



AUTHOR ENJOYS TEDIUM

GRAMMY WINNER SPEAKS

Mosley Discusses 'Lack of Context' Problem

By DAVID CHEN

Author Walter Mosley presented a talk, "The Literary Life", as part of the Michelin Series of Distinguished Speakers last Friday. Provost Paul Jennings introduced the speaker with a long list of accomplishments, such as a Grammy and the Sundance Risk-taker Award.

Walter Mosley described his talk as "bearing witness, a subset of literary life." He said that freedom of speech is important, but we should be careful to say the right thing. Mosley also encouraged the audience to tell the truth at least once a day, noting that "we lie all the time." He joked that someone may get asked, "How ya doing?" and the person responds, "Alright, just a little cancer but I'm doing fine." Mosley stated that any type of truth is okay, but it should be a new truth per day.

Mosley then talked about the lack of context for African-Americans. In contrast, he noted that it was easy to be against apartheid but saying "let's make things better" tends to yield few results. Thus, he explained that his job is to "try to develop a context."

He described that most people like predictable days and that he



Courtesy of www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com

Author Walter Mosley offered his reasons for writing during a lecture last Friday as part of the Michelin Lecture Series.

initially did not want to bear witness. "When we stand up, we find ourselves alone and vulnerable." He himself likes predictability, to "eat the same food in the same restaurants, listen to the same music since he was 15 years old." Nonetheless, he had to change because "the heart is racing."

"There is power in the written word. And with power comes responsibility." People will take action and the world can benefit or suffer. He described his role as an observer and reporter of "crimes of racism and crimes of capitalism." He also explained

that he prefers fiction because he can create the world. In contrast, non-fiction "has an axe to grind," an explicit argument that the author wants to convince the reader about.

He also described the difficulty of being a witness. For example, eyewitnesses are notoriously un-

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Executive Committee Throws Out Election

By KEVIN BARTZ

Citing irregularities in timing and candidate lists, the ASCIT Executive Committee last Sunday unanimously ordered a rerun of the Feb. 23 general election.

"The results of the election held on Feb. 23 are not valid and the runoff for this election will not be held," read the ExComm's notice. The statement cited three problems: holding the election on a Wednesday instead of the ASCIT Bylaws-mandated Monday; an incomplete list of candidates; and insufficient notice of an arbitrary delay from Feb. 22 to Feb. 23, contradicting the *Tech's* published Feb. 22 election date.

The ruling sparked dissent from outgoing President Galen Loram '05, who held that the one-day delay was sufficiently publicized. "I find it hard to believe that people didn't know about the election," he said. "There were multiple e-mails sent out, boxes in all the lounges. Many houses spammed their lists, and there were signs all over the undergraduate part of campus."

He also criticized the ExComm's insistence on Monday. "I actually think it's better that they not be held on a Monday," he said. "I think that having it mid-week means that people are more likely to have read the *Tech* and seen the candidate statements. Otherwise, they just vote when they get the

first spam from the house... so I think, the Monday thing is counterproductive."

But to Ben Aronin '05, who lodged the protest triggering ExComm's fiat, the primary concern was discrepancy between the *Tech's* published list and the list of candidates at the ballot box.

"I was somewhat bothered myself by the fact that there wasn't sufficient notice of the election," he recalled, "and then, when I opened up the ballot I saw that there were two times as many people as I saw in the *Tech*."

The discrepancy stemmed from inactive candidates. Anyone who signed up could be listed on the ballot, but a candidate had to submit a statement or reply to a reporter's questions to gain mention in the *Tech*.

Loram called this arrangement fair. "My feeling is that if people don't submit statements, it's their fault," he said. "All the candidates are listed on the ballots, so if people care, they can always go and look at a ballot."

Chairman Abe Fetterman '05, himself a three-time failed candidate, convened the ExComm the Sunday before last and the five-member panel handed down its swift decision that night, preempting two runoff elections slated for the next day.

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Candidates Preparing For Second Balloting

By KEVIN BARTZ

In the wake of the ASCIT Executive Committee's surprise decision ordering a rerun of the Feb. 23 general election, candidates scrambled last week to shore up support in an electorate fraught with factionalism.

"I really don't know if the elections will be any different," said outgoing President Galen Loram '05. "The margins varied, and who knows how turnout will shift? I imagine that most of the offices won't change, but one or two could shift."

Although Loram announced the winners, losers and ties after the polls closed the Wednesday before last, last Sunday's ExComm order means that winners will have to win again.

Some candidates, even those who lost, are sitting fast. "Honestly, if the events that led to the invalidation of the previous election had little effect on the number of people who voted, which I suspect to be the case... then I do not think that the election results

will be changed," held Melody Grubbs '06, who lost the hot-but-ton election for Interhouse Committee chair.

But in the tighter of the races, the ExComm decision--and the irregularities that underlaid it--suggest the election could swing either way. "I think obviously, there were at least two very close election so any possible problems with the electoral process could be decisive," said Ben Aronin '05, who lodged the protest that sparked today's rebaloting.

The public eye has increasingly focused on the race for *Tech* editor, in which relative unknown Adam Craig is challenging the team of incumbent News Director Matthew Walker '06 and protege Sonia Tikoo '08. The two tied in the invalidated Feb. 23 election.

Craig spent the week filling gaps in a campaign platform criticized by some as overly jocular. "The most important thing I have done is to put several hours of thought and care into the adden-

Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo Efforts Help Link Science, Ethics

By ZHIYUN GUAN

March is National Women's History Month, and the Caltech Women's Center has planned a series of events and lectures to recognize women around the world who have made an impact on culture and history. The first of these events, a talk by Dr. Rita Arditti, took place in the Athenaeum on Wednesday. Dr. Arditti, a biologist and professor at the Union Institute, spoke about the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a group of ordinary women in Argentina who fought atrocious injustices, as well as the link between science and human rights.

Dr. Arditti began by examining the far-reaching implications of the Grandmothers' struggle. "Their work makes some very important connections between women, science, and human rights," she said. Although they had no scientific background, and considered themselves "common women", their work has affected perceptions of the human rights struggle worldwide.

The Grandmothers have "contributed a lot of discussion about science and society by demanding that scientists live up to their social responsibility," Arditti explained.

The Grandmothers' plight began during "one of the worst dictatorships in the world". In 1976, Argentina underwent a military coup that "abolished even the smallest traces of democracy," said Dr. Arditti. "Countless abuses were perpetuated, and a culture of fear dominated the country" until the end of the dictatorship in 1983. During this time, anyone who opposed the rule of the junta was labeled as subversive and vanished, and "30,000 disappeared in country of barely 35 million people," according to Arditti. Most of these people were tortured and killed at clandestine detention centers. The majority of the victims were young, and 3% were pregnant women, their children born in detention and taken away.

In 1977, the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo formed "in search of two generations: their children and their grandchildren." Under the dictatorship, "they were threatened, they were persecuted, and some of them disappeared," but they continued to search for information on the missing children, said Arditti. Leaving no stone unturned, they spoke to survivors of detention, checked adoption records, and were eventually able to identify some of the grandchildren.

Taking their cases to the court, they found a serious obstacle: the legal system required "absolute scientific proof" on the identity of the children. Faced with this challenge, the Grandmothers decided on "science for the people," and asked scientists to develop tools to help them, Arditti said.

After learning about genetics, they approached scientists in the United States, some of who were struck by their creativity and perseverance, and offered their assistance. With the restoration of democracy in 1993, the Grandmothers invited American scientist Mary-Claire King to develop a genetic identity test. The test successfully provided the scientific proof needed by the court, and later innovations and the use of mitochondrial DNA have raised accuracy to 99.95%.

The Grandmothers' struggle also led to other scientific advancements. "Realizing that there was no way of telling when the last missing child would be found, the Grandmothers recognized their own mortality," Dr. Arditti said. They successfully fought for the creation of the Argentinean National Genetic Data Bank, the first of its kind. With the genetic information in the bank, the identity of the missing children could

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Aronin Cites Lack Of Notification in Protest

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Though the panel considered exact vote totals, unreleased to the public, its decision did not turn on one or two close elections, said Fetterman. "Yes, but I know that my vote was unaffected by the vote totals," he said.

The committee also released a five-point list of recommendations urging the ASCIT president to leave election planning to ASCIT's appointed election chairman and to codify a schedule for the election of the off-campus Board of Control representative.

Loram agreed with the suggestions but questioned the mandated reballoting. "I guess I see valid points in the protest, but I don't think that the correct decision was to throw out the election," he said.

"I think just making those recommendations, and implementing them for future elections, would have been the best decision."

"...making those recommendations, and implementing them for future elections, would have been the best decision."

The candidates themselves had a variety of views on the ExComm decision, but most believed the accumulated irregularities warranted Monday's rerun.

"Delaying the election has definitely annoyed a lot of people, including myself, but I think most understand that the most effective, and probably easiest way to reme-

dy the election issues is just to redo the election," said Peter Foley '06, who had won the hot-button Inter-house Committee chair election.

And what if the results were to flip today? "I will feel like we made the right decision in redoing the election, as it would point out an unfairness in the first election. If it turns out the same way I will feel more comfortable with the results," said Fetterman.

This will be the first time in nearly a century of ASCIT history that an election has been rerun. Surprisingly it was not a candidate but Aronin, a graduating senior, who penned the pivotal protest. Aronin is an ASCIT pundit whose insights have long flown under the radar.

"I know it's a disappointment and perhaps an annoyance to some people with the delay," said Aronin, "but I think that a fair election is crucial to a democratically-run

organization and if some members of the BoD feel like they're giving in to the authoritarian urge to blame the protesters, then perhaps they should look inward and think about how they should've run the election in the first place."

Polls are open today from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. online and on paper ballots in house lounges.

DNA Used in Search For Argentina's Kids

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be confirmed even after the death of the grandmothers; furthermore, the bank has also been used in child trafficking cases, as well as other issues of identity. Similar banks have been established in regions of turmoil worldwide.

In her book, *Searching for Life*, Arditti explored the themes of "Blood, identity, and memory" in the Grandmother's work. Identity is important, she emphasized, because "a unique characteristic of the military regime in Argentina was the belief that the children of the so-called subversives should not be allowed to grow up with their own families, because they will turn into another generation of subversives." As a result, the children were taken away as a cruel punishment, and the official records erased. "The destruction of the history of oppressed groups is a well known mechanism to negate the uniqueness of their sources of strength," Arditti pointed out. The Grandmothers' recognition of "identity as a fundamental human right" is one of their most important contributions, she said.

Another theme, memory, also guides the work of the Grandmothers. As a poster in memory of the disappeared says, "If I am in your memory, I am part of history." Without memory, the dangers of denial and silence are great, and the Grandmothers work to share these memories through education and the arts. Many theater pieces and other works have

been inspired by their stories.

Although unfamiliar with the sciences, the Grandmothers "used their common sense and their thirst for justice" to approach scientists for support, Arditti said. Science "both reflects and contributes to the creation of values," she said, and its association with knowledge and expertise has given it prestige and power.

However, she pointed out, "science presented as ration has in too many cases allied itself with the powerful," and its role in social justice is questionable. While human rights are necessary for the practice of science, which "thrives in openness and freedom," awareness of these rights is conspicuously lacking from the education of most scientists, she said. "A science that will include values and ethics in its paradigm may be the next step in human evolution necessary to save us from destruction," Arditti projected.

The Grandmothers have made an immense contribution toward this new vision of science, Arditti said. They have provided "a model for lay people and scientists working together, making it possible to imagine a different relationship between science and society," she said. Through their work, the Grandmothers have helped redeem science, showing the world "what science could be if we have the strength, the persistence, and the courage to demand that it be so."

Mosley Portrays Working Class Problems in his Mystery Novels

Continued from Page 1, Column 3

reliable. He said, "Bearing witness is a dangerous position" so he seeks the help of others as much as possible.

Mosley also made an interesting comment regarding the middle class. He noted that many people he talks with claim to be middle-class, although Mosley would use the term "working-class." He explains that the middle-class can lose a job for 12 months but the working-class can lose a job for only 2 weeks.

Mosley decided 15 years ago to bear witness of blacks' migration to California, especially the Los Angeles area. He noted that many immigrants groups in California are not aware of their own history, so one of his goals in writing is to encourage other histories to be described.

He talked about his first novel, which is based very closely on his own father. However, the book was not published because it wasn't commercial in 1988. Mosley explained the situation at the time, "Whites didn't read about blacks, black women didn't like black men, and black men didn't read."

Thus, he began to write mysteries, which were commercially viable. Mosley's mysteries feature Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins. Nonetheless, he shared an anecdote regarding one publisher who was worried since "there was already one black detective" in the novels of the time. Mosley countered that there were also many white detectives but the publisher didn't understand Mosley's comments. About this time, Mosley also gave his first criticisms of capitalism.

White Butterfly is another book in this series. This book is notable because "Bill Clinton read it and said so." Mosley then wanted to write a book about the blues but his publisher first wanted another mystery book. Thus, he wrote *Black Betty* and then his blues book. Both books, however, were not good sellers.

Mosley then printed his first book, which was still unpublished, with a black publishing company. About this time, he also found a new publisher for his mysteries, but this company refused to print his new book about the 1960s. Mosley stated that it can be difficult to make a living and bear witness.

According to Mosley, the first step in speaking the truth is to open the mouth. Mosley described that this can actually be a difficult step because there are experts who know the information and can thus intimidate the audience. He quipped, "Mr. Powell, those yellow dots aren't weapons of mass destruction" but he was an expert, so no one dared to question him.

Mosley stated that the communist dream is on the way to becoming a capitalist nightmare. He stated that in such a situation, everything is leased, removing the planned obsolescence of today's products. He also said that America is the only pure capitalist society in the history of the world. People in America are defined by their wealth, so evil and sin are defined by poverty. Even poor people assume they're sinners, so they don't ask for medical insurance for their children.

Mosley then gave some rules to maintain veracity and bear witness. He said that blaming others is easy, probably too easy. He also cautioned the audience from

being silenced by experts, since their job is to silence the non-experts. Also, he emphasized that a person speaks the truth when attempting to say it.

In preparation for the talk, there was a free screening of *Devil in a Blue Dress* that was shown Thursday night. The main character is Easy Rawlins, who is recently laid off and needs to find a job, during the years right after World War II. A mysterious stranger hires him to complete "favors for his friends." His task is to find Daphne Monet, the fiancé of the richest man in L.A., and who can no longer be found. Her fiancé, who was running for mayor before dropping out, broke up with Daphne for some unknown personal reason.

