The California Tech

Theatrics and glam flow free at Caltech’s drag show

WILTON MUI Contributing Writer

The Gaypril Amateur Drag Competition was first started and organized for Gaypril 2003 by ESE graduate student, Wilton Mui, as a result of growing demand for a drag show to be part of the Caltech Center for Diversity’s (CCD) Gaypril programming. It featured drag king and queen performances by undergraduates, graduates, and JPL employees, priests, audience participation skills, and educational segments about drag culture and the distinction between drag performers and transgender people. The show was hosted by Mui, who goes by Vivasia Chang on stage, and three of his friends, who go by Sacha Batch, Alexa Rumiroti, and Sunset Marmalade. It took place in the Avery Library, which, much to the surprise of Mui and the CCD, turned out to be too small a venue for the turnout, resulting in crowds standing outside the library peering in to watch.

This year, Sacha, Alexa, Vivasia, and Sunset were once again commissioned to host the second Gaypril Amateur Drag Competition. This time, the event was co-sponsored by the Graduate Student Council, Prism, CCD, and Theater Arts Caltech. The event took place on the evening of Friday, April 25, and was originally supposed to be set in the Averv Courtyard to accommodate the larger anticipated crowd. Due to predicted rain, the event was moved into the Avery Dining Hall, where once again the venue (including the mezzanine) was standing-room only. The turnout was visually estimated by Taso Dimitriadi of the CCD to be at least 150 people in the audience. There were two educational segments in the show about the significance of drag performers in the history of the LGBT rights movement and about the distinction between drag performers and transgender people. Six contestants entered the competition from Caltech and JPL. At the end of the night, Rufus Hammer stole the crown from last year’s winning king, Ryder Hard.

HARRISON KROWAS ARC Representative

Geoffrey A. Blake, Professor of Cosmochemistry and Planetary Sciences and Professor of Chemistry, plays a large role at Caltech. He heads a research group, is the Master of Student Houses, and teaches a core class, Oh 1b. I talked with him about academics and the changing culture of Caltech.

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me. Since you teach a core class, you would have a good perspective on this question. Why do you think core is important?

Professor Blake discusses core and culture at Caltech

That seems to apply to your field of cosmochemistry as well. A bit of geology, a bit of chemistry, a bit astrophysics.

So that’s one of the fun things about the group. I have students from astronomy, and from planetary science, and from chemistry, and we even have some folks working on new tools in microscopy from bioengineering trying to think about how you might look for life elsewhere with small compact tools. It’s a lot of fun. It’s one of the great things about Caltech. We’re so small you’re forced to be interactive because you can’t really build critical mass without talking to each other.

Continued on page 2

THE CALTECH CHINESE ASSOCIATION (CMA)

Students participate in annual World Fest

Caltech Y

Celebrating the international diversity of our campus, International Offices and the Caltech Y, along with and members of the Caltech international student community, came together to organize one of our largest series of events—World Fest. Throughout the week participants gained the opportunity to explore a taste of the world through the experience of members of our own community.

The week included:

International Games
Monday, April 21 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | San Pasqual Walk

People busy on their way to lunch and class took a minute to stop on San Pasqual Walk and play a variety of international games from around the world.

Mediterranean Adventure
Tuesday, April 22 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Winnett Lounge

SanPietro Travel Prize winners Sam Szlufita and Stanford Schor shared stories and adventure from their 21 day journey from Spain to Morocco. The public bath story was one not to miss.

I’ve Been Everywhere, Man
Wednesday, April 23 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Winnett Lounge

Caltech Security Training Officer, Jesus Luna, traveled the world as a Delta Airlines flight attendant for 31 years! He shared some very entertaining and insightful globetrotting tips for the audience.

