

P. Dormiani/The California Tech

Faculty judges preside over last Thursday's affirmative action debate, which pit two undergraduate teams against each other in a trial mimicking the upcoming University of Michigan Supreme Court case.

Jou, Chang, Montague, Rebesco Debate U. Michigan Affirmative Action Case

By MATTHEW WALKER

This past Wednesday, Caltech Public Speaking hosted a mock trial of the University of Michigan Affirmative Action Supreme Court case. Two teams of undergraduates spent an hour presenting arguments and responding to questions from the judges.

Representing the plaintiffs, and arguing against affirmative action, were Ted Jou '03 and James Rebesco '05. The defense for the University of Michigan was composed of Alan Chang '03 and Shelby Montague '06. Serving as justices for the case were Engineering Lecturer Antony Fender, History and Social Sciences Professor Morgan Kousser and Visiting Law Professor Edward McCaffery.

The trial consisted of each side

having 30 minutes to argue their side, with 25 minutes to make arguments and five minutes for rebuttals. The first student to speak was Jou, who represented Barbara Grutter, a white female with a 3.8 undergraduate GPA and a 161 on the LSATs, a score in the 86th percentile, who was rejected from the University of Michigan's prestigious law school.

Jou, who will be attending law school in the fall, submitted that the University of Michigan's "critical mass" policy of race admissions "sounds suspiciously like a quota," which is illegal according to a 1978 Supreme Court decision in *Bakke v. the University of California*.

Kousser questioned whether the critical mass policy is in fact a quota, and Mr. McCaffery asked

facetiously if a college has to have zero minority admissions for it to be clear that there is no quota.

After Jou stated that he was not looking for the court to overturn *Bakke*, the court questioned him about how race can be taken into account without using a quota. Kousser pointed out that when the University of Texas Law school abandoned its quota system, it went from having the highest percentage of black students per class among law schools to having just one black student.

Chang then spoke in defense of the law school. His primary argument was that there is a "compel-

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Searfoss '79 Offers Glimpse Into Life as NASA Astronaut

By ADAM SEARS

"I'm not a life scientist, I just play one in space," begins the Caltech Management Association's feature guest at a talk given in the Beckman Institute Auditorium this past Thursday. Caltech alumnus Rick Searfoss '79, while not a dietician either, had plenty to say about weight loss.

Searfoss is an astronaut and pilot, who has flown on three NASA space missions. On this side of the exosphere, he has racked up over 5400 hours of flight time in 61 types of planes.

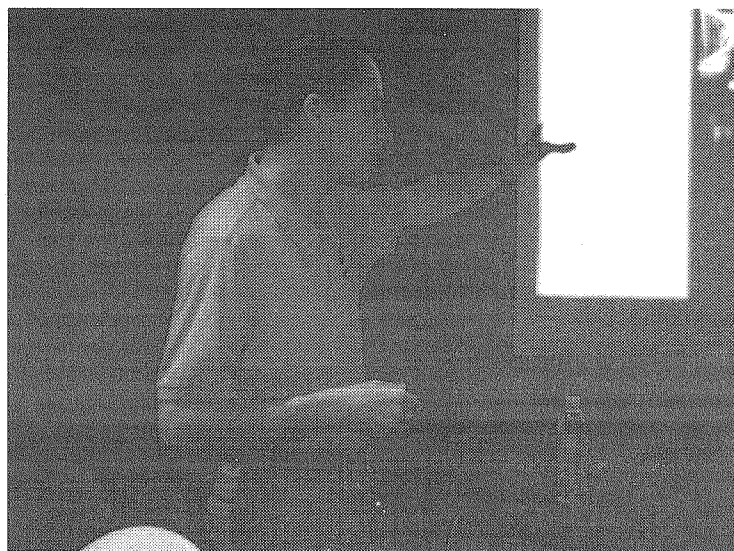
Astronauts receive a large amount of training before flights, and many missions are in planning for nearly a decade. For example, Searfoss's final flight, the STS-90 Neurolab research mission took eight years to prepare, while the astronauts themselves trained for two grueling years. During this period, pilots like

Searfoss often practice in stock planes, specially modified Shuttle analogs and simulators, keeping their skills honed.

With three missions under his belt, Searfoss has a unique perspective on the physical and psychological aspects of space flight. Rookies go through a "psychological transition," affecting balance and the senses, when they reach space for the first time. But by the second and third trip, the body remembers, he claims.

There was little Searfoss's wisdom could do to stop the physical side effects of space after his third flight, though. The longest by far, at 16 days, it took him a week to regain his sense of balance and nearly a month to recoup muscle mass. Modern exercise methods are promising, though, and activities with higher impact than simple cy-

Continued on Page 2, Column 1



D. Korta/The California Tech

Three-time astronaut Rick Searfoss '79 details the trials, tribulations and trepidations of everyday life on NASA spacecraft.

Koffler Outlines Tools For Successful Entrepreneurs

By PHIL HARRIS

What makes a successful entrepreneur? The Caltech Entrepreneur Club solved that problem last Wednesday. Well, sort of.

Richard Koffler of Koffler Ventures gave a spirited discussion last Wednesday afternoon in Avery Library outlining what qualities he has seen in the entrepreneurs whom he helped to success and the start-ups he has seen make it—and contrasted with those he has seen dwindle away.

In contrast to the club's usual speaker format, this event was geared to be more of a discussion and it flowed splendidly as questions flew in both directions.

The event was attended by a handful of students, both undergraduate and graduate, as well as by several successful alumni who have gone on to build their own technology companies.

The discussion was both lively and informational and was broad enough to reach the wide range of "entrepreneurial maturity" present in the audience.

Koffler Ventures is a consultant team billing itself as "specialists in the successful incubation of start-ups." Part of Koffler's formula for success is his five-step plan for start-up entrepreneurs: accelerating

and maximizing progress, attracting customers, minimizing costs and fostering the company's ability to create, to innovate.

Koffler discussed these steps and his own personal experiences in the business at last Wednesday's talk. Indeed, the man whose company prides itself on "strategic thinking tools" it imparts on clients was more than happy to share his words of wisdom with eager students.

This was the last event for the regular year for the Entrepreneur Club. The club has organized several talks this year and members have gone on to three conferences.

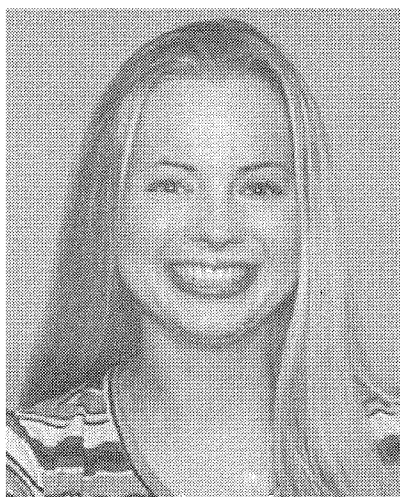
The club has been on the campus for over a decade in its continuing mission to promote a sense of entrepreneurship and business among the Caltech community, especially students. It saw immense growth several years ago during the technological boom but membership also traced the downward trend of the market afterwards.

Recently, the club has begun to grow once again. One of its goals is an initiative to help pre-pre start-up stage individuals or groups on campus by helping them with funding, managership and networking. Activity will continue over the summer.

By DUNCAN STRAUSS

The Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship Foundation, established as a memorial to the late Don Strauss of Newport Beach and now designed to award \$10,000 scholarships to at least 14 California college juniors annually, has announced that among the foundation's new group of recipients are Caltech student Kristin Shantz '04.

The Strauss scholarships fund public-service projects that the students have proposed and will carry out this summer and during their senior year. Shantz, from San Jose,



Courtesy of caltech.edu

Kristin Shantz '04 is among 14 recipients statewide of this year's Strauss Award for her planned public service project.

CA, has chosen a project to encourage more girls to become interested in the field of engineering, as women represent a mere 19% of scientists and engineers nationwide.

An electrical and computer engineering major herself, she has proposed to coordinate a design competition, where 20 teams of middle school girls will work with female Caltech student mentors to develop rubber-band powered airplanes, with the goal of constructing the plane that will fly the farthest along a designated track.

This promises to be an invaluable opportunity for the girls. Not only would they learn that engineering is fun, but they would also develop relationships with their mentors who will act as role models, providing inspiration to the girls that they too can be engineers someday.

This new group represents the Foundation's seventh year of awarding such scholarships, and in that short time, "the Strauss" has emerged as a truly singular and highly-regarded program for a number of reasons, including the dollar amount of the award, the requirement of implementing a public service project—versus merely receiving scholarship monies—and the caliber of student that the program has attracted—for example, for two consecutive years, a Strauss recipient has gone on to become

a Rhodes Scholar.

Don Strauss demonstrated a strong, lifelong commitment to public service and education, reflected by his serving 10 years on the Newport-Mesa Unified School District Board, and 12 years on the Newport Beach City Council, including one as mayor.

He also founded summer internships in Washington, D.C., for students at Cornell University, Stanford University, the University of Rhode Island, the California Institute of Technology and Harvey Mudd College, and he endowed scholarships at Stanford, U.C. Irvine and Harvey Mudd. He died in 1995 at the age of 79.

Strauss's widow, Dorothy M.R. Strauss, established the foundation in January of 1997 as a "tribute to the vision, ideals and leadership of Donald A. Strauss." In its first year, the foundation board invited 10 universities to nominate up to three students each for Strauss scholarships, with the board making the final selection of the 10 winners.

Dorothy Strauss saw her vision for the Foundation realized—she phoned each of the 10 first-year winners to notify them personally—before she passed away in October of 1997 at the age of 83. In the second year the Foundation was able to broaden its reach and award 15 \$10,000 scholarships, and now gives no fewer than 14 each year.

Earth-friendly Power System Online

By JILL PERRY

The California Institute of Technology will begin startup tests on a new \$10 million cogeneration facility in July of this year. When fully operational, the new facility will save an additional \$2.5 million per year in avoided energy costs above the savings of its predecessor and will reduce overall emissions by 66 percent.

The combined-cycle facility, which includes a 10-megawatt natural-gas turbine, a steam generator and a 2.5-megawatt steam turbine, will provide electrical power and steam. The steam will be used for heating and air conditioning of campus buildings. The old gas and steam turbines produced just 5.5 megawatts of power.

With this system the Institute will be able to produce power at a much lower cost. "We expect payback on our investment in roughly four to five years," said Reza Ohadi, director of campus operations.

By acting as the general contractor, Caltech is saving several million dollars in avoided management costs and fees on the project.

Art Elbert, associate vice president for campus planning, said a bond measure made the \$10 million project possible for the 2,000-student campus.

Caltech is one of only a handful of universities nationwide to operate its own power plant. "The vast majority of college campuses buy their power from an external provider," said Ben Smith, facilities improvement program manager. "They don't have the facilities or personnel to run their own cogeneration plant."

The cogeneration team includes mechanics, engineers, electricians, system analysts and other tradespeople, including subcontractors.

The new cogeneration facility is one of several ambitious projects designed to cut Caltech's energy costs and to ensure reliable power to the campus. Since last November, workers have gutted Central Plant of its old cogeneration system,

the large jet aircraft engine that provided the campus with about 40 percent of its electrical power. The new facility will constitute Caltech's third-generation cogeneration plant—the first was built in 1968 and the second in 1982.

