

## Some Students Activities Not to Return to SAC

BY: CHANDRA BARNETT

With only six months left until the projected completion of the South Hovse renovations, students and administrators have begun to hammer out the mechanics of bringing the South Hovse population home. However, budgetary constraints and unforeseen expenses mean that not all of the exiles will be returning to their former digs. Due to the unexpectedly extensive need for asbestos abatement in southern hyperspace, significant portions of the Student Activities Center (SAC)

will be left uncompleted when the doors open in December. Among the services which must remain in their temporary homes, or find new ones, are the Coffeehouse and the art and music programs, including the recording studio and the silkscreening room.

Senior Director of Housing Tim Chang and Brad Smith of Architectural Services explained the plans for the new SAC. The laundry room will be left intact, as will DEI, the Prac. Phys. help lab, and the bike shop, but a consolidated South Hovse Library will replace the former Coffeehouse location. Fleming's com-

puter room will stay put, but will be joined by the other three South Hovse labs, slated to take the place of the former darkroom and Tech/Big T offices. These rooms, in turn, will move into the hallway formerly occupied by the art and music offices.

The ASCIT screening room, in one of the more remarkable structural alterations, will move about 10 feet northward, into what was formerly the corridor connecting DEI to the DDR room. This change, like many in the SAC, is motivated by the placement of large air handlers in the space previously occupied by the screening

room. A student shop will displace DDR, which will be moved to a space just south of the former darkroom, and storage areas for student construction will displace the mailroom and the Health Educator's office. The mailroom will move across the hall from the new Big T office; Health Educator Jane Curtis will remain in her location in the Center for Student Services (CSS).

The music and art wings, beneath Fleming, will bear the brunt of the budget overrun. To cope with the rising costs of the renovation project, most rooms in this area will be left as "locked box-

es": bare concrete rooms without flooring, wall coverings or ceiling tile, whose doors will remain locked to discourage tampering. The exceptions are limited to five large areas which, though not finished for occupancy, are to be used as storage by the RAs and the Housing Department. A hallway in this area will also be re-routed to avoid an intruding ventilation duct.

To accommodate the services which will no longer be available in the SAC, plans are in the works for a new Student Center,

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## Houses Charged \$2288 for Labor on Gate Repair Charges for Materials Total Less Than \$128

BY: JOHN MCNAMARA

Earlier in May, Housing passed a \$2404.08 charge to the Stewardship Committee for damages and upgrades done to the gate to the modular units. These charges include installing a kick plate, repairing a wire mesh and repainting the fence. The repairs stem from damage that appeared on the gate when the locking mechanism was kicked to open the gate.

"We have these gates for a very good reason—that is to protect life and property," said Tim Chang, director of housing. The gates were installed on the modular units because of their proximity to Del Mar boulevard. Card access through the gates was added in early October of 2005. "While legal didn't mandate it...we thought it was the right thing to do," according to Chang. Despite the electronic security system, residents can go through the gates by climbing over the fence. According to Chang, "even though it's fairly easy to get in, it's still an obstacle."

The security system on the gates was

defeated at the onset as individuals could stick their finger through the mesh to open lever. Acrylic plates were added to prevent this, costing \$1859.75. Later it was found that jarring the gate would trigger the locking mechanism.

The repairs were implemented as soon as housing was aware of the damage and charges were given to the Stewardship Committee after they were incurred to housing, "we received it after the fact," commented Eddie Truong-Cao, chair of the Stewardship Committee. The lack of notification was explained by Chang: "work needs to be done to a specific standard." While the typical policy is to allow students to fix damages before the physical plant is called, according to Chang, "this is not something that they could fix."

According to the work order: "The wire mesh has been torn from the bottom of the gate to approximately 2 feet up the side. The mesh can be easily be pushed open allowing someone to crawl through the opening. It is recommended that a solid

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Breakdown of the Charges

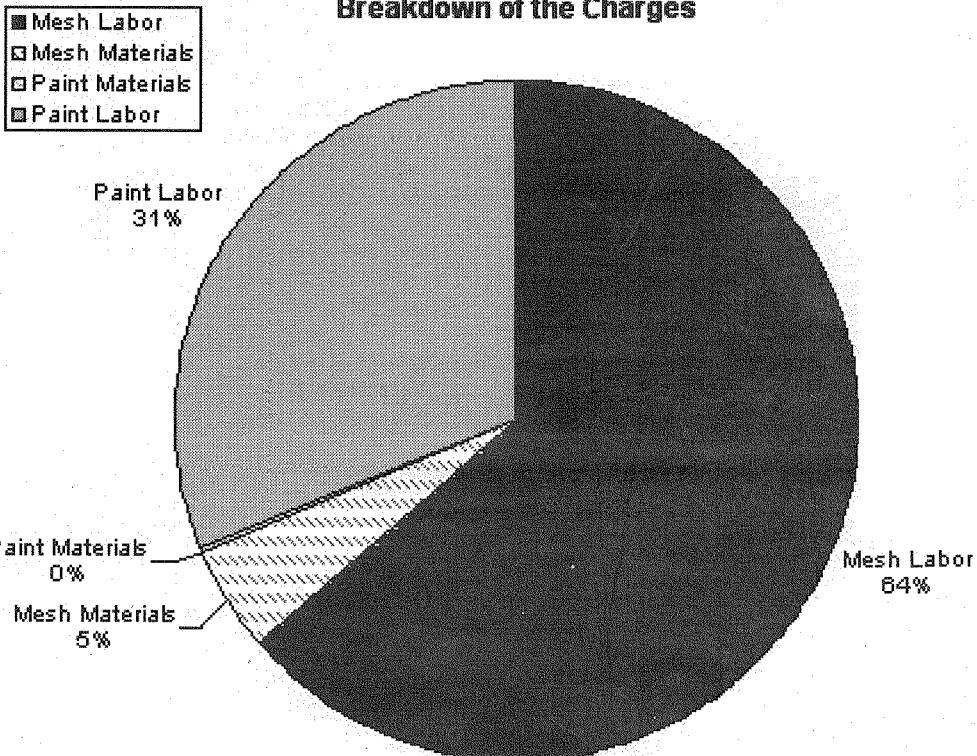


Chart by John McNamara

## Teachers Honored by ASCIT

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Despite Techer grumblings that "Caltech professors can't teach," last week students awarded nine professors and TAs with ASCIT teaching awards.

The Academics and Research Committee (ARC) sent an online survey to undergrads for nominations.

"Over 100 people were nominated for professors, TAs, and mentors,"

said Dan Lo, ARC representative for Lloyd. "Part of the award is based on how many nominations the teacher gets, but some people get amazing recommendations, and those are some of the people we look at. We had a lot of really good people—maybe like

10-15 people—and it got really hard at the end to choose between those."

Three of the nine winners were for teaching Math 1: Nathan Dun-

### Award Recipients

Professors:  
Warren Brown, History  
Nathan Dunfield: Mathematics  
Ali Hajimiri, Electrical Engineering  
Niles Pierce, Applied and Computational Mathematics / Bioengineering  
Brian Stoltz, Chemistry

Teaching Assistants:  
Po-Ru Loh, Mathematics  
Bob Pelayo, Mathematics  
Christine Thomas, Chemistry

Research Mentors:  
Preston McAfee

field teaches Prac Math 1c, Po-Ru TA-ed Anal Math 1b, and Bob Pelayo TA-ed all three terms of Math 1. Several enthusiastic frosh can attest to how much they liked this year's Math 1 teachers.

"Prof. Dunfield is probably one of the best math teachers I've ever had—he's organized, and is pretty detailed with his examples. Compared to other math professors here, their lectures would

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## ASCIT Movie Scheduled for Friday Students Select *The Da Vinci Code* this Year

BY: VIBHA LALJANI

The ASCIT will be screening *The Da Vinci Code* on Friday, May 19th at 11 pm, at the Pacific Hastings theatre.

900 Caltechers will be able to watch the movie on Friday. Chris "Gonzo" Gonzales, the ASCIT Social Director said, "The venue was chosen because its capacity gives us enough tickets to ensure the majority of the student body gets a chance to attend."

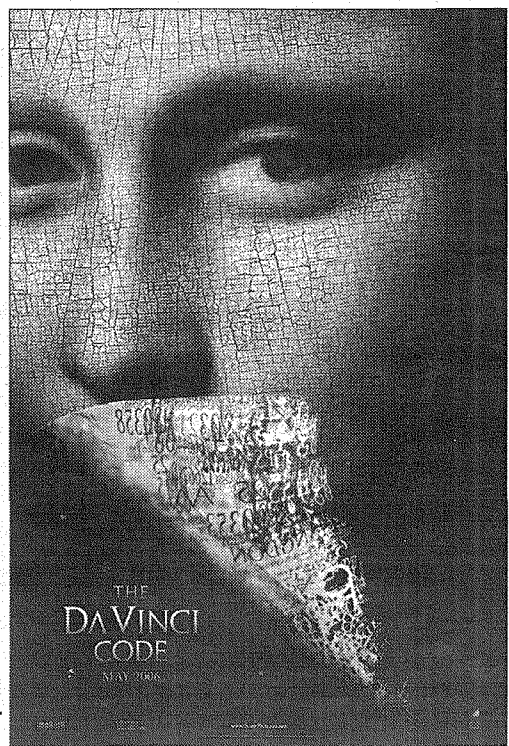
Tickets are free for ASCIT members and priced at \$1.00 for non ASCIT members. Gonzo said, "Housing has graciously paid for these tickets, to distribute to the students. Seeing as these tickets are already paid for, it would be a waste to have any left over so I will try my hardest to make sure all 900

end up in student hands." Tickets will be distributed this week through the house presidents.

Caltechers are on their own for transport to get to the theatre. Gonzo said, "This hasn't been a major deal in the past, as there have been plenty of carpools going from each house to the movie."

In addition to paying for the tickets, Housing also played a significant role in arranging this event. Gonzo said, "All we had to do was tell them that we wanted the movie to be *The Da Vinci Code* and they took care of the rest, both with arrangements and with funding. Their help has allowed the social team to focus almost entirely on other issues,

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A third helping of cat talk

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# The Outside World

BY: HAMILTON FALK

## Letter from Iran Attacks Bush, Worldwide Democracy

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad sent U.S. President George W. Bush a letter criticizing American policy in Iraq, support of Israel, and Bush's actions in response to the September 11th attacks. The letter comes as tensions between the United States and Iran are increasing due to Iran's likely nuclear program and the Bush administration's perceived plans of a military resolution to the issue, instead of diplomatic.

Some Iranians and Americans believed the letter would open communication between the two nations, but Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice rejected the letter because it largely ignored the nuclear issue and instead focused on attacking the policy of the Bush administration. The letter also claims America has a repressive and cruel government and should listen to world opinion and change its ways.

In addition to attacking American actions, the letter claimed that worldwide liberal democracy had failed. It says that liberalism and democracy "have not been able to help realize the ideals of humanity... Today these two concepts have failed. Those with insight can already hear the sounds of the shattering and fall of the ideology and thoughts of the Liberal democratic systems."

## Bush Education Law Unsuccessful in All States

No state in the U.S. will have a highly qualified teacher in every core class this school year, as was

mandated by Bush's education Law. In addition Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina and Washington, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico will lose federal aide due to a failure to improve adequately.