Where Technology and Bush Medicine Collide: The Phil Simon Tanzania Project with Dr. Kimberly Shriner

In February 2014, the Phil Simon Clinic Tanzania Project (PSCTP) returned to East Africa to continue its work for the underserved people of Northern Tanzania. Over the last 11 years, PSCTP has provided medical care, surgery, education, infrastructure, and specialty expertise. 2014 marked the ninth trip to Northern Tanzania for the Project’s amazing group of talented physicians, nurses, social workers, laboratorians, veterinarians, carpenters, and support personnel. Dr. Kimberly Shriner shared stories from the most recent PSCTP trip to Tanzania and talked about some of the health concerns plaguing the region.

Continued on page 3

Helen Dilip

Helen

Hammer stole the crown from last year’s winning king, Ryder Hard.
Caltech Y Column

PHOEBE ANN
Contributing Writer

Upcoming Events:

1. A Discussion with the Civil Liberties Protection Officer of America: Alex Joel
   Friday, May 2nd | 12:00 - 1:30 PM | Avery Library | RSVP required
   Presented by the Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series
   After the events of September 11, the U.S. government learned that its national security agencies had all the pieces of information it needed to prevent the attack. However, the agencies had not shared the right information with each other. When the government realized that they needed to improve data sharing in order to improve homeland security, they also realized that they would need to ensure that the privacy and general civil liberties rights of citizens were protected during these changes. Alex Joel was thus appointed as the first Civil Liberties Protection Officer for the U.S. in 2005, reporting to the Director of National Intelligence. Recently, Mr. Joel was a primary adviser for the government regarding the Edward Snowden leak and ensuing concern about surveillance privacy.

   Please join us to hear about Mr. Joel’s™ experiences in his position and to ask any questions you might have in a lunchtime discussion. For more info see the program flyer. RSVP here.

2. How Scientific Publications affect Science Policy: A conversation with Professor Raymond J. Deshaies
   Thursday, May 8th - 12:00 to 1:30 PM | Hill Annex | Lunch is provided, but space is limited. RSVP required
   Raymond Deshaies is Professor of Biology in the Division of Biology and Biological Engineering at Caltech and an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He received his bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Cornell University and his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. Subsequently, Dr. Deshaies was a Lucille P. Markey Charitable Trust Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of California, San Francisco. His honors include a Searle Scholar Award, a Beckman Young Investigator Award, a Burroughs Wellcome Fund New Investigator Award in the Basic Pharmacological Sciences, the American Society for Cell Biology “Peregrine Early Career Life Scientist of the Year Award for 1999, and appointment as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2011, Dr. Deshaies was elected to the American Academy for Arts and Sciences. Deshaies’ lab at Caltech investigates the cellular machinery that mediates protein degradation by the ubiquitin-proteasome system, and how this machinery regulates cellular functions. In addition to his academic work, Dr. Deshaies co-founded Proteolix in 2003. Proteolix, prosecuted development of Kyprolis through phase II clinical trials. Kyprolis was approved by the FDA in 2012. In 2011, Dr. Deshaies co-founded Cleave Biosciences.

   If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact the Caltech Y at (626) 395-6163 or caltechy@caltech.edu. Feel free to drop by at one of our weekly meetings at the Cafe at Caltech Y (gos g. Wilson, next to CEFCU), time TBA.

Students participate in International Offices and Caltech Y’s World Fest

PHOEBE ANN
Contributing Writer

International Food Fair & Culture Show
Thursday, April 24 | 4:30 - 6:00 PM | Avery Courtyard
Over 400 joined us for a taste of the world with sample foods from a variety of countries. After eating, many stayed on to see traditional dances and hear exotic instruments. Food and performances were provided by Caltech student clubs and members of the Caltech and JPL community.

Cooking Demonstrations
Friday, April 25 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM
We closed World Fest with cooking demonstrations at three different kitchens across campus. Students and staff enjoyed preparing French crepes, Korean bibimbap, and Vietnamese congee together in a small, causal setting. It was much like going to someone’s home for a home-cooked meal.

