

## Caltech Launches Brain Study Program with \$8.9 Million Gift from Eli Broad to Fund 24 Researchers and Six New Labs

By CALTECH PR

For years, scientists have worked to study each of the 100 billion neurons in the human brain. But while they understand individual neurons, they've been stumped by how neurons work together, how they encode information, and how they generate thoughts, emotions, and actions.

That pioneering area of study is behind the Broad Fellows Program in Brain Circuitry at the California Institute of Technology, announced today and made possible through an \$8.9 million grant from the Broad Foundations and philanthropist Eli Broad.

The funding will enable the program to establish six new neuroscience labs at Caltech and hire 24 researchers over the next five years.

"Caltech is one of the country's greatest research institutions, and this program will encourage some of the brightest young minds in science to devote their research to unlocking the mysteries of the brain," said Eli Broad, founder of the Broad Foundations.

While scientists have made tremendous progress in recent years in understanding the brain's overall activity, the interactions between neurons—which hold the clues to mental diseases such as Alzheimer's, autism, and schizophrenia—are still a mystery.

"We have no idea how these neurons are assembled in groups of 50 to 100,000 to generate conscious thoughts," said Christof Koch, Troendle Professor of Cognitive and Behavioral Biology and Professor of Computation and Neural Systems at Caltech, who will serve as director of the Broad Fellows Program. "We truly believe that the best way to learn about small neuronal networks is to find a few brilliant young neurobiologists, engineers, or physicists with innovative ideas on how to record and manipulate networks of nerve cells. Then, if we provide them with the funding for research assistants and equipment to develop the relevant technologies, all

we need to do is get out of their way."

"Neuroscience is becoming an increasingly multidisciplinary exercise," said Michael Dickinson, Zarem Professor of Bioengineering at Caltech, who will serve on the selection committee for the Broad Fellows Program. "Future progress will depend on a creative mixture of expertise in biology, engineering, and mathematics. An exciting feature of this program is that it will provide talented young researchers with a borderless research environment from which to pursue programs from different perspectives."

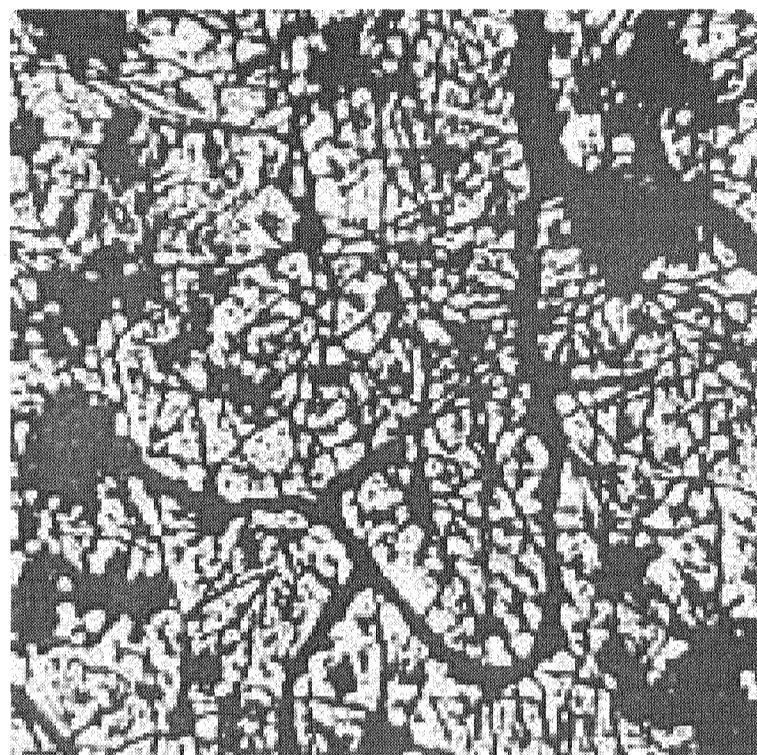
Koch and his colleagues will hire the first two Broad Fellows in Brain Circuitry later this year, and will hire two more in 2007 and an additional two in 2008. Each of the six Broad Fellows will receive funding to hire up to three assistants, for a total of 24 researchers in the program, which will be housed in Caltech's Division of Biology.

"Each of the fellows will be able to devote up to five years to their projects, without having to worry about finding another postdoctoral appointment in a year or two or limiting themselves only to research that will lead to tenure," Koch said. "These researchers will be at a level between postdoctoral fellow and assistant professor, which means that they will be very independent and won't have to worry about the tenure clock."

"The freedom that comes with these fellowships should foster quite productive interactions among fellows and members of the Caltech community," added Dickinson. "An important role of the selection committee will be to recruit a diverse array of young researchers with complementary skills."

The program is designed to give researchers the freedom and flexibility to advance their work in whatever way is most productive, and may include the development of specific technologies or the invention of new instruments. The Broad Fellows will be given individual space to do their work in the Beckman Laboratories of Behavioral Biology on the Caltech campus.

The program will be under the direction of Koch and a committee of other Caltech faculty members, including Dickinson; Gilles Laurent, the Hanson Jr. Professor of Biology and Computation and Neural Systems; David Anderson, the Sperry Professor of Biology; Barbara Wold, director of the Beckman Institute at Caltech and Bren Professor of Molecular Biology; and Mark Konishi, the Bing Professor of Behavioral Biology.



Brains? Photo courtesy of today.caltech.edu

## Gold Line Launches Limited Stop Service

By AMEERA CHOWDHURI

Metro will introduce a new limited stop service on the Gold Line beginning Monday, February 13th. During weekday rush hours, the limited stop trains will travel between Union Station in Los Angeles and Pasadena's Sierra Madre Villa station in just 29 minutes, a 15 percent time savings.

The limited stop trains will stop at five of Metro's 13 Gold Line stations: Union Station, Highland Park, Mission, Del Mar, and Sierra Madre Villa. Caltech commuters can ride the limited stop trains to the Del Mar station, and then bike or ride the ARTS bus to Caltech.

The Caltech Transit Guide at [transitguide.caltech.edu](http://transitguide.caltech.edu) contains detailed information on commuting to Caltech with Metro's limited stop service, including links to Gold Line and ARTS bus schedules.

Gold line riders will not need to pay an additional fare to ride the limited stop trains. Caltech commuters can purchase subsidized Metro monthly passes and EZ transit passes for \$27 and \$33 respectively at the Caltech bookstore.

The Metro monthly pass can be used on the Gold line and all other Metro services. The EZ transit pass is honored on Metro, ARTS, and 19 other local transit systems.

The limited stop trains will run every half hour on weekdays during morning and afternoon rush

hours. Northbound trains from Union Station to Sierra Madre Villa will operate from 5:35 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. and from 3:50 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. Southbound trains from Sierra Madre Villa to Union Station will run from 6:05 a.m. to 8:35 a.m. and from 3:50 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

The limited stop Gold line service is the first of its kind on Metro's rail system, and is one of many Metro initiatives to improve commute times in Los Angeles.

During the first week of limited stop service, Metro ambassadors will visit the Gold line stations to help riders identify limited stop trains and station stops.

Limited stop trains will feature "Limited Stop" signs on both ends of the train and on the sides. The train's inside dash will carry limited stop placards. Train operators will make limited stop announcements. At Gold line stations, banners will help riders identify stations serviced by the limited stop trains.

Metro ambassadors will also raise awareness about safety at the Gold line stations. Metro will paint yellow lines on platforms to caution riders at by-passed stations to step away from the platform edge when limited service trains pass through.

Visit the Caltech Transit Guide at [transitguide.caltech.edu](http://transitguide.caltech.edu) for more information on commuting to Caltech via Metro Gold line and the new limited stop service.

## Grand Taco Challenge: Dan Loses Again

By JONATHAN MALMAUD

After losing the ASCIT presidential election to Todd "I run the BOD" Gingrich in a heated race that pit son against father, "Oklahoma" Dan McLaury competed in another sort of competition that was perhaps or perhaps not even more important: who could eat more tacos in twenty minutes.

The setting: A cold, misty Page dining hall on a foreboding Tuesday night. The drums of fate and bad techno music could be heard lightly in the background.

The competition: Josh "I eat frosh" Gutman, a goliath of a senior rumored to contain so much mass that the energy stored inside him could spawn a dark and terrible universe that would usher in an age of chaos and surely spell the doom of man.

Rules were as few as the votes for Hanwen Yan in the last election. The winner of the competition was whoever was the first to reach 29 consumed tacos or, failing that, whoever finished more in a twenty-minute interval. In the event of a tie, a video that was made of the event could be analyzed to determine who finished their last taco first. Physical contact and removal of articles of clothing were banned due to prior incidents.