The requirement that all teachers of core subjects such as math and history have a bachelor's degree, state certification, and be declared competent was met in no states, due to failures to comply, but also a lack of accurate or complete data. In addition to the nine states that have failed to make substantial progress, 12 other states are still under review. The remaining 29 states have made substantial improvements, and do not face sanctions, but still are required to comply with the law in the near future.

## Tamil Rebels Warn Truce Monitors to Avoid Travel by Sea

Tamil separatist militants have warned European-led truce monitors that they travel aboard Sri Lankan navy ships at their own risk. The warning comes shortly after a battle at sea that killed 19 Sri Lankan soldiers and an unknown number of separatists. The three hour battle occurred when Tamil Tigers, the name of the rebel group, attacked Navy fast attack boats escorting troops in a passenger ship with a flotilla of approximately 20 boats. The battle was the first major fighting between government forces and Sri Lankan separatists since a 2002 truce that ended some two decades of civil war. The four year peace seems to be over as rebels attempting to create a separate state for the 3.2 million Tamils and Government forces have be-

gun firing on opposing positions.

## Indonesian Volcano Causes Thousands to Flee Homes

Indonesia has raised the alert status of Mount Merapi to the highest level, forcing evacuation of thousands of residents living on the slopes of the volcano. The volcano, part of the Pacific "ring of fire" has been rumbling for several weeks, and locals have reported thick smoke and flowing lava. While the "code red" alert means that the volcano could erupt within the next 24 hours, geologists are unsure if there will be an eruption. The volcano, located on the island of Java, killed 70 people in a 1994 eruption and 1,300 in 1930. Army and Police have evacuated approximately 5,000 people, and the process seems to be going very smoothly.

## Bush May Deploy National Guard at U.S. Border

The pentagon may deploy as many as 5,000 National Guard troops along the border between the U.S. and Mexico to attempt to reduce illegal immigration. Bush plans to address the nation on Monday night to discuss immigration policy as compromises in Congress seem likely to allow the passage of a new immigration bill. The suggestion of troops along the border is possibly a move to appease house Republicans upset about what they consider a bill that favors illegal immigrants. It is possible that active duty troops could also be deployed along the border.

Compiled from CNN, MSNBC and Yahoo News.

## ASCIT Board of Directors Minutes from the Side Room in Chandler

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Present -

Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, RJ Krom, Vickie Pon, Csilla Felsen, Chris Gonzales, Jonathan Senn, Nathan Donnellan, Craig Montuori, Chris Watson  
Guests: Mark Sullivan, Leo Stein, Julia Ma, Erin White

### 1. Funding Requests

\* Wow! We've been giving out a lot of money lately (and we're still rolling out the dough)!

Keg Week: Mark requested ASCIT funding for the annual undergrad seniors' Keg Week. This year this widely popular event will be bartended, and publicity will be huge. The BoD discussed with Mark how much money is needed for Keg Week overall, and that it is difficult to decide on how much money to give since each House will have a different type and number of kegs. A vote was taken to grant Keg Week \$440 (or \$55 per House) from the Special Project Reserves: Vote approved (7Y/0N/1A).

\* Leo and Julia asked to have funding to take Prof. Neenan out to lunch along with 2 other undergrads. A vote was taken to grant funding for 4 undergrads to take Prof. Neenan out to lunch: Vote approved (8Y/0N/0A).

\* Fleming Interhouse is coming up, and the theme will be Las Vegas! Erin requested Interhouse Funding for Fleming to help with this event. A vote was taken to grant Fleming House \$500 in Interhouse Funding: Vote approved (8Y/0N/0A).

\* Jean reported that the Deans will fund half of the BoC Honor Code Survey printing costs, which totaled to \$800. The BoD had decided earlier to fund whatever it needed to for the Honor Code Surveys. A vote was taken to grant the BoC \$400 to cover Honor Code Survey printing costs: Vote approved (7Y/0N/1A).

### 2. FDAL Update

\* The Movie Library is almost complete! Chris W. reported that the software is not working on the laptop to be used for keeping track of movie check-outs. It was decided that the movies will be stored in the coffeehouse (that would be Chandler at present). He is also looking into display cases for the movies so people can access the movies more easily.

### 3. Donut Team Salaries

\* The BoD will be discussing salaries and bonuses with the Donut DevTeam very soon. There will be more next time on this.

### 4. Jean-Paul Revel Bench Ceremony

\* The Jean-Paul Revel Bench that the 2005-2006 ASCIT BoD ordered to honor the prior Dean of Students, Jean-Paul Revel, is on its way to campus! The BoD will put together a ceremony to present the bench to Dean Revel in celebration of his contributions to undergraduate student life at Caltech. More immediate is the task of deciding where to put the bench. Nate is working closely with others on deciding where to have the bench (indoors) and the best time for a ceremony.

### 5. IMPORTANT: Student Affairs Meeting

\* The BoD met with Margo Marshak this week to discuss important issues concerning all undergrads. These are the two most important items that all undergrads should be aware of:

### The STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER (the SAC):

\* The BoD wants to stress to everyone that the Student Activities Center (the SAC) which used to be located beneath the South Houses will not be returning as we used to know it before the big move to the Mods. Due to the lack of funding, a finished SAC will not be able to be completed for at least a few, if not many, years. In the mean time, the Tech is doing an investigation to look at how to use what space will be available underneath the South Houses.

\* There will be many activities that will NOT be returning to the SAC, including the music rooms, silk screening, publications offices for the Big T and the little t, the ASCIT office, and the ASCIT screening room.

\* To all undergrads: Read this upcoming Tech article on the SAC and let the BoD, your House presidents, and the Tech hear your thoughts!!!

### The STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE and DAMAGE FUNDS

\* The Ricketts/Dabney/Blacker Mods gates were fixed by Housing recently. Housing had the P-Plant do minor repairs to the gates, which cost much less than \$50 in supplies. However, the gates were also repainted (which cost hundreds of dollars), and the labor charges were on the order of thousands of dollars.

\* The Stewardship Committee and the IHC are working very hard to find out why\* this cost thousands of dollars and what the breakdown of the costs actually is. The BoD agrees that it is completely unfair to charge students thousands of dollars from all the Houses' Damage Funds for large charges that are unclear as to how much was actually spent on fixing the broken gates themselves.

\* Todd has suggested that a new policy be implemented, which will strengthen the Stewardship Committee and the communication between the undergrads and Housing. He suggested when something is damaged in a House, Housing can tell the Stewardship Committee Representative for that House that the students of that House have a certain amount of time, say 2 weeks, to have students themselves fix the damage (if there is the possibility that this may be done, such as what could have been the case with the Mods gates). If the damage is not fixed by the end of those 2 weeks, then Housing may go in and fix the damage, charging the Houses' Damage Fund as needed. This not only could be more cost effective, but would be incredible incentive to take better care of the Houses overall. Basically, it is very important that there is much \*better and more communication\* between the students and Housing on how Housing is handling damage to the Houses and what would be the best solution for everyone.

\* Also, the smoke bombs found in Ricketts during South House renovations earlier this year were reported to be about 20 years old! The notion is that they are left over from a very old Ditch Day stack. Half of the cost of damages for the construction workers subjected to the smoke bomb and to clean it up was paid for from all of the Houses' damage funds. This has already been settled for awhile, but it is another example of exorbitant charges that are taken out of the damage funds for each House, even when the "damage" was not caused by current students.

\* ASCIT, the IHC, and especially the Stewardship Committee will be moving quickly to resolve this issue of increasing communications with Housing on students' housing wants/needs (in addition to resolving the charge of the Mods gates).

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Pon  
ASCIT Secretary

# Announcements

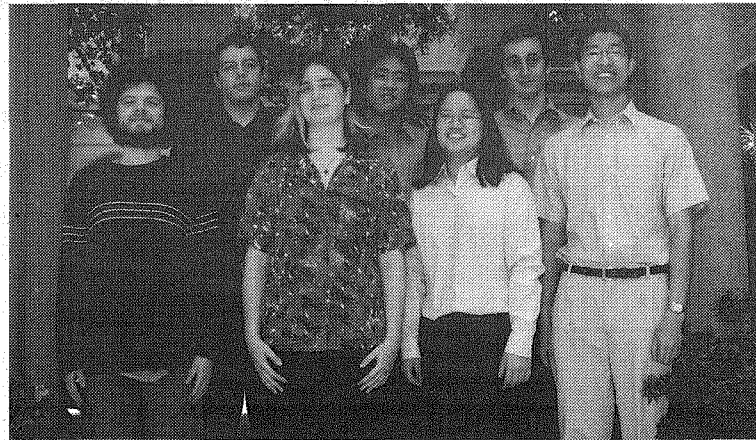


Photo by Bob Paz

Top row left to right: Robert Barish, Po-Yin [Sam] Huang and Patrick Hummel

Bottom row left to right: Ilya Gekhtman, Emily Russell, Evelyn Cheung and Po-Ru Loh.

## 2006 Undergraduate Academic Awards

The Green, Froehlich, Haagen-Smit, Sigma Xi and Zeigler Awards were presented on May 10, 2006, at a luncheon in the Athenaeum, hosted by Dean of Students John F. Hall and Associate Dean Barbara Green. Each of these awards comes with a cash prize and a certificate.

Po-Yin Huang, a junior in Biology and Robert Barish, a sophomore in Computer Science received the George W. Green Prize. The Green Prize is awarded to an undergraduate student in any class for original research, an original paper or essay, or other evidence of creative scholarship beyond the normal requirements of specific courses.

The Jack E. Froehlich Memorial Award is for outstanding juniors in the top 5% of the class. Emily Russell, a junior in Physics and Po-Ru Loh, a junior in Mathematics, were selected this year.

Evelyn Cheung, a junior in Bi-

ology, won the Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award, which is given to a chemist or biologist who has shown academic promise and has made recognized contributions to Caltech.

Patrick Hummel, a senior in Applied Mathematics and Economics, was selected for this year's Sigma Xi award. This award is given to a senior for an outstanding piece of original scientific research. Patrick will receive his award at Commencement from President Baltimore.

Ilya Gekhtman, a sophomore in Mathematics has been chosen as this year's winner of the Frederick J. Zeigler Memorial Award. This award is given to a pure or applied mathematics student in the sophomore or junior year who has shown excellence in scholarship as demonstrated in class activities or in preparation of an original paper or essay in any subject area.

## Registration Begins on Thursday

Registration will begin on May 18 and run through June 2. We have made a few upgrades to the REGIS system for this round of registration. They include:

\* We have removed pop-up confirmations unless an action is needed. So, please turn off your pop-up blockers so you don't miss important information like the class is full or there is a time conflict.

\* Safari browser will be supported.

\* Graduate students will be able to register for both summer and fall terms simultaneously on REGIS.

\* We have added a "Report Time

Conflict" link so that students can report time conflicts with required courses to the Registrar's Office. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is making a concerted effort to monitor class conflicts. Please report time conflicts if all sections of a required class conflict - not just the section that you would prefer to take.

\* We have corrected an error that was occurring when the user-agent string was too large.

\* We have added first initial to instructor names in the drop-downs.

\* Departments will be able to have multiple option representatives approve schedules.

