

JPL wins suit against Caltech and Homeland Security

Ninth Circuit Court grants injunction against “unfair and invasive” mandatory background check for employees

BY NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

With December just around the corner, many employees of JPL have quite a bit to look forward to. The next step of the JPL lawsuit, which challenges the constitutionality of a directive that requires most JPL employees to sign the SF85 form, will take place in either San Francisco or Pasadena, with the argument for the appeal scheduled for the first week of December.

The lawsuit, directed against Caltech and the U.S. government, has been proceeding with various degrees of success. It recently turned in favor of the plaintiffs from JPL, after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled to extend the injunction it issued earlier. The injunction orders the deadline by which the employees of JPL are required to sign the SF85 to be extended until after the appeals process.

The ruling is just what the

plaintiffs wanted to hear. “It gives us more time until we have to sign the papers and give the government a free reign of complete privacy invasion,” said Varoujan Gorjian, an astronomer who has been working at JPL for 9 years. Gorjian is one of many

and personal history from a wide variety of sources. All non-sensitive JPL employees have to sign SF85 in order to receive a new badge, which will be required to access the buildings after the rebadging process is complete.

In addition to the plaintiffs on the case, over 270 employees signed an online statement saying that they felt pressured to sign SF85 in fear of losing their jobs and thus signed the form under duress.

“I never thought that it would come to this, that the government would become so intrusive,” said Susan Paradise, a JPL employee, over the phone. “I knew about wiretapping and Guantanamo Bay,

but I never thought it would come and take my constitutional rights, I’m so far away from this.”

The majority of the trouble seems to be caused by a specific part of SF85.

“Most outrageous is the open-

PLEASE SEE JPL, PAGE 3

“I authorize any investigator... to obtain any information relating to my activities from schools, residential management agents, employers, criminal justice agencies, retain business establishments, or other sources of information. This information may include, but is not limited to, my academic, residential, achievement, performance, attendance, disciplinary, employment history, and criminal history record information.”

- Form SF85, HSPD-12

employees who believe the SF85 to be unfair and invasive.

The SF85, which serves as an extension of Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12), established as a post-9/11 action, authorizes investigators to obtain any information about employees’ educational, medical,

SURF’s up: students give final talks



David Rosen, left, talks about his Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) outside of Chandler. Students presented the fruits--and failures--of their summer to judges on Saturday morning and afternoon.

Photo by Jonathan Tsai

facebook



What Caltech does with Facebook

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Housing stops painting after Lloyd summer mural policy dispute

BY SARAH MARZEN

The Housing Office has ceased all painting jobs, including routine exterior painting jobs, on the Caltech Houses after a bitter disagreement this past summer between Lloyd House members and the Housing Office regarding the painting over of Lloyd room murals.

The disagreement came to a head over the summer when the Housing Office painted over a Lloyd room designated by the house as a “freshman room” without first informing any Lloyd House or Interhouse Committee (IHC) members. In the previous year, this particular room had been explicitly designated by Lloyd House to the Housing Office as one of the many rooms that they didn’t want painted over without prior notification, if at all.

Housing’s actions angered the Excomm members that were present during the summer, especially since in the prior year, Housing had also painted over other rooms without first notifying Lloyd. Calvin Ting, Lloyd secretary, viewed the removal of the mural as “removal of budding House traditions”. According to Housing Director Tim Chang, when Housing later tried to paint over one of Lloyd’s bathrooms, Lloyd President RJ Krom “nearly cursed [him] out”.

At that point, Tim Chang decided to suspend all painting projects in Lloyd House, even routine exterior maintenance. He recalls wondering, “How did this happen?”

According to Michael Raven, Assistant Director of Housing for Operations/Maintenance and the Housing administrator



Photo by Jonathan Tsai

The above mural in Lloyd survived being painted over, though it is not one of Housing’s favorites, according to Tim Chang.

responsible for issuing the work order, Housing’s actions followed from a misunderstanding of the recently modified mural policy. Housing’s interpretation of the

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Men’s soccer wins against Whittier

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From the Editors

Desiring a divorce

Why the Tech’s marriage to ASCIT is less than sweet

At Caltech, almost uniquely among American universities, the student newspaper is controlled by the student government. The editors of The Tech are elected as part of ASCIT, and ASCIT dictates that we print certain things throughout the year.

For the most part, the relationship is benign. During election season in February, any candidate running for office gets to print a little blurb in the Tech, along with a photo. The result is usually an unattractive hodgepodge of text boxes and photos, but it only happens once a year.

But the real downfall to the newspaper is the chaotic turnover of editorship. When students log on to vote for the next ASCIT president, they also get to vote on the next leader of the newspaper. A great idea -- the more democratic, the better. Right?

Unfortunately, in this case the democratic process is more chaotic and destructive than it is helpful. There’s no way the student body can be expected to figure out which candidate best understands how the newspaper works and is most likely to turn out a viable publication. In a worst-case scenario, any random student could get elected every single year, nullifying any progress the staff makes to better the paper. A freshman reporter who learns the reins of the paper can be prepped to take over senior year and be replaced with any inexperienced student with enough votes. Then the paper can go from bad (boring) to *unimaginably* bad (white space and gibberish).

It’s unheard of at other schools, but it happened two years ago at Caltech.

Maybe that’s just tough nuts for any one budding reporter who trains and then gets ousted by the system, but it really hurts the newspaper and the school as a whole. There’s no way for a paper

to even form an infrastructure if it collapses and has to be rebuilt every year. And for a student newspaper that’s never really evolved to cover “real” news, it’s discouraging.

To be fair, the novice editorship two years ago was a crucial turning point for the Tech — there was absolutely nowhere to go but up. It got students and administrators interested in helping the paper. The Tech is probably much better off because of it.

But now that the Tech now has an adviser—Gary Libman, a former writer for the LA Times—and a real website, it’s clear that the paper isn’t on the fast road to disaster anymore. So why still have the vestige of an elected editorship when it would clearly hinder a paper on the rise?

There really isn’t a good reason. Hardly any college paper lets the student body vote on the editor. Our system just relies on the chance that the person the newspaper trained to take over is the same person that wins the election.

It’s a gamble. Is it worth risking the existence of a real college paper?

I don’t think so, and I don’t think the gamble is avoidable if the paper doesn’t part ways with ASCIT. Let’s just be friends.

--Marissa Cevallos
Editor-in-Chief

“In a worst-case scenario, any random student could get elected every single year, nullifying any progress the staff makes to better the paper...the paper can go from bad (boring) to unimaginably bad (white space and gibberish). It’s unheard of at other schools, but it happened two years ago at Caltech.”

