

# NEWSFLASH:

## Students Don't Want to Pay for More of Something They Already Don't Like

By MARISSA CEVALLOS

When more than 300 Caltech students and faculty crammed into Baxter lecture hall last week, the tension between students and administration could be felt throughout the overpacked room. However, instead of creating problems, the students created something the administration happily accepted—solutions.

Students from the Interhouse Committee (IHC) and the audience focused their questions and suggestions on the 7-day board proposal.

Brandy Cossairt, senior and Dabney president, pointed out that “prices in Chandler are 15-40% lower than local competitors. Why not increase prices there?”

Andre Mallie <accent marks on both e's>, senior director of business enterprises, fielded the 7-day board questions. “Chandler supports a broader aspect of the community, including faculty, staff, and grad students. We cannot raise prices, or we will lose business.”

Arturo Pizano, junior and outgoing Ricketts president, also pursued the idea of adjusting meal prices, but revealed the administration’s exasperation when he asked “Is there any openness to alternative plans without extended meals?”

Andre answered, “We have to max out everywhere to return the 1.2 million, and all other proposals so far have been evaluated and fall short.”

The administration appeared worried about unforeseen consequences of a 7-day board program. When asked by RJ Krom if the administration had considered that “some students want to move off-campus,” and clarified by Matt Krogstad that “if you increase the prices of housing...there will be vacancies in student housing,” Marshak conceded that it would be “the death of Caltech as we know it.”

Erica O’Neil, Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs, added, “We hope you will choose to remain on campus. You should be able to live where you want, we don’t want to dictate where you will live. What we want to do is be fiscally responsible. We also want to be responsive to overall institute problems, right now.”

Kim Poppendorf, Lloyd senior, pursued the same idea as Arturo. “What is the potential to modify proposed changes to the budget despite the figures having already approved by trustees, and sent to state? Are students locked into 7-day board and paying for health insurance?”

Dean Currie answered, “We need to solve the deficit, so as a



Half akimbo for progress: Some dude, maybe a mole, voices his concerns at last Wednesday’s town hall meeting as a thrilled crowd looks at whatever he’s looking at.

whole, we can’t back off. Within the budget we have now, we can talk and talk, but we need to implement and then try to re-evaluate as we go through, so long as the bottom line remains the same.”

Subsequent questions were aimed at targeting the problem-dining services needs to make \$150,000 profit—and coming up with alternate solutions. Surprisingly, the suggestions prompted the administrative attitude to shift through the course of the meeting.

Sarah Peek suggested forming student committees to review the way money is divided among undergraduate life.

“You want to raise money from 7-day board. Would it be possible to make a list of where students spend money, propose raises, give to IHC or other student committee, and have students vote for what raises they want?”

Sarah’s suggestion was met with applause from the audience, and more willingness from the administration.

Margo Marshak, vice president of Student Affairs and moderator of the town hall meeting, replied, “We’d need to find a viable way to carry out this proposal that would

get a lot of input from students.”

The most popular solution, and with the most receptive administration response, came from Dima Kamalov.

“So the net increase in profits needs to be \$150,000. There are about 1,000 undergraduates. If we all pay \$50 per student per term, then there would be no need for 7-day board. Comment?”

After a long, prolonged applause, Mallie seemed receptive to the idea.

“Seems yes, but we need to designate a committee to analyze that.”

Such a committee, in fact, was formed in less than 48 hours after the meeting. Margo Marshak introduced the Task Force Committee to review alternatives to the 7-day board plan by February 10.

“I thought that we really have very little time to come to some better solution, and so I thought if we got a lot of good minds together, people who have already been thinking about the problem and are concerned—I mean the faculty, staff, and students—that we’d have a better chance to come to a resolution to meet all of our needs,” said Margo Marshak in an interview.

Marshak also believes that the administration will take the committee seriously.

“I think that everyone at this point will be pleased if we can resolve this issue,” said Marshak. “We still have the same financial goals, we just have to find some other way to meet them.”

The initiation of the Task Force also addresses an overarching concern of many of the students over the administration’s unilateral decision-making. Asked Rocky Velazquez at the town hall meeting, “Why wasn’t time taken to consult students? In my opinion, this was told to the IHC rather than having consulted with them.”

Though the main tension was between students and administration, it was clear that the stress is wearing down cooperation between administrative members themselves. When Margo Marshak was asked if she’d complained about the cuts, she replied with a laugh. “My boss tells me I have not been a team player,” said Margo Marshak, to the applause of the students.

“My job is to advocate for all of you, but on other side, there’s Caltech reality, and I need every one of you to help us get through

what’s a difficult time, making the best decisions we can, and I’m glad to hear decisions that you don’t like. The dollar crisis won’t change, and we need to do something about that.”

Other topics discussed included Matt Krogstad’s concern over when the South Houses will be completely renovated. Bonnie Khang-Keating replied that the houses wouldn’t be ready until Dec 15-January 2.

Students claimed that parking was yet another issue they were not consulted about. John Shen asked, “In 2005, parking fees were implemented for the whole Caltech community. Was undergrad and grad feedback solicited for this?”

Dean Currie answered, “This was my biggest blunder.”

Students also addressed the quality of future Caltech students. Said Meng-Meng Fu, “...you’ve tried to argue that we’re cheaper than peer institutions. What I’m worried about is that people will choose to go to other places.”

Thanks to Elizabeth Fong and Hyungmin Park for additional written coverage, and Evan Murphy for audio/visual coverage.



# Field of Screams

By BILL GIRDNER

To Whom It May Concern at Caltech:

I am contributing my \$2,500 – a modest amount compared to some – under protest. The problem, and the protest, have to do with the changes in the athletic facilities and, in particular, with the loss of open field at Caltech.

I have lived in the area around Caltech for a long time. Roughly twenty five years ago, both the south and north field at Caltech were open, and people from the community could use the track and the fields. I remember at the time my sense of frustration when the athletic department built a fence to close off the south field, because it cut off both the track and the lit field from the community around Caltech, making the institution more restrictive and exclusive.

But there was always the north field, where I could run at night or kick a ball around or simply to sit on a bench, and think about things, under the spreading oak that was

in front of the old gym. Now, as you know, the north field has been enclosed and cut off. Not just from use by members of the community, but also from students, faculty, alumni and associates like me.

Use of the north field is now limited to members of the baseball team. The baseball team does not have women players and plays in an all-male league, which is not unusual for a college men's baseball team. The result is that, within the larger trend of restricting use of the fields and excluding hundreds of students and members of the community from the field, the athletic department has effectively excluded all women from two thirds of the open field on campus. (The baseball team says that women are free to try out but it is highly unusual, although it did happen once a couple years ago, for a woman to gain a position on a men's team in an all-male league.)

