



## Plans for DVD library taking shape

**New Freshman Director at Large hopes for its debut in SFL in one month**

**BY: DANIEL ROWLANDS**

The revival of the ASCIT DVD library has been placed into the hands of newly elected Freshman Director at Large (FDAL) Daryl Coleman, who plans to move the library into SFL. Logistics which marred former FDAL Chris Watson's attempts at restoring the library have dissipated, leaving Coleman optimistic for the library's spot back in undergraduate life.

Coleman was unable to give a definite date for the return of the library, but said he "would like to hope within a month."

The DVD library, which ASCIT purchased with excess funds several years ago, has been in storage since the end of the 2004-2005 school year. The only visible sign of the library's existence was the DVD return box near the student mailboxes between Lloyd and Page. The library contains several hundred DVDs, including classics, sci-fi films, and a number of Russian and Korean language films.

### Complications

There were rumors last October that the library would soon be available in Coffeehouse. The main difficulty with this

plan, according to then Freshman Director at Large (FDAL) Chris Watson, was that "We were never able to secure a permanent location in Winnett, so Security confiscated it so it wouldn't get stolen." Without a permanent, nearby place to store the DVDs during the day, the library could not be open for borrowing in Coffeehouse at night and it ended up being locked up in Tom Mannion's office for safe-keeping.

After this year's ASCIT elections, the new FDAL, Daryl Coleman took over the task of finding a new home for the library. He has secured permission from Marie Noren and Jim O'Donnell of the Caltech Library System to add the library to the "leisure reading" section on the third floor of the Sherman-Fairchild Library. Coleman noted that, unlike Coffeehouse, "SFL is open 24 hours, so the movies could be checked out at anytime." Another consequence of having the movies in SFL is that they would be available for use by anyone with a Caltech Libraries account, and not only undergrads.

While the location problem seems to have been solved, there is one other problem that needs to be solved. While the DVDs are stored in Mannion's office, the DVD cases were stored separately during the South House renovation and neither the former nor the current ASCIT BOD has succeeded in finding them. Coleman indicated that he will spend the next few weeks

trying to find the cases, which may be in St. Luke's or in storage somewhere on campus. If he is unable to find them, though, there is funding left over from the past ASCIT budget which he intends to use to purchase replacement cases.

Once the library is operational, there is \$2000 in the current ASCIT budget for purchasing additional DVDs for the library. Some of this money will need to be spent on replacing DVDs that went missing while the collection was in a series of several unmonitored temporary locations over the last two years, but Coleman hopes to significantly add to the collection as well. At the moment, there is no established system for making suggestions for additions to the library.

### Inefficiency in the BoD?

That a home for the DVD library was not found by the previous BoD raises questions regarding other projects that the previous BoD may have left uncompleted. However, Chris Gonzales, the current ASCIT President and former Social Team Director, commented that the transition from the old to new BoD "went far smoother than I had expected" and indicated that the DVD library was an isolated incident and not the previous BoD's fault: "We had to wait until several factors came together in order to find a place to put our DVD library; this happened to take place after the

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Photo by: Glenn Wagner

**David Romney, left, shanks his USC opponent with his sabre. Romney recently competed in the Junior Olympics.**

## Keen on Caltech fencing

**BY: NATALYA KOSTANDOVA**

When asked what his favorite activity is, Carl Allendorph, a junior at Tech, replied, "I like stabbin' folks with my hobo knife." While stabbin' folks with hobo knives is certainly entertaining and may have some value in terms of population control, it is also illegal in most of the countries, including the United States. Perhaps that is why Allendorph wisely chose to stay within the limits of the legal system and settled himself for the second best. He still gets to stab people with shiny sharp objects and even has the luxury of stabbing them over and over without being arrested and possibly shot in the interest of the society, but is actually cheered on by a group of people similarly preoccupied with stabbing. Carl Allendorph is the captain of Caltech fencing team.

The Beavers have shown themselves to be quite adept at handling sabers, foils, and epees. While the team did not place in the top three in the conference, Ekaterina Harvard, a senior and the captain of the women's team, placed second overall, while David Romney, a sophomore, took third. Six people qualified for the Western regionals, including Harvard, Romney, Allendorph, Erica Pantel, Alexei Harvard, and Eric Mintun. The regionals serve as qualifiers for the national level. Romney has also recently competed at the Junior Olympics.

He said about his experience at J. Olympics, "Going to the JOs was also very enjoyable because the top under-20 fencers in the country were there, and the experience I gained was very useful."

Coach Cedric Anen, who took charge of the team this year after having assisted the previous coach for two years, said, "Fencing is kind of nice because even if you have an opponent who is ten

times bigger and stronger than you, you can still beat them if you are smarter."

Anen himself knows a lot about being smart – having earned two bachelors degrees as well as an engineering degree, he has received Masters in Electric Engineers from Caltech and is currently working toward his Ph.D. Having fenced 12 years on Luxembourg's National Team, he successfully competed at various national and international competitions.

Allendorph commented, "He's a good guy. He's European, what more can you ask for? He's really good – there is no one in SoCal that can even touch him."

Together with the assistant coach Michael D'Asaro, who has previously competed at the Olympics, Anen is preparing the six fencers with hope that some of them make it to the Nationals. Harvard, who competed at the Nationals two times before, is apprehensive of the level of the competition.

"It was unbelievable," she said. "There were girls there that I've known from Nationals and Junior Olympics. There was a girl from the Israeli National Team and one from the Russian National Team."

But for now, the goal is to make it at the Westerns and qualify for the Nationals. "It's a crap shoot," said Harvard. "Anyone there can beat anyone else on a given day."

The fencing team, although training all year round, is more laid back in character than some of the other sports, with two practices a week instead of the usual six. To keep up with the spirit of Caltech, the team had also changed its motto from "Beaver Fever! Beaver Fever! Beaver Fever! Snatch it up!" to "What time is it? Nap time!"

The regionals will take place in UC, San Diego on Sunday, March 11.

## Improvised robots to compete this week

**BY: DAVID CHEN**

With only a week remaining until the competition, the students of Me72 are furiously working away on their contraptions.

This year, the teams are creating devices that lift a metal chain as quickly as possible up a sloping mesh. What makes this task difficult is the limited resources the students are allowed to use. John Van Deusen, the shop supervisor, said that the students get a "bag of junk" and are only allowed to use the enclosed materials.

The competition returns this year to an exciting and spectator friendly environment, with some comparing the atmosphere to Battlebots. Students direct their devices via remote control while competing against an opposing team's robot.

Van Deusen explained that the class was based off the MIT class where students get limited starting materials and a set project.

Perhaps most difficult for the students is the lack of fasteners. Duct tape, the usual lifeline of Caltech construction projects, is forbidden and super glue is only allowed for decorative purposes.

The students must also design their devices to fit within given weight limits and size constraints. Fortunately for the students, there are ample motors included but the devices may only use up to eight AA alkaline batteries.

The devices compete in a double elimination tournament, so instead of rushing to bring the chain up, the students can instead

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ME 72 Competition**  
**Tuesday March 13, 2 PM**  
**Beckman Auditorium**

try to hinder their opposing device. Each of the nine teams is composed of two students, and each student builds a device that complements the team's effort.

The class is a two term sequence with students designing their devices during the previous term and implementing the ideas this term.

With the deadline looming soon, students are spending

most of their waking hours in the shop, which is located in the sub-basement of Spalding Laboratories. The shop is now in extended hours, open from 8 am until 8 pm every weekday.

Senior Cindy Ko knows she has spent "way too much time" on this course. "I've neglected all my other courses," she said, estimating that she has been in the shop from 9 am to 5 pm every day for the last few weeks.

Juniors Mike Underhill and Jason Kephart are also hard at work on their devices, which will spring a grappling hook high into the web and then cinch the metal chain up. Underhill noted that this class teaches him to balance constraints and provides valuable experience in carrying out a project.

