



## Skeptics Society Doubts Existence of Own Convention

By DAVID CHEN

The Skeptics Society hosted its annual conference the past weekend. This year the theme was brain, mind and consciousness. Scientists and psychologists presented talks and magicians performed stage shows.

The feature day was Saturday, May 14, with 15 talks in Beckman Auditorium. Three of the speakers were Caltech professors.

The opening talk came from Dr. Michael Shermer, the Executive Director of the Skeptics Society and monthly columnist for Scientific American. Roger Bingham then began the conference with a presentation titled, "Aun aprendo—Still Learning About Minds."

Professor Christof Koch then gave a talk called, "The Quest for Consciousness: A Neurobiological Approach." The Koch laboratory studies private visual systems, consciousness and the biophysics of neurons. Koch wrote a textbook, *Biophysics of Computation Information Processing in Single Neurons*.

Continuing the theme on cognition, Dr. Alison Gopnik, Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley, talked about how the brain learns to think and in particular, how children can think like scientists.

Professor Steven Quartz, who is a member of both the Division of Humanities & Social Sciences and Computation and Neural Science, presented "Neuroeconomics and the Search for 'Cool.'" He recently wrote a book, *Liars, Lovers and Heroes: What the New Brain Science Reveals About How We Become Who We Are*.

A panel discussion followed. Then participants enjoyed lunch. Several more talks discussed consciousness, emotions and behavioral economics.

After another panel discussion and half-hour break, Professor John Allman presented "The Search for the Neurological Basis of the Social Emotions." The Allman lab investigates mammalian brain evolution. Their lab has digitized samples from the brain collection at the University of Wisconsin and skulls from living primates. These scans are available at [www.allmanlab.caltech.edu](http://www.allmanlab.caltech.edu).

After a few more talks, the participants adjourned to dinner break and listened to James Randi speak. James Randi is a magician of note and investigator of claims of psychic powers. One of his first and most famous reports was on Uri Geller, who was famous in the 70's for being able to bend spoons and perform other tricks. NOVA produced a special documenting Randi's work, a clip of which one can watch at [skepdic.com/randih.html](http://skepdic.com/randih.html).

Randi currently offers one million dollars to anyone who can demonstrate "paranormal, supernatural or occult power." The catch, however, is that the performance must transpire under controlled conditions. In oth-

er words, spoon-benders will use spoons provided by Randi, and everyone must use double-blind tests so that neither the performer nor the test administrator knows the correct results. In addition, a control group must verify a cause-and-effect relationship.

Mike Reiss, producer of *The Simpsons*, gave the final talk of the event. He discussed America's love for the show. "I love this show because it's comedy and political commentary," explained freshman John Arnold.

Conference participants stayed at the Westin Hotel. The registration fee was \$150 for Skeptic members, \$175 for non-members and \$75 for students. The full schedule is available at [www.skeptic.com/conf/schedule.html](http://www.skeptic.com/conf/schedule.html).

Previously this year, the Skeptics Society invited Jared Diamond, professor at UCLA and author of *Guns, Germs and Steel*, to discuss his newest book *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. He created a framework in which to analyze past societies, looking at their abuse of the environment, climate change, neighbors, enemies, friends and responses to them.

## Warner Leads Caltech Toward the Future

By Mayra H. Sheikh

The new ASCIT President, Warner Leedy, will complete all the items on ASCIT's third term agenda, even though the election recall put the new ASCIT BoD behind schedule. Warner is carrying out his new duties with the aid of his "Vintage Candy Calendar," which he had to buy from the Caltech bookstore to schedule all his meetings. A major goal of Warner's agenda as president is to increase communication between the students and administration. He also plans to change the election recall process to prevent such inconveniences as this year's recall in future elections. Warner will also continue to support the ideas of Social Director Dima Kernasovskiy to help improve social life at Caltech.

To improve communication between students and administration, Warner has been speaking with Margo Marshak about student views on various issues. For example, Warner and the administration would like to see elected student representatives from every house on the CRC this year but will abide by popular student opinion in favor of waiting until next year.

Another improvement in administration-student interaction is the drafting of a protocol for changes to student housing. The development of this protocol began when a parent of a pre-frosh found artwork in one of the houses offensive. Housing spray-painted over the artwork without consulting anyone in the house, provoking the ire of many students. A committee including IHC Chair Peter Foley and Warner as student representation convened to write a document delineating how to handle such situations. Warner feels the

