

Prefrosh Enjoy Caltech's Fun Side in Shortened Weekend

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS

Despite concerns over a shortened prefrosh weekend, prefrosh said that the length of the weekend wasn't a big factor in their decision to come to Caltech. However, most said they would have enjoyed an extra day to meet students rather than being booted on Saturday morning.

"I thought the length of the weekend was sufficient because I had my mind made up before I came. I knew what I was looking for," said Brandon Hensley of Ona, West Virginia, who will be attending Caltech in the fall. "If I were deciding between two schools, I would have needed more time."

Even prefrosh who had decided on other schools said they enjoyed the weekend, short as it was.

"I liked meeting all of the students, and hanging out in the houses," said Caroline Morley, who decided on MIT. "But I came from New Hampshire, which is a seven hour plane ride. I would have preferred if the weekend

were longer."

"It was awesome as it was--a lot of fun. I wouldn't change anything," said Sara Maata of Manhattan, KS, who will be sending her acceptance card to Stanford this week. "Just having nothing to do but hang out with the students made it amazing. If anything, I would make it less structured."

The same students also agreed that there was nothing prefrosh weekend could have done to convince them to Caltech, short of changing the school itself.

"I mean, if you made the campus larger and added lots of humanities classes, I'd want to come more. But that wouldn't be Caltech, and I wouldn't want them to do that," said Maata.

"I'm probably going to end up at MIT because I can see myself at a bigger school with more people, especially when I don't know what I want to do with my future. There were a lot more things to do at MIT's preview weekend, lots of activities to choose from, and lots of parties. I don't know whether it's a difference in the prefrosh weekend or a difference

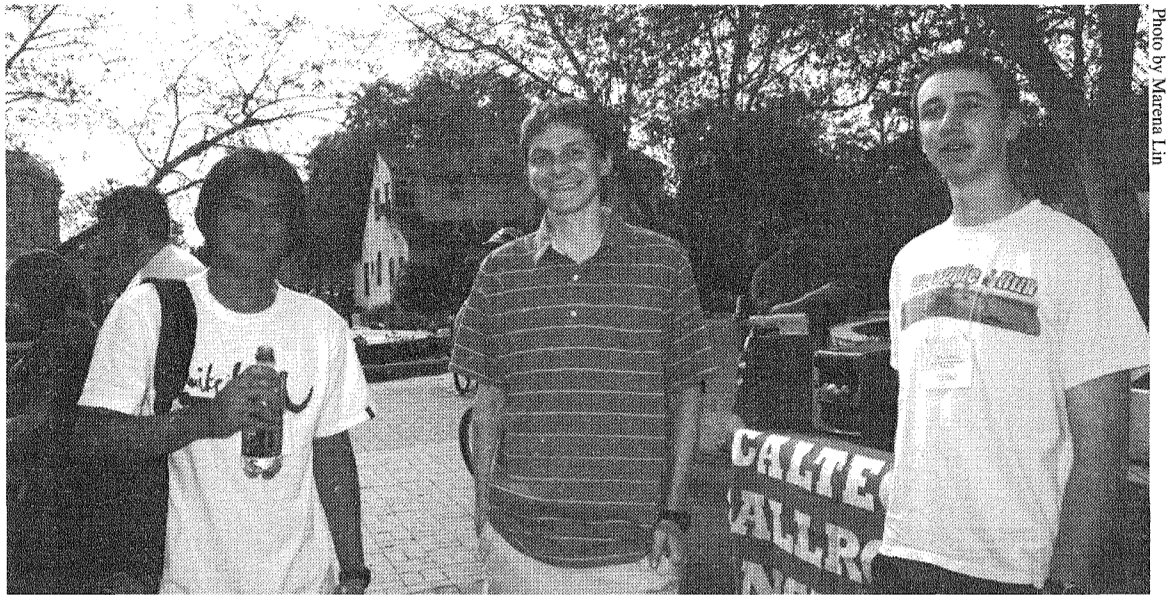


Photo by Mariana Lim

These Prefrosh were all smiles while visiting more than 40 clubs featured at the club fair on Friday.

in the schools," said Morley.

"The reason I'm choosing UPenn over Caltech is for academics, for their business program," said Andy Cao of Culver City, Ca. I think prefrosh weekend for someone looking for math and science would definitely love Caltech, because it gives

you the inside view. It's good, but academically I chose another school."

Several prefrosh were surprised to learn that the weekend typically extends to Sunday morning.

"I remember that someone told me that they shortened it, but I thought two days was enough,"

said Cao. "Though three days would have definitely been better."

"I thought two days was good for me. I was really tired Saturday morning. Getting four hours of sleep per night really drained me," said Maata.

Fleming's Cannon Returned

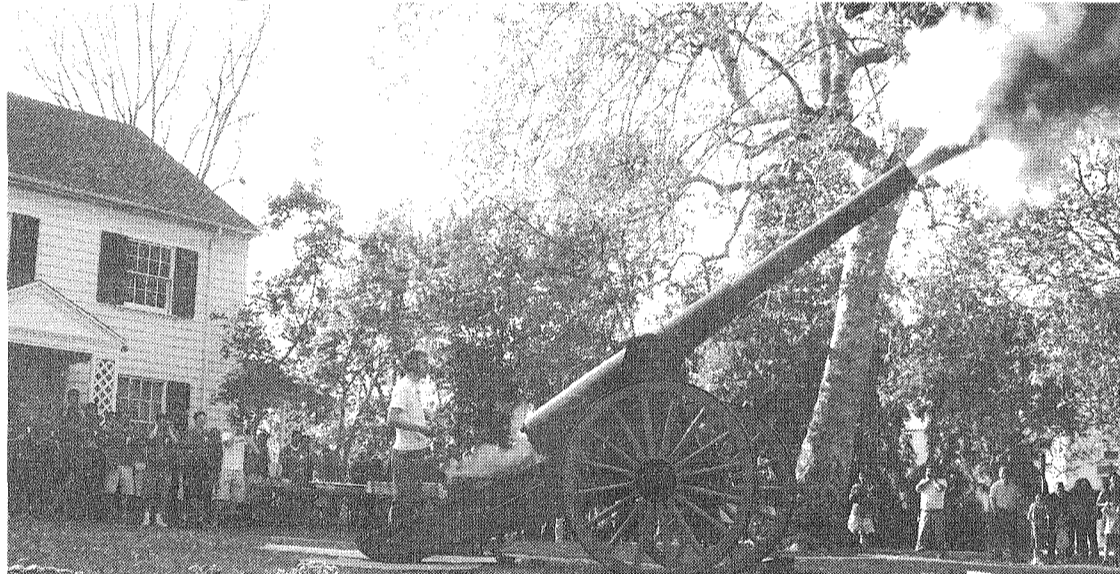


Photo by Tatyana Shilova

The Flems fired their cannon in MIT's direction to celebrate the safe return.

Student Leaders Recognized



Photo courtesy of Malina Chang

These students were awarded for their dedication to serving Caltech. Full story on Page 2.

President Baltimore Featured in *Frontline*

COURTESY OF PBS

On the 25th anniversary of the first diagnosed cases of AIDS, FRONTLINE presents the definitive chronicle of one of the worst pandemics the world has ever known in *The Age of AIDS*, airing Tuesday and Wednesday, May 30 and 31, 2006, from 9 to 11 P.M. ET on PBS (check local listings). After a quarter century of political denial and social stigma, of stunning scientific breakthroughs, bitter policy battles, and inadequate prevention campaigns, HIV/AIDS continues to spread rapidly throughout much of the world, particularly in developing nations. Over 25 years, roughly 70 million people have been infected with the virus and 22 million have already died of AIDS.

"It's a very human virus, a very human epidemic. It touches right to the heart of our existence," says Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS. "When you think of it, that in let's say 25 years, about 70 million people have become infected with this virus, probably coming from one [transmission] ... it's mind blowing."

And the crisis continues: over the next decade, an estimated 50 million more people will contract HIV. "We cannot continue just to treat patients as they become infected," says Dr. David Ho, AIDS researcher and Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year for his work on the life-prolonging "triple cocktail" treatment for HIV. "The

real solution to this epidemic is to curtail the spread of the virus."

Why humanity has failed to stop the spread of HIV is the central question of *The Age of AIDS*. Over four hours, the series examines one of the most important scientific and political stories of our time: the story of a mysterious agent that invaded the human species and exploited its frailties and compulsions--sexual desire and drug addiction, bigotry and greed, political indifference and bureaucratic inertia--to spread itself across the globe.

Filmed around the world in 15 countries, *The Age of AIDS* features interviews with major players in the battle against HIV/AIDS: scientists, including James Curran of the Centers for Disease Control, Anthony Fauci of the National Institute for Allergic and Infectious Diseases, and Dr. Helene Gayle of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; political figures, including former President Bill Clinton, U2 front man and AIDS activist Bono, and evangelist Franklin Graham; and innovative activists, including Cleve Jones, creator of the AIDS quilt; Noerine Kaleeba, founder of Africa's first AIDS support organization; and Mechai Viravaidya, "the condom king" of Thailand.

Part One of *The Age of AIDS*, "Out of Africa," unravels the medical and scientific mystery that emerged in 1981 when five gay men in Los Angeles were diagnosed with a new disease. The

Continued on page 3

Thanks to everyone for taking our survey. Results with article will be published next week.

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An email was sent yesterday announcing President Baltimore as commencement speaker. More info next week.

Students Awarded for Leadership and Community Service

BY: MALINA CHANG

The Dean and Associate Dean of Students hosted a lunch at the Athenaeum on April 20 to honor and recognize this year's winners of the leadership awards.

Frederic W. Hinrichs, Jr. Memorial Award

Kim Popenorf '06 is the winner of the 2006 Hinrichs Memorial Award. This award is given in memory of Frederic W. Hinrichs, Jr., who served for more than 20 years as Dean and professor at the Institute. The award bearing his name is made annually to the senior who throughout his or her undergraduate years has made the greatest contributions to the student body and whose qualities of character, leadership, and responsibility have been outstanding.

