SANDHYA CHANDRASEKARAN
News Editor

The biennial SFC on Wednesday, April 6 brought up a number of pertinent issues and suggested remedies about the academics at Caltech.

The conference began at 11 AM in Ramo Auditorium with the discussion on the proposed changes to the CORE curriculum. SFC Chair Karthik Sarma opened with a general welcome, followed by current ARC Chair Margaret Chiu, who stressed the role of ARC and student involvement in the improvement of academics at Caltech.

After Vice Provost Melany Hunt provided a bit of history as to the point of CORE, Sarma presented the proposed hypothetical changes to CORE, enumerating the following:

1. Renormalization of requirements across the key sciences.
2. Choices throughout the core.
3. An intensive emphasis on critical writing skills.
4. Early exposure to more faculty in non-lecture settings.
5. A commitment to improved labs involving data collection & analysis and design & build.
6. Exposure to new intellectual frontiers.
7. A commitment to innovative courses and excellent teaching.

Sarma mentioned that the two CORE reforms on the table reflected these ideals and then went about explaining the proposed modifications.

The powerpoint presentation was followed by a student-faculty panel Q & A session consisting of Sarma, Chiu, Hunt, Professor Scott Fraser, Professor Warren Brown, and undergraduate Neal Bansal, who are all active members on the Council for Undergraduate Education.

To watch a recording of the CORE curriculum discussion, visit http://www.sgcx.caltech.edu/arc.

A summary of the notable issues raised during the option-specific sessions follow:

**Applied and Computational Mathematics:** CORE math provides inadequate background for the major. 

Proposed changes include requiring ACM104 and Ma108AB.

**Applied Physics:** Revamping A9.

**Biology:**

- Changing the lab requirement for the upcoming catalog year by recreating Bi/BE1x
- More bioinformatics and biostatistics courses.

**Chemical Engineering:** Clarifying and publicizing the senior thesis. 

- More student-faculty interactions with ChE lunches.

**Computer Science:**

- More money and professors to teach more software engineering classes.

**Math:**

- Math club meetings four times a year.

- Trying to get tenure for the optics professor.
- Reviving the option-mentoring program within the major.

**Mechanical Engineering:**

- Improving communication between old and incoming professors.

**Mechanical Engineering:**

- Improving student-faculty interaction.
- Advertising "unwritten rule" of talking to professors in person.
- Improving TA quality.
- Shifting from more graduate to undergraduate TAs.
- Better organization and advertising of the senior thesis.

**Physics**

- Reworking Ph3
- Ph12A will not be changed
- Ph2 will be waiting for core changes
- Socializing with professors

Students can contribute to reformation efforts by commenting on the feedback page on the CUE website: http://www.cue.caltech.edu/Feedback.

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**SFC committee meetings reviewed**

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**Mininal CORE:**

**Freshman seminar**

1 term

**Phyics**

3 terms

**Math**

2 terms

**Chemistry**

2 terms

**Chemistry Laboratory**

1 term

**Biology**

2 terms

**Freshman seminar (with the writing intensive classes)**

4 terms

**Writing-intensive freshmam humanities**

2 terms

**Writing-intensive advanced HSS classes**

11 terms

**HSS electives (combined with the writing intensive classes)**

The above are two possibilities proposed during SFC as alternatives to the current core. They were originally introduced a few months ago, though it yet to be decided whether either will be adopted.

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**Reformed CORE:**

**Freshman Seminar**

1 term

**Physics**

4 terms

**Math**

4 terms

**Chemistry**

2 terms

**Chemistry Laboratory**

1 term

**Biology**

1 term

**Freshman seminar (with the writing intensive classes)**

2 terms

**Writing-intensive advanced HSS classes**

4 terms

**HSS electives (combined with the writing intensive classes)**

11 terms

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**News briefs from around the globe**

Provided by Tech correspondent Sam Barnett

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**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

**Progress against cancer**

2 new drugs endorsed by FDA panel for rare pancreatic cancer

**Online TV’s success**

$1.6\ billion$ (revenue in 2010) – $719 million from advertisements

**Bing challenges Google**

30% of US web search market now held by Bing – Google at 64%

**New federal budget**

$38\ billion$ of cuts expected – government shutdown prevented

**Science support reduced**

$1,500$ fewer researchers will receive NSF funds under new budget

**Wildfires in Texas**

916 square miles of land and 189 homes burned so far in 2011

**Japan’s economy suffers**

$295\ billion$ to rebuild (new estimate) – lower production, exports
The California Tech

