

Excomm Calls for Run-off in CRC Election

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Two weeks after the close race for CRC chair that determined RJ Krom the winner, contender Dan Knoepfle used two questionable ballots to convince the Executive Committee that the vote actually swung his way—thus, sparking a run-off election.

After the election that declared Krom the winner with 114 votes and Dan with 113, the Excomm ruled that “while [Election Chair] Julia Ma and the elections committee made a perfectly valid interpretation of the bylaws to declare the winner, there are other valid interpretations which could send the election to either candidate, or a tie.”

Further, RJ Krom is officially the CRC chair until the BoD holds a meeting to determine the outcome of the run-off.

Dan was out of town for the Excomm meeting that ruled for the run-off, but Jeremy Leibs, roommate and former CRC chair, served as his proxy to deliver his arguments.

“By a strict interpretation of the bylaws, you get the outcome that Dan wins, and by a non-strict interpretation, RJ wins. Given that the two interpretations change the outcome, it’s really not fair that one candidate wins over another,” said Leibs of Dan’s argument.

The two ballots in question are as follows:

1. RJ 2. God 3. Abstain 4. Abstain 5. Abstain
 1. No 2. Fake Shawn’s bike 3. Matt 4. RJ 5. Dan
- Under Dan’s interpretation



Elections Chairman Julia Ma and former CRC Co-chair Jeremy Leibs discuss the ASCIT voting laws.

of the bylaws, these ballots are incorrectly cast—neither “God” or “Fake Shawn’s bike” are eligible members of ASCIT—and should be thrown out. This would give Dan 113 votes to RJ’s 112. Under the interpretation of Elections Chair Julia Ma, which was decided last week, the ballots show a preference for RJ over Dan, and should be counted for RJ. This gives RJ 114 votes to Dan’s 113.

Knoepfle first learned of the close race from his roommate Jeremy Leibs, the former CRC chair. Leibs voiced to the BoD that the vote was too close to call, and that they should not have already declared RJ the winner.

Knoepfle emailed Excomm and the old BoD about the tight vote. His first argument was that, under the definition of error, RJ needed to win by a larger margin to win the race.

However, the bylaws define error in terms of paper ballots, a relic from when Caltech did not have online voting. The bylaws state in Section 3: “Error shall be defined as the sum of the absolute differences between the number of votes and the sum of

the number of voters registered on donut.caltech.edu and signatures at the aforementioned polling location.” This accounted for people voting more than once on paper.

However, in last week’s election, only one vote was cast by paper. By this definition, the error is 0, so RJ only had to win by one vote.

“Dan and I at that point were reading through bylaws to come up with suggestions for a better-defined margin of error, and Dan stumbled across the part in the bylaws defining incorrectly cast ballots,” said Leibs.

Dan then emailed Election Chair Julia Ma asking to see the write-in candidates, as invalid write-in candidates could cause the ballot to be thrown out under Dan’s interpretation of the bylaws.

“He saw some that affected the outcome, and figured he might as well give it a shot and protest,” said Leibs.

Within 24 hours after the results were announced, Knoepfle filed a complaint to Excomm chair Nick Hutzler. Even though there is no provision in the bylaws that allows protests after the results are announced, Hutzler decided to entertain the request.

“Because it was a legitimate concern, it warranted at least a meeting of Excomm,” said Hutzler. “But I think how Julia counted it was fair.”

Excomm met for four hours on Friday evening to consider the arguments, especially weighing the fact that Krom had already been sworn in as a BoD officer. Because Excomm decided that both Julia and Dan had made “reasonable interpretations of

the bylaws,” the vote was 3-2 in favor of holding a run-off election. Lisa Seeman and David Dicato were absent from the meeting, and ASCIT president Todd Gingrich abstained from voting.

Some students claim that Excomm never had the authority to declare a run-off in the first place.

“I do not think Excomm has the power to recall a member of the BoD that has already been sworn in. That’s under Article 10 – Recall,” said Meng-meng Fu, ARC chair and BoD member. “Dan would have had to start a petition, which he didn’t.”

“The bylaws for the Executive Committee state that we have the sole power to determine the validity of protests. It’s in Section 6,” explains Hutzler.

Excomm ran into another snag in the bylaws by even considering the complaint—the bylaws do not allow for a protest period after the results have been announced.

“Last year we added an amendment for a protest period that’s only valid 24 hours before results are announced. We did that because the Excomm can only rule whether an election was

held properly. This isn’t a valid protest: it’s a recall. I think one of the things they thought was unique to this case was release of elections data,” said Meng-meng.

“Not giving people a means of protesting after they have a chance to look at data was unfair,” said Jeremy Leibs. “I personally don’t believe the bylaws are the final word on anything. You need to put faith in people to act in the spirit of the bylaws.”

Everyone could agree on one thing, however—the bylaws need to be rewritten.

“This election wouldn’t have been an issue if we had a margin of error—it would have been too close to call, so we’d do it again,” said Nick Hutzler.

“If I could change the voting system, I’d add an extra margin—not just a margin of error—of, say, one percent,” said Julia Ma.

“I definitely think there’s a need for a minimum margin of error because you can never guarantee you have considered all sources of error,” said Jeremy Leibs.

See page 8 for statements.

CURRENT BY-LAWS

SECTION 3. ... Error shall be defined as the sum of the absolute differences between the number of votes and the sum of the number of voters registered on donut.caltech.edu and signatures at the aforementioned polling location...

SECTION 5. ...For the first Rank, the voter may choose one of the following:

- (a) a nominated candidate,
- (b) any other *legally qualified* person,
- (c) the word “NO,” by writing it in,
- (d) abstaining...

SECTION 6. In order to win the election, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of votes... defined as more than half the error plus half the number of correctly-cast non-abstaining votes...

Apache Party Special House President Explains

BY: ARTURO PIZANO

Saturday night marked Apache, the annual Ricketts House party, regarded by many students as the biggest and best party of the year. Apache is not only one of the highlights of the year for Scurves but for undergrads at large, attracting an unparalleled number of off campus students and alumni. It is also quite possibly one of the very oldest major traditions on campus, second only to Ditch Day, and dates back to before the north houses were even built.

Nobody could remember the last time any major changes had occurred with Apache planning or construction. For several months now, Ricketts social vice presidents Chandra Barnett and Chelsea Sharon had struggled to recreate the decades old tradition away from its traditional home, Ricketts house proper. Along with their dedicated social team, they spent countless hours brainstorming ideas for locations, meeting with administrators in the hopes that the spirit and ambiance of Apache could be maintained, despite the unconventional location.

For two hours, Apache was everything that anyone could have

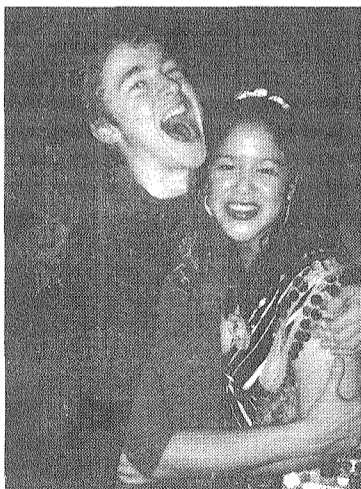


Photo courtesy of Marie Giron

When asked for comment regarding his mid-Apache hospitalization, Ryan Lanman responded: “Do you remember that scene in the first Family Guy episode, when instead of Assablancia, partygoers are presented with a video of the Statue of Liberty? Peter’s solution was ‘We’re gonna drink till she’s hot.’”

expected and more. The crowd was as big as always, and a huge sense of excitement filled the room. We had succeeded. And then, in what seemed like a bad case of déjà vu, we were let down by the administration, hung out to dry, and made to fend for ourselves.

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Caltech Wins Chess Championship Keeps Competition in Check

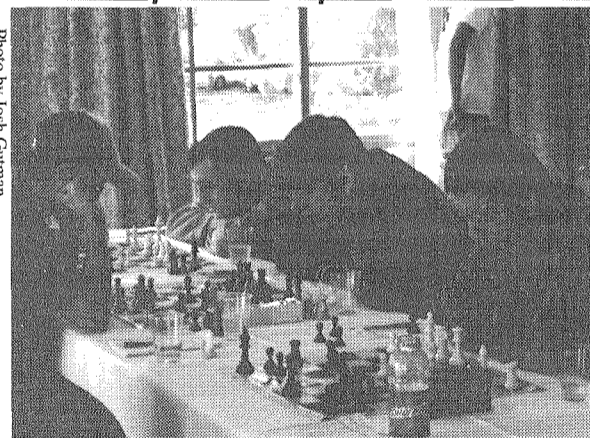


Photo by Josh Gutman

Caltech’s four-person chess team wins U.S. Amateur Team West Chess Championship for the third time in four years. More details next week. From left to right: Patrick Hummel, Eugene Yanayt, Howard Liu. Not shown: Joshua Gutman

Men’s Basketball Plays Stellar Game Reaches Overtime Against Whittier

After holding a lead of five points against Whittier with 30 seconds left in Monday night’s NCAA conference game, the men’s basketball team entered overtime and fell just short of winning. With a final score of 84-86, Caltech nearly ended its 21-year losing streak of intra-conference games. More details next week. Number 42: Jordan Carlson

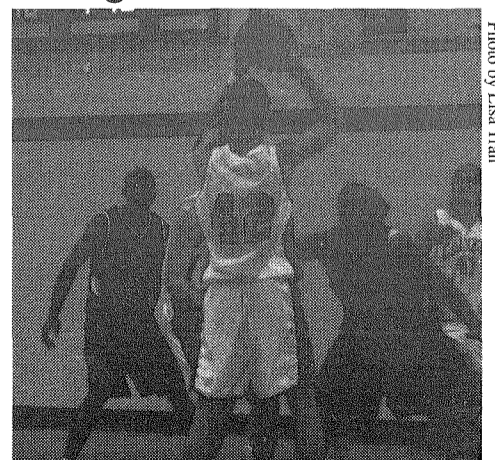


Photo by Lisa Tran

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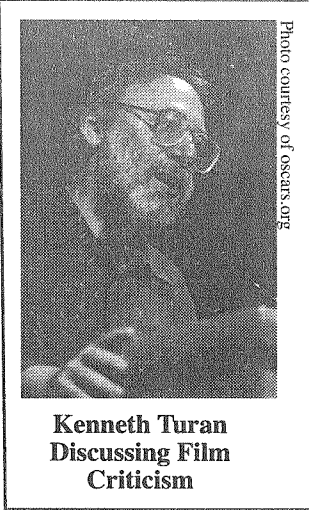
Kenneth Turan Teaches Film Criticism to Critical Techers

BY: JOHN MCNAMARA

The most poignant and sincere film in recent history is not listed on the American Film Institute's 100 Greatest American Movies nor does it grace the popular-driven Internet Movie Database's top 250. Despite its lack of critical and popular acclaim, this film was adapted into a musical, remade, and commands \$19.95 for the DVD.

