Andrew Yang created Venture for America, an organization dedicated to connecting recent graduates to start-ups and fledgling businesses in economically distressed regions throughout the United States. His goal: “to create 100,000 US jobs by 2015.”

In response, Brown alum and Columbia Law School graduate Andrew Yang created Venture for America, an organization dedicated to connecting recent graduates to start-ups in struggling cities. His goal: “to create 100,000 US jobs by 2015.”

In 2005, inspired by Charlie Kroll, a fellow Brown alum and successful entrepreneur in Providence, and mirroring the Teach for America program, Venture for America provides a fellowship for “top graduates” to receive training at the Venture Fellow Summer Institute at Brown University as well as job placement for two years at “a start-up or early-stage company in Detroit, New Orleans, or Providence.”

With major media presences detailing the ailments of both Detroit and New Orleans, it is easy to think of Providence as an odd choice to include in this group. However, Yang assured interested parties that this is not the case. Though its close proximity to Brown University was a factor in its selection, Yang noted “Providence has around an 11% unemployment rate and so, like the other two cities, it too is struggling.”

Applicants to Venture for America are run through an extensive selection process, complete with the usual recommendations, transcript, and resume requests, as well as a first-round phone interview followed by a full-day interview “which includes completing a problem solving activity, participating in a group discussion, and interviewing with Venture for America Board Members.”

If they’re lucky enough to make it through all that, they’ll become part of an experiment that aims to create successful entrepreneurs in low-cost cities. They’ll even have a chance at acquiring a $100,000 dollar prize in seedling investment. At the end of the two-year program, the Fellow who has outperformed all others during his Fellowship will receive the prize, which can be used to found a personal venture or to bolster the Fellow’s current start-up.

Yang himself is no stranger to entrepreneurship. Beginning as an Associate in Banking and Mergers and Acquisitions at the law firm Davis Polk and Wardwell, Yang found that that a career as a lawyer was not a good fit. He left the firm to found a dot-com that rose and fell not a good fit. He left the firm to found a dot-com that rose and fell. During the internet bust, went on to become Vice President of Business Development at a mobile phone content management company, followed by Vice President of MMF Systems, a healthcare software company, and finally became President and CEO of Manhattan GMAT before it was bought out by Kaplan and the Washington Post.

It was during this extensive experience in the business world that he realized the necessity for a program like Venture for America. “I encountered many budding entrepreneurs who wanted to get something started…they wanted a way in but didn’t know how to find one,” stated Yang.

If you want to be a chef, you need to work alongside a chef, not with a company that sells things to restaurants.

- Andrew Yang

At the same time, while running his own company he discovered how hard it is to hire qualified graduates while competing with much larger corporations. He eventually became familiar with the Teach for America program and marvelled at its successes in getting highly-talented new graduates to areas of need. Yang even met a Caltech alum involved with Teach for America and decided that if such a program could pull grads into ailing schools, it might also be capable of placing them in fledging start-ups.

Yang realizes that this may be a hard sell for many students who will be receiving offers of a stable job with large, established companies. Yet, he is confident that the allure of being part of a start-up will help draw in talented minds. Moreover, he noted that Venture for America acts as a buffer in what is normally a high-risk employment situation, promising to keep its fellows working for one start-up or another over the course of two years.

As he noted, the experience that can be gained from working for a start-up is invaluable in comparison to a much larger company, since “If you want to be a chef, you need to work alongside a chef, not with a company that sells things to restaurants.”

According to Yang, students of any field and major can stand to benefit from this experience, as placement is available at both technical and non-technical companies.

He cautioned, though, that if one wishes to commence down the start-up path, it’s essential that they do it earlier rather than later.

Using his own experience as an example, Yang mentioned that the transition from law to entrepreneurship was not an easy one and that he essentially took two years to alter his legal education to a business mindset. At the same time, he cautioned current students from making a decision too early, thereby boxing themselves into a career path that might not be right for them. A two-year experience in a challenging and exciting workplace might just be the right sort of start.

As Yang stated, “I encourage people to consider the start-up path because it stretches you in many different ways. Caltech students are among the most talented people in the country and for them to gain resources to do something like this would be a great benefit to society.”

Applications to Venture for America may be found on the company’s website, ventureforamerica.org. Applicants for the inaugural fellowship group of 2012 must submit an application by on two possible deadlines: November 28, 2011 or February 15, 2012.
The California Tech congratulates new freshmen on their placement in one of the eight fine Houses at Caltech. Congratulations as well to the upperclassmen for yet another successful round of Rotation.

Get ready to get to know your new House and gear up for a(nother) great year at Caltech!

