

Ditch Day hits campus



Photo by Karen Wang

Matthew Glassman slips and slides during Fleming's Japanese Game Show stack on Tuesday. See pages 6 and 7 for more Ditch Day photos.

Rotation to change

More information on the houses to be given to prefrash

BY HAROLD MARTIN

The IHC has made a series of changes to Rotation intended to, according to IHC Chair Michael Woods, bring about a new emphasis on the "spirit of the law." The changes encompass both Rotation Rules and Rotation procedures, and will be implemented for next year's Rotation.

Changes to the upcoming Rotation include a new rankings system and new steps to educate prefrash about the Houses.

The new Rotation Code, modeled on the Honor Code, reads, "The spirit of Rotation is to allow new students and Houses to arrive at accurate representations of each other. This serves the purpose of best matching new students with Houses."

"We want people primarily to worry about the spirit of things," said Woods, who explained that

For more historical perspective on Rotation rules, see Opinion, p. 2.

the purpose of the Rotation Code is to be a simple maxim to guide student actions during rotation.

Another addition to the rotation rules are the "Four Laws of Rotation", which are meant to provide easy to remember rules governing behavior during Rotation, according to Woods. Furthermore, a list of actions requiring IHC approval was added to the lists of specifically prohibited and specifically allowed actions.

Included in prefrash welcome packages will be an IHC booklet containing a two pages spread on each of the Houses, intended to

Please see **ROTATION**, Page 4

Party goes Euro

Two UK exchange students bring party culture (and more techno) to Caltech

BY VIBHA LALJANI

On Saturday night, The Winnett Lounge harbored culture from across the Atlantic Ocean. Two foreign exchange students – Iain Cranston from Edinburgh, and Alan Zablocki from London brought the European party atmosphere to Caltech.

The Winnett terrace, now a European pub playing classic rock

and class bands like the Beatles, Led Zep and Queen, was bustling with people one hour into the party.

The Winnett interiors turned into a club with strobes, lasers and the smoke machine.

According to Zablocki, the idea came up when he was hanging out with Cranston and some

Please see **EURO PARTY**, Page 8

Bylaw changes pass with low turnout

New Honor Chair position created with 15% respondents

BY VIBHA LALJANI

The much discussed ASCIT by-law changes passed with both low opposition and low voter turnout. Fifteen percent of the student body voted to split the current ASCIT Vice President role, which is also the Board of Control (BoC) chair, into two positions.

A new position, the Honor Chair, will also hold the Vice Presidency. The Honor Chair will be responsible for education and advocacy of the Honor Code. On the other hand, the BoC chair will

solely administer the BoC activities and hold a seat on the Routing Committee.

Michael Grinolds, current BoC chair, and Jean Sun, last year's BoC chair, feel that these changes are necessary for the long term survival of the Honor System.

"There will be someone who can be held accountable for both improving the honor system and for promoting the honor system," said Grinolds.

However, both Sun and Grinolds agree that there would be several obstacles in implementing these changes.

"It's one of the first times a large change in the structure of the ASCIT Board of Directors (BoD) has happened," said Sun.

"I think the greatest difficulty will be communicating the significance of it to the student body; after all, only about 15% of students voted for the bylaw changes. It's up to the current ASCIT BoD and BoC to make sure that communication happens."

Said Grinolds, "The new position gives students more representation through giving student input into the Dean's review and appeal's decisions."



Photo by Alan Zablocki

Lea Kunesh, sophomore, and Vickie Pon, junior, twirl glow-sticks at Saturday's night's Euro Star party.

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From the Editors

Stop whining about the paper for its own sake

Marissa is a polite and helpful person. Her editorial on this subject last week is constructive and complimentary, rather than harsh and insulting. I, being generally neither of those first two adjectives, will therefore take on the role of Cranky Editor and risk irritating or insulting our readership.

(I realise this is probably a pointless exercise on my part, given that the people pissing me off are probably the ones who haven't bothered to read this editorial and are instead saying unflattering things about my writing in hopes that someone within earshot thinks they're erudite and witty, but I've never been one to hold back yelling just because the wrong people are listening, so here goes.)

At various points in the last four years, there has been ample reason to complain about the quality of the Tech -- in particular, the front page full of quasi-Lovecraftian gibberish comes to mind, as well as the infamous "Prefrosh -- Their Here!"

I've read the paper often enough, even before I worked on it, that I know this is true.

However, over the last year or so, I've begun to suspect that a large proportion of Techers don't particularly care to have a good paper. Based on what I hear in the lounges, lots of people have criticisms to make, but somehow, none of those comments ever make it from the lounges to the staff of the Tech.

In fact, I suspect a fair number of people derive more pleasure from griping about the Tech being bad than they would from reading a good one. Maybe that's because if they already know it's bad, they get all the joy of having an opinion on it without the effort of actually reading it.

(Upon consideration, I'll bet one of the people reading this right now is thinking "Yeah, I sure do exactly that, and on purpose too. Haha, aren't I clever and ironic?" To that person, I say: No, you're actually just a moron. Nobody likes you. You make baby Wittgenstein cry. But that's another rant for another day.)

Now, I may be particularly ex-

empt from the situation Marissa describes regarding highly-qualified slackers, because my high school newspaper was actually worse than the Tech. In fact, it was terrible; some of our report-

In fact, I suspect a fair number of people derive more pleasure from griping about the Tech being bad than they would from reading a good one.

ers were barely literate, the advisor wouldn't let us print anything that cast the school or the district in a bad light because then everyone yelled at her, and my best friend and I held the whole thing together with blood and sweat, uphill in the snow both ways, blah blah blah.

But this doesn't blind me to the fact that the Tech isn't exactly a world-class publication. Half our articles didn't even come in for last issue, and we had to pull extra material out of various peo-

ple's gastrointestinal tracts at the last minute to fill it out, and this one's coming out on Tuesday because one of the editors was at her grandfather's funeral and couldn't make it out to work on layout last night. (It wasn't Marissa; please don't express your sympathies to her, she'll be tremendously confused.)

We're a little too context-dependent and way too seat-of-the-pants, and we're working on that.

My point, however, is this: If you have a problem with this paper, don't just stand around and whine about it. Yes, I know it's easy and satisfying, but it's really incredibly unhelpful, and makes you look like "a petty, nit-picking douchebag," as senior Valerie Syverson said moments ago for the purposes of getting otherwise-unprintable words into this article.

Instead, there are several things you can do to help improve the Tech, some of which require only very slightly more effort than

standing in the lounge and griping. In order from least to most effort, then:

--Whine to someone who actually works on the Tech, or who will tell us about it, rather than to a random person.

--E-mail your whine to tech@caltech.edu, or find the reporter or editor on donut or tech.caltech.edu to send specific comments.

--Come to one of our meetings, lunchtime Monday and Friday at Broad, and tell us what you think we're doing wrong. We won't knife you or cry or anything traumatic like that, I promise, and the criticism will be appreciated and probably listened to.