Kim was selected because of her exceptionally capable leadership and service to her fellow students during her time at Caltech. In particular, she has made a positive difference to the campus community in her role as IHC Chair and Senior Class Co-

President. Kim will receive the Frederic W. Hinrichs, Jr. Memorial Award at commencement on June 9, 2006.

Mabel Beckman Prize

Corinna Zygourakis '06 has won the 2006 Mabel Beckman Prize. This award is given in memory of Mrs. Beckman's many years of commitment to Caltech's educational and research programs. This award is for academic excellence and outstanding leadership skills, a commitment to personal excellence, good character, and a strong interest in the Caltech community.

Corinna was selected for the qualities of outstanding leadership and service that she has shown her four years at Caltech. Her contributions as a founding member of the Caltech Pre-Med Association, the Chair of the Biology Undergraduate Student Advisory Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors of ASCIT are particularly admirable.

Corinna will be honored with the Mabel Beckman Prize at commencement on June 9, 2006.

Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen Memorial Award

Dmitriy Kernasovskiy '06 is this year's winner of the Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen Memorial Award. This prize is given in memory of Bibi Jentoft-Nilsen, Caltech '89, an exceptional student leader. After her untimely death in 1990, a fund was established to recognize outstanding student leaders. Dmitriy is being recognized for his dedication to enhancing the quality of student life at Caltech. His most significant contribution to the community has been while serving as this past year's ASCIT Social Director. During his term he introduced the community to more social events and opportunities than it had seen in a long time, most notably bringing the rock band Jimmy Eat World to campus for a concert.

Doris Everhart Service Award

Eva Murdock '06 is this year's winner of the Doris Everhart Service Award. This award is given annually to an undergraduate who has actively supported and will-

ingly worked for organizations that enrich student life, and the campus or community as a whole, and who has, exhibited care and concern for the welfare of students on a personal basis. Eva has been actively involved with the Caltech Y as the treasurer and the President of the Student Executive Committee. She has led many community service trips, including Make a Difference Day and alternative spring break to Owens Valley. As the President of the Y Executive Committee, Eva was responsible for coordinating all the volunteers, motivating the student members and fundraising. In addition, her work with the community has been commendable. Her concern and sensitivity to others and her desire to improve the quality of life on campus has made a positive difference for the Caltech community.

Deans' Cup and Campus Life and Master's Award

Deans' Cup and Campus Life and Master's Award are presented to undergraduates whose concern for their fellow students has been

demonstrated by persistent efforts to improve the quality of undergraduate life and by effective communication with members of the faculty and administration.

John Howard '06, Jeremy Leibs '06 and Michelle Wyatt '06 received the 2006 Deans' Cup. Angelina Crans '06, Mary Ollenburger '06, Peter Foley '06 and Tim Tirrell '06 were awarded the Campus Life and Master's Award.

The Lucy Guernsey Service Award

The Lucy Guernsey Service Award was established by the Caltech Y ExComm in honor of Lucy Guernsey, the Y's Executive Director from 1989-1991. The award is given annually to one or two students who have provided exceptional service to the Y and/or the community and exemplify a spirit of service.

Radhika Gowarikar, a fifth year graduate student, and Kai Shen, a fourth year graduate student, were awarded the Lucy Guernsey Service Award.

Caltech Jazz Festival



Photo by Bob Paz

Bill Watrous, renowned jazz trombonist, accompanies vocalist Kjerstin Williams and the Monday Jazz Band in the song "Caravan". William Bing conducts in the background.

Announcements

Help with Writing

The Hixon Writing Center offers free and confidential writing conferences with an English instructor or peer writing tutor. Consultants provide useful feedback at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming and drafting to editing and revising. We can also help with writer's

block or second-language issues. A writing consultation can benefit writers at all levels of ability. Walk-in hours: Sunday-Thursday, 4:30-6 PM and 8:30-10 PM in 15 Dabney Hall (downstairs). For more information: <http://writing.caltech.edu>.

ASCIT Board of Directors Minutes from the Side Room of Chandler

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Present - Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Jonathan Senn, Chris Watson, Vickie Pon, Csilla Felsen, Chris Gonzales, Nathan Donnellan, RJ Krom, Craig Montuori
Guests: Chris Klein, Angela Chan, Kristina Barkume, Anton Shuster

1. Dance Troupe Funding
* Kristina presented a budget proposal for ASCIT club funding for the Dance Troupe to help with all their event planning and club organization.

2. Big T
* Angela reported back to the BoD that all 8 of the Houses' historians like the idea of having 1 color cover sheet for each house + 10 black and white pages for each House. Can't wait to see it when

it's done!

3. Coffeehouse
* Anton came to inquire about the funding for a Coffeehouse party. The BoD told him that there was already \$400 budgeted for it in the ASCIT 2006-07 budget. Anton and the Coffeehouse staff is working with Gonzo and the Soc Team as well as Tom Mannion on this party. Prospective party may be in early May.

4. ASCIT Staff Awards
* Chris W. is looking into the winners from the past couple years. More about this next week.

5. Club Funding Final Approval
* The BoD voted for the final approval of the amounts of funding for each club who presented their budget proposal within the past couple weeks: Vote approved (8Y/0N/1A).

6. Midnight Donuts
* Midnight donuts for undergrads

The Outside World

BY: JOSEPHINE SUH

Authorities Crack Down on Illegal Immigrants

More than a thousand illegal immigrants working for IFCO Systems North America Inc., a manufacturing company, were arrested by custom officials this week. Seven of their managers were also charged. This crack-down came as the Department of Homeland Security announced a plan to bolster investigation of employers who hire undocumented immigrants. In the Senate, a bill that calls for tighter border security has yet to pass.

Tension in East Asia

Rejecting a warning from Seoul, Tokyo announced it would execute a coast guard survey around Dokdo, a Korean island that the Japanese claim to be theirs. Seoul responded by dispatching 20 patrol ships to the island and suggesting that it would take military action if necessary. In diplomatic meetings that followed after, Japan agreed to "postpone" its survey until June, and Korea, to propose Korean names to underwater

areas near Dokdo at an "appropriate time", to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

Lacrosse Players at Duke

Two members of Duke's lacrosse team were officially arrested under charges of rape and subsequently suspended from their school. Some in the team are looking for transfer options, according to USA Today. "It used to be you'd say, 'I play lacrosse at Duke,' and there was a double wow. You went to Duke. And you played lacrosse there. Now there's a different kind of wow."

Hu's Visit Not So Smooth

Several things went wrong during Chinese president Hu Jintao's first visit to the United States. First a protester from the Falun Gong, a prohibited organization in China, managed to heckle him on the front lawn of White House. Then the announcer at the event introduced China's national anthem as that of "Republic of China," the official name for Taiwan. Bush and Hu still managed to exchange blandly upbeat remarks on U.S.-China cooperation.



Generals Request that Rumsfeld Resign

Retired generals called for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, claiming he failed to make proper decisions in the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Many of them served as commanders in the war. Rumsfeld defended himself, "Out of thousands and thousands of admirals and generals, if every time two or three people disagreed we changed the secretary of defense of the United States, it would be like a merry-go-round."

Revolution in Nepal!

Parties opposed to the king are holding massive demonstrations in Nepal. King Gyanendra sacked the Nepalese government and took control in 2005, citing its failure to make peace with Maoist rebels, who have been carrying out a guerilla war with the goal of establishing a communist state. The King appeared on TV to say he would "return power to the people," but the demonstrations aren't likely to go away soon.

Sources: The Associated Press, BBC, The Boston Globe, CNN, The Hankyoreh, The New York Times.

and PREFROSH this Thursday, April 20, 2006. Todd and RJ will get donuts. Nate will organize the set up. Chris G. will get milk, OJ, and cups.

7. Excomm
* Todd presented the list of people who signed up to be on the Excomm for the BoD to appoint. The following people were suggested: Nick Hutzler, Parvathy Menon, Susan Shen, Michael Forte, Kelly Lin, Juan Benitez, and Todd Gingrich. A vote was taken to appoint these 7 people to the Excomm: Vote approved (8Y/0N/1A).

8. Committees
* Over the weekend, the BoD interviewed people who signed up for the following committees: Institute Art, Institute Programs, Housner Fund, and Moore Hufst-edler Fund. Nate reported that all appointed people are now in touch with their committees. The term for all the committees except the

Housner Fund start in September (Housner starts earlier).

* Nate emphasized to the committee members that if they want information or want to communicate to the undergrads, then the BoD can help them do all of this and more.

* Csilla reported that all of the ARC committees are taken care of as well. She plans to have introductory information for each of the appointees to help them get started, and there will be reports from each of the ARC committees posted online.

9. ASCIT Formal
* ASCIT Formal will be at the Portofino Hotel on Redondo Beach on May 27th!!! Chris G. will make the down payment for the reservation soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Pon
ASCIT Secretary

The California Tech

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Finance Minutes

Where da Money At?

BY: SARA PEEK

This term, Vice President for Business and Finance Dean Currie is holding a not-for-credit seminar on Institute financial structure and policies. Hopefully, given more information on Caltech's finances, we the undergraduates will gain a better understanding of the reasons for the Institute's financial decisions that directly and indirectly affect undergraduates. This article covers the first meeting of the seminar, addressing the budget of Caltech as a whole.

General

Most of Caltech's budget is derived from donations and grants. Another significant fraction (16%) of Tech's yearly operating budget comes from the endowment. Only a small percentage of revenues are derived from tuition.

Tuition revenues are unrestricted, and can be used as Tech wishes, while only about half the endowment is unrestricted. Likewise, most grants are for use on specific research, while donations are handled according to the donor's wishes; for example, about half of Gordon Moore's recent large gift was unrestricted.

Tuition

Total undergraduate tuition at a small university is small compared to costs, and becomes a greater factor as number of students increases. With Caltech's small undergraduate program, tuition revenues account for a relatively small fraction of the total budget, even compared to similarly selective schools (MIT, Harvard, etc.).

