

Guest Speakers Have a Dream That Students Will Use MLK Day to Discuss Civil Rights Instead of Doing Homework

By VIBHA LALJANI

January 16, 2006 was "A day on, not a day off" as the corporation of national and community service put it. It marked the 20th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Various events were held at Caltech and at other communities around America between January 17, 2006 and January 21, 2006 to commemorate Dr. King's birthday and honor his "dream" of freedom, justice, and opportunity for everyone alike.

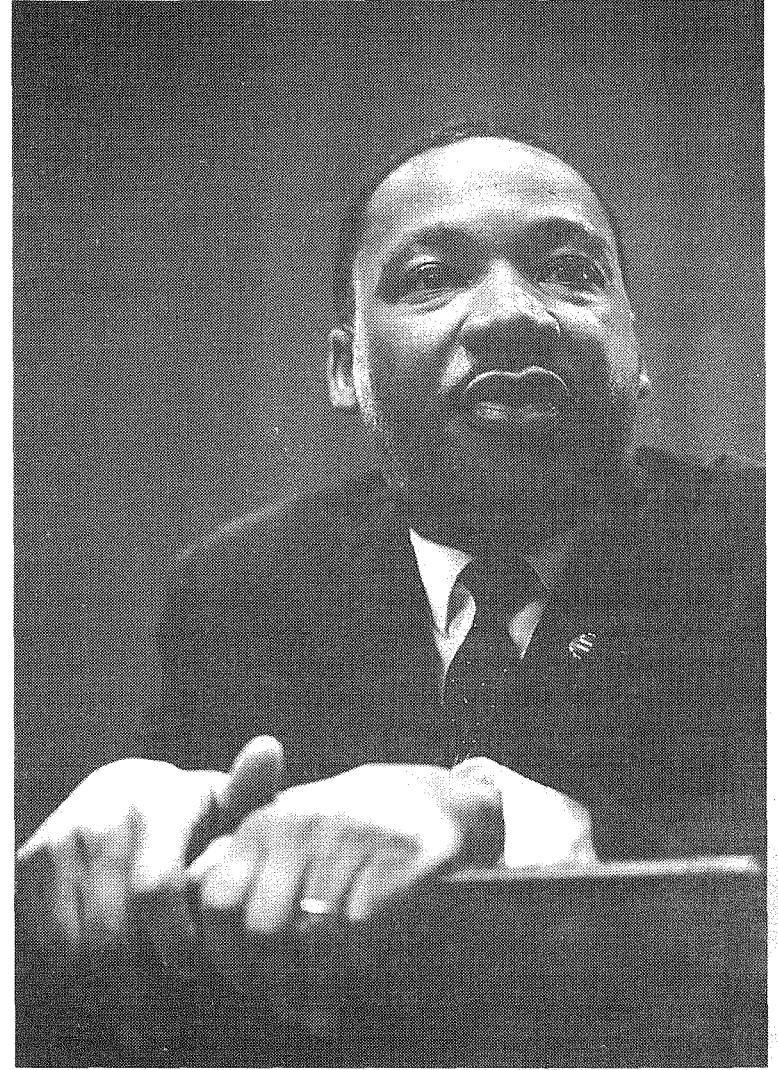
The MLK day celebration launched off at Caltech with a keynote breakfast on January 17 with Reverend Inman Moore, who described his journey in the United States Civil Rights Movement. In 1963 Rev. Inman Moore, a white United Methodist pastor in Mississippi, joined 27 other pastors from the United Methodist Church to sign a controversial statement, "Born of Conflict," that challenged racism. The statement was condemned by the local press and made national headlines. He and his friends, who soon became known as the "Mississippi Mafia", were intimidated and threatened. Yet, Rev. Moore continues to be highly enthusiastic about his cause and said that if given the chance, he would definitely sign a statement like the "Born of Conflict" again because statements like it "made a difference". A train of events inspired Rev. Inman Moore to take up and fight for the cause of the African-Americans in Mississippi. Though his parents and his extended family were segregationists who did not support his cause then, they are more accepting and supportive of the same, now, because times have changed. Moore's only regret is that he was accepting of this segregation as a child. He says that if he could change something he did in the past, he would have been more aware and less accepting of segregation earlier in his life. Moreover, he would have tried to be a little bolder in promoting the cause for equality. As an ardent admirer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Rev. Moore strongly believes that the war for equal civil rights is a never ending one. His mes-

sage to the Techers is that the civil rights movement is not over. Discrimination is still practiced in many other ways. The civil rights movement is more than just the relationship between blacks and whites. He stated that the society is still not free of gender discrimination. Men and women are not on the same platform yet. His main message to the youth is that they should continue this struggle to obtain equal civil rights for all regardless of gender or race. Overall, judging by the enthusiasm of the audience who attended that breakfast, Reverend Inman Moore left everyone highly inspired.

The Issue lunch on Wednesday, January 18 was an emotional one. Dr. Percy Clark Jr., an African-American who currently serves as the superintendent of the Pasadena Unified School District, touched many hearts with his highly motivating speech. The man with 41 years of experience as an educator was motivated by his mother, who gave education a lot of importance, as well as by his high school English teacher who showed faith in his abilities and encouraged him. Although, he is content with his past and the work he has done to enhance the quality of academics at public schools, he very humbly says, "success is yet to come". His speech inspired the Techers present at the lunch. They all were very inquisitive about ways in which they too could get involved so that people of all race would have an opportunity to receive a fine education. When a student asked Dr. Percy Clark Jr. if he should contribute his earnings or he should help teach, Dr. Clark replied, that money was fine but "...we need you!"

On January 17, between 10 am and 5 pm, Dr. King's famous speech "I Have a Dream," was screened at various locations on campus to emphasize its significance even today. CRASH (2005) was screened on the evening of January 19 at the Beckman auditorium. The movie, which looks at the complexities of racial tolerance in contemporary America blended well with the mood of the

week, where there were serious discussions about how issues of race still continue to have a serious impact on life in the United States. As a continuing tribute to the Civil Rights Movement, the first of six videos was screened on campus. The videos, known as Eyes on the Prize, are to be shown each Friday until the end of Black History Month. Through these activities and more, Caltech is getting into the spirit of things. It is trying to make a difference in the community, playing its role in the ongoing struggle for civil rights, and helping to realize the dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King. One hopes that the students at Caltech will be inspired by these leaders and try and get involved in this important movement. They have the perfect opportunity to join the MLK service project coordinated by the Caltech Y. Hopefully, Techers will realize the need for continued support in this ongoing struggle for equality.



