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Handmer offers fix for Caltech funding

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Caltech band members visit China

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A photo shoot of sports remembrances

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New faces in the humor section

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

- **Another increase in jobs** 244,000 more jobs in April – however, 13.8 million still jobless (6 times)
- **California tax revenue** 2.5 billion more than expected will help ease state's large deficit (6 times)
- **Improved fuel efficiency** 111 miles per gallon with GM's Volt – recharging is expensive though (6 times)
- **Gas prices keep rising** $4 per gallon (new national average) – highest average ever was $4.11 (6 times)
- **Protests in Mexico** > 65,000 demonstrators demand end to drug violence – silent march (6 times)
- **Mississippi River flood** > 1,300 residents had to evacuate their homes in Memphis, Tennessee (6 times)
- **More fighting in Egypt** > 200 wounded from violence between Muslims and Christians (6 times)

Caltech is good investment, says PayScale

**SARAH MARZEN**
Copy Editor Emeritus

According to PayScale, Caltech gives you more "bang for your buck" than any other university in the world, beating out Harvey Mudd in second and MIT in third.

PayScale calculated the expected payback on tuition for nearly seven hundred colleges and universities by surveying the median salary of graduates for the past thirty years and comparing that to their expected tuition cost and the expected pay for a high school graduate. One catch is that the survey didn't include graduates that obtained anything higher than a bachelors degree, and also excluded graduates that worked outside the U.S. As PayScale noted in its methodology, "For some liberal arts, Ivy League, and highly selective schools, graduates with degrees higher than a bachelor's degree can represent a significant fraction of all graduates."

When PayScale factored financial aid into their calculations of tuition, Caltech fell below MIT, several Ivy League schools, Georgia Institute of Technology, and University of Virginia. Taking into account financial aid, PayScale estimated that over a thirty-year period, a Caltech B.S.-only graduate would earn $1,809,000 over someone who went to work right after high school.

An engineering major is bound to have an easier time finding a job than a philosophy major—the average salary of an engineering major is over $60,000, while the average salary of a philosophy major is $39,900, according to PayScale.

PayScale makes money by selling salary compensation information to individuals seeking employment, and was named one of the hottest Seattle companies and top 10 products of 2006 by HR Executive.

Caltech is often well-ranked against our peers. These rankings range from standard to wacky. US News tends to rank Caltech's undergraduate education in the top ten every year.

But last year, Caltech was rated by the Daily Beast as one of the happiest schools, primarily because Southern California has great weather and we are near Los Angeles. Caltech was also placed on a Daily Beast list of the fiftiest most-stressed colleges.

Caltech excels not only in being a good investment, but also provides beautiful views for undergraduates — Sandra Fang
Please join a selection of Caltech’s Chamber Musicians on Sunday, May 15 at 3:30 in Dabney Lounge for an afternoon of music appreciation. Reception to follow.

See the full program at:
http://www.music-theater-art.caltech.edu/chamber_music/index.html

The California Tech

Write articles for the Tech

get paid up to $30

ASCIT minutes

April 24, 2011 (Last Weeks Minutes)

Officers present: Chris Hallacy, Margaret Chin, Diego Caporale, Mario Zabia, Prakriti Gaba, Laura Santoso

Officers absent: Laura Conwill

Guests: Cole Hershkowitz

Call to order: 8:48pm

President’s Report:
1. Trustees: The Trustees came through campus last week. Everything was fine and dandy, they are happy.
2. Protest issues: The two main issues will be split:
   a. The IHC will primarily take care of housing concerns (ex. AGs) and work with Mannion, Assimow, and Daily
   b. Hallacy will work on getting together a mental health committee which will ideally include members from the ASCIT BoD, IHC, GSC, USCAs, RAs, and a few key administrators and staff
3. Finances: We may have enough money in the ASCIT accounts for the formal, so we will move some money from the slush fund (buffer fund) into the ASCIT endowment so that we can gain more money in the future.

