



Big Interhouse: Not This Year

By Vibha Laljani

STAFF WRITER

Two years after the return of the Interhouse, the party which has been rocking the South Houses each year, the comeback tradition will not be followed this year.

A variety of reasons played a part in the decision-making process. "From what I have been told, the reasons include the big party taking away from the smaller parties, cost issues, and the redundancy if it were to happen every year," says the Interhouse Committee (IHC) chair Chris Watson. "It will allow more time for other house traditions to flourish." After the demise of Interhouse in 1989, Houses developed new traditions to replace it, such as Ruddock's Own Private Interhouse (OPI) or Blacker's Frosh Project. It will be difficult for the Houses to continue these traditions alongside building Interhouse annually.

There are also some questions about funding for future Interhouses. "There is some funding, but we need to raise more money," says Bhojwani. Tom Mannion, the Assistant Vice President to Student Affairs and Campus Life, has individually contributed \$10,000 to both recent Interhouses for food and drinks; and Housing has contributed \$20,000 the Interhouses for construction by deferring maintenance jobs for later years. "We can't keep depending on Student Affairs for [the funding]," says Bhojwani.

The general sentiments of the people who actually built the parties, including the leadership of the houses, were also in consensus. "Houses felt burnt out after building two Interhouses in a row," says ASCIT Social Director Ekta Bhojwani. "People felt it was best to take a break and revisit the situation to answer questions about funding, whether we want to have Interhouse annually, etc." "Since then, I have anecdotally seen a lot of relief at not having the burden of building the party," agrees Watson.

However, many students and faculty would like the tradition of Interhouse to continue because it brings together the alums, the eight Houses, the graduate student body, and the faculty. In a previous Tech article, Tim Chang, Director of Housing, said that he viewed Interhouse as an event that both "brings the [Caltech] community together" and as a party that gives Caltech students the "full college experience." ASCIT and IHC hope to have a way of accomplishing this without resulting in burnt out undergrads and repetition. "I think that alternating the party with some other large event every other year would be a good way to round out our year-to-year social calendar," says Watson. "Anyone who remembers the Jimmy Eat World concert would probably agree on some level—I feel like that sticks out in my memory, whereas a lot of the Interhouse parties will tend to run together over the years."

Rotation is Working, Evolving

Most prefrosh get first choice, Skits need work

By Sarah Marzen

STAFF WRITER

Rotation is over with few irregularities, and according to Ruddock House President Sean Marney, a survey will be released sometime this term to help evaluate how well Rotation worked.

"Rotation went well this year—not exceptionally so, but around 60% ended up in their top choice house," wrote Interhouse Committee (IHC) Chair Chris Watson in an email.

IHC Secretary Dvin Adalian agreed. "The irregularities are considered minor. We know the kind of things that have happened in past Rotations, these didn't stop the week or anything, and we consider this a 'smooth Rotation.'"

The few irregularities that occurred during this year's Rotation included a number of complaints about the Rotation skits, a cynical email sent to selected freshmen that purported to expose the truth of Rotation, and schedule misprints in the Tech. Rumors that all but one of the Houses had Rotation violations—which could penalize them during the "picks process"—were dismissed by Adalian, and no IHC member could give House-based statistics for this year's Rotation violations.

Complaints about the content of certain Rotation skits came from both staff, whose attendance was required, and students, whose attendance was recommended, and they reached the ears of Caltech's legal branch, Housing, and Stu-

dent Affairs. Watson apologized to the Caltech community with a letter drafted by IHC members in last week's Tech.

"The situation was blown a little out of proportion," said Ricketts House President Cliff Chang. "I think the apology defused it a lot.... The letter was not meant to apologize for House cultures, but the way we presented it [in the skits]."

According to Adalian, the main issue with the skits was the choice of venue, because it was difficult to leave the auditorium during skits that might have been offensive. The skits were performed in a Caltech auditorium, and advertised in a Caltech booklet, which makes harassment complaints grounds for suing Caltech.

"Ramo Auditorium was a bad choice for skits," said Marney. "It's not something we [IHC] were happy about." These issues will have to be taken care of by next year's IHC, according to Marney.

"I don't think Rotation was affected by the skits," said Adalian.

The second irregularity—the email about the House system sent during Rotation week to prefrosh—constitutes a Rotation violation, since specific picks strategies are explicitly discussed. "The email is essentially harassment," said Marney. "It's a scare tactic if anything."

According to Adalian, most of the freshman who received the email "recognized that this was an isolated case." A few were scared, and IHC members encouraged them to talk to other up-

perclassmen to evaluate the truth of the email.

Despite these irregularities in this year's Rotation process, Marney is "optimistic" that Caltech undergraduates will be satisfied with the House that they were placed into, and that their satisfaction will be apparent in the Rotation survey to be given later this term. Last year's Rotation survey showed that over 65% of students were "very happy" with their House, and that over 60% of students got into their first choice House.

"I don't think any other system could significantly beat ours for least unhappy people," said Marney. "We're definitely maxing out on happiness."

In last year's Rotation survey, many undergraduates commented that they wanted to remove barriers between Houses, according to Adalian.

But Adalian and Marney believe that Interhouse barriers are more perceived than real. "Interhouse interactions are as good as people want them to be," said Marney.

The merits of the House system are currently being discussed by students on the Student Experience Trip.

For now, the IHC will continue to tweak the Rotation process, suggesting changes that the next IHC can implement. Two years ago, the Rotation rules were relaxed to reflect the "spirit of Rotation" rather than prescribe specific things you could and could not say to prefrosh.

Adalian describes these tweaks to Rotation as "evolution."

IRS Scrutiny Leads to New Tax on G. W. Housner Student Discovery Funds

By Wesley Yu

STAFF WRITER

Awards from the George W. Housner Student Discovery Fund will now be subject to a federal tax enforced by Caltech. The tax, implemented last June, is a new interpretation of federal tax code by the Caltech Office of Payment Services. According to Rebekah Sims, a Manager at Payment Services, "it has always been the case that prizes and awards are taxed by the IRS, but we hadn't enforced these taxes before." The stricter interpretation of the tax code comes on the heels of in-

creased scrutiny from the IRS on Caltech's finances.

