



CSSI Installs Solar Panels on Watson Labs

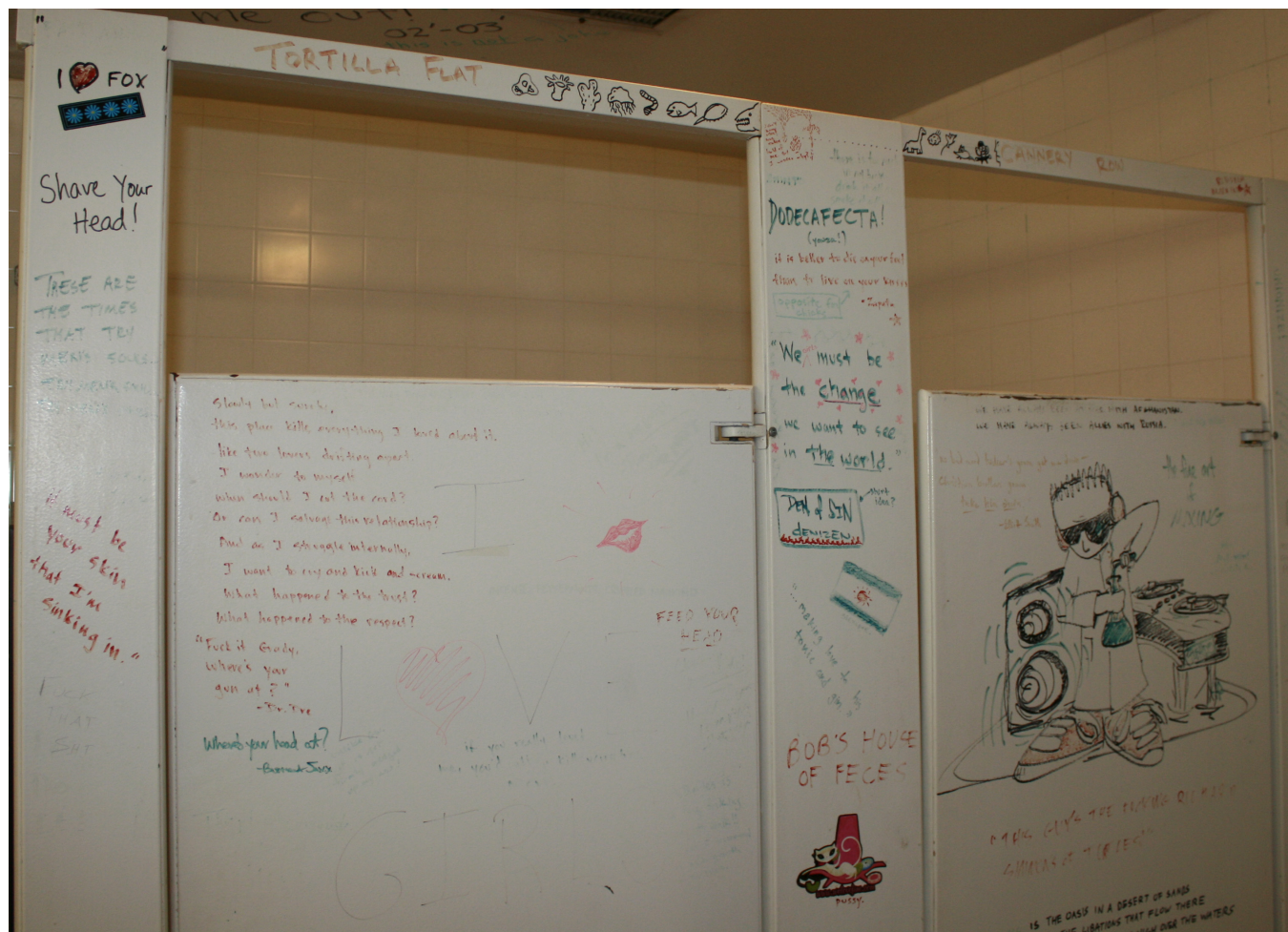
Contributed by
Stephanie Tsuei

The Caltech Student Solar Initiative (CSSI) will be installing a 13.7 kW (AC) solar array on the south-east corner of the Thomas J. Watson Laboratories of Applied Physics on November 19, 20, and 21.

Each day there will be two shifts, 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm, with free lunch provided for volunteers from 12pm-1pm. Volunteers will be exposed to the electrical, mechanical, regulatory, and economic aspects pertinent to the installation of a solar array.

All members of the Caltech community are welcome to participate in the installation of the solar array, and interested individuals should contact (bpeng@caltech.edu and altafang@caltech.edu) for further information.

In addition to the installation, the CSSI will be selling the renewable energy credits (RECs) produced by the array with proceeds going to a Student Sustainability Projects fund.



Housing Denies Graffiti 'Crackdown'

Students alarmed by recent admin restrictions, feel house culture is stifled

By Amy Lam
STAFF WRITER

Lloyd's Tropic Bathroom was once covered with quotes from classic novels, a few vulgar drawings, and some musings of the odd Techer. This is no longer the case. This summer, Housing notified Lloyd of its intention to replace old and broken stalls. Anxious about the fate of their prized graffiti, Lloyd requested that they keep the dismantled stalls, and asked the administration for permission to recreate the old Tropic environment. Housing granted permission for Lloyd to do as they wished with the new stalls. However, when the house was reprimanded after an expletive was found written in permanent ink inside one of the stalls, Housing also mandated that students not be allowed to graffiti on the bathroom stalls. After some protest and much deliberation, Housing eventually decided to let Lloyd decorate Tropic as it had before given that it was not done in permanent ink, and that the stalls would be cleaned off at least once a year and always prior to summer term.

To some students, this seems like an overreaction from housing. To certain others, it seems to be another move from the administration to limit house culture and traditions, following the controversy with house murals and, even further back, the Ricketts pentagram. This trend of the administration clamping down on student freedoms is

alarming to many students, some who came to Caltech due to the seemingly autonomous student body.

Tim Chang of the Housing office refutes this statement. "It's not a crackdown," he says. "We've been concerned about the appearance of the Houses since I came here thirteen years ago." He reminds students that the Houses are Caltech resources, and that Caltech is by no means insulated from outside opinion. Housing has its own set of pressures aside from those from the student body. "Trustees, for example, give Caltech a lot of its money," Chang says, "so it's in our best interests to keep the place looking good. Trustees are concerned about the appearance of the Houses and if one of them were to see some of the offensive things on the wall, they'd have every right to want it removed. The same goes for upper administration, visitors, faculty, staff and [visiting] students. We've received comments from each group over the years about the appearance of the houses."