The Truth About Veritas

By ROBERT TINDOL

In a new study that provides a novel way of looking at our solar system's past, a group of planetary scientists and geochemists announce that they have found evidence on Earth of an asteroid breakup or collision that occurred 8.2 million years ago.

Reporting in the January 19 issue of the journal Nature, scientists from the California Institute of Technology, the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), and Charles University in the Czech Republic show that core samples from oceanic sediment are consistent with computer simulations of the breakup of a 100-mile-wide body in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. The larger fragments of this asteroid are still orbiting the asteroid belt, and their hypothetical source has been known for years as the asteroid "Veritas."

Ken Farley of Caltech discovered a spike in a rare isotope known as helium 3 that began 8.2 million years ago

and gradually decreased over the next 1.5 million years. This information suggests that Earth must have been dusted with an extraterrestrial source.

"The helium 3 spike found in these sediments is the smoking gun that something quite dramatic happened to the interplanetary dust population 8.2 million years ago," says Farley, the Keck Foundation Professor of Geochemistry at Caltech and chair of the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences. "It's one of the biggest dust events of the last 80 million years."

Interplanetary dust is composed of bits of rock from a few to several hundred microns in diameter produced by asteroid collisions or ejected from comets. Interplanetary dust migrates toward the sun, and en route some of this dust is captured by the Earth's gravitational field and deposited on its surface.

Presently, more than 20,000 tons of this material accumu-

lates on Earth each year, but the accretion rate should fluctuate with the level of asteroid collisions and changes in the number of active comets. By looking at ancient sediments that include both interplanetary dust and ordinary terrestrial sediment, the researchers for the first time have been able to detect major dust-producing solar system events of the past.

Because interplanetary dust particles are so small and rare in sediment—significantly less than a part per million—they are difficult to detect using direct measurements. However, these particles are extremely rich in helium 3, in comparison with terrestrial materials. Over the last decade, Ken Farley has measured helium 3 concentrations in sediments formed over the last 80 million years to create a record of the interplanetary dust flux.

To assure that the peak was not a fluke present at only one site on the seafloor, Farley

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Caltech Y Offers Alternative Spring Break Opportunities

By EVA MURDOCK

us all, emotionally and economically, and this is your opportunity to participate in the disaster relief effort. And as you would on any Y trip, you'll probably end up meeting some people you wouldn't have met otherwise and making some lasting friendships.

I hope you'll consider an alternative spring break trip this year. The Owens Valley and Mexico trips are just \$50 each, which will include your food, shelter, supplies, and transportation for 4 days. The Biloxi trip is just \$150 for a full 7 days of service. If you are interested in applying, be sure to attend the information meeting on Friday, January 27 at noon in the Winnett Lounge. If you have any questions before then or if you can't make it to the meeting, email Greg Fletcher at the Y at gregf@caltech.edu, or call the Y at x6163. And don't forget, if you have federal work study, you can earn \$20/hour for community service like these trips through the Y.

Spring break is right around the corner, and you have options. You can spend thousands of dollars to fly to some beach-side resort in Mexico and live only on margaritas, sangria, and tortilla chips for a week, but I can tell you from experience that it just might feel a little bit like a waste. Do something meaningful this year while getting out of town.

I encourage you to look into Alternative Spring Break trips this year, especially if you've never done one. The Caltech Y is offering a set of student-led trips with a community service and intercultural focus. There will be a trip to the Owens Valley in California to see first-hand the environmental impact of LA's water use practices and get our hands a little dirty on the trail. There's also a trip to Mexico, an intercultural experience you can't get from beside the pool, and a very special trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. The devastation this region experienced after Hurricane Katrina has affected

Bitches is Hoes #5: ASCIT the Lloydocracy

By JON SENN, JOHN MCNAMARA AND OTHERS IN THE ROOM

Lloydies... the final frontier. These are the articles of Bitches is Hoes. Its four-plus year mission: to explore strange new houses, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no Techer has gone before.

Unfortunately, we must consider our mission a partial failure. Despite finding some nice ass on a poster, along with a reminder of all the things we've done at Tech, namely the seven sins, we found no signs of a civilization capable of interaction with outside beings. The seniors do pass down myths of a time when Lloyd-grade referred to the finest product available rather than a type of feminine hygiene product and of the ancient Lloydies, such as Nate Lewis, Tim Elling, and Mason Porter, but no evidence of that once thriving civilization remains.

Despite living next door to Lloyd house, the authors have barely socialized with any Lloydies in our combined lives at Tech. Sure, we know a few from sports, a couple from various committees, a couple guys we used to be friends with during Rotation freshman year, but we recall almost no Lloydies with whom we've socialized since then.

We've met strangers on Super Shuttle rides from the airport who surprised us by saying they were actually Caltech undergrads that we'd somehow managed to never meet. Without fail, these complete strangers have all been Lloydies. We're sure there are plenty of decent, fun-loving people who happen to be Lloydies, but we don't know enough Lloydies to be sure.

Yet after the last set of ASCIT elections, Lloydies comprised 4 of the 9 voting positions on the ASCIT Board of Directors (BoD). The year before, 5 of the 9 members of the BoD were full members of Lloyd, and another was a social member. The BoD bylaws state that, in the event of a tied vote concerning funding, no funds are provided. So this year when even 1 of the 5 non-Lloydies misses a BoD meeting, Lloyd has veto power over all

funding. You might suppose that this scenario is far fetched, that in fact an all-Lloyd versus all-non-Lloyd vote would be exceedingly rare. But just last term there was in fact a funding vote resulting in the 4 Lloydies vetoing the pro-funding votes of the 4 other members in attendance. Sadly, we cannot search for similar votes, as it seems that the BoD websites on Donut only contain information on passed votes.

While the large Lloyd faction of the BoD is explained in large part by predominately pro-Lloyd votes by the ASCIT members, we would like to point out that this dominance is also the result of more Lloyd candidates and higher Lloyd voter turn-out. Quite simply, Lloydies have cared more. In the coming elections, we commission you to not only vote, but to remind your friends and housemates to vote as well. Furthermore, if you think your friends would serve to improve Caltech, nominate them for a BoD position, with or without their permission.

Why should Lloyd control half the BoD when half of us have yet to socialize with a Lloydie since Rotation? As you vote for ASCIT President and VP today, and for other BoD positions in the coming weeks, we encourage you to usher in a new era of a more diverse BoD.

Attend the January 25th Town Hall meeting in Baxter Lecture Hall and voice your concerns with the budget cuts, or to just find out what all the pending cuts are. The meeting itself begins at noon and concludes at 1:30, but there will be free pizza starting at 11:30am. A strong voicing of student concerns may actually have an impact on fiscal policy for next year.