President’s Column

The joys and trials of a small school: why you should get involved



Caltech has one of the smallest undergraduate student bodies in the nation. The advantages show in the amazing student-faculty ratio and the numerous opportunities for participation in sports, performing arts, and research opportunities. Similarly, there are many ways to make a difference in student government at Caltech.

Perhaps the easiest way to get started is to write for the Tech. The paper is always looking for writers, and there are really interesting feature stories that come up each week. In fact, the in-depth reporting in the Tech helps the ASCIT leadership; although we have heard of most of the issues before, the details fleshed out in Tech articles allow us to make better decisions about issues affecting the student body.

If there are specific issues you are passionate about,

consider joining an IHC or ASCIT-appointed committee membership. These committees, composed of students, faculty,

Caltech is such a small school that there’s no reason to not be involved. In a larger school, it is easy to imagine a huge number of people lining up for any possible opening; here, if you don’t volunteer to do something, there is a large possibility it won’t get done.

and administration, deal with everything from admissions to campus artwork. Sign-ups are typically in Spring, but we are constantly looking to fill vacancies brought about by unforeseen circumstances.

Filling vacancies in these committees is actually somewhat challenging because we typically

have a very short time to appoint new members and no grace period beforehand. Because of this, ASCIT tends to not advertise these short-term openings to the general student body. If you are interested in serving as a replacement member of a committee, the easiest way is to email me and I will keep you in mind for future vacancies.

Caltech is such a small school that there’s no reason to not be involved. In a larger school, it is easy to imagine a huge number of people lining up for any possible opening; here, if you don’t volunteer to do something, there is a large possibility it won’t get done. We are constantly looking for people to organize social activities, write for publications, and serve on committees.

Get involved. It will serve as good experience for the future and may even prove to be fun.

Knott Scary
Knott’s Scary Farm
Not Worth the Price

Maybe I’m spoiled. When I was teaching at MIT, I had the opportunity to go to the woods in the countryside surrounding Boston and experience a real fright. It wasn’t exactly like being trapped in the movie “The Blair Witch Project,” but the people who designed the Halloween haunt used the rural setting in a creative and exciting way.

So when I heard about Knott’s Berry Farm, I expected something similar, especially since they claimed to be the “the world’s first, biggest and most famous theme park Halloween event”. To my surprise, the “farm” was simply an amusement park in the middle of Buena Park. There were no woods at all (and no berries, as far as I could see).

Despite the hefty ticket price (\$51 per person, although free coupons that save up to \$21 are available at some Burger King restaurants), there were hordes of teenager even on Sunday.

All of the attractions were the same: walk into a building and have a park employee pop out in a costume. It got old fast. And even when Knott’s tried to spice up some of the haunted houses by adding 3-D glasses or laser tag guns (which you had to pay extra for), it was still lame -- the 3-D effect was almost unnoticeable, and how much fun is it to shoot at a stationary target?

In addition, the map was extremely misleading —that part really was like The Blair

Witch Project—and the exciting rides had unnecessarily enormous lines. For example, the “Ghostrider” rollercoaster looked as if there was no wait, until you walked a hundred yards in and saw that there were hundreds of people in front of you. But by the time you’ve walked that far, you didn’t necessarily want to walk all the way back again—which you would have, had you known that the line proceed further beyond the curve ahead.

It’s almost as if Knott’s Scary Farm wanted to trick people into standing in line. My companion speculated that maybe this was to diminish the number of people wandering around the park, so Knott’s could pack more people in and sell more tickets. (For the record, the roller coaster wasn’t worth the one-hour wait, and one of the rides—“Pyromaniac”—was clearly one of their old water park rides with its name changed just for Halloween.)

Our already disappointing experience compounded with the predictably expensive park food inside left us feeling that it would have cost almost the same amount to fly to Salem for Halloween to experience the real thing.

Professor Jonathan David Farley is in the Mathematics Department at the California Institute of Technology (lattice@caltech.edu)

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
advertising e-mail: business@caltech.edu
editorial e-mail: tech@caltech.edu

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Marissa Cevallos
Editor-in-Chief

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Business Manager

Matthew Wierman
Circulation

Jonathan Tsai
Photography Editor

Valerie Syverson
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Lloyd mural fiasco fallout

MURALS, FROM P. 1

“spirit and intent” of the mural policy was that murals should be removed from both freshman and summer guest rooms, although this is not explicitly stated in the policy.

M o r e troubling to some Lloyd members was the lack of communication between Housing and Lloyd prior to painting. *“The problem is that even though the students are our customers, the Board of Trustees is our boss.”*

- Tim Chang

Raven didn't notify anyone of his intent to paint over freshman rooms that Lloyd wanted to maintain murals in because “his actions were in

be treated like such,” says Lloyd President RJ Krom.

The Housing Office does seem to have a broader scope than House traditions. Chang can detail several past murals that have “gone way over the line of acceptability.” Contractors

refused to help renovate South Houses when asked to preserve a mural in Blacker House which they described as “glorifying” Stalin. Potential donors have agreed to donate money to Caltech, but then changed their minds after touring the houses. One prospective student's mother even suggested that she could

JPL employees continue fighting Homeland Security

Director of Media Relations: Obeying whole-government directive “not a matter under Caltech's control”

JPL, FROM P. 1

ended waiver where we voluntarily allow investigators to dig into the most intimate parts of our lives,” said Robert Nelson, a 27-year-veteran of JPL, lead plaintiff on the case, and the head of the NASA's New Millennium Program. “We have no right to challenge them in court, we have no control over how they will use the information.”

Implementation of SF85 has

had an effect on the way that employees view both JPL itself and Caltech. “There has been quite a bit of dissatisfaction and a

“Most outrageous is the open-ended waiver where we voluntarily allow anonymous investigators to dig into the most intimate parts of our lives. We have no right to challenge them in court, we have no control over how they will use the information.”

- Robert Nelson, lead plaintiff

loss of trust in our management,” said Paradise. “Our concerns have been trivialized, and we haven't

been treated with respect. We feel that we've been bullied.”

Caltech, which stands on the other side of the lawsuit, surprised Gorjian with its stance. “We had to take this position [against HSPD-12] instead of Caltech, which has the reputation, which has the money, which has the lawyers which it instead took out against its own employees.”

Jill Perry, Director of Media Relations of Caltech, does not believe that there is a lot that Caltech could do to change the situation. “It is not a matter under Caltech's control,” she wrote in an e-mail. “HSPD-12 is a government-wide directive. NASA has directed all of its centers to implement certain processes in order to comply with HSPD12, including JPL, and we are following those

directions.” Although HSPD12 is, indeed, a government-wide directive, some federal agencies, like the EPA, choose not to implement it.