## To Serve Students: an Interview with Dean Revel

By CHRISTINE CHANG

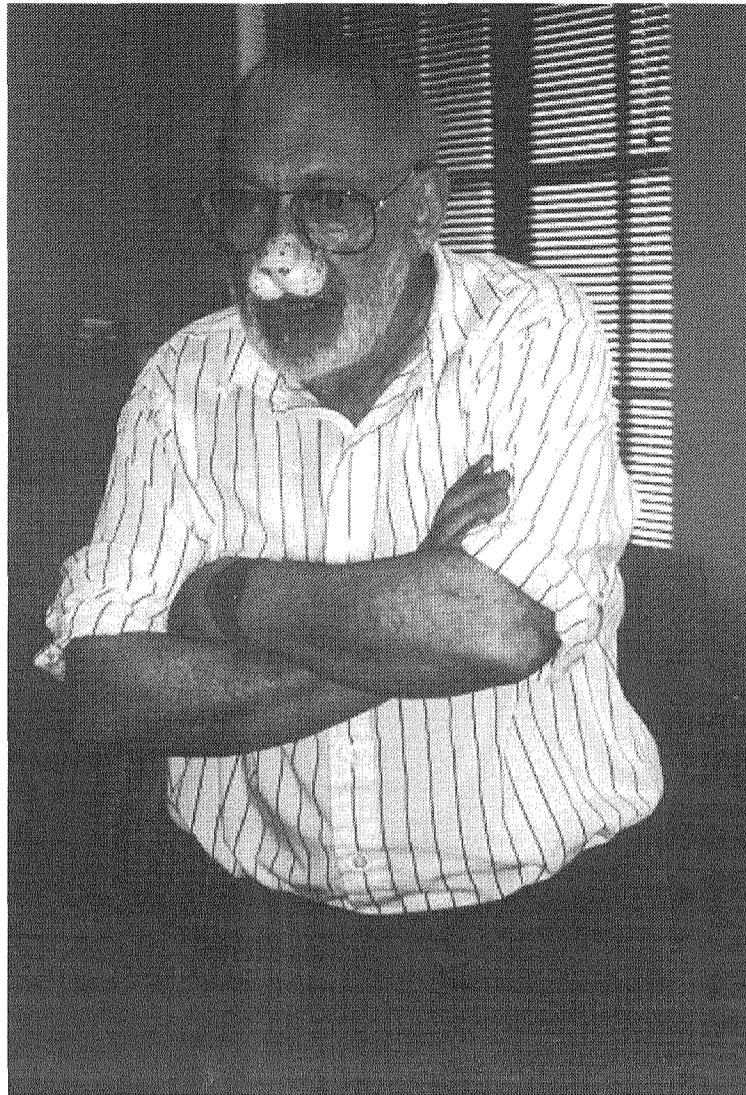


Photo courtesy of [www.stanford.edu/~dalryaug/photos/](http://www.stanford.edu/~dalryaug/photos/)

For nine years, Professor Jean-Paul Revel has served as Dean of Students. He has provided many memorable moments for the students, whether from his warmth and support during hard times or from his unforgettable welcome speeches for the freshmen. This year, Revel has decided to retire from the Deanship.

"It was fun. It was a pleasant place to be," said Revel.

Revel first entered the office of the Dean of Students in September of 1996. At that time, he found it difficult to have many big goals, since the system was hard to change all at once. Still, he did his best to make the deanship more receptive to the students.

"I wanted them to know that they would be receive without growling," Revel said.

In order to get to know the students better, he attempted to appeal to their appetites by offering first smoked salmon and later soda and cookies at weekly meetings. Yet, he found that people came to eat and that he rarely had the opportunity to speak with them in depth.

"In the end, I did not really need anything but to be receptive and to have people be comfortable," said Revel. He also said that the helpfulness of the other people in the office, such as his former secretary Suzette Cummings and current secretary Malina Chang, aided in making students more at ease.

Revel enjoyed being able to help so many students throughout the years. His most memorable experience as Dean was being able to address the senior class at the senior banquet. He found contentment in seeing those students who had struggled since the beginning succeed in the end. "Deanship is a funny place. Sometimes you have to be nasty and strict and paternal, but sometimes you can be comforting," said Revel.

After retiring, Revel looks forward to rest and decreased stress. Furthermore, he will have more time to do research to which he has long looked forward and to begin painting again.

"I am retiring, because I have been in the job for nine years, and that's a long time. There comes a time when you realize that somebody can do a better job," Revel said.

Professor John Hall, a professor of Civil Engineering and the Executive Officer for Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics, will succeed Revel as the new Dean of Students.

"I think he is a wonderful guy. I think he knows what to do and how to work with the students. I don't have any other advice for him except to be yourself," Revel said.

Despite looking forward to pursuing his other interests, Revel says that he has mixed feelings about leaving the Deanship. He finds it strange to realize that he will not be a part of the orientation next year. However, he says that he will visit.

"I'll be around, I won't be far," said Revel.

protocol to be fair and reasonable. It includes the student houses in decisions about what to change and maintains student freedom to decorate the walls within reasonable bounds. According to Warner, the new process will allot students a period of time to fix the problem before administration intervenes. Warner cannot provide specifics about the document since the administration has not yet officially approved it. Warner has received many emails from students on issues about which they feel strongly and he encourages everyone to send more.

The election recall put Warner and the current BoD behind schedule, inspiring Warner to change the recall proceedings to prevent future BoDs from having to perform their duties in a shortened period of time. Currently, one can protest the results up to two days after the announcement of election results. Warner would like to allow people to protest before the counting of ballots. Ballot counting is time consuming and a waste of time if the results do not count. Also, announcing results and then recalling them upsets candidates and their supporters, causing conflict in the undergraduate community. The new process would avoid frustrating the student population and those involved in the election process. Warner believes the new process would help reduce unnecessary recalls and plans to present his idea to the BoD in upcoming weeks.