I have looked at satellite photos to confirm my eyeball impression that the north field is two times

the size of the south field, thus the conclusion that two thirds of open field on campus has been cut off. In addition to the effective exclusion of women, there are a number of additional negative effects that flow from the closure of the field.

One is, in broad terms, that the benefit of the many has been traded for the benefit of the few. In the course of a week, hundreds of students and others would use the north field to run, play ultimate frisbee and soccer. The benefit of those hundreds has been traded for the benefit of, based on last year's roster, fifteen members of the baseball team.

From that negative effect flows another, which is the over-use and deterioration of the south field. The many must use the south field, with the result that it quickly becomes a patch of hard dirt, hard on the knees and ankles, hard on the rest of the anatomy when someone takes a tumble and hard on any game played on such a bad surface. The athletic department then closes the south field for roughly two months of the year – thereby excluding everybody and anybody from use of any open field during that time – to allow the field to recover. (Or this week, for example, the south field is blacked out for the entire week in the reservation book because it is being used for filming. Which represents another block of time during which no open field is generally available at Caltech, and who knows how many other weeks and for how many other reasons, the south field will be closed off.) The south field was closed during most of December, to allow the grass to recover, and is now fully green. But the grass in the center of the field is extremely fragile and will in all likelihood be gone in a couple weeks. A field cannot sustain that much use.

In addition to requiring that everyone but the baseball team use a bad field, the constriction of field space translates into an overall limitation of sports activities at Caltech. A few examples are the best way to illustrate this point. Members of intramural teams cannot reserve space on the south field to practice – I am told this by a member a GSC team who attempted to reserve the field for a weeknight practice. As a second example: over the break, students who wanted to play ultimate frisbee team climbed over the fence of the north field to have a game. In other words, even though they are students at Caltech, they are required to climb over a fence onto a restricted field in order to play. As a related example, soccer and frisbee players have taken to scrounging any open field space around campus for practice and pick-up games, space that is not intended for sports. The result is that, as a student told me last week, campus security is now stopping those games and kicking the students off. If you were to put this in one economic perspective – and there is another, that I will get to – you would say there is a demand for field space that was, in the past, largely met. With the withdrawal of two thirds of that space, the demand now overwhelms the supply, creating anomalies such as students climbing over fences and getting kicked off other green spaces around campus, while causing an overall reduction in the opportunity of the students to play sports and express the energy that young people have in abundance.

A most recent event well illustrates the twenty-five year trend

within the athletic facilities towards restriction and exclusion. Because of the closure of the north field, which in turn causes overuse of the south field and causes the south field to be reserved much of the time, many students began to use the small space behind the goal post at the west end of the field (the east end includes a rubberized surface that prevents its use for field sports). That small space was used on week nights for pick-up soccer games by members of intramural teams and for practice sessions by the all-women frisbee team.

But over the holiday break this year, a construction emerged, with silver posts and black netting, in that very space. Just as the north field has been closed off to general use, so this construction effectively cuts off use of the west end of the south field. I asked at the front desk what the thing was, to be told that it is a discus ring. While soccer and frisbee are general field sports played by a large number of men and women within the student body, throwing a discus is not a sport with a high number of practitioners. It would be generous to estimate that the ring will be used by three people, most likely men, at Caltech on an intermittent basis, and I have not seen a soul in that ring yet. While the same space was used on a regular, nightly basis by a veritable United Nations of the student body, including female athletes at Caltech. Even on this small piece of the south field, the interest of the many has been traded for the interest of the few (and male).

I said earlier that there is another way to look at the matter in economic terms. Allowing members of the community to use some of the open space at Caltech has the overall effect of bringing appreciation and loyalty from the community, and is one way to attract donors. I am an example of that latter benefit to a policy of openness.

When Caltech provided an unrestricted field where I could take a run, I was not in a financial position to give away money. Since then, my business has become modestly successful. I figured Caltech gave me a place to exercise when I was down and out, and I am now happy to repay that debt and stay involved with a great institution just a few blocks from where I live. The point here is that, had the fields been closed, I would never have gotten involved with Caltech. The institution, through the changes brought about by the athletic department, is cutting off a source of community support and loyalty and a source of future revenue.

Given the clarity with which the negative effects of this overall policy of exclusion appear, at least to me, I inquired in a summary way at the gym on how the policies of the athletic department are checked or controlled. I was told that the principal control is the budget office. But the budget approval process is less geared to the overall wisdom of policy than it is towards approving budget proposals, which in turn tends to be based on whether a proposal can be afforded. The irony of Caltech's success in raising funds – in small part from folks like me – is that expensive and ambitious projects, even if ill-conceived, can well be afforded. In other words, were Caltech poor, the north field would probably still be open.

So I question what process is in place that would approve a plan to cut off two thirds of the school's

open field. Because a rational inquiry would draw from the students – who would overwhelmingly disapprove of a plan that disenfranchised all but a very few – and from the faculty, who also use the athletic facilities extensively. A survey of either group would, I would bet my contribution, come up with a big “no” on the issue of taking away the north field. In a certainly unscientific survey along those lines, the folks at the front desk of the old gym told me that there are many, including students, faculty and associates, who share my objections to the closure of the north field. Rather than finding out how the majority uses the athletic facilities at Caltech, and acting on that basis, it would certainly appear that instead the will of a few administrators has been driven through the budgetary process.

As a solution, I urge that the north field be reopened to general use. And I urge, not only for the health and wellbeing of the students who need to run and play sports, but also for the benefit of the institution as a whole, that a review process be put in place to question and challenge proposals to make changes in the athletic facilities at Caltech.

And as a final note, on a day last fall, I was on the south field and I saw a large group of under-grads playing something they called “disco” which is played with an under-sized soccer ball and is kind of an X-games, high-speed brand of soccer. Played by both men and women, it was crazy and great and energetic, a perfect avenue of expression for youthful exuberance and showmanship. That expression should be encouraged, in my view, rather than constrained. But with the closure of the north field, those students must currently play on a bad field or scrounge for open space around campus, and get kicked off, or end up constrained in the development of the body half of that essential combination of body and mind. The steady and very substantial restriction of open field at Caltech is bad for the female student body, bad for the student body as a whole – in both meanings of that expression – and bad for the ability of Caltech to raise funds and attract the support of the community that surrounds it.