Not only did it enjoy success economically, but it redefined its genre for years. Released in 1978, it examined the roles of women in society and the way they strive for a better life, cracking the glass ceiling. It is a story about the loss of innocence in the pursuit of the American dream and how one girl can break free of her small time life for glory.

I thought to ask Kenneth Turan, the esteemed film critic of the *Los Angeles Times* and NPR's *Morning Edition*, why such a hallmark piece of the modern era could be ignored by both critics and the audiences alike. Before I could do so, I found the answer in his



Kenneth Turan
Discussing Film
Criticism

book, *Never Coming to a Theater Near You*.

According to him, it is difficult to find the classics of cinema that pass us each week amid new releases and vacuous niche flicks. It's "so hard to feel that it's not just a wave of nonsense," he remarked.

He claims in his book that "faced with an intimidating vastness of rental choices, most people blank out on the names of fea-

tures they've been meaning to see and reach for whatever's handiest." Indeed, in order to remember what I consider the greatest bildungsroman of the modern era, one must rummage for *Debbie Does Dallas* amidst the dimly lit shelves in the basement of the local movie store.

To discuss the art of film review, Kenneth Turan visited Caltech last week through the sponsorship of the Words Matter program. The Chair of the Words Matter committee, Steven Youra, remarked that the goal of the program was to "reach a different

segment of the student body."

At Caltech, we have an appreciation for the movies. Whether it is in the dark theatre surrounded by our obnoxious friends or in a dark room accompanied by a box of tissues, the movies are how we unwind in rare quiet periods amid the incessant deluge of problem sets. We have held movie nights and rented entire theatres. At one point ASCIT had a DVD collection for free access to our favorite films.

Watching so many films, we undoubtedly form an opinion about the cinema. We form our own sets of tastes about what films should and should not be. Having Kenneth Turan at Caltech gives us the opportunity to reflect on the nature of taste which Turan summed up by saying "taste is relative, taste is personal."

Reflecting on the nature of preference, Kenneth Turan spoke to a group of students, faculty and staff at lunch Wednesday about *Never Coming to a Theater Near You*. "All you have as a critic is your sensibility" he remarked to a crowd of nearly sixty people in the Avery library. Reading from his review of *Vertigo*, he paused to reflect on how taste changes over time. "We think taste is immutable" he said, contrasting the different perception of *Vertigo* between 1962 and 1992. The job of the critic is to present their own taste for an audience.

Speaking to a group of students, Thursday, he provided an

inside look at how the critic accomplishes this job. "It all starts with this, it starts with a notepad." Discussing the evolution of his review of *Syriana*, he provided copies of his original notes. These notes are what he calls himself "reacting to the film." "I'm in constant dialogue with the film," he remarked.

Once the dialogue ends and the theatre lights turn on, Turan begins the task of reviewing. To make an unadulterated reflection of his opinions, he "go[es] into the film as cold as possible," meaning he avoids reading any reviews about the film until after he has penned one. "One of my mandates, I feel, is to inform people," doing so, his reviews reflect a deep personal reaction to the film. "You write out of who you are and in some way you are writing to a version of yourself."

After the session, Professor Kevin Gilmartin, member of the Words Matter committee, commented that Kenneth Turan is a "really interesting guy" and a "skilled teacher." "He is really good at making professional writing seem engaging."

Harrison Stein, movie critic for the California Tech, commented that "it is nice to see someone succeed at something like this," referring to making a living off of film review. Harrison participated in an event during which Turan screens a film and tackles methods to review it. He called it

"a good experience; I recommend future events like this."

Even Cindy Ko, music reviewer for the Tech who attended to see the relationship between film and music critique, was enthralled by Turan's visit. "He told me 'if you wanted to see good music reviews read Lester Banks.'" She described him as "willing to give advice" and if he offered his course on film criticism at Caltech: "I'd take his class."

Overall attendance of these events was standing room only, but undergraduate attendance was still less than that of an average basketball game.

Jeff Phillips, occasional contributor to the Tech, commented that he did not attend because "I'm not really interested in film critics."

Another friend of mine thought the "event was really pimp," but was too busy to attend.

In the future, Words Matter is looking for ways to incorporate more undergraduates in their events. We can expect a visit by poet Harryette Mullen and the annual science writing symposium. Although coverage of these events has not been a large feature in the Tech, expect greater coverage in the future so that these happenings will not be like the movies Ken Turan describes when "most people, even with the best intentions, find that the production they really meant to go to is no longer in theatres by the time they carve out the leisure to see it."

Apache Traditions Live On

Continued from page 2

Several weeks ago, the venue had been finalized. The party would take place on the bottom floor of the Holliston parking garage, with the administration's approval of the plans. Every possible aspect of Apache had been maintained.

Guests would enter the tunnels through a hatch just west of Holliston Avenue and north of the Human Resources building. After traveling through the steam tunnels for a short time, they would enter an administrative area located beneath the parking structure where the traditional constructed tunnel would begin. In a particularly interesting change, a free-standing tunnel had to be built along one section of the route passing through a machine room.

As guests came near the final location for the party, they would pass through near total darkness for the final portion of the route. The final twenty-five feet of the tunnel were absolutely perfect. Exactly as it would have been in the south houses, guests would be in total darkness, barely able to see the person ahead of them, but would be able to hear the sound of the crowd ahead. Much like in the Ricketts House lounge, these last few feet would be an indescribable way to build anticipation for the party.

In a break from tradition, preliminary construction for the party began as early as the Sunday prior to Apache. Nevertheless, the bulk of the construction occurred in the traditional way, beginning after dinner on Friday evening.

As is often the case, the freshman class stepped up and did an amazing amount of work, as did many of the upperclassmen. Worked continued all night and well into the next day, but by Saturday afternoon, the party was done, and everyone could rest and prepare for the party, knowing that everything possible had been done to maintain the tradition. The house could only stand back and hope that the amazing anticipation and excitement that accompanies Apache would drive the party despite the change of location.

At 9:00 PM, guests began trickling in. Within two hours, the party was packed and it had become clear that Apache would go on in all its glory despite the changes. The tradi-

tional Jazz trio was playing, and the same spirit of past Apache parties could clearly be felt. The costumes were as fantastic as every other year, ranging from the respectable to the risqué. Dozens of alumni were present, offering a great opportunity not only to catch up with old friends, but also a chance for Scurve alumni to meet the underclassmen.

In the aftermath of what followed, countless guests, students, and alumni could be heard saying how well the party had been going. To many people's surprise, the recreation of the Ricketts lounge and courtyard had been sufficient to create the sense of the party.

Nobody had anticipated that the party would live up to the normal expectations for Apache, much less exceed them. It was not going to be just another Apache, it was on the way to becoming a great Apache; possibly the best of the last three years.

By 11:30 PM, the crowd began migrating to the smaller and darker of the two artificial rooms in the parking structure, meant to recreate the lounge of years past. The complete darkness, traditional booths, and jazz band made it a fantastic recreation of the lounge in years past. Everything was perfect.

At around this time, reports of ambulances and paramedics began circulating around the party. It later became clear that two guests had become found intoxicated to the point of possible alcohol poisoning. The Fire Marshall from the Holliston station was called for a medical emergency.

According to several reports, one of the students had not even arrived at the party when found by security outside the parking structure reports, both students arrived at the party together, both severely intoxicated. While entering the tunnels below, one student became ill and had to be escorted out of the tunnels via an emergency exit. The other student, who would later also be taken to the hospital by paramedics, continued up through the tunnel himself and entered the party. Accounts indicate that this student was later found to be suffering of possible alcohol poisoning on the first floor of the parking structure outside the party near security dispatch. Based on this, it is apparent that neither student's condition could be attributed in any

way to consumption of alcohol at Apache.

These events constitute a very serious problem and should not have occurred. Nevertheless, what followed represents an extremely serious case of carelessness and neglect. This was not the first time that this had happened at Apache, and the party should have continued uninterrupted as it had in the past.

As a result of these events, the Fire Department and the Fire Marshall began to look into the party. In speaking with him, it became clear that our safety office had not bothered to properly document the party. A party in the parking structure would have required that the venue be approved by the Fire Department and that documentation for the permit be present at the party.