The competition started evenly enough. Fifty-four soft and six hard Del Taco tacos, costing

\$1.09 for three on Wednesday nights, up from \$1.00 last year, were placed before the contestants. Also provided were about a dozen red cups of clear liquid of what I was assured was water and more packets of hot sauce than the eye could survey without watering.

While the score was neck-and-neck for the first half of the competition, the tide turned when Dan, traditionally known as a stamina eater, began to falter. Josh seized this opportunity to perform his signature "truffle shuffle" maneuver, in which he hypnotically jiggles his belly to suppress the appetites of all those foolish enough to observe him. After the seismic waves died down, time was called and the number of discarded taco wrappers was counted.

At the end of the contest, a solemn silence descended on the spectators as we contemplated the tremendous eating feats that had been performed before us and mused on the nature of primal man. After doing this for a couple milliseconds, we hungrily devoured the remaining tacos and made flatulence jokes before the time came to turn in for the night.

Look forward to updates on future Caltech Tacolympics games like Taco poker, Taco soccer, and Taco bikini contest.

Final score: Dan-11, Josh-16.

# Freshman Director at Large

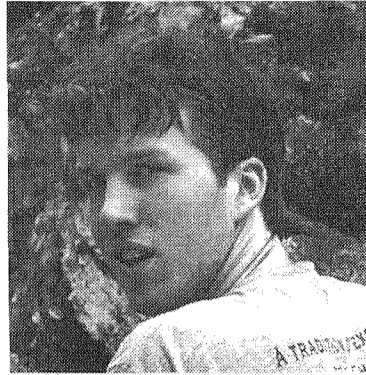


## Angela Zah

The reason I came to Caltech was the people that seemed so friendly and open during prefrash weekend. These things have not changed as I go through my freshman year here at Tech and I hope that I have gained the same approachability in my time here. However, a couple weeks after finishing Rotation, I realized that there were some changes that are happening at Caltech that were being whispered among the more well-informed students on campus. The recent unhappiness that was expressed at the Town Hall meeting highlighted the final spread of information from the selectly informed to the general student body on changes that many were not aware of.

Many freshmen I spoke with had no idea that some of these changes were in the plans for Caltech's future. The only reason I had some idea of the plans to change the future of student life at Tech was through talks with upperclassmen on ASCIT that were trying to find some way to communicate with faculty and administrators to express their discontent with the rapid changes.

I would like to use the position of Freshman Director at Large to let other members of my class know what is going on in ASCIT and communicate changes and worries that few members of the



## Max Grazier G'Sell

The Freshman Director at Large is a position with a loosely defined role. FDaL does have a responsibility to represent the opinions of the freshman class. However, as a member of the BoD with fewer defined commitments, the FDaL is also in a position to help the BoD and the student body at large to improve communication with the administration and community, and to help work toward agreeable compromises with regard to recent and upcoming changes. At a time when there are many changes being made that affect the undergraduate student body, I would like to work to improve administrative communication and to help represent the needs and wishes of the student body, including its freshmen, as the Freshman Director at Large.

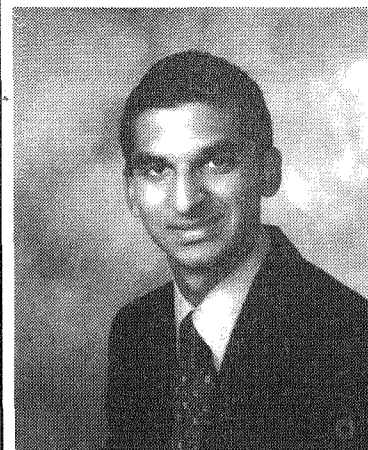
student body knew the extent of until recently. I hope with the position of FDaL I can get to know more of my class, answer question they may have about the issues facing the campus, and ensure that they are not as uninformed as I was at the start of first term. I would like to serve as FDaL so that I can become more aware of what is really going on with our student government. I want to understand what ASCIT can really do to express student opinions to the administration and use this knowledge to help the new ASCIT BoD improve communication channels with the administration.



## Ellen Hsu

There have been many new and exciting experiences for me as a freshman at Caltech. This school is so unique in every way, and for that reason I couldn't imagine myself anywhere else. Caltech is a place where students can take their education into their own hands and make the most of the institution. However, as a freshman, I feel as if there has not been effective circulation of news, especially among our class, concerning decisions that will affect our lives here at Caltech. This ignorance has prompted me to seek a position on the ASCIT board, for I believe that the student body should be well informed of administrative decisions and be active participants in the decision-making process.

If the student body wants to have a say in decisions that determine their future, they must first be well informed of any and all aspects of the issue. Since this knowledge must come from the administration, it is important for the freshman class to have a representative who is willing to build a positive relationship with the administration and to bring up the students' needs and concerns. With this bridge of communication in place, the freshman class will not be kept in the dark on matters that affect the way our school is run. Though newcomers to this school, we do not have to be passive and simply watch

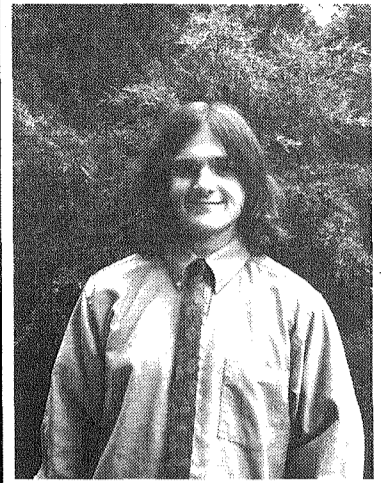


## Deepak Mishra

If elected, I have three priorities: better representation, better communication, and reopening ASCIT's movie collection. This past year was marked with many administrative decisions that might not have had adequate student input. This coming year could follow the same path. With the reopening of the South Houses, a new Institute President, and the impending board program changes, it is imperative that students have a voice in future decisions. I intend to help keep the students informed and also in turn keep the administration informed of our sentiments. Vote for Me.

as decisions are handed down to us. We need a representative who will fight for the requests of our class and work together with the upperclassmen and administrators to make sure the freshman class has a voice in administrative decisions.

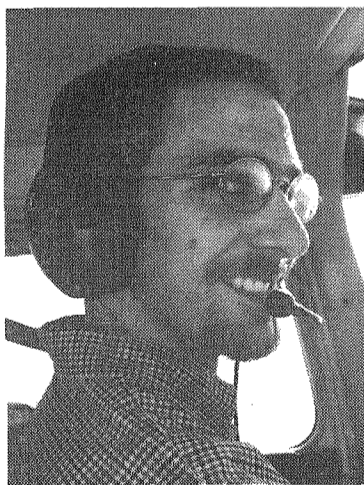
In running for Freshman Director at Large, I believe I can help our class be more informed and active in determining what kind of life we want to lead here at Caltech. I also hope to fulfill the wishes of our class by helping to organize events that students will want to attend. By communicating and working together, we can continue to preserve the individuality that defines Caltech and brought us here in the first place.



## Christopher Watson

As the undergraduate community of Caltech, we find ourselves in troubled times. Some changes seem more egregious than others, but in general, we can agree that things are headed in the wrong direction. Time and time again, now, it has been suggested that one of our core problems, among others, is a severe lack of communication. As we have struggled to find footing in compromising with the administration, it seems that we have been perceived at times to be a disorganized and misunderstanding group. It is my belief, as well as that of many others, that the BoD holds the key to solving this ongoing problem. The coming year needs a Board of Directors that not only sees the importance of constant contact and exchange of ideas with the faculty and administration, but also of effective communication with the undergraduate population as a whole. Todd is determined to see these goals realized, but this is not a job which one person can accomplish. I feel that as FDAL, I will be capable of lending my support to this cause. While the position of FDAL is somewhat vaguely defined, this also offers a certain degree of flexibility in the responsibilities that may be assigned. The primary function of the FDAL is to maintain communication between the BoD and the various student clubs and organizations on campus, and I hold this to be an important task, as our various extra-curricular activities comprise an integral part of our everyday lives. However, it is also important that the FDAL rise to the occasion when additional jobs come about. This may include a broad variety of tasks from simple chores to serving as a representative of the students on committees. I am confident that in this capacity, I will serve the student body well. My reason for running for FDAL is simple but important, in my opinion. Primarily, I think that this position is the best means by which I may make myself useful to the Caltech community. This is important to me, and if you feel the same way as I do, then I would be honored to represent you as a member of the BoD.