For students, this means that financial support from the Housner Fund must be reported as income. For students who are US citizens, Caltech will not withhold taxes but will report the award to the IRS. For non-US citizens, Caltech's action will depend on whether or not the US has a tax treaty with the student's home country. If no treaty exists, Caltech will withhold 30% of the award from international students.

However, there are ways to avoid the new tax. According to Dean John Hall, distributions from the fund will not be taxed if they pay for travel expenses or

materials for scholarly activity. The Dean's Office has worked with the Office of Payment services to increase tax exemptions for students.

"If a student gets an award, he or she should talk to us so that we can help them avoid the taxes," said Dean Hall. "Save receipts and ask that the fund pay directly for as many expenses as possible."

The Housner Fund has been used by students to fund a diverse set of activities. Most awards are for travel to conferences and other scholarly endeavors. The fund will also be used for the new 3-unit student taught courses that will be offered Winter term.

New Buildings on Campus

Fences encircle both the Court of Man—the lawn between Beckman Behavioral Biology and Baxter—and the east parking lot of Moore. The two areas add to the unprecedented level of construction being witnessed on campus.

Work started on the Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics at the beginning of 2007 and on the Schlinger Laboratory for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in October.

The site between Beckman and Baxter will be the new location of a storm drain previously near the site of Schlinger Laboratory.

The Annenberg Center for Information Science and Technology will break ground next month.

While the Cahill Center is expected to be complete at the end of 2008, Annenberg and Schlinger Laboratory and are not slated to be complete until July and December 2009, respectively.

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Never Fear!...No wait be afraid. Be very afraid.

By Anonymous

Thank god it is election season. Now we can all rest assured that the next four or eight years will be far better than the last ones.

For those of you just tuning in *the* issue for the election of 2008 took a drastic turn this October.

And of course the issue now is money.

I find it interesting how at a time when the most notable issue to debate was the war in Iraq, McCain was about dead-even in the polls with Obama. Now however, people are beginning to rally more and more around Senator Obama as the one to fix the economy. What I don't understand at all from this is why? Haven't we all learned that the "free market" is best? Perhaps, and I hope, people are voting for reasons better founded than a fool-hardy belief that either candidate has the power or the know how to fix the mess we are in.

Now don't get me wrong: I am not of the opinion that McCain was reading *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* while in a bamboo prison in "Nam." I just don't see how either candidate instills any more confidence than the other. Neither wants to be the president history

remembers as "that guy who led the country through the second great depression."

The problem we are facing today is a much bigger one than one man - even an extremely powerful man - is going to be able to fix. Just this week 15 leaders from around Europe gathered to figure out how to save their economy. The problem we are dealing with is tremendous.

If people are going to be voting this election season based on the economy, they should not be voting for the candidate who is going to "fix the problem." They need to recognize the fact that we might end up just having to deal with harsh times.

If you are concerned about the economy you should be worried about only two things: unemployment and inflation. Both of these problems are likely to lead the average (or below average) American to have a much worse quality of life. People need to stop worrying about getting the DOW back up to 14000 and start worrying more about safety nets. Vote not for the candidate you think is going to get banks lending. Vote for the candidate who is going to make sure people are taken care of if they don't.

Vote for the man who is going to keep people in their homes. Vote for the man who is going to make sure people will still have access to healthcare. Vote for the candidate who is going to make to address unemployment as a primary concern and not just something that will resolve itself once the economy gets rolling again because that may be a ways off despite anyone and everyone's best efforts.

Democrat or Republican, everyone wants to see banks start lending again and confidence returned to Wallstreet. Have no doubt both candidates will do all they can to make that happen. Just make sure before you vote to consider what you will be doing until things get better.

Election 2008

Republicans are avoiding topic of economic history like the plague

By Marissa Cevallos

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It wasn't Gov. Sarah Palin's fault that her mind drew a blank when Katie Couric pressed her to name one example of Senator John McCain siding with deregulation.

Since even before Reagan, the Republican party has been enamored with the panacea-like power of the free market and repulsed by giving it up.

But as the last few weeks of debates have underscored, the Nov 4 ballot will pit two fundamentally different economic strategies for steering the United States out of the mire.

Neither may work, but one will certainly work better. There are enough parallels to 1929 to pick the best philosophy.

At its heart, the Great Depression was fueled by cheap credit and unchecked over-lending, the same bad habits that will put 2008 in history books. The manufacturing, automobile, and agricultural industries were benefitting from sky-high levels of productivity after World War I. High wages in modest jobs brought luxuries like the refrigerator into the house and the Model T into the driveway.

With unbridled optimism in the rapidly growing cities and suburbs, consumers felt safe buying on credit, and a financial system quickly emerged to feed the demand for cheap credit. Loans were plentiful for home mortgages.

Back in the White House,

Republican presidents Warren Harding (1920-3) and Calvin Coolidge (1923-9) enforced free market principles, 60 years before anyone would utter "Reaganomics". Like McCain is proposing, they cut taxes on the wealthy believing the effect

would trickle down.

There is a *cademic* elegance in shunning taxes. As an economics student can draw with a few lines, imposing taxes creates dead weight in the economy. The market no longer runs as its maximum efficiency when a tax rudely interrupts the forces of supply and demand. Even if the government

were to return all the taxes it collected, taxpayers would sustain a net loss.

In lofty theory, it makes sense that businesses don't operate far from their optimum. McCain proposes to keep tax cuts for the wealthy--a Bush policy--to sustain business.

Does that make Obama a neophyte who, in McCain's new favorite quip, "doesn't understand"? In an August New York Times article, journalist David Leonhardt tried to pin down "Obamanomics." In Obama's twelve years at the University of Chicago, he ran with the crowd who held Milton Friedman, the university's laissez-faire king, in the utmost regard. The respect for the free market no doubt rubbed off on Obama, according to his colleagues.

Obama, far from not understanding the economy,

knows the limits of the free market. Some services just can't be developed on the free market without some financial nudging from the government: universal health care, for example, or educational programs. If McCain believed these programs were essential, he'd raise taxes for them too.

