

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE - MOTION PICTURE

Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross - The Social Network

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A TELEVISION SERIES - DRAMA

Katey Sagal – Sons Of Anarchy

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A TELEVISION SERIES - DRAMA

Steve Buscemi – Boardwalk Empire (HBO)

BEST TELEVISION SERIES - COMEDY OR MUSICAL

Glee (FOX)

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A TELEVISION SERIES - COMEDY OR MUSICAL

Laura Linney – The Big C (Showtime)

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A TELEVISION SERIES - COMEDY OR MUSICAL

Jim Parsons – The Big Bang Theory (CBS)



Photos by Shannon West

The beautiful sounds and scenes of Hollywood

Disney Hall organ concert makes classical music accessible

By Wesley Yu

The organ in Walt Disney Concert Hall is impressive and conspicuous, but often silent. Most often only a backdrop to orchestral concerts below, the Disney organ is one component of the hall that makes it unique, yet it is too rarely actually used for more than a visual display. It was a treat to hear it played by Carol Williams, a world renowned organist from the UK. Williams plays with wonderful energy and enthusiasm. Playing pieces ranging from baroque Bach to contemporary Gunnar Idenstam, Williams displayed both superb technical prowess and artistic finesse. The organ is a big instrument with a big sound, so it is easy to push the music from forte to fortissimo to fortissi-issi-mo. But Williams was more sensitive, giving color to the music by covering a wide range of tone quality and dynamic. Most notable, though, was Williams' ability to connect with the audience. For those in the audience less familiar with classical music, it was refreshing to hear the performer introduce pieces by talking about why they are special and what

we should be listening for. She made the music approachable and quickly dispensed with any semblance of the stuffiness usually hanging over classical concerts. That being said, this was not a concert for the first-timer. Organ music is not the most approachable, and the pieces played were not staples of the classical canon. But if you are looking for something different and interesting, this would certainly have fit the bill.

Students interested in concerts at Disney Hall should note that student rush is often available. In my experience, you can bet on these tickets being available for chamber concerts and some less popular orchestral events. Just call the box office the day of the concert to ask whether there will be a rush. Rush tickets cost around \$15, but this time, we got them for only \$10. If you are driving to the concert hall, plan to leave more than 30min ahead of time. It takes about 20 minutes to get there, and that's driving fast. Rush tickets go on sale two hours before the performance.

Emotive acrobatic tricks inspire awe in audience

By Sarah Marzen

Have you ever seen someone hold a handstand on a chair that is balanced on its headrest? I did today when I saw *Traces*, a series of surprisingly moving, acrobatic dance routines.

The expert dancers on "So you think you can dance?" look out of shape compared to the acrobats in *Traces*. These dancers repeatedly walk up straight poles and hang off of them as if they were swaying branches in a jungle. They dance around the stage in a hula hoop-- with all hands and feet actually on the hula hoop at all times. One particularly impressive act involved a short Asian dancer flipping while throwing a yo-yo. Actually, I didn't realize how difficult these flips and feats were until the last act, when the dancers had to repeatedly reattempt somersaults because they were trying to flip through a six-foot high, one-foot wide tunnel without touching any of the tunnel's sides.

I am still amazed that the casting director found these people. All but one

was trained in a circus school. Two of them play piano and sing; one of those two also plays guitar. One of them has some basketball skill. And of course, in true Hollywood tradition, they are all very attractive. Indeed, these seven acrobats were chosen as the traveling *Traces* troupe from all over the nation. Their acrobatic skills are nothing to sneeze at.

Lest I forget, this play is more than a series of acrobatic feats. *Traces* was surprisingly moving because each of the impossibly athletic dance routines told a story, showcasing an emotion. For example, the handstand on the chair was part of a dance routine in which the dancer couldn't leave the chair. Other skits explored emotions ranging from deadly serious to incredibly passionate to light and fun.

If you like watching dancers on TV, you'll like watching *Traces* even more. It's still playing until February 20 at The Ricardo Montalban Theatre in Los Angeles. Please visit www.broadwayla.org/production/ for more information.

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Bi8 is no normal intro course

By Casey Jao
STAFF WRITER

Most first courses in biology don't throw their students into the deep end of the pool. But that, figuratively, is how biology professor Ellen Rothenberg is teaching Bi8. This is Rothenberg's first year teaching the course and she has shifted its focus to a more "experimental" approach. She agreed to describe the philosophy that motivated her teaching style.

"I think the people here are a little unusual...are willing to do something a little out of the ordinary," said Rothenberg. "I've never seen Caltech students back away from something challenging, but I have seen them back away from something boring."

While the course is officially called "Introduction to Molecular Biology," Rothenberg's Bi8 is hardly a canonical introductory class. Rather than taking her students on a tour of the classical theory, Rothenberg wants them to learn how to think about prob-

lems for which little preexisting knowledge is available. Instead of retelling the story of Watson and Crick or describing the Krebs cycle, she prefers to give students a taste of the techniques, themes, and excitement of modern biological research. Problem sets have the student wade through dense journal articles, interpret data, understand experimental designs, and propose their own experiments. "Textbooks hide the intellectual adventure of discovering something," she noted. Rothenberg hopes her course will "get people to feel like apprentices in a live art."

