The results are in
Meet your new ASCIT members

By Vishnu Manoranjan
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

By Amol Kamat
SPORTS EDITOR

On Monday, February 14th, the day that lovers and poets celebrate the bloody martyrdom of one Saint Valentine, the Caltech undergraduate community (actually, only half of them) called upon a select few to take up the mantle of public service in the 2011 ASCIT elections.

Thus dawned the new age where men appear as giants and giants as demigods. After an election rife with controversy, conspiracy theories, and tears, the Caltech undergraduates find themselves with a fresh set of flag-bearers; the old guards’ influence nothing more than a distant sunset.

In a hotly contested race, Chris Hallacy defeated Jordan Theriot by only eighteen votes to become ASCIT President. Those who did not vote looked on in dismay as the democratic process progressed without them: the cogs of fate turned and the complacent sat impotent.

Margaret Chiu won another hotly contested race for ARC Chair, defeating Shruti Mishra. It was hotly contested. Serenely, fire burnin’ fire burnin’ on the dance floor.

In still another hotly contested race, Laura Conwill defeated Christian Rivas and strode into the position of IHC Chair. Running unopposed in a hotly contested race, Prakriti Gaba defeated Nina Budaeva to become the new social director.

Ploy Siriwon made like her name and hatched a fine plan, defeating Chris Kolner in the BOC Chair election (it was close).

Overall, the 2011 ASCIT elections were hotly contested. Despite a weak voter turnout, the elections seemed successful. We look to our new leaders for leadership and courage during these difficult times (I mean, it’s Caltech).

In related news, inside sources tell us that IBM is creating a computer to decide whether we should have a nineties band performance or a formal dance, so our problems are over.

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ASCIT President
Results

On February 14, the undergraduates of Caltech voted for their new set of governing bodies for the upcoming year. The percentage breakdown of votes in several categories was quite close, in one case coming down to a mere 18 votes. The presidential election was neck-to-neck; the race for Tech Editors, not so much. For hilarious election write-ins, check out humor.

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Prefrosh Weekend 2011
April 14 – 16, 2011
T-shirt Design Competition!!!
Winning Prize: $50!!!

Competition Guidelines:
- Font/graphics must be in one color ink only
- Any combination of front & back design is allowed
- Prefrosh Weekend 2011 must be included in the design
- T-shirt designs must be appropriate for the occasion

Submit designs to your House Prefrosh Rep by February 25, 2011

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Catalina apartments should go green

By Alex Pai
Contributing Writer

Everyone knows recycling is awesome (right??).

Everyone knows that getting paid to conserve (CRV, Cash for Chunks, etc.) is more awesome. And if one is paid to conserve without the annoyances of filling out rebate forms or dropping off cans at the grocery store, well, that is even more awesome.

A step in that direction would be the replacement of the single-pane windows in Catalina apartments (graduate housing).

The energy savings would be more than pay for installation costs. A fringe benefit of installation would be a reduction of noise. I prematurely wake up to the unbearable clanking of garbage/recycling truck wheels on the sidewalks. Even more annoying is the loud clamer of party music from the more raucous apartments, especially when not invited to such events.

Bankroolking

The average two-bedroom apartment in our locale spends approximately $70 per month (for two students) on heating and cooling.

Assuming a typical 10-15% savings in efficiency of switching to double pane windows, each apartment would save approximately $120 a year in heating and cooling.

In 2002, Caltech paid the California Educational Facilities Authority $4.5 million to issue a bond offering. Caltech main maintenance buildings could be obtained by Moody’s. Additionally, any interest accrued from bonds owned by Caltech is tax-exempt. Therefore, an offering of 5% is very market competitive.

The average installation cost for three windows in a two-bedroom apartment is around $900. Financing the installation material costs for the new windows should not place a burden on the finances of the remainder of the university.

The funds used to finance installation could be obtained by a bond offering. Caltech maintains an AAA Credit rating from Moody’s. Additionally, any interest accrued from bonds owned by Caltech is tax-exempt. Therefore, an offering of 5% is very market competitive.

ensure there is no intrusive construction.

Assuming a 20 year, 5% bond offering, for the installation, the monthly cost is $56 per month, per apartment in 2011 dollars.

The total energy savings per year would average $10 per month.

However, discounts can be negotiated for multiple installations, furthering the cost savings.

Try before you buy

Obviously, an untested replacement of every Catalina apartment window could open the university to large environmental liabilities.

Suppose energy efficiencies of the new windows are compared to rated efficiencies. Could there be other attributes of the windows which are unforeseen, e.g. design flaws, resistance to burglary, etc.

To address this, a pilot program of a few apartments would be more reasonable.

Incoming students can opt-in to the pilot program depending on their own typical temperature controlling needs versus energy efficiency surcharge and their evaluation of noise reduction.

The monthly surcharge would range from $6 (the cost of installation) to $10 (the cost of savings) per month depending on the financial or environmental benefits of the students.

This would ensure that students with the greatest need for the windows obtain the outfitted apartments.