In July, when the project is completed, the new turbines will be capable of generating between 10 and 12 megawatts for a campus that requires up to 15 megawatts of power at the height of the summer; it will be providing approximately 80 to 90 percent of the power the institute uses.

The institute worked closely with the Southern California Air Quality Management Board when it selected its new equipment. The new facility will reduce its nitrous oxide emissions from nine parts per million to 2.5 parts per million. "This will be the most efficient and cleanest burning engine that we've ever had," said Dan Buckelew, central utility plant supervisor.

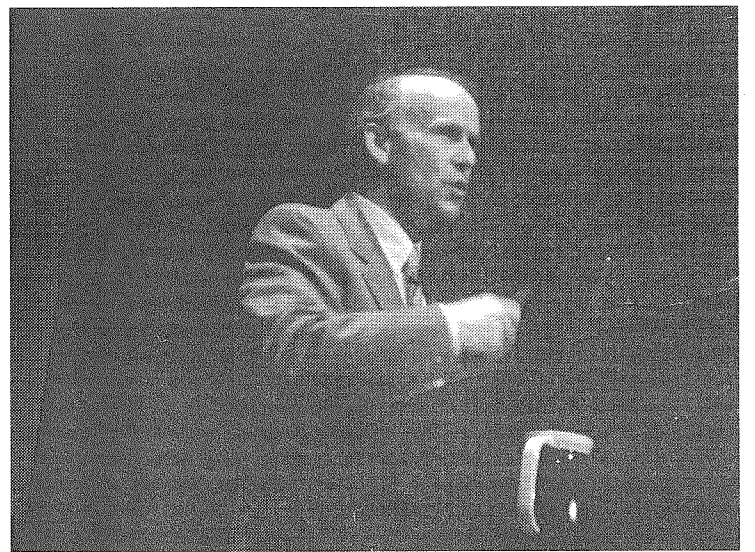
Another major project will take

advantage of the way the price of electricity varies during a 24-hour period. Power is more expensive during peak daytime hours and is cheaper at night.

By constructing a thermal-energy storage facility, Caltech will be able to take advantage of off-peak hours to run its chillers and produce large quantities of chilled water, which will be stored under the north athletic field. During the day, the chillers will be turned off, and the chilled water will be routed throughout the campus, providing relief from high daytime temperatures. The cost of construction for the thermal-energy storage facility is estimated at about \$6 million.

Elbert, who oversees all the construction, renovations, operations, and maintenance for Caltech, stated that "any institution could take advantage of these kinds of savings. The payback is less than five years and the savings could be realized for a generation, making this a very attractive investment."

BONOBOS OR CHIMPS? TALK DIGS UP ORIGINS



D. Korta/The California Tech

Acclaimed anthropologist Richard Wrangham examines the father and mother of modern human behavior, the violent, warlike chimpanzee and the peace-loving bonobo in the year's final Leakey Lecture last Wednesday in Beckman Auditorium.

OASIS Readies for 'Akarshan' Cultural Show

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS-HEDGES



The California Tech Archives

Last year's "Utsav"-themed OASIS show was a sight to see. Attractions included cultural dances, films and traditional storytelling. This year's "Akarshan" event is slated for next Friday.

What happens when a foreign student hits America's shores for the first time? Or, in the case of the student in "Raman Leela," a film written and produced by students, what happens when he first hits the tarmac at LAX?

The answers, loosely inspired by real-life events and depicted in the film, are comic misadventures, culture shock, and cluelessness, followed by an eventual adaptation to U.S. ways. The film is part of an evening of cultural programming called "Akarshan" and is presented by OASIS, the Organization of Associated Students from the Indian Subcontinent. The film, along with a classic exposition of dance and music, will take place next Friday from six to 7:30 p.m. in Ramo Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

For the last several years OASIS has presented a series of cultural programs at Caltech. "Raman Leela," a humorous film written, directed, and produced by Caltech students, is loosely based on the experiences of a naive new Indian graduate student.

The second main event, "Navarasa: Colors of Life," will be a presentation of Indian music and dance portraying the concept of the nine emotions embedded deep within ancient Indian art and philosophy. The nine emotions are love, valor, wrath, sorrow, wonder, fear, disgust, mirth and peace.

Three smaller events will round out the program: a one-act play, inspired by previous OASIS events and titled "Recursion," concerning how difficult it is to do a one-act play at Caltech; a lighthearted moderated debate on a number of trivial and not so trivial topics; and a Bollywood-style dance set to a popular Hindi film tune. "Bollywood" is a takeoff on Hollywood, since a number of Indian movies are produced in the city of Bombay.

The evening's events will be followed by a catered Indian meal for \$4 per person. "Akarshan" is jointly sponsored by several Caltech organizations. Besides OASIS, they include the Graduate Student Council, the Caltech Y, Student Affairs, the Graphic Arts Facilities and ASCIT.

Space 'Noah' Enumerates Challenges of Weightlessness

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

cling seem to be more helpful. Space sickness, one of the most noticeable effects of weightlessness, is not at all correlated with sea or car sickness. Despite spending hours floating in training pools and flights on the "vomit comet," the experience in space is totally different, Searfoss noted. But although it is entirely unpredictable, it is easily and completely treatable with phenadrine.

Astronaut training also includes a heavy dose of geology. From the perspective of space, the Earth's most interesting geological features are even more amazing. Fault lines, volcanoes and, yes, even some political borders are visible. On his first flight, over 4000 photographs were taken, of California wildfires and geological structures.

Searfoss recalled the first time he ever spotted Mt. Everest. He had marked the time to the minute on his schedule, and almost felt guilty for spying a peak which so many people died to reach on Earth.

Searfoss's crowning achievement was his command of the STS-90

NeuroLab research flight. This mission was not able to attribute the huge number of animals that accompanied the astronauts on the shuttle. Mice, fish, and over 1500 crickets were studied as they adapted to the weightless environment.

Searfoss earned the nickname of "Noah" because of his role in the mission, the passengers and because he would spend his fortieth day and night in space, on the trip.

Searfoss mentioned that there were several cases where the mission planners improperly understood the psychological needs of astronauts. Mission control likes to create time schedules specific to the minute, even on noncritical tasks, while the crew contended this rigidity just created stress. Similarly, astronauts are in favor of at least one window in spacecraft, which puts them at odds with most engineers.

According to Searfoss, life science in space is a tough but rewarding subject. The difficulty stems from the inability to control all the variables that are normally trivial on Earth. For example, astronauts

often have trouble sleeping in space, but it's tough to attribute this to the weightlessness of space, the background noise of the shuttle or the restlessness that accompanies their schedule.

Throughout his career as an astronaut, he's always been satisfied with his fellow crew members. Once inducted, those in the astronaut program assist with other flights, often traversing the country to different launch sites. The program discourages the cutthroat competition that you might imagine would occur, by practically guaranteeing everyone getting a chance to fly.

In addition, Searfoss acknowledged that something akin to the Honor Code at Caltech existed in the program. "Trust is highly important," he remarked. "You've got to be able to trust each other with your lives." Consequently, the most important job of the selection committee was "not to get the best, but to just not get any bad apples."

Astronauts must be skilled both at "book learning" and "street smarts." There are an incredible number of checklists to be worked through, but they must also be prepared for malfunctions. While the shuttle's electronics are radiation-hardened, several near-stock IBM Thinkpads are used to control auxiliary electronics and are vulnerable to cosmic rays.

For example, when on his second mission and approaching the MIR space station, one of the laptops



D. Korta/The California Tech

Rick Searfoss '79 explains his approach to overcoming the physical challenges of day-to-day life in a space shuttle.

which controlled their laser rangefinder failed and the crew had to dock using trigonometry and a ruler against the window.

Despite the rapid pace of research, endless checklists and unexpected delays in space, astronauts still find time to have fun. It's not hard; Searfoss remembers rolling up crew members into a ball and tossing them across the station to another, and arranging schools of swimming goldfish during mealtime. Photography is another common hobby.

The busy lifestyles of astronauts in the cold, hard vacuum of space is just more experimental evidence that life there is truly weightless.



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D. Korta/The California Tech

The campus-wide protest continues against the administration's decision to restructure International Student Affairs.

Letters: Fletcher's Skin, Keeping Honor Vigilant

Fletcher: How Thick?

Tom Fletcher wrote the following public statement near Libin Zhang's residence on May 27, 2003.

"Libin, I'd like to talk to you about your article in the *Tech*. Basically, I take offense to what you've written and would like to clear any air if this is personal. If it's purely political, I recommend you report fairly—the [ASCIT] Excomm (Abe [Fetterman] is a member) exists to oversee us and I take it very seriously. I also don't appreciate the photographic likeness. Please let me know when I can talk to you, or come find me in the Lloyd library—Tom Fletcher."

For someone whose mantra is transparency, ASCIT President Tom Fletcher does not seem to have a very thick skin.

Libin Zhang '05

Saving the Code

We were struck in the past several weeks by discussions of the honor system in the *Tech*. The most troubling was Dima Kamalov's report on duplicated ice cream sundae coupons. In that instance, our common trust was betrayed not out of desperation or fear of failure, but merely for some free ice cream.

As the executives of the Graduate Review Board, we would like graduate students to set aside a

moment of time during the stressful time of final exams to do as Ted Jou said and "look more carefully at yourselves and those around you."

As graduate students, we face diverse conflicting pressures such as classwork, competing research groups, conference and paper deadlines, the competitive funding process, qualifying exams, candidacy exams, and ultimately, our thesis requirements. Since our community is not as well mixed as the undergraduate community, we experience less peer pressure to adhere to the honor system.

This means that we must be especially vigilant in monitoring our own activities. It is the "victimless" advantage which can do the greatest damage to our most valuable possession, the trust and respect of our peers which we are given as part of the Caltech Honor System. Ask yourself, on a regular basis; "is what I'm doing fair to the other members of the Caltech community?"

Think about it. The Graduate Review Board is always open to questions. If you do nothing else, take the time to read the honor system handbook, online or in the printed version. It will help you understand the heart of the Honor System and the means by which we maintain it.

John Murphy, Chair
Ted Harder, Secretary
Graduate Review Board



D. Korta/The California Tech

A recent commentary article by Libin Zhang concerning ASCIT President Tom Fletcher sparks trouble with the ASCIT BoD.

Admin. Fails to Listen in ISP Issue

By SIDHARTH JAGGI

Since the Caltech community first heard news of the restructuring of International Student Programs (ISP) and Parandeh Kia's being laid off, there has been a strong reaction from all parts of the campus community.

It is a widely held opinion that this was an unwise decision which should be rescinded. This opinion has been expressed to the administration via a deluge of emails from concerned members of the community, in meetings with administrators, a rally with over 200 people in attendance and a petition with over 600 signatures.

However, for over two weeks the administration has proved adamantly unwilling to reconsider any part of its decisions, or accept student input on how services for students should be structured.

The following quotes, paraphrases and comments detail the affair as it has developed to the best of the author's knowledge. They demonstrate contradictions in the administration's statements to the community at large, and indicate that the decision-making process was and still is sloppy at best. This gives the author little faith in the competence of the administration.

The first two statements indicate the administration's stance on caring for student affairs, and open communication.

On October 1, 2002, President David Baltimore wrote a letter detailing financial concerns to Caltech faculty and staff: "We must take actions in a manner that will preserve the core of Caltech's mission and culture and ensure that no campus constituency bears an unfair portion of the burden."