Thanks for hearing me out,

Bill Girdner  
Editor, Courthouse News Service  
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## Greetings From Michigan, Sufjan Stevens (2003)

By CINDY KO

Yeah, this album isn't new, but whatever... sometimes these articles are on new music, but mainly it's for albums that I haven't bought yet.

I was meaning to buy this album, and its follow-up in 2005 Illinois, for a long while after I heard an interview with Sufjan on NPR. It sounded like it was going to be a good investment, but I just never got around to it. However, this time I remembered!

Anyway, it's rare that I buy an album and like it as much as I like this one. Probably the reason why I like it so much is because his singing style reminds me of two other singers I really like: Davey vonBohlen from The Promise Ring and Elliott Smith. I think Sufjan is a happy medium between the two—not as cute as Davey, but a lot more cheerful than Elliott Smith. It also helps that this guy is a talented songwriter. When I heard the radio program on his music project, it sounded like an interesting, but time consuming quest. He described a process that involved traveling through the state and researching all the “great things” about it by talking to natives and digging through local folklore.

The whole deal takes about two years per state, and the plan is to do an album for every state. When I first heard this, I was like, “Hey this guy is nuts... he thinks he's going to live to like 130!” At any rate, it's a very intriguing idea that has caught the attention of many listeners, and he's doing a great job.

As for the album, Michigan is great. Every song has its own personality, and you can tell that it captures that particular city or town in Michigan. It's so mesmerizing that I can't put it on when I'm working, or else I'll get tranced until the cd is over. That's a good 1.1hrs down the drain, right there. But, if you're looking to chill out or going for a long drive (maybe to Michigan), this is the perfect music to put on.

I highly recommend this album, even more so if you like The Promise Ring and/or Elliott Smith. I really don't think this Sufjan guy is going to live to 130, but however many of these he manages to put out, the better. I can't wait until Amazon delivers Illinois next week.

Grade: A

### The California Tech

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# An Open Letter to Margo Marshak

By DIMA KAMALOV

Dear Margo Marshak,

I would like to share several comments about the Town Hall meeting and the budget cuts it concerned.

First, I think it was a great idea to post the website with the budgetary information prior to the meeting. This website is a good first step in helping communication between students and administration. Thanks!

Second, I will try to propose a few naive solutions for two of the issues we talked about.

#### a. Seven Day Board

Pros: profit for Dining

Cons: students kept entirely on campus, charged more for worse food than off-campus.

Numbers involved (all estimated as I do not have precise budgetary information; it is difficult for a student to get in timely contact with Andre Mallie):

\$150,000/year profit for CDS  
 $(\$440/\text{term}/\text{student}) \times (400 \text{ students}) \times (3 \text{ terms}) = \$528,000/\text{year}$  paid by students

Assuming a typical student can eat out for \$30/weekend (I'd say it's usually a bit less for us), this means that paying up to (\$14)(10 weeks) per board student would likely

be more desirable than this change. This would bring in  $(\$140/\text{term}/\text{student})(400 \text{ students})(3 \text{ terms}) = \$168,000$ . Another possibility is to charge the entire undergraduate population. This would decrease the effective cost per student to about \$50-60. I will be glad to campaign for either plan among the student body if you tell me they are acceptable. From reading the faculty board meeting minutes of last December, I see that you may be "locked into" the dollar amount, having had it approved by BoT and reported to the state for financial aid purposes. This is difficult to decipher, as Dean Currie seemed to indicate some flexibility in this respect when answering Kim's question. Nevertheless, if you are in fact locked in to the dollar amount, there are still a number of solutions I'm sure students would find more attractive than seven day board. My rather naive favorite is that you could just provide five day board and give the money back to us in form of reduced board prices the following year.

As a quick sidenote, I find myself rather confused by the financial analysis involving the rest of the board program, especially since I do not have

access to a good budget breakdown. Nevertheless, some of the claims Andre Mallie makes seem unusual. For one, if the Citrus Bistro is being kept purely because Avery needs a place to eat, why are they being charged under market value while the rest of students are being charged over market value? It definitely seems like the rising cost is being shouldered unreasonably by the undergraduate, and a budget breakdown from CDS would be very beneficial in either understanding the rationale, or giving more appropriate suggestions.

b. Undergraduate communication with administration I think most communication problems are solved pretty simply: talking. When you don't know what the student body would think of something, ask some of us. In addition, instead of having something like Open Houses, which cost money, you could just say when you're free for people to come to your office, kind of like professors' office hours. Another very important thing to help communication is to be frank. Here's an example: The town hall faq website presently says that the total cost of atten-

dance for 2005-06 is \$41019 while for 2006-07 it will be \$42681, thus a raise of 4.1%. However, you are comparing two very different numbers. I think it would be a lot more straightforward, and less confusing, if the chart was instead written as (please forgive the imprecise numbers, as I again don't have access to them):

AY 2005-06	AY 2006-07	
Tuition (except student services fee and health insurance)	\$24,809.00	\$28,515.00
Student Service Fee (~\$1000 (charged as part of tuition))	\$1,080.00	
Health Insurance	~\$1500 (charged as part of tuition)	
	\$1500 (if you are a freshman and don't have your own)	
Room	\$5013	
	\$5187	
Books/Supplies	\$1047	
	\$1077	
TOTAL (not counting miscellaneous and food expenses)	\$33369	\$35859 with your own insurance,
	\$37359 else	

Using these numbers, we would get a "net" price increase of 7.5% if you have your own insurance, and 12.0% otherwise. The tuition minus health insurance and student services fee is rising by an astonishing 14.9%. These are more truthful numbers because it compares the same services over the two years, instead of using to your advantage the lowered "miscellaneous" and "additional meal allowance" fees, which were lowered not

because of lower cost of living, but for some other reason (perhaps to reduce net financial aid).

Within a few hours of having seen the website, I talked to a good half-dozen other students a number of whom had done similar analysis. They too were pretty upset that the numbers are rather poorly compared. This kind of thing makes people think like you're trying to swing something by them, and while I'm guessing that's not the case, it does nevertheless worsen communication and student morale. It reminds me slightly of the concept of 5-year plans in the Soviet Union -- all the increase numbers were fudged and re-allocated to new categories so that the result was always "we're doing great."

Lastly, certainly the students could be a lot more patient and positive. I think the irresponsibility of a number of undergraduates, myself included, could be much alleviated by positive morale. This added responsiveness, politeness and understanding would likely result in positive progress, and we would find ourselves in a flourishing spiral much like it could degrade (and has, from my understanding, for somewhere between one and two decades) in a negative loop. But something has got to start it and nourish it for a little while, and that will take considerable work from both students and the administration. Best of luck, and thanks for your time.