# BoC Secretary



## George Hines

If you read my statement last week, skip to the next paragraph. If you didn't, here it is again: 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 eu-

phemism 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 has 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.

Knowing full well that Jean is a tireless worker on all things related to BoC, I look forward to shouldering some of those responsibilities so that she can commit more time ASCIT and to implementing her ideas for the needed restructuring of the board.



## Meghan Crowley

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 Secretary. 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 believe in honesty, respect, and compassion 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. In addition, 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. I am nonjudgmental and impartial and am dedicated to dealing with all cases in a fair manner.

This past year, I have served as the acting BoC Secretary. I know how to prepare evidence and coordinate several schedules in order to ensure that cases are heard in a timely fashion. I take copious notes, keep accurate records, and work well with others. I am very committed to doing the BoC Chair's "bitch work" to make sure that cases run smoothly and efficiently. I will be a senior next year with very few requirements so I will have plenty of time to dedicate to the Board of Control and improving the Honor System.

## The California Tech

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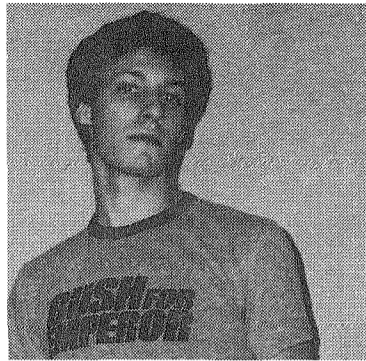
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# CRC Co-Chair



Dan Knoepfle

Over the past year, we have been well-served by our current CRC chair, Jeremy Leibs. Jeremy is a good friend (and roommate) of mine and I share his belief that the CRC is a vital to protecting student life. I'm going to be a senior next year and, despite having broken plenty of rules over the past few years, I feel that the campus rules are important and beneficial. Their strength, however, lies in the Honor Code and the understanding that each infraction must be weighed individually.

On the whole, we are safe and responsible. I will work towards reasonable fire and drug and alcohol policies on the principle that our honor code is fundamentally about trust: these policies should build trust, not erode it. Among the complicated realities of substance use, there is an important truth: when drinking and drug use need not be hidden for fear of punishment, we are safer. Both these policies and the decisions of the CRC must balance liability and deterrence concerns with their impact on student safety and undergraduate life. Caltech is not like most other colleges: it is better. We should take pride in

our unique student population--for instance, the latest Health Survey notes the fact that on average Caltech students have much more responsible attitudes towards alcohol than students at other schools--and give students the benefit of the doubt. Most of the time, they deserve it.

Recent amendments to the ASCIT bylaws have given the CRC chair a vote on the BoD and with it a role in protecting student interests beyond the context of the CRC. The administration claims to want student input on their plans--I will seek out opportunities to remind the administration that student life is vital to their core goals and work to promote alternatives to misguided plans. While I admit the issues they face are often complex, some plans are clearly wrongheaded (e.g. 7-day board) and have obvious preferable alternatives. As a member of the BoD, I will work to help maintain the undergraduate community in spite of the many conditions that threaten it. To this end, I will support funding social activities to bring the houses together and counter the effects of the South House renovation and the increasing pressure for students to live off-campus.

With the campus facing a lot of unpleasant news, the CRC doesn't need radical changes--it needs good reps and a chair that can serve as a student advocate and provide a counterbalance to the faculty and administration voices on the committee. If you elect me as CRC chair, I will fight to preserve student life, ensure that benign offenses aren't unjustly punished, and give students a fair, pragmatic CRC.

## Matthew Ornelas-Ku

"No member of the Caltech community shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the community." This is the code that you and I agreed to observe and uphold when we enrolled here at Caltech. It is the essence of our freedoms and responsibilities in the Caltech society, and it is a good standard to follow even when we not interacting with other Caltech members. However, in recent times, it has been taken out of context.

As you all know, communication with the administration and faculty is at an all time low. Undergraduates have been the last to be notified in many important changes to the Caltech environment. Graduate students and faculty have a different perception of the Honor Code than we do. The administration enforces it out of context. As student chair of the Conduct Review Committee, and as a voting member of the ASCIT Board of Directors, I will help to rebuild student relations with the faculty and administration; facilitate education of the Honor Code among undergraduates, graduates, faculty and administration alike; and ensure that it is upheld in all cases that come before me.

## RJ Krom

The CRC Student Chair. While not the most influential position on ASCIT, an important one nonetheless, especially at a time where the administration is trying to nickel and dime the students while trying to push through their own agenda. The CRC Student Chair has two main jobs; first to be on the Routing Committee with the BoC chair, Dean Hall, as well as Tom Mannion (of whom I have worked with before) and second to be a voting member on ASCIT.

The main position of the CRC is to deal with students who have committed a violation of sorts that is not sent to the BoC. It is important to have someone in a position like this that can deliver a realistic view to the administration, in order to be upfront with them while keeping the social structures and activities of Caltech intact. I promise to keep this realistic viewpoint towards the administration while letting the students continue to do what they usually do, which makes Caltech such a unique place.

The second job of the CRC is to be an active voting member of ASCIT. I for one see many problems with the way the administration has handled the budget cuts and want to do as much as I can to fix the rift that has occurred between the administration and the students while keeping the interests of the students at heart.

## Senior Class Co-Presidents



Issac Garcia-Munoz and Cindy Ko

Isaac Munoz Garcia's life long dream growing up in the deserts of Mexico was to one day become senior class president of Caltech. When he immigrated into the US la pinche migra changed his name to Issac Garcia-Munoz, a devastating tragedy that he would have to deal with for the rest of his life. Once admitted to Caltech, he was one step closer to achieving his dream. Unfortunately the office was to be shared. Who would be Issac's co-president? A rambunctious Asian chick then approached him on her hands and knees begging to be his co-president. Once elected, Issac promises to do his utmost to make the class of 2007's senior year most excellent. Rock on!

The Story of What Really Happened By Cindy Ko

-Hey Issac! Wanna run for co-president with me?

-What's in it for me, woman?

-I got this real nice Crunch bar from last Halloween right here. I saved it for you, man.

-Done!  
"One step closer to world domination...oh snap!"

--Cindy

# Beaver

# FEVER!

## Snatch it up!



## Caltech V-Day '06 "The Vagina Monologues"

When: February 10th, 8-10 PM  
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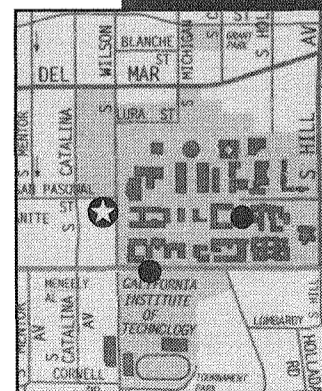
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# ASCIT Secretary

Liz Howe

I'm going to go out on a limb here and assume that most people don't know who I am. I've been known to hide under my desk rather than answer a knock at the door (ever since someone said they could see me through the outside of the peephole). So what would lure a recluse like me into the world of political intrigue and budget voodoo? I mean, I haven't been involved in

student government since I was a proud parking lot patrol leader in 5th grade. So you may echo my friends' response, "Are you serious, Liz?"

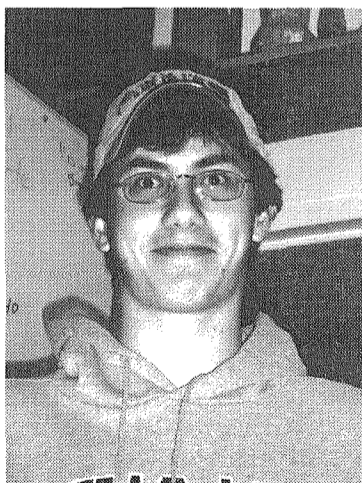
Yes, I am extremely serious. A strange thing stirs in me when I think of what Caltech is, what it means to me, and what we are in danger of losing. Ever since I first put my toe on this campus as a naive high school student, I felt like I was coming home. I had discovered a place that, in its very attitude, was perhaps more socially real than any other place than I had been before. It isn't acceptable for this haven of brilliance and originality to go the way of a mediocre, quickly-cut-the-deficit, autocratic institution.

No one argues with the need to balance the budget. What I do argue with and want to address is the need for student planning and involvement in the process. The administration is making too many changes too fast. Some of them are simply bad business (profiting \$50 per student with 7 day board ---- doesn't take a Nobel to realize that's an oops). What compels me to run for secretary is both a desire to be a contributing member of the Caltech body, and my passion for this extraordinary school, my home.

"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

P.S. I can take minutes with alacrity, accuracy, and panache.