The nominal cost of tuition is market-driven. Caltech's total cost of attendance is kept in the same range as similar schools. Though "cost of attendance" for a student may be a given amount, tuition revenues cannot be calculated by multiplying total tuition by number of students. A large fraction of tuition is paid by financial aid, which is derived from Caltech's endowment (many alumni specifically endow financial aid or scholarships) and paid back to Caltech.

Little or no revenue is derived directly from grad students; almost all of them are on grants which cover some tuition. This is atypical of most universities, as they typically have a law, medical, or business school that brings in more income.

Auxiliaries

Auxiliaries, which is composed of food services, parking, the bookstore, housing, etc., has lost money for the past few years. While a small university would not typically make a profit from its Auxiliaries, Currie believes that academics should not subsidize services.

From a student perspective, the changes in the Auxiliary budget are often described as "increasing prices and cutting services." While this statement is strictly true, from Caltech's perspective, losing money to provide these services is not a position tenable in the long-term.

Parking fees were the first step in moving toward the Auxiliary breaking even. Though parking was free until this year, the lots and parking structures still required monetary input from Caltech for maintenance and expansion. There was a large market response to the fees; while some reduction in cars parked on campus was expected, the level of the response surprised Currie. However, the revenues still increased (considering they were nonexistent before).

Research

Overall, Caltech recovers 85 to 95 cents on the dollar for research from grants and other allocated money; the rest must come from the general budget.

Subsidies help defray some research costs. For example, utility bills are often much higher in research buildings. The government returns money on utilities that are directly attributable to research (computed based on campus square footage dedicated to research). The government pays about 40% of Caltech's utility bills.

While the government sponsors research at Caltech through grants and subsidies, Tech is allowed to patent any resulting technologies (the government gets free use of the technology). Currently, Caltech makes somewhat more from royalties than it spends patenting research results and running the technology transfer office.

Every once in a while, a company goes public, and Caltech receives significant revenue. These sources of income will probably increase, as the gap between research and products grows smaller; Caltech is good at turning ideas into companies. Approximately 20% of Caltech faculty have started companies. This is a significant potential source of future income.

"While a small university would not typically make a profit from its Auxiliaries, Currie believes that academics should not subsidize services."

Explaining the Fight Against AIDS

Continued from page 1

film documents the frantic search by American and European scientists and epidemiologists to find the source of the deadly infection as they tracked its spread among gay men, intravenous drug users, and hemophiliacs, and then into the general population. The trail led them back in time, from major American and European cities, to Haiti, and finally to the Congo.

"It has become incontrovertible," says virologist George Shaw, "that the HIV-1 virus that currently infects over 60 million humans arose as a consequence of a single transmission event from a single chimpanzee in West Central Africa to one human."

Part Two, "Missed Opportunities," focuses on the fear, stigma and political controversies during the Reagan administration generated by attempts to prevent the spread of the disease, which was most prevalent among gay men and intravenous drug users at the time. As the film tracks the devastating spread of HIV around the world, it documents how some countries-in Europe, Africa and Asia-found tools to slow its progress, including needle exchange programs and massive condom distribution campaigns.

"Without question, politics has been one of the driving forces in the spread of this disease," says Merv Silverman, former president of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. "AIDS is the most political disease I've ever seen."

Part Three, "Two Worlds," explores the chasm that emerged between rich and poor following the development of the miraculous "triple cocktail" HIV treatment. In the mid-1990s, when doctors discovered the cocktail, it seemed to signal a new era in which AIDS was no longer a fatal disease. But the high price of the drugs meant they were unaffordable to patients in developing nations. The Age of AIDS tracks the political struggle to lower those prices, in countries like Brazil, and documents the South African government's tragic failure to battle the epidemic that was overwhelming

their country.

"This is a movement and a government that fought for the equality of black people," says South African activist Zachie Achmat. "To find out that the movement does not care about the lives of poor people and the lives of black people and is prepared to consign us to the graveyard, was actually quite shocking."

The final episode of The Age of AIDS, "The Next Wave," examines the explosion of HIV infection in some of the most populous and strategically important nations in the world, including Russia, India and China, and tracks the same pattern of official denial and political indifference that characterized the epidemic in so many other countries. The film also explores the political struggle to finance AIDS prevention and treatment in the developing world, between the UN-backed Global Fund and the Bush administration's AIDS initiative, which was heavily influenced by the president's evangelical Christian political supporters.

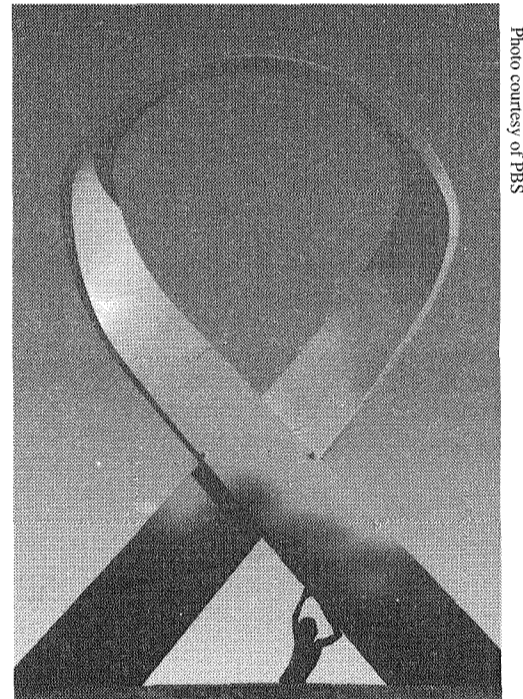
Twenty-five years after the first cases were diagnosed, a scientific solution to the AIDS pandemic remains elusive. Despite billions of dollars being poured into research, most scientists believe a breakthrough on an effective vaccine against HIV is years, perhaps decades away. "Even if we come up with a cure or vaccine tomorrow, just think about the time that would be needed to implement all these measures widely throughout the world," says David Ho, who was a young medical resident in Los Angeles in 1981 when he saw his first AIDS patient. "So to me it's clear that I'm not going to see the end of this epidemic. And it's also pretty clear that my children won't see the end of

this epidemic."

"The story of this pandemic shows how AIDS is a lens that reveals the flaws in the social fabric of every country it enters," says Renata Simone, reporter and writer for The Age of AIDS. "AIDS always was a preventable pandemic. And it still is-the lessons for the future are here in the history."

FRONTLINE is produced by WGBH Boston and is broadcast nationwide on PBS. Additional funding for The Age of AIDS is provided by the Esmond V. Harmsworth Charitable Foundation, the B.W. Bastian Foundation, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Funding for FRONTLINE is provided by the Park Foundation and through the support of PBS viewers. FRONTLINE is closed-captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers and described for people who are blind or visually impaired by the Media Access Group at WGBH. FRONTLINE is a registered trademark of WGBH Educational Foundation.

Watch this show: May 30 & 31, 2006, from 9 to 11 p.m. ET on PBS



The Aids Ribbon

Photo courtesy of PBS

HOUSING OFFICE CORNER

**Undergraduate Fall Housing Lottery Information
Important Dates to Remember**

Tuesday April 4	5:00 p.m. Cards must be returned to the Housing Office
Friday April 7	Housing Office posts Lottery Numbers for Unaffiliated room picks
Thursday April 13	1:30 p.m. Marks Early Lottery (Housing Office - Center for Student Services)
Monday April 24	Seven Houses room pick results and Avery early lottery results are due to the Housing Office
Friday April 28	Re-post lottery numbers for unaffiliated room picks
Thursday May 4	1:30 p.m. Unaffiliated Lottery (Housing Office - Center for Student Services)
Friday May 26	5:00 p.m. Contracts due to Housing Office.

If you have questions please contact us or stop by our office.

Housing Office
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Ext. 6176 / Email: housing@caltech.edu
<http://housing.caltech.edu/undergrad/>

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Coming out at Caltech

BY: Katie S. Polsky, Ph.D.

This is the third in a series of four articles committed to showcasing LGBTQ issues at Caltech during the month of GAYpril.

College is a time when students come to know themselves better and further develop their personal identity. This identity entails such varied areas as a refined sense of one's likes and dislikes, political identifications, career interests, and sexual identity. For many students, the process of establishing one's sexual identity unfolds without significant conflict or social stigma – but for many gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) students, this process can be more difficult for a number of reasons.

One such factor is the assumption of heterosexuality as the global norm. In fact, you the reader are bound (by practice) to make some assumptions: that a) this is the writing of a heterosexual and b) hopefully less likely these days that this is the writing of a male. From the time a child is born he or she is assumed to be heterosexual until proven otherwise (innocent until proven guilty so to speak). If you are a heterosexual individual, ask yourself this question: when did you first know that you were heterosexual? Have you ever thought about how you came to be attracted to someone of the opposite sex? It is quite likely that you have never asked yourself these questions. If you have had reason to think about this issue, then you are a rare minority because heterosexual development is assumed to be the natural state of affairs.

Coming to terms with your sexuality is not an easy task, especially if there is stigma attached to your preference of a sexual partner. So how does a non-heterosexual student start the process of feeling more comfortable with his or her GLB identity? This process is called "coming out." Coming out is not

a single event; it is an ongoing process of self-acceptance. Furthermore, there is no textbook format as to the best way to come out. This is a deeply personal process that an individual goes through. Generally, a GLB individual becomes aware of his or her attraction to, or deeper connection to, someone of the same sex. Sometimes people date first to develop this awareness or they just instinctively know that they do not want to partner with (or exclusively) someone of the opposite sex.

Once a person has a clearer idea that they are interested in someone of the same sex, what happens next? This particular part can be very challenging. Many individuals go through a process of denial in which they have difficulty believing that they could possibly be interested in someone of the same sex, particularly if this has never been viewed as a viable option. For example, if the person is deeply religious or comes from a family that does not understand, nor has been exposed to someone who is not heterosexual, then internal struggle and conflict may ensue. A person may grapple with this process for quite awhile. However, once someone has worked through this process and has come to find peace and self-acceptance, life can be much more enjoyable. In fact, research has shown that those who live truly authentic lives are much more happy, productive, and successful individuals.