Office reports:
1. VP of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):
   a. ARC events: Most likely, faculty committee meetings will be on May 7 and the teaching awards will be on May 27
   b. Option Socials: The ARC is trying to organize socials for various options with different profs, but they are busy this term so this will likely be postponed until next term
   c. Dean’s meeting: Prof. Kewitt is concerned about lecture attendance and would like to make Caltech more fun so people go to class
   d. Year-round Research: The SFP office was contacted. There used to be something called UROH which posted research opportunities during the school year, which they will try to get started again
   e. Professor of the Month: The ARC is picking the new Prof of the Month this week!
   f. Course Concerns: It seems like several professors have been sick or missing often, which stops class. The ARC will talk with Melanie Hunt about developing a policy for absent professors.
2. VP of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair) – Report from Hallacy:
   a. Dean’s meeting: Prof. Kewitt really wants to move rotation out of the first week of academics because he is concerned that it is detrimental to the start of classes. Any change is unlikely to happen for this upcoming year because commitments have already been made, but there may be change in following years (ex. Bringing upperclassmen on campus before classes start and having rotation then)
   b. AGs: The IHC is deciding which house the new AG will live in and is determining the group that will be part of the selection process for the two new AGs that will come in 2012.
3. Director of Operations:
   a. Yearbooks: Diego is working with yearbook people to find people who want to get involved next term. He is also turning a room in the SAC into a yearbook publication room by getting it furnished and getting a computer with In Design. Still needs to distribute old Big Ts to professors.
   b. Clubs: Club funding is almost done. Diego will send out the emails letting clubs know how much funding they received and the BoD’s suggestions.
   c. Screening Room: Sound card and subwoofer are in the works. Still needs to furnish and getting a computer with In Design. Still needs to determine the group that will be part of the selection process for the two new AGs that will come in 2012.
4. Treasurer:
   a. ASCIT Formal funding: Mario got money from the funding office to cover transportation to the formal plus an additional $4k. He will apply to alumni funding this week and contact security so that we will have some at the formal.
   b. Other: Mario did reimbursements, and he will itemize our budget by term.
5. Social Director:
   a. ASCIT Formal: Mario got money from the funding office to cover transportation to the formal plus an additional $4k. He will apply to alumni funding this week and contact security so that we will have some at the formal.
   b. Other: Mario did reimbursements, and he will itemize our budget by term.

Meeting adjourned: 10:05pm
Once we understand the basic mechanisms in healthy people, we can start to look at how these systems go wrong in patients who suffer from different diseases...that impact their decision-making capabilities.

- John O’Doherty

THE 31st annual BANDORAMA
Directed by William Bing
Friday and Saturday
May 13 & 14, 2011 @ 8:00 pm
Ramo Auditorium

Featuring Caltech-Occidental Concert Band
Caltech Monday Jazz Band
Caltech Thursday Jazz Band
John Daversa, guest composer
Paul Asimow, guest conductor

“Galdalf” by Johan De Meir
“Concerto for Cellphone and Band”

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
NO TICKETS ARE REQUIRED
INFO: (626) 395-3295 or bands.caltech.edu

Seniors plan to donate chess table

Fundraising will have a unique twist this year.

The class goal is to make the process as unified and un-bureaucratic as possible, by raising the required amount of money promptly—in under a week, if possible. In contrast, previous fundraising ventures have tormented senior classes for “ages” before raising the requisite amount of money.

Once the forms are available to seniors, the class will try to raise the money within their self-imposed deadline of one week.

This efficient plan already faced a hurdle when donation forms were not made available over the weekend of May 7th and 8th as planned.

The idea of a chess table was conceived by Tom Mannion, Assistant Vice President of Student Life at Caltech, and considered alongside other ideas including those brainstormed by seniors.

After the most favored gift ideas were rejected due to issues of feasibility and potential lawsuits, seniors agreed to push for a chess table in April.
A solution for uncertain federal funding

CASSEY HANDMER
Contributing Writer

It has often been said that there is no average reader of the California Tech. If there were, however, it would almost certainly be a procrastinating undergraduate. Indeed, few grad students seem aware of the existence of this newspaper. When asked for a comment, most grad students insisted that, to be fair, they were equally unaware of everything else.

Why this apparent disinterest in the world around them?

As confirmed by a recent fictitious scientific literature meta-survey, grad students at top research institutions such as Caltech basically do all the work. Indeed, to quote Chemistry/Chemical Engineering Chair, Professor Jaqueline Barton, “They (graduate students) make the place run, and, quite frankly, run the place.” From such a perspective, it is not surprising that few grad students have the time or the interest to read, let alone read the student newspaper. Few senior faculty, well accustomed to the perks of free labor, are equally unaware of this phenomenon. While a few conceded that their students were occasionally and unofficially permitted to peruse www.icanhascheezburger.com, most agreed that recreational activities of any sort detracted from the research that they were “so well paid for.”

And paid for they are.

At Caltech, most grad students are supported by RA or TA stipends to the tune of $26,000 p.a., which over a five year PhD works out to just under $8 an hour. That’s roughly the same as flipping burgers, but with more flexible hours and more relaxed requirements on dress and hygiene, which, according to a seventh year pure math grad student who preferred to remain anonymous, is incredibly taken for granted.

But before we rush to make a down payment at BevMo, it is worth considering that an unmaintained reputation is scarcely a reputation at all. All universities get fatter to some extent during years of plenty – the true test occurs when the institute is required to tighten its belt during times of economic uncertainty.

