



## Caltech edges out MIT for Putnam

**WESLEY YU**  
Staff Writer

Caltech won first place in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition this year.

Caltech has not won the Putnam Competition since 1983.

The team, consisting of three seniors—Yakov Berchenko-Kogan(Dab), Jason Bland(Rud), and Brian Lawrence(Av)—beat teams from 442 other colleges and universities including Harvard, MIT, and Princeton.

Each team member is awarded \$1,000 for winning the competition and the Caltech math department will receive \$25,000 for fielding the best team.

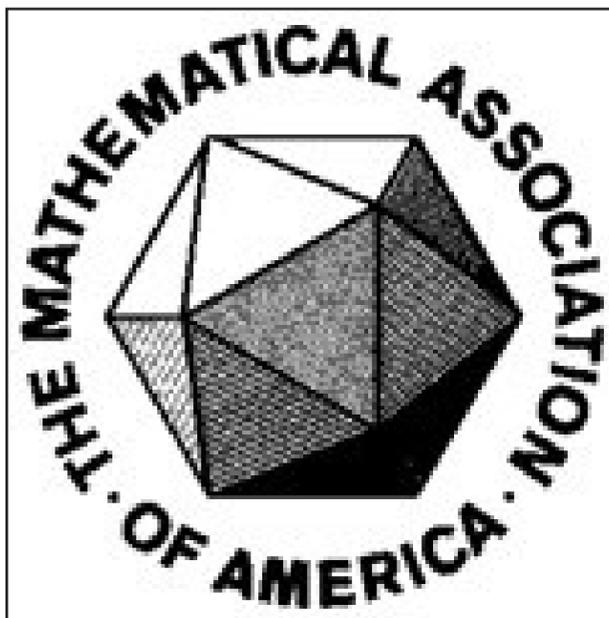
Lawrence, who was absent from the competition last year, came back this year to win the Putnam fellowship for the third time.

No student has ever been named a fellow three times at Caltech. (Arthur Rubin, the only other Caltech student to have won more than twice was named a fellow four times, but represented Duke for two of them.)

Lawrence joins a select group of only nineteen students who have won the Putnam Fellowship three times.

He will have the opportunity to compete in the Putnam again next year.

“The current junior and senior classes are among the most



impressive groups we’ve had,” said Prof. Barry Simon, executive officer of mathematics and a former Putnam Fellow.

Prof. Simon has high hopes for next year as well, “Our three best juniors this year (likely to be next year’s team), only one of whom was on our team

this year, overall did better than our winning team!” Established in 1938, the Putnam Competition is one of the most respected collegiate mathematics competition in the nation and has had a long history of identifying the most extraordinary mathematical talent in the world.

Three previous Putnam Fellows have been awarded the Fields

Medal and two have won the Nobel Prize in Physics; Richard Feynman was one of them.

The first official Putnam competition was held in 1938 and was administered by the Mathematical Association of America(MAA).

The competition grew out of a math exam given in 1933 to teams from Harvard College and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Sponsored by Elizabeth Lowell Putnam in honor of her late husband, William Lowell Putnam, the competition of 1933 was intended to stimulate a healthy academic rivalry between the two colleges.

This competition was so successful that plans were made to hold the competition annually and to invite all interested institutions to participate. 163 individuals and 42 teams participated in the first official competition held in 1938.

Today, the Putnam competition is one of the most highly regarded mathematics competitions, testing student’s originality as well as technical competence.

According to the MAA, a total of 4296 students from 546 colleges and universities in Canada and the United States participated in the competition in 2010.

### Team Results

1. Caltech
2. MIT
3. Harvard
4. UC Berkeley
5. University of Waterloo

### Caltech Individual Awards

Fellow(Top 5, \$2500 Award):  
Brian Lawrence\*, Senior

N2 (Top 24, \$250 Award):  
Yakov Berchenko-Kogan\*, Senior  
Jason Bland\*, Senior  
Zarathustra Brady, Junior

Honorable Mention:  
Timothy Black, Senior  
Sam Elder, Junior  
Jeffrey Manning, Junior  
Gjergji Zaimi, Senior

\* Team Member

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## News briefs from around the globe

Provided by Tech correspondent Sam Barnett

**Need to know** < 100 words about the world this week – topics sorted from good to bad  
by Sam Barnett – links to full stories available at [barnett.caltech.edu/news](http://barnett.caltech.edu/news)

<b>US economy growing</b>	↑ <u>3%</u> 2010 Real GDP (new estimate) – more exports, less imports	[BEA.GOV]
<b>AT&amp;T buys T-Mobile</b>	\$ <u>39 billion</u> deal excites Wall Street – awaits regulatory approval	[LA.TIMES]
<b>Reform in Yemen</b>	after <u>32</u> years, President Saleh willing to resign – response to protests	[CNN]
<b>Radiation in N.E. China</b>	<u>0</u> protective measures necessary – only minor amount detected	[XINHUA]
<b>High gas prices</b>	\$ <u>3.56</u> per gallon (national average) – oil prices highest since 2008	[AP]
<b>Military action in Libya</b>	<u>5</u> nations attack Gadaffi’s assets – US, UK, France, Canada, Italy	[REUTERS]
<b>Japan’s crisis continues</b>	> <u>200,000</u> displaced individuals – earthquake, nuclear radiation	[NY.TIMES]

## SwoopThat eases textbook buys

**SANDHYA CHANDRASEKARAN**  
News Editor

On March 18, SwoopThat, LLC announced that it is releasing proprietary course search technology for 130 schools nationwide, including the California Institute of Technology, in an effort to make college more affordable for low-income students. This technology helps the average student save 50% on textbooks in about 10 minutes.