Feynman teaching award nominations

Here’s your chance to nominate your favorite professor for the 2011-12 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching! You have from now until January 2, 2012 to submit your nomination package to the Provost’s Office to honor a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching.

The Feynman Prize is made possible through the generosity of Ione and Robert E. Paradise, with additional contributions from an anonymous local couple. Nominations for the Feynman Teaching Prize are welcome from faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and alumni.

All professorial faculty of the Institute are eligible. The prize consists of a cash award of $3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual salary of the awardee. A letter of nomination and detailed supporting material, including, but not limited to, a curriculum vitae, course syllabus or description, and supporting recommendation letters should be directed to the Feynman Prize Selection Committee, Office of the Provost, Mail Code 206-31, at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 91125. Nomination packages are due by January 2, 2012.

Additional information including guidelines for the prize and FAQ may be found at http://provost.caltech.edu/FeynmanTeachingPrize. Further information can also be obtained from Karen Kerbs (626-395-6039; kkerbs@caltech.edu) or Stacey Scoville (626-395-6320; staceys@caltech.edu) in the Provost’s Office.
on "Market Appeal"? The judges comments on the "Market Appeal" score sheet were a reflection of the unusual features of CHIP. They thought that the entirely student-built house was "poorly constructed" but that it would be hard to build for a typical construction company. They had awarded CHIP 3rd place in the "Affordability" contest, but deemed CHIP's $262,495 price tag "too high" for its target consumers, a young environmentally-conscious California couple. "[CHIP] has the potential of becoming iconic in its narrowly defined market," wrote the judges.

Meanwhile, the "Market Appeal" competition was towards entries that looked like normal houses over entries that completely reimagined architecture conventions. Belgium's entry, a gray "E-Cube" with adjustable interior space, placed 18th in the "Market Appeal". At the final Solar Decathlon team dinner, they pointedly thanked all the teams that designed houses for the sake of innovation, and not just for the sake of winning the competition. The tent exploded with applause from all of the teams who had been docked points for their non-conventional ideas, especially SCI-Arc-Caltech.

"In order to win this competition, we would have needed to make compromises we wouldn't have wanted to make," said one SCI-Arc student.

In other words, SCI-Arc would have needed to design a much more conventional house for today's market. Instead, they designed CHIP, a house that looks like it might be an iconic solar house in the future. If kids' reaction to CHIP are any indication of the future housing market, then CHIP has a bright economic future ahead of it. Children stared, transfixed, as SCI-Arc/Caltech members turned lights on and off just by pointing at them. "Kids especially love this house. It's fun and exciting, and they just love to explore," said Yang. "But some of the same advances that won CHIP 2nd in "Engineering" and "Home Entertainment" and "unique thermal envelope design" was the same recyclable white vinyl-covered insulation that made it look like auffy white Star Wars ship. The 15 degree tilt of the roof, optimized for solar energy generation at DC's latitude, was deemed "hard to build" by the judges. In fact, CHIP didn't just post average scores on "Market Appeal". CHIP bomed "Market Appeal", landing in 17th place, pushing the single student-built house from 3rd to 6th overall.
Caltech Couture: One student’s take on fashion

ALEX LANGERFEILD
Staff Writer

Being around campus, I’ve observed that we are divided into two camps: one, well, just doesn’t care, but I can’t seem to figure out how they look, and the other that obviously does care. Last week I found them in the football game, so this week I’ll focus on the latter. Hopefully, the camp that cares has increased in size.

Secondly, you do care about your appearance. Good! What next? I think the next step is to evaluate yourself. Look in the mirror and be completely honest.

Do you see some cottage cheese? That’s fine. Just perhaps avoid mini-skirts, or if you absolutely want to wear one, add some cool-printed tights or leggings (by the way, they’re pretty popular right now!). Do you have nice arms? Then show ‘em off!

Work on fixing your weaknesses and in the meantime understand them while emphasizing your strengths. If you’re your own most honest and hardest critic, then there will be nothing left for others to do but compliment you!

There are many events coming up this year, ranging from formal dinners to Interhouse parties. First, these are occasions to dress up!

Yes, they are not all the same type of occasion and therefore call for different styles. I’ve observed that often it is guys who don’t realize that they should snazzy up things up and it is the girls who overdo it or miss the mark.

Guys, if you’re going to an event, roll down your knicks, take off the high-waisted khaki shorts, put on some properly fitting pants and button down a flattering shirt!

And please, please, please, take off those running shoes! For a formal dinner, it’s a suit. Practice wearing one so that you don’t look awkward.