Last year the students built heat engines with the goal of Carnot efficiency, which is illustrative of thermodynamics principles but is a less thrilling experience for spectators to watch. Each term of the course this year is 9 units, compared to a one-term 15-unit course last year.

Underhill noted his preference for this year, "We actually didn't

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**Tennis serves up a win against Cal Lutheran and Mills**

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Microscopes meet telescopes

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**Hamilton explains the gentle art of sports etiquette**

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## Caltech athletics has undeserved bad rap

It's "common knowledge." Techers can't play sports any more than they can dress well. But the stereotype of the gawky Caltech student who can't tell a tennis racket from a baseball bat just isn't true anymore. Caltech sports have had too many wins this year to scoff at Tech athletics.

Let's recap: Women's table tennis is ranked eighth in the nation, fencing has six people qualifying for regionals. The swimming team boasts freshman beast Diane Plummer for breaking records and winning in the SCIACs, and the men's and women's tennis teams have had impressive wins over La Sierra and Cal Lutheran. Women's Ultimate Frisbee ranks in the top 10 in the Southwest.

Track and cross-country have members who rank in the top half in their events. And this is all without considering the monumental basketball wins from both the men and women.

So what's the secret ingredient? Has the admissions committee started a stealth athletic recruitment? Or has the natural math and science ability of Caltech students suddenly been serendipitously paired with graceful athleticism? I can't say anyone knows exactly why Caltech sports are on the rise, but a quick glance on the opinion pages of the *Tech* reveal another sports-related trend: Caltech students are starting to care.

Marissa Cevallos  
Tech Editor-in-Chief

### Clarification: submissions to the *Tech*

The *Tech* likes hearing from its readers. We especially welcome Letters to the Editor, but if you have a submission you wish to send, please keep the following in mind:

The *Tech* does not have space for every campus group in its eight pages. While we're happy to print short announcements, it is not feasible to allow organizations to recruit/advertise in 500-word articles.

The *Tech* may abridge or choose not to print any submission.

If you have a newsworthy event you think we ought to know about, please drop us a line at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)

# Loud, Proud, and Positive

## Beaver Fever is too hot for some to handle

BY: EVANS BONEY

This article is intended to be a reply to the injustice against the Beaver Fever nation by columnist Natalya Kostandova in last week's issue of the *Tech* in which she pointed out that the Redlands team was treated without "decency and respect".

My first point is that, while the NCAA does have sportsmanship regulations for fans, it is not the same as the Be loud, Be proud, Be positive campaign. The only NCAA regulations are that we do not bring artificial noisemakers to the games and do not use profanity or threatening language toward any players or officials.

I'd then like to consider the question of whether or not the following statement stands up to scrutiny: "If we want other colleges to start respecting our athletes .. we must first show some common decency and respect". Really? The behavior at Caltech games is tame compared to behavior at UNC games, and I would say that Michael Jordan, James Worthy, and Vince Carter have all garnered their fair share of respect.

Having played college basketball for 3 years at MIT, your state-

ment just isn't valid, as I fully respected players on teams that were heated rivals, whose fans would be quite distracting (and creative, as you kindly pointed out). You could actually see the players on the Redland's men's

***"Beaver Fever is not about being disrespectful, it's about helping our team get results through loud and clever cheers."***

team smile when we yelled "your mother doesn't love you anymore" as the shot a free throw. I'd venture a guess that it's the first time they had been heckled in 4 years of playing at Redlands, and, again from experience, it makes you feel like you're playing in a game people care about, which feels good.

Let's consider the cheers that you consider to be disrespectful. I think it's hilarious you even bring up that, given the opponent were actually named the Lady Bulldogs, and that "lady dogs" is disrespectful. We didn't chant

"bitches" or anything that would have been disrespectful, but simply chanted their team name which, as you mention, is unfortunate. I will not have our group be slandered for the fault of the Redlands athletic department.

Also, calling someone's name (whether it be Bueno, Kari Oki, or other) is not disrespectful, and if it is, that's their momma's fault. I'd also like to mention that, while some of the chants directed at Jim Ducey were inappropriate (and not supported by our group as a whole), he did look a lot like Wilford Brimley, and anyone should be proud to be associated with the Diabetes man.

Beaver Fever is not about being disrespectful, it's about helping our team get results through loud and clever cheers. Beaver Fever t-shirts will soon be on sale at the bookstore with proceeds going to the GSC for more pep rallies, so snatch them up.

The other team, as you pointed out, were 20% from the line on the night. Given that the team is averaging 65% from the line on the year, I'd say the fans stopped them from scoring 4-5 points in the game. Now that's something positive we can be proud of.

# What's wrong with the honor system: musings by Ted Jou

BY: CRAIG MONTUORI

Ted Jou was ASCIT president '02-'03. He wrote a paper during the summer of his presidency, titled "A History of Undergraduate Student Self-Governance at Caltech," which can be found on donut (ASCIT Info: History). The issues of his year were then-President Baltimore cutting student parking and making major cuts to the student health care, as well as the tail ends of an ASCIT/IHC dispute over committee appointments. We were beginning to feel the effects of the budget crunch, leading to today's cuts. Ted wrote a series of columns in the *Tech*, and with his permission, we're reprinting one of them.

In the second week of this column, I'd like to look at the Honor Code as a whole. I've found Ted's piece to be better written than anything I could come up with. It sums things up pretty well and raises some interesting questions.

I'd like to add a few questions of my own, like what can students do if someone who doesn't follow the Honor Code calls us on not following it? Do we have any recourse as people who do follow the Honor Code? What about when a professor, new or otherwise, does something that implies a lack of trust in students following the Honor Code? Do we have any way of instructing these people in how we perceive the Honor Code and how we'd like to be treated under it?

I'll touch upon these points in greater detail next week. For now, enjoy Ted's article.

"What's wrong with the Honor System?"

By: Ted Jou  
May 13, 2003

I wasted a column last week on the somewhat trivial subject of donuts, so this week I will tackle a more interesting question, "What is wrong with the honor system?"

The easy answer, and the one that I often hear is, "Nothing is wrong with the honor system - at least, nothing is more wrong than it was before." I tend to disagree. I think there are some major problems with the honor system, and that if we don't address them soon, they will begin to threaten our way of life.

Like most of our student-governance issues, the current honor system problems have their roots in fateful choices made by students of the past. Once upon a time, the honor system was simply an informal code of conduct. In the words of the 1970-'71 little t editors, "Because one of the main benefits of the Honor System is a vast freedom from rules, attempts to state it explicitly are futile. Just respect the rights of others and expect them to respect yours."

However, by the early 70's, a phrase had already begun circulating through the undergraduate population that would change the honor system forever. That phrase was "unfair advantage" and by 1980, our indefinable honor code had an explicit characterization, "No one shall take unfair advantage of any member of the Caltech community."

Armed with a universal rule they could apply to a wide variety of situations, the Board of Control of the 1970's began to hear more cases of a non-academic nature. The honor system had always been meant to apply to all of student conduct, but before the concept of "unfair advantage", the BoC had a difficult time dealing with any issues more complex than simple cheating or stealing.

However, the BoC was not prepared for the increased caseload. In 1970, a BoC Rep wrote to the *Tech*, "The Board finds itself faced with an increased number of such 'violations' and therefore with the dilemma of either ignoring them or having its efficiency threatened by having to call weekly case meetings."

Over time, the BoC dealt with fewer and fewer of the interper-

sonal issues and those neglected responsibilities fell to the Deans office. Unfortunately, when issues go to administrators, the spirit of self-governance is lost, and most students who find themselves in front of the Dean for stealing Daihatsus or pirating music feel more like they are being disciplined and less like they are part of an honor system.

