

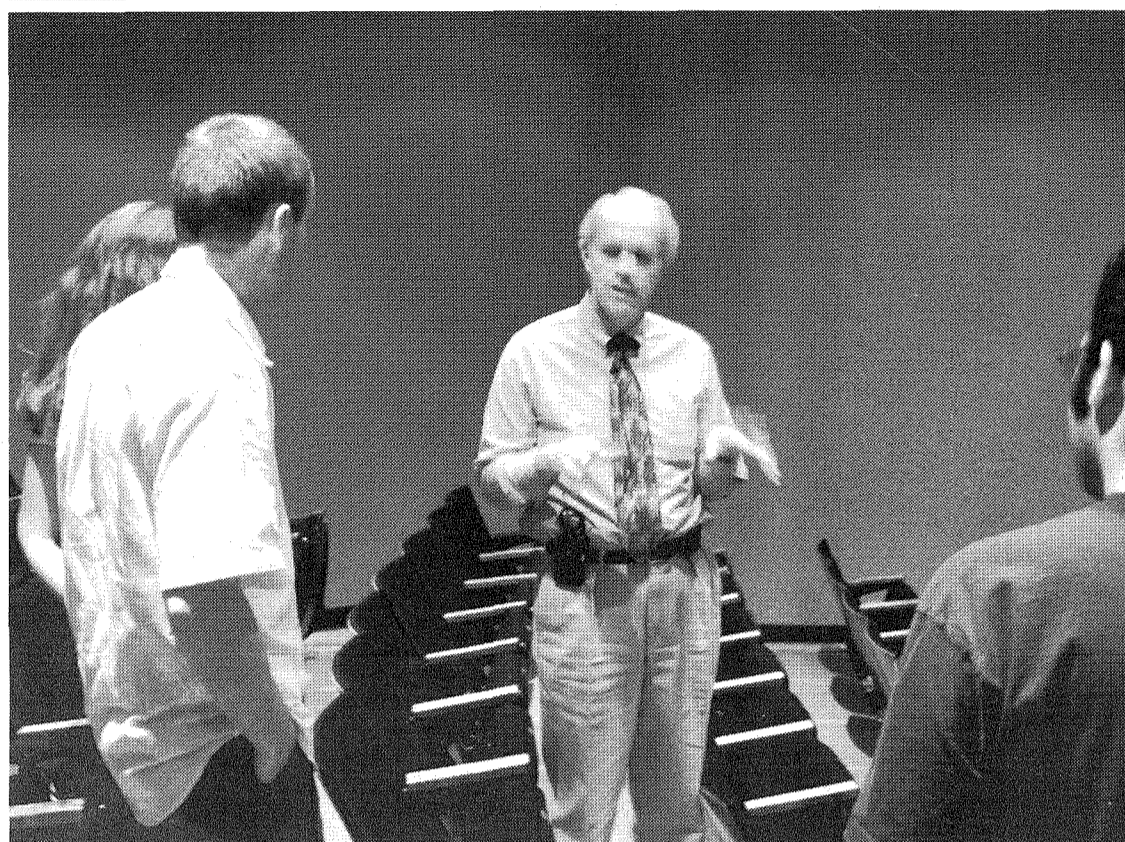


The California Tech

VOLUME CV, NUMBER 26

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 10, 2004



L. Tran/The California Tech

Mike Farrell, former M*A*S*H star, speaks with students before his talk about the problems with the death penalty and the reasons it should be repealed.

Television Star Makes Case For Abolition of Capital Punishment

By ADAM SEARS

Mike Farrell, who played a witty Dr. B.J. Hunnicutt on the popular wartime medical comedy M*A*S*H, visited the campus Thursday to speak about his work with Death Penalty Focus towards abolishing capital punishment. The death penalty has been present in America since colonial times, but was briefly banned by the Supreme Court in the 1970s. It shows up often on the political radar with other right-to-life controversies like abortion and euthanasia.

Farrell argued convincingly that the death penalty was unfairly and unjustly applied for about an hour, before stopping for questions. Each point was punctuated

with anecdotes of a clearly broken system, including exonerated prisoners and admissions of failure and impossibility from those in charge. Unfortunately, in hiding behind stories and statistics he neglected to address the more interesting underlying source of controversy.

The Justice System is permeated with prejudice. Nearly half of the inmates on death row are Black and another fifth are Hispanic. Juries are more likely to hand down the death sentence when whites are killed and government studies have shown that it is disproportionately pursued against minorities.

The poor are shortchanged as well. Without the savings to pay for high-powered lawyers, they

may be referred to public attorneys who should not be expected to have the level of competency and motivation necessary for a capital trial. On the inside, Farrell noted, this bias is summarized as,

Continued on Page 8, Column 4

IHC Survey Returns Expected Opposition

By KEVIN BARTZ

In a vote at its monthly meeting today that will all but seal the issue, the Faculty Board is expected to rubber-stamp the Student Housing Committee recommendation opening Avery House to freshmen in 2005, despite a new Interhouse Committee survey showing undergraduates at large opposing the measure by more than a five-to-one margin, including a majority of those living in Avery.

SHC head Kim Border will take six minutes to unpack his committee's reasoning in a seven-slide Keynote presentation. After a two-minute rebuttal by IHC Chair Kim Pependorf '06, the board will break into general discussion, culminating in a likely vote on whether to approve the recommendation.

"I believe that this agenda item has been carefully and widely

discussed by all 'stakeholders,'" explained Faculty Vice Chair Henry Lester, who's charged with overseeing today's proceedings, "and that the report to the Faculty Board will summarize these prior discussions."

Although a board vote approving the measure would fall short of commanding ultimate authority, it would be unprecedented for Student Affairs to ignore a recommendation endorsed by the Faculty Board.

Pependorf's two-minute rebuttal will emphasize the group's outspoken concern that placing freshmen in Avery would remove an option for students dissatisfied with the seven houses, highlighting a recent IHC survey that shows undergraduates overwhelmingly opposed to the measure.

"With those two minutes I will have time to make one, maybe

Continued on Page 7, Column 1

Gender Harassment Survey Disappoints

By K. SZWAYKOWSKA

What with the "ratio" at Caltech and with the slow death of gender prejudice in our society, one would hardly be surprised to see, from time to time, some small instance or other of gender tensions among the students. Like violations of the honor code, it happens. People aren't perfect. The surprising--and dismaying--thing is the number of such occurrences. A survey of graduate students last spring found that over 60% of the women and about 15% of the men, had experienced some form of gender-based harassment at least occasionally. The problem now is to figure out exactly what this tells us and what can be done about it.

The coming to light of the issue began at a meeting in the late summer of 2002, when graduate students decided to put together a large-scale quality of life survey to determine "how graduate students perceive Caltech". A joint committee of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and Women in Engineering, Science and Technology (WEST) was put together; its role was to develop the survey and interpret the results, with some support from outside sources (including Dr. Miriam Feldblum, Special Assistant to the President and Prof. Michael Alvarez, who helped with analyzing data for the final report).

The survey was written in due course and administered online to graduate students in May-June, 2003. It covered a range of topics, from gender harassment issues to questions about the cost of living and violations of the honor code, without dwelling in depth on any of them. The idea, according to Heather Cox and Steve Pracko of the Survey Committee, was to identify problematic aspects of life at Caltech, which could then be studied in closer detail and remedied as necessary.

The results for the gender harassment portion of the survey were quite surprising. Sixty-three percent of female and fifteen percent of the male respondents claimed to have experienced one of four listed forms of gender harassment occasionally to frequently and 32% of the respondents did not believe that the cli-

Continued on Page 2, Column 1

Portrayal Of Latino Lifestyle Realistic

By ROYAL REINECKE

On the evening before Cinco de Mayo, nationally syndicated cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz came and spoke in Beckman Institute Auditorium as a part of Caltech's Semana Latina. Alcaraz provided teachers and community members alike with a witty and personal presentation on comics, culture and politics.

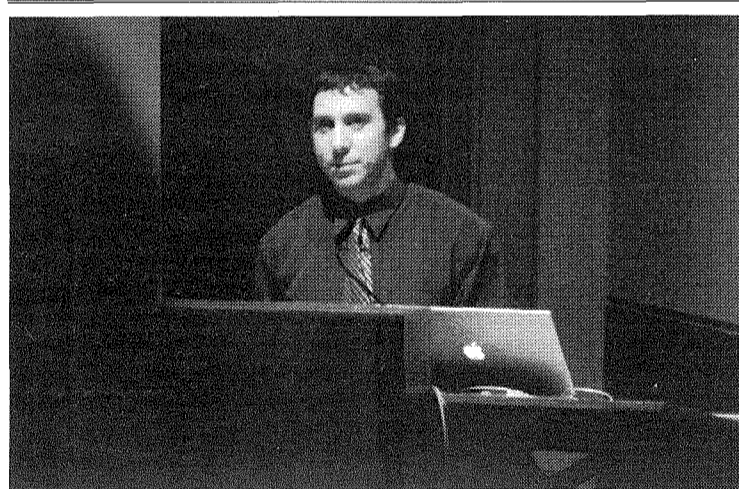
Although sensitive to the Latino people and culture, Alcaraz definitely makes it clear that he is "firmly against politically correct reputations." Above all he strives to portray Mexicans and other Hispanic people "as they are."

Both of Alcaraz's parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico before he was born. Although his father died when Alcaraz was just thirteen years old, the cartoonist's parents greatly influenced his views and work.

One of Alcaraz's early pieces titled "How to Spot a Mexican Dad" stirred up much controversy while on display in a gallery. The cartoon, based on Alcaraz's own dad, presented the Mexican father as a common laborer. Countless people, deemed "Chicano Yuppies" by Alcaraz, complained asking why the cartoon did not portray the man as "an astrophysicist" or "a microbiologist." Alcaraz finds such protests silly because he notes that "many of Mexicans you see are laborers and yet they are still funny, worthy people."

Even as a young child, Alcaraz would doodle on the margins of his papers during school. However, he really got his start as an

Continued on Page 8, Column 1



D. Korta/The California Tech

Shane Ross, a graduate student in control and dynamical systems, prepares to give his lecture on efficient interplanetary travel.

Gravity Wells Provide Efficient Travel Route

By WILLIAM FONG

On Wednesday, Caltech graduate student Shane Ross gave a talk in the Everhart Lecture Series titled "The Interplanetary Transport Network: Space Transportation Architecture for the 21st Century." Ross received his bachelor's degree from Caltech in physics in 1998 and expects to complete his doctoral degree in control and dynamical systems this June. In his short research career, Ross has already authored over 25 publications, spoken at over 20 conferences and written a book. He has also received a 2004 National Science Foundation Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Recently, President Bush has

outlined broad objectives for the NASA space program, including a return trip to the moon and a manned mission to Mars. These missions will require the use of fuel-efficient rockets to carry the necessary payload.