Some are concerned that the tense environment at JPL will have a significant impact in the future. “I fear that we will lose a lot of good scientists and engineers who will go work somewhere where they don't have to give up their rights,” said Gorjian.

The experience with the lawsuit did surprise Nelson in one pleasant way. “I am indeed gratified that so many colleagues stepped up and are willing to face the consequences to fight against the invasion of their liberties and privacy,” he said in a phone interview.

JPL employees are not the only ones affected by the directive. John Leichty, a Caltech undergrad who worked at JPL over summer, is also concerned by the changes. He said, “I would have gone through with the process, but I am concerned over the extent to which you kind of sign away any sort of privacy, the extent to which you authorize this investigation. It's just sort of the principle of it.”

Until the lawsuit comes to its conclusion, the plaintiffs will continue to educate their fellow employees about the directive.

A copy of the HSPD12 “suitability matrix” is linked in the online copy of this article on tech.caltech.edu.



Photo by Jonathan Tsai

Particular murals, like this Star Wars one in Blacker, are designated by the Houses as protected. However, one such mural was unilaterally painted over in Lloyd this summer by Housing.

accordance with his understanding of the new mural policy.”

Students at Lloyd are still bitter about the whole affair. In general, there seems to be a feeling that Housing doesn't care about maintaining House traditions. “The feeling that I got from Housing (primarily Tim Chang and Mike Raven) was that they didn't care too much about mistakes made in the Houses.... What Housing fails to realize, in my opinion, is that the students are their customers and we should

sue Caltech for “emotional unsettlement” caused by some of the House murals. “The problem,” says Chang, “is that even though the students are our customers, the Board of Trustees is our boss.”

Chang has asked the IHC to approve changes to the mural policy that would clarify the wording to match their understanding. So far, he says, the IHC has not responded.

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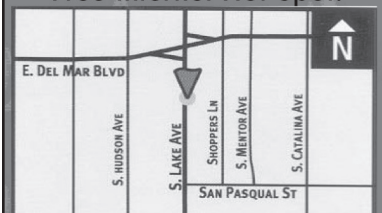
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Faces of Caltech

Sean Carroll, physics blogger

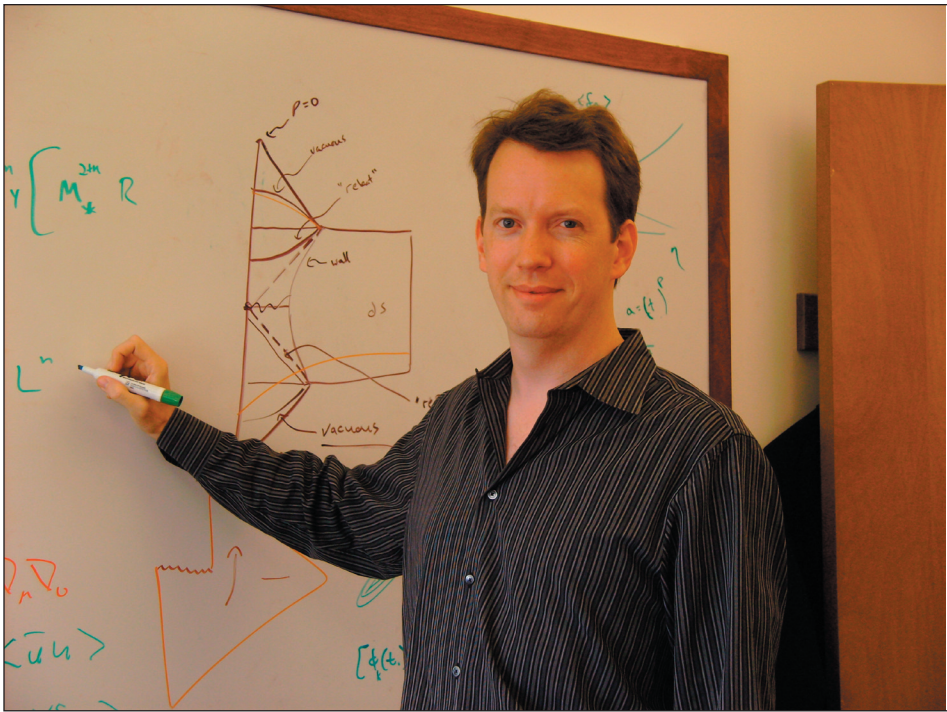


Photo by Michelle Jiang

General relativist Sean Carroll writes about physics on his blog Cosmic Variance.

BY CHRIS KENNELLY

Name: Sean Carroll
Position: Senior Research Associate
Goal: Furthering human knowledge of the universe for its own sake

What areas of research do you work in?

SC: I'm a theoretical cosmologist. I think about the whole universe and where everything fits in.

What made you interested in this?

SC: I got interested in this stuff when I was ten years old. I just followed up on it.

How will developments affect us?

SC: It's entirely for knowledge's sake. It's just interesting to know.

What attracted you to Caltech after being at MIT, UCSB, and the University of Chicago?

SC: It's a great place for research. It gives us opportunities to discuss our ideas with each other.

What did your blog Cosmic Variance (cosmicvariance.com) consist of?

SC: It's a group blog of theoretical and astrophysicists. It's a great place to talk informally about everything, from science

to our lives. I had read and heard about other people having blogs, so I decided to start one.

Anything else that's notable in your life right now?

SC: I just got married to weeks ago.

Is there anything that you'd like to do but don't?

SC: I like writing. I really like the writing aspect of being a physicist. I don't think that people appreciate the creative aspect of being a scientist. I enjoy taking something we understand and helping other people understand it. So I'd probably write fiction.

Do you intend to serve as a mentor for SURFs this summer?

SC: I work with graduate students. But doing research is great. People should do it whenever they can. Research for its own sake is good to be doing.

Interview by Chris Kennelly

Sean Carroll earned his B.S. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from Villanova University. After earning his Ph. D. from Harvard, he served at MIT, UCSB, and the University of Chicago before coming to Caltech last year.

'Faces of Caltech' is a brand new column that will feature professors and students around campus. Know someone interesting? Email tech@caltech.edu and they might show up in the Tech.



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“Rendition” puts dramatic spin on international politics, civil rights

BY YEZDAN BADRAKHAN

In the film *Rendition*, Director Gavin Hood puts a human face on the practice known as “extraordinary rendition”. Extraordinary rendition is a name coined during the Clinton administration for a policy which permits the government to secretly extradite terrorist suspects to other countries and use foreign professionals to follow up on potential terrorist threats.