--Help us. Write, or take photos, or do layout. Really, all you need to do is ask, or come to one of the above-mentioned meetings. Or pin a note on my door if you're really timid. Even better, pin it on Marissa's [ED. Lloyd 133] -- she's nicer and probably better organized, and will get you started.

Valerie Syverson
Co-editor

Rotation Rules and their violations

BY CRAIG MONTUORI

Rotation tries to match up prefrosh and Houses in a way that complements both parties' interests in each other. Seen as better than random selection, which was tried in '60 and '61, Rotation was seen by the classes in the early 2000's as a "necessary evil" and "has problems, but the best we're likely to get" by commentators to the TURLI report of 2001.

But what happens when something goes wrong with Rotation?

How about this situation: during Rotation, a House is accused of accessing information about Prefrosh before their final Rotation meeting. The IHC voted in favor of their actions being a rotation violation and the House President and Head Waiter are asked to "move off campus and not come back," essentially PNG-ing them.

The next week there is heated discussion in the Tech about the harshness of the penalty and about other violations that were given less severe, but also public, punishments.

The year was 1966 and the accused House was Fleming.

What happened was that a group from Fleming had broken into Graphic Arts and taken several "freshmen picture books" containing prefrosh headshots, including one of their officers. The House President apparently knew of this but didn't report it until being questioned about it.

Additionally, Fleming also contacted the prefrosh before Registration, after inappropriately obtaining the prefrosh contact info. For these violations, the aforementioned officers were asked to move off campus, after consultation with the MOSH, Dr. Huttenback.

Naturally, this was a contro-

versial decision, with Fleming Excomm writing in to the next week's Tech to argue about the IHC's jurisdiction over the case. In one place, they argue, "...while admittedly wrong, this should come under the jurisdiction of the BOC and not the IHC," and another saying, "this is not an IHC violation, and even if it were, the IHC's jurisdiction, again, is over Houses and not over individuals."

This happened only three years

by no means arrogant enough to assume that the letter of the law would cover all possible contingencies, which is why they also relied on the spirit of the rules. It was up to each IHC of the time to take the guidelines and apply them to specific situations to decide whether or not an incident was a violation.

Now, to look at the transition to today's rules and regulations. We've got our Honor Code, our IHC, our Rotation Rules, et ce-

monetary fines.

The first rules were simple, published in the Tech: "No publication of social schedules and no organized social events during Rotation. In addition it shall be illegal to get blind dates informally for frosh or to loan them cars... There shall be no undue pressure or encouragement to force frosh to divulge their preference of house... These rules shall be enforced by the IHC and violations may be penalized by fining of houses or denial of house preference to individual freshman... enables the frosh to make a free, independent, and intelligent choice of house" (23 May 1952 Tech)

However, these rules grew during the 90s, under Director of Residence Life Kim West, who instituted Rotation gag rules in the mid-90s, preventing people from discussing previous years' Rotation, as well as Rotation strategies passed down by upperclassmen.

I don't think a rule like that makes sense, practically speaking. It's a great theoretical rule, but when a good percentage of prefrosh are told at least some things, the ones that do follow the rules to the letter are left at a somewhat of a disadvantage.

These days, we've had Rotations with a lot of rules trying to cover this contingency or that. I think the new Four Rules of Rotation are a positive step in making things simpler and hopefully damping down on Rotation violations. No one wants to make a prefrosh upset because he or she thought they were guaranteed into a House that he or she doesn't end up getting into.

Now is the time to start talking about these changes to the Rules. Give them a chance to sink in during the summer, and hopefully we'll see an improved Rotation in the fall.

How about this situation: a House is accused of accessing information about Prefrosh before their final Rotation meeting...the House President and Head Waiter are asked to "move off campus and not come back."

The year was 1966 and the accused House was Fleming.

after Rotation was restored after a three year hiatus after the North Houses were built, as a way to let the situation develop after the new Houses were 'colonized.' Questions abounded about whether or not Rotation would continue, which naturally, it did.

Rotation Rules at this time included "after 9:30 PM, there shall be no upperclassmen in a freshman's room or contacting him at his room." (The school was still all-male.) There was also no guarantee that a prefrosh wouldn't get into a House that they didn't rank. Finally, there was around 15 frosh a year that didn't get to Rotate, based on how close they lived to campus. Seniors were given precedence in living in the Houses. This was the case from the opening of the Houses and wasn't changed until the mid-70s.

The focus was simultaneously on both the letter and spirit of the Rules. The IHC of the time was

tera. We've had incidents like the Fleming Bell incident of last year, as well as various Rotation violations and House arguments about culpability. Where does the IHC's authority end and that of the Honor Code begin?

Simply put, I think there is no line. Especially with the new Honor Chair, the IHC's disciplinary actions, as well as those of the BoC and CRC all fall under the Honor Code. By violating Rotation Rules, you take advantage of the House System and your fellow students, which by my perspective is a violation of the Honor Code.

Another tidbit from history is that Rotation rules weren't created until 1951, when Dabney House, the House of Captains version, committed a series of blatant Rotation violations, including giving prefrosh dates and cars for the weekend. Common penalties for the time were losing certain picks privileges as well as

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ASCIT Minutes: May 16, 2007: ASCIT Formal next Saturday

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

-Prebooking ends on Sunday. Ekta will hang a banner, put up flyers, and send out emails to advertise it.

if we want Ricky Jones (who is introducing him) to say anything specific.

ASCIT items. She will help Caleb pay for teaching award plaques.

Monday.

Absent: Mike Grinolds, Mike Woods

-The ASCIT BoD will collect tickets at the door.

-DVD Drop boxes are by the mailboxes. Currently they are locked and we cannot get into them. We might want to get rid of them and have people return DVDs directly to SFL.

-Caleb needs people to sign up for the SFC Task force.

-Committee lists will be published in the Tech. IHC lists will be published separately.

*Formal

-Tickets are \$35.

-Angela needs to find someone to replace her first term.

-MIKE WOODS, START COMING TO MEETINGS!!!

*Elections chair

-Mannion said he'd cover us for whatever we needed. We need about \$3000 more.

*Other Stuff

-Angela has a card to pay for

*Teaching Awards

-Bylaw changes passed.

Andrea Dubin

ASCIT Secretary

-They were published on the Caltech today on Monday. Will be published in the tech on

Learn to Fly!

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For more information, go to: <http://aacit.caltech.edu> or email club president and instructor Joe Areeda (joe@areeda.com)



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Rotation booklet will outline houses

Ranking now from 1-20; good to bad, not good to neutral

ROTATION, FROM PAGE 1

give prefrish what Woods called "fair first impressions."

Additionally, on the Friday of Rotation there will be a public forum where prefrish can ask the House presidents for information or clarification.