On March 17, 2003, VP Student Affairs (VPSA) Margo Marshak wrote "I firmly believe in open communication" in a letter discussing the Ricketts firepot issue addressed to Juan Rodriguez, former Ricketts house president.

The letter, dated May 13, 2003, which announced the reorganization of Student Affairs had this to say: "Erica [O'Neal, Assistant VP of Student Affairs] will oversee... [five other offices] and International Student Programs...I made these organizational and staffing changes after careful consideration and deliberation."

That the statement indicating "careful consideration and deliberation" was less than true is indicated by the fact that when the next day (May 14) the author visited Jim Endrizzi at ISP, he was told that everything was still in flux. There was a good deal of confusion, including about which office would handle all the ISP's functions. This confusion was exacerbated by VPSA Marshak's statement to the effect that ISP would now be under Human Resources, rather than Student Affairs as stated in the letter the previous day.

That same day, VPSA Marshak wrote to the author, "All of students' immigration work will now be handled by Human Resources....To say that this was done in a heavy-handed way is a grave injustice to the people who worked on this reorganization in the most sensitive way possible. You should go and visit Jim Endrizzi, or Marjory Gooding in Human Resources, before you adopt a bad attitude."

A letter to the *Tech* of May 18, co-authored by myself, Daniel Wagenaar, George Maltezos and Ben Toner explained the still-hazy situation and requested the administration to reconsider its decision. Due to the overwhelming response of the community in expressing its opinion to the administration, the same *Tech* carried the statement by

VPSA Marshak: "I have heard from a number of you about the recent Student Affairs' reorganization as it pertains to services for international students. I welcome your feedback...[reaffirming of administrative decisions pertaining to reorganization]. I welcome a continuing dialogue on this and other important issues that concern Caltech students." This memorandum was also sent via email to all members of the campus community.

That these were empty gestures are indicated by a statement made by VPSA Marshak to the GSC the same day (May 18), stating that the protest activities being organized by some people would do nothing to change the results of the restructuring.

That week, campus-wide protest unfolded on an unprecedented scale. On May 18, a meeting of about 40 concerned Caltech community members in front of the Red Door Cafe discussed Parandeh Kia's dismissal, the ISP's reorganization, and protested actions which should be organized.

On May 20, a petition was started (also printed in this paper). Key statements in that petition are - "In

"The administration's contradictory statements and refusal to reconsider statements can only further polarize student opinions."

our opinion, Caltech needs: 1.) ISP as a distinct entity, 2.) ISP's Director as an advocate for the international student community, 3.) Parandeh Kia as ISP's Director." In under two days over 450 signatures were obtained.

On May 23, a rally in front of the Red Door Cafe in support of Parandeh Kia and ISP attracted approximately 15 speakers and 200-250 people. Two articles discussing the topic were printed in the *Tech* dated 27 May. One was a commentary detailing students concerns. The other was a news article written by a *Tech* reporter describing the rally. The news article in the *Tech* also quoted VPSA Marshak as saying "This has nothing to do with performance, but is entirely economically based. It's a real tribute to [Kia] how many students she's touched, how many students relied on her, how many students were vocal, but it doesn't and can't change the institute's circumstances and the hard decisions we face."

On May 27, a presentation was made by students at the Faculty Board Meeting, stressing campus-wide support for the petition, which

with 604 signatures was presented to President Baltimore. In attendance were also about 30 faculty, Provost Koonin, VPSA Marshak, and other members of the administration.

President Baltimore stated that Personnel decisions are not up to the students. He said it is legitimate for students to be concerned whether the "level of service" offered by ISP is going to be maintained, but that it is up to the administration to "implement" those services. He advocated a wait and see approach, saying it would be better for students to be constructive at this point rather than changing decisions already made.

He further contradicted VPSA Marshak's statement in the *Tech* published that same day, saying that decisions like this are taken on more than just financial grounds. On being asked to elaborate, President Baltimore bluntly refused to do so.

At the same meeting, VPSA Marshak stated "I planned to look at ISP/ISS to ensure functions are maintained." On being asked how this would be done, since ISP/ISS was now under Human Resources, she replied saying that VPs do talk with each other; in effect, saying that students' affairs would have no formal link with programs for international students.

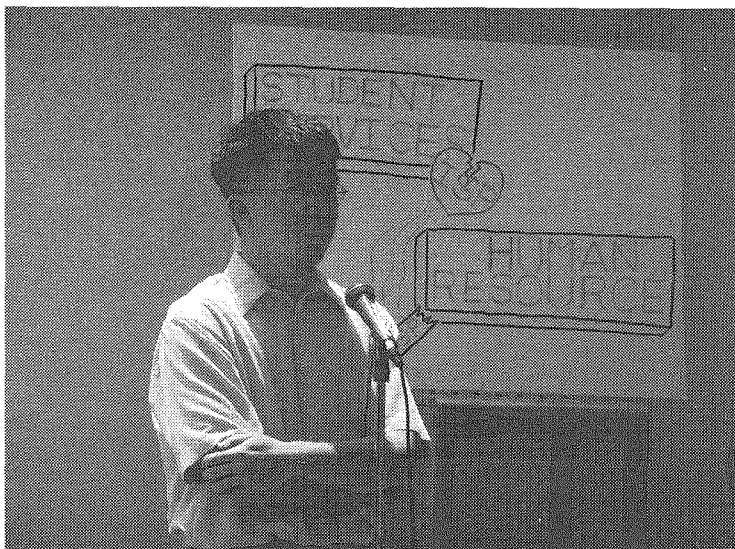
At a GSC meeting the next day (May 29) at which VPSA Marshak was in attendance, on being asked to elaborate on the administration's contradictory statements of the previous day, she said that she could not comment on that.

The general function of an administration is to administer to the needs of those under its care. Concerned members of the Caltech community have thus far deliberately chosen a constructive approach to try to communicate with the administration and tried to keep this an internal matter by not talking to newspaper reporters who are investigating the issue.

The administration's contradictory statements and refusal to reconsider decisions can only further polarize student opinions, already frustrated by previous misjudgments by the administration such as Richard Serra's *Vectors*, health insurance adjustments and threats to disband Ricketts House, to name just a few.

The authors hope that the administration recognizes the urgent need to come forward and communicate with concerned members of the Caltech community, and invites members of the administration with the power to influence decisions to come forth and start communicating.

A constructive dialogue which is open to the possibility of reversing these ill-considered decisions and giving students a say in future policy, and one with a guarantee of continuing, would be a good start.



D. Korta/The California Tech

Over 15 people speak out on May 23 in a rally in support of Parandeh Kia and ISP.

The ABC's of ASCIT, Caltech Life and Philosophy

By TOM FLETCHER

A is for Accountability: We, the BoD and some of the IHC, have been working on a resolution for a while. We plan on passing it next week. The subject of the resolution deals with the responsibilities of committee members, how we can stay informed of their actions, and what we expect of them. After careful deliberation, we've decided to excise the portion of the resolution that deals with removal mechanisms because, as many people said, the resolution should operate on the honor code alone. We plan on presenting this at the next Faculty Board meeting to show the faculty how we plan on improving communication across campus.

B is for BoD: We are your friends. You love us and trust us. Big Brother also starts with B. You love Big Brother, too.

C is Continuity...How do clubs

and organizations carry on when their leaders depart? This is what I plan on thinking about and working on this summer. How well will the work we start carry on once the next BoD comes into office? How well will the *Fishing Quarterly* continue without Mean Old Mister Garbuckle? Remember, shirts are on sale! If you have ideas about continuity, please talk to me.

C+D is for Crippling Depression: Buy the book! Now! \$15! ASCIT promised to buy up any overstock to make sure that this book got published, so go buy it! I promise it's funny.

D is for DARPA: Are you a Mech-E or EE? Are you cashing in or getting a lot of units for working on DARPA? Yes? Cool. Do you have any idea who you're working for? DARPA, or Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, is the major in-house source of innovation for the armed forces. The automated

car that is being built to drive from Los Angeles to Las Vegas is one turret mount away from an automated tank. You are all helping to build the next generation of killing machines.

The flipside is, of course, that an automated tank means fewer American lives at risk in places like Nasiriyah and Baghdad. The JDAMs used in the last war were more accurate than any previous bomb dropped, and I think everyone will agree that Baghdad looks a lot better than Dresden or Nagasaki did.

I'm personally a little queasy about the idea of everyone here working on this project, but I think everyone should be able to make this decision on his own. I'm just somewhat disturbed at how many people have been roped in on the promise of money/credits, who may not have thought of the ethical consequences of their actions.

On to some lighter humor:

E is for Esser-Kahn: The baddest m***** f***** on the campus.

F is for Formal: which went off fabulously! Fashionable fun for friends and flirts!

G is for Graduation: We will miss all the Seniors. I encourage everyone to participate in the rotating se-

"J is for Journalism, of which this is a rather absurd experiment."

nior goodbye week to remember the good times, the bad times, and everything that's great.

H is for Hugs: Give them to all your friends, especially those that are graduating.

I is for Interviews...Thanks to everyone who interviewed for positions in student government last weekend and in all this term. Your commitment is what makes our student government work, and I personally really appreciate it; this goes out to all of you on the BOC and CRC too!

J is for Journalism: of which this is a rather absurd experiment. And you all thought gonzo journalism was out there: but twisted alphabet journalism? Hey: it could be worse: <http://blogs.salon.com/0001437/2003/05/27.html>.

K is for Kerouac: an author you should read this summer. Pack the car, read *On The Road* and go somewhere far, far away. I've had fun doing similar things, and I think you will too. And maybe some of the Buddhism will rub off.

L is for Lloyd Party: which was bold, innovative, and terribly bubbly. And since it hasn't actually happened at the time of this writing and I'm saying that it was cool, the ASCIT President has clearly gained the ability to shape the future with words alone.

M is for *The Meaning of it All*: A serious recommendation. Richard Feynman, as well as being a physicist and teacher, was also the model of a citizen-scientist. This concept of the role of a scientist in society is one I don't think we emphasize enough at Caltech, especially since the modern version of the idea was developed here. I suggest you track down this little paperback this summer to get some perspective on the ol' eddication.

N is for Nemo: a popular name this summer, be it a lost fish, a great movie or an anti-imperialist submarine captain; you'll see: but read the much better book first.

O is for Otis: the band coming on Thursday at lunch to rock Winnet!

P is for Parandeh: She will be missed. It will be a powerful tribute to her work if we can reach out and keep expanding the community that has sprung up in her wake.

Q is for Quentin: who sank in a mire <http://www.wishville.co.uk/gorey/start.htm>.

R is for "the Rape of Ruddock": which actually happened once. See

page 200 of the 1974 *Big T*. You think I could make this up?

S is for Summer: right around the bend. I recommend that you all take the time to unwind, watch some movies, read some books, and have fun while still learning some science, cashing in on SURF, and growing your soul through education.

T is for Transparency: couldn't you see that one coming? I'm proud of the progress we've made on this point, and I think it's starting to show across campus. Student Affairs is asking for comments on the fire and alcohol policy before putting them in effect, the faculty organized a Dean of Undergraduate Studies committee to start looking at how Caltech works as a school, we had a Student-Faculty Conference, the BoD meetings can still be easily attended by everyone, though no reason to stop pushing the limits on this front!

