

New South House Gate Vandalized

BY: ANNA HISZPANSKI

In the first week most undergrads began moving into the newly renovated South Houses, a Ricketts gate facing the Olive Walk was vandalized, costing thousands of dollars to repair. According to Housing Director Tim Chang, some person or persons removed the panic bar from the door Tuesday afternoon some time between 5:30 and 7:30 pm. The panic bars are necessary for the gates to properly lock.

An initial estimate for the repair was \$12,000 to replace the custom-made gate door. However, after workers from the Lock Shop on campus evaluated the damage, they were able to salvage the door and repair the panic bar Friday morning using materials totaling \$2050 and labor summing \$1350.

"This gate is expensive because it was custom-made for the South Houses. We wanted something that matched the décor and style [of the buildings] and that fitted the doorway," said Chang.

In addition to the cost of fixing the gate, security was forced to guard the unlocked gate between 5pm and 8am, resulting in \$1870 of additional costs. The Stewardship Committee has yet to decide who will be responsible for covering the costs that totaled \$5270.

Chang believes students most likely removed the panic bar from frustration at having to use an ID card to enter, but no one has come forward yet to claim responsibility.

"A lot of students don't understand why the permanent security is there in the first place... since the gates weren't there [before the renovation]," said Chang. "We have had number of incidents where we had to remove a homeless person who had



The locking mechanism of this gate, a newly installed entrance to Ricketts and Blacker hoveses, was disabled on Jan. 2

parked themselves [in a house] over the weekend. This past summer we had a registered sex offender who was found in the houses. We want to protect our students... the students' property... [and] Caltech's property."

However, Interhouse Chair Craig Montuori believes that the bar may have been removed for other reasons than simply to save students time when entering the South Houses:

"The removal was done in such a crude manner, and there were other, simpler methods to pre-

vent the door from locking," said Montuori. "Perhaps the obvious motivation is not the correct one. There's just so much that we don't know in this situation."

Despite the vandalism, Chang says that no other major damage has occurred since the undergraduates moved into the South Houses.

"There are some small incidents of graffiti that have happened, but beyond that, there hasn't been much," said Chang. "With the exception of this one thing, there hasn't been anything big."

Friends Remember Alumnus Steve Gao

2006 Graduate Known for Kindness, Compassion

BY: MARISSA CEVALLOS AND CINDY KO

Friends of Caltech alum Steven Song Gao gathered at Beckman Institute yesterday to honor their friend and classmate who passed away in early December.

About eighty current students and alumni bonded over large photos capturing fond memories of Gao. The images show the handsome face of a smiling Steve Gao visiting Arthur Ashe Stadium and Niagara Falls, enjoying a formal dinner with friends, and playing video games during his recovery from ACL surgery.

Friends remembered Gao as a well-liked and admired figure in Lloyd House and for his compassion and kindness.

"He was always patient, very kind, always helpful and looking out for other people," said Derek Chang, friend and former roommate.

Gao passed away in early December while attending his first year of graduate school at Stanford in biomechanical engineering. His two roommates at Stanford, Derek Chang and Akil Srinivasan, were friends of his from Lloyd House, and all were also members of the recent class of Caltech graduates.

turned out pretty much the way we wanted."

Friends flew in from as far as northern California, Seattle, and New York to share an afternoon to remember Steve Gao.

Milo Lin, a former classmate, met Gao as a prefrish in the summer before freshmen year as Axline scholars.

"Honestly, I can only remember positive things about him. Steve was the nicest and most considerate person that was one of my close friends," said Lin. "He was generally kind of quiet, but when you got to know him, he was kind of funny, and very warm."

When choosing a location for the memorial, Peek decided on Beckman Institute because "Steve played a lot of Ultimate Frisbee on Broad lawn."

Gao was known to be so fond of Ultimate Frisbee that even a torn ACL in his junior year couldn't keep him away from the disc.

"He busted his knee several times, and each time he'd keep playing," said Srinivasan.

Gao was recognized in Lloyd House for being an excellent



Gao, on a visit to Niagara Falls in the summer before his senior year at Caltech.

Since Stanford roommates Srinivasan and Chang had the difficult task of individually calling and informing friends and classmates about Gao, alumni Martin Peek and James Yoon offered to take charge of organizing the event. From before winter vacation, Peek and Yoon were in contact with Associate Dean Barbara Green to discuss arranging the memorial.

"Caltech really helped us out a lot in organizing the memorial," said Yoon. "Steve was a really great friend. The least we could do was put this together, and when we had that in mind, it was really easy."

Said Peek, "We wanted it to be low-key and let people just get together and chat about what they remembered about him. It

athlete in all sports, not just Ultimate Frisbee.

"Ping-pong—Steve Gao loved ping-pong. I would play with him for four hours at a time, literally like a machine," said Derek Chang.

A stellar student and efficient time manager, Gao double-majored in mechanical engineering and business, economics, and management (BEM). Even more impressively, Gao was notorious for being no less than one week ahead of schedule in all of his class work.

Said Kim Poppendorf, classmate, "Steve worked ahead in his classes when he knew he was going to have knee surgery. He was out on codeine for three weeks,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Men's Basketball Wins NCAA Game 81-52 triumph over Bard (NY) ends streaks of 59 losses, 207 NCAA losses



Full story of Tech's triumph on page 6

SFL open 24/7

Page 3

In This Issue

You can fly, you can fly! Now without pixie dust Page 4

May your Wiikends be full of Wii Page 4

Olive Oil - not just for Popeye Page 5

Women's basketball five points shy of win

Page 7

The Tech Office Vandalized, Many Back-Issues Unsalvageable

BY: JON SENN

On behalf of the entire staff of The Tech, I apologize to our readers. Due to an act of vandalism which occurred over winter break, we will be unable to provide back-issues to many of our on-campus subscribers.