Rankings for the upcoming Rotation will be on a 1-20 scale, and prefrish will be required to rank all houses and rank them uniquely. This scale will be considered as good to bad, as opposed to good to neutral as it has been in the past.

Woods refuted the idea that the new system was due to the low number of prefrish who ranked Ricketts last rotation, although he did acknowledge that "that situation was on our minds."

Instead, he said that "the situation last year was anomalous...(Ricketts) House culture appeals to a special subgroup, and there's nothing wrong with that." Woods stated that Rotation violations were not the cause of Ricketts' small number of frosh.

Four Rules of Rotation

a. Rotation participants are prohibited from unfairly biasing new students toward or against a House in a way that violates the honor code or goes against the spirit of Rotation.

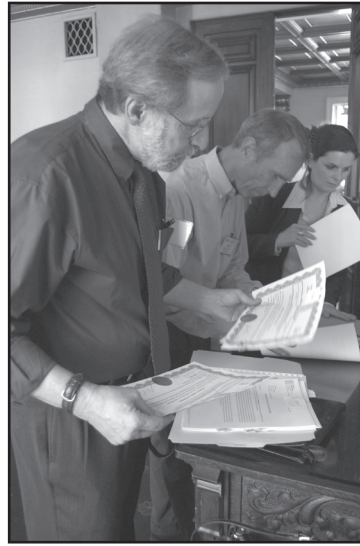
b. Upperclassmen may not provide special or extraordinary favors or services to new students. This includes alcohol and other psychoactive and controlled substances.

c. No upperclassmen or new student should discuss rating strategies or past or future student picks procedures.

d. Any remaining questions or concerns must be addressed by the IHC.

Scholarship pays room, board

Alumni donates in honor of then-MOSH George P. Mayhew



Mike Milder, left, with donation stock certificates for the Mayhew scholarship.

BY MARISSA CEVALLOS

Four undergraduates will have room and board covered next year, thanks to a donation by Mike Milder '59 who recently gave \$800,000 in memory of former Master of Student Houses (MOSH) George P. Mayhew.

The scholarship will be distrib-

uted on a need-basis, says May Hu of Development and Alumni Relations.

"I always thought about giving back what my family could afford," said Milder, who attended Caltech on a scholarship and was physics major and Tech editor from Ricketts House.

Milder looked up to Mayhew as a welcoming figure on campus.

"[Mayhew] stood out particularly for his easy dignity and kindness. In the spirit of informality he insisted that we call him "George," something we managed to do for the duration of frosh camp," said Milder.

"Because of what George Mayhew meant to me and my generation of students, the gift feels personal."

Milder's company Arete Associates specializes in providing technical solutions to engineering problems—Milder specializes in the scattering of acoustic and electromagnetic waves below the ocean, and worked for DARPA detecting waves from submerged submarines. Milder is married to Maureen "Mo" McGee who works as the Assistant Conservator at UCLA's Grunwald Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teachers to be honored Tuesday

Five course instructors, three teaching assistants, and two research mentors were selected as winners of the 31st annual ASCIT Teaching Awards, which are presented by the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) in conjunction with ASCIT.

Each year ASCIT solicits nominations from undergraduate students for course instructors, teaching assistants, and research mentors who have demonstrated excellence in teaching. This year almost 100 undergraduate submissions were received.

Below are the recipients, who

will be honored at an awards banquet on May 22, 2007.

Course Instructors

Fulvia Castelli, Lecturer in Psychology
Peter Dervan, Bren Professor of Chemistry
Glen George, Lecturer in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering
Douglas Rees, Dickinson Professor of Chemistry
Ellen Rothenberg, Professor of Biology

Teaching Assistants

Nawaf Bou-Rabee, Graduate Student in Applied and Computational Mathematics
Victor Liu, Undergraduate Student in Electrical Engineering
Michael Salem, Graduate Student in Physics

Research Mentors

Ralph Adolphs, Bren Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience; Professor of Biology
Jesse Bloom, Graduate Student in Chemistry

New appointees to committees

Academic Policies Committee (APC)

Chris Klein
Christina Theodoris
Mary Wahl

Committee on Exchange Programs and Study Abroad (CEPSA)

Csilla Felsen
Angela Shih
Gina Gage

Core Curriculum Steering Committee (CCSC)

Daniel Walter Rowlands
Mitchell Wang
Swati Bhanderi*

Council on Undergraduate Education (CUE)

Craig Montuori
Caleb Ng
Alex Siegel

Curriculum Committee

Andrea Dubin
Susan Shen
John Leichy*

Educational Outreach Committee

Alexander Hudson
Jason Lunn
Esther Wang

REGIS Committee

Brent Goldman
Library Committee
Victoria Pon
Daniel Walter Rowlands

Housner Fund:

Jing Shen
Sarah Ferguson
ZeNan Chang

MHF:

Michael Woods
Dana Levine
Esther Wang

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Gina Gage
Institute Art Committee:

Christina Theodoris
Gina Gage
Institute Programs

Committee:
Christopher Watson
Abdul Tariq

GRIEVANCES

Jon Napolitano, Aryan Safaie w/ Mike Woods as Alternate
CAC

Brent Goldman and Josh Hutchins

ATHLETICS AND PHYS ED

Eric Tai, Caleb Ng
Alt: Ilia Shadrin

PARKING

Joe Antognini, alt. Peter

HEALTH

Ilia and Erin as full members,
Alternate: Csilla

FOREIGN STUDENTS

Full: Junwoo Lee, Misha Intiaz

Alt: Alex Velian, Calyani Ganesan

STUDENT HOUSING

Full: Kevin Watts, Ryan Bogner

Alt: Ben Yang

SFAC

Full: Kara Huang, Kim Scott

Alternate: Abhi Gulati, Daniel Walter Rowlands

UASH:

Full: Mitchell, Hyungmin, Abdul, Chris

Alternates: Ashok, Alex Roper

ATH MANAGER:

Matthew Feldman

FOOD CHAIR:

John Hasier

FRESHMAN

ADMISSIONS:

Full:
Garret Drayna (on committee)

Erin White (on committee)

Sarah Ferguson (on committee)

Tommy Morphet (on committee)

Ellette Boyle (on committee)

Elah Bozorg-Grayeli

Alt:

Caleb Ng
Angela Zah

Readers:

Deepak
Ben Flora
Hamik Mulkeyan

Sarah Peek
Manuel Ochoa

Pradeep Bugga
Mitch Wang
Vibha Sinha

UPPERCLASS ADMISSIONS:

Full:
Ellen Hsu

Swati Bhanderi

Alt:
Ryan Bogner

Films and lectures this week

Speaker Regan Demas

"The Power of One"
Director of Operations, Africa, International Justice Mission

Hosted by the Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series
Tuesday, May 22, 7:30 pm
Beckman Institute Auditorium, Caltech

FREE; no tickets or reservations required

Reagan Demas serves as the Director of Operations, Africa for International Justice Mission. Founded by Gary Haugen in 1997, IJM is an international human rights agency dedicated to rescuing victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery and oppression. Based on referrals from relief and development agencies around the world, IJM conducts professional investigations of abuses and mobilizes intervention on behalf of the victims.