We recently tried to put students back into the process by creating the CRC, but that innovation has been creating problems of its own. The CRC has created an atmosphere where students are

***"I think there are some major problems with the honor system, and that if we don't address them soon, they will begin to threaten our way of life."***

-Ted Jou

encouraged to turn their friends in to escape punishment. The BoC encourages this as well, but the problem is worse with the CRC because while most students can rationalize turning in students to the BoC for their own good, ratiating out your friends to the CRC usually comes from an "everyone for themselves" attitude.

Our honor system is being clouded by disciplinary motives and we are rapidly losing sight of the community atmosphere the honor system is supposed to foster. To get an idea of how that would work, we can look at how things were before "unfair advantage" and long before the CRC.

I've been looking a lot at 1970, so let's take another incident from that year. On January 16, 1970, a group of Pageboys attempted to shower the *Tech* editor after he failed to print one of their letters. In the process, they broke his umbrella. This incident was not handled by the BoC, the Deans, or the

MOSH; It came before the IHC. After interviewing many witnesses, the Presidents of the seven houses voted unanimously to pass a resolution regarding showering and to fine the aggressors \$7.50, the cost of the umbrella.

Nowadays, disciplinary issues of that nature never come before the IHC, and I'm sure many would question the House Presidents' authority to impose a fine on individual students. However, I think this is exactly the sort of thing that should be happening more often.

In the 1892 catalog for Throop Polytechnic Institute it was written, "The discipline of the institution will constantly keep in mind the development of self-governing citizens, self-respecting, law-abiding men and women. The helpfulness of the ever-watchful friend will take the place of the educational police officer."

When we place too much power in the hands of the BoC, the CRC, or in Student Affairs, we are choosing police officers over watchful friends. No one group should have a monopoly on student discipline. It is sometimes more effective to hear things from your friends than from an administrator.

It makes sense that all suspected academic cheating should go to the BoC, but do all other instances of unfair advantage need to be reported? If something can be resolved between friends, shouldn't they do so? If a problem can stay within an alley, a House, or between two Houses, is there any reason for other people to get involved?

We may have come up with an all-encompassing phrase to describe our honor code, but that doesn't mean we need a monolithic system to deal with violations. The strength of an honor system comes from each individual policing himself and having the authority to watch over his peers. We have forgotten this crucial aspect of our honor system and it is weakening our student community.

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VOLUME CVIII, NUMBER 17

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The *Tech* is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

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BY: VIBHA LALJANI

## THE WORLD

### BBC made to censor UK political funding scandal

The British Broadcasting Corporation was gagged from running a story about a political funding scandal that has cast a dark shadow over Prime Minister Tony Blair's final months.

Government's top lawyer, Attorney General Lord Peter Goldsmith, acquired a court order to stop the broadcast late on Friday, after a request by police probing whether political parties awarded state honors in return for loans.

The court order was obtained from the police to prevent hampering of their inquiries.

Two of Tony Blair's aides were recently arrested on suspicion of perverting the course of justice or conspiring to do so. Blair who will be stepping down this year having held his office for a decade has been questioned twice as a witness by detectives who were investigating whether businessmen were offered honors that come with seats in the parlia-

ment's House of Lords, for cash.

The court injunction was given shortly before the BBC was due to broadcast the story on its ten o'clock news.

## SCIENCE

### Sky-watchers worldwide enjoy lunar eclipse

The first total lunar eclipse in more than three years began at 2018 GMT. The moon was totally overshadowed by the earth between 2244 and 2358 GMT.

The moon appeared reddish in color because not all sunlight reaches the moon. Sunlight reaches the earth after being refracted from the atmosphere.

The eclipse was partly visible from every continent. However, Africa, Europe and the Middle East had the best view, weather permitting. It is claimed that eastern Australia, Alaska and New Zealand will have the best view for the next total lunar eclipse on August 28.

### Hawking on zero-g flight

Stephen Hawking, British Physicist and professor, is to take

a zero-gravity flight in a specially modified Boeing 727 from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, next month. His trip is being paid for by an American firm, Zero Gravity, which usually charges \$3750 per flight. They also plan to have two seats on the flight auctioned off by charities.

The plane flies 32000 ft at a steep angle, during which passengers experience being pulled by the earth with strength 1.8 times the normal pull. The plane then dives 8000 ft which allows passengers to feel weightlessness for 25 seconds.

## BUSINESS

### YouTube strikes deal to air BBC content online

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has struck a content deal with YouTube, a video sharing website owned by Google. Three YouTube channels, one for news and two for entertainment, will show short clips of BBC content.

Through the deal, the BBC hopes to reach YouTube's monthly audience of more than 70 million users and drive extra traffic

to its own website. BBC will get a share of the advertising revenue attained by traffic to the new YouTube channels.

The three different YouTube services are:

BBC - an entertainment channel featuring content that add value like video diaries of David Tennant or BBC correspondent explaining how difficult it is to report from streets of Baghdad. The main purpose is to popularize current programming and drive traffic back to BBC's own website.

BBC Worldwide - Entertainment channel that features excerpts from Top Gear, The Mighty Boosh. This service will carry advertising.

BBC News - News channel to show about 30 news clips a day only for non-UK users.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Anna Nicole buried in the Bahamas

The funeral of the former model Anna Nicole Smith took place in the Bahaman capital Nassau. Pallbearers in pink ties carried her coffin down the red carpet. She was buried in a pink gown and tiara next to her son Daniel, 20, who

died last year, at Lakeview Memorial Park Cemetery.

Smith, 39, died February 8 in a Florida hotel room. The cause for her death is not known. However, her death has led to a battle between the US and the Bahamas regarding the custody of her 5 month old daughter, Danielynn, who could inherit millions of dollars.

Three hundred people were invited to the funeral service at the Mount Horeb Baptist Church.

### Stolen art discovered at Spielberg's residence

Steven Spielberg's staff noticed an FBI painting theft notice last week. They realized that the painting was in Spielberg's collection.

The painting, Russian Schoolroom by Norman Rockwell, was bought by Spielberg from a legitimate dealer in 1999, said FBI. It was stolen in 1973 from an exhibition in Missouri. FBI estimated that the painting was worth about \$700,000.

Spielberg is being co-operative towards the FBI and will hold the painting until the matter has been settled.

# ASCIT Minutes (02/21/2007): New Social Team announced

Present: Chris Gonzales, Mike Grinolds, Andrea Dubin, Angela Zah, Caleb Ng, Ekta Bhojwani, Patrick Herring, Daryl Coleman, Zack Higbee

Guests: Helen Bermudez, Alex Alemi, Nathan Crook, the ASCIT social team

#### \*funding requests

-Helen requests \$500 of interhouse funding for Apache. Approved unanimously.

-Alex Alemi requests \$500 of interhouse funding for Drop Day. Approved.

-Alex requests money for coffee-house party. ASCIT allocated \$400 in its budget for it. The Coffeehouse manages should work with the social team on the party.

-Nathan Crook requests money for Blacker from the South House Re-opening Party. All of the houses can bring up to \$1000 of receipts to Angela to be reimbursed.

#### \*Budgets

-We can keep using the old budget until March 31. Angela doesn't know what happens to surplus after then.

-Vote to approve the budget that was decided on over the weekend. Changes to the budget include increasing the publications budget for Totem, decreasing the salary for team

donut while increasing the bonuses for the publications, allocating \$1000 for the upcoming Student-Faculty Conference, and increasing the funds for the big interhouse party to \$4000. Approved.

-Angela needs to turn in the new budget so we can start charging our new budget.

#### \*Big T

-The advisor to the Big T, Hall Daily, suggested that ASCIT increase the prescribed stipend for the editors of the Big T. The salary used to be \$1500, but in the past few years it was decreased to \$500.