While at this time there is some small possibility that the safety office did file a permit and failed to provide it to us, the truth remains that the institute safety office failed to properly document the party. According to the Fire Marshall there needed to be prior approval because the parking structure was not a venue where large groups could congregate. Its approved use was for parking, not as a hall for parties. Because of the construction, including the artificial walls and the fact that many people were smoking in the party, he believed that this constituted a serious danger.

Despite being asked for other options numerous times, the Fire Marshall made it clear that there was absolutely nothing that could be done to save the party at the venue. At approximately 12:00 AM, the party was officially shut down by the Fire Marshall.

At this point, when it became apparent that there was no hope for saving the party, we tore down all of the makeshift walls and began to force the crowd to leave, instructing them to vacate the parking structure immediately and telling them that the party would continue at the modular units. The walls were easily torn down in a matter of seconds and could have been done by a single person. Using the multitude of exits from the party, hundreds of guests were evacuated in a matter of minutes. While in a traditional venue "crowding at the doors" resulting in a stampede would have been a serious concern in a traditional venue,

the fact that guests could leave via the car lanes made a rapid evacuation trivial. Despite the lack of a permit from the Fire Department, rapid and safe evacuation did not seem to be any problem at all.

Due to the rain, we arranged to move the party to Page House where we had the garter contest. Despite everything that had occurred, some semblance of the tradition was maintained. The excitement of the party was dead, but in some small way, we moved on. While the garter contest ended at 2:00 AM, the party continued on informally for much longer, a small remnant of what could have been, but nonetheless, a great thing to see.

THE PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The immediate cause of inquiry by the fire department may have been the result of student conduct, but fundamentally, the party was destroyed by no fault of our own. This did not need to happen. The administration can try to shift blame anywhere they can by citing the students who were taken to the hospital or the prevalence of smoking at the party, but these things did not need to be what ended the party. As mentioned before, one of the students had not even arrived at the party when he collapsed.

The truth is simple. Safety did not do their job. As an organization, Ricketts House did everything that could have been expected from us and more. There had even been preliminary discussion and the process for approval had begun for a fire in an outdoor fireplace behind the parking structure. In the spirit of simplicity and in order to avoid a potential problem, we omitted it despite the fact that we already had a perfectly legal fireplace in our possession.

This is only the latest in the string of failures and disappointments forced on students by the administration. I know this is probably a waste of time, but I strongly believe that an apology is in order. Mistakes were made at the party, and it is fair that those responsible be held accountable, but it is only fair that blame be placed where it belongs. In this case, the majority lies squarely on the shoulders of the safety office. At no point was the necessity of a permit from the fire department mentioned to anybody involved, unless there would be a fire as mentioned before. There were at least a half-dozen additional venues proposed, some of which

could have certainly been approved by the fire department.

At the end of the night what happened, happened. I cannot even begin to describe how disappointed hundreds of students, alumni, and other guests were by this. For many people, Apache is the highlight of the year. Killing Apache was like giving a small child a kick in the teeth for his birthday. All the excitement, anticipation and work put into the party to have it killed through no fault of our own. It's far too late to take it back, but an explanation, accountability and an apology would be nice. I'm truly sorry to everyone who came that things didn't work out the way we planned. I honestly believe we were on the way to one of the best parties in recent memory.

I want to thank everyone who came for making it an awesome party, at least for the first couple of hours. On behalf of Ricketts House, I'd like to thank Sean Mattingly and Page House for the use of their dining hall for the garter contest. As an important tradition, we were very grateful to be able to maintain it. I would also like to thank Caltech Security for their help in moving the party. Finally, and most of all, I'd like to personally thank all the Scurves and alumni for all their help planning, building, and moving the party.

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
editorial desk: (626) 395-6153
advertising desk: (626) 395-6154
editorial e-mail: tech@tech.caltech.edu
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David Chen Lisa Tran
Jon Senn Business Manager
Jonathan Malmaud Robert Morell
Co-Editors Circulation
Adam Craig
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Dean Currie Encourages Involvement Without Vigilantism

BY: MAYRA SHEIKH

Caltech finances have been revised for the interest of the Institute. However, many of these revisions are upsetting because some are unreasonable and many have been issued unilaterally from the administration without student input. Dean Currie, VP Financial Affairs has taken the time to explain the logic and process used to make these decisions.

The administration's objective is to initiate the process by which Caltech can eliminate the fiscal deficit it has maintained for quite some time. To avoid lengthening the decisions process over years, a "debilitating exercise," Dean Currie claims, the university's leadership decided to consult current and former division chairs, other faculty, and the VPs in order to assess where the institute budget could be altered without affecting teaching and research. Dean Currie did not want to implement any changes that would disrupt or hinder the students and faculty's "maniacal need to pursue curiosity."

Over the summer of 2005, the current and former division heads, other faculty, and VPs had meetings in which they analyzed the spending budget. Students were not included in this panel because it was "the summer" and because the "time horizon" of the changes is longer than the "four years any student is here."

However, hundreds of students have SURFs over the summer, and alumni stay involved for decades. When confronted with these details, Dean Currie conceded that students were overlooked because the committee was "moving fast." An omission that has caused much upheaval on campus.

The panel's first technique to solve the monetary debt was to increase Caltech's revenue, so the affect on academics is minimized. The revenue increase is coming from many aspects of the community, such as more frequent filming of the TV serial "NUM3RS" on campus as well as requiring St. Luke's Hospital to cover more of its own costs. Unfortunately, auxiliaries including CDS, the Bookstore, and housing as a unit need to generate "\$2.7 million to cover their overhead expenses."

As VP of Financial Affairs, Dean Currie cannot control how each sector decides to generate revenue. The overseers of each sector need to be questioned about the exact changes implemented.

The administrative oversight when instigating changes does not imply that student input is obsolete. It means that students have to make themselves a larger presence as a mature, adult component of campus. Dean Currie says he knows that "questioning authority" is tradition; its part of the reason Feynman is a Caltech "icon." Dean Currie believes the questioning of authority to be a good thing, like a system of checks and balances, but it can also escalate into a "rebellion war," where students try to out

rebel each other. Nonetheless, there are many student committees on campus that are made to involve students in a non-antagonistic fashion. Dean Currie provided no suggestions about how to get the administration to include said committees when making important decisions.

However, Dean Currie used the parking situation as an example of how students can still be involved even when administration is forced to make quick decisions. The administration had to make the initial decision to charge for parking, "but expected that, over time the community, including students, would have the opportunity in classic Caltech fashion to adjust the initial decisions in ways that reflect the desires of the community. We can no longer have free parking, but we can have lots of discussion each year about how best to realize that revenue, how to zone the parking," etc. Likewise, CDS was asked to increase revenue, but student input and the 7-day board plan task force prevented the implementation of full-time board. Though it

would be nice to involve students from the get go, sometimes the administration cannot coordinate it.

An alternate method to get the committees involved would be to inform the committee chairs that the student reps cannot be ignored. When the decision was made to merge ATC (Administrative Technology Services) and ITS (Information Technology Services), the students on the Computer Advisory Committee were not consulted, but the head of the committee was. Students on the committees may have to keep on top of things more carefully, something that is extremely difficult with full class loads. Dean Currie, however, does not think that students need to be vigilantes. Instead, they should just need to "be actively involved in the many existing processes that help make these difficult trade offs."

Though Dean Currie says that all new decisions have been disclosed and that "there are no layoffs hiding around the corner," he cannot promise that there will be no more changes.

"The questioning of authority to be a good thing, like a system of checks and balances"

Seminars by Dean Currie Describe Caltech Finance's

BY: ANNA HISZPANSKI

Amid the current budget problems, many students and other members of the Caltech community have begun questioning exactly how the university's finances work. For those interested in understanding the financial formula that keeps Caltech running, the Vice President of Business and Finance, Dean Currie, is offering an

informal, no-credit seminar course. At each weekly session of the course, a different aspect of the financial face of Caltech will be covered (see box).

Currie, who has held administrative positions at several other prominent institutions like Rice University and Harvard,

says he makes it his practice to try to educate those interested in the finances of the institute. "I've made it my standard at other institutions at which I've been to do this sort of thing for staff, students, and faculty," said Currie. "I'm happy to match the investment they are willing to make in understanding the institute's

finances.... There's nothing secretive about it."

While perhaps spurred by the budget problems, the seminar course is not intended to be an extension of current budget change discussions. "Those students wanting to discuss single issues like seven-day board will be disappointed," said Currie of the course.

Currie is also clear about his motivation for having the course: "I'm certainly not doing this seminar course to smooth the water or make peace [with those upset by budget changes]," said Currie. "I don't have a goal for this program. To the extent of having a goal, it is to help students who come learn what they want to learn."

Becoming the Vice President of Business and Finance last February, Currie arrived at Caltech as the budget issues came to their pinnacle. Despite the budget problems, when asked how his past year at Caltech has passed, Vice President Currie instantly replies, "Absolutely fantastic."

"Caltech is very much a community. There's an affection for the institute," said Currie. "To

have these difficult decisions made [about the budget], with as little rancor and in as little time as we did with virtually everyone having the best intentions for the institute—that was a revelation."

Although Currie may have an answer to all the questions about the budget and endowment, Caltech, in the typical tradition of the institute, has presented him with one paradoxical problem to which he does not know the answer: "The fascinating part is that an institution of this size

theoretically should not be able to maintain this quality. What is it about Caltech that allows this outrageous level of excellence to persist over time?" said Currie. "If someone gave me two billion dollars, I would not be able to duplicate this institution. There's something else going on here. I still don't know."

Dates and times of sessions will

depend on the preferences of those participating in the course. Students, staff, or faculty members interested in the seminar course should contact Maria Olague:

Maria.Olague@caltech.edu or (626) 395-6732.