Film Screening & Discussion: Letters From Iwo Jima, with Screenwriter Iris Yamashita

At 7 PM on Tuesday, May 22, the film *Letters From Iwo Jima* (2006) will be screened in Baxter Lecture Hall. *Letters* tells the story of Iwo Jima from a Japanese perspective. The film, directed by Clint Eastwood, is almost entirely in Japanese language, even though it was produced by an American company.

Letters won a Golden Globe for Best Foreign film and Best Picture from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. The screening will be followed by discussion and a question-and-answer session with screenwriter Iris Yamashita, who won an Oscar for *Letters*. This event is part of the Ethnic Visions Film Series and is sponsored by Caltech's Words Matter Program. Admission is free and open to all.

Leadership awarded



From left to right, Todd Gingrich, Neha Das, Richard Jones, and Csilla Felsen stand as recipients of the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award for 2007.w

Neha Das, Csilla Felsen, Todd Gingrich and Richard Jones were awarded the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award at a dinner presentation in the Athenaeum Library on May 2, 2007. The Robert L. Noland Leadership Award is for outstanding Caltech students

who have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and have encouraged and supported others in realizing their own leadership capabilities.

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DITCH



Photo by Ester Wang



Photo by Chyryn Loveness

Above: MHF funding made possible this go-kart adventure for the Italian Job, the stack.

Above: Answer a question wrong in this Japanese game show trivia game, and Rene Davis will make sure you regret it.

Below: Professor John Hall takes a test spin in the go-karts used in Fleming and Blacker stacks.



Photo by Jill Davis

Above: Mastered the normal Sudoku's in the Tech each week? Try this one on for size.

Below: Armed with a badge and facial hair, no clues would get past these Lloydies-turned-detectives.



Photo by Chyryn Loveness



Photo by Kevin Tho

DAY!



Photo by Kevin Noetker



Photo by Andrew Poullin



Photo by Tim Elling

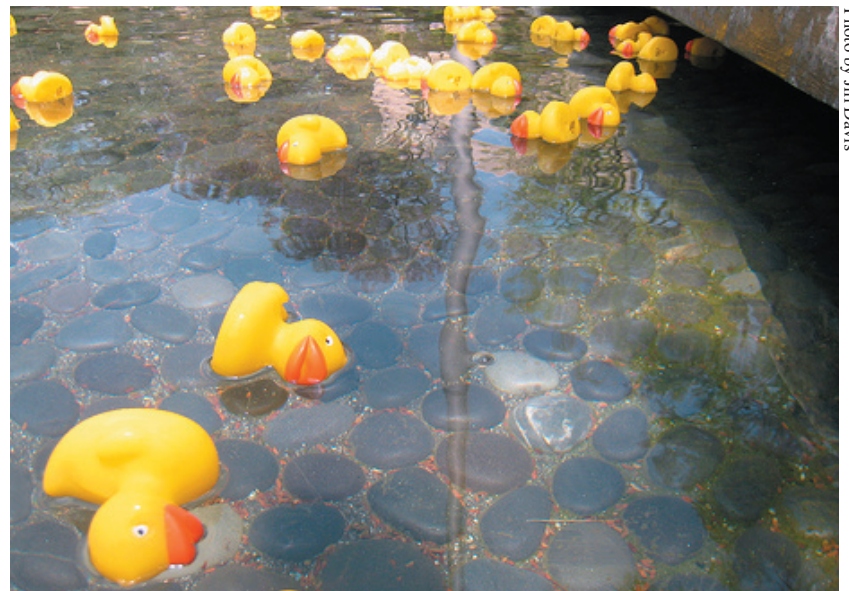


Photo by Jill Davis

Clockwise from top-left:

1. Nothing like refueling at Mannion's to get you back in the Ditch Day mood.

2. Russell McClellan makes his way from one clue to the next.

3. Fortunate for the Lloydies, these ducks couldn't fly away, so getting the clues from their stomachs was just a matter of getting wet.

4. Scurves engage in an n+1 legged race.

5. A clue hidden inside 700 pound concrete balls and no sledgehammer in sight...



Photo by Andrew Poullin

BOOK REVIEW

Legends of Caltech III a classic for the coffee table

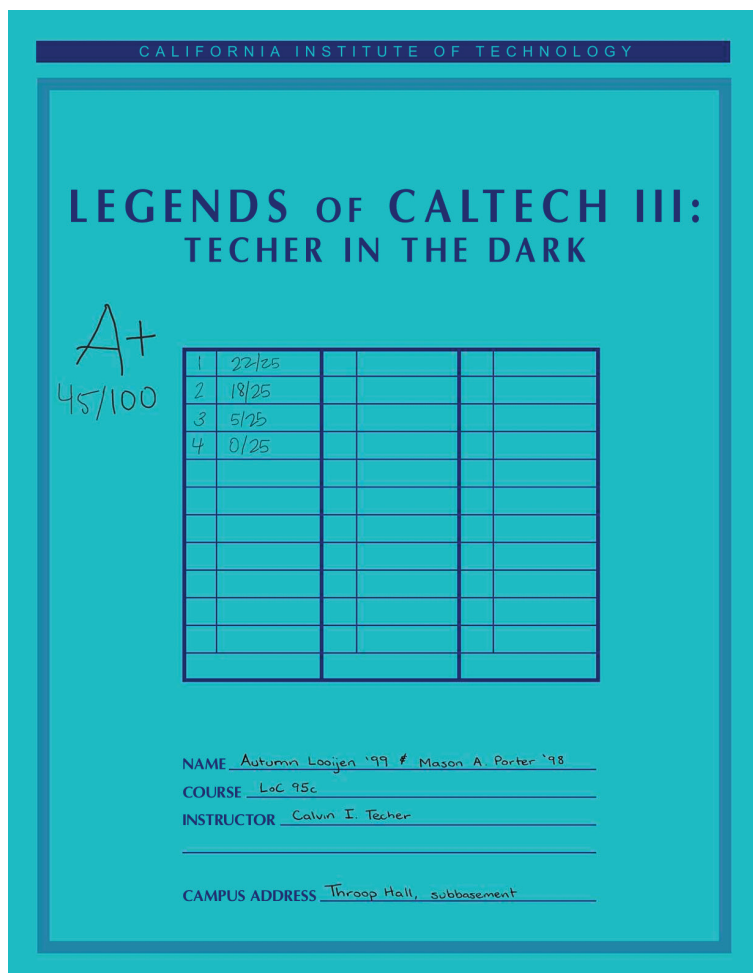


Photo courtesy of Mason Porter

BY HAMILTONY FALK

Before coming to Caltech I got my hands on the first volume of *Legends of Caltech*, a book full of the lore of Tech, mostly having to do with pranks done by the various members of the Caltech community.