Next, many individuals want to share this part of their identity with those closest to them. We all want those whom we care for and love to understand, support, and accept us for who we are. Therefore, another part of the coming out process is sharing your identity (or talking about these issues) with those you care about. This part of the coming out process can be particularly difficult depending on where you are in your life and

Closer Than You Think

BY: CATHERINE JURCA

I thought I would take the opportunity to confirm the truth of the rumor about the California traffic light prank because my father (Joe Jurca, class of 1959) was actually one of the perpetrators.

He and a few pals switched the red and green lenses with the idea of giving students rather easier access to the gym. In the morning they watched the cars pile up as they headed west on California Blvd. Someone from the city came to fix the light; according to my dad, who observed from a safe distance with his friends, the man thought something was wrong with the timing, and only after some head scratching and experimentation did he finally figure out that the problem was simply that the lenses had been switched.

whom you are closest to. Caltech students are in close proximity to other students, faculty, and staff. Therefore, the institute environment is crucial when thinking about coming out. For example, common questions students may ask themselves during this process are: Am I physically and psychologically safe if I do come out? Will people accept me? Will my friends abandon me? What will my roommate think? What will people in my House think? Will my professors be biased against me?

Where can a student turn to receive support for this internal struggle? There are various resources available so that people do not have to go through this alone. One such resource is the Caltech Counseling Center where staff are trained to deal with issues of sexual identity and the coming out process. Students can also participate in a support group and sort through the fears and questions with others who have either been there or are currently going through a similar experience. This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month in the Health Center conference room. For more information about the group, or to schedule an appointment with the Counseling Center, call x 8331. Counseling Center staff also work with the RAs to help them reach out to students in need of someone to talk to. Other resources on campus include the Health Educator x 2961, or the Women's Center x 3221. Students have found these centers helpful because they are perceived as a less formal arena to gain support and have questions answered. Also, the Center for Student Services has a LGBTQ Lending Library on the second level in the lobby between the International Student, Minority Student, and Women's Center. Students can get information for themselves or to learn more about how to help a friend or family member with coming out. Furthermore, for a supportive environment away from the Caltech community there is the LA Gay & Lesbian Center (LAGLC) in Hollywood. For information on any of the center's services, go to www.laglc.org.

Pranks o'the Week

Bites the Dust

BY: BRIAN HANLEY

Of objects listed as non-RF-able, Fleming House can, by far, lay claim to the most of said objects owned by a single house. The cannon, the Fleming bell, the Fleming shower curtains, and so on. Now for a house with such a sport-styled atmosphere, they certainly don't seem to act very sportsmanly when something of theirs is pranked. I don't know if this is so bad because at the very least it can be looked at as a challenge, but there are just so many things that can be done to the cannon or their bell, I don't know if it is worth it. What follows is the tale of how the Fleming lounge furniture became non-RF-able.

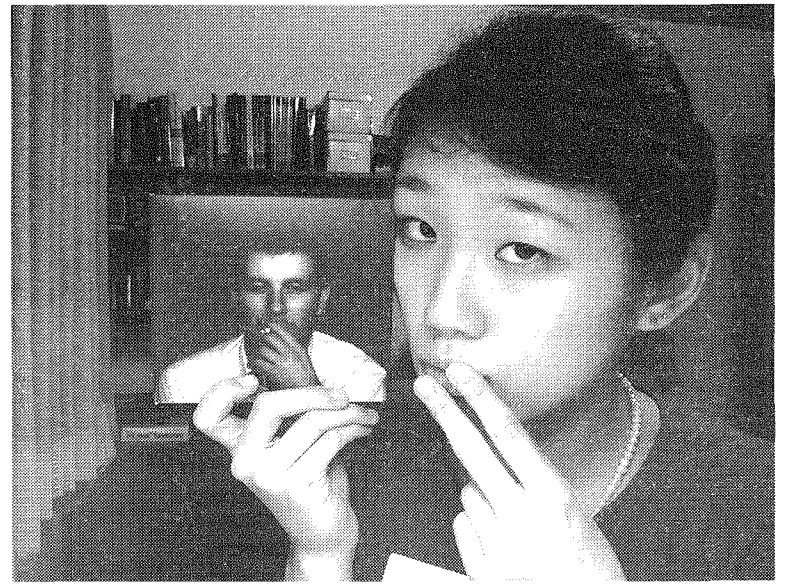
During one of many long nights of freshman sets, a group of freshman approached me with an idea, the liberation of a set of furniture. It wished for freedom from its tormenting masters and we were happy to oblige. A group of people, mostly freshman, but also one of the legends of Caltech, Tyler Drake, was formed to free this

furniture from its injustice.

Under cover of darkness, this group snuck into the Fleming lounge, back in the South Houses, not any of this mod bullshit. Making as little noise as possible, we appropriated chairs, couches, and a table. One piece at a time, the furniture was lifted from the ground up to the bridge between Lloyd and Page to create the Page House Outdoor Lounge. By early morning, the entire set of lounge furniture had been moved and a note had been left. Score one for Page House.

As the sun rose over campus that morning, a few of us relaxed on the furniture proud of what we had done. But a few days later, the administration came around, probably at Fleming's request, and asked that we return the furniture as Pre-frosh weekend was imminent.

We may have had to return the furniture in the end, but we had a great outdoor lounge for at least a few days. Plus one for Page House, minus one for Fleming House.



Monkey See, Monkey Do

BY: CINDY KO

Arctic Monkeys- *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not* (2006, Domino Record Co.)

The Arctic Monkeys have recently become one of the most talked about bands in the industry. In the last few months, they have appeared as the musical guests on various late-night TV shows, most recently on Saturday Night Live. Their single, "I Bet You Look Good On the Dancefloor," is easily breaching the top twenty in the college music circuit. Mmm, I have to say, I had reservations about buying this album because their band name sounded kind of stupid, and so did their album name. (Enh, what can I say? I LOVE to judge things by their outward appearances!) But outward appearances aside, of course I gave them a fair shot; given the Monkeys' newfound popularity, I was curious.

Despite all their hype, the Arctic Monkeys are pretty much the new band you've already heard before. Their music sounds a little like the White Stripes (circa White Blood Cells), and their singer sounds A LOT like the singer from Living End (an Australian one-hit wonder). The Monkeys are like a mini-mix of already-popular bands that 'made it.' From the record-

ing industry's point of view, they're a safe bet because they have the unpolished, garage-band type sound and offer a lot of energy in their songs. I bet "I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor" sounds good on the dancefloor, too. It's a great single from a band breaking onto the scene. On the other hand, they possess very little original character; everything sounds borrowed from another band. I guess it's kind of a catch, or something.

Well, all I can come up with is that I was expecting more, and this album was disappointing. If I were you, I would just download the single and be done with it. The single sounds so much like all the other tracks that it's pretty much like getting the whole album, at least the best part anyway. Save your chump change, kids: there's something better out there, I can feel it.

C

Next week is the long awaited, highly anticipated new Yeah Yeah Yeahs *Show Your Bones*.

GAYpril Events

LGBT & Allies Discussion Group

Tuesday, April 11th
7:30 - 9:30pm
Health and Counseling Center Conference Room

PRISM Coffee Hour

Wednesdays, April 12th & 19th
3:00 - 4:00pm
The Red Door Café

Dinner and a Movie: "Adam and Steve"

Friday, April 14th
6:00 - 11:00pm
Meet at Holliston and San Pascual

Lunch Discussion: LGBT Activism and Advocacy

Monday, April 17th
12:00 - 1:00pm
LGBTQ Lending Library
2nd Floor Center for Student Services

What's the T for?: Discussion of Transgender Issues

Tuesday, April 18th
7:30 - 9:30pm
Health and Counseling Center Conference Room

LGBTQ Graduate Student Social Hour

Thursday, April 20th
7:00 - 8:00pm
The Rathskeller

LGBT Film Series: "Licensed to Kill"

Tuesday, April 25th
7:00 - 9:00pm
LGBTQ Lending Library
2nd Floor of Center for Student Services

Pre-frosh Club Fair

Friday, April 21st
4:00 - 5:30pm
The Moore Walk

National Day of Silence

Wednesday, April 26th
Sign up with your RA or at a PRISM Coffee Hour; or email us. More info at www.dayofsilence.org.

Breaking the Silence Dinner & Rev. Susan Russell to Speak on Same-Sex Marriage

Wednesday, April 26th
6:00 - 8:00pm
Avery Library

Healthy Relationship Series: "Out and About"

Thursday, April 27th
5:30 - 6:30pm
LGBTQ Lending Library
2nd Floor Center for Student Services

Women's Social and Barbecue

Friday, April 28th
5:00 - 8:00pm
E-mail PRISM to learn more.



Any Questions? E-mail PRISM at caltech.pride@gmail.com



To subscribe to our anonymous e-mail lists, please visit rainbow.caltech.edu

Dating 101 (Part B)

BY: COUNSELING CENTER

Finding the right words to strike up a conversation with someone to whom you are attracted can be daunting, especially if you have not had much practice in that area. With the exception of a few people who are social butterflies and for whom dating may come naturally, most of us can benefit from learning and practicing skills that give us a sense of direction during interactions that may otherwise seem directionless and leave us feeling tense.

I would like to note that the skills suggested in this article are expected to be anxiety-provoking and initially quite difficult to implement. Anxiety-provoking tasks tend to have one characteristic in common—the more we engage in the task despite the anxiety we feel, the less anxiety-inducing the task becomes with time. It is therefore very important to practice the skills repeatedly until you notice that you are feeling more comfortable with them. It would be appropriate to first practice the skills with people around whom you feel less anxious and with time approach people around whom you feel a good deal of anxiety.