In the past year, the possibility of large cuts to federal scientific research funding, which is the backbone of academic research in this country, has loomed on the horizon to near certainty.

While the institute guarantees the funding (subject to performance) of every enrolled grad student, it does them no good if new places must in turn be slashed. Without grad student labor to grease the wheels of the academic machine, it all comes to a grinding halt. During times of reduced federal funding, the continuation of excellence

must be supported through other means.

Alternatives include foreign investment, industry partnerships, defense funding, and private donations.

All have a role to play in bearing the load.

The first two in particular bear the brunt of additional funding in other countries. Australian universities in particular count foreign investment and industry partnerships as more than 10% of net Australian gross domestic product. For reference, US military spending was about five times as much during the same time period. Nevertheless, foreign grants for foreign students remain an important source of funding.

Industry partnerships and defense funding remain similarly important and, as defense is more robust to economic downturns, is an essential part of any hedge against economic instability.

Finally, Caltech is incredibly fortunate to receive the philanthropic donations of wealthy alumni and others. In particular, Gordon and Betty Moore have donated more than $6 x 108, an almost unbelievable sum. Many others have also contributed to the Caltech endowment, which today stands at $1.55 billion. With an annual market return of 6% (after inflation) that’s capable of funding about 3500 grad students (as an equivalent unit of wealth).

Of course most of the money is spent on capital improvements, building, maintenance, staff salaries, and expensive but shiny lab equipment.

Indeed, to quote Chemistry/Chemical Engineering Chair, Professor Jaqueline Barton, “They (graduate students) make the place run, and, quite frankly, run the place.”

To ensure continuing excellence, an institution like Caltech must diversify sources of income with which to fund its research staff and grad students in particular.

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Caltech musicians perform in China

WILLIAM BING
Director of Bands

Members of the Caltech-Occidental Concert Band and Jazz Band traveled to Beijing, China, over spring break.

They performed at the Great Wall and also held a joint concert with the Tsinghua University Symphony Orchestra. Their trip also included many tours of famous landmarks in Beijing, including the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven.

If coming snake is your idea of a good time, then you should have been with us on our recent trip to China. If that doesn’t appeal to you, you could have always tried the scorpion. Or the starfish! True enough, that’s what some daring Tchers had for their dinner.

Myself, being a vegetarian, settled for the boring fare in the boiling hot pots in the local mall. While my food wasn’t as adventurous, getting to sit next to some of the locals made for some good conversation.

Only days before, we were having snacks at the Great Wall. When we performed there on the second day of our trip, the wind was blowing so hard we had a tough time keeping our music stands upright.

And it was so cold that intonation went with the wind to parts unknown. However, undeterred, we soldiered on, and the performance was a “howling” success.

That is, for the most part, it was more humorous than musical as we dressed the part for an arctic expedition, rather than a concert. In fact, we had special sweatshirts designed by the wife of an alumnus who plays clarinet in the band. The pictures from that concert are as funny as our attempts to stay in tune in that freezing weather. Some of the audience members even got on the act, as one-by-one, they would stand in front of the band while we were playing to get their picture taken with the ensemble.

I attempted to buy some tea at the Great Wall to help me stay warm. One of the band members, a young lady, had some and had paid twenty yuan for it. When I went to buy the same beverage, the clerk wanted to charge me twice as much as he charged our young female band member.

So, I went back to her, and asked her to order it for me. She did, and paid the special Great Wall rate for young females, half as much as he was going to charge me. Maybe some things are the same all over the world.

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Our concert featured two alumnus Dr. Leslie Deutsch. Dr. Deutsch is presently the Chief Technologist and manager of the Architecture, System Engineering and Strategic Planning Office for the Interplanetary Network Directorate at NASA’s Jet propulsion Laboratory.

Also well-received was vocalist and Caltech alumnus, Kjerstin Williams, who is now making robots at Applied Minds in Glendale.

A member of the flute section, Teresa Liu, who is from China, arranged one meal that did hit a home run.

Her father and a business associate set up a banquet for the entire tour group, which was the best meal of all the meals we had in China by far.

There was Peking duck, whole fish, and even the vegetarian table scored some interesting and tasty treats, which was more impressive than it sounds since everyone was sick of bok choy at this point.

And we weren’t without tours! The Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace and visits to pearl and silk factories were all part of the package deal as students got out of the “Caltech Bubble” and came back with plenty of stories of the world outside.

At the jade factory, most of the students passed up the chance to buy jade in its raw form. I’m sure the store didn’t know what to make of us.

Finally, after eating our way through China, we came home to Caltech, where many students rushed out as soon as the bus arrived on campus to go to In-n-Out. Turns out one can only go for so long without a burger! It was good to be home.