Social programs, like government intervention, were a bit passe in the 1920's. That's not to say that the economy was so prosperous that it didn't need intervention: small recessions in 1920, 1924, and 1927 marred an otherwise upward trend. But like the Bush administration has let big business run amok for eight years, so did the Republican presidents in the 1920's trust in business and bet on the free market. In the words of Coolidge: "The business of America is business; he who builds a factory builds a temple."

The government didn't cause the Great Depression. But the Federal Reserve sat idly by the three minor recessions passed by; sometimes they exacerbated the recessions by raising interest rates.

The philosophy that the free market can solve anything is flawed in practice. Voters should raise eyebrows when McCain campaign managers desperately try to shift attention away from the economy.

I certainly hope that if the electoral college doesn't vote for regulation on Nov 4 that a certain maverick might be able to ignore a century's worth of GOP wisdom and embrace a new economic policy.

The philosophy that the free market can solve anything is flawed in practice. Voters should raise eyebrows when McCain campaign managers desperately try to shift attention away from the economy.

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From the President's Desk...

A call for free and open discourse within the Caltech community

By Caleb Ng

COLUMNIST

Now that the conclusion of Rotation is past, it seems appropriate to reflect on the events of the week.

One particular incident stands out among the rest: the e-mail an anonymous upperclass student—let's call him/her "Techer"—sent to new students purporting to explain "The truth about the house system."

To be honest, I was saddened to read Techer's e-mail. It is best described as a three-page rant. It catalogues what one person perceives as the worst ills of the house system and ends with a call to "boycott" the system.

If I had had the opportunity to advise Techer, I would have urged him/her to offer constructive criti-

cism to improve the system rather than sending an anonymous rant.

My message would have been the same as my message to the new students at Frosh Camp: there is a self-critical spirit among the undergraduates at Caltech, highlighted by the Student Experience Trip team. You should know that your concerns will be heard and taken seriously by others.

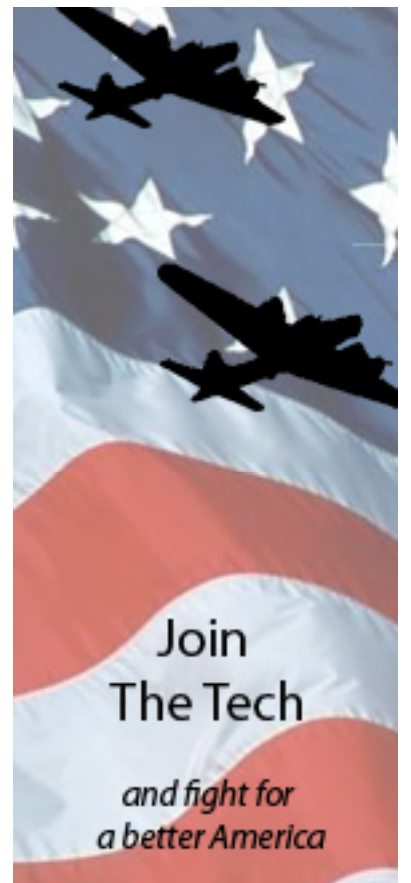
At the same time, it is clear Techer felt the need to hide his/her identity. The ongoing attempt to discover the identity of Techer perhaps vindicates his/her reasons for remaining anonymous.

The rest of us should ask ourselves how this reflects on us. As members of the Caltech community, we should pride ourselves in being academics, intellectuals, people who stimulate and are stimulated by free and open discourse.

Instead of trying to find and punish people like Techer, we should take this as an opportunity to engage in a campus-wide conversation about the issues he/she has raised. As in any free and open community, we should recognize the need to critically evaluate the institutions we hold most dear. We must do this if we want the houses to continue to evolve and progress, and if we want to improve the undergraduate student experience at Caltech.

So what are you waiting for? Start today on these pages; you can be a part of this discussion by sending the California Tech a Letter to the Editor.

pres@donut.caltech.edu



Election: Winner Obama, TKO

By Evans Boney

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before I begin my adulation-filled pronouncement that Obama won the election last night with his astounding performance, let me explain the setup I had that puts me in position to say this. First of all, I watched CNN, which had a live poll of the undecided voters in Ohio's reactions to the candidate's every word. Secondly, I was live-blogging on my iPhone with the National Post, a Canadian newspaper, to get some foreign input. Finally, I've now had the time to look at the opinion headlines from conservatives the day after: the race is over!

First and foremost, John McCain showed that he was erratic. Whether it was in his overzealous walking (who didn't notice that heavy breathing?), his chuckle that was the setup for a wonderful Obama retort, or his walking around like a prize fighter when Obama was talking to him (Obama looked him in the eye in similar circumstances), he was all over the place, both literally and figuratively. When talking about a website, he used the pronoun "them" (at ebay), which struck my ears like a man whose never done business with them at ebay, and he also used the common phrases "a cool hand at the tiller" and "we're not riflshots." He referred to Obama, ten feet away, as "that one". Three times he started a list, only to find that his brain didn't have enough items to go on it. This includes the only one positive thing he had to say about the American worker and anything besides nuclear power and offshore drilling in his energy plan. His plan for social security? "Social security is easy: you just make tough decisions". He told a jello joke and a hair plug joke that both bombed. Who is this old man on the

TV? Well, consistently (except for the question about the Cold War), undecided Ohio voters absolutely loved Obama over McCain for 90 minutes, and I don't think you can blame them. The format that was supposed to be McCain's specialty just wasn't. A quote from "Thoughtful American" on the NP live blog summed it up well: "McCain is doing his best, but the cracks show the desperate tactics of an erratic Maverick".

Secondly, Obama beat McCain's pants off on foreign policy. John McCain sounded exactly like his SNL parody when he said three times in a row "I'll get him" about Osama Bin Laden. But, he didn't say how (and made it clear that he didn't intend to, not now, not ever) nor did he answer the question about going into Pakistan. In addition, his attempt to chastise Obama for answering the question (as an imprudent move for a commander) didn't fly with the CNN-meter. Finally, when asked about his plan in Iraq, McCain said that General Petraeus has the plan. Does he know he is about to be Petraeus's boss? Obama scored higher on every foreign policy issue except the Cold War on the CNN-meter, and post-debate analysis showed McCain favored 51-46 on who would handle foreign affairs better, just 0.5% outside the margin of error of the survey. So, McCain's only long-held advantage is now very nearly a tie.