The first step in becoming successful at the dating game is being comfortable at taking the lead rather than waiting for the other person to start a conversation. When you see the person in whom you are interested, try to engage in eye contact. If the person looks at you in return, smile and head over to introduce yourself. As you approach the person, ask for his/her name (smile again as you are receiving his/her reply) and then share your name. There is a possibility that the two of you already know each other, and in that case you may decide to walk over to say hello (stay mindful of engaging in eye contact and smiling) with a few ice-breakers in mind (see below).

Ice-breakers are a great tool for the beginnings of conversations because they set the stage for a casual talk and help build cohesion between conversational partners. As part of your preparation before the interaction, think of three or four icebreakers to use. If you are concerned that you may forget them, write them down on an index card and carry the index card in your pocket. Before the interaction, review your list. If you forget your lines as you are starting a conversation, excuse yourself, find a secluded place where you can read the list, and then return to the conversation. Ideally, your list of icebreakers will include questions and statement that feel natural to use. In case you are looking for tips, you may consider some of these: "What is your favorite restaurant in Pasadena?" "Do you work in any of the labs on campus?" "What got you interested in research?" "What do you think of the class?" "What do you like to do

on a rainy day?" "What did you do during the last break/holiday?" Alternatively, the icebreaker may be a statement (e.g., "On a sunny day, I like to be outside as much as I can") followed with a related question (e.g., "What do you think of the Southern California weather?").

Once you have started a conversation, your next goal is to think of ways to keep the conversation going a little longer. As you are listening to the answers to your icebreakers, find an opportunity within the answers for follow up questions. This is a nice way to dig deeper and learn more about the other person. While asking questions, keep in mind that there is a distinction between open-ended and close-ended questions. Open-ended questions often lead to more elaborate answers, and they give the other person an opportunity to disclose as much or as little as s/he feels comfortable disclosing. Open ended questions may begin with: "What made you interested in...?" "Tell me about..." "How did you...?" Close-ended questions, on the other hand, often ask for brief answers (e.g. "when did you start working in professor X's lab?," "How much time did you spend on that project?"). Although both types of questions have their place in conversations, using open-ended questions with a higher frequency makes for smoother and more natural conversations.

Keeping your conversation balanced demands that you also reveal something about yourself and your interests. Before you approach the person you like, make a list of your interests and recent activities (the last vacation you took, a book you read recently, or a movie you saw last week). Shortly before the conversation, review your list and elaborate in your mind on a few items that you would especially want the other person to know about you, but try to stay flexible about the information you share, so that during the conversation you have the option of focusing on facts about yourself that suggests that the two of you have similar interests.

Throughout your conversation, pay attention to the body language of your conversational partner. If your conversation seems to have gone well, and you received positive vibes from the other person (smiles, nods, signs of interest in what you had to say, etc.), conclude your conversation with a suggestion that the two of you meet for coffee or dinner sometime soon. Some people feel more comfortable with choosing activities that do not offer as much opportunity for talking (e.g., going to the movies, or a concert, etc.), as they would find a dinner conversation very anxiety-inducing. If the other person is hesitant to commit to seeing you again, offer him/her your email and phone number and suggest that s/he call you, when s/he feels like getting together.

Todd's Paperside Chat

An Update

BY: TODD GINGRICH

I'm finally settled into the job of ASCIT President enough to have a reasonable grasp of what is happening and what has happened with many of the issues students have raised over the last several months. Below I've compiled a brief blurb summarizing what I know about these topics.

Board – Obviously the seven-day board plan was abandoned, but there are still some board-related issues being discussed. Without seven-day board campus auxiliaries needs to realize some profits from some new source. Some of this will be provided by requiring that residents of Marks and Braun be placed on the board plan, but a complete solution has yet to be accepted. Also, the head of dining, Andre Mallie left Caltech after second term. Tom Mannion is currently the interim head of dining and is investigating making several changes that will largely benefit students. He has already drastically cut the cost of formal dinners for off-board students, but he is also investigating several other issues including the Coffeehouse and the C-Store.

Coffeehouse – I am not sure that it was ever well-publicized but there have never been plans for the Coffeehouse to return to the SAC. The long-term plan is and always was for the new Coffeehouse to be located in the new Rosen Campus Center, but it appears that this campus center will not be built for a number of years. Consequently ASCIT, the IHC, and Tom Mannion are investigating finding an alternative location for the Coffeehouse that could be open on weekends and provide more of the intimate environment that was provided by the old Coffeehouse. The proposed solution is to turn the Red Door Café into the Coffeehouse at night. This will require additional cooking equipment for the Red Door Café. An MHF proposal is currently being prepared to cover such costs.

Tuition – Rising tuition costs has always been and will continue to be a problem. I feel that the most onerous part of rising tuition costs is that the student has no control over the costs once he or she decides to attend the school. I have talked with Vice President of Business and Finance Dean Currie about considering the implementation of a tuition lock-in program at Caltech. I will be following up on this in the future and helping the proper departments make some calculations to predict the cost of guaranteeing that tuition could raise no more than inflation for a given class over their four years

of attendance. Please contact me (gingrich@caltech.edu) if you have strong feelings for or against this idea.

Health Care – The quality of the health care plan will not be changing and there will not be major changes for continuing students, but incoming students will have to pay an additional health care fee estimated around \$1800. This fee has always been lumped into the Caltech "tuition," but starting with next year's freshmen their "tuition" will not cover health care. At one point in time there was possibly going to be a way for freshmen to opt out of the campus health care plan if they were still covered by a parent's plan, but it was decided to not offer such an opt-out plan. My understanding is that the main argument against an opt-out plan was that it would cause the health care plans to not be uniform and it would be difficult to ensure that all students had a sufficiently good coverage plan. Also the cost of the plan would undoubtedly increase for those who remained on the plan.

Athletics – Vice President of Student Affairs Margo Marshak has been investigating the Caltech athletics program, but this is a relatively typical investigation. She has been actively seeking undergraduate and graduate student feedback. A recent poll on donut proved very helpful, and the results and comments have been passed on to Vice President Marshak.

Prefrosh Weekend – Because of the timing of the budget cuts there was no way for admissions to offer a three day long Prefrosh Weekend this year, but admissions understood that this was a strong priority for students. The director of admissions, Rick Bishoff, actively worked to make the best of this year's shortened time period and to ensure that Prefrosh Weekend could return to three days in the future. The proposed seven-day board plan was going to lower the costs of weekend food allowing Rick to extend the event through Saturday in the future. For some time after the seven-day board plan was eliminated Rick was not sure that he would be able to return to a three day Prefrosh Weekend in the future, but he has since guaranteed me that he has found a way and plans for Prefrosh Weekend to run from Thursday through Sunday morning in the future.

Movie Library – The ASCIT movie library fell off the face of the earth when everything was moved out of the SAC. The movies have not been made available and I have asked that the Freshman Director at Large, Chris Watson, work to bring the movie

library back to the Coffeehouse. We have had trouble locating a computer to run the checkout system since the old computer is no longer available, but these issues should be sorted out very soon. Expect to see the movie library in a matter of weeks.

Libraries – A few people have asked me why our libraries are not open 24 hours a day. This seems particularly strange since we can access virtually any other building on campus at any time. I am just now beginning to take up this issue but I will soon discuss this with the librarian, Kim Douglass. I assume that the main problem is the cost of staffing the library through the night, but I personally believe that it should be possible to allow library access through the night even without staff. This would not differ from student access to all other buildings, and I firmly believe that with the Honor Code students could be trusted to be in an unstaffed library.

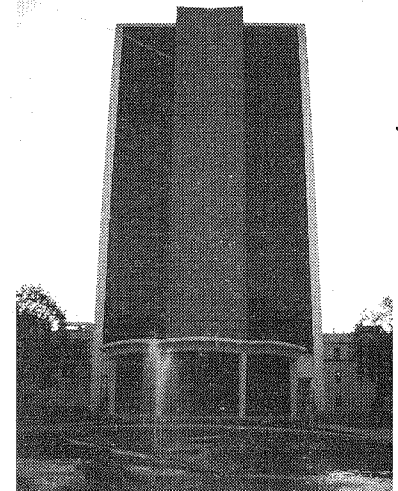


Photo courtesy of Caltech PR

Millikan Library, the tallest building on campus. Closes at 1AM everyday.

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Administrative Round-up B

This week we continue the administrative round-up that began last issue.

The Housing Office, under Senior Director Tim Chang, is officially responsible for the procurement, assignment, and maintenance of housing for the entire community – tenants range from undergraduates to post-docs to faculty and even some staff. As part of this mammoth undertaking, Housing must work closely with other offices both inside and outside of Student Affairs. For example, as Maintenance Coordinator, Tony Valdespino is a member of the Housing department, but the work he coordinates is carried out by employees from Facilities Management, a division of Business and Finance, or by outside contractors. Housing also must communicate closely with Security, Card Services, and Dining.

In addition to its role as landlord to large segments of the community, Housing also coordinates the RA program. Through this avenue, the Housing Office is responsible for a much broader range of student support services, from crisis response to organizing fun activities. Currently, Housing fully subsidizes the ASCIT movie night, as well as a number of other events on campus. "I view my office as a resource for students," said Chang in a recent email interview. "[Even] if we are approached by students for an area that is not our jurisdiction, we do our best to get the student closer to the answer... There really is not much that vstudents approach us about that we feel they cannot."

Academic Support and Planning: Nearly as broad in its scope as Campus Life is the office of Miriam Feldblum, Senior Director of Academic Support and Planning. Her division is responsible for most of the support services students rely on during their time at Tech. The Health Center, Women's Center, and Career Development Center all belong to this division, and it also oversees and supports Caltech's programs for Athletics, Creative & Performing Arts, and Fellowships/Study Abroad.

