Professor Asimow wins Feynman Prize

KATIE NEITH
Science Writer

Paul D. Asimow, professor of geology and geochemistry at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), has been awarded the Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching—Caltech’s most prestigious teaching honor.

Asimow was selected for his “exceptional energy, originality, and ability to explain complicated concepts effectively,” according to the award citation.

The Feynman Prize was established in 1993 “to honor annually a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching.”

Any member of the Caltech community—including faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, alumni, or staff—may nominate a faculty member for the award. A committee appointed by the provost selects the winner.

“I am both utterly surprised and deeply gratified, as the award represents the recognition to keep putting in the big classes. I’m inspired by this recognition to keep putting my efforts into improving and updating what and how I teach,” Asimow says he credits his success in academia to a teacher he had as an undergraduate at Harvard.

“My own career path was determined by one incredible professor, James B. Thompson, Jr., who recently passed away,” he notes. “I’d like to acknowledge the legacies of both Feynman and Thompson.”

A member of the faculty since 1999, Asimow earned his MS and PhD at Caltech in 1993 and 1997, respectively. His research focuses on characterizing the mineralogy and the nature of the core-mantle boundary.

Asimow is a member of the American Geophysical Union, the Mineralogical Society of America, the Geochemical Society, and the American Physical Society.

He is the winner of the 2003 F. W. Clarke Medal of the Geochemical Society, a 2003 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow, and the recipient of the 2005 James R. Macelwane Medal of the American Geophysical Union. His work was supported by a National Science Foundation CAREER grant from 2003 to 2007.

In nomination letters written by students, Asimow was commended for his enthusiasm, clarity, and depth of knowledge. Several students described him as the professor to whom graduate students in the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences turn when they can’t agree on the answer to a scientific question, or when they’re starting a new project or finishing a composition.

The award citation also highlighted what the committee called a “striking innovation” of Asimow’s curriculum for the extent and thoroughness of the materials he provides for his students, and for the way he integrates them.

“Professor Asimow is a true teacher,” said June Wicks, a graduate student in geochemistry, in her letter nominating Asimow for the prize.

“He pours his energy into describing concepts both precisely and thoroughly”

Asimow says that the best thing about teaching at Caltech is its dynamic, engaged, talented, and curious student population.

“Caltech is its dynamic, engaged, talented, and curious student population. It makes all the difference to a teacher when the students are able and willing to interact, question, and even challenge the professor,” says Asimow. “With small class sizes and suitable encouragement, I often get a group of students that help me and help each other to explore a subject in a satisfying and complete way.”

“Thats very rewarding.”

Previous winners of the Feynman Prize in the past four years are J. Moegk Kouser, professor of history and social science; Dennis Dougherty, George Grant Hoag Professor of Chemistry; Jehoshua (Shuki) Bruck, Gordon and Betty Moore Professor of Computation and Neural Systems and Electrical Engineering; and Zhen-Gang Wang, professor of chemical engineering.

In this issue

NEWS
Changes made to TQFRs

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
Take a look at the ASCIT hopefuls

FEATURE
Clement checks out Sleigh Bells

SPORTS
Women’s water polo claims victory

NEWS briefs from around the globe
Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble

Need to know

Protection for satellites $3 million
system warns of solar storms – could save billions

US Navy rescues Iranian 1 survivor of Iranian shipwreck was recovered by American sailors

AIG to repay bail-out $6 billion
Asia subsidiary will be sold to repay US government

Majority elects Putin 63% of votes give Vladimir Putin a third term as Russia’s president

Nationwide poll in Iran 290 parliamentary seats at stake – first national election since 2009

China cuts growth target 7.5% for 2012 – investor concerns cause Asian stocks to fall

Devastating storms 39 deaths – 42 tornados confirmed across 10 states

today.caltech.edu

tech@caltech.edu

5G
Food with Mannion!