All ASCIT members can and should vote today for President and VP. You can vote with your UID and birthday online, or with paper ballots by the Tech Express. Voting closes at midnight tonight.

Elect Oklahoma Dan for President. Dan is Bitchin'.

What does the phrase "Bitches is Hoes" mean?

"So what do you think we should call it?"

"Uhh..."

"Forget it. Have another pint."

"Bitches is Hoes, fool."

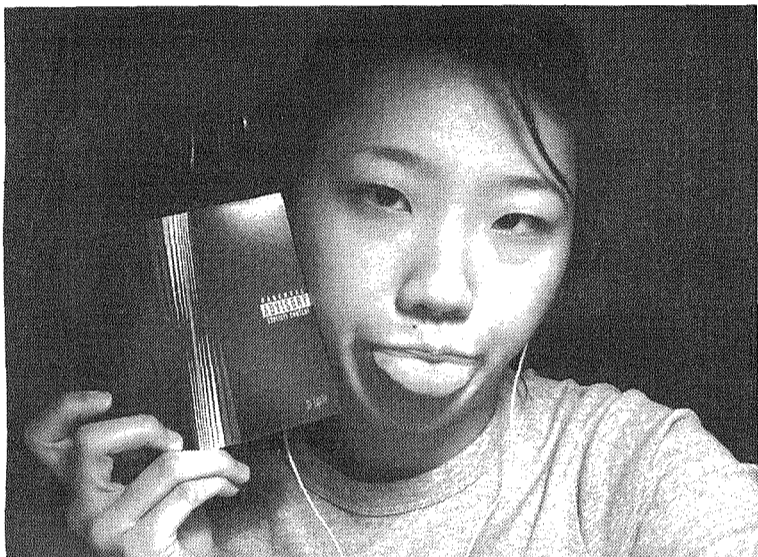
"I like the sound of that."

Thus our column began. The only problem was that we had no idea what the phrase, "Bitches is Hoes" meant. Maybe it'll take on a meaning after a while. The better way to know what it means is to talk to the person who first said it. Unfortunately, we don't know who first scrawled it on our door one night.

But let's give the phrase a chance. The existential philosopher Soren Kierkegaard said in his "Panegyric upon Abraham" in his book, Fear and Trembling, "The poet is the genius of memory, and does nothing but recall what has been done, can do nothing but admire what has been done." We aren't sure what the poet who said "Bitches is Hoes" did the night he scrawled it along with "boobies" on the whiteboard, but perhaps a thing must exist before it takes on meaning. The ink was shot onto the door with no purpose but to represent life. Through one nonsensical ejaculation, the poet summarizes all that he encountered in his four plus years of institutionalization, but has neither the time nor coordination to give the phrase genuine purpose in an explanation. Hence, this is the nature of all things. That everything exists without a known purpose and dies when forgotten. It is only once people ascribe some meaning to it through its existence that it can persist.

We see a place for the phrase to take meaning when we hear people complain that this place has become less Caltechy. As a result, we know the sentiment that spawned the name of this column echoes throughout campus. We do not know what those people are talking about when they call this place less Caltechy, but we have our own agenda: we are here to point fingers. We are identifying the obvious examples of idiocy that plague our community. These are the cowardly acts committed by the administration because they are afraid to get sued. These are the failings of different so-called campus services because they are afraid of budget cuts. These are the students who sycophantically adhere to the administration's weak excuses. And so we label them "bitches." They are as effective as a blind, spayed dog with its teeth knocked out and a giant tumor coming out of its nose. They have sold out by sacrificing the efficiency and quality of the Caltech experience for an illusion of political correctness and safety. Hence, bitches is hoes.

We pull no punches when we comment on the shortcomings of this place. If you think we have punched below the belt, do not hesitate to contact the author of the articles so we can make fun of you.



First Impressions of Earth (2006) – The Strokes

By CINDY KO

This is the Strokes' follow-up to 2003's Room On Fire. I guess on first listen it's not that good. I'm still working on the second/third listen, and it's not improving much. So like, remember when you were listening to Room On Fire, and you were thinking to yourself, "By God, it's like the musical heavens have opened up and bestowed godlike song writing ability to Julian Casablancas's song writing organs"? Yeah, well, there's none of that on this album. In comparison to Room On Fire, I can safely say that First Impressions is teh sucko. Here's the lowdown: typecast Strokes songs complete with repetitive quarter-time beats, lots of electric guitar, Julian Casablancas singing quietly sometimes, Julian Casablancas yelling loudly later... It's pretty much the same ol', same ol' --EXCEPT without all that microphone distortion that usually accompanies Julian's vocals. Thank goodness some producer came to their senses and decided not to have vocal distortions on every single track. As for the song structure, the lyrics sound made up on the spot and the opening hooks sometimes sound like they were ripped from other songs. If there's anything more annoying than that, I can't think of it. (The first three seconds of, "You Only Live Once," is a dead ringer for Sum 41's hit "In Too Deep," and the drums on "Red Light" sound like Weezer's "Keep Fishin'.")

Even if I could get over that, there are other things about the album that I can't let go. That being said, given the way it sounds, I almost expect this from a debut album. Of course, it has all the polish and over production of a 'third-more' effort, but honestly, I feel bad that I spent fifteen bucks for this LP. If you're a Strokes fan and you're still thinking about buying it, here's what you should know: the single is a bit more outspoken than the rest of the record, so if you don't like "Juicebox" then there's still a chance that you'll like the rest of the album. In regards to style, First Impressions is kind of close to Is This It, but less catchy.

By the way, what was the dealio with the video for the single? Holy crap! I'll never look at scrubbing the floor the same way again... and radio dj's and Marmaduke, for that matter. Anywhoo, I still think Julian Casablancas is hot, and I still got duped into buying the album, so I guess the Strokes get a passing grade this time (barely!).

Grade: C-

Join me next week when I review Sufjan Steven's 2003 Michigan in preparation for the next next week's 2005 Illinois. Yes, I am going to try to stay on the ball... whatever that means.

To the Drunk Guys around the Corner

By SHAI BARAK

I can't take it any more. I can't take the badmouthing, the rumors, the exaggerated generalizations. I can't take the hate. Living in Avery has been one of the best experiences I've had as an undergraduate at Caltech.

However, my chance at having a satisfying undergraduate life is slowly being eroded by a very small group of people, and I can't understand how they do it. To the best of my understanding, the overwhelming majority of the undergraduate population gets its information about Avery from one unhappy and vocal person. This makes me very confused, since I'd like not to believe that people as smart as we can be indoctrinated by one source. Exaggerations are being spread

by a small group of people, and then rumors are treated as truth.

