Deans take action against Ricketts House

On March 1, members of Ricketts House received an e-mail from Beth Larranaga, the manager for the Dean of Students office, informing them that “The Administration has become aware of incidents that violate Institute policy, which were led by and involved students in Ricketts House. The Administration has no choice but to intervene.”

The e-mail went on to detail five measures that are being taken by the administration in response. These include: (1) the removal of the newly elected Executive Committee of Ricketts House from their positions and the installment of “a new leadership team.” Details of that process have not been revealed, but “RAs and the RLC will work with the house to select the members of the new leadership.”

The Ricketts House bursar’s account has also been frozen (2) and “no social events will be approved until further notice.” Ricketts will also be excluded from rotation in the fall (3), and the “method for assigning freshmen to the house will be determined at a later date.”

Current members of Ricketts are not guaranteed housing in the House itself next year and will “need to apply with any other interested students, and residency will be approved by the dean’s [sic] office” (4).

The final bullet point of the e-mail stated that “any violations of Caltech policy, the Honor Code, or applicable laws will be dealt with appropriately and swiftly” (5).

There has been no word on the specific acts being reprimanded, and the e-mail stated that “details (of the specific acts) will remain confidential.” No other information has been handed out. The Tech will continue to seek out the facts behind this matter of student concern. We welcome any information from involved parties, including administration, students, RAs, and RLCs.

The band Urban Dread busts out some smooth reggae music in front of the Red Door Cafe on February 27. In honor Black History Month, lectures on diversity, musical performances (including jazz, stepping, and reggae), and southern Soul Food cooking demonstrations were held during the last week of February. These events were open to the entire community and were mostly held by Chandler Cafe at noon.

- Alexander Hsu

The California Tech

Deans take action against Ricketts House

Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble

In this issue

NEWS
New ASCIT minutes

OPINION
Little Shop wows audiences

FEATURE
Techers cover the Oscars...from across the street

SPORTS
Caltech Baseball suffers tough losses to La Verne

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News briefs from around the globe

Need to know < 100 words about the world this week – topics sorted from good to bad by The Tech Eds

Baby cured of HIV 1st cure of its kind, treated with antiretroviral drugs after birth

SpaceX docks 2nd delivery to international space station successful

Aid to Egypt $250 million in economic aid given to Egypt by Sec of State Kerry

Kenyan election 1st vote under new constitution, Kenyans wary after violence

Wrongful foreclosures 700 military members found to have been improperly evicted

Police scandal 8 South African police on trial for dragging man behind van

Bomb blast in Karachi 45 or more killed in mainly Shia Muslim region, perp unknown
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

Minutes for February 25, 2013. Taken by Allika Walvekar

Officers present: Diego Caporale, Matt Fu and Zach Rivkin in lieu of Christian Rivas, Pushpa Neppala, Mario Zubia, Michelle Tang, Allika Walvekar, Puikei Cheng

Guests: Connor Coley, Misha Raffiee

Call to Order: 9:05 pm

President’s Report (Diego):
ASCIT Movie Night: Tom is looking to find a way to include graduate students.
**Addition as of Friday**: In response to the recent developments regarding Ricketts, remember to support your friends, especially the Skurves, and to be there for each other in the next couple weeks as the IHC and ASCIT work with the administration. We’ll update you as much as we can as we figure things out.

Officer’s Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Pushpa):
SFC Final Reports: Pushpa is going to put together a guide of what she expects from each option for their final report. Option Tea: Chemistry has an option tea at the beginning of March 5th at 5pm in the Mosh’s house.
Option fair: April 5th. Pushpa is planning the logistics of the event.

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Matt Fu, Zach Rivkin):
Rotation: The IHC is working on the rotation schedule for next year.
Leadership conference: The Deans will be holding another leadership conference, and would like to know what the student opinion is on what types of presentations they would like to see.

Director of Operations (Mario):
ASCIT rentals: If you need water coolers, scaffolding, or party lights/lasers (or to check out our inventory), please contact Mario.
Big T: If you still haven’t received a Big T and would like one, contact Mario.

Treasurer (Puikei):
Interhouse: Puikei granted all the houses throwing interhouse parties this term their allotted $500.
Reminder that the take-a-prof-to-lunch program is still active; contact Puikei if you and up to 3 others want to have an informal meal with a professor you’d want to know better. Details on the donut website.