Enrollment Services: Sharing the southern reaches of the CSS building with the offices of the Deans are the collected offices of Enrollment Services (except for Admissions, which lives across the street in Steele House), under Asst. VP Erica O'Neal. From the Admissions Office that lets you in to the Registrar's Office that makes sure you get out, most of the logistics of a student's path from acceptance to degree are managed by this division. The complexity of this task means that many subdivisions of Enrollment Services work closely with departments outside of Student Affairs. Financial Aid is part of Enrollment Services but the neighboring office of the Bursar is not; Minority Student Education is in the division, but International Student Programs are a department within Human Resources.

Administrating the Administrators: Chief Student Affairs Administrator Stan Borodinsky is responsible for keeping the machinery of this sesquipedalian department running

Who Ya Gonna Call?

(The Caltech Refrigerator Guide to Taking Care of Business)

Housing:

Maintenance: Tony Valdespino, x6175

(afterhours or emergencies, call Central Plant, x6571)

Changes to Common Areas: Tim Chang, x6176

Laundry

Broken Machine: Tony Valdespino, x6175

Card Refunds: Ryan O'Connor, Card Services, x5998

Lockouts: Security, x4701

Lost ID: Ryan O'Connor, Card Services, x5998

Network problems: ITS Helpdesk, x4602

Policy Concerns: Tim Chang, x6176

Academics:

Dean's Office: Barbara Green, x6351

Registrar's Office: Gloria Brewster, x6355

Tutoring Services: see Dean's Office

Social:

Party Registration: Sue Chiaro, x6194

Requesting a bartender: Malina Chang, x6352 (call at least two weeks in advance!)

Help with Pranks: Security, x4701; Tom Mannion, x6174

(give Tom a heads-up, and he just might give you a hand...)

Personal:

Existential Crisis: Counseling Center, x8331

Campus Escort (not that kind!): Security, x4701

Dean's Office: Barbara Green, x6351

Health Center: x6393

Emergency:

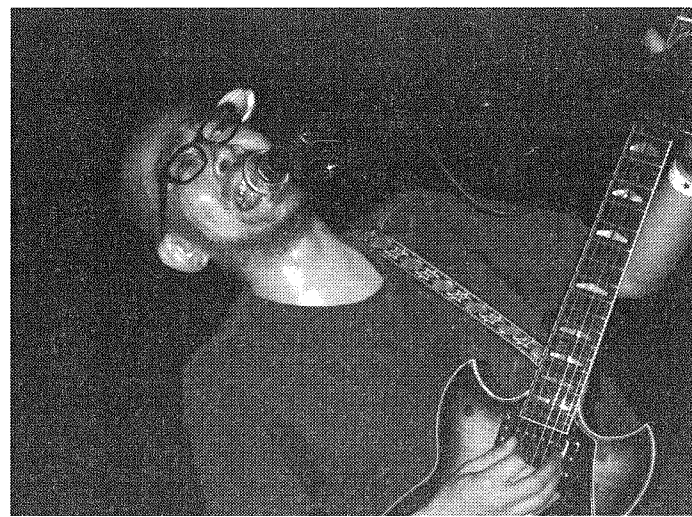
Security, x5000

smoothly. He also supervises the two – yes, only two! -- IT guys in the department, who are responsible for keeping the many Student Affairs computers running and cooperating. If you've read this far, you can well imagine just how many computers that is.

Outside of Student Affairs, most of the other services students interact with on a daily basis are operated by the department of Business and Finance, headed by Dean Currie. Facilities Management, Security & Parking, and Mail Services are all overseen by the office of Campus Planning – if you've ever wondered what goes on in that office directly north of Chandler, wonder no more – and the Bursar's office is a dependent of Financial Services. As we mentioned before, International Student Programs, are also under the Business and Finance department, as part of HR, and IMSS (providers of information services and formerly the separate divisions of ITS and ATC) reports directly to Currie

So with all of these departments intertwining like that week-old bowl of spaghetti on the back of your desk, where should you go if you're having a problem? Strictly speaking, the routing of student concerns is the province of the Dean's Office, and if your concerns are academic or personal, that should probably be your first stop. However, many departments stress that they do not mind students contacting them directly. Check out our Refrigerator Guide for some important names and numbers around campus that you may or may not know.

Javi's Concert Review



Eastern Youth

BY: JAVIER SOLIZ

It was at a Polysics concert in San Francisco that I was recommended a band named Eastern Youth. The guy who mentioned them didn't really seem like the type to like punk music but he sure knew what he was talking about. Eastern Youth came to Hollywood to play in front of a decently sized crowd of devoted fans. They were clearly an act some people drove a long way to see.

Eastern Youth started in 1989 when guitarist/vocalist Hisashi Yoshino and drummer Tamori Atsuya decided to both drop out of high school and follow their dreams of creating music (kick-ass punk music that is). Their first LP was titled *East End Land* and since then, their musical talent has been maturing dramatically. Their latest album *365 Step Blues* is the quintessence of what good Japanese Punk should be and is on my regular play list.

I had never seen this band perform live before Hollywood, so it was interesting to see that faces behind the music. Hiashi's face

in particular would range from a sad-looking puppy face whispering into the mic to a passionate vein-popping screaming face when the music climaxed. Their style of punk is all about the metaphorical build up and climatic rebellious shouts – perhaps reminiscent of their going against the grain of Japanese society and dropping out of high school to play their music.

In the end I was glad I took the advice of a random fan in San Francisco. The Eastern Youth may be a bit older than most groups I watch perform, but they clearly set a bench mark which all other Japanese punk bands should strive to meet. There's nothing extraordinarily technical or complicated in their live performance – just pure emotion, rubbery base lines which interplayed with guitar slick guitar riffs and vocals which really nobody could ignore.

I recommend seeing these guys live, but if you can't make it to a show, purchase their latest album *365 Step Blues*. More on Eastern Youth can be found at www.myspace.com/easteryouth.

Heil CDS

BY: BRIAN HANLEY

Not until In-N-Out Wednesday did I realize the massive conspiracy going on at Caltech. On this day, I was branded with a logo, a "BOARD" logo, showing that without a doubt I am property of the Board program at Caltech.

I don't know how I didn't see it before, I mean I'm Jewish, this is something I should notice. But not until walking around with "BOARD" on my arm did I realize the truth. Caltech is a concentration camp and Caltech Dining Services are Nazis.

We march into our dining areas to eat the slop that we are provided, only to return the grueling work we were doing before meal time once we have finished eating. Some of us smell terrible from not bathing and we must wash our own rags of clothing. Everyday we slave away at our work for

little benefit to ourselves.

I say conspiracy. The requirement that students who live on campus must be a part of the board program has always been suspicious and possibly illegal, but using this requirement to create an army of obedient slaves is unacceptable. What comes next after stamping their logo on our arms? Tracking devices embedded in our skin? Barcodes tattooed on our skulls? They may as well tell me that if I want to wash "BOARD" off of my arm, I should go to those showers over there and not worry if the water doesn't turn on immediately. The SS would be proud.

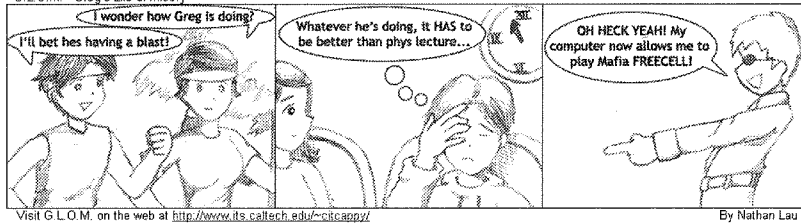
CDS, let me say this, now I know, and I won't let you do this to me. All of you off campus diners have been spared, but now the rest of us know and hopefully, we won't let this injustice continue.



HUMOUR

Comics

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



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

By Nathan Lau

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \delta(x-a) dx = f(a)$$

It's funny 'cause it's true

Tautologies by Lisa Streight

How to Improve The Tech

Real quotes from our survey

"The last thing I want to do is hear about how Brian Hanley or Josh Gutman watch porn. Some things just shouldn't be thought about. Ever."

"Bring back porn reviews in full vulgarity. Without these reviews how am I to plan my weekend? Also, more poison in the drink review section."

"You should probably just have that track guy write the whole thing. It's the only thing worth reading in the first place."

"Add sexual position of the week:
Week 1: the Blumpkin
Week 2: the Cleveland Steamer"

Caltech: An Alum's Perspective

BY: JIALAN WANG

Dear Caltech undergrad,
I graduated from Caltech three years ago, and I've just recently begun to really reflect on the years I spent at Tech and try to make sense of it all. Being at Caltech was by far the most intense experience of my life, and the emotions I experienced ranged from the most exhilarating high to the bitterest despair I can imagine. I'm sure many of you are experiencing these same emotions now, and I'm writing to you as someone who is just past the end of the tunnel to share some of my post-Tech experiences and to tell you some of the things I wish someone had told me when I was an undergrad.

I'm now a grad student at MIT. Although it's still a long way from the real world, it's less ideal than Caltech in many ways. After being immersed in Caltech culture for several years, it can be hard to get used to other types of people, and to me, the biggest difference between Techers and non-Techers is integrity.

Even at other top universities, you cannot assume that your classmate or colleague is trustworthy and reputable. Unlike at Caltech, your peers will often view you as competition instead of as a potential friend or collaborator. They will sometimes do subtle and not-so-subtle things to undermine you. Unfortunately, dealing with dishonest people is a fact of life outside of Caltech, but it's just one more reason to appreciate the people you're around now.

Another big shock is that most people outside of academic science will grossly underestimate you. A startlingly large proportion of my peers at MIT barely know what Caltech is, much less how much more rigorous it is than That Other Institute of Technology. So right out of the gate, Caltech graduates are handicapped by our

lower GPAs and lower prestige than graduates from all other top schools.

Although I was lucky enough to get into grad school by the narrowest of margins, it's been heart-breaking to see friends lose out on jobs and grad school positions to people who were probably not

nearly as talented and passionate. While I think the Institute could do a much better job at promoting Caltech's image to the rest of the world and helping graduates get the positions they deserve, there's also a lot that we as

Caltech students and alumni can do to improve things. In order to get the world to recognize the value of a Caltech degree, we have to start having more pride.