As the new social director, Dima has planned and implemented many events, such as the recent Happy Hour and Dance-off. Warner thinks Dima is doing a great job with all the social

activities of the term. The BoD recently increased Dima's budget due to his contagious enthusiasm about Caltech social events. According to Warner, Dima's zeal and increased funding have made events more fun. Students need an excuse to stop working for a little bit and have some fun, and Dima's new twist on events will provide that. The upcoming ASCIT Formal promises to be a great dance thanks to Dima's hard work. Warner also says that Caltech academics have gradually improved over the past few decades and that this trend will continue in the coming years. With regular curriculum improvement events like the Student Faculty Conference in place, Caltech's academics will continue to improve. In particular, core is now five terms instead of six. Majors such as chemical engineering have a more reasonable workload. New majors, like mechanical engineering, have are now available. Slowly and steadily, Caltech has been improving its undergraduate education. In the upcoming year, new classes, movement of existing classes between terms and many more small changes will propel Caltech to a better future.

The Caltech Admissions Office's new recruitment process involves recruiting high school students from all over the US, especially the East coast, where Caltech remains obscure, and the Other Institute, MIT, is the math science playground to which high school students look. Warner feels that as Caltech grows in renown, it will attract a larger pool of bright applicants, more eminent professors and more guest lecturers, all of which will lead to better academics at Caltech.

## Orange Chicken

By LAURA FISHMAN

12 shrimp (shelled and devined)

1 orange  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp pepper  
4 tsp flour  
1 1/2 tbsp oil

**Buy ingredients:** All ingredients are available at the C-store. Shrimp is in the freezer. Oranges are across from the refrigerated beverages. Oil, flour, salt and pepper are just southwest of the oranges.

**Always wash your hands before preparing food.**

**Prepare Dish:** Defrost shrimp by running hot water over them for 10 sec. and then soaking them in more hot water ~1 min. Lay shrimp on paper towels and pat dry. Cut orange in half, remove seeds and squeeze juice into a small bowl.

Mix flour, salt and pepper in another bowl. Very slowly add orange juice, about 6 teaspoons total. Start with a few drops, then use a spoon to mix juice into flour mix, continue slowly adding juice. Use the back of the spoon to break up lumps. In the end the consistency you want is that of a very thick liquid.

With the first shrimp, scrape batter off the spoon and into the bowl. Put the spoon aside. Coat the shrimp in the batter, then hang it on the edge of the bowl. Repeat with the other 11 shrimp.

Heat oil in a pan on medium heat (number 4 on Caltech's electric stoves). To tell when oil is ready hold your hand 1/2 in. over the oil. When it feels hot, test it by dropping a small drop of water in the oil. If it sizzles it's ready.

Lay (don't drop) 6 shrimp in the pan. Cook ~45 sec. on each side. To flip them use chopsticks if they're available and you are proficient with them. Otherwise use tongs, a fork, a spatula or whatever you can find. If you're a real manly man you can also just grab them by the tail with your bare hands.

Shrimp are done when they have curled up. In this state they are particularly easy to remove with chopsticks, as a chopstick fits snugly in the hole in the middle. Remove shrimp from pan and drain on paper towels (quadruple layer if they're Housing paper towels). When you're done with the first batch of 6, fry the next batch.

Remaining orange juice can be used for dipping, alone or mixed with some of the oil remaining in



Oh dear, oh me, oh me, my, oh oh ho, nooooo! I am absolutely flabbergasted by return of events I will tell you about it in a minute, assuming you keep on reading this. My ego is as flattened as if it had been run over by a steam roller. Flattened like a tortilla (Semana Latina!) or like a chapathi.

"Why," you ask, "why do you complain so?" — well, just wait a minute, another minute. I am trying to tell you why. It is because not a single student, not even a very small one, a lowly frosh innocent and fresh (I mean fresh like "Frosh Spring" not like Jim Frey) or even a senior with nothing left to do besides lazing waiting for Commencement . . .

Well, I guess the Frosh are

## Dean's Corner

13422 entries!!

by Jean-Paul Revel

up to the kazoo in midterms, and on grades yet, for the first time. They should probably be absolved; I can't really blame them. In their case, the behavior that has so crushed me may not have been caused by apathy, but by self interest, doing what must be done, teeth gritted, eyes glazed, nights wasted, daytime photons unappreciated.

Actually, come to think of it, maybe also I can understand the seniors. After all, they are busy stacking their stacks, tomorrow, tomorrow is the day — no, that can't be; tomorrow when you read this will be Saturday, and I would already know if it were today. But maybe tomorrow won't come, coz you might not read this . . .

So that leaves the Sophomores, but I guess they are just being sophomoric and why

should

they care that

things are as they are.