While the plot seems relatively straightforward, the depth is provided by the racial issues. For example, Easy lives in a black-only neighborhood. Later in the movie, Easy is implicated in two murders and when the police visit him, they treat him harshly because of his skin color. With the help of his trigger-happy friend Mouse, Easy manages to find her and discovers that Daphne is half-black and the chaos was caused when someone offered to sell her baby pictures, which revealed her black heritage. Although her skin tone is quite white, her former fiancé insists that they can't be married for fear of crossing the color line.

The movie was somewhat slow in the first half but once the characters were introduced, the movie became extremely entertaining. Don Cheadle plays Mouse in a wonderful manner, innocent and eager in his usage of violence. Many students and other Caltech members enjoyed this movie.

Finishing up his talk on Friday night, Mosley read a chapter from his next book about Easy Rawlins, which is still unpublished. "There's nothing I want to do more than write a book."

Mosley described the beginning of the book, with Mouse and Easy planning to rob an armored car. From the prior books, the audience knows that Easy is a good person and would not actually carry out the act. Easy, however, finds out that his daughter has a blood infection and needs to pay up to \$50,000 to treat her. Mosley noted, "This is America and there's no health insurance."

In the actual chapter that Mosley read, Easy is driving home, mulling over thoughts when he suddenly sees a woman and her daughter in front of him. He swerves to the left, narrowly colliding with an incoming station wagon. The mom curses at Easy, and the driver of the other car, a gray-haired black, comes out. Easy expects a reprimand, but the man observes Easy and says, "Don't let it get to you."

Walter Mosley then offered the audience to ask any questions. There were a wide range of questions, from specifics of his books to general ideas of society. One person asked why he moved to New York, and Mosley said that he can't stand driving.

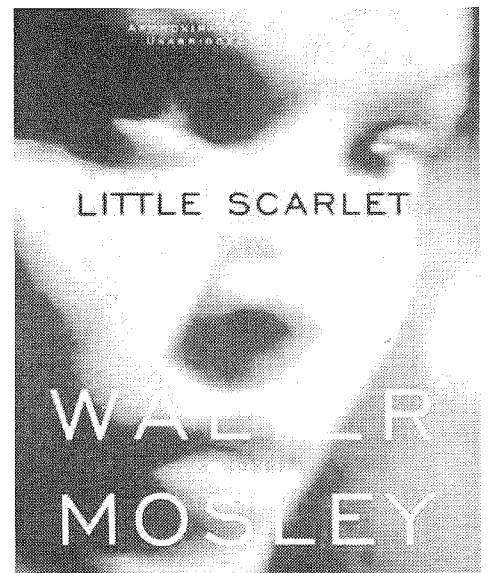
In response to another question, Mosley described a trip he

took to Cuba. He said that he was called to talk with Fidel Castro around midnight and they talked about racism. Actually, Castro thought racism could be removed by educating everyone equally and Castro claimed success in this regards.

Mosley was also asked about the significance of colors in his books, but he replied that there was nothing symbolic. He chose "blue dress", for example, because it sounded nice and sounded like a song. "Red death" was a play off a story by Edgar Allen Poe.

Earlier in the day, Mosley also visited a literature class taught by Professor Weinstein. It actually was very good timing for the class, since the students had recently read *Raisin in the Sun*, Harriet Jacobs' slave narrative, and *The Sound and the Fury*. Freshman Michael Easler said, "It was a cool experience. He's a very controversial guy, and he's not afraid to bring up controversy. I agree with some of the things he said, but some of them I disagree with."

There was also a book signing following the talk, which was held in Baxter Auditorium. During the introduction, Provost Jennings explained the history of the Michelin lectures. They were established by Bonnie Cashin in memory of her uncle, James Michelin, who always wanted to attend Caltech but never could. Jennings commented, "Perhaps that's why he never lost his affection for us." The talks are meant to promote the creative interaction between the arts and sciences.



Courtesy of www.audiobooksonline.com
Little Scarlet, a book in the Easy Rawlins Series, was part of an LA program.

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Basketball Closes Season; Track and Field Members Set Records; Baseball, Tennis, Water Polo Continue Battle

By ROBERT LI

Women's Basketball wraps up season; Honors graduating Seniors

The Caltech Women's Basketball team finished its season this past week with losses to Redlands (by a score of 42-82) and to Cal Lutheran (29-80).

Freshman Lindsay King was the team's top performer for the week, averaging 13 points, five rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game. King finishes the season as Caltech's leader in scoring (12.0 ppg), rebounding (7.0 rpg), total assists (44), total blocks (30) and total minutes (940).

Freshman Jessica Roberts finished the season second in scoring (10.9 ppg). She led the team in shooting percentage, three-point shooting and free-throw percentage.

After missing several games due to injury, Freshman Rene Davis emerged as one of the team's top contributors, averaging 8.3 points a game. Despite her injuries, she led the team with 40 steals, and had several impressive games down the stretch both rebounding the ball and passing to her teammates.

Prior to Wednesday's home finale against Cal Lutheran, the team's four seniors were honored in a pre-game ceremony.

Senior Andrea Kung played for the team for all four of her years at Caltech. She graduates holding the record for most games played in the program's history, and served as team captain the past two seasons.

Despite only playing two seasons, Senior Penny Gunterman quickly became a fan favorite, giving the team a regular dose of energy and hustle off the bench.

Senior Sue Ann Hong came to the team as a novice in Basketball before last season. Hong's smile and presence on the bench were welcome contributions to the team.

Senior Joanne Yim, a four-year contributor to the Women's Tennis program, decided to try her hand at Basketball this season. Her hard work in practice to improve her game helped inspire her teammates throughout the year.

Congratulations to the whole team on the completion of their season.



courtesy of www.athletics.caltech.edu
Women's Basketball (clockwise from top left) Seniors Penny Gunterman, Sue-Ann Hong, Kadrea Kung and Joanne Yim.

Zortman, Boyle set records for Track & Field

Senior Kristen Zortman and Freshman Elette Boyle both contributed tremendous performances for the Track & Field program this past weekend at the Whittier Invitational.

Zortman broke her own record with a 117 foot, 8 inch throw in the Women's Javelin. Her mark won the event for Caltech.

Boyle tied the school record in the Women's High Jump with a height of 5 feet, 0 inches. A first-year student-athlete, she'll have many more chances to break it over the course of her athletic career at Caltech.

In addition to those efforts, several other Caltech Student-Athletes had a memorable day. Fresh-



courtesy of www.athletics.caltech.edu
Track and Field: Freshman Elette Boyle

man Matt Kiesz placed second in the 800 Meter run with a time of 2:00.26.

Both of the Men's Relay teams looked impressive. The 4X100 Meter team beat Occidental with a time of 44.24 and the 4X400 Meter was in good form with a time of 3:27.00, just two seconds off last year's high mark.

The team competes next this weekend as they head to Trinity University for the Trinity Invitational.

Women's Water Polo opens season at Chapman Invitational

The Caltech Women's Water Polo team opened its season this past weekend at the 2005 Chapman In-

vitational.

Against some tough competition from Top 10 Division III teams and some Division I club teams, the team started the season 0-4, losing matches to USC (1-11), Whittier (3-17), UC Davis (2-11) and the University of Oregon (3-15).

Junior Bekah Eason led the team in scoring with four goals. Eason finished third on the team in scoring last season.

Senior Goalkeeper Delia Davies held her ground as well, despite facing several tough offenses. She recorded 36 blocks through four match-

The team will visit UC Santa Cruz this Friday before playing in the CSU East Bay Tournament this weekend. Their first home match will be at the Caltech Classic on March 22nd.

Men's Basketball ends season; hosts Senior Night

Despite losses to the University of Redlands (81-140) and Cal Lutheran (45-62) this past week, the end of the Men's Basketball season saw several players step up and demonstrate their ability to produce for the team.

Junior Jordan Carlson, the team's leading scorer, finished his season strong, averaging

18.5 points, 9.5 rebounds, and a team-leading four blocks. He finishes the season averaging team highs in scoring (11.8 ppg), rebounding (6.0 rpg) and free-throw percentage (77.1%).

Junior Team Captain Day added two steals on the week, bringing his total for the season to a team-high 47. It was the third consecutive year Ivy has led the team in that category. Ivy was also third on the team in rebounding (3.2 rpg) and total assists (28).

By season's end, three freshmen were entrenched in the starting lineup. Freshman Bryan Hires finished the season second on the team in scoring (8.5 ppg) and rebounding (4.6 rpg). He led the team in field goal percentage (48.1%), total assists (34) and total blocks (24).

Forward Freshmen Nick Goeden and Guard Paxon Frady stabilized the frontcourt and backcourt positions, respectively. They finished the season ranked third and fourth on the team in scoring.

The team said goodbye to three graduating seniors during Thursday's home finale against Cal Lutheran. All three student-athletes

Wang has inspired his coaches and teammates with his drive to improve his game through dedication and hard work.

Congratulations to the whole team on the completion of their season.

Baseball falls to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps

The Men's Baseball team lost to Claremont Mudd-Scripps 20-0 this past Saturday.

The team expects to enjoy a brighter day when it welcomes its former players back for their annual Alumni game this Sunday. The game begins at 2:00 PM.

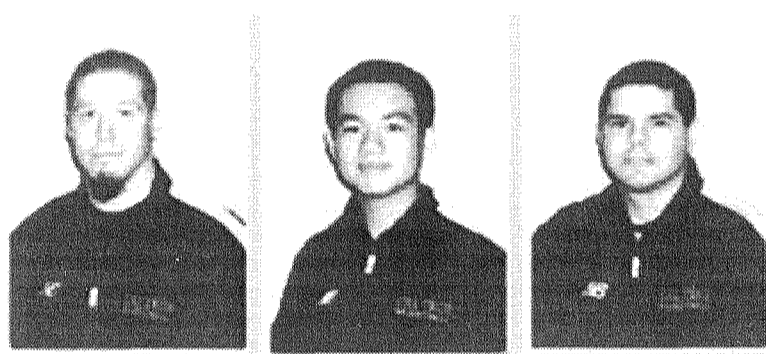
Women's Tennis falls to Pomona-Pitzer

The Women's Tennis team lost to Pomona-Pitzer this past weekend, 9-0.

Senior Ann Leu gave the best effort of the day in her 3-6, 2-6 loss at #3 singles.

The team should fare better this Friday at home against Mills College. The match begins at 10:00 AM.

Men's Tennis earns first win against La Sierra



courtesy of www.athletics.caltech.edu
Men's Basketball (left to right) Seniors Jeffrey Lamb, Xiao Wang, and Christian Guitierrez

have been members of the Men's Basketball program throughout their four years at Caltech, and have earned the praise of coaches and teammates.

Senior Team Captain Jeff Lamb missed most of this season with injuries, but he returned briefly for Thursday's Cal Lutheran game, checking in and playing one minute before returning to the bench to the applause of fans and teammates. He finishes his career having played 67 games with 26 starts among those.

Senior Christian Guitierrez led the team in three-point shooting this past season making 36.2% of his shots. He made 44 three-pointers over the course of his career at Caltech.

For four years, Senior Xiao

The Caltech Men's Tennis team earned its first win of the season in a 7-0 victory of La Sierra University.

The team fought through three very competitive doubles matches, losing at #1 doubles in a tie-breaker, but narrowly winning on courts 2 and 3 to take the doubles point.

From there, Caltech rode the momentum, winning all six singles matches. In the highlight of singles competition, Junior Derek Chang came back after losing the first set to win, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Later in the week, the team lost to Pomona-Pitzer, 1-6. Junior John Howard pulled off an upset at #3 singles.

The team competes next at Whittier College this Saturday.

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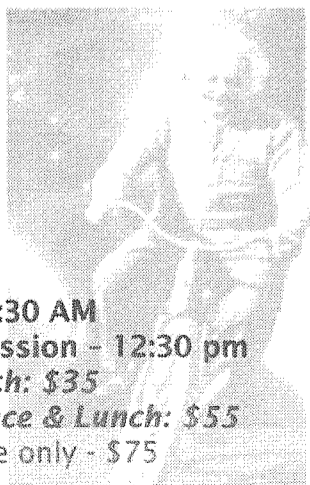
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In celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Albert Einstein's Annus Mirabilis (his Miracle Year)

Religion and Politics: Preaching from Pulpit

By SIMON QUE

The positions that some people take never cease to amaze me. The latest comes from columnist Bill Press' article "God Save Us from Politics in the Pulpit." This was a protest against legislation recently introduced in Congress to prevent churches that endorse political candidates from losing their tax-exempt status with the IRS. The legislation seems shaky, but Press' viewpoint is, too.

Press' reasoning is as follows: "Surely, the last thing we need or want is for priests or preachers popping off on politics from the pulpit. It's bad enough, their telling us how to dress, talk, pray and make love. Do we really want them to tell us how to vote?" Now I happen to agree that many priests and preachers have been inappropriate in making certain political comments, and that many churches are over-politicized. Many people find this to be a problem. The solution is simple: if you object to what you're hearing in church, then leave. Nobody's pointing a gun at your head and saying, "Go listen to the preacher, or else."

But what astounds me is the notion that this is another problem for the government to solve. Are people really stuck in church listening to political drivel from the pulpit and waiting for the government to come in and rescue them? No way. They are free to leave whenever they please and go somewhere else if they don't like what they hear, or stay if they don't mind. What sort of remarks they choose to tolerate in church is simply none of the government's business.

Press also touted the First Amendment and "separation of church and state" in criticizing the legislation. Of course, the First Amendment is supposed to restrict government, not private organizations. And "separation of church and state" means there should be no official state religion. Neither applies to churches making political remarks. Press is skewing the First Amendment and "separation of church and state" out of context.

To see how this is the case, consider what else Press has to say: "Our Founding Fathers knew what had happened in Europe, where church and state were one and the same. They saw the abuses resulting from clergy in bed with politicians. They went out of their way to make America different: to keep politics out of religion and, equally important, to keep religion out of politics." In Europe, the religious leaders had great command over the kings of Europe and were able to send them and their armies on Crusades. The problem was not that the church was involved in politics but that it was wedded to state power. It didn't just influence government; it controlled it. That is a far cry from what happens in America today, where churches have little actual command of the government. Churches making remarks about how the state should be run does not make church and state "one and the same" if politicians don't answer to them.