Did you hear Avery circumcised a senior by melting it off with cleaning solution in a crazy Karaoke tradition, and all after the poor guy earnestly tried to bake them all fresh cookies? That's odd, because all I heard about was a guy who didn't tell any of the other seniors, then went around ditch day banging on upperclassmen's doors during midterms. I heard it while sobbing into a pillow after finishing a midterm, so I'm pretty sure that it's accurate. How about the one where Avery residents all call security the instant a car parks in their spots? I've received enough friendly emails and been driven in enough cars

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Yes, you.

It isn't always clear to people at first that they're right for the D. E. Shaw group. Like the poet we hired to head an automated block trading unit. Or the woman who designs solar-powered race cars; we hired her to help launch a new venture in computational chemistry. They didn't think of themselves as "financial types," and neither did we. We thought of them as people with extraordinary talent.

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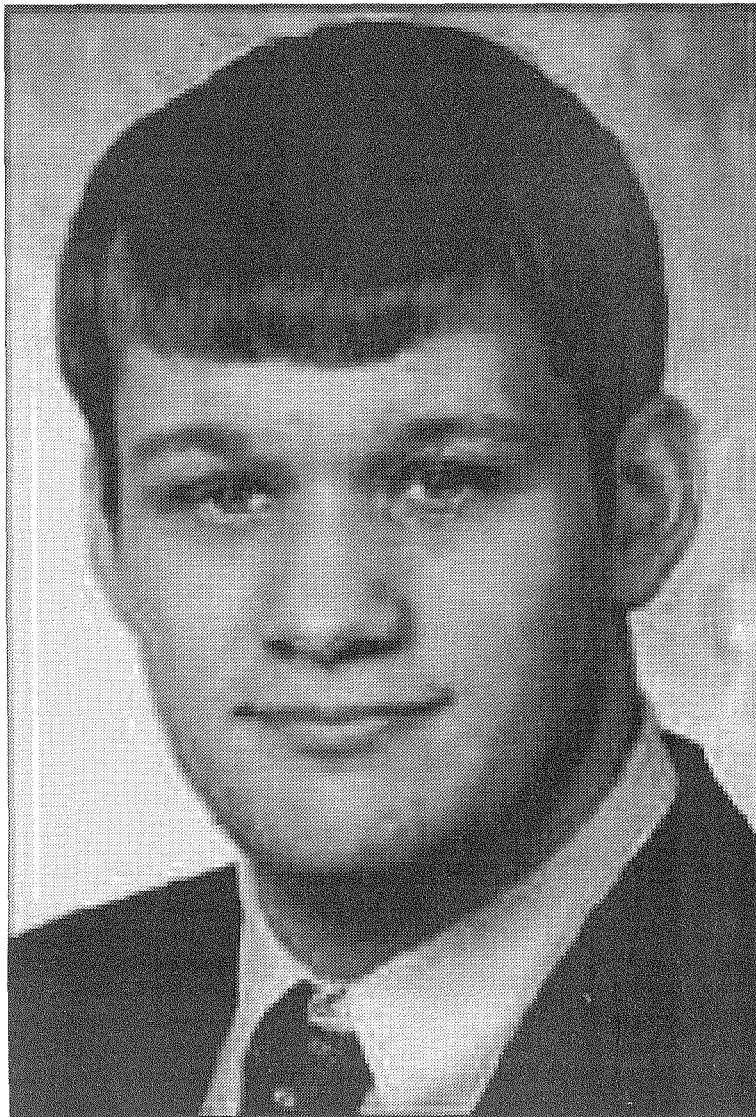
NOTE: Your ballot will be invalidated if

(1) You fill in the same candidate in two different slots for the same office.

(2) You vote "NO" in the second or third slot.

Read the election rules.

Dan "Oklahoma" McLaury



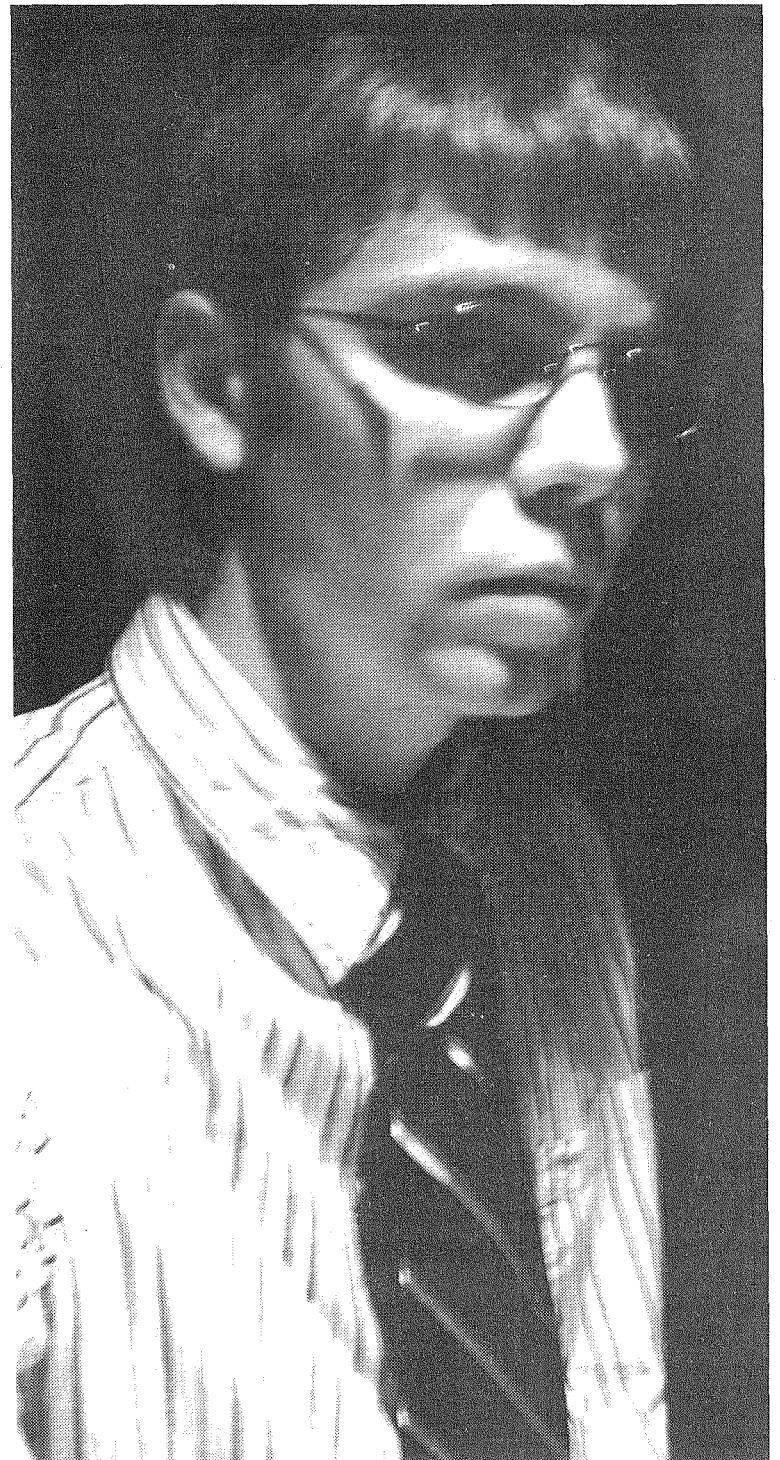
One of the most vital and distinctive features of the Caltech education is the Arthurian equality between all members of the Caltech community, whether student, faculty, staff, or administrator. Not only does our honor code enjoin students from copying off each other's homework or stealing from each other's rooms, it also prohibits the administration from taking unfair advantage of students and faculty. Now, while there are dedicated bodies such as the CRC, BoC, and the Deans' office to adjudicate disputes between certain groups of people, there is no specific body tasked with deterring and remedying honor code violations on the part of the administration. Naturally, this leads to problems when, as at present, the administration decides to place itself above the law.