Approximately 1000 subscriptions of our first eight issues of the year were collated, addressed, and bound by our distribution team, but before they were deliv-

ered to their appropriate campus locations, they were haphazardly strewn about, as shown in the below photograph.

Our subscribers who paid before the printing of our Sept. 22 issue have received mailed copies of these eight issues, as have the remainder of our on-campus and JPL subscribers.

Those subscribers who paid after the beginning of this academic year have yet to receive these issues; however, we hope to salvage enough copies from our pile

to provide these back-issues.

After this act of vandalism, all of our copies of issue nine are entirely missing, and our supply of issue ten was relocated outside and rained upon before our team retrieved it. In the coming week we will decide on a course of action regarding those last two issues.

The reason that issues one through eight had not been distributed earlier in the year is that our mailing label printer was broken when we returned from our

summer vacation. By the time we received our replacement printer, our distribution team had eight weeks of work to accomplish, and they were unable to distribute all 4000 copies of each issue before finals. They returned to our office at the start of winter break to finish the job, ultimately to discover the mess displayed below.

We sincerely apologize to all our readers who are missing these issues, and will do our best to supply a limited number of paper back-issues to those read-

ers who request them by email (tech@caltech.edu). Additionally, PDF copies of *The Tech* are available on our website at tech.caltech.edu. The PDF copies are - for now - only available from Caltech IP addresses, but we can supply them by email to our subscribers.



Photo by Chandra Barnett

Write for The Tech

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

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

Maximum Pay

News \$25

Features \$20

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Humour \$20

Good Comics \$14

Comics \$7

Photos \$5

ASCIT MINUTES

ASCIT Board of Directors
Minutes from the Side Room in
Chandler

Wednesday, January 03, 2007

Present Officers: Todd Gingrich, Jean Sun, Chris Gonzales, Vickie Pon, Jon Senn, Nate Donnellan, Craig Montuori, Caleb Ng

Guest: Eric Johlin, John Shen

1. Funding Requests

* Eric asked for \$75 for the Boxing Club for a boxing lesson session this weekend. The \$75 would pay the instructor. Eric estimates about 10-15 ASCIT members to attend. Vote: \$75 for the Boxing Club approved (5Y,0N,2A).

* John from Out of Context requested money for a free concert next Wed., Jan. 10, in Dabney Gardens. Yale Shades, a minority a cappella group, will be performing. John is asking for funding from a variety of places, and has asked ASCIT for \$250. Vote: \$250 granted to OoC for hosting the Yale Shades concert (6Y,0N,1A).

2. Budget Update, Salaries, & Bonuses

* Jon gave the BoD an update on the ASCIT budget. The sala-

ries for the Big T and the little t have been given out. For the Big T, the business manager handles salaries distribution. The salaries for Totem and Donut Dev Team have not been given out yet.

* The BoD will determine bonuses (\$1850 total) at the next meeting when we go over the budget in detail.

3. Elections

* Elections are coming up!
* Todd needs to appoint an Elections Chair. Since Zach Higbee helped the Elections Chair during the elections last year, he is the prime candidate. Todd will appoint an Elections Chair by next week.

* The ASCIT President and Vice President/BoC Chair election sign-ups go up next Wed., Jan. 10!

4. Interhouse Party! Jan. 13

* Craig asked the BoD to approve \$750 additional funding for Interhouse which will cover DJ costs.

* Gonzo and Todd explained that the DJ costs are dealt with by the Houses, and ASCIT deals with security, etc.

* Gonzo said that basically, a total of \$4K is needed from AS-

CIT, which means that \$750 more is needed. Todd motioned to grant up to \$4000 for Interhouse, and if more money is needed as the party date approaches, Gonzo can ask for more. Vote: Up to \$4,000 from the ASCIT budget is granted for the Interhouse party on Jan. 13 (4Y,0N,3A).

* Last night, an outer gate of the South Houses closest to Ricketts facing the Olive Walk was damaged. Preliminary estimates of repairs is between \$10-12K. Craig and Gonzo will be the main liaisons with Housing for this issue and whether it will affect Interhouse among other things.

* Gonzo explained that there are 2 different alcohol policies at the moment. He will keep the BoD updated with what this means for the final Interhouse party alcohol policy.

5. Red Cross Blood Battle vs. MIT

* The Red Cross will be hosting a "Blood Battle" between MIT and Caltech. A trophy will be awarded to the school who donates the most blood during a blood drive. Detailed rules are being drafted by someone at MIT. The BoD can help with publicity.

6. Women's Center Director Search Committee

* Miriam Feldblum asked the BoD to appoint an undergraduate representative to sit on the search committee for a new Director of the Women's Center. Vickie suggested to email all the undergrads and ask for someone who is interested, which she will do this week. An undergrad rep will be appointed by next week.

7. Happy Hour tonight, Jan. 3!

* Gonzo announced that there will be an ASCIT Happy Hour from 10PM-2AM in the RF courtyard tonight, Jan. 3!

8. BoC Report

* Jean said that by elections, she needs to write up a 300+ page report for the BoC. She asked the BoD if any of them would be interested in helping her with data during the rest of the week. Because all the BoD members are too busy, she will try to recruit help for the report.

Welcome back!

Vickie Pon
ASCIT Secretary

Interhouse 2007

January 13th

3 pm - BBQ - Olive Walk

6 pm - Band/Movie/Fireworks - RF Courtyard

9 pm - Party - South Houses

Party fliers on display on page 6, except for Ricketts/Lloyd Post-Apocalypse and Dabney/Page Speakeasy, as those houses are too busy constructing their parties to make fliers.

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
advertising e-mail: business@caltech.edu
editorial e-mail: tech@caltech.edu

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David Chen
Jonathan Malmaud
Jonathan Senn
Editors-in-Chief

Chris Yu
Business Manager

Chandra Barnett
Circulation

Dr. Gary Libman
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The Outside World



BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

Nation

Florida and California Halt Capital Punishment

The two states independently made decisions to halt capital punishment.