According to a recent press release, the typical student spends 900 dollars a year on textbooks, and these high prices are increasingly contributing to the growing lack of affordable education in the United States. Textbook prices have been rising at twice the rate of inflation over the last two decades, and the Government Accountability Office recently found that textbooks represent up to 26% of the tuition and fees at four-year public institutions. SwoopThat's course-search technology mirrors the MBS Direct Online Bookstore

that Caltech students are currently persuaded to use. Students select all of their courses and receive a list of required books for those courses. However, unlike MBS, SwoopThat immediately links these students to the cheapest online sources for those required books. SwoopThat has partnered with a large number of popular book vendors such as Amazon.com, Borders, Barnes & Noble, Half.com, Alibris, and Ecampus.com, among many more. This often leads hundreds of dollars in savings per student, and the service is free with no registration required. "The time factor is what makes this technology unique," says Jonathan Simkin, SwoopThat's co-founder and CEO. "As a recent college graduate myself, I know several students who work side jobs to pay for their education. They can't afford to spend hours bargain hunting for cheaper textbooks, and this new technology has helped them afford school. Our goal is to expand the use of this technology to help low-income students nationwide."

Students are also given an easy opportunity to earn some quick cash by being a campus representative for SwoopThat.

The job description entails promoting the SwoopThat Fundraiser Program to on-campus clubs and organizations.

Essentially, SwoopThat will build each organization signed up for this program its own personalized textbook and product search engine.

For every purchase made by the organization's members, the campus representative can earn up to 0.5% cash back. While SwoopThat is geared towards low-income students, they are by no means the only ones who benefit from this online marketplace. Not only does SwoopThat makes it easier to purchase books, but it is also a convenient way to find online vendors with the highest textbook buyback prices.

Check out SwoopThat for yourself:

[www.swoopthat.com/caltech](http://www.swoopthat.com/caltech).

## IHC minutes

Weekly Meeting – Avery – March 7, 2011

Present: Laura Conwill, Dan Sexton, Vivian Sun, Erin Hoops, Wesley Chen, Brad Saund, Christian Rivas, Riley Patterson, Katherine Wong, Alan Lin

Absent: DK Lim

Guests: Chris Hallacy, Tim Black, Will Steinhardt

Called to order: 11:11 PM

- Will introduces Erin Hoops, the new president of Ricketts
- Interviews for RevComm Chair, FoodComm Chair, StewComm Chair, and Interhouse Ath Man will be this coming weekend. We will try for Saturday afternoon. Christian will send out times Sat. thru Tues., and people can send proxies if they cannot make it.
- Presidents should encourage potential candidates to apply for these positions.
- Laura met with Dean Green, who heard about the bonfire. Green wanted to know who should be charged for it. Brad says not only people in Blacker participated, and that the dumpster will cost \$500. We will look into this further.
- House endowments are to be discussed soon.
- Peter Daily is going to carpet Avery's dining hall. Wesley is concerned about charges if the carpet gets damaged.
- Hallacy and Laura met with Kevin Austin, director of the health and counseling center. Committees for interviewing for the staff psychologist and health educator positions will be formed within the next month; the IHC needs to nominate students to serve on these committees. The center is putting together a professionally-made video about depression awareness (filming spring break – June). They want to film in a north house. The north house presidents will discuss it with their respective houses.
- Plan for next year: Interviews this weekend: stewardship, food, rev., and ath. Prefrosh Weekend is next (chronologically), so the IHC needs to address Prefrosh Weekend rules. By May 1, we will know the new frosh class, so we need to assign them to houses at that time. In May, we will hold faculty/board committee interviews, then start talking about rotation. We will need to address ecorotation. Laura and Christian will meet with the ecorotation committee chair after spring break. After school ends, we will hold meetings once or twice a week. We will have April and September retreats, as well as frosh camp, and maybe a transition retreat. Frosh camp is probably going to be Sept. 19-21. Laura will send dates to IHC.
- Riley suggests discussing house endowments ASAP. Chris wants to be present. Perhaps before alumni weekend (mid May)?
- Riley says waiters are wondering if there are Prefrosh Weekend dinners Thursday and Friday. The answer is yes.
- ASCIT will host the formal off campus. Yay! No other news from ASCIT.
- The retreat hasn't been scheduled with Tom. Katherine says that there is a track meet which will conflict with Friday and part of Saturday, and Page cocktail night conflicts with the retreat as well. The 22-24, the weekend of Blacker Interhouse, may be a better option if the IHC can work out a way to attend both the retreat and the interhouse. Laura will discuss options with Tom.  
Called to an end: 11:41 PM

### The California Tech

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# Write articles for the Tech

get paid up to \$30

# Reilly takes cheap shots at Caltech

## *Will Dooris defends his teammates' and Caltech's reputation*

**WILL DOORIS**  
Contributing Writer

In case you weren't aware, the Caltech men's basketball team won a conference game for the first time in 26 years. But of course, you were aware.