# UDAL



Nathan Donellan

ASCIT needs an Upper-class Director that has the time and the motivation to pick up the trash that the rest of the Board of Directors leaves and recycle it! I can do that. It may be a position that seems useless. It may be an office that none of you have heard of before let alone know what the acronym stands for. But it does exist, and I feel I can put it to good use. ASCIT needs competent and enthusiastic people at EVERY position on the BoD. Don't vote no.



Vickie Pon

I believe you have the right to know what changes might be implemented on campus, when those decisions will be made, how you will be affected, and what you can do to make sure your voice is heard.

I aim to enhance and expand the role of ASCIT Secretary to include the following:

1) Provide the ASCIT Secretary email as a forum for your concerns and questions. The ASCIT BoD is supposed to be a liaison between the administration and students. If you have something to say, any thoughts, ideas, arguments, or confusion about what is going on, the Secretary should be able to make sure your concerns are routed to the correct people and committees. You have the right to be heard and the right to have all your questions answered.

2a) Act as a BoD PR head, keeping you up-to-date via emails and postings with summaries of important changes that have been made around campus, and any potential changes that can use student input before they are finalized.

2b) Keeping you informed doesn't mean just letting you know about this serious stuff. You should also know about everything else ASCIT does from funding clubs and events to helping promote all the fun you'll be having at the social committee's events.

And, of course, 3) Take minutes at every BoD meeting and make sure you are able to read them in the Tech and online promptly (within 3 days of the meeting, as in the by-laws).

The dramatic changes in student affairs and every other department due to the structural deficit in the General Budget may have surprised you. But what should really shock you is that these budgetary decisions were made months ago, yet the majority of the UG student body did not know about these changes until the Town Hall meeting just one and half weeks ago.

The role of ASCIT Secretary is to keep Caltech informed of the BoD's activities. Among other things, I am secretary of the Caltech Y, and I know about club funding, taking minutes, and the importance of "community" at Caltech, and everything else a secretary does. As ASCIT Secretary, I will listen, keep you informed, and make sure your voice is heard.



"Oklahoma Dan" McLaury

With the amount of noise surrounding the Institute's looming financial crises, it's easy to develop a sort of tunnel vision and forget about the other issues facing the campus. I know that a week ago, between the first round of ASCIT elections and the highly anticipated town hall meeting, something called the "Academics and Review Committee" was the last thing on my mind. But then someone -- I'm still not sure who -- decided to nominate me for the office of Director of Academic Affairs. My first thought, of course, was to erase my name from the list, but the idea that some anonymous person had come up with the idea that I'd be good for the job lead me to do a little research.

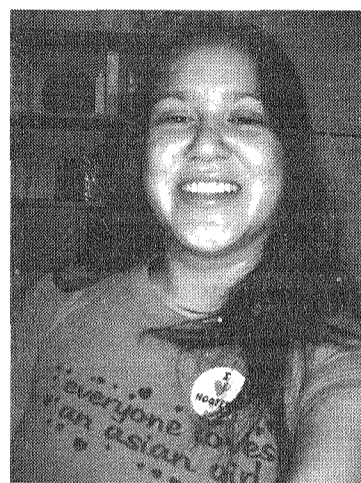
As it turns out, the duties that the ASCIT bylaws explicitly give to the ARC Chair aren't all that important; there is the maintenance of the CLUE (the thing that sends you all those annoying emails after each term) and the UROH (which apparently doesn't exist anymore). But in practice the office is quite a bit more important; for one thing, it is one of nine voting positions on the ASCIT Board of Directors, and as such influences the ASCIT budget and all expenditures -- and that includes funding, for example, for Interhouse parties and campus-wide concert events.

The ARC as a whole is also responsible for a great number of official interactions with the faculty, and in particular for addressing students' problems with their classes. Depending on your major, you may have a schedule which essentially forces you to pull all-nighters to get your homework done, causing you to miss class the next day, which in turn makes your homework all the harder. Or you may reach your senior year and realize that two courses which you need to graduate are scheduled at the same time, leaving you without many agreeable options. For the freshmen out there, know that Bi 1 problem sets are legendary for their ambiguity; often the TA's can't decipher what the questions mean, but you'll find that this is often no excuse for not supplying the "correct" answer, whatever it may be.

If you've never been worried or upset about anything that's happened in your classes, congratulations. You probably don't need to worry about the ARC chair, or anything else in life for that matter. But if you're like the vast majority of Caltech students, this office is a huge deal. If elected, my first action in office will be to start a campaign to rapidly survey, analyze, and eliminate the all-nighter as necessary reality of life here by demolishing the "everything is nine units" system. It is as wrong to award nine hours of credit for a course which forces students to attend several hours of class and section and work all night afterwards as it would be for you to copy your fellow student's exam or steal his refrigerator. As Director of Academic Affairs I'll lobby for all the little (and not-so-little) things that will make your life here easier. Your TA can't explain a concept from your homework set? You should get an automatic extension on the set. You have a Tuesday night class and three sets due Wednesday morning? Ditto. You miss the sec-

# ARC Chair

tion which was your only opportunity to learn that your need to change a plus sign on the midterm to a minus sign, perhaps due to illness, or your schedule, or because you slept through it because you were up all night working, and end up taking a 16% hit to your grade? You need another chance. Of course, you could probably get the Deans to grant you extensions on a case-by-case basis in most of these circumstances, but a lot of people are either too busy or too shy, meaning that only a few people manage to receive fair treatment in their courses, and that's not fair at all. It is important to come up with standard, comfortable techniques for dealing with some of the most common problems Teachers run into, so that we can spend our "free time" on more important things. Like amending the U. S. Constitution to forbid seven-day board.



Marie Giron

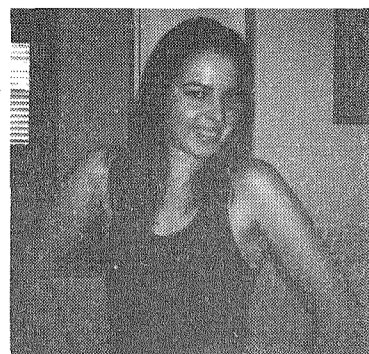
Although I am only a freshman, I've already learned to be unhappy with the way things are going at this "unique" institution. When I enrolled, I thought I was going to a school completely unlike any others, but it seems like Tech is losing all that goes with the name Tech. It seems like this great amount student freedom is being lost, left and right. The bubble that used to surround the school has been punctured and it's slowly disappearing.

If elected ARC Chair, I will do my best to help the students and administration communicate, and I will passionately work against things that are being done to make Caltech less unique and freedoms that are being taken away. Most importantly, I will do my best to make the administration respond to our complaints about the core curriculum, which quite possibly could be the largest impact on student life.

I'm the best one for the job because, sadly, I am the youngest child in my family. I can complain for hours on end and never give up.

When treated unfairly and when things affect those whom I can relate to, I devote my entire self to righting the wrongs and making sure that people are respected and treated decently. When people put me down or try to ignore me, by golly, I make myself known and fight back. If our concerns are not addressed, everyone will know my name.

Additionally, I will be taking core classes for all of the next ARC Chair term, and I will be surrounded by students experience the horrors of core. I'll be well-equipped to understand the wretchedness of our current core program as I will be experiencing it myself over the next year. It's important that the ARC Chair is not out of touch with what the current core curriculum is and how it affects students. I'll be loud and passionate.



Csilla Felsen

Flushed and energetic after salsa and ballroom dancing at one of ASCIT's parties last year, I sat in front of the members of the IHC and admitted to them that I love committees and committee meetings. They laughed at me. Accustomed to many committee meetings themselves, they probably assumed I was just a naive freshman. Many meetings later, I am more enthusiastic than ever before about the role of committees to advocate for the needs of students through discussions with faculty and administrators.