U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel ruled that California's method of legal injection goes against the Eighth Amendment, banning cruel and unusual punishment. The state has been under a capital punishment moratorium since February.

The moratorium in Florida was triggered by the execution of Angel Nieves Diaz on Dec. 15. It took Diaz 34 minutes to die, during 24 of which he remained conscious and moving. Usually, condemned prisoners are unconscious within three minutes after the injection and die within 15 minutes.

Governor Jeb Bush called for creation of a committee that will review the method of capital punishment. During the process of review, that has a final deadline of May 1, 2007, no death warrants are to be signed in Florida.

New Jersey Legislature Approves Civil Unions

Following the demand of New Jersey Supreme Court, which ordered the state to give same-sex couples rights equivalent to those of married couples, NJ Senate and General Assembly voted to approve civil unions, but not mar-

riages, for such couples. If the bill is approved by Governor Jon Corzine, New Jersey will become the third state in the U.S. to support civil union, following Vermont and Connecticut. The only state that allows for same-sex marriage is Massachusetts.

Equality groups, such as Equality New Jersey, are concerned that the legislative decision may not breach the difference in treatment of same and different-sex couples as it does not recognize same-sex marriage.

President Gerald Ford Dies

America's 38th President, Gerald Ford, died Dec. 26 at the age of 93. The late president was honored in Washington, D.C. and buried in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Ford's body was moved from the Capitol rotunda to the spot outside of the chambers of the U.S. Senate, after which it was transported to the National Cathedral. The procession was met with a 21-gun salute, U.S. navy band, and thousands of people that lined up the streets of Washington.

Ford was then flown in to Grand Rapids, where he was buried on Wednesday, Jan. 3.

World

Hussein's Execution Takes Place

On Saturday, Dec. 30, Saddam Hussein was hanged in Qadhimiya, Iraq. Prior to the execution,

Hussein refused to wear a black hood that traditionally covers the face of the condemned person, and carried a copy of the Qur'an.

The former Iraqi president was sentenced to death by hanging for his role in the deaths of 148 Iraqis who died in the Dujail massacre that took place in 1982. The massacre was a response to a failed assassination attempt on Hussein.

Awwad Bandar and Barzan Hassan, who are also to be hanged in relation to the 1982 massacre, were expected to be hung alongside Hussein. However, their executions were postponed to separate Hussein's death from all others.

Nurses and Doctor to Face Death in AIDS Case

Five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor were sentenced to death in Libya for allegedly injecting HIV to more than four hundred children in a Libyan hospital in 1999. They plan to file an appeal before the Libyan Supreme Court.

The sentence has already caused much disagreement. Bulgaria, the U.S., and the E.U., among others, demand that it is repealed. Libya and its supporters argue that the demands of mostly Western factions are politically motivated.

Fifty of the children have died, while the rest received treatment from European hospitals.

The defense claims to have evidence that the children had been affected by the virus before the medical workers arrived to Libya.

It has also testified that the defendants were tortured during their detention. However, the Libyan court acquitted several Libyan officers who were accused of inhumane treatment.

Science and Technology

FDA Says Cloned Animals Safe to Consume

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) declared cloned animals to be as safe to eat as naturally-produced animals.

There are some that disagree with the FDA decision, in particular if there are no labels that differentiate the ordinary product from the cloned one.

Some consumer groups criticized the agency for only looking at fewer than 100 case studies for short time periods.

While FDA scientists state that after the cloned animal has reached the age of 6 to 18 months, it is indistinguishable from its parent animal, others argue that there may be long-term issues that have not yet been evaluated.

Although the final approval of cloned products is still in process, officials expect the products from cloned livestock to enter the market in several months.

Video Game Causes Controversy

The new game, "Left Behind: Eternal Forces," is currently under attack for promoting religious violence. Several groups, led by the activist faction "Campaign to

Defend the Constitution," demand that the game be pulled back from distribution.

The groups argue that the game promotes intolerance and violence in the name of religion. The makers of the game, the Left Behind Games, Inc., disagree and say that the game only encourages prayer and spiritual welfare.

The plot of the game takes place in the future, after Christians have been transported to heaven. The players take a role of characters left behind in New York City, and set out on a task to recruit an army that will fight and defeat the anti-Christ and his followers.

Caltech Researchers Reveal Dark Matter Structure

Richard Massey and Nick Scoville revealed the first three-dimensional look of dark matter structure at the American Astronomical Society conference this weekend in Seattle, Washington.

Massey used gravitational lensing, the distortion of light due to mass, to infer the presence of dark matter in a cross-section of galaxies that dates back 6.5 billion years.

The new map demonstrates that dark matter tends to clump over time, which Massey refers to as a "cosmic scaffolding" about which stars and galaxies have formed.

Dark matter makes up about one fourth of the mass in the universe, while normal "baryonic" matter—like the stars and planets that make up galaxies—only weighs in at about four percent.

Announcements

Perpall Competition Finals on Wednesday, Spectators Welcome

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend the final round of the Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking Competition on Wednesday, Jan. 10, between 2:30 and 5 PM in the Beckman Institute Auditorium. The Student-Faculty Programs office extends hearty congratulations to the finalists – Evan Gawlik, Alexander Huth, Andrew Kositsky, Matthew Lee, Diana Lin, Po-Ling Loh, and Arturo Pizano. Individual presentation times are available at the SURF website, www.surf.caltech.edu.

This event is the third round in the Perpall speaking competition. The best speakers — out of the 210 students who presented their research — on

SURF seminar day in October advanced to a semi-final round held in November, and these seven students became the finalists. The prizes will be \$750, first prize; \$450, second; and \$300, third.