Special Thanks To:
- Argentine Student Association, Association of Caltech Taiwanese (ACT), Association of Romanians at Caltech (ARCA), Armenian Student Association, Caltech C, Caltech Club Latino, Caltech International Spouse Club (CISC), Canadian Student Association, Filipino Student Association, French Club, Friends of the Iranian Culture at Caltech, (FECIT), ITALIAN Club, Hong Kong Student Association, Korean Students Association, Muslims Student Association (MSA), Organization of Associated Students from the Indian Subcontinent (OASIS), Peru Student Association, Singapore Student Society, Thai Student Association, Turkish Student Association, Russian Club, Vietnamese Student Association, and to all our student, staff, and community volunteers.

Continued from page 1

Indian students dance during the Culture Show in Avery Courtyard.

Students learn about international cuisine.

A singer and violinist perform for an audience at the Food Fair and Culture Show.

RSVP required

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PHOEBE ANN
Contributing Writer

READY. SET. LAUNCH.
**Review: The Grand Budapest Hotel**

**LIZ LAWLER**
Editor-in-Chief

In his most recent film, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, Wes Anderson once again utilizes multiple storytelling techniques and displays his signature film style.

The film opens on a teenage girl, hand in hand, at the grave of her beloved grandfather. As she begins to read, the viewer hears the words of the novel of the Author in his opening scene as he explains the camera that his story is not fiction, but rather his retelling of the story of Zero Moustafa (F. Murray Abraham). When the writer was a young man (Jude Law), he visited the mountainside Grand Budapest Hotel, which he describes as "an impediment between his pants and his ankles in the turbulent times of Germany in the 1930s."

Anderson once again utilizes multiple storytelling techniques, with the ratio being 1.37:1, the Academy standard. Where the young Author hears Mr. Moustafa's story the ratio is 1.85:1, where the viewer hears the story.

As the audience goes forward and backward through time, the different ratios of the movie changes. For the scenes in the Author's living room in 1986 the ratio is set at 1.35:1, in the courtroom where the young Author hears Mr. Moustafa's story the ratio is 1.85:1, and in the 1930s where we see the story of Gustave and Zero the ratio is 1.37:1, the Academy standard.

Anderson brings a full cast of well-known actors, characteristic of his previous films. In addition to the previously mentioned cast, the film also features Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Bill Murray, Edward Norton, Saoirse Ronan, Jason Schwartzman, and Owen Wilson. Anderson's star-packed cast is used in this film for the purpose of highlighting Zero. The Grand Budapest Hotel is Reveri's debut film; his character's name and his personal experience in such an experienced cast could have potentially caused him to fade into the background, but not in this case.

I would give The Grand Budapest Hotel a 9/10, I will see it again. The Grand Budapest Hotel is playing at the Archlight Theater in Pasadena.

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**Arnoldy gives fresh take on Biblical story in Noah**

ALEX HSU
Photographer Editor

Darren Aronofsky, the director of *Black Swan*, undertakes the daunting task of directing a movie about the Biblical story of Noah. Dealing especially in terms of plot, dialogue, and the acting movie from what is written in Genesis. As in the original story, the world is in a state of chaos and sin, a theme emphasized throughout the film.

Noah (Russell Crowe), being the only "righteous" man on earth, experiences dreams that lead him to build an ark, in which two of each animal, as well as his family, reside when the rain comes. Along the way, he must battle the violent and disgusting warlord, his nemesis Tubal-Cain (Ray Winstone). Furthermore, he has to deal with problems with his own family, figuring out how to handle actions he perceives as "sinful," and redacting in his "true-then-thou" attitude, just get along with them. This includes his wife Naamah (Jennifer Connelly), his son Ham (Logan Lerman), Shem (Douglas Booth), Japheth (Leo Carrell); and his daughter-in-law Ella (Emma Watson).

As Aronofsky has been developing the movie since 2007, it is clear that it was well planned - each development led to the next with a smooth transition between each. Additionally, there were no storylines that were not well thought out or eventually resolved. However, much criticism can be allowed, and rightfully so, against many of the decisions Aronofsky makes: why, rightly so, against many of the roles of the Mosh.

