Swaroop Hebbale’s friends still trying to cope

By Sarah Marzen and Marissa Cevallos

A memorial service for Swaroop “Swoop” Hebbale being held for the planned end of this week by some of Swaroop’s closest friends, one month after the sophomore unexpectedly collapsed in his room while joking around with friends.

Friends say the memorial service could provide some closure for those at Caltech still grieving over his death. Soon after midnight of December 12th, 2007, Swaroop returned to Ruddock after working on the ACM ’05 final exam. In the middle of a conversation with his roommate, Swaroop suddenly collapsed near the door. The next morning, Swaroop’s death was reported, both in person to friends gathered in his R.A.’s room and via email to the rest of campus. Autopsy reports are inconclusive, with friends guessing at the cause of death. Swaroop’s friends say he appeared in excellent health; he had worked out every morning with friend Fabian Dias, missing only two weeks in the last six months. The sophomore majoring in applied and computational mathematics was the 4th man for Ruddock House and a member of Nute Lewis’ research group. Swaroop was admired by friends for his ability to lighten heavy situations with a well-placed joke. Swaroop’s close friends and acquaintances agree the death was shockingly sudden.

“We want to remember him like he’d want to be remembered”

“The initial shock took several days to get over,” said Anton Shuster, a friend of Swaroop. Efforts to comfort those affected by Swaroop’s death were underway soon after news of his death spread across campus. Fleming sent Ruddock a card, and Avery baked Ruddock cookies and fudge. Alan Pezeshki, a friend in Ruddock and high school classmate, compiled stories and pictures about Swoop for a scrapbook. Soon after Swaroop’s death, a group called “R.I.P. Swaroop Hebbale” was started on Facebook; now the group has 871 members.

Christmas break

As Swaroop’s Upper Classmate Counselor (UCC) Ilia Varma put it, leaving Caltech just days after the death for the winter break was a “double-edged sword.” “You go to a place where you’re the only one who knows what’s going on,” said Varma. “But you’re with family, and they know how to take care of you best.” Caltech paid for several of his friends to fly to his funeral in Detroit, Michigan. This was good for them, says Swoop’s roommate Brett Kassof, because “the funeral gave us some closure.” Still, as Anthony Chong puts it, “Swoop was... my best friend. After something like this, life never really returns to normal.”

Swaroop’s friends wrote a eulogy together, which Chong delivered at the funeral. They plan to frame it for his parents. Ruddock House is also preparing a scrapbook for Swoop’s parents.

Caltech replaces loans with scholarships

Financial aid packages becoming more generous, keeping up with other schools

By Marissa Cevallos

Incoming students with family incomes less than $60,000 will find their loans melted away into scholarships when they receive financial aid packages in a few months— a perk that keeps Caltech aid competitive with rival institutions like Stanford. Even undergraduates with less than $35,000 in financial aid to middle-class families, courtesy of its $35 billion endowment, received financial aid in the form of grants that can’t be cashed.

Due to unforeseen problems, both the 2007-08 little t and the 2006-07 Big T will be delayed in publication this year, said ASCIT board members at last Wednesday’s meeting. The board intends to reprint little t content from a previous year, and has passed the editorship of last year’s Big T to this year’s editors. The events have drawn attention to a discussion of ASCIT’s oversight practices and the possible need for a Publications Board, as well as the severe understaffing problems at the little t and Big T over the last few years.

The little t will not be ready for publication at the expected time because all copies of the finished manuscript were accidentally deleted over winter break, says its editor, sophomore Joe Salamon.

Japanese cuisine hits the spot

In This Issue

The Tech gets political
Chemist invents thermoelectric Feynman’s Rainbow: review
Norton Simon worth a visit

Lindsay King scores 1000th career point

Upbeat tune in JPL suit

By Natalya Kostandova

Although there is still a long way until the lawsuit comes to its conclusion, this week’s legal action ended on a high note for the plaintiffs from JPL. On Friday, a panel of the Federal Appeals Court for the Ninth Circuit ruled to implement an injunction against Caltech and NASA’s enforcement of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPPD12), which will remain in place until the end of proceedings.

“This is a tremendous victory and I think it is a correct ruling, consistent with the rule of law,” said Dan Stormer, plaintiff attorney, following the ruling.

Remedy to the situation, ASCIT is planning to reuse the content of either the ’05-’06 or the ’06-’07 little t while inserting the new ads the business manager sold this year. The ASCIT president and treasurer have already signed the contract with the publisher and the little t will be distributed “as soon as possible,” says Craig Montoari, who serves as a “troubleshooter” for ASCIT.

Both ASCIT publications understaffed and over-ignored

By Gloria Tran

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In addition, the ’06-07 little t is featured online at the Donut website, though plans to update it are not concrete. The little t staff does not have a webmaster, but “hopefully, the little t editors will work with Donut to update the information,” says IHC Chairman, Michael Woods.

Traditionally, the little t is distributed to the undergraduate student body sometime during the
Pause to thank the admin: they do need our whining

By Sarah Marzen

Under Supreme Court law, in high school newspapers, the principal can stop an article from being published if he does not like it. Students can publish mad rants in the newspaper classified as housing "owes" them donuts, and Housing will actually buy them donuts. Do you have any doubt that the administration here is being particularly nice to the Tech?