The Student-Faculty Programs office thanks the graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, alumni, and faculty who have helped to judge the first two rounds. The final round will be judged by a faculty panel.

Robert C. Perpall (BS '52, MS '56) has long supported the SURF program. He established the prize in 1996 in memory of his late wife as an incentive for students to prepare excellent SURF presentations.

Summer Internship Deadlines Approach

The Deans' Office is accepting proposals for the Monticello Foundation and the Robert and Delphi Noland Summer Internships.

Three to five Caltech undergraduate women (current freshmen, sophomores and juniors) will be given an opportunity to participate in research projects outside the Caltech-JPL community for ten weeks during the summer. Each student will receive a \$6,000 stipend.

Applicants are required to identify the projects in which they wish to participate. All arrangements with the principal researcher will be the responsibility of the student.

Interested students should identify a sponsor for their ten-week experience at a research facility. Applications should consist of a short essay describing the applicant's project, along with two faculty recommendations.

Proposals are due to the Deans' Office by Thursday, Feb. 22.

SFL Open 24/7

BY: DONNA TOMLINSON

Beginning with the second term, the Sherman Fairchild Library will be open 24/7 to those with valid Caltech ID cards. The SFL is also increasing the number of available computer workstations in anticipation of increased demand due to the closure of the Computer Lab in Steele. Other service enhancements in the SFL are also in the works and will be announced as details are confirmed.

Questions, concerns, and comments about the Steele lab closure can be directed to Rich Fagen (rich@caltech.edu, extension 2908).

Questions about the services and facilities offered at the Sherman Fairchild Library can be directed to library staff in person or via email library@caltech.edu or to University Librarian, Kimberly Douglas, kdouglas@caltech.edu.

SFL Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

The library staff cordially invites the Caltech community to an open house in celebration of the tenth year anniversary of the Sherman Fairchild Library to be held on Jan. 12, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Sherman Fairchild Library.

Two New ARC Reps Selected

BY: CALEB NG

This week, Avery and Blacker selected new representatives to the Academics and Research Committee (ARC). The new Avery representative will be freshman Ryan Hamerly, and the new Blacker representative will be freshman Sunny Chun.

Currently, the main project for ARC is to prepare for the Student-Faculty Conference (SFC), which is scheduled for April 5, 2007. Traditionally, there are no classes held on the date of the SFC.

The SFC will feature presentations from each of 14 committees covering each option as well as other aspects of undergraduate life, including student morale, core curriculum, and honor code. Committee chairs were selected in October and are scheduled to have their second meeting. Contact any committee member (listed on the ARC SFC website at donut.caltech.edu/~arc/sfc.html) to provide feedback on any of these topics.

Other projects in the pipeline for ARC include the 31st Annual ASCIT Teaching Awards. As before, nominations for professors, teaching assistants, and research mentors will be open to undergraduates during the beginning of the spring term.

For more information, contact your ARC Rep, ARC Chair Caleb Ng (calebng@caltech.edu), or visit the ARC website (donut.caltech.edu/~arc).

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Club o' the Week

Caltech Students Can Learn to Fly with AACIT!

BY: RADHIKA MARATHE

Introduction

AACIT or the Aero Association of California Institute of Technology is a private flying club that works for the promotion of general aviation in the Caltech-JPL communities. Also known as the Caltech/JPL Flying Club, it is based in El Monte, California with a fleet of seven single-engine airplanes. It currently has about 120 members ranging from beginning students to commercial pilots and instructors.

Fleet

As part of its fleet, the club owns a Cessna 152 (2-seater) and Cessna 172 (4-seater) and leases five other aircraft including Cessna 172, Cessna 182, Piper PA-28 and Piper Archer, each seating four. These are based at El Monte airport located about five miles South of Pasadena.

Members are allowed to schedule and fly aircrafts available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each member carries his/her set of keys and logs in the flying time at the end of each flight in the flying log. The flying club provides insurance for each member and

not just the club as part of its fleet policy.

Joining the Club

The course webpage has detailed information regarding getting a membership to the club. The membership is mainly restricted to those affiliated with the Caltech/JPL communities (including students, faculty, alumni, employee or retiree of Caltech/JPL or those with immediate family members satisfying this requirement) but a limited number of Associate Member positions are available for those unaffiliated to these communities.

The forms required include the Member Information Form, Flight Proficiency Record, Release Form, Voting Proxy and Information Release. The initial payment consists of a refundable deposit, an initiation fee (waived for CIT students) and the first month's dues. After contacting the club director for an instructor to check over the aircraft or for training, the new member is ready to take off.

Dues and Costs

Club dues pay for the insur-



AACIT's website explains that the club owns a Cessna 152, a Cessna 172, and leases five others.

ance and aircraft tie-down costs. Discounted rates are offered to CIT students to promote general aviation among the student community.

Initiation fee (waived for CIT students): \$40
 Refundable deposit: \$200
 Monthly Dues:
 CIT Students (fixed gear only): \$23
 CIT Students (all planes): \$27
 Inactive members: \$10

Obtaining a Pilot's Certificate

After registering to be a full member, the first flight will have the student at the controls right away with an experienced instructor to offer guidance. About 70 to hundred hours of training and flying experience are required to get a license from the FAA. The necessary materials and equipment such as books, navigation

items and headset, test fees and ground school tuition may cost up to \$1000 in total.

In the area, Glendale Community College, Mt. San Antonio College, Orange Coast College and FAST aviation provide alternatives for ground-schooling.

The typical flight training costs range from \$6000-\$9000 and the time required is generally between a few months to over a year.

Interested readers may visit the club webpage at <http://aacit.caltech.edu/>.

Technology Review

BY: JON MALMAUD

After waiting in line eight hours outside BestBuy for my Wii as PS3 fanboys drove by and shouted profanities at us (i.e. "I hope you guys have fun playing with your Wii's", "your mom played with my Wii last night", "your console has the same name as urination although spelled differently", etc., etc.), I played it for the following two weeks and was thoroughly impressed with the motion-sensing controller.