However, the chemical rockets used by NASA do not meet this criterion. For example, the Apollo spacecraft used to land on the moon were 61% fuel by mass. The Pioneer/Voyager spacecraft launched in the 1970s to study the outer planets were 46% fuel despite using a rare 170-year alignment of the outer planets for gravitational propulsion. More recently, the Galileo launched to study Jupiter was 42% fuel and

Continued on Page 2, Column 3

Task Force Formed To Address Gender Issues

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

mate at Caltech is supportive of gender diversity. Overall, 37% of the women respondents had heard negative comments on their scientific ability based solely on gender and 45% had experienced unwanted attention based on gender (like pressure for dates or inappropriate touching).

The results, it seems, are unfortunately a pretty good representation of graduate student opinions; 53% percent of all graduate students participated in the survey, with no significant bias based on gender or nationality. Though students' descriptions of their experience with gender harassment varied widely over academic divisions, no division had lower than 44% of its women report having been subject to some form of harassment, while in chemistry and chemical engineering, 87% of the women experienced some form of gender harassment at least occasionally.

What is still unknown is what precisely is going on--whether the harassment is the work of a few individuals, or more widespread and nuanced than that; whether there tend to be occasional major incidents, or subtle things that accumulate over time to create a negative atmosphere for women at Caltech. The Survey Committee made a recommendation in the survey report that the issue be studied further to determine these details and resolve the issue in the best possible way (the full report and details on the survey are online, at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~survey/>).

When the results of the survey were presented at the March 8th Faculty Board Meeting, participants were unpleasantly surprised with the results. Candace Rypisi, of the Women's Center, who was an invited guest at the meeting, says that the report was "jarring"; though she sees many of these issues through her work at the Women's Center, the numbers were much higher than she had expected, indicating that many women may not seek help when gender harassment issues come up.

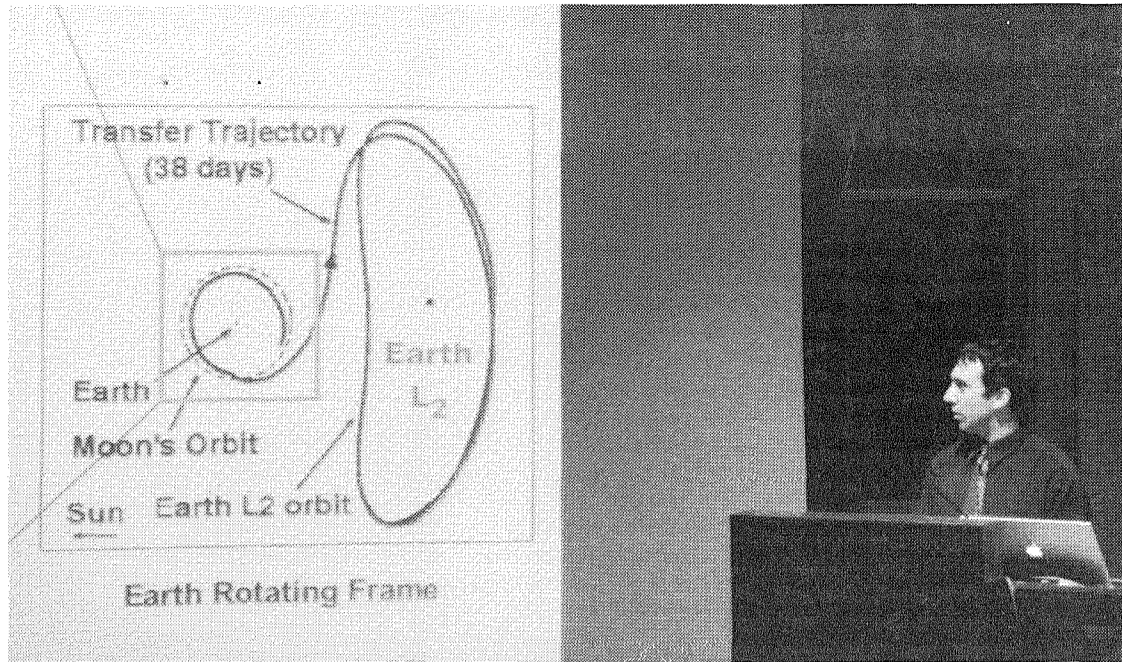
President Baltimore likewise found the report to be "dismaying". He appointed a task force, which has been charged with reviewing available data and making recommendations as to how

the issue should be addressed, by the end of the term. Margo Marshak, Vice President for Student Affairs and Professor John Bercaw are the appointed leaders of this task force, which consists of members of Caltech faculty and staff from various divisions, to represent as wide a spectrum of different views of the topic as possible.

The task force, like the Survey Committee before, is helped by support from Dr. Feldblum's office. As Dr. Feldblum puts it, they are currently in the midst of deciding what recommendations will be made, so nothing can be said for sure. As she says, however, they are a "strong, involved and interested committee" and much can be expected from them. Cadence Rypisi, a member of the task force, confirms that progress has been made. Members of the task force have been talking to individuals from different divisions on campus, as well as different offices.

There are many ideas as to what should be done, but none have yet been taken up by the entire task force. The issue is too nuanced and too many aspects must be dealt with. As Steven Pracko says, the climate for gender diversity at Caltech had to be made such that "people can talk about these issues as they arise." He and others hope that Caltech will lead the way for other institutions to also look at the problem of gender diversity, which also relates to the issue of the "leaky pipeline", or tendency for women to drop out of science after graduating faster than men, contributing to the related problem of low female-male faculty ratio.

The issue, so far, is most explicitly about the experience of graduate students. What the issues are among undergraduates has not been studied. The situation is somewhat different; most harassment experienced by graduate students takes place in laboratory groups, while undergraduates interact with peers in the student houses and in classes. The improvement of atmosphere for women on campus, however, may well extend to undergraduates and hopefully will be a step toward equality for all women involved in science.



Shane Ross presents one of his slides describing how spacecraft could make use of Lagrange points and gravity wells to conserve fuel. Ross expects to complete his doctorate this summer.

Comet Orbits, Lagrange Points Inspire New Space Travel Paths

Continued from Page 1, Column 4

the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous, an asteroid lander, was 40% fuel. For comparison, a car is 5% fuel by mass.

Therefore, rockets are inefficient and much of the payload capacity is being used to transport fuel rather than scientific instruments. This inefficiency is due to the large amount of thrust required to escape the gravitational field of Earth and to travel vast distances. While not much can be done about the fuel needed to leave Earth, the fuel needed for interplanetary travel can be reduced by the use of low energy passageways driven by gravity.

In a revolutionary advance, the Genesis spacecraft launched in 2001 to collect a sample of the solar wind was only 4% fuel by mass. Such a reduction was made possible through the understanding of dynamics. First, consider two masses, such as the sun and Earth, as two bowling balls on a sheet, with each making an indentation, or gravitation well, in the sheet.

Using this model, Leonhard Euler determined three points of gravitational balance labeled

L1, L2 and L3 (known today as Lagrange points). L1 is located between the sun and Earth, L2 is located on the opposite side of Earth (with L1 and L2 equidistant from Earth) and L3 is located behind the sun. Both L1 and L2 are unstable points, thus a small perturbation applied to an object located at one of these two points would cause it to drift into the gravitational wells.

Joseph-Louis Lagrange added two more points of balance, L4 and L5, that were located perpendicular to the line connecting the sun and Earth and collinear with L1. L4 and L5 are stable points, thus objects such as asteroids would tend to collect at these points. Although initial interest was centered on L4 and L5 due to their stability, current research in interplanetary travel surrounds L1 and L2 because a small thrust applied to spacecraft located at these unstable points would send them rolling down the gravitational well and traversing a significant distance.

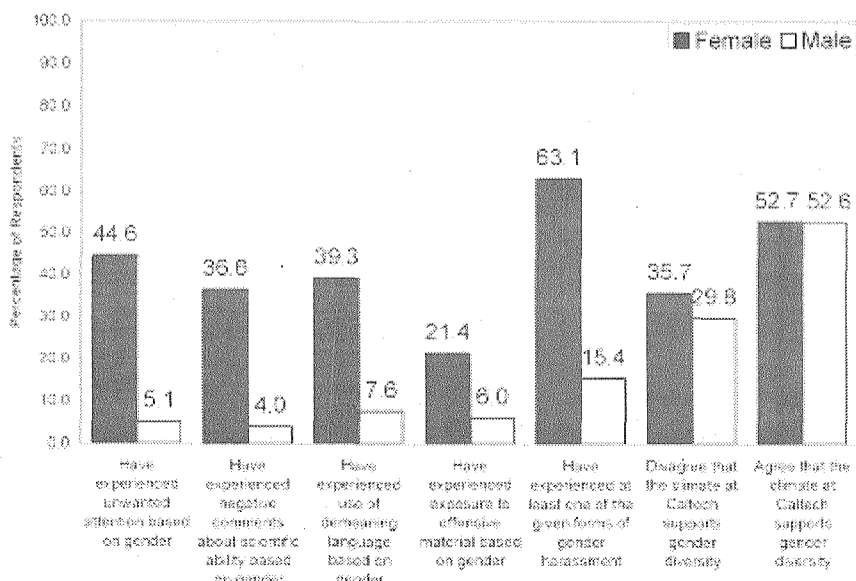
It is by the use of low energy passageways through the gravitational well of Earth that allows Genesis to run on a small amount

of fuel. After its launch from Earth, Genesis used a path that circled L1 and L2 many times before entering into orbit around L1 to collect its solar wind sample. Very little thrust is required to maintain this orbit. In its return trip in September, Genesis will once again exploit these low energy paths.