Leaving the juniors to blame. They have less of an excuse than anyone of course, but I guess they are getting ready to finish the requirements they have managed to postpone till now, because their advisor was out of town or hiding from them behind a big fat desk with a huge monitor on top, so they had to see his secretary instead, juniors getting all ready for a restful senior year, who can blame them after all? They have worked hard to get there.

So everyone has an excuse, are you still with me all of you?

Maybe that's a paranoid response. I should not take it personally; maybe I am to blame, I surely am to blame, me and no one else of course. First the buck stops here, that's one good reason. Second, maybe I misprinted my address (*revelj@cco*), I mean how can I expect mail to reach

me if I entered the wrong address and it was correctly printed, of course, of course, by the editors of the Tech, our own Tech . . . Oh I forgot to tell you what I am talking about . . .

Let me see, Page 1, well that's if you don't count the real page one, you know, the one only the students should see. Page 2, page . . . Ah, there it is, the thing I am talking about, that I still have not managed to mention, the Dean's Corner, and yes, at the end, right there, clearly printed is my e-mail address (*revelj@cco*), printed without a flaw . . . so there was no excuse for not writing to me except for apathy, or not reading Jean-Paul the II's column.

So what of it? Well, it is like this; stick with me, Techies, stick with me. I'll let you know in good time, I will, I promise. Word of horror I tells ya. That's what I feel: horror, revulsion, disappointment, sorrow, self-pity.

I asked for nominations from the great student polloi, the unwashed populace, oh you cream of the cream, top of the crop, the bestest of the best, I asked for nominations

for the posh position of mosh and what do I get? nutting, absolutely nutting. Not a single one nutty nomination.

Eagerly on Saturday I read my mail, but nothing . . . well of course it was early, much too early, surely by Sunday thought I, I'll have an earful, or rather an eyeful . . . but no, Sunday passed without student controlled electrons coming my way, and so did Monday and now it's Tuesday and I am behind my deadline and I'd better send something to Autumn, or she'll send Wren after me, and so I decided to rewrite my column and question your apathy.

I know, you are not alone, oh you pathetic apathetic ones. I know because I checked "apathy" on the web (13422 entries) and came up with the feeling that it has spread far and wide.

Listen to this pearl: hardly anyone, well, maybe a few, but far too few people came to listen to and talk to the prospective President being interviewed publicly at the Univer-

sity in Laredo, Texas. There were also complaints about apathy in the Wayland MA High School Newsletter. Why, they even had to cancel the sock hop, no that was not there, in Wayland they canceled the Disco . . . and at Harvey Mudd . . .

I'll make a long story a bit shorter by reporting right away that at MIT, yes you read right, at MIT (but what do you expect) only a few hundred people out of 4000 (or was it 5000?) voted in student elections a couple of years ago. I quote, "that many people can't be all wrong." So is it like that there too?

Is it catching, slowly going around the globe like some flu epidemic starting from pigs and ducks in the Chinese hinterland? Are we all catching the "vote apathy, we don't care" (ibid.) disease?

In spite of being so down hearted I can't resist, while I am at it, I can't resist telling you the good news: we are way ahead of them. Their *Tech* of May the 2nd, 1997 announces: "Dilbert is here!!" and of course we have had Dilbert for a long time now, well, most weeks.

So even though apathy is rampant, a serpent in our midst, I don't get it. Your apathy flattens me like a chapathi.

Here is the chance to tell us what you'd like in a mosh, to propose names for a mosh with whom you all have empathy with, a person who you'll interact with a lot and you express no opinion? Does everyone feel so downtrodden that there is no point to even participate? One thing is sure, if you don't speak you won't be heard. May luck bring you what you desired.

Of course if you don't express your opinion that leaves you free to complain. I did not vote for it, sez you, don't blame me. And we all know that complaining is such sweet sorrow.

Apathy, oh apathy!

Your Deanish Chapathi! (I know chapathis are not Danish, you silly.)

A bientôt,

## Dean Revel, You So Crazy!

In 1996 Jean Paul-Revel began his career as Dean of Students, and I began my career of barely qualifying as one of those students. I was told at the time that he was a proxy Dean who would serve only 2 years, unlike the previous Dean who had left his position when his freshman class left the institute. Eight years later, we have both spent more time in our positions than anyone could have expected.

Thus, as the last enrolled member of Dean Revel's freshman class, I am taking this last opportunity to share some memories of that freshman year while they still retain a modicum of relevance.

**New Dean not Up to Date on U.S. Blue Laws...**

My introduction to this institute began with a speech by the newly appointed Dean. Frosh camp was to be on Catalina Island at Camp Fox, as it had been the previous year. Jean-Paul informed us that Camp Fox was "dry", so although many of us were over the legal drinking age of 18, we would have to leave our alcohol in our rooms for the duration of the trip.