Social Director (Michelle):
ASCIT Movie Night: Michelle is going to poll the student body to see which movie they would prefer to see.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:30
Hallett Smith Competition

This prize honors the finest essay devoted to Shakespeare. Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition.

Entry Requirements:
- All submissions must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 4,000 words.
- The essay may be one prepared for a literature class or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay.
- All contestants must submit a PDF attachment to elvington@hss.caltech.edu no later than April 5, 2013.

This year’s prize will be $350, though the judging committee may divide the award in case of more than one outstanding submission. For more information, contact Dr. Susanne Hall, seh@hss.caltech.edu or Sini Elvington, elvington@hss.caltech.edu.

Gordon McClure Memorial Communications Prize.

This prize is awarded for excellence in writing. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competitions. This year, the McClure prize will be given for the best non-fiction prose in three categories: English, History and Philosophy. Prize awards in each category are $500. Each category will be judged by members of the humanities faculty.

Entry Requirements:
- Each student is entitled to only one entry, per category, for the McClure Prize.
- All entries must be typed and double-spaced, sent as a PDF attachment to elvington@hss.caltech.edu. Include your name, which prize and category you are submitting to in both the subject line of your email and your file label (i.e. SamStone-McClure-English.pdf). Contestants should send submissions via email no later than 8:00 a.m., April 5, 2013.
- Include your address and phone number in submissions.
- Submissions of all McClure entries should not exceed 12,000 words.
- Essays for the McClure may be ones prepared for a humanities class or any good piece of original writing on a topic relevant to the humanities.
- Entries will not be returned.
- Previous winners in any one category are not eligible for competition in that category.

Winners will be announced in June, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The faculty may divide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Susanne Hall, seh@hss.caltech.edu or Sini Elvington, elvington@hss.caltech.edu.

67th annual McKinney Competition.

This prize is awarded for excellence in writing. Only full-time students officially registered at Caltech as undergraduates are eligible to enter the competitions. This year, the McKinney prize will be given in two categories: poetry and prose fiction. Prize awards in each category are $500. Each category will be judged by members of the humanities faculty.

Entry Requirements:
- Each student is entitled to only one entry, per category, for the McKinney prize.
- All entries must be typed and double-spaced, sent as a PDF attachment to elvington@hss.caltech.edu.
- Include your name, which prize and category you are submitting to in both the subject line of your email and your file label (i.e. SamStone-McKinney-ProseFiction.pdf).
- Contestants should send submissions via email no later than 8:00 a.m., April 5, 2013.
- Include your address and phone number in submissions.
- For the McKinney poetry category, entrants may submit up to three poems. Submissions of prose fiction for the McKinney entries should not exceed 12,000 words.

Winners will be announced in June, and the names of the winners will appear in the commencement program. The faculty may divide the award in each category in case of more than one outstanding submission. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Susanne Hall, seh@hss.caltech.edu or Sini Elvington, elvington@hss.caltech.edu.
Feature

Tech scientists predict many planets in galaxy

LORI DJAOSE
Contributing Writer

On March 7, 2009, the Kepler Telescope was launched on a mission to discover terrestrial, Earth-like planets around sun-like stars. Four years later, it has discovered thousands of exoplanet candidates. At this point, of those thousands of candidates, 114 have been confirmed as exoplanets.

Yet sun-like stars are only a small fraction of the stars in our galaxy. Seventy-five percent of stars in the Milky Way are small and dim, emitting in the infrared, called M-dwarfs. This means that M-dwarfs emit significantly less heat than the star around which the earth orbits.

The ExoLab at Caltech focuses on better understanding exoplanets and has "adopted" these stars in order to better understand planetary formation. It was formed in 2009 under principal investigator and Caltech professor John Johnson. A recent paper principally authored by Caltech postdoc and ExoLab member Dr. Jonathan Swift, who works in the lab of Professor Johnson, has used data from the Kepler telescope on a specific M-dwarf, Kepler-32, to do precisely that.

The paper is entitled "Characterizing the cool KOIS IV: Kepler-32 as a prototype for the formation of compact planetary systems throughout the galaxy" and was published in the Astrophysical Journal.

Kepler-32 is an M-dwarf with a planetary system that seems too good to be true. It has five planets, all orbiting within a plane along our line of sight, and all representative of the major kinds of planets in our galaxy.