Four dollars of energy savings per month per apartment may not amount to much. Simple expenditures such as administrative costs may eat into this savings. However, even if costs were a ballpark of savings, the positive externalities of environmental responsibility and noise reduction may just be enough to tip the balance.
The Company Men shows life of wealthy

By Faith Manary
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a senior, I see a lot of friends thinking about jobs, worrying about jobs, and both succeeding and failing at getting jobs. It seems like maybe it’s just part of our endless slog of a transition into adulthood, but a quick glance around the country (or even just around Caltech) makes it clear that many, many Americans are worried about their jobs.

“The Company Men” is a film that explores these issues, but from a strange and unexpected angle. Unlike last winter’s hit “Up in the Air,” it doesn’t deal with Joe-Average working class fellows getting laid off – it is a film about hideously rich corporate scumsuckers getting laid off. It’s a strange subject for a film, and the movie never really commits to an opinion about its characters.

On the one hand, they’re filthy rich, and it’s hard to imagine that they got it all from being really amazing people or that they’re giving it all away to charity. On the other hand, they are people too, and if you’re okay with letting that be the premise of the film, there’s some catharsis to be had here.

“The Company Men” is a little hard to swallow, and it’s a little hard to connect with. But the team of really fabulous actors (Ben Affleck, Tommy Lee Jones, Chris Cooper, Kevin Costner) does a hell of a job trying to get the audience’s sympathy.

While all we know Watson as Sherlock Holmes’ faithful sidekick, there’s a new Watson in town: better, faster, stronger.

Watson trounces human competitors while we all know Watson as Sherlock Holmes’ faithful sidekick, there’s a new Watson in the movie never really commits to an opinion about its characters. Watson is swiftly crushing opponents on the family trivia game show Jeopardy.

Who is the elusive Watson, you ask? More like what. Watson is an IBM supercomputer, the world’s most advanced question-answering system. Over a three-day run on Jeopardy, this supercomputer managed to rake up $77,147 by beating out its competition: former champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter (more humans), making nearly twice their combined earnings.

IBM researchers spent four years building this machine, which is capable of processing 80 trillion operation per second. Its competition: former champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter (more humans), making nearly twice their combined earnings.

While we all know Watson as Sherlock Holmes’ faithful sidekick, there’s a new Watson in town: better, faster, stronger.

“Guys, I think it’s only five years away before you can come up with a computer who can host Jeopardy.” Honestly, Trebek, why would Watson stop there? IBM and Nuance, a speech recognition products vendor announced a five-year research agreement to “explore, develop and commercialize IBM’s Watson computing system’s advanced analytics capabilities for use in healthcare.

It is rumored that the two companies plan to combine Watson’s technology with Nuance’s speech recognition and clinical language understanding capabilities to create a “physician assistant” that will serve as a guide to doctors to more accurate diagnoses and better treatment decisions by providing more data sources. In fact, Nuance expects to release its first Watson products within two years. Watson is no sidekick. He is the real deal, and will most definitely be the one doing all the kicking.

From February 15th to February 17th, Watson faced off against some of the most renowned figures in the history of Jeopardy. Ken Jennings, who won the most consecutive Jeopardy games (74) and won $3,172,700 standing alongside Brad Rutter, the biggest all-time money winner with $3,255,102 in the ultimate man versus machine showdown.

The end of the three-day tournament saw Watson with an enormous lead: $77,000 to $24,000. Watson stop there? IBM and Nuance, a speech recognition products vendor announced a five-year research agreement to “explore, develop and commercialize IBM’s Watson computing system’s advanced analytics capabilities for use in healthcare.

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Houses and Avery Declare 24 Items RF-able

By Mary Nguyen
NOT A STAFF WRITER

OLIVE WALK - After the theft of the Fleming House Flag, other houses have sought to protect their own possessions, some more abstract than others, from pranking pranksters.

All of the attention given to the theft in the worldwide press and by the IHC has convinced the Houses, Hovses, and Avery that declaring their semi-expensive, replaceable items as non-RF-able has its benefits.

Under current IHC rules, making an item non-RF-able places restrictions on what pranksters can do to it.

Stealing such objects is now as big of a deal as pranking Blacker’s 260-year-old tapestry and Fleming’s cannon.

“Fleming had three out of the five non-RF-able items: a cannon, flag, and hand bell. Now that every house has three non-RF-able items, the list is much fairer,” said an Averite. “If someone from another house takes the shoes I left in the hallway for an annual tradition or something, and I don’t feel like walking to get the shoes back from them later, I can just have the BOC or CRC deal with it.”

The Averite happily concluded, “I can have even fewer interactions with people!”

“No one cares about our missing air kazoo? I haven’t seen anything about that in the worldwide press.”

“Actually, in general, a great policy would be to use the honor code for anything administration might think is dangerous, but my friends and I don’t. It’s not like we’ll damage anything. It’s not a prank anymore if we do that,” continued the Mole.

However, while they may disagree on the value of the new non-RF list, both sides tended to somewhat agree on whether momentary stealing counts as prank- ing.

“If your temporary theft is so expensive you can claim responsibility for it on national television, then it’s a real prank,” said a Skurve, a member of Ricketts.

“If not, you’re just doing it to p--- them off or f--- with them, while they may disagree on whether momentary stealing counts as prank- ing.

“The Clovis version of the onion says...