Sincerely yours,  
Dima Kamalov

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

#### 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  $v$ , 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  $(10^{-16}/10^{-10})^2 = 10^{-12}$ .

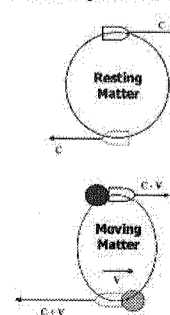
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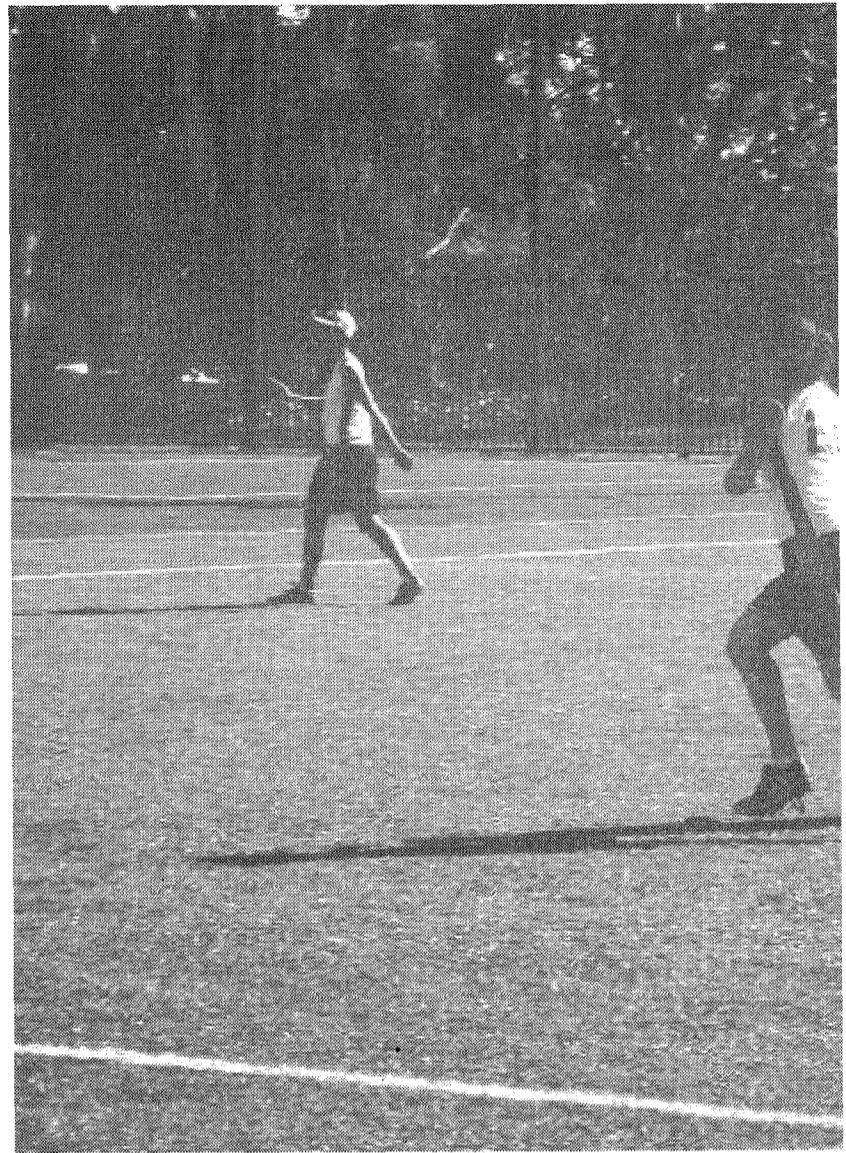
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Sarah Payne guards a UC Berkeley player



Saturday, January 28, 2005  
UCSB Tourney

Roster: Sarah Payne, Tai Carvalho, Jessica Mao, Rosie Jones, Lizzy Trower, Marissa Cevallos, Suzanne Golisz, Amy McMahon, Claire Farnsworth, Mary Dunlop, Laura Fishman, Gina Gage, Louisa Liberman, Harmony Gates, Reissa Trend.

Cheerleaders: Ransom Poythress, Will Shao.

Game 1: Tech vs. UCLA (B): 6-7

Caltech was almost evenly matched with UCLA's B team--so evenly matched, that the two teams spent the entire game either tied or within a few points of each other. Caltech was tied 6-6

with UCLA before UCLA scored the winning point, but not without an intense last point where the disc changed possession near the end-zone over five times. Because the field was windy--Santa Barbara is on the ocean--Tech took advantage of UCLA's long-range inaccuracy and forced them to throw long shots. Sarah Payne, captain, used her height to throw hammers above UCLA's defense into the end-zone. Says Tech player Tai Carvalho, "Our long throws were excellent." Mary Dunlop consistently knocked down several discs, preventing a completion for the other team. Though the game was intense, Sarah managed to crack up the sidelines when she complained that a

## Dizzying Discus Dynar

Photos and Article By

missed pass was too low to the ground. "Guys, I'm six feet tall--you can throw a little higher!"