Caltech administration also faces pressure from community members, especially during events such as the Olive Festival where families and people of all ages wander the grounds of Caltech. Inappropriate or offensive images and/or words could potentially cause problems for Caltech publicity, and even bring up lawsuits. "There are federal laws against discriminatory and offensive remarks... things that could be considered harassment, and we have the obligation to address

issues that we are made aware of," Chang says.

Lloyd house, however, remains unaware of any complaint made against Tropic bathroom. "The decision seemed to come out of nowhere," Chris Dewan, a Lloyd junior, remarks. "We don't understand why they decided to stop the graffiti now." Since the house members have no way of knowing any concrete reason for Housing's decision, to some, it seems that this is another step the administration is taking to limit house culture. Especially after the house skit fiasco, there are students who feel it likely that the administration would be particularly interested in limiting potentially offensive activities. This causes some students to feel that the administration is inadvertently punishing them for its own mistakes.

The fact that the direct reasons for Housing's seemingly unilateral decision on Tropic are unknown to the people affected by it is also cause for discontent to the house members. "We know houses are undoubtedly and absolutely not student property," says one student, "and Housing does have the right to stop us from doing things like painting murals and writing on the walls. I think it's cool that they let us have all this freedom. But a lot of bad blood could be avoided if there were better communication between Housing and students, or if Housing showed some semblance of respect for student opinion, even if it means just standing by their word."

Wildfires Scorch Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, Force Over 27,000 Evacuations

According to the Associated Press, more than 800 houses, mobile homes and apartments were destroyed by fires that have burned over 34 square miles in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Counties since Thursday.

Strong Santa Ana winds on Saturday fanned the fire north through Orange and Riverside counties, affecting Diamond Bar, Corona, Anaheim, Yorba Linda. One hundred and thirty homes have been burned in Santa Barbara; 80 in Montecito. Over 27,000 residents have been ordered to evacuate so far.

Unlike October 2007, Caltech property has not been directly threatened by the wildfires. However, air quality has been noticeably affected all over Los Angeles, including Pasadena, and causing cancellation of the Kaiser Permanente Pasadena Marathon.

We will be following up on the wildfires next week. Please contact the California Tech if you or your family has been affected.

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The Obama plan for America

By Evans Boney
STAFF WRITER

I'm prepared to be disappointed by Obama. After that emotional catharsis and hero worship from last week, I think a lot of people will be. However, rather than letting the mainstream media tell me whether or not he's doing a good job, I'll lay out my expectations for his presidency here, and try to judge him honestly at the end of his first four years.

First, he must change energy policy in the US. There is bipartisan support for cap and trade carbon limits, solar, wind and natural gas: this would create millions of domestic jobs in a time of immense job loss; it would mitigate climate damage; it would reduce our dependence on foreign oil; it would, gasp, perhaps allow us to export energy! Nobody has talked about this, but if we invest in our infrastructure for the next 4 years, we could go from crippling energy deficit to the prospect of harvesting

our abundant solar and wind resources. Tax credits for these companies are a must, and cannot be viewed only in the short term, as the effects will last forever. Huge wind and solar companies could spring up if (and only if) 5-10 years of guaranteed tax credits are available. In 5-10 years... we will be able to tax these huge companies, and that will be another income stream for our government, to say nothing of the job creation. Basically, it will be a testament to the power of the oil lobby if we do not see a huge change in 4 years, and I will hold President Obama accountable if he does not make tangible change in this area.

Secondly, he must raise taxes on the rich, and he must do it immediately. While it is ok to run up our debt in the time of national crisis, it is not ok to continue the humdrum dumb policies of the past 8 years when you just won an election running against that platform. Let's increase spending on infrastructure, but for God's sake let's not continue to give the rich such an unreasonable break. Unless the Bush tax cuts are repealed for people making more than \$250,000 in the next 4 years, I will not hesitate to call my president out as a liar.

Thirdly, he must close Guantanamo Bay and restore our alliances with Western Europe. Nothing has made me as sick over the past 8 years as the repeated name-calling against France and our other centuries-old allies from the far-right. Do they so quickly forget that we owe France a great debt for their aid in our revolution? Do we forget that our late entry into WW2 arguably led to Hitler's invasion of France? Yes, yes we do. All we remember is that French people do not like us now because of the stupid

things that we have done recently. Hating them back is juvenile. Fixing the problems that have caused many of our oldest allies to turn their backs is the change I believe in. We must be closer to Western Europe on Nov. 6, 2012 than we were on Nov. 4, 2008.

Fourth, Obama must make good on the promise of negotiations without preconditions. Preconditions completely negate the whole meaning of a negotiation, and Obama, with his cutting intellect, saw that sham for what it was. Unless he acts the way he has talked on this issue, he will not have my support in the future. I hope the era of demonizing those who disagree with you is over, that we can negotiate with Iran, and gasp even Palestine. As in any negotiation, the sensibilities of both sides must be considered and real concessions by both sides have to be made. We do a disservice to the entire world by treating Muslims as a second class in our foreign policy, and it must end.

That's all Obama has to do. Healthcare changes would be great, but that may take longer. Financial regulations are almost certainly coming, but I don't really care about that. Undoing the educational and scientific damage done over the last 8 years is an 8 year task. However, he has enough support for the above 4 points that they must be accomplished (or at least earnestly attempted) in 4 years, or I will take Obama to task (as little as that matters).

For now, however, he's doing a great job, and has a 70% approval rating. That means he's already won over about 30% of the people who didn't vote for him. Keep up the good work

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

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Marissa Cevallos

Business Managers
Robin Abraham

Photography Editor
Jonathan Tsai

Layout Editors
Hanna Liu
Yang Yang

Webmaster
Michael Comstock

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Circulation
Aryan Safaie

Adviser
Dr. Gary Libman

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From the President's Desk...

The Caltech Syndrome: Is Caltech Unnecessarily Tough?

By Caleb E. Ng

COLUMNIST

"Is Caltech unnecessarily tough?"

"Is there enough room for self-exploration and personal growth?"

"How can Caltech improve the academic environment and reduce stress on students?"

These are some of the soul-searching questions raised a year ago by the Student Experience Report. None of these questions has a simple answer.

It is obvious that this aspect of the Caltech undergraduate student experience—the "Caltech Syndrome," as it was first defined in 1986—persists today. The symptoms include a focus on surviving the next problem set, cynicism toward science, superficial learning, and a loss of intellectual curiosity.

At the Student Experi-

ence Conference in March, the students and faculty alike expressed concern over this problem and the serious need to rectify it. And at the Parents' Day Core Curriculum panel last weekend, a number of parents also expressed a similar concern.

There is a consensus that one key contributing factor is the academic workload. Recently, there has been a desire to transform the character of the academic environment from "students never stop studying" to "students never stop learning."