Topics for Weekly Sessions

Session One

Caltech's financial statements, understanding the flow of funds, grants and expenses

Session Two

Caltech's \$1.5 billion endowment: how it is invested and how to decide the amount to withdraw each year

Session Three

Prices students pay: how tuition and financial aid are set

Session Four

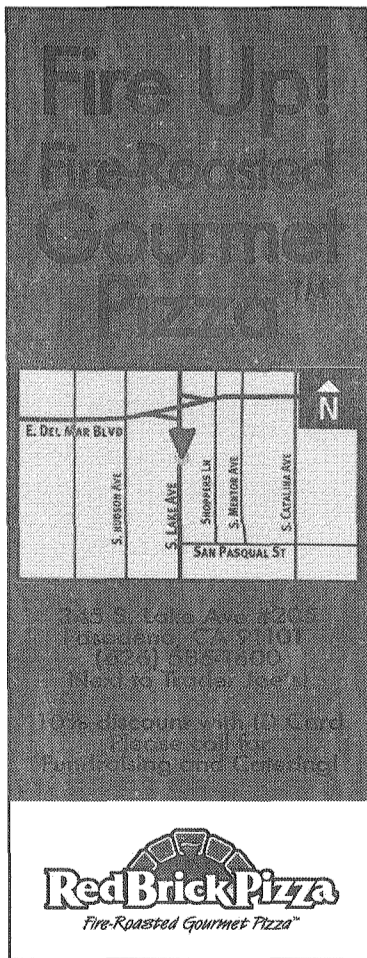
Government grants and contracts (account for 50% cash flow on campus)

Session Five

Budgeting and planning

Session Six

Auxiliary enterprises



2006 Prefrosh T-Shirt Design Contest!

Calling all artists and t-shirt designers!!!

It's time to design the 2006 Prefrosh T-Shirt! There is a \$50 prize to the winning design. All designs must be submitted by Tuesday, March 7 to Cameron Pinckney in the Admissions Office. Feel free to email your design to him at pinckney@admissions.caltech.edu or stop by the Admissions Office and drop off your submission at the front desk.

Contest Guidelines.....

1. You are designing for a white, short sleeve T-shirt.
2. You can use a maximum of ONE color for any text or graphics.
3. You may use the front, back, or front and back of the T-shirt to lay down your design.
4. You must include "Prefrosh Weekend 2006" in legible print somewhere in the design.
5. You may submit as many designs as you like!!!

Questions? Please contact Cameron Pinckney at (626) 395-8324.



Dean Currie

CHATTING IT UP: How to Break the Ice, Make Friends and Start a Romantic Relationship

Author and conversation expert, Don Gabor, shows you the right ways to:

- Approach strangers and break the ice—without phony opening lines
- Remember names and make a great first impression
- Use body language to flirt and create physical chemistry
- Ask the right kinds of questions and know what to say next
- Ask for a date and end the conversation on a positive note
- Talk about relationships on the first and second dates

Tues, Feb. 28th from noon until 1:30 in Winnett Lounge.

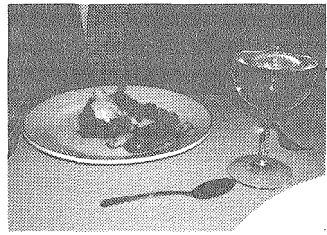
Club o' the Week**Meet the Meat**

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

It was a fine day in the year 2000. The target was meat. The marksmen were the triumvirate that founded the Shooting Club: Christian Thomas, Clayton Featherstone, and Curtis Smith. Bullseye! The Meat Club was founded.

Gunnar Ristroph, former Meat president, tells of the club's early days when the club would just set up a grill and everything was bring-your-own-meat. The club attained campus-wide attention and became a great success with the "22 reasons I'm not a vegetarian" shirt, featuring a cow with 22 cuts of beef outlined. Soon the Caltech Meat Club became known throughout Southern California, partially due to a commercial for Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill that was broadcast on many FM music stations. The commercial featured the voice of Jeff Cox, then president of the 200 member club. Not surprisingly, Jeff used the entire proceeds of the commercial to buy meat.

The club obtained official status with the first ASCIT Athletic BBQ, brought about by Gunnar and former ASCIT social director Claire Walton, to encourage students to attend games and cheer for Caltech and, of course, give



Classy yet delicious

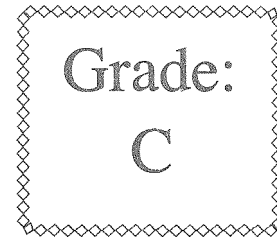
Photo by Lisa Tran

people a chance to enjoy scrumptious meat. Dima, Claire's successor, made the BBQs more frequent and brought in larger crowds.

The Meat Club has cooked bacon and lamb, whipped up bacon ice cream, roasted an entire pig on a spit over fire, grilled ribs, sausage, rib eye and fillet mignon steaks, and barbecued turkey as well as brisket, to name a few enjoyable meat treats. The new president of the Meat Club, Kristen Kozak, hopes to have more BBQs for Meat members while expanding servicers to the athletic BBQs, the prefrash BBQ, and a general BBQ once per term.

All those who are smacking their lips now, join the club by contacting Kristen at kristenk@caltech.edu. (Interested readers can listen to the commercial that made many mouths water at www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~sayiid/JEFF.mp3)

Want your club to be a Club o' the Week? E-mail jmalmaud@caltech.edu

Music Review**Silent Alarm** (*Bloc Party*, 2005)**Bloc Party? More like Blah Party...**

BY: CINDY KO

Junior, Boory House (...and loving it...)

It's the album that everyone was talking about last summer. I'm probably the last person to have it, which would kind of make this a pointless review, but what can I do? If everyone else thinks it's great, I gotta hear it for myself.

After a few good spins, I can say with relative conviction that I don't think it's that great. I put it on, and I can see why people like it—catchy hooks, good beats, British accents—the album is busting with them, but I can't bring myself to listen that closely. One reason why is the overall repetitiveness. Not only does each Bloc Party song feature repetitive musical phrases, but a lot of their songs sound

pretty similar to each other. Personally, I have a big thing against songs on loop, and listening to Silent Alarm gives me a similar vibe as when I hear the same darn tune over and over again. It makes me want to cringe. I don't hate it, but I do want to turn my player off after about four minutes.

Musically, Bloc Party has a well put-together sound. It's upbeat and twangy, and at least in the studio they sound very unified. I guess you could say they sound unique, but I don't know... they definitely sound stereotypically European to me. (Maybe it's the accent: "like eating glass" = "...like eating

gloss!") For some reason, they kind of remind me of the band Hot Hot Heat. Maybe because both bands have fast songs and both of the frontmen are prone to yelling.

Eh, it doesn't really do it for me. The lyrics are sort of hodgepodge, too. I prefer lyrics that tell storylines or illustrate situations, but Bloc Party goes more along the lines of choosing lyrics that create a feeling. Some bands are really great at that, and I haven't really found the appreciation for it until recently, but I have to say it again: Bloc Party doesn't do it for me.

I hate to become a music snob pariah now that I've given cold reviews to a hot band, but psh-hhaw! Besides, it hurts me that Silent Alarm was a disappointment after being hyped up so much. It's just too bad that this album rubs me the wrong way by harping on two of my musical pet peeves (the third pet peeve is singing off tune, but that rarely happens in the industry). I suppose when it comes to British bands, I have to stick to Pulp and the Smiths.

Tune in next week when I review: With Love and Squalor by our campus favorites, *We Are Scientists* (2006).

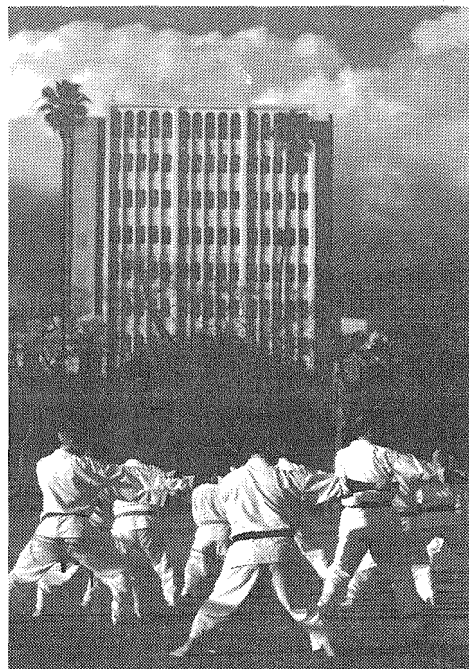
North Fields Now Open to Everyone*Compromise reached between students and administration*

Photo by Matt Glassman

Members of the Caltech community practice their martial arts in the newly opened North Field. Student complaints have successfully punched away restrictions on the field's use.

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

Responding to intense pressure, administrators recently adjusted the policy for usage of the North Field to allow access to the general Caltech community during daylight hours that do not conflict with PE classes or baseball practices. The decision was made earlier this month, about a week and a half after a petition was circulated demanding an increase in the availability of open fields for recreational use.

"I think the issue is pretty much resolved," remarked Wendell Jack, the Institute's Director of Athletics, hopeful that this compromise will strike a balance among the diverse needs of groups across campus. "We want to do what's

right for the most people."

This cooperative attitude was not so evident a month ago when access to the North Field, which makes up around two-thirds of the on-campus athletic fields, was unexpectedly cut off from most the Caltech population. As soon as it was perceived that additional paid parking spaces might be the only benefit for the majority of the two-thousand member Caltech community, a group of graduate students and postdocs drafted an email to the Athletics Director voicing their concerns.

The extensive letter, sent January 8th, raised the general issue of limited outdoor facilities for club and recreational sports and the simultaneous closure of fields for maintenance. The group requested that in the future more consideration be given "to accommodate all student athletic groups, including the informal groups which serve most of the student body."