Oh, and before you put on a button-down, make sure it’s ironed. We were there to do our job, play the game we loved, and try to get a home victory against Pomona for the second year in a row. Apparently nobody involved in Caltech athletics shares that attitude, our otherwise awesome Tech sports editor included. For some people, the chronically low audience for Caltech sporting events, and I quote, makes them wish they “went to a real school”.

In fairness, they went on to point out that at a small school like Caltech, small crowds are to be expected. Yes, few Caltech students have ever gone to a home game to cheer on their team. But what the hell did our editor expect by going into histronicos over it? Honestly, I’m just impressed and thankful that anyone shows up at all. With a long and distinguished record of repeatedly getting our asses handed to us, our athletic teams don’t inspire a whole lot of confidence or, by extension, loyalty. Even if our friends had nothing better to do, it wouldn’t be hard to see why they might get discouraged at the prospect of going out to cheer on their buddies through another losing battle.

But do they ever have other things to do? This is Caltech, goddammit. When crazy people just slowly hobbled around campus for a few weeks on an injury from practice, we suffer for it. Sometimes our all-nighter afterwards to get a set done goes eight to instead of five the next morning, or we get to come watch other sports for a week on an injury from practice. Since plenty of people don’t or can’t make those sacrifices, getting on their case for not dedicating free time to their sport they’re cheering for? Hell, and watching us play is not going to generate a positive response. And, as Amol pointed out, we have lots of student-athletes—how much free time are they going to have to come watch other sports play? Amazingly, plenty of them do anyway.

But what bothers me more than the critique of the few fans we have was the attitude underlying the whole article. What sort of “real school” does Amol pine for, exactly? The type where boundless, braindead fratboys come to any sports game to have another excuse to drink? A state school where student-athletes are all athletic and no student? A college with a bigger population than my hometown where people don’t even personally know the players they’re cheering for? Hell, a school with a better mascot than a woodland rodent?

Okay, I’ll concede the last one would be pretty nice. But while Caltech’s athletic department is horribly under-budgeted and doesn’t exactly generate big ticket or advertising revenue, I wouldn’t give it up for anything. What bothers me more than the critique of the few fans we have was the attitude underlying the whole article. What sort of “real school” does Amol pine for, exactly? The type where boundless, braindead fratboys come to any sports game to have another excuse to drink? A state school where student-athletes are all athletic and no student? A college with a bigger population than my hometown where people don’t even personally know the players they’re cheering for? Hell,
Ayloo reinvisions social networking

SANDHYA CHANDrasekaran
News Editor

On September 14, Caltech graduate student Iauna Swanson, along with his high school buddies Mark Cicoria and Mark Johnson, launched a site that is slowly revolutionizing the traditional concept of social networking.

When people first hear the words “social networking,” they may develop a nauseating sensation in their stomachs. The simple fact is that as the world we live in advances technologically, the presence of such sites, apparently designed to bring people closer, instead only buries us with loads of useless and uninteresting information, driving us further apart.

The founders of Ayloo created the site because they “thought the web needs a pull in the direction of choice, accountability, and simplicity when it comes to online communication. [They] are also strong believers in form and function working together to create a harmony that everyone can enjoy and use.”

Swanson offers some insight: “Current social networks encourage broadcasting and over-sharing among their members, and they attempt to connect a lot of their users and content together as quickly as possible. This style of social networking provides a steady stream of content, allowing friends to interact briefly and consistently. This isn’t necessarily a bad thing…to having necessarily met in real life.

“We have already established an Aylooite does not require that you transfer completely away from these existing social networks – people are using current social networking to share content quickly with their friends for the foreseeable future. But when they get hungry for more meaningful conversation…we hope they’ll come to Ayloo.”

Something that differentiates Ayloo from other sites currently running is its “Sprouts’ feature, which allows conversation to “evolve organically.” Swanson describes, “Sprouts are a way to take a conversation thread in a different direction. If we were engaged in a conversation about New York city and all of the sky scrapers and I get reminded of my favorite monster movie, instead of hijacking the thread or not bringing up something I really want to talk about, I simply ‘sprout’ another thread which is now open to discuss the new topic (leaving the old thread still going in the initial direction)”.

Swanson assures that Ayloo is quite different from the popular social networking sites that have become so familiar to us. At Ayloo, our users aren’t connected through a ‘social graph’ as it has come to be defined – we have what’s called an ‘interest graph,’ where people are connected to each other based on their common interests as opposed to having necessarily met in real life.