Thirdly, and of profound importance, is McCain's bold move on the economy. No "cool hand at the tiller" asks for \$700b last week and another \$300b this week. On the plus side, this was an appeal to the middle from a

Republican presidential candidate! I have never seen this in my entire life, but it goes to show how piss-poor the free-market crowd are viewed these days. It's going to cost McCain dearly with his base. I predict that a full 5% of Republicans will be so unhappy with that proposal that they will stay home November 7. If the columns from the day after are any indication, this is one extremely unpopular plan with his base. It is reaching across the aisle, but I suspect those on the other hand will swat his hand away, at least until after the election.

Finally, I think Obama won the debate with his poise and stature. He looked John in the eye in every tough moment, responded quickly, calmly, and with razor sharp criticism at almost every turn. He turned several questions back to the economy without a negative reaction from the CNN-meter voters in Ohio, who clearly wanted to hear it. He played off several McCain miscues and refused to engage him on stupid, small points (i.e. nuclear energy and Obama being wrong on the surge). Meanwhile, every McCain attack was seen negatively by the poll-meter.

McCain left the room and building within minutes of the end of the debate while Obama stayed, took pictures, and signed autographs (these were, after all, real people in the audience) for a full 20 minutes more. The whole debate was a tough fight, but that was the knockout blow. Not only did McCain fail to address the concerns of the middle class, he wouldn't even slow his schedule to say hello to them. Obama wins the debate, and the election, by TKO.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Tech Editors,

I am appalled by your lack of professionalism.

I have been at this school for a year now, and all I have seen come out of the Tech are inaccurate articles, too many pictures, too little content, and more incorrect information.

Your last issue was a perfect example of this! You had a very simple job to do, entirely based on the ASCIT bylaws: print the Rotation schedule. As far as I'm concerned, that is the only thing you had to do. None of the full page ads, random interviews with random famous scientists, random humor, or so-called news articles were necessary.

And yet, you failed to print even an accurate Rotation schedule. How hard is it to print times, names, and places? It's not like an article, where you have to interview more than one person. The IHC sent you a list of frosh and the places that they were supposed to eat lunch in. Essentially, you had to copy and paste.

Here's another recurring issue with your newspaper-- there's not enough news. Last week's five or so news articles were a surprising break from the usual three article fluff, but this week's Tech only has enough news to fill the front page! Surely more than that happened last week. Or is Rotation not newsworthy?

I have many more complaints, but I'll just mention my chief complaint with your paper-- it's written, edited, and layed out by the same four people every single week! No wonder you guys make so many mistakes! And where's

the diversity of opinion? Please get some more writers soon.

Thanks for your effort, but I'm sure you can do a better job.

Sincerely,
Sarah Marzen
Tech staff

The Tech

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Upcoming Events

Monday October 13, 2008

NASA astronaut Garrett Reisman on his experience living on the International Space Station.
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Beckman Institute Auditorium

Lucy Jones, chief scientist of the U.S. Geological Survey in Pasadena, on the Great Southern California Shakeout.
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
155 Arms, Robert Sharp Lecture Hall

Tuesday October 14, 2008

Thomas Kslazek from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, on new virus Nipah from Southeast Asia.
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
119 Kerckhoff

Christopher Paolini, author of the Inheritance series including *Eragon*, *Eldest*, and recent *Brisinger* for Q&A and book-signing.
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Beckman Auditorium

Wednesday October 15, 2008

FALL CAREER FAIR 2008
Visit <http://www.career.caltech.edu/recruiting/careerfair/index.shtml> for more information

Thursday October 16, 2008

Info Session: Next month's Great Southern California ShakeOut drill and the consequences of a potential 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas Fault.
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
OR
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Ramo Auditorium

Friday October 17, 2008

ADD DAY
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Registrar's Office

Tim Cunningham from the Huntington Hospital Sleep Disorder Center on how to improve sleep habits
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Winnett Lounge

Saturday October 18, 2008

SURF Seminar Day
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Visit <http://www.surf.caltech.edu/seminarday/index.html>.

TACT Film Festival
8:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Amphitheater behind Sherman Fairchild Library

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ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes October 9, 2008

Officers Present: Caleb Ng, Zachary Higbee, Christopher Watson, Tzong-Lian 'Will' Tsay, Ekta Bhojwani, Angela Zah, Michelle Jiang
Officers Absent: Swati Bhandari, Matt Czubakowski
Guests: none
Call to order: 22:40

President's Report:

- Student Experience Trip update: SET went smoothly logistically, and the team members are satisfied that it was a worthwhile venture. They have met with some trustees, the Alumni Board, and VP Sargent. The ASCIT Board will meet with them later but they are still in process of discussing findings from trip. A preliminary set of recommendations will be ready around midterms. One thing that came out of it was that Caltech's health insurance is one of the best around, but it is in process of review, as happens every ~2 years, and there is often talk about cutting costs.
- Movie Chairs: Caleb met with them yesterday, and they will be in touch with plans for a movie series along the lines of movies you're embarrassed to have never seen. Angela pointed out that Josh Weiner has received a collection of movies to be added to the ASCIT DVD Library, so Michelle will work on this with him. There was general assent to the Movie Chairs requesting funding for movies and activities surrounding them.
- Screening Room: The universal remote has been broken and therefore the entire system is unusable. It is covered under warranty and has been sent in, but for now the room is closed and the combination changed. The Movie Chairs will help evaluate the security situation and recommend improvements.
- Communications Manager: Michael Maseda is filling this new position on a trial basis. He will be responsible for being our first point of contact with the Tech. He will also collect email for a new ASCIT Digest and e-mail them out to when he has received enough to fill an digest.
- Coffeehouse Hours: After a soft-launch last year, all ASCIT officers will be expected to be available for these office hours at the Coffeehouse. Caleb, Zack, and Michelle agreed to be available 10:30 pm – 11:30 pm Mondays; Chris, Will, Ekta, and Angela will be available 10:30 pm – 11:30 pm Tuesdays.
- donut: All officers should flesh out their webpages on donut, which currently only have templates, with duties and current projects and activities.
- SAC 15/15A: We are getting a desk in SAC 15, and we need to sort through and organize the documents and records stored in 15A so we can add to them in the future.