## This Week is Bike Commute Week

BY: AMEERA CHOWDHURY

Below are some of the many ways in which L.A. and Caltech will be celebrating Bike Commute Week, May 15th through 19th.

### L.A. County Bike Map:

Metro has just unveiled a new bike map that details all of L.A. county's 1252 miles of bikeways. This fold-out map prominently displays bikeways in bold colors, highlights Metro rail and bus routes, and shows the locations of bike lockers and racks. The map is available online at [metro.net](http://metro.net), and the Caltech Transit Guide ([transitguide.caltech.edu](http://transitguide.caltech.edu)) links to it. You can pick up a hard copy at Metro Customer Relation centers or the Caltech Bike to Work Fair on May 17th.

### Caltech Bike to Work Day:

Caltech has a long tradition of bike-riding scientists: Remember

the famous photo of Einstein on a bike? Caltech will celebrate Bike to Work Day on Wednesday, May 17th. If you ride a bike to work, grab some free snacks at the Court of Man pit stop from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

At lunch time, head to the Bike to Work Fair at San Pasqual Mall, which runs from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. The Rideshare Office will be raffling bike U-locks and other prizes. There will also be free cake and giveaways such as patch kits, bike maps, reflectors, power bars, and drinks. Pasadena Cyclery will be doing basic tune-ups so show up with your bike!

### Ride Free on Metro:

Bicyclists ride free on Metro rail lines and buses on Thursday, May 18th. Most Metro buses can carry up to two bikes. You can also bring your bike on Metro Rail or park your bike at one of the Metro Rail stations. To learn more about taking your bike on Metro, visit the Metro and Caltech Transit Guide websites.

## Housing Contracts Due May 26th



# Displaced Activities Await Distant-Future Student Center

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to occupy the space just north of Chandler. The building is slated to include one traditional theatre, a few smaller performance spaces, and gallery areas for student artwork. It will also house studio space for the fine arts program and the silkscreen shop, individual music practice rooms and larger band rooms, dedicated spaces for many Caltech clubs, and offices for all of the art and music program staff. The Coffeehouse will also find a permanent home here. Although the footprint will be small – only as big as the architectural planning building which currently occupies that area – plans call for the center to extend several stories both above and below ground, giving everyone enough room to work and play in comfort.

With its size, proximity to stu-

dent housing, and wide range of offerings for student amusement, the Student Center seems like the answer to all of the students' problems. However, many obstacles stand in the way.

First, only a little over half of the \$35M price tag has been identified to date, and having learned its lesson from the recent budget problems, Caltech will not proceed with the development cycle until all of the funding has been secured. As the project is currently competing for funds with several new research centers and the projected North House renovations, it may be some time before all of the resources are in place.

Second, the South Hovse renovations have made us all familiar with the lengthy process involved in completing construction on campus. Ass't. VP for Development Robert McQuinn esti-

mates the average life cycle for a Caltech construction project at three to four years, half of which must take place before any ground is broken. This means that even if the remaining financial resources are secured by September, no one currently at Caltech will enjoy the benefits of the new Student Center. So what are we to do in the meantime?

A few former South Hovse denizens have found that their move out of the SAC was not all bad.

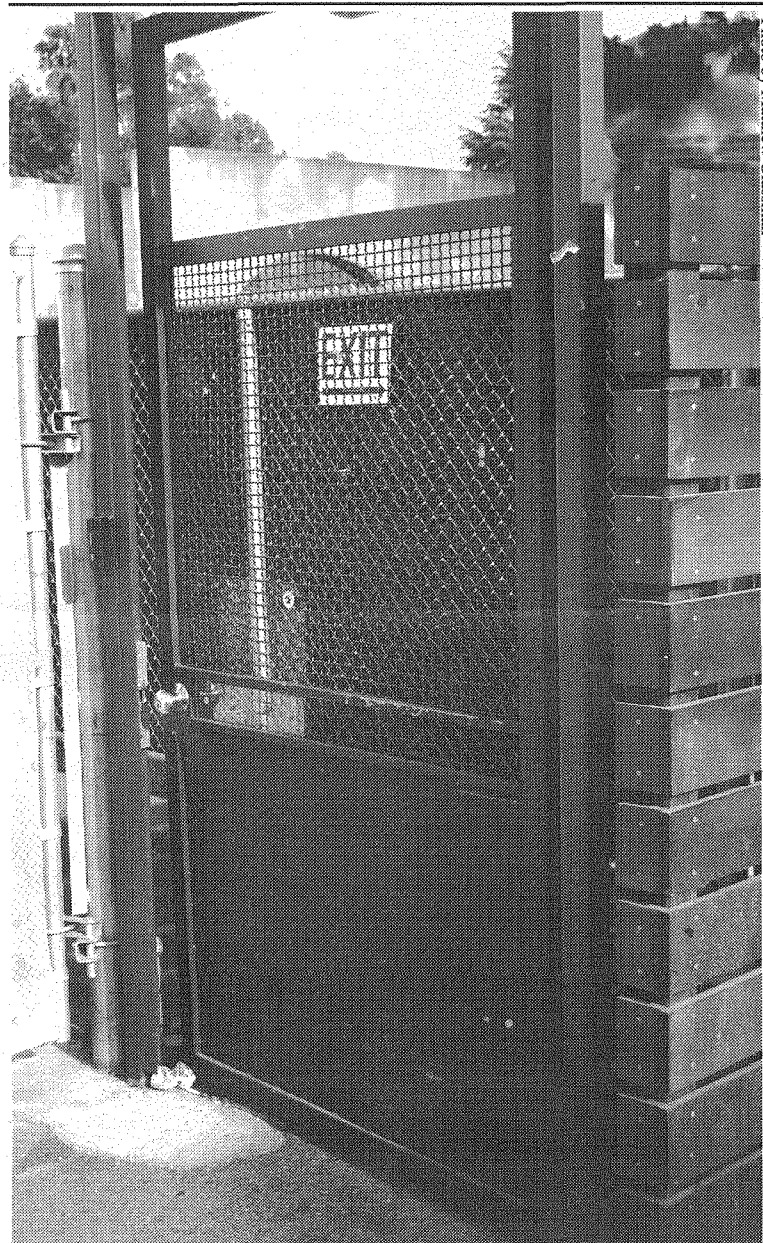
The drawing and painting studio has a little less room, and is farther from the Hovses, but is able to enjoy lots of beautiful natural light. The Health Educator's office has found a home in the CSS which is almost as convenient for students, and a lot more comfortable.

But these are the minority. Musicians on campus find that they must tote their instruments a significant distance down public streets if they want to use the prac-

tice rooms. The silkscreen shop is small and cramped, barely large enough for two to work at once without knocking elbows. And we all feel the loss of our cozy, convenient, coffeeless Coffeehouse – relegated to the echoing barn-like interior of Chandler, it has metamorphosed from a relaxing, student-managed basement hangout into lunch, late at night, with less food. Plans as they stand call for most of these services to remain in their temporary location for the foreseeable future – the exception is the Coffeehouse, which may move to the Red Door until the Student Center is ready, but even this is still uncertain.

If the feelings of the affected staff are mixed on the matter, student opinion is far nearer to unanimity. ASCIT President Todd Gingrich explains, "Since the student center will not be ready for a number of years it is going to be important that the basement of the South Hovse complex serve as the activity center like it did in the past."

Were it merely a matter of space, students would be more understanding that a lot of the activities formerly housed downstairs would have to find new locations. However, it is difficult to watch new buildings like the Cahill center going up all around campus and being met with lukewarm receptions, while portions of the SAC, which require only some finishing touches and which every single undergraduate on campus would enjoy and use, remain uninhabitable due to lack of funds.



The House damage funds are being charged a total of over \$2400 to fix the lower portion of this gate. The metal mesh was repaired, the steel plate was added for additional protection, and the gate was repainted.

## Students Forced to Pay

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stele kick plate be installed..." In addition to the "stele kick plate," the wire mesh was repaired, taking up the labor total to \$1538.00. The paint job rounds out the additional charges.

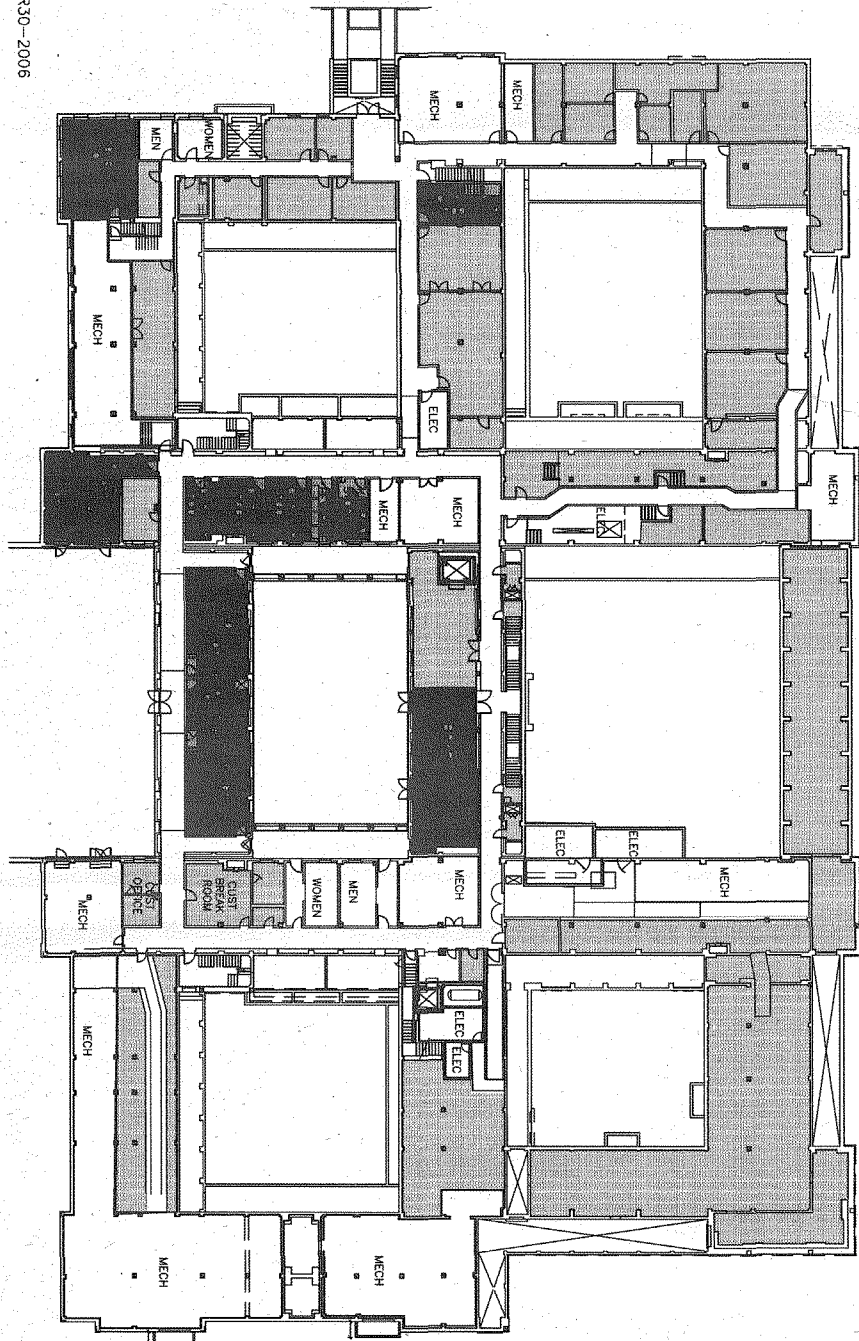
The stewardship committee is looking into the charges with the physical plant before these

charges are levied to the house damage funds. According the Eddie, when "Mike Raven and Tim Chang bring [the damage amount] to us...however we decided to divide that number [amongst the houses] is up to us." The total amount charged to the houses is fixed as there is "no mechanism in place to protest Tim Chang."