According to Swanson, “Current social networking is done–a social-form-and-function paradigm doesn’t exist anymore…”

The community invite URL is “ayloo.net/caltech” . Signing up is easy and quick, and anyone, even new users, can control their social life online. The interest we share, the communities and people you want to hear from. Currently on the social web, there’s a landscape of often irrelevant and ‘shallow’ content hitting your eyes daily. With our ‘stream,’ users can more easily focus their attention on content that is reliably engaging and relevant to certain interests of theirs.”

Upon first glance, Ayloo’s ‘list’ feature (the blogging community and community-creators (the forum-going community)…Over time, however, our internal initial membership that results from this recruitment will begin to pull people into Ayloo with the draw of consistent, substantive discussion about their interests with communities they enjoy. At the end of the day, we’ll have a bunch of people on Ayloo (who either knew each other initially or met through streams on Ayloo) who enjoy the content and people on the network.”

“Ayloo also places a lot of emphasis on user feedback, even citing its “Ayloos” as its creators. Thus, its mission is to “Make meaningful conversation with the people you know and the communities you care about.”

The website home page boldly declares, “Ayloo is a place to have meaningful conversation with the people you know and the communities you care about,” and the features Ayloo implements revolve around this underlying goal.

“The Splash!” Ayloo’s homepage, highlights five unique aspects of described Ayloos plans to evolve. To develop the network we are envisioning, we’ll have to grow systematically by gathering small communities one after another. “We have already established Ayloo within the Savannah College of Art and Design through our user feedback.”

Since Ayloos is such a dynamic environment, “many of the current features came directly out of the [feedback] Lab.”

“We do not believe we are in direct competition with Google+, Facebook, etc. Creating an Aylooite does not require that you transfer completely away from your current social networking sites. People are going to use current social networking to share content quickly with their friends for the foreseeable future. But when they get hungry for more meaningful conversation, we hope they’ll come to Ayloo.”

“While Google’s ‘Circles’ are the meat-and-potatoes method for communicating between individuals, we use community discussion threads. We’ve found that dividing content into topical streams has a very positive effect on interactions, possibly because you’re actively seeking out topics that are of interest to you.”

For people reluctant to join “yet another social networking site,” Swanson has an answer: “The one social site to rule them all paradigm doesn’t exist anymore…And there shouldn’t exist just one social one on the web because that site can’t focus on every social need!”

“More likely, people will gather together in a collection of sites that satisfy their needs and we would like to see Ayloo become the go-to site for community-based conversation.”

The community invite URL is “ayloo.net/caltech.” Signing up through this link is an automatic invitation into the ‘Caltech’ stream.

So try Ayloo for yourselves and see where the possibilities of social networking can take you.
Today’s Puzzle: Crossword

Across
1. Trudge
5. Dreary
9. Retail outlet
13. Wander
14. Warble
16. Remuneration
17. Part of the Roman calendar
18. Play or represent
19. Nimbus
20. Virtue
22. Introduction
24. Type of tree
26. Additional
27. French film festival
30. Temper or season
35. Place
36. Book of maps
39. Currency of Nigeria
40. Woodwind instrument
42. Bird of prey
44. Heat up
45. Ocean vessel
47. Exuviate
49. Fish eggs
50. Nocturnal wildcat
52. One who suffers for the sake of principle
54. Sagolike starch
57. Novel
58. Part of a grandfather clock
59. Expiate
62. Meat cooked on a skewer
66. Promise
67. Narrow length of leather
69. Solitary
70. Song for solo voice
71. Path
72. Ballot
73. Religious order
74. Friend
75. Ruler or chieftain

Down
1. Dainty
2. Valuable ore deposit
3. Finished blueprint
4. Coloring substance
5. Worship
6. Frolic
8. Asian pepper plant
9. Mop
10. Drag
11. Fiend
12. Leguminous plant
15. Tether
21. Large food and game fish
23. Miserly
25. Administer or ___ out
26. Having three dimensions
29. Expiate
31. Uncooked
32. Personal journal
33. Mistake
34. Epithet
35. Game played on horseback
37. In the past
38. Shantytown
41. Long fish
43. Panache
46. Route
48. Journey
51. Reliance
52. French film festival
53. Roman XII
55. Radical
56. Wall painting
57. Novel
58. Part of a grandfather clock
59. Expiate
60. Orderly
61. Post
63. Economic prosperity
64. Opposing
65. Alcoholic beverage
66. Possesses
68. Travel a route regularly

Answers to last week’s crossword from puzzlechoice.com

OWLET HASP
GRape OGLE
REnal BOOT
ENGULF GOAD
LEAK PRALINE
TOWERING DIE
UNIT TEEM STAMP
BUS HETUP NAY
ASHEN LURE STIR
AIL PART TIME
TEAR GAS LIEU
ILL HIND LATTER
RUIN LAIR STAVE
EDGE OKRA EERIE
DENT REEF TROLL

THEY TOOK IT TO THE SUPREME COURT AND WON!