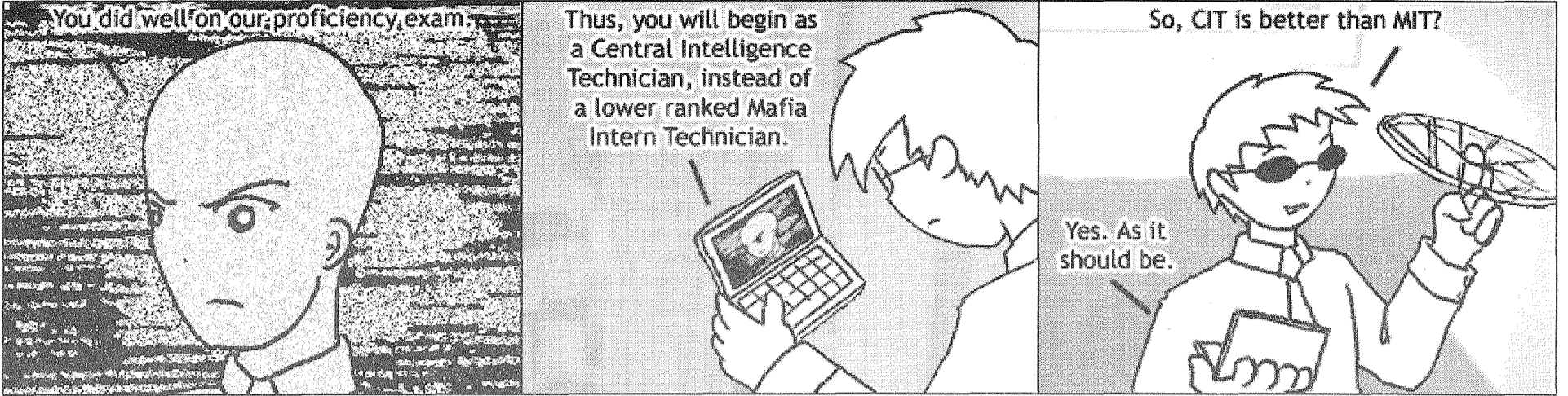
I have been and am still involved in some academic and campus-life related committees. Last year I participated in the Student Faculty Conference as a student representative for Humanities and Social Sciences. From firsthand experience I know the importance of the SFC in opening up discussion between faculty and students. With students uniting on the issues that are important to them, changes really can be made. Additionally, as a current member of the Health Committee, seeking out feedback from other students, I realized students' biggest complaint against the health insurance policy changes is that students want to be informed and updated as decisions are being made. While the Director of Academic Affairs does not have a role in all campus committees, I will make the committees that are appointed by ARC submit short summary updates of their progress. These updates will be available for all students and administrators to read immediately after the meetings are held. The statements will be published online or in the tech and include the e-mail addresses of student representatives who can be contacted for more information.

Furthermore, as a member of the Biology Undergraduate Student Advisory Committee (BUSAC), I am part of a group that actively works to increase communication between faculty and students. We organize socials to bring students and faculty together in an informal setting, something I will work to get funding and support for in other divisions. BUSAC also publishes course work suggestions for people interested in/already majoring in biology. It is helpful to have experienced upperclassmen

give advice on what classes to take beyond the schedules and tables listed in the course catalog. I will collaborate with upperclassmen in other divisions to make course work suggestions and upperclassman mentoring more widespread.

While I have ideas for improving academics and academic programs at Caltech, I am also completely open to suggestions that all of you have. My underlying goal is to work with students and staff to make academics suit our needs while maintaining Caltech as a leader in science and technology.

G.L.O.M. - Greg's Life of Misery



Visit G.L.O.M. on the web at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~citcappy/>

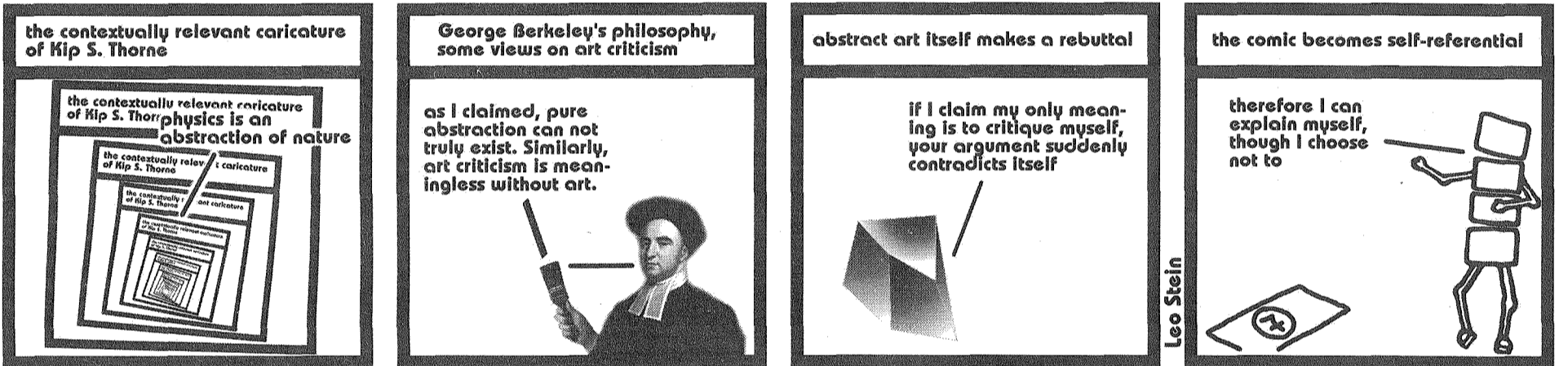
By Nathan Lau

Irrational Exuberance

Zhiyun Guan



Titled



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by  
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Discover the mechanism of the nuclear decay force

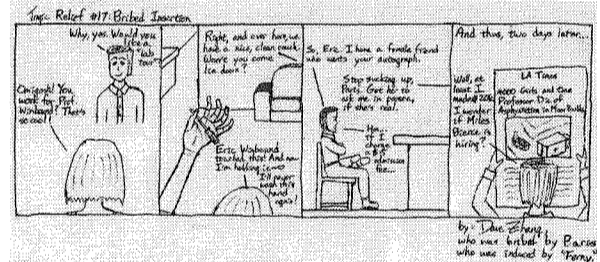
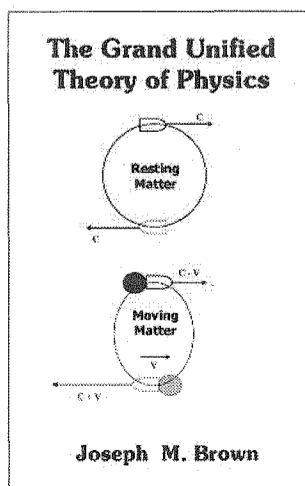
- The electron consists of a neutrino (whose energy divided by  $c^2$  is the electron mass) which has three path components:  
Inertial path - spiral path with radius ( $10^{-19}$ m) to balance centrifugal and thrust forces.  
Electrostatic path - spiral path upon which the smaller inertial spiral is superposed. This produces the electrostatic field ( $10^{-16}$ m radius).  
Angular momentum path - circular path upon which the electrostatic spiral and the inertial spiral are superposed to produce the electron angular momentum ( $10^{-13}$ m radius).
- Neutron is proton combined with electron which has a collapsed angular momentum path.
- Nuclear decay occurs when the proton neutrino flow output at velocity  $v_r$  is aligned precisely to force electron neutrino to the Bohr radius.
- The strength ratio of the weak to strong interaction is the square of the nucleon radius divided by the Bohr radius  $(10^{-16} / 10^{-10})^2 = 10^{-12}$ .

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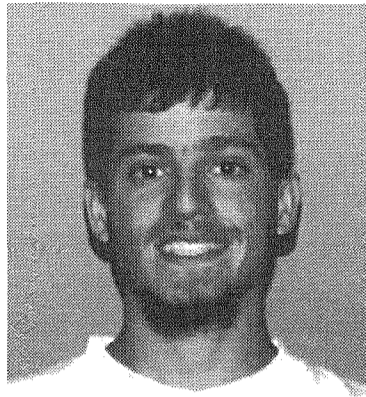
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# IHC Chair



## Craig Montuori

So I'm pretty sure many of you know who I am, but to anyone who doesn't, this will explain what I'm about and what I'd like to do as IHC Chair.

To some of you, I'm a friend. To others, I'm someone who says "hi" when we walk by each other. Sometimes, I'm just that crazy guy who shows up everywhere, regardless of which House is involved. Usually, I'm focused on something that's important to me, like getting better at fencing or helping out a friend. Overall, I'm just a guy that likes to live life; and I'll make no apologies for who I am.

Furthermore, I also believe that until recently, I may not have had as much of a connection to the crazy place that is Caltech as others have had. I liked, and always will like, hanging out with different groups of people in the Houses, but my priorities didn't include making a splash at Caltech or influencing any major administrative decisions. This changed gradually over the summer, when I made the final decision to stay at Caltech, instead of transferring. Once I was committed to staying here, I became interested in what makes this place what it is. I started reading the histories, both recent and dated, while also following faculty and administration communications that have been made public. I've noticed that there are trends in these documents, and they give us a path that others have followed before us that we all have a responsibility to follow. For example, faculty/student communications have been degrading since the '70s. This can begin to improve by me, you all, and the student population as a whole reaching out to other groups on campus, opening lines of communication that have atrophied over the years.