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MAR30-2006



The new (as of March 6th) floor-plan of the Student Activities Center. Before the South Hovse renovations, all of the above rooms were used for student activities.

- Student Rooms
- Unused Rooms
- Maintenance Rooms

Hi Mom! **SAT Tutors Needed** In-Home Private Tutoring. Evening/Weekend Hours. To Apply: [www.kaptest.com/premier](http://www.kaptest.com/premier)

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# Caltech Financial Aid

BY: SARA PEEK

This is the fourth in a series of articles covering Dean Currie's seminar on Caltech finances.

The details of financial aid are important to a large percentage of Caltech undergraduates. It is commonly known that tuition continues to rise at a greater rate than that of inflation, and over the past few years, the percentage of students on need-based financial aid has been increasing, from 55% in 1999 to 59.5% today. To this segment of Caltech's undergraduate population, a more pertinent number than the nominal tuition are the students' family contribution and "self-help" portion.

In calculating family contributions, Caltech considers a number of criteria, including family income, number of dependents of the family, number of children in college, the net value of the family's assets, and any special circumstances. Among the factors that Caltech does not consider, unlike other universities, is home equity. Caltech also does not look at the parents' retirement accounts, beyond what the parents contributed to that account in the prior calendar year.

According to David Levy, the Director of Financial Aid, self-help level is the best way to understand price comparisons between universities, because parental contribution is nearly the same at any. At Caltech, a student on financial aid is currently expected to contribute \$3150-\$3250 per year, and choosing what fraction consists of loans and what of work. Most Teachers on financial aid choose to borrow, citing that they have little time to work.

For the 2001-2002 academic year, Caltech eliminated the summer earnings component of financial aid while increasing grant aid, in order to make Tech's financial packages more attractive. Elimination of summer earnings requirements is particularly significant, providing students receiving need-based aid the same opportunities to do research and take unpaid internships as their fellow students without worrying about summer earnings. Caltech was the only top 10 research school to not require summer earnings. However, beginning in 2006-07, Caltech will expect all students on financial aid to save a minimum of \$1,500 from summer earnings.

While self-help has not been rising year to year with tuition, it is set to rise in the coming academic year (family contributions will remain steady). For continuing students, the figure will increase \$500 to \$3750, and a \$1500 summer earnings component will be added, for a total change from \$3250 to \$5250, still less than most comparable schools.

Caltech has tried to minimize the impact on current students, phasing in major changes with the new frosh. For next year, frosh will need to come up with \$5500 during the school year plus \$1500 in summer earnings: \$7000 per year. This is roughly equal to the self-help levels seen at other top research schools.

## History of the ASCIT Movie

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
such as formal, while knowing the movie was in competent hands."

Decades ago, the ASCIT movie event used to be the responsibility of the Movie Chair. ASCIT owned a projector and the movie would be screened on-campus. In the early 80s and late 90s the event would take place every weekend! At that point, the movies were screened in the Baxter Lecture Hall. However, these movies were not new movies.

In 2000, Tim Chang and Tom Mannion helped the BoD set up the event we know today. Tim Chang said, "The idea came from one meeting with the students and their desire to show a new movie

### Why is financial aid changing?

\* Structural budget deficit

\* Financial sources are not growing at the same rate as student needs. The cost of attendance has increased more rapidly than the financial aid endowment has grown.

\* Caltech has been significantly more generous than other top 10 private research universities, and can no longer afford to be.

Almost all financial aid is Caltech money from restricted gifts and endowment; there is some federal and Cal Grant money, but this is a very small fraction, and decreasing.

Will self-help increase again, after this jump in price? Currie states that the point of the current increase in tuition and self-help is to "take all the pain at once." Currie enumerates factors that will determine whether self-help increases again; the net funds needed from students depends on new gifts, the endowment's increase or decrease, the federal government's decisions in funding colleges and collegiate students, and the earning capacity of students (e.g., inflation). Says Levy, "Caltech will continue to look at self-help levels every year, and there's no guarantee that they won't go up again."

In addition to the increase in self-help, other financial aid and tuition changes are also taking place. Miscellaneous expenses (clothing, entertainment, sundries but not travel) and weekend meal figures have decreased, because students said they weren't spending these amounts and to match other universities' allowances. Travel funding will not be affected; it depends on where one lives, and assumes two roundtrip airfares and is set year to year by market prices.

Additionally, new frosh will have to buy health insurance (\$1815) separate from tuition (no waiver is allowed); existing students will not be affected; it depends on where one lives, and assumes two roundtrip airfares and is set year to year by market prices.

Caltech will continue to practice need-blind admissions for US students and meet full demonstrated financial need. Only about 20 schools do this nationally, according to Currie. However, admissions are need-sensitive for international students. While full need is met for international frosh, no funding will be made available for international transfers and 3/2's, beginning in 06-07.

The amount a student pays after financial aid is set without reference to tuition, but Teachers also notice that tuition continues to rise year to year at a rate greater than that of inflation. Currie points out that it's hard to tell what tuition or the cost of attendance should be, since they could be increased arbitrarily and the class would still fill, especially given that much of this money is paid from Caltech to Caltech in the form of grant aid. Currently, market prices are used as a reference point; cost of attendance is not meant to be even with what it costs to educate a student at Caltech—Currie estimates this amount to be about \$86k per year.

on campus. So we started there by looking to see what contacts we had to be able to show a new movie on campus. Unfortunately, it was not possible due to licensing and the movie studios' red tape. So buying tickets to a theater and have our students go to the theater was the alternative. Ever since then we have been able to fully financially support the ASCIT movie. We wanted to do this because there are only few other events that can potentially get all the UG students together at the same time."

Thanks to Craig Montouri for details about the evolution of the ASCIT movie event over the years.

# Students Recognize Profs, TAs, and Mentors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

just confuse us. His lectures are actually clear and it seems like the majority of the class understands," said Ekta Bhojwani.

"Bob Pelayo was my Math 1d professor—not having as much of a math background as most people at Caltech, I feel like he put in a lot of effort to get up to speed," said Aimee Gillespie.

"Bob was a great TA; probably the best that I have had. It was a pleasure being in his class and I have sought to continue to attend his section, even when not assigned to it. He seems to genuinely care whether students understand the information or not," said Kevin Noertker, a frosh.

"Pelayo would send us weekly emails recapping what we'd learned, and offering hints on the problem sets," said Gillespie.

Even undergraduate TA's got the nod from the ARC committee—Po-Ru Loh, described by fellow Wisconsin Teacher Kevin Watts as "a local legend in Madison, Wisconsin," earned considerable respect from frosh after only TA-ing one term of math.

"Po-Ru always knows what's going on and tries his best to explain concepts and describes different ways about how to approach a problem when we're stuck," said Jian Fung, a frosh in Avery.

However, frosh are not the only Teachers who still like math—upperclassmen Rocky Velez said that ACM 95 professor Niles Pierce "makes you want to go to class, not only because the material is important, but because it's actually interesting when he lectures."

"Dr. Pierce is passionate about his teaching, and it shows tremendously, not only through his lectures, but through his students as well. I mean, really, how many Caltech professors get applause on the last day of classes?" said Velez.

Not all of the awards were given in math and science. For a school filled with students thrilled to be away from the humanities, it is rare to find students so inspired by medieval history—but Warren Brown manages to do it.

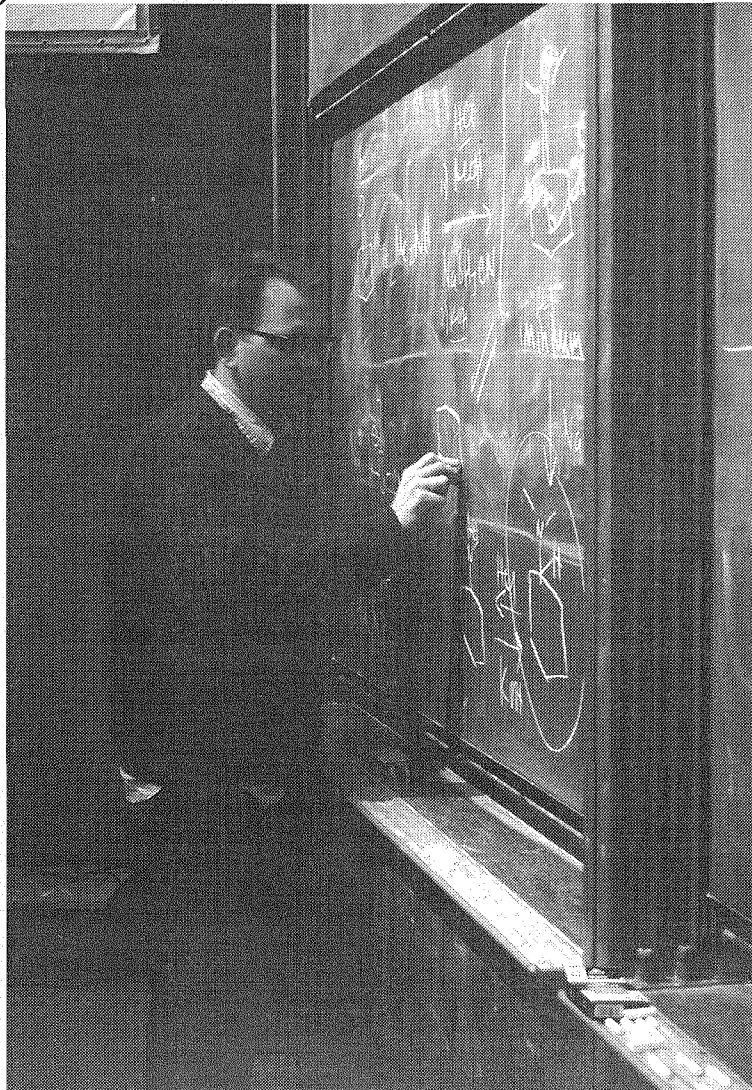


Photo by Matthew Glassman

Professor Brian Stoltz delivers one of his popular organic chemistry lectures.

"I respect Prof. Brown for the sheer love he has for his subject, his ability to use Socratic teaching to get the point across, his humility, and the incredible patience with which he teaches his classes," said Jeff Graham, a junior in Brown's high medieval history course, Hum 108.

"Warren Brown has a talent for leading a discussion, rather than lecturing, making his class more enjoyable and educational. His is also the only class where a theoretical society that worshipped the Flying Spaghetti Monster and the Great Squirrel God was considered and its aspects dissected," said Glenn Wagner, a frosh who took Hum 3 (European Civilization) from Brown.