After going through a five-second calibration phrase, it worked flawlessly. I tested it with *Wii Sports* and found that my dismal tennis, bowling, golf, baseball, and boxing skills carry over into the videogame world (just joking-I Own).

I also played through most of *Zelda: Twilight Princess* and found all the old Zelda staples, such as the ability to swing and spin the sword by flicking the Wiimote, to be present.

There were also new Zelda innovations like Princess Zelda being kidnapped by a dark wizard and something about a "Tri"-Force. Actually its definitely the best Zelda since Ocarina of Time and may be wiison enough to pick up a Wii.

The Wii has a strong set of launch titles. Besides the aforementioned *Wii Sports* and *Zelda*, there is *Rayman: Raving Rabbits* in which Rayman, by playing through a set of minigames like an arms-only version of *Dance Dance Revolution*, has to capture a set of rabbits which are raving.

Also popular is *Super Monkey Ball: Banana Blitz*, in which you are a monkey in a plastic ball who has to blitz bananas by tilting a platform through angling the Wiimote in a fashion reminiscent of Ch3a.

One of my personal favorites is a doctor-simulator in which you play an anime doctor who has to annihilate a new terrorist-manu-

factured disease by engaging in surgical operations while having relations with your nurses (not at the same time) (*Trauma Center: Second Opinion*).

For the more hard-core gamer, there is *Disney's Chicken Little: Ace in Action*, *Ice Age 2: The Meltdown*, *Happy Feet*, some kind of *Spongebob Squarepants* game, *Madden NFL 07*, and *Revenge of the Third Reich: Rise of Robohitler*.

The Wii can also connect to a wireless network and perform many amazing functions thereonto. Through the Wii Virtual Console store, you can spend \$5-\$8 on a limited selection of old Nintendo and Genesis games from back to the time of the original NES when love was free all the way to the N64 when Clinton ruled with the steel grip of molten justice.

I bought *Sonic the Hedgehog* for \$8 on the Wii's Virtual Console and it flooded me with nostalgic memories back to the first time I played Sonic two months ago when I downloaded the ROM and played it on my computer for free.

You can also download the Opera web browser on the Wii and then cruise the information superhighway from the comfort of your own home. It is actually useful since it can play Flash videos so you can enjoy erotic and non-

Wii Wiiview: New Console is a Wiener



The above pair of photos illustrate how the player uses the motion-sensing controller in the *Wii Sports* game included with the console.

erotic YouTube videos on your television device.

But perhaps the greatest online functionality the Wii brings to the table is the Forecast Channel. It's a built-in program that allows you to see the weather, thus saving you from the tedious need to emerge from your dungeon lair beneath the wind-swept oceans to see if it's raining outside although you're not going anywhere anyway. The cool thing is that games like *Madden* will change the in-game environment to reflect the real one.

The Wii is not all spwiing-time fun in the sun, however. It has

the wiikest graphics of any of the new consoles and can't take advantage of high-definition TVs. And while it can play GameCube games since its DVD tray also accepts the GameCube minidisks, it can't actually play DVDs.

Many Nintendo fans will remember how game developers stopped releasing quality titles for the GameCube due to the dominance of the XBOX and PS2 and worry continues that the Wii will not lure them back and so leave us with a gameless plastic box that sometimes glows blue when Nintendo e-mails your Wii a new message and when it does

glow blue it looks pretty cool but otherwise it's just non-glowing plastic.

However, the pure entertainment of swinging around a remote and the possibility of luring girls into my room with the promise of a non-hard-core gaming experience is enough to ensure the Wii will always have a spot on my shelf, along with Apostll Volume 2, double-chocolate Milano cookies, and the latest edition of the *California Tech Weekly Newspaper*, the official ASCIT student publication and provider of quality journalism for over fifty years.

Career Corner

A Mentor for the New Year

**BY: JONIE WATANABE TSUJI
CAREER COUNSELOR**

January is National Mentoring Month. In honor of this special month, the Career Development Center, the Women's Center, and NOGLSTP (National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals) are partnering to put on Caltech Mentoring Day – January 11, 2007 at noon in Winnett Lounge.

Panelists will discuss men-

toring, tell their stories as protégés and mentors, and explain how to get started. If that's not incentive enough, we will also provide free pizza and drinks.

Happy New Year, now make a resolution. Don't worry about losing weight or exercising more (nobody sticks with it anyway, right?). It's time to work on career options by getting a mentor.

And it just got easy. MentorNet is a great program that matches students (protégés) with academic and industry mentors for one-on-one ad-

vice, encouragement, and information.

The relationship is developed through email. Only a few exclusive universities participate, and Caltech is one of them.

Caltech has been a part of MentorNet since 1998. Some of the mentors came from companies such as 3M, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Intel, Motorola, and Texas Instruments.

The majority of participants found it quite helpful. In fact, one student stated in his/her evaluation – "Mostly, it was really helpful for me to have

someone to talk about my experiences with, and to hear their experiences in a similar situation. It was helpful to understand things in a larger career context, and just to get a sense of how my experiences fit into the normal range of activities."

MentorNet also has other resources aside from the mentor-protégé relationship: a MentorNet E-forum (web-based discussion groups to exchange ideas and advice), resources (helpful weblinks), as well as a resume database

(where students can post their resume for MentorNet sponsors to review).

Every Techer, whether they are a frosh, senior, grad student, or postdoc, should check out MentorNet. In addition to mentors in industry, they have mentors in academia for those considering that career path.

For more info, students may visit www.mentornet.net. But don't forget --come to Caltech Mentoring Day – January 11, 2007 at noon – Winnett Lounge – free pizza and drinks! So join in the fun, resolve to get a mentor this year!