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President: Chris Hallacy, DiegO Caporale, Mario Zubia, Tom Mannion, Cards Inc.
Business Manager: Jenny Yang

Officer’s Reports:

1. VP of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):
   a. ASCIT teaching awards: will be awarded in late May. Awards ceremony is expensive because numerous people are invited, but you can’t give awards to a small audience. Want students to appreciate teachers more.
   b. Prof of the month: Want to feature a professor monthly in the Tech, looking into procedures and budget
   c. ASCIT carnival is on Friday, Mannion is paying for the bouncy things.
   d. Fresh Advisors: looking into qualifications of fresh advisors, perhaps revamp training
   e. Improving teaching: exploring ways to improve overall teaching, as there are no real requirements—perhaps bring in professionals to do training
   f. Year round research program: trying to establish a program that funds research during the school year, similar to SURFs, perhaps will model after MIT’s program.
   g. Option teas: Hoping to reestablish these—events particular to each major at the Mosh’s house so that students and profs within an option can talk.
   h. Advanced Hum Policy: New policy passed by the faculty board—students graduating 2015 and later cannot take advanced hums on p/f, count advanced language towards advanced hum requirements
   i. Shadow grades: Barry Simon wants a survey to see if students want shadow grades for first term frosh—students may not realize that getting a poor number percentage in a class translates to a poor grade
   j. VP of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair):
      a. ASCs: Again, see corporation meeting notes
      b. PFW: IHC will hold a “Life in the Houses” panel, need to make sure people follow PFW rules from now through rotation, Page will be completely dry during PFW
      c. Trustees: There is a dinner with the Trustees 4/17, IHC will attend
      d. Director of Operations:
         i. Screening room: Can’t fix the subwoofer, is purchasing a new one, everything is cleaned up, need to work with Mike Raven to figure out where keys are
         ii. Clubs: donut was causing problems with getting clubs registered
         iii. Problem: need $60k, got $32.4k from students but need to get the rest of the money from advertising, will look specifically into other yearbook companies

2. Committee Appointments: the BoD and IHC need to meet to determine which group appoints which committees, will do at next IHC meeting
3. PFW Weekend:
   a. Midnight donuts on Thursday night (asking admissions for money)
   b. ASCIT carnival is on Friday, Mannion is paying for the bouncy things.
   c. $300 will be given to each house from admissions, so ASCIT can keep that money
   d. Need to figure out what ASCIT chillout is supposed to be
4. ASCIT Officers:
   a. Officers present: Chris Hallacy, Mario Zubia, Tom Mannion, Cards Inc.
   b. Olive Walk Board: Will post ASCIT BoD services, info about ASCIT formal once decision are finalized

4. Treasurer:
   a. ASCIT Formal funding: applying for funding from various sources, working out funding get out of the alumni association
   b. SFC: Working on reimbursing people
   c. ASCIT Formal:
      i. Bus leaves at 10pm, will be parking for cars and buses at docking site, 40 minutes away
      ii. Band concert that night, will try to get people out early
      iii. Total is $1850 + $32 refundable security deposit (quote for 300 people)
      iv. Free non-alcoholic drinks during the first hour (dinner), cash bar for the rest of the night
      v. No security on boat, will try to get Caltech security guards
      vi. Red carpet theme
   d. Secretary:
      a. Scheduling: Working on scheduling, ASCIT overnight retreat, turnover dinner, and club funding meeting.
      b. Olive Walk Board: Will post ASCIT BoD services, info about ASCIT formal once decision are finalized

5. Bylaw change: Want to move the ASCIT elections after house elections—considered:
   a. Moving the house presidents’ election to right after rotation because presidents tend to burn out after rotation, but the freshmen don’t know their house yet
   b. The IHC chair position will be in a weird place if we move ASCIT elections later
6. Do ASCIT elections in the middle of third term so that the new team will be ready to start at the beginning of the next academic year. This way the financial year will also match up.