Vice President's Report:

- Honor Code Task Force: This has been one of this summer's projects. The target date for finalizing the task force's charge and membership are next week. It will look at how the Honor Code is implemented practically and procedurally, with an eye on the BoC, CRC, and the Deans.

IHC Chairman's Report:

- Rotation: It's over!
- MOSH: Met with VP Sargent to discuss the charge to the committee. It should start meeting the middle of this term, and a new MOSH is expected by the middle of winter term. The idea of moving the MOSH's office back to the Olive Walk seems to be more solid.

ARC Chairman's Report:

- Student-Faculty Conference 2009: The SFC committees will be selected soon, and Caleb notes that he would advise them to be selected by the end of October.
- Student Experience Conference Report: The SEC Report is near the end of the editing phase and stands at about 30 pages long. Will and Caleb will discuss how to release it offline.
- Undergraduate Research Opportunity Handbook and Caltech Catalog: ARC has acquired a few copies of the catalog and will place one in SAC 15. UROH is nearly ready, and will continue to provide update on this.
- Student-Faculty Lunches: There will continue to be three lunches per term.

Treasurer's Report:

- Student-Faculty Lunch Requests: The Board unanimously agreed to delegate the approval responsibility for these lunches to Angela.
- little t: Angela will bring relevant details and records regarding costs, revenues, and past salaries and bonuses next week. She will recommend salaries and bonuses to the Board for next week.

Social Director's Report:

- Caleb skipped over Ekta on the agenda because he refuses to acknowledge her existence. Except when they go pick up Friday morning donuts, that is.
- TACT Film Festival: Sr. Director Daily expressed interest in working with us to have barbecue on October 17 and November 1 before some of the films TACT will be showing this month. Ekta will see if Meat Club and Team Tech want to work with us on this, and she will talk to Daily. Andrea has offered to be our liaison to Interim Director Brophy.
- Europarty: There will be one this term after midterms because the Danish students are only here for one term. This will be the second Europarty under this administration.
- GoCrossCampus: The Risk tournament needs more participants or Caltech will be expelled. This will be publicized in the ASCIT Digest.

Freshman Director's Report:

- Freshman Luncheons: The first one was held this past week and was deemed to be quite successful. Michelle will continue to work with Angela and the Athenaeum on this.

Discussion:

- Storage Space: A number of student clubs and organizations need storage space and have requested it in the SAC. Caleb will ask Daryl to evaluate possibilities, including the space ASCIT is using to store scaffolding for parties. Ekta notes that it is on a South Master so it should not be considered secure storage.
- Parties: Ekta noted that parties are being shut down early without notice or explanation to her. She will talk to Director Chang.
- Concert: The Alumni Association has set aside money for Interhouse and would be willing to put the money toward another large event that includes alums, including a concert. Ekta will explore this possibility.
- Red Cross Blood Drive: This will happen October 27-28 with ASCIT support for publicity. BoD Meeting_10/09/08 3
- ASCIT Leadership Retreat: Caleb and others will be discussing options and plans with AVP Mannion this weekend.
- World AIDS Day: This is commemorated every year on December 1 and seems particularly relevant this year, since the Nobel Prize went to the discoverers of HIV. Michelle suggests the possibility of working with the Caltech Y.
- Permanent Memorial for Swaroop Hebbale: There was unanimous assent to this idea. Everyone will brainstorm and ask around for ideas and suggestions. Chris will contact Ruddock President Marney. He also suggested the possibility of making it more general, which was received favorably.

Meeting adjourned: 23:45

Submitted by Michelle Jiang, Freshman Director at Large.

Is Your Potential

$$\lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2} - \epsilon} \tan(\theta) d\theta?$$

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The firm currently has openings in quantitative analysis, software development, information technology, computer architecture, and computational chemistry. Our work environment is challenging but surprisingly flexible—from the clothes you wear, to the time you get to the office, it's pretty much up to you. And we compensate our extraordinary people extraordinarily well.

Information Session October 15

The D. E. Shaw group will attend the Fall Career Fair on Wednesday, October 15 from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm in Bechtel Mall. Please stop by our booth. We will also host an information session on October 15 at 4:00 pm in the Brennen Conference Room. To apply for an interview, log on to NACELink. If this isn't possible, please send a resume and cover letter stating your GPA and standardized test scores, broken down by section where applicable, to jobs@deshaw.com.

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What would you do with \$2,000? HELPING THE HOMELESS

by Sarah Marzen

That's the question Caltech senior Po-Ling Loh faced, last year, when she won the Mari Peterson Ligocki Memorial Award for performing "small acts of kindness."

Loh decided to splurge on a usual victim in an unusual way—she helps the homeless. Loh and a few friends comb Pasadena streets and ride Metro Line 181 in the early hours of the morning to give them food, buy them meals and hotel rooms, and visit Skid Row with a Skid Row Ministry to provide food and prayer.

The fund still has \$1,500, but Loh's already "obsessed."

"People know I talk incessantly about homeless people," said Loh, smiling. "Ideally, I'd like other people to get involved.... I have this money to be generous to homeless people."

The Start

Homelessness was far from the first thought that crossed Loh's mind.

"I had no idea how to spend the money," she said.

Her first reaction was to "go crazy baking." Last year, she baked brownies, cookies, and muffins every week for the Electrical Engineering students in Moore's subbasement, one of the many small acts of random kindness that might have won her the award in the first place. But it seemed a little overboard to spend \$2,000 on flour, eggs, butter, and sugar.

"Cathy Jurca [Master of Student Housing] said something about buying a conventional oven," said Loh. Her older brother thought she could make a fund for other people's small acts of random kindness, but Loh wasn't sure that anyone with good intentions would show up to take the money. "By their very nature, aren't small acts of kindness supposed to go unnoticed?" she asked.

Three months later, she still hadn't spent any of her money. As the summer months drew her to the Pasadena streets, Loh couldn't help but notice the many homeless people sitting on street corners, each with his or her trademark shopping cart of belongings.