The film focuses on an Egyptian-born, American naturalized chemical engineer named Anwar el-Abrahimi (Omar Metwally). He is abducted by the CIA upon his arrival in D.C. and then flown out to North Africa in order to continue the interrogation without violating his civil liberties in America. When his wife Isabella Fields (Reese Witherspoon) goes to the airport to pick him up she finds him missing — and, even more troublingly, missing from the passenger list. Upon this she begins a private investigation into her husband’s whereabouts, bringing her back to an old flame, Alan (Peter Sarsgaard) and leading up to her confrontation with the head of US intelligence Corrinne Whitman (Meryl Streep).

Meanwhile on the other side of the world, CIA analyst Douglas Freeman (Jake Gyllenhaal) is at the secret detention facility watching el-Abrahimi’s brutal interrogation. Interestingly enough Freeman’s sympathy



Egyptian-born chemical engineer Anwar el-Abrahimi (Omar Metwally) is detained by CIA agents upon his arrival in D.C. and flown to North Africa for torture and interrogation in the opening of Gavin Hood’s new political drama “Rendition”.

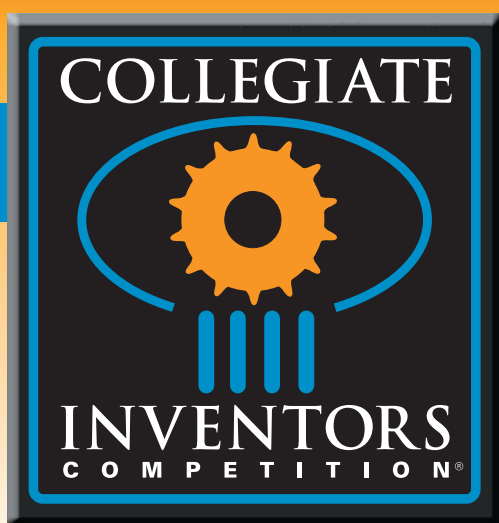
for el-Abrahimi comes from the understanding that el-Abrahimi knows nothing, rather than from a loathing of the practice of extraordinary rendition itself.

The characters are conveyed with a wide range of talent.

Streep’s performance can only be characterized by her white suit and tough one-liners, while Gyllenhaal’s performance falls far below the one he delivered in *Brokeback Mountain*. The film includes a far-fetched Romeo and

Juliet story as well as a clever twist at the end, one that you will be hard pressed to realize before it hits. Plausibility and political views aside, however, the film makes a powerful point about the human impact of foreign

policy. Whatever your opinion on civil rights and the morality of extraordinary rendition, the story itself will evoke emotional understanding for those people who are inevitably caught in the wheels of political change.



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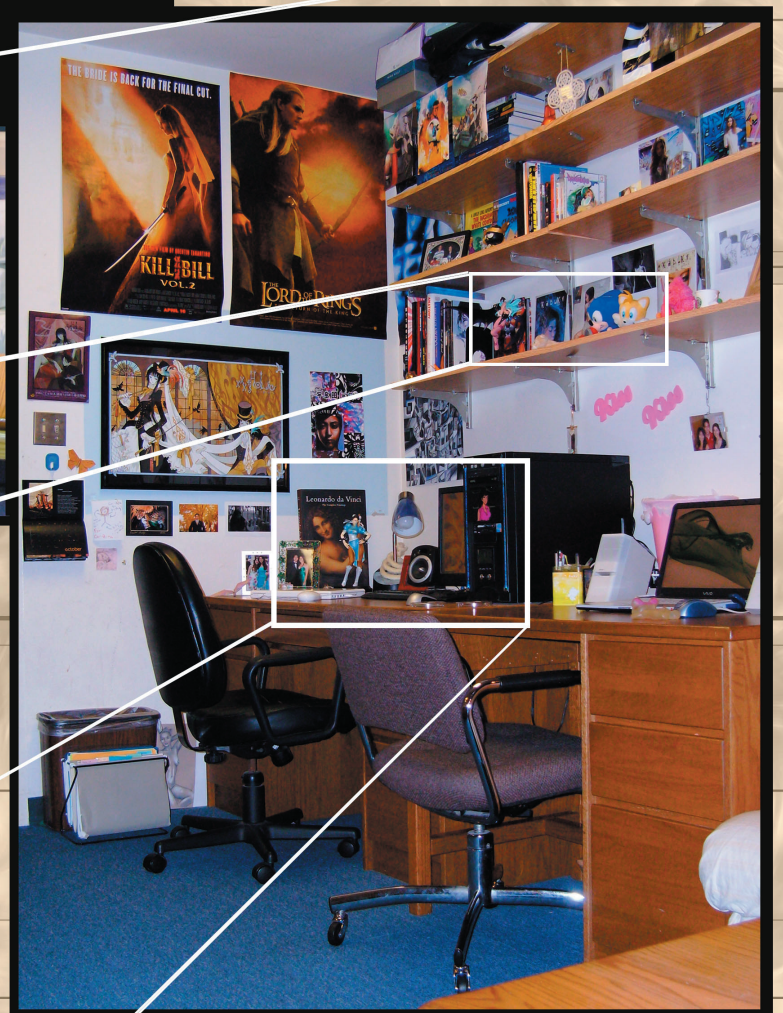


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Decorations

Photos courtesy of Jon Tsai and Michelle Jiang

▼ Applications

Facebook applications can be a fantastic way to waste time finding out which countries your friends have visited, reading your fortune from a fortune cookie, or even turning your friends into virtual zombies. But for some Caltech students, Facebook applications are a different sort of hobby.

Senior Jonathon Malmaud and Graduate Student Alumnus Alex Backer co-wrote an application called "Who am I?" which allows users to tag other users with descriptors. The application weights descriptors based on how many people have tagged that user with the same descriptor, as well as the reputation of the tagger. For example, being tagged as 'smart' by someone who is also tagged as 'smart' will carry more weight than being tagged as 'smart' by someone who isn't.

The application was only released 1 month ago, but

has already met with widespread success. According to Malmaud, the application topped 30,000 users after a mere 2 weeks, and many new facebookers were unable to join. There were just too many people clicking. The application was originally written as part of a start up company founded by Malmaud and Backer.

"I've stopped working on it, but we got investment funding so we've hired another developer," said Malmaud, who hopes to expand the application so that more users can join.

So what's next for this start up company?

"We have a patent covering the application," said Malmaud, "and we are hoping to adapt the same algorithm to ranking websites and books."