Do you like eating food?  
How about free food at nice restaurants?  
Ever want to tell the world exactly what you think of said food?  
The Tech will be beginning a new column to chronicle the foodie experiences of new writers every other week...The Catch: They'll be going head-to-head with Tom Mannion who will be reviewing the same restaurant.  
If you have ever thought you were more of a gourmand than our resident master chef, now's your chance to prove it!  
Email us for a spot on the list at tech@caltech.edu

ASCIT Minutes

February 26, 2012 by Laura Santoso  
Officers present: Chris Hallacy, Mario Zubia, Michelle Tang, Laura Santoso  
Late: Margaret Chiu, Diego Caporale  
Absent: Laura Conwill  
Guests: Arman, Maysam (from the Friends of Iranian Culture at CIT)

Funding Requests

1. Nowruz Celebration 2012-Iranian New Year (FICCIT): Will celebrate Saturday, March 24 in Ramo Auditorium and Dabney Lounge.  
   - VOTE PASSED: will pay $25 for each undergrad that shows up.

SFC Reports

1. Commencement Committee (Hallacy): Reviewing the Fleming red robes, because they've considered it an issue in the past. Are okay with people wearing house stoles, but they don't like the robes. Talking to current Fleming seniors about it.

President's Report

1. North House AC: Meg, is leaving next Wednesday (she's taking another job). Dustin Summy, the Ruddock RA, will move into her apartment in Page and help out there.  
2. ACs in general: Dean's office is trying to redefine the AC position. Will be hiring a new AC to replace Meg, with a committee with students.

Officer's Reports

1. IHC (Laura Conwill)  
   a. New Ricketts President: is Sebastian Rojas (Seabass).  
   b. Rotation: Both the old and new IHC met today (Sunday, 2/26) discussing options on what to do. Recall that they are considering a four-day rotation.

2. Director of Operations (Diego)  
   a. SAC rooms: cleared up the miscommunication regarding the alumni phone room.  
   b. Yearbook committee: trying to revive the yearbook culture at Caltech. They had a dinner the other day for people interested in working on yearbook. Figuring out if we can get past financial issues to designate a SAC room to Big T.  
   c. Club mailing lists: trying to update the big club mailing list so that only presently active clubs are on it.

3. Social Representative (Michelle)  
   b. Rotation: Both the old and new IHC met today (Sunday, 2/26) discussing options on what to do. Recall that they are considering a four-day rotation.

4. Secretary (Laura)  
   a. Olive walk board: getting pictures of the new presidents for the board.
Changes made to TQFRs increase accessibility

The Caltech Teaching Quality Feedback Report (TQFR) is integral to making intelligent changes to courses. Students are highly encouraged to fill out these surveys on REGIS during the final weeks of term so that professors have official, written documentation of feedback from their students and can use the critique to improve courses in subsequent years.

This year, several changes have been implemented to the TQFRs to make them more applicable to students and relevant courses. Perhaps the most major alteration to the TQFR form is the student comment box that allows students to write comments that are only visible to other students. This is to help underclassmen make more educated decisions when it comes to choosing classes that suit their interests. Other tweaks to the form are mentioned below.

1. Students now have the option to select which TAs they would like to review so that feedback is more personalized and meaningful.
2. Performing Arts (PA) and Physical Education (PE) classes have more tailored forms that target aspects unique to them, rather than asking generic academic questions.
3. A ‘search’ function on the TQFRs now works to allow students to look at old TQFR reports as well (MAJOR CHANGE: student-to-student comment box).
4. The questions have been consolidated onto fewer pages to alleviate the somewhat tedious nature of flipping through multiple pages in the survey.
5. An ‘autosave’ feature saves the form as the students fills it out, for convenience.

TQFRs are not only important for professors to gauge the efficacy of their own teaching, but also allow the Institute to better organize course instruction across the divisions.

While TQFRs are set up on a termly basis, these reports are by no means the only way to voice concerns about courses. The Academics and Research Committee, which consists of undergraduates, including representatives from each house, is always open to hearing your comments regarding the academic aspects of Caltech education. Feedback can be submitted year round on the Caltech Donut website.