-There isn't enough student interest in the position, which is a lot of work. The hope is that increasing stipends would encourage student participation.

-The Big T was delayed this year because there were less people working on it (normally it should arrive during first term).

-There is concern about quality of the publication being substandard, so the BoD is hesitant on raising the stipend.

-ASCIT typically gives a small salary and has a large amount of money for performance based bonuses. This is meant to encourage the editors to do a good job.

-Hall Daily suggests taking bonuses out of the Big T reserve budget. The BoD doesn't deal with whether the Big T can pay themselves.

-In the past there has been a problem with graduating seniors not receiving payment since they are not around when the bonuses are distributed.

-It was suggested that most people don't even know that there are salaries or bonuses for working on the publications. Maybe we would attract more people to the job if we advertised these facts.

-Patrick will look into the bylaws surrounding funding and the Big T paying their editors from their reserve budget, as well as ways to get better quality yearbooks and more people involved as editors.

#### \*End of Core Party

-The end of core party will take place March 16. Lloyd social team will set it up and it will take place in Lloyd. Estimated prices are \$400-\$500 for alcohol and \$300-\$400 for food. It was suggested that we move the funds for happy hour this term to help pay for the party. The Social team discretionary budget can be used to cover the rest of the cost. Motion to allocate an amount equal to the happy hour surplus towards the end of core party.

Approved.

#### \*Social Team

-The new ASCIT social team is: Brian Yu, Ankita Mishra, Swati Bhandari, Tania Bandyopadhyay, Cory Pender, Calyani Ganesan

-Motion to approve the nominations for ASCIT social team. Approved.

#### \*Midnight Donuts

-Todd says it's Gonzo's responsibility to do a midnight donuts this term, Gonzo says it's Todd's responsibility. They will fight to the death over it.

-March 7th was suggested as a possible date.

#### \*DVD Library

-The DVD library will be set up in the leisure reading section of SFL. The library staff label them with bar codes and make sure they are checked out properly. All the BoD has to do is bring the boxes to them, and they will catalog them. Anyone at Caltech will be able to check out DVDs (not just undergraduates). It was suggested that we ask the GSC for \$300-\$400 per year to help buy new DVDs. Daryl will make a list of DVDs to buy with the extra money from last year (\$1800).

-Daryl will get the DVDs from Tom's office. Currently they are being stored

in jewel cases, so we need to figure out where the original cases are.

#### \*Other news

-There were no bagels this week. Gonzo needs to stop over sleeping.

#### \*Correction

-On the minutes from February 14th, it states that a transfer of \$500 was approved from the ARC budget to buy gift certificates for people taking the donut survey. However, only \$50 was requested and approved to be transferred.

#### \*ASCIT Kiosk

-Ekta and Caleb both want a bulletin board to post events and information for their respective committees.

-Ekta would like to post a calendar for social events so that people know about upcoming events.

Andrea Dubin  
ASCIT Secretary

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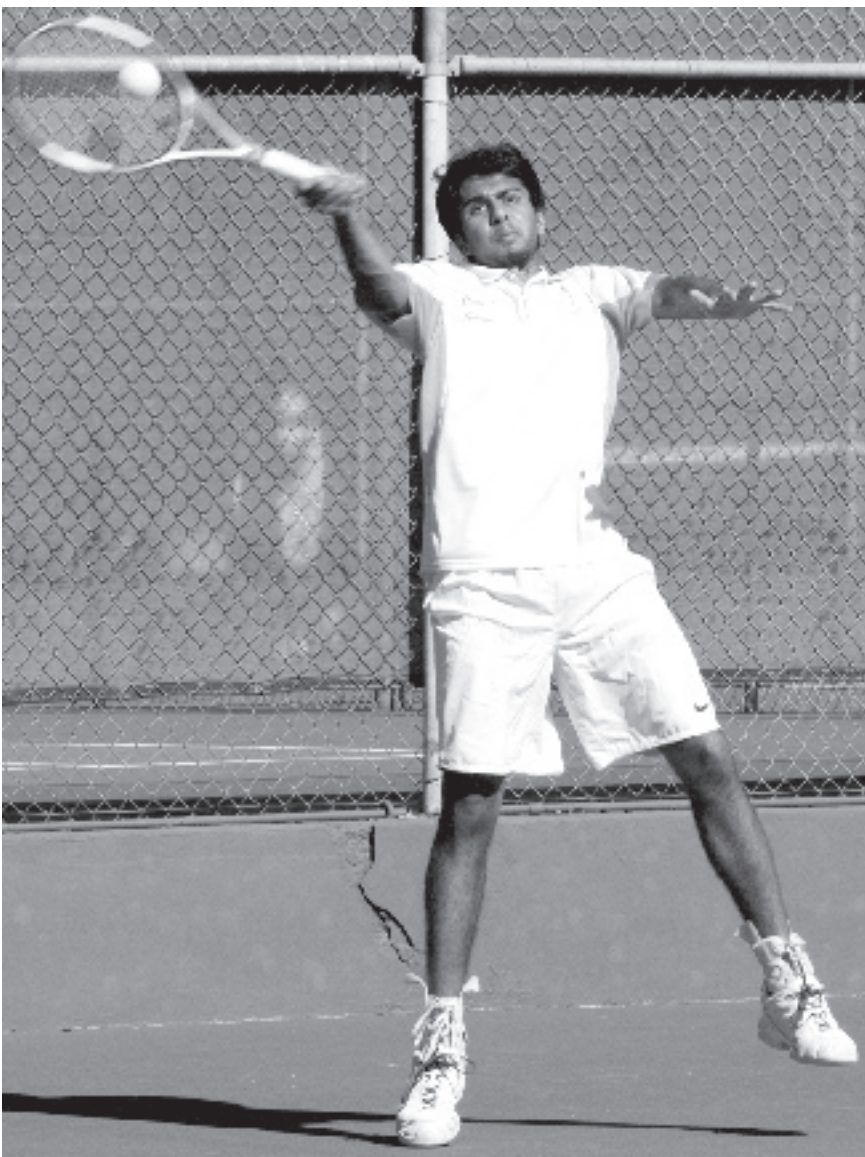
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Harish Vasudevan in the match against Biola last Friday. Harish's set clinched the match for Tech to win 6-4. "He had no idea the entire match was riding on the outcome of his match!", comments coach Mandy Gamble.



Harish Vasudevan jumps for the return shot.



Chen Yee Liaw intent on her return during last week's winning match against Mills College. Chen Yee has not lost a singles match all season.

### Caltech Athletics Events for This Week (Monday 5 Mar - Sunday 11 Mar)

#### Friday, Mar 9

10:00AM - Men's/Women's Track & Field @ Mt. SAC  
Ben Brown Invitational

#### Saturday, Mar 10

10:00AM - Men's/Women's Track & Field @ Mt. SAC  
Ben Brown Invitational

2:00PM - Baseball vs. Alumni

#### Sunday, Mar 11

9:00AM - M/W Fencing @ NCAA West Regionals UCSD

## Caltech Athletics Scores, 26 February – 5 March 2007

### Women's Tennis

3 March: Home vs. Mills College  
Won 8-1

### Men's Tennis

2 March: Home vs. Biola University  
Won 5-4

### Track & Field

3 March: SCIAC Invitational  
6th/10, Men's Distance Medley  
8th/8, Women's Distance Medley  
5th/5, Women's 4x200m Relay  
8th/8, Men's 4x400m Relay  
9th/9, Men's 4x100m Relay  
6th/6, Women's 4x100m Relay

### Baseball

2 March: Home vs. Cal Lutheran University  
Lost 1-31

3 March: Away vs. Cal Lutheran University (doubleheader)  
Lost 0-19  
Lost 0-11



# Decisions, decisions...

**BY: JERRY HOUSER**  
DIRECTOR,  
CALTECH CAREER CENTER

## How Most Students Make Career Decisions

(I hear these remarks often in counseling sessions)

1. I avoid touchy-feely courses like the plague. They aren't real science.
2. I'm really busy, (but I play World of Warcraft until 4 in the morning at least two days a week).
3. I only talk with my professor when absolutely necessary. They are very busy and don't want to talk to me.
4. Career tests are stupid. I

- took one in high school that said I should be a mechanic.
5. Nobody does on-campus interviews for people in my major. Why bother?
  6. I guess I can always go to grad school (or do a postdoc). I'll wait to apply later – maybe I'll think of something interesting by then.
  7. Forget about applying to traditional companies. I refuse to be a Dilbert stuck in an office behind a computer all day.
  8. I met this guy at a party last month who said I should apply to law school. Maybe he's right.
  9. My parents keep pressuring me to get a job after graduation. I'm not about to lead the same boring life they have.
  10. What's the big deal about

networking? It's just a bunch of shallow people kissing up to each other.