Other Caltech students and alums are in the process of writing another application. Senior Michael Spece Ibanez is currently working on an application, along with Junior Chris Beck, Sophomore Kijun

Seo, Senior Brent Goldman, Caltech alumnus Doug Hanley, and Bobby DeWeese. The project is currently being led by Sophomore Patrick Liang.

According to Ibanez, "I come up with business ideas as a hobby, and this app is one idea that allows for significant progress while I'm still in school. The app can be used purely for recreation or to help oneself or one's friends."

Ibanez is currently organizing a CS 11 class for students interested in working on the application.

"The CS 11 project course is going to implement much of the backend of the application," said Ibanez. Anyone interested in taking the class is encouraged to contact him at drenami@caltech.edu.

Whether your hobby is writing code, developing design ideas, or just sitting at your computer taking your friend's compatibility quizzes, Facebook applications offer opportunities for both work and relaxation.

▼ Marketplace

While most Facebook users whittle hours away looking at friends' profiles, at least three Caltech students are developing a Facebook application that will quietly revolutionize online shopping, and, in a larger sense, information transfer between distinct parties.

For their SURF under the direction of Professor Chandy, Andy Matuschak, Kijun Seo, and Walter Mostowy developed "ShareWear", a feature that will make online clothes shopping more like shopping in person. As Andy describes it, there are two main differences between real and virtual shoppers. First, online shoppers "look through hundreds of thumbnail clips of items", but a shopper in a store can pick out a favorite shirt from an entire rack of clothes

with a glance. Second, online shopping is usually a solitary activity, but friends shopping in stores can have fun choosing clothing together.

ShareWear allows you to rate clothing as you shop, so that after a while the online store can point you towards clothing you tend to like, also allowing friends to find clothes for each other. Scientifically, there is nothing fundamentally new about ShareWear. Andy, Kijun and Walter are "using people to help computers solve problems" [explain?] with machine learning, which has already been achieved in a variety of fields, from chess to voice recognition.

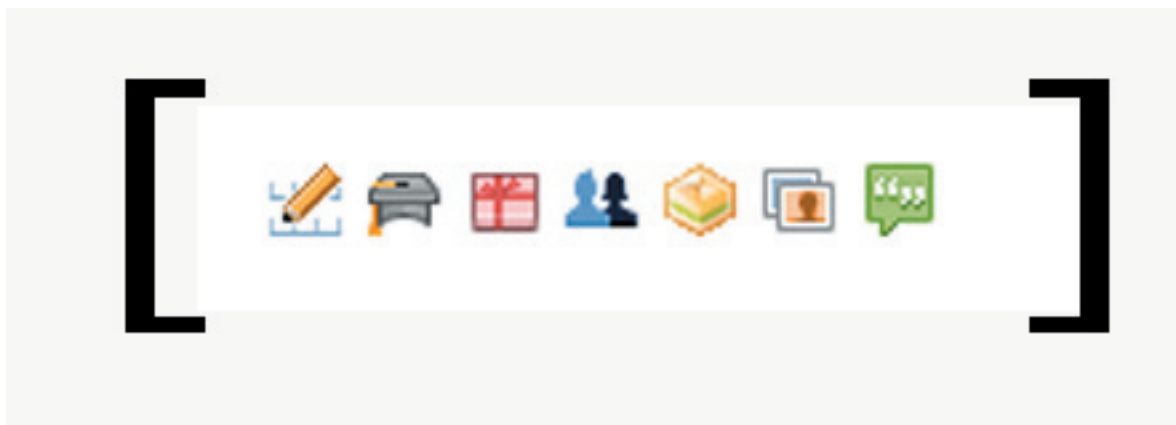
Some of the buzz about ShareWear focuses on its more practical aspects. Once finished

and implemented as an Amazon affiliate program, a little more than 2% of what users buy on Amazon using Sharewear recommendations will go into the creators' pockets [awkward]. Amazon might even buy out Sharewear.

Ironically, Sharewear's creators weren't bent on making money when they started their project. Their work goes hand-in-hand with the greater purpose of Professor Chandy's research group—to provide information to people when they need it, whether that information is about clothes, air raids, or supply shortages in Darfur.

"Eventually," Andy muses, "computers might tell us what we need to know without us specifically asking."





▼ Professors

From its inception, Facebook.com has been a hit among undergraduates, but ever since open registration appeared in September 2006, new demographics have drastically changed the site. According to comScore, Inc., graduate students and teens are the fastest growing segments in this community. The largest sector, however, currently lies among those aged 35 and over.

That includes professors.

A quick glance through any college network on facebook reveals a wide spread of faculty and staff members. Caltech is no exception: from Tom Mannion to Mike Brown, numerous faculty members have set up profiles on this popular site.

Alan Weinstein, professor of Physics, has had a profile since the beginning of the summer. He joined facebook along with several research colleagues and graduate students.

"It's sort of a special bond that we didn't share before," he says. "Some of my friend's kids, in high school or college, seemed a bit surprised at first, but I guess they think it's cool."

Facebook isn't about to turn into an extension of the school, though. Although professors and employers may use social networking sites to track students and employees (as per recent news articles), most cite personal reasons. Like Weinstein, many choose this method to stay in contact with peers. Photo display is also common among adults,

especially parents.

As to online lectures, there are other sites for that. "I haven't used it at all in the classroom," says Weinstein. "I don't really know how it could be particularly useful." Accordingly, sporadic usage remains the norm among those above 25. As the younger generation ages, the times spent surfing facebook fall to twice a day or less.

These online social networks are mainly supported by younger generations. While adults are present and growing in numbers, those who grew up with internet still dominate the virtual world. In Weinstein's words, "If Facebook is a competition to see who has the most friends, I lose."

▼ Students

It's late Thursday night and there are three problem sets due tomorrow that you haven't started on yet. So, what now? You Facebook, duh.

Because you're just programmed to open up that extra browser window and see who's posted up what on whose walls. And then after looking at Kyle's post to Brett, Brett's message back, and Michelle's new pictures from the party last night, you at last feel ready to indulge in those sets.

You'd think that everyone, especially in the college world, has a facebook account, but there do exist those few who have managed to escape the addiction.

Sophomore Dannah Almasco is one of these few. "It's definitely a big time-sink," says Almasco, who has decided not to join in the MySpace craze either. "I felt that it would be a huge distraction to all of my work. I also believe that it's a very impersonal way of communicating with people."

"I figure, if I want to keep in contact with someone, I would do more than just post on their wall and check their profiles."