I read the second book shortly after arriving, and was struck by what a great idea these books were.

Caltech has a wonderful culture with a rich history, but for whatever the reason only a percentage of the stories reach any one person by word of mouth. The books let a person understand some of the events that help define the Caltech culture even if they didn't happen to involve recent upper-classmen or visiting alums from a specific house.

Although the previous *Legends* books were somewhat clunky and not always visually appealing I was happy to see that a new *Legends* was coming out, although I was worried that all of the best material had been used up.

Like the previous *Legends* books, *Legends III* is more of a coffee table book than something with more content.

The editing is well done, as should be expected of former Tech editors, and the layout is visually pleasing, in a magazine or yearbook style with lots of pictures and little tid-bits of interesting

additional information scattered throughout. I would be surprised if it doesn't become a fixture on coffee tables of alums wanting to be able to explain a little about their unique education.

The new *Legends* book changed from the traditional bland look with the Caltech hand holding the

subsequent sections that describe a mix of newer pranks and long standing Caltech traditions. The classics pranks in the beginning could have been added to the end of the first two books. They were interesting, but not much more relevant to me as the original *Legends* books had been before I knew anything about Caltech. The following three sections were what really caught my attention, as these explained and introduced stories on the edge of contemporary undergraduate culture.

While the book's focus remains on pranks, such as remote controlled chalk boards and Olive Walk mazes, it also moves into the realm of things that are legendary at Caltech in other ways. There are sections explaining why "The Ride" is forbidden most of the time, the significance of DEI, FEIF and that Greek scrawl Blacker uses, the origins of the Lloyd Christmas tree and ways Caltech and the movie *Real Genius* overlap. These are the things that all Tech students should know, but probably not enough do, and the book does a great job of explaining them.

Unfortunately *Legends III* is already a little bit out of date, and doesn't include anything about the travels of the Fleming Cannon, Numb3rs or most importantly the *Tech* prank on MIT, but that just means there will need to be a *Legends IV*.

Legends of Caltech III

Techer in the Dark

Mason Porter and Autumn Looijen

Paperback: \$12.95

Available at Caltech Bookstore

torch thing to a cover that mimics the blue books used for exams (at least for core classes) including the cobra on the back. This unique Caltech style is sure to inspire a little jolt in any Techer reminded of taking a physics exam at 3 AM and hoping to get at least partial credit on some of the problems. Furthermore, it matches the interior of the book as being perfect for a Caltech student or alum, if a little confusing for someone less closely associated with the Institute.

The book has four main sections, a first portion that fits in some of the older pranks missed by the first two volumes, and three

BOOK REVIEW

The Jasons

The secret government life a few genius professors lead

BY EVANS BONEY

The *Jasons* is a great read for those of us who care about not just science, but about scientists, and it has a bit of a Caltech slant (several professors here are Jasons, including former Caltech President Marvin Goldberger and former professor and Provost Steve Koonin).

In her book, Ann Finkbeiner details the inner workings of a classified group that solves the problems that the Department of Defense can't. Finkbeiner's representation of the book was a little dry, but still captured the overall story quite well.

It was like reading Dostoevsky, in that you have to keep careful track of characters, and the plot moves along a little slower than it might, but in the end the story was good enough to wade through.

The group, called the Jasons, has been around since 1960, and has included such great scientific minds as Hans Bethe and Murray Gell-Man. Its namesake is reportedly Jason of Jason and the Argonauts. It is essentially a successor to the Manhattan Project, except that it has many more defense problems to solve (in addition to worrying about our nuclear legacy).

Not all the members of the Jasons are known, as their membership is classified. Jasons may

choose to reveal themselves, but they obviously cannot reveal any of the classified information that they have acquired.

The secrecy of the group has been necessary since Jason's report on use of tactical nuclear weapons in Vietnam were leaked in the 1970s. While the reports clearly came to the conclusion that tactical nuclear weapons would not be useful, many campuses revolted against their professors, coming to a head at Columbia, where the entire physics department was locked down by activists.

While roughly 2/3 of their reports are classified, the unclassified reports can be found easily online. The Jasons have been consulted all the way from Vietnam, through the Cold War, and up to the present.

The Jasons are some of the best and brightest minds in the country. According to Dr. Steve Koonin, a former Caltech professor and Provost, and chairperson of the Jasons from 1998-2004, "Working with talented colleagues on important, multidisciplinary problems is both satisfying and great fun."

One of the most rewarding recent Jason reports, said Koonin, was a 1999 study on Civilian Biodefense, which were of great importance in the handling of the 2001 anthrax scare. Working on applied science problems to protect America? Sounds fun to me.

The Jasons

The Secret History of Science's Postwar Elite

Ann Finkbeiner

Hardcover: \$27.95

Paperback: \$15.00

Euro-themed party offers Tech an alternative to American style

UK exchange students thought of the idea of a "Brit Party" during Frosh Camp, hope next year's exchange students will throw a similar shindig

EURO PARTY, FROM PAGE 1

frosh and playing music. He and Cranston thought that they should throw a party to show what parties are like in the UK.

They called it the Brits' Party then. It was to be a small party then. However, later in the planning someone called it the Euro Party by mistake, and the name stuck.

"The small party grew into something much bigger," said Zablocki.

The two had to organize themselves and work quickly.

"We printed the promotional t-shirts and started wearing them around campus," said Zablocki.

"People would stop me and ask how much we were selling them for! That was the breaking point. The posters went up, with the catch phrase "Open your mind to an Alternative Experience" and everyone now recognized the party logo. All the hard work paid off, everyone was talking about it."

Of course, Cranston and Zablocki expected the party logo, €*, to carry an aura that was different from other Caltech parties.

"Iain and I were both shocked at just how instrumental beer pong was to everything that happens at Caltech," said Zablocki.

"Although having come from Britain, we too have drinking games, but of a more fun and so-

cial nature. That was the first thing to go. Moreover, there would be no elaborate construction--too much emphasis is placed on it here.

"Yet, the biggest difference probably is that the party was not prepared by a House Social team but by two guys, albeit with lots of help of friends here and there. We also decided to move away from

level. The law prohibits the issue or sale of alcohol between 2 am and 6 am.

"It does not, however, prohibit playing music and having fun, right? As for permissions, the Management, as I will call them, has been very positive and supportive about such a novel idea and for it to have the full effect, we need our 7 hours."

But was the effort that went into the planning worth it?

Zeeshan Ahmed, a graduate student in Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy, who was a member of this crowd said, "It is a cool party. It is like the graduate student parties except at a larger scale. We should have parties like this one every month!"

Cliff Chang, a sophomore, who seemed like he was having a wonderful time swinging around

his glowsticks, said, "It is a great party. It is nice to see so many new people here and not just the regular crowd. They should definitely have parties like that every year."

