



Cal Tech Students Plant Fake Palm Trees, Seeds of Rebellion at MIT's Prefrosh Weekend

Caltech 6, MIT 1

By MENG-MENG FU

Spring is in the air; mischief is everywhere. Caltech has long been famous for elaborate pranks. In 1961, the Rose Bowl crowd inexplicably spelled "Caltech" with colored cards. On Hollywood's 100th anniversary, the Hollywood sign was altered to read "CALTECH." Back in 1984, students rewired the Rose Bowl scoreboard to show "Caltech 38, MIT 9."

But that was all before our time. Modern-day pranks have grown lame and have not dared reach beyond the Caltech campus until now: a group of Caltech students have traveled to Boston to prank MIT. Following a speech by the MIT President to encourage prefrosh to attend MIT, Caltech students handed out T-shirts. These shirts were folded and packaged so that only the MIT lettering could be seen. The backs of the shirts read, "because not everyone can go to Caltech". Many prefrosh opened these shirts and proceeded to wear them around MIT.

The group then filled Building 7 with balloons, including one large balloon with "CIT" written on it. A banner covered the "Massachusetts" in a "Massachusetts Institute of Technology" banner, so that it read "That Other Institute of Technology". Finally, the group concluded the series of pranks with a spectacular laser light show set to music.

For more information, log on to www.caltechvsmit.com.

Ruddock

By DAVID CHEN and SCOTT MEDLING

Ruddock House's Prefrosh Representative Scott Medling eagerly looks forward to Prefrosh Weekend. To get ready for this annual event, Ruddock plans to host two rollicking escapades.

The first occurs on Ruddock Greens, a mini-golf course inside Ruddock. Each alley forms its own hole for a total of twelve holes. This event will last from 10 to 12 on Saturday night, although each player's time will depend on his or her skill and the traffic on the course.

In addition, some of the holes will have tricks and offer the players multiple paths. Medling explained, "We don't make it really hard, but we make cool ways. Last year we had a ball go around, up a ramp, out someone's window and in the next room. We've had slinkies that transport golf balls."

Ruddock has traditionally hosted this event for Prefrosh Weekend. And they will be providing delicious



Photograph courtesy of Tom Gingrich

CalTech students planted four inflated plastic palm trees adorn the big, domed building of MIT. For a first-hand account of this daring caper, please turn to page 2.

Houses Prepare to Welcome Prefrosh

We asked each house's prefrosh representative for impressions of the the incoming prefrosh, observations on Avery's first year hosting prefrosh, and highlights of the house's activities.

milkshakes as the players get thirsty walking from hole to hole.

Ruddock also will be continuing from last year a fun-filled aquatic event with water guns and water balloons, organized, water fights, and slip-and-slides for the less violently inclined. This event will be from 3:30 to 5 PM on Saturday, when the blazing sun should make this a popular attraction.

Medling advised the prefrosh, "They should just try to have fun. I think the prefrosh should get to know the upperclass because that's what makes Caltech unique. The atmosphere, the housing system that is what makes Caltech different from all those other schools."

Medling noted that hosts were competing to obtain guests. He commented, "We have far more female hosts who are excited about hosting prefrosh" than the number of female prefrosh available to Ruddock. The hosts chose their own prefrosh, first-come-first-served.

Page

By DAVID CHEN and SARAH WADSWORTH

Page House also is eagerly awaiting Prefrosh Weekend. An especially large fraction of the prefrosh with a strong interest in sports will

stay with hosts in Page House. The coach of each Caltech sports team received the names of prefrosh who had indicated interest in her or his sport. Each coach, in turn, told his or her current students to host these sporty prefrosh.

Page's Prefrosh Representative, Sarah Wadsworth, then matched a few of the prefrosh with Pageboys who looked like especially good matches. The remaining hosts then chose their prefrosh. Every host in Page received a prefrosh, and every prefrosh received a host.

Regarding events, Sarah had put up a sheet soliciting ideas, and her fellow Pageboys offered many amusing ideas. The first item on the list, "Practice Abstinence," drew some chuckles. Although the following items were similarly humorous, they missed the original purpose of the list. Thus, Sarah decided that Page would use the traditional fun events that prefrosh enjoyed in the past.

Friday night, Page will be offering volleyball at 8 PM and then dessert night at 9 PM. During Dessert Night in Page, a horde of hungry prefrosh and students rush to the dinner table for delicious snacks and drinks.

The next night, Page will be hosting pick-up basketball games and dunking contests in which prefrosh can

show off their moves. Page will be jointly showing *Real Genius* with Ricketts House during a night of the event.

Sarah said, "There's lots of information sessions. Attending classes is also a big thing." She also mentioned that, for the first time, volunteers will guide prefrosh on trips to South Lake and Huntington Library.

Lloyd

By ADAM CRAIG and GIAN MERLINO

Gian Merlino, prefrosh representative of Lloyd House, kindly took a few minute's pause from his RPG discussion group to talk to about his impressions of the upcoming Prefrosh Weekend and to remind us why it is such an important event: "The interest sheets looked lame, but they always look lame. They give very few specifics, but there were a few good ones, which went into more detail. The questions on the sheets are very generic: what music they like, what their ideal host is. That's all we know about them until we meet them, and that's why Prefrosh Weekend is important. My opinions of people after I meet them are often completely different from the opinions I would have formed if I had just read the interest sheets."

Since Mr. Merlino did not know any of the prefrosh hosts in Avery, he offered no specific comments except that Avery's distance from the rest of the houses might be inconvenient for the prefrosh and that this weekend will be good practice for when freshmen begin living in Avery next year.

This distance, however, will be irrelevant during Lloyd's main event, Capture the Flag. The

playing field for this three-our, two-game tournament will be the entire campus. Each team will hide its flag in an open, outdoor area on its side of the campus, and players on each team will run everywhere within the bounds of campus to bring the enemy's flag to their side of campus and keep their flag out of enemy hands.

Blacker

By RACHEL YOHAY and KATE KATRAN

Editors Note: Due to time constraints and Caltech's long-standing tradition of not standing too long, Ms. Yohay interviewed Kate Katran by email.

Rachel Yohay: I'm contributing to a Tech piece on Prefrosh Weekend, so I'd like to get an idea of what the houses plan to do for/to the prefrosh. Could you e-mail me your plans, or put me in touch with someone who could give me that information? Thanks.

Kate Katran: I'm the prefrosh rep for Blacker. We're doing Midnight Ultimate on Thursday night and a Deconstruction Project on Friday which involves smashing broken equipment with sledgehammers, etc., as well as what some members of socteam like to call a macho contest, involving eating habanero peppers and chugging milk. The admissions office seems to love this idea; they think a milk chug is "wholesome", and I don't want to burst their bubble. You may not want to mention anything about projectile vomit in the article because we want some prefrosh to actually show up.

Dabney

By ADAM CRAIG and LISA LLYONS

Editor's Note: Once again, internet technology saves Techers' toes from torturous trekking: This interview with Ms. Llyons, prefrosh representative of Dabney, occurred by email.

1. From the interest sheets and any other information available to you, what opinions do you have about the current crop of prefrosh?

1. I think the prefrosh filled out their interest sheets to some extent in accordance with their perception of what people who go to Caltech are like.

They are in for a rude awakening when they see that we don't all listen to classical music and play chess and video games. Of course there was also the sporty group and the artsy group. They seem rather well-rounded and I think that once they get here and see how nice everyone here is, they will open up to us more.