On the other hand, columnist Kyle Williams has pointed out that "organizations have been started in Kansas and Virginia that work to organize activists to spy on known liberal and conservative preachers and catch them preaching too heavily on politics. Then, armed with evidence, they

file reports to the IRS hoping to silence congregations of differing ideologies." By acting as informants to the government, these organizations help erode privacy by assisting nosy IRS agents in their intrusions into the private lives of Americans. It's not hard to imagine something similar happening in medieval Europe: a king or pope sending agents to spy on local bishops' teachings to weed out heretics. This resembles the enforcement of the IRS' tax exemption policies far more than it resembles a church making political endorsements.

Williams rightly calls the tax exemption provision a form of bribery. It easily becomes an instrument that government agents can use to tell churches and other private organizations what they can and can't say, and to influence them into behaving in a certain manner. A proper and honest tax code should have no such speech provision at all: either these organizations are absolutely tax-exempt, or they are absolutely not. That is the most secure way to insulate private organizations from a meddlesome IRS and to avoid favoritism from government agents.

What about those preachers who make inappropriate political comments? Williams has some great insight: "While critics like Bill Press say this is needed to keep the Jerry Falwells of the world in check, I'd rather err on the side of personal responsibility instead of a regulation that manipulates speech." Too often in today's society, laws take the place of personal responsibility for almost every social problem out there, whether it is politicized churches, motorcycle safety, drug use, or school rules. Yes, politicking churches are a problem, but that's a problem for those churches and their members to tackle. It's their own responsibility, not the government's. Personal responsibility is the real solution. Burdensome and intrusive government regulation is but a cheap substitute.

Oh, and Mr. Press, if you think your religious leaders shouldn't be saying certain things, maybe you should take the responsibility for telling them that.

When it Comes to Being On Board, Please Allow Us to Walk the Plank

By HAMILTONY FALK

(Disclaimer: This article just isn't that funny. I wouldn't say it's entirely serious, but it is much less likely to make you laugh than say, election results)

For every complaint we students have about Tech, there seems to be an at least semi-legitimate answer. We work too hard gets "you get a better education." We have to take courses that have nothing to do with our major has "grad schools are impressed by a geology major that's taken quantum physics." There are way more guys than girls at Caltech gets the response "fewer girls apply, we take the best students,

and you weren't going to be doing any dating anyway, you go to Caltech." The food here is terrible gets the response "um...no it isn't!" So I guess not quite every complaint has an answer that works, especially when it comes to food. Apparently the dinners we receive every night are worth somewhere around 12 dollars (tell me you'd pay 12 dollars in a restaurant for what we eat here), C-store prices are fair, and being required to be on board if you're on campus is normal. Unfortunately, what they didn't realize is that unlike physics; where I suspect they lie to me on a regular basis but I can never catch them, when it comes to food I'm onto them. It turns out that simply by going to Denny's, you can get better food for lower prices. Now, I know this may be harsh, but that means that technically CDS is inferior to Denny's. To fix this problem, I've decided to suggest a few ways to improve board.

First of all, don't require everyone on campus to be on board. "But then everyone would jump off board like rats on a sinking, burning ship full of starving cats," says the administration. Is that such a terrible thing? Caltech could offer a board plan (even a terrible one) so people interested wouldn't be put off by its lack, but then not require all the students to be on it. We can hardly complain if you give us another option, and those few who are too lazy to get their own food can still eat whatever CDS offers. The board program could even serve

better food on prefrish weekend, to hide its flaws. No, wait, that would be unethical. Regardless, if board was made optional (except for first term frosh of course, nothing is optional for them) and most students got off, it would reduce costs, so CDS could operate at less of a loss. Yes, that's right, despite the high cost and low quality, CDS loses money.

If instead of allowing people to escape board, Caltech prefers to improve it, there are ways of doing this as well. Many schools hire outside contractors, who must bid for their positions. This uses *economics* and *competition* to find optimum quality and price.

"Simply by going to Denny's, you can get better food for lower prices [...] we can hardly complain if you give us another option."

Restaurants seem to also do this "competition thing." This may sound like a completely insane idea, but if you've ever tasted the sweet sweet nectar and ambrosia that is the eating program at Cornell University, you'd know it works.

Another way to improve the quality of board can be said in a few simple words: cows, pigs, chickens. These animals can provide much better meat, at comparable cost to whatever it is they're giving us now. My guess is that it's soy somehow² although I've heard many people believe that it's people.

Most people like steak night, but burger night tends to disappoint even the most burger loving tech students. And, since it costs 11+ dollars per meal (according to CDS) I've thought of a solution. Instead of one burger and some weird fries/potatoes/bean medley, we could simply give everyone 10 dollar burgers from Carl's. These are delicious (including either chicken or cow, bacon, and sometimes an onion ring for some reason) and it would

save CDS some money.

We could also make people feel guilty by telling them that there are children starving in Africa who would be happy to have our board food. They could burn it for warmth.

Another problem with board is the cost, which seems to be higher than at other schools. One reason for this is that it can be expensive to buy the exotic meats they feed us. Other problems are paying the waiters, open kitchen, too much food (much of which is uneaten, for some reason) and the fact that CDS sometimes takes sacks of money and just tosses them into dumpsters. Obviously that last this is a Caltech tradition, and can't be changed without losing a key part of our school³, but the others can be fixed.

The pay for the waiting isn't a bad idea, and having waiters is a house tradition, but it is a huge money loss. Of course, there's no reason they need to be paid out of board money (assuming they are? I actually have no idea, but being informed isn't what they pay me to do. To tell you the truth, I don't know what it is they pay me to do). Caltech could easily

afford to pay them as employees of the school. If they're willing to pay hundreds of thousands (did someone say a million?) dollars to keep murals painted on South House walls, a little money to keep the tradition of waiters without charging the students doesn't seem to be such a bad idea. We could also make the waiters earn their money. Obviously suggesting they do a better job of waiting isn't the solution, because that isn't their job. Their job is to punish us for random offenses, often by pouring things on our heads. However, we could improve their general value just by making a few requirements. My suggestions would be roller skates and eye patches, or at least silly hats.

Open kitchen is wonderful, but apparently expensive. One way to save costs here is to have nothing by low quality lunch meats, a salad bar stocked with aging unpleasant looking veggies, and very little else. Since CDS already seems to have thought of this one, I'd also suggest making the acquisition of food a little trickier. Perhaps lock most of the doors, and require students to navigate an obstacle course in order to get at the food. Alternatively, you could ask anyone who wants to get in a question such as "name one non-science related event in European history." This should make getting the food suitable difficult so only the truly hungry manage to eat.

When the things I've suggested are put into place, I truly believe that CDS will become delicious, nutritious and low cost. It seems to me that following this advice is the only way to keep the Caltech students happy. Either that, or slowly poison our food with mind control drugs.

1 Whatever those prices are, which seems to be information we don't deserve to be privileged with until we've already bought our food.

2 This would be an obvious reason things taste so bad. Soy seems to have evolved a natural defense from predators, like thorns on raspberry bushes, or shells on crabs, which is to taste really nasty.

3 The tradition of being extremely inefficient with money.

Letter to the Editor: Response to Simon Que Commentary Regarding the American Pledge

To the editor:

I read Simon Que's article, "The Pledge of Allegiance, Education, and the Sign of False Issues" in last week's *Tech*, and was highly impressed by Mr. Que's ability to miss the point of the debate currently raging in this country about the teaching of religion in public schools. Mr. Que, the debate is not over "two words" ("under God"), it is over the role of prayer and religious education in the nation's public schools. Michael Newdow is an atheist and does not want his daughter to be exposed to prayers or to be taught religion in school. Mr. Newdow may also not be thrilled with the way his daughter's teacher presents, for example, a one-sided view of ancient Egypt, but the constitution doesn't say anything about that. It does, however, say something about separating church and state, and this is why Mr. Newdow's

case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, instead of just the local PTA meeting. Everyone understands that going to school means being indoctrinated to a certain degree. However, being indoctrinated with religious belief is, according to Michael Newdow and many others, specifically disallowed by the constitution.

Normally, I would have finished Mr. Que's article and forgotten about it. However, I found a sentence in it so egregiously offensive that I felt compelled to respond. The statement in question is, "And when students are taught that people came from single-celled organisms through spontaneous processes, regardless of whether it is true, it greatly restricts the available options for justifying, say, a moral criticism of the Holocaust."

Mr. Que, could you please elaborate for us on the thought you were trying to convey in this

sentence? It seems you are insinuating that people who accept evolutionary theory lack the moral sense to condemn atrocities like the Holocaust just as strongly as those who believe we were designed by a God in his own image (the other prevailing belief in our society). Obviously, codes of conduct and morality are important components of all of the world's major religions. Yet, does that mean that atheists cannot share the moral stance that mass murder and genocide is wrong, or that atheists cannot share that stance as vociferously as non-atheists?

Evolutionary theory attempts to explain the origins and diversity of life seen on earth. It is a powerful theory, and many scientists believe the evidence in favor of it is overwhelming. Yet, for all it is, evolutionary theory is not a

Continued on Page 5, Column 1

Attn: 2005-2006 Upper Class Merit Awards Announcement

Attention: Current Freshmen, Sophomores & Juniors
2005-2006 UPPER CLASS MERIT AWARDS

Each year, the Scholarships and Financial Committee Aid recommends a number of the most academically-talented of the Institute's sophomores and juniors and, in special circumstances, freshmen for Upper Class Merit Awards. Upper Class Merit Awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement as demonstrated by exceptional academic performance, independent research, and extracurricular activities since beginning academic studies at Caltech. They are not based on financial need. The level of awards is determined by the caliber of the applicants. Approximately \$1,000,000 will be

awarded this year. Last year, the Committee recommended a total of 50 Upper Class Merit Awards. Awards ranged from \$19,002 (3/4 tuition) to \$33,348 (full tuition/room/board).

All eligible students are encouraged to apply. Applications and recommendation forms are available online at:

www.finaid.caltech.edu/UpperClassMeritAwardMarch2005.html

or in the Financial Aid Office at 414 South Holliston Avenue, Room 110.

The deadline for submitting the completed applications to the Financial Aid Office is:

5:00 pm on Friday, April 8, 2005

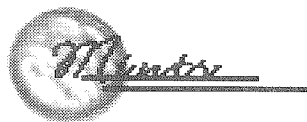
No Late Applications will be considered.

Continued from Page 4, Column 5

theory of morality; it is neutral on the subject of how humans should treat one another. Mr. Que, I hope you were not led astray by the "nature, red in tooth and claw" perspective of natural selection, which paints evolution in a violent and gloomy light, and evokes images of animals constantly fighting with each other for survival. Even if the natural world were this way, it does not mean that any human society should be, and I have not found that those who accept evolution endorse violence any more than those who don't.

Most atheists, just like most religious people, have highly developed senses of morality. Mr. Que probably wonders how this

is possible, but the reasons are simple. The basic moral sense of people (without sociopathic disorders) derives not from religion, but from our capacity to imagine ourselves in the shoes of another. It is not only the religious who feel extreme discomfort upon witnessing the suffering of others, or who decide to provide assistance to the needy with no expectation of repayment. In fact, many prominent psychologists contend that our basic sense of morality is itself a product of evolution by natural selection. It is easy to imagine how members of a tribe with no regard for others would be killed off or at least not be offered as many opportunities to procreate as the other members.



Upcoming Public Events at the California Institute of Technology:

Events at the Caltech Women's Center

International Women's Day Film

Rosa Luxemburg; March 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Beckman Institute Auditorium; The International Film Club and the Women Center will host a showing of Rosa Luxemburg, a film that details the life of the woman who led both the German and Polish Socialist parties and whose anti-colonialist and pacifist stance on the issues of her day lead to her assignment. No RSVP needed.

Reel Women Film Series
Tupperware! March 10, 12:00-

Therefore, far from restricting the options available for criticizing mass murder, evolutionary theory can greatly broaden our understanding of the content and roots of our moral compass. At worst, the teaching of evolutionary theory as part of the science curriculum in schools has no effect on the moral reasoning ability of students. And, like it or not, the teaching of bona fide, falsifiable scientific theories like evolution in the nation's public schools is not barred by the constitution.

Alex Tobias
G5

1:00 p.m.; 2nd floor of the Center for Student Services; This film reveals the secret behind Tupperware's success: the women of all shape's, sizes, and backgrounds who discovered they could move up in the world without leaving their house. Free pizza! No RSVP needed.

International Women of Hope Poster Series

The month of March; Lobby of the Center for Student Services; From Ella Bhatt of India and Peace Bikunda of Rwanda, these posters highlight the remarkable achievements of internationally-renowned women, their courage, compassion, and contributions to their respective countries.

Scholarships

USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships are available now to students with demonstrated financial need. USA Funds will award up to \$3 million dollars in renewable scholarships. Scholarships range from \$750 to \$1500 per academic year based on enrollment. Please visit their website for requirements and application forms: www.usafunds.org. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2005.

The American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) sponsors a scholarship program to encourage college students to enter the field of naval engineering. Currently one year scholarship awards are \$2,500 for undergraduate students, and \$3,500 for graduate students. Applications and further instructions are available at: www.navalengineers.org/Pro

grams/Scholarships/sc_info.htm. The deadline to apply is February 15, 2005.

The College Women's Club of Pasadena scholarship applications are now available. This scholarship is available to female students who are U.S. Citizens and will be completing their sophomore year or higher, with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Applications are available in the Caltech Financial Aid Office. The deadline to submit all materials to the Caltech Financial Aid Office is: February 15, 2005.

The Swedish Club of Los Angeles offers two \$2,000 Scholarships: "The Glenn T. Seaborg" scholarship in Science, and the "Walter G. Danielson" scholarship in International Relations and Diplomacy. Requirements include: transcript, letters of recommendation from two professors, resume, statement of goals, and a demonstrated interest in Scandinavia. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students are eligible. Application information is available in the Financial Aid Office.