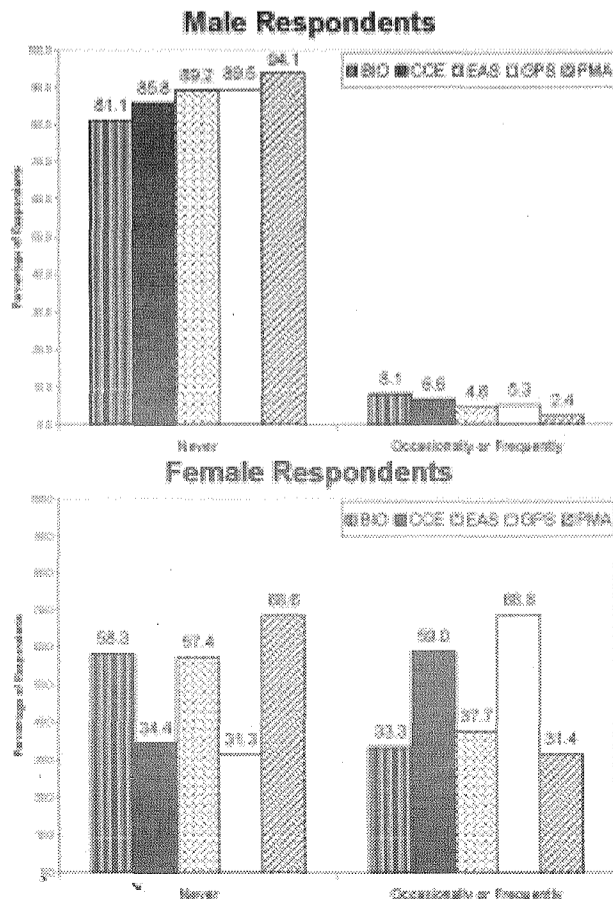
The gravitational well model can be applied to other pairs of bodies such as the Earth and the moon and the sun and other planets, with each pair of masses having its own set of Lagrange points. By tracking comets and other space objects through the solar system, the interaction of these Lagrange points can be studied. Since comets travel through the solar system without any energy source, it has been suggested that fuel efficiency can be improved by having spacecraft travel in paths similar to comets. Hence, an interplanetary path connecting multiple Lagrange points is more energy-efficient than a direct path.

Ross concluded his talk by mentioning that the success of Genesis has prompted NASA to consider the use of low energy paths and Lagrange points in future missions such as the Jupiter Icy Moons Orbiter and the Terrestrial Planet Finder. The research done by Shane Ross and his collaborators has indeed laid the foundation for interplanetary travel in the 21st century.

GSC Quality of Life Gender Harassment Survey Results



Unwanted Attention Based on Gender



The California Tech
 Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
 editorial desk: (626) 395-6153
 advertising desk: (626) 395-6154
 editorial e-mail: tech@tech.caltech.edu

VOLUME CV, NUMBER 26

Tammy Yee Wing Ma Vi Tuong Tran
 Managing Editor Business Manager

Matthew H Walker Circulation
 News Director Natalia Deligne

Tearsheets
 Tim Tirrell

The Tech is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to tech@tech.caltech.edu as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. Sorry the Tech does not accept anonymous contributions. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author.

The advertising deadline is five p.m. Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera-ready art, but the Tech can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at business@tech.caltech.edu. For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

Ultracold Neutron Study Could Point Towards Supersymmetry

By ROBERT TINDOL

PASADENA, Calif.—Free neutrons are usually pretty speedy customers, buzzing along at a significant fraction of the speed of light. But physicists have created a new process to slow neutrons down to about 15 miles per hour—the pace of a world-class mile runner—which could lead to breakthroughs in understanding the physical universe at its most fundamental level.

According to Brad Filippone, a physics professor at the California Institute of Technology, he and a group of colleagues from Caltech and several other institutions recently succeeded in collecting record-breaking numbers of ultracold neutrons at the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center. The new technique resulted in about 140 neutrons per cubic centimeter and the number could be five times higher with additional tweaking of the apparatus.

"Our principal interest is in making precision measurements of fundamental neutron properties," says Filippone, explaining that a neutron has a half-life of only 15 minutes. In other words, if a thousand neutrons are trapped, five hundred will have broken down after 15 minutes into a proton, electron and anti-neutrino.

Neutrons normally exist in nature in a much more stable state within the nuclei of atoms, joining the positively charged protons to make up most of the atom's mass. Neutrons become quite unstable if they are stripped from the nucleus, but the very fact that they decay so quickly can make them useful for various experiments.

The traditional way physicists obtained free neutrons was by

trying to slow them down as they emerged from a nuclear reactor, making them bounce around in material to get rid of energy. This procedure worked fine for slowing down neutrons to a few feet per second, but that's still pretty fast.

The new technique at Los Alamos National Laboratory involves a second stage of slowdown that is impractical near a nuclear reactor, but which works well at a nuclear accelerator where the event producing the neutrons is abrupt rather than ongoing. The process begins with smashing protons from the accelerator into a solid material like tungsten, which results in neutrons being knocked out of their nuclei.

The neutrons are then slowed down as they bounce around in a nearby plastic material and then some of them are slowed much further if they happen to enter a birthday-cake-sized block of solid deuterium (or "heavy hydrogen") that has been cooled down to a temperature a few degrees above absolute zero.

When the neutrons enter the crystal latticework of the deuterium block, they can lose virtually all their energy and emerge from the block at speeds so slow they can no longer zip right through the walls of the apparatus. The trapped ultracold neutrons bounce along the nickel walls of the apparatus and eventually emerge, where they can be collected for use in a separate experiment.

According to Filippone, the extremely slow speeds of the neutrons are important in studying their decays at a minute level of detail. The fundamental theory of particle physics known as the Standard Model predicts a

specific pattern in the neutron's decay, but if the ultracold neutron experiments were to reveal slightly different behavior, then physicists would have evidence of a new type of physics, such as supersymmetry.

Future experiments could also exploit an inherent quantum limit of the ultracold neutrons to bounce no lower than about 15 microns on a flat surface—or about a fifth the width of a human hair. With a cleverly designed experiment, Filippone says, this limit could lead to better knowledge of gravitational interactions at very small distances.

The next step for the experimenters is to return to Los Alamos in October. Then, they will use the ultracold neutrons to study the neutrons themselves.

The research was supported by about \$1 million funding from Caltech and the National Science Foundation.

Research Summarized By Quarterly Tip Sheet

By MARK WHEELER

'Zombie' Behaviors Studied

Longtime collaborators Christof Koch and Francis Crick (of DNA helix fame) think that routine behaviors that we perform constantly without even thinking—"zombie agents," they call them—are so much a central facet of human consciousness that they deserve serious scientific attention. In a new book titled *The Quest for Consciousness: A Neurobiological Approach*, Koch writes that only a subset of brain activity gives rise to conscious sensations and feelings. Koch, a Caltech professor and head of the Computation and Neural Systems program, says zombie agents include everything from keeping the body balanced, to unconsciously estimating the steepness of a hill we are about to climb, to driving a car, riding a bike, and perform-

ing other routine yet complex actions.

Brain Size Rule Discovered

Caltech graduate student Elliot Bush and his professor, John Allman, have discovered a basic difference between the brains of all primates, from lemurs to humans, and all the flesh-eating carnivores, such as lions, tigers, and bears. The difference lies in the way the percentage of frontal cortex mass increases as the species gets larger.

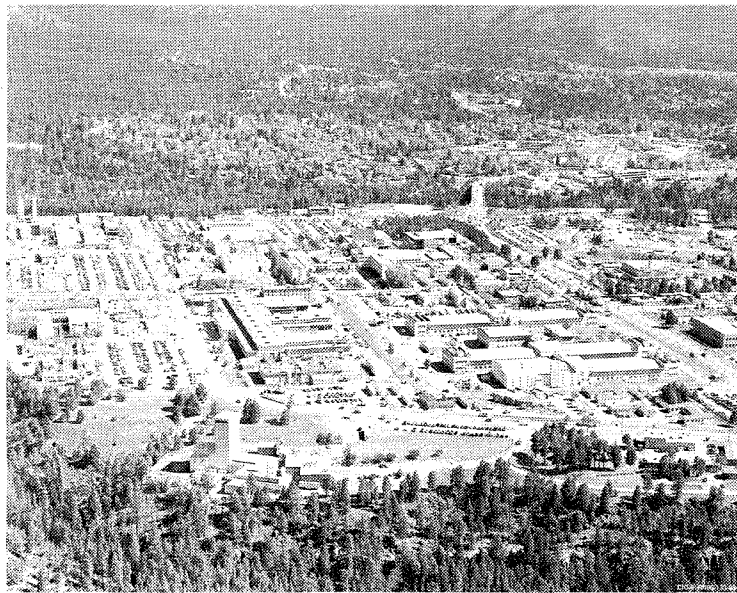
Historical Interviews Online

The Oral Histories Online Project began in the fall of 2002, and brings selected interviews to the public in digital text form. Approximately 30 in-depth interviews from the fields of biology, chemistry, geology, physics, astronomy, environmental science, and social science are currently online, and additional interviews continue to be added.

Beckman Receives Award

In the mid-1930s, Arnold O. Beckman, then an assistant professor of chemistry at Caltech, solved a problem confronting the California citrus industry: how to get a rapid and accurate measure of the acidity of lemon juice. His pH meter—a faster and simpler acid and alkaline measuring device—revolutionized instrumentation.

The development of the Beckman pH meter was designated a National Historic Chemical Landmark in a special ceremony at Caltech. The American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, sponsored the landmark program.



Courtesy of www.lanl.gov

A group of researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory, including professor Filippone, discovered a way to slow down neutrons.

Certified mover

Certified shaker

Certified no more mac & cheese

Certified acceleration

Certified rush

Certified freedom

Certified bring it on

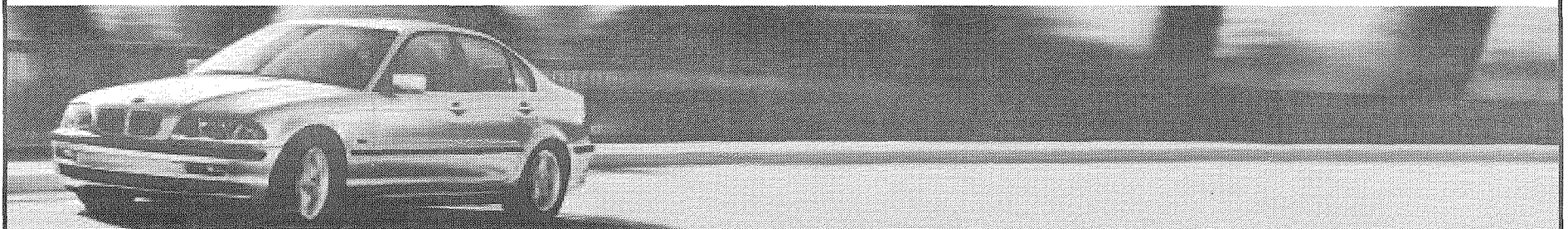
Certified Pre-Owned BMW

**BMW
Certified
Pre-Owned**

bmwusa.com
1-800-334-4BMW



The Ultimate
Driving Machine



Certified only at an authorized BMW center.

Get warranty protection* up to 6 years or 100,000 miles. Get flexible leasing and financing options. Get pure BMW.

Certified Pre-Owned
BY BMW

search up-to-date, extensive inventory at bmwusa.com

*Protection Plan provides coverage for up to 2 years or 50,000 miles (whichever comes first) from the date of the expiration of the 4 year/50,000 mile BMW New Vehicle Limited Warranty. See participating BMW passenger car center for details. For more information, call 1-800-334-4BMW, or visit bmwusa.com ©2004 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name and logo are registered trademarks.