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Meeting adjourned: 12:21am

Write articles for the Tech

Annie Pseudo (alumn director), Jared Whitney (admissions), AOs, Lauren Stolper (FASA)

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Meeting adjourned: 12:21am

ASCIT Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2011

Officers present: Chris Hallacy, Margaret Chiu, Laura Cornwell, Diego Caporale, Mario Zubia, Praktik Gaba, Laura Santasso

Officers absent: None

Guests: Catherine Xie, Lucas Carreno

Call to order: 11:03pm

Funding Proposal—Caltech Student Health fair (Catherine Xie)

• Requesting $400 to help fund the Caltech Student Health fair (to be held 11am-2pm May 13th or 20th), which aims to increase students’ awareness about health topics
  o Various health related student groups will be invited to represent themselves, as well as off campus professionals, and clubs for entertainment (ex. Jazz band)
  o Will be held on the San Pasqual mall to catch the flow of people going to lunch
  o Received MSH funding last year, this year asked for money the counseling center, the Caltech Y, Tom Mannion, SIF—note this year the budget is minimized because they are reusing umbrellas/bases
  • BoD believes the health fair will be beneficial and will reach out to several passing students.
  • It is apparent that a significant amount of time has gone into planning this event so we believe it will be well executed.
  • In general though, we are receiving a lot of proposals and need to be more careful—looking into partitioning the amount of money we grant per turn and giving applicants a deadline (ex. Two weeks before the event)
  • Hallacy motioned to vote, LC seconded. VOTE: Approved (5-0-0)

Student/Teacher Events (Lucas Carreno)

• The ARC is considering hosting casual student/faculty events so that they can talk in a low-key setting
  • Event would be something like a happy hour—beer sampling, chamber music, jazz band, art showing
  • Not sure how to get direct interaction b/w profs and students (don’t want the two groups separating) or how to draw in the busy faculty
  • Look into the Mosh’s fund for help
  • The BoD really likes the idea and would like a more formal proposal, suggest asking faculty about their opinions to gauge interest

President’s Report:

1. Administrators: Hallacy spent the week talking with various administrators and introducing himself, including

The California Tech

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Double Comfort Safari Club is "comforting read"

NERISSA HOGLEN Contributing Writer

The Double Comfort Safari Club is the eleventh book in Alexander McCall Smith's charming No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. The books tell the stories of private investigator Mma Ramotswe, the eleventh book in Alexander McCall Smith's charming No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. The books tell the stories of private investigator Mma Ramotswe, the first lady detective in Botswana. McCall Smith adeptly mixes storylines from her cases and from her personal life, frequently blurring their boundaries.

The mysteries Mma Ramotswe solves for her clients blend smoothly into the philosophical reflections in the book are as good as always, the ending leaves a little to be desired. It comes as a surprise that all the issues work out at the end. The conclusion is unrealistically neat; it's uncharacteristic for the typically reasonable series, where not all problems are soluble. The Double Comfort Safari Club features unusually dark cases and problems in Grace's life, and it seems as if McCall Smith is balancing out the atypical sadness by providing a particularly "satisfying" ending. Rather than providing a sense of closure, however, the solutions seem slightly brittle.

The book is poised to reflect that sometimes life is sad, but McCall Smith abandons his commitment to the last moment and hastily reverts to a more cheerful view. The Double Comfort Safari Club is not a good introduction to the series. This is partly because the series arc has already progressed so much. The unreality of the ending also contributes— it could easily create the impression of a sapness in a reader unacquainted with the style of the series.

For people already familiar with the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, this latest installment offers poignant moments of sadness inviting sympathy for the characters along with subtle humor and an overall life-affirming sense of the fundamental kindness of humanity. Though not quite up to the usual standard, The Double Comfort Safari Club is still a charming story in a lovely series.

Letter to the editors:

Response to Mackenzie Day's protest article

HENRY A. LESTER Bren Professor of Biology

The Caltech Mental Health Task Force intended, among other goals, to raise the level of awareness about mental health issues within the Caltech community, and to suggest avenues for future discussion and development.

The recent exchanges about housing issues continue this spirit. The Task Force presented its Final Report to the Caltech community in February 2011, revised it slightly in March 2011, and has now posted it at https://smith.caltech.edu/documents/38-mhtf_recommendations_final_3-8-2011.pdf

The Report discussed topics that Mackenzie Day later mentioned in the 14 April 2011 California Tech article.

1. "During the QA&A session [Monday, April 11], many people brought up what the Mental Health Task Force seems to have overlooked... The Counseling Center is only open on weekends from 9am-5pm..." The Report stated, "Professional counselors should be available during student hours," perhaps until 9 or 10 PM, rather than during standard "office hours".

2. "Why does the Task Force not consider Upper Class Counselors in their ratio? Do these people not have similar mandates of looking after mental health?" The Report stated, "If Caltech, like several of its peer institutions, continues the Upperclass Counseling (UCC) program, it is critical to standardize their training and responsibilities."