This term, the registrar plans to award a cash prize to the house with the highest TQFR response rate. So, fill them out and earn some money to splurge with during spring break!

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Join the BigT Yearbook!

Want to get your yearbook on time?
Want more of you in your yearbook?
We’re still looking for more writers and photographers!

No Yearbook Experience Necessary!

Contact the cltch.bigT@gmail.com
IHC Chair (1 candidate)

CHRISTIAN RIVAS

IHC Chair candidate

The duties of the IHC are numerous and varied. The IHC is comprised of ten able student leaders, each of whom possesses a differing combination of experiences, values, and motivations. Primarily, each year’s IHC is tasked with the challenge of orchestrating and overseeing Rotation in order to ensure it runs efficiently while maintaining the integrity of its philosophical significance. Additionally, the IHC interacts with administrators as negotiators for a variety of topics concerning on-campus student life, and must therefore function as a competent communicator of the thoughts and desires of the student body as a whole while simultaneously addressing concerns the administration may possess. The IHC is also required to assist managing Prefrosh Weekend and conduct student-faculty committee appointments. With these duties in mind, I am confident that I am qualified to serve as your IHC Chair. As a member of the last IHC, I have obtained valuable experience in implementing Rotation smoothly and effectively: this last Rotation was the most successful in years, with each House avoiding Ercorotation and the vast majority of freshmen being placed in one of their top three Houses. I will utilize my experience when collaborating with our House presidents to guarantee yet another sound Rotation. Through my experience as IHC Secretary as well as serving on other committees, such as the planning student committee, I have gained a strong communicative foundation between myself and the deans, Tom Mannion, and various administrators, and I will convey student concerns to them effectively as Chair.

I have also become intimately familiar with the dynamics of discussion and debate that occur at IHC meetings and will facilitate meaningful communication amongst our presidents so that we may best enforce our values.

I will fulfill my responsibilities as IHC Chair, but I will require your thoughts and support to do so meaningfully. Just as I look forward to working further with our presidents and administrators, so do I look forward to hearing from you.

IHC Secretary as well as serving

BOC Secretary candidate

ANNA ROSS

My name is Anna Ross and I am running for BOC Secretary. During my time on the BoC, I sat as a representative for both the freshmen and the seniors. This allowed me to see the interactions between freshmen and seniors, and hear their concerns. I was also a member of the Hazing Committee, and I have obtained valuable experience with the cases the BOC can serve to reduce those doubts by ensuring that the unfair advantage is removed and by acting to prevent future violations.

As BOC secretary, I will dedicate myself to protecting the honor code. As a current BoC rep, I have the necessary experience with the cases the BOC must handle, and I know the level of commitment and dedication needed to ensure that every case is handled fairly and appropriately. I believe that the academic honor code, and its enforcement by fellow students, is an incredibly valuable part of Caltech, and a part that I would be pleased to have a part of as your BOC secretary.

Tech Editor (2 candidates)

JONATHAN SCHOR

STANFORD SCHOR

Tech E-in-c candidates

In the year since we became editors, the Tech has experienced a resurgence of quality. We have consolidated gocaltech.com, Caltech Today, and the Tech to provide an integrated source of news for students and community members.

We gave the front page a new, fresh look. We renovated tech.caltech.edu and began to update it regularly, giving alumni and parents access to campus news. We ensured that the paper always had at least 8 pages worth of material, and sacrificed our own paychecks in order to pay for color on 4 of those pages.

And to supplement our funds we undertook our advertising efforts, gaining the attention of customers as far away as Saudi Arabia and engaging in unique partnerships with groups such as The PhenomList to highlight the talented undergraduate community.

Nonetheless, there is still a lot to be done. In our next term, we plan to bolster student interest in the paper through Tech open houses. These programs will outline ways in which students can get involved with the Tech without too much of a time commitment.