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

Continued on Page 6, Column 1

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www.xiemclaycenter.com

Continued from Page 5, Column 5

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>

Citizens for Global Solutions is holding a FLASH Movie Contest "Global Solutions for a New Year." The top prize is \$1,000. Please visit: <http://advocacy.globalsolutions.org>

The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society "TMS" offers a variety of scholarships. To preview scholarship eligibility and deadline information visit: www.tms.org/Students/AwardsPrograms/Scholarships.html

The Society of Plastics Engineers offers 10-12 undergraduate scholarships. Please visit their website for deadlines, scholarship guidelines and applications: www.4spe.org

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. Applica-

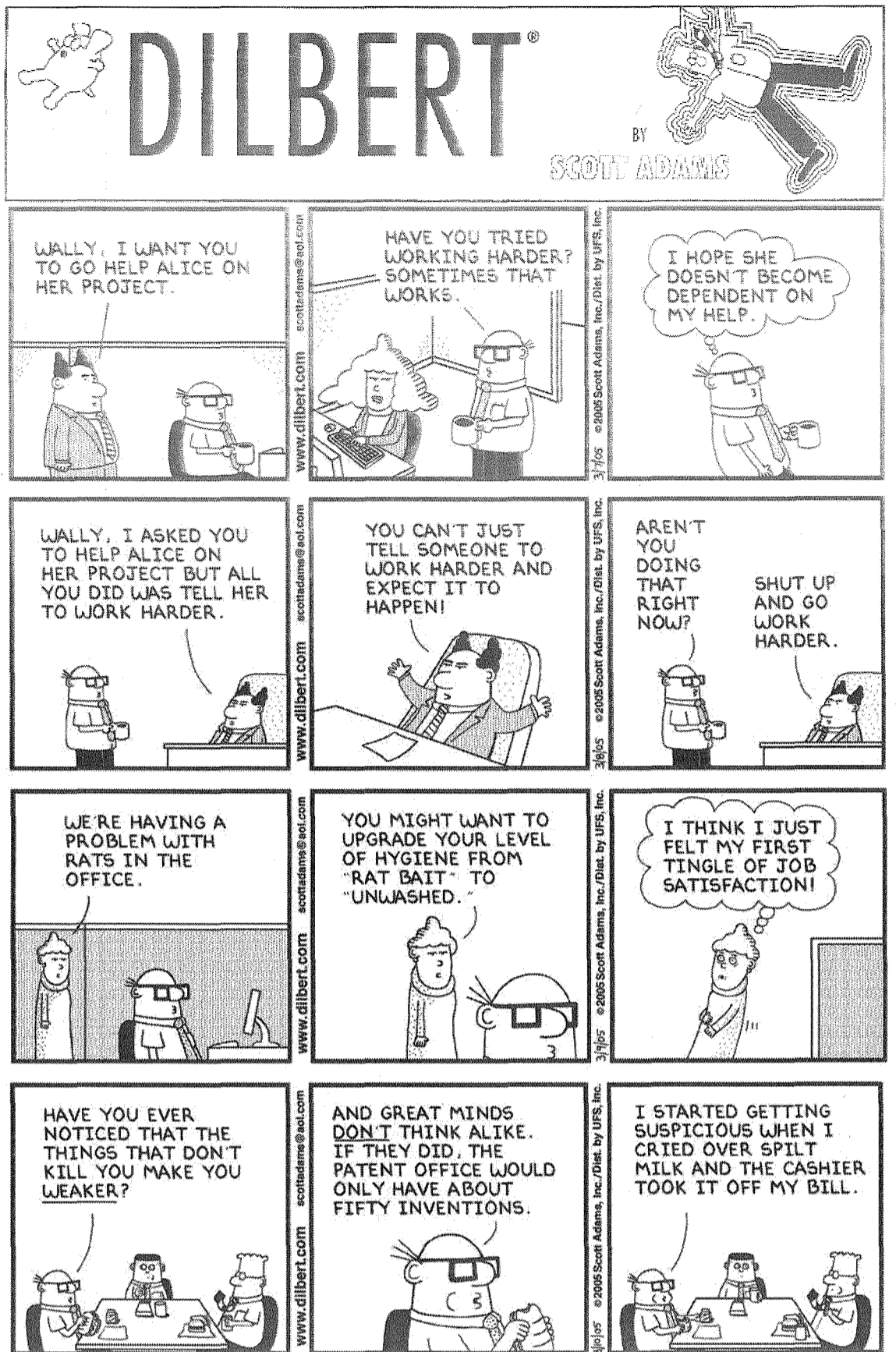
tions are available in the Financial Aid Office, or on Educaid's website: <https://www.educaid.com/doubletake>

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

More Scholarships are available at www.finaid.caltech.edu/news.html

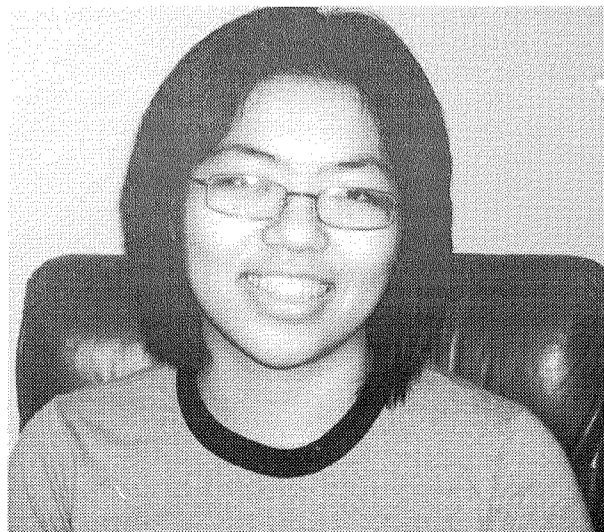


ARC Chair Candidates

Meng-Meng Fu

Academics are an integral part of life at Caltech. We all have gripes about certain classes or certain academic policies. I believe that the role of the ARC Chair is to present the opinions of students to faculty committees and administration so that they can be turned into tangible changes in the curriculum.

Currently, the ARC is not an efficient committee - our sole responsibility is to appoint other students to other academic committees. As ARC Chair, I would initiate regular meetings of the ARC and hold ARC reps responsible for requesting student input from their respective houses. I would update CLUE so that we can continue to use it as a resource when researching classes. I would streamline the sharing of information from the vast number of academic committees on campus by posting regular reports on the ARC website and by writing articles for the *Tech*. I would also encourage cooperation of the ARC with the BoC to aid the Honor Code through better education of TAIs and



usage of the cooperation policy worksheets in all classes.

The immediate duty of the new ARC Chair is to facilitate the Student Faculty Committee (SFC) next term. Having served as the interim ARC Chair last term and as an ARC rep for the past year, I am familiar with the issues that each and every committee is tackling. The challenge is to turn the suggestions of the SFC committees into beneficial changes. Issues of particular importance that affect everyone are:

- decreasing the number of overload units
- adding humanities/social science minors
- reorganizing/restructuring core

My main goal for the SFC is to accurately represent the opinion of undergraduates. For example, mixed opinions exist about decreasing the number of overload units. Some think that this is a good idea, because it will effectively decrease the workload and allow more time for the pursuit of other interests (such as sports, extracurriculars, or research). Others are worried that it might hinder them from graduating on time. In order for this change to be beneficial, a compromise must be reached between students and faculty: for example, required classes need to be offered every year without exception or the number of units needed for graduation need to be lowered.

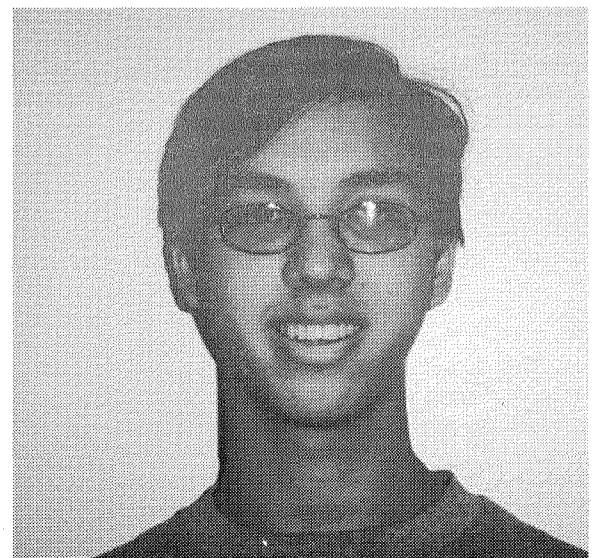
To summarize, I would be a good choice for the next ARC Chair, because of:

- Experience: interim ARC Chair, ARC rep, various academic committees (Council on Undergraduate Education, Student Core Advisory Committee, Library Committee)
- Sensitivity to the opinions of the undergraduate population.
- Ability to cooperate with faculty and administration.

But most importantly, I care deeply about academic issues because they affect all of us on a daily basis. I will do all that I can to push for appropriate academic changes, because I honestly believe that they will make Caltech a better place to learn and a happier place to be!

James Berglund

If I were elected ARC chair, my primary goals would be to have an effective Student-Faculty Conference (SFC), and to increase the visibility of the ARC. I would work to make sure that classes are canceled during the days of the conference, and encourage everyone to go to the presentations that are relevant to them. I would also work after the conference to make sure the suggestions that the committees presented were implemented by the appropriate department. The SFC is a unique time to improve the quality of academics here, and I would make sure it's fully utilized. As a previous ARC member, I am familiar with what the ARC does each year, and I could run those duties smoothly. Finally, I would work to increase the role of the ARC, by having it be more active in promoting the use of the CLUE, more promotion for various committee sign-ups, and have more meetings with faculty to discuss relevant issues.



Interhouse Committee Chairman Candidates

Melody Grubbs



L. Tran/The California Tech

As a candidate for the position of IHC chairman, I am aware that if I am elected then I will have my work cut out for me. With the South House renovations soon to be underway and freshmen being admitted into Avery this fall, one of my main goals will be to make certain that this upcoming year's Rotation moves smoothly and is as fair as humanly possible. Although many of us are against the idea of allowing freshmen to live in Avery, it will be necessary to put that sentiment aside during this year's Rotation in order to insure that this year's incoming class has as pleasant an experience as possible.

As new blood in the student government, I will be able to serve as an impartial liaison between the IHC and ASCIT and I will

also be able to impart the opinions and views of the students to the administrators without altering them because of my own personal stances. Also, since I possess good interpersonal skills, I will make certain that the students, faculty, and staff that I interact with are treated professionally and that their ideas and opinions are received with respect whether or not I agree with them. Finally, I will ensure that the duties of the IHC are carried out in a manner that either maintains or improves the student's quality of life and in order to do this effectively, I will do my best to make the administrators aware of the affect that changes will have on campus life well before they decide to alter Institute policy.

Peter Foley

Hello everyone, it's me again. I'm going to work under the assumption that you read my statement from the past round of elections, so I won't bore you with that. (If you haven't, look for a Tech from 2 weeks ago, or look online at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~foley/campaign/>).

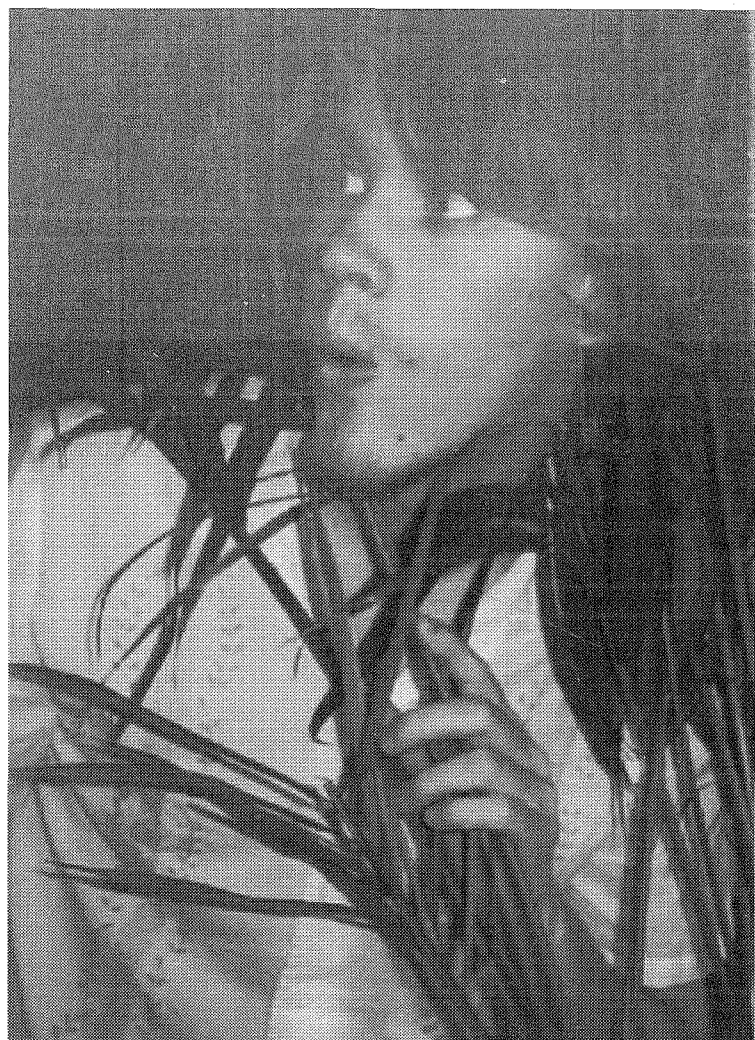
I probably care too much about having strong student government and influence here, but hey, you would hope that the first people administrators ask about student opinion (ASCIT President and IHC Chair) want to make that opinion matter. I generally like talking to and working with our administrators, but the truth is, very few of them were here as undergrads, and most of them don't have a good understanding of our lives. The IHC is trying to get more admin-student interaction, and I'm going to be pushing pretty hard to make it happen.

Speaking of which, Student Affairs held their first open-house last week, and I think they'll be continuing it into the future. It's a great way to get to talk about issues, or just chat with the people that run our lives and let them know what we do, what we enjoy, and who we are. In addition to more serious conversation (about Rotation, mods, admissions/financial aid, random issues), I chatted with Daryl Denning (Director of Performing and Creative Arts) for a while about traveling around Vienna and Budapest. So next week, you should take a break Wednesday 4-5 and get to know the people that control you. There's free food too.

Okay, just so you don't forget, you should vote Peter Foley for IHC Chair TODAY, March 7, either online at donut.caltech.edu, or on paper at a ballot box in your house.

Y'all have fun now, and with

finals coming up, don't forget to take time to relax. It'll make things better and more pleasant for you and everyone around you.



Courtesy of P. Foley

ASCIT Secretary Candidates

Parvathy Menon

I've been met with mixed reactions to my ASCIT secretary statement. Some gave me looks that "Gosh, does Parvathy think she could ever be comparable to Fresca? What a snob!" while others seem full of awe: "Is she really Erik BloodAxe?"

A more common point of confusion was: "Is she really running for Secretary?"

And my answer is, yes. Absolutely.

Certainly, I could have spent my statement impressing you with my uncanny ability to take minutes for meetings and dazzling you with my extensive previous leadership experience. You know, I think I would be pretty good at taking minutes... as would almost any member of our Caltech undergraduate student body. The Club duties and other official Secretary work is extremely important but frankly, there are many, many Techers could fulfill those duties.