She calibrated her level of delivery based on an email survey of her students. Many of the respondents had prior coursework at the level of AP Biology and some exposure to research, so she often discusses topics at a higher level than is usual for a first course. In particular, she likes to treat molecular biology from the perspective of information science, a point of view that she applies to

her own research, and which she hopes will engage students from a variety of scientific backgrounds and interests.

But less-prepared students are playing catch-up to keep up with her ambitious approach to the course.

"I think the course is taught in a very unorthodox manner – Rothenberg skims a lot of what would be considered important in AP Biology (i.e., the precise processes behind RNA transcription and translation) and focuses on how to locate a particular DNA sequence in genomic databases, for example...It's overly difficult, particularly for those who have had no significant background in biology," wrote Victor Chen, a freshman, in an email.

Having gotten little student response so far, Rothenberg does not yet know whether her methodology is working, and predicted that it would take several years to iron out any issues.

"I want students empowered to give feedback," she said.

Want a yearbook? Pay your dues.

By Neha Samdaria
STAFF WRITER

If the recently proposed amendments to the ASCIT by-laws pass the student vote this coming week, Big T dues will increase from \$12 per term to \$20 per term. This increase in student dues, along with revenue from advertising, will be sufficient to cover future publishing costs of the Big T, according to ASCIT President Adam Khan.

The 2010 yearbook compiled four years of Caltech into one publication. ASCIT President, Adam Khan, commented, "a large part of the reason that we combined four yearbooks into one is because the current Big T dues couldn't cover the printing costs required to publish four separate Big Ts".

The Big T currently costs over \$60,000 to publish, and of

this, the \$12 student dues cover approximately \$35,000. An additional \$11,000 is obtained through advertising, leaving approximately \$14,000 uncovered.

ASCIT's proposal to increase the dues to \$20/term aims to be able to cover these costs without applying pressure to search for additional advertisers. The rise in printing costs over the past few years, combined with a shortage of college yearbook advertisers, has led ASCIT to believe that increasing student dues is the best solution to this problem.

When questioned whether or not ASCIT was making an active effort to increase revenue via advertising, rather than looking to students for funding, Khan said, "It's not an easy task. If you think about the people who want to advertise in our yearbook - not a huge market."

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Caltech baseball team sweeps opener

Dodgertown West puts up little resistance against surging Beavers



Eric Schropp chucks a baseball at an unsuspecting senior citizen. One might say he was delivering their social security checks. You could also say the ball was the only solid that had been thrown their way in months. Okay, I'm done.

By Blaine R. Matulevich
BASEBALL "EXPERT"

Caltech's baseball program opened the season on the right foot on Saturday, winning their first two games at home against rivals Dodgertown West. In the first game, senior pitcher Rob Rosenberg hurled six strong innings and Caltech rallied in the final inning, turning a 4-0 deficit into a 5-4 victory. The walk-off single was delivered by perennial star Brendan Sheehan, a sharp ground ball

into left field that plated both the tying and winning runs. Captain Eric Schropp pitched the final inning and picked up Caltech's first win this year.

The Beavers' bats came alive in the second game, and Tech cruised to a 19-7 victory. All of the starting nine picked up hits, including a home run by freshman Albie Lavin. On the mound, Brian Penserini got the win with a solid effort, striking out several Dodgers; and Srihari Ravi made his first appearance in relief since undergoing arm surgery last year.

Caltech's next faces a tough doubleheader against UC Santa Cruz, a team they played to a tie last season when the game was called due to darkness. First pitch is 12:00 Saturday.

--Sports Editor's note:

In the interest of full disclosure, Dodgertown West is a Mens Senior Baseball League team comprised of elderly gentlemen (30+) who have attended the Los Angeles Dodgers Adult Baseball Camp. So, yeah.

In honor of Interhouse Ultimate:



Brian Ventura, a Caltech Ultimate player, demonstrates how to toss a frisbee while also line dancing and pleading for a lighter sentence.

Tech basketball teams lose to Cal Lu, CMS

By Amol Kamat
SPORTS EDITOR

Both Caltech basketball teams lost to Cal Lutheran and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps this week. The women lost 72-40 to Cal Lu and 74-37 to CMS. The men lost 80-45 to Cal Lu and 79-43 to CMS.

Attendance remained high at all four games. "They should consider raising ticket prices," said on Techer, "then we could get more pulled-pork."

Despite the loss, the games were quite entertaining and the Beaver fans cheered to the final buzzer(s).

At least the opposing team did not have players who eat prunes on a regular basis and think sweaters are acceptable gifts. Ziiiiing. Take that, baseball team.

This Week in Sports Quotes

This week, I have very few sports quotes, so these will largely be stupid quotes heard around campus. Enjoy.