Certainly, our biggest impediment to getting consistent writers is the fact that authoring an article is no simple task; however, we are currently working to divide journalistic responsibilities into more manageable pieces. In fact, one does not even have to be a student to write for the Tech.

We have and are willing to continue to put forth the necessary effort to provide the student body with a reliable and high-quality source for news, and hope to motivate other members of the Caltech community to do the same. Our team of four has thoroughly enjoyed our first term as Tech editors, and is excited for the opportunity to further improve the paper in the coming year.

As BOC Secretary, I will focus on the student body as a whole while simultaneously addressing the student body as a whole.

We are the IHC, and I am committed to making sure that news is not just the events, but also the thoughts and desires of the student body that affect us.

As BOC Secretary, I have the necessary experience with the cases the BOC must handle, and I know the level of commitment and dedication needed to ensure that every case is handled fairly and appropriately.

As BOC secretary, I will dedicate myself to protecting the honor code. As a current BoC rep, I have the necessary experience with the cases the BOC must handle, and I know the level of commitment and dedication needed to ensure that every case is handled fairly and appropriately. I believe that the academic honor code, and its enforcement by fellow students, is an incredibly valuable part of Caltech, and a part that I would be pleased to have a part of as your BOC secretary.

AMOL KAMAT

Tech Sports Editor candidate

There are a lot of things happening on campus right now. Looking at the front page of the current Tech, it might not seem like it.

The new core, the (possible) new rotation—the are things that should be reported on right now. Flip through this week’s, or last week’s, or the week before that edition of the California Tech, however, and you will not find a single article about any of these things.

I, a Tech Editor-in-Chief candidate

BOC Secretary candidate

My name is James Chang, and I am running for BOC Secretary. During my time on the BoC, I sat as a representative for both the freshmen and the seniors. This allowed me to see the interactions between freshmen and seniors, and hear their concerns. I was also a member of the Hazing Committee, and I have obtained valuable experience with the cases the BOC can serve to reduce those doubts by ensuring that the unfair advantage is removed and by acting to prevent future violations.

As BOC secretary, I will dedicate myself to protecting the honor code. As a current BoC rep, I have the necessary experience with the cases the BOC must handle, and I know the level of commitment and dedication needed to ensure that every case is handled fairly and appropriately. I believe that the academic honor code, and its enforcement by fellow students, is an incredibly valuable part of Caltech, and a part that I would be pleased to have a part of as your BoC secretary.

MOYA CHEN

Tech Editor-in-Chief candidate

There are a lot of things happening on campus right now. Looking at the front page of the current Tech, it might not seem like it.

The new core, the (possible) new rotation—the are things that should be reported on right now. Flip through this week’s, or last week’s, or the week before that edition of the California Tech, however, and you will not find a single article about any of these things.

There is an incredibly valuable part of Caltech, and a part that I would be pleased to have a part of as your BoC secretary.

The Tech is the voice of the student body and it is the responsibility of the editor to make sure that this voice gets heard.

To meet this end, if elected Tech Editor, I promise to personally write at least one article in every edition of the Tech in the form of an Editor’s Corner section.

This Editor’s Corner will not only report what I see going on around campus, but also

JAMES CHANG

BOC Secretary candidate

to talk to you, the reader. It is my opinion that news is not static; what is important is not only the events, but also the dialogue surrounding it.

As editor, not only will I speak the news, but I will also listen and respond.

I will admit—I am only a frosh, and running the Tech is probably going to take more time than I expect.