Let’s take a quick look at some of Tech’s most recent opinion articles. A while back, there was a diatribe against the price of the Olive Harvest, which was followed by reassurances that students would not have to pay for the Olive Harvest meal.

A rant about the South House fire alarm, sent to a house mailing list, ended up on the humour page during a debate on the lack of complaints made in the various articles, the only direct request was this demand for donuts. The uproar of the affair? Not a complaint from the administration, but instead 2000 donuts.

An entire editorial section was devoted to how bad Tech teaching is. Throughout this beat-down, the administration hasn’t murmured a word of complaint.

If you’re cynical, you won’t think this means anything. Maybe the administration just doesn’t read Tech editorials, and therefore has no idea that they are being mocked around. May-be, we (the people writing opinions) are violently punching air.

On the other hand, you don’t get donuts from violently punching air. The administration is actually using at least some of what we say, and responding. Sure, the donuts came out of left-over money in the housing budget, and the Olive Harvest wasn’t going to be paid for by the students anyway. Regardless, I’m going to thank the administration for publishing another one of what Caltech students are saying. And students: if you have complaints to make about the administration (and I know you do, because I can hear you complaining all the time) write a letter to the editor and see what happens.

New student center’s success depends on the past’s lessons

Before breaking ground, we need to ask ourselves what was best about the old SAC - and what was wrong with Winnett

By Craig Montouri

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With 90% of the students in Houses, all of which have lounges and a variety of places to hang out, how can a centralized student center succeed? Obviously, I’d like to see such a building succeed, with success meaning it will be frequently used for social purposes, but I’m not sure how this can be done. Furthermore, we already have one failure in attempting to create a student center. I call on the new Student Center Committee to look out for the causes of this failure, as well as the faculty-student committee formed by the President in response to the students’ initiative, which has been around twenty years since it was first proposed that we build a new student center.

Estimated to cost $35 million, the Rosen Campus Center is described as a hub for “social, cultural, and artistic activity on campus.” However, before we break ground, we should look at the problems with our current student center, the Winnett Student Center.

Yes, it’s really a student center.

I think the biggest draw in the old SAC was the student-run Coffeehouse. Since the closure of the Student Coffeehouse last fall, we’ve had to sit at the Red Door Café. It’s fun, but it’s not the same as having the coffeehouse.

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OPINION

Get off-campus to enjoy Caltech to its fullest

Michael Forte

Alumni

Now that I’ve graduated, I would like to share some final thoughts about student life. First of all this school is not nearly as bad as most make it out to be. There are a plethora of reasons to hate this place including uninterested professors and many administrators who probably only have jobs because their bosses have not realized how useless they really are. But even this should not be enough to make this place as miserable as many people say that it is.

The style of teaching at most professors is hard sets that require students to work together. This means that we must find other people to work with to finish and results in very long, fairly unproductive homework sessions.

We are left with little free time and when you do find that rare nugget, you often find that your time does not overlap with others. This causes many people to end up spending their free time sitting around playing video games and not helping the general social atmosphere of the school.

So next time you have free time, open your door and make a point of talking to lots of people, you’ll like it, and if everyone does it, you are bound to find others who have free time on their hands. Worst case scenario, you end up getting better at dealing with people with no social skills which will only help you if you pursue a career in science. The average student has probably not spent much time off campus. Their only excursion past the borders of Tech is to food on weekends, which usually amounts to walking the whole two blocks to Lake. To help this along, we pay for each dinner whether we attend it or not so there is little incentive to do anything on a weekday that might make us miss those dinners.

So if students can just ignore the fact that they are wasting money which should be easy based on the amount that you all pay for board without complaint, then students should make a habit of talking to an upperclassman with a car and going out at least once a week. Go see a movie, go see a play, go visit a museum or even go window shopping just don’t spend every day sitting behind your computer hoping things will get better without action.

In fact, if you spend a few hours away from the environment you see everyday, not worrying about work, and not being lame, you will be far more productive with what you do actually put your pencil to the paper.

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Scientists responsible for guiding the public

Democrats are being boring; check out the Republicans for real debates

By Wesley Yu

STAFF WRITER

The two major primary / caucus events surprised only the pundit’s. Who in their right mind would think that, with at least 3-5 candidates on each side, the race would be decided by now? Having now knocked, I could bet that the race is going to long past the primaries. I have a few thoughts wanted to share with you.

Money that could have been spent on stem cell research, global warming, and space exploration, was instead spent on adding a couple more tanks to the already largest military in the world. Apethic Theachers can’t fairly blame Washinghton, though. All, without your help, the politicians won’t know any better.

One way to tell what research is important to fund. When scientists are not able to the public, our leaders and the public so that they understand how science can serve them. I am going to address this in my next article.

For now, a simple way we can tell the scientific society is by simply participating in the next election. By paying attention and voting, you will make your educated opinion heard. You will be involving yourself in the public debate, and you will be helping to lead this generation to a brighter future.