"I had the urge to walk around and avoid them," admitted Loh. "A lot of us have been brought up to think that way.... I thought there was something wrong about that."

One of her friends suggested buying meals for those homeless people, and Loh's obsession with homelessness was born.

Vagabond Louie

Loh's first homeless friend was "Vagabond Louie", so-called because Loh paid for her to stay a night in Vagabond Inn. Loh and Caltech un-

dergraduates Stephen Wilke, Dahvyd Wing, and Sunny Chun were walking down Lake Street "looking for homeless people."

A woman "pushing up a shopping cart up the hill, very slowly" according to Wilke, caught their eye. Although they were a little nervous—what if she wasn't homeless?—and unsure how to approach her, they crossed the street.

"We made a beeline across the parking lot to talk to her," said Loh. "And the first thing she said was that we were 'like angels who had dropped out of heaven.'"

They offered to buy her a meal at Del Taco on the corner of Union Street and Lake Street, and Louie thanked them. "It's the end of the month, so I'm as broke as the 10 Commandments," she said.

Louie told her that homeless people rode Metro Line 181 at night to avoid the unsafe streets and harsh open air. So Loh and her friends, one early morning, rode the Metro Line 181, hoping to hand out muffins to the hungry homeless.

Instead, she handed out a bread loaf given to her by an Armenian immigrant who was also on the bus. "The whole bus became more lively... like a party," said Loh. "It's normally dead and depressing."

Changing attitudes

Walking around Pasadena with Po Ling Loh was, for me, an eye-opener to a completely different attitude towards the people around us. On our way back from Soup Plantation, we found Martha, a skinny senior lady in a flowery summer dress accompanied by a shopping cart filled with cardboard boxes.

"I keep them to sleep on," she says. "I hate it when it rains."

Loh inquires after her family and asks her if she wants any food. After a short time, we walk away, but not before there's a grin as big as a Cheshire Cat's plastered onto Martha's face. Loh talks to Martha like her grandmother's friend—not like a lady who spends her day at the corner of Lake and Del Mar.

"I got over the fact that these people are homeless," says Loh. "There's nothing wrong talking to a homeless person."

Still, Loh is the first to tell you about her fears and doubts. She'll describe how she ran towards Von's one early morning trying to find Gail, a skinny black woman that Stephen had briefly described to her; that she saw Gail with a male friend and ran into Von's in fear of her own safety, her heart racing.

These stories end happily. Gail and her male protector, Calvin, were able to travel across Pasadena with bus fare enough for only one person; against

protestations of the hotel desk clerk, Loh paid for Gail and Calvin to stay at Westway Inn for one night.

As Loh puts it, everything just seems to work out alright.

Skid Row

Pasadena is far from the epicenter of homelessness. The infamous Skid Row in Los Angeles "houses" the largest stable population of homeless in the nation, cramming over 7,000 people into 50 square blocks. Nearly every Sunday morning, Wilke joins Skid Row Ministry from Christian Assembly as they set up a buffet table of chili dogs and walk around the block with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. One day towards the end of the summer, Loh came with him.

"The first thing I said when I first saw it [Skid Row] was 'This isn't Pasadena.' This is even more desperate and desolate," said Loh.

Skid Row's inhabitants range from mentally ill to embittered to just down and out of luck. Almost all the people I talked to there had been abused in some way. Some had well-to-do family members that they hadn't seen since their 20's.

A few flashes of happiness permeate the atmosphere. One woman was getting ready for her wedding, another brings her child. But most of the happiness comes from the food, clothes, and company the ministry brings.

"Christ tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves," says Wilke. "This is just expanding the definition of neighbor."

Next steps

As the summer months wane, so does spare time. With so many homeless and so many ways to help—not to mention classes, graduate school and fellowship applications, Caltech Christian Fellowship leadership and UCC duties—how will Loh find time for early morning bus rides and soup kitchens?

"I have no idea," she admits. "I can be a facilitator, a contact person... so that it's an outreach project and not just me."

Loh isn't even sure that she's going about helping the homeless in the right way. "Is it worth it?" she muses. "There's no lasting change, there's only so much you can do before the fund runs out."

"It's not that social change isn't good, but I have no idea how to do it."

As Wilke describes it, the goal is to get people "talking to that homeless guy that you were afraid to make eye contact with, and realizing there's somebody in such injustice."

A Conversation with Oliver Eslinger

Evans Boney
STAFF WRITER

What is your goal for the team this season?

Dr. Oliver Eslinger came to be Caltech's men's basketball team coach, as mentioned in the press release last week, directly from MIT. As I've heard joked: it's our latest prank on MIT.

As a former player of his back at the other Institute of Technology, reporter Evans Boney sat down with Eslinger to get a sense of his plans for Caltech basketball and his initial thoughts of the Pasadena area.

What is your coaching philosophy?

When it comes to coaching individual student-athletes, I believe in coaching the person first and the player second. It's important to understand how my players think, how they tick, and what makes them go. I try to motivate individual players in different ways, like an effective teacher does in the classroom. From a team perspective, we want to achieve balance — become a great team all over the floor. Offensively, defensively, and in transition. In order to do this, we need to be in optimal shape, from a physical standpoint but, more importantly, a mental one. If we can learn to focus during our practices, work hard, and believe in ourselves, we will make great strides.

If I have to choose one goal, it is for us to come together quickly and, as a program, earn our Ph.D. - Play Hard and Develop — as long as we practice hard (easier said than done) and with a purpose (physically and mentally), we will improve as players and as a unit...and that will translate to games and create a foundation for the future.

What changes have you made from last season under Roy Dow?

I am not in a position to comment on what has been done in the past. I just know that we have put together a tremendous staff of coaches and that we are all very excited to get started. There is an energy flowing through our coaches and players that is really pushing us to prepare for the season and enhance our future.

Who is your favorite basketball coach and why?

Tough question, as there are many. Someone else recently asked me that question. I guess the angle to take is, I have been influenced by several, just as I used various basketball players as my model for development when I was growing up.



New men's basketball head coach Oliver Eslinger

Depending on the day, it may be John Wooden, Phil Jackson, Jerry Sloan, Coach K, Larry Anderson, Chuck Abba, or my youth coach, Jack Hale — either for motivational purposes, educational aspects, respect factors, etc.