It’s a daunting task of directing a movie about the Biblical story of Noah. The film opens on a teenage girl, hand in hand, at the grave of her beloved grandfather. As she begins to read, the viewer hears the words of the novel of the Author in his opening scene as he explains the camera that his story is not fiction, but rather his retelling of the story of Zero Moustafa (F. Murray Abraham). When the writer was a young man (Jude Law), he visited the mountainside Grand Budapest Hotel, which he describes as "an impediment between his pants and his ankles in the turbulent times of Germany in the 1930s."

The film then transports the audience to the 1920s where the hotel is in prime. Anderson dazles by creating splendid scenery on the screen. Anderson uses vibrant pastels to characterize the hotel as "colorful and whimsical." The film is 1.37:1 ratio, the Academy standard. Where the young Author hears Mr. Moustafa's story the ratio is set at 1.85:1, in the courtroom where the young Author hears Mr. Moustafa's story the ratio is 1.85:1, and in the 1930s where we see the story of Gustave and Zero the ratio is 1.37:1, the Academy standard.

One thing is leaving the graduation requirements the same and multiplying the units of courses by at least 50 percent. Overall you guys should take a bit fewer classes and do something different. Just wish you would have more time to think about things and go do something. Do research in a lab or do music or sports or art or something. You’re going to be living in your 80s or 90s, and you are going to have to do many things over the course of your life.

You’re going to have to learn for a lifetime. You can’t learn everything in the next four years to get you all the way through your life. You’re going to have to keep learning and loving to learn.

Sometimes you get so burned out. A lot of that in because you push yourself and get lots of units. Other times there’s this sort of culture of lots of classes. One thing I wish is that you guys would slow down and do something different. There’s a lot more life than just sets and academics.
Tech Couture Double Feature: How to dress for spring formal

MONICA ENLOW
Editor-in-Chief

With spring formal right around the corner, a lot of girls are probably asking themselves, “What am I going to wear?” Do not fret. I have gone through and picked some suggestions from places in Old Pas (so you can walk there if you want to try it on). All of my suggestions are under $50 because times are tough and tuition is expensive.

Forever 21 is a great place to get a dress if you’re not looking to go all out. None of the dresses they sell are above $40, and you’re practically guaranteed to never get the same dress as someone else because they have so many. H&M also has a lot of dress options. Some of them are a little pricier than Forever 21, but again, you’re practically guaranteed to show up wearing something unique.

Some popular trends to look for are:

- Floral Prints: -Cut-out Rose Maxi Dress forever21.com
- Strap designs on the front: -Cut-out Crisscross Bodycon Dress forever21.com
- And on the back: -Cut-out Crisscross Bodycon Dress forever21.com
- Mesh and Lace Inserts: -Knock Out Mesh Dress forever21.com
- Cut-outs: -Bombshell Cut Out Bodycon Dress forever21.com

Heavenly girls and guys. It’s week 9! We’re almost half way there. Spring Formal is fast approaching (it’s May 9 for those of you who don’t know), and The Tech has requested a piece on potential styles for formal. So here we go!

Option 1: The Suit

The classic option whenever an event has the word “formal” in it. Here are some guidelines for picking your suit. It’s spring so that means warm nights, and your suit material should be picked to match. In particular get a suit made of linen, cotton, chino, or if you want to be particularly snazzy, seersucker. Light wool suits can also make the cut but are not optimal. The color of your suit should also follow the spring theme, which means ditch the navy blue, the charcoal gray, the black in favor of lighter shades. Another point to note is that the spring formal is less formal in nature than a classic formal and combined with the warm weather provides an excellent opportunity to sport a short suit, i.e. a suit where the pants are replaced with matching shorts. I have been killing it on legs day at the gym in anticipation of sporting one of these short suits...