Next for the Dunbo party, the candidate with the most experience in foreign policy, who would almost certainly make the war in Iraq his first issue, will have to distinguish himself from the other candidates. He will have to answer a question about whether or not he’d choose Obama bin Laden to the gates of hell with "And beyond. I will charge Hell with a water pistol, if necessary".

I do have to say though, [Huckabee] definitely got my vote for most hilarious Republican candidate... he replied to a question about whether or not he’d choose Obama bin Laden to the gates of hell with "And beyond. I will charge Hell with a water pistol, if necessary".

By Evans Boney

STAFF WRITER

In upcoming issues, The Tech will be offering its own take on the race: analysis of the candidates’ attitudes toward science, education, and medicine, plus students’ opinions on the people, the election, and what it all means. Watch for it in future weeks, and if you have something burning to say, e-mail tech@caltech.edu.

Learn to Fly!

Caltech/JPL Aero Club

For more information go to: http://aaci.caltech.edu or email club VP and instructor Joe Areeda (joe@areeda.com)

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Friends remember the laughs and good times

Chemist invents “cool” wires
Tiny silicon wires could chill laptops, reactors

By Marissa Cevallos

New silicon wires that convert excess heat to electricity could lead to longer-lasting refrigerators, more efficient nuclear reactors, and better computer chips—a Caltech team reports in this week’s Nature.

The nanowires—about one-thousandth the diameter of a human hair—good electrons to flow across silicon with 100 times improved efficiency. They take advantage of the thermoelectric effect, in which heat flow from a hot spot to a cooler one creates an electric current.

Chemist and lead author Jim Heath says it’s a surprise that silicon turned out to be an impressive thermoelectric—after all, silicon traditionally takes a backseat to exotic compounds, like alloys of bismuth, when it comes to cooled beer cans and propelling JPL satellites.

“You’d never think of using silicon as a thermoelectric,” said Heath. “It’s horrible!”

The power of the new wires lies in the physical phenomena that happen at the nanoscale. At small scales, the ultra-thin wires act like one-dimensional waves—tiny sound vibrations stretch the wires like a rubber band. When “phonons,” the carriers of sound vibration at the quantum level, are out of equilibrium with electrons, “phonon drag” pulls electrons along the wire. This effect increases the heat-converting efficiency—not just for silicon, but also for any semiconductor.

“It’s a fundamentally new way to make better thermoelectrics,” says Heath. “It’s a big solution to the energy problem.”

Instead of using exotic materials, the wires are just composed of silicon and oxygen, the two most common elements on Earth. They’re also non-toxic—put them together, and you have the chemical composition of sand. So although the new silicon wires lag behind the best thermoelectrics in efficiency by a factor of two, they are still cheap and simple enough to have near-term applications. If placed in computer chips, the thermoelectric wires could convert waste heat back into electricity. The wires could also be used to create long-lasting commercial refrigerators, which currently break down because of moving parts.

Harvard’s plan more extensive than Caltech’s
Caltech can’t compete with Harvard endowment, but doesn’t need to

By Marissa Cevallos

Director of Admissions Rick Bischoff calls a “pretty fundamental change” to the way financial aid is offered.

Though Crewell says that Caltech’s timing was a coincidence, it underscores a national trend among elite universities to axe loans from the financial aid package. The University of Pennsylvania, Pomona, Swarthmore, and Haverford all announced plans to eliminate loans shortly after Harvard’s announcement. Princeton nixed loans from aid packages in 2001 and has since doubled the number of low-income students.

Harvard may be pressuring elite institutions into offering beefier financial aid packages, but Bischoff says that the immediate effect on Caltech will be small. Only about 10% of admitted students at Caltech are also offered admission at Harvard, and even if Caltech lost every one of those students—which Bischoff assures never happens—the class would still be “very strong.” It’s when MIT has to drive down its sticker price, some students won’t matriculate simply because they’d prefer to go somewhere else. Says Bischoff, “Money isn’t everything.”
ASCIT leaders call for more oversight in publications mess

BIG T. FROM PAGE 1

first term of each year. The little t is a collection of local shop and restaurant reviews, Caltech “how-to’s”, available campus services and facilities, and various Caltech “traditions”. All campus publications including the California Tech, Big T and little t are funded by ASCIT. The Big T, the undergraduate yearbook, also typically comes out during first term, but is also experiencing some delays. “The editor [senior Angela Chang] hasn’t responded to requests to finish it,” explains Woods. The BoD was notified of problems with the Big T in mid-Novem- ber. After failed repeated attempts to get concrete answers about the Big T’s progress from the current editor, ASCIT has reassigned re- sponsibility for the ’06-’07 Big T to the ’07-’08 Big T editor, junior Ekta Bhojwani, who is also cur- rently ASCIT Director for Social Activities. Bhojwani will be ask- ing each House historian to as- semble pictures and help with the Big T in mid-Novem- ber. “I think the ball was dropped in various places and the mistakes had a domino effect. We didn’t pick up on the problem early on,” says Bhojwani. “The problem is that there is no established sys- tem to oversee progress with each publication.”