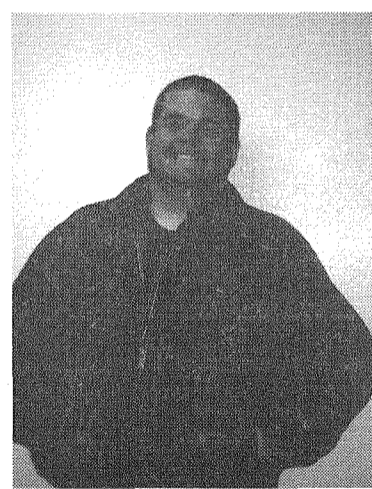
Another trend is that ASCIT has become marginalized over the past decades, with the feeling that it is no longer effective at representing the students' interests. While this may not be something I could influence directly from the IHC, the committee has been stepping up over the years to get things done for students, and if ASCIT cannot well represent the students, I will push for this process to continue. The IHC and its Chair play a major role, representing the students to the faculty and the administration. I will personally engage hard to reach administrators, like Dean Currie or André Mallié, with student input, while facilitating the overall communication. In fact, based on the years that I have been here, I believe the IHC should have some representation on the Faculty Board, where a lot of decisions that influence us are made.

In this short space, I have a chance to present only a few of the ideas I've come up with while thinking and watching events during the past few months. However, keep in mind that I will represent the House presidents as Chair. Any ideas that you pass through them will be something I will listen to and consider. Furthermore, as I'm around the other Houses so much, I will be readily available for anyone to personally approach with ideas or criticisms.

In addition to being visible around the Houses, I know that I can be someone other people can rely on to get things done — given the chance. I may not be the sharpest tool in the shed that is Tech, but who is? I think everyone can point to some other person who is amazing at what he or she does best. Well, this is my thing: I am a people person who enjoys the give and take of discussion, which will be pivotal over the next year as we move back into the real South Houses; at least we all hope they'll be done before then.

I may not be Kim Pop or Peter Foley, who both were amazing at doing all that being IHC Chair entails, but I, too, will get the job done, and done well.

This election and your votes mean so much to me. I may have been annoying or have pissed off at least a few people since I've been here, but I've changed a bit in that time. (Who hasn't?) I've decided that since this is where I'm going to be for the next few years, and I have to do my part too. Being the IHC Chair is where I can help people best and ease the bumpy road that is being a wet-behind-the-ears freshman. Rest assured that, whether I win or lose, you'll be seeing a lot more of me before I graduate.



## Ryan Bogner

In these days of uncertainty of the direction of undergraduate life at Caltech the current IHC Chairman, Peter Foley, has come to the forefront as someone integral to protecting the Hovse System and everything else we as undergraduates value. I would like the opportunity to continue his work. The future IHC Chair will need to work well with students, the administration, the hovse presidents, alumni, and professors; he will need to know where to draw lines in the sand and where to concede to the administration.

At the town hall meeting it was evident to everyone that

the undergraduate population was up in arms over many issues that have presented themselves in the recent past. I see the following issues that need to be addressed:

### 1. Maintaining the Hovse System and Our Way of Life

Even with budget cuts, renovations, the addition of a house, proposed abandonment of waited dinners and seven-day board, and everything else, the current IHC has done a good job of keeping the hovse system alive; we must continue those measures and guard against future infringements on our way of life.

### 2. Better Communication between the Undergraduates and the Administration

I honestly believe that the administration is willing to work with us. However, I also believe that they all do not understand the needs of Caltech students. There are many administrators that are willing to work with us to improve the quality of our time at Caltech, but they do not know what direction to take. During my time in office I would set in place long-term solutions to address this problem.

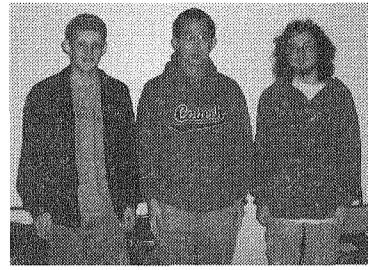
### 3. Better Relationship Between The Undergraduate Population and the Rest of the Caltech Community

It seems currently that the undergraduate students, graduate students, professors and administration are confined to four separate spheres of influence with some interaction between them, but, frankly, not enough. I have heard of times at Caltech when the Professors as a whole took a great deal more interest into the lives of the undergrads. I think we should return to that kind of era. One of the first things I will do is investigate how we could improve the MOSH so that it would once again be a position actively engaged in protecting the traditions that we hold dear.

### 4. Getting the Heck Out of the Way

As much as I want to see these changes occur, one of the worst things I could do would be to try to take them on by myself and enforce my will. The IHC Chair should primarily facilitate the work of the hovse presidents and the administration to get things done. I will allow the hovse presidents that you have recently elected, or will elect in the next few weeks, to take the lead. They know what is right for their hovse, but I want to be there to help them fulfill their duty to that hovse.

Most of you know me in one-way or another. I am asking for you to place confidence in my ability to protect one of the things you and so many techers that came before you and techers that will come after you hold dear, the Hovse System. I pledge that I will do my best to always uphold the values of the Hovse System and the way of life you hold dear.



## John Senn, David Chen, John Malmud

Something is wrong when you open the newspaper and notice that two of the eight pages consist of a spread asking for more writers. The barren pages of The Tech over the past year both demonstrate the lack of student-administration communication and are a source of exacerbation. A student newspaper that publicizes administrative decisions has played a vital role in preserving the community nature of Caltech, and if elected we will work diligently to revitalize The Tech as a significant conduit of communication.

But a first-class newspaper serves as much more than simply a log of administrative policy. Adam Craig was able to win the last Editor election in part because the students tired of the previous editors, who were disconnected from the students. Adam Craig has succeeded in allowing more students, who previously could not have published their writings, the opportunity to write for the newspaper. In doing so, Adam has engendered a forum to express a greater spectrum of student views on a regular basis.

You're probably tired of the relentless recruitment and photo spreads from the past year, so we'll guarantee that you can see at least eight pages of genuine content per week. We also promise to never use substandard comics or photos as filler. Todd Gingrich, the ASCIT President-elect, plans to write a weekly column explaining the progression of his meetings with administrators. We hope to implement a Dean's Corner column, and we will solicit articles by or interviews with other campus administrators as often as they have something new to say. We recognize The Tech as a forum for student debate, and we will print student editorials of any opinion without censorship, as well as any relevant letters to the editors. If we still cannot fill at least eight pages of worthwhile content, we promise to produce our own material.

To generate more material, we promise to increase writer pay, and to achieve this we promise to eliminate our own salaries for at least our first term of production. Once re-establishing our staff of writers, we will resume weekly meetings so that we can discuss the latest and upcoming events and assign writers to cover each of them. We'll also have the opinion writers provide their interpretations of campus happenings, to make sure that you are presented with a multi-dimensional analysis.

The PCC-Courier is available online. We find it ridiculous that Caltech's student newspaper is technologically deficient compared even to the newspaper of Pasadena City College. If elected, we promise to implement an online edition of The Tech within a term of production. With an online version of The Tech, we will not only have readily accessible archives, but you'll be able to easily share interesting articles with your friends and family who don't have subscriptions.

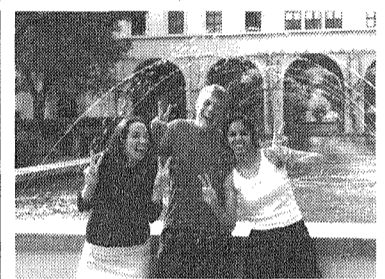
Our editing team presents a mixture of solid news-reporting with editorials that students will want to read. Everyone on our team has written for the newspaper in the past but with varied tastes. We have experience interviewing the housing director and covering recent events on campus, when you just feel like

# Tech

reading news. We also have experience writing for and editing a weekly editorial column that has sparked continuing student debate.

Throughout the prior year, the newspaper has been a source of frustration. During this time, we've learned just how important the student newspaper is to keep us informed. But as evidenced by the election of Adam Craig, The Tech was a source of frustration in years before as well. Students tired of a sycophantic publication dogmatically dictated by campus administrators. Thus, it's crucial to elect editors that have shown independence while contributing to The California Tech. We hope to preserve Adam Craig's student-centered outlook towards the paper, while combining it with greater experience, to produce an outstanding paper in all regards.

If you have any further questions about our platform, feel free to email all of us and we'll be sure to respond well before the polls close.