Caltech athletics has seen a huge spike in coverage since the February 22 win with media outlets all over the world reporting the story. Everyone loves a good underdog story and the basketball team was perhaps one of the biggest underdogs in recent memory.

After 310 games, the team finally wins one.

You have to admit it makes a heartwarming story; a welcome if brief respite from stories of death and destruction or the celebrity drama that often fills our newspapers and magazines. Unfortunately for us, it also gives anyone and everyone an excellent chance to make nerd jokes.

And everyone has been taking shots. With headlines like "It's not Rocket Science, but it's a win for Caltech," (LA Times) and "Revenge of the Nerds," (UK Daily Mail) not to mention, "Caltech finally has the winning equation," (ESPN) it was easy to see that the team, and the school in general was going to take some abuse.

Not that the school, and the basketball team in particular, hasn't had to shrug off a few jokes before. In 2007, Quantum Hoops, a documentary detailing the 20+ year struggle of the Caltech men's

basketball team for victory was released.

The New York Times called it, "...the cutest thing," and Rick Reilly (working then for Sports Illustrated) wrote a review entitled "Turning Losing into a Science." Reilly's article had a few choice zingers, notably, "[w]ouldn't you think just once a ball would bounce off a pocket protector and in for a win?" It was kind of funny in the way that puns usually are. One can appreciate what the person is

Throughout the article, Reilly manages to reference pocket protectors (he seems to have an affinity for them), star wars, the fact that only two of the players on the team have girlfriends, calculators, and null sets.

All of these are hidden away in "clever" little puns designed to build up a fascinating image of the typical Caltech student. In other words ladies and gentlemen, we are nerds. The Steve Urkel kind of nerd, able to solve complex

of the team have girlfriends and no one wears a pocket protector. I think you'll agree that we, the students of Caltech, have a right to be slightly miffed about this.

It's pretty common knowledge that Caltech isn't well known. When I tell people I go to Caltech the most common response is "Cal Polytech?" or even "is that a two year school?"

Due to media attention and promotion, MIT has always been the better-known university.

He came up with the rocket science headline also mentioning that Ryan's free throw was "easy as pi." Katie Couric, anchor of the CBS evening news even threw in her two cents commenting that "The winning point in the Braun athletic center came from brain Ryan Elmquist."

Everyone has the same basic facts. Ryan Elmquist hits the free throw on senior night, goes to work at Google, 310 game losing streak, 31 Nobel laureates.

The differences in each story therefore, are in the mix of science jokes each journalist is witty enough to include. It's almost as if Rick Reilly, Bill Plaschke, and Katie Couric have a date set to get together and discuss who had the best pun.

It's quite clear that every journalist shares the "that's cute" mentality of the New York Times in 2007.

We are clearly looked upon as the little brother who was finally able to do something good. Of course none of the articles can be truly negative, it's an uplifting story after all, but they all share a patronizing quality that I for one find distasteful.

It's absolutely wonderful that the basketball team and the school in general has gotten such extensive media coverage but despite "the win", we're still the butt of the joke. It is my belief that the team has many more wins ahead of them. So let's revisit this issue after next season and we'll see who's laughing then.

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Due to media attention and promotion, MIT has always been the better-known university. So when we finally get a decent amount of media attention, we are portrayed as quite possibly the nerdiest people on the planet.

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saying: more of an, "I see what you did there," moment rather than a true laugh out loud situation.

Well Rick Reilly is back at his old game.

In an ESPN article entitled, "Not Exactly on the Bubble," Reilly pulls out all the stops. He opens with "you couldn't beat an egg with that collection of nerdballs."

differential equations but socially inept to the point where only two of the guys on the basketball team have girlfriends. This is how we are depicted to the outside world, and you know what, it's not even close to the truth.

Ok, so Mike Edwards does have a star wars poster, or posters in his room but at least five members

So when we finally get a decent amount of media attention, we are portrayed as quite possibly the nerdiest people on the planet.

Make no mistake; Reilly was not the only one poking fun. Bill Plaschke, a sports writer for the LA Times and frequent contributor on ESPN's popular show, Around the Horn, also showed his stuff.

## Vishnu's View: A sad Spring Break for music

**VISHNU MANORANJAN**  
Contributing Writer

Sorightnow it's spring break, and I've been called upon once again to write some sort of music-oriented article for this fine publication. I was thinking of doing another album review but none of the new albums really caught my attention.

Okay, that's not entirely true. The new Lupe album is out ... it's bad; at moments it's terrible. As a fairly avid Lupe fan, this realization hit me like a sack of bricks. How could such a promising wordsmith fall victim to fat cats and corporate agendas? I didn't wait to find out. Immediately after hearing the new Lupe album, I fell into a deep malaise. I sat, curled up in the shambles of my bedroom, listening to St. James Infirmary and shaking in a puddle of cold sweat. Colors faded. My world became black-and-white ... after four days, a new episode of Community aired, and I got better.