Frosh Samantha Smiley speculates that she may create an account in the near future, but does not see any need to at present. "Somehow you end up replacing hanging out in person with socializing online," says Smiley.

Some students just don't like having personal information at the fingertips of strangers. "It just seems foolish to so freely make one's identity readily available to the public," says sophomore Chris Dewan, another student without facebook.

Even Facebook users such as frosh Donatela Bellone recognize issues of over-accessibility, especially widespread "facebook stalking". "Every time I log into the homepage, I find out who friended who, who posted pictures, who did what through the NewsFeed. So how much do people know about what I'm doing?" questions Bellone. Furthermore, Facebook makes it easy for people to "friend" others after speaking with them for just 5 minutes. And of course, they accept the requests because, as Bellone says, "rejecting a friend

request is just rude."

On the other hand, there are some students who feel that such a small campus eliminates the need for Facebook. "I don't find it especially necessary because everyone's pretty much 3 minutes away," says senior Ashok Kumar, who has never had a Facebook account.

For those friends off-campus and frequently out-of-state, students say Facebook is a convenient replacement for face-to-face conversations, especially if they just want to leave a quick note asking what's up.

One especially popular feature of the social networking website is picture sharing between friends. If you are "tagged" in a picture, you can easily access that picture by browsing through a catalog of photos other people have added of you.

"I like this feature a lot," admits Almasco, "but I can still do without it because a lot of the pictures I take I give to people to put on Facebook."

facebook®

AUX DELICES

Café and Bakery



Introduction:
Next door to the popular Cheesecake Factory, the modest Aux Delices (“With Delights”) French café offers a variety of sandwiches and pastries, good for a light lunch or snack.

Goal:
To find an inexpensive lunch food-stop among the pricey restaurants in Old Pasadena.

Stockroom Options:
There are a variety of items for breakfast and lunch here. They have a lot of sandwich and salad options (they even have pastrami!). For dessert, there is a tantalizing display of a variety of pastries to enjoy. To drink, among the standard choices, there are some specialty coffee items, both hot and cold.



OVERALL GRADE:
A-

Materials and Cost:
For lunch, we had the Chicken Club Sandwich (\$5.50), the TABLT (\$5.50), and the Chicken Caesar Salad (\$8.25). To drink, we had a Café Mocha (\$3.95) and a Raspberry Italian Soda (\$2.25).

Observations:
The chicken club sandwich, served on a fresh baguette, was crispy and fresh. The chicken breast was right off the grill, and was still warm. The whole sandwich was really flavorful and enjoyable to eat. Even though mayonnaise on a sandwich can be overpowering, only a hint was added, complementing the meal well.
The TABLT, which stands for turkey, avocado, bacon, lettuce, and tomato (obviously a spin on the classic BLT), was served on a flaky, buttery croissant. The bacon flavor was the most

distinct of the ingredients, and was crunchy, yet not oily. The lettuce and tomato both were really fresh and enjoyable. Even though there was a thick avocado slice, it was not evenly distributed through the whole sandwich. Both sandwiches (half-sizes) were satisfying portions, as they were both served with the salad of the day (in our case, potato salad) and a large variety of fruit. Finally, the chicken Caesar salad was very appealing to the eye, and took a new direction on an old favorite. On top, grilled chicken, onions, peppers, and mushrooms decorated the fresh lettuce and

Aux Delices contrasts many places in Old Pasadena in that it offers a substantial amount of food for a reasonable price.

parmesan cheese below. Though there were no croutons, the salad still tasted authentic. However, unlike a true Caesar, the dressing was lacking any appreciable amount of anchovies. The blended café mocha tasted less commercial than Starbucks (more like Coffee Bean), and the coffee flavor really came through. The raspberry Italian soda was made with seltzer water and raspberry syrup. It was very crisp, fresh, and fizzy, and not too



restaurant review lab report
by **DANNAH ALMASCO**
and **ANDREW FREDDO**

sweet. The raspberry flavor came through well, and it was a nice alternative to the major brand sodas available.

Atmosphere:
The service was friendly and personable. The surroundings were very cute and sophisticated; also very French with petite chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. The location is right in the middle of Old Town, making it very convenient to stop in during a long day of shopping.

Conclusion:
Aux Delices contrasts many places in Old Pasadena in that it offers a substantial amount of food for a reasonable price. There are not enough simple but good sandwich shops around the area, and this place is great for any sandwich you may be craving. Aux Delices is open from 7 AM – 10 PM Monday – Thursday, 7 AM – 11:30 PM Friday and Saturday, and 8 AM – 10 PM Sunday. Their menu is online at <http://www.auxdelicespasadena.com/>.

Just One More Level: When Online Gaming and Gambling Become Problematic

With **Lee H. Coleman,**
Ph.D.

**Thursday, October 25th, 2007
at Noon
Red Room (2nd floor) CSS
Building**

Lunch will be provided

Many Techers enjoy online gaming and gambling, but sometimes the games can take on a life of their own. How can you tell when your gaming might be causing problems for you or your friends? This interactive workshop will discuss some of the signs of problematic gaming and gambling and what you can do if you have questions or concerns about yourself. We’ll also discuss how to talk with a friend if you’re worried that he or she has a problem with gaming.

Co-sponsored by the Counseling Center and the GSC

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Soccer wins 1-0 at Whittier



Photo courtesy of Charles Pallett

The Caltech men’s soccer team scored its first victory of the season in dramatic fashion, winning 1-0 in overtime at Whittier College on Saturday.

The victory avenged a close 2-1 loss against the Poets on Sept. 26. Last year, the team also scored an away victory at Whittier.

Sophomore Daniel Belkin put in the winning goal in sudden death overtime on a centering pass from freshman Grayson Chadwick.

The smaller Whittier field, which abides by the minimum NCAA field size standards, allowed the Beavers to stay compact on defense and shut down the Whittier offense.

The Beavers missed a golden chance in the first half of regulation when senior Brandt Belson’s penalty kick was saved by the Whittier goal keeper.

Pictured: Goal keeper Elliot Pallett watches on as the Beaver defense tries to clear the ball.

Women’s volleyball loses at Occidental

BY YANG YANG

The Caltech women’s volleyball team lost in three straight games 30-25, 30-27, 30-26, at Occidental Saturday.

A couple of Caltech fans were kicked out of the final game after they argued vocally against several bad calls.

“They called a lift on a closed fist which could not possibly be a lift,” senior David Koenitzer said. “Then they changed a correct out-of-bounds call.”

Both Koenitzer and senior Christopher Gonzales were told they had to leave the volleyball game and were escorted out of the gym by Occidental staff.