Jazz up dates with redwhite+bluezz

SARAH MARZEN Copy Editor Emeritus

The area within a one mile radius of Caltech is full of relatively fast chain restaurants with student-friendly prices, but lacks good date restaurants. To set the right mood for that special someone, you might have to walk (or drive) another mile into Old Pasadena, which has everything from delicious cupcakes (Dots) to a sketchy Scientology church. Redwhite+bluezz is one of the many great date restaurants to be found there.

Not even Ruth Chris or Bistro 45, two of Pasadena's best restaurants, offer a shockingly kind and simple moral. "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight. With cheese plate paired with the "Monster Reds" wine flight.

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An visual essay of Open Mic Night

Clockwise from top left: Calvin Kim, Nic Woodward, and Dori Bejleri rock out while a light show plays in the background (Fred Zhao); Chris Perez gets down with his bad self playing some funky bass (Samantha Piszkiewicz); Before the show begins students wait eagerly for the music to start up (Samantha Piszkiewicz); A group of students and pre-frosh stare with rapt attention as another group begins a set of music (Fred Zhao); Jonathan Schor, Eugene Vinitsky, and Stanford Schor, members of the recently formed group "Chassidim With Rhythm," lay down some bars about being white, Jewish, and nerdy (Samantha Piszkiewicz).
Today’s Puzzle: Octa-Plus

Rules: Can you enter the eight correct numbers into the Octa-Plus diagram? No two numbers are the same. Each number is a whole number and no number is less than 1 or greater than 40. B minus C is either 11 or 1. C equals H minus F. B plus C equals H. D equals G divided by F. E is half the value of C. An eighth of H is a whole number. E is either H minus G or H minus D. A equals 100 minus the sum of the other seven numbers.

Answers to last week’s Sudoku
Key provided by sokrublog.typepad.com

Suggestions:

8 3 5 4 1 6 9 2 7
2 9 6 8 5 7 4 3 1
4 1 7 2 9 3 6 5 8
5 6 9 1 3 4 7 8 2
1 2 3 6 7 8 5 4 9
7 4 8 5 2 9 1 6 3
6 5 2 7 8 1 3 9 4
8 3 1 4 5 2 7 6
3 7 4 9 6 2 8 1 5

SAURABH PANDEY
Contributing Writer

Ahh… with the constant stream of professors arriving at the time of the year, I am reminded of four years ago when I myself was exploring Caltech with open eyes. Though Caltech can definitely be considered to be the world’s greatest playground for math and science, one of my best experiences during Prefrosh Weekend was entirely nonacademic—it was gastronomical. My PFW host took me to an inconspicuous-looking restaurant on the corner of Lake and Del Mar for a Saturday lunch, and I had an amazing meal that sealed the deal for me to come to Caltech (okay, I’m kidding… but it was actually amazing).

Since that wonderful day, I have been eating at the Mediterranean Cafe (which I have affectionately nicknamed the Med Cafe for short) too many times to keep track. However, I will (attempt to) write this review from an unbiased perspective.

I stopped by the Med Cafe for lunch with a friend on a weekday afternoon.

The Med Cafe is in walking distance from the Caltech campus, so it is easy to pop in there for a quick meal. And quick is definitely the word to describe the service at the Med Cafe.

The restaurant is run by a father-son duo, and they are really efficient after many years of perfecting their craft. Another nice thing about the restaurant being family-run is that the same people are behind the counters every time you go, so you’re recognized by the staff after you’ve been there some number of times.

Here’s a typical exchange between a customer and the owner (who usually works at the counter):

Customer: Chicken Shawerma plate, please, and one extra pita.
Owner: (Calls back to the kitchen in a thick accent.) Chicken Shawerma plate and one extra pita $8.25, please.
Customer: (Gets money out of his wallet)
Owner: (grabbing food and placing it on the counter) Here you go- chicken Shawerma plate and one extra pita!

My friend got a chicken kebab plate ($8), consisting of two chicken kebabs, a pita, seasoned rice, hummus, and a greek-salad. We also got two pieces of baklava (a sweet pastry made out of filo dough and nuts) for $3.

I myself got the vegetarian combo (which allows you to get smaller portions of four vegetarian items and comes with two pitas) and an extra pita for $7.75.

My veggie combo (a greek salad, hummus, mujadarah, and stuffed grape leaves) was excellent. The greek salad was fresh-tasting, and the mujadarah (moist lentils and cracked wheat) was hearty and filling (I actually ate some off my shirt after I dropped some from my pita). Don’t judge me: such is the lure of the Med Cafe.