Game 2: Tech vs. Berkeley (A): 1-13

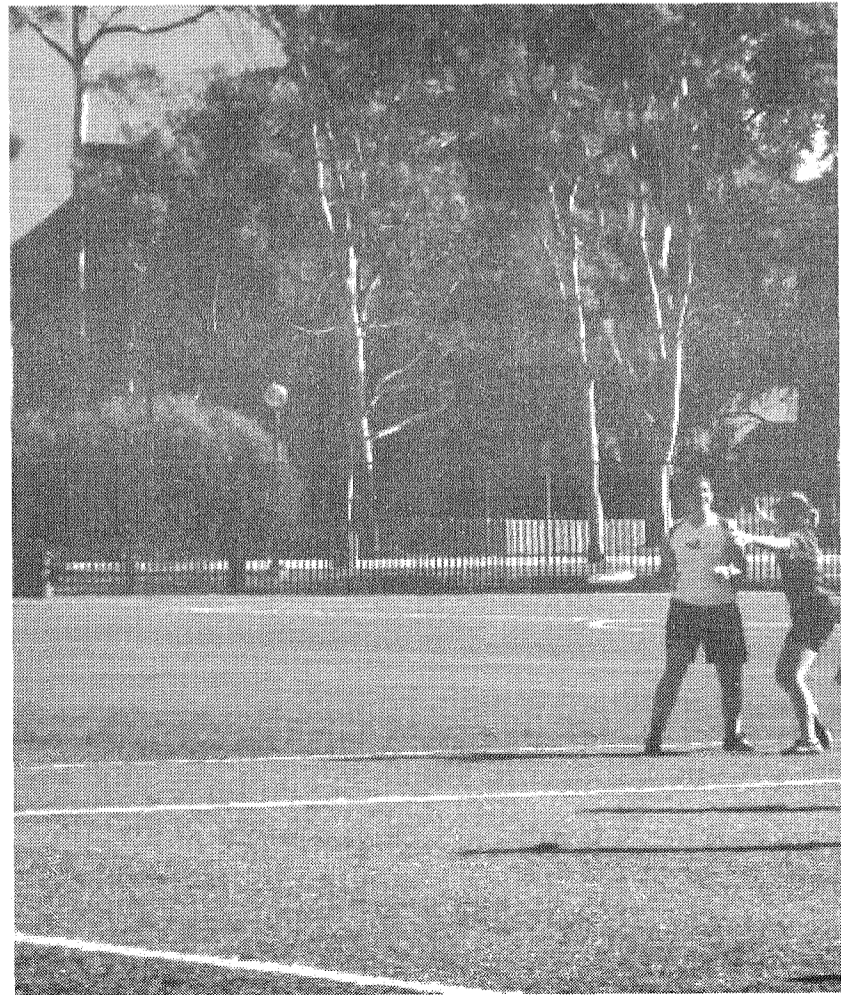
Berkeley is one of the better women's frisbee teams in California, as could be inferred from Tech's meager score against them. Still, Tech gave Berkeley a tough game, forcing them to play smart offense and defense. The high-light of the game was when Sarah

scored Tech's only point. Suzanne Golisz hucked the disc over two Berkeley defenders, but Sarah was able to grab the disc from the air for the point.

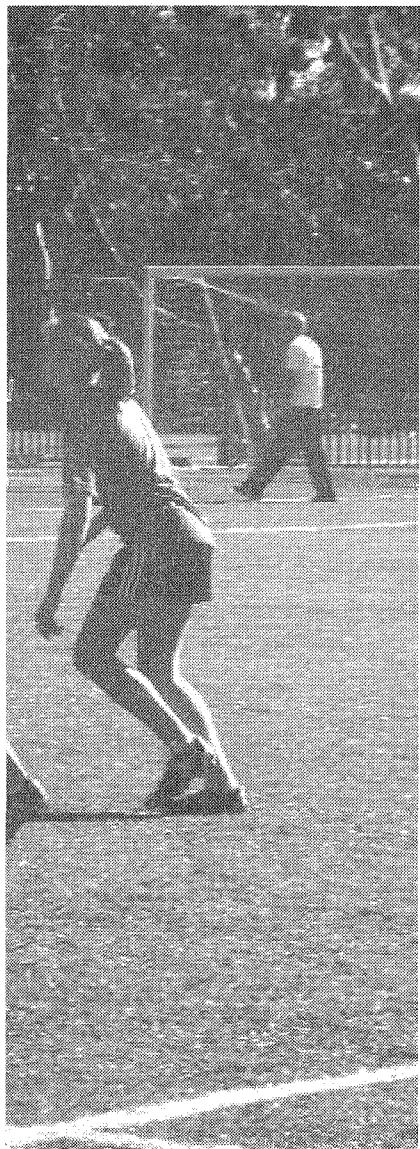
Game 3: Tech vs. Cal Poly: 4-13

Tech admittedly started the game with a bit too much confidence--in the UCSD tournament in November, Tech soundly defeated Cal Poly's team, which has been in existence for almost two decades (while Caltech's team was

only formed during 2005's first term). So when Cal Poly played swift points all through the first half, Tech was a bit confused. However, Tai scored Tech's first point in the game (after a 0-6 shock) through a clever play in the end-zone. Four girls lined up vertically in the endzone with their defenders to their side. At the beginning of the stall count, every girl ran horizontally to the side of the endzone, while Tai also made a hard fake in that direction. She then turned







Claire Farnsworth looks for an upfield pass as a UC Berkeley defender guards her.

## os Display Daring Do

ISSA CEVALLOS

to sprint into the open space and caught the disc.

Game 4: Tech vs. UCSD (A): 1-13

The UCSD game was similar to that against Berkeley--UCSD is an extremely well-seasoned team. Tech used the game as a "learning opportunity"--they were able to try out new strategies, like zone defense, with new players, since Tech had little to lose. Tech experimented with new code-words to indicate a change in

strategy: any biology-related word (for example, "protein" and "amino") indicated that defenders should switch from "zone" to "man" defense; any astronomy-related term (Neptune was used) indicated a switch from man to zone. The codewords obviously worked: freshman Lizzy Trower scored a fantastic point when Sarah hucked the disc halfway down the field into the endzone. The highlight of the game was at the last point, when UCSD was up 12-1--Sarah suggested

a "naked point." All of the girls on Caltech's line took off their shirts, and UCSD followed suit. Fourteen girls in sports bras, shorts, and cleats ran across the field for the last point of the day.

Caltech celebrated its respectful loss with take-out Mexican food overlooking a Santa Barbara sunset.

Game 5: Tech vs. Berkeley (B): 7-11

Berkeley the first game on Sunday morning, was a fan-

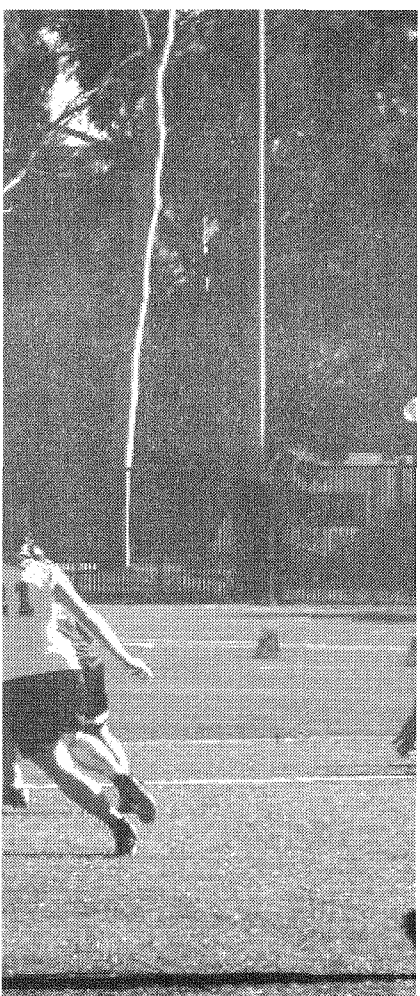
tastic game against a fantastic team. Though Caltech started gaining in the second half, a strong wind picked up that forced many turnovers. Unfortunately, at 7-10, hard cap was called--the game had to finish in five minutes. Tech had a difficult time picking up the score in such a short time, even if they were playing with no wind. If the game had run to fifteen points, as is standard, Tech's momentum could have surely pushed their score past Berkeley's.