Apart from asking the Tech to publish ASCIT minutes and candi- date statements, ASCIT exercises very little regulation over student publications. However, there has been some discussion of forming a Publications Board on ASCIT in order to oversee staff selection as well as regular progress for each publication. This board, say pro- ponents, would be responsible for ascertaining that editorship passes smoothly from each year’s staff to the next.

“I like the idea. Not much can be lost from trying, and a lot can be gained,” comments Michael Woods. “[As of right now] ASCIT holds a very long leash and pro- vides essentially no oversight.”

“I believe that a separate publi- cation board or some other form of increased oversight and ac- countability for publications is necessary to prevent these sorts of problems in the future,” says Ben- jamin Steele, the business man- ager of the little t.

Over the years, Caltech’s stu- dent-run undergraduate publica- tions have experienced numerous problems. In 1989, the little t acci- dentally signed contracts with two publishers, which almost resulted in ASCIT getting sued. In 1991, the little t accumulated about $7000 in debt. Last year’s little t sold only one ad and, consequently, accumu- lated a $5000 debt. While usually the little t staff consists of a three- to-four person team, the past few years have seen the responsibility shouldered by a single editor and sometimes a business manager.

“Though the Sherman Fairchild Library suggested that the editors increase recruitment, it never hap- pened,” says Montauzi.

In previous years, people have complained about the quality of the yearbook. However, Bhojwani emphasizes that it is because the Big T, too, is increasingly short- staffed. Last year, the Big T only had one editor who was responsi- ble for the entire publication. “It is impossible for one person to finish the entire thing, but it’s hard to get new people involved.”

The Board of Directors con- trols the selection process—which is usually by election—and staff workers are offered stipends. “If you want to help out with any of the publications, they should let the BoD know,” says Bhojwani. “Sign-ups for the ’08-’09 Big T staff are in a couple of weeks.”

New ruling bodes well for JPL suit

NASA can’t enforce “unconstitutional” invasion on JPL

Hearing will continue on February 15

JPL FROM PAGE 1

ing. “It shows that courts are not going to allow the Bush Admin- istration to use fear to conduct overly intrusive investigations.”

The panel upheld the plaintiffs’ concern over the terms of SF85 and SF85P forms, which JPL employees are required to sign in order to receive an identification badge required to enter the build- ings. In particular, the plaintiffs argue that a section of the form giving government agencies a permission to conduct uncondi- tional and unlimited background investigations for a period of two years is unconstitutional.

“It is an affront to democracy when hard-working people are reproached just because they want to enjoy the benefits of the Constitu- tion,” said Stormer.

Earlier last week, Judge Otis D. Wright II, who presides over the lawsuit in the District Court, ruled to dismiss Caltech from the case. However, the status of the dismissal remains unclear, given contradictory language in the opinion issued by the Federal Appeals Court.

The case will now proceed in the District Court, with the next hearing scheduled for February 15. The hearing will address the discovery plan as put forth by the plaintiffs’ lawyers. Meanwhile, while Stormer is hopeful about the outcome of the lawsuit, he does not have high expectations for negotiation or litigation prior to the hearing.

“There’s a tremendous amount of inertia in their position,” he said about the government. “They would rather be told by a court what to do than negotiate.”

According to plaintiff Susan Foster, a technical writer and edi- tor at JPL for more than 40 years, many JPL employees view the re- quirements of HSPD12 as a “bu- reaucratic overlay that is expen- sive, unnecessary, insulting, and unconstitutional.”

Ninety-five percent of employ- ees required to fill out the forms hold what are classified as low- risk positions and had to undergo limited background checks prior to their employment.

“These are people who’ve dedi- cated their lives to science,” said Stormer. “Just because a govern- ment agent gets a political agenda, they should not have their lives ru- ined.”

The twenty-eight scientists and engineers of JPL who filed the lawsuit against NASA and Caltech in August of 2007 have seen both support and setback throughout the legal proceedings. After an initial dismissal by the District Court, the Appeals Court reversed the deci- sion and issued a temporary emer- gency injunction. With the newest development, the case will go on to a full trial in the District Court.

Throughout the lawsuit, the plaintiffs have also received sup- port from employees of other orga- nizations associated with the U.S. government. Notably, not all fed- eral agencies choose to implement HSPD12.

With the parties involved in the suit having a right to appeal, there is a possibility that the case will advance to the Supreme Court.

What do we think of the olive oil?
FIND OUT NEXT WEEK

Have you seen our website yet?
Prof recognized for work in mechanics, physical modeling

“It’s like winning gold at the Olympics”

By Tina Ding 
STAFF WRITER

Michael Ortiz, Caltech’s Hayman Professor of Aeronautics and Mechanical Engineering of the Graduate Aeronautics Laborato ries has been chosen early January to be the inaugural winner of the Rodney Hill Prize in Solid Mechanics.

The international prize is newly established by the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM) and sponsored by Elsevier Limited, to be given every four years to an individual who has made continuously solid mechanics contributions over the past 10 years.

Professor Michael Ortiz’s contribution to solid mechanics is his work in the development of mathematical computational models of material behavior, including the quasi-continuum method for multiscale modeling. Developing these models that predict material behavior under extreme conditions involves working in other fields such as mathematics, material science, and computer science. Ortiz works to develop computational simulations to predict conditions difficult to test in the laboratory such as how to deploy large 100 meter telescopes into space.