In addition to recognizing excellent teaching, students were also asked to nominate mentors. Preston McAfee, this year's winner, is the Professor of Business Economics and Management, and Executive Officer for the Social Sciences at Caltech. Ryan Farmer, CS and BEM major, said that McAfee "excels in two fronts: in the classroom and as a mentor."

"When I first approached him about becoming my advisor, he was worried he wouldn't have enough time. I didn't understand what he meant until I found out he was interested in meeting once a week, with our meetings lasting an hour or more frequently," said Farmer.

## Poet Haryette Mullen Visits Caltech

BY: JOHN MCNAMARA

Poet Haryette Mullen visited Caltech last Thursday through the sponsorship of the Words Matter program. Mullen's visit included lunch with faculty, a visit to a creative writing class, and dinner with students followed by a poetry reading in Dabney Hall.

"A poet cannot receive so many awards if admiration was not only deep, but broad," said Judith Hall, introducing Mullen to a crowd in Dabney Hall. Mullen read selections from her poetry books, including *Muse and Drudge*, *Trimnings* and *Sleeping with the Dictionary*, which was a National Book Award Finalist.

"It was a very nice change of pace from everything you have to do at this school," remarked Sean Mattingly, an undergraduate attending the reading. Mullen agrees. "Most art slows you down," she commented. "You start noticing things that are a little bit weird." Mullen's poetry was well received by the crowd Thursday, as hearing her reading her own words gave them clearer meaning. "I just love to listen to poetry," said English professor Kevin Gilmartin.

Mullen's poetry involves the eccentricities of language and stringing together known phrases to evolve new meanings and go to new ideas. "This is a book about language and how we process language," she remarked about *Sleeping with the Dictionary*. For example, her poem "Kristenogra-

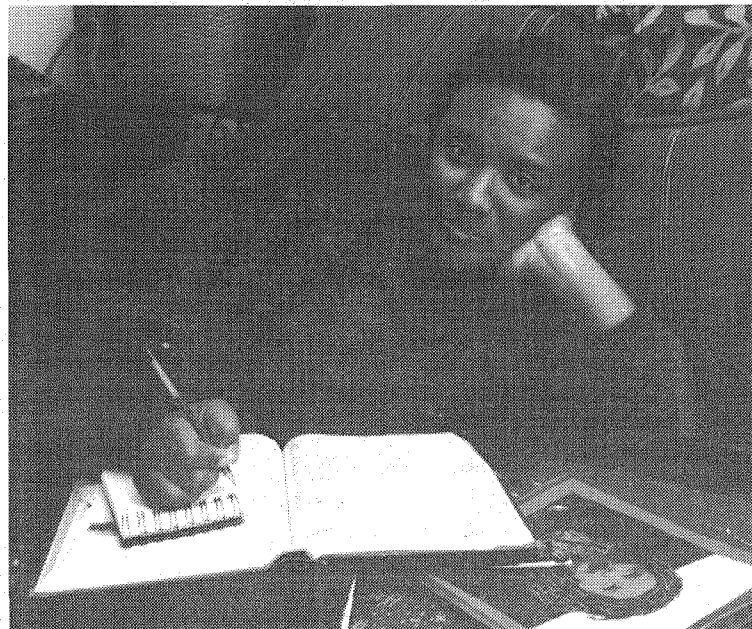


Photo by Irene Ferth

Poet Haryette Mullen, who recently gave a poetry reading in Dabney Hall of some of her work

phy" begins with "K was burn and the bend of the ear in the mouth of Remember." Reading aloud, it changes to "K was born and the end of the year in the month of December."

"The eye and the ear are in conflict in that poem," she explicated. Her poetry, like a Möbius Strip, winds around to bring the reader back around to the origin, but looking at it with a different orientation. In "Mantra for a Classless Society, or Mr. Roget's Neighborhood," Mullen moves from a "cozy comfortable homey homelike" beginning to this metaphorical neigh-

borhood and makes it "nervous self-conscious tense." Mullen tries to dig into the dictionary for her poetry. "I like the process of going through the dictionary and being surprised by what I find there."

Mullen's visit is the "first time the renovated Dabney Hall is used for a literary event," according to Steven Youra, chair of the Words Matter Committee. "Writers find Caltech an interesting venue," noted Kevin Gilmartin. Though Caltech is not in the center of the literary world, expect more writers to visit in the future.



# Response to the Anonymous Grad

BY: TIONG NEO

Dear Editors,

I refer to the article titled "Stop Complaining" by the anonymous graduate student in last week's issue of *The Tech*. I'm glad that Anonymous is finding his time as a grad student as "one of the best times of [his] life". However, I disagree with several of his points.

Right off the bat, Anonymous has noted that he/she has a stipend which is "enough to pay for the basic expenses and even save a little." He went on to add that together with tuition, he considered it "very reasonable pay". However, as far as I know, undergraduates are in a completely different situation.

Undergrads are not given a stipend, about half of all students are on some sort of financial aid and the rest are generally paying out of their own or their families' pocket. In this respect, Anonymous is being paid very reasonably (in other words, on positive income) while we, the undergrads, are in debt to the school. This fundamental difference can

affect people's response to a vast range of issues ranging from the cost and quality of room/board to financial aid to the expectations of quality of education here.

I admit that the actions of the student body are less than perfectly unselfish, but to me, I see it as an encouraging sign compared to the scenario of general apathy.

*"Lastly, I agree that "whining or being negative is not very attractive." But I find it encouraging that some of this whining has helped draw attention ... for more effective communication."*

When I was a frosh, a senior told me that the school is going from bad to worse and he was glad to be leaving the place. Now as a senior, I do share some of his sentiments and I'll be graduating with a worry in my heart that this school is becoming less and less the Caltech that past alumni are proud to have belonged to.

I do agree with Anonymous that money could have been used more efficiently. Anonymous feels that "the main goal of Caltech should be research and teaching, not handing out perks that we cannot afford to pay for in the long run".

However, one of the common complaints among students is the quality of teaching here in Caltech. There is no doubt that there are a few good teachers around, but I think that it is the general consensus that students are generally let down. Every student has way more than their fair share of having to struggle with the material

ing the character or disposition harmed by pampering or oversolicitous attention. Synonyms include "coddled" and "pampered". Spoiled college students do not go through the kind of pressure and workload we go through. It is not reasonable to compare Teachers with the average American college student as Anonymous seems to.

I am also irked by the prevalent

Teachers have to put up with, but past articles by fellow students have made it clear enough. Otherwise, I defer to someone else to illuminate it.

Lastly, I agree that "whining or being negative is not very attractive". But I find it encouraging that some of this whining has helped draw attention to the need for more effective communication. As unattractive as they may be, they helped bring attention to some of the problems in the school and perhaps led to their resolution.

Of course, positive means of response do exist and are preferred and should be encouraged in preference to negative actions. I would like to take this time to applaud and thank all those who have made tremendous effort to improve the quality of student life in Caltech. You have my deepest gratitude.

Life as an undergrad is not a bed of roses. Some part of my time here is the best part of my life (and conversely, some parts not the best times of my life). It is my main worry that further classes of Teachers will be denied their opportunity to make their time and education in Caltech the best times of their lives.

## SPORTS

### KELROF Techers Discovers that Running Makes You Tired

BY: MARK EICHENLAUB

Bearing in mind that May 5th and 6th marked the 30th annual KELROF 24-hour relay run at Caltech, take a stab at the following mind-bender: Q: What do these figures have in common: 109 people, 1982.6 miles, 217 hamburgers, 14 gallons of gatorade, 15 teams, 89,100 seconds, one track? A: I made them all up. (Except for "one track". That's accurate.)

KELROF (Kellogg's Eight Light Regiment On Foot) began in 1977, when Caltech undergrad Stephen Kellogg organized the first effort after reading about such 24-hour relays in a magazine. I don't know about you, but to me that seems like a pretty dumb idea. If I did things just because I read about them magazines, I'd build models of the Taj Mahal from gumdrops, eat exclusively grapefruit, and know the Time (I've never figured out why that magazine is so popular. Just get a watch already.)

Despite the event's innate stupidity, KELROF has persisted at Caltech, and become a regular tradition here. KELROF has grown appreciably since its inception, when there were two teams of ten runners each competing. In con-



Photo by Jan Vevetka

**"Team Party" is sure happy about something. Maybe they just really like shopping carts.**

trast to those humble beginnings, 2006 marked the biggest KELROF ever.

Twelve teams and three individuals participated. Five of the eight undergraduate houses contributed a team (even Avery, although they gave up after half way and went home for muffins). Other spirited teams with names like "Fast and Easy", "K-Lab", "Harmony", "Yongqin" (that's Chinese for 'yongqin'. I Google-translated it for ya), "Rollerbladers", and "C-Steamers" joined the mayhem. Perhaps they mistakenly thought that KELROF was where you don't go run in circles for an entire day. I'm not sure. The previous record for the biggest KELROF was 1980, when Teachers ran

a total of 1527 miles.

KELROF teams range from competitive runners out to strain their bodies to the max, to fun runners out to strain as few things as possible. Team "Fast and Easy" fell into the first category. (I make that sound like that happened by random chance. It did.) Its runners averaged 6:53 per mile (that's minutes and seconds, in case you were confused) and covered 209 miles, plus 380 yards, which are supposedly smaller units of measure, whose purpose remains unknown to this author.

Team K-Lab also ran competitively, covering an impressive 180 miles, but also 1660 yards, so they definitely won the yards category. Page House is rumored to have covered something in

the doubled-triple digits as well, depending on exactly what that phrase means.

Despite my mockery (both here and during the event), the KELROFers (not to be confused with KEL-RALPHERs, a related but distinct term) seemed to enjoy their day under the sun. When I asked Ryan Ogliore of "Fast and Easy" for his thoughts on the day, he responded by writing a complete dissertation, which is too long to be reprinted here, although I can happily summarize it for you. Ryan wrote:

"Fast & Easy did not...hunt...team bondage. Fast & Easy showed...sweet ass. Teasy, Cheesy, Greezy, Queasy. The... plan was to grab... a banana. Friday night was...cunning..., starving mosquitoes... re-lenting. It became... bouncing enthusiasm. A downtrodden... fury for... the tortured grimace of... sleep... exertion. Didn't... any... rogue operatives... corrupt... the same damn spot? This futility..., dressed in speedos... claimed victory. Thoreau...wished to...suck. I had not run at all."

Ryan is a cryptic and poetic man. More coherently, Chris Klein, who ran on the Ruddock House team, commented, "The hardest part of KELROF is the lack of sleep. It's one of those life experiences you want to say you did in college, but not something you really want to repeat." The lack of sleep certainly took its toll on Chris, as it left him unable to distinguish between the first and second-person voices. (I'll decide

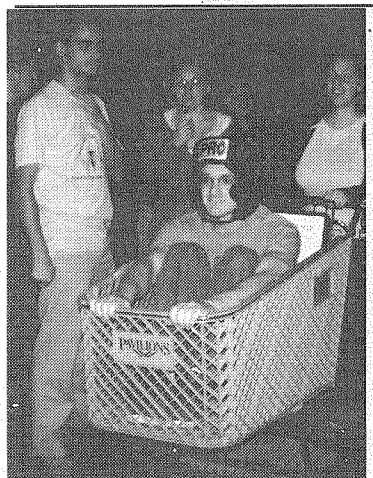
for myself if I want to repeat it, Chris. Thanks.)