Many faculty members also hope to bring students back into the classroom. According to surveys, the primary reason students cite for skipping lecture is sleep deprivation. Unfortunately, other data show that there is a positive correlation between attendance and GPA.

The important question, however, is why Caltech students shoulder such a heavy

workload.

One important reason is the demanding curriculum, including the foundational Caltech Core Curriculum. In light of this, the Faculty has formed the Core Curriculum Task Force to rethink the purpose and implementation of the Core.

The other major contribution lies within and among the students. For many of us, the heavy workload is partly a matter of choice. Brilliant students naturally seek challenges, making this perhaps part of our culture and fabric.

This should not serve as an excuse to overload our lives and then complain about our workloads. We must take as much responsibility as the faculty for our education.

So how can you improve your own student experience? How can you help find part of the cure to the Caltech Syndrome?

One good place to start is to

visit and comment on the blog for the Core Curriculum Task Force: caltechcore.blogspot.com. Talk to Neal Bansal, Andrea Dubin, or Tom Gwinn, your student representatives on the task force.

Another option is to participate in the discussion surrounding the Student Experience Trip. Talk to me or any other member of the SET Team to find out how you can help.

Each of us can get involved. Each of us can make a difference.

pres@donut.caltech.edu

The Detroit Bailout

GM has said it may run out of cash to continue operations as soon as Christmas. Ford and Chrysler are in slightly better, but still terrible, shape. Nobody is quite right on how to save the auto industry so far. All we have so far are the conservative and liberal views each well-expressed by David Brooks and Bob Herbert from the NY Times. Politically, we have two extreme solutions, one by Bush, the other by Pelosi and Reed. The best solution lies somewhere else entirely.

Brooks argued this week that bailing out the automotive industry would lead to many questions about where the bailout ends, and encourages bad businesses. I have to say that I agree. General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler have had the business models that are the most backward-looking I've ever seen. This year they offered to lock in gas at \$1.99 / gallon for the first year you drive their gas-guzzlers. And they didn't start building more fuel efficient vehicles until we passed a \$25 billion incentive package for that earlier this year. Forget for a moment that their lack of innovation has potentially sullied our environment beyond repair. It's just stupid for them to need an incentives package to adjust to the current economic conditions. Huge airlines have routinely filed Chapter 11 after they planned for lower oil prices, and there's no reason GM shouldn't be allowed to do the same.

But what about all those jobs?!? That's the question from the bleeding-heart side, courtesy of my favorite NY Times columnist Bob Herbert. He quotes such astounding statistics as that 1 in 10 jobs in the US is in one way or another contingent on the US Auto industry. Ok Bob... but that's not how Chapter 11 bankruptcy works. You don't lose all the jobs immediately. You have to restructure your business model so you can cover your debts ASAP. All we really need to do is help these companies avoid Chapter 7, where their business comes crashing down, and we do see millions of jobs lost, and an entire region of the country devastated. Who loses in a Chapter 11 bankruptcy? The shareholders of the company, the board of the company, and a small percentage of workers. Who loses in an ill-considered bailout? Everyone... and that's coming from someone who considers themselves at least partly a socialist, so take that with a reverse grain of salt, a grain of pepper perhaps?

So what are the solutions currently on the table? Well, let's make this paragraph short, because they're both completely broken. First, W's proposal is that we change the conditions on the \$25 billion in

alternative energy incentives to cover the cost of the bailout. Changing incentives to do good to rewards for having done bad... I wonder if he even has advisers anymore. Then we have the proposal by Pelosi and Reed to bailout Detroit like we bailed out Wall Street. The problem is that the situation is fundamentally different. Try as they might to claim otherwise, GM, Ford, and Chrysler are just poorly run companies, and the economic downturn is only the final nail in the coffin. This February, Vice Chair of GM Bob Lutz said that "Global Warming is bull\$41+". These are the people that we are bailing out... and they simply don't deserve it.

So we have to figure out a way to protect (or create) jobs without protecting the companies that have been no better than the scourge of corporate America for a decade, launching more SUVs and pick-up trucks and trailing the entire world in fuel efficiency and emissions standards. Obama mentioned on his radio show the other day something about a \$150 billion incentive plan for alternative energies in the US. I propose that we double (\$25 billion) or triple (\$50 billion) the incentives to any car company to develop alternative energy fueled cars in the United States (i.e. electric, fuel cell, and natural gas). We also must keep close tabs on the companies and do what needs to be done to avoid a Chapter 7 disaster. However, once they enter Chapter 11 bankruptcy, if we make remodeling the entire industry attractive enough to private companies by subsidizing creation of fuel efficient vehicles (and necessary national infrastructure for these fuels), someone will buy these junk heap companies (where workers are still making cars to pay off company debts), throw out their reactionary boards, and still turns a profit by making themselves a global leader in technology and making a name for themselves (not unlike Hyundai has done recently in the US, just by making cheap, reliable, fuel efficient cars). Will someone buy a car from a bankrupt company? Yes, if President Obama asks them to.

Asking people to do something, like buy a car, for their country is an appropriate response to a problem where national interests are at stake. Can we save the automotive industry without a bailout? Yes we can.

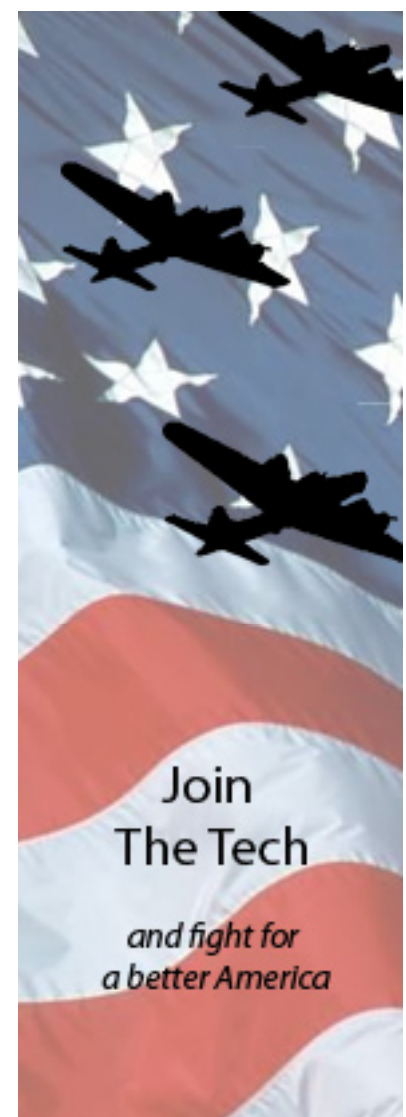
- Evans Boney

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International Education Week

When: Nov 17 - 21

Where: Caltech Y and Center for Student Services

Celebrating and promoting international education and exchange, International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to recognize the global exchange environment between the United States and other countries. Caltech's IEW 2008 programs are co-sponsored by International Student Programs, the Caltech Y, and the Women's Center. All noon-time programs listed below include free lunch for the first 30.