No, what I wanted to communicate through my article was a different quality that I think is key and valuable to any member of a leadership committee. It was an expression of independent thinking, intended to show that I possessed more great skills than those required by the office of Secretary. (Naturally, these are in addition to my nunchuck skills, bowhunting skills, computer hacking skills.)

If the role of Secretary was merely the "note-taker for the BoD," I really would feel no deep desire for the position. However, the office is so much more than

what is written in the official duties. The Secretary is member of the Board of Directors. They have the opportunity to voice concerns from the student body, to make rulings that actually impact student life. They should be ready with experience and unique perspective to react to the concerns and student issues that will arise.

Avery as a house, renovations, and other topics are looming ahead to deal with and many people have strong opinions on this topic - the BoD, whoever is elected, will deal with these matters in a guiding and balanced way.

However, I think that I - specifically - could help one particular issue by being on the BoD: student apathy! Though this may not be an obvious topic like Avery or renovations, it is as much of an issue - who really has a concrete solution to this? I guess we could always try posting fliers and planning "Feel That Caltech Spirit" days?? Or not.

As with any company, group, or voting body, the way to achieve unity and to encourage the students to care is not through paper handouts but rather, through the culture the leaders create.

If I were to be elected to the Board of Directors, the student body would feel that energy and know that the BoD really is enthusiastic about the school and the students - heck, I'm not even on the BoD and I'm ridiculously excited about Caltech and how cool the students are here (no, I'm serious). Establishing this strong and spirited culture of olde with the student leadership and ener-

gizing the student body is a task that I feel I could really contribute to.

And now, enjoy my original statement, hopefully with a new appreciation of what I mean when I say... "You should let me love you." ☺

The window. I am a sunbeam. Ah good Snell, let me in - I will refract and reflect all the desires of your soul, student body. With my light, I will show the ASCIT the way of Truth and Good. When I submit the weekly ASCIT minutes, this light will shine out from the pages of the Tech and kindle fires of inspiration within each of you. Feel the warmth of my sunbeam - nay, soak it in... for the way I will oversee club funding will delight your senses and grant you peace of mind.

The window. I am a light breeze. Let me in. Let me ventilate the musty corners of the attic of ASCIT. I will gently guide, allow your spirit to soar upon my winds. Thus, I will present your complaints and deepest desires - your very essence -- to ASCIT. And you should fear not. Because I will always hear you. And ASCIT will hear me. And we shall let freedom ring.

The window. I am Erik BloodAxe - Viking Warrior - reborn with the task of bringing back the ASCIT glory days of olde. Let me embark on this crusade of change, to cleanse and take back ASCIT for the students. Like raining Fresca, let my lightly carbonated but substance-full character sparkle. Take this

Meaghan Pacey

We all know that the next year is going to bring a lot of changes and growing pains, from moving the South Houses to trailers to getting frosh in Avery. As a South House member (Fleming) and an Avery resident, I feel that I am particularly well-equipped to represent the students who will be most affected by these changes. In addition to being a good representative of the Caltech undergraduate body, I am highly qualified to take on the duties specific to the secretary position as well. As the current interim ASCIT secretary (standing in for Corinna Zygourakis while she's abroad), I would have the advantage of starting my term with some degree of experience and knowledge of current issues if elected. I am a good minutes-taker, and I'm very excited

opportunity to energize and revolutionize. I will bring inspiration and refreshment - every ruling, every meeting of ASCIT will be sheer exhilaration and contentment with me steering as your Secretary.

In the wise words of modern Buddha -slash- Pop sensation Mario,

Baby, You should let me love you Let me be the one to give you everything you want... and need. Baby good love and protection Make me your selection

Parvathy will show you how ASCIT was supposed to be.

*****@ Parvathy for ASCIT Secretary - only love, friends, only love *****

about the new club-related duties that the secretary will be taking on due to recent BoD resolutions. That said, I realize that for some of you my Avery affiliation will be a contentious issue, and I want to address the point head-on. While I am personally in favor of frosh in Avery--we should have more confidence in the freshmen's ability to make their own decisions, in my opinion, and I encourage all of you to relate your good experiences with the house system to them during their decision process--I realize that many students disagree with the situation and am committed to representing those students with sensitivity as well. I have experienced both the house system and Avery, and I like each of them for different reasons and think it's important that both are available options for undergrads. Vive le difference! I suspect that the primary source of frustration regarding the frosh in Avery decision is the perception that the faculty board disregarded the opinion of the student body and reached a hasty agreement without consensus on the rationale. If elected, I promise the student body that I will do everything in my power to maintain the large degree of student self-governance that makes the Caltech community great, and to use the full weight of my ASCIT position (yes, every member of the BoD, from president to FDAL, gets face time with administrators) to lean on faculty committees as necessary to avoid hasty decisions.

Sincerely,
Meaghan Pacey

Treasurer Candidates

Franklin Jiron

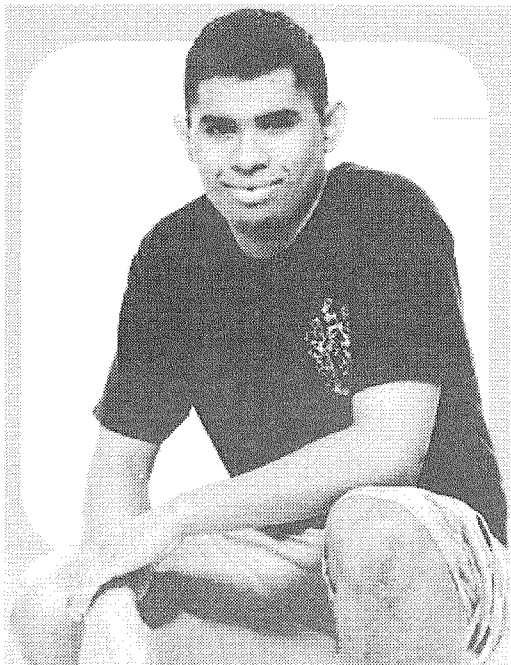
I have been a Caltech student for almost three years, and in that time, I am saddened to say, I have not been involved with many activities on campus. As a Junior in E&AS done with the bulk of my stringent required courses, I wish to spend some of my long overdue free time doing something for the general student body.

Most people do not realize how much work goes into many of the ASCIT events. Donuts, formal, theater nights, student clubs, and all of the other activities that ASCIT offers to Caltech students are all made possible by your dues. As treasurer, it would be my job to guarantee that all ASCIT activities have adequate funding. I would like to ensure that when it comes time for elected officers to deliver promises of great events, that there are enough resources to uphold their commitments. Aside from the ongoing funding of activities, it would be also my job to keep track of ASCIT's assets and assure that they serve the student body.

Aside from keeping track of where your money is going, it would be my responsibility to harvest positive relationships with all those whom we do business with. A good relationship with current busi-

ness partners could result in better rates, and attract more business to contract with us. What this means to you is more money for other activities, more possible venues for off campus events, and higher quality of current services. Also, if approved, I will have oversight over several student publications. I plan to support these groups both financially and otherwise, and serve as a liaison between them and the BOD.

I am very much committed to serving my fellow classmates, and I believe that the best way that I can help is to serve as treasurer. Being treasurer is a responsibility not to be taken lightly, and I fully commit to myself to the job. Thank you.

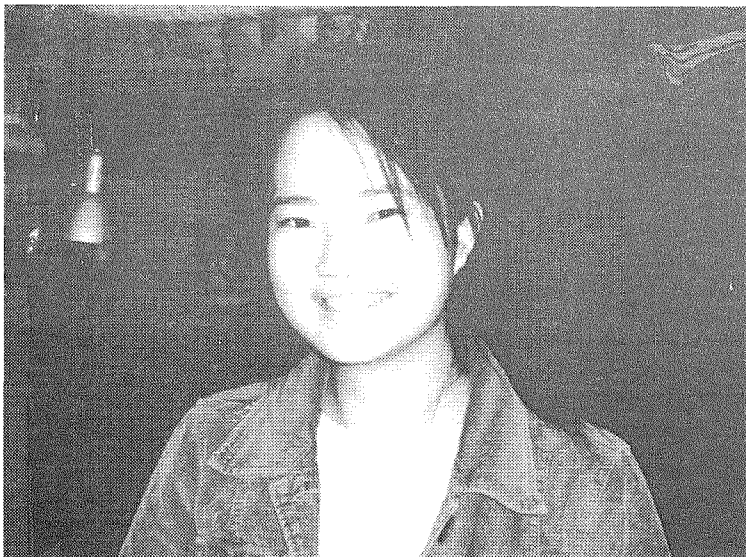


Courtesy of F. Jiron

Kelly Lin

I believe that the most effective way to improve the Caltech community is to get involved in student government and to better understand the social and academic issues on campus. Serving as the Freshmen-Director-At-Large and as an active member on various student committees this past year has taught me a lot about the issues that concern the administrator and, more importantly, the students. I believe that among the most relevant issues is the way money is spent on students. After all, ASCIT is an organization whose purpose is not only to enhance communication between diverse groups on campus, but also to improve the overall quality of life for Techers. As treasurer, I will make sure that dues are spent in a way that will benefit students most directly. With the increased budget, I will strive to allocate

more money to fund clubs, social activities around campus, and student-faculty-"Take Your Prof Out"-lunches. I will also work to improve the visibility of ASCIT by helping organize more campus-wide activities such as sports barbeques and more bagels and donuts! Having worked on the Big-T for almost two years, I understand the difficulty in putting together an awesome publication, but at the same time, I will make sure that our publications meet deadlines and stay within budget. I will do all that I can to maintain our budget surplus and also make our Caltech experience memorable. I am ready and eager to dedicate time and commitment on the duties of this position and I would love the opportunity to continue to serve as an active and enthusiastic member on the BoD.



L. Tran/The California Tech

FDAL Candidates

Hanwen Yan

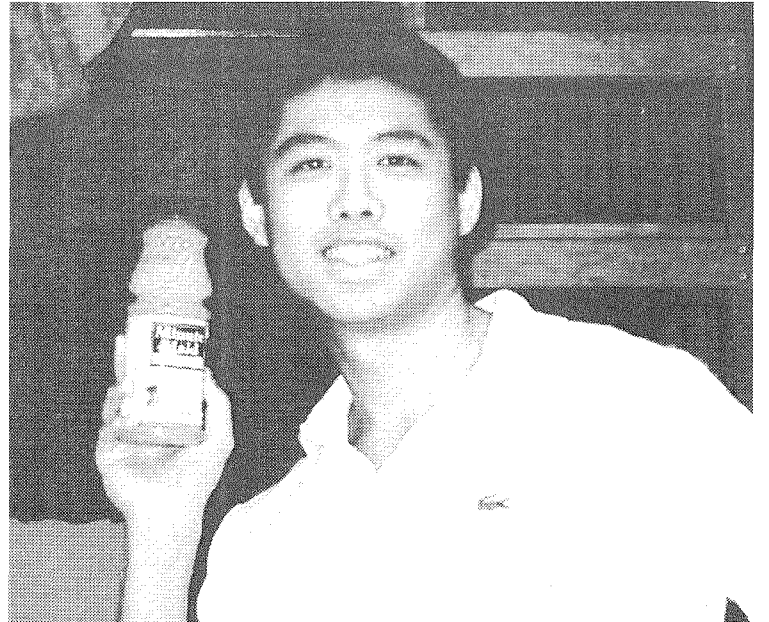
After brooding for an entire week over my ego-crushing defeat to this "relatively unknown" Todd Gingrich, the so-called "King of Four-Square," I've realized one thing: not only must the cute, intelligent, nice, caring girl I am seeking love the Notebook, she must also share my passion for Minute Maid Ruby Red Grapefruit Juice (which I haven't seen in the South Kitchens for weeks, so all you fools best back up off my juice before I get all up in your grill), and love receiving love letters with pretty ribbons from really sketchy Korean? dudes like me.

Now, concerning FDAL once again, ASCIT is devoted to improving student quality of life, and as FDAL, I will make sure the freshmen have their needs acknowledged by the BoD. By spamming e-mails to addresses such as ch1b2006@caltech.edu ala Christopher Brandow, I will be able to inform freshmen throughout the year of various club activities, campus events, SURF information, and other useful information. I will be very enthusiastic and make sure the freshmen are aware of all nonacademic as well as the myriad academic opportunities that are available. They will know that their voice most definitely will be heard by

the BoD so that they may acquire funds for clubs, social events, or whatever else sounds like a legitimate use of funds. Those freshmen will love me like a fat kid loves cake! Also, like many others, I am gifted with the ability to perform menial tasks extremely quickly and efficiently. As FDAL, anything the BoD requires of me will be done really fast, like a fat kid running after cake. I sincerely hope you vote for me so I won't have to suffer the anguish of los-

ing the SAME election twice and be sad, like a fat kid without cake.

Basically, I would be a really good FDAL and am ready to give all of my effort into making sure that freshmen get a head start in making their Caltech experience as positively memorable as possible. Please give me the opportunity to serve on the BoD as the Freshman Director-at-Large. Thanks for your vote!



Courtesy of H. Yan

Anton Shuster

What is FDAL? FDAL is a vote! There are many ASCIT offices, but only the BoD gets to vote on issues pertinent to the whole student body. In this sense, it is clear why the FDAL is an office which should be elected by the whole student body and why everyone should get to know the FDAL candidates. FDAL should represent the vote of the freshmen, but how much do freshmen know about ASCIT issues? I believe that the FDAL's main responsibility is to educate the freshman about all ASCIT issues so that then he/she can represent the *educated* opinion of the freshmen rather than *just* representing the opinion of the freshmen.

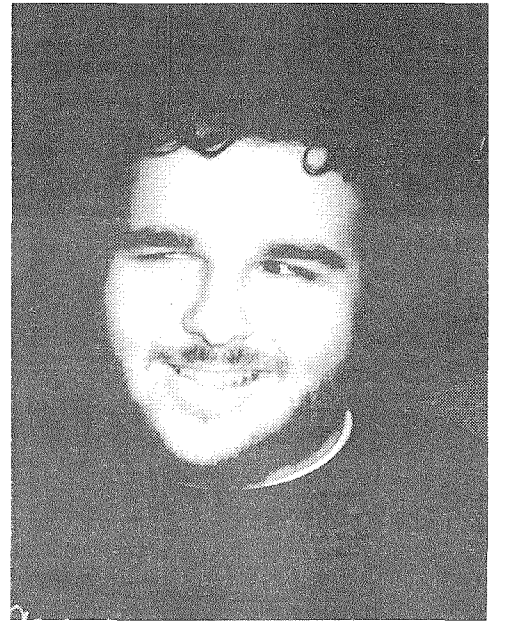
Who is Anton Shuster? I'm the only candidate large enough to be "at Large." In fact, I am at *extra large*. I believe that mostly

anyone can be elected for this office and there will not be a noticeable difference in the way that ASCIT runs things. ASCIT's behavior obviously depends on offices with much more responsibility like president and vice president. Nonetheless, FDAL is a vote. I believe that ASCIT should think twice before voting and that we should shy away from electing a BoD that is mostly from one house.