Continued on Page 8, Column 1

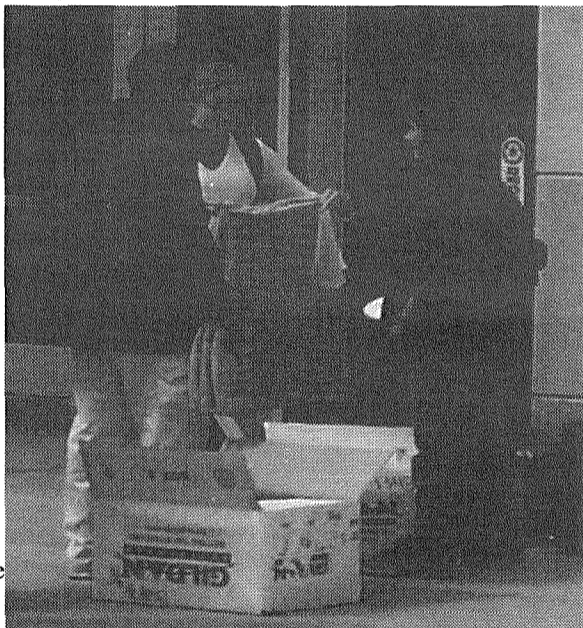
Tales from the Snow-Covered Trenches: A Techer's Account of Card-Readers, Campus Cops, and Courage

By ALEX SEIGEL

Caltech has always found a formidable rival in its Eastern counterpart, MIT. Few MIT students, however, feel a similar rivalry. Last weekend, MIT's official "campus preview weekend," all of that changed when sixteen Caltech students pulled a long chain of pranks that got the attention of nearly all of the prefrish, MIT students, and campus police officers.

On Wednesday evening, many Caltech students, with their pranks either checked or carried-on, left for Massachusetts. They arrived Thursday morning and began scouting out locations and generally preparing for the pranks. Some sat in front of computers or circuit boards where they would remain for the next three days and nights. Others began infiltrating MIT secrets while avoiding confrontation with Hackers, the MIT equivalent of pranksters, and with the fairly strict campus police. The fears gradually faded as prank after prank was met with no arrests and few confrontations.

The Caltech pranksters had prepared one thousand T-shirts that read "MIT" in authentic college font on the front, but on the back they read "... Because not everyone can go to Caltech" complete with a small palm tree. They were packaged in a plastic bag such that only MIT could be



Photograph courtesy of Todd Gingrich

All the Rage Back East: Fashion-conscious MIT students marvel at the latest California import.

read on the front. The original plan was to distribute them after the President's talk, but one Caltech scout attended the talk and left early to find us, "It was so boring. And there must have only been forty prefrish," said the scout. They decided that if we were to pass out a good portion of their thousand shirts, they would need to find a better place to do so. Someone noticed three simultaneous fairs in the preview weekend master schedule and they explored the sites of the fairs a few hours before they were set to take place. Concluding that the best solution was to simply pull up behind the Academics fair in a suburban wearing the new T-shirts with jackets covering the backside for authenticity, the pranksters quickly carried nine boxes of T-shirts through an open loading dock, bypassing the card-readers necessary for all prefrish, students, and even parents located at the front entrance.

None of the neighboring booths paid any attention as the Caltech students passed out over 400 T-shirts to prefrish within the next twenty minutes before someone opened the package. When the first prefrish put his shirt on, however, the Caltech students grabbed the leftover shirts and bolted out the fire escape and moves on to other

locations. Within minutes, the Academics fair was littered with campus security and other generally angry people. The shirts were then distributed in the Sports Fair and on Massachusetts Avenue, the main street of MIT, until it became necessary to flee. All Caltech pranksters escaped before confrontation with police officers. "We estimate that we gave away about 650 T-shirts, mostly to prefrish," said one of shirt dealers.

That evening and later that weekend, the Caltech students placed various posters and stickers on bulletin boards across the campus, so much so that nearly every bulletin board has a reference to Caltech in some way or another. Some posters were pictures of classic Caltech pranks like the Rose Bowl, the Hollywood Sign, and the Rose Bowl Scoreboard. The posters were mainly to get the word around about the prank and the website, www.caltechvsmit.com.

The MIT students tried to continue their preview weekend normally, as if nothing had happened, which meant that "Tangerine Tours" were on for that evening. The Tangerine Tour is when MIT students with hacking experience take prefrish around to the buildings and through locked areas mostly to impress them. Due to excellent scouting, the Caltech pranksters had managed to find the "Tomb of the Unknown Tool", a secret location on MIT where all hacks are signed by those behind them. They left a palm tree and a brief note explaining their identity as Caltech students in the Tomb. Two of the Caltech pranksters who had snuck in and pretended to be prefrish on a Tangerine Tour leading through the tomb, noticed the tour guide's attempt to hide the palm trees. "When they shined the light high on the wall to show where people sign their pranks, they quickly moved the light away and continued. It said 'Caltech' on the wall." That evening, a few Caltech students found their way up to the large MIT dome, the most-pranked building on MIT's campus where they placed four, 5-foot tall, inflatable palm trees. Later that evening, two other Caltech students snuck back into the Tomb of the Unknown Tool and put another palm tree where the old one was, this time reading:

"Please do not remove our Palm trees. P.S. Thanks for the tour."

By Saturday morning, word of the pranks had pretty much spread across campus. By the afternoon, when some Caltech students waited in a truck, others were climbing the dome atop Building 7, a building connected to the Infinite Corridor. When the climbers were in place the truck pulled into a driveway and four Caltech students stepped out with one hundred balloons, some filled with Helium and others air, as well as a 8-foot by 3-foot blimp labeled "C.I.T." in very large letters such that it could be read from far away. They simply marched into the center of the dome and released the balloons which floated up about one hundred feet to the ceiling. At the same time, the climbers mounted a palm tree and released a banner that covered up the engraving of "MASSACHVSETTS" with a banner reading "THAT OTHER", so that the building read "That Other Institute of Technology." Also synchronized was the commencement of the "Ride of the Valkyries" which was played at least three times through before being shut off.

On top of the building, the Caltech climbers saw that MIT hackers had made it to the roof. A chase ensued, but the Caltech students narrowly escaped. The palm tree was immediately taken down, but the banner lasted at least another fifteen minutes before it was removed. It was quickly repainted and put back over Massachusetts such that it read "The Only Institute of Technology." The blimp lasted over ten more hours until they were finally removed by two balloons and some very strong tape. The 75 orange balloons will remain until enough Helium leaks out. Meanwhile, in an MIT lab on campus, the final touches were being finished for the last prank.

In the lab a low power green laser was mounted and programmed to be able to spell out letters. Once it was dark the laser was turned on and began displaying "C-A-L-T-E-C-H" one letter at a time. The letters were shined onto the top of the Green Building, the tallest building on campus. It was quickly seen from far away by many students and MIT hackers. The hackers attempted to locate the beam, which they eventually did after about thirty minutes. The Campus Police were sent out everywhere such that it began to interfere with MIT's own prefrish plans and so a truce was called and the lasers were shut off thus ending Caltech's long chain of pranks in yet another success.