I know that many of you are suffering right now, and pride is the last feeling you associate with Caltech, but you should take a minute to remember that there are benefits to being a Caltech student. Sure, we have to make huge sacrifices of sleep, social life, and sanity, and we miss out on a lot of the drunken good times that college is supposed to be about, but we also gain incredible classmates, opportunities to do exciting research, and the chance to test the limits of our abilities. Even for those of you who are hard-pressed right now to think of anything good related to Caltech, there was still a reason we all chose to stay instead of transferring while we still had pristine transcripts. If we just focus on the bad memories, then we're doing an injustice to all that we sacrifice and also all that we achieve.

To those of you who are about to graduate, I have one piece of advice: be proud of being from

Caltech. Out in the real world, you'll interact with people from all of the other top schools. Like most Caltech alumni, you'll probably feel more hard-working and knowledgeable than most of your non-Tech peers in grad school or at your workplace. But you might also feel embarrassed by your

super-nerdy background and harbor more than a little residual bitterness.

While people from Harvard or Princeton will generally let you know within the first minute of conversation and can take their school pride into the realm of arrogance, Techers tend to have too little pride, and we never let the world know about the many great things Caltech has to offer. Although you shouldn't be too obnoxious about it, don't be afraid to feel like you're better than other people, because you are. If you force yourself to say one nice thing about Caltech to every new person you meet, you might remember more good times than you thought you had.

Finally, for those of you continuing the struggle, all I can say is hang in there. There are great rewards waiting for you in the future, and all of your hard work is going to pay off. While there's nothing wrong with complaining about the stressful environment, don't let bitterness blind you to the good things and prevent you from making the most of your time here. Before you know it, you'll be the one in the cap and gown, and there might be a few things you'll miss.

Jialan Wang
Ricketts Hovse '03
Former ASCIT Social Director,
Tech writer, Caltech Cheerleader

"While there's nothing wrong with complaining about the stressful environment, don't let bitterness blind you to the good things and prevent you from making the most of your time here."

Tech Skills 101

BY: JEFFREY PHILLIPS

In the past few terms Caltech has been adding a number of life-skills classes to the standard curriculum. Classes now teach people how to cook, how to write and present scientific material, as well as various workshops to instill in the bedraggled Techer a sense of manners and social confidence. One area is yet sorely lacking. Techers need a quick and dirty introduction to some basic skills that should be lumped together in Tech Skills 101.

Students come to Tech from wildly disparate scientific backgrounds. Some have presented at and placed in the Intel talent search; I for one had never even heard of the damned competition. Pass-fail for two terms is designed to give frosh a low-stress environment in which to become accustomed to their new, demanding lifestyles. From experience, I have found that this is not enough.

I propose a Tech Skills 101 class. Ever wonder that whiz kid in your math section has homework set solutions that look like they're straight out of Tommy? He's using LaTeX to format his

math all pretty-like, and you could too. But there's no class right now to guide you through the basics of picking up TeX for dummies and creating wonderful documents.

How about Matlab? Or Maple? Wonderful programs that easily divide the Knowing from the Unknown, or in lab prof's minds, the Useful from the Useless. I still feel like a cripple because I can't make pretty three-dimensional charts that I hear are so easy with Mathematica. I learned my TI-89 back when I had time to really learn things - back in high school.

I was shocked yesterday to discover that the Caltech Library System has a mechanism not only for looking up journals and tracing back their precursors but also a forward-looking reference tracker, which will provide a list of papers that refer back to the one in question. I could not have imagined a better way to trace a particular topic forward in time to its latest and greatest breakthroughs. This mystery might have been solved had I gone to the right seminars, asked the right questions, but how was I to know?

The common wisdom is that

Techers will pick up their skills on the fly and learn them better by learning and applying them to real world problems at the same time. This is wrong. This path rewards quick and dirty half-understanding rather than a holistic understanding (a Groking, if you will) of the methods at heart.

Another obvious antithesis is that there are already some seminars in place to address these issues. Single session voluntary workshops simply don't cut it. The skills of which I speak take time, and to a Techer, time spent means units earned. Only from a regimented, united class will pass-fail frosh have the structure necessary to actually get the skills drilled into their heads which will save their asses and make them a more valuable commodity to professors and more effective students for their own benefit. Student teaching and autodidaction are simply not enough; we cannot stand by and let students drop by the wayside simply because their high potential blinds the faculty and the students themselves to their understandable shortcomings.

A Thank You

BY: PO KU

This year has possibly been the worst in my life, and I would personally like to thank all the wonderful people on and off campus who've made that possible. I apologize for not knowing all of your names; most of our interactions never lasted long enough for proper introductions before I was promptly dismissed and forgotten. But I must say, I've learned a lot in the past year, and I would like to impart some of that knowledge to the greater student body in case one day, god forbid, they find themselves in a similar predicament.

I've changed a lot in the past year due to my overly aggressive immune system. My body's extremely touchy (hypersensitive) about certain substances and responds with a combination of rashes (hives) and self-strangulation (an inflammatory response of the upper respiratory tract). Thanks to the increasing frequency and severity of these attacks, I've gotten to go on two field trips to the hospital, and visited various different allergists and pharmacies. It's been one hell of a pill-popping adventure.

I want to thank my allergist for giving up so early on my allergy evaluation. More damage may have been done to me physically and financially (but not mentally) had you not quit searching for the cause. Daily antihistamines, emergency epinephrine, and treatment for my allergic rhinitis (hay fever) are by far easier and I laud you for recognizing that.

I would also like to thank the crazy mental patient at the Huntington Memorial Hospital Emergency Room who made me feel heartily welcome with her soft, yet intense and engaging paranoid prophesy. I feel privileged to have been chosen to be the recipient of such an unusual mixture of psychobabble and death threats. Among other things, I will forever remember her saying, "This is a very special day. You are going to die. Please leave," and then proceeding to stare unabashedly as I walked out of the ER with my small entourage.

Special thanks are in order for two hard working women in the Housing Maintenance Office. I'd been forced out of my cat-infested apartment for health reasons and sought temporary housing before I could arrange a permanent cat-free establishment. Between the two of them, two weeks, and several prodding visits, all I could achieve from a rather simple request was the bottom part of the bed/desk combo sans bed and mattress.

Well, I took a cue from my astute allergist and gave up. Some things just aren't worth it. Pampered Caltech student, though I am, I know my limitations. Through the generosity of my housemates, whom I'd found refuge with before, I was able to stay a vagabond for another week or so (after a month and a half of paying for an apartment I couldn't even walk into anymore that ain't so bad) before finally settling down to trailer life.

Of course, before a room was even ready, Housing did not

hesitate to start charging me. The room I had been assigned had not been cleaned at all and had no bed. Without a bed, I had no interest in moving in, and instead I spent a week on a futon in a friend's room that I was eventually able to switch into, but without any help from Housing. They also put me on board without expressly informing me. Here I'd like to thank the Housing Office, the Bursar's Office and the Card Office/Dining Services for consoling and succeeding at sucking \$550 from me without my immediate notice. You sure know how to make a girl feel good.

A refund was refused on the merit that the board requirement is stated on the Housing contract, which I'd signed almost a year before, and the fact that I asked at the start of third term and the second term books had already closed. The Bursar's Office was kind enough to not send a statement with these new additional charges from mid-February until it was too late and third term had already snuck up. Again, I extol your thoughtfulness and primary concern for the lowliest member of this academic feudal system: the student.

Evidently CDS and its technical manager are very keen on placing students on board but not so keen (meaning will fight tooth and nail) on accepting off-board requests. In short, Caltech will do whatever it can to take as much money as possible, while refusing or withholding services that have already been paid for. Perhaps Caltech should withdraw from the education business and become what it really wants to be, a money-sniffing loan shark.

I'm not bitter, despite everything. I know that I don't have lupus, leukemia, a thyroid disorder, or other autoimmune disease, thanks to one ornery technician at the stat lab, who slowly siphoned off over five vials of blood after trying only four different veins on my arms and hand and a mere five minutes of tactile pain. But it's okay since apparently, I also do not have anemia, which means Tech can keep on sucking my blood at regular intervals. In the end, you're happy, and I'm not. But thank you; you've made me realize that yes, I do have masochistic bounds.

Write for The Tech

If you are interested in working for *The Tech*, feel free to attend our weekly meetings on Fridays from noon to 1PM at the Broad Cafe

If we print your material, we will pay you up to the amounts listed below (at our discretion). Email submissions to tech@caltech.edu.

Maximum Pay

News \$25

Features \$20

Commentary \$20

Photos \$5

Smaller Government and Economic Growth

BY: MICHAEL SALEM

In a previous editorial I questioned the conservative hypothesis that a smaller and more restricted government is more empowering for individuals in society. I argued that for most individuals, increasing personal empowerment is a more complicated objective than simply reclaiming power from government, and it may actually involve strengthening democratic government in order to develop leverage against the modern private institutions of power.

However, modern conservatism often argues from a somewhat tangential ideal. This argument derives from a hypothesis that a smaller and more restricted government provides a superior environment for economic growth and that economic growth is a superlative public good.

It is not obvious or even suggestive to me that a smaller or more restricted government better stimulates economic growth. What the government collects from the U.S. market it spends in the U.S. market (or distributes to others who spend it), so it cannot be argued that government revenue is a reduction in trade. One must instead look at the complicated question of who spends money in a manner more productive for society.

The tax burden is borne pre-

dominantly by the wealthier, who would otherwise spend the money on luxuries or invest it in private stocks and real estate. The government spends money on income distribution that is spent on necessities and invests it by building and maintaining public infrastructure and supporting scientific research.

Contemplating the relative benefits of private and public spending leads naturally into the evaluation of the hypothesis that economic growth is a superlative public good. It is not necessary to emphasize how ingrained this hypothesis is within the modern political discourse: almost every policy proposal is supported or attacked as a stimulus to or constraint on economic growth.