By observing the system, Dr. Swift and the team concluded that most planets undergo a migration—meaning they form farther away from their star and eventually wander inwards toward it.

Planetary formation through migration best explains the data collected from Kepler-32 and its planets.

During the star’s early evolution, Kepler-32 would have been very luminous, such that all of the dust within a certain radius would have been sublimated. Yet, this radius would have been farther out than the innermost planet’s current orbit.

Additionally, the radii of the three middle planets’ orbits are within 2% of a 1:2:3 ratio, a physical phenomenon that would have been highly unlikely to form in that configuration.

The atmospheres of these planets contain volatiles, which would have been easier to obtain had the planets originally been farther out from the star.

Because M-dwarfs are the most common star in our galaxy, planetary migration is probably the dominant mode of planet formation.

But these findings also imply that there are an incredibly large number of planets in our galaxy alone.

“We found that on average, there is one planet per M-dwarf in our galaxy. This adds up to about 100 billion planets,” remarked Dr. Swift.

These groundbreaking discoveries were made by a team of researchers with very diverse skill sets. Dr. Swift says, “It’s the synergy between all the people in this group that made this happen.”
A look at the Oscars from Mel’s Drive-in

Malvika and Allison met Brazilian transmission engineer Julio Larcher, who has been at the Oscars many times.

Malvika Verma
Staff Writer

Fake press passes, camera, and iPads in hand, Allison Maker and I embarked from Pasadena last Sunday to Hollywood. There we hoped to see some stars on the red carpet leading up to the Academy Awards ceremony (The Oscars).

On the Golden Line to Union Station, we were discussing how attractive Gregory Peck is, and a lady in her mid-thirties sitting beside us joined our conversation about him, Frank Capra, and old Hollywood movies and their overall awesomeness.

On the Red Line to Hollywood, a man dressed in a suit asked Allison out to the red carpet, as Allison was wearing a beautiful black gown and looked like she belonged with all the other glamorous stars.

Finally, around 5:15 pm, we reached the red carpet amidst lots of security.

We saw the end of the red carpet ceremony behind some fences and then went to eat at Mel’s Drive-in.

For those who don’t know about Mel’s, it is located just across the street from the Dolby Theater in the historic Max Factor building, a former beauty salon with a client list that included Jean Harlow, Bette Davis, and other major movie actresses.

We ordered avocado burgers and fries and watched the Oscar ceremony on TV. In between bites, we were also running around the restaurant to interview the important looking men in tuxedos with gold Oscar badges.

One of these fashionable men was Brazilian transmission engineer Julio Larcher, who said that millions of people in Brazil would stay up to watch the Oscars on TV, and so he continues to broadcast it every year.

Mr. Larcher has been at the red carpet ceremony more than a dozen times and is a dedicated Tarantino fan. He got a chance to say “hello” to his director idol earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, a young bodyguard we talked to was raving about George Clooney’s girlfriend. He did not care who won an award, but just had a great time seeing and protecting Hollywood’s talent, while simultaneously checking out some models.

He said the red carpet ceremony proceeded very smoothly, unlike last year’s when Sacha Baron Cohen emptied the urn of “Kim Jong II’s ashes” on Ryan Seacrest’s tuxedo because it was Kim Jong II’s “dream to come to the Oscars to be sprinkled over the red carpet.” Seriously, watch the video – it’s hilarious.

This was a fantastic year for movies, and the Oscar voters distributed their votes generously. Of the best picture nominees, only “Beasts of the Southern Wild” did not receive a statue.

I am personally saddened with the Academy not recognizing the brilliance of Kathryn Bigelow’s direction (not even nominated). But, we learned once again that Hollywood loves films about Hollywood, so “Argo” winning Best Picture was no surprise. The real surprise was Michelle Obama announcing the win via video from the White House.

So, Allison and I had quite a memorable adventurous Sunday evening near the Oscar ceremony. We arrived at the red carpet an hour or so later than we should have to see the big stars, so next year we will go earlier for sure. And, we’ll get REAL press passes!

Editor’s Note: Regarding those “real” press passes, don’t count on it. The California Institute of Technology does not have a whole lot of pull in the film community.