Spotlight on Darfur – Lunch Talk

Monday, Nov 17 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Caltech Y

Gabriel Stauring, co-founder and director of StopGenocideNow.org (SGN) will speak to raise awareness of the ongoing conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan. SGN is a grassroots community dedicated to working to protect populations in grave danger of violence, death and displacement resulting from genocide. Through active education, advocacy, and policy change SGN resolves to change the way the world responds to genocide. Countless people have been driven from their villages, raped, branded, or murdered in what has become the perhaps the greatest humanitarian crisis the world has witnessed since the Rwandan genocide.

Magical Mystery Tour: Himalayan Backpacking & Other Indian Adventures

Tuesday, Nov 18 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Center for Student Services, 2nd Floor

In summer 2008, three Caltechers, each from a different continent, traveled to India to explore a cross section of the country, including a lake full of skeletons at 16,000 feet, and crowded cities such as Varanasi - one of the oldest living cities on Earth. In the process they also got the chance to rub shoulders with Indians from a spectrum of economic classes of the country. This is a special presentation by Pratyush Tiwary, Nick Stadie, and Aron Varga for the Intercultural Discussion Group. Everyone is welcome.

End Hunger In Our Time – Lunch Talk

Wednesday, Nov 19 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Caltech Y

Holly Hight, field organizer for Bread for the World and the ONE Campaign, will speak about the campaign challenge to raise public awareness about the issues of global poverty, hunger, disease and efforts to fight problems in the world's poorest countries. No matter how you feel about the election results, we know one thing for sure: hunger does not end with elections do... but we can end hunger in our time. Everyone, including our government must do their part. With the stroke of the pen, policies are made that redirect millions of dollars and affect millions of lives. It is vital that this new era of foreign assistance makes addressing hunger and poverty the cornerstone of foreign policy. This is our chance to restore our nation's standing in the world in a profound way. By making our voices heard in Congress, we make our nation's laws fair and more compassionate to people in need.

Amnesty International

Friday, Nov 21 | Time TBA | Caltech Y

Members of Caltech's Amnesty International Group speak about their efforts to promote the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners, and an end to torture and executions.

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

END HUNGER – IN OUR TIME – LUNCH TALK

Holly Hight, Bread for the World and the ONE Campaign

Wednesday, November 19th – Noon – The Caltech Y

Lunch Provided to first 30

No matter how you feel about the election results, we know one thing for sure: hunger does not end when elections do... but we can end hunger in our time. Everyone, including our government must do their part. With the stroke of the pen, policies are made that redirect millions of dollars and affect millions of lives. It is vital that this new era of foreign assistance makes addressing hunger and poverty the cornerstone of foreign policy. This is our chance to restore our nation's standing in the world in a profound way. By making our voices heard in Congress, we make our nation's laws fair and more compassionate to people in need.

Holly Hight is a Field Organizer with Bread for the World and the ONE Campaign - raising public awareness about the issues of global poverty, hunger, disease and efforts to fight problems in the world's poorest countries.

The Social Activism Speaker Series presents...
OVERCOMING NIMBY AND OTHER SYSTEMS OF INJUSTICE ON BEHALF OF THE HOMELESS

Andy Bales, CEO – Union Rescue Mission

Monday, November 24th, 7:00 PM - Beckman Institute Auditorium

Andy Bales brings over 20 years of experience in community outreach and service as he leads Union Rescue Mission into a new era of unique and innovative services for Los Angeles/ Skid Row community. He will be speaking on the challenges of "NIMBY" – Not In My Backyard – where service providers are often confronted by a community that is all for the providing services to the homeless, but don't want them to be near their homes or businesses. His work, as it relates to hospitals, law enforcement and other agencies "dumping" homeless people in the Skid Row area, has been featured in national and local news. Andy has many awards and honors including being named as the 930th Point of Light by President George Bush in 1992, receiving the 1999 De Moines NAACP Community Service Award and receiving the 2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Pasadena. He will share strategies on how to be a blessing to our homeless friends and how to use local media in meeting the opposition.

THANKSGIVING DINNER IN THE PARK

Pasadena Central Park – Union Station Homeless Services

Thursday, November 27th, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Join a group of Caltech students at Central Park in Pasadena for Union Station's Dinner In The Park - Community Thanksgiving Meal. We will be leading games and doing face painting for children during the meal. Each year thousands from the local community are served a meal for thanksgiving in the park.

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes

November 12, 2008

Officers Present: Caleb Ng, Swati Bhanderi, Angela Zah, Chris Watson, Tzong-lian “Will” Tsay, Ekta Bhojwani, Matt Czubakowski, Michelle Jiang

Officers Absent: Zachary Higbee

Guests: Anthony Chong, Sunny Chung, Ruslan Kurdyumov

Call to order: 10:14pm

President’s Report:

- ASCIT Restructuring: Excomm is continuing to work on the ASCIT Restructuring proposal. If anyone has thoughts or ideas, they should to members of Excomm. They will be presenting to ARC this weekend. This will probably be the last report they give before they begin writing.
- SAC storage: Clubs and organizations that need storage space might have the opportunity to use Rooms 51 and 52 in the SAC. Daryl is in contact with the Housing Office to make sure it’s okay.
- Join the Impact: This is a group protesting Proposition 8. They will be protesting on Saturday morning at Pasadena City Hall and are encouraging members of the Caltech community to participate.

ARC Chairman’s report:

- Student-Faculty Conference: ARC is in the process of selecting chairs for the Student-Faculty Conference (SFC). They’ll be notifying all houses of the date to try to avoid conflicting schedule and allow all students to attend.
- Caltechcore.blogspot.com is an open website for feedback on Core for the Core Curriculum Task Force. All students are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions on the website.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Men’s Ultimate Frisbee requested \$500 to help cover the cost of uniforms
 - Motion to approve: 6-0-1; motion passes
- Page House requested \$500 for Page Interhouse.
 - Motion to approve: 6-0-1; motion passes
- \$100 each to Fleming and Ruddock for multihouse event
 - Motion to approve: 6-0-1; motion passes
- Europarty: They requested funding several days ago but apparently no longer needs the money. Angela will follow up with to make sure this is the case.

Secretary’s Report:

- Club Funding and Contacts: All clubs have received their funding checks and ASCIT’s club contact list has been updated with regards to new officers.
- Committee Reports: Swati will now start contacting student committee representatives for status updates and reports on their respective committee’s dealings so far this term.