A highlight for most of us on the tour was our concert at Tsinghua University. Tsinghua University is one of the top schools in China. For some months, we had been preparing for the opportunity to interact with this prestigious school, which is often said to be the “Caltech” of China.

After a formal ceremony in the afternoon, we got down to business with a rehearsal followed by a catered dinner.

That is, if you call take out from McDonalds something special. I guess the cool thing about McDonalds in Beijing is that it has a delivery service. Truly, China is ahead of us in many ways.

The concert went well. The Caltech-Occidental Band played beautifully.

Our concert featured two new compositions, one of which was written by Caltech alumnus Dr. Leslie Deutsch. Dr. Deutsch is presently the Chief Technologist and manager of the Architecture, System Engineering and Strategic Planning Office for the Interplanetary Network Directorate at NASA’s Jet propulsion Laboratory.

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Today’s Puzzle: Sudoku

LA FEMME
Contributing Writer

Hi guys. I’m your lady. The one you’re planning to ask on a date. Despite the subtle signals I waft in your direction, you still don’t know what I want to do when or IF I say “yes.” Don’t worry, I know that you can be a bit daft. So while you try to figure out my code words and facial twitches, here is an explicit list of fun things that will keep me happy.

Breakfast

Breakfast can produce some of the most casually romantic moments. It’s a great first date, or a nice change if we’ve been going out to dinner for a while. And since it’s rare, it can be quite special. Russel’s, Julienne, Marston's, and Green St. are all in Pasadena and are all great options.

Pitfalls: Bed hair and morning breath. Also, be on time!

An Afternoon at the Museum

Here’s one that will satisfy my artsy side. The Norton Simon Museum is one of the best collections in Southern California, and it’s totally free for students. Plan to spend several hours at the museum and then stroll down to Old Town for a nice dinner. If there’s time between the museum and your dinner reservation, visit some of the shops or get a cupcake at Dots. Yes, it’s hard to eat a cupcake without getting some chocolate on your lips, but we can fix that. Oops, did I just kiss you?

Pitfalls: Don’t be a know-it-all, but be interested in the art. Know something about a piece, and tell me its story.

The Movie

Don’t just take me to the theatres, put a personal touch on this old standby. Set up a projector, a comfy couch, and make some popcorn. If you’re going to be ambitious, make the popcorn yourself. Buy the kernels at the supermarket, and season it to taste. You can also get a nice dessert, like ice cream and a cobbler from the Cobbler Factory. Try to think about things I like, that’s what will make it personal. And, you know, if you put a personal touch on this date, maybe I will too.

Pitfalls: Pick an appropriate movie.

Steak Dinner

This one is a classic. And think about it... you cooking raw meat over an open fire.

For all I know you were out hunting that morning, too. Talk about fulfilling primal needs. But before you get too excited, read on. There’s nothing worse than the smell of burnt meat or burnt you.

This date will take some skill and time, so keep it simple. A good steak, some easy sides, and a sweet finish are all it really takes.

If you want to fancy it up a bit, put a personal twist on one of the sides.

During the dinner, you shouldn’t be doing any real cooking because while I’m there, you should be making good conversation and keeping your eyes on me.

Detail is what will make the night magical. Pick a nice location. Consider lighting, noise, privacy, and view.

Find a white tablecloth, solid silverware, and a pair of wine glasses.

If you’re not sure about the wine, ask an expert (Tom Mannion and the MOSH are two of them). And don’t forget a candle. It makes your eyes look pretty.

Pitfalls: Barbeque can leave a smell on your clothes. Don’t smell like smoke at the table.

You also might want to practice this routine with your buds before trying it on me. It’s easy, but you’ll want some experience. I like experience.

Santa Monica

For those of you with a car and a day to kill (dang seniors!), a trip to the Santa Monica Pier and the surrounding area is a flexible and relaxing adventure.

Spend half a day at the Getty Villa in Malibu and drive along the beach for a pleasant afternoon on the pier.

Feed my sweet tooth with a sundae or malt at Soda Jerks, and do some people watching.

Walk down to Venice Beach and find an interesting trinket to give me as a memory.

If we stay until sunset, find a romantic outlook, then take me to Blue Plate Oysters and get a half-dozen oysters to share. It’s cute, easy, and fun. Oh, and bring an extra jacket.

Trust me, you’ll like how I look in your clothing.

Pitfalls: There are lots of options, so have some structure in mind. Have some good ideas, and be spontaneous around the framework.

Also, remember freeway traffic and weather.

Sincerely, LaFemme
Nothing happened.

Remember?
CONSPIRACY THEORY

BY MARK GRIDEM

HORATIO

CONIC HORATIO SANZ
HORATIO COMIC SANZ
HORATIO SANZ COMIC

BLACK HUMOUR

BY PAUL SEnORREX

THE PRINTER HATES US

The California
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By Chau Dang