Our students shepherded a case through the lower courts and on to the nation’s highest, stunning the immigration world with a unanimous decision. Hands-on training is a large part of what we do at the University of Houston Law Center. But it’s just part of what we offer. The Law Center combines the best of all worlds:

- Excellence in education with multiple “Top Ten” specialty programs
- Reasonable tuition and fees
- A campus recognized as one of the most diverse in the United States

We are a Tier One law school in a Tier One university. In addition, our home is Houston, the nation’s fourth largest city with a robust legal employment market and an affordable cost of living to make the most of your budget. There’s a lot to like about our school. Find out more at www.law.uh.edu.
During my freshman year and first season on the tennis team, I played a particularly tough singles match against La Sierra (as in, not a blowout). I lost the first set 6-2 and felt my energy begin to wane. By the start of the second set, my match was the last still in progress, so a small crowd formed around the court.

I won the next set 6-4 and won the tiebreak 10-8, thus giving the Beavers a 5-4 victory over the Eagles.

I do not recount this story in order to brag about my glory days (but seriously, feel free to be super impressed), but, instead, to point out that I seemed to play better when surrounded by fans. While this may not be true for all athletes, I would say a good number of them would agree with me. Sports are popular not just because athletes love to play them, but because people enjoy watching them. If any athlete tells you his or her sport is meant only for his or her enjoyment, then he or she is selfish and probably not a great team player. If the NCAA banned people from viewing intercollegiate games, I am fairly certain there would cease to be an NCAA.

At this juncture, I would like to point something out about my "real school" title. For those of you who know me, have read my other articles, or are even slightly aware of sarcasm in 20th and 21st century literature know that I was joking. Caltech is an accredited school with real intercollegiate sports. I promise. I would also like to point out that if my friends had nothing better to do, they had better show up and support me. That's what friends do, even, rather, especially if I'm fighting a losing battle.

Additionally, I am fairly certain that if people start showing up to Caltech games, they will not become boozed-up frat boys (I also take offense to the assumption that large schools only have brain dead fans. Coming from Michigan, I know that the majority of college sports fans are good, wholesome, family-oriented people, but that's not really the point).

They will still be the same old Caltech students. I simply asked for more Caltech students to support Caltech students. I really do not see the problem in wanting support for the "crazy people" who play Caltech sports. As far as better equipment and fields go, every athlete wants them. Every athlete wants these things, but I'm also pretty sure most athletes would prefer to have people watching them play on their shiny new fields.

For those who do not, I understand that there could be a crippling combination of fear and anxiety related to large crowds, but that's what truly makes sports special. It's the reason why kids dream of being up to bat with two outs in the bottom of the ninth. It's the reason why golf is still shown on television. It's the reason why some athletes become legends and others are forgotten. While none of us Techers will likely find ourselves immortalized in sport (unless you believe the hype about this Ben Stiller basketball movie), we can certainly appreciate the true beauty of organized sports. In the end, fans are as important as players: lose one and there's really no point for the other.

On a side note, I would genuinely like to thank Wesley for a legitimately important response. It brought up several good points that readers will have to decide on for their own. I appreciate any sort of submission regarding sports, as it makes my job much easier. I would also like to thank him for not beating me with a rolled up newspaper like Janis Intoy did upon finding I had used a picture of her in last week's paper.

**Weekly Scoreboard**

**October 1, 2011**

**Men’s Soccer**

at La Verne  
L, 2-1 Final

**Women’s Volleyball**

vs. Whittier  
L, 3-0 Final

**September 30, 2011**

**Women’s Volleyball**

at Pomona-Pitzer  
L, 3-0 Final

**September 28, 2011**

**Men’s Soccer**

vs. Redlands  
L, 8-0 Final

**Upcoming Events**

**OCTOBER 4, 2011**

**WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL**

AT CLAREMONT-M-S  
7:30 PM

**OCTOBER 5, 2011**

**MEN’S SOCCER**

AT CLAREMONT-M-S  
7:00 PM

**OCTOBER 6, 2011**

**MEN’S WATER POLO**

VS. CONNECTICUT COL.  
5:00 PM
Humor

The California Tech
October 3, 2011

For more photos, videos, and archives of previous issues, check out the newly revamped Tech website!

tech.caltech.edu