Anyway, here's my spring term playlist. Check it out if you want:

LIBRARY	Name	Artist	Comment
Music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beaver	Holger	If the guy from the Red Stripe commercials had a theme song, this would be it. ☒
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Best Day	Atmosphere	Slug (of Atmosphere) is a great storyteller. ☒
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calamity Song	The Decemberists	A rollicking piece of folk-rock; road trip approved. ☒
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deception	Blackalicious	Remember old school hip-hop? Blackalicious does. ☒
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Freaks and Geeks	Childish Gambino	My musical associate Blaine Matulevich introduced me to Childish Gambino.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Galaxy in Janaki	Flying Lotus	Beats from outer space. ☒
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rapping 2 U (feat. Lakutis)	Das Racist	Intelligent and irreverent; what more do you want from hip-hop? ☒
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rococo	Arcade Fire	Check out the whole album (The Suburbs).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shake Shake Shake	White Denim	Watch the music video; you'll get it.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tighten Up	The Black Keys	The Black Keys will hit you upside the head. ☒
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will Do	TV On The Radio	Another ethereal, soulful track from TVOTR.

## Unsigned Editorial

## Caltech students heed Japan's plight

With the recent and awful natural disasters in Japan, the call has gone out for international assistance. Here at Caltech, numerous groups picked up the banner in defense of those harmed by the earthquake and tsunami.

During spring break, Japanese students set up a donation booth in front of the Red Door Café.

The group was formed from a coalition of the Caltech Y, International Scholar Services, International Student Programs, and members of the Japanese community here at Caltech. They made well-reasoned appeals to the Caltech community and also explained exactly where they planned to send the money: the Central Community Chest of Japan.

President Chameau and the ASCIT body sent out not only heartfelt condolences to the Japanese community, but also included a number of ways that students can get involved in the relief effort.

Links were e-mailed around houses to the website LivingSocial, which promises to match small donations and has already

raised over two million dollars.

We at the Tech understand that it is all too easy to brush off tragedies that occur far from home and may not affect anyone that we know. It is a testament to the collaborative spirit here at Caltech that tired college students living in the so-called "Caltech Bubble" mobilized when the call for international assistance went out.

Even with break and relaxation on their minds, Caltech students could not stand idly when they knew that a part of the international community was suffering.

In the coming days, the faculty and students of Caltech will continue to be called upon to play an important part in the relief effort.

We have already demonstrated that we have the ability and drive to heed the call when our neighbors overseas request assistance. It is now our duty as members of the international community to continue our support in any way that we can.

For ideas about how you can help the Caltech community support Japan, visit the Caltech Y and review President Chameau's most recent e-mail.

Book Review: *Mildred Pierce*

DEBOKI CHAKRAVARTI  
Contributing Writer

Film noir generally conjures images of femme fatales and hard-boiled detectives playing dangerous games amidst curling smoke from cigarettes and dark street corners. One of the big names responsible for imprinting these images in our culture is James M. Cain.

It would be easy to assume that the man who gave us the notorious murderous wives of *Double Indemnity* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* would have little to do with a domestic melodrama about a mother's love during the Depression, or that said melodrama would turn into the basis of another classic film noir. But Cain takes the hard-boiled style that he is famous for from *Double Indemnity* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* to tell the bleak tale of a mother's attempt to meet her daughter's demands in the 1941 novel *Mildred Pierce*.

The titular character of *Mildred Pierce* is a Glendale housewife in the middle of the Great Depression who throws her husband out of the house within the first few pages of the book, not so much because of the affair he is having with another woman, but because of his complacency upon losing his job. Newly single, Mildred attempts to use her legs to

acquire a new husband, but when this fails, Mildred tries to get a new job. However, she quickly discovers that in an applicant pool of increasingly educated women and career opportunities limited by the Great Depression, the only work she is qualified for are the waitressing and domestic jobs she considers beneath her. Only after repeated failure forces a reality check does Mildred give in and get a job as a waitress. Eventually, Mildred uses her experience as a waitress and expertise as a pie maker to create a successful chain of restaurants.

At the root of Mildred's career ambitions is her overwhelming, and at times perverse, desire to

hard work is a source of shame to Veda, a reminder that they were not born into the society pages. However, Veda's continual disdain does not keep her from reaping the benefits of Mildred's labor. Veda constantly manipulates Mildred, giving her just enough of the love she craves and then adding in a swift biting comment that reminds Mildred that nothing she does will ever be enough.

Veda is an interesting choice as villain because as much as we are clearly meant to hate her (and it really is not hard to despise her), Mildred's own happiness is intrinsically linked to Veda's happiness. Much of Veda's actions and motivations mirror those of

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Veda is an interesting choice as villain because as much as we are...meant to hate her... Mildred's own happiness is intrinsically linked to Veda's happiness.

”

please her daughter Veda. Veda is the sort of teenager who makes the "My Super Sweet Sixteen" girls seem like reasonable and magnanimous young ladies, wanting nothing more than to raise her social status and leave Glendale behind. Mildred's

the typical femme fatale: she is manipulative, aware of her sexual allure, and will resort to all sorts of devious methods to achieve her goals.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Juanes brings Columbian flare to Los Angeles

BRANDON COMELLA  
Contributing Writer

A great concert is the perfect break from finals, and Juanes delivered just that. On March 13, the Columbian rock star performed at the Staples Center to a packed stadium. I had been listening to Juanes since sophomore year of high school, when my Spanish teacher would play some of his songs before class started. When I heard he was coming to Los Angeles I couldn't wait to finally see him live. I went with a group of students from the undergrad and grad Latino Clubs. A few students had purchased their tickets months in advance, as soon as the tour was announced.