11. I already talked to a counselor once about my career. They couldn't tell me what to do either. They were useless.

12. I'm avoiding interviews. I'm just too shy.

## How Most Students SHOULD Make Career Decisions (How I respond to those remarks)

1. Pay attention to your values, assumptions and feelings. Career choices are no more rational than falling in love is.
2. Talk to someone about your career questions at least weekly. You can even get an online mentor and email them at 4 am. Ask about MentorNet.

3. Talk with your professors – all of them. You need at least 3 for references.

4. Career tests can't tell you what you are "supposed" to do, but they can compare you with others who share your interests and who like their careers.

5. On-campus interviews only reflect the market. If your major is not in demand, who you gonna call?

6. Grad school is a good option for many. But a productive year off doing something interesting usually won't hurt your application the following year.

7. Traditional companies have many unusual jobs, unusual companies have many traditional jobs. Find them.

8. The guy at the party last month is just as likely to be as

clueless as anyone. Talk with people like alumni who have jobs you are curious about.

9. Present a sensible (even if tentative) career plan to your parents. They are more likely to listen if you outline your future. Arguing only creates resistance.

10. Networking is like looking for someone to drive you to the airport. They don't have to be a licensed chauffeur, they just need directions and knowledge. You have to ask around.

11. Nobody, including counselors, can tell you what is best for you, but they are good at brainstorming options with you.

12. After subject matter competence, the most important career skill is communication. Are you any good at it? Try attending Caltech Toastmasters.

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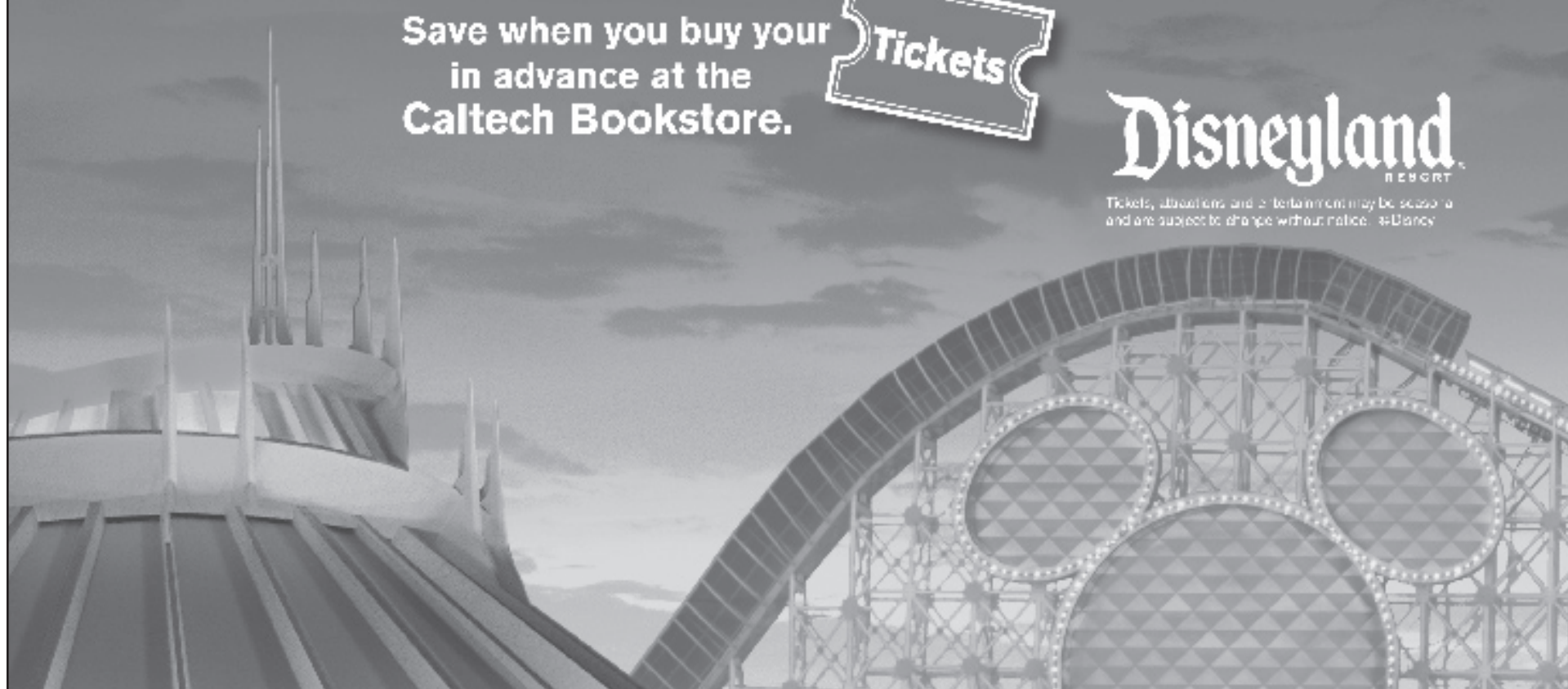
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# Caltech student graces red carpet at Oscars

BY: RADHIKA MARATHE

While millions of Americans could only dream of walking the red carpet at last Sunday's Oscars, Caltech sophomore Irina Chiriac joined Hollywood's biggest stars at the glitziest event of the year.

"It was an amazing experience," said Chiriac with a sparkle in her eye. "I walked in on the red carpet at the Kodak Theatre just as everyone else, it felt like I was suddenly being compared with all the big stars!"



Photo courtesy of Irina Chiriac

Irina Chiriac before the Oscars.

Chiriac, a chemistry major from Romania, was invited to the event as a guest by a friend she met through a tango dance party.

"There was a pre-ceremony dinner with a live band at the Kodak Theatre," said Chiriac. "Although the celebrities were on the upper floor and we were at a

lower level, I was pleased to be as close to the band as possible and dance some swing and tango."

But Chiriac still managed to brush shoulders with well-known celebrities.

"We walked in behind Jodie Foster. She was quite amiable with the press and posed for photographs for a while. Then she said, 'All right, that's enough...I am freezing here!' I was glad to see that the celebrities do in fact end up shivering in the gorgeous dresses they wear for the ceremony," she said smiling.

"I got to see my favorite actor, Meryl Streep, dancing! I have been in awe of her ever since watching *The Devil Wears Prada* and was really disappointed later when she did not win in the category of best actress for the same. And guess what she was wearing to the ceremony? *Prada!*"

She was introduced to a few people in the industry by her host during the course of this meal. "They all started by asking me what I did in the industry. And upon telling that I was a Caltech undergraduate I got surprised remarks about what a scientist-to-be was doing at the Oscars. In fact, one woman also went as far as to say, 'Oh my God, you are probably the smartest person here then!'" she laughed.