We all know the issues involved -- the seven day board plan we don't want, the athletic fields we pay for and can't use, or the trimming of extracurricular (and even curricular) activities, for some examples. Of course, each candidate for this office will of course promise to deal with these issues in some manner or another. What's really up for grabs in this election is the manner of action that is going to be taken to remedy the problems. In my case, I plan to learn from history; this is not the first time this sort of thing has happened at Caltech.

Some of you may have heard of Kim West by reputation. She was brought as the "Director of Residence Life," a newly created office designed to take some of the burden off of the MOSH. But unlike the friendly MOSH you're used to dealing with nowadays, she immediately began trying to implement sweeping changes with little or no cooperation with the students; among other things, she demolished off-campus houses in the middle of a housing crunch, attempted to ban the Ricketts firepot, and sent a multitudes of students before the CRC for little or no reason.

You may have noticed that she does not work here anymore. In her case, the solution was not negotiation but a restructuring brought on in part by the omnibenevolent Tom Mannion and in part by creative student protest, such as the Blacker "Shantytown" stunt. Not to imply that the solution to administrative problems is to fire everyone, but when negotiations have broken down more extreme action is required. Since there is no board to oversee the administration, I want to make the BoD function as such a body. Students, after all, are the alums of the future; we carry quite a bit of weight, especially when well-organized. If elected I will devote a good deal of my term to buying the undergraduate community leverage at the bargaining table.

Todd Gingrich



By now it is no secret that significant budgetary changes have been brewing around campus. The student affairs budget is being slashed; tuition is increasing drastically; health care is being cut; financial aid is being scaled back, and a seven-day board plan is being implemented. This latest round of budget cuts reflects the continuing trend of Caltech's move toward running the school more like a business. I personally am greatly disturbed by this trend.

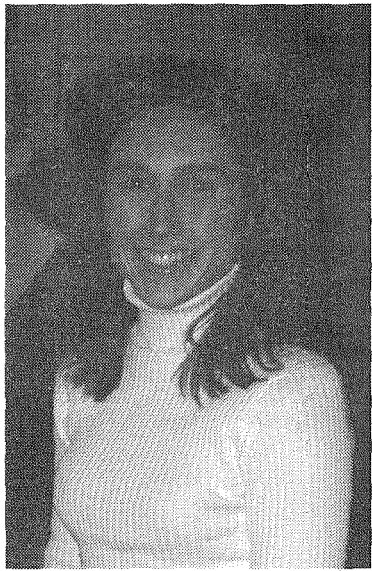
As FDAL, I was able to participate in several meetings with administrators. These meetings gave me some idea of the depth of the problems with Caltech, but my experiences as FDAL highlighted some major shortcomings of ASCIT as well. Over the last year the BoD has been largely ineffective at spearheading any rising problems, communicating with the student body, and directing frustrations toward productive resolutions. I am not so bold as to suggest that I can fix all of the current problems with the student-administration disconnect, but I do have some significant changes to make ASCIT a stronger force in confronting the administrative changes.

Primarily, I will greatly increase the level of communication with the student body. Like several ASCIT presidents of the past, I will write a regular article in the Tech to provide updates about the issues occurring around campus. I will also welcome administrators to write their own frequent columns to explain their actions. It is impossible for us as students to constructively complain when

we do not fully understand the issues, so this communication is essential. In addition to increasing communication with the student body, ASCIT's communication with the faculty must also be greatly improved. The ASCIT president has a standing invitation to the monthly faculty board meetings. As president, I fully intend to make use of this invitation in order to ensure that the faculty members understand the undergraduate's concerns. I feel that many faculty members would be stronger student advocates if they knew more about the upcoming changes. Finally, as ASCIT president I will increase contact with perhaps our strongest advocates, the alumni.

The issues brought up before ASCIT this next year will be significant. I know that many Caltech students believe that ASCIT has no influence, but the administrators really do keep in contact with ASCIT. It is important that the next ASCIT president care deeply about working with the administrators and the students to help facilitate communication. It is going to be essential that the students, alumni, and faculty are all well-informed since I believe the vast majority of people at Caltech will oppose the financial changes when they really understand what is happening. It is my primary goal to facilitate the open communication of grievances in order to prevent the conversion of Caltech from "the world's best playground for math, science, and engineering" into a bland technical school that struggles to attract talented undergraduates.

Meghan Crowley Jean Sun



After having served as a BoC Rep this past year, I am deeply committed to upholding the Honor Code and would like the opportunity to serve as BoC Chair. The Honor Code is an integral part of Caltech life. Specifically, the Honor Code expects students to be responsible and accountable for their actions and challenges students to adhere to a higher standard of academic conduct. The Honor Code is much more than a set of rules; rather, it defines the Caltech experience by giving students great privileges and immense freedom.

I am determined to uphold the Honor Code. I believe in honesty, respect, and compas-

sion and intend to carry out my job according to these principles. I firmly believe that all protection decisions must consider the defendant and what is best for them in addition to considering the best way to protect the Caltech community. I am nonjudgmental and impartial and am dedicated to dealing with all cases in a fair manner.

I will work with professors to ensure that collaboration policies are constructive and clearly stated in order to minimize any ambiguity. Cases must be heard in a timely fashion so that defendants do not forget the facts and so that cases do not last for longer than is necessary. As a member of the ASCIT BoD, I want to represent students and promote more effective communication with the administration regarding recent decisions that could adversely affect undergraduate life.