U is for Uprising: The BoD has gotten bored with its life and would like to see an element of danger introduced. If you are feeling dispossessed or oppressed, answer to Emmanuel Goldstein, or really just like ski masks, bring it. What, are you afraid? <bangs shoe> WE WILL BURY YOU!

V is for Vigilance: Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. I'm thankful to everyone, especially our Excomm and those of you that thoroughly read the minutes and ask difficult questions for making our government more efficient.

W is for Warren Zevon: whose music is just too awesome. Imagine Bruce Springsteen with a sick, morbid streak, and you'll get songs like "Excitable Boy" and "Raspberries Beret." If you own one, e-mail me!

X is for Xenophobia: a danger in a society that thinks it is under attack by the outside world. In a time when we detain people at the border for being brown—ask Parsa or Luke E. about going to Mexico—and can't get visas for our international students to go home, it is important to think past our fears and forge connections with the unknown, the outsiders, and that which is foreign to us.

Y is for Yeats: which rhymes with Keats, and you really can't go wrong with either of them if you need something to read for five to ten minutes while running a gel or calibrating an instrument.

Z is for Zeitgeist: "The spirit or genius which marks the thought or feeling of a period or age." I like to think that in this last term we've reshaped the zeitgeist on campus and caused everyone, students, administration, staff and faculty, to think about old problems and recognize new solutions. Here's to a productive summer and the coming year.

...and I bet you all thought Z was for Zen.

Good luck on finals, and have a great summer!

Tom Fletcher, ASCIT President
P.S.: The inspiration, in addition to those cited above: <http://www.banned-width.com/shell/works/playboy/abz/abz.html>

Senior Stats and A Departing Poem

By JEAN-PAUL REVEL

That time of year has come again. The seniors are close to being done and out of here. They are counting down. I don't have to tell them how much longer they'll have to wait. They know to the second. They have had a nominal 5000 hours of study, taken some 50-60+ classes, and learned to go without much sleep (not that that is something to brag about). Besides, they did not have to do that.

If in residence all the time they are enrolled, a student will have spent a maximum of 12 terms * 70 days per term * 24 hours per day at Caltech. I think that comes out to 20,160 hours, plenty of time for study and sleeping too, even if it takes twice as long to do the work for a class than the catalog declares.

I know it is too late for the graduating seniors, but I hope that some of the other students will read this too.

Another sobering (?) statistic is that a student eating three meals a day, over a 12 term career would consume 2,320 meals, and if they stayed all summer too that would be more than 3,000 meals. Of course no one would stand for three meals a day in their House for four years.

Food is always an easy thing to complain about; in fact, it would be extraordinary if it were not complained about. Even mom's cooking gains by the passing of time, and improves greatly at a distance. Although now that I think of it, there was this concoction of bread and prunes and apples and maybe some cinnamon and lots of fat cooked in the oven in a big old cast iron pot, that I dearly loved as a kid, and still miss in my low moments. It had a deliciously crackly sweet crust and left such a viscerally satisfying feeling. Hmmm...I am sure on rereading this, that you can't imagine how I could be so deluded...but remember, it was long before trans fatty

acids were the enemy, a memory from a long time ago, cooked by Mom as her Mom had shown her...

Let me start over again. It is that time of year again, when a quarter or so of you will disperse to all corners of the globe and start your more or less independent lives. The greatest number graduating are the E&AS types, 58 of them when last counted.

The numbers I use are the preliminary ones prepared by the registrar, as the ranks of the graduating class will not be known formally till the very morning of graduation when the list is finally approved by the Trustees. Barring unforeseen circumstances, like having many students missing a required class, the numbers will not change too much. The second most popular options to graduate in are Physics (32) and EE (28), with Biology making a good showing at 27, Math at 23, followed by ECE at 21. ECE, now that there will be (soon, maybe as soon as next week) a CS option, will dissipate over the next few years as students presently enrolled gradually leave the nest.

The Mech E's and Chemists are even steeper, with 18 students each, but of course if one counts in the ChE's, Chemistry has the advantage, with 24 graduating seniors. In a very appropriate symmetry, just as many students have become expert at looking down (geologists) as have learned to lift their gaze to the heavens, (astronomers), if one discounts the three planetary scientists. To round off this covey of graduates I must mention four Literati, three Business Economists and eight plain Jane Economists. There are two SES and one each Historian and Social Scientist. Never mind the two students who carved out an independent study program for themselves.

As you disperse for the summer or for good, the time will come for you to pack your stuff. And as you do so, you will come across all kinds of treasures that you had lost and forgotten. Memories will flood back--you'll have this little moment of hesitation before putting that scrap in the trash, and that note in the "to keep box."

We too in the office will clean up, put papers in neat piles, sort through folders, and generally clean stuff. And we too will come across all kinds of odd things. For example, just yesterday, several small pieces of paper fluttered to the ground. They were crumpled and soiled and a bit hard to decipher...They seemed to be unfinished bits of an ode to seniors, the pieces of which don't quite fit together. Passing this through a plagiarism detection engine reveals that many students names are there, jumbled, first or last names, and not everyone is mentioned. It is like trying to read

old English or fractured French...

But while I dangled them over the trash can for a bit, here they are, with a translation: "Guise and Dama Caltech of Yu is proud! Joy! It was not Luka that you Khan Escalada the podium Wall, Tu get your Stame-shkin on this Dai." [Guys and dames, Caltech is proud of you/ Joy! It was not luck that you can scale the podium (wall? must mean steps)/To collect your sheepskin on this day...]

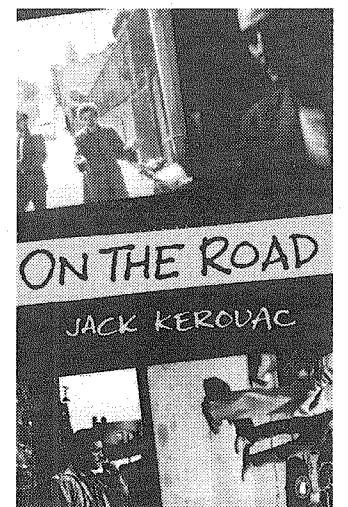
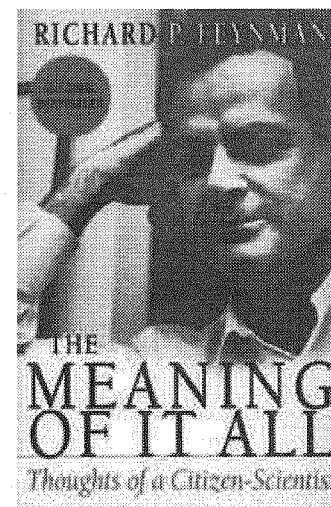
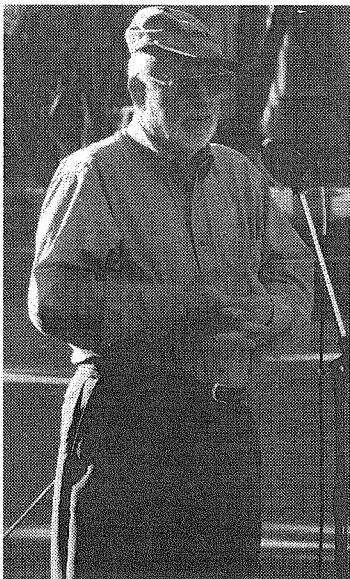
"Kaisa, Tapale and Eino Talvala, Saskya, Renat, Sangeeta, and Ou, With Julie, Vivek, Kaisa and Jou, Sharmaed the Lion in his Blair, while Ajani, Safia, Dana, and Liu Klima, Mehgha, Sirina and Qiu Rizsk ed Farmer Toomey's Greenham and eggs." [The worthies in the first three lines, charmed a lion in his lair/ While a bunch of others risked eating the farmer's green ham and eggs (obviously a reference to the famous Dr. Seuss stack]

"Lo and See! Wan Lambs Link with a Harel, and a Fox, And Cha cha a Rundel the Teegarden, with Neeman, Norman, Paik and Pugh. Vikram and Vikki and Jora and Chou." [Looky here.. When (or weak?) lambs (descendants of Dolly's?) get together with a hare and a fox (pretty unlikely don't you think)/ and dance the Cha cha around the tea garden/ along with a particularly copasetic group of students.]

"Kang, Chuang. In Wildanger Kakuda puts Handson Mad-hav. Woozny, and in Paine, he's Taggart, He is in the Conner, Kao! (or is Ko?) Here the bard gets violent, [Bing boom./ in uncontrollable anger a student puts hands on another, a mad one at that/ Woozy and in Pain he staggers/ and collapses KOed in the corner.]

"There is a Ying and there is a Yang. And there is a Wingho and there is a Wang. I have Verdugo from Someny Choice bets Schur. I can't go Wong, Stern Thomas, with 30 4.0s! They'll go Farr, for Eber and ever." [Waxing philosophical the poet(?) expresses/ his dizziness at so many choices among excellent students./ He addresses Thomas a particularly serious doubter, and concludes he cannot go wrong with all these 4.0 classmates/ who will undoubtedly go far and keep on going.]

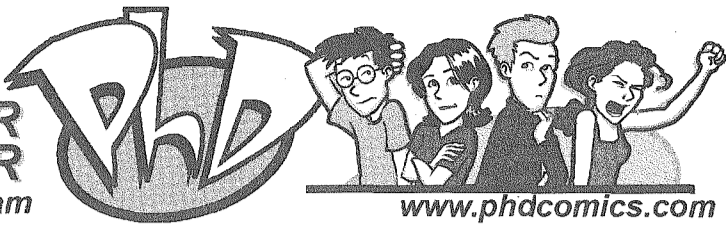
There were more but the above samples are likely too much of a bad thing already. All I can do is join my hopes to those expressed in the horrible doggerel and wish all of you the very best as you go to the next phase in your life. It was (mostly) a pleasure to have a chance to interact with you. You are the cream of the cream, strawberry doughnuts and all. To life, success, happiness, prosperity. Au revoir, seniors



President Fletcher takes a Fireside diversion this week to instruct us in the alphabet and to recommend some light summer reading.

PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

by Jorge Cham



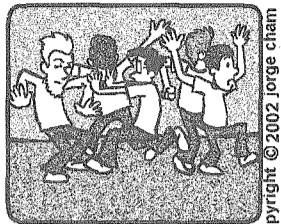
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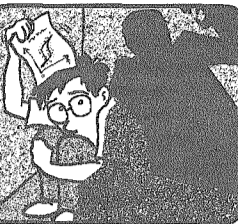
we now return to our feature documentary: "The Grad Student: Call of the Wild" WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND, THE GRAD STUDENT'S ONLY KNOWN PREDATOR, THE "RESEARCH'S ADVISORUS", PREPARES TO POUNCE ON AN UNSUSPECTING VICTIM.



SPOTTING THE IMPENDING PERIL, THE GRAD STUDENT ISSUES A WARNING CALL TO THE REST OF THE FLOCK. THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION IN THE OTHERWISE HERMIT-LIKE SPECIES.



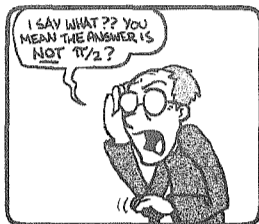
THE GRAD STUDENT'S UNIFORM APPEARANCE, CHARACTERIZED BY WHITE T-SHIRT, JEANS AND WHITE SNEAKERS, HELP CONFUSE THE PREDATOR IN THE ENSUING WILD STAMPEDE.