"The ceremony itself was an

enchanting event. We got a pair of binoculars since the stage was so far away. Well, my friend and I were supposed to take turns using them, but I monopolized them during certain times, for example, when George Clooney walked onto stage," said she winking.

Chiriac's favorite part of the evening was "the compering by

**"They all started by asking me what I did in the industry. And upon telling that I was a Caltech undergraduate I got surprised remarks...one woman also went as far as to say, 'Oh my God, you are probably the smartest person here then!'"**

the hostess, Ellen DeGeneres," whom she knew from the film *Finding Nemo* as the voice of the absent-minded fish Dory. She also spoke of "this amazing group of performers who created shapes like the Oscar trophy, and those related to themes of movies, such as a gun for *The Departed* and a shoe for *The Devil Wears Prada*. They were really good at it!"

"The one thing I hated was the fact that you could leave or get back to your seat only dur-

ing commercial breaks", she said. "This made me miss the award for the Best Animated Film. I was really glad when *Happy Feet* won though!"

"All in all it was a great time to check out the wonderful dresses and jewelry worn by the stars. I liked Rachel Weisz's dress and necklace the best but I would say that all the celebrities looked perfectly splendid and at ease in what they were wearing. The one time I have seen fellow Techers dressed up is at ASCIT Formal last year and not all can carry it off. I certainly had my share of beautiful people that day," she said.

When asked about the day fol-



Meryl Streep on the red carpet.

lowing the Oscars, when she had to wake up and go to class again, she shuddered. "If not for my roommate, who kept insisting I had to get out of bed and start my math set, I would have probably spent another day just lying in bed and thinking about the whole event again."

"In fact it made me somewhat homesick. Coming from Romania, I am used to seeing people all dressed up for the opera and theatre and other social events which is something I sorely miss at Tech. In fact in the beginning, I was amazed to see people walking around bare feet and in their pajamas on campus! Being to the Oscars just made me think of home and get somewhat nostalgic with the memories."

On the final note, she said, "I wonder why people think that science and other 'nerdy stuff' and events like the Oscars ceremony don't go together. Being at one of the schools in the country known for its smart people shouldn't stop us from enjoying life once in a while and pursuing a hobby, which for me is dance. It was through my love for dancing that I met this friend, and had the opportunity of being at arguably the most talked about event in Los Angeles. These memories will definitely remain some of my fondest ever!"

# Literature professor's play performed in Paris

Oscar Mandel's medieval "philosophical comedy" *The Virgin and the Unicorn* is a hit in the City of Light

BY: HARRISON STEIN

To most Caltech students, Oscar Mandel is a well-spoken, entertaining professor known for teaching the freshman humanities class Major British Authors (Hum 5). But it may not be as well-known that the Professor of Literature Emeritus is the playwright of *The Virgin and the Unicorn*, currently being performed in Paris as part of a two-month engagement.

The play, which the multilingual Mandel translated into French, is being performed as

*La Vierge et la Licorne* in a 100-seat café/theater in Paris called Le Théâtre Côté Cour. Professor Mandel plans to attend a performance sometime during Spring Break, before the play closes on March 31.

The original play took place in the English Middle Ages but to update the story for a French audience, Mandel kept the plot intact but changed the setting to Gruyères, Switzerland. He received his inspiration for the play from an art book he purchased at a Hollywood bookstore called *Pickwicks*. The book contained

reproductions of a famous series of tapestries depicting a virgin and a unicorn, housed in the Cluny Museum in Paris. When asked if the play is a tragedy or comedy, Professor Mandel said that it's a "philosophical comedy."

Several years ago, a small theater group performed a dramatic reading of *The Virgin and the Unicorn* in a small Church in Hollywood. However, Professor Mandel does not expect the play's success in Paris to lead to a revival in the states. He claims that, "[The play's] life in Paris would have no bearing whatsoever on

its life in the United States, except by some miracle. Otherwise, those two worlds just don't know about each other."

Oscar Mandel splits his time between his creative pursuits and

**"I recommend the second act, it's very sexy."**

his instruction of Caltech students, although he makes certain the two worlds never collide. When asked if he considered teaching any of his plays in one of his Literature classes, the professor was quick to dismiss the notion, saying, "I don't teach my own stuff. That would be a little bit uncalled for. I don't think it is right for me to beat my own drum, as it's not something I'm paid for."

Due to the unique personalities of Caltech undergraduates, Mandel was rather unsure how the student body would receive his play. "Caltech undergraduates, for all their being extremely smart, have very little experience with plays so I have no idea how they would take it. But if the play was very accessible, I'd hope they would enjoy it."

Nonetheless, Mandel is excited to get the chance to view his story in action. He proudly exclaims that, "[*The Virgin and the Unicorn*] is doing very well in Paris. It's getting a very good response." In addition to seeing the play for the first time, Mandel hopes to speak with the producers and see if a filmed version of the production can be submitted to a French festival.

*The Virgin and the Unicorn* is available in the bookstore, in a volume that contains three more of Mandel's plays. Upon this, Professor Mandel offered one piece of parting advice: "My final word—I recommend the second act, it's very sexy."

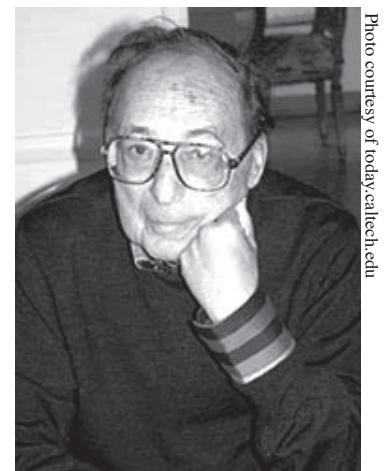


Photo courtesy of today.caltech.edu

Professor Oscar Mandel.

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Photo courtesy of the Musée Cluny (Musée du Moyen Âge)

The third tapestry, "Sight", from the late 15th-century series of six tapestries collectively known as *The Virgin and the Unicorn*, currently in the Musée Cluny in Paris. These famous tapestries were the inspiration for Dr. Mandel's play of the same name, as well as for several other works of fiction.



# From Microscopes to Telescopes

## What immunologists want to know about space

BY: SARA MCBRIDE

*In honor of Max Delbruck, one of Caltech's legendary cross-disciplinary professors, The Tech will contribute to the great tradition of scientific inquiry by publishing a series of Q & A sessions between world renowned scientists from completely different fields of study. The Immunologists who contributed questions for this story are: Doug Green, Head of Immunology at St. Jude's Children's Hospital; Kris Bower, Scientist at CovX Research, LLC; Sara McBride, Immunologist in the lab of Sarkis Mazmanian at Caltech.*

Last week, a team of astronomers led by Dr. Carl Grillmair made headlines by taking the first spectra of a transiting planet outside of our solar system. Dr. Grillmair has worked extensively on NASA's Hubble Space Telescope project, and he is now deputy task lead of the Infrared Spectrograph team at Caltech's Spitzer Science Center. In what is probably the only division at Caltech that actually disperses money to outside researchers, I was able to sit down with Dr. Carl Grillmair and discuss the cosmos from an immunological point of view.

Bacteria were the first life forms on Earth and most species, especially mammals, have co-evolved to form a complicated symbiotic relationship with bacteria. But theories suggest that bacteria might have whizzed to the Earth via cosmic debris, not evolved naturally in the Darwinian fashion.

"Astronomers have already found formaldehyde and many other organic compounds in space," said Dr. Grillmair. "There was a Martian meteorite found

in the Antarctic that scientists claimed back in 1996 contained bacterial microfossils. And there have been many interesting papers written recently on the idea of Panspermia," the idea that powerful blasts like volcanic eruptions or asteroid impacts on a life-bearing planet could send a lot of debris into space. Rocks acting as bacterial vessels could fly out into space and, after millions of years, land on another planet. It is still debatable whether living bacteria could survive such a long, journey in the cold and radiation-seared environment of space. But given the extemo-

**By staring unblinkingly at a field of about 100,000 stars for five years, Kepler will detect small, rocky worlds similar to our own as they pass across the faces of their suns.**

philes that live in the heated sulfur vents at the ocean bottoms, or survive millions of years of dormancy within ice cores, it's not a stretch to imagine that photosynthesis arrived on Earth with such expediency.