My extensive involvement as a member of the BoC, a house UCC, and a member on various Institute committees will enable me to serve the community as an effective Chair. If you have any questions please feel free to send me an email meghanc@caltech.edu



What most of you are probably wondering is this:

What kind of misguided, self-hating, masochist would run for BoC Chair after being Secretary for a year?

After cooperating with Michelle for this long, I know exactly what I'm getting myself into. I've worked with BoC reps, the Deans, administrators, faculty, and students from all over campus. I've prepared and sat on almost every case that has come before the Board in the past year. I've been a witness for a CRC case, a dismissed defendant for a BoC case, and a liaison with the GRB, the grad students' version of the BoC. I've given countless talks about the Honor Code, both on public panels and committees and in private conferences. With this sort of experience, I fully understand the breadth of the commitment, i.e., I'm not just doing this because Tech broke my brain. But more importantly, I understand what more can be and needs to be done, both for the BoC and for ASCIT.

The Board of Control runs based on a tried-and-true system that has churned out cases since what seems like the beginning of time. The solidity and repetitiveness of BoC procedures make it easy to get comfortable, ease into the routine of trying case after case, and lose a sense of perspective. Most people think that being BoC Chair is about heading the Board. While that's certainly not a trivial job, it's also not what the ASCIT Vice President position is about. In principle, it's about maintaining the integrity and spirit of the Honor System by being proactive in the Caltech community. In practice, this means a long list of things, all of which will require a lot of time and dedication to get done. Here's a sampling:

1) Restructure the Board by splitting it in two. No, I'm not trying to undo the BoC: hey guys! I have a great idea! I'll run for Chair by promising to destroy the BoC! That way, I won't have to do any work once I get the position! Rather, I want to cut the BoC's case load in half by appointing more executive members so that multiple cases can be run simultaneously.

2) Push for a universal format for collaboration policies.

3) Get continuous feedback from both people directly involved with the BoC, including defendants, witnesses, and reporting bodies, and from the student body in general. Publishing BoC stats that actually mean something would be nice.

4) Revamp the frosh camp BoC talk. I mean, let's face it: the frosh camp honor code talk does to prefrosh what intelligent design and Botox did for the advancement of humanity and what existing does for narcoleptics, i.e., virtually nothing, putting them to sleep. Having given the talk 3 times in a row already, I know exactly what I did wrong and how I can spice things up.

5) Educate new TAs, visiting profs, transfer students, and the frosh systematically. As it stands, prefrosh have to hear about the honor code 3 or 4 times in a row and, though I appreciate how importance the Honor Code is, I think this is overkill. We should be able to drive the point home the first time.

Structural changes aside, this entire list can be summed up by the following: there is a big communication problem at Caltech and something needs to be done about it. There are holes everywhere, between different student groups, i.e., ASCIT, the IHC, the BoC, other active committees on campus and the student body as a whole, between those groups and the faculty, and, of course, between students and the administration. Improvements can also be made in how new Caltech members are educated and how information is passed down from one BoD to the next. The list of possible solutions is long and ambitious. But I'll push for as many of those solutions as I can, as quickly and thoroughly as possible. If you don't believe I have the time or energy, consider this: I'm willing to put off med school to fulfill my duties as ASCIT VP. That's right: no interviews to fly to, no MCAT to take, no grad school apps whatsoever until after I finish my term as BoC Chair and graduate. For a Caltech premed to be willing to do this is like a paraplegic being willing to break both their arms off simultaneously. But here's what I think: at a school where students make personal, social, and academic sacrifices on a daily basis, sticking around to change things for the better is justified. That way, when the little prefroshies come and ask me, "no, seriously, what makes Caltech worthwhile?" I can say, "the Honor Code and the students, because they take care of each other," and mean it.

Things need to get done and get done well, both on the BoC and ASCIT. That's the bottom line. And if it takes a misguided, self-hating masochist to do that, then so be it: I'm up for the challenge.

ASCIT
VP /
BOC
CHAIR

Meghan Crowley

George Hines

Jean Sun

George Hines



I regard the spirit of the law as more important than its letter, and Caltech's one-sentence honor code embodies the "spirit of the law" philosophy. The honor system is espoused in name by many schools, but is most often a nice euphemism for the rule book. Such is the case at a college in my home town where my dad worked, and he scoffed at the idea, having seen the code's enforcement often

fail. This and other observations and conversations of and about the behavior policies of other schools have strengthened my conviction that the honor code is vital to that ethereal concept of what Caltech is and may be one of the few such signs of Caltech's tradition that still remain. It is a privilege to uphold it.