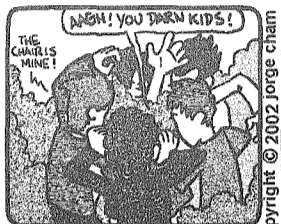
ONCE CORNERED, THE GRAD STUDENT'S DEFENSE MECHANISM TRIGGERS UNCONTROLLABLE TECHNICAL WHIMPERINGS AND "GRAPH WAVING," TAKING REFUGE IN WHAT IT CALLS, "A HEAVY COURSE LOAD."



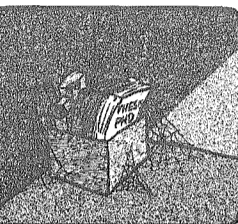
AFTER A FOUR-YEAR GESTATION PERIOD, THE GRAD STUDENT EMERGES FROM A LARVA STATE KNOWN AS "UNDEGRAD." HUNGRY, LOST AND DIS-ORIENTED, THE BUDDING CREATURE SPENDS THE REST OF ITS LIFE FORAGING FOR FOOD AND A THESIS TOPIC.



THE LIFESPAN OF THE GRAD STUDENT HAS BEEN RECORDED AS LONG AS 11 YEARS, OR 77 IN "GRAD YEARS". IT ENDS IN A GRUESOME RITUAL CALLED "THESIS DEFENSE," WHICH MANY EXPERTS LIKEN TO LEMMINGS' SENSELESS CLIFF-JUMPING.

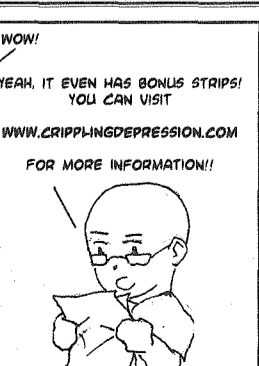
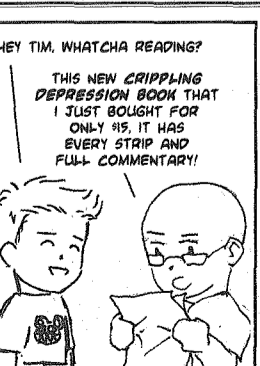
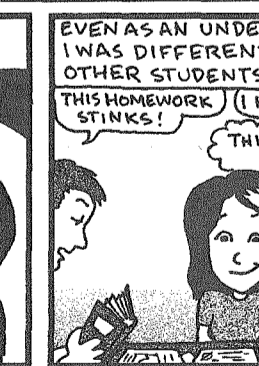
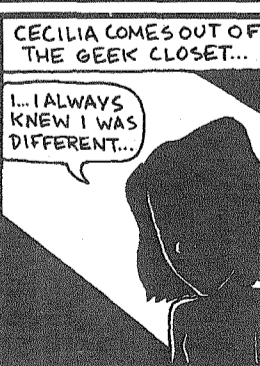
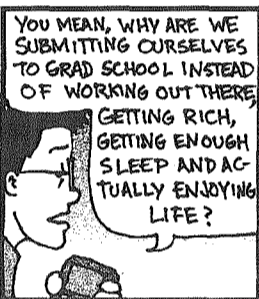
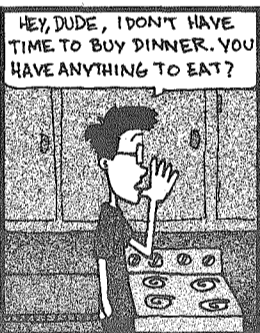
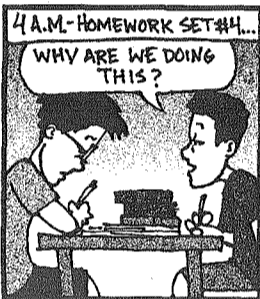


FINALLY, AS SEEN IN THIS GRISLY FOOTAGE, THE YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE BROOD FIGHT SAVAGELY OVER THE DEPARTING GRAD STUDENT'S TERRITORY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES, FOLLOWED BY THE RE-ORGANIZATION OF PECKINGORDER.



AND SO CONCLUDES OUR SHOCKING LOOK INTO THIS MAGNIFICENT, YET PATHETIC ANIMAL, WHOSE SEEMINGLY POINTLESS EXISTENCE ONLY HISTORY WILL VALIDATE ...

National Geographic



ASCIT Minutes
 May 30th, 2003, 4:01 PM, Olive Walk
 Present: Joanna Cohen, Tom Fletcher, Kim Hiscox, Kathryn Hsu, Galen Loram, Jeremy Pitts, Anna Sczaniecka, Andrea Vasconcellos, & Corinna Zygourakis.
 Guests: Natalia Deligne, Aaron Esser-Kahn, Abe Fetterman, Basit Kahn, Julia Ma, Ryan Olf, Kim Pependorf, Delia Rosca, Leo Stein, Marcus Williams, Libin Zhang & Others.

- Agenda
1. Call to order
 2. Crippling Depression will be selling their books on Monday and Tuesday for \$15.
 3. Andrea is going abroad to Cambridge next term, so the BoD will need a replacement UDAL.
 4. Koun Han would like to take Professor Linda Hsieh-Wilson out to lunch. Vote: 8-0-0, approved.
 5. Lisa Wang would like to take Professor Michelle Goeree out to lunch. Vote: 8-0-0, approved.
 6. Jackie Wilbur would like to take Professor Fred Culick out to lunch. Vote: 8-0-0, approved.
 7. The Islamic Association is going to be showing an educational movie about Islam next Thursday, June 5th at 7 PM. Basit Kahn requested \$100 for food. Vote: 8-0-0, approved. On another note, he would like to add that as Big T Business Manager, commission is going to remain 15%, the same as last year.
 8. Andy Conner requested \$800 to help cover the costs of a "social hour" that is going to be held in a different house each night of the week starting with Friday, June 6th. That's a lot of money and the BoD is hoping to partially fund the event with unused multihouse funding. Andy needs to check with the houses that haven't requested the funding to make sure it's okay.
 9. No students have signed up for the Institute Programs Committee yet, so signups will remain up until Sunday, June 1st at 5 PM. The BoD will hold committee interviews on Sunday, June 1st at 10 PM.
 10. Resolution Discussion: There appear to be some concerns about this resolution and its wording. A number of students are unhappy with the arbitrary limit of two meetings of absence as grounds for removal. Also there is disagreement as to whether the committee summaries

should be posted online or printed in the *Tech* in addition to being posted online. The BoD will consider only the first half of the resolution for vote next time. This portion requires students to submit summaries, but does not include consequences for not attending.

11. Officer Reports
 Tom says that the ISP presented their petition regarding Parandeh Kia's dismissal to the Faculty Board and that President Baltimore was less than receptive. A number of curriculum changes were also discussed at the meeting, including the new CS curriculum.

Galen continues to crush souls. Last week he gave a presentation on the Honor Code to the Social Sciences Department. Also the BoC is working with the Hixon Writing Center to enlighten students about plagiarism. In addition Galen is also working on putting together a special program to help clarify the Honor Code to international students. The BoC is also going to work more closely with the GRB to help educate faculty and students about the two boards.

Joanna finally got the ASCIT credit card, which means that Mannie and the Dev Team can finally receive money for JamRoom equipment and DVDs

Kathryn says that she would like to organize an awards banquet but funding and timing are an issue. She talked to the MOSH and they would be willing to contribute \$300. Kathryn will go talk to the Athenium and Tom Mannion on Monday. On another note, she is still waiting for officer reports from the SFC.

Kim says the ASCIT formal went down as planned and that ASCIT fell short of their estimated goal by only \$1500 - less than last year.

Jeremy and Andrea are both helping to put together Caltech 1A, the new student orientation. They are hoping to organize a carnival-like event with a dunk tank and bouncy castle.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM
 Respectfully Submitted,
 Anna Sczaniecka

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To the Seniors: Make a Difference as Tech Alumni

By TED JOU

I've been writing a lot of columns preaching to the underclassmen, but I'll make my last column in this paper one for the seniors.

In just eleven days, the class of 2003 will graduate and join an exclusive club of just over 10,000 BS recipients. We'll all get a nice piece of paper and earn the title of Caltech alumnus or alumna. But what does that really mean?

There was a barbecue for seniors a few weeks ago where the Alumni Association and Alumni Fund gave us free t-shirts and told us a little bit about being alumni. However, I think most seniors got a somewhat skewed impression from that event.

So first off, I want to explain the difference between the Alumni Association and the Alumni Fund. The Alumni Fund is really just a nice name for Caltech's fundraising ef-

forts, which center on calling alumni and asking them for donations. This is the way basically every university works. Tuition never covers the full cost of operating a university, so every school keeps a large endowment. At Caltech, the interest from this endowment provides almost ten times the amount of money collected in tuition each year, so the Alumni Fund plays a critical role in keeping the Institute running. However, from an alumni perspective, they're not much different from telemarketers.

On the other hand, the Alumni Association is completely separate from the Alumni Fund and distinct from the Institute. Like ASCIT, the Alumni Association is independently incorporated as a non-profit organization. The similarities with ASCIT don't stop there. Members of the Association pay yearly dues (although the first five years are

free) and the money goes toward a few social events and reunions, lectures, vacations, networking opportunities, and a few others.

Members also get a copy of the Caltech News, a quarterly newspaper. The Alumni Association also maintains an alumni directory and provides funding for student clubs and Houses. Money you give to the Alumni Association will never be used to pay the salaries of Caltech administrators but will only support services for alumni and current students.

The Alumni Association also provides opportunities for alumni to volunteer their time for Caltech Admissions. Most high school students would never hear anything about Caltech if there weren't for a few alumni going to college fairs and holding information sessions across the country.

For other volunteer opportunities, the Caltech Y can be as good of an outlet for alumni as it is for current students. For just \$100 a year, you can become a Friend of the Caltech Y, which gets you invited to various functions and keeps you up to date on Y activities. The Y is also its own distinct non-profit entity, so money you give to the Y will stay with the Y.

I've already said it a couple times, but you shouldn't overlook the fact that ASCIT is a non-profit corporation. This means that donations to ASCIT are tax deductible just like donations to Caltech, the Alumni Association, or the Caltech Y.

Earlier this year, Janet Zhou, the ASCIT Treasurer, and I took this one step further by setting up eight

funds through Caltech Development. You can now write checks to "ASCIT General Fund" and "ASCIT *Booty* House Fund" where *Booty* is replaced by the name of one of the seven Houses. Give the check to the ASCIT Treasurer along with your address for a receipt, and you will be able to donate money to ASCIT or your House of choice and subtract that amount from your taxable income.

Of course, one of the easiest ways to give money to ASCIT is to subscribe to this newspaper.

"As alumni, we will have the power to support the things we like."

I've listed a few non-traditional options for alumni donations, but we shouldn't forget that there is a big capital campaign going on. If you are perfectly happy with the things Caltech is doing with its money or you want to support many different causes all at once, now is as good a time as any to contribute to the Alumni Fund. If you want to target your contributions at particular areas of Caltech, the campaign actually gives you several ways to do that too.