Upperclass Director’s Report:

- Repairing Screening Room Equipment: Matt will call Logitech again tomorrow about the equipment in the Screening Room because they haven’t sent him anything.

Funding Requests:

- Veritas Forum Francis Collins Talk: Ruslan is requesting \$500 towards organizing a talk by Francis Collins, who oversaw the entire sequencing of the human genome, at Caltech’s Beckman Auditorium. The Board needs some time to consider the proposal and will postpone the funding decision.
- Vagina Monologues: Graduate students are trying to bring back the Vagina Monologues to Caltech. They got MHF funding in October but still need \$4K. They haven’t requested a specific amount. Angela will look into how much they have received in the past to come up with an amount for this year.

Meeting adjourned: 10:48pm

Submitted by Swati Bhanderi

The Advantages of a Liberal Arts Education

by Oera Jones

It is only fair to explain what exactly I am doing. Unfortunately, life is not so fair, and I must play along with life unless it bores of me—and I am done for.

Suffice it to say that I am your eyes and ears at a liberal art's college. The ears are freezing off, and the eyes see nothing but women. Yes, this is single-sex education on the East Coast, and I am not from around here.

I am a stranger here, and the trees notice it. They drop all their leaves, and my cheeks blush, embarrassed how ill-prepared I am for the cold.

I'd never experienced such an autumn before. I hear my sinuses may freeze. At what temperature do brains freeze?

As I have ties to this newspaper's community, I had (before coming to the East Coast) occasionally encountered the idea of

women. However—I had never really thought of them as a separate part of humanity. That is, until I arrived at this single-sex college.

It's kind of disheartening—sometimes—to learn that half of all poetry serves to reinforce archetypical gender-based domination, etc.. However, I have learned a lot of other useful things. I can critically interpret poetry, and I know how to try and write screenplays.

Sometimes, things get to be a bit much—and I consider writing papers just to be contrary, with titles like: "Reinforcing Instability: How Repetitious Formats on Nutrition Labels Reinforce the Stereotype of Conformity, and Peer-to-Peer Abuse, and Anorexia in Chickens". Luckily I have always stopped myself in time.

The plus side is: I only make fun of this because I do enjoy what I do in general. I learn to think in ways I probably wouldn't have picked up if I were still at Tech.

The Tech

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The Answer to an Age-Old Question: Extraterrestrial Life

by Dennis Callahan

"Is there life on Mars?" sang David Bowie in 1971, and so has wondered generations of scientists, dreamers and stargazers. Well, Wednesday night Leslie Tamppari had the answer, and it's "...not exactly." As part of the Ernest C. Watson Lecture Series, Project Scientist Leslie Tamppari spoke on Wednesday to a full house in Beckman auditorium about the most recent Martian endeavor, the Mars Phoenix Mission.

The Phoenix Mission's main focus was to confirm and study in detail the presence of water on the red planet, and to evaluate Mars' past potential for sustaining life. Equipped with tools that included an on-board Mass Spectrometer, AFM, wet chemistry set and robotic arm, the Phoenix was launched on August 4th, 2007 and successfully touched down on Mars on May 25th, 2008. The Phoenix landed near the north pole of Mars, at latitude equivalent to the northern tip of Alaska (about where Sarah Palin wants to

drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge). The Phoenix wasn't drilling for oil though, but rather for water. Using its robotic arm, the Phoenix dug through the surface layers of iron oxide and unearthed, or rather unMars-ed, the first unequivocal proof of the existence of water on the Red Planet.

Unfortunately no organic forms of life were discovered, but other important chemical discoveries include perchlorate and calcite, the latter being a mineral which only generally forms in the presence of liquid water. For the first time, the Martian soil was characterized and was discovered to have a pH of 8.3, slightly more alkaline than Earth's. Tamppari did an excellent job at keeping the audience in suspense as she was presenting the data, as if the audience was all there with her as the images and data came in. She revealed the first pictures of ice as she saw them, but cautioned that it could have also been salt, not revealing it was truly frozen wa-

ter until later when the chemical analysis was performed.

Another major part of this mission was to characterize the weather patterns on Mars, Tamppari's specialty. Her data and images revealed a planet not too dissimilar to Earth, filled with clouds, dust devils, frost and even snow. She presented beautiful panoramic images and time-lapse photography of both the land and the dynamic Martian sky. Tamppari emphasized that some data was still being analyzed and there may be more exciting discoveries to come.

Phoenix was a hugely successful mission, gathering information for a total of 152 days, nearly 2 times longer than originally planned. Only as recently as last week did Phoenix cease communication with Earth, as the days on Mars (termed "sols") grow shorter and colder and the power derived from the craft's solar panels diminishes. It is unlikely that the craft will survive the harsh winter on Mars, but Tamppari

mentioned that they will be listening when the sun begins shining on Mars again, just in case the Phoenix lives up to its name.

The wealth of information gathered by missions like Phoenix not only adds to our knowledge of the universe, but also engages our everlasting fascination with space exploration. This interest is perhaps fueled by the prospect of the ultimate goal, a manned mission to Mars which may take place within the next 30 years, which missions like Phoenix bring us all one step closer to. Beckman can expect a full house for years to come, as progress is made towards this goal. A nuclear powered rover-like mission is already scheduled for launch next Fall, and long term milestones include returning to the moon and establishing a lunar outpost as soon as 2020. And so for the world of stargazers, scientists and the occasional glam-rocker, is there life on Mars? No, but there will be.

Sports Briefs

Basketball stumbles against La Sierra in opener

The Caltech men's basketball team opened its season with a 79-64 loss to La Sierra on Saturday.

The Golden Eagles used a 30-9 run which spanned both halves to blow the game wide open.

La Sierra took advantage of 24 Caltech turnovers by running out for numerous layups.

Sophomore forward Ryan Elmquist led the Beavers with 29 points and eight rebounds while senior team captain Matthew Dellatorre added 19.

The Beavers closed the game by outscoring the visitors 32-19 despite shooting 6-for-28 from the field. The team drew 20 fouls and shot 23-of-28 from the free throw line.

saw some major improvements and landmarks. Caltech posted better goal differentials against nearly every single opponent in SCIAC this year when compared to last. The Beavers won for the first time in history against Cal Lutheran on a last minute kick, which also led to forward Tyler Volkoff being named SCIAC male athlete of the week.

The team loses two starters in mid-fielder Pradeep Bugga and Volkoff in addition to team captain Deepak Mishra and mid-fielder Sierra Petersen.

"We will certainly miss their prescience," Coleman said. "But I am hopeful that underclassmen will be able to step up and fill in."

Men's soccer loses last game on late penalty

The Caltech men's soccer team ended its season Thursday with a disappointing 1-0 loss to Soka University of America on a penalty kick with five minutes left.