On the 17th of the same month, Bill Girdner, a local resident and Caltech Associate, sent a letter to the President's office arguing for the full reopening of the North Field. The letter was published in the 1/30 edition of *The Tech*. In it, he pointed out the frightening trend of "restrict-

tion and exclusion" that seemed to be guiding a number of decisions by the athletic department over the past 25 years. Girdner condemned the domination of the entire field by the sixteen member intercollegiate baseball team, a complaint echoed by many opponents of the former North Field policy.

Caught on both sides of the issue, head coach of the baseball team and interhouse athletics coordinator John D'Auria has struggled to balance various groups' demand for field space. He is clear on his philosophy that the North Field should be shared among the entire community: "Based on the feedback we got, [the old policy] was obviously too restrictive."

Recognizing that a major source of contention is the homerun fence that makes it impossible to support a full soccer or ultimate frisbee match, Jack and D'Auria have made plans to remove the semi-permanent fence in early March, after the last home game of second term. The season continues through April, and for the one remaining home game, the team will play without a fence. Ryan Bogner, a sophomore on the baseball team, is currently working together with the two to install a moveable fence for next season. The \$6,000 investment could be set up and taken down in an hour or two (as opposed to the approximate 40 hours it took to assemble the current fence)

and would keep the North Field accessible for recreational use even during baseball season.

Criticisms of the baseball team's exclusive field access arrive just as the ball club returns from two seasons of off-campus practices and games that D'Auria describes as "terrible." The biggest problem was

the difficulty to organize structured practices, now the coach, especially since most were at night and often conflicted with humanities classes. "I never had the same group of guys twice in a row."

While restrictiveness and exclusivity seem to underlie the debate, many undergraduate athletes are concerned mostly about the condition of the fields that they play on. Jason Burt, a freshman who regularly plays for the rugby club team, thought that the new North Field usage policy would take quite a bit of pressure off the South Field. "The more options, the better." Since the South Field used to be the only field available, it was so overused that by the end of any particular term that it would be dusty with dirt patches all over.

Other athletes hold the same opinion. The South Field "is not fit to play soccer on," criticized sophomore Nathan Chan. Although field use is prohibited for one week twice a year to allow the grass to recover, it "quickly deteriorates into its unusable form," he observes. Regarding the North Field, Chan

is satisfied that more people are allowed to use it recreationally. However, he believes this will not solve the problem of the South Field being trampled on and overused.

Construction on the underground parking structure and the North Field began in 2004 and continued with many delays until the beginning of the current winter term. Originally, the plan was for the parking structure to be built beneath the tennis courts. According to Wendell Jack, the six month delay specifically for the grass development was recommended by the company that made the field. The idea was to let the grass firmly root in the ground so as to minimize recovery time in the future. Besides joking that "we'd like to see it a little greener," Jack said that the field is much better than it used to be and taking precautions will help keep it that way. The field is outfitted with a unique drainage that allows it to dry very rapidly instead of sustaining puddles for days. In the future, Jack is hoping to get more seating and probably a permanent scoreboard for baseball and soccer.

The conflict over the usage of the North Field is often grouped together with the other frustrating changes happening at Caltech. In this case, the community was able to effectively communicate a legitimate protest against administrative policy and both parties were able to cooperate to find a reasonable solution. Let us hope this sets a precedent for future administrative relations.

Todd's Paperside Chat

Get free money from the MHF



In this bi-weekly column, ASCIT president Todd Gingrich discusses an aspect of student life

When running for ASCIT president I promised that I would write regular columns in the Tech to update students about changes around campus and improve overall communication. This week I would like to call attention to the Moore-Hufstедler Fund (MHF).

With all the bad news coming from budget cuts it is easy to lose sight of the really great things at Caltech. We are justified in trying to fight the changes, but at the same time we should be thinking about how best to use the resources we have in order to minimize the negative effects of budget cuts. Most importantly, the MHF is an amazing resource that should be utilized more in order to improve student life. While many students are familiar with MHF, it concerns me that there are not more quality proposals submitted. According

to Daniel Stolarski, an undergraduate representative on the MHF committee, the maximum possible amount of money is not given out each term. This has led to a buildup of accrued interest that will likely mean even more money can be given out in the future.

MHF started with a \$3 million gift of endowed funds "for enhanced quality of student life at Caltech." Every year approximately \$180,000 of interest is available to fund projects that benefit the Caltech community. While MHF funding has been used for some very successful projects benefiting large numbers of students, many more projects are approved to support small groups.

I feel that given the budget cuts, it has become even more important for students to utilize the MHF for projects that benefit large portions of the Caltech community have become even more important. The ASCIT concert was an excellent use of MHF funding to bring some life and excitement to campus, but MHF is not designed to support regular events, making an annual concert impossible.

As ASCIT social director, Chris Gonzalez will be looking into planning some large events using MHF funding, but I encourage other people to prepare their own proposals. In the past some projects have received tens of thousands of dollars, but there is also a huge need for relatively inexpensive projects that will serve lots of people around cam-

pus. A collection of \$2,000 projects could make a visible impact on the quality of undergraduate life.

The next round of proposals is not due until late April, giving plenty of time for people to come up with some good ideas. Undergraduates have little control over many of the decisions about tuition, financial aid, and cuts to student services, but MHF funding is secure. Students have an extraordinary amount of influence over designing appropriate uses for the MHF. We should be able to transform some of our gripes about Caltech into MHF proposals. I encourage anyone who is interested in preparing a MHF proposal to contact Daniel Stolarski (danchus@caltech.edu) with any questions.



Last year's women's glee club received new gowns from the MHF

Photo courtesy: Caltech Music and Art

No Tolerance for Censorship

BY: JACOB KING



Comic by Kare Blinigen

The event couldn't be simpler: a provocative editorial cartoon has provoked a response. This is the intention of art, of editorials, of all persuasive expression. Those who defend a principle of free speech necessarily defend this right to probe, antagonize, even offend, as no other speech requires defense.

Five months ago, the Jyllands-Posten, a Danish newspaper, printed a series of cartoons violating a Muslim interdiction against displaying pictures of religious figures. Several of these cartoons alluded to the growing prominence of violent organizations in Arabic political environments, such as the prophet Mohammed informing a line of charred terrorists ascending a cloud, "Stop, stop, we have run out of virgins!" The sequence of cartoons prompted protests across Europe and the Middle East, which in turn prompted a few other European newspapers to reprint the series in support. This escalation was reciprocated, and in recent weeks, embassies have been burnt, Europeans have been kidnapped and riots have broken out throughout the Middle East.

Many liberals have remained quiet or deferred on the grounds that the cartoons were not original enough, or were intentionally provocative, or did not require that form. These objections are at best irrelevant and at worst diametrically antithetical to liberal principles. Free speech requires a defense of the controversial; if defense is conditional on some litmus test of popularity, expression is not free. It is precisely the most offensive, the most unpopular, the most vilified ideas which compose the front lines of the perpetual battle in defense of personal liberties. Those who seek a balance between free speech on one hand and enforced superficial tolerance on the other fail to recognize that these two ideals are mutually exclusive, even direct opposites.

A community practicing free speech is inherently a paragon

of tolerance. It is absurd to call tolerant a system in which beliefs and ideas must be shamefully hidden in private. However, in recent days people have become convinced of the exact opposite: that a newspaper publishing a cartoon violating one religion's taboo somehow precludes tolerance whereas the people forcing this taboo on the newspaper do not. These crusaders for hypoallergenic expression are insisting on the right of the vocal, violent and angry to impose their will and their restrictions on the population at large.

Throughout American history, the bounds of social reform and the First Amendment have been expanded not by innocuous affirmations of the dominant social values, but by rash utterances from the fringes. When Margaret Sanger attempted to disseminate birth control information, she was repeatedly jailed for her indecent speech. When Larry Flynt fought Ohio in his infamous Supreme Court case, he faced a remarkably similar situation to the current one: charged with obscenity, having offended religious sensibilities by printing some pictures, he was attacked both legally and physically. He was shot and paralyzed by a religious iconoclast.

Larry Flynt's would-be assassin differs not at all from the modern, more literal iconoclasts burning Danish consulates and threatening and taking lives over a cartoon. Today even most conservatives in this country recognize the right to publish so-called obscene, offensive pornography, yet liberals are willing to discard prophetic apt political cartoons as unjustifiable.

The issue at hand is a work that raises questions about the surrender of a culture to forces of intolerance and violence, a work so striking and offensive that the groups it criticizes have responded with savagery. Nothing else is more deserving, more needing, more fitting of protection in the name of free speech.

Read
The Grand Unified Theory of Physics
by
Joseph M. Brown

Discover a newtonian mechanism for electron diffraction

- When individual electrons impact a target with one hole a bell-shaped pattern is produced on the electron counter.
- When individual impacts of electrons impact a target with two holes they produce an interference pattern on the counter. Why?
- The electrostatic field of an electron is very large compared to the electron size. At each impact of a two-hole target part of the field passes through one hole and part passes through the other.
- Depending upon where along the electron wave the target and electron impact determines how the two split waves will combine and thus where it will impact the counter.

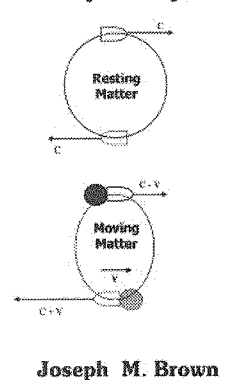
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Hum D. Dumb

BY: JEFFREY PHILLIPS

When was the last time you read a whole book for a Hum class? Not bad. Now, when was the last time you read all the books for a Hum class? Not quite as recently? Last week I was the only one to finish reading the book for class discussion. It was the first I'd tried to finish in a while and doing so made our situation very clear to me. Reading has become a Three Stooges' volunteer lineup, with all but a few students stepping back *en masse* to leave those few unwitting suckers to stand out. Teachers and Techers subsequently coexist in unsteady equilibrium: we bachelors of science do not answer for art.