However, I care about Caltech and I am committed to making sure that I say what needs to be heard.
5

CHRIS KOLNER
BOC Chair candidate

The Honor Code is central to our Caltech way of life. It's something we frequently take for granted, usually during exams we're too preoccupied with trying to pass the class to stop and appreciate. That's why we aren't taking the exam at 8:00 am under the watchful eyes of a proctor. Nonetheless, the freedom the Honor Code allows us, to make judgments and trust others, is one of the things that sets Caltech apart from anywhere else. The Board of Control plays an integral role in defending and protecting the Honor Code, and I would like to continue my service to the community by becoming its chair. I have served as a representative to the Board for two years, sitting dozens of cases. My years of experience give me a unique level of insight into the philosophy and mechanics of the system. Many people only ever view the Board as an instrument of punishment, but in reality it is a very different process. While the Board of course acts to protect the community against violators of the Honor Code, we also have a strong focus on doing everything we can to help rehabilitate violators, so that they can once again receive the complete trust of the community. In addition, we also pour countless hours into determining the facts of a case and ensuring all duly earned credit on work is not removed (the nullification decision). Having seen the sometimes cursory nature of other similar systems has given me enormous respect for the time and effort we devote to every case and every student. As Chair, it will be my duty to oversee all of the Board's cases, receiving reports and giving our results to the Deans. The Chair acts as a guiding force to ensure consistency and fairness in difficult cases, and is the public face of the Board, interviewing defendants and witnesses and discussing the Honor Code at Frosh Camp. In recent years, I have worked closely with the current chair, Ploy, preparing for the chair by serving as acting secretary on several cases in order to gain familiarity with the entire process from start to finish. I have also volunteered to sit on particularly challenging cases to help offer the benefit of my experience and insight. One of my priorities as Chair will be to work to maintain public faith in the Honor Code. It is very important to me, personally, that everyone feel the freedom that comes with being able to place trust in our peers. I have been discouraged by reports that some professors are beginning to doubt us, and are considering giving-in-class exams.

I want to meet with the faculty and provide strong leadership on behalf of us, the students, to help restore their faith in the system. I also want to do what I can to ensure the belief that the system works. In my experience in the many different areas of judicial affairs at Caltech, I remain strongly convinced that the BOC is one area where things still work very well, and I want to make sure this message is clear. Being the Chair is one of the main reasons I am here, and I want to do everything I can to make sure it remains a part of our culture for years to come. I will make it clear to the secretaries that they need to schedule their cases in a timely manner. This past year, we have had representatives that never responded when the secretaries asked them to hear a case. If a representative fails to respond to the secretaries' emails and phone calls, I will personally speak on their door and remind them that they made a commitment to enforce the honor code.

I will take it as my personal responsibility to make sure cases are taken in a timely manner. Finally, I want to improve our communication with professors and TAs. Right now, when a case is reported the chair and a secretary meet with the TA or professor that reported it. They take notes on what the concerns are and report them to the board during the case meeting. This normally works well, but in highly technical cases (CS classes for example) where the chair and secretary do not have the background to understand the material, a lot of information is lost and it is much harder for the Board to make the right decision. In cases like these, I will ask the professors (or TAs) to also write their own summary about the suspected Honor Code violation. On the other hand, when a case is settled, the bylaws state that the Chair is only allowed to inform professors about nullification decisions. If a case is dismissed, the Chair is not actually allowed to tell the professor.

This causes a great deal of confusion on the professor's part, since he or she does not even know if the case has been settled. For this reason, the current practice is to tell the professors about dismissals, even though it goes against the bylaws. Therefore, as chair I would propose an ASCIT amendment to the BOC bylaws that allows for this.

EUGENE VINITSKY
CRC co-Chair candidate

This year I have had the fortune of being the CRC Representative for Rickets House. I've sat on cases of varying type and magnitude, and through them I have learned the essential role that the CRC plays in Caltech's life. The honor code is a brief, but it is natural that there are often conflicting views on its interpretation. I've sat on cases that were egregious violations of personal conduct and cases whose interpretations were questionable. Through all of these cases I have tried to stress the idea that the CRC is a body that believes in second chances. The brevity of the honor code means that we often have to place our own interpretation of the honor code against the interpretation of others. It is easy to stumble across the line, I do my best to emphasize the second chance in these cases. The CRC's role is to interpret the honor code and the CRC co-Chair is not actually allowed to tell the professor.