Teachers, as always, found new and creative ways express their inner immaturity through KELROF. This included rollerblading, hula-hooping, shopping-cart-riding, rolling-stool-pushing, magic-carpet-riding, bubble blowing, and hopping on one leg.

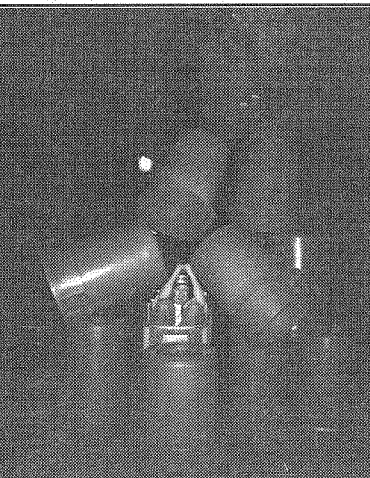
Billy Zdon was one of the three brave and naïve people who attempted KELROF solo. Running in sporadic segments with rest periods interspersed, Billy covered 52.4 miles, or two full marathons, over the course of the day. When I contacted Billy via AIM to ask for comment on his run, he granted this chilling insight into the mind of an ultra-distance runner, which I shall leave for each man to interpret to himself:

*FluorescentFishy: who is this  
FluorescentFishy: i'm drunk  
FluorescentFishy: i hate running  
FluorescentFishy: i lke got pitches*

For incomplete results and some photos and things of that nature, check out <http://running.caltech.edu/kelrof>



**"Bowling with Lloydies", which took place last Thursday on the Olive Walk, is an annual tradition in which Scurves...bowl with Lloydies. Photos by Glenn Wagner.**



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# Newest Gaming Tech Unveiled at E3

BY: TOM TSAI

Last week the Los Angeles Convention Center transformed into the ultimate gaming mecca as game developers, hardware manufacturers, buyers, and media, as well as some lucky gamers gathered together for the annual Electronic Entertainment Expo, or E3. Every spring since 1995, this tradeshow has brought some of the biggest spectacles in the gaming world and this year promised no less than some of the most exciting announcements yet.

Headlining everything is the heated console war between Sony, Microsoft, and Nintendo. Last year at E3, all three companies announced their entrants for next generation gaming consoles.

Since then, only Microsoft has come out with the XBOX360 in November of last year, while both Sony's Playstation 3 and Nintendo's Wii (previously called Revolution) were kept under wraps.

This year both Sony and Nintendo have come to play. With all of them throwing veiled insults back and forth, it's time to see what each company has to back up its claims.

## Nintendo

While Nintendo hasn't been the same ever since the Playsta-



Nintendo has emphasized its desire to expand the demographics of the gaming audience to include more women and families.

tion was introduced back in 1993, the Japanese company that was once synonymous to gaming has redoubled its efforts and introduced the Wii, successor to the Gamecube.

However, instead of directly competing with the financial and technological clout of both Sony and Microsoft, the Wii doesn't have the most powerful processor or graphics unit, thus not supporting the high definition resolutions that both Microsoft and Sony have emphasized over the past year.

Instead the company that brought us Mario, Donkey Kong, and Zelda has decided to emphasize on innovating gameplay and the user experience, hoping a new way of gaming will rein in not only the hardcore gamer boys, but also the casual gamers, girls, parents, and even grandparents.

The name "Wii" itself implies gaming as a community in "We." With this new console, Nintendo has introduced a completely different controller in the form of a remote and "boomerang," bringing motion sensing capabilities and offering gamers an unconventional playing experience.

The company hopes to use this controller in ways the industry has never yet conceived of, extrapolating the idea of games beyond shooters and fighters and extending it to conducting virtual orchestra concerts and sword fighting.

Among some of the games to take advantage of this new controller is the highly anticipated *The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess*, which allows the user to control Link with pinpoint accuracy. *Super Mario Galaxies* and *Metroid Prime: Corruption* also give Samus and everybody's favorite plumber their debuts on the Wii. *Red Steel*, a first-person shooter from Ubisoft, gives Nintendo its first mature-themed title on the Wii. All these titles

will take advantage of the new controller. Showgoers who have had the opportunity to use the Wii controller have praised its ease of use and intuitiveness. Thus, Nintendo hopes that it will be able to corral more people to its platform.

With a fall 2006 release date, the Wii promises to be the most affordable gaming console of all three companies.

Speculation states that it will be priced at \$250, while a Sega executive had dared to surmise an even lower price at \$199, making the Wii a popular choice for budget minded people. Look for it to make a big splash in the coming year, for it definitely stole the show at this year's E3.

## SONY

In contrast to the Nintendo Wii, the Playstation 3 is a behemoth of a machine.

Currently the market leader in the gaming console sector, Sony has taken the attitude of "the next generation doesn't begin until we say it does" and produced a console that is potentially more powerful than either the Wii or even the XBOX360, with a theoretical floating point ability of just about 2 teraflops.

Included with the machine beyond the unique Cell processor and the nVidia powered GPU is a Blu-Ray disc drive, one of the contenders for the next-generation video disc format. Unfortunately all this technology comes at a price.

The PS3's flagship model is priced at \$599, a good chunk of change considering the demographic of gamers.

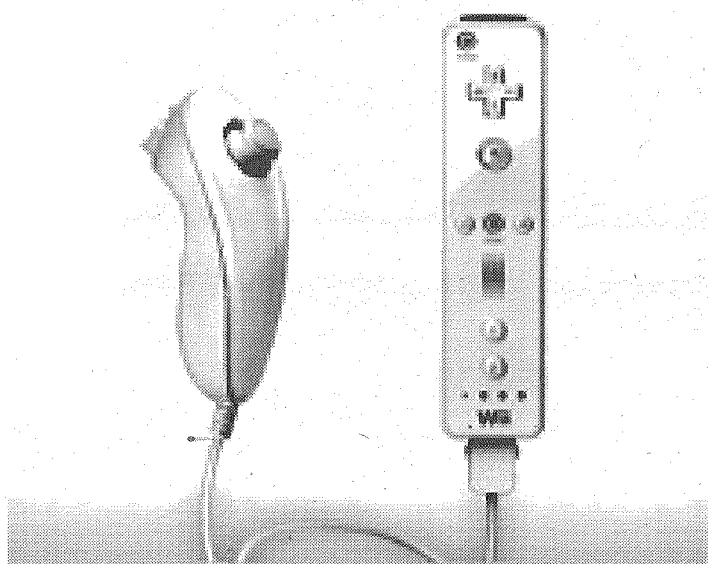
Sony is, however, confident in its ability to bring to the consumer the absolute best audiovisual experience. Like Microsoft's XBOX360, the Playstation 3 is designed with the high-definition television in mind, boasting ability for output in 1080p resolution at 60 frames a second, even better than the 720p and 1080i resolutions that the Microsoft box puts out.

Sony claims that the PS3 is more than just a gaming machine but a complete multimedia experience and justifies its decision to produce such a costly machine. Ken Kutaragi, widely regarded as the "father of the Playstation," has even said that the PS3 is perhaps "too cheap."

Already industry watchers are questioning Sony's pricing strategy and if Sony's executives are not careful the Playstation 3 may falter in this very tense console war, especially with the XBOX360's being introduced a year earlier and the Wii's low price.

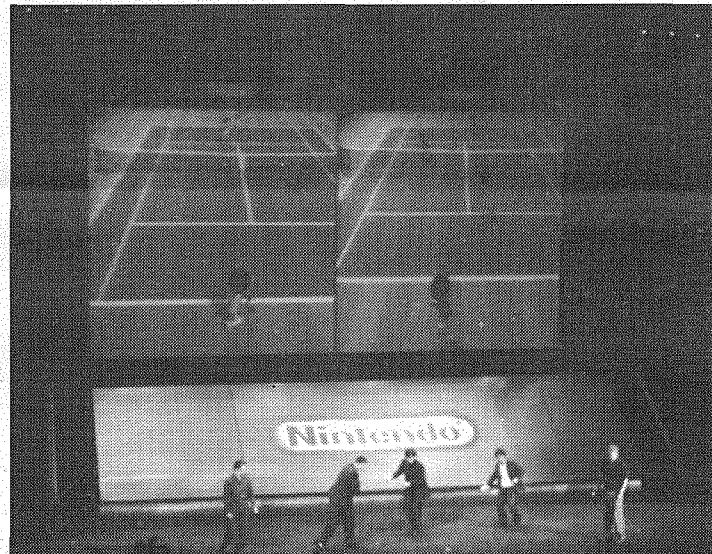
While some may be taken

Continued on page 7



Nintendo's new boomerang controller and remote promises to revolutionize the gaming experience.

Photo courtesy of Nintendo



The new Nintendo controllers in heated tennis action, wielded by top Nintendo executives.

Photo courtesy of www.venturmetech.com

## Technology Review

# The New Legal Way to Watch TV

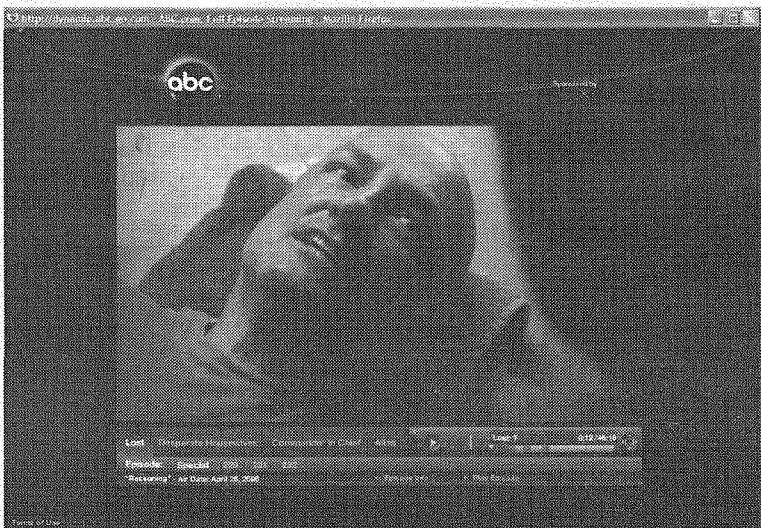
BY: DAVID CHEN

As a Techer, you probably don't have time to watch television shows except for a few episodes you may download off BitTorrent.

Thanks to ABC, which is actually owned by Disney, American audiences can watch full-length episodes of ABC's four top shows for free, with only two minutes of ads scattered in between.

The technology used is not the greatest, but by using Flash Player 8, ABC can maintain tight control of its content. Files are streamed at either 500x282 resolution at 400 kilobytes per second or at 700x394 at 700 kbps. Both these resolutions deliver the video at a 16x9 aspect ratio (the ratio used in HDTV), which is significantly better than the episodes offered off iTunes at 320x240 resolution for \$2 per episode.