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MARCH 4, 2013

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Member since: November 2012
Expiration: June 2013

Press OFFICIAL

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Press OFFICIAL
Caltech Public Events is now hiring student ushers.
$15 per hour to work concerts, performances, lectures, films and parties.
No experience needed, no hard labor, flexible schedules.

*Requirements: Caltech student, Positive attitude, Friendly personality

To apply email Adam Jacobo (ajacobo@caltech.edu)
or call (626)395-5907

For info on Caltech Public Events visit: www.caltech.edu/content/public-events
Caltech baseball suffers blowout home loss, play better the next day, and on the third day, they rested

This weekend, the Caltech Beavers took on the La Verne Leopards, playing three games in two days. The first game took place at home and featured Mason Freedman on the mound for the Beavers.

The game started out promising, with the Beavers defense keeping the Leopards to only one run through two innings and putting together a couple of hits, themselves, although they remained off the scoreboard.

The third inning presented the first real trouble for Caltech, as they allowed three runs on four hits and put no one on base during the bottom of the inning.

The real terror of the day came during the top of the fourth inning. To quote the box score: "M. Stewart singled. Stoltenberg singled; M. Stewart advanced to second. N. Henley singled; Stoltenberg advanced to second; M. Stewart advanced to third; J. Surdo walked, RBI; N. Henley advanced to second; Stoltenberg advanced to third; M. Stewart scored. D. Leong singled, RBI; J. Surdo advanced to second; N. Henley advanced to second; Stoltenberg advanced to third; D. Leong advanced to second on a passed ball; J. Surdo advanced to third; N. Henley scored. M. Reyes walked. Freedman to dh. Curtiss to p. G. Hanna walked, RBI; M. Reyes advanced to second; D. Leong advanced to third; J. Surdo scored. D. Finneran pinch hit for C. Hazel. D. Finneran grounded out to ss; 11 runs, 10 hits, 1 error, 3 LOB."

I didn’t pay attention to the inning because apparently some sort of e-mail was sent to a certain group of students about their housing situations, and I was caught up in spirited discussion with several other students regarding the subject. I’m sure nobody cares about this matter, so I won’t comment on it.

If I were to comment on it, I would say something like it’s strange that an administration that made many strong and public steps toward making Caltech seem like a more mental health aware school would remove one of the strongest coping mechanisms for a certain group of students and then publicly blame some of those students for misdeeds that they may or may not have committed.

This does not seem like a responsible way of announcing or executing an action at one of the most stressful schools in the nation that likes to remind us of its dedication to students' mental wellbeing on a regular basis. But, of course, I’m not commenting.

Nor does this belong in the sports page, which is reserved for "athletics stories", jazz concerts, and funny pictures of Rebekah Kitto.

Anyways, baseball. Not much else happened. Derek Kearney hit a triple in the final inning and then scored off a Ryan Casey single, giving the Beavers their lone run of the game. La Verne finished the game with 25 hits and 18 runs.

The Beavers met them again the following day (at CMS) and put on a much better performance, losing 5-3 and 6-0. The Beavers return to action on March 8th when they take on Occidental College. This should be a close one, so come out and cheer them on. I really just want to see us break another losing streak against Oxy.

Weekly Scoreboard

WOMEN’S TENNIS
VS. OHIO NORTHERN
L, 6-3 FINAL

WOMEN’S WATER POLO
VS. VILLANOVA @ THOUSAND OAKS, CA
L, 13-4 FINAL

WOMEN’S WATER POLO
VS. CHAPMAN @ THOUSAND OAKS, CA
L, 15-3 FINAL

BASEBALL
AT LA VERNE
L, 6-0 FINAL (GAME PLAYED AT CMS)

WOMEN’S WATER POLO
VS. AZUSA PACIFIC @ THOUSAND OAKS, CA
L, 22-3 FINAL
Acquired Taste

by Dr. Z

We should start a company where we sell tickets at a minor premium, like say $100 for a $10 concert.

The people love music! They'll love this! We'll be heroes!

And that pricing scheme seems very reasonable as well!

Bonus!

by Dr. Z

In this post-apocalyptic nightmare, we find a scavenger digging through some items in hopes of finding treasure.

It seems as though he has found his prize—he holds it up to the light to see if it is what he is searching for.

Our scavenger has managed to survive another day without washing a dish. But who knows what troubles tomorrow will bring?

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

technicalcaltech.edu