Anything else you'd like to tell the Caltech community?

It's an honor and a privilege to be here. I have been welcomed with open arms and already met many people on campus and in the surrounding areas. We want and need the support of students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Volleyball continues struggles



The team dropped its last two matches 3-0, hampered by a foot injury to team captain Katie Peters (pictured above).

Upcoming Games

Oct. 13

Men's Soccer vs. Haverford
4:00 P.M.

Women's Volleyball vs. La Sierra
7:30 P.M.

Oct. 15

Men's Soccer vs. Redlands
4:00 P.M.

Men's Water Polo vs. Chapman
6:00 P.M.

Oct. 17

Women's Volleyball at West Coast Baptist
Tournament
TBA

Oct. 18

Women's Volleyball at West Coast Baptist
Tournament
TBA

Cross Country at SCIAC Multi Duals

La Mirada
8:00 A.M.

Fencing vs. UC Irvine
9:30 A.M.

Men's Soccer vs. Occidental
11:00 A.M.

Men's Water Polo at Whittier
11:00 A.M.

Men's Soccer



Sophomore Jonathan Yueng chases the ball in a October game against La Verne, the team lost a close match 3-1 to CMS on Saturday.



The Weekly Scoreboard

Oct. 7

Women's Volleyball at Pomona-Pitzer L 3-0

Oct. 8

Men's Soccer at Pomona-Pitzer L 7-0

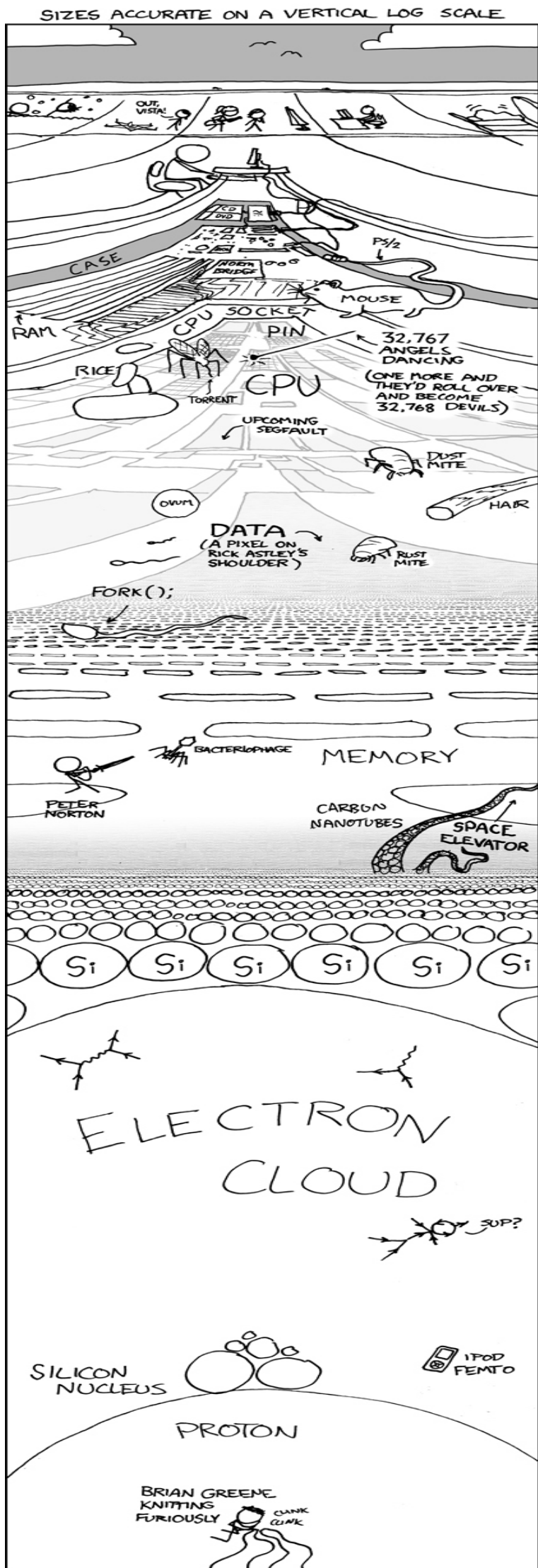
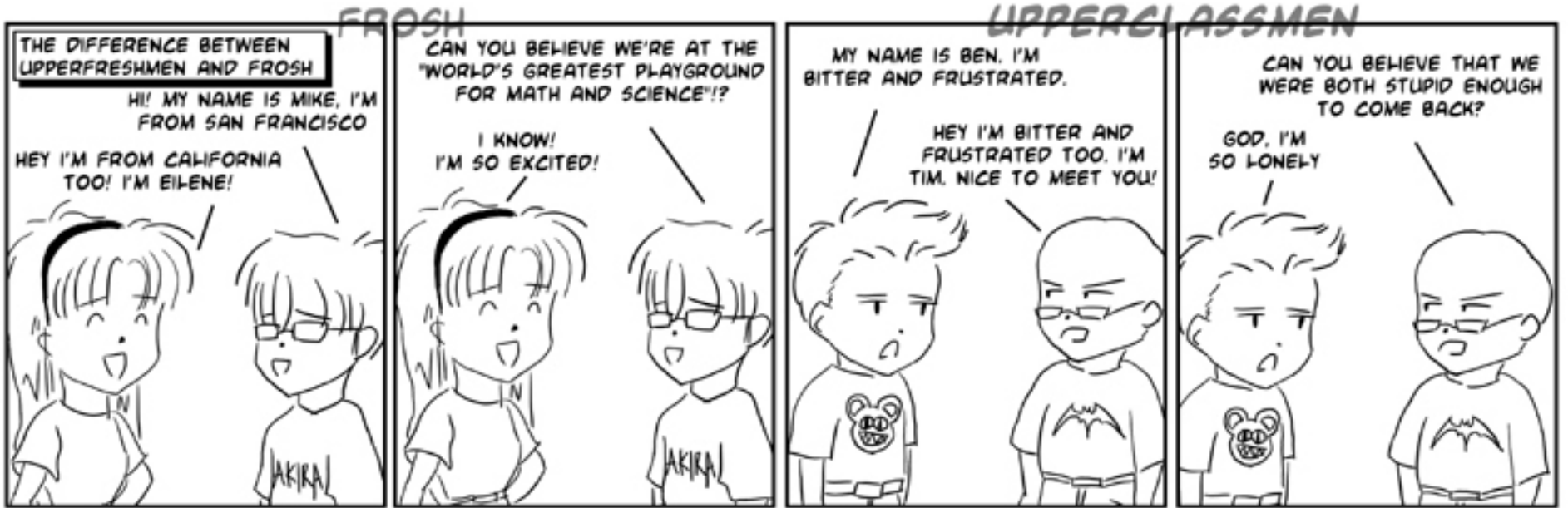
Oct. 10