**SoCo Stocking Stuffer...**

Dean Revel was our guest at the Lloyd dinner that preceded our Xmas party. I had drawn a very evil-looking signpost sheet for Secret Satan, Secret Santa with booze instead of secrets, on a piece of drywall in the lounge. After dinner I told the Dean that I would be honored

if he would sign it. He did and listed his liquor of choice as Southern Comfort, imitating the previous signer. He then asked me, "Who will be buying the alcohol?" I replied that I would probably be present on the run, and he gave me ten dollars. When I stammered in shock, he assumed that I was trying to say that ten wasn't enough and gave me five more. I then told him that the event would start around 10 O'Clock, and he patted me on the shoulder and said, "I won't be able to make it, why don't you enjoy it for me."

**Hearsay, but too funny not to tell...**

The reason the Dean could not make our Xmas party was that he was to play Santa at the Dabney Xmas party that very night. I heard from several darbs recounted how he left the party to get dressed in his Santa suit and then disappeared. He reappeared almost an hour later wandering through Ricketts dressed as Saint Nick, apparently bewildered by the bizarre architecture and perhaps a little too much egg nog.

Among the many other incidents, his spinning collision with the wall of the Bi1 lecture hall while yelling "I'm a Ribosome!" sticks in my memory. Yet, the strongest evidence comes from his printed word. Jean-Paul's weekly articles in *The California Tech* consistently confused the fatigue-addled minds of the entire student body and stand as a testament to his status as one batshit-crazy mo-fo. Above is a personal favorite that I found from the '96-'97 archives.

## Eating for Free for the Non-Boarder

By VERA TE VELDE

Like most freshmen at Caltech, I despised mandatory participation in CDS's nightly goop-fests. My indignation at forking over more than ten dollars per day for a salad and the occasional French fry or ice cream bar sent me racing for off-campus housing, regardless of its greater distance from campus and fewer opportunities for social interaction. As a sophomore non-boarder, however, I observe an odd trend: even students with no meal plan whatsoever gravitate to the convenience of the C-store and coffeehouse, despite exorbitant prices, minimal selection or variability and overall unhealthiness. Whatever this may say about the laziness of Caltech students when it comes to non-academic matters or perhaps about their disinterest in health and frugality, I have compiled a list of the best deals on board food the honor code will allow without declining balance.

Free food opportunity number 1: Steak or hamburger night leftovers. Unless you irrationally fear the instantaneous development of salmonella on standing meat, have

a curiously weak immune system or abstain from flesh-eating behavior in general, this is the most delicious opportunity to legally exploit the board program. At around 7 pm on Thursday evening, meander between house lounges looking for large metal bins of lonely looking, freshly cooked slabs of meat; double check that the house you are scouting doesn't mind foreigners scavenging their leftovers, and enjoy. I recommend forgoing utensils to get even more in touch with your inner uncivilized bum. Besides, steak is so much easier to eat that way.

Free food opportunity number 2: Stray Averites. The Averite is a species of Techer with more fake money than it can even imagine using within a ten-week span. It frequents the northern half of campus, gazes suspiciously on intruders and travels in packs, so capturing a specimen can pose a challenge for the lone non-boarder. A disarming expression can win temporary trust, charming one just long enough to secure an Averite ID card; however, they learn quickly, so never take your victory for granted. Offer to buy them some

food as well with their own fake money or expound on your approval of their alternative lifestyle: "It must be so nice living in such a sedate environment, far from the heavy metal of Ricketts, the drunks of Page, the questionable murals of Dabney and the audible conversations everywhere else," you should gush. "I envy your white-washed lifestyle. Is it too much to ask that you share a few crumbs of your Averite wealth with a lowly non-boarder? My declining balance is yours to share if our positions are ever to swap." Do not mention that you have discovered the secret to eating for free and will never be paying millions of dollars per term for food again.

Free food opportunity number 3: The Coffeehouse secret menu. This is my favorite good deal. While most students know that the coffeehouse staff will generously concoct most of the products of your imagination, there are several more obscure loopholes allowing the non-boarder to obtain a daily dose of calories, if not nutrients, for a mere pittance. For an extra sixty cents, you can add

ingredients such as M&M's, Oreo bits, whipped cream, and Maraschino cherries to your three-dollar milkshake. Less obvious is that you need not purchase a milkshake to purchase a milkshake topping. So go ahead, order some cookie crumbs and an infinite soda, and for only \$1.65 you have a bowlful of sugar and as much carbonated caffeine as the stomach can process between 8 pm and 2 am each night, just the late-night energy boost every Techer needs to get through those annoying problem sets.

Other free food opportunities are numerous and diverse, from the Math Club free pizza days to the Women's Center lunches accompanying feminism-themed movies. I strongly suspect that the assiduous non-boarder could survive quite comfortably without cooking or ordering take-out at all. Yet, I cannot devote more column space to specific strategies this week, as I must run to the coffeehouse before it closes to refill my infinite soda. Good luck, and please let me know of any additional loopholes you discover. I am hungry.