Going into the match, the two teams seemed evenly matched against common opponents. Each team racked up close losses against Whittier College while tying La Sierra.

"We went into the game pretty optimistically," team captain Daryl Coleman said. "the first half was pretty even [with neither team scoring], yet it was obvious to us that we weren't playing as well as we could. In the second half, we tried to come out harder and did improve our play a bit. We had several more shots, but still were unable to score."

Caltech was called for a foul in the box with five minutes left in the game and the home team scored on the ensuing penalty kick for a 1-0 lead.

"We really pushed for the final five minutes of the game and had many many chances, but still were unsuccessful," Coleman said. "We were all very disappointed after the game and frustrated at the penalty kick that decided the game."

Although it finished on a down note, the season itself

Volleyball loses last three games to finish conference play

Fresh off of their last set-victory against West Coast Baptist, the women's volleyball team dropped its last three games in SCIAC play to finish eighth in conference standings (1-23 overall, 0-14 conferecer).

La Verne, which was ranked No. 3 in Division III, quickly deflated Caltech on Nov. 1 by scoring a 25-4, 25-8, 25-16 drubbing. Only two Beavers managed kills in the game - team captain Katie Peters and freshman Vivian Yang with two apiece.

The Beavers fared no better against Pomona-Pitzer on Nov. 4 as the team lost 25-11, 25-9, 25-7. Although the Beaver offense picked up a bit, scoring a total of 11 kills, 24 ball handling errors proved to be very costly for Caltech. Junior Lisa Yee led the team with 6 kills, 11 digs and two service aces in the losing effort. She is currently fourth in SCIAC with an average of .44 service aces per game.

The team finished its season at home against Whittier Thursday, losing in three straight sets 25-17, 25-10, 25-12.

"There were some good things that happened in the game," Peters said. "Most of our serves were tough, our digs were pretty solid and if any balls weren't

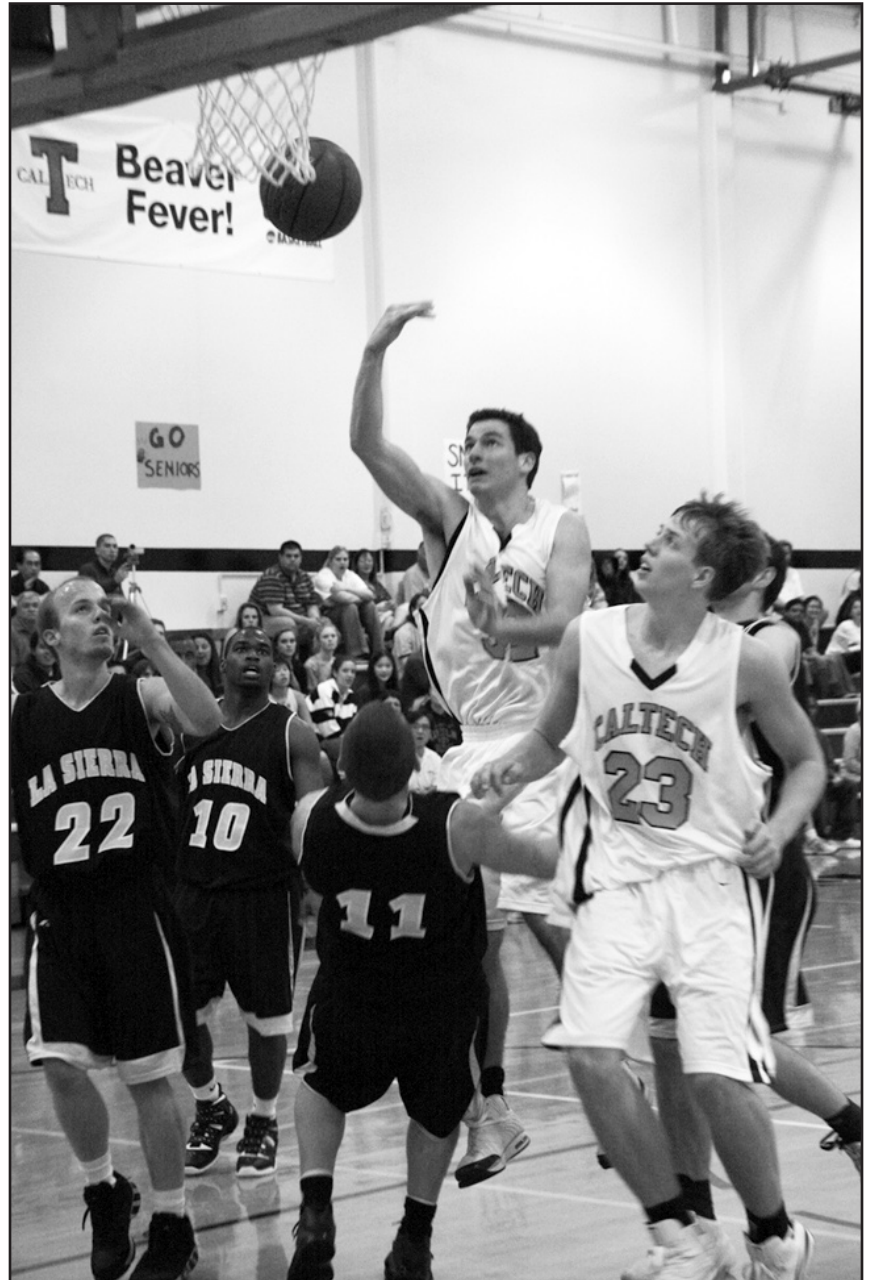
perfect we were usually able to chase them down and send them back over.

"[However] there were too many unforced errors and it cost us the match. There were a lot of nets, missed serves, hits into the net and out, and our serve receive was not up to par. For me personally, that game hurt the most because we made a team we could beat look amazing."

Although Caltech will lose seniors Aimme Gillespie and Marie Giron to graduation, next season looks promising with almost the entire starting line-up returning.

"Our team is mostly composed of freshman and sophomores," Peters said. "So we will move up together and that can only strengthen the program."

Compiled by Yang Yang



Senior Matt Dellatorre (32) goes up for a layup as his defender tries to take a charge while sophomore Ryan Elmquist goes for the offensive rebound.



The Weekly Scoreboard

Nov. 4

Women's Volleyball vs. Pomona-Pitzer

L 3-0

Nov. 5

Men's Water Polo at Occidental

L 26-4

Nov. 6

Women's Volleyball vs. Whittier.

L 3-0

Men's Soccer at SOKA University of America

L 1-0

Nov. 8

Women's Volleyball vs. Alumni

L 3-0

Women's Basketball vs. Alumni

W

Nov. 15

Men's Basketball vs. La Sierra

L 79-64

Men's Water Polo @ CMS

L 19-2

Upcoming Games

Nov. 21

Men's Basketball vs Central (IA)

7:30 P.M.