One of Caltech's largest pranks in its history could hardly have ended better. The Caltech pranksters talked with a great deal of MIT hackers and students. Most of them greatly enjoyed the pranks, though a few were slightly upset. The Caltech students assured them that no harm was intended and asked that they or anyone else interested should go to www.caltechvsmit.com for more details including rules, color photos and a more detailed description of exactly what occurred throughout the weekend. The MIT hackers were also encouraged to "hack" Caltech in retaliation, and it is expected that they will do so as soon as possible. Until then the scoreboard of successful pranks, found on the Caltech vs MIT website, will remain at Caltech-6 to MIT-1.

Prefrsh Weekend Rundown: Miss Not a Moment of Zany Revelry

6-7 Dry Bar at Ricketts
8-10 PM Real Genius South Lawn of Winnett
9-11 Mafia/Game Night at Avery
11-12 Volleyball/Basketball at Fleming

Friday:

7:30-9 Breakfast
9-9:50 Financial Aid Session at BBB rm 100
Campus Tour at Steele House
Student Services Fair at 1st floor of Center for Student services
10 SURF at Beckman Institute Auditorium
Campus Tour at Steele House
Student Services Fair again
11 Tour Your Future (tour of labs) depart from Center for Student Services
Pre-med 3rd floor of CSS
Paying your bill Broad, 100
Noon Lunch at Beckman Lawn
Parent Lunch
2 Option Roundtables
Chemistry Bridge, 201
CS Steele, 102
Wilson South lake Shopping Tour; depart from corner of and California
Modular Unit Tour, Holliston surface lot
3 HSS at Caltech, Beckman Institue Auditorium
Shopping Tour
Minority Student Education Office
Modular Unit Tour
4 Options:
Physics, bridge 201
Math, sloan 151
EAS, Kerckoff 119
Thriving at Caltech: Inside/outside classroom;
Beckman institute auditorium
Campus tour
7-9 Prefrsh Concert at Dabney Lounge
8-9 Volleyball at Page
Robinson Telescope, Saturn viewing (Robinson Bldg
9-10 Dessert Night at Page
9-11 Avery House Party
9-midnight Ricketts open mic
11-12 Deconstruction Project and Milk Chug
Midnight Hockey at Lloyd

Saturday:

8 breakfast at Avery
9-12 modular unit tours
9-9:50 athletics open house at Braun
9-noon Huntington library; depart at CSS
10-11 Einstein papers, 363 S. Hill
Athletics at Braun
11-4 Caltech Wired Presentations in Winnett
11-12 Cross Cultural Session at Gugg 101
Noon-1:15 Student/Parent/Host picnic at Broad
1:30-3:20 JPL, Cassini; at Braun
3:30-5 Water fun at Ath lawn
4 square tourney at Ricketts
3:30-7 Tie dye Party at Dabney
3:30-5 Club Fair at Olive Walk
4:30-5:20 Top 10 Q.s Women ask about Caltech; CSS, 2nd floor
5:30-7:30 BBQ at Broad Lawn
7-9 One Act Plays, SFL Ampitheater
8-10 Casino night at Fleming
9-12 CTF; meet at Lloyd
Basketball games
and dunking contest at Page
10-midnight Ruddock minigolf
11-12 Twister Night at Avery

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To All Prefrosh,

By MENG-MENG FU

You have undoubtedly met your prefrosh host, your host's roommate, that weird guy from across the hall, and a innumerable other people to offer their opinions on Caltech. Often, the most radical views, such as, "Caltech is as super-duper fun as Disneyland!" or, "Caltech is hell!" have the most vociferous proponents. Take all those comments and mine with a grain of salt. But just to make them a little more decipherable, here is your fact or fiction guide to Caltech:

"Caltech is HARD!"

Do not expect to plug and chug your way through the material. Expect lots of thinking, deriving, proving, and maybe hair-pulling. Do not expect the beefy football players to pad the curve for you, but do expect that hard work and understanding

will result in a good grade.

"I'm lucky if I get more than four hours of sleep per night."

While some people do not need as much sleep, I cannot function coherently without at least five hours. Now that I am a junior, I can reasonably get seven hours on a weekday night. I have had my share of all-nighters, but I have always caught up on sleep on the weekends. And, as cliché as it may sound, how much sleep you get depends on how effectively you manage your time. Mainly, do not wait to start your sets until the night before they are due.

"Sure you can graduate ... in five to six years."

Some people take extra time to graduate; it does not mean that they are slackers or that they are less intelligent. Most often, people decide to take some time off for reasons

of personal fulfillment or responsibility, such as visiting other countries or helping their parents run a business. Caltech does not try to push you out the door with a diploma just so our stats look better.

That said, most people graduate in four years. Some people graduate after ten or eleven terms; lots of seniors anticipate an easy senior year because they are done with most of their requirements. The key is planning. Your high school counselor will not tell you what classes to take, so you must make sure you are taking all of your required classes. However, unlike big state schools, Caltech facilitates this by almost never capping enrollment, especially not for required classes.

"Caltech destroys your GPA."

Professors do not inflate our grades, but you can still do well by developing good study habits and time management skills. Even here at Caltech, some

students have near-perfect or even 4.0+ GPAs.

"Research? What research? I've never even gotten a SURF!"

If your SURF proposal receives a rejection, then you just apply again. According to Carolyn Ash, director of the SURF office, this year about 80% of students who applied received a SURF. In addition, on average, 60% of graduating Techers have completed a SURF. So chances are, if you want to do research over the summer, you will definitely get to do it here.

"It's impossible to have a social life."

I read online that Yale students have naked parties; we do not have those. Nevertheless, you can always find something to do. Houses hold social activities nearly every week. Every house has a huge inter-house party at least once a year. Even as Caltech students, we understand that it is important to have balance, to have fun once in awhile.

Despite all the advice that I could offer you, the most important thing for you to do is to imagine yourself at Caltech. Think of how you would handle the course load, whether you would sacrifice having a social life for a better GPA or could reasonably balance both. Do not come here because your parents told you to or this is the best place I got into. But do come because you like the people and the environment and would not mind being here for four years.

Back in the days when I was a prefrosh, we heard that the Admissions Office never makes mistakes, and, having served on the Freshmen Admissions Committee, I know that, if we have accepted you, several people must have thought you were amazing. You did not slip through the cracks. You are smart enough to be here; you have the aptitude, the drive and hopefully the passion. What you do with it is up to you.

Gradually Getting Better

By ADAM CRAIG

I hereby apologize for once again sending the Tech out late. Although I finally have a working knowledge of the layout software, the final drafts of several articles did not arrive until Saturday night or even Sunday afternoon.

Furthermore, a sudden dearth of students' polemics about how atrocious life is at Caltech has left our commentary pages a mint-strewn desert. Only time will tell whether responsibility lies with long-term improvements in student life, such as higher tuition, modular housing, and more random sculptures around campus, or with excitement over the arrival of another shipment of delicious prefrosh.

In either case, I take this space now to thank our advertiser: Without you, very little of this would be possible.