“It’s like writing a computer game,” said Ortiz, “but instead of being fictional, it is real.”

The use of computational modeling in science has been impacting the scientific community.

“With the growth of computers in our society, physical models are complementing experimental science,” said Ortiz.

Some conditions such as high temperatures or high velocities cannot be simulated in the laboratory, which leads to reliance on mathematical models to predict material behaviors. For example, today when designing an engine, engineers must conduct tests in a lab and also tests on computers.

The recognition took Ortiz by surprise but he is nevertheless very pleased with the achievement. “It’s like winning gold at the Olympics,” said Ortiz.

Michael Ortiz achieved his B.S at the Polytechnic University of Madrid and his Ph.D at the University of California, Berkeley. He came to California Institute of Technology in 1995 and is a current faculty of the Graduate Aeronautical Laboratories, where he has done his research in solid mechanics for the last decade.

He teaches mostly graduate level mechanics and aeronautics courses, but also the undergraduate course Me35 Statics and Dynamics.

Ortiz will be presented with the prize this August by the 22nd International Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in Adelaide, Australia.

News Briefs

Research funds for undergrad women

The Dean’s Office is accepting proposals for the Monticello Foundation and the Robert and Delphina Noland Summer Internships, which gives three to five Caltech undergraduate women (current fres hermen, sophomores and juniors) a $6,000 stipend to participate in research outside of Caltech for ten weeks during the summer.

To apply, students must identify a sponsor for their experience at a research facility for a ten-week period. In a short essay, they must describe their project and submit it to the Dean’s Office, 210 Center for Student Services, along with two faculty rec ommendations. All arrangements with the principal researcher will be the responsibility of the student. Proposals are due Friday, February 22, 2008.

Students will get free access to The Nation

The Nation, America’s oldest weekly magazine, will be offering free digital subscriptions to students starting Jan 10. Both undergraduates and graduate students are free to sign up for the electronic subscriptions at StudentNation.us.

Free ARTS bus fare for February

Caltech students, staff, and faculty can ride the Pasadena ARTS bus for free during February by showing the bus driver their ID.

Mike Brown subject of children’s book

New children’s book The Planet Hunter: The Story Behind What Happened to Pluto tells the story of Professor of Planetary Astronomy Mike Brown’s childhood, interest in extrasolar planets, and the discovery of Quaoar, Sedna, and finally the Pluto controversy.

Reviewers call the story, which comes with a current solar system poster, “Fascinating” and Mike Brown “ininitely likeable.” The book, by author Elizabeth Rusch and illustrator Guy Francis, is available at the Caltech bookstore.
“Curious” to air in 60 more cities

By ZeNan Chang
STAFF WRITER

“Curious,” the layperson-friendly documentary about research at Caltech and JPL, will now air widely throughout the nation in the coming months. Within the next few weeks, friends in Flint, MI, relatives in Rapid City, SD, and relaxed gamblers in Reno, NV will all be able to turn on their televisions and watch a quick parade of select topics explored in Pasadena.

“Curious” is planned to air—or re-air in the case of New York, Boston, and Los Angeles—in roughly 60 cities across the nation. Even those in St. Paul, Missouri, population 1,634, will shortly be able to view the acrobatics of a fruit fly taking off.

However, those in Los Angeles and 27 other cities still looking forward to satisfying their curiosity may need to await reruns, as “Curious” has already aired in those cities at the beginning of January.

Nevertheless, previews and clips can be found at the program website (http://www.thirteen.org/curious), and the producers have promised full episodes online by the end of the month.

The two episodes currently released are titled, respectively, “Mind/Brain/Machine” and “Survival”. “Mind/Brain/Machine” interviews a man born without a corpus collosum, plus the Dickinson lab at Caltech, fMRI behavioral biology studies, and a large number of robots. It even tackles the difficult and therefore often disregarded question of robotics, and what’s being done about the problem of how humans and robots should interact. “Survival” follows two labs at Caltech on major research projects: Mark Davis’s lab and the creation of the first nanoparticle cancer drug, and then Sossina Haile and Nate Lewis as they work to create an artificial leaf.

Though “Curious” is currently a two-episode stand alone documentary, it is intended by WNET, a major producing stations for PBS, to be the first of a series organized around various institutions. At the moment, there are no rumors about the content of any future productions.

To find out when and where “Curious” will air, please visit www.thirteen.org/curious/episodes/local-air-dates-for-2008.

Overcoming Procrastination
Kevin Austin, Ph.D.
F R E E L U N C H P R O V I D E D

Where Thursday, January 15th, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Where Wusser Lounge

What is procrastination?
- It’s the problem that doesn’t get done on time (again!), or the experiment you don’t get started...
- It’s the drop card you don’t turn in on time...
- It’s the continuing battle with yourself to do what you know you should... and your inability to change.

This program will help students in attendance have a different, possibly better, way of understanding their procrastination and what to do about it.

Tired of CDS lunches and dinners?