Game 6: Tech v. UCSD (B): 6-3

Tech's first win finally came in its last game. For the first few points of the game, the wind was still a major factor in Tech's throws--Sarah couldn't, for example, consis-

tently huck the disc across the field and count on the wind not to throw it completely off of its path. So when UCSD played zone on Tech's offense, Tech thrived. Making short, consistent passes, Tech worked the disc up the windy field and into the endzone. Louisa Liberman made several excellent catches in the deep zone when a handler (usually Tai or Sarah) surprised UCSD with a deep throw beyond its defense. This time, the hard cap called worked in Tech's favor: UCSD only had 10 minutes to pull up from 5-2, and the windy conditions made such a goal nearly impossible.

After the final game, Caltech celebrated its only win with a human pyramid and Mexican food.



Snatch stacks up after their win against UC San Diego

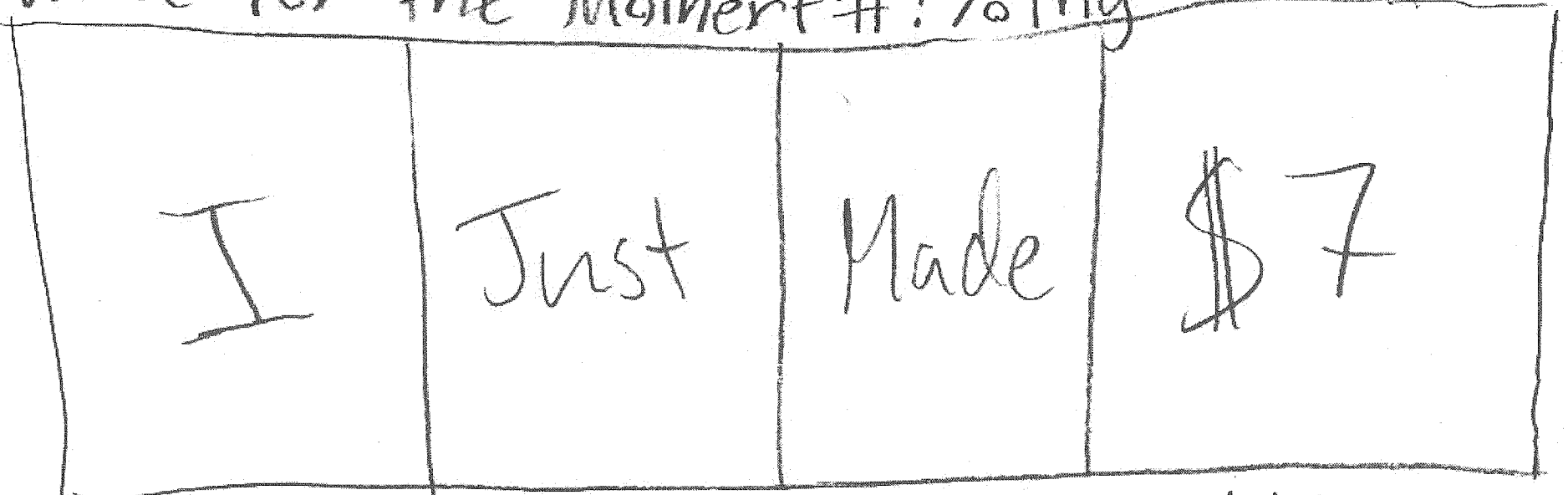


## Irrational Exuberance

Zhiyun Guan



Write for the Motherf#!%ing Tech



By: David Koenitzer

Bitches is Hoes Issue #6:

# Avery... Still Not a House

By JOSHUA GUTMAN

Even before I had read what I now consider to be the biggest waste of time of my life, people were coming to me in the hallways asking me if I was going to write a response. My reply, without even knowing how irrelevant the response to my original article was to the issue I brought up was, "you better fucking believe it." Somehow, my article erodes this person's chance at having a satisfying Caltech experience. Yet, it couldn't have been all that satisfying if simply mentioning flaws within Avery's house status and administrative decisions has caused this replying author to cry yet again.

While the article claims to be criticizing my points, it does nothing less than strengthen my arguments. I did not hear of the circumcision of a senior in Avery, however, if I had, I might have 5 times as much respect for Avery as I do now, which would still be none at all. It is unfortunate that doors were knocked on during midterms. I had a neighbor installing bookshelves being drilled into concrete walls during 3rd term midterms last year, but still managed not to send e-mails to the offending party with absolutely absurd suggestions to correct the matter.

While an ill-informed author accuses me of being "one unhappy and vocal person," I am