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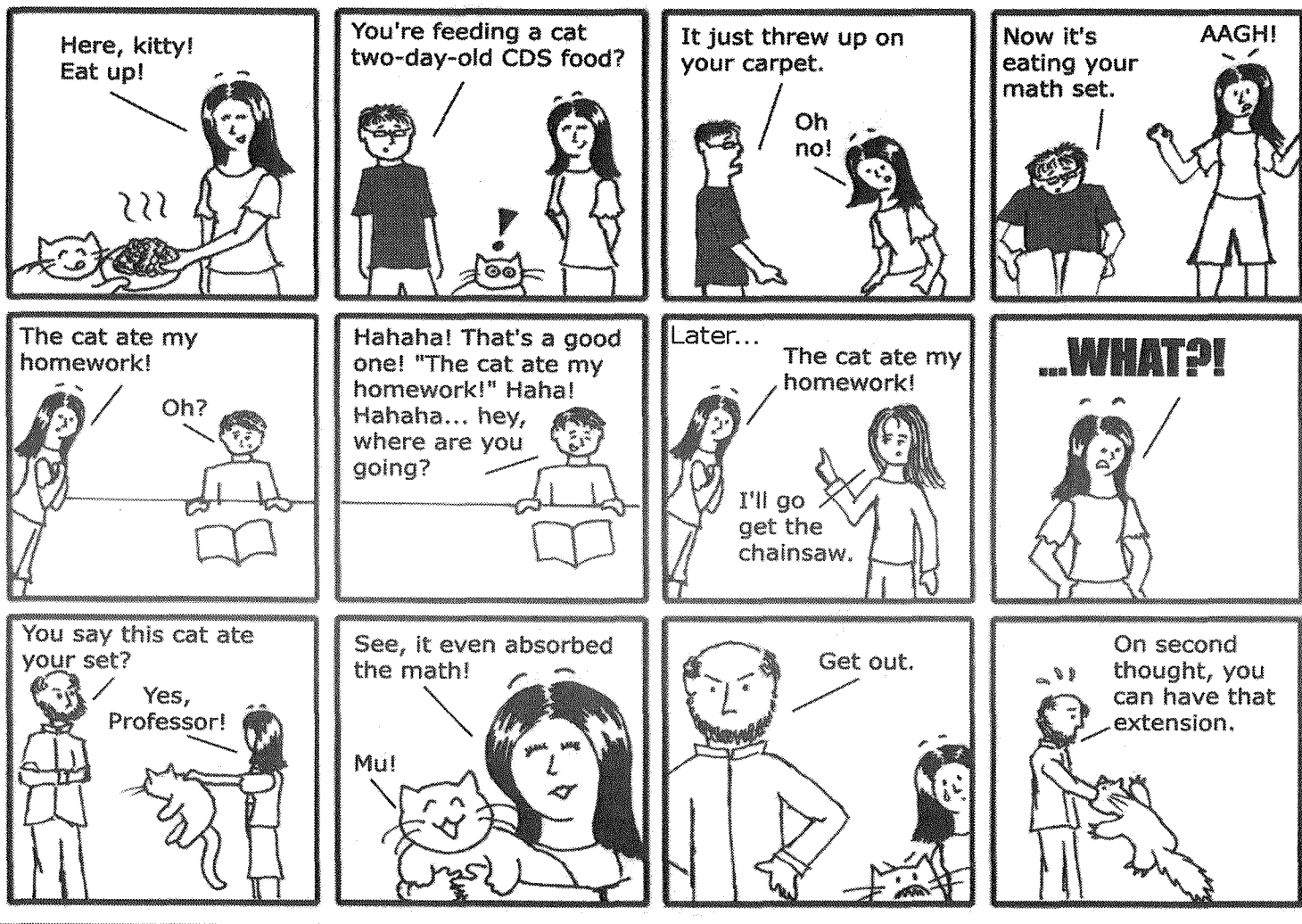


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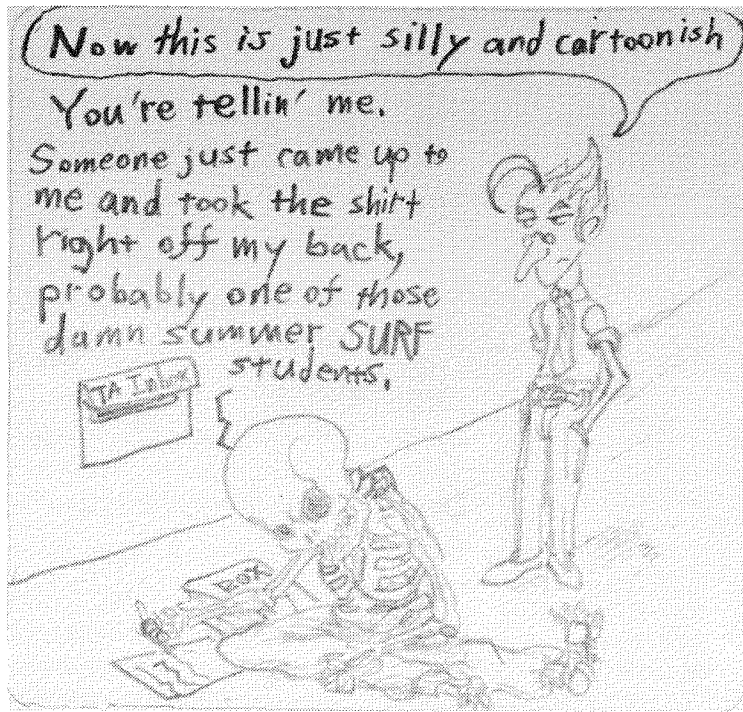
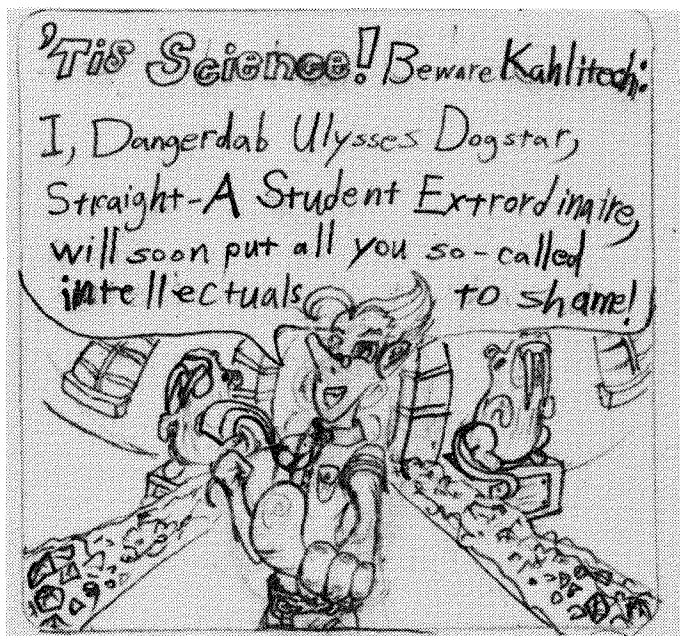


If you can draw better than this, you can draw comics for the California Tech. Please send all comics to tech@ugcs.caltech.edu as JPEGs the Friday of the week before the publication of the Tech in which you would like your comic to appear.



We Love Coquettish Kahlitech Bread Life

By ADAM CRAIG



∞-Time Finals can Gargle my ∞! Zomfg!!!111ONE

Jeffrey Phillips

Every few terms, around exam time, I talk with someone who must endure the most severe burden a gentle Techer can bear. Neither ACM 95, nor flaming out, nor being CRaCked or BoC'd, nor even being dumped by the only girlfriend he will ever have at this god- and girl-forsaken hell of an institute can match the anguish of an unlimited time final. I first experienced this particularly twisted torture in CS 1 my frosh year. Faced with the prospect of drawing more environment diagrams and slapping together more code than I would in two weeks' worth of problem sets, I rushed through my other finals and I spent three days coding before collapsing in a defeated heap on the deadline day. I am a CS major no longer.