This Week in ASCIT

ASCIT Minutes
May 4, 2004

Present: Ann Bendfeldt, Ryan Farmer, Jenny Fisher, Shaun Lee, Kelly Lin, Galen Loram, Kim Popendorf, Claire Walton, Corinna Zygourakis

Guests: Bert Lui, Jennifer Treweek, Rocky Velez

Introduction:

1. Call to Order, 12: 10 PM

New/Open Positions:

2. Want to be BoC Secretary? Today is your last chance to sign-up! Sign-ups come down on Monday, May 10. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, May 11, starting at 10 PM. If you have questions, email vp@donut.caltech.edu.

3. You can also sign up to interview for: *California Tech* Business Manager, *Big T* editor, *Big T* business manager, *little t* editor, *little t* business manager, *Totem* editor, Institute Size Committee, Institute Art Committee, and Institute Programs Committee. Sign-ups for come down at midnight on Monday, May 10. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, May 11 starting at 10 PM.

4. Sign-ups for the following ARC-appointed committees are currently underway: Library, Core Curriculum Steering, Academic Policies, and REGIS Committees. For more information, contact arc@donut.caltech.edu.

5. Congratulations to the newly-appointed members of the following committees. Thanks to everyone who interviewed!

Council on Undergraduate Education: Lea Hildebrandt

Committee on Exchange Programs and Study Abroad: Dorota Korta

Educational Outreach Committee: Abby Crites, Alex Shim, Kulsoom Hasan (alt.)

Curriculum Committee: Lea Hildebrandt, Andy Green, Abby Crites

(alt.), Francesca Colonnese

(alt.)

Money Requests:

6. Rocky Velez requests \$500 for Lloyd's Interhouse party. The Pirate-themed party will be held on Saturday, May 22. Vote: 8-0-0 (approved).

7. Bert Lui and Eric Granstedt ask to take Professor Robert Phillips out to lunch at the Ath. Vote: 8-0-0 (approved).

8. Jennifer Treweek requests \$350 from ASCIT social budget for a DJ spin-off party on May 21. The party will feature an outside DJ and music ranging from acid techno to trance. Vote: 5-1-2 (approved).

Upcoming Events:

9. ASCIT formal will be held at the Omni Hotel Grand Café and the L.A. Museum of Contemporary Art on Saturday, May 29. Tickets cost \$25 for ASCIT members and \$35 for non-ASCIT members. Appetizers and drinks will be served, and a cash bar will be open. A live jazz band, as well as a DJ, will provide entertainment. The MOCA, 10 feet away from the Omni Hotel, will be open just for ASCIT formal attendees from 8:00-9:30 PM. "To increase the levels of dancing, camaraderie, self esteem, and random hook-ups, Startlingly Colored Ribbons of Energetic and Approachable-yet-somehow-animalistic Magnetism (SCREAM) will be provided. Those of you without dates, or with sucky dates, or with an unquenchable-by-one-date thirst for dancing can wear a S.C.R.E.A.M. to declare to the world, 'It is totally cool to ask me to dance...sweet cheeks.' You can get them from Claire Walton before formal." If you have any questions, email esc@donut.caltech.edu, our ASCIT Fun Master.

Meeting adjourned 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Zygourakis
ASCIT Secretary

Galen on Non-Academic Catharsis

By GALEN LORAM

Well, after a long hiatus from the writing block, I figured I would write about something a bit "lighter" than the normal overarching concerns of what the political winds of Caltech bring us. No, there will be nothing on house renovations or the Avery issue that the Faculty Board will decide today: today I thought I'd encourage all of you (not just the undergrads either! Everyone!!) to get out and join a sport or a musical group. Picking your classes for first term is coming up soon, so I thought that now seemed as good a time as any to write about it.

Let's start with something about as trivially obvious as it gets: Caltech is hard. And stressful. And, I think for at least some people, at times monotonous. Lots of science and math, a small student body, and a common disbelief in the existence of anything outside of the 50 foot radius exuding from the edges of campus that comprise the "Tech Bubble" all contribute. Suggesting piercing the Tech Bubble seemed a bit too radical, so I scaled that plan back to this one.

So what can we do about Caltech being hard and stressful? After all, if you had a chance to plow through the manifesto that was my summary of the Honor Code survey, you might have noticed that I attributed nearly half of all honor system violations to people cracking from stress, so clearly it is a problem. Not to mention that countless studies have demonstrated the detrimental effects on learning (for example, Newcomer, JW et al (1999), Archives of General Psychiatry on memory and cognitive function), though other studies suggest that moderate levels of stress is conducive to learning (Cozolino's The Neuroscience of Psychotherapy has an account of this; talk to anyone in HPS/PI 169 last

term for it if you're interested). So it seems like it would be great if we could figure out some way to keep Caltech pretttttttt stressful, though, perhaps not quite as stressful as it is now.

Exercise has been shown to be incredibly good for stress relief (as opposed to appealing to a given source, as none of the first 10 on Google were anything that I put much more stock in than my herbal remedies. I'll just appeal to the fact that searching for "Effects of Exercise on Stress" gave >1.4 million entries on Google).

"It's even been statistically demonstrated that the athletes at Caltech, on average, have higher GPAs than the non-athletes."

I know that since the fateful day when within the same hour both my Math 1b TA and a friend encouraged me to start up Yoga, it's been a dramatic shift. And I think that if you talk to virtually anyone who does a sport here, they'll be happy to catalog the beneficial effects it's had on their life. It's even been statistically demonstrated that the athletes at Caltech, on average, have higher GPAs than the non-athletes (and these people put in like, 15 or more hours a week on their sport! As a note, I think that we're the only school in the entire world where it's true that the athletes have higher GPAs than the non-athletes, but still.) So, if you don't want to go cold-turkey into 20 hours a week of sports, why not start yoga or basketball or swimming. A couple of hours a week goes a long way, and despite your screams about

having no free time, I can assure you that nearly everyone here has two or three hours that could easily be recouped with the greater efficiency found when you're happy (exercise also has dramatic effects on depression) and less stressed. Personally, I think that it's a travesty that Caltech doesn't require PE every term for all four years. But I bet I'm in the minority there :).

But ok, I'm content to accept that there are people who just hate sports. While I bet half the school was "picked last in gym class,"

I'm sure the experience was more traumatic for some than others. So then pick up music! When I sat on admissions last year I was flabbergasted by the number of amazing musicians that we have here. People who were all-state, who had won countless awards, were band-president, etc. And then there are those of us (like me!) who suck, but enjoy playing none-the-less. There are places for both of us; the concert-band is really low-stress and just a nice chance to blow a few notes on your horn (and it's open to everyone, undergrads, grads, professors, alums, staff, etc. We have all types, and even more diversity would be awesome); there are chamber groups for those with true musical talent. Not to mention choral groups (both glee club and acapella), string orchestras, the whole gamut. And the bands even have people from Oxy - think, meeting new people! The excitement!

So, to make a long story short, it's almost time to register for classes. When you're signing up and thinking about take 77 units this term, realize instead that you'll be much happier if you take 45, and have six of those be "pseudo-units" of band and P.E. And remember, you only need an average of 40.5 units/term to graduate.

Letter to the Editor: Discussion on Diversity Continues

After International Week, Debate Over Diversification of UG Population Endures

Dear Editor,

While I am happy that the discussion on diversity is ongoing, it is disappointing to note its direction and the points that are being argued. This is in reference to the letter to the editor in last week's *Tech* by Natalia Deligne (May 3, 2004). Even if a certain fact was mis-noted, if the debate was attended, one would realize that the focus was not on which house was exactly representing what, the focus was on whether or not student government, that is the IHC and ASCIT, should be involved in trying to change the current living patterns.

Also, since it was in line with international student week, we were specifically asked to keep the Asian vs non-Asian perspective as one of our main foci. Whether or not we like to agree, the Far East Asian population is the next greatest to the "white" population on campus. Hence,

their issue was of prime importance and was discussed.

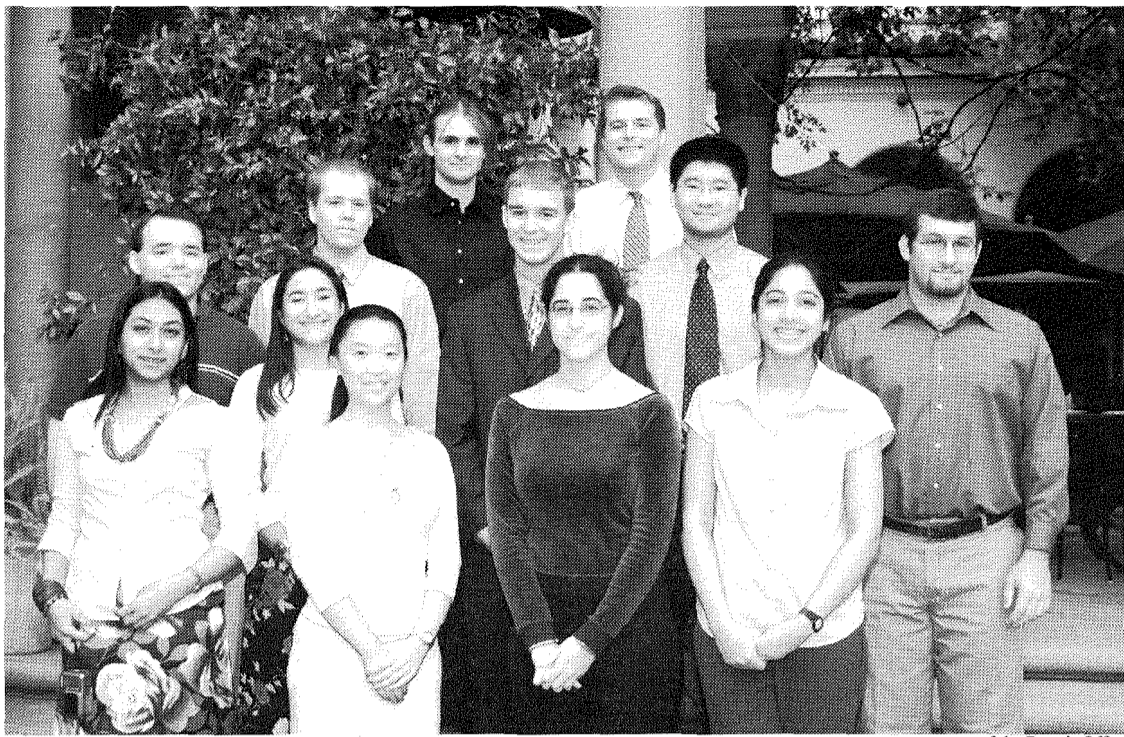
This does not mean that other issues of diversity were not considered important; it was just that for that week, they did not fit the priority of agendas. Also, it is not that the debate discussed and concluded on everything at hand. It was merely an encouragement to start a dialogue. Sadly, as always we have started focusing on the nitty-gritty, who is right and who is wrong rather than the whole motive, which was to discourage segregated living patterns. By now, most of us if not all have felt the unfavorable living circumstances in one or more house, so the problem obviously exists; we are not going to prove whether or not it exists through statistics but more through the opinion of most people. The issue is to resolve it now.