In the world of biology, there are government directives dictated by the CDC on how to dispense information to the public concerning emerging diseases or pandemics. If evidence of extraterrestrial life is ever found, does the Spitzer Science Center have any governmental direction regarding the detection of life on other planets?

"No, as far as I am aware, we have no such directives," replied

Dr. Grillmair with a grin. He explained that the Spitzer telescope would probably not be able to see evidence of extraterrestrial life in any case, but that the Kepler telescope being launched next year might lead us further down that road. By staring unblinkingly at a field of about 100,000 stars for five years, Kepler will detect small, rocky worlds similar to our own as they pass across the faces of their suns. This will give us our first census of how many Earth-like planets are actually out there. It will be up to future telescopes like the proposed Terrestrial Planet Finder to actually look for signs of life. Since the European Space Agency is planning a similar mission, Grillmair says "it doesn't make much sense to try to hide a potential discovery, and I rather think the U.S. and Europe will probably compete to be the first to make such an announcement." Furthermore, NASA's budget depends largely on keeping the public interested, and trying to cover up the discovery of life "seems like a pretty bone-headed move."

A decade ago, the first planets outside of our solar system were found. Last week, the first spectra were taken of the atmospheres of planets outside of our solar system. Late next year we'll begin to find out just how many Earth-like planets there are in our Galaxy. In another decade, the Terrestrial Planet Finder might observe the results of a bacteria-laden rock from earth that's landed on a distant planet. Today, this immunologist began to question the organization of the cosmos, and like our own gut microflora, which bacteria from Earth might be currently colonizing another planet.

# DVDs to be stored in SFL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

transition." Angela Zah, the new ASCIT Treasurer, confirmed that the transition between BoDs has been quite smooth and that the DVD library is the only project that the old BoD left for the new BoD to complete.

Since the cases are still to be found and integrating the DVDs

into the Caltech Libraries check-out system may take some time,

Former FDAL Chris Watson noted that a significant part of the ASCIT budget for the DVD library came from the GSC; while the main condition of this funding was that the library be open to graduate students, the GSC may also want some say in how the money is spent.

# Robots to hoist in competition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

start building until maybe midway of first term this year" compared with last year when students would need to start building immediately.

The course is taught by Professor Erik Antonsson. The course was in a different format

from this year's while Professor Antonsson was at JPL from 2002-2006.

The contest will be held Tuesday, March 13th, 2007 in Beckman Auditorium at 2 pm.

Mike Underhill expressed optimism that his device might win and taunted another team, declaring that "Cedric's machine is going down."

# Corrections

\*Leighland Feinman, not Jerry Houser, was the author of "Women's Table Tennis ranked 8th in nation" in the 02/26/07 issue

\*Caleb Ng requested \$50 dollars, not \$500, in the ASCIT minutes on 02/20/07.

\*Dipayan Ghosh wrote "Historic Seasons End for Basketball Teams" on 02/26/07

# Announcements

**One Act Theatre** is holding auditions for the Prefrosh weekend shows this Tuesday at 10pm and Wednesday at 10:30pm both upstairs Winnett. No acting experi-

ence or material is required. Just come ready to turn yourself into somebody else for a few minutes! For more details, email oat@caltech.edu.

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## Proper Sports Fan Etiquette

BY: HAMILTONY FALK

In some recent (and perhaps even current) editions of the Tech there has been some commentary on the kind of behavior that is acceptable from fans at a Caltech sporting event. While the rewards are not as great as at a Division I school or a professional sporting event, in that you don't win very many games or make the playoffs, but the risks are not as dangerous, with a very low chance of Ron Artest attacking you or being hurt when goalposts are pulled down.

The point is that there need to be some basic rules and regulations about how to behave oneself while viewing a sporting event in "The Beaver Dam" as many<sup>1</sup> students call the Caltech gym in which sporting events often take place.

First, there needs to be a strict dress code for sporting events. No one wants to see the naughty bits of fans<sup>2</sup> or be forced to see offensive words such as the f-word<sup>3</sup>, names of naughty bits, bad puns or Chicago Cubs logos. That being said, it would be unfair to subject fans to an NBA-like dress code requiring both pants and shirts in addition to close toed shoes and a lack of offensive words.

Ideally one would wear a large fur suit (not real fur, that's murder<sup>4</sup>) dressed like a beaver or beaver related mammal. If this is not possible, wearing shorts and

a thin painted letter is acceptable. The best letters to choose are the ones that appear in Caltech or Beavers or Go. If these letters are unavailable I would go with something that doesn't stand out (perhaps an I or D) and avoid Q's and Z and X. Those letters will just confuse people, and an X will probably get you punched in the middle of it, due to its target like properties.

Large signs with phrases like "All aBout Caltech" or "the People Behind me can't See" so that if for some reason ABC or PBS is broadcasting the game (they aren't) they'll show you on TV are allowable, although you will look like an idiot. Avoid being nude, wearing colors associated with the other team or combining orange with teal, and never, ever wear a Hitler (or even sexy Hitler) costume. Finally, a little known NCAA rule states that in any game if one or more fans arrive at the game wearing an authentic and accurate Fighting Okra costume to a Delta State game the opposing team must play while blind folded, and there may be other rules that are similar, so always avoid dressing as the other team's mascot, even if it has been creatively altered<sup>5</sup>.

A guideline for physical activity is also required. Clearly there are some things that should be out of bounds, such as streaking, discharging firearms in any direction but into the air or jumping on a referee's back and riding them

around as if they were a bronco. On the other hand, there are always some exceptions. While normally it would be wrong to throw batteries at a member of the opposing team, but if that player has recently made racist comments in the media the fans are forgiven. Additionally, throwing is always a bad idea, but if the Santa Clause that comes out seems pretty drunk, or the opposing team is the Dallas Cowboys, they probably had it coming.

The wave on the other hand is never a good idea, but always a great one. Simple precautions of making sure everyone present knows that wave activity is going down is important though, since a single person doing the wave is punishable by a 5,000 dollar fine and up to six months in prison in the state of California. Attempts to distract an opposing player during free throws are usually a good idea, although due to the "unique" set up of the Beaver Dam this is best done vocally since only the people on the treadmills are actually in view of the player shooting. One last thing to remember is that approaching or physically touching a player can cause you to be thrown out of the game and some sort of penalty applied to your home team, so only do so when the game is out of reach for one team or the other.

A last and perhaps most important set of rules for attending sporting events is that governing the transmission of information vocally. When attempting to communicate with members

of your own team you should be friendly and informative, but a different style is often necessary when speaking with the opposition. It may be required to shout, in order that you are heard over the ambient noise and other fans. In addition, to make sure your comments are not only noted but also comprehended it is a good idea to speak in unison with several others, a tactic that also shows that the fans are united in support of their home team.

Because the opposing team has been invited into your home it is only polite to make conversation, with questions such as "Why are you so bad at defense?" and observations like "My dog can play better than you!"<sup>6</sup> Romantic suggestions can be useful; allowing fans to date someone new as well as distracting the players with thoughts of romance, so feel free to ask for phone numbers or other information. During a girls' game it may be helpful to point out that the other team is losing to a bunch of girls, and during a time in which a shot clock is winding down it is often helpful to offer an alternative idea of what the numbers might be, counting up from 1 instead of down from 10 perhaps, or simply speeding things along. Finally, a psych out, as described in the popular movie *Basketball*, such as simply stating "Steve Perry" can be effective as a distraction, allowing your team to gain the upper hand. It may be important to remember that shouting "Discotheque" may sound like you're

saying "Let's go Tech" but in fact is as meaningless as a turkey muffin on Halloween.