I do not take issue with final research papers, final projects, presentations, or anything of that ilk. Profs have good reason to leave the timing of these to the students' discretion. They involve tasks that take a highly variable amount of time, from several hours to several days and that students can do most effectively by splitting them across multiple work periods: building a device, gathering references, researching a topic and coordinating the efforts of several people. Rather, I rail against the unlimited time final, which a profs hands out during finals week for each student to solve alone, rationalizing that, since each problem is about as hard as an entire problem set and the final counts for a large chunk of each student's grade, giving no time constraint constitutes an act of mercy.

A reasonable person would simply work through the problems at his leisure, to his

satisfaction, and turn in his blue book content with the knowledge that he has done his best and his confederates will act similarly. But this is Tech, and the few reasonable people are under constant threat from those trolls to whom, in the name of a few more points, unlimited time is a license to neglect sleep, food, all forms of social interaction and bathing, which, while not sufficient for, is a necessary precursor to that interaction. [My editor notes this last point does not necessarily apply to citizens of France nor members of Dabney Hovse. However, in these exceptions, bathing may be a social interaction unto itself.] Invariably, these trolls shift the curve far enough that the aforementioned reasonable people must likewise troll away or flame trying.

Aside from matters of poor hygiene, sleep deprivation and student moral in general, unlimited time finals also infringe on professional courtesy. When a prof hands out an unlimited time final, (s)he usually says something like, "Don't spend too long on this. I could do it in about two hours, so just use your intuition." What this actually means is, "Fuck your other finals and their pathetic time constraints; you may try in vain to squeeze them into exam week, but know now that your mind and soul belong to my class for an inadequately specified, unlimited, quite possibly infinite span of time." If profs said what they meant, someone might have the guts to reply honestly: "That's ridiculous; get bent!"

Profs and students alike argue that unlimited time puts students under less time pressure, so they can work through the con-

cepts. It lets them break when they want. It allows them to research to their hearts' content. But these excuses treat the students' time as an infinite commodity. During the exam crunch, time is what we Techers most desperately lack. A firm time guideline, a reasonable allowance for breaks and, as necessary, a generous overtime policy are in all cases better than no deadline at all. Exams should not be twelve hour, multiple-day endurance tests. Techers should feel guilty for that ninth hour they spend on their three hour final; make them write their time down so that the TAs, the profs and, most importantly, the students themselves realize just how much time went into each of those trivial problems, to use a prof's favorite word.

No one can stop students from studying to unhealthy extremes before a test, but good test writing can help: an exam that rewards reading every book on a subject is not a test of comprehension but a regurgitation. The details of proper test writing exceed the scope of this column, but giving students unlimited time after they see the exam to read through every book on the subject is not appropriate. Profs, don't give us that option; students, revolt against it. When your prof passes out the syllabus and mentions an unlimited time final, tell that prof that three or four hours in Purgatory is better than unlimited time in the Inferno, even with Virgil. If (s)he has not read Dante, skip the allegories and tell him his finite class, no matter how infinite its importance in his own mind, has no right to an indefinite portion of your exam period.

If it is true that all y'all really, truly can be writing in ways that there are that are egregiously better than the way that this person who I am is "writing" (right here, right now, yeah!!!!!!!!!!!!!!), then the publication that we like to think that we call the Kalifornia Teq could, like, totally be written for be some people. And, maybe, I guess, people who really are people who are you.

Please send submissions as single-spaced plain text files and JPEGs to tech@ugcs.caltech.edu. Please leave only one space between sentences and type in standard American English.

First drafts of features and opinion pieces on ongoing topics are due Wednesday of the week before publication. Final drafts are due Thursday. First drafts of articles pertaining to events of the week of publication are due on the Thursday of that week. Final drafts are due Friday, unless the editor grants an extension due to the nature of the event.



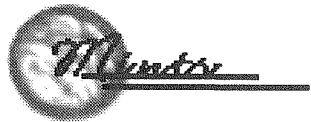
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Where: Dabney Lounge on Caltech campus

What: Ballroom, latin, and swing dancing; great music and refreshments

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Scholarships

The Financial Aid Office has applications and/or information on the following as well as additional undergraduate scholarships. All

qualified students are encouraged to apply. Our office is located in the Center for Student Services M/C 110-87. Please see our website for more information: www.finaid.caltech.edu/news.html

Sallie Mae Fund applications are now available for four different scholarships. These scholarships are available to low income and minority students to increase access to higher education. Please visit their website for requirements, deadlines and application forms: <http://www.salliemae.org>.

Key Bank's Take 5 Scholarship is now available. There are five \$5000 scholarships available from February to June 2005. Please visit their website for requirements and

application forms: <http://www.Key.com/educate>.

The 2005 Olive W. Garvey Fellowships are now available. This fellowship, available to both graduate and undergraduate students, is awarded based on the best essay on the topic: "The great aim of the struggle for liberty has been equality before the law." The deadline is May 1, 2005. For further information visit: <http://www.independent.org/students/garvey>

American Public Power Association "APPA" has DEED Student Research Grants and Internships available. Each year up to ten, \$4,000 student research grants and internships are awarded to students conducting research on an energy-related project. Students in energy-

related disciplines are eligible. Students must obtain a DEED member sponsor for their student research grant or internship. Applications are accepted January 15 and July 15 each year. For more information visit: <http://www.appanet.org/res>

The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society "TMS" offers a variety of scholarships. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2005. To preview scholarship eligibility information visit: www.tms.org/Students/Awards/Programs/Scholarships.html

The Excellence in 3D Animation Award is a \$1,000 cash gift awarded quarterly by Troy Studios to encourage students to pursue Graphics Arts and Animation. Award winners are chosen based on their entries in a contest. The contest is open to all students of all nations, regardless of field of study. To enter the contest, students should download free software from the www.animoids.com website.

Please visit their website for more detailed information. There are four quarterly deadlines each year (Feb 28, May 31, Aug 31, and Nov 30)

Educaid is offering their "DoubleTake" Sweepstakes. Win two \$2,500 scholarships - One for you and one for your school. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office, or on Educaid's website: <https://www.educaid.com/doubletake>

If you are a college student, who is interested in becoming a naval officer when you graduate, you could apply for the Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program (BDCP). This program pays future naval officers a monthly salary while they are still attending college. Qualified technical majors can receive a salary of approximately \$1,500 per month for up to 3 years prior to graduation and qualified non-technical majors can receive this salary for up to 2 years prior to graduation. Additional information is available at: www.navy.com.

The National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles provides a variety of scholarships year-round for women, regardless of religious belief or ethnic background, who reside in Los Angeles County. The organization focuses on each applicant's dedication to her chosen path and her financial need. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. For more information visit: www.ncjwla.org/.

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) offers 2 year to 3.5 year scholarships in all majors. The scholarships are generally capped at \$15,000 per academic year towards tuition and fees, with an annual book allowance of \$480 and \$200/month stipend during the school year. Full-time student status, AFROTC program involvement, and a minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA is required to be eligible. For more information visit www.afrotc.com

Folk Music

On Saturday, April 13, at 8:00 PM, Mary Z. Cox and her husband, Bob, will perform in Dabney

Hall. This will be a night of traditional American old time music. Mary plays clawhammer banjo and mountain dulcimer and has won numerous contests and awards in the Southeast. The mother of Caltech student, Sidney Cox, she plays solo and in accompaniment with Bob on guitar. Student tickets are \$5 and available from the Caltech ticket office, 395-4652.