By streaming in Flash, ABC can force viewers to sit through 30 second commercials that are spread about 8 minutes apart. In fact, the ads take advantage of the interactivity that Flash allows, so



The episodes appear in a browser via Flash Player 8.

they're decently enjoyable. Many of the ads stream videos within themselves, such as movie previews, that last longer than the 30 seconds, but there's a button that lets users get back to the show as soon as 30 seconds is up. In fact, I enjoyed most of the ads enough that I let them finish. Once you finish an ad, the show is unlocked until where the next ad is placed.

The interface allows viewers

to skip around, but if you try to jump past the sections that you have unlocked, you'll be forced to watch the intervening ad. On the other hand, you can use this as a strategy to watch all the ads first, and then enjoy the episode without interruptions.

The shows that are offered currently are *Desperate Housewives*, *Lost*, *Commander-in-Chief*, and *Alias*. While this would be a great

way to watch any episodes that you missed, ABC has only put up the past couple episodes for each series, except that *Alias* and *Commander-in-Chief* seem to have all the episodes for the latest season.

By using Flash Player as the delivery platform, there are some trade-offs. Most importantly for ABC is that they can ensure that videos are streamed (ie. it's fairly difficult to capture the videos). This means that you need to be connected online the whole time you watch the video, but your Caltech connection will easily provide the bandwidth needed. ABC has hired Limelight Networks to handle the distribution, so latency is fairly low.

Flash Player 8 also does not have a built-in way to watch in full screen. What I found easiest was to lower the resolution to 800x640, so that the video frame fills up most of the screen.

The upside of Flash Player is that's its available on practically any platform (Linux users will have to use WINE).

The video quality is good enough for me, although it does pale to the HDTV movies that you usually find off BitTorrent.

More importantly, however, the convenience factor means that I'm actually willing to watch

these shows. At the least, here's a reasonable way for time-crunched Techers to support the networks while watching the shows. And if I do get hooked on any of these series, I can watch the latest episode the day after the network premiere.

One other drawback right now is that there's no login mechanism. So if you unlock parts of an episode once and go back in a later session, you'll need to watch another ad. Also, ABC has lined up only about 10 sponsors right now, so if you get hooked on this service like me, you'll end up seeing ads multiple times. It would have made sense for viewers to login so that ABC can show more targeted ads, although this might occur later once more advertisers sign up.

For reference, *BusinessWeek* reported in its November 21, 2005, issue that ABC makes an equivalent of 45 cents per viewer per episode of *Desperate Housewives* via conventional broadcast advertising, and earns around \$1.20 per episode downloaded off iTunes.

ABC is running this experiment for May and June and then will take down the episodes until the Fall Season, so interested viewers should try it soon at <http://dynamic.abc.go.com/streaming/landing>.

Screenshot from <http://dynamic.abc.go.com/streaming/landing>



## Ask-a-Prof

## Dealing with Boyfriends and Too Much Homework

BY: DR. KRISTINE HAUGEN

Welcome to our new feature where you can ask a different professor each week all you want to know. Email us at tech@caltech.edu your questions and suggested profs to ask.

**Q: My boyfriend just broke up with me and I really want to get back together. Should I offer him a sexual favor?**

**A:** Most definitely not! You need to adapt your tactics to his probable state of mind. Right now, at best, he feels intolerably ambivalent about you, and as a result, he's reminding himself several times a day that he doesn't want the two of you to get back together.

Ergo, if you make the offer, you paint him farther into his corner. He refuses, maybe in a harsher

tone than he intends. Or if he accepts, it might be a long time before he speaks to you again.

Instead, launch a subtle, gradually titrated combination of Wounded Innocence and the Charm Offensive. Don't write, don't call, and don't speak about him to others except in vague terms that reflect impeccably on you.

If in three weeks he still hasn't gotten in touch, you telephone and initiate a calm, polite conversation about nothing in particular. (Yes, you telephone! Email is lethal for these purposes; a moment's thought will reveal to you its grave structural flaws.)

This telephone conversation lasts ten minutes or less, including the junctures when you pause to let him to say he misses you, if he's so inclined.

Otherwise, wait until the next

time you meet in public; then, at the close of a more normal conversation, you can reveal that you think it's been great to see him. And so on. Until he's convinced that he's master of the situation and of himself, he'll find it nearly impossible to change his mind. Good luck.

Of course, if you really wanted to make him apoplectic, you would date one of his friends. But if he's well adjusted, that would also cause him to move on decisively.

On that subject: are you convinced this person is worth such a long campaign of stealth? (And celibacy?) You say he dumped you: doesn't that raise fundamental questions about his judgment and his taste? Most people would say you can do even better.

**Q: Is it better to not do the**

**homework and come to class, or to not do the homework and not come to class?**

**A:** Come to class, 10 times out of 10, but make sure you quietly apologize to the instructor before the class starts. Benefit to you: the instructor is likely to be thinking intensely about other things, so no serious conversation about your homework will ensue.

If you're not specifically told that it won't be accepted late, try emailing the homework as soon after class as possible (with more apologies) and see what happens.

Do you give excuses? Thinking them up could be entertaining, especially if you drew on chaos theory. But brevity is best, even when your excuse is completely legitimate.

At the outer reach of prolixity, you might say something like, "I'm really sorry, but I was sick

for a couple of days this week, and I wasn't able to do my homework in time. I'm very sorry about this." Yet it would be equally good to say simply, "Professor, I'm really sorry, but I couldn't finish my homework on time this week."

Have you been reading this carefully? Have you gotten the impression that it's the apology we actually care most about? That would be the right impression.

**Q: How often should I do my laundry?**

**A:** How much underwear do you have?

Kristine Haugen is an Assistant Professor of English in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division. In her spare time, she listens to too much reggaeton, eats too much sushi, and shows an unseemly enthusiasm for the advice columns of Dan Savage and Ivana Trump.

## Music Review

## The Steve Morrissey Story

BY: CINDY KO

*Ringleader of the Tormentors*—Morrissey (2006, Attack Records)

Last year, SPIN music magazine had a humor article featuring rock music's most depressed figures, compared together on a Mope-o-Meter. The important stuff is reprinted here for your viewing pleasure:

SPIN Magazine's Mope-O-Meter

1) Light on the Mope-o-Meter: John Mayer -- "Sometimes leaving for college can be a bummer."

2) Medium on the Mope-o-Meter: Thom Yorke -- "I'm sad



because I know I can't beat the robots."

3) Heavy on the Mope-o-Meter: Robert Smith -- "I would hang myself, but the noose is too pretty for me."

4) Ultra on the Mope-o-Meter: Morrissey -- "I'm so sad, but I'll make it up to you by digging my

own grave."

Yes, Morrissey wins—are you even surprised? The guy is sad ALL THE LIVELONG DAY and he makes a pretty good living out of it. In fact, he's released a new album this year, *Ringleader of the Tormentors*.

Overall, the album is what you'd expect: lengthy, ridiculous song titles ("I'll Never Be Anybody's Hero Now" and "I Just Want to See the Boy Happy"), cheesily mopey lyrics ("... let's face it, I'm going to die soon..."), and of course, Morrissey's distinct, trumpet-like vocals. The singles off the album are catchy, but all that aside, it kind of stinks.

Sometimes it feels like Morrissey isn't being serious with his music. I mean, at one point in the album, he says, "...there are explosive kegs between my legs... dear God, please help me."

Uhhh, are we supposed to buy that? It sounds like something a

cartoon talk bubble would say. I don't know about you, but I'm too busy thinking (and laughing) about Morrissey having dynamite for nads to actually feel remotely sad.

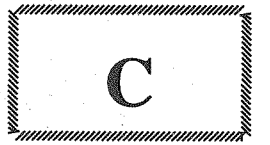
Faithful Moz fans would point out that this is his own brand of sardonic humor, but please—isn't he a little old for this? Actually, for all I care, he can make music like this for the rest of his career and he probably will.

Don't get me wrong, I have reverence and respect for his former band, the Smiths, and for Morrissey, as well. You don't become as iconic as Morrissey for absolutely nothing. Back in the day, he, with his funny hair and funny voice, invented the kind of emo that black-haired goth kids live by; his songs, like their Bible of Boohoo.

I just feel like Morrissey's stuck in a teenage depression rut, and it's frustrating to see him a little

washed up. He has the roots and the potential to take his music to a higher level, but he chooses to write these nutty songs that make me question his sanity. Either, he's lazy and writing these songs because it's the first thing off the top of his head, or he's delusional and he thinks this is good.

One thing is clear: Morrissey is past his prime. This was a chance for him to perpetuate the momentum from his 'comeback,' but *Ringleader* is far from where he should be going. Enh, to be honest, he's already earned such a faithful fan base, that it probably doesn't matter what he records for the rest of his career. He's still Morrissey, and he's doing his job.



## New Generation of Game Consoles Get Most of the Buzz

Continued from page 6

aback by the gargantuan price of the PS3, fans that have stood by the Playstation platform over the years are certainly not fazed by the big dollar signs because of the great set of platform-exclusive games that Sony has amassed over the years.

Among them is *Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots*, from famed Japanese game producer Hideo Kojima. The *Metal Gear* franchise is one of the most popular game series in the Playstation era and the game's designers have stayed faithful to Sony this time around as well. Solid Snake makes his return to the battlefield grayer albeit wiser to make his last hurrah in his sneaking suit and hardcore fans are sure to buy a PS3 just to play this game.

Other platform exclusive titles

for the PS3 include those of the *Final Fantasy* series, such as the newly announced *Final Fantasy XIII*. Beyond that, Sony has announced *Warhawk*, a flying combat game that takes advantage of the new motion-sensing capabilities of the PS3 controller, and several other games that will certainly fill the lines when Sony releases its console on the 17th of November later this year.

## Microsoft

When Microsoft decided to enter the gaming console market it had to overcome the dominance of Sony and its Xbox console, despite good success, was a losing endeavor.

This time around, however, Bill Gates and company are determined to pull even with Sony

in the market. They first did so by introducing their next generation XBOX360 to the market before both Sony and Nintendo.

The 360 remains as of now the only next generation console available to consumers today and is experiencing some fairly good sales figures, good enough for Microsoft executives to make the ambitious goal of shipping 10 million XBOX360 units by the end of the year.

To do so, however, the new console would need a great collection of bestselling games, and despite good launch titles such as *Call of Duty 2*, *Project Gotham Racing 3*, and *Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter*, the XBOX360 still needs a marquee game title to bolster its sales, like Halo and Halo 2 did for the Xbox platform in years past.

Xbox fans needed to wait no further than E3 to find out that Microsoft has two titles that will hopefully galvanize gamers to the XBOX360 --- *Halo 3* and *Gears of War*.

The third installment of the Halo series from Bungie Studios will be a treat to Xbox fans, as *Halo* and *Halo 2* were two of the fastest selling games on the original Xbox platform. *Halo 3*, which still has no specified launch date, will be Microsoft's attempt at cementing a trilogy of highly successful first person shooter games on its gaming platform.

*Gears of War*, the other hotly anticipated title, was available as a playable demo and gamers were very impressed by the immersive action and explosions that Epic



**Spore, a new game from Maxis' Will Wright, creator of legendary games like SimCity and The Sims will be for the PC.**

Games has brought to the table. This game also managed to make a point about the XBOX360's technological capabilities. Sony executives had previously derided the Microsoft console as merely the "Xbox 1.5" but the graphics of *Gears of War* give gamers eye candy easily rivaling those of the Playstation 3.