If I am elected FDAL, I will follow Warner's platform of communication, and when voting, I will always do my best to support the

opinion of the minority.

Also, I'm awesome and love everyone ;)



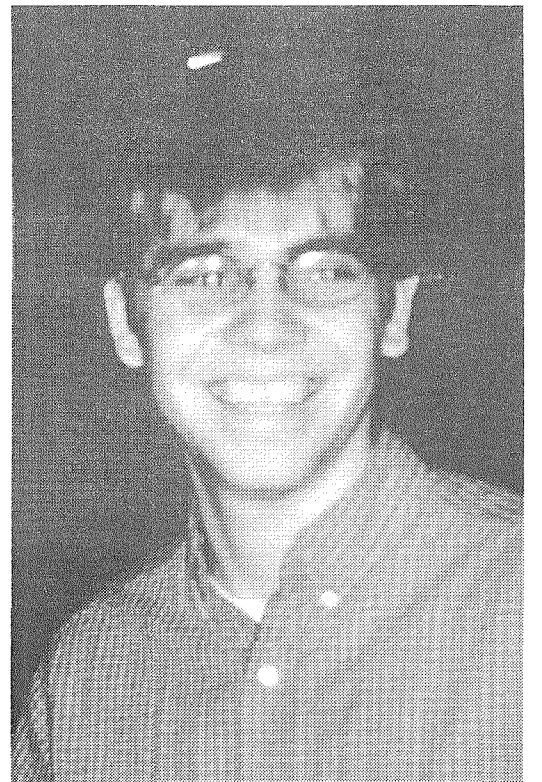
Courtesy of A. Shuster

Todd Gingrich

One of the more concrete powers of the FDAL is the power to vote on BoD decisions. Like all the candidates, if I am elected FDAL I will push for what I believe the freshmen desire, but more importantly, I will focus on serving as a liaison between the freshman class and the BoD. As FDAL, I would increase this role as a liaison by better informing freshmen about opportunities through the BoD. The BoD still has a surplus, and there are ways that freshmen can use this money to start clubs, plan social events, or perform pranks. It is important that the freshmen learn of these opportunities in order to make full use of their ASCIT dues.

A key component of the FDAL position, particularly with the changes to the position for this upcoming year, is the ability to work productively with the administration. Despite the fact that I am a freshman, I have already worked with both the BoD and the administration on several occasions. While creating a club last fall I became familiar with the BoD proceedings by attend-

ing BoD meetings. More recently, I have been working with Tom Mannion and related members of the administration to improve student life. As the FDAL is responsible for freshman-related issues, he will be very involved in working with a variety of committees to ensure that rotation runs smoothly despite renovations and freshmen in Avery. The combination of familiarity with the BoD proceedings and the workings of the administration will allow me to effectively express the freshman point of view on these issues. I would greatly appreciate your vote on Monday.



Courtesy of T. Gingrich

Tech Editor Candidates

Adam Craig

I stand by the statement on which I originally ran, and my plans for the California Tech have not changed. However, I am taking this opportunity to describe my concerns and goals in further detail.

I have not previously served on the staff of the California Tech, because, until now, I have not had the time to consistently write and proofread material carefully enough to ensure that it meets my own standards of clarity, conciseness, fluidity, and vividness. With the onset of Spring term of my junior year at Caltech, I will have fulfilled enough of my graduation requirements that I can plan my schedule around the needs of the Tech.

Since I did not have an issue of the Tech at hand when I was preparing my original statement, I constructed passages featuring the types of flaws I remembered from articles I had read. However, a look at the February 28 issue only serves to strengthen the case for stylistic reform. The following are some representative samples of the vices to which the Tech has fallen:

Matthew Walker's own article covering the previous attempt at an election implies that Parvathy Menon's use of metaphor in her statement made it "somewhat mysterious." It either is or is not mysterious, and, if so, mystery must enshroud some specific aspect of it. Citing only the reliance on metaphor, the author fails to convince even himself, as convincing writing leaves no room for "somewhat." Mr. Walker also describes the election for Interhouse Committee Chairman as "closely watched," but who is watching? Is he referring to the students, the faculty, the administrators, a cold and distant god, or someone still further removed? He may merely be trying to make the reader paranoid, but the article provides no clue. Mr. Walker also uses three different words derived from "surprise" in his article but never explains why any of the events in question are more surprising than the difficulty he had thinking of descriptors.

David Chen evidently wrote "Smell Experiments in Bees Confirm Theories" for the narrow segment of readers unfamiliar with the function of g-coupled receptors in the nose but knowledgeable of glomeruli. Defining technical jargon specific to the subject of the article helps science quidnuncs from all walks of life enjoy the Tech together.

Tammy Ma's "A Little Bit of Inflation Wouldn't Hurt A Fly"

features thirteen rhetorical questions, none of which contribute to the persuasiveness or eloquence of the editorial, and the title itself contains a worn-out metaphor that adds no further meaning to the title.

Simon Que's "The Pledge of Allegiance, Education, and the Sign of False Issues" contains the phrases "almost comically ridiculous" and "You get the idea." The word ridiculous already implies that the situation has a comical aspect. Adding "almost comically" weakens the statement. Furthermore, if the reader does "get the picture," he or she is aware of having gotten it and needs no notification from the writer.

In "Seniors: Define Your Legacy-A Letter from the Gift Co-Chairs," Andrea Vasconcellos and Alice Lin make the appeal, "Despite the fact that though some of you may not have voted for the dinnerware, we want to emphasize that the Senior Gift campaign is not about the type of gift we give, but instead, its true meaning is rooted in our efforts as a class." It is truly only a matter of time before the fact is that actual Tech contributors are indeed failing to refrain from not preventing undesirable breaches of un-improper prose style from being left without removal even after proof-reading.

In "The Art of Becoming A Man: [etc.]," Hamiltony Falk makes five parenthetical comments and three comments set apart from the rest of the text as footnotes. If they are relevant enough to appear in the article at all, then they are relevant enough to incorporate into the body of the paragraphs in which they appear. Otherwise, the other should exclude them completely. Parenthetical snippets and tangents break up the flow of the words, making the paragraph sound awkward.

Mark Wheeler, author of "Sally Ride Science Festival Helps Encourage Girls to Pursue Science," begins his article by quoting the title of another article from a different newspaper on the same subject. Anyone who wants to know what another newspaper says about a topic will buy that newspaper. Starting with the title from another article suggests that the author lacks the imagination to think of an original opening.

A full examination of the writing styles used in the issue or of the content of the articles would require more space than I have at my disposal for this statement. However, I do plan to work with contributors to help them make their arguments more sound and

their humorous pieces less reliant on cliches. I also hope to increase coverage of major events within the student community, such as house elections, parties, pranks, and protests. Instead of articles reviewing lectures that were open to students or the public, I intend to run articles providing background on lectures before they happen, so that students can better decide which lectures deserve their time and can ask more informed questions at the lectures they do attend. If elected, I will add new features, such as art and photography contests in which students can win prizes, a culinary corner with recipes using ingredients from the c-store, a weekly report on the latest mischievous dealings and conspirings of the administration, and, in the presence of student volunteers and the absence of sexual harassment charges, a topless model on page two. Most importantly, I will do everything within my power to bring you the content you tell me you want to see, because I want you to look forward to reading the Tech.

Sincerely,
Adam Craig

Walker and Tikoo

What does it take to be an editor?

- (A) Ingenuity
- (B) Expertise
- (C) Professionalism

The correct answer is all of the above and more. This is why the two of us, Matt Walker and Sonia Tikoo, are running for the position of Tech Co-Editors. We know that we have what it takes to continue bringing the Caltech community an interesting paper week after week, and we're not anywhere near running out of ideas. To improve on the Tech in the upcoming year, we're already working on adding some new sections to the paper, such as Sports, Features, and Entertainment—guaranteed to satisfy a wider pool of interests—as well as publishing more 12-page issues. We're also open to any student suggestions in regard to comics. We've been printing *Dilbert* for a while now, but the possibility of incorporating other classics such as *Ph.D. Comics* will be heard and taken seriously, granted there is popular demand.

In addition to these plans, both of us undeniably bear great ex-

perience in the art of journalism. Between the two of us, we've racked up 10 years of journalistic experience. Matt has held the seat of News Director for a year and a half now, and in addition to her quality work as a news staff writer on the Tech so far this year, she has six more years of newspaper experience behind her from previous work done in school. As one can see, both of us have plenty of experience working for the Tech. We have the experience with Tech equipment and software necessary to professionally produce a quality publication, and in our work so far, we've already built up a formidable list of contacts necessary to get the job done as true editors.

Last but not least, we are bear an unparalleled passion for and dedication towards the work that we do on the Tech. We will continue to be professional about bringing you, the reader, news in a truthful and unbiased manner. We're here to report the facts the way they are, and that's what we're going to do. The Tech is not a tool with which to wage North House vs. South House battles. Representation is not an issue here. As a publication of ASCIT, we are a publication for the entire Caltech undergraduate student body. If you want to make a statement and be heard, write a Letter to the Editor! Or even better, send us a commentary piece for printing in the paper itself if you so desire!

That said, we sincerely hope you grant us the chance to continue bringing you a quality paper every week for the next year, with timely and content-filled articles featuring the most relevant news and commentary. We may not be the *New York Times* (what college paper is?), but that doesn't mean we can't strive for the best that we can be. And if you vote for ingenuity, if you vote for experience, and if you vote for professionalism, the two of us won't let you down.

to make sure we keep some freedom in those decorations and still maintain a good upkeep of the trailers. I want to keep our houses in good shape, and I really look forward to working with the Damage Reps and Housing to make sure they stay that way.

Stewardship Chair

Eddie Truong-Cao

I hate it when my house has maintenance problems. For example, I find it really annoying when the keypad to a door doesn't work, or when the urinals



courtesy of E. Truong-Cao

continually overflow. I find these kinds of maintenance concerns,

along with the general upkeep of the houses, important to me, and I want to play a role in making sure our needs are met. With the coming of modular housing for the next few years, we will encounter issues involving house decorations. I know that some people may find the new rules a little stringent, but I am sure that working with Housing, we will be able to resolve those issues. Knowing that

I'll probably eventually be living in the trailers myself, I want

BOC Secretary Candidates

Jean Sun

The question at hand is this: why, for the love of God and my precious, precious social life would I want to take up one of the bitchiest jobs on ASCIT? I've heard all the horror stories about the long, grueling hours and the brain-melting tedium, the headaches, the ulcers, the carpal tunnel, etc. Since this is supposed to be some sort of highly intelligent and alluring statement of sorts, I want to say something noble like, "I'm just a silly little bio major and, my goodness, isn't it just tragic that I don't suffer as much as all those hot, sexy physics and math majors? I believe, that to be fair, I should be punished for having copious amounts of free time (ha!) and thus be rightfully condemned to becoming BoC Secretary". That, as compelling as it is, doesn't quite fit how I really feel about all this. The simple and honest truth is this: I want to be

BoC Secretary because I believe it's a job that'll suit me very, very well. I can read, I can write and, as an added bonus, I'm diligent and obsessively organized (people's idea of a "clever" prank to pull on me is to mess up my closet. Sad, I know.). I've done volunteer work as an office secretary for a small business and, for the past two summers, I've worked as a research assistant to an anesthesiologist that was too busy to write his own research papers. As a result, I spent my entire summers editing, revising, and transcribing his work and ended up adding over 700 references (of which I browsed through about 300). As time-consuming as it is, this sort of work doesn't bother me because I know I can do it well.

My most important reason, however, doesn't have to do with my demented sense of diligence or how much job expe-

rience I have. I want to be BoC Secretary because I've sat in front of the BoC before (as a witness to a case), and I know how important it is that everything said is taken down quickly, accurately, and completely. I know how stories can change from day to day and from person to person, and how difficult it is to keep even your own story straight. This lack of consistency has nothing to do with honesty—everyone tends to see things a little differently and to overstate or understate certain events and observations. That's why keeping an accurate record is more than just a tedious procedure; it's a necessity that keeps the BoC on track and as impartial as possible. And, with the importance of that in mind, I believe that I can put my energies in the right place as BoC Secretary and (to end with a really tacky line) do the position justice.

UDAL Candidates

Ryan Farmer

The Upperclassman at Large has typically been seen as an unimportant position in student government. However, with the recent changes, the UDAL will be the main contact for committee activity. As the current ASCIT Treasurer, I understand the need for more effective committee communication with the various student committees—the more students involved with a committee, the more effective the committee. Also, I have been actively involved with various committees over the past year. My prior experience on the BoD will help

the new Excomm during the next year—my understanding of the financial workings will be useful during the budget process and throughout the year.

Lastly, I will work to accomplish parts of the platform in my former presidential campaign: more student body involvement with sports, additional alumni interaction, and efficient use of ASCIT funds to support student activities. As your UDAL, I will work to represent upperclassmen interests and promote activities that are important to undergraduates.

Class of 2006 Co-Presidents

Daniel Stolarski

Class of 2006: They will have to meet the terrorists' demands!

Perhaps you didn't hear us the first time. Perhaps you did. Perhaps the confusion of all things bureaucratic has finally gotten to you. In any event, the powers that be want another statement from us, because there is a run-off, a pregnant chad, a complete team of morons in the White House, a two for one sale on frozen peas at Vons, or whatever.

We no longer want to tempt you with the sweet sweet wine of future perfect. Instead, we shall crush you with our dictatorial iron fists and steely demands! No negotiating with us, you shall give in!

Issue the First: Kim

Kim is not currently a student, so she and her Stalinist regime has to be run from the underground. Kim intends to be a student as soon as possible, but because the Man is keeping her down, she's volunteering her crack team of SWAT ninjas headed by none other than Shaq to help Stolarski carry this off. As per the bylaws, she can't technically run for the office with Stolarski, but once she's a student again she'll assume responsibility with Stolarski and will do her half of the work in the mean time. So

Kim is essentially Stolarski's hidden KGB operative, and will surface when the timing is right.

Issue the Second: Ditch Day

No changes, we insist upon more money for each of your stacks or we kill firstborns.

Issue the Third: Shaq

The graduation speaker will be selected by the admin, unless we release a plague. We've got the locusts all lined up. We said before we wanted another night where there could be actual student input. We shall not make this demand again; everyone will submit to our will and it shall be done.