Caltech Mentoring Day will be on January 11th at noon at Winnett.
The Spring Career Fair will be on Wednesday, January 24th.

Techers Demonstrate Culinary Interests via Olive Oil

BY: DANIEL ROWLANDS

Where most students trample the fallen olives that line the Olive Walk, one creative group of Caltech students decided that when life gives you olives, make olive oil.

At the beginning of first term, sophomores Kristen Kozak, Alex Roper, Robbie Xiao, and Cathy Douglass made use of trees on campus to fuel an unusual culinary experiment.

They picked olives, mostly ripe black ones, though some green olives were used as well, from the small olive trees on Holliston near the Fire Station and Mods and, by experimentation, taught themselves to make olive oil.

In response to concerns about pesticides that may have been sprayed on the trees, Kozak replied that "The trees did not look like they were sprayed, so I didn't worry about it." Delmy Emerson of Buildings and Grounds did not reply to an email inquiry about pesticide use on campus.

In any case, the group did wash the olives before pressing them and separating the oil from the olive juices by letting it sit in jars until the oil rose to

the top.

Most of the olives they collected were consumed by experimenting to learn how to produce the oil, and only a few tablespoons were produced--enough to taste plain and on a few slices of bread.

Of the taste, Roper reported "We just tasted it plain, it was very good indeed." Making olive oil wasn't the group's only venture into cooking with Caltech-grown ingredients.

They also collected fallen acorns from the oak trees along Holliston and repeatedly soaked them in boiling water to leach out the toxic tannins.

They then ground the acorns to make flour, from which Roper made pasta and Kozak made bread.

As well as collecting olives and acorns for cooking experiments, the group has also grown a garden of potted vegetables in the backyard of their off-campus house.

The group has harvested and eaten mint, thyme, and basil from it, as well as a few snap peas. However, most of their crops have not yet produced anything edible. They've also collected oranges, persimmons, and other citrus fruits from trees near campus.



Photo by Daniel Rowlands

Kristen Kozak and Robbie Xiao show some of the wild fruit they've collected around campus (top).

At left, is a plate of acorn pasta that they prepared.



Photo by Kristen Kozak

Remembering Gao

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and he still managed to finish everything on time."

Said Srinivasan, "We have this image of Steve that he's the closest to perfection than any of us could be."

Added classmate Mike Chang, "Steve was one of the nicest, most gifted—really, in one word, phenomenal—people that we have ever known."

In addition to being a kind friend, an avid athlete, and an accomplished scholar, Gao was also a talented musician.

"Steve always enjoyed piano, especially Chopin. I'd get to listen to him play because my room was near the lounge," said Eric Kelsic, a former classmate.

Though Sunday's memorial only lasted a few hours, friends plan to create a more permanent commemoration for Gao in the pages of a scrapbook. Chang plans to personally deliver the gift to Gao's parents in Syosset, New York.

"Several of us came up with the idea for a scrapbook at the same time," said Chang. "It just

seemed really natural to want to put together this collection of memories to show his parents how much his friends at Caltech loved him."

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Men's Basketball Team Ends 10-Year NCAA Losing Streak

BY: MATTHEW GLASSMAN

While the Higgs particle remains undetected and the intricacies of protein folding are still a mystery, last Saturday evening, 15 Techers achieved something that seemed almost as difficult. For the first time in just over a decade, the men's basketball team pulled off an NCAA win, defeating Bard College from New York, for a final score of 81-52.

Although the score makes this look like an easy win for Caltech, the game wraps up an NCAA losing streak of 207 games, which was preceded by a 1996 victory over Pricipia.

Among the top scorers in the most recent win were sophomore forward Travis Haussler with 29 points and sophomore guard Matt Dellatorre with 24 points.

"We expected to win a game, but not like this," said Head Coach Roy Dow, referring to the blowout, in an article by the Associated Press. The story has been picked up by several papers and some of the players were interviewed by a radio station.

Sophomore guard Han Bin Man said, "We are excited and relieved that it finally happened. We really wanted to win a game sooner or later."

Walking off the court at half-time with a lead of seven points was definitely not something that happens every game, but Coach Dow remained serious and kept on the men until they finally pulled away late in the second half.

"When we went to the locker room, everyone was pretty pumped," said Dellatorre. "But overall we were playing kind of messy. Still, before we knew it, we were up by 15 with less than ten minutes to go."

"I'm sure that there are plenty of other good [Caltech] teams that have never won a game," said Bin Man. "It's special that we're the guys that finally got

to win."

Last year's team, led by captains Jordan Carlson and Day Ivy, got national media coverage for their efforts to break the team's SCIAC losing streak, which spans over 20 years and has yet to be broken. Despite a close game against Whittier that went into overtime, the team was unable to pull off a victory.

While the game marks one of

a few hard-fought wins in the history of the men's team, only a handful of Techers, which included the women's basketball team and President Chameau and his wife Dr. Carmichael, were there to see it happen. The players hope that more fans will make it out to games as they prepare to open the regular season against Occidental on Wednesday.