I had only attended either large, outdoor concerts or small, indoor ones, so the Staples Center was a new experience. I boarded the escalator, and my excitement slowly built as it crawled

upwards. We walked past door after door, our anticipation rising along with the row numbers. We finally got to our section and found our

seats. We were situated at the end of the upper floor, with a view over the whole stadium. We were so far up that we were looking at the stage from almost directly above. Our friends who had bought the tickets

A variety of people showed up, though mostly Juanes's fellow countrymen who arrived carrying flags and wearing everything from Colombia T-shirts to full Juan Valdez attire. It seemed every

students to the middle-aged and even at least one older gentleman, were there to enjoy the music of Juanes, perhaps suggesting that a love of good music has no age limit. The excitement of the crowd was palpable, as everyone anxiously waited his arrival.

The opening act, a guitarist from Barcelona, was excellent, though he only played three songs. It was a shame he didn't play longer, as it was another hour before Juanes came onstage. During that time the only entertainment was a 30-second commercial for AT&T and a progress bar displayed on the background screen.

After a nerve-racking wait, Juanes appeared and started off the show with his hit from the World Cup, Yerbatero ("Witch Doctor"). There was

-Liana Braun

something for everyone, as Juanes alternated rock n' roll numbers with soft ballads. Juanes took a break from the concert to advocate for

peace, playing his song *Odio por Amor* "Hate for Love" while the chorus "It's time to change" flashed on the screens behind him.

Unlike most mainstream Latin artists, Juanes's songs are almost entirely in Spanish, with this song being a rare exception.

Even if you can't understand the lyrics, fans of classic rock will find something to like in Juanes's music. Those who like a good dance beat won't be disappointed either.

Many of his songs have been featured in clubs, in their original or remixed forms; his hit *La Camisa Negra*, "The Black Shirt," has over 200 remixes and covers on iTunes alone. Though the tunes may be catchy, Juanes doesn't resort to empty pop-style lyrics.

His songs cover topics from growing up in war-torn Colombia to the struggles for human rights throughout the world, and in one particularly adventurous song, global warming, illegal whaling, natural disasters, political oppression, and Mexican border-town violence.

Overall Juanes gave an excellent concert. The live versions of his songs sounded just as good as the CD versions, if not better due to the interpretations that breathed new life into old favorites.

Los Angeles is eagerly awaiting his return.



The "Jumbotron" projector at the Staples Center made it easy to catch a glimpse of Juanes as his concert.

earlier were seated much closer to the stage, and we spent a full fifteen minutes searching the crowd to find which colored dots they were.

Colombian in LA had showed up that night, judging from the sea of yellow, blue, and red. People of all ages, from teenagers and college

## Mildred Pierce is drama-noir (continued)

However, the fact that the protagonist is her mother instead of an average schmuck like in Double Indemnity means that Veda's treachery throughout the novel, while less immediately tragic, is more cruel than the expected betrayal of the femme fatale.

Mildred also begins an unhealthy relationship with a wealthy Pasadena loafer named Monty Beragon.

As Monty's finances take a downturn, he begins leeching off of Mildred, and her financial security effectively renders him, as he himself bitterly acknowledges, her gigolo. Monty turns into another way Mildred tries to please Veda, giving her daughter access to the high society lifestyle she craves. But his relationship with Veda becomes disturbing as it is revealed that the two discuss Mildred using crass and condescending language

that one would especially not expect out of a daughter or a lover. The failure of the men in Mildred's life, from her husband Bert to the lazy Monty, sets up an interesting gender reversal where Mildred—a woman with minimal education and professional skills—becomes the breadwinner during the Great Depression. Many women who worked in the Great Depression were criticized because of a general sentiment that they were taking jobs from men, and the insecurities of the less successful men around Mildred parallels this anxiety.

Pitting class, pride, and motherhood against each other, the result is an engaging and cynical story about Mildred's rise and fall as a businesswoman at the hands of her daughter. *Mildred Pierce* is also fun to read because of its setting in southern California. You may associate Pasadena with the square

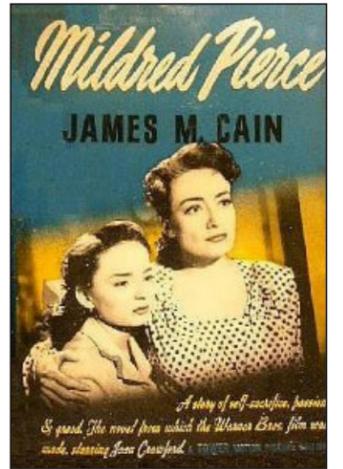
block of work and sweatpants-bedecked students encased by Wilson, California, Hill, and Del Mar, but for Veda, Pasadena is about the social elite who live in mansions.

There are also several scenes where Cain references familiar street names and locations around the city. You should read *Mildred Pierce* to see a master of noir at work in a genre that you would not expect.

A maternal melodrama may not seem like the most exciting read, but in the hands of Cain, it becomes something darker and more interesting. In the final chapters, when the depths of Veda's betrayal reveals itself to Mildred with violent consequences, the cunning and evil of Veda is astounding and unlike anything I would have expected from a melodrama written by anyone other than Cain.