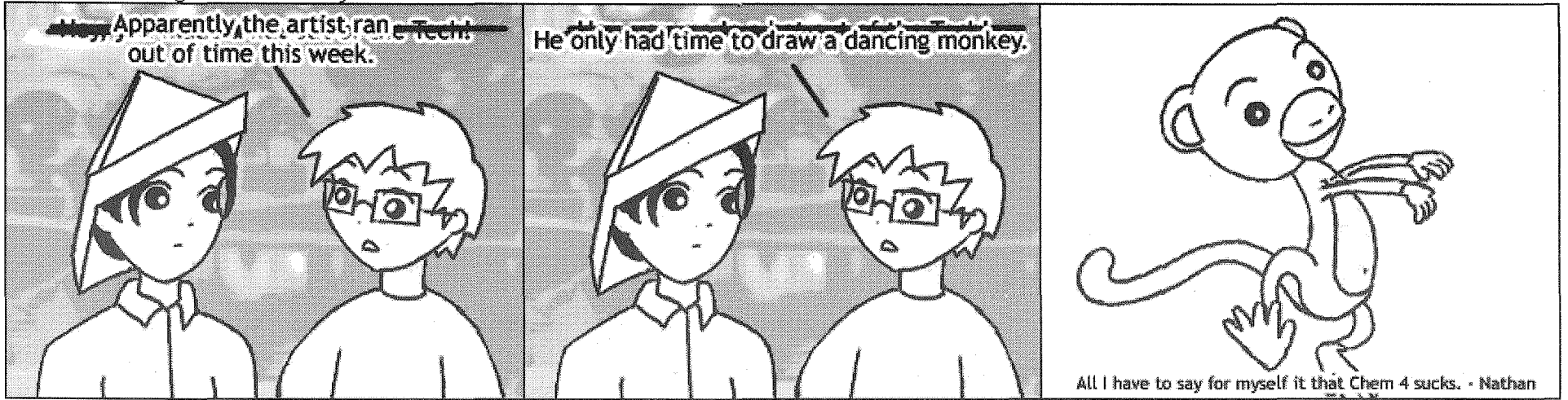
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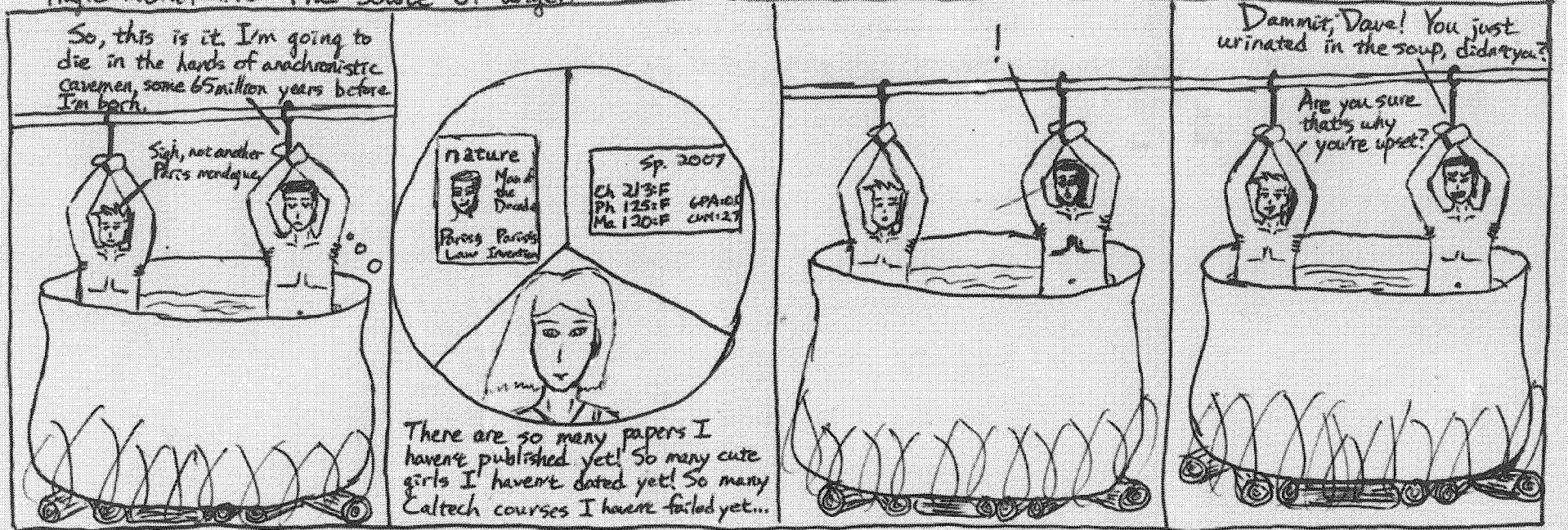
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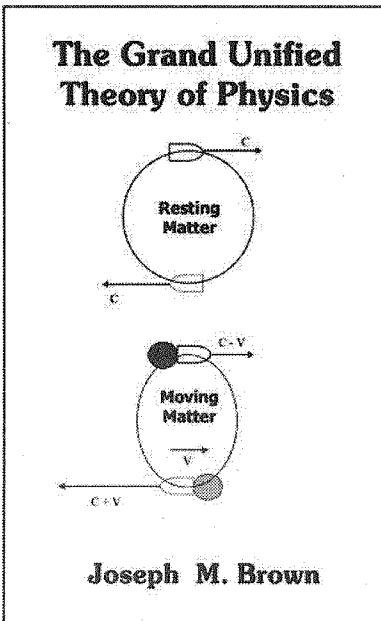
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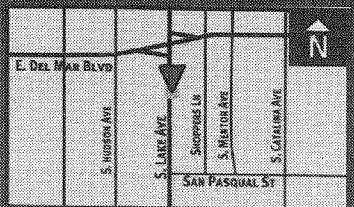
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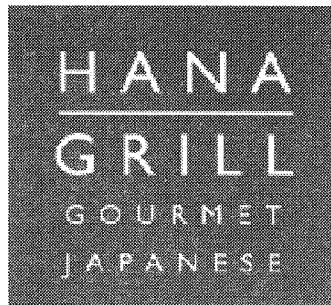
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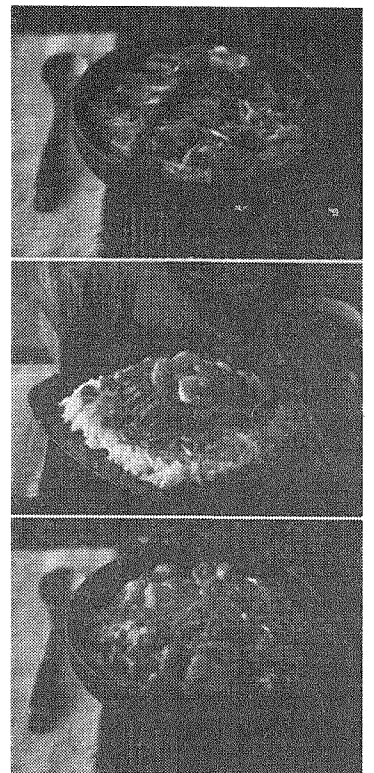
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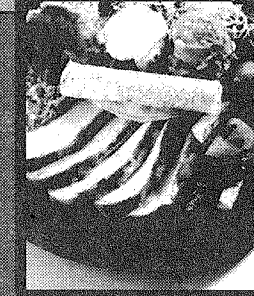
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Caltech Hosts CMS

By GUSTAVO OLM

Tech's basketball teams played host to SCIAC rival Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Saturday. In the afternoon session, the Lady Beavers took on the Athenas. Led by point guard Lea Kunesh, who scored 9 points in the first half, Caltech drove to the hoop early, getting to the line 8 times. Tech shot well from the floor, hitting 8 of 13, but turned the ball over 16 times in the half. CMS led 30-20 at the break.

The Athenas built a solid cushion in the second half, and would not let up their full court pressure. The Beavers continued to pound the ball inside, however, taking a 22-12 advantage over the visitors in the paint. CMS was too strong on the glass, scoring 19 second chance points. They would win by a margin of 64-38. Kunesh finished with 17 points and 6 rebounds. Sophomore Lindsay King collected 4 assists and 3 blocks.

In the night-cap the Beavers were led the entire way

by Senior Jordan Carlson. Carlson thrilled the crowd when he threw down a thunderous jam on a break-away. The Beavers played solid defense, but seemed out of rhythm on the offensive end. They trailed by 7 at halftime.