Systematic and widespread denial of effort would be unheard of in most divisions; profs lay it

on thick and if you're lucky there will be a curve on that set you drooled on after staying up four more hours to reach that elusive "good enough." Rinse and repeat, and you might get another nine units to freedom. Or you could get nine units in a Hum class mashing a keyboard after drinking forty ounces to freedom. A decent grade usually involves writing something, and the passing mark hovers somewhere above a vegetative state. This happens all the time in the majority of upper and lower division [humanities] classes, and no one talks about it.

Profs deal with it in different ways. Some make us laugh. Some stare through us. Some take their periphery role in stride and enjoy their free pass to the Huntington. Some teach. Some over-teach to fill the void. For visiting faculty the move from college to institute

resembles a particularly uninteresting episode of *Sliders*.

In any case, most Techers go in with an expectation that passing will require minimal participation. Tech comes first and Hum profs come second, or sometimes not at all. We're all guilty of the giving HSS a fat set of blue balls on a regular basis, and this unhappy image leads us to question the relevance of a Hum requirement.

The Institute requires upper division Humanities to round us out and counterbalance our massive left brains with enough right to write a thesis and keep the head from listing awkwardly. In the end, though, 108 Hum units belie parity with the rest of the [required] 486. I genuinely believe professors are interested in rounding us along mutually interesting subject lines. Yet by the time most Techers get through their 'hardcore' classes a reasonably comfy seat and a little men-

tal shuteye is all the Hum they can take. Profs can feel it, and expectations drop through the subbase-ment.

Hum profs could hold firm to their old university standards, but that would more likely put a large chunk of the student body on a six-year plan than raise or narrow the distribution of effort devoted to Humanities. The cruelty of an abrupt hard-line stance is akin to holding a limbo contest directly after an amputees' endurance sit-up competition.

Some Techers thrive on a complete devotion to science but I can safely say reading a book is more salutary than the countless pains Tech delivers through its curricula. I know many Techers, in fact, who would gladly work up to something more rigorous if their other classes would stay within the specifications of their units. A nine unit physics class might take eighteen hours, so the Hum class gets two despite its

nominal equivalence. The Institute Hum tax is made payable by devalued currency while demand for science units leads to their unchecked inflation.

There is no easy solution, and certainly an overemphasis of Humanities at the expense of science betrays the passion that brought us to Tech. Nevertheless, a cross-divisional reevaluation of class workloads would be a step in the right direction. A "unit" is so named because it represents a fundamental quantum of effort. Departmental adjustments to the unit spread misinformation for students choosing classes as well as grad school and employers deciphering transcripts. It is high time for an honest reevaluation that reflects where Techers put their time. I hope that such a study will put departmental variability in starker contrast and lead to a down-throttling of those classes for which twenty real units would be optimistic.

Bitches is Hoes #11:

The BoD - Taking a Peek at Next Year

BY: JOHN MCNAMARA

A few weeks ago, I decided to interview Todd Gingrich about our Lloydocracy article. Unfortunately, a combination of spacing issues and ASCIT elections postponed the onset of the article. Because most of the material is outdated, the main idea we need to know now is the most important question that is bugging every Techer: Who did Todd think was going to win the Super Bowl?

"I've been doing so much work; I don't even know who is in it yet." Alright, have it your way, Todd, the Chiefs and the Rams got shortchanged this year so let's talk about a different Super Bowl that's pertinent after the spectacle in Detroit passes. I am talking about the Super Bowl that we know as Caltech.

We kick-off at frosh camp, try to rack up some early points with core and break out at the end of the second sophomore quarter. At the half, we are finished with core, but still have the last two junior and senior quarters to make big plays and walk away with something significant at graduation. We can win the Lombardi Trophy and bask in glory with a successful career or promising next season in grad school. Then again, we could also go away with the hollow parody of all that we could achieve—a sheepskin consolation prize that's almost as absorbent as toilet paper. Here, we walk away wishing for the rest of our lives for another shot at the pie in the sky. And yet, there are those who achieve this after five or size long quarters in the iron maiden known as Sorrow, accompanied by her three best friends: Blood, Sweat and Tears.

Either way, we are here. We survived the High School season and the college admission play-offs. We are damn lucky not have it Vander-jacked from us. But yet, there are those yellow flags that

take us away from playing the game. Take fifteen yards called by the CRC line judge; you trip and fall, eating a clump of dirt complimentary of Caltech Dining Services. Then the stadium crumbles because Dean Currie claims it must "remain solvent." It is time for ASCIT to step in and point out to bad calls by the administration and stuff the yellow flags, deplorable conditions and ignored concerns down a certain sebaceous coprophage's face.

LLOYDOCRACY

I would like if more people who are committed to it from other houses are on the BoD... if they are from other houses, it makes our job easier. Ultimately, I think we all agree after the town hall meeting especially that there is stuff that needs to get done.

To get stuff done, we need better communication. If seven of the ten BoD members were Lloydocrats not even the most intrepid explorers will find them deep in the recesses of Lloyd house. Hence, the BoD needs diversity to facilitate communication. For Todd's BoD, that's their mandate:

I think that the BoD's position for the most part at least for this upcoming year is just in telling students what the administrators are saying and making sure the administrators know what the students are saying.

COMMUNICATION

To follow through with this, I asked him if he was going to do the things Tom Fletcher said he would do when he ran for ASCIT president:

I know that one of the big things Tom did first off was ASCIT meetings used to be closed and he moved them out to the Olive Walk. I think that in a similar move that one of my first steps would probably be to move from the Olive Walk to somewhere

that's more populated during lunchtime because the Olive Walk isn't. I think regular newspaper columns that I can write also increase the transparency enormously.

Being that transparent, everyone on the BoD needs to do their job:

I hope that [they] will realize how significant these changes are and enforce it themselves and that friendly reminders are all that's necessary. Should that not work, I don't know. I don't really want to call out that person and publish something in the Tech that says "such and such didn't do this."

IHC VERSUS BOD

Communication between the student body and ASCIT is important, but so is communication between IHC and ASCIT:

I want to work with the IHC more because some IHC members traditionally discredit ASCIT from the beginning. I want to make sure there's a closer relationship

where if they think that we're doing a bad job, they can come and talk about it. And that if they feel that I can accomplish something for them, then they can just come tell me that. Everyone at Caltech is shooting for the same thing right now, but it's not happening.

The incoming IHC chair, when I asked him if the IHC has discredited ASCIT he stared down at his feet, stuck his hand in his pockets. Then he muttered something incoherent. Later, he said:

This has been true for at least the past five years. This encompasses both the Lloydocracy

started by Tom Fletcher and back when Fleming was in charge of the BoD, ending with Ted Jou's year. Here is what I think right now: IHC has felt that ASCIT is more concerned with pushing the agenda of whatever house has established the majority in the BoD.

Todd echoes Craig's sentiment: *I think many of the IHC members I've talked to would agree that it would be nice if ASCIT would step up and take more of these responsibilities since they have these contacts, administrative contacts with the faculty board. There are these built in ways that ASCIT can get into some positions that most can't in talking to these people.*

This makes me wonder what goes on with our student leaders. We can know absolutely nothing. Which governing body actually swings the big brass bawls of the poderoso ultimo? The answer eludes me like Dan "No More Tacos" McLauray and his weed-inger.

Todd's right in trying to clearly define the positions: not only those positions. After all, it remains ambiguous as to who is supposed to report of the undergraduate body and which body's opinion is actually heard. We have experienced the IHC's forwards to the house mailings lists and read through ASCIT minutes. The new leadership in both the ASCIT and IHC will aim to resolve these issues and form a unified undergraduate voice.

Once this is out of the way, there is another problem in our

student government: too many committees. Not only are there too many committees, but people are on too many committees and spreading themselves out too thin. "I don't really want to call out that person and publish something in the Tech that says 'such and such didn't do this,'" said Todd. It is up to the Tech to name people who get offices for their résumé and flake out.

Craig was slightly more willing to call people out:

After the Town Hall meeting, the response of the administration was to form a committee. ASCIT has several committees chaired by various students, such as Meng-Meng Fu, who was on five committees last year: Freshman Admissions, Health Committee, Institute Programs, the CRC, and the Council for Undergraduate Education, in addition to being ARC Chair. We can't forget Csilla Felsen, who is on the Health Committee, Freshman admissions, and Grievances Committee, nor Ben Golub who is on Freshman admissions, UASH, and Institute Size.

It is possible that the number of committee seats is larger than the number of undergraduates willing to fill them. We need to consolidate. The Health Committee can be combined with SAAC. The Institute Programs committee can be combined with something, I am sure, but have no idea what that committee does. Having so many committees bogs down the speed of our student leadership and stifles communication. If the IHC and ASCIT are going to do what they intend this year, they need to consolidate. Committees is bitches.

Coming soon: Words Matter—is or is not bitches?

Contact McNamara if you want to get your side of the story out there or face our ire.