## Marissa Cevallos, Hamilton Falk, and Sonia Tikoo

Are you ready for a fresh, new Tech that is interesting, student-friendly, professional-looking, and relevant? We certainly are! This is why we (Marissa Cevallos, Hamilton Falk, and Sonia Tikoo), hope you'll grant us the opportunity to serve as your Tech editors for the upcoming year.

All three of us have had prior experience both writing and editing for newspapers during our high school years as well as at Caltech. In addition to having ideas for the Tech, we have a substantial group of writers, photographers, and section editors who have already committed to working with us. We'll never have to resort to printing full-page ads pleading for material.

We also plan to include some changes to the Tech's basic structure by implementing a modular layout technique that will bring the newspaper a cleaner, more professional appearance. We will also introduce separate sports, features, and entertainment in addition to the traditional news and op-ed.

We want to print news that is directly related to our lives as Caltech students—addressing issues such as seven-day board, the delay in opening the South Houses, the opening of the North Field. Features will be presented to review events such as Interhouse parties or whenever a Techer gets "15 minutes of fame" in the media spotlight, and we'll even print a social calendar to let you know about cool stuff that's coming up on campus.

Caltech students deserve to be heard. This is why we also plan to bring in a printed opinion forum, The Rant, which allows Caltech students to submit brief commentary voicing their opinions on university policies and student life. It is especially important, as Margo Marshak emphasized in the town hall meeting, that Caltech have a bold newspaper with rigorous reporting on administrative decisions.

With the three of us, you'll never have to worry about boring lectures being touted as front-page news. So get out there and vote Marissa Cevallos, Hamilton Falk, and Sonia Tikoo for Tech editor!

# editors

Andrew Krause

The next few years will prove pivotal in determining the future of life here at Caltech. As everyone now knows, budgetary pressures are forcing the administration to make changes in how our school is run, some minor, some drastic. It is up to us as students to make sure that those changes both keep the spirit of Caltech alive and allow undergrad life to remain bearable.

The recent town hall meeting proves the success of student organization. Immediately after its conclusion, Margo Marshak instituted a committee to develop alternatives to the despised seven-day board program. However, it also highlighted an important problem—the lack of communication between administrators and students. We cannot let the momentum of this day fade until tensions flare up again. I feel that, as representatives of the student body, ASCIT and the Tech are uniquely poised to continuously advocate the student position.

The role of a student newspaper is to inform the student body of administrative and other happenings that affect them, and to give a voice to the underrepresented. Caltech prides itself on the autonomy given to its students, but as recent events have shown, students are left out of many important decisions. I believe the Tech should have a feature similar to the letters to the editor found in many newspapers, where students who lack the time to write a full article or editorial can express their concerns. Hopefully the

administration will then respond with a letter or an article explaining their position. If they don't, and the concern is widespread, the Tech should follow up and ask administrators until we get an answer. To further promote transparency, the Tech should publish summaries of all relevant administrative and faculty meetings. If we are to retain the privileges we have, we must show decision-makers that we are mature, intelligent, and responsible when it counts. It is important for the Tech, as our weekly representation, to convey that image.

On a less political note, I think it would also be helpful if the Tech carried a calendar of events for the upcoming week. There are many calendars out there listing what is happening, but it would be useful to students to have the week's social, club, and public (lectures, concerts, etc) events laid out before them every Monday rather than have to hunt down the information online. Students would be able to submit events to this calendar that haven't made it on to any other one as well, increasing the chances of people actually attending. This kind of calendar would help foster interhouse relationships and lead to a more unified student body.

I am running for Tech editor because I believe that, in order for Caltech to remain Caltech, the students need a forum and a voice to rally around. The Tech should inform, entertain, and overall be a tool for the betterment of life here. As the cliché goes, information is power, and we're going to need all the power we can get.

# ASCIT Social Director

Chris Gonzales

The ASCIT Social Team worked far smoother than I expected it to last year. A lot of this credit goes to Dima, who has both great vision and an ability to carry his ideas out. We had both successes and failures, but I hope that at we scheduled everyone at least a few activities that they enjoyed.

Last year's ASCIT Formal was amazing. Although there were a few minor problems (such as a very subpar DJ), we had a great location at the natural history museum and tasty food by Wolfgang Puck. There were two really cool dance halls, along with a chill-out lounge, and plenty of dinosaurs everywhere.

First term's athletic barbecue, on the other hand, was an unmitigated disaster. We had too few buns, the hot dogs were still frozen, and the coals were too hot leading to food that was burnt on the outside and raw on the inside. The ASCIT Social Team took full responsibility for these problems, and there is another barbecue coming up on February 11, where we will hopefully be able to redeem ourselves.

The ASCIT concert was something I never thought we could pull off. Only Dima could pull every element of the school together for a great experience such as that. This was when I realized that the administration really does want to help us students. There will probably not be a major concert during my term as social director, but if I secure regular financing and work out details, the future could hold many such fun activities. Having the first concert proved the idea's feasibility. Now we just have to make sure the money is in place to make the concert a bi-yearly event.

The most obvious change I would make is in the process of selecting the social team. Dima chose three very qualified people for his team, but they didn't produce the diversity of ideas that is necessary on a campus such as

ours. Instead, I am going to post signups and encourage everyone on campus to submit their names. Although the team will still consist of only four or five people, these signups will ensure a varied social team representing many facets of Caltech culture.

ASCIT should serve as a clearinghouse for information for house social teams. I will work with housing and safety to publish a clear guide to construction for parties, with the ASCIT webmasters to create an on-line database of DJ and catering services, and with Jane Curtis to ensure healthy social activities for everybody on campus. Right now, the lack of this information is leading to a duplication of work by each of the seven houses; house social teams should focus on developing great ideas for parties instead of having to worry about whether they're following some regulation they don't even know about.

We ended Dima's term as social director with a significant budget surplus. This is our money, earmarked for our having fun, which is just sitting in some bank account. I promise this will not happen with me. I am not advocating wasting money, but we could have had at least one or two additional significant parties with our budget. Better planning and keeping a closer eye on our monetary position could have enabled us to have a large blowout interhouse-style party last weekend. With all the talk of budget cuts around campus, we are blessed with a surplus and what do we do? Sit on it until it's too late to do anything fun.

The opening of the South Houses next year requires a party of a magnitude not seen here since the demise of Interhouse. We can use all four houses' courtyards plus the RF courtyard in order to have several dance floors, professional DJs, live bands, several bars, and an all-around wild time. And if the ASCIT social team gets the same budget as last year, we can do this without any financial bur-

den on the South Houses; they would only be in charge of suggesting what they want in their courtyards and we could take care of the rest.

This next year is going to be a fun, busy year, especially with the re-opening of the south houses. With the right social team in place, we can ensure that our social budget is used to its full potential and that there are enough varied social activities as to make sure that every group on campus has a great time.

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# ASCIT Treasurer



## Ekta Bhojwani

Ok, so you are probably wondering why a "silly frosh" is running for ASCIT treasurer when there are other upperclassmen candidates vying for the same position. Simple answer: I'm confident in myself. Possibly a bit too confident. I think the BoD highly benefit with having someone like me. Mind you, I'm not trying to say I am amazing or have qualities that the other candidates don't possess. I don't want to list the reasons why I may be a good treasurer because don't all Caltech students know how to count and attend weekly meetings. My trying to convince you how I would make an amazing treasurer would be insulting to your achievements. Seriously, all of us probably passed the qualifications of being a treasurer the day the admissions office decide to accept us. However, I know I have that extra something, which will make me a valuable addition to the BoD.

It's been a rocky year for the BoD and I believe that the only way things are going to change is if the attitude of those people in it changes. ASCIT's role in the undergraduate society has been criticized by both the administration and students, and it's about time that steps are taken to change something. For this reason, younger candidates should be welcomed into the BoD so there is time for them to implement their plans. There is a distinct lack of enthusiasm in the BoD, which I am full of. We cannot just be angry at the situations the administrators put us in; we need to take steps to fix the problems. We need people who are willing to devote their time and attention towards ASCIT issues. I know that when I enter the BoD, the duties of the treasurer will come before all other obligations. ASCIT is where my priorities lie, and therefore my commitments to Fleming House and other causes are limited. I also enter the BoD with a neutral stance so there can be no allegations of bias against the other houses. My decisions will be made on merit, rather than my personal opinions. There has been much mudslinging about domination of the BoD by a single house. I hope that when you cast your votes, you will know that you are voting for a Techer, not a Flem. I hope that when you vote today, the decision will be based on merits, rather than on basis of house affiliation or acquaintances.