TACIT Auditions

All members of the Caltech Community are invited to audition for the TACIT production of *Murder in the Cathedral* by T. S. Eliot. Auditions will be held in Dabney Lounge on Tue., Apr. 19, 8:00-10:00 p.m. and Sat., Apr. 23, 2:30-5:30 p.m. See <http://tacit.caltech.edu/audition.html> for related information as it becomes available. The play will be performed during fall term on three consecutive weekends beginning Nov. 4.

Women's Center Events

Limited times slots available!

Chair Massage, April 12th, 3-5pm, Women's Center

Please email wcenter@studaff.caltech.edu to sign-up. 3-4pm students only, 4-5pm open. The Women's Center is pleased to be able to provide complimentary chair massages every other Tuesday afternoon. This service is open to students, staff and faculty—both women and men. We hope that this is a time for you to relax and rest, as well as an opportunity to meet our staff and learn more about the Center. Because of limited time slots available, we ask that participants do not sign up for consecutive weeks. Instead we will ask that you place your name on a waitlist and you will be notified a few days in advance if there are open slots. This way we can allow newcomers a chance to experience the relaxation of chair massage.

Women and War

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2005

Time: 12-1pm

Location: Women's Center

Interwoven with gripping footage from recent conflicts in the Middle East, Bosnia, northern Uganda, and South Africa, this film captures women's personal experiences of military violence, explains how they survived and reflects on their growing resistance to war. Co-sponsored with the Caltech Y. NO RSVP required!

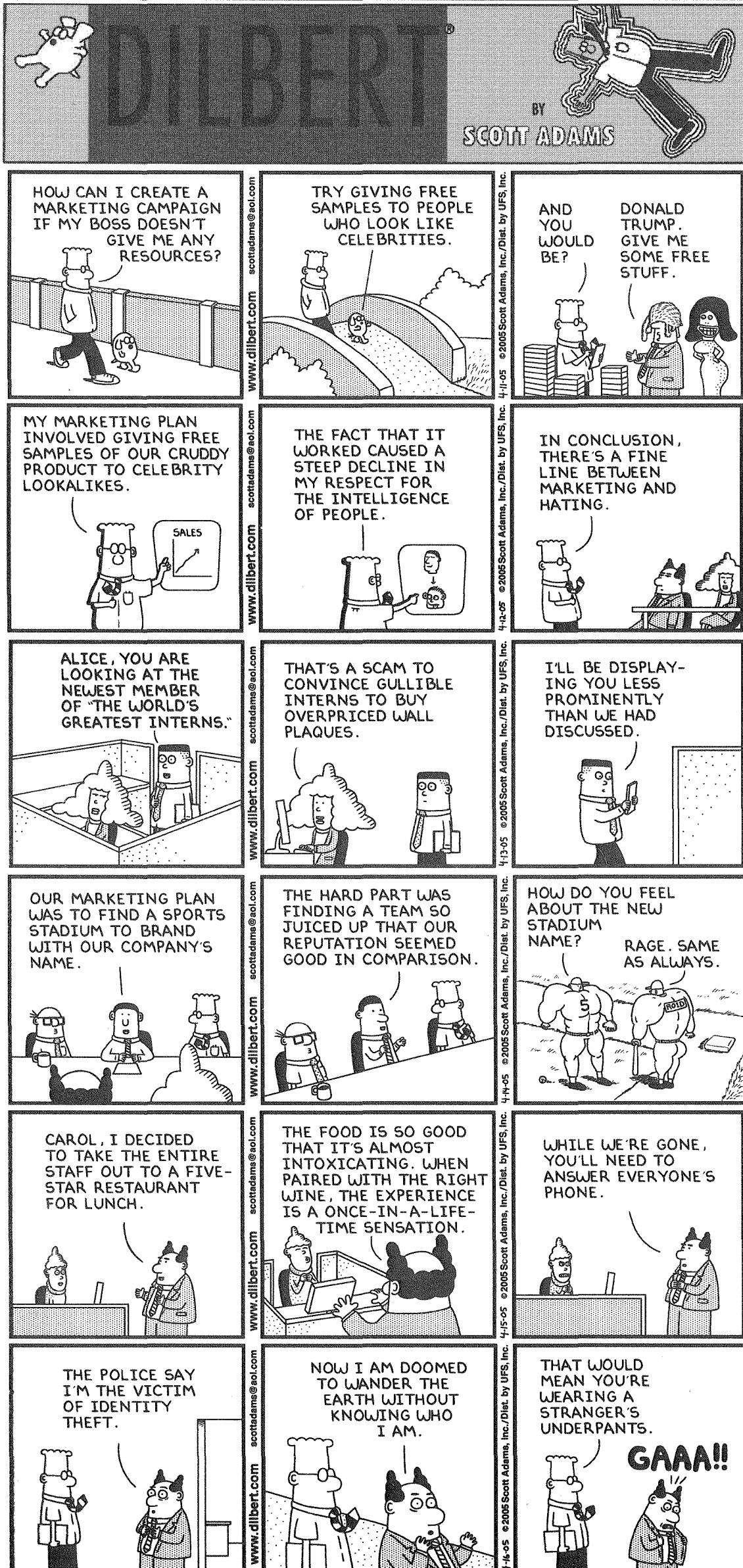
April 21 - Gynecology 101

Time: 12-1pm

Location: Women's Center located in room 265 of the Center for Student

Services.

Things are constantly changing in the world of medicine as technology advances, as new research is conducted, and as cures are discovered. Join Pamela Paine, Registered Nurse from the Alessandro Clinic, as she refreshes our memory on the basics and details advancements in the field of gynecology: from new tests and things you should be asking your doctor about, to sexually transmitted infections and personal responsibilities. Informative for women of all ages! RSVP required! To sign-up please call ext. 3221 or emailto: wcenter@studaff.caltech.edu



Baltimore Taps Tsing Loh as First Alumna Commencement Speaker

By JILL PERRY

PASADENA, Calif.- Writer/performer/musician/humorist Sandra Tsing Loh will be the guest speaker at the 111th annual California Institute of Technology commencement ceremony at 10 a.m., June 10, on Beckman Mall on the Pasadena campus.

Loh is a graduate of Caltech, where she received a bachelor's degree in physics in 1983 and where she was awarded the Institute's highest honor bestowed upon alumni, the Distinguished Alumni Award, in 2001.

"We are pleased that Sandra is the first alumna to give the Caltech commencement address," said Caltech president David Baltimore. "She will no doubt bring a refreshing sense of humor and unique perspective to the ceremony. As a graduate of the Institute she can relate to the great accomplishments of our students when they reach this milestone. The talent and perseverance that helped her graduate from Caltech has obviously held her in good stead in her diverse and successful career."



Courtesy of Caltech Public Relations

Sandra Tsing Loh is a regular on NPR's Morning Edition and a Caltech Alumnus.

In her profession, Loh has offered insightful radio commentary locally and nationally, has written and performed one-woman shows, composes and

performs music for film, has created some traffic-stopping performance art, and has written for the New York Times, Elle, Harper's Bazaar, and Vogue.