Visit www.its.caltech.edu/~senn/BIH/

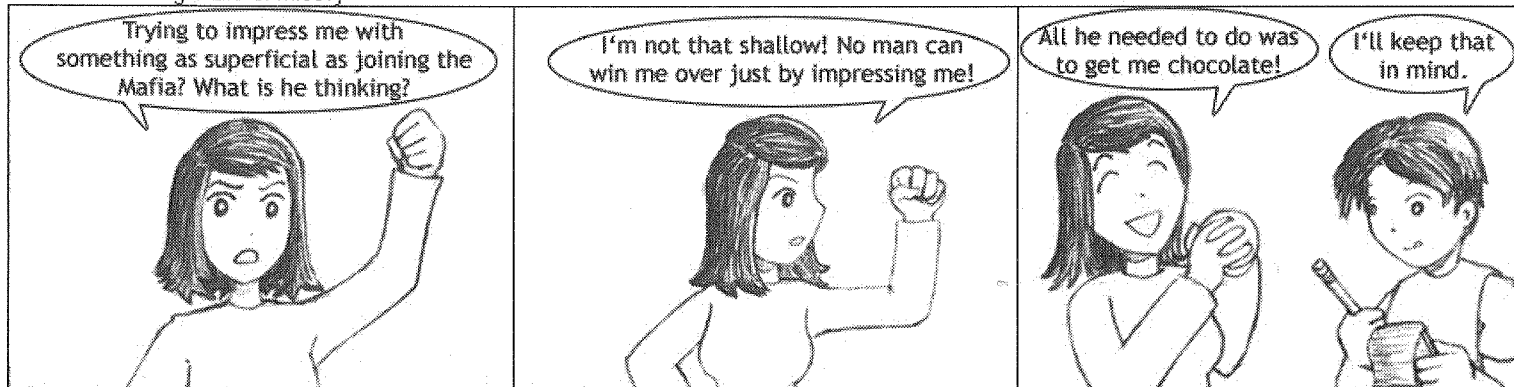
Editorial Note

Yes, there is an abundance of student committees, and it would be ideal if unique members staffed these committees. But in general, holding multiple committee seats does not necessarily spread students too thin. Incidentally, a student taking 60 units on one committee is typically spread much thinner than a student taking 45 units on five committees.

Perhaps I am a more worthy target of the author's concern. I am a Co-Editor of this newspaper, Treasurer of ASCIT, and am on the exit-survey committee. What matters is not whether a student may appear to be too spread, but whether he or she can perform all of his or her duties with the zeal expected from a Techer.

Sincerely,
Jon Senn

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

Tennis Team Triumphant

BY: SONIA TIKOO

Tables were turned on February 11 when the top seeds on both the men's and women's sides of the Claremont Mudd-Scripps tennis team were dethroned by Caltech's own.

In the men's away match, Caltech senior George Hagstrom defeated Claremont McKenna junior David Oehm in three sets: 1-6, 6-2, 7-5. For the women, freshman Chen Yee Liaw took out Kristen Handley 6-4, 6-1.

This accomplishment is especially admirable given CMS's current status in Division III intercollegiate tennis. The CMS women's team is currently ranked 10th in the nation. In addition, the men are expected to win the Division III National Championship this year.

The 2006 season brings with it a sign of changing time for Caltech tennis. The men's team will bid farewell to six seniors at the conclusion of this season, while welcoming a wave of four promising freshmen: Rico Chiu, Iliia Shadrin, Eric Tai, and Harish Vasudevan.

The women, too, brought in a sizeable group of new faces in freshmen Anna Hiszpanski, Ellen Hsu, Olga Mandelstam, Rachel Reddick, as well as top-seeded Liaw—Caltech's newest secret weapon.

Liaw comes to Caltech from her home nation of Malaysia with literally a world of tennis experience under her belt. She has represented Malaysia in several international tennis tournaments such as FedCup, where she boasts a 13-16 hard court record

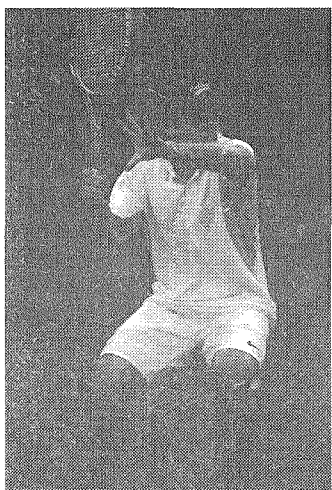
from her performance in the years 2000-2003.

Such experience will be valuable as she takes the reins and leads the Caltech women through the rest of the season, and likely, for the rest of her time at Tech.

Hagstrom, on the other hand, has been through the Caltech experience, and has played tennis for the school since his freshman year. Hagstrom came to Caltech from Albuquerque, New Mexico with a number of domestic tennis accomplishments, having played in numerous junior tournaments.

At the end of his junior career, Hagstrom was ranked the number one player in the state of New Mexico, and seventh in the southwest section (which includes Arizona and El Paso, Texas).

With this combination of experience and fresh blood, Caltech coach Mandy Gamble has plenty of reason to look forward to the rest of this season. The rest of the competition will learn what CMS learned—be prepared for a surprise when Caltech hits the courts.



George Hagstrom

Photo by Matt Glassman

Eichenlaub Runs, Abuses Parenthetical Comments

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

A Nation-wide ad campaign has instilled in most Americans the knowledge that certain brands of chewing gum have the power to "double your pleasure". As it turns out, that will be unnecessary, as Caltech sophomore Elette Boyle can triple it – by jumping. Last Saturday Boyle, along with sundry other undergraduate cast-offs from sports requiring actual skill, competed at the Pomona-Pitzer All-Comers track meet. There, amidst intermittent rain showers and generally churlish behavior from the sky, Boyle triple-jumped a new school record of 33' 11 3/4", besting good old Gretchen Larson's mark of 33' 11", set in 1994. Sorry Gretchen, but records, like panes of glass in an Arnold Schwarzenegger movie, are made to be broken. In case you are wondering just what a triple jump is, I am happy to inform you that I don't know. Those odd souls who endeavor to compete in the event have described it alternately as "a hop, a skip, and a jump", or as "this really weird thing where you look like you're either trying to do the breast stroke in mid-air (if you're good at it), or combine long-jumping and short-order breakfast-cooking (if you're not)." Regardless of the eccentricity of the event, congratulations are in order to Ms. Boyle.

As for the rest of the team, many of them were not present, owing to such lame excuses as "injuries". Accordingly, the squad was a little thin this weekend. Especially Tyson Mao. Tyson, eat some food. Seriously. Tyson ran well at the meet, setting a new

personal best for 3000 meters at 10:51. This time also marked the longest duration Tyson has gone in the last three months without solving a Rubik's Cube. Speaking of Rubik's cubes, Patrick Boyle ran a strong 52.64s for 400m. (Damn that was a good segue.) And speaking of segues, Dima Kernasovskiy ran 55.64 in the same event, which is faster than a Segway can go (unless you drop it off a cliff (which would be a good idea (unless you're still on it (unless you can fly (which you can't)))))).

Helen Tai was busy, competing in the 100m hurdles, 200m, shot put, javelin, high jump, and maybe some relays or something of that nature. Except for Mark Eichenlaub (hey that's me!), who is expected (but only by himself) to contend for the national decathlon title this year, Tai is Caltech's best hope for the multi-event competitions, possibly because she's the only person naive enough to attempt them.

Yike Lu was the only male thrower for Caltech (that is "thrower who is male", not "person throwing males"). He put the shot 23' 6 1/2". Somebody please email me and tell if that's good or not because I honestly don't know. If it is, good job Yike. If not, Yike, you wasted Caltech's three bucks for entry fees. How does that make you feel, praying on a poor, financially-starved institution like that?

David "Cupcake" Rosen returned to action after a long layoff due to either injury or laziness, we aren't quite sure. He ran respectably, posting 9:46 for 3000m and 4:50 for the mile. Grad student Ian "Ian" Shapiro, who is too old to be on the team but hangs

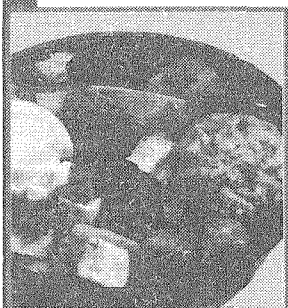
around for lack of anything better to do, clocked 9:20 and 4:44 in those same events. Stu Ward trumped fellow sprinter Tim Tirrell's effort in the mile from last week by posting a 5:08.

The day concluded, as always, with the 4x400m relay. As I stated earlier, many of our runners were missing or unable to compete. This left vacancy on the "A" team. To fill the void, our coach Julie had to choose between me and Nathan Chan. Somehow, the duty fell to me. Now, I can hold my own in the distance events, and had even dropped down to the 800m earlier that day and recorded a personal-best 2:03, but still, putting me on a 4x4 "A" team is the track equivalent of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development ascending to the Presidency. And they made me wear a speed suit. Last week I made fun of sprinters' speed suits in my track report, but I had never worn one. As I waddled out from the bathroom sporting my new sprinter garb, trying desperately to avoid picking its monster wedge in front of the hot Redlands girls, I asked Ian for confirmation that I looked super-hardcore. "Oh yeah, definitely," he assured me while trying not to collapse in hysterics. So then I ran very slowly in the race and everybody laughed at me. Then we went home.

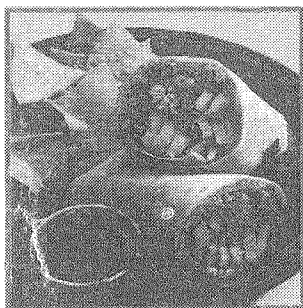
The team will compete next week at the Rossi Relays at Claremont.

Ed. Note: Abuse paranthesis once, you're Mark Eichenlaub. Abuse them twice, your article doesn't get printed. Articles are not LISP tutorials.