*"I have an innate sense of fashion."
-Guy wearing socks with sandals*

*"He was proceeding straight to baggage claim!"
-Rowdy Beavers fan upon seeing an uncalled travel during a men's basketball game*

*"We had to run. It sucked."
-Caltech Athlete*

*"Not leaving Caltech till find out how rocket work."
-Fei Yang, on why he decided to take Fluid Dynamics*



Fakes: A look at what could have been in the news

by Mary Nguyen

Italy's MP Responds to Pope

ROME - In response to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's many recent scandals, Pope Benedict XVI stated earlier this month that public officials should "rediscover their spiritual and moral roots." Berlusconi, also known as Palpatine-Wanna-Be, is an ardent supporter of the Pope, politically following the Vatican's teachings and giving tax favors to Vatican City. In addition, he is currently being investigated for bribery, corruption, tax fraud, perjury, underage prostitution, and sending death threats to aliens.

After delays caused by laws passed under Berlusconi to grant the prime minister and his highest officials immunity, prosecutors will now be able to put Berlusconi on trial. This is due to the fact that Italy's highest court has recently struck down Palpatine-Wanna-Be's latest grab at immunity. As

revealed in the court's opinion, his "legitimate impediment" law was found to violate the "all citizens are equal" clause in the Italian constitution. The judges also wrote, "We are becoming sick of looking at laws from the legislature with obvious attempts to turn Italy into the Galactic Empire. With that reference, we also just lost a third of our readers." However, MP Berlusconi appears unfazed.

When asked for a response to the pope's statement, Berlusconi responded, "I absolutely agree with the Vatican's thinking. Next time, instead of paying the girls €5000 for their services, I'll only give them money if they talk."

Sources: *The Irish Times*, *The Guardian*

Fundamentalists protest changes to blasphemy law

ISLAMABAD - A ten-year-old student at the school Maktab Islamabad has accused Abarbar Bawan of drug possession, a charge with a punishment of hanging. "He came to my office and told me everything he saw," said Imam Hussein Muhammad. "He seemed sincere, and I contacted the authorities immediately."

Bawan was a teacher at Maktab Islamabad and a major voice in the movement against government changes to the blasphemy law in Pakistan, which currently punishes any speech or action disrespecting Islam.

He was known for passionately teaching his students about the constitutional law and often cited his dispute with his neighbor Hyd Erabad, a member of Pakistan's Shiite minority.

The two men were arguing over unkempt desert shrubs on

Erabad's property, when Erabad ripped up a landscaper's business card Bawan had given to him.

The card included a passage of the Quran and the name of Prophet Muhammad, and consequently, Erabad was charged with blasphemy and now awaits execution. Bawan has since removed the disputed foliage from Erabad's property.

According to a Pakistani police report, authorities asked the student what encouraged him to come forward. He replied that he "was doing what [he] learned from [his] parents and teachers" about how to handle "bad people who do something wrong."

In order to confirm the drug accusation, police asked the student what Bawan did "wrong."

The student answered, "Mr. Bawan took away my super special lucky car because he said its

'vroom vroom!' was too loud. It was lucky because my parents gave me a bag of lucky white sand from Columbia as a birthday present and told me to keep it in the car's trunk to give me luck."

He continued, "Now that I've accused Mr. Bawan of a crime with a death penalty, can I have my car back? He wanted to get rid of those shrubs, and I want my car!"

Source: *The LA Times*

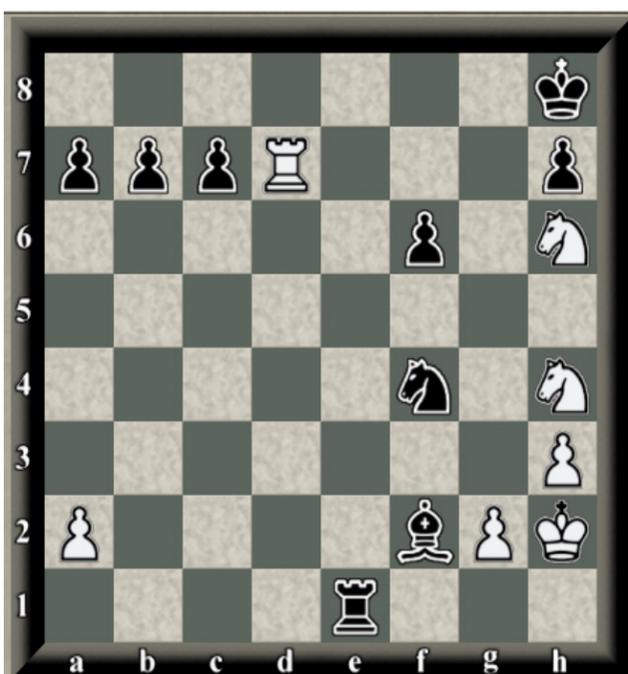
The two articles displayed on this page are meant to be humorous, fictional accounts of the news. Each draws upon actual events and then brings in elements of satire to dramatize and poke fun.

APPLES AND ORANGES



BY REBECCA LAWLER

Chess Club Problem of the Week



White to play and mate in 5.

Last Week's Solution: 20. f6 Kh8 21. Qh6 axb2 22. Kb1 Rg8

23. hxg6 fxg6 24. Qxh7 Resigns

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