Respectfully submitted,
Iram Parveen Bilal

CRYING BLOOD
BY HAMILTON FALK AND JACK LGE

An Uplifting Comic for the Average Teacher

edited by Cat Chou



From top left: Galen Loram, Thomas Fletcher, Jeremy Pitts, Jeffrey Cox, William Heltsley, Yuan Sun, Harris Nover, Iram Parveen Bilal, Anita Choi, Neda Afsarmanesh and Rumi Chunara compose this year's winners of the leadership awards.

Students Recognized for Excellence in Leadership, Contributions to Caltech

By MALINA CHANG

The Vice President for Student Affairs and the Associate Dean hosted a lunch at the Athenaeum on April 29, to honor and recognize this year's winners of the leadership awards.

Doris Everhart Service Award

Rachel Deco '04 is this year's winner of the Doris Everhart Service Award. This award is given annually to an undergraduate who has actively supported and willingly worked for organizations that enrich not only student life, but also the campus and/or community as a whole, and who has, in addition, exhibited care and concern for the welfare of students on a personal basis. Rachel has been actively involved with diversity issues as one of only two students on the President's Administration Committee on Diversity and Minority Affairs. She has represented Caltech well as the student voice on various diversity related issues in and outside of the campus community. Her work with the minority community has been invaluable.

Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen Memorial Award

Rumi Chunara '04 is this year's winner of the Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen Memorial Award. This prize is given in memory of Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen, Caltech '89, an exceptional student leader, who was Director-at-Large of the ASCIT Board of Directors, President of Blacker House, and on the Curriculum Committee. She was one of the stars of the cross-country, track and field and soccer teams. After her untimely death in 1990, a fund was established to recognize outstanding student leaders. Rumi was selected for her service to the students as senior class co-

president and as chair and founder of the student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Frederic W. Hinrichs, Jr. Memorial Award

Neda Afsarmanesh '04 and Thomas Fletcher '04 are the winners of the 2004 Hinrichs Memorial Award. This award is given in memory of Frederic W. Hinrichs, Jr., who served for more than 20 years as Dean and professor at the Institute. The award bearing his name is made annually to seniors who throughout their undergraduate years have made the greatest contributions to the student body and whose qualities of character, leadership, and responsibility have been outstanding.

Neda was selected because of her service to the students during her years at Caltech. In particular her role as Inter-House Committee secretary and ASCIT Upper-class Director at Large, as well as her work on many committees, such as the Alcohol committee, the Words Matter committee and the Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching selection committee, to name a few, have made a positive difference to the Caltech community.

Tom was selected because of his exceptionally capable leadership and service to his fellow students during his time at Caltech. In particular, his role as ASCIT President has made a positive difference to the campus community.

They will both receive the Frederic W. Hinrichs, Jr. Memorial Award at commencement on June 11, 2004.

Mabel Beckman Prize

Iram Parveen Bilal '04 and Anita Choi '04 have won the 2004 Mabel Beckman Prize.

This award is given in memory of Mrs. Beckman's many years of commitment to Caltech's educational and research programs. This award is for academic excellence and outstanding leadership skills, a commitment to personal excellence, good character, and a strong interest in the Caltech community.

Iram was selected for the qualities of outstanding leadership and service that she has shown her four years at Caltech. Her contributions as the president and founder of the Caltech Public Speaking club and the vice president for the Society of Women Engineers are particularly admirable.

Anita was also selected for the qualities of outstanding leadership and service that she has shown during her time at Caltech. She has served as the student representative for the Women's Center Advisory Board and the president of the Chemistry club.

Iram and Anita will be honored with the Mabel Beckman Prize at commencement on June 11, 2004.

Deans' Cup and Campus Life and Master's Award

Deans' Cup and Campus Life and Master's Award are presented to undergraduates whose concern for their fellow students has been demonstrated by persistent efforts to improve the quality of undergraduate life and by effective communication with members of the faculty and administration.

Galen Loram '05 and Harris Nover '04 each received the 2004 Deans' Cup. Galen is majoring in Economics; and Harris in Mathematics.

Tamara Becher '04, Jeffrey Cox '04, William Heltsley '04, Jeremy Pitts '04 and Yuan Sun '04 were awarded the Campus Life and Master's Award.

flight in October 2003. Chinese astronaut Yang Liwei circled the Earth fourteen times and returned safely. The event was widely regarded as historical; it symbolized China's rapid march towards the forefront of the world's science and technology. We will show large-size photo material which has rarely been seen outside China, with explanatory text (in English). You can also watch a video of the flight. We hope you will stop by!

Caltech's 2nd annual "Travel

Fair" will take place on Wednesday June 16th from 11:00 to 2pm in front of the Chandler Dining Hall. Come to meet and greet the travel and pear departments and our many travel vendors. There will be music and a barbeque meal will be available to purchase at Chandler. Prizes will be donated by some of our top vendors, (winners must be students, staff or faculty of Caltech.) Come and enjoy the sunshine and the fun!

Continued on Page 6, Column 4

Dangerous Sport of Street RPS Gains Following, Fans

By HAMILTONY FALK

We do not condone street RPS. Why is this important you might ask? I hope to clear up just what Street RPS is, and why it is dangerous, unnecessary and a drain on society. Some of you might have heard this recently, as the RPS craze is sweeping the nation. Seriously. RPS (Rock Paper Scissors) and if you don't get in on it you're just not cool.

Now, people have been playing RPS for hundreds, if not millions, of years, but it has only recently become popular in its current form, in which skill and athleticism are used to eliminate random chance to the point that a trained RPS player will defeat amateur opponents at will. Through a combination of gambits, reads and other advanced techniques a skilled player can win many of the contests that are decided by RPS.

For example, say you and a friend have found some buried treasure, and inside there is one large diamond, and a can of diet coke. Surely you will resolve the issue of who gets to have the diamond and who is stuck with the sub quality soft drink though a friendly game of RPS. With a winning strategy an RPS player can earn these kinds of benefits, as well as do well in professional RPS tournaments, perhaps earning lucrative sponsorship on the world RPS tour by one of the companies that uses professional RPS players for advertising.

Unfortunately the rise of RPS as a professional sport is not all fun and games. A dangerous adaptation has arisen, known as "street RPS." Most members of the RPS club here at Caltech, and the otherwise helpful staff of the World RPS Society were unwilling to give me more information than that street RPS was being "played on the streets for drugs, money, whatever you have" and in general this mysterious form of RPS is hard to define.

I did manage to interview one member of the Caltech RPS Club, who said "I lost my brother to street RPS. He was playing for drugs or money and somebody threw out 'dynamite.' I had warned him that day about it. He said he was just going out to find a pick-up game. I don't want to talk about this anymore." The man broke down in tears, and an officer of the Club quickly stepped in and said "We do not condone street RPS." Another Caltech student showed his fear of the subject by responding with "What? What are talking about?" when questioned on his feelings about street RPS, clearly afraid to be involved in the activity in any way.

From what I've discovered(1), street RPS is played in prisons and by gangs, and is a variation on regular RPS that involves things like machine guns and dynamite as well as anything the player chooses to use. This form of RPS does not have the traditional safety rules of true RPS; players sometimes play with jewelry on, or will play a best of 10 series, despite the dangers of a 5-5 tie. The "game" odds-evens is not in fact considered street RPS, but it hardly qualifies as even a game, since unlike RPS it really is just "throwing out fingers are random" as stated in an official World RPS Society document reveals. Some of the dangers of street RPS reported are, "serious

gashes, cuts and sores, a painful cough, some sort of eye infection, death, drowning, a broken leg, mental anguish, insomnia, indigestion and a painful rug burn." So clearly, street RPS can have dangerous consequences, yet people continue to play. Why is this you might ask? Miseducation.

To try and track down just how uninformed the general public was in the area of street RPS I asked some people at random what they thought the likelihood of being injured in any given street RPS game. It turns out that an uneducated person will judge the chances as being so small as to be practically the "zero percent" that many laypersons guessed, while a trained RPS professional rates the odds as practically "all of them" especially if playing RPS at night or with people you don't know. Other people who think that street RPS "isn't that bad" assume that using street RPS will always win. This just isn't true.

For example, most street RPS "weapons" can be countered by a larger weapon. Say you throw a machine gun, you can still be beaten by a cruise missile, and things will only continue to escalate. Another reason why street RPS can not be counted on to guarantee victory is that it is often defeated by traditional(2) RPS techniques, such as the ability of scissors to beat dynamite by simple snipping the fuse. Clearly the use of street RPS is impractical as well as dangerous.

To bring home my point, I'd like to tell you about a little scene from a recent World RPS Society tournament, and what could have gone wrong had street RPS been involved. Here's what happened:

Player One: All right, let's go. I bet you won't use Rock!

Player Two: I see right though your suggestion and I do not fear you.

Both Players: Rock, Paper, Scissor, Shoot! (Player one reveals scissor, and player two reveals rock)

Player Two: Fool, fear me.

(They go again, this time player one reveals paper, and player two again shows rock)

Player One: The tides have turned!

(They again spar, with player one revealing paper, and player two resorting to rock once more)

Player One: Ha! I knew my paper doll gambit would defeat you!

Player Two: How foolish of me to use an avalanche gambit against such a skilled player.

(They shake hands)

What is frightening is what could have happened, had street RPS been used:

Player One: All right, let's go. I bet you won't use Rock!

Player Two: I see right though your suggestion and I do not fear you.

Both Players: Rock, Paper, Scissor, Shoot! (Player one reveals scissor, and player two reveals flame thrower)

Player One: Ahh!

(Both players burst into flame, and many die)

As you can see, Street RPS is dangerous, unnecessary, and any one who practices it is a fascist.

(1) I cannot reveal my source, but they are very high up in the RPS hierarchy.

(2) And legal

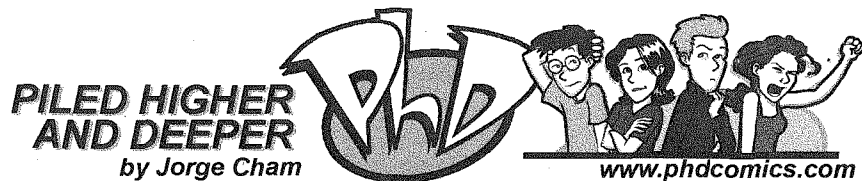


Event: Chinese Space Flight Photo and Video Exhibition

When: Thursday, May 13, 2004, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Where: Winnett Lounge
Hosted by the Caltech C (Chinese Association)

The Caltech C will present a small but unique photo and video exhibition featuring insider's photos of China's first manned space



Continued from Page 5, Column 3

Summer Work Study: Information and applications for 2004 Summer Work Study are available in the Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in Summer Work Study, please submit the required application as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 2004. Your entire financial aid application must be complete by June 1, 2004 in order to be considered for Summer Work Study. If awarded, the work study funding will begin July 1, 2004.