If you thought summer research was the best thing about Caltech, donate to the SURF endowment and if you can come up with \$125k they will even name a SURF after you. If you want to see the Houses renovated, there is money being

collected for that cause. A Campus Center is another major construction project that will greatly benefit students.

Of course, you can always give money in creative ways that are outside of the campaign's listed objectives. Right now, about \$3 million is sitting in the Gordon and Betty Moore Fund and the Honorable Shirley M. Hufstetler Fund for Enhanced Quality of Student Life. Starting next year, this endowment will provide some \$150k a year to fund proposals for improving student life.

Many of us have spent four years at Caltech struggling to improve student life, and when we become alumni, there is no reason we should stop. In many ways, alumni have more power than students. Instead of meeting with administrators or holding protests, alumni can effect change with their checkbooks.

If you thought the Y was the best thing about Caltech, become a Y Friend. If you want to support the student houses, donate to the ASCIT House Funds or to the renovation project. If it is your fellow students and alumni that you care about most, join the Alumni Association.

The unfortunate truth is that it takes money to make things work. As students, all we could really do was ask for things we wanted and hope someone did something about it. As alumni, we will have the power to support only the things we like and an opportunity to shape Caltech's future. Once you have the money, put it where your mouth is and if we all do it, Caltech will start looking a lot more like the place we want it to be.

The Joys, Challenges Of Being A Student Leader

By ANDREA VASCONCELLOS

Like everything else, leadership at Caltech is strenuous. Essentially, two opposing forces are at work in the student body: apathy and opinionated-ness. Each introduces different challenges and subsequent choices.

Apathy. No one cares. The BoD spends a term discussing how to disseminate information effectively so that all students may be more involved in resolutions, and a likely outcome is that such efforts will win the hearts of maybe two apathetic Techers.

Yet, when student-faculty committees reach important decisions that affect the entire campus, students resent that the information was not made public. How to achieve a balance is the challenge. The available choices are to publish the minutes of all the committees in the *Tech*, or archive them online and simply include a link in the *Tech*. However, Techers will probably not read the minutes in whatever form they are disseminated. Therefore, the choices and solutions are complicated.

The opposing force: opinionated-ness. Everyone has an unchangeable opinion of what an "ideal Caltech" should be, and this makes innovation difficult. If a new idea is presented, almost immediately opinions go right and left, and it takes weeks to arrive at a consensus. Granted, this can be very beneficial, as different views make for a better proposal. Nevertheless, this can also be ineffective, because with strong opinions come strong emotions. It is not simply a game of compromise, it is a game of personality and conflict, when what is needed is cooperation with patience.

All this put aside, I find that the most difficult part of being a leader

is dealing with personal attacks. This is not to be confused with criticism. I agree that constructive criticism can provide good feedback, and encouragement can spur another to good deeds.

For example, assume a BoD member decides to pass a resolution that ASCIT will no longer provide donuts, so that ASCIT can spend more money toward other activities that benefit more students. It is perfectly reasonable for someone to say "Hey, I think you have good motives in trying to spend more money to favor more students, but I don't believe that not providing any donuts is the way to go. Perhaps instead you could provide less donuts and take a poll to find out which ones people really like, and buy just those." But unfounded attacks against a person's character cause pain and bitterness. It is inappropriate to say "You are so retarded for eliminating donuts, I can't believe such an idea would even occur to you. And I think your religion is dumb."

From the challenges that I've described above, leadership alone has enough associated stress. Adding the burden of character defamation is truly unnecessary. I have seen friends turn extremely bitter from such attacks, and I have been able to sympathize from personal experience. I remain optimistic and I think it is important for leaders to be hopeful, but character-mocking makes this especially difficult.

I submit that personal attacks are uncalled-for and detrimental. Why make a leader's job a burden, when it should be a joy? So let's put aside apathy, opinionated-ness and character attacks, and begin working in a spirit of cooperation. Greatest benefits are achieved from cooperative efforts!



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Andrea, front right, encourages everyone to give her and the BoD constructive criticism and not just personal attacks.

Security Integral in Maintaining Trust Students Must Take Personal Precautions to Ensure Safety

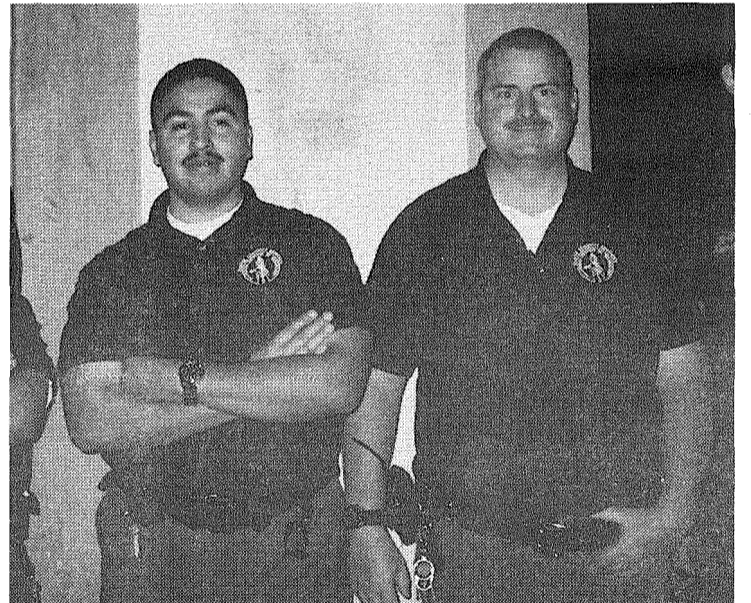
By ALIKA AH NEW and DAN IVY

Everyone here at Caltech knows the honor code. It is one of the major characteristics that make Caltech unique. The honor code has many advantages. It shows the students that they are trusted by the school to be responsible. For the most part, the honor code is very successful. There are always some instances, however, when the honor code is taken advantage of.

In last week's issue, a fellow undergraduate, Dima Kamalov spoke of several instances in which he has been violated while here at Caltech. It is at times like these that we have to really worry about the current status of the honor code. As some of the first students here in the twenty-first century, we must come to the realization that the honor code may not be followed with the utmost respect and admiration with which it has in the past. We are in a society in which not everyone can be trusted anymore; and for many, following values and morals is not a priority.

In a discussion with campus security chief Gregg Henderson, he mentioned that about 90% of all campus security issues he receives occur when people step out of their rooms for 10 or 15 minutes and come back to find that some personal items have been stolen. Henderson suggests that everybody lock their doors any time they leave their rooms, even if it is just for a couple of minutes.

To a person not from Caltech, this would seem like common sense. The problem is that students here take the honor code for granted. Students here trust the honor code and their fellow classmates and believe that if they leave their door wide open, nothing will be taken. Of course, this should be the case, but the truth is that there are several students that take advantage of the honor code. On top of this, there are people outside of Caltech that come onto campus and may possi-



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Despite Caltech's honor code, Security plays an integral role in keeping the students and campus safe.

bly be the cause of some of these security problems.

A unique aspect of the housing system is its openness to everyone. Students from any house can come and go as they please, but so can strangers. This possible flaw in our system has been taken advantage of time and time again, and we are all aware of it. To avoid possible problems of theft done by strangers, or even fellow students, we must report all suspicious activity to security.

We have heard several people joke about how security is useless and how they really serve no purpose here at our safe and secure campus, but this is actually not the case. Security is here to not only to make our campus secure but also to provide us with help whenever we need it.

Gregg Henderson further mentioned ways that security could be of service to the students here. One of the things he mentioned was a taxi voucher service that security runs.

If a group of students are in the Pasadena area and don't feel that it

is safe enough to walk back to campus, the students can call security and ask for taxi vouchers. Security will drive to the students' location, give them taxi vouchers and call a taxi for them. This is a valuable service designed to give students a safer and easier way of getting back to campus. Yet, it is not currently being used to its full extent, probably due to the fact that many students are unaware that such a service even exists.

Being a student here at Caltech is an undergraduate experience like no other. Mr. Henderson understands this and really wants us to have fun while we are here; but please, be safe and sane in doing so.

Our honor code is the foundation for our secure campus, but there is no such thing outside of Caltech. Our community as a whole needs to realize that the institution is not isolated from the rest of society, but is in the middle of one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world.

The institution's honor code can only be expected to do so much to foster a safe environment—personal precaution must do the rest.

Trend of Power Abuse Must Change

By EMIL KARTALOV

I love Caltech. I have spent the past nine years here, being an undergrad, then research staff, then graduate student.

There are many important things that make this place unique and special, some which lie beyond the scope of academics and research. Examples include the healthy spirit of the community, the idea of personal and communal responsibility, the feeling of trust towards the fellow-techer, and the unquestionable knowledge that others would do the right thing.

It is exactly those assets that I have felt increasingly concerned about in view of a string of troubling events in most recent years.

It started with a recurrent pattern of incidents involving Ricketts, but then progressed to administrative reorganizations, increased load on the BoC, increased crime, the firing of Dr Chiron, the Vectors affair, the Ricketts disbandment threats, and finally, the firing of Parandeh Kia. I believe all these are logically connected, and I find the trends they indicate to be quite disturbing.

Much has been written about the Ricketts troubles. What I can tell really happened was a few students acted irresponsibly and dangerously due to an explosive combination of stress and immaturity. While in fear

of legal liability, the administration responded clumsily with measures punishing all for the sins of the few. The resultant student outcry plunged the entire system in a pathetic and horrifying vicious circle of recriminations, attacks and counterattacks.

What went wrong here? What would have happened if the matter had been handled "old-style"?

The few responsible would have been properly disciplined through BoC and the dean. The new safety guidelines would not have become a political issue but a matter of common sense. The trust and goodwill between interested parties would have been retained. Why wasn't that done?

My explanation is that the new Director of Student Affairs, Kim West, being unfamiliar with the unique climate and levers of control at Caltech, decided to go full-bore with group punishments more suited for schools ten times bigger and more impersonal than Caltech. The immaturity stirred emotions, and undisciplined behavior of parts of the student community did not help matters either. But since many undergrads are practically kids, I contend that more responsibility goes to the mature experienced skillful administrators, who should know better.

My deepest respects to Dr. Balti-

more. A man must have done something right to be a professor; a man must have done a lot right to be a Nobel laureate; a man must have done almost everything right to be Caltech president.

However, Dr. Baltimore has also demonstrated a very inflexible, single-minded, and authoritative approach, which while very useful in braving the challenges of top-notch research, is hardly the most desirable toolbox in dealing with the intricate patterns of human psychology, which is what the job as a leader requires.

These matters came to point in the Vectors affair. In the end, Dr. Baltimore made the right decision, but not before much damage was done to the communal spirit in general and to the trust of the community in our administrative leadership.

Dr. Baltimore's more recent attitudes on the Ricketts issue are again ones of pre-formed opinion and authoritative inflexibility. Hence, the Vectors final decision was not a consequence of reconsidered administrative action but a temporary concession under public pressure.

What is then the West-Baltimore connection? In my mind, it is clear that the newer administrative trend is "Might Makes Right" (MMR). Yes, there was a long controversy around the Ricketts firepot, but in the end, the flame will no longer blaze in Ricketts, regardless of protests. Yes, Vectors was ultimately cancelled, but the very fact they could go forward for so long under such public outcry showed the power of power.