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As Chair of Control Chair, I will take it as my personal responsibility to make sure cases are taken in a timely manner. Finally, I want to improve our communication with professors and TAs. Right now, when a case is reported the chair and a secretary meet with the TA or professor that reported it. They take notes on what the concerns are and report them to the board during the case meeting. This normally works well, but in highly technical cases (CS classes for example) where the chair and secretary do not have the background to understand the material, a lot of information is lost and it is much harder for the Board to make the right decision. In cases like these, I will ask the professors (or TAs) to also write their own summary about the suspected Honor Code violation. On the other hand, when a case is settled, the bylaws state that the Chair is only allowed to inform professors about nullification decisions. If a case is dismissed, the Chair is not actually allowed to tell the professor.

RACHEL DEGHUE
CRC co-Chair candidate

Hi, my name is Rachel Deghue and I am running for CRC co-chair. I have been Ruddock's CRC rep for the past year and have really enjoyed being a representative to the hearing. As it stands now, there are no guidelines for the BOC's bylaws. This is unacceptable. During the process, I have seen some things that the BOC does well and some things it can improve on. We need to provide guidelines for the in-house BOC talks, decrease the wait time to hear a case, and improve communication with the professors and TAs.

First off, I will improve the BOC talks that we give the freshman every year once they get into their houses. As it stands now, there are no guidelines for the BOC. Reps that give these talks. I want to develop an outline for these talks. It will include all of the details that may prevent several BOC cases in the first place.

For example, some of the most common Honor Code violations we see are when students do not read the collaboration policies for a class. Not only should the house BOC talk tell the freshman to read these policies, it can also warn them about classes that tend to have stricter collaboration policies (such as Bi 1, in which students are not allowed to look at each other's written work). The time it will take to develop and give a good BOC talk may save several students the many hours of anxiety that come with a BOC case.

Second, we need to reduce the time it takes to hear a BOC case. I have sat on cases where the violation occurred over three months prior to the hearing. This is unacceptable. During these three months, the defendant needs to worry about whether they will fail the class or even be suspended. The best way to ensure this is heard quickly is to make sure the BOC secretaries and representatives are responsive and do their job.

The California Tech

BOC Chair (2 candidates, Kolner and Andrade)

WILLIAM ANDRADE
BOC Chair candidate

This is normally where the candidates for BOC Chair talk about the importance of the Honor Code. Instead, I want to talk about how I will better protect the honor code. Don't get me wrong—I know how important the Honor Code is to life at Caltech. I know that it is fundamental to everything we do.

But I think it is more important that you, as a voter, know what I plan to do to uphold the Honor Code. This past year I served as Ruddock House's Board of Control Representative. During this time, I sat on over a dozen cases as a representative or acting secretary.

During the process, I have seen some things that the BOC does well and some things it can improve on. We need to provide guidelines for the in-house BOC talks, decrease the wait time to hear a case, and improve communication with the professors and TAs.

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Today’s Puzzle: Acrostic

Write the appropriate answer in the numbered spaces below each clue. Then copy each letter to the same-numbered box in the grid above, which will spell out a quote. Words in the grid are separated by black spaces. The first letters of each answer, read in order, will spell the name of the author of the quote in the grid.

A. Tums light just right?
B. Fish people
C. How Pauling often solved problems: he ______
D. Kind of vacuum
E. Threatened soap use
F. Cutting phthisis
G. Smashed iceland spar fragments
H. Theophrastus wrote on them

I. State capital in Lewis and Clark county
J. Passages at the end of a book
K. AB - BA F A, B are operators; slip ring wired to act as rotary switch
L. The molecules ___ a conformation ...
M. What scholarship isn’t in JACS
N. Restores to youthfulness
O. A good place to reach 72 (two words)
P. Set of atoms in a unit cell having a simpler pattern than the whole
Q. The filling in of intermediate values
R. Those unlucky to succeed at clue "Q"
S. Feet use of crawfish or shrimp dishes served over rice
T. Air broken? This will fix most of it naturally
U. [Type of forms occurring] when we have a union of one-fourth of all the similar possible planes ... of any crystallographic system

Clue Numbers:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Clement on Sleigh Bells: Who needs eardrums?