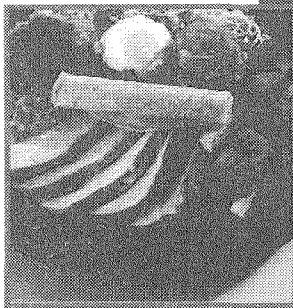
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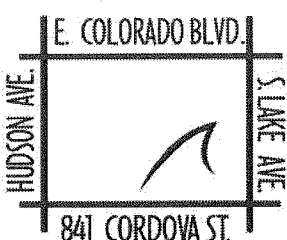
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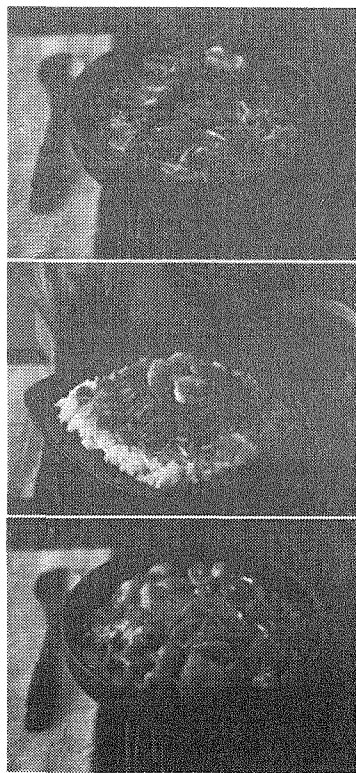
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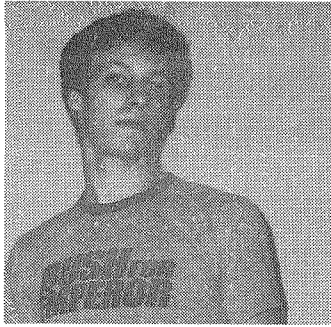
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CRC Co-Chair Statements



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 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 a 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 by-laws 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.



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 up-front 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.

Since the results of the first election were so very close, with a margin of only one vote, I encourage as many people as possible to vote. Every vote counts and a decision must be made so that this can be put in the past and have a working CRC student chair. This will allow the BoD and Excomm to get on to more important things such as fixing existing holes in the by-laws.

ASCIT Board of Directors
Minutes from the Olive Walk
February 15, 2006

Present:

Acting Officers: Todd Gingrich, Peter Foley, Dima Kernasovskiy, Ryan Farmer, Meng-Meng Fu, Jeremy Leibs, Michael Chang

New Officers: Jean Sun, Vickie Pon, Jonathan Senn, Craig Montuori, Csilla Felsen, Chris Gonzales, Nathan Donnellan, Christopher Watson, RJ Krom

Guests: Dan Knoepfle, Evan Murphy, Kenneth Heafield, Liz Fong

Absent:

Acting Officers: Warner Leedy, Michelle Wyatt, Parvathy Menon, Kelly Lin, Wendy Xu
New Officers: [all present]

1. UGCS Donations

Evan and Mike met with Lynne Caver from Financial Services to clarify details of a non-cash donation to UGCS. Evan presented the details of this donation from TechSoup, which includes \$6K in network switches.

All the equipment will be in a permanent room below Winnet, which has been set up by funds from the MHF.

Any and all changes to the donation (i.e. if the computers are moved, damaged, etc.) will be communicated to the BoD via the Treasurer. Labels and signs on the computers will instruct user on how to do this. ASCIT will maintain clear, pertinent records of this donation.

Vote #1: Vote taken to accept the donation of network switches from TechSoup to help meet the technological needs of the ASCIT membership. Approved (6Y/0N/0A).

Vote #2: Vote taken to give the donated switches to UGCS, who will be able to best utilize the switches for the benefit of the ASICT membership. Approved (6Y/0N/0A).

2. Faculty Board Meeting Report

Todd and Jean attended the Faculty Board Meeting on Monday, Feb. 13, 2006.

The biggest news from the zmeeting: The 7-day board plan will not happen with great certainty.

Also, this year's Prefrosh Weekend will still be reduced to 2 days. There is a desire to increase Prefrosh Weekend events back to 3 days in subsequent years, but this looks unfeasible without the 7-day board plan, since it will cost \$26K to cater to all students per extra non-board day. Alternatives to this catering cost are being brainstormed, and ideas on this are welcome. Suggestions can be communicated to Rick Bischoff, Director of UG Admissions.

3. Meeting with Student Affairs

The BoD (acting and new) met with Margot Marshak on Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006. Student Affairs is happy to announce that the 7-day board plan most likely will not happen. However, this means that Student Affairs will still need to make up an over \$100K shortfall to meet the mandated \$3M cut from this department.

4. Officer Duties

The Movie Library will get back into working condition by Chris, the new FDaL.

Nate, the new UDaL, will be the Caltech Alumni Fund Advisory Council ASCIT representative.

Jonathan, the new Treasurer, will give the BoD finance updates every other week or so to make sure everyone stays informed about our budget.

Todd doesn't have a car, so other BoD members can go with him to pick up Monday bagels and Friday donuts bright and early every week.

5. New BoD Meeting Location

We're looking into a new location for the BoD meetings since the Olive Walk seems too distant from the South Houses (Mods). The new BoD meetings will be a little more formalized and visible to all student. Ideas are being brainstormed.

We encourage everyone who's interested to attend our meetings.

6. Jean-Paul Revel Bench

An indoor elephant bench will be made by Jean-Paul Revel. It will be displayed in a prominent place to commemorate our well-loved, retired Dean of Students. A dedication ceremony will be planned.

\$2,200 plus any taxes, etc. will be needed to fund the project.

Vote #3: Vote taken for ASCIT to provide full funding for the J-P Revel Elephant Bench. Approved (6Y/0N/0A).

7. CRC Election

Dan is challenging the recent election results for CRC chair. He will contact the ASCIT Excomm.

Jeremy and Dan have written proposed amendments to the bylaws regarding elections. These proposals will be further detailed and discussed with the BoD and Excomm through email.

8. Spam powers for Food Chair and Tech Editors

To make communication to the student body easier and more effective, separate motions were made to give the Food Chair and Tech Editors emailing privileges so they may email the undergraduate student body and post surveys on the ASCIT website. The importance of using these privileges wisely was stressed, and the BoD holds power revoke these privileges if they see it fit to do so.

Vote #4: Vote taken to grant email and online surveying privileges to the Food Chair. Approved (6Y/0N/0A).

Vote #5: Vote taken to grant email and online surveying privileges to the Tech Editors. Approved (4Y/2N/0A).

9. Social Team Sign-Ups

Sign-Ups to be on the Social Team will happen through Monday, Feb. 20, 2006, 11:59 pm. Email Chris Gonzales to be on the Soc Team - you know you want to!!!

10. Blenders from Jane Curtis

Jane Curtis, the Health Educator, bought blenders for all the House Social Teams to use for social events (as a healthy alternative to cans and bottles of...soda). Dima let the BoD know that Jane thought purchasing banners for the "Blender Bar's" would be nice and useful. The banners would cost \$200-\$300 for 2-3 of them.

Vote #6: Vote taken to purchase "Blender Bar" banners. Denied (1Y/4N/1A).

11. Bonuses

The money put aside in the budget for bonuses for people who work for ASCIT should be issued soon. This includes bonuses for people such as the little t and Big T editors, donut website developers, and others.

The acting BoD will prepare a recommendation to the new BoD on all the bonuses to be awarded, and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

12. Computer for the BoC

A vote was taken last week via email correspondence through the BoC to fund \$1250 for the purchase of a new laptop for the BoC, including a useful microphone.

Vote: Approved (5Y/0N/0A).

13. Installation

The Official Change of Powers will occur today, Feb. 15, 2006, at 3 pm. All powers will be officially transferred to the new BoD, and Jed will give the BoD administrative details for the donut website.

The Installation Dinner will happen later on March 2, 2006.

And our new BoD powers are effective...NOW! Muahahahahahaha :-P

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Pon

Note: Minutes are published both in the Tech and online at donut.caltech.edu under ASCIT Info. Minutes.

The Tech:

Now Under New Management

Hello world! We hope you've enjoyed our first issue as editors. If you'd like to provide feedback, write a Letter to the Editors. We're lonely.

In the coming issues, we plan to implement several new features. We hope you like them. In the near future, we plan on increasing the Tech to at least 12 pages per issue. To accomplish this, we will need both more writers and more advertisements. If you can help in either regard, please email us and attend our weekly meetings: Friday, from 12 to 1, at the Broad Café. Our new advisor will provide free lunch for those who attend.

Beginning in the next issue, we will significantly increase writer pay. Furthermore, if you sign up before third term, and you produce work of publishable quality each week, you can receive three

units of credit for PA15. For material that we print, we will at our discretion pay contributors, see right for amounts. Articles of reasonable or requested length will receive all or most of the allotted amount.

Our deadline for submissions is Friday night at midnight, except in pre-approved extenuating circumstances. Email your content to the appropriate Section Editor.

David Chen will edit News, Jon Malmaud will edit Features and Reviews, and Jon Senn will edit Comics, Commentary, and Sports. If you're not sure in which section your submission belongs, please send it to all three of us.

Sincerely,
David Chen,
Jon Malmaud,
Jon Senn

Non-Commentary Articles: up to \$25

Commentary Articles: up to \$20

Comics: up to \$10

Photographs: \$5

Calendar in Brief

2/22 Drop Day (Dabney Inter-House Party)

2/24-2/26, 3/3, 3/4 - TACIT performance - *As You Like It*

2/25 Love Sucks IX - A capella concert by Fluid Dynamics and Out of Context at Avery dining room, 3pm

2/25 The Real Drop Day

3/4 OPI Ruddock InerHouse

February 2006						
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