Cranston said, "Hopefully this party won't be the last - we would love this to become a tradition - for a couple of the exchange students to organize this party every year. So, when next year's exchange students arrive, the first thing you should ask them is - when the 2008 EuroParty will be!!"

"Iain and I were both shocked at just how instrumental beer pong was to everything that happens at Caltech...we too have drinking games, but of a more fun and social nature."

-Alan Zablocki

mainstream American music, that is Hip Hop and R'n'B, and switch too House, Techno, Electronica, Rock, Pop, Dance that are popular on the continent."

However, the party was revolutionary in another way. Unlike Caltech parties that end at 2 AM, the Euro Party ended at 4 AM.

Zablocki said, "Winnett has the advantage that local residents cannot hear the music inside, so they are less likely to complain about the noise. The outside can and will be kept at an acceptable

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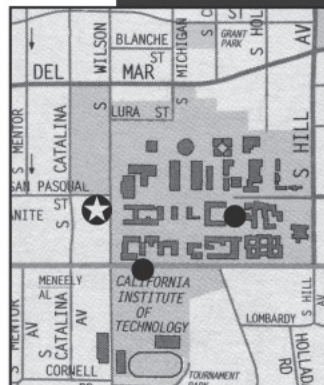
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OASIS spices Caltech with Indian culture



Manuj Swaroop, left, in a skit where he is appalled by how the kids sit with their feet up in front of the professor.



Aditya Khosla scolds his nephew for using "thesis writing" as an excuse for not marrying.



Manuj Swaroop has just arrived from India and is giving thanks to a large picture of an Indian God for blessing him with an Indian roommate instead of a "drunk American."



Radhika Marathe performs on Friday night as part of the Indian celebration "Roo-ba-roo" in Ramo Auditorium. The event is put on by OASIS, the Organization of Associated Students from the Indian Subcontinent.

Photos by Matthew Glassman

FOOD REVIEW

Eddie's Market a tasty, close-by find

BY ANDREW FREDDO
AND DANNAH ALMASCO

Introduction: Only a 10-minute walk from Chandler, Eddie's Market, on the corner of Michigan and Blanche, is a refreshing break from the commercial restaurants normally frequented by hungry Techers.

Goal: To check out the off-campus Italian deli, Eddie's Market, which has been frequented by the likes of Nobel Laureate Professor David Politzer.

Stockroom Options: Eddie's Market has a variety of hot and cold sandwiches, along with salads. They also have specialty grocery items such as meats and cheeses, with a "focus on those people who want quality and fresh food," according to Kimberly, the owner.

Materials and Cost: We chose the Turkey and Cheese and Italian Cold Cuts sandwiches, each of which costs \$6.

Observations:

The turkey and cheese sandwich: When describing this sandwich, it is really hard to know where to begin! There was a huge



Eddie's Market on Michigan and Blanche is a tasty alternative to CDS, says food critics Andrew Freddo and Dannah Almasco.

portion of turkey, but it did not feel very heavy.

The crust on the white bread was barely perceptible, and even with mayo on the sandwich, it was not overpowering.

Incredibly, Dannah was able to finish this sandwich, which is al-

Eddie's Market Grade: A

ways a feat for her. This attests to how light the sandwich really was. The Italian cold cuts sandwich: All the cold-cuts (mortadella, capricola, salami, and provolone cheese) were extremely fresh.

The sandwich packs a bit of a spicy punch, but is not overpowering.

It was on wheat bread, which has the danger of being dry; this was not the case, however. The onions complemented this sandwich well.

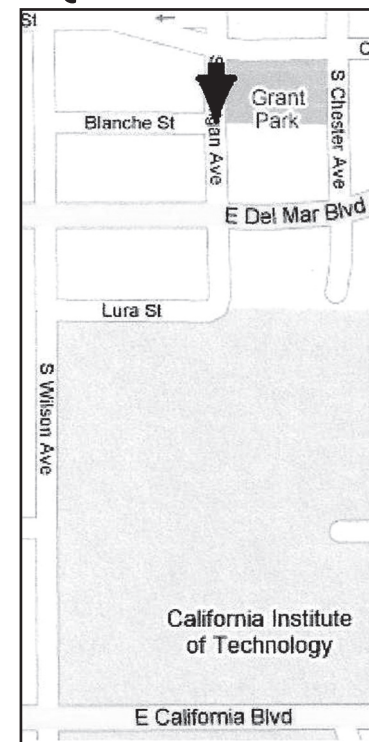
In both sandwiches, the bread was extremely soft.

This attests to the fact that it is freshly-baked daily. The Italian dressing on top with the shredded lettuce lightened up the sandwiches, giving them the taste of a garden-fresh salad. Both left us comfortably full after lunch and satisfied all afternoon.

Espresso: After talking with Kimberly, she gave us a sample of their espresso. We were served in cute little cups and matching saucers. It was very strong, yet not overpowering. We needed to add sugar because we like our coffee sweet. It finished the meal in an uplifting manner.

Atmosphere: Eddie's Market is very laid back and personal. Since it is a very small market, it feels homely and comforting. Kimberly knew almost all the customers by name, which shows how much she cares about them.

Conclusion: Eddie's is amazing! Its comforting atmosphere



matches the quality of its food. Everything there is exceedingly fresh and flavorful. Walking back to campus, you feel energized and ready to take on the afternoon, which luckily for us, involved lab.

Eddie's is open 10-6 Monday – Friday, 10-5 Saturday, and closed on Sunday. We hope you find it as great as we did!



Photo by Jonathan Tsai

Torrey Spink, pitcher for baseball team, tries to throw the disc past Amy McMahon, left, and Sierra Peterson, right. The men were challenged to the Sunday afternoon game by the women's Ultimate Frisbee team to test whether skill can trump fast sprinting. The men won 13-5.



Photo by Jonathan Tsai

Minh Huynh, coach for the women's team, jumps to catch a throw near the endzone.

KELROF: Organizer's Notes

BY MARK EICHENLAUB

KELROF is an annual 24-hour relay held "for kicks."

May 18, 2007 3:45 PM--A few hours before KELROF begins, manna descends from skies and KELROF will have food for its hungry runners. Manna is delivered in the form a friendly guy named Javier driving a truck with "Caltech Dining Services" printed on the side.

7:54 PM--The first few runners arrive and, seeing the glorious setup I have prepared for them, congratulate me with the words, "This is it?"

9:04 PM--The IHC, running with only four of its ten members present, appoints an honorary "President of Booty House" to run on their team.

11:14 PM--By now, methods of

locomotion employed at KELROF include: running, walking, hopping, hopping while inside a sleeping bag, skateboarding, standing on a skateboard and getting pulled by someone running, standing on a skateboard and getting pulled by someone hopping inside a sleeping bag, spinning a la Whirling Dervish, cartwheeling, rollerblading, and cantering. Leapfrogging is suggested, but dismissed as too immature.