Attention all undergraduate students on Financial Aid: The last date to request any adjustments of loan to work study, or work study to loan, for your 2003-04 financial aid award, is

Friday, May 7, 2004. Requests for 2003-04 changes made after May 7 will not be considered. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at ext. 6280 if you have any questions.

Women's Center Events
DNA Detective: Molecular Biologist Lydia Villa Komaroff
 May 13, 12:00-1:00pm
 There are more cells in the brain than there are stars in the universe," says molecular biologist Lydia Villa-Komaroff, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of the Whitehead Institute. This video follows this internationally recognized scholar, who began her research career under the tutelage of David Baltimore and Harvey Lodish, through her academic and personal journey. Dr. Villa-Komaroff has recently been selected as one of this country's most powerful Hispanic executives in technology and business by "Hispanic Engineer & Information Technology" magazine. Lunch and drinks provided!

Balancing Work and Life for the Single Technical Female. Presentation and Reception with Dr. Anne Meixner, Intel

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2004. Time: 4:00pm-5:30pm. Location: 2nd floor lounge, Center for Student Services. RSVP: wcenter@studaff.caltech.edu

Are single people in the work force entitled to a life outside of work? Of course you say, but in high-tech industries it is easy to fall into the culture of workaholicism that often exists. There's nothing wrong with working late a few nights or working a weekend now and then. However, working weeks and months of such a pace leads to BURNOUT! Deciding to go home before running just one more last simulation can often be the smartest thing you do for your project and your health.

May 20 - Spring Cleaning Inside and Out

Time: 12-1pm. Location: Women's Center located in room 265 of the Center for Student Services.

12 Things You Can Do To Lighten Up. Calling upon the advice of popular self-help gurus, Dr. Susan Cross, Co-Manager of Caltech's Staff and Faculty Consultation Center, will share with us wisdom and strategies for our personal spring cleaning. RSVP required! To sign-up please call ext. 3221 or email: wcenter@studaff.caltech.edu

The Hawaiian Club is offering **hula (traditional Hawaiian dance)** lessons this term! Class will be held in Winnett Lounge on Saturdays from 2-4pm until May 29 (with the exception of 4/24 and 5/1: these classes will be held on Sunday, 4/25 and 5/2). The cost is \$5/class for Caltech community members; \$12/class for all others.

For more information, see our club website at <http://www.ugcs/~lilinoe> or email us at maruchan@its.

The Collegiate Inventors Competition 2004

Call for Entries
 Download the application packet from: www.invent.org/collegiate
 To recommend someone for the award E-mail collegiate@invent.org or call 330-849-6887

The Grand Prize Award is \$50,000. The Deadline for the 2004 competition is June 1, 2004.

Humanities and Social Sciences Seminars for this Term:

14 May (Friday) Munro Seminar Clementine Oliver, Caltech/Huntington Fellow. "Where Do Pamphlets Come From? Political Writing in Late Medieval England"

21 May (Friday) Munro Seminar Justin D'Arms (Ohio State). "Objectivity in Taste and Emotion"

28 May (Friday) HPS Seminar Brian Copenhaver (UCLA). "From Magic to Science: Seeing a Way Out"

For Sale - Thomas Humphrey - Martin Classical Guitar
 Spruce top • Rosewood back and sides • Double & single herringbone inlays • Black ebony bridge and fingerboard • Original Martin case • Excellent condition • Valued at \$3,850
Price: \$1,999 (or best offer)
 Call Stewart at (626) 284-7874

Business Plans
 Financial Models
 MBA, 20 years experience
 Email jkennedy@ant91.com
 Or call 310 641 3511 x14

BAMBOO TEA HOUSE
 Tea as a way of life
 700 E. Colorado Blvd.
 Pasadena
 Across from Vromans Bookstore
 (626) 577-0707

Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program

You want to go to medical school, you have your B.A., but the only science course you've taken has been Physics for Poets.

We have a program for you.

Columbia University's Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program is America's oldest and best.

Discover why our graduates have an 85% placement rate in American medical schools. Call: **(800) 890-4127**

gspremed@columbia.edu
www.columbia.edu/cu/gsp/postbacc

COLUMBIA
 School of General Studies

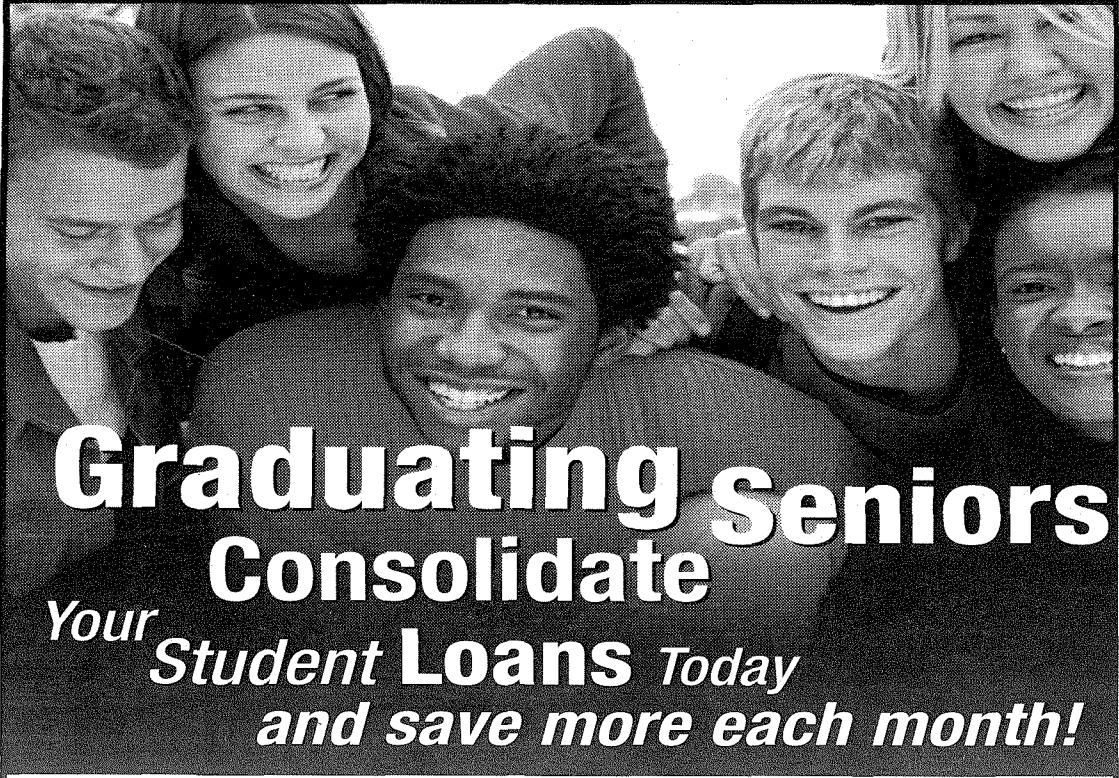
UCLA Summer Research/Study Pro UCLA Summer Research/Study Program:
 Locations in Los Angeles or Fairbanks in Alaska (ALL EXPENSE PAID and weekend excursions to Denali Park and Arctic Circle, for Alaska location ONLY!!!) Experience will compose of innovative, HANDS-ON science and engineering research related to environmental and communication technologies using spectrum frequency which includes lasers and microwaves. Both undergrads and graduates welcome, SEND resumes to SummerUCLARes@IFSHE.org.

Congratulations to all 2004 Degree Candidates!!

The Bursar's Office will be scheduling your In-Person Exit Interview soon. This process is designed to inform you of the status of your student account and furnish you with loan related information. This interview will be conducted in our office, which is located in the Center for Student Services Building, room 120.

To find out more about this procedure please visit our website: www.bursar.caltech.edu/checkout_grad.htm

Our staff is here to make this procedure easy and friendly.



Did you know you will pay more in interest when you consolidate eligible student loans through the Federal Direct Consolidation Program compared to when you consolidate with the Student Loan Consolidation Center (SLCC)?

It's true. You don't have to pay more in interest because SLCC offers some of the best borrower benefits in the industry.

By consolidating with SLCC you can keep more of your money each month and reduce your interest rate at the same time.

If you are graduating this year please call the SLCC toll-free number today at 800-864-7053 and we will help you PAY LESS now.

www.slcc-loans.com

Faculty Board to Vote Today On SHC Proposal for Frosh in Avery

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

two, points," said Pependorf. "I'll present the numbers of how many are opposed from the survey, the main reasons why they're opposed and a brief summary of the other survey results."

Of a *donut.caltech.edu*-record 442 student respondents, 343--78%--opposed opening Avery to freshmen in 2005, while just 61--14%--supported the idea. Only 11% agreed that Avery's community would be healthy for freshmen, while 76% expressed concern that an Avery with freshmen would be a loss for students seeking an alternative to the seven on-campus houses.

"I think overall the IHC was satisfied with the results," said IHC Secretary Joanna Cohen '05. "Our stand the whole time is that we were representing the students and that turned out to be the case. The purpose of this survey was to gauge student opinion."

Avery rights advocate Neil Tiwari '05, however, said one must understand the reasoning of those opposed before drawing any conclusions. "I think what matters most is not how many are against but the reasons why," he said. "Alone, the result that a majority of undergraduates are against the idea tells us little more than we already knew."

Likewise, many administrators already suspected to see results like these and had previously questioned the need for such a survey. Campus Life Director Tom Mannion, for instance, said after the SHC released its recommendation that he didn't think a survey was a good idea. "What would that show?" he asked. "That [students in the on-campus houses] don't like the idea? That's not new news."

Still, the sheer numbers of students against the plan may be difficult for advocates to overcome. Perhaps the most striking demographic was the balloting within Avery, long thought to be a base of support, where 16 voted against the measure and just 13 in favor, with six indifferent. The result contradicted a more comprehensive in-house survey by the Avery Council which concluded that residents leaned solidly in support.

Supporters questioned the legitimacy of the IHC's within-Avery results, given that it polled some-

what fewer undergraduate residents--37, compared to 60 in the council's survey. "That result is meaningless because the sample size is too small," said campus pundit and council member Alex Shim '05. "I believe the ratio who support it is somewhat higher," added fellow member Jason Yosinski '06.