Women's Basketball vs. UC Santa Cruz

@ Occidental

5:00 P.M.

Nov. 22

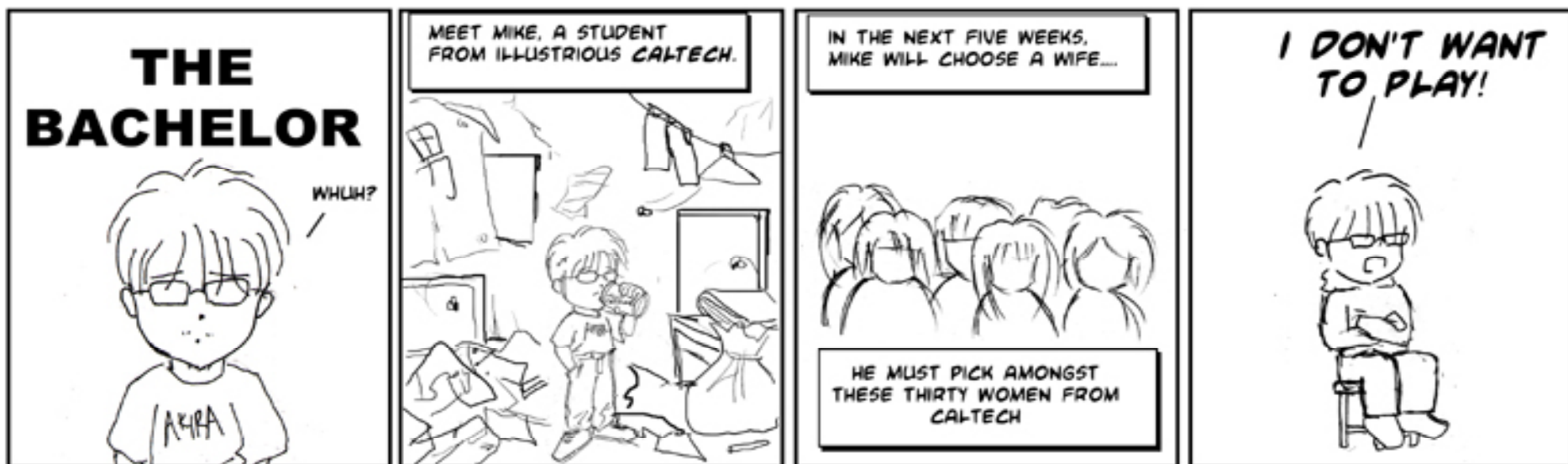
Women's Basketball vs. La Sierra

6:00 P.M.