The grape leaves and the hummus have been the best I’ve ever tasted at any restaurant (I’ve gotten multiple tubs of their hummus to eat back in my room as a snack- it’s bursting with flavor).

Several of my non-vegetarian friends have also begun to get the veggie combo every time they go to the Med Cafe. On the carnivorous side of the table, the chicken kebab was described as somewhat dry, but very flavorful with spices.

Again, the hummus was described positively as “creamy” and “melt-in-your-mouth”. Finally, the dessert (the baklava) burst with nutty, buttery, syrupy flavor to put us into a sweet, relaxed state following our meal. The portion sizes are fairly large, so for roughly $8, you can copulate and definitely fill your stomach (possibly with some leftovers if you’re not a big eater). However, if you’re not as hungry, you can just get one of their wraps for about $4. Wrap selections include falafel, beef, lamb, chicken shawerma, and chicken kebab (while the restaurant does have a lot of meat options, it is definitely vegan/vegetarian friendly).

The food is not greasy, so you can get back to your psets (or your copious amounts of free time) wide awake instead of being in a food coma after eating here.

While the restaurant is not fancy from any means (shiny metal chairs and tables galore), and many customers get their food to go, the Med Cafe does have both indoor and outdoor seating, and it’s quite nice to sit down and chat with a group of friends while enjoying a sustenance meal.

The service is fast-food paced, but the food is gourmet-quality. Be warned that the hours are not great for Techers- 11 AM to 7 PM on weekdays, 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturdays, and closed on Sundays. Realistically, if you’re on board, you only have one chance to eat here a week! And I’m definitely happy to be eating at the Med Cafe right now. Here I am, a venerable senior, sitting on the very same patio of the restaurant I dined at as a wide-eyed prefrosh. I feel like something profound should be said.

As I sit in the friendly Pasadena sun finishing my mujadarah, I wonder if the waves of contentment riding over me represent my satisfaction in picking an amazing school four years ago, and if the warm feeling I have signifies a bright future for the new class of Techers. Nah, I’m just happy because I’ve had a great lunch.

Fact Sheet
Location: 273 Shoppers Lane, Pasadena, CA 91101 (on the corner of Lake and Del Mar)
Phone Number: (626) 793-8844
Website: http://www.kokosmediterraneancafe.com
Price Range: $4-10 for a meal
Restaurant Type: Mediterranean
delicious, casual dining, good for takeout.

The Mediterranean Cafe is in idyllic Pasadena. - Saurabh Pandey
“Born to be Wild” is charming and cute

NEHA SAMDARIA
Staff Writer

“Born to be Wild” is not a documentary so much as a forty-minute fairytale about the incredible journey undertaken by orphaned animals in the wild. Nearly every scene is focused on maximizing the inherent cuteness of baby elephants and orangutans, transforming what could have been an utterly depressing topic into an uplifting and inspiring story.

The film revolves around the work of two “real-life fairy godmothers”, Daphne Sheldrick and Birute Galdikas, both of whom have dedicated their lives to rescuing and raising wild orphans. In Kenya, Daphne spends her days looking after newborn elephants whose parents have been tragically poached and killed. Similarly in Borneo, Birute saves and nurtures baby wild orangutans that have been displaced as a result of human development.

Both women have lead efforts to foster these vulnerable orphans until they are old enough to be released back into the wild. The animals we see are much like human children - lovable one moment and naughty the next. They need cuddle, care...and sunscreen before going out in the open. We, as viewers, are invited to immerse ourselves in a world where elephants play soccer with their keepers, and orangutans shampoo themselves for a morning bath.

It seems strange to raise wild animals in this way, but their success upon release in the wild has reaffirmed the fact that if they are given the time and care required to develop self-confidence, they will survive no matter where they end up.

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Of course, the IMAX 3D experience only adds to the immersive nature of the film. We see the orangutans reaching out to Birute with their lengthy arms, and we feel the dust fly into our faces as a thundering elephant herdrushes to the nearest water hole.

Close-ups capture the intricate facial expressions of the characters in the film, providing direct insight into what appears to be a tiring, unglamorous, but rewarding lifestyle.

Yes, it’s a sad world depicted in the book. This is actually kind of expected from him (Atonement, anyone?) – and yet, this time, hidden in the most unlikely spots are passages of sparkling humor.