The most common cause for

fan ejection are personal insults to players and referees or openly drunk and disorderly behavior. Neither, however, applied in this case.

“The worst thing we said was that ‘the call was BS’,” Gonzales said, “No personal attacks were made by us. It’s just ridiculous. This is college athletics and we got away with saying more than

this during high school.”

The lady Beavers lost in straight games to Redlands Friday at home. Freshman Kathryn Peters led the team with six kills and two service aces. She currently leads SCIAC in service aces per game with a .69 average.

Sophomore Lisa Yee and freshman Ying-Ying Tran lead the

Beaver defense with 12 digs, Peters was a close third with 11.

The Lady Beavers lost in straight games to Cal Lutheran University on Tuesday to begin their second half of SCIAC play. The match continued the Beavers’ 10-game conference losing streak.

The team will face undefeated La Verne (10-0) on Tuesday.

Sports and Scores

Men’s Soccer	
Wednesday 10/17 at University of La Verne	L 5-0
Saturday 10/20 at Whittier College	W 1-0 OT
Women’s Volleyball	
Tuesday 10/16 vs. Cal Lutheran University	L 3-0
Friday 10/19 vs University of Redlands	L 3-0
Saturday 10/20 at Occidental College	L 3-0
Men’s Waterpolo	
Wednesday 10/13 at CMS	L 19-1
Saturday 10/20 vs. Cal Lutheran University	L 17-6

Upcoming Games

Tuesday, 10/23
7:30PM - Women’s Volleyball vs. University of La Verne

Wednesday, 10/24
4:00PM - Men’s Water Polo vs. Whittier College
4:00PM - Men’s Soccer vs. Pomona-Pitzer Colleges

Friday, 10/26
7:30PM - Women’s Volleyball @ Pomona-Pitzer Colleges

Saturday, 10/27
9:00AM - Cross Country @ SCIAC Championships
11:00AM - Men’s Soccer vs. Claremont-Mudd-Scripps
11:00AM - Men’s Water Polo vs. University of La Verne
6:00PM - Women’s Volleyball vs. West Coast Baptist College

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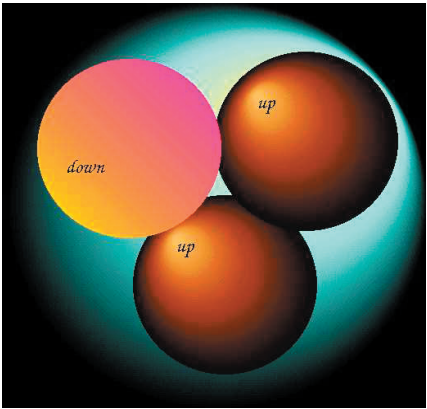
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Dr. Quark

Solves your petty problems with Science!



Dr. Quark,

I'm having trouble realizing my identity. I'm not really sure where I came from, or who. On one hand I have it on pretty good faith that I was born of my mother, but on the other hand I can't really imagine my parents having sex. That combined with the fact that I've recently begun to feel aroused by microwaves, toasters, washing machines and other consumer electronics, I'm starting to get the idea that I might really be a robot.

Sincerely, "Boomer"

This is a little known fact, but it is actually scientifically possible to have a child without having sex at all. It's called Spontaneous Bjorn-Fawkes Conception, and incidentally it is the method of choice for most prominent scientists. Several famous historical figures were born without a mother or father, such as Jesus, Louise Brown, and Senator Orin Hatch. So you see it is not completely unheard of, although somewhat

irregular. But this combined with a blooming interest in consumer electronics could indicate the onset of puberty or activation of secret programming.

Now that I think about it toasters are kind of a big deal. You wake up and have nothing but floppy bread, put hot butter and jam on both sides and it still tastes like bathroom tissue. Stick that in a toaster and it perks right up. The toaster adds an entirely new dimension of crispiness and crunchiness that was previously unheard of. I remember when the toaster was invented, and I remember I was pretty excited.

There are several questions you should be asking yourself. Do you sometimes wake up in strange places with no memory of where you were? When you cut yourself, do you bleed blood or a conductive solution? Have you ever transmitted your thoughts wirelessly over the radio? Is your favorite television commercial that arrogant and condescending "Hi I'm a Mac and I'm a PC" crap? My scien-

tific analysis indicates that you are most likely a robot, at least to first order. You are either a robot or a graduate student (poor soulless bastards).

Dr. Quark,

I'm having trouble getting along with my parents. They say they are disapproving of me. I only try to be the best child to them, but no matter what I do they look down at me and sneer. They call me mean names, like stupid, retarded monkey poop, orphan and "worst thing to ever happen to us". Their anniversary is coming up (of their divorce, not marriage) and I'm wondering what I should get them. What do you suggest?

Tim Gington

Might I suggest getting them a bag of dimes? The best way to show someone you really care about them is small denominations of what has now become the nearly worthless American currency. Aside from the highly

practical implications that arise from always having dimes on hand (parking meters, cab fare, taunting beggars), they can perform fun tricks with the coins (conservation of momentum experiments). Or you can feed them to goldfish and watch as they sink to the bottom of the bowl (glub. glub. glub. pauvre fish) (You should never do this to fish, they never did anything to you, and are perfectly marvelous, I don't see why Peter Singer hates them so much. Euthanizing jerk).

On the other hand you could get your poor parents nothing at all. They already hate you enough, why bother them with your pathetic attempts at their attention?

You never call unless you want money, money, money. And when I call to get bailed out of the county jail after drinking a bit too much, where are you then with all my money? You and your fancy friends!