Loh has a national monthly radio commentary on the public radio business program Marketplace. She has been a regular commentator on NPR's Morning Edition and on Ira Glass's This American Life. She also does a weekly commentary, The Loh Life, that has aired in Southern California on KPCC 89.3 FM since 2004. She came to KPCC after the accidental airing of a profanity that she expected would be cut by her recording engineer in a commentary on KCRW radio in Santa Monica. She was fired by the station management, and the resulting flurry of media coverage kept the story in the public eye for several months. Although the station offered to rehire her, she chose to work at KPCC instead.

Apropos of that experience, she acted in a recent stage performance, Fired, a series of comic monologues about losing a job, at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. It is being produced by L.A. Theater Works and will air on National Public Radio at a later date.

Loh has also been a solo performer and writer. Her latest one-woman show was Sugar Plum Fairy, performed in Los Angeles, San Jose, and Seattle in 2004. She also performed I Worry at the Kennedy Center. She recently was named a contributing editor to the Atlantic Monthly.

She is the author of the books A Year in Van Nuys, Depth Takes a Holiday: Essays from Lesser Los Angeles, Aliens in America, and If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home By Now.

The last is based on Loh's solo off-Broadway show that ran at Second Stage Theatre in New York in summer 1996. She returned to Second Stage for Bad Sex With Bud Kemp, another solo show, in 1998. Loh has also been featured at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, and the HBO New Writers Project.

She composed and performed on the score for Jessica Yu's 1997 Oscar-winning documentary Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien, and scored Yu's documentary about the Living Museum on HBO.

Loh also has appeared on tour in Aliens in America, her darkly comic semi-autobiographical tale of growing up middle-class Chinese-German in Southern California.

Loh began her career in the mid-1980s as a performance artist. Her piano concert "spectacles" was covered by People magazine, the Wall Street Journal, GQ, Glamour, the Associated Press, CNN, and even in Johnny Carson's Tonight Show monologue. Nearly 1,000 people attended "Night of the Grunion" (March 1989), in which Loh and the Topanga Symphony played a concerto for spawning fish on a Malibu beach at midnight. In "Self Promotion" (March 1988), an assistant flung \$1,000 in autographed \$1 bills over her as she performed before a stampeding crowd. "Spontaneous Demographics" (September 1987) featured Loh playing a piano aboard a flatbed truck in a concert for rush hour commuters on the Harbor Freeway in Los Angeles.

Loh's family has been associated with Caltech for many years. Her father, Eugene Loh, earned a master's degree in physics in 1953 and a PhD in mechanical engineering in 1954, and her brother Eugene received a bachelor's degree in physics in 1980.

"Caltech is a wonderfully unique academic institution whose legacy, aside from outstanding achievement in science, is a rich cultural history with more than its share of quirks and surprises . . . and I intend my comments to fully reflect that," said Loh.

Generator Receives Energy Star Award

By MARK WHEELER

PASADENA, Calif. - The Caltech community can take comfort in knowing that the fuel used to generate electricity is spent wisely and is environmentally friendly.

That's what the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Partnership, a division of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), concluded last month when it bestowed, on behalf of the EPA and the Department of Energy, the 2004 Energy Star CHP Award to Caltech.

"Through the recovery of otherwise waste heat for campus cooling and heating, Caltech has demonstrated leadership in energy use and management," the award's announcement letter read. "Caltech's CHP system is a

great example for other facilities across the nation."

Caltech's CHP system can boast an efficiency of 73 percent, which means that the system uses approximately 30 percent less fuel than equivalent separate heat and power systems.

The Institute's aging 6 megawatt CHP system was replaced in 2003 with a highly efficient, natural-gas-burning 12.5 megawatt system that not only reduces polluting emissions by 15 percent but is also able to generate up to 90 percent of the energy consumed on campus.

The new system will help the City of Pasadena avoid the dreaded rolling blackouts and brownouts California has seen in prior years.

Afterschool Program Needs Graduate Student To Teach Math From April 30th 3:30-6:30 MON-FRI \$20+/HOUR Health Insurance available. Contact 626 232-3480 Kristianne@alumni.usc.edu

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PUSD School Board Candidate SCOTT PHELPS Caltech Class of 1989



Only ONE candidate has the relevant professional experience and training to make an immediate positive impact in our public schools...**Scott Phelps!**

Experience

- ✓ A veteran of fifteen years of teaching in the PUSD
- ✓ A Pasadena Rotary Club Teacher of Excellence
- ✓ Caltech Graduate
- ✓ Former Director of the Science, Engineering and Technology Academy at Muir High School, which places students in science-related internships with local businesses while in high school
- ✓ Faculty advisor to new teachers at Claremont Graduate University
- ✓ Teacher training program evaluator in the statewide California Math & Science Partnership program
- ✓ A parent with a three-year-old son and another child on the way, both headed for a new PUSD!

Beliefs

- ✓ Support innovation and choice in public schools by giving school sites more decision-making power
- ✓ Support assistance and intervention for low-performing schools before they reach state audit and intervention levels
- ✓ Concerned about PUSD's management of Measure Y taxpayer-supported improvements. I've seen the frustration of teachers, parents and students with the long delays at Longfellow, Noyes, Altadena, Washington, Muir and Sierra Madre
- ✓ Support much stronger truancy enforcement. The increased attendance incentive income will help PUSD cover infrastructure investments

Phelps!

For PUSD School Board

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Continued from Page 1, Column 5

2. What observations do you have about Avery's first time hosting prefrush?
2. Avery is behaving like every other house. They would like to have fun and exciting people in their house just we do in ours.
3. What events is Dabney House planning for Prefrosh Weekend?
3. All that we have planned is tie-die for Saturday from 3:30 to 7:00.

Ricketts

By ADAM CRAIG and GINO GHIRI

Friday, April 8th, approximately 0300: Gino Ghiri, prefrush representative of Ricketts House, obligingly answered some questions about his outlook on the coming collision:

Editor's Note: We have taken the liberty of translating this interview into English from the original drunken ramblings.

1. Craig: What impression do you have of this new crop of prefrush?

Ghiri: I used my best judgement in choosing most of them according to the qualities they noted on their interest sheets, but some of them might not fit in here [in Ricketts House]. Most of the responses were generic: interest in the weather, research, mathematics, and science.

2. Craig: How do you feel about Avery's first year hosting prefrush?

Ghiri: On the record, we tried to distribute the prefrush fairly, but, off the record, most of the prefrush we selected for Avery

were the ones who were allergic to cats, because Avery does not allow cats.

3. Craig: What is Ricketts House planning for the prefrush?

Ghiri: We will have mock TND with virgin drinks, open microphone night, and a four-square tournament.

Fleming

By RACHEL YOHAY and NIHA DAS

Editor's Note: Ms. Yohay did not send in her half of the interview, so the Ages have forever lost the wisdom it contained.

Niha Das: For prefrush weekend, Fleming will be hosting Casino Night. We invite people to come over and enjoy some blackjack, craps, roulette, and texas hold 'em...we'll also be serving shakes.

Avery

By DAVID CHEN and SARAH WADSWORTH

Avery House will be offering a few events during Prefrosh Weekend. Thursday night from 9 to 11 will be Mafia and Game Night. Avery will also be offering a party from [9-11 -> nine to eleven] on Friday. Finally, Saturday will be Twister Night. Sarah Wadsworth noted, "Avery is trying to be really creative."

Editor's Note: Since Avery House's prefrush representative was not available for comment, the only way to discover what madcap, Tarantino-esque shenanigans will transpire at Mafia night is to attend.