Remember, in sports it is more important to win than to have had a good time, but slightly less important than these two is to behave in a way that shows good sportsmanship. Be kind to visiting teams and avoid offensive behavior unless it will effectively hinder the opposing players. And most importantly, the visiting players are not members of the Caltech community, so the Honor Code doesn't prevent you from mistreating them, so you can do whatever you want to them without getting BoCed, but you should still behave for some reason.

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Many being defined as at least one.

<sup>2</sup> Well, technically, no one wants to see the naughty bits of male fans, but those are the only ones likely to be seen. Isn't it ironic? Don't you think?

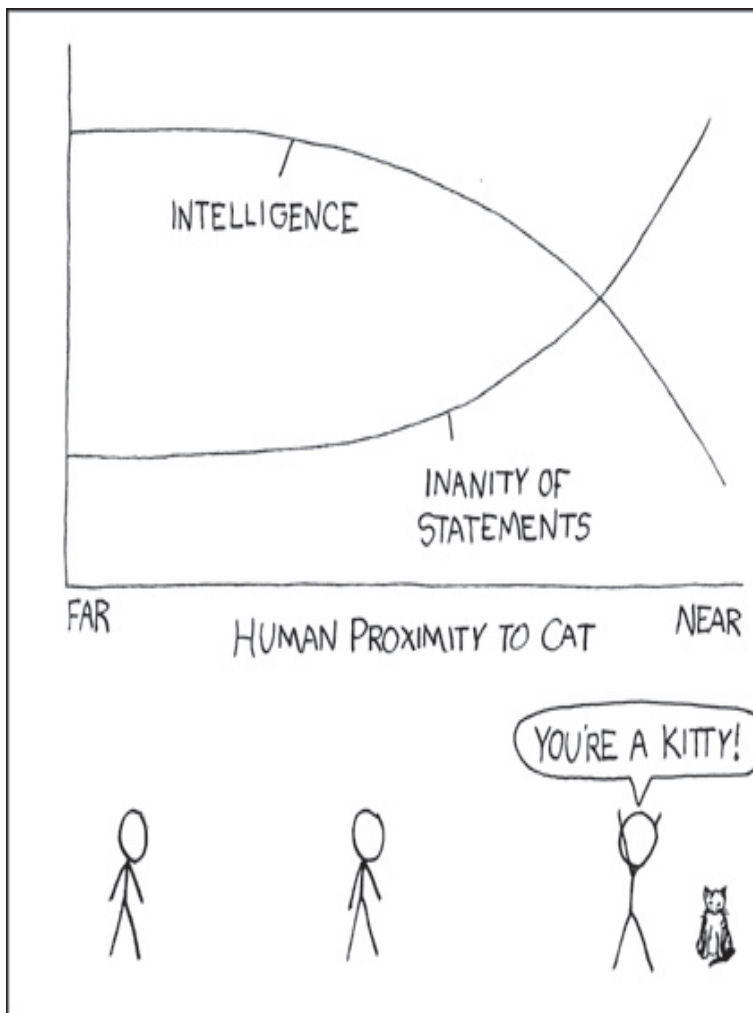
<sup>3</sup> Fuchsia (See Lessons Of Integrity from a Journalist by Eichenlaub et al., 2/26/07)

<sup>4</sup> Murder on the wallet, know what I'm saying?

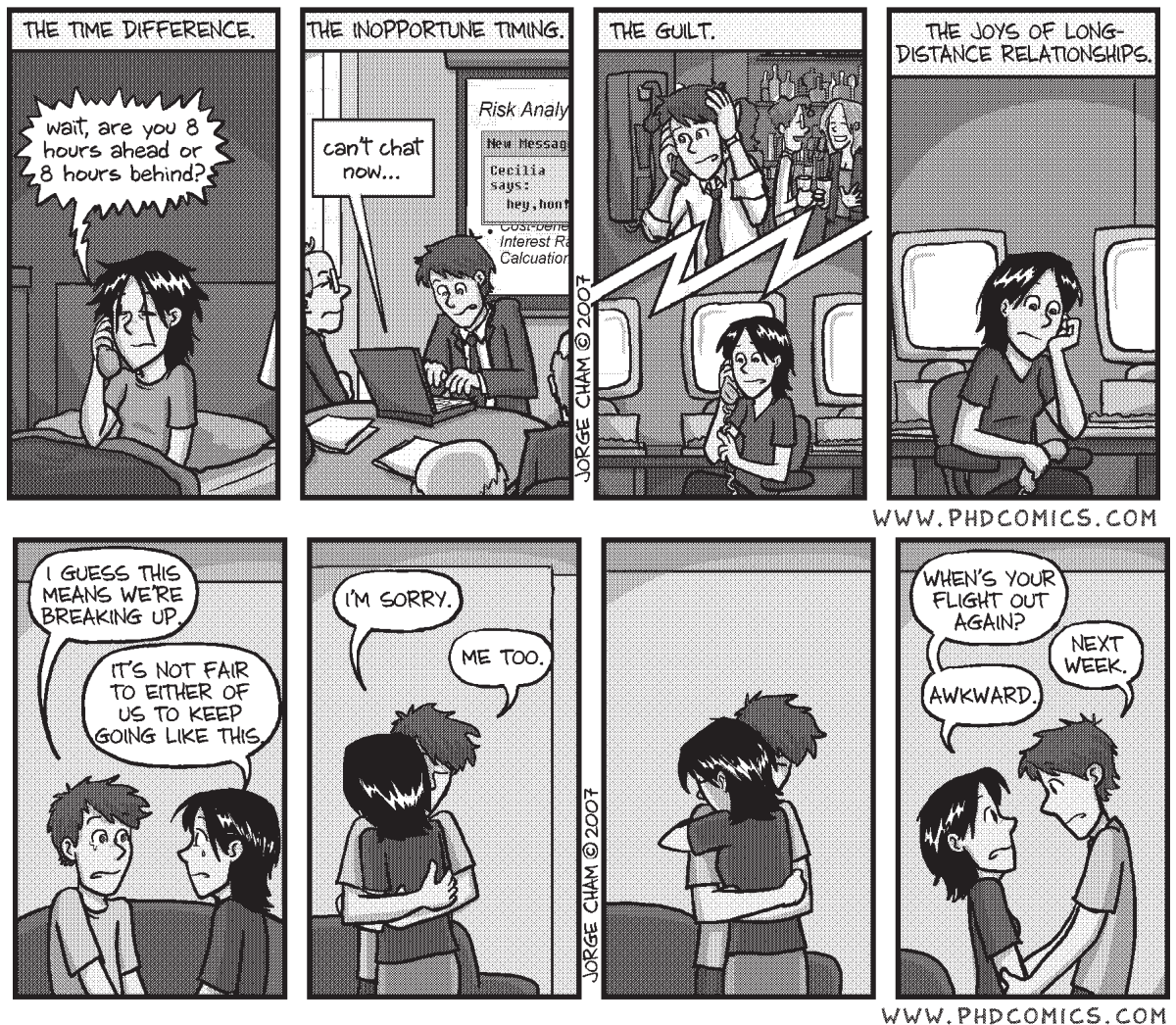
<sup>5</sup> Creating alterations would include being cross-eyed with the tongue hanging out, having the head not attached but rather carried in the hands, and being on fire, although of course there are other acceptable alterations.

<sup>6</sup> Although to be fair my dog is NBA all-star Dirk Nowitski when in the human portion of his warewolf cycle.

### XKCD by Randall Munroe



### PhD Comics by Jorge CHam



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