### The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
editorial desk: (626) 395-6153  
advertising desk: (626) 395-6154  
editorial e-mail: [tech@tech.caltech.edu](mailto:tech@tech.caltech.edu)

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Adam Craig Editor	Lisa Tran Business Manager
Alex Sheive Layout Manager	Robert Morell Circulation

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# Honor

By JEFFREY PHILLIPS

From our frosh camp introduction to graduation, the honor code is an integral part of Caltech life. Ostensibly a single sentence, the honor code needs a 24-page handbook to explain the bureaucracy and the proceedings surrounding it at the institute level. Many Techers think of honor violations as applicable only to academics: disobeying test restrictions or duplicating answers. But the honor code embodies more than that; it is a personal dedication to honorable action independent of the BoC and the CRC.

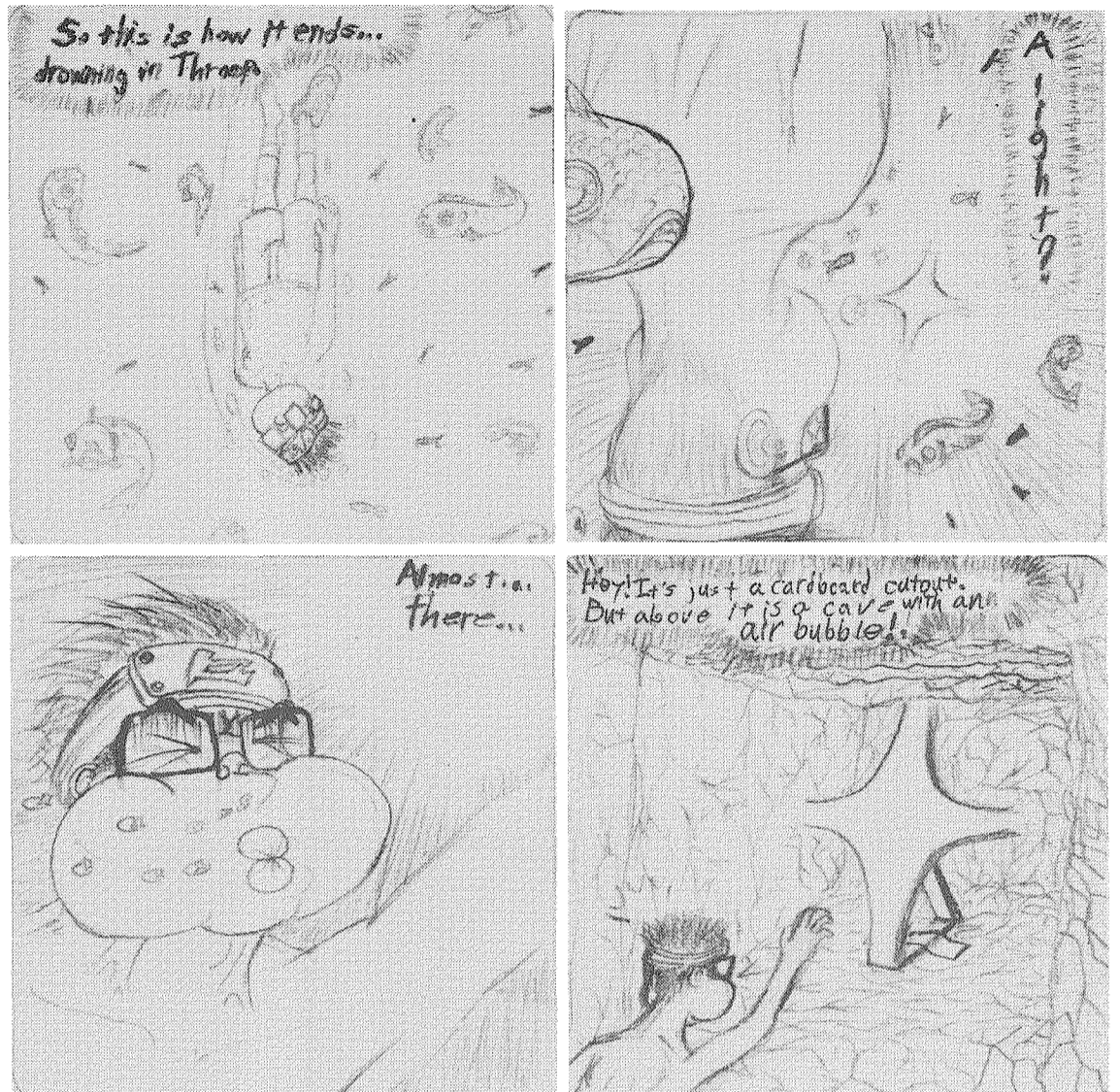
Honor came to my mind while I was taking a ridiculous midterm last week. It was an insult to the students who took it and to test writing in general. I considered turning in a blank test and calling on the rest of the class to do the same in protest. This second midterm magnified some of the worst elements of the first draconian test. Two questions, multiple choice, multiple correct answers; a point for each correct, a negative for each incorrect for a -8 to +4 point spread. The choices varied by subtle nuance, and this class had no redeeming homework credit; the absence of a TA meant that the lazy prof had no time to grade partial credit. I imagine it infuriated most of the class enough that they would have followed me. Yet, as with any strike, most would not be enough. A few students would have undermined the protest by taking the test to secure their own GPA's, a classic prisoner's dilemma: we all gain from solidarity, but the rest lose if any one of us sticks around to finish, so we all endure the travesty that passed for an exam.