Yet what is the public good of economic growth in the first place? I think most people support economic growth because they view it as a natural means to obtain more stable employment with higher wages, expanded opportunity for career advancement, an improved standard of living - through both higher wages and through technological advancement, and all of the above for their children. Indeed, even these are not direct goods, and I think at a fundamental level what is most desired is financial security and insurance against disaster, greater comfort through improved amenities, and fair opportunity to obtain

the above.

These are all indeed social goods, but one must ask, how are they related to economic growth?

"... the economic growth of the last several decades has brought modest gains for most people... but enormous gains for the wealthiest... Thus, it is possible, given the enormous cost of super-inflated goods such as housing and education, that most people are presently worse off for the economic expansion."

It is true that previous times of economic growth have brought broad improvements in all of these basic goods for society, yet it is also true that other times of economic growth have improved these goods for only a small minority of the population, possibly at the expense of the rest.

For example, the economic growth of the last several decades

has brought modest gains for most people (from 1997 to 2003, a 7% rise in real income for households in the bottom 60%) but enormous gains for the wealthiest (49% rise for the top 20% and a 111% for the top 1%).

The benefits are more imbalanced than the numbers suggest because the wealthier start at a highly elevated base. Thus it is possible, given the enormous cost of super-inflated goods such as housing and education, that most people are presently worse off for the economic expansion.

Adherence to a principle becomes fanatical when it proceeds blind to contemplating its underlying purpose and therefore with contradicting consequences. I think that for many conservatives, the pursuit of a smaller and more restricted government as a means to stimulate economic growth has become fanatical.

For example, an underlying good to economic growth is the perceived increase in financial security. Yet rather than raising taxes with the possible outcome of less economic growth, some Republicans have proposed to privatize social security, directly reducing the financial security of most Americans. Fortunately, most Americans did not fall for this backward logic, though I'm not sure it wasn't for the proposal's other flaws.

Another perceived benefit of

economic growth is improved amenities through anticipated technological advancement. Yet in the name of promoting economic growth through tax cuts, Republicans have proposed to stifle federal investment in science, which more directly supports technological advancement.

Increased opportunity is yet another underlying value of economic growth, yet Republicans have proposed to cut federal education grants, again, ultimately, in the name of economic growth. I think there are similar conflicts with proposed cuts to Medicaid, corporate deregulation, and promoting the globalization of trade.

Indeed, I would guess that among parents, the greatest hope for economic growth is to provide a better life for their children. Yet in defense of economic growth, Republicans are saddling future generations with enormous public debt, delaying to create a society based on sustainable standards of living, and allowing for the steady degradation of the planet. I think there are few specific ends that most people would think warrant any of these irresponsible and destructive policies. Yet in devotion to economic growth and its vague and indirect consequences, many are willing to sacrifice all. This is, in my mind, the epitome of fanaticism.

SPORTS

Women's Water Polo Team Winless This Week

BY: ANNA HISZPANSKI

Last Wednesday, April 19th, the Caltech women's water polo team came away from their away match against Claremont-Mudd-Scipps without a victory. The lady Beavers lost to the Athenas 4-14.

"We had a slow start, but we picked it up in the second half," said Preetha Sinha, co-captain of the women's team.

According to Sinha, the score after the first half was 2-10, and Caltech allowed only four goals in the second.

"Claremont is one of our tougher teams. We expected a good game from them[...]." said co-captain Rebekah Eason. "The game was very physical but fun. We had many opportunities to score."

Junior Chelsea Sharon helped thwart the Athenas efforts to score with four steals.

The lady Beavers applied lessons learned in Wednesday's match to their away game against

California Lutheran University yesterday, April 23rd. Though they lost the match to the Cal Lu Regals 2-12, their play was much improved.

"This game was probably one of our best this season," freshman Katherine Zak said with respect to the team's game against the Regals. "Though the score doesn't reflect it, we played really well."

After the first quarter, the score was 3-1 with Caltech trailing only by two, and in the third quarter, Caltech shut out Cal Lu, according to Zak.

"We played really well on defense," said Zak. "We got a lot of steals."

"We came out playing a really tough game," agreed Sinha. "By the end, everyone just looked pretty tired."

Cal Lu is considered a close competitor to Caltech in women's water polo. Last year the Lady Beavers' lost to the Regals in a close match that ended 7-8.

"For the past couple of years Cal Lu has been really close in rankings with us so we expect[ed] a good game," said Sinha.

The team is looking forward to a strong close to their season with the SCIAC Championships Tournament next weekend, April 28th-30th. The team has won four games this season and would like to add a couple more to their record during the tournament.

"We've been playing together well as a team. It would be nice to finish in seventh or sixth," said Eason of the SCIAC Tournament.

The Lady Beavers will have a tough first game in the tournament as they are set to play against the first ranked Pomona-Pitzer team. The Caltech women, though, are looking for-

ward to the challenge.

"We're excited to get a second chance against some of the teams," said Sinha. "We have been getting better at a lot of things that we have been working on this season, and we're looking forward to our tournament this coming weekend."

As the season comes to an end, the team prepares to say goodbye to its seniors. Five teammates, Ashely Grant, Natalie Kruk, Rebekah Eason, Anamaria Effler, and Meghan Kelleher, from a current team of twelve are graduating. With the loss of nearly half its players, the team is hoping for a few women water polo players in the entering 2010 class.

"We all are really going to miss them," said Sinha of the graduating seniors. "They have helped us a lot."

Recent Results

* = Conference Matches

Baseball:

4/18: Pomona-Pitzer Colleges (Home): L, 3-18

Women's Water Polo:

4/19: CMS* (Away): L, 4-14

4/23: Cal Lutheran Univ.* (Away): L, 2-12

Upcoming Events

April 24th - 25th

SCIAC Track and Field Championships

April 28th - 30th

Women's Water Polo @ SCIAC Championships

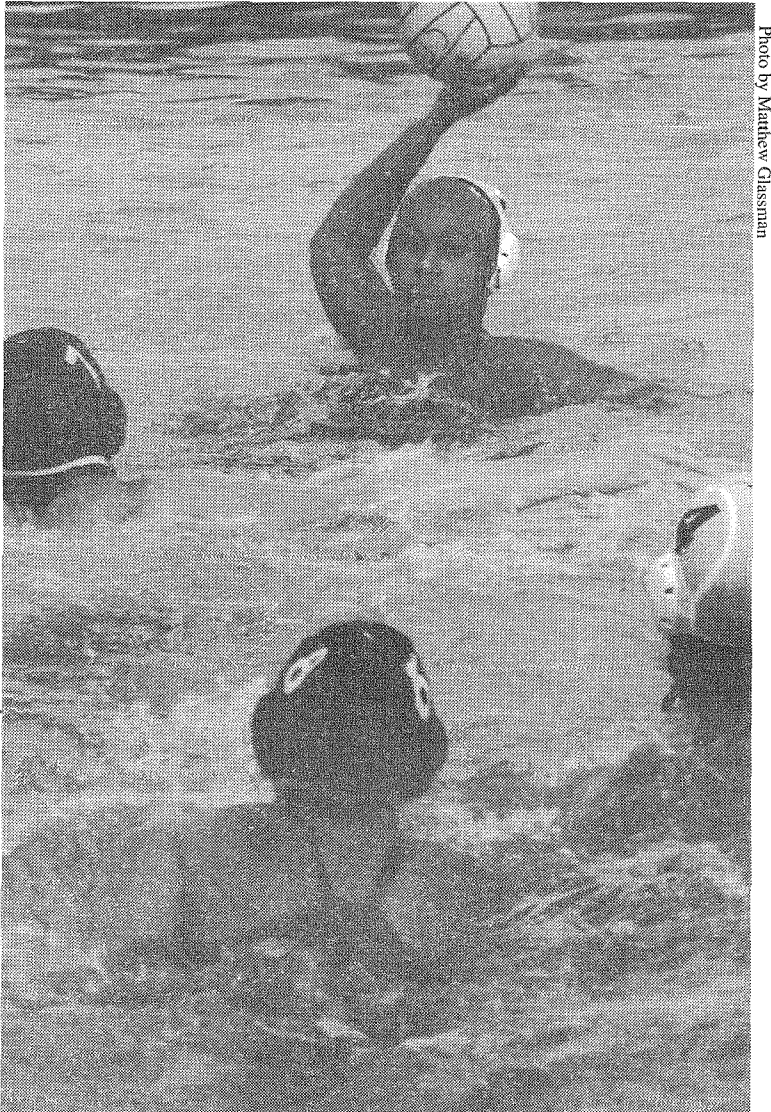


Photo by Matthew Glassman

Junior Preetha Sinha prepares to make a pass as the women practice for the SCIAC Championship Tournament this weekend.

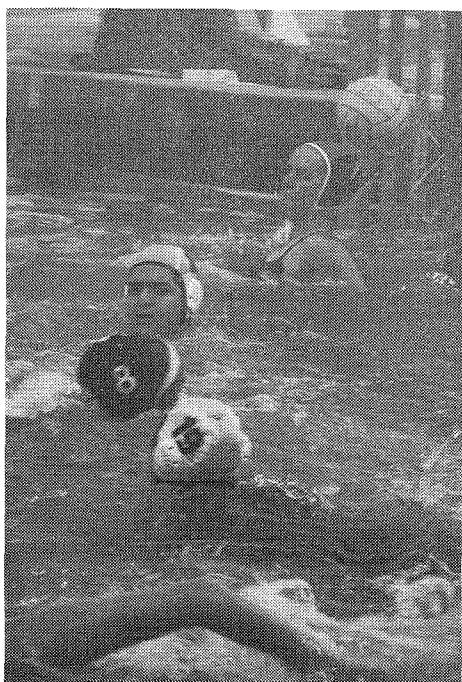


Photo by Matthew Glassman

Junior Becky Streit blocks an attempted goal in practice and prepares to throw the ball back into play.

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