Option 2: Semi-formal

As mentioned above, a spring formal is less rigid on the dress code than a classic formal so we can venture into semi-formal attire, which for you guys means slacks, shirt and tie. Again the idea is to pick clothing in lighter hues and shades. An example outfit would be a solid shirt in light blue paired with a cement gray suit, khaki pants, black shoes and belt, and a navy blue solid knit tie. Experiment with different combinations of shirt, tie and pants; you may find an unexpected selection that works well together, but again, keep the colors light.

Option 3: The Classic Fratbro

The essence of this outfit is the salmon short. We wear salmon shorts or no shorts at all. The idea here is masterful in its simplicity: a lightly colored polo shirt, salmon shorts, and a pair of loafer, sweater around neck optional. Of course the collar has to be popped and feel free to wear several polo’s as our resident fratbro James Lu demonstrates in this week’s picture. But this outfit is more than just the clothing; you also need to embody the attitude and etiquette of the fratbro. Some guidelines to follow are:

- Acknowledge your fellow bro’s membership in this elite society by greeting him respectfully with the fratbro. Some guidelines to follow are:
- Have a pair of shades propped stylishly on your head, even though it’s nighttime. Fratbro can’t be seen unable to hold their alcohol in front of their other fratbro’s. They risk social exile. When you are feeling the effects of alcohol very strongly, simply place the shades on your face in an effort to cover the eyes. Now if you happen to pass out on your chair it will appear that you are simply chilling out at the party, while you are actually recovering from your alcohol.
- I hope that some of these suggestions have helped you in planning for your spring formal outfit, particularly the last option. Good luck on midterms!

In addition to music, Coachella has many installation art pieces on display. Photo Courtesy of Coachella.com

HARRISON MILLER
Contributing Writer

Every year, the small country club community that is Indio, California becomes a veritable mecca for music lovers, ravers, party heads, hipsters, and a whole other slew of characters. They descend upon this event and, for two weekends, occupy every hotel in a twenty mile radius or camp in lots next to the venue and party every hour, day and night, for three solid days. The music is loud, the weather is hot, and the food is tasty though a tad expensive. I am speaking of course, about Coachella. The festival dates back to 1999, when it was a two-day affair in October. Now, after 15 years, the festival stretches over two weekends, three days of music each week with about 100,000 people in attendance each weekend. In case you aren’t certain, that is a metric butt-load of people. There are five main stages – One main stage, a smaller outdoor stage, two medium-sized tents, and the “Sahara Tent,” the large, EDM laser tent – which are accompanied by a myriad of small tents and various art installations, and vendors.

Coachella usually attracts some of the biggest names in music, and this year was no exception. The headliners were Outkast, whose festival tour this year marks the 20th anniversary of the duo, Muse, and Arcade Fire. Some of the other big acts included Neutral Milk Hotel, sometimes referred to as “hipster milk moustaches,” Lana del Rey, who had feared some fans, Lorde, who is best known for “Royals,” Bastille, ASAP Ferg, Pharell, Glitch Moh, Skrillex, Haim and more.

A great part of the Coachella experience is getting to see who the secret performers are and what special guests will show up. Pharell whipped out Usher, TI, Jay-z, and the Jabbawockeez (don’t worry, I was confused too), Coldplay brought out Busta Rhymes and E-40, and Jhené Aiko brought out Childish Gambino. Beyoncé, Gwen Stefani, and Drake also made appearances, along with many other artists. However, nothing could have prepared me for what Arcade Fire had planned.

They took the stage Sunday evening and we were almost on the rail, 50 feet from the stage (great story as to how we got so close, ask about it sometime). They tell us that they are super excited to be here and that they had some very special guests as the beginning riffs of Get Lucky struck our ears. Our hearts skipped as DAPT PUNK WALKED OUT, THAT’S RIGHT. Except the lead singer of A$AP cut them off and shuffled them off-stage, indicating a clear hoax and jab at the ever increasing move to an EDM-heavy Coachella. So it probably wasn’t them. But I want to believe.