Photo by Jonathan Tsai

Sophomore guard Matt Dellatorre goes up for a shot at the alumni game in this year's preseason. Matt scored 24 points in the Beavers' win on Saturday

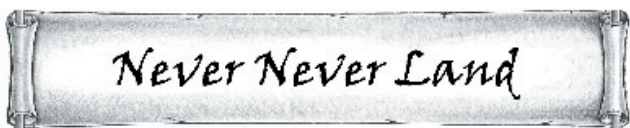
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Saturday's win launched the Men's Basketball team into the national spotlight, featured above on CNN.com's frontpage

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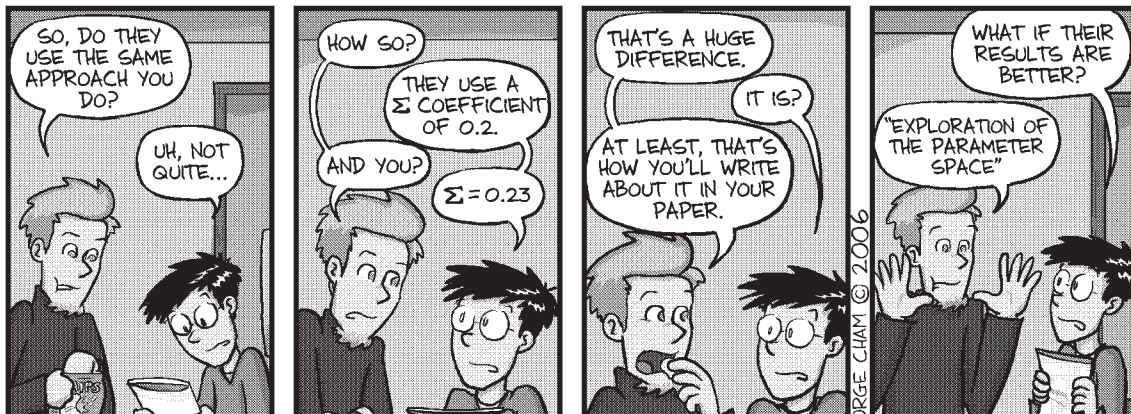
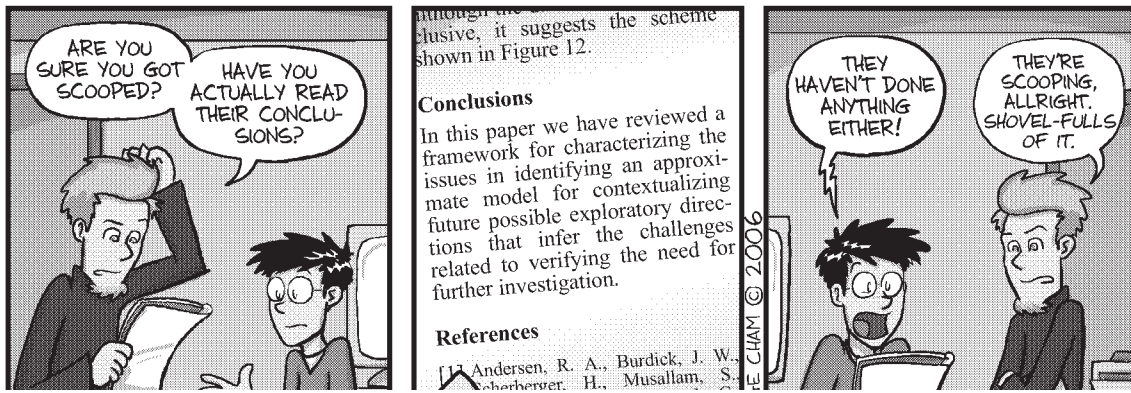
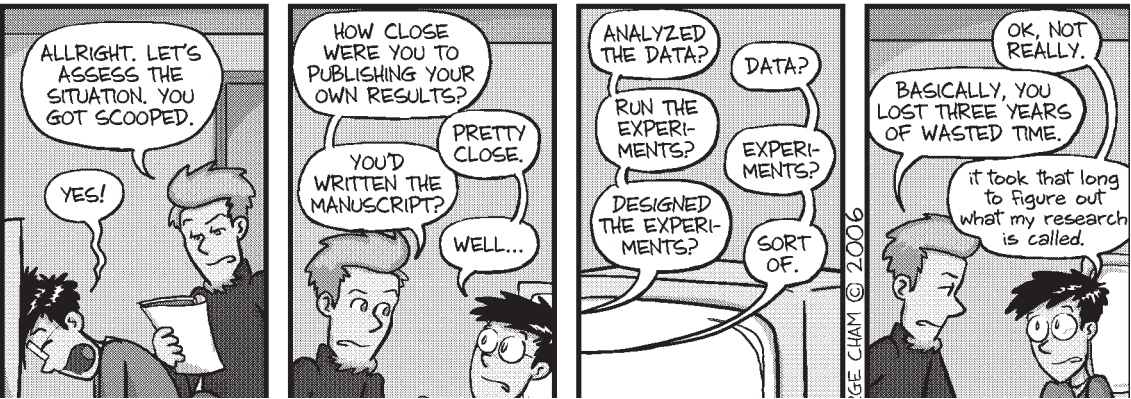
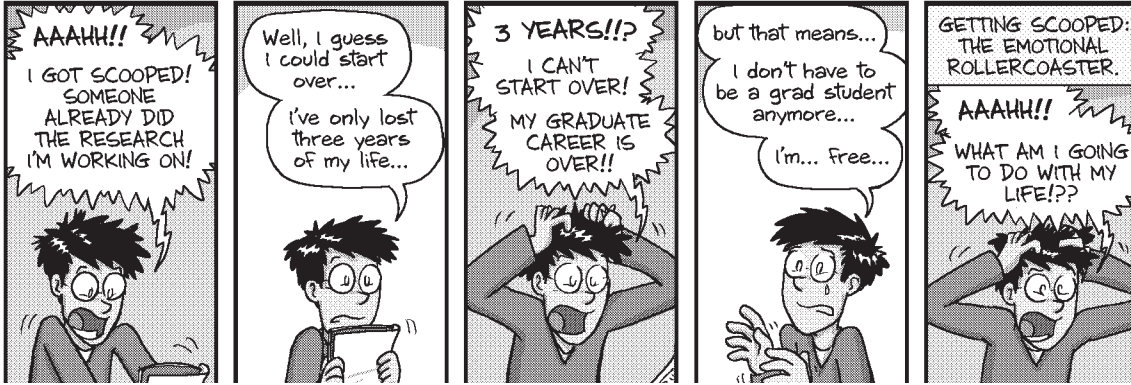
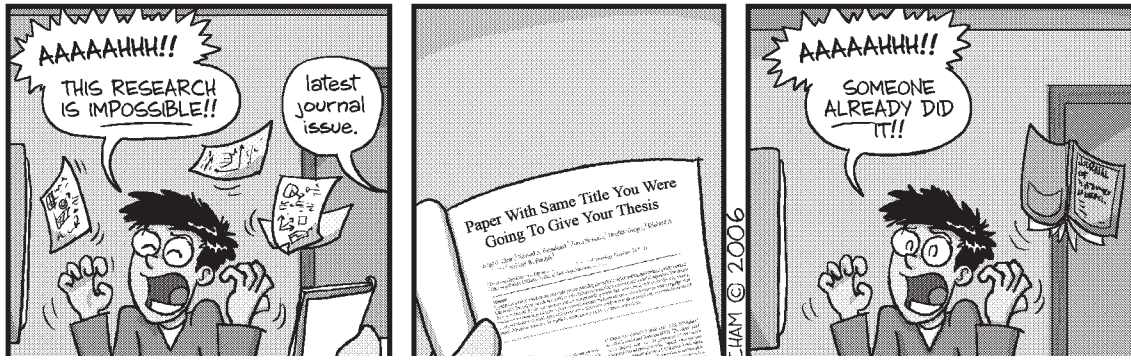
January 13th, 2007