My belief is that a good treasurer, and for that matter, any position on the BoD requires something more than the ability to accomplish the specified duties. It takes leadership, charisma, approachability, and a willingness to work to benefit the students. I know that as a BoD member I will try to bridge the gap between the administration and the students so that decisions that affect us will be made with some consultation with us. I know that as a BoD member I will help make decisions that will benefit the student body as a whole, rather than individual segments. I know that as a BoD member, I will bring back the spirit of Caltech, rather than letting the undergraduate population succumb to the "Death of Caltech." If there was one thing I could do within the next year it would be to help reintegrate the BoD, so that we may take a unilateral stance on all issues, small or big. I know that my decisiveness and strong resolve will

help me accomplish this and much more. For this, all I need from you is a single chance. Sounds optimistic? Possibly, but in the words of Helen Keller, "[http://en.thinkexist.com/quotation/optimism\\_is\\_the\\_faith\\_that\\_leads\\_to\\_achievement/13582.html](http://en.thinkexist.com/quotation/optimism_is_the_faith_that_leads_to_achievement/13582.html)> Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." See you at the next BoD meeting (I told you I was confident)! Ekta Bhojwani for ASCIT Treasurer.



**I can carry small Asian men on my back, let me carry ASCIT to prosperity.**

## John Senn

For those of you who don't know me, you may have heard of me as one of the primary authors of Bitches is Hoes, or that guy who pays his tuition with poker winnings, or maybe even that nitwit who attempted some inane stunt on The Facebook a year ago.

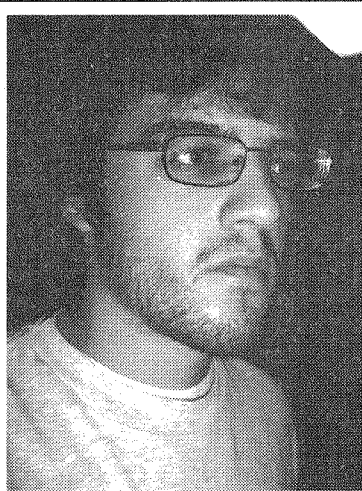
I'm not going to tell you why I'd do a great job as ASCIT Treasurer. I believe that all of the candidates for the office will take the job seriously and understand the time commitment to make sure ASCIT finances run as smoothly as possible. And I'm not going to tell you my positions for major BoD issues in the coming year. We're almost all against 7-day board and the shortening of Prefrosh Weekend. We all oppose the administration's utter disregard for undergraduates in their recent decision making. We will all do our best to insist that administrators consider student input, and we will fight to preserve the community environment in which Caltech undergrads are fortunate enough to participate. Instead, I'm going to fill you in on why I aspire to serve as the next Treasurer.

Over the past couple of years, and especially the past couple of months, I've done a lot of complaining about certain administrative decisions and especially the manner in which they are reached. While many of my criticisms are constructive and offer alternative solutions, I want to take a more active role in improving student life. I want to gain a better understanding of how administration reaches decisions and how administration relates with undergrads. In particular, I am running for treasurer since most administrative decisions around campus or elsewhere are guided by money. As treasurer, I can gain a better understanding of how the school is really run. Hopefully I will be able to contribute to lasting structural improvements in the information flow between administration and undergraduates.

There are many of you whom I, or my colleagues, have offended in recent editions of our rant column. But the purpose of our more controversial articles has been, in many cases, to inflame the audience. To fill the Tech with actual content, and on our good weeks incite fruitful debate about topics that affect all of us on a daily basis. In this respect, I believe that we have begun to achieve moderate success. I hope that those of you whom I have offended take the time to respond and further debate on the

subject, with a rebuttal in the Tech or by emailing me. If elected, I plan to facilitate debate on the BoD about important campus issues. True, most of the important issues the BoD will face next year are no-brainers that nearly all undergrads here agree on. But I will do my best to bring interesting solutions to the BoD for some of the problems we are facing, such as charging more for 5-day board, not providing free meals for prefrosh during a full-length Prefrosh weekend, etc. No matter whether you agree with me on every issue discussed by the BoD, you can be assured that I will be willing and eager to discuss all sides of each issue and make an informed decision.

If you have any further questions about my campaign, feel free to email me [senn@caltech.edu](mailto:senn@caltech.edu) and I'll be sure to respond well before the polls close.



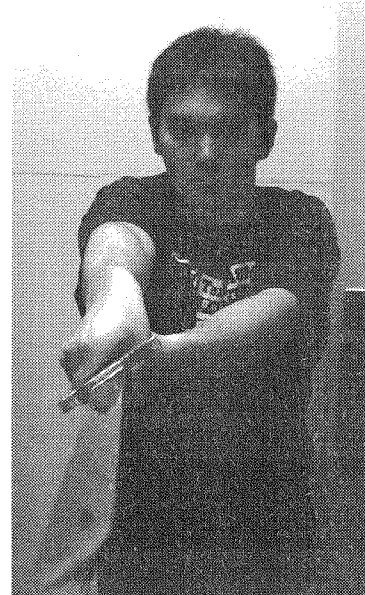
## Michael Forte

As we all saw at the town hall meeting, something needs to change. This starts with the BoD. The BoD needs to be a group of motivated students who expect to represent this feeling of outrage and demand changes in how students are treated. It is my intention to do just this.

My foremost priority will be to manage the money of ASCIT and inform the BoD and the students at large of the current financial standing of ASCIT. On top of this I expect to meet with professors and administrators to get all the information about budget cuts and student life changes. I will then provide this information to the BoD and to all the students. It is through this communication of information that we can work out constructive solutions. We cannot fight policy changes and service cuts when we are only informed of them after they have been completed.

It will therefore be my job to work with the BoD to create a window for the students into the decisions of the administration and help provide a constructive outlet for criticism about administrative decisions. Do not get me wrong, I intend on being a great treasurer but also intend on doing more.

# Stewardship Committee Co-Chair



## Eddie Truong-Cao

A lot of you might be wondering what the hell the Stewardship Committee Co-Chair is. Hell, you're probably wondering who I am. Well, I can admit that the Stewardship Committee Co-chair is not a position that is very prominent, but it does serve its purposes. Some of you may be learning for the first time that I am in fact the incumbent Stewardship Co-chair, and seemingly the only candidate running for the position. While some of you might decide to vote No just because you have no idea who I am or because you have no idea what I've really done while in office, I'd like to let you guys know what I actually do.

The main responsibility of the Stewardship Committee Co-Chair is to organize and run, in conjunction with the head of Housing, monthly meetings of the Stewardship Committee. The committee consists of all of the House's Damage Reps and two members from Housing, Tim Chang and Mike Raven. We normally discuss any maintenance issues that might be cropping up among the houses or the mods, and sometimes we bring up complaints related to maintenance that the students might have. Though the Stewardship Committee generally deals with mundane maintenance issues, we are also tasked with settling disagreements on individuals who would be responsible for paying for any damages to the houses that may occur. Luckily, such disagreements have yet to occur. While I hope that we will not have to deal with this often, I as well as the rest of the Stewardship Committee will be prepared to settle such disputes.

In addition to heading up

the Stewardship Committee, the Stewardship Committee Co-chair also helps in producing IHC policy that concerns stewardship and maintenance of the houses. The biggest issue that I have dealt with so far is the Mural Policy from third term of last year. We had to determine the best way to satisfy both undergraduate desires and directives from the Board of Trustees, and I was called in to help formulate a procedure that would be best to deal with complaints. Other than that, my term of office has been relatively free of large sticky issues.

I hope the upcoming year will also be relatively conflict free, though I do foresee possible issues coming up in the future, and I am prepared to deal with them as they come up. For example, the new Caltech fire policy may be a source of complaint to some who feel that the \$500 fine might be unfair. I might be called in to help deal with this, and I am sure that I can help resolve the issue. It will require a lot of thinking about the philosophy of said policy, and it will take a lot of give-and-take from both sides, but I know we can work things out.

When I ran for this office last year, I thought I had a good idea of what I was getting myself into, but I did not have the whole picture. I only had the idealistic goals of keeping our houses well maintained, and I only showed concern about the physical state of our houses. After being in this office for a year, I realize that this position also deals with stewardship hiccups that we may have with the administration. It is a position that is important to the politics between the undergraduate population and the administration. With new perspectives in mind, I have a few goals for the next year. I would like to bring an Avery representative into the committee since it is foreseeable that stewardship concerns might arise in Avery. I would like to continue a fairly good maintenance of the mods. I would like to have a smooth transition from the mods back to the South Houses next winter, and I also want to make sure that the renovated South Houses will turn out to our satisfaction. With these in mind, I hope that you will re-elect me as your Stewardship Committee Co-Chair, but more importantly, I hope that you are all a little bit more aware of some of our doings here on campus.

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