*Mildred Pierce* is also the basis of a film with the same name. To make the novel more marketable to the general audience, the novel was adapted into a murder mystery more befitting its classification as a film noir. Within the first few minutes of the film, the professional loafer Monty Beragon is found dead in his beach estate. What follows is a series of flashbacks told to the police by Mildred Pierce as she reflects on her separation from her husband, her success as a businesswoman, her relationship with Monty, and of course, her daughter Veda. The film successfully turns the melodrama of the novel into a compelling mystery, even giving the audience some of the justice that the book lacks. The two are interesting works to consume together, giving some insight into how Hollywood felt it needed to change the novel in order to to draw a profit. The

novel is also being adapted into a five-part HBO miniseries that starts on March 27th, 2011. The mini-series is directed by Todd Haynes and features Kate Winslet as Mildred Pierce, Guy Pearce as Monty Beragon, and Evan Rachel Wood as Veda Pierce.



-laurasmiscusings.blogspot.com

## Tech Crossword

By Helena Zhang

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Across

- 1. Our order
- 9. Not actual size, abbrev.
- 12. Crude humor
- 13. \_\_\_ pro nobis
- 14. False fruit flesh
- 15. Relative
- 16. Haploid female gamete
- 17. Ending musical passages
- 19. Publisher of Rock Band and The Sims
- 20. Fill this pool to cast spells
- 21. Toxic gas from incomplete combustion
- 22. Organization of parents
- 24. What makes stainless steel stainless
- 25. Energy conversion via water temperature
- 28. Home of Galileo Airport
- 30. \_\_\_-chi
- 31. Brightest star in Lyra
- 32. Pale or ginger
- 33. in \_\_\_
- 34. Unit of energy
- 35. Queries
- 36. Protein that binds to a cAMP-responsive element
- 37. To repost on Twitter
- 38. Old \_\_\_
- 39. Where you go in an emergency
- 40. Old CS1 language
- 42. Acapella group, abbrev.
- 44. "Three \_\_\_s for Muster Mark!"
- 48. House where hops are dried
- 49. Highest grade in DDR
- 51. \_\_\_rama
- 52. Second-person copula
- 53. High temperature and low density
- 55. Pennsylv. airport
- 56. Popular

Down

- 1. One of two tracks
- 2. Right turn-only intersection
- 3. Same citation as above
- 4. Malaysian state, also type of cane
- 5. Most abundant metal in Earth's crust
- 6. 2008 Batman film, abbrev.
- 7. One of the Great Lakes
- 8. Neuronal junctions
- 9. Explosion from Hydrogen accretion onto a white dwarf star
- 10. To cut short
- 11. Chemical symbol Sm
- 16. Suffix: tumor
- 18. "\_\_\_ what?"
- 23. Who you go to for help
- 25. You need to fill out a petition for this
- 26. Consumers that only eat other carnivores
- 27. It can be poached, baked, or deviled
- 28. It just ended
- 29. Kind
- 30. When light strikes medium boundary at angle greater than critical, abbrev.
- 33. Moral qualm
- 35. Delivers 1.5 volts
- 38. Slideshow format
- 39. Static configuration, abbrev.
- 41. Fast and easy money
- 43. Anti-art
- 45. A distressed sound you might make while doing a long set
- 46. Gene expression mechanism, with miRNA and siRNA
- 47. 103.5 FM
- 50. Lipid-synthesizing organelle, abbrev.
- 54. Used in jewelry, electronics, and optics

# Caltech Y volunteers over the Break

**NEHA SAMDARIA**  
Staff Writer

Most of us drift through life not really attending to anything, like large grampuses in an aquarium, where there are no killer whales and no sharks and where the keeper brings us all the food we need. We don't really care about what goes on outside our little bubble, and are content as long as we don't get hurt or go hungry. For a Caltech student, this is kind of what life is like. We seldom think about a world outside our aquarium, where every day can be a battle. Alternative Spring Break, however, gave eleven of us the opportunity to get a sneak peek at this lifestyle.

For over 75 years, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has been providing life-changing assistance to refugees who have been forced to flee from war or disaster. Spending four days volunteering at the IRC in Glendale gave us an opportunity to talk to these refugees, learn about their struggles, and help them in whatever little way we could.

The first time we met them, the conversations felt a little awkward

and professional. Kind of like first dates, which are basically job interviews with appetizers. We didn't know each other at all, and of course, there was the language

But through English speaking exercises and mock interviews, we began to get to know each other. For many of us, it was a shock that these refugees were so well educated,

some of us!). By the fourth day, we were even onto planning beach trips and soccer scrimmages with them. Whatever misconceptions we had about refugees being somehow

the end of the day, they were just normal people.

Our group worked with the IRC from 9-5. After 5pm...it was playtime. One evening was spent perusing the collections at the LA Country Museum of Art (LACMA), while another was spent raiding the stores of Hollywood. On Wednesday, we braved the rain to take a hike near the Griffith Observatory, and spent the evening chitchatting with international students who were staying at our hostel.

Each experience not only introduced us to a different part of LA, it also helped us bond as a group. On our car ride back to Caltech, one of the members summed it up with "There's been so much group bonding these past four days, I seriously don't want to see any of your faces for a while". But really, we had a great time.

In a nutshell, it was four days well spent. Rather than sleeping twelve hours a day and watching TV for the remaining time, we chose to do something fun, engaging, helpful, and importantly, something that shifted our perception of refugees ever so slightly. I'll never forget this past spring break.