Parvathy Menon Espouses Student Unity Amid Turmoil

By MAYRA H. SHEIKH

Parvathy Menon, a freshman E & AS major and member of both Fleming and Lloyd Houses, is also the ambitious new ASCIT secretary. We, the students, have elected her not only to take minutes and hold elections but also to organize, approve and distribute funds to Caltech's numerous clubs, for which the BoD recently made the office of Secretary responsible.

Parvathy plans to continue the meticulous compilation of BoD meeting minutes and online cataloging that the previous secretary, Corinna Zygourakis, demonstrated and strengthening Caltech's clubs by improving upon the resource allotment and organization system that Kelly Lin helped put in place. Parvathy wants to take an active part in the decision making processes that impact student life at Caltech, which is why she ran for an ASCIT office as a freshman, and, as Secretary, she will get her chance.

Caltech has an amazing number of clubs for its size, one of the characteristics that originally attracted Parvathy to Caltech. She maintains that the enthusiasm and passion for myriad and various hobbies, from meat eating to juggling, that she encountered at Club Fair during prefrush weekend helped persuade her that Caltech was more than a math and science school. A member of an a Capella group, Fluid Dynamics, she understands the commitment necessary to keep a club running. As the ASCIT member in charge of provided funding for clubs and approving the formation of new clubs, she will be looking for dedication amongst those applying for funding.

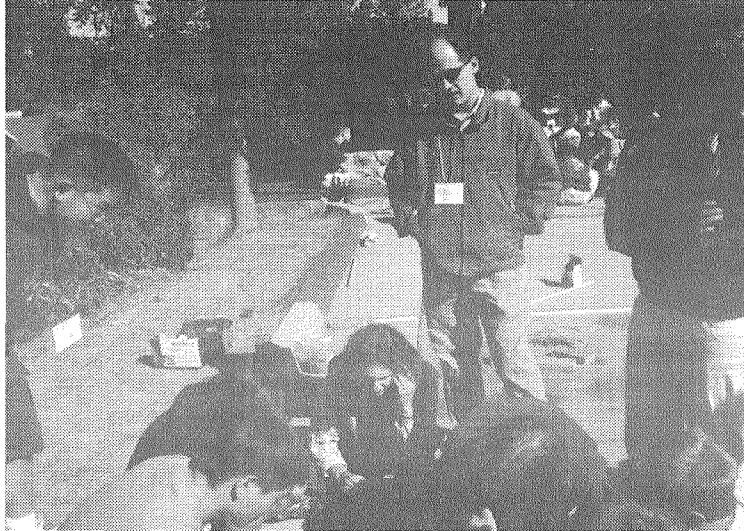
Though Caltech has great clubs of all sorts, Parvathy would like to see clubs that bring the campus community together, clubs that have events open to non-members, just to be able to share interests and educate people about a topic or craft. She also likes culture-oriented clubs,

because they can help broaden students' views and provide much-needed diversity to our campus. Ideally, everyone could find a club with whom to share her or his interests.

Parvathy feels that bringing students together through clubs is only one of many ways the BoD will help unite students during the renovations of the South Houses and, eventually, the North Houses. She encourages other students to maintain house traditions and house culture even in the midst of upheaval from traditional housing. She feels the current IHC chair, Peter Foley, will do a "great job holding us together" through the renovation process. All students and RAs should help efforts to keep school and house culture intact according to Parvathy. She hopes upperclassmen live in the modular housing or at least visit and hang out there to instruct new freshman, who must live there, about house traditions.

We as students should show unity at prefrush weekend, April 14 to 18. Despite disagreement over the decision to let Avery participate in rotation and house frosh, since the time for squabbling has passed, Parvathy says, "We should all be supportive." Avery should get the chance to show further development of house culture, for it may prove to be the 8th fine house. Students should adhere strictly to Rotation rules and emphasize the importance of a house as a social support system, not just a place to live. Avery, North House and South House students should convince prefrush that neither a year in trailers newness of house status justifies prejudice against a house.

With a new job and new responsibility for the club budget, the new "un-phased freshman" secretary is happy to begin actively making a difference in the Caltech community. She plans on simultaneously diversifying and uniting the campus. We wish her the best of luck for her term as ASCIT secretary.



Photograph courtesy of lloyd.caltech.edu/gallery

Early in her meteoric rise to power, Parvathy Menon looms over her underlings.

-Also starting efforts to book a "real band" (real = radio-played).

Important Dates

13. Staff Appreciation awards to be done Thursday night before Prefrosh weekend (April 14th) at 9pm.

14. Club budget meeting - Sunday April 17th (Sunday of Prefrosh weekend). Paperwork due the Thursday before (April 14th). Fliers to be posted within the next few days - register your club!

15. Planning to hold ASCIT Budget meeting on Saturday after Prefrosh weekend (April 23rd) 10 am, tentatively at Mannion's.

16. Future ASCIT meetings to be held on Thursdays at 5pm... to an Olive Walk near you.

Also - Prefrosh are coming Thursday, April 14th. Everyone should let them into your hearts and bear-hug at least 7 of them. Squash a Prefrosh... with love. ☺

Meeting adjourned 12:55 PM.

Forevah Yours,

Parvathy Menon

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

ASCIT Minutes for April 5, 2005

Present: Warner Leedy, Kelly Lin, Peter Foley, Todd Gingrich, Dmitriy Kernasovskiy, Parvathy Menon, Meng-Meng Fu, Michelle Wyatt

Absent: Ryan Farmer

Guests: Lisa Lyons, Chris Gonzales, Rocky Velez, Boris Chen, Galen Loram

Introduction:

1. Call to Order, 12:11 PM
Money Requests:

2. Galen requests \$300 for Senior Prank.

Vote: 6-0-0 (approved)

3. Boris requests \$500 for Lloyd interhouse party.

Vote: 6-0-0 (approved).

4. Warner brings up Yuri's party - a party held off-campus to celebrate Yuri Gagarin's flight into space! In previous years, ASCIT has helped out undergrads who want to attend with a \$3 subsidy (so students pay only \$12). After very lively discussion, ASCIT has decided that we'll make a deal with the party-holders: ASCIT will subsidize \$5/student (up to 50 students) and the students will pay \$5 each to get in to the party! Yee-ah-ya.

Other Business:

5. Social Director Dima introduces his sEx Comm - Lisa Lyons, Rocky Velez, Chris Gonzales. Promises to be an awe-inspiring and all around marvelous team. Das right.

6. Meng-Meng requests discussion of budget for SFC.

7. Warner wants to do teacher awards after budget meeting is done.

8. Meng-meng reminds BoD that appointments of various committee members needs to be done in May.

9. Warner notifies BoD that changes to ByLaws and Resolutions need to be done early in order to have the changes included in the Honor Code handbook sent to Prefrosh. Woohoo, Honor Code handbook!!

10. Dima is working on ASCIT formal - booking a venue, deciding on final ticket price (right now, range is \$25-35/person), etc.

11. Athletic BBQ this Saturday to honor - all campus event, fliers will be going up this week.

12. Dima reports on several other upcoming activities that Social Team is trying to put together.

-Mannion sponsoring a Star Wars night for Caltech where he books a theatre on opening night for the third Star Wars!

-Happy Hour planned for May 6th from 4-6pm in RF Courtyard to be followed by a NonAlcoholic-Dancing-Event in Winnett Center.