Issue the Fourth: The Finger

Stolarski's totalitarian suggestion for class gift, now that Kim is out of the way: I think it should reflect the amount of respect and appreciation the administration has had for us in the last 3 years, so I propose that we build a 30 foot tall hand, with a middle finger that extends up and comes back down. It could be displayed proudly along with some of the other crappy art around campus, maybe next to the shed by Throop pond. We have a lot of smart people, I think we if we worked together we could build a great gift for the campus. (Kim chimes in:

we could build something nice, not necessarily profane, and it would be personal and better than buying something stupid). We will not release any hostages alive until our requirements are met.

Issue the Fifth: Tech Must Suck Less

SSH. No, no logging in, only tapping. Senior Social Hour continues, perhaps once a term. *Concerts.* *Screw a capella. Real bands. Lil' Jon: "Yeey-aaaah." *Retreat.* Get your lazy ass off campus. *\$1 Drinks at The Ath.* You know you want to happy hour that joint. *Smilies and other* *Emoticons.* *:-) :-) :-) [-: @.* ^-^ 1337 w00t lol tcsmaisl - > BANISHED! No cheery crap of slashes and colons to symbolize feelings, in Soviet Russia feelings slash you! Uh, we mean we're serious. GIVE US TEN BILLION DOLLARS IN UNMARKED NON-SEQUENTIAL BILLS OR YOU'LL NEVER SEE YOUR PRECIOUS PRECIOUS CARTOONS AGAIN!

Vote for Stolarski because your other choices are girlie men or girlie girls! Senior Stolarski and his cohort Commie Kim are prepared to die for you and your cause. Can you accept anything less?

Angelina Crans and Kimberly Pependorf

We like having fun. We like people. We like you people! We'd like you to have fun! That's why we're running for Senior Class Co-Presidents. In addition to being very personable, persuasive people, we're responsible, energetic, and committed, and will use these skills to make our senior year as fun and carefree as possible! We'll make sure that everyone's opinions are heard in planning senior class events, including parties, concerts with real live bands, the barbeque, commencement, and even a senior retreat. We want to make sure that there are more student speakers at events, because it's a lot more fun to listen to people you

know instead of being lectured to. We'll put together a kick-ass senior class gift and make sure that Tomorrow is the best day ever! We want to make sure that YOU are involved and actually ENJOY your last year at Tech, because gosh darnit, you earned it! As for qualifications, we've got the hook-ups with essentially everyone who we'd need to work with around campus, and are totally on top of planning social events and organizing committees (experience as Lloyd Social D and IHC Chair, among other things). We hope to be a part of making your senior year the best ever, so vote two times happy! Kicks and giggles!! <3 Kim => & Angelina ^_^

Ryan Farmer and Corinna Zygourakis

Senior year is the pinnacle of our time here at Caltech: we're done with core, we've taken the toughest classes our major has to offer and, most importantly, we're moving on. Our success should be sealed with an exciting and memorable graduation, as well as a meaningful class gift. That's where the senior class presidents come in.

As you may have noticed, the Institute does not always invest its resources, or its connections, to entice a meaningful speaker that the senior class actually supports. The past several commencement speakers have been inspiring individuals, but have lacked the stature, interest, or appeal that many students desire. We can, and will, do a lot better. With our combined three years of service on the ASCIT BoD, we actually have the ability and experience to work with the administration and students to get an exciting, senior-approved speaker for our graduation.

Think Kurt Vonnegut ... Al Franken... Madonna... Ok, so probably *not* Madonna. The point is, however, that we will actually listen to the senior class when it comes to choosing a speaker, and we will work with the administration to ensure that your ideas are realized.

In addition to selecting a commencement speaker, the senior class presidents are also responsible for organizing the class gift and running social events. We have both been involved in planning class events (namely the sophomore C4 dinner and the upcoming junior picnic), and have worked for several years with the Alumni Fund that supports the senior class gift. And finally, as far as social events are concerned, we can't wait to combine our creativity with our organization skills to pull off some seriously fun events that bring together our entire class.

Jeremy Leibs and Shelby Montague

The senior class co-presidents need to be representative of all members of the senior class in all houses. They need to be people you recognize around campus and feel willing to come to when you have concerns. They also need to be people who will take the time to chat with you and find out your opinions. They need to be people who won't be easily pushed around by the administration but will work within the system to achieve our goals.

Jeremy and I fit all of the above. If you disagree, then just don't vote for us. Vote for whoever you feel fills the above re-

quirements the best. Go ahead, we don't mind. We want a good pair of people as our senior class co-presidents just as much as anyone else. We want the graduation speaker to be a choice of our class and not of the administration. We want the speaker to be someone representative of our class and/or Caltech in some way. We want Ditch Day to happen when we want it to happen (tomorrow, of course). If someone else is more qualified than we are to make these things happen then please, elect them. But we're going to vote for ourselves, and we suggest you follow suit.

Scott Davies and Dean Reich

We're both excited that senior year is fast approaching. We've gotten all of our hard classes out of the way and think it would be cool to use our extra time to help organize Ditch Day, Commencement, and the senior class gift. Our approach to this position would be to not try and do everything ourselves, but to get other seniors involved. Any senior who

wanted to give input or be a part of the organizational process for any of the senior events would be more than welcome and we would hold open meetings periodically to try and get a good perspective of what the class as a whole wants to do. We think we could do a great job as co-presidents and would appreciate your vote.

Official Candidate List

IHC Chair:
Peter Foley
Melody Grubbs

Social Director:
Dmitriy Kernasovskiy
Rocky Velez

Director for Academic Affairs
Clark Guo
James Berglund
Meng-Meng Fu

Upperclass Director at Large
Ryan Farmer

Frosh Director at Large:
Anton Shuster
Todd Gingrich
Hanwen Yan

Treasurer:
Kelly Lin
Franklin Jiron

Secretary:
Meaghan Paceley
Parvathy Menon

Tech Editors:
Matt Walker & Sonia Tikoo
Adam Craig

Board of Control Secretary:
Jean Sun

CRC Co-Chair
Jeremy Leibs
Melody Grubbs
Aleks Chechkin
Elizabeth Shay

Stewardship Co-Chair
Phil Welch
Eddie Truong-Cao

Senior Class Co-Pres
Jeremy Leibs & Shelby Montague

Chris George and Amish Patel
Dean Reich & Scott Davies
Daniel Stolarski
Ryan Farmer & Corinna Zygourakis

Kim Pependorf & Angelina Crans

Brian Kearns

Kearns here. Are you tired of Caltech's Lucy-geese discipline and the lackadaisical study habits it leads to? If you are, allow me to introduce myself. The name's Kearns. Brian Kearns. Every year the seniors give a gift back to the school. To be completely honest, the gifts always suck. Always. That's why all of you seniors should vote for me, Kearns, to be Senior Class Co-President. I would give the gift of discipline to this school. We would institute morning physical fitness sessions which would be mandatory. These would be followed by a mandatory lesson in military history. Then a 5 minute lunch would follow. After this, students would be given from 1200 to 1300 for leisure time. Leisure time would be followed by classes/study hour until 1900 at which time dinner would commence in a central mess hall that would be constructed. Dinner would last from 1900 hours to 1917 hours. At precisely 1917 hours, study

time would again commence. Lights out at 2300 hours. As you can clearly see, such a regimented schedule would only serve to booster morale and performance.

Another important topic is commencement speaker. I've got one name for you: Patton. I don't care if he's dead. We'll get next of kin. The man was a legend.

As far as Ditch Day goes, I've had enough of this nonsense about Ditch Day being a surprise; everyone knows it's going to be third term. That's not a surprise. I would put Ditch Day in the first half of the first term. Now that's a surprise. I would like to conclude my remarks with a personal attack on all other candidates. They will promise you lots of things that they could not possibly deliver. I make no such false promises. Elect me, Kearns, as your Co-President, and I will make good on everything I have promised. Believe that. Out.

Thanks,
Brian Kearns

Chris George and Amish Patel

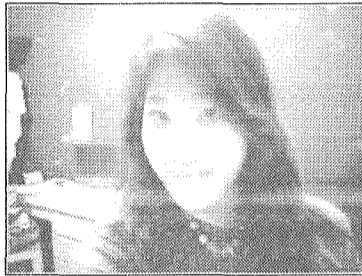
We enjoy having good times. We enjoy our classmates. We enjoy you classmates! We would enjoy you having good times! That is why we are running for Senior Class Co-Presidents. In addition to being VERY amiable, persuasive people, we are dependable, bouncy, and dedicated, and we will use these abilities to make our senior year as good and carefree as possible! We will make sure that our classmates' opinions are heard in organizing senior class events, including social soirees, the barbeque, and commencement. We'll put

together a KICK-ASS senior class gift and make sure that Tomorrow is the best day ever! As for credentials, we've got the hook-ups with basically everyone who we would need to labor with around campus, and are so totally on top of planning group dealings and coordinating working groups (experience as Page Social D and ASCIT Member, among other things). We hope to be a part of making your last year here the finest ever, so vote cheerful! Shats and giggles!! <3 Chris => & Amish ^_^

CRC Co-Chair

Elizabeth Shay

The CRC's mission should be to allow teachers the freedom to have fun without endangering the Caltech community. As CRC co-chair I will try to represent the student body while balancing the more conservative views of the committee. Having been through the process before, I have some knowledge of it from the student's perspective. We are a small community of reasonable individuals. By realizing that most problems can be solved within that community I hope to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and open communication.



Melody Grubbs

When we hear the term "honor code violation" many of us immediately think of academic violations; however, instances of non-academic honor code violations and policy violations must be dealt with as well and this is where the Conduct Review Committee (CRC) comes into play.

As many of you may or may not know, one of the primary jobs of the CRC co-chair is to determine whether or not a given case goes up for a hearing. As the CRC co-chairman and as a reliable and responsible person, I will do my best to see to it that cases are selected for a hearing and tried in an unbiased manner and that the reparations administered upon conviction are comparable to the magnitude of the offense.

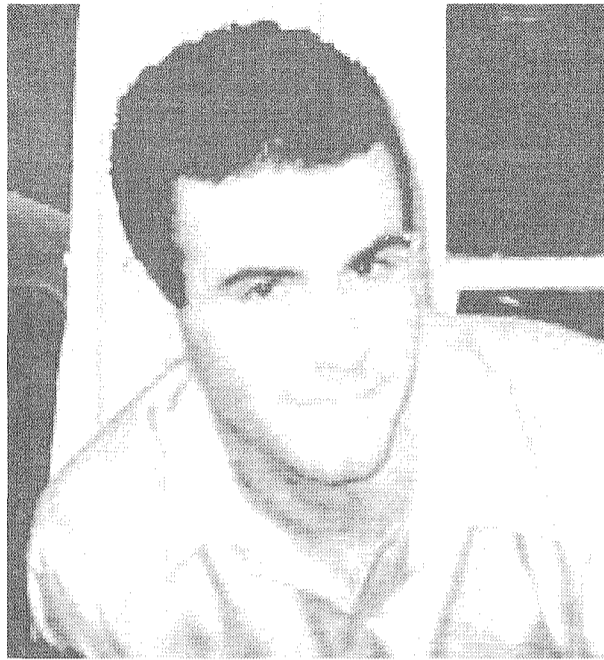


Jeremy Leibs

To be honest, the thought of running for CRC Co-Chair had never crossed my mind before last Tuesday. However, somebody nominated me to run for the position and I decided to actually give it some thought. I believe myself to be fair, level-headed, responsible, and capable of dealing with difficult and stressful situations. Furthermore, I am comfortable with and feel that I understand the wide variety of different student sub-cultures at Caltech. In my opinion, these qualities make me a reasonable candidate for the position, and beyond that there's

not much for me to say here. If you have any concerns at all that might influence your vote please feel free to hunt me down in person or send me an email and I would be more than happy to answer any questions.

--Jeremy Leibs



Aleks Chechkin

So here is my story. I have been CRC-ed previously. I have undergone through the whole CRC process and I must admit it is a very nerve reeking one. I was dissatisfied with the procedure because I was not made aware of what exactly CRC was trying to resolve. During the trial I was presented with statements about me that were not true and I had no idea from where they were directed. Hence, CRC should not conduct profile checks, as they were conducted on me. The committee should be more aware of the circumstances from an unbiased perspective and not solely go on the information that is provided by a third party. The committee obviously should approach each case at a time with an open ear to the past events but more importantly, it should evaluate each situation without having to base the decision solely on what has happened in the distant past.

I greatly respect the students on the committee for the activity and the understanding that they express towards other teachers at the hearings. The CRC process seems dissatisfying mostly due to light of distrust and exaggerated guilt in which the faculty members initially view the students. The purpose of CRC is not to punish anyone, as it has done in the past. The purpose of CRC is to uphold the honor code while itself setting an example how to apply the it. It must be remembered that CRC does not answer to anyone. There is no one to appeal if the CRC makes a wrong decision. It is easy to ruin a person's life with a mistake that could be caused by the fallacies made during investigations. Everyone deserves a second chance no matter whose fault it is. Everyone deserves the right to correct their ways without castigation.

-Aleks

Social Director Dmitriy Kernasovskiy

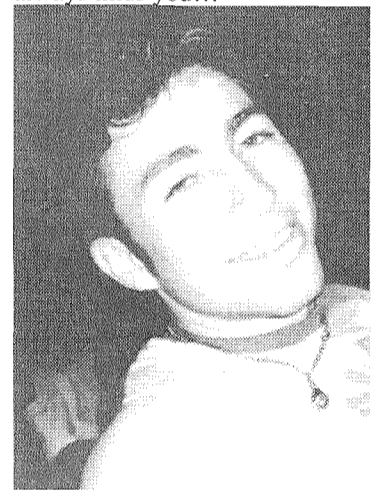
It's finally Saturday night! You are relaxed from sleeping in the night before and relieved knowing you can sleep in the next day and could forget about your sets until Sunday. Now, energetic and ready for fun, what do you do? After some strolling through campus, you find nothing especially interesting going on, and wind up doing whatever you normally do. Sound familiar? As teachers, we like to work hard and play hard, but opportunities to have fun on campus are not as readily available as we would like. I believe that the mission of ASCIT Social Director is to create opportunities for students to get away from the normal stress of everyday life and have fun, relax, and enjoy themselves.