Although the weather’s too hot, the basic men and women are aptly in their neon crop-tops and fake indian headdresses (which are apparently offensive now, who knows), the ticket price is more than I think most college students have ever spent on music in their lifetime, and attending usually means missing class and falling behind in work (oops), Coachella has a certain mystique about it, a force that pulls you in and makes you spend lots of money. And once you’ve gone once, you’re in the cult. There’s no escape. I already have a lifetime membership in this elite society by greeting him respectfully with the fratbro. Some guidelines to follow are:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the students and staff at Claremont McKenna College, Pomona College, and Harvey Mudd College for their feedback on my suggestions. Some of them are a little pricier than Forever 21, but again, you’re practically guaranteed to show up wearing something unique.

In addition to music, Coachella has many installation art pieces on display. Photo Courtesy of Coachella.com

PHOTOGRAPHERS

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PHOTOGRAPHERS
Sports pictures of the week
Because these are more interesting than the NBA finals

Senior Feature of the Week: Monisha Dilip

**ME**: What do you find to be the most exciting part about water polo?
**MD**: I’ve felt that the most exciting part of water polo has been the adrenaline rush that you get the second you jump in the water. As tiring as a game can be, fighting with other girls in the water to swim back and forth and score goals definitely takes away a lot of the fatigue.

**ME**: What were your goals for the past season? Did you achieve them?
**MD**: Overall for this season, I wanted to become faster in the water and become a contributing member to the Caltech water polo team. From my perspective, I achieved those goals since I was able to score a couple of goals this past season and become a better and faster swimmer.

**ME**: What has been your favorite part about playing for Caltech?
**MD**: My favorite part of playing for Caltech has been support I’ve gotten from the team and the other athletes. This school is not an easy one and having others by you toughing it out day after day both academically and physically is bolstering.

**ME**: What was the most exciting moment of your Caltech water polo career? Tell us a little bit about it.
**MD**: I think the most exciting moment of my Caltech polo career was my goal this past year against Penn St. Behrend. They had just scored a goal and we were set up on offense. The score was either tied or differed by one point and it was the last couple of seconds of the third quarter. I had the ball and I heard people telling me to shoot and so I did, without realizing that I had done so with literally one second left in the quarter. And I made it! I remember that adrenaline rush and it was just exhilarating.

**ME**: What was the most challenging aspect of playing water polo at Caltech?
**MD**: The most challenging aspect of playing water polo was keeping up with the other swimmers in the water (many of whom could far outpace me). I had a shoulder injury that kept me out of the water for much of my junior season and it wasn’t until after that that I realized that nothing quite prepares you for swimming like swimming. Even though I tried to keep in shape while I couldn’t swim, the first couple of months back in the water were tough, but thanks to Coach Beemer, I improved my speed faster than I thought I would be able to.

**ME**: Do you have any hopes for the future of Caltech water polo?
**MD**: Of course, next year I’d like our team to win a game or multiple! I’d like to see us grow as a team, much like we grew this entire season, as well as grow in number. But no matter what, I’ll be back a lot to watch the games!

**ME**: What are your plans for after you graduate? Do you plan to continue playing water polo?
**MD**: Next year, I plan to go to UCSD School of Medicine and I hope to play on UCSD club water polo team. After so many years, I think it would be too hard to give up the sport entirely.
Announcements

News briefs from around the globe

Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble

Need to know <100 words about the world this week

Victims rescued

104 human trafficking victims freed, 14 traffickers arrested in Mexico, Guatemala [BBC]

Warhol’s lost art found

30 years later, Andy Warhol’s computer art found on floppy disks [CNN]

Jerry Drammers awarded

1984 hit song & Artists Against Apartheid work earned him Order of the Companions honor [BBC]

Prior pontiffs canonized

2 past pontiffs, John XXIII and John Paul II, canonized by Pope Francis [CNN]

S. Korean PM resigns

11 days after ferry disaster, Prime Minister Hong-won claims responsibility for slow response [CNN]

Columbia University accused

23 students accuse school of failing to protect sexual assault victims [CNN]

Bolivia dismisses soldiers

702 servicemen protesting for better working conditions dismissed [BBC]

Counseling Center Announcement:

In response to student feedback, we’re changing the format of the Tuesday night Skills Group offered by the Counseling Center. Feel free to drop by the Health Education office (CSS rm248) on Tuesday nights between 7:30-10:30 to have a one-on-one conversation about mindfulness and to learn about some of the skills available to manage emotions more effectively and have better relationships.