CLEMENT LACROUTE
Staff Writer

What happens when the Beastie Boys meet L7 meet Rihanna meet Garbage? If you're thinking heavily distorted beat box + thickly layered guitars + smoothly violent female vocals, then you are pretty close to what the rock duo Sleigh Bells sounds like. Formed in 2008 by guitarist-producer Derek Edward Miller and singer Alex Krauss, the band released its first album, Treats, in 2010. Their new album, Reign of Terror, came out on February 27th, and is a very consistent follow-up.

Sleigh Bells’ signature sound is unmistakable. It relies on layers of distorted guitars, distorted drums, and the soft voice of Alex Krauss. They make frequent use of dynamic compression to obtain this apocalyptic soup, and it proves very effective. The songs instantly snap in the ear, make you want to mosh and make you want to run down the street. It's like listening to a rock concert at the speed of sound. It's beyond the human body's capabilities (don't get me wrong: I don't run or practice any sort of sport AT ALL. I just thought the comparison was appropriate).

The resultant fatigue is the unfortunate consequence of dynamic compression. You may have noticed it when watching TV commercials, they sound too freakin’ LOUD. But they're not any louder than the movie you're watching. They're just at top volume ALL THE TIME. For a reason that's hard to grasp, this technique made its way to the music recording studio, leading to the so-called “loudness war” (Perhaps due to the "Spinal Tap" effect, in which everybody wants to push amps to 11). Among the casualties you’ll find Metallica's last album, Death Magnetic. (I'm not counting that bizarre “Lulu” record with Lou Reed that just came out), which sounds like it was recorded in my mum's garage. Most depressingly, one of the world's best-ever producers, Rick Rubin, is one of the leading generals in this so-called war. Why, Rick, why?

But for Sleigh Bells, it becomes an actual—and sensible—aesthetic choice. The album opener, True Shred Guitars, sets the mood. Sleigh Bells is about to tear down your eardrums and they’ll do it with a smile. This is true Dance-Floor Rock. Among the album’s highlights are Born To Lose, The End of The Line, and You Lost Me. The record achieves a nice balance between the stomping and shredding of the most “stadium-hit” songs and the pop-ier keyboards melodies of softer pieces.

Sleigh Bells was called "a band to watch" in 2009 by Stereogum. Their first album sold well and was praised by rock critics, and Reign of Terror will hopefully go down the same road. If you haven’t heard of them before, I would urge you to go ahead and give it a try. They sound like no other band around, and yet I can describe their music quite simply: aggressive and addictive. And they will be in Pomona, CA, on April 4th.
The women’s water polo at Caltech got the season started off on the right foot with a 13-6 victory over PSU-Behrend on Saturday afternoon at the Braun Pool.

The first three plus minutes of the game were scoreless before the Beavers broke through. Caitlin Regan scored with 4:05 left in the frame to open the scoring. Erin Hoops gave Caltech a two goal edge less than two minutes later. PSU-Behrend got their first tally with exactly two minutes left in the period but the Beavers responded with goals by Regan and Hanna Dodd to end the stanza up 4-1.

Caltech continued their scoring to start the second period and eventually took a 6-1 lead. The Nittany Lions found the back of the net with 2:01 remaining to cut into their deficit. However, the home squad scored the final two goals of the period in taking an 8-2 advantage halfway through the contest.

The Beavers kept their comfortable cushion throughout the third period by posting a 3-2 scoring edge in the stanza. Leading 11-4, Caltech put the game away by scoring two of the first three goals during the final eight minutes of action.