If you were to imagine the ideal social director, what values and qualities do you think that person would have that would make him right for the job? I know how to have fun, always meeting new people, seeking out new adventures, and often taking others along for the ride. More importantly, I know how to put together an event. For instance, I have helped organize the recent "Ace the Interview" panel by the Consulting Club, filling the Avery library with over 30 undergrad and grad students. A couple of years ago I helped organize and promote off-campus parties and club events, planning, organizing, setting up, and passing out flyers. I have used this experience to arrange a professionally set-up sound system for the full ten hours of the upcoming Drop Day party in Dabney for \$300 (typical market prices is about \$600) and invited some of L.A.'s best DJs to spin for a fraction of what they normally charge.

In addition to the tried-and-true

events such as the formal and opening night movie screening, I have some new ideas. For example, reading the ASCIT Dues survey, I learned that many of you want the additional funds to be spent on inter-collegiate parties. Thanks to the outgoing BoD, we now have an arrangement with the administration which makes this possible. Being from the area and having many friends from the surrounding colleges, I can make it happen. Finally, since many of us from the South Houses will be living in trailers in the upcoming year, throwing the traditional interhouse parties will be more difficult, which puts us in a good position to work with the administration to throw a campus-wide interhouse event.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. I am sure you will vote for whatever candidate you believe best satisfies the values and qualities that you are looking for in your Social Director. Feel free to drop me a line at dima@caltech.edu or drop by Dabney 14 if you have any questions or ideas. And remember: in America, you can always find a party. In Soviet Russia, the party always finds you!!!



Rocky Velez

Dear Teacher,

Is it just me, or has life on campus gotten stale, stuffy, and boring? Have you noticed that we haven't had a party before Apache since last term? And are you as annoyed as I am when you realize that when we do have some fun lined up for a weekend, it happens to coincide with another ever-so-rare fun event on campus? This needs to be fixed. Stat.

And so I recommend the following amendments to our (social) lives:

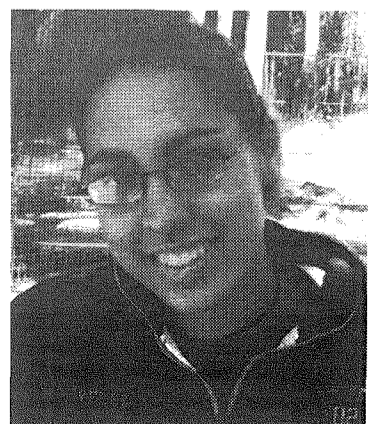
- Random event months (i.e. Comedy Club month, or Beach Trip month) to encourage Teachers to try something new
- More stuff on campus, like concerts and special guests (maybe celebrities?)
- More off-campus events, since we won't have very much of an on-campus on which to do stuff next year
- A reinstatement of the Social Executive Committee, which would consist of house Social D's and some social representatives at large
- More interhouse mixing
- Intercollegiate mixing (It's certainly a worthwhile challenge!)
- Campus-wide "Assassins" (If you don't know what this is, ask me - it's a great game, on par with Capture the Flag, only it lasts longer and involves more secrecy)
- More support for athletes (1/3 of the undergrad community participates in athletics; they give up their precious social life time for practices and games and should be supported!)

Now the real question is, even

if I have all these grand ideas, will I be able to deliver? As former Lloyd Party Chair, I know what it takes (and to whom to talk) to put a party together. As a member of the Quality of Life SFC Committee, I'm already working with students and faculty to make Caltech a slightly less stressful place for undergrads. As a Health Advocate in Training, I know what happens when Teachers get stressed out (and how to deal with it). And, as a genuinely fun-loving person, I know how to find the fun in even the most random of places. Finally, I'd like to mention that I've already started on my quest for Caltech social betterment! Check out my website, www.its.caltech.edu/~rocky for some fun and interesting things to do in the LA area, from clubbing, to bar hopping, to museum gazing, to paintballing... you name it, and it's either already there or can easily be added to the list.

So what are you waiting for? Vote for me, your local cure to the Caltech cabin fever!

Rocky Velez



Always Natural. Always Fresh!

Sharky's WOODFIRED MEXICAN GRILL

100% Free Range Chicken
100% Grass Fed Beef
100% Local Eggs
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Flaming Hot Pumped!
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Jane Curtis
Health Educator

248



A. Green/The California Tech

Health Educator Jane Curtis is kicking off several new programs including a new website and pushing for healthier board food.

Candidates Hopeful For Second Chance

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

dum I have written to my previous statement in the *Tech*," he said. He also answered questions at Ruddock's high-profile "OPI" party last Saturday.

Craig has built his campaign around dissatisfaction with the present *Tech*, pledging to improve grammar, style and spelling and to motivate student comics. Though he has never written or worked for the *Tech*, Craig hopes to leverage experience writing e-mails to Ricketts' "ld50" mailing list and a short story for the *Totem* to manage the eight-page weekly.

If Craig were to win, it would be the first time in 16 years that the appointed Tech team--the successors chosen by the previous editorial staff--was ousted in an election. The last outsiders to throw hats in the ring were Kevin Duncklee '05 and Peter Samuelson '05 in 2003--but they lost to the incumbent team by nearly a two-to-one margin.

Incumbents Walker and Tikoo ran a lackluster campaign in the Feb. 23 election, publishing a brief 100-word statement accompanied by a picture of beaver in lieu of themselves, but spent the week campaigning door to door. "We've spoken to undergraduates from around campus to allow them to present any concerns or grievances they may have with the editorial operations of the *Tech*," said Tikoo.

Walker has three years of *Tech* experience as a news writer and editor, and Tikoo, a freshman, is widely considered one of the *Tech*'s rising news stars. As the critical plank in their platform, the two have lined up editors and writers for new features, sports and entertainment sections. "We're determined to improve the *Tech* to an even higher level of quality," said Walker.

The race has engendered marked public interest, much of it boisterous. Craig's supporters posted fliers, chanted his name at last Thursday's midnight doughnut session and, like Walker and Tikoo's, barraged house e-mail lists.

All signs point towards sharp

house divisions in the electorate. Craig has picked up key endorsements in Ricketts and Dabney, but Walker is president of Ruddock, a position likely to command respect across the seven-house board.

Potential wild cards include Lloyd, the former base of support for Jon Malmaud '08, who withdrew his fringe candidacy after the ExComm ruling, and Avery. Malmaud declined to endorse either candidate.

Both candidates were confident of victory. "The interest so many people have expressed in the changes I would bring to the Tech suggests I have a good chance of winning," said Craig.

"We don't feel a great need to make any over-the-top efforts to promote ourselves, however," said Tikoo. "Our campaign is based on substance, not noise. We believe our record speaks for itself."

The second focal point of today's balloting is the race for secretary, in which the two front-runners, Meaghan Paceley '07 and Parvathy Menon '08, fell within three votes of each other on Feb. 23.

Paceley's campaign stressed her experience serving as ASCIT's interim secretary and her dedication to improving ASCIT's communication with the student body. Menon's original statement drew heavily on metaphor, comparing her to a Viking warrior, "reborn with the task of bringing back the ASCIT glory days of old."

Over the past week, however, Menon made a concerted effort to refocus her candidacy. "One thing I have been trying to let people know is that I really am very serious about running for Secretary," she said. "I can see how some people were confused about whether or not I was really running or just doing it as a joke."

Whether it will be enough for her to pull through in today's balloting, however, remains in question. "No one knows what madcap hijinks and pantomimetic horse stampedes will ensue over the next two days," said Craig.

South House Renovation Pushes Curtis to Temporary Office Space

By JON MALMAUD

The Coffee House. DDR machine. Instrument practice rooms. These are some of the most important things that are going to be displaced when the SAC closes. Perhaps the SAC's most valuable asset, however, has already left. Jane Curtis, Caltech's health educator for four years, has moved to the Center for Student Services building, room 248, next to the dean's office. Now you don't have to go very far for psychological counseling when our favorite French dean denies you permission to continue work in your physics/math double major and subtly informs that you won't be one of those blooming flowers (remember freshman orientation?).

To kick off her relocation, the health and counseling centers will be starting several new initiatives in the coming months to help students deal with the stress of academic life. The most important is a new health education website, www.healtheducation.edu, which will launch on the 28th. The website will allow students to confidentially ask questions about their emotional and physical ailments and schedule appointments with Curtis. It will also contain advice on a wide variety of topics such as stress management, nutrition, alcohol and drug use, sexuality, relationships, and lesbian/gay issues.

The website will also have sections with advice tailored to Caltech students. Internet and computer-game addiction are some of the top problems that the

site will address. "They're definitely having impact on student success here", Curtis cautions. I, for one, can't wait to finish this article to play another Warcraft III game. I've been refreshing Google news after each paragraph just in case Bush does something notable or the RIAA sues another 12-year-girl for three grand. I'm sure I'm not alone. Many students list computer addiction as a key reason for failing or dropping classes.

With the frosh going on grades after enjoying two terms of splendid ease, Curtis may receive a rush of new pleas for help. Eric Fechter, Lloyd RA, says that "maintaining a balanced lifestyle is a great challenge for any college student, especially those at Caltech. As the Health Educator, Jane Curtis is an invaluable resource that more students should take advantage of. Jane has an excellent understanding of undergraduate student life and works with students on a variety of issues."

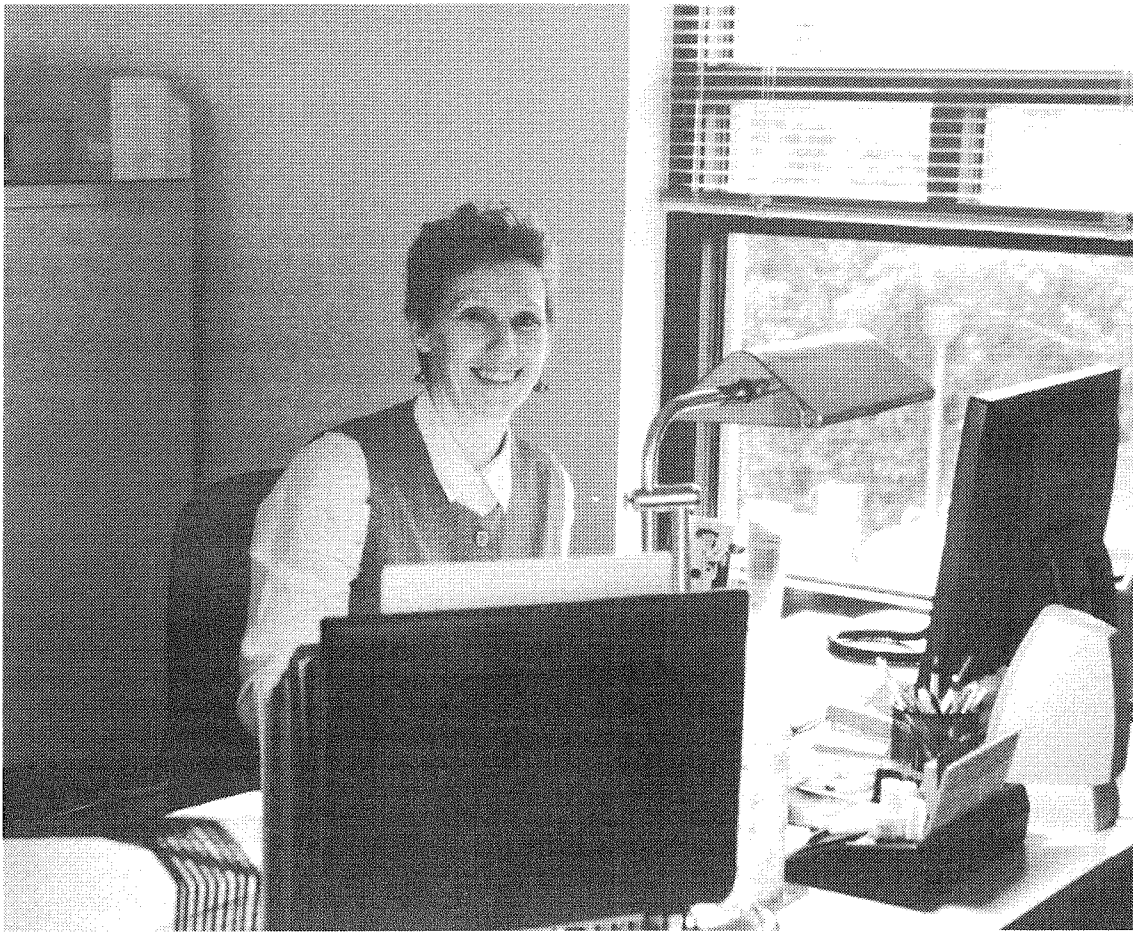
The counseling center will also host several programs at the Winnett Center in the coming weeks. The first is on building and maintaining relationships. With the notorious Caltech ratio, it's important for those lucky Caltech guys to learn how to keep their significant others happy and for girls to learn how to deal with their odd guys. The following workshops will be on an anger management and dealing with stress. The "Fine-tune Your Mind and Body" workshop has received highly positive reviews from the approximately twenty people currently

enrolled in it. It will continue to meet third term, starting on April 5th from 1-2 in the Braun multi-purpose room.

But does clinical psychology actually work? Curtis emphatically insists that "plenty of research supports the role of psychology." While she acknowledges the campus-wide sentiment that "we don't need the soft sciences," she also notes that more and more undergrads have come to see her with the passing years. Even SURF students who come from other colleges have taken advantage of her services. She must be doing something right.

Curtis also helps with more physical health concerns through her role on the Student Health Advisory Council. Ever frustrated that the healthiest foods the C-store seems to offer are the low-fat chips (you're probably best off eating the batteries)? Curtis helped introduce healthy alternatives into the C-store that mysteriously faded away with time. As the governor would say when he's not busy increasing the cost of graduate school by 10%, she'll be back and make the changes permanent this time around. Anyone with nutrition concerns about Caltech dining should feel free to contact her and push for a greener, leaner institute of technology.

Curtis's services are free for the Caltech community. You can talk to her in her office on Mondays from 2-4 and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2-5 or schedule an appointment for other times by e-mailing her at jcurtis@studaff.caltech.edu.



A. Green/The California Tech

Jane Curtis's new office in the Center for Student Services is smaller than her previous SAC space so you'll find she's taken over some of the hall outside.

CALTECH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM WATCH



OPI is Awesome: Ruddock once again erects an amazing party. Pharaoh OPI was attended by several hundred students, staff, and their guests.



ASCIT Elections Today: Despite a protest and a severely delayed scheduled, ASCIT Elections are slated to take place today, and may finally produce the new BoD.



Caltech Marathon Relay: The second Caltech marathon relay team successfully outruns the LA marathon winner and also beats the world record.

The California Tech

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Pasadena, CA 91125