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for all Caltech students, staff, and faculty
Enjoy The Greatest Happy Hours in the Area. All Well Drinks, Beer & wine, Monday to Friday 11am-7pm only $1.99

Burger Continental
555 S. Lake Ave.
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(626) 792-6634
Always 20% off for all Caltech students, staff, faculty
Introduction: Besides having a great lunch deal (and a 10% discount for Caltech students), Hanabi, located by Trader Joe’s, is a spot for authentic Japanese food, ranging from sushi to hot entrees.

Goal: To check out a tucked-away sushi place a passerby would normally overlook.

Stockroom Options: There is a fully stocked sushi bar (with its own menu). Not in the mood for raw fish? Don’t worry, there’s a plethora of appetizers, combination plates, and entrees of traditional Japanese fare.

Materials and Cost: For dinner, we had the Sushi Combination Plate A ($14.99) and the Two Combination Platter with grilled chicken breast and shrimp and vegetable tempura ($12.99). We couldn’t resist dessert, and splurged for green tea and strawberry Mochi Ice Cream ($3.95) and vanilla Tempura Ice Cream ($4.95).

Observations:

The sushi combination plate A was served as a beautiful 16-piece spread, including tuna, salmon, yellowtail, whitefish, crab, albacore, octopus, and California rolls. The California rolls were refreshing, and the sticky rice had a good texture. The favorites were the crab, salmon, whitefish, and albacore selections because they were light on the stomach and flavorful. The other choices were heavier and bland. Still, all the fish was fresh.

The two combination platter also had a beautiful presentation in a Bento Box. It came with a salad, which was cool and crisp, but a bit watery. The teriyaki sauce was sweet and tangy, though the chicken was a bit dried out. The vegetables used in the tempura were string beans, carrots, bananas, and sweet potatoes, and the shrimp was not over-cooked. Fortunately, they were not greasy at all, and had a flaky, light crust.

To round off our meal, we had two items from the dessert menu. First, we sampled mochi ice cream in two flavors: green tea and strawberry. These little balls have the ice cream surrounded by rice paste dough, which may sound odd but tastes delicious. The green tea ball had a distinct tea flavor (only for true green tea lovers), while the strawberry ball tasted like a piece of candy, sweet and enjoyable.

A new experience for both of us was the infamous vanilla tempura ice cream. Simply put, it was a big, deep-fried ball of ice cream. The crust smelled and tasted like funnel cake, and complemented the ice cream well. It was a challenge to eat, though with teamwork, it was devoured.

Atmosphere: Hanabi is a quaint, well-decorated restaurant. Everything felt authentic, down to the bamboo placemats. Don’t feel intimidated, the atmosphere and service are both definitely welcoming.

Conclusion: Definitely head to Hanabi for an enjoyable meal, especially with lunch combos starting at $7.99. It’s definitely one of Lake’s hidden treasures. Make sure to save room for dessert, and try the tempura ice cream!
FEATURES

Feynman’s Rainbow: Uninspiring
by Mark Eichenlaub

Next time Caltech has you feeling like you’re drifting through a dark and incomprehensible terrain, remember: the people in charge feel that way, too.

Do not worry about your difficulties at Caltech. I can assure you mine were still greater. This is, in an abbreviated form, the message of Leonard Mlodinow’s Feynman’s Rainbow, a short memoir about his time as a new member of the Caltech faculty in theoretical physics in 1981.

At that time, Mlodinow was a highly-touted young researcher in quantum mechanics, just finishing his PhD work at Berkeley. Here he tells the story of how his insecurities as a new member of Caltech’s physics faculty drove him to smoke pot with his garbage man neighbor while watching “Colombo,” and then to write screenplays.

Mlodinow even gets to blow! "After finals last term, my roommate and I decided to take a break and exhale our stress," he tells us. "We were smoking in the dorm room and fears the light of day. ‘He’d have been just as well off in a cave,’ was Mlodinow’s assessment. After visiting the guy, Mlodinow still felt bad about himself.

People in Feynman’s Rainbow do not have personalities – only attributes impressed on them by the author. It happens even to Feynman, although at Caltech, where Feynman worship runs rampant, Feynman is instead the great savior.

In the preface, Mlodinow writes that he “combined and altered events and...names and personalities in order to best portray my experience.” Significant chunks of the book quote Feynman, and these are “based on” notes and recordings of Mlodinow’s conversations with Feynman during Feynman’s later years, as he worked on unsolved problems in quantum chromodynamics.

Even these Feynman quotes, which ought to be the gems of the book, seem to have been impressed into Mlodinow’s service. They are polished too smoothly to be direct transcriptions of what Feynman said, and together they are too coherent and focused to be a full picture of Feynman’s advice.

The seeker of Feynman lore has many options to choose from, especially since the publications of Feynman’s letters in Perfectly Reasonable Deviations, which was published three years after Feynman’s Rainbow.

Despite my misgivings, I’m glad I read the book. Not long after coming to Caltech, I learned that many undergraduates here are worried and confused about their futures in science. Some time later, I learned that plenty of grad students feel this way, too. But somehow it’s reassuring to be told that the feelings of pressure to perform, and of judging one’s self-worth based on the quality of his scientific mind, continues up the academic pyramid.