★ In Soviet Russia, girl gets you! ★



★ Comrades, come to the South House Reopening Party! ★

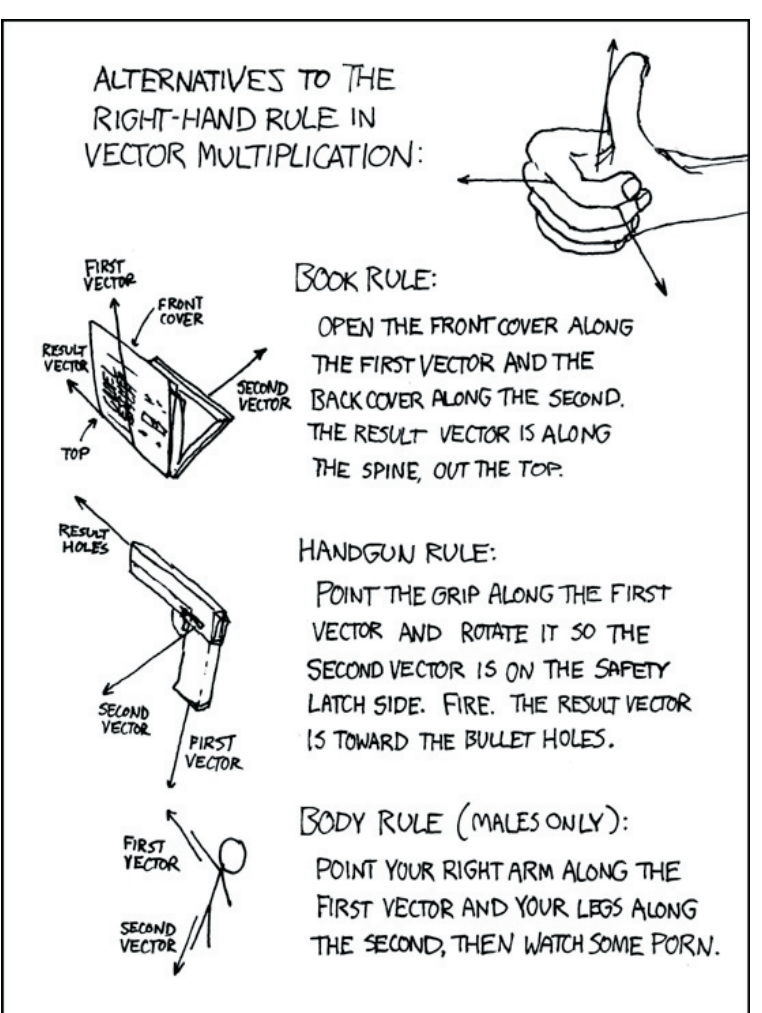
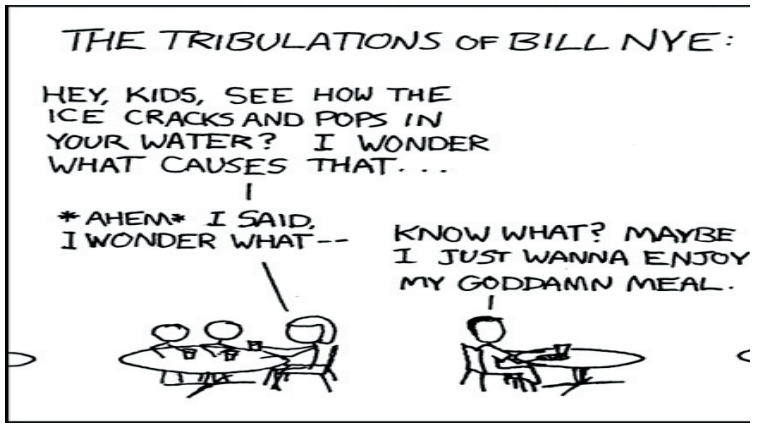
PHD Comics by Jorge Cham



SSEL and School on Wheels would like to thank the following Caltech volunteers for their volunteering during the fall '06 term:

- Adam Craig (89 min)
- Micha Fireman (40 min)
- Misha Imtiaz (60 min)
- Morteza Mayhari (90 min)
- Mikita Panasenکو (42 min)
- Laura Panattoni (45 min)
- Xin Xu (90 min)
- David Ye (60 min)

XKCD Comics by Randall Munroe



THE INTERNET HAS ALWAYS HAD LOUD DUMB PEOPLE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE AS BAD AS THE PEOPLE WHO COMMENT ON YOUTUBE VIDEOS.



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