McEwan forces the incongruities, elaborates upon them, pushes the inane into the absurdities of existence, and yet you can almost hear the superior English accent reading in constant disdain.

But life is unreasonable even in the most logical situations, and one retrospectively comes to the realization that surrendering to irrelevance is a question of living with yourself afterwards.

We see the orangutans reaching out to Birute with their lengthy arms, and we feel the dust fly into our faces as a thundering elephant herd rushes to the nearest water hole.

The cinematography is just breathtaking. We are invited to a parade of visual delights, a journey into a world where elephants play soccer with their keepers, and orangutans shampoo themselves for a morning bath.

When Dr. Michael Beard converses over dinner with an elderly Majorcan ice sculptor called Jesus, and after discussing quantum mechanics Jesus notes, “What was life without the highest ambition?”

To McEwan, it’s all the same at first. But life is unreasonable even in the most logical situations, and one retrospectively comes to the realization that surrendering to irrelevance is a question of living with yourself afterwards.

The man is a curiosity. And not in a good way. He - Dr. Michael Beard, a Nobel-prize winning physicist – is actually kind of despicable, spiritually and physically and ethically, or whatever other adverb you want to stick in. That’s why Solar, by Ian McEwan, works so well.

The book examines human irrelevance (intriguing, right?) through the comprehension of a man most deserving of it. At the same time it is an almost polite mesh of macabre truths and surprising humor, a triumphant but discreet exposition. An overarching commitment to conspicuous detail - that was the first impression I levied from these pages. I’m serious.

Read a bit and you will not only be mesmerized by the singularity of Dr. Michael Beard’s life but also by the frankness of each line. Does it surprise you, as a reader and a social human being, when someone says it’s sincere and refreshing, and it renders the story simultaneously safely remote yet relatable to our own lives.

McEwan can write, and he knows it; there are parts where he leaves simply stating uncomfortable realities and meanders intelligently into, say, the beauty of the Dirac equation and the problems of climate change. But the novel is blunt. At times, you are expected to shrink away in distaste, a half-solar shines and delivers an enthralling read

M O N I C A H E
Contributing Writer

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Caltech men’s track team defeats Pomona-Pitzer, Logan sets new record

Contrary to what you may see on the Olive Walk at night, some Techers do know how to run and throw.

The Caltech men’s track team defeated Pomona-Pitzer in their last SCIAC dual meet of the season. It was their first dual meet win since 2008 when they beat Whittier. I didn’t actually go to the meet, because nobody goes to track meets for fun, but Brice Nzeukou and Alex Lapides filled me in.

Nzeukou performed admirably in the 100 and 200, placing fifth and sixth, respectively (not counting CMS and La Verne scores, he placed first in both). He also competed in the 4x100 relay that defeated Pomona-Pitzer. Lapides won the high jump competition with ease, clearing the bar at 6’6”. Upset that everybody found his victory monotonous and repetitive, Lapides also ran the 100, 200, and 110 hurdles. Lapides and Nzeukou also added discus, hammer, and javelin throw to their resumes, defeating Pomona-Pitzer in all three events.

The women’s team did not fare as well, losing to all three teams (CMS, Pomona-Pitzer, and La Verne).

Paige Logan did break her own school record in shot put (37’ 8’’¾”), placing second in the competition. She also won the discus competition and tried her hand at discus, just for fun.

Both track teams travel to Pomona-Pitzer for the SCIAC Championships on April 29th and 30th, so if you feel like watching people run in circles, you should head over. I, for one, am looking forward to it because Vishnu Manoranjan will shave his head if Alex Lapides repeats as SCIAC high jump champion. I think that’s something we can all get behind.
Humor

BOOM-SHAKA-LAKA

BY PAUL SENORREX

YO MICHAEL JORDAN! I WANT TO GET HOT AND BURN THE HOUSE DOWN!

TRY MY SECRET STUFF!

THANKS MICHAEL!

THE END

APPLES AND ORANGES

BY REBECCA LAWLER

HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN HUNTER? NO! I THINK HE'S WITH DEAN!

WELL WHO AM I SUPPOSED TO PLAY SMASH BROS. WITH NOW?!

I CA-

IF HE WANTS TO SPEND EVERY WAKING HOUR WITH HER, THEN FINE! WHO NEEDS HIM! I'LL PLAY BY MYSELF!

BUT I-

... BUT I LIKE SMASH BROS. ...

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

Thanks!

To all students, administrators and faculty members for helping to make Prefrosh Weekend such a success!