Finally, of course, there is still Feynman under it all. Feynman talks here about physics and about life, and we get some of his insights, not necessarily seen in “The Pleasure of Finding Things Out” or the Lectures, because Feynman’s audience was different in talking just to Mlodinow.

If your Feynman-cravings weren’t satisfied by just Surely You’re Joking, What Do You Care What Other People Think?, The Meaning of It All, The Character of Physical Law, QED, and the various biographies and commemorative tomes, Feynman’s Rainbow won’t satisfy you, either, but you’ll still want to give it a look. Otherwise, perhaps we can let the man rest.

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Norton Simon Museum A Well-Kept Secret

After finals last term, my roommate and I decided to take a break and exhale our stress. I had heard of a good local museum, the Norton Simon, so we decided to visit, not knowing what to expect. What we discovered was mind-blowing!

The Norton Simon Museum is a treasure trove of classical European masterpieces and modern art jewels. The collection includes representative works from every period between the 14th century and the 20th century. Among its collection are one hundred works by Degas, several portraits by Rembrandt, a Madonna by Raphael, and choice selections from modern masters such as Van Gogh, Monet, Cezanne, Warhol, and Picasso.

For the art lover, the Norton Simon Museum is an absolute treasure.

But don’t be intimidated if you haven’t had any experience with art. For people without any art background, the museum is a wonderful introduction to a variety of works. Next to each piece of art is a historical background and teaches viewers to look at art critically. In addition, visitors can rent an audio tour for only $3. I recommend you do.

The Norton Simon’s extensive collection includes some of the pieces the Norton Simon will loan to the Frick Collection in New York.

Next time Caltech has you feeling like you’re drifting through a dark and incomprehensible terrain, remember: the people in charge feel that way, too.
Geographically, we’re in the center of the financial world. Philosophically, we couldn’t be further away.

The exceptional individuals at QVT come from a wide variety of academic and professional backgrounds not commonly associated with investing, from hard sciences to literature. Every day we confront some of the world’s most complex investment situations, and we find that success comes not from textbook training in finance, but from intelligence, curiosity, and an ability to see things differently from the pack.

QVT is a hedge fund company with over $12 billion under management. We’re going places, and we’re looking for more great people to help us get there.

We look forward to meeting you at the Spring Career Fair on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 from 10:30am – 2:30pm at the Brown Gym.

Resume Drop Deadline: Wednesday, January 16, 2008
Interview Date: Thursday, January 24, 2008

Please submit your application online via the MonsterTRAK recruiting system.

Please visit us at www.qvt.com.
Senior sets new scoring record

By Yang Yang
and Stephanie Wueth
STAFF WRITERS

As she cuts to the baseline, a crisp pass delivers the ball into her hands. She feels around for her hands. She feels around for her crisp pass delivers the ball into her.

Senior forward Lindsay King became the first Caltech women’s basketball player to score 1,000 points.

The thousand-point mark for King is not just an individual milestone, it’s a sign of a rising women’s basketball program. “It is cool to achieve it,” King said. “But the record says a lot more about our team now because we’re more competitive [to a point] that didn’t seem possible before.”

One look at the scores from the 2003-2004 season, the first under current head coach Sandra Marbut, would depress almost anybody. The Beavers failed to break double-digits in scoring, running up losses that year saw San Diego Christian beat the Beavers 101-7.

How do you go from that to being even mildly competitive? “[When I was in high school] I didn’t really think I would play in college,” King recalled. “After talking to coach Marbut, I could tell she had such a passion about where this program would go. I thought it would be really great to be a part of turning around this program.”

During her freshman season, current seniors Rene Davis, Meghan Kelleher, Raquel Martinez and redshirt junior Jessica Roberts joined King in hopes of transforming Caltech women’s basketball.

That nucleus, according to Marbut, has brought the team from being “completely hopeless” to being competitive every game. But for the past four years, Marbut says King has been “the heart and soul of the team.”

Going into the game against Fontbonne on Dec. 27, King had totaled 994 career points. Scoring, however, was not at the forefront of her mind.

“We had three games left until we played MIT,” King said. “I was more concerned with the team playing better, figuring I would get the points.”

Although she did score the six points necessary to reach the landmark, King was more concerned about the team’s poor play as they lost to Fontbonne 81-55.

In addition to her prolific scoring, King contributes to almost every facet of the game. She averaged six rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.29 blocks per game last season.

But despite being in the SCIAC top 15 in scoring, rebounding, assists and blocks, King has yet to be named to the 12-member all-conference team.

“Lindsay is the most overlooked player in our conference,” Marbut commented. “Part of that may be due to King’s lack of ‘flash,’ as most of her skill is something often overlooked from the bench because it is executed without possession of the ball. Defensive rebounding, baseline jumpers and solid defense may not garner much attention, but they are all crucial parts of winning a game.”

Fellow team captains Rene Davis and Jon King in the thousand-point club this year. However, she was sidelined for the early part of the season and need to score significantly higher than her current 9.1 points per game to do so.