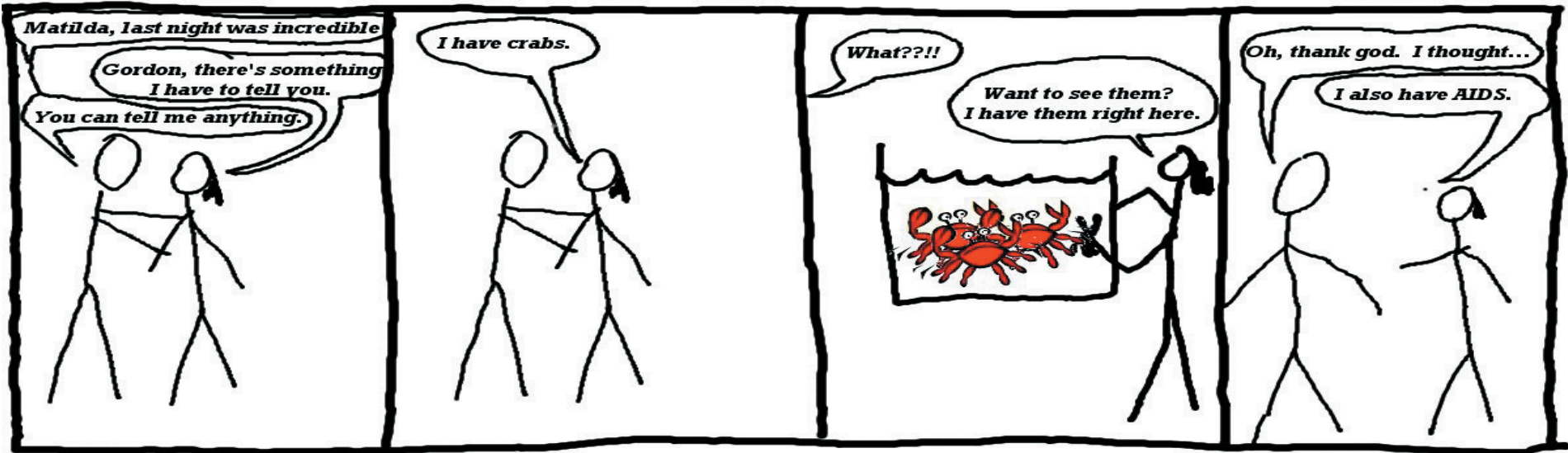
You squandered my money and lived like a fool, and now you come home? Break your

poor decrepit alcoholic father's heart, why don't you?
....

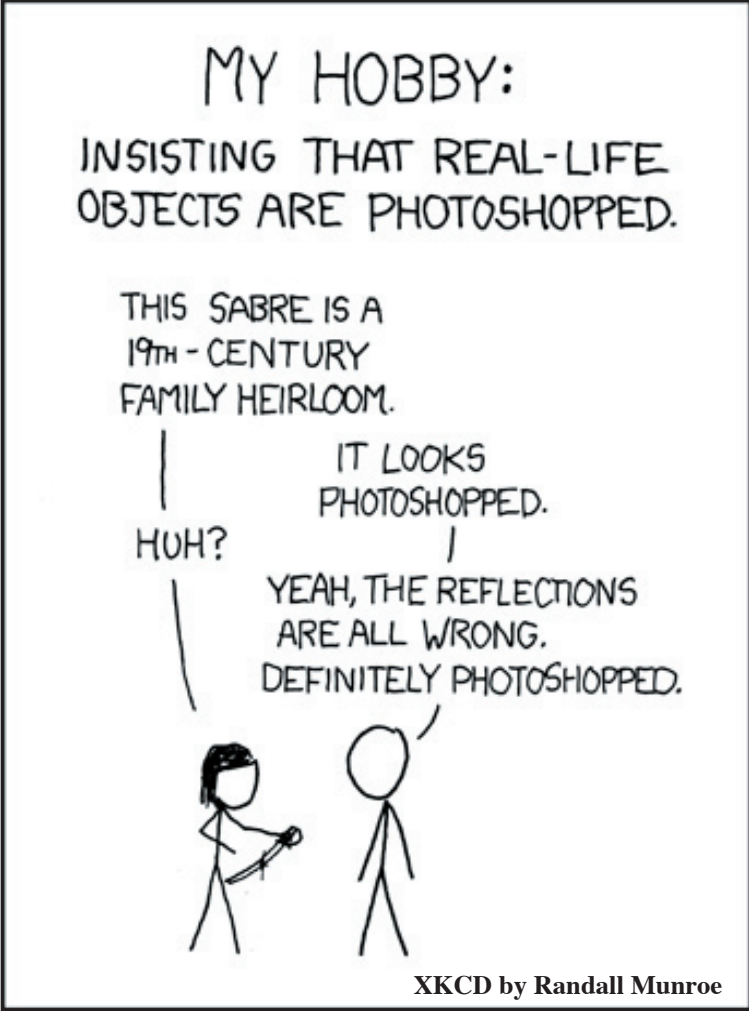
Just get your parents a pair of lapel pins. Or sterling silver telephone dialers. Tiffany's sells them.

Dr. Quark is the world's leading expert in Doctorology. He is currently a top civilian contractor at the Ministry of Defense, tasked with designing the next best defense mainframe algorithms. And rumor has it he is having an affair with a incredibly gorgeous Cylon agent who is using him to infiltrate the defense network. We'll see how that goes.

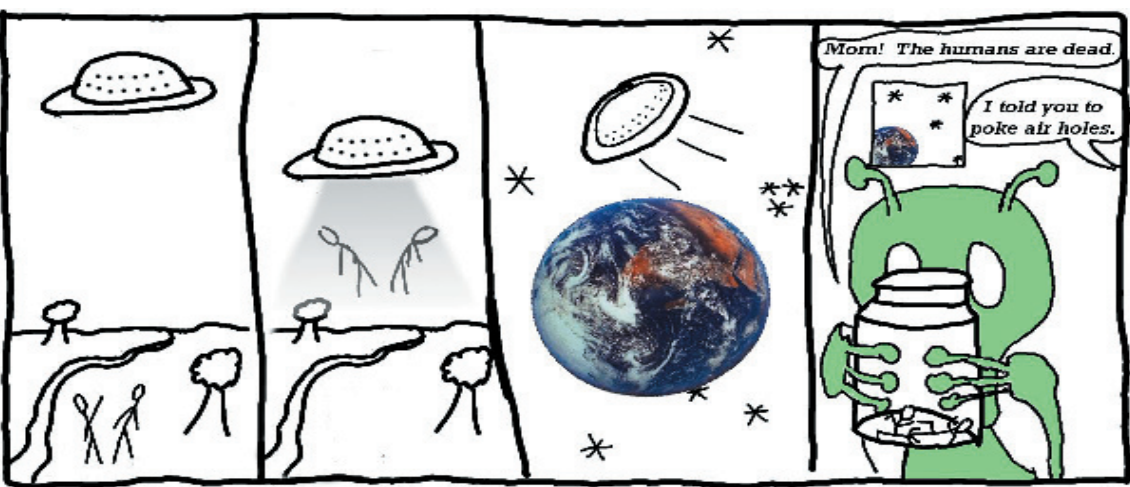
Is your life a giant black hole of gloom and despair? Maybe you should try emailing Dr. Quark [drquark@gmail.com] your problems and he will dedicate his uncountably infinite number of neurons to solving your personal life crisis. Really, why live your own life when you can get an anonymous person of dubious qualifications to live it for you?



WGP by Mark Eichenlaub



XKCD by Randall Munroe



WGP by Mark Eichenlaub

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