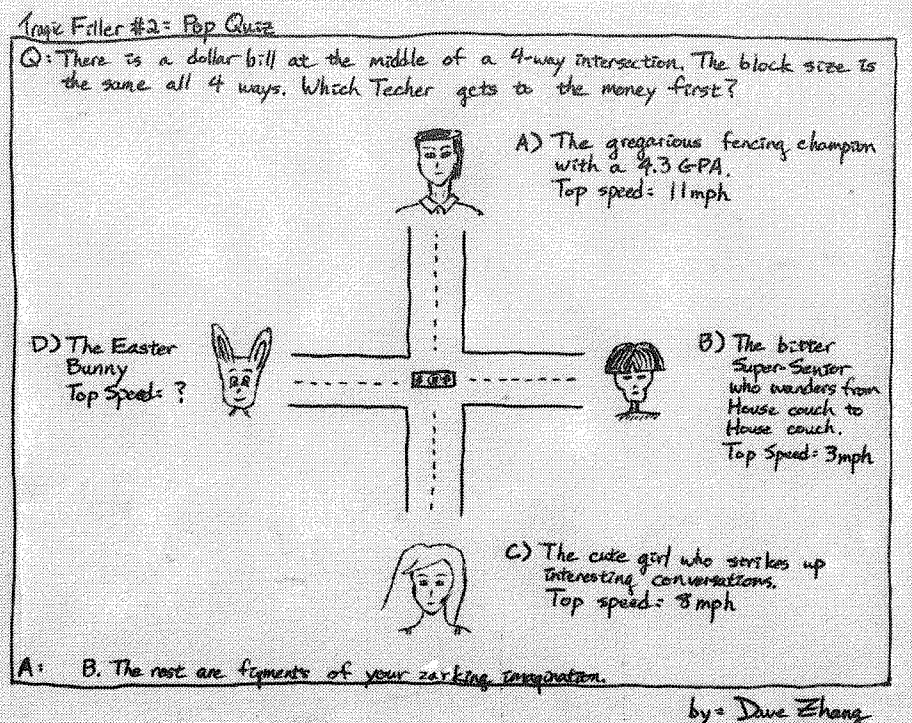
in fact quite happy most of the time, but feel the pain of others who are forced to live in a house not worthy to store my feces. I have some friends who, through an unfortunate sequence of events, ended up living in Avery this year. They originally planned the move without any intention of being part of the single biggest mockery of one of Caltech's oldest traditions. I'm sorry that a university with only 900 students all of exceptional intelligence isn't a sheltered enough environment for some undergrads, that they need the white washed, hand holding, diaper wearing, night-light lit, teat-sucking, pacifier craving, bottle drinking, crayon drawing version of probably one of the most tame universities in the nation. Although Ms. Barak repeatedly points out that Avery is not a frat and in fact, as she puts it, an anti-house, she fails to make any point that could possibly begin to convince me that somehow Avery as a house now is better than Avery last year as neither a house nor a place where frosh lived. While I'm sure she's probably cried, wiped her tears, cried again, wiped again, and is probably still crying, the fact that she is unable to identify the difference between a house and a fraternity at a real university shows me that she probably had her first interaction with the

houses, cried about it, and then gave up on the whole system altogether.

Many readers may wonder why I resent Avery so much. For starters, at the Town Hall meeting, Andre, head of CDS, stated that Avery's dining program loses money. This means that the other seven houses are paying so that Avery can have better food than the rest of the houses. Many of the residents of Avery seem to be offended by anything short of a completely sterile environment, and Avery has reaped all the rewards of being the house that is so anesthetized that it's appropriate to show to people who only know how to have fun by spending hours using tissue paper. Sadly, somehow I reached the end of Ms. Barak's article and still have yet to read a semi-coherent counter to even one of the points I made in my original article. Reading her article irrevocably

confirmed any points of which I had any doubt when writing my original article. However, one thing in this article did stick out: The ability to criticize the practice of judging Avery by a few rumors, in the same article in which she makes a blanket statement about the other seven houses based on a few people who went through Avery smashing things. From what could not possibly have been a complete representation of the house system, she then concluded we're

"complete idiots." Her suggestion to unite Avery with the rest of campus is impossible when the treatment of Avery can be likened to that of royalty compared to the treatment of the rest of the houses. I'm sure she'd be quick to deny this, because, as I've established, she knows less about the house system than I know about growing up in the Deep South. As I'm starting to sober up, I will end my article the way this series began... Avery.... Still is bitches.





# You Know Who You Arrrrrrrrrrr...

By PAULINE KU

How does one turn a Tech party into even more of a sausage fest than it already is? Add one prolific creepy fucker. Nothing ruins a party or comparable social event as instantaneously and effectively as being sexually harassed.

Almost every single on-campus case of sexual harassment I've encountered has been during, before, or around an open house social event, which is at once encouraging and discouraging. While it is better that the harassment happens in isolated incidents, it shouldn't happen at all, especially with such noticeably increased frequency during house or interhouse social events.

After working nonstop for the past week I need to unwind, and I believe I have earned the right to actually enjoy myself here, if just for one night. Therefore, I live for the weekend social events here. What gets me through problem set after problem set, exam after disheartening exam, is that brief interlude where I don't have to think, worry, or fear but where I can just forget and have fun.

So when some fucker ruins a night I've been waiting and counting upon to get me through the next horrendous week all I want to do is smash his head, balls, or any sensitive part of

his body in with a trusty sledgehammer. But alas, there are consequences for such actions, and this is just something he'll have to learn a different way.

While I couldn't do anything to prevent what happened, I do have a certain faculty called memory and a certain vice called a grudge, and I will do everything I can to make sure that neither he nor anybody else makes me or anyone else feel that uncomfortable again. You, creepy, vile, disgusting bastard, are no longer welcome in my house and this includes our kick-ass interhouse party later on this term. If seen there you will be asked kindly or not so kindly to leave by my fellow housemates and friends, the RA or Security.

If you think this is an unusually aggressive retaliation consider this: I was not the only one who was made to feel this intimidated or insulted. This fucker single-handedly has caused the majority of the women at a party to leave, which at any Tech party is a big fucking deal. There are few enough women on campus as it is, so when one ignorant or not so ignorant psychopath drastically affects the already severely skewed ratio, you should want to bash his skull in as much as I do.

# BoD Does Not Play Dice With Our Microcosm

By RYAN FARMER

Before the general ASCIT elections, I'd like to clarify a few misperceptions. I typically wouldn't feel the need to write an article, but I worry that some candidates may be unfairly discriminated against. This article is not meant to encourage you to vote for any specific candidate but to encourage you to vote for the candidate who is most qualified for the job.

Last term, Fleming House planned to request \$100 in multi-house funding from ASCIT for a poker tournament. The poker tournament had a \$10 buy-in with cash prizes, and Fleming wanted to provide snacks for the event. Fleming representatives missed the meeting to request funding and requested funding after the event. Because the activity had gambling involved, I was worried that ASCIT could be liable if we were audited. Six years ago, ASCIT was audited by the IRS, and it was found that ASCIT had mismanaged funds and not kept proper track of payments. Caltech Business/Finance stepped in and managed to convince the IRS not to revoke our tax-exempt status and to drop any fines.

The State of California requires a special license to allow sponsorship of or involvement in any sort of gambling. Obviously this does not apply to small private gatherings, but a non-profit

corporation would certainly be prohibited from having anything to do with that, so ASCIT would be liable if it had funded this tournament. I consulted with Caltech Business/Finance employees, and they believed that the tournament could be considered illegal to fund.

Given this information, I let the ASCIT BoD know what the Caltech legal department thought. Funding was denied on the basis of legality, not because we decided Fleming shouldn't have any money. Furthermore, Fleming representatives simply came back a week later and asked for \$100 for another event, which was unanimously given. You might wonder why we didn't simply fund the original event, given that finances worked out exactly the same way, with Fleming receiving \$100 for an event they wouldn't have otherwise requested funding for. This decision merely removed liability from ASCIT and allowed Fleming to make its own decision to have the event, also something that would most likely not be audited. In the long run, the same amount of money was distributed. In fact, this was the only motion that failed during the entire year. Because ASCIT makes its meeting minutes a matter of public record, an audit would have easily discovered this possible violation and cost the students

their non-profit status and a hefty amount of fees.