Lending credence to his claim, many in Avery said the IHC's survey was simply one poll too many. "I didn't vote this time because I already voted the last time!" exclaimed Martin Suchara '06, who said he would've again clicked in a tally of support. Others complained that the survey closed too early. "I'd put it off for a number of days so I could collect my thoughts," said Yosinski, "but then it closed at midnight Friday morning instead of midnight that night."

But IHC opponents said their figures backed up their own interpretation of the council's results, which divided support and opposition into two levels apiece. Although many more expressed the milder of the two levels of support than the milder of the two levels of opposition, residents were about equally polarized along the extremes, with as many calling the plan a "horrible idea" as those tagging it a "great idea."

"The number they had on the lowest level of support was actually pretty close to the number they had on the highest level," said Cohen. "Similarly, our Avery numbers were very close to 50-50--pretty much an even split."

The survey was the result of collaboration between the IHC, Political Science Professor Michael Alvarez, Elizabeth Felnagle '05 and Tiwari, who hammered down particulars on wording and choice of questions.

Another interesting result was the breakdown of those with whom students have discussed the matter--97% have talked it over with someone, including 54% who've jabbered with the IHC, 24% with the Avery Council and a surprisingly high 12% with administrators. "It says a lot about how passionate students are about this issue," said Cohen.

Respondents also felt that the support of nearly all governing bodies, including a majority of undergraduates, is a prerequisite for moving forward with the

plan. A commanding 74% felt that undergraduates should first vote to approve, 69% felt the idea should also win the IHC's backing and 64% pointed to the Avery Council. Even the support of the Graduate Student Council, hardly a peripheral force in Avery negotiations thus far, is critical before proceeding, according to 31% of students.

The poll's findings will underpin Pependorf's address to the Faculty Board today. "We did this because we have had response from a huge number of students who have expressed that the students are largely opposed to this plan," she maintained, "and they're concerned that the administration would go ahead with this plan when so many students oppose. Hopefully this will carry some weight in showing that there is a large number of students opposed."

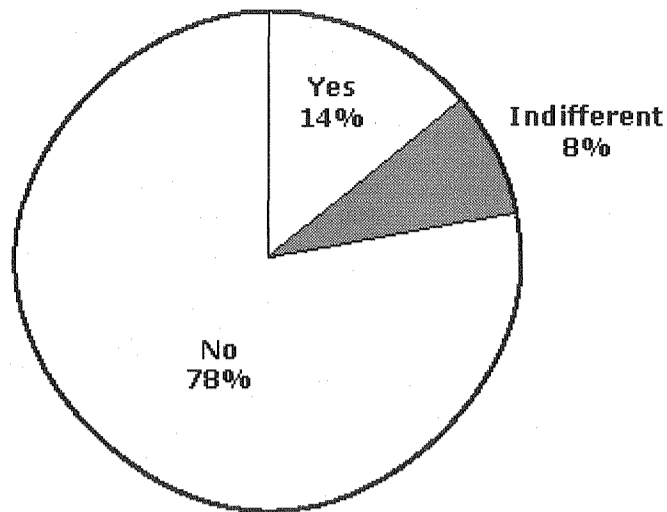
Tiwari will also be present at today's meeting, although Lester did not allot him speaking time. "I primarily plan to defend the council's positions in light of this survey," he said.

If the Faculty Board votes for the measure today, the two-month-long debate on freshmen in Avery may finally come to a close. The IHC has no scripted plans to continue its opposition--nothing like the game plan it minted after the SHC handed down its initial recommendation. "If there's still a motivated and active group of students who are opposed to the plan we would of course still be voicing that," explained Pependorf, "but we would also try to help Avery move forward."

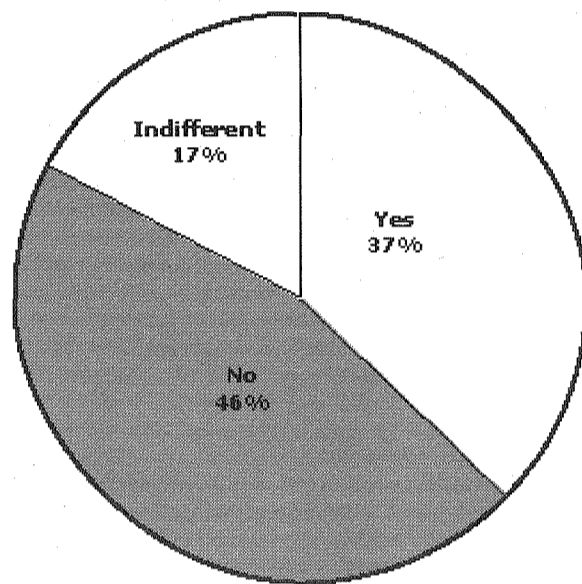
And very few--not even Pependorf--expect the Faculty Board to vote against the recommendation. "I don't think that the faculty currently have any motivation to reject it," she said, "although my hope is that they will give some consideration to the overall view of the student body and that they have considered the impact it will have."

Administrators agreed too that the board is unlikely to ignore a plan the SHC crafted after long deliberation. "The point is not to re-enact four hours of discussion. Given that the committee spent over four hours and I personally spent more than that," said Border, "I'd like to think that yeah, it wasn't a waste of time."

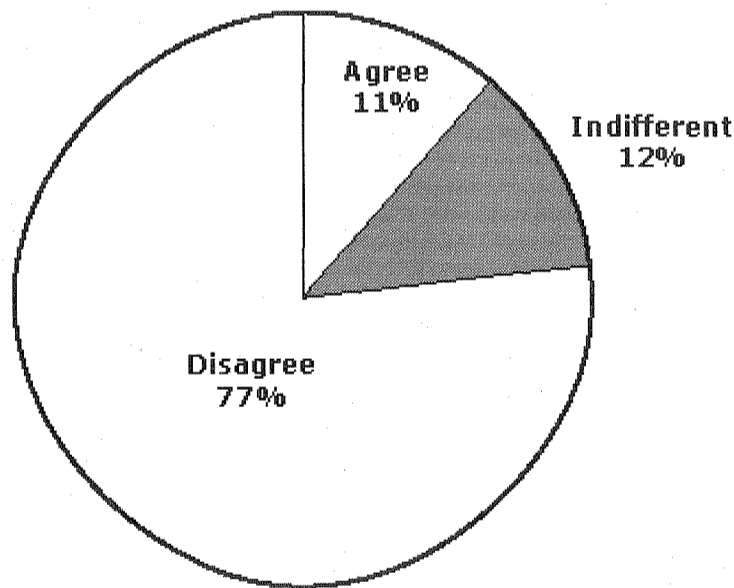
How Do You Feel About Opening Avery to Freshmen in 2005?



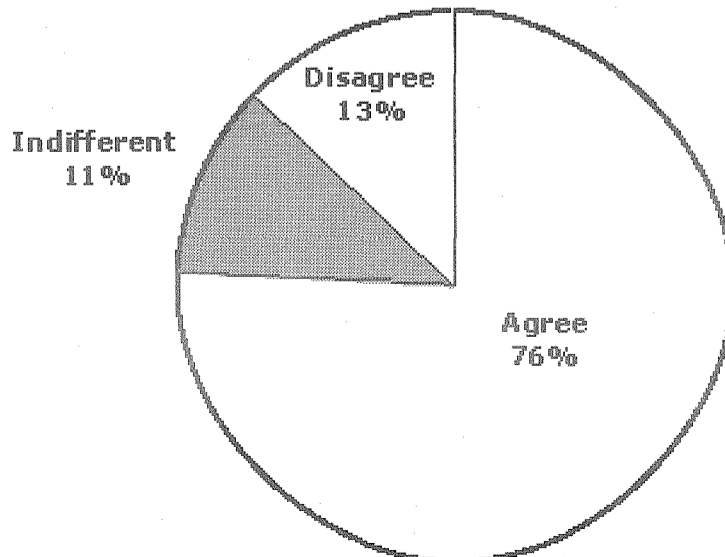
Current Avery Residents: How Do You Feel about Opening Avery to Freshmen in 2005?



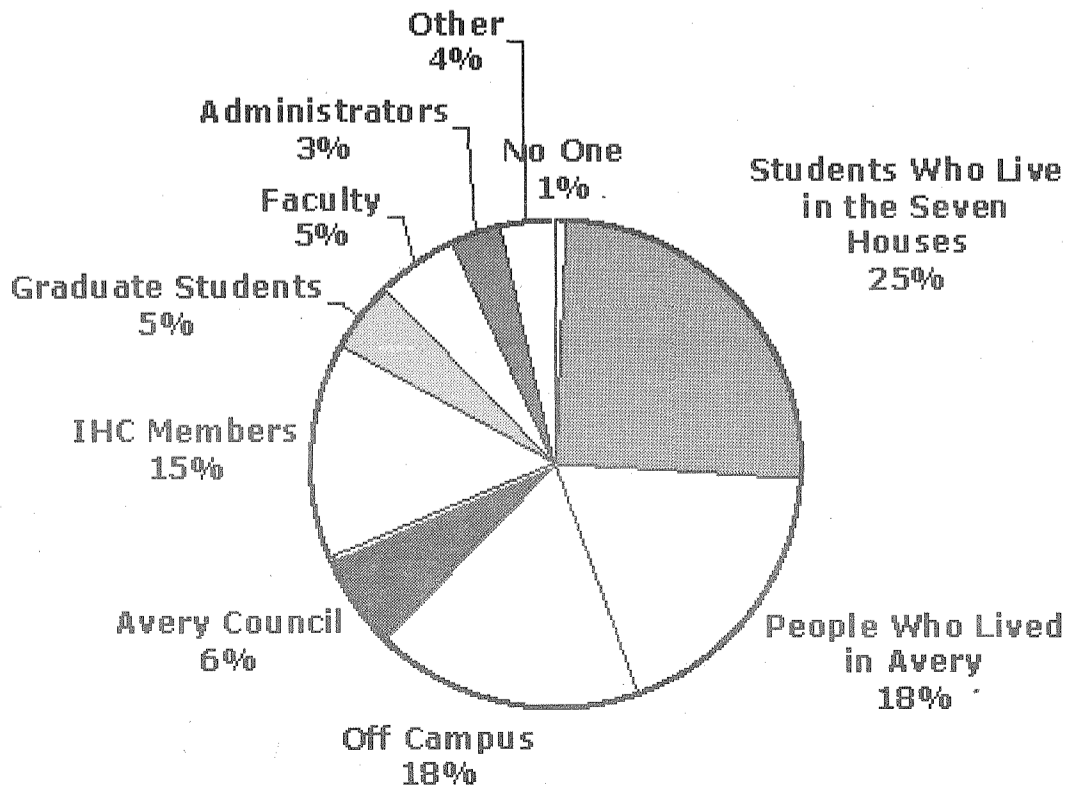
Avery Would Have a Community That is Good for Freshmen