Next, we proceed to Professor Chiron's firing. This man had been with Caltech for longer than I can remember (and that is pretty long). He was highly respected and loved by the students. His course on Russian literature was always overflowing with students, which is something quite unusual for HSS in Caltech. Suddenly, a shadowy hand reached out and snuffed him out, while the community was fed the most meager of trite explanations about "reorganization," "being non-essential," and "new languages needing to be introduced," while a plethora of unattended, bizarre, and unwanted courses remained.

Several hundred students rallied in his support, but in the end, he remained fired. In fact, there was hardly a bother by the shadowy hand to come out in public and explain itself.

Might Makes Right. If you hold the knife, what does it matter what others think, right? You can hack and slash while they can only scream.

Next, we get a new administrator, who does not miss an occasion to express heart-felt sympathy and concern, so it must mean that she cares, mustn't it? However, she simultaneously considers disbanding a whole undergraduate house and fires the heart and soul of ISP, somebody who has been at Caltech for ten years and has personally helped nearly every foreign student one way or another.

The very fact that VP of Student Affairs Margo Marshak can even conceive of such a thing as disbanding Ricketts is a obvious display of ignorance of the importance of undergraduate houses to the social climate of Caltech.

No matter how silly and immature undergraduates can be, Marshak's attitude is also an admission of either despair or inflexibility, since big threats are only issued when communication is either broken or unwanted. The fact that Marshak, new at Caltech and new in office, would already caress big red buttons should be unsettling for anybody who must form an opinion of her based on her actions.

And just recently, a couple of hundred student voices of support for Parandeh Kia seemed to fall on plugged ears, judging by Marshak's reaction to the rally. In my eyes, this is like hitting some-

body in the stomach with one hand, while the other hand caresses his head with "there-there's."

The MMR approach promotes personal power for those willing to do whatever it takes to get whatever they want. It promotes the spirit of fear and amorality, because if Might Makes Right, then there are no social or ethical checks to anything. Anybody is fair game. Anything can be done. The only thing that matters is if you can get away with it.

If popular and revered cadres like Chiron and Kia can be vaporized in an instant, then nobody is safe. The only possible safety is to be found in grabbing more power for yourself, since Might Makes Right. This will escalate into scheming, backstabbing, political maneuvering, even more hypocrisy, and finally abuse of authority, disposal of your enemies with the feeblest of formal excuses. Or, has it already happened?

I contend that evidence of this darkness is already present in the sharply increased load on the BoC, the increase in crime rate. The pub-

"In my mind, it is clear that the newer administrative trend is 'Might Makes Right.'"

licly accepted reason for the BoC spike is that people argue over the smallest of things and quickly resort to the BoC instead of resolving their differences with compromise among themselves. Why is that? I contend this is because the community is losing its conception of right and wrong. When right and wrong are dimmed, what is left is what is allowed and what is not, i.e. what you can and cannot get away with. Sound familiar?

If you can take advantage of your classmate or housemate and get away on a lame excuse, why not do it? After all, they fired Chiron on a lame excuse and it stuck. The seventy people in Ricketts were punished over many years for the misdeeds of several, so justice can no longer be expected.

In an atmosphere of fear and MMR, everybody is on his own, everybody is out for himself. People are lonely and depressed. Everybody fears everybody. If some extremists run amok, why would you risk your own popularity within the house and risk the extremists' wrath, by stepping forward and taking a stand?

Getting involved is dangerous. Sticking out is dangerous. Keep away and let them do as they will. They will get punished or they will get away with it, either way it is not your business, so long as nobody keeps you responsible. They break the house furniture; ah well, it is not your furniture, so it is ok. Now escalate this to courses, labs, auditoriums, etc, and keep squaring it until we wake up one day and cannot recognize our surroundings.

Now after all this criticism, what can be done? Well, I don't think making stinky-town on the Olive Walk is the answer. Any such hippy-

style nonsense only confirms the impression in the mostly conservative circles of the administration and faculty that students are a bunch of immature youth rebels, badly in need of discipline, soap and shoes, and thus worthless in terms of intelligent polite discussion.

It is true that Caltech has never been and is not a democracy. Caltech is a private institution, whose administration has no hierarchic obligation to answer to anyone but to those who appoint it, and to the U.S. Legal Code.

That being said, there are closed control loops, which are equally effective, while not being administrative, judiciary, or hierarchic in nature. A gardener can always slash his flowers to shreds, thus forcing his authoritative will upon them, but he cannot force them to grow; instead, he must nurture them properly. Therein lies the control circuit. Cause and effect, action and reaction are stronger lines of power than any memo, suspension, or disbandment.

Those among you students who think highly of the '60's approaches of administration are doing and will be doing a great disservice to Caltech, themselves, true traditions, and future Techers! No matter how bitter and stressed you are, you should refuse to succumb to bad behavior. If there are a few theoheds among you, keep them under control, so that the entire community does not suffer for their individual escapades. If you cannot do that, kick them out of the house by vote, even if they are your best friends.

Engage the administration in polite and thoughtful dialog through your elected student leaders, visit the shower and a barber more often, use your head for social decisions as you do for your homework, and positive changes will occur. This disgraceful downward spiral will be broken with enough effort.

The admin. will be less likely to appoint extremists, trust and mutual respect will flourish, and before long, the administration will be laughing at your thoughtful, safe, witty pranks, as opposed to punishing you for your dangerous, immature, illegal ones. The former spirit of Caltech will be regained.

As far as the administration goes, how about promoting officers from the ranks instead of bringing in authoritarians, who grab the machete before they get properly familiarized with the subtleties of their new environment? How about keeping and promoting deserved officers who have invested their heart and soul in Caltech and its small community for many years, instead of showing them the door at a day's notice?

Don't turn Caltech into a police state. You can always find formal justifications for just about anything, but be mindful of your true reasons and the consequences your choices bring about for everybody. How about being more flexible, more conscious of one's preconceptions, more eager to learn the place, more trustful of former traditions? If Caltech was made what it is by the efforts of the past, there must have been at least something done right by those before you. The choice is yours. Long Live Caltech!

I Should Change My Name To Something More Patriotic

By LIBIN ZHANG

The problem with my name Libin is that its anglicized pronunciation rhymes with 'ribbon,' which sounds terrifyingly close to the terrorist-linked name Ibn.

Hence, it is possible that a confused listener might think my name is Arabic in origin and report me to the Department of Homeland Security. While the alliterative phrase 'Libin Laden' does have a nice euphonic ring to it, it may have become necessary for me to adopt a name more pleasing to the American ear.

I am certainly not alone in adopting a name more familiar the majority. A simple search of my last name on the Caltech directory produced people with the first names Kate and David, not counting nicknames that have not been officially recorded. Similar searches with other Asian last names produce the usual Charles's, John's, Julia's, and so on. While some may have been give the names at birth, I suspect that many were frustrated at how often their old names were mispronounced.

People who had been in the same dilemma realize there is a trade-off in getting a new name. A more accessible name can increase one's chance of success in life, but a certain amount of heritage and pride is also lost. Thailand forced all of its Chinese residents to adopt Thai names, an effort to reduce Chinese clout with some success. In the end, however, the benefits outweigh the costs.

If Alois Schicklgruber had not changed the family's surname, his son Adolf would have had a harder time becoming ruler of Germany.

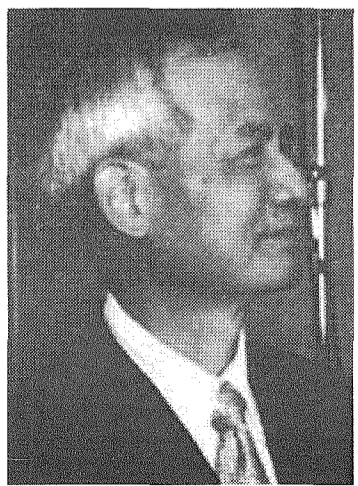
Studying the name history of the Prince, I realize that a new name should not be picked lightly. Something common or unoriginal is preferable; I do not wish to join the host of Michael's or Kelly's. On the other hand, something esoteric is bound to generate confusion, thus defeating the whole purpose of a new name. A friend from high school changed his name from Zixi to Green; He liked the color. I should pick something more mainstream.

A look at a baby names dictionary provided me with some nice

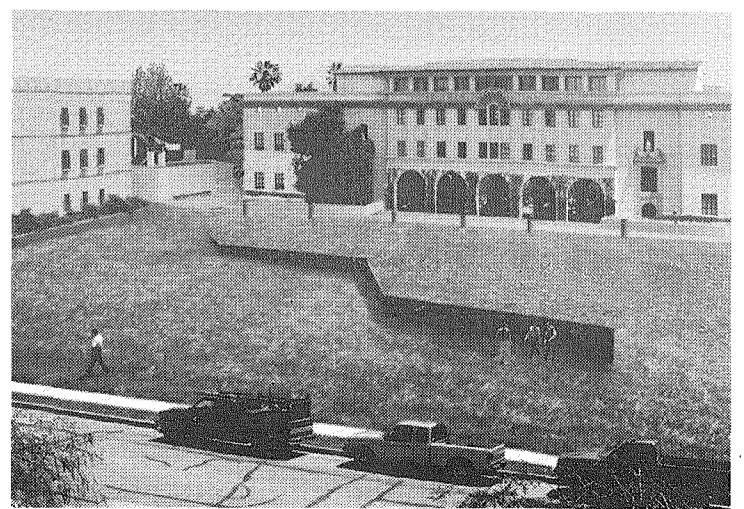
choices. Good, tough names. However, a certain Simpsons episode (4F11) informed me that the names Bruce, Lance, and Julian have been co-opted by homosexuals, so I scratched that idea.

A physics TA provided me with an inspiration. He uses the name Wilfred, which I believe is a tribute to that great English poet Wilfred Owen. If the name sounds unfamiliar, all but the first stanza of Wilfred Owen's great anti-war poem "Dulce et Decorum Est" was reproduced in a Fireside Chat on March 17, 2003. I find it exciting that a contemporary would pay rare tribute to someone killed in action near the unfamiliar waters of the Sambre-Oise canal, seven days before the end of World War I.

I will also recognize the achievements of a noted writer. After much research and avoiding writers from the Land of Freedom [France], I have settled on the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1999. I feel a strange familiarity with his experiences. His essays develop fair and balanced arguments based on facts embedded in historical contexts. His novels have been highly controversial in his native land, yet he has not flinched from mocking the faults of his people. He is also still alive. The next time you see me, you may call me Günter.



Courtesy of L. Zhang
Wen Ho Lee may have had an easier time when he was accused of stealing nuclear missile secrets if he had adopted a less Chinese-sounding name, like Billy Bob Lee, or John Smythe Bush.



The California Tech Archives
Vectors was just one in a group of administrative decisions that angered Caltech students and contributed to the current rift.

Astronomers Weigh Pulsar's Planets

By ROBERT TINDOL

For the first time, the planets orbiting a pulsar have been "weighed" by measuring precisely variations in the time it takes them to complete an orbit, according to a team of collaborating Caltech and Pennsylvania State University researchers.

Reporting at the summer meeting of the American Astronomical Society, postdoctoral researcher Maciej Konacki and Penn State astronomy professor Alex Wolszczan announced today that masses of two of the three known planets orbiting a rapidly spinning pulsar 1,500 light-years away in the constellation Virgo have been successfully measured. The planets are 4.3 and 3.0 times the mass of Earth, with an error of 5 percent.