Honor acts as an externality to this game-theoretic model of personal gain. We stand together because it is the right thing to do, and all payoffs are beside the point. Some cultures retain specific methods for punishing dishonorable conduct: stoning, exile, keel-hauling, loss of rank and privilege. The honor code gives no provision for punishing opportunistic defectors and disallows many of the more creative penalties for scabs. Indeed, anyone suspected of taking such vengeance is vulnerable to anonymous accusation without proof. The honor code, as implemented, encourages the meek, not the honorable.

Duels are a drastic solution to a challenge to honor, but they exemplify a key element of honor amid their brutality. Honor demands that the accuser and accused abandon meek anonymity and face each other. The smoke and mirrors of the BoC should be a last resort when honorable, personal confrontation has failed, not a first defense. Anonymity is necessary for the report of the most heinous acts, not to ease personal discomfort. A security guard once told me that most of the inter-student noise complaints come from people who had not personally asked the offender to be

# We Love Coquettish Kahlitech Bread Life

By ADAM CRAIG

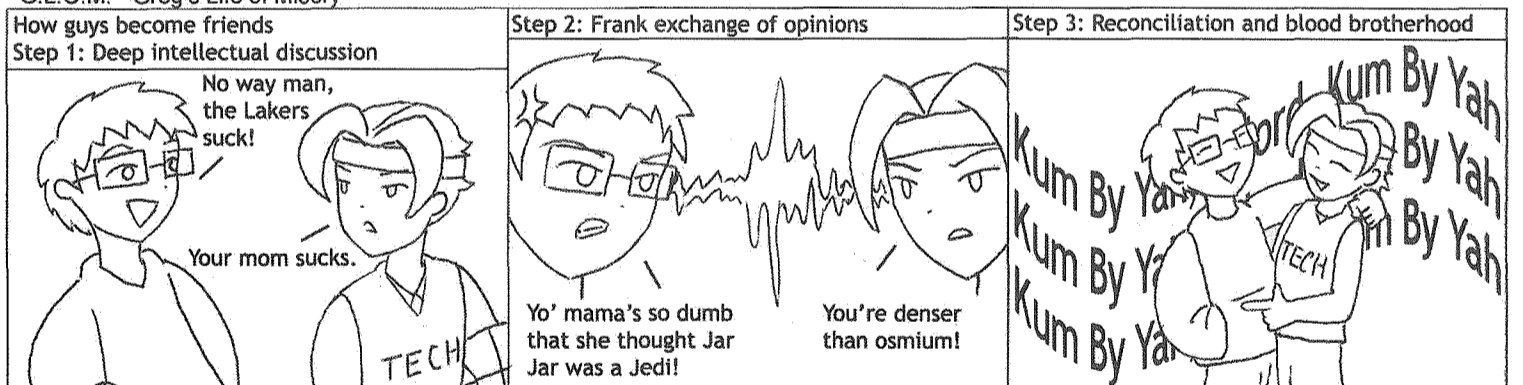


quiet. All too often, Techers look to security, the administration, the BoC or the CRC to solve problems within their own power but beyond their inclination. Social interaction can be uncomfortable for a Techer; standing against a fellow Techer for what is right, doubly so. Grow a pair and deal with it.

Some cases deserve a BoC hearing. Professors investigating duplicate submissions and other irregularities may find little help in personally confronting students. But, of every matter that tugs at your sense of honor, ask yourself whether you can take it into your own hands; if so, you are as honor bound to rectify it as to report it. More-

over, look to your sense of honor whenever you interact with a Techer, and demand the same of him; we are all meek loners to some extent, but being students together chains us all to one fate. A commitment to honor demands constant attention to those ties that bind you to the Caltech community.

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



By Ning Bao, Nathan Lau, and Angela Shih

## Irrational Exuberance



Zhiyun Guan: art, text(2)  
Robert Barish: text (1)

**Fire Up!**  
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## Escobedo, Diaz, Banuelos, Hinojosa Clean Up at Staff Awards

By Meng-Meng Fu

Every year, ASCIT gives out 3 to 4 Staff Appreciation Awards. Undergraduates nominate their favorite staff members and explain why they deserve the award. Past winners include Alice from the Tech Express and Suzette from the VP for Student Affairs' Office.

This year, ASCIT received numerous nominations, but 4 of them stood out above the others. They are Jack Escobedo, the fa-

miliar and friendly face from the pizza line and the North Kitchens, Salvador Diaz, the custodian from Page who received many accolades from residents of Page House, and Zenaida Banuelos and Carlos Hinojosa, the custodians from Ricketts who stalwartly strive against all oddballs to keep the house clean. Congratulations to all of this year's winners: You deserve it, and we all appreciate what you do for us!



Above: ASCIT walks with accolades in hand.  
Right: Jack Escobedo receives his award.  
Below (Top to bottom): Zenaida Banuelos, Salvador Diaz and Carlos Hinojosa receive their awards.