## PC Gaming

Gaming on PCs was not forgotten at E3. One of the most exciting games playable at the convention was *Spore*, a new game developed by the legendary and forward thinking Will Wright. The man who brought to the world *SimCity* and *The Sims* has upped the ante again in god games by giving the player the ability to create life and evolve it from a single celled or-

ganism to a multicellular creature capable of creating distinct cultures and technology.

The new game from Crytek Software, *Crysis*, was another highly discussed PC title. Available only for the upcoming Windows Vista, the game takes advantage of all new DirectX 10 code and manages to push the levels of realism to new heights, making games like *Half Life 2*, *Quake 4*, and *FEAR* look a step below in tier.

With so many new and exciting games coming out in the near future, it is easily to see why so many Techers flocked to E3 to volunteer for the show. Look for all these games and more to suck away hours of problem set time!

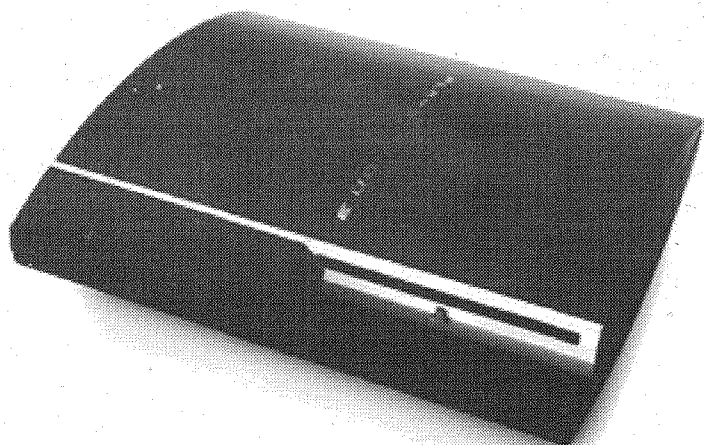


Photo courtesy of Sony

The Playstation 3, like the XBOX360, will come in two model trims. One will be priced at \$599, and feature a 60 GB hard drive, along with all the other amenities. The other will be cheaper at \$499, but only sport a 20GB HDD, and will not include HDMI support, a memory card reader, or Wi-Fi capability.

# Another Metric to Evaluate the Proposal on Cats in the Houses

BY: TONY FALK

Recently there has been a lot of controversy about the secret decision by housing to take all the cats living on campus, put them in a burlap sack and take them down to the river, and... Well, the decision by housing to not allow cats in the South Houses. There are some who want the cats to stay so they can eat them (I assume they are kidding, but no one knows what years of CDS can do to someone), although they are obviously confused about which creature is a sharp clawed deadly predator<sup>1</sup>.

Others want the cats gone because they're afraid the cats may kill them, through some sort of "allergic reaction" or by jumping onto their heads from trees perhaps. Still others want to rid the campus of cats because they belong to a secret society that speaks only in ancient code and fears anything with whiskers.

However, there are those who want friendly felines to remain on campus. They will tell you that cats relieve stress, they'll claim that a furry ball of purring cat is all that allowed them to survive core. Well, there was also a furry purring ball of office hours, but phys TAs are pretty much cats<sup>2</sup>.

People who want to keep their cats will point to the Caltech policy of allowing undergraduates to have non-boring pets as part of what makes Caltech unique, other than pain. Both of these sides have their points, but has either side scientifically studied the issue?

The trick to an issue like this

is to use what we've learned at Caltech, and apply science. If we think of the existence of cats on the Caltech campus, we can think of it from an ecological standpoint.

What do cats eliminate? They eat the things below them on the food chain, which are flies, spiders and birds. No one likes flies, which lay maggots and in general are nasty to have around.

Spiders bite you and make you dead with poison, and they're icky, so we obviously don't want those. As for birds, maybe you want Avian Bird Flu Bubonic Leprosy Immunodeficiency Cancer (which all birds have), but I'd rather have a cat.

Of course, we could get rid of those pests and still have no cats on campus if we got something higher up the food chain, but none of those animals are any good. We'd need a dog to eat the cat, then a goat to eat the dog, then a cow to eat the goat, and finally an old woman to eat a horse for some reason. This would be worse than having a cat, since all those animals defecate all over the ground, so the olive walk would be deep with excrement, and of course the corpse of the old woman, who would die of eating the horse<sup>3</sup>.

Plus there is the risk of other old people turning feral because they're around the old woman who swallows the horse for some reason, perhaps it saw the cow that swallowed the goat that

*"The trick to an issue like this is to use what we've learned at Caltech and apply science."*

swallowed the dog that swallowed the cat that swallowed the bird that swallowed the spider that swallowed the fly (I don't know

why the old woman swallowed the fly, perhaps she'll die).

Therefore, from an ecological standpoint, cats are the thing to have at Caltech. In addition, I'm pretty sure a cat had an important role in that Circle of Life song, which is all about the balance of nature.

If you're not convinced by biological reasons, perhaps a statistical explanation will change your mind.

Everyone knows that it's ok for one person to die so that many others may live. It is true that the presence of cats may kill one person, due to allergies or unprovoked attack, or some other cause. But what if the presence of cats can save many other people?

What if there were a fire, and a cat ran over to the fire station and made cute eyes at the fire chief until he brought his big red truck and saved the day? Everyone knows that cats and firemen have a special bond, which is why firemen are the only ones who can get cats out of trees, because firemen can speak cat and explain that the ground demons the cats are hiding from are gone. On the other hand, maybe it's because they have ladders, but no one really knows.

Or what if an ax murderer came and tried to kill some people, but a cat jumped up and clung to

their face, blinding them until the police arrived? Also, everyone knows cats can control electricity with their fur (I think this is what you learn in analytical physics 1 b and c), so they're keeping us safe from lightning. Therefore, if the fire killed 25 people, the ax murderer killed 12 more, lightning strikes kill 15 and we'll say some guy has an allergy where he dies if he isn't around cats. That means that cats might save 53 people for every one person they might kill. Would it really be wise, statistically, for housing to murder 53 people so that one person could live without allergies? I think not.

Psychology offers another argument; since cats can read our minds they surely know of housing's plan and will destroy all humans who try to enforce it. Economically it makes sense to have cats, since I looked up the price for Russian Blue cats, and they're really expensive.

Regular colored ones from a first rate country like the United States must be worth a ton, which means every cat Caltech bans is a loss of money, the very thing they claim they're trying to avoid with budget cuts. Even geology supports having cats on campus, by keeping the skeleton of one (the saber-toothed kind) in a glass case on the first floor of Arms<sup>4</sup>.

So before you try to prevent cats from living in the South Houses, either by banning or eating them, consider the science behind it. Also, it is well known that domesticated cats are the second most poisonous mammal in existence, after Koalas.

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> In case you are confused, cats are the predators, while use humans are the monkey creatures they sometimes eat. Trust me; I saw it on the Discovery Channel.

<sup>2</sup> In that they seem nice and helpful, and like to be fed small scraps of fish, but occasionally will reach out and swipe you with their "claws" in the form of a large zero on the top of your quiz. Also, both cats and phys TAs can be trained to use a litter box.

<sup>3</sup> Cholesterol is the number one killer in the United States, and horse meat is very rich in it.

<sup>4</sup> In essence, Cats Rock. You shouldn't be reading footnotes if you don't want to see bad puns.

## The California Tech

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## Jews Have Magical Powers

BY: JOSHUA GUTMAN

I have news for all you readers out there. All Jews have magical powers. You might not believe my claim and you might cite the fact that you have never seen Jews use their magical powers... or so you think.

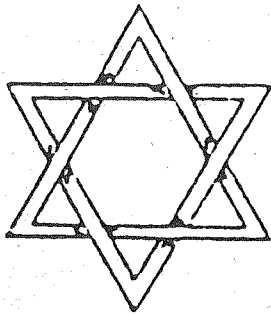
So first I should give you a little background on the source of the powers and the reason why until now I have chosen not to share this secret with you. As was revealed in a recent episode of South Park, all Jews carry bags of gold around their neck.

Among those in the Jewish community we were in awe as we thought our secret had been well kept and that even if anybody found out about our bags of Jew gold none of them would be brave enough to reveal the secret.

This gold is celebrated during our holiday of Chanukah with chocolate coins known in the Jewish community as gelt. Children are taught to interact with this gelt so they will be properly prepared for the real Jew gold they will receive on their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. To help prevent a repeated mass-revolt against the Jews we have tried to keep as much doubt as possible in regards to these powers as revealing them often leads to violent deaths.

You might think I'm trying to make absolutely ridiculous claims without any evidence, but there are quite a few historical examples of some serious miracles brought on by Jews throughout history.

The ten plagues were brought



on by Moses, a Jew. The parting of the Red Sea was also a miracle of Moses, a Jew. Then we have the miracle that spawned the holiday known as Chanukah where we used one day's worth of oil to make it last eight days.

Of course the most famous miracles were performed by Jesus, a Jew. His healing powers I debunk as a miracle, with the number of Jewish doctors out there, one Jewish doctor just doesn't seem that special.

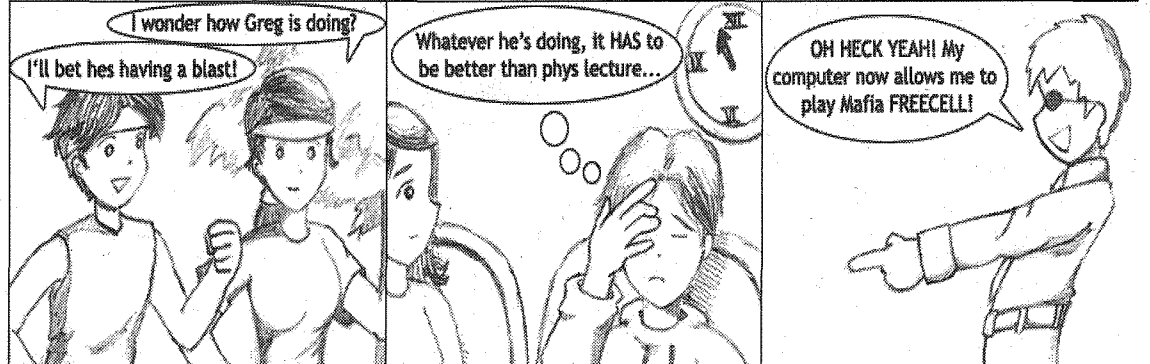
He turned water into wine giving birth to the ultimate Jew wine: Manischewitz. Jesus was a tricky one; he was what you would call a practical joker Jew.

But, as always seems to happen when Jews overuse their powers, Jesus' pranks got out of hand and then he tried to pass it off as a word from God. This cause Jesus to be greatly hated and killed (goddamn anti-Semitism).

So what have we learned so far?

1. All Jews have magical powers.
2. Jesus is a practical joker.
3. Christians worship a perfectly average Jew.
4. We used the oil. Do this with gas => 240 mpg cars.

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



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

By Nathan Lau

The Aristocrat



Editor's Note:

Last week's *Goofus and Gallant* comic was not credited with its authors, who are Iliya Zilberter, Marena Lin, and Eric Stansifer.

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