Students are welcome to drop by to talk about whatever they’d like too! For more information call x3100 or visit counseling.caltech.edu

Editors’ Note

Hello Caltech!

In case you haven’t noticed, we have made some changes to The Tech.

We will be sending out a survey soon to gauge your opinion on the new changes, and to figure out what you want to see in The Tech.

Thanks for reading!

Yours truly,

The Tech Editorial Staff

The California Tech

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UK band Fear of Men releases first full-length album

NAILEN MATSCHKE
Contributing Writer

Fear of Men is a Brighton, UK indie group whose dreamy tones and deceptive simplicity makes their music easy to digest without too much effort on their part. While the band has acquired a touring drummer and bassist, the music itself is a product of the two guitarists, Jessica Weiss and Daniel Falvey, the former of which is also the vocalist. Loom is their first full-length album, featuring better production and more confident songwriting than their previously released material. The clearly intentional do-it-yourself approach is always enjoyable, but perhaps listening to them definitely has its interesting moments, and I find it difficult to justify more than 40 minutes, the album starts to seem a little thin.

The album as a whole, really, exhibits signs of how precisely engineered this is, with nothing ever out of place or overstaying its welcome. Even when the band pushes the amount of feedback and other loud, grating sounds in tracks like “Tephra” and “America,” it doesn’t come off as emotional or rebellious as much as amusing and slightly eerie, like a child’s failed attempt to come off as intimidating. It is nice, though, to have some variety of sounds in the music.

Thanks to its swelling crest of feedback and tremolo picking, the middle of “America” sounds like it could be from a shoegaze or post-rock song, while the cymbal-dominated chorus of “Inside” gives a jolt of energy to the last full-band track on the record. The band definitely has its interesting moments, and they have potential to have even more, but whether or not they are able to bring their music into something even better is a matter of whether they can learn to be more consistent.

I have no doubt that many people who listen to Loom will really enjoy it, since it follows the quirky, lovable indie rock formula so well. The album certainly does display little that its genre can transform into something special in the future.

If Fear of Men can apply this dedication to expanding their sonic range and coming up with original ideas, they could easily become a successful act. Loom, while it may be worth checking out, doesn’t have that kind of staying power, displaying little that its genre hasn’t seen before. If you’re looking for something different, you might want to listen through this album, but I personally am interested in whether Fear of Men can transform into something special in the future.

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CTC Calendar of Events for the week of April 29 - May 5, 2014

TUES. 4-29
3pm - Baseball vs. La Verne, North Field
Midterm Examination period begins.

WED. 4-30
12pm - The Safe Response to Stalking, 2nd floor CSS
5pm - EndNote for Beginners, SPF, 328

THURS. 5-1
Not much is going on because it’s “Midterms Week”

FRI. 5-2
8pm - Capitol Steps, Beckman Auditorium

SAT. 5-3
10am - 2pm - Midterms - Beckman Auditorium

SUN. 5-4
10am - 2pm - Midterms - Capitol Kitchen, Chandler

MON. 5-5

The Tech comes out!
Acquired Taste

Dr. Z

So yeah, we just multiply both sides by the inverse of A.

Yes? You in front?

What if A isn’t invertible?

Any other questions?

True Love

If anyone objects to this union, speak now or forever hold your peace...

Shelley, I’ve loved you all my life, but have only had the courage to tell you now. Don’t marry that guy; run away with me!

OH Sheldon! Yes! Yes! I feel the same way! Let’s go!

Answers to last week’s Suodoku

Liz Lawler

Answers to last week’s crossword

Sudoku

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125