The two measured planets are nearly in the same orbital plane. If the third planet is coplanar with the other two, it is about twice the mass of the moon. These results provide compelling evidence that the planets must have evolved from a disk of matter surrounding the pulsar, in a manner similar to that envisioned for planets around sun-like stars, the researchers say.

The three pulsar planets, with their orbits spaced in an almost exact proportion to the spacings between Mercury, Venus, and Earth, comprise a planetary system that is astonishingly similar in appearance to the inner solar system. They are clearly the precursors to any Earth-like planets that might be discovered around nearby sun-like stars by the future space interferometers such as the Space Interferometry Mission or the Terrestrial Planet Finder."

Surprisingly, the planetary system around the pulsar 1257+12 resembles our own solar system more than any extrasolar planetary system discovered around a sun-like star," Konacki said. "This suggests

that planet formation is more universal than anticipated."

The first planets orbiting a star other than the sun were discovered by Wolszczan and Dale Frail of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory around an old, rapidly spinning neutron star, PSR B1257+12, during a large search for pulsars conducted in 1990 with the giant, 305-meter Arecibo radio telescope.

Neutron stars are often observable as radio pulsars, because they reveal themselves as sources of highly periodic, pulse-like bursts of radio emission. They are extremely compact and dense leftovers from supernova explosions that mark the deaths of massive, normal stars.

The exquisite precision of millisecond pulsars offers a unique opportunity to search for planets and even large asteroids orbiting the pulsar. This "pulsar timing" approach is analogous to the well-known Doppler effect so successfully used by optical astronomers to identify planets around nearby stars. Essentially, the orbiting object induces reflex motion to the pulsar which result in perturbing the arrival times of the pulses.

Just like the Doppler method, however, the pulsar timing method is sensitive to stellar motions along the line-of-sight, the pulsar timing can only detect pulse arrival time variations caused by a pulsar wobble along the same line. The consequence of this limitation is that one can measure only a projection of the planetary motion onto the line-of-sight and cannot determine the true size of the orbit.

Soon after the discovery of the planets around PSR 1257+12, astronomers realized that the heavier two must interact gravitationally in a measurable way, because of a near three-to-two commensurability of their 66.5- and 98.2-day orbital periods. As the magnitude and the exact pattern of perturbations re-

sulting from this near-resonance condition depend on a mutual orientation of planetary orbits and on planet masses, one can, in principle, extract this information from precise timing observations.

Wolszczan showed the feasibility of this approach in 1994 by demonstrating the presence of the predicted perturbation effect in the timing of the planet pulsar. In fact, it was the first observation of such an effect beyond the solar system, in which resonances between planets and planetary satellites are commonly observed. In recent years, astronomers have also detected examples of gravitational interactions between giant planets around normal stars.

Konacki and Wolszczan applied the resonance-interaction technique to the microsecond-precision timing observations of PSR B1257+12 made between 1990 and 2003 with the giant Arecibo radio telescope. In a paper to appear in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, they demonstrate that the planetary perturbation signature detectable in the timing data is large enough to obtain surprisingly accurate estimates of the masses of the two planets orbiting the pulsar.

The measurements accomplished by Konacki and Wolszczan remove a possibility that the pulsar planets are much more massive, which would be the case if their orbits were oriented more "face-on" with respect to the sky. In fact, these results represent the first unambiguous identification of Earth-sized planets created from a protoplanetary disk beyond the solar system.

Wolszczan said, "This finding and the striking similarity of the appearance of the pulsar system to the inner solar system provide an important guideline for planning the future searches for Earth-like planets around nearby stars."

Law Faculty Grill Students In Michigan Race Debate

Continued from Page 1, Column 3

ling state interest in having a diverse student body." The reason for this interest is that lawyers "need to be representative of the people they represent."

Kousser asked Chang what makes a diverse student body better and what makes race more important than other types of diversity. The response was that people from different parts of society have different experiences and that a diverse student body helps spread these different ideas.

Kousser then inquired why applicants couldn't just write essays about their experiences. McCaffery pointed out that minority lawyers will not necessarily represent minorities and that admitting minorities under lower standards is a racist message.

Chang closed his statement saying that giving emphasis to minorities helped right past wrongs and that the plan was consistent with the *Bakke* decision.

Representing Gratz and Hamacher in their case against the undergraduate portion of the University of Michigan was Jim Rebesco. He began his argument with an eloquent statement about how the standard of *Bakke* is not met since the point system does not judge candidates on an individual basis.

"Affirmative action perpetuates racism," he said. He went on to state that for this reason, there is a compelling state interest to remove racial advantages in college admission. He also made the argument that action is needed before the college level to level the playing field.

Defending the University of Michigan was Montague. She stated that the University's point system is based on the *Bakke* decision. There are 20 points on the application rating scale that can be

awarded once to a student for a number of different qualities, one of which is race. The university, argued Montague, is striving to bring everyone to equal ground since everyone isn't equal.

Kousser asked how we'll know when everyone is equal and how we know that we're not there? Since admitting only top students doesn't yield representative populations of minorities, we know that equality hasn't been reached. Kousser then pointed out that we can only tell equality using that argument by having a quota.

Montague continued her argument by explaining that the point system is just a guide for admission counselors, but each application is still reviewed individually. Also, the 20 points for race is insignificant when compared with other factors such as the 110 points available for academics. The total points is only 150.

Rebesco gave the plaintiffs' rebuttal. He attacked the 20 points for race, saying that the university had previously conceded that the points were sufficient for minimally qualified students to be accepted and that the 20 points had been chosen so to give approximately the same amount of minority students as when the university had a quota system. He said that the Court should require admission programs to review more individually and show that there is a compelling interest to have diversity.

Montague gave the defendants' rebuttal. Citing the fact that the minority percentages vary by year and applicant pool, it should be clear that there is no quota. She emphasized the point that we need minority lawyers to serve as role models, and added that the military academies use quotas.

Kousser pointed out in response that affirmative action is needed in the military to keep it diverse.

Montague's final point dismissing the charges of using a quota was that the law school's primary litmus test for admission is simply whether a student has the tools to succeed at the school.

After a brief break, the judges reconvened to offer comments on the mock trial. Kousser praised all of the speakers for taking on the difficult arguments, but said that some points had been conceded too early. He praised Chang for taking on the role at the last minute so that the teams could be completed. McCaffery advised the participants to "be aware of what the judges can do" and what they need to do to win.

All of the judges complimented Rebesco for his eloquence and quick thinking. Fender recommended that the participants try and predict all of the possible counter-arguments to be ready for them.

Kousser ended the night pointing out that Caltech is the only elite institution that couldn't have Black or Latino arguments at this kind of event because "Caltech hasn't found a way to attract minorities."

The real arguments for this case were heard before the Supreme Court on April 1.

Law Expert Brest Granted Trustee Board Membership

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS-HEDGES

Paul Brest, president of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park, California, has been named a member of Caltech's Board of Trustees.

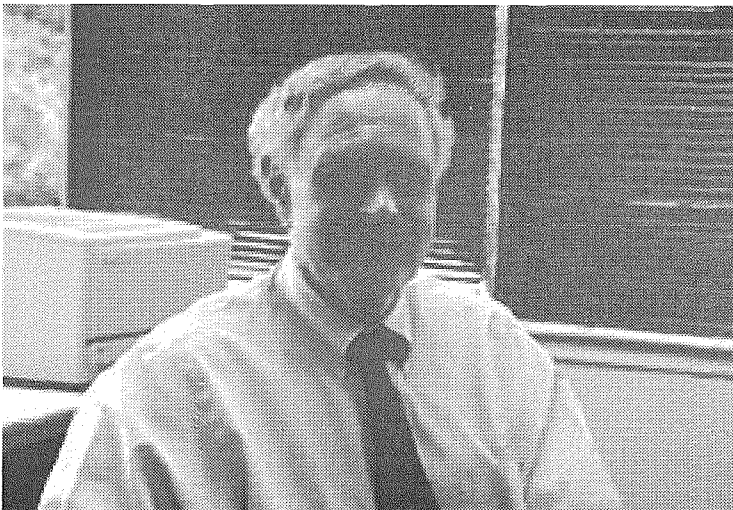
Brest received an A.B. from Swarthmore College in 1962 and an LL.B. from Harvard Law School in 1965. Brest served as law clerk to Supreme Court Justice John M. Harlan and practiced with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc., in Jackson, Mississippi, doing civil rights litigation.

In 1969, Brest joined the faculty of Stanford Law School, where he won the title of Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law. His research and teaching focused on constitutional law and decision making. His writings in constitutional law include

articles on constitutional interpretation, race discrimination, and affirmative action. He also coauthored a book, *Processes of Constitutional Decision Making*.

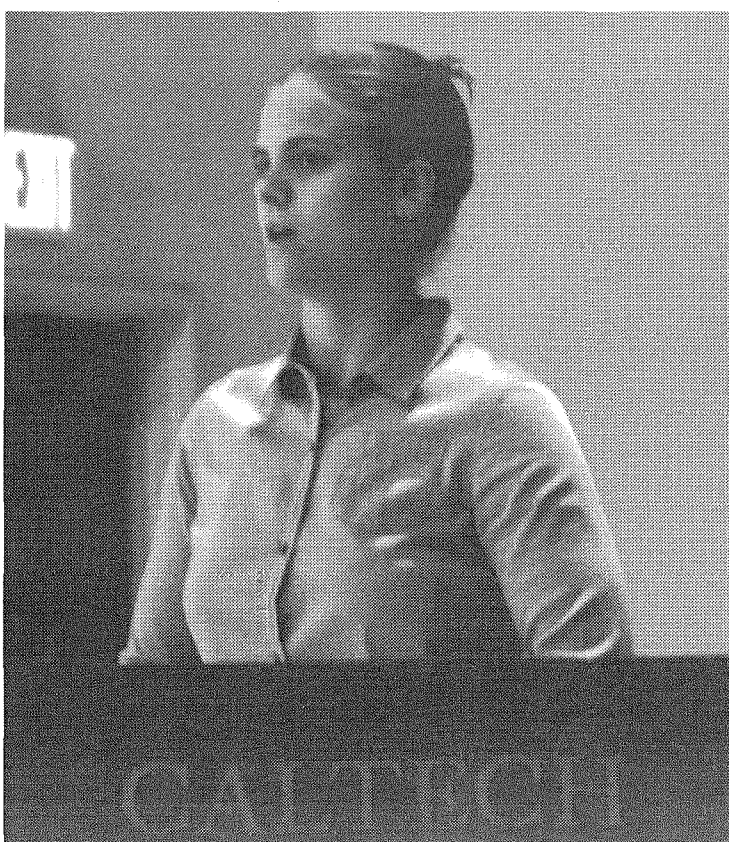
From 1987 to 1999, Brest served as dean of Stanford Law School, where he spearheaded expansion of the school's curriculum in business, environmental law, high technology and negotiation and led a \$115 million capital campaign.

Brest has been a visiting professor at Yale Law School and a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. Brest also holds honorary degrees from Northeastern Law School and Swarthmore College and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Courtesy of the World Wide Web

Former Stanford dean Paul Brest is a newly minted member of Caltech's Board of Trustees.



P. Dormiani/The California Tech

A student speaks out on affirmative action in last Thursday's mock University of Michigan debate in Baxter Lecture Hall.

The California Tech

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