3:06 AM--IHC appoints honorary "President of Giving Up and Going Home," all adopt the title. President of Booty House dissents, continues a mad solo campaign.

8:24 AM--Avery house completes on half the relay, decides that's good enough, heads out, and declares it to be a new tradition.

10:59 AM--Surveying the mess left by misguided attempts at

cooking omelets, I take the philosophical Idealist approach to the situation, turning my back with the knowledge that the mess no longer truly has its own material existence.

12:45 PM--At the entreaties of hungry runners, I begin a barbeque using nothing but two sticks, the sun, a magnifying glass, a chance incident of ball lighting, and a large load of flammable bull droppings.

8:01 PM--With just a few minutes to go, team KLAB continues to the end, Kenji walks a final mile, and the Darbs desperately employ a bicycle in hopes of racking up last minute miles.

Team KLAB completed hundreds of miles and totally won the relay.

Dabney pretty much hung on through the day.

Baseball team wins game

Men defeat women's Ultimate team 13-5 in frisbee

BY NATALYA KOSTANDOVA

This weekend, the luck finally turned for Caltech's men's baseball team as they defeated a third team out of twenty that they faced this year. Interestingly enough, most members of the team they played wore skirts. And instead of baseball the players threw around a Frisbee.

First in its kind, the frisbee challenge that Snatch, Caltech Women's Frisbee Team, threw against the men's baseball team, concluded with a score of 13 to 5 in men's favor, leaving the guys excited and in high spirits.

"Oh my God," said Mike Comstock, one of the guys who enjoyed the prospect of victory during half-time. "This is going to be our only victory this season except the old folks."

Indeed, the complete lack of wins against teams composed of

people younger than 40 years did not forecast bright outcome for the men, especially since the challenge involved playing a sport different than the one they practice. The team never played Frisbee together until the very game on Sunday, and some members never touched the disk in their lives. However, what they lacked in experience, the men made up for in their plan of action.

"We had a winning strategy," explained Kevin Noertker. "Run very very fast, jump very very high, and catch the Frisbee."

The men did all that, although, as Noertker said, "The frequency of our drops really did reflect how we lead the league in errors." The team does just that, not only being first team in SCIACs in lead errors, but having individual standouts as well. Noertker and a teammate share first place in individual errors, with several teammates following closely be-

hind.

Although they lost, the women did present many impressive plays and some technically difficult catches and passes, with Minh Huynh diving for the disk on several occasions. The women were also a more bright and cheery bunch, complete with leopard-print pink socks and colorful skirts.

The game ended on an amiable note and closed with cheers of "Bever Fever, snatch it up!" from the guys and "Next season - baseball!" from the girls. Yet while the game was friendly, the victory did boost the morale of the baseball team.

"It's nice to get a win. We've waited two years for this," said Jeff Shaw, member of the team. "Maybe the winning streak [of one] will carry on to the next season."



Photo by Jonathan Tsai

The Dabney team camps by the track during Kelrof, the 24-hr relay, on Saturday

Ruddock made a decent effort but eventually just abandoned me with some frosh named like Ben or Bob or something like that. Whatever

Avery completed twelve hours and an unspecified number of

miles.

The IHC stayed around for an admirably long time considering their lack of a full team.

Kenji Sasaki ran and walked over fifty miles to raise money for the Engeye.com clinic.

Life lessons from a lying senior

BY HAMILTONY FALK

The various people involved in editing contacted me a few minutes before the publishing deadline for the Tech to inform me that despite being a mere three weeks from graduating and having copious amounts of free time, I had failed to submit a column this week, creating a risk of a back page covered with the irrational scrawling of my arch nemesis, Mark Eichenlaub. Sticking with my usual tendencies I will be offering you ill-advised advice on topics in which you don't wish to be advised.

Firstly, I'll give you some tips on how to survive in the wilderness. This comes from my own personal experience of going into Canada for more than two weeks with nothing but some canoes, basic survival gear, and a weeks worth of food¹. The first rule of wilderness survival is don't try to befriend bears. While some bears are friendly (Yogi, the bears from the beginning of Grizzly Man, Baloo) many bears are not (the bears from the end of Grizzly Man, Booboo, the Pandas at the San Diego zoo).

There is no way to know what kind of bear you're dealing with, so it is best to assume a kung fu fighting stance and prepare to fight. Never run away from bears unless in a large group, as bears can run up to 70 miles per hour, and they hate dirty stinking cowards. Finally, try to avoid Koala bears² at all costs. While some people claim that they are not really bears, and thus not dangerous, those people have never had a koala leap from a tree and attach itself to their face while they inject their mind poison through that persons' eye balls.

The second rule of wilderness survival is to bring a hatchet. This can come in handy for making a crude living structure, making sparks to create fire, bear fighting and fishing. If you think you might end up in the wilderness for any reason, such as a plane crash, camping trip gone wrong or out of date map quest directions, make sure you're carrying a hatchet, or failing that, a small ax or tomahawk.

The third rule of wilderness survival is always wait an hour after eating before going swimming.

Now that you can live like a king outside of civilization, I'll give you some advice for a civilized situation: meeting a member of a Royal family.

The most important thing is

to make sure you know how important the person is. If they are something respectable, like the Queen of England, a Saudi Sheik or Prince³, follow this advice. If they are something lame, like the Tzar of Luxembourg, the Duke of Earl or anyone appearing on the Kings of Comedy tour, don't offer them any respect or they'll think they're real royalty and become completely insufferable.

When greeting real royalty it is important to bow or curtsy or do-si-do depending on their national custom (if they are from Japan, England or Italy, respectively) but generally any greeting of suitable respect, such as 'your eminence,' 'your highness,' 'your majesty,' or 'you da man' will suffice.

It is also important to maintain your level of respect no matter what the royal figure tries to do. Sometimes they will suggest that you call them by their first name casually, or insist that they are not in fact any kind of royalty, and that you are mistaken.

These are tricks they will play to get you to slip up, allowing them to have you beheaded. Also, if you are confronted wear clean socks.

Finally, I'll help you decide what to do over your summer vacation. First of all, if you're doing a SURF, I have nothing to say to you⁴, because you've already made your decision, although you've made it poorly.

Ideally you want to make money over the summer, and also have fun, and also travel the world, and also learn something valuable and help people and stuff. Thus the best thing to do is to become a traveling vacuum salesman. Or join the circus.

I hope that this has enlightened you to everything you need to know. Look on the back page of the Tech next week for more advice or something, unless I don't bother to write again.

Footnotes

¹I'm not making this part up, we really did forget a good portion of our food at the launching point, and ended up eating a chipmunk. That being said, everything I say will probably be a lie.