The second half featured a barrage of fouls on both sides of the floor. Neither team took advantage, though. The Beavers shot 10-18 from the line in the second half, but the Stags were no better at 16-33. Tech couldn't chip away at Claremont's 10-point margin the entire half. Freshman Matt Delatorre's 3-pointer with 27 seconds to play brought the game within 8, but that was as close as it would be. CMS took it 59-49.

Carlson finished with a game high 24 points. Bryan Hires chipped in 10 points, and Day Ivy finished with 8 points and 5 rebounds.

Both Beaver teams hit the road this week to face La Verne.

Veritas Rocks

Continued from Page 1

studied two different localities: one in the Indian Ocean and one in the Atlantic. The event is recorded clearly at both sites.

To find the source of these particles, William F. Bottke and David Nesvorny of the SwRI Space Studies Department in Boulder, Colorado, along with David Vokrouhlicky of Charles University, studied clusters of asteroid orbits that are likely the consequence of ancient asteroidal collisions.

"While asteroids are constantly crashing into one another in the main asteroid belt," says Bottke, "only once in a great while does an extremely large one shatter."

The scientists identified one cluster of asteroid fragments whose size, age, and remarkably similar orbits made it a likely candidate for the Earth-dusting event. Tracking the orbits of the cluster backwards in time using computer models, they found that, 8.2 million years ago, all of its fragments shared the same orbital orientation in space. This event defines when the 100-mile-wide asteroid called Veritas was blown apart by impact and coincides with the spike in the interplanetary seafloor sedi-

ments Farley had found.

"The Veritas disruption was extraordinary," says Nesvorny. "It was the largest asteroid collision to take place in the last 100 million years."

As a final check, the SwRI-Czech team used computer simulations to follow the evolution of dust particles produced by the 100-mile-wide Veritas breakup event. Their work shows that the Veritas event could produce the spike in extraterrestrial dust raining on the Earth 8.2 million years ago as well as a gradual decline in the dust flux.

"The match between our model results and the helium 3 deposits is very compelling," Vokrouhlicky says. "It makes us wonder whether other helium 3 peaks in oceanic cores can also be traced back to asteroid breakups."

This research was funded by NASA's Planetary Geology & Geophysics program and received additional financial support from Czech Republic grant agency and the National Science Foundation's COBASE program. The Nature paper is titled "A late Miocene dust shower from the breakup of an asteroid in the main belt."

It May Be a House, but it's Still Our Home

Continued from Page 2

to be pretty sure that's not the case. But, for some reason, there are some people who hear negative gossip about Avery, but don't try to seek the truth.

If any of you don't know more than a few people in Avery, I'd really like to encourage you to get to know some of us before judging based on the edges of the spectrum, the vocally unhappy ones who choose to live in Avery anyway or the self-defensive folks who feel they were hurt very deeply and are trying to lash back at the other houses. To put it in technical terms, don't interpret the data based only on outliers.

I'll admit a lot of people chose Avery because they didn't fit into the system the other houses had. They wanted independence from participating in certain house traditions ingrained in the house system, and many felt that living in one of the other seven houses forced them to participate in such activities or be shunned. Hence there are a lot of people who might not want to go to interhouse sporting events.

Lamentably, the inter-house interactions I've seen so far are unlikely to do much to help better their view of the houses. I like the other houses, but a lot of the actions that I've seen so far have been so hateful that they've made me want to cry. I've seen people coming through behaving in ways they wouldn't to any other house or any other human being and then, when complaints are raised and they're asked to stop, claim the people in Avery are bad sports. This gives a terrible impression of the other houses.

Recently, a freshman asked me what exactly the difference between the other houses and frats were, and, for a bit, I didn't know what to answer. That's why I feel really ill at ease whenever I hear someone saying, "Avery is a house now, so it has to put up with." I can't believe such a phrase can be used to deprive someone of the very essential freedom to choose his or her own lifestyle. As far as I can

tell, this has only been said about things which I can only identify with being a frat, and I can hardly think of a way to justify having all freshmen at a school being forced to live in a frat. After all, they're not pets or slaves; they're highly intelligent people who are fully qualified to choose where they wish to live, not just in theory but in practice. "I like living in Avery" is something that I've heard before, said by multiple people, including Avery Frosh. Yes, Avery is probably less united, less cohesive, but a different environment doesn't mean one that's any less friendly or supportive. Was it really that bad to offer such a choice to people one year earlier?

When I came to Caltech, I was nervous, not stupid. I moved across the country, away from everyone I knew, and the first thing I wanted to do was make friends. I got lucky and formed a small group of friends during frosh camp and the beginning of rotation. Then, the end of rotation came along, and, since no part of the rotation process seemed to consider pre-formed friendships, only interactions with upperclassmen, we all got into different houses. Consequently, a lot of us got put into the position of having to choose between a house and our friendships. But, even though we chose to stay close, we wanted to be involved with campus activities and did not want to live completely off campus. A lot if not most of the people in Avery started out the same way.

I understand that many feel that putting frosh in Avery was just one more case of the administration's exercising its power or listening to a small and vocal minority. After all, when people first opposed putting frosh here, many raised the valid concern that there were already seven houses and that another identical house wouldn't add much. So the brilliant idea occurred to me that it might just work to let people in Avery act a bit differently. Of course, because of the

way undergrad life works, we need a house for them to have any sort of representation, including ombuds, government, etc, and to be able to participate in a lot of activities, but that does not necessarily mean that Avery should participate in the intense rivalry or in the push to first and foremost be friends with those people that live in the same house and abandon or at least push aside all other friendships. Forcing that on Avery will destroy what it is, destroy the foundation upon which it was built.

Just because the Administration appeared to side with Avery on this frosh issue, the house is being consistently slandered as a scapegoat for everything that goes wrong at Tech. It's not a coincidence that, when they announced paid parking and 7 day board, tensions with Avery seemed to become a whole lot more serious. This is incredibly unproductive. If you ask people who know me, they'll tell you I hate the man as much as does the next girl. But, the way things are going, increasingly people in Avery are being pushed to side with the nameless, budget-cutting authority figures. After the last time people went through yelling "Avery! Hahaha! Avery sucks! [drunk smashing of things]," I had a chat with someone, and he said that at this rate he would rather side with the administration, because the houses are acting like complete idiots.

This hurt me, because I really do think that the overwhelming majority of undergrads are rational, intelligent human beings who should be able to direct their own lives without being dictated to by someone in absolute power. This scapegoat method only wastes very useful riotous energy while driving away potential supporters. After all, even if you don't believe me about the overwhelming majority of Averyites' actually being mature and reasonable, and even if you still think we're a bunch of whiners, wouldn't it be better to have us whining on your side?

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