## Urban Development Expert to Discuss Los Angeles's Social Challenges

By DEBORAH WILLIAMS-HEDGES

Occidental College professor of political science Peter Dreier will present the final keynote address in the 2004-2005 season of the Social Activism Speaker Series at the California Institute of Technology. Dreier is the director of the Urban and Environmental Policy program at Occidental College and a commentator on social and civic issues facing Los Angeles. This event will take place on Thursday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the Beckman Institute Auditorium at Caltech. It is free and open to the public.

Before joining the Occidental faculty in 1993, Dreier served for almost a decade as a senior policy

advisor to Boston mayor Ray Flynn and also as Boston's director of housing. Since moving to Los Angeles, he has coauthored several books, including *The Next Los Angeles: The Struggle for a Livable City*, and he has contributed regularly to the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, and other publications.

The event will be hosted by the Social Activism Speaker Series, which focuses attention on current social and political issues by inviting prominent activists and experts to share their experiences and perspectives with the Caltech community and the public. This series is coordinated with the help

of the Caltech Y, and is made possible by contributions from the Moore-Hufstедler Fund, Student Affairs, the Alumni Association, Campus Life, the Diversity Program Fund, the Graduate Student Council, Jack and Edith Roberts, and the Associated Students of Caltech.

Beckman Institute Auditorium is located on the west side of the Caltech campus. Free parking is available in the lots south of Del Mar Boulevard between Wilson and Chester avenues, and in the Wilson Avenue and Holliston Avenue parking structures between San Pasqual Street and Del Mar Boulevard.



## Tammy Ma, Hesper Rego, Jonathan So, Philip Wong Win Noland Leadership Award 2005

By MALINA CHANG

Tammy Ma, Hesper Rego, Jonathan So and Philip Wong received the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award at a dinner presentation in the Athenaeum Library on May 5, 2005. The Robert L. Noland Leadership Award is for outstanding Caltech students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and have encouraged and supported others in realizing their own leadership capabilities.

Tammy has been the longest-serving Managing Editor of *The California Tech*. For the last four years, she has worked diligently to create a quality publication.

Tammy has also served as Secretary, Historian and Librarian for Fleming House. In addition, she was a member of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Student Advisory Committee and a student participant in *Challenges and Choices* at Frosh Camp.

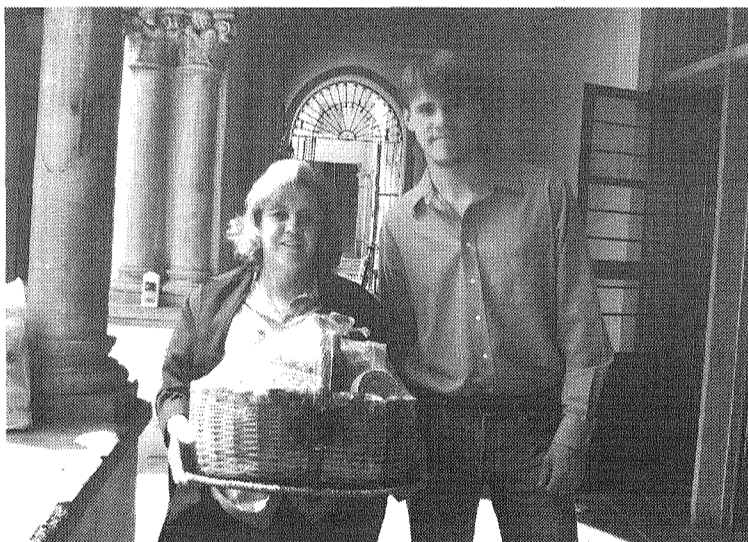
Hesper has worked diligently at all levels of the Caltech com-

munity, from theater to sports to student government. She starred in a TACIT production, directed two plays for the One Act Theater, played on the Caltech NCAA volleyball team for the last three years and served on a number of different search committees. As a dedicated member of the Conduct Review Committee, she acted as co-chair on several cases. Most recently, Hesper just finished her term as Dabney president, during which she worked closely with the administration in the planning of the South House renovations.

Jonathan's primary contribution to his fellow undergraduates has been his work as Secretary, Historian and Treasurer of the Caltech Y ExComm. His dedication to community service has resulted in significant opportunities for students and the community. He has also demonstrated exemplary leadership as a counselor for the International Student Pre-Orientation. In addition, Jonathan

has been very active in organizing the last two Student-Faculty Conferences. For the most recent conference, he worked on the committee on international students and scholars. Jonathan has also served on the SURF Student Advisory Council both as Secretary and Vice President.

Philip has been both an in front and behind the scenes leader. As the President of Blacker House, he took on diverse responsibilities from helping the Blacker frosh with their project to organizing the house for next year's move to modular housing. He has also served as a Health Advocate and Upper Class Counselor for Blacker House. Furthermore, he was the Editor-In-Chief and Executive Operations Manager for the Caltech Undergraduate Research Journal, CURJ. As Editor-In-Chief, Philip worked hard to ensure a smooth transfer of leadership.



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