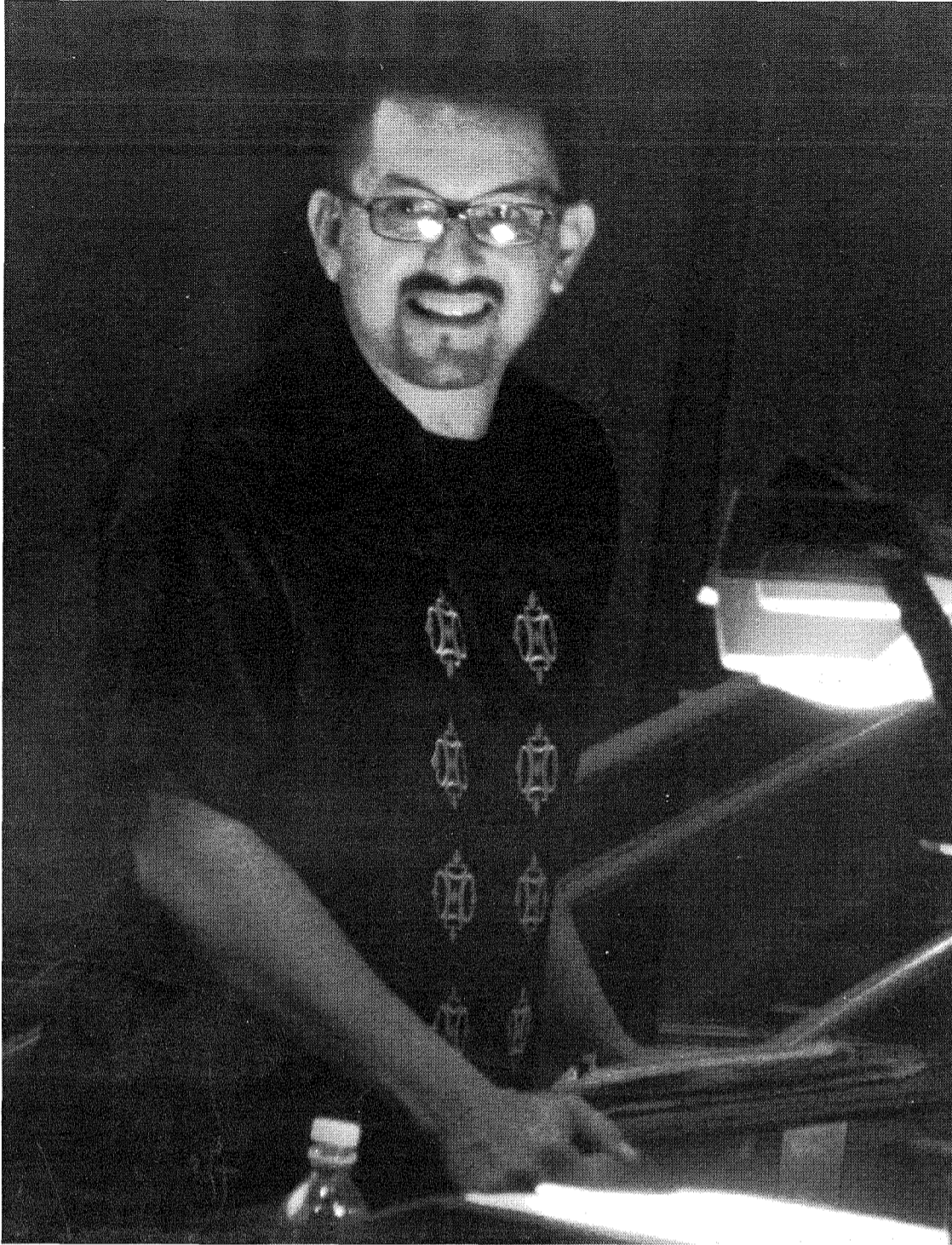


We Would Lose Avery as an Alternative for those who do not like the House System



Whom Have You Spoken To?





D. Korta/The California Tech

Lalo Alcaraz, artist of daily comic "La Cucaracha," tries to offer provocative commentary through comedy. His comic is run in over sixty newspapers nationwide.

Alcaraz Avoids Politically Correct Ideas When Designing his Comic

Continued from Page 1, Column 5

editorial cartoonist while at San Diego State University where he drew for his college newspaper, *The Daily Aztec*. At the time, Alcaraz gained the nickname, "Please forward my hate-mail!" on account of the nature of his cartoons' commentary.

In 1992, Alcaraz began his comic "La Cucaracha." One of his earliest strips depicts a senior citizen complaining about the replacement of his favorite eighty year old comic "Whitesville, USA" by one whose name indicated "a dirty insect." In fact, Alcaraz did receive many letters against his comic when it replaced the comic that had been in the space for eight-five years. Today "La Cucaracha" can be found in over sixty newspapers including the *Los Angeles Times*.

Much of Alcaraz's commen-

tary depicts the changing face of the United States. His most recent book is titled *LATINO, USA: A Cartoon History*. Alcaraz believes his comics help increase the visibility of Latinos in the media just as their presence in this country grows.

In his fame, Alcaraz often gets invited to speak at schools. He relates how when he visits elementary schools, the youngsters ask him "Can you draw Mickey Mouse [Spongebob, Dragonball Z, etc.]" Alcaraz, however--besides not being familiar with Dragonball Z--means for his cartoons to be much more provocative commentaries. Indeed Alcaraz's irreverent personality shows through in the style of his cartoons and even in the jokes he tells. At one point Alcaraz offhandedly asked his audience if anyone knew why there were only 2500 Mexicans at the Ala-

mo, providing the answer, "They only had two cars."

Throughout his work, Alcaraz portrays topics from politics to pop culture. On one of his comics Alcaraz parodied the idea of "adding color to currency" by depicting bills with people of different races such as MLK, Jr. and Cesar Chavez. One person sent Alcaraz a critical letter saying that only presidents could be on money, to which the cartoonist cleverly retorted, "Ben Franklin that!" Another one of his cartoons mocking a movie poster proclaimed "The Mexican: Diversity Hollywood Style."

The impact of Alcaraz's work reaches much farther than his newspaper readers. He also has a calendar and one of his prints with the words "Freedumb Fighter" has even been licensed to appear on t-shirts and tote bags in Japan.

Death Penalty Unfair To Handicapped, Poor

Continued from Page 1, Column 3

"them that has the capital don't get the punishment." He also quoted Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg, who remarked, "People who are well represented at trial do not get the death penalty."

Continuing with the lecture, he added that the death penalty system is prone to error. By nature of its permanence, there is a certain point at which newly discovered evidence of innocence cannot be presented. For this reason, the standard of conviction needs to be held extremely high. Yet, since the 1970s when the penalty was reenacted more than 100 have been convicted wrongly and 26 executed. Around 900 have died.

Farrell also decries the execution of inmates convicted of childhood crimes and the mentally damaged or retarded. Executing the insane has been ruled cruel and unusual punishment and is against international law. But the Supreme Court has allowed that defendants may be forced to take antipsychotic medication to be sane for trial or execution.

The continued existence of the death penalty is "not about justice," Farrell said. "It's about politics." Despite polls which indicate renewed opposition of around half the population, politicians wish to be seen as "tough on crime," and may lose ground if they show weakness on the issue. Farrell mentioned that the situation was reversed in Europe, where he says strong leaders have made a difference, shaming their "perennially gutless" American counterparts.

But Farrell never really examined this function of the capital punishment in the service of justice during the talk, other than to discount the amount of closure it gives to victims' families. The death penalty is currently society's highest reparation for crime, beyond which anything else is inhumane or cruel and unusual. It exists to provide justice for the most heinous of offenses and its chief alternative is life without

parole (LWOP).

For every story about the wrongful conviction, 11th hour appeal, or years late exoneration, there are 9 more tales of horror being visited on innocent people. Emotional stories exist for both sides and all of them demand action.

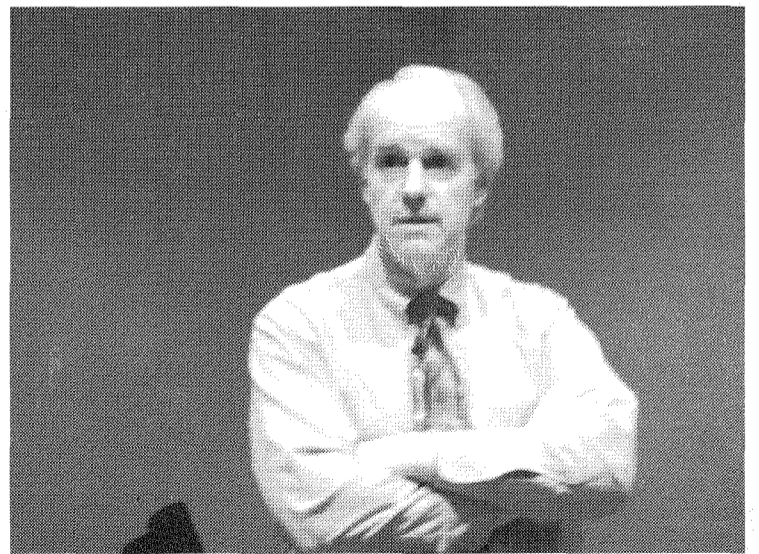
Farrell argued that, "a human being is more than his or her worst act," and this is undoubtedly true. In the case of most death row inmates this includes another felony and in 1/9th another murder. The death penalty is the only deterrence the state has for crimes committed in prison while serving LWOP or during an escape.

Depending on your viewpoint, there may be little difference between LWOP and execution: from letting "the state of California exercise its authority to extinguish a life" or simply hiding it under a concrete prison forever. If you ask what right a state has to execute a life, you must ask what right it has to silence one.

In his *Treatises of Government*, Locke acknowledged the right of a state to impose sentences up to death. However, most interpretations conclude that it is not required as the ultimate punishment. Since the weight of alternatives is dependent on personal perspective, the limit of authority given to the government should remain for the people and the states to decide.

Farrell concluded that the death penalty has become "part of the lore of America," handicapping attempts to remove it. His arguments for the unfairness of the death penalty highlighted the problems with capital punishment today and the need for a moratorium and perhaps even a referendum on its utility to modern society. But at the core, they are based on a personal choice which necessarily affects others and cannot be considered alone.

"If there is anything important about us at all," Farrell affirmed, "it is life."



L. Tran/The California Tech

The president of Death Penalty Focus, an anti-capital punishment group, responds to an audience member's question.

CALTECH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH



European War on Terror Makes Progress: Police bust Italian terror cell. Research into busting cancer cells is ongoing.



NBA Championship Report: O'Neill slams national defense capacity.



Economic Indicators Looking Down: Federal Reserve notes inflation rising; interest rates not down with that.

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125