King is confident, however, that current sophomore Lisa Yee will. “Lisa’d better break my scoring record,” she said. “Or else I will get mad at her.”

Upcoming Games

Wednesday, January 16
Swimming and Diving at Chapman 6:00 PM
Men’s Basketball at Occidental 7:30 PM

Thursday, January 17
Women’s Basketball at Occidental 7:30 PM

Friday, January 18
Swimming and Diving at Mills (women) 3:00 pm

Saturday, January 19
Swimming and Diving at Cal Lutheran 11 a.m.
Women’s Basketball vs. Cal Lutheran 5:00 PM
Men’s Basketball vs. Cal Lutheran 7:30 PM

The ball takes a strange bounce as redshirt junior Jessica Roberts drives towards the basket during Caltech’s 59-40 loss against Whittier on Tuesday.

Men’s basketball wins first game

The men’s basketball team garnered their first win of the season against Gallaudet University 72-58 at Cal Lutheran’s Gilbert Arena on Dec. 17.

Down by only two at halftime, the Beavers found themselves down by 10 points at the 13:39 mark. But Caltech slowly chipped away the lead until a couple of layups by senior captain Bryan Hires and a technical on head coach Roy Dow spurred a 15-0 run to finish the game.

Defense was the key to victory for the Beavers, as Gallaudet finished with only two field goals in the last eight minutes of the game and 23.1 percent shooting in the second half.

The Beavers, dressing only nine players due to various injuries, had all five starters play more than 30 minutes in the game. Junior point guard Matt Dellatore led all scorers with 23 points, including 4-of-9 from the three. Hires finished with a double-double of 22 points and 11 rebounds while making 8-of-10 shots. Junior Travis Haussler also had a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

The Weekly Scoreboard

Men’s Basketball
Dec. 17 Gallaudet W, 72-58
Dec. 19 North Central (Ill.) L, 100-62
Dec. 27 Fontbonne W, 65-47
Dec. 31 Rivier L, 66-56
Jan. 2 Dickinson @ L, 74-47
Jan. 5 Grinnell L, 137-84
Jan. 8 Chapman L, 76-53
Jan. 12 at Redlands L, 97-36

Women’s Basketball
Dec. 16 Montana St. Northem L, 75-51
Dec. 27 Fontbonne L, 81-55
Dec. 29 Rockford L, 74-52
Dec. 31 at Fisher W, 63-44
Jan. 2 at MIT L, 61-40
Jan. 5 Grinnell L, 76-71
Jan. 10 Whitter L, 59-40
Jan. 12 at Redlands L, 73-41

Men’s Basketball
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Natalya says: start off the new year the weird way
 Kidnapped dummies and disappearing bridges, all made possible by magic

By Natalya Kostandova

The new year started off with its share of excitement in the criminal world. Aside from the common, though unfortunate, crimes there have been several cases of unusual nature, demonstrating both the variety and, more often than not, absurdity of the world we live in.

1. Kidnapping and holding hostages in the United States is considered a heavy offense and abduction for money has a special priority on the FBI list of crimes. While in many cases the victims of crime are high-profile persons, Trevor, the victim of a kidnapping that took place in Lacey, Washington, was an unlikely candidate for the crime.

Trevor was sitting in a car when the perpetrator broke the driver side window and dragged him out. The victim has not been seen since then. While the actual technique of the abduction is not all that uncommon, the profile of the victim is. Trevor is a police dummy, dressed in the uniform and complete with sunglasses, used by the Lacey police to encourage drivers to slow down in selected areas of the town.

The criminal mastermind behind Trevor’s disappearance will face felony charges for disabling a police vehicle, if he or she is ever found. The real mystery behind the crime, however, lies in the motifs behind the abduction. After all, there are only so many things that can be done with a mannequin of a man in blue.

2. Yet another instance of kidnapping left authorities puzzled. A 19-year old Australian citizen admitted last week that he was responsible for the disappearance of two crocodiles and a monkey from a wildlife park in Darwin, Australia. At the time of the crime, the teenager must have thought it was a good idea to steal and sell the three animals for profit, only to discover that it was harder than expected to find a buyer for the Aussie version of Curious George and Captain Hook’s ticking nemesis. Perhaps he should have stolen an owl or a sloth. Both seem like slightly more adaptable pets than the crocodiles. At least they’re fuzzy and don’t tend to eat people.

3. When a statue disappears, somebody usually notices. When a person slips and falls on his or her butt, everybody always notices. And laughs. When an entire bridge goes missing overnight, nobody sees or hears anything. The 200-ton, 37-foot bridge, which was a part of the only road leading to a local heating plant in Khabarovsk, Russia, was definitely there before the nightfall and definitely not there in the morning. The puzzled residents and local police are sure that the bridge was taken apart for scrap metal during the night, yet there are no witnesses or any information pertaining to the theft, not to mention a clear explanation of how this logistically difficult feat is even possible.

It appears that there is, however, a perfectly logical answer to a question of how exactly the bridge disappeared. It’s magic.

Comics

WGP by Mark Eichenlaub

WE’RE ALL GONNA DIE!

Atomic-Level Glomming

WGP by Mark Eichenlaub

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125