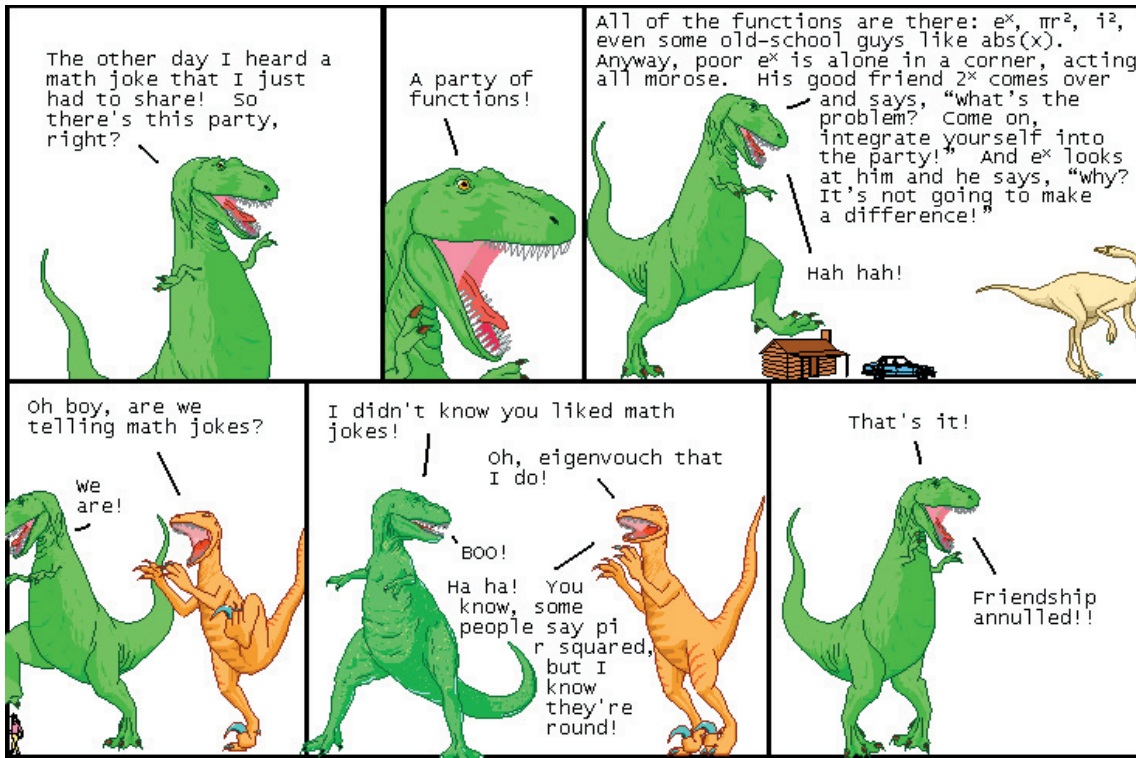
²Scientists claim that koalas sleep 22 hours a day, but in reality they spend about 12 of those hours meditating to train themselves in the deadly arts.

³Not a Saudi Prince, but rather the artist formerly known as the artist formerly known as Prince.

⁴Except for what I've already said, and what I'll say shortly after what I just said.

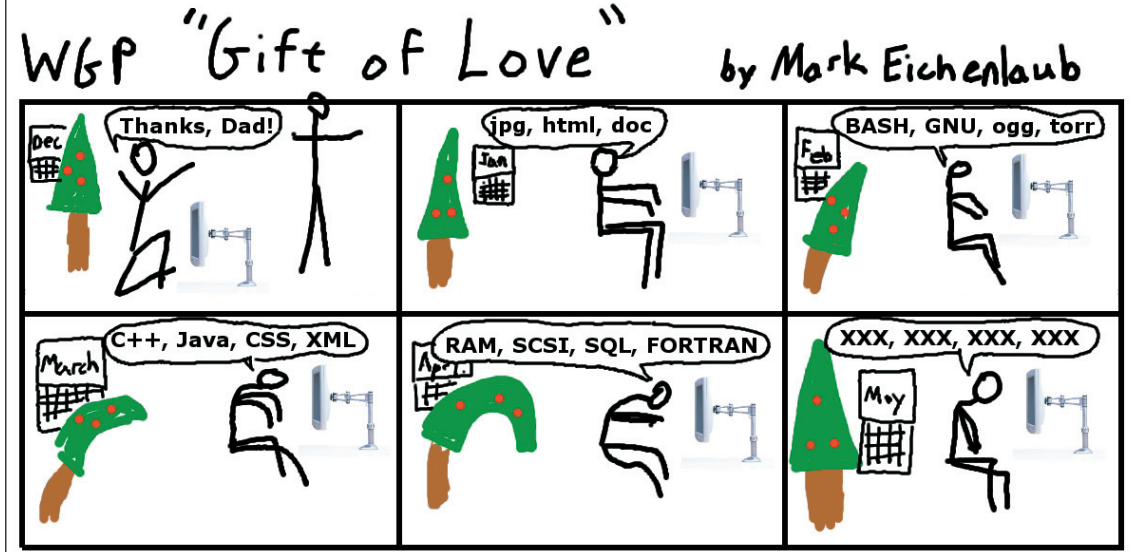


Dinosaur Comics by Ryan North

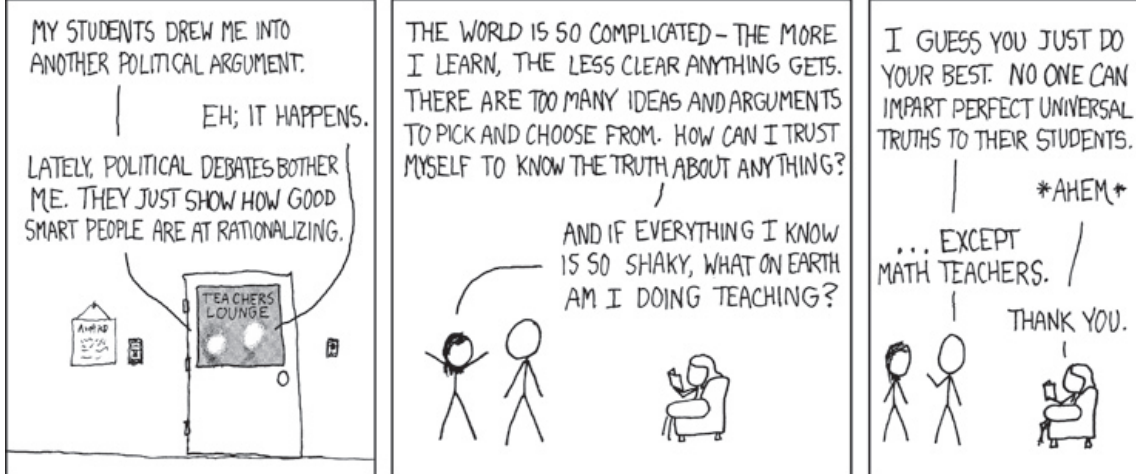


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XKCD by Randall Munroe



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