Volunteers got to know the refugees through meetings, sporting events, and other fun activities.

-Neha Samdaria

barrier that only made things trickier.

well dressed, and so certain of their futures (sometimes more so than

fundamentally "different" to us were erased. It was obvious that at

# Y-students help clean Owens Lake

**KATJA LUXEM**  
Contributing Writer

Last week, 12 Techers drove up to Owens Valley for their Alternative Spring Break trip with the Caltech Y. The group included Yang Hu, our student leader, Greg Fletcher, our Caltech Y staffer, several grad students, and lots of undergrads. The experiential learning trip focused on the Lone Pine environment.

Lone Pine, a small village in Owens Valley, sits just above what used to be Owens Lake. Squeezed between the Inyo Mountains on one side and the Alabama Hills/Sierra Nevada Mountains on the other side, the local environment is often seen in Hollywood productions such as Ironman, Tremors, and British-Army-in-India movies. The region was most-filmed in the time of cowboy movies.

Students began the week with a trip to the Lone Pine Film Museum. Chris, a local, showed the group around the museum. His tour highlighted the large car and costume collection as well as the insight old movie posters give us about culture. After the tour, the group watched Gold Diggers of 1933 in the museum theater.

The group worked with local rangers from the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) to remove an unnecessary road in the Hills. By "vertical mulching," or "planting" dead wood on the former road, the soil regains nutrients and is able to return to its natural state faster. It



Members of the Caltech Y ventured into the mountains to volunteer and learn a little about California's history during spring break.

-Provided by Katja Luxem

was certainly a beautiful area for a service project, and the group was able to hike to a few arches in the Hills after working. The ranger also gave the group a better understanding of the struggle between efforts to preserve the environment and local economic needs.

Mike Prathar, a retired school teacher and environmental advocate, was instrumental in helping Yang organize the trip. He told the group about the history of Owens Lake. After the city of Los

Angeles built its first aqueduct in 1913, the lake dried up throughout the following ten years. When LA decided to build a second aqueduct in the 1970s, which would rely on pumping groundwater out of the Valley, Mike joined the efforts to protect the local environment from more damage. He has also been involved in LA's efforts, mandated by the Clean Air Act, to reduce the dust caused by the dried lakebeds. As an avid bird watcher, he would like to work with LA to reduce the amount of water needed to reduce

dust in the lakebed while creating more habitats for birds.

In addition to joining the group each day, Mike organized several speakers. One of these speakers, a biologist for the LA DWP (Department of Water and Power), told the group about the Dust Mitigation Project. Even though it was not nearly as dusty now as before the project, it was still possible to taste the dust (salts) in the air. The project, which costs LA a fortune in water and money, uses three methods to reduce the

amount of particles in the air. These methods include putting about half a foot of gravel onto the lakebed, watering the lakebed (the surface water is 3000 times more saline than ocean water), and introducing plants, like salt grass, to make the lakebed into a habitat for birds and other wildlife. After visiting the lake, the group walked around Keeler, a small town that used to be on the edge of the lake. Before the dust project, Keller sometimes had several hundred times the legal limit of particles in the air. Now that all but five of the 40 plots in the lakebed selected for dust mitigation projects have been treated the air quality is much better, but still has room for improvement.

On Saturday, the group continued the service project in the Hills. After the project, they visited the Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp. Reading the stories of the internees was a very sobering experience. That evening, after a presentation from Mike about the lake, the group spoke to the owner of the hostel, Doug. Doug, a former nuclear engineer, reinforced that we, the consumers in LA, dictate energy and water use. The group ended the trip with a hike at Fossil Falls, the fossil of Owens River in the last Ice Age.

It was an excellent trip, and everyone in the group learned a good deal about the environmental issues in Owens Valley related to our water use. We had a great time getting to know each other and working in the Hills!

# Decker fences NCAA Finals

*A sports news brief provided by GoCaltech.com*

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Senior Laura Decker ended her well decorated fencing career at Caltech on Sunday at the 2011 NCAA Fencing Championships.

The four-day event started on Thursday and was hosted by Ohio State. The saber competition - Decker's specific weapon speciality - was held on Saturday and Sunday. She posted wins in three of her 23 bouts.

## Complete NCAA Championship Results:

### Day One

During the first day of competition Decker posted two wins in her 14 bouts as she went up against some of the best fencers in the event.

"The women's saber field is the toughest field in the entire competition," head coach Michael D'Asaro said. "She had a very hard first round of competition but she fenced well."

During her first day she faced three individuals ranked in the United States' top 12 in addition to

facing two other competitors with a world ranking.

Eileen Hassett (Notre Dame) – Lost 5-3

Lian Osier (Notre Dame) – Lost 5-3

Chloe Grainger (Northwestern) – 5-3

Dagmara Wozniak (St. John's) – Lost 5-4 (Ranked second in the U.S., 2008 U.S. Olympian)

Anna Limbach (St. John's) – Lost 5-0 (German National Team Member, Ranked 24th World Ranking)

Caitlin Taylor (Brown) – Win 5-2 (Australian National Team Member, Ranked 22nd in the World)

Monica Aksamit (Penn State) – Lost 5-0 (Ranked Sixth in the U.S.)