I hope that clarifies the events of that day. Should you have questions, feel free to contact me at ryanf@caltech.edu.

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## Run for Some Office, Dangit

By VIBHA LABJANI

In the past years, elections at Caltech have brought a lot of controversies. Discussions about this year's candidates are prevalent everywhere. Wild guesses as to who may win this year's ASCIT elections are on the rise.

The election season kicked off last week with the vote for the ASCIT president and vice-president/BoC chair. Last year's Freshman Director at Large, Todd Gingrich, ended up becoming the new president of ASCIT, and previous year's BoC secretary Jean Sun became the new BoC chair.

The upcoming elections are those of IHC chair, CRC student chair, BoC secretary, Stewardship committee co-chair, ASCIT secretary, treasurer, FDAL, UDAL, Director of Academic Affairs, Director of Social Activities, Tech Editor, and senior class copresidents. So far, the candidates are younger than those of previous years. After speaking to some Techers to see what they have to say about the election season, the consensus was that the positions of ASCIT treasurer and IHC chair will be hotly contested this year. From a previous article in The Tech, there was feeling that the BoD was dominated by Lloydies and that other houses needed to break the Lloydocracy. On questioning a single Lloydie, I got the opinion that, "It's true that there are five members of Lloyd on the BoD. But the true leaders and people who have power happen to be Darbs, namely ASCIT president, IHC chair, and Director of Social Activities." To this a Flem has to say, "When it comes to voting, the positions don't matter. It is the numbers that matter. Lloyd has a disproportionate representation on the BoD and that is because they take the initiative to get their members on the BoD. The other houses should do the same to balance things out." Warner Leedy, outgoing ASCIT president, said, "Though it may seem like a powerful position, it's not completely powerful, because, as president, I don't get a vote on the BoD. And moreover, Dima and I are social members of Ricketts as well, so we don't represent Dabney only. It seems to me that people aren't troubled by the fact that there is a Lloydocracy, however they feel that the BoD is too conservative, and I agree with that." Hopefully, the newly elected BoD will be able to coexist and work together to benefit the student body with its decisions.

A few of the students to whom I talked seemed apathetic. They did not know what positions comprise the BoD, let alone who this year's candidates were. The BoD is not the only one responsible for the changes taking place in Caltech. All of us Techers are responsible for what happens in the Caltech community. Those who do not vote have no right to complain about the elected members. They have no right to grumble about the changes that are taking place.

ASCIT election nomination sign-ups are still on and will be up until Tuesday. The number of enthusiastic candidates is going up, and a lot may change in the next couple of days.

## COMING NEXT ISSUE:

The debut of our new weekly column,

# The Wild Wide World of Administration

To usher in this monolithic new feature, the California Tech is soliciting questions from all readers to the administrator of their choice.

Send your questions to [craig@its.caltech.edu](mailto:craig@its.caltech.edu)

## Lloydocrats are People Too

By MENG-MENG FU

House bashing: it's not allowed during Rotation, but somehow it's surfacing during our Caltech election season. To the fans of "Bitches is Hoes," as a Lloydie who has served on ASCIT during two different administrations, I offer an accurate view of the BoD.

Each BoD member has one vote. However, the President has traditionally forfeited his vote except in the case of a tie. When Houses or clubs request funding, they are required to come to our weekly meeting on the Olive Walk. Last term, only one funding request was rejected. Two Houses requested funding for an Inter-house event: \$100 each. They did this via email, after the BoD meeting, two days before the event. The request was rejected, 5-3, not 4-4, on legal grounds: ASCIT did not want to be liable for supporting a gambling event with cash prizes. Subsequently, both Houses received their Inter-house funding for the term for another activity. Back in the day, when Fleming controlled the BoD, ASCIT money was allotted for Fleming's Wine and Candlelight. It was because of fear of corruption that funding is now denied in the event of a tied vote.

I do hope there is a better distribution of Houses on next year's BoD. This year, it was dominated by Lloydies and Darbs. However, regardless of House affiliation, many outgoing BoD members served on ASCIT because they cared a great deal about the school and even more about the student body. Michelle has been one of the most competent and passionate BoC Chairs I've known. Peter is a diplomatic and effective IHC Chair. And, with Formal at the Natural History Museum and the Jimmy Eat World concert under his belt, Dima is undoubtedly the most awesome Social Direc-

tor ever.

In the year to come, many challenges will be presented to the undergraduate student body. From the Town Hall Meeting, I could tell that many people are passionate about the direction of our school. Issues like 7-day board are on all our minds, but other key changes, such as health care, cannot be forgotten. Next year, tuition will no longer cover health insurance, and financial aid will not account for the cost of health care. This means that some students may become uninsured. And, though many of us are insured under our parents' health plans, few of us would be comfortable handing parents an itemized list for counseling and birth control.

Next year's BoD will need to focus on improving communication with the administration, increasing student awareness of critical issues, and presenting a united front with the IHC. It is our responsibility to vote not along lines of House divisiveness, but for the best candidates for the job. These new BoD members will need to be aware of vital changes, concerned about the welfare of the student body, and

masochistic enough to deal with the long hours of commitment, and hopefully they will continue to entertain you with juicy bits about man-bras in the ASCIT minutes.

## A Re-Rejection Letter

By CAROLINE LI

(Partly rewritten from a post on a Chinese discussion forum)

Dear Graduate Admission Committee:

Thank you for your interest in giving me a rejection letter.

I have reviewed your letter and am impressed with your reasons for rejection and suggestions for my future academic development. However, I have received many qualified rejection letters this year. Under careful consideration, I regret

## ASCIT Election Results

President:  
Todd Gingrich: 225  
Dan McLaury: 164  
Hanwen Yan: (19)  
Writein: (21)  
No: (109)  
Total voters: 486

BOC chair:  
Jean Sun: 243  
George Hines: 161  
Meghan Crowley: (91)  
Writein: (6)  
No: (48)  
Total voters: 488

Note: The numbers in parentheses are the number of votes that candidate received in the first round of counting. The numbers not in parentheses are the final numbers that determined the winner. The total number of votes do not add up to the total number of voters because of the single transferable voting system. Questions about the election process can be found in the ASCIT bylaws, or they can be directed to the Elections Committee, [elections@donut.caltech.edu](mailto:elections@donut.caltech.edu).

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