Regan and Dodd led the Caltech offensive charge with four goals apiece. Erin Hoops chipped in two goals of the match. The women’s water polo squad tallied 17 goals on 25 shots, compared to the Beavers’ 13 goals on 34 shots.

In her first collegiate start, Connie Hushew had 10 blocks in goal while also contributing three assists.

Anastasia Markovtsova and Joy Lu got single goals from Janis Intoy, desire to round out the scorers.

Grove City jumped out to a 7-1 lead after the first two periods and kept a Caltech comeback at bay in their win goal victory.

The Wolverines scored the first period’s only goal with 5:45 left in the frame. Grove City upped their lead to 3-0 less than two minutes into the second period.

A Hanna Dodd goal got Caltech on the board with 6:27 left in the period. However, Grove City proceeded to score four unanswered goals in building their six-goal lead at the halfway point.

Caltech got a pair of goals in the third period but Grove City wouldn’t let the Beavers cut into the deficit as they scored two as well.

The final period was the same story as both teams but two goals on the board in the final period.

St. Francis (NY) 11, Caltech 7

In a back-and-forth game, the Terriers ended the game on a high note in posting the win.

St. Francis jumped out to a 3-0 lead just before the halfway mark of the first period before Hanna Dodd but Caltech on the board with less than a minute remaining in the frame.

Caltech scored the second period’s only goals as Joy Lu and Dodd each found the back of the net to tie the score at 3-3 after two periods.

The Beavers took their first lead of the game with a Dodd goal at the 5:44 mark on the scoreboard. After the Terriers tied the contest at 4-4 with 3:50 left in the stanza, Dodd quickly put Caltech back in front in 26 seconds later.

A Terrier goal at the buzzer sent the two teams tied at 5-5 heading into the final period.

St. Francis took on goal leads of 6-5 and again at 7-6 only to see the Beavers knot the score up on both occasions.

With 4:15 left in the game, the Terriers took the lead for good on a Regina Toth goal. Toth scored three of the game’s final four goals in leading the Terriers to the victory.

Water polo is polo that is played in water.

Caltech men’s and women’s tennis teams lose; individual players get wins

The Kenyon women’s tennis team grinded out a 5-4 win over Caltech on Sunday afternoon at the Braun Tennis Courts.

The Lords, who came into the match ranked 12th in the central region, won two of the three doubles matches to take control of the match heading into singles play.

Kenyon posted straight set wins at the No. 2, 4 and 6 positions to seal the team match.

Caltech tallied victories at the No. 1 singles positions as Rebekah Kitts and Luka Mernik tallied an 8-4 win.

Alex Runkel got his first win of the season in his opening singles match of 2012 with a 6-4, 6-1 triumph at the No. 5 singles position.

Winning scores:

- Rebekah Kitts (CIT-W) def. Amy Schlessmann (KENYON) 6-3, 6-2
- Stephanie Kwan (CIT-W) def. Lydia Winkler (KENYON) 2-6, 6-4, 11-9
- Michelle Lee (CIT-W) def. Samantha Betts (KENYON) 6-2, 7-6 (8-6)
- Alex Runkel (CALTECH) def. Alex Wiegmann (SIU) 6-4, 6-1
- Devinash Joshi/Luka Mernik (CALTECH) def. Zach Shriwise/Ian Hansen (SIU) 8-4

- Jessica Yeung/Michelle Lee (CIT-W) def. Annan Becker/Abigail Younger (KENYON) 8-6

THE CALIFORNIA TECH Sports March 5, 2012 7

Caltech’s Anish Agarwal prepares to hit a volley.

Water polo is polo that is played in water.
BIG BUSINESS

SIR, BAD NEWS!
BEST BUY JUST OPENED NEXT DOOR!

DAMMIT! WE'RE SCREWED!

OK BUY

BEST BUY

BY PETER CURMANCH

So what now?
You wait here for the next five to six months.
And occasionally point the gun that-aways.
That's it? That's all we do?

I get to have trench food!

Why you don't see World War I Reenactments.

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

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