Nicole Glon (Penn State) – Lost 5-3 (Ranked 12th in the U.S.)

Eliza Stone (Princeton) – Lost 5-1

Diamond Wheeler (Princeton) – Lost 5-3

Rebecca Ward (Duke) – Lost 5-0

Madeline Oliver (Yale) – Lost 5-2

Caroline Vloka (Harvard) – Lost 5-0

Robin Shin (MIT) – Lost 5-4

### Day Two

In her final day of bouts Decker won one of her nine duals.

Dominika Franciszkowicz (Penn) – Lost 5-2

Danielle Kamis (Penn) – Lost 5-1

Kamali Thompson (Temple) – Lost 5-1

Samantha Roberts (Columbia) – Lost 5-1

Loweys Diedro (Columbia) – Lost 5-1

Stella Shifrin (Hunter College) – Won 5-4

Margarita Tschomakova (Ohio State) – Lost 5-4

Alison Miller (Ohio State) – Lost 5-2

Heather Nelson (Air Force) – Lost 5-3

This is the second consecutive year that the native of Bridgewater, N.J., qualified for the NCAA Championships. Last year she won one of her bouts.



Laura Decker squares off against another challenging opponent at the NCAA Finals.

-GoCaltech.com

## WE'VE MOVED!

The Financial Aid Office has moved to 383 Hill Street, 2nd Floor.

Mail Code: 20-90

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Upcoming Events

### March 28, 2011

Men's Tennis  
vs. Middlebury  
4:00 PM

### March 30, 2011

Women's Water Polo  
at Chapman  
6:00 PM

### April 1, 2011

Men's Tennis  
at Cal Lutheran  
2:00 PM

Women's Tennis  
vs. Cal Lutheran  
2:00 PM

Baseball  
at La Verne  
3:00 PM

### April 2, 2011

Men's Tennis  
vs. Occidental  
10:00 AM

Women's Tennis  
at Occidental  
10:00 AM

Track and Field  
vs. SCIAC 4-Way vs. CLU and WC  
10:30 AM

Women's Water Polo  
vs. La Verne  
11:00 AM

Baseball  
vs. La Verne  
11:00 AM

Baseball  
vs. La Verne  
2:30 PM

Women's Water Polo  
vs. Vanguard  
3:00 PM

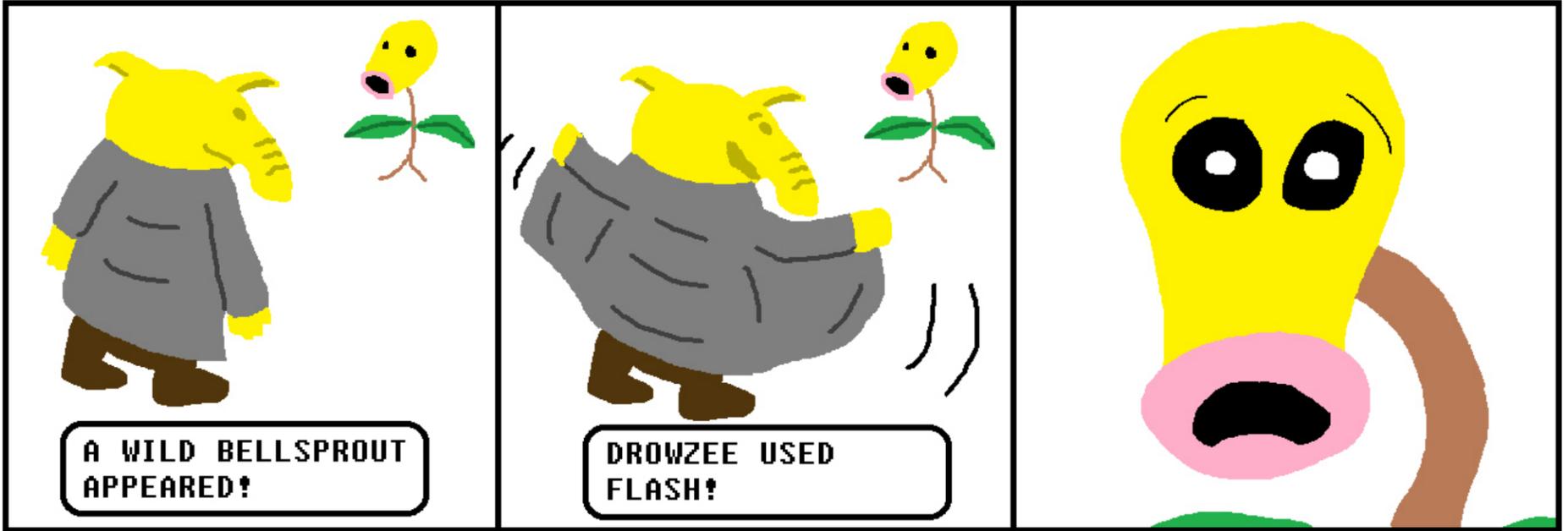
## Weekly Scoreboard

### March 26, 2011

Baseball  
double header at Redlands  
L, 12-0 Final  
L, 14-0 Final

### POKEMON LEAGUE

BY DAVID GINOLA



### APPLES AND ORANGES

BY REBECCA LAWLER



By Alexandra Souverneva

The California Tech  
Caltech 40-58  
Pasadena, CA 91125