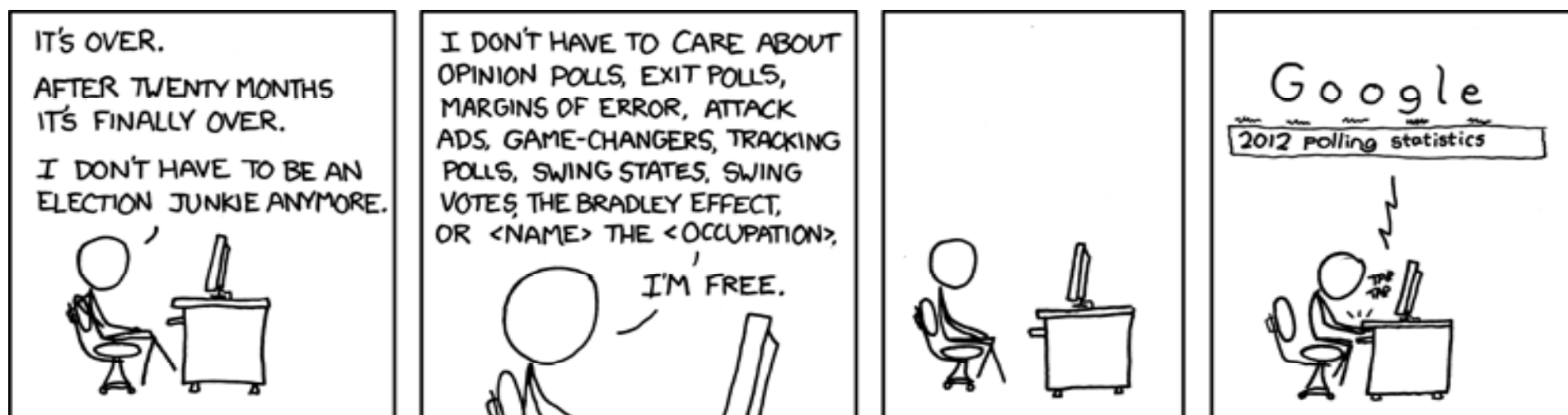
Diving at Bulldog Diving Invitational

@ Redlands

Comics



Crippling Depression courtesy of Tim Wan, Mike Yeh, Ben Lee

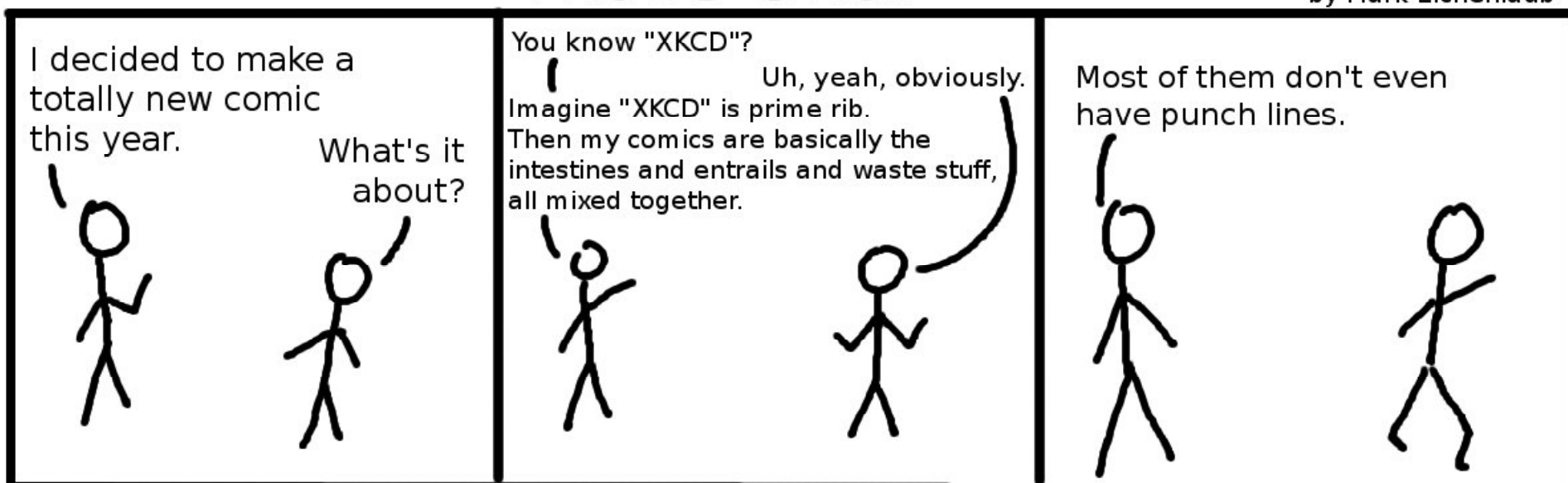


XKCD by Randall Munroe

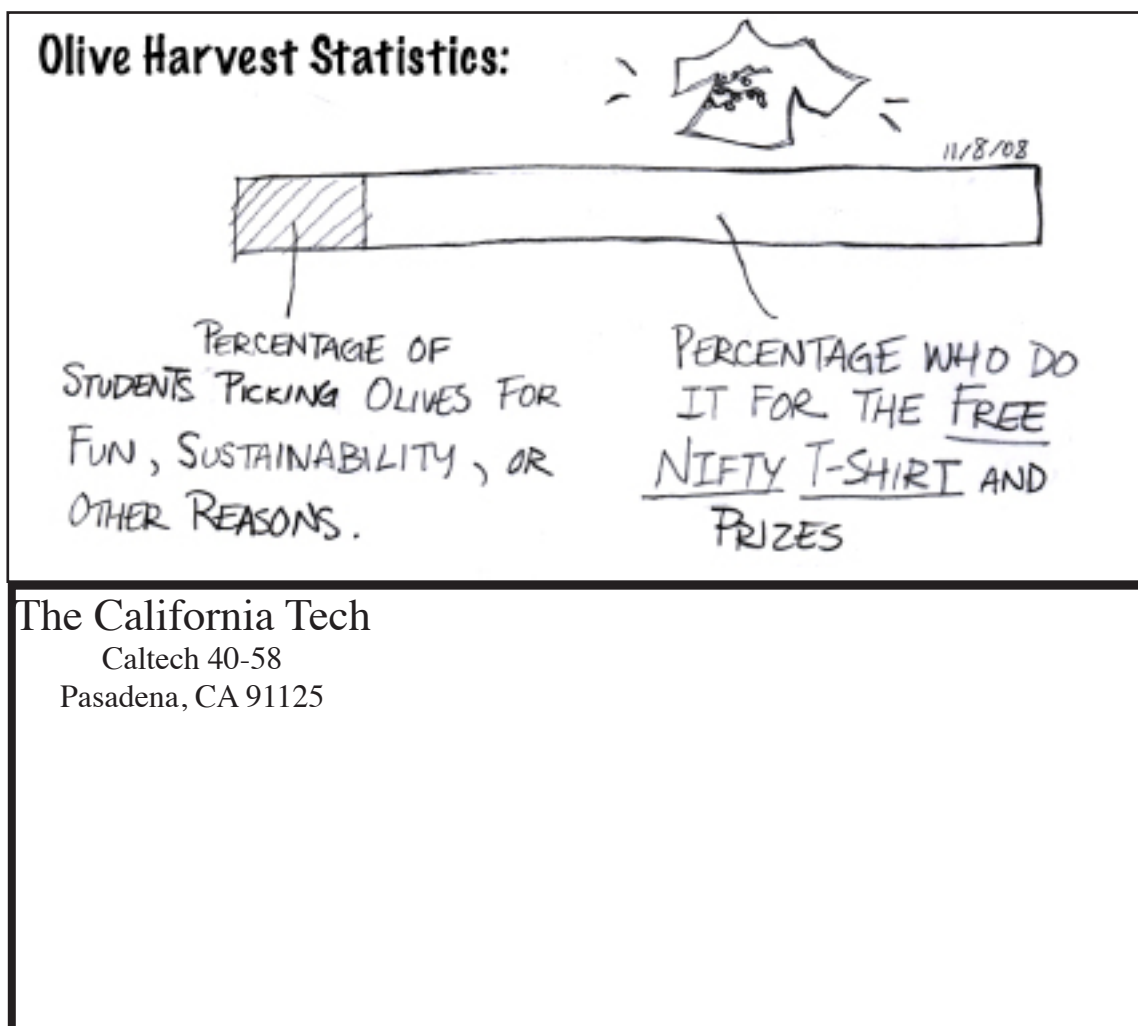
Sine Error

"That's Offal"

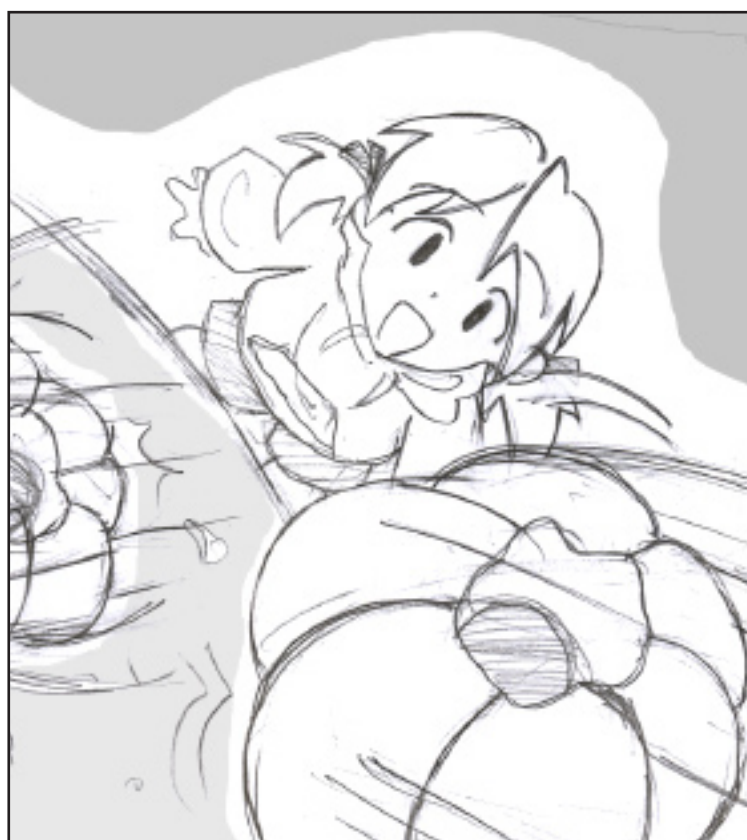
by Mark Eichenlaub



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Eagerly awaiting the pumpkin drop