Women's Volleyball at Whittier L 3-0

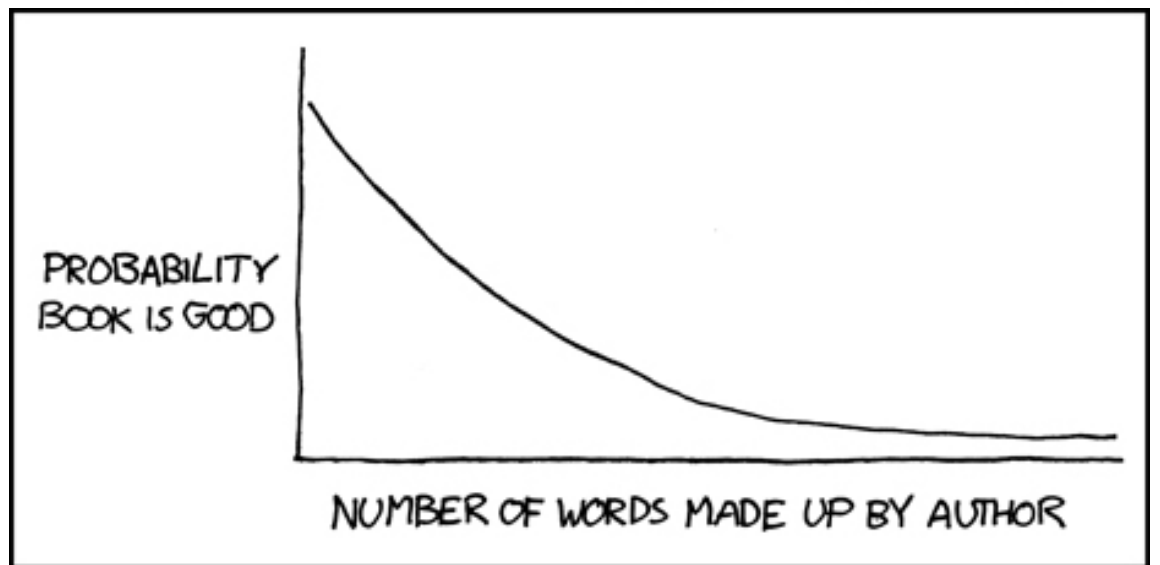
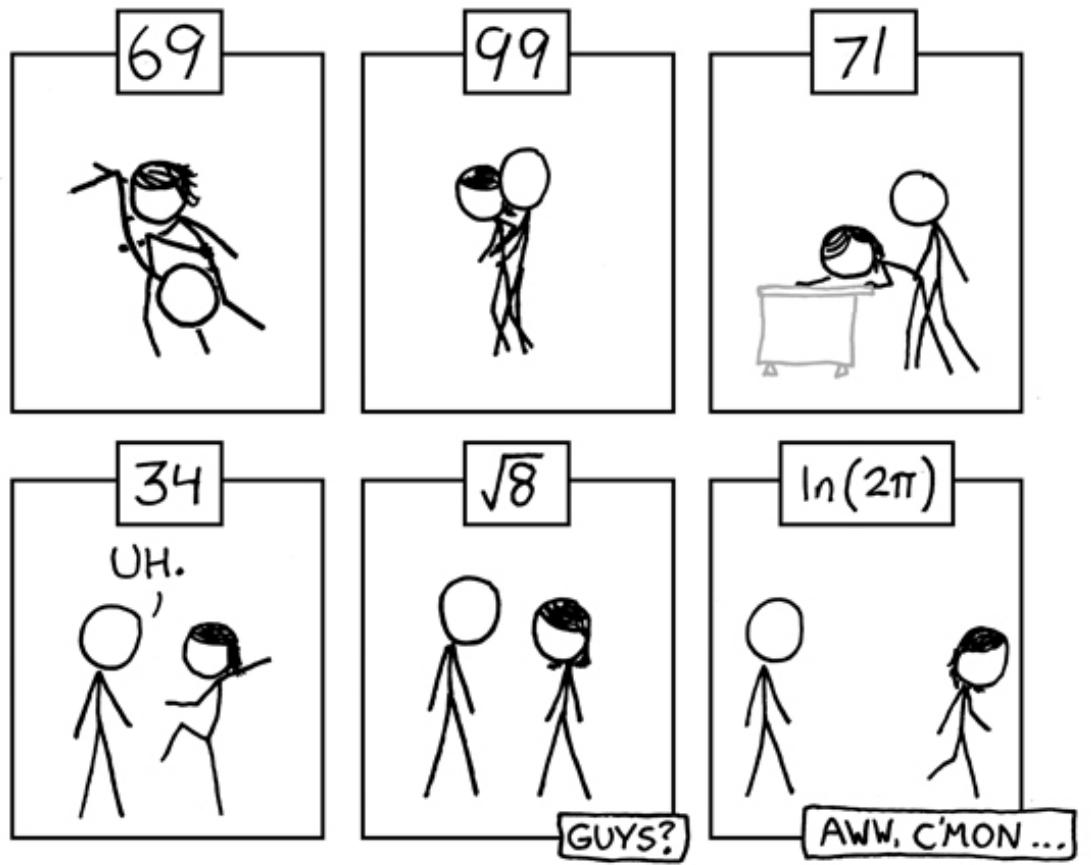
Oct. 11

Men's Soccer at CMS L 3-1

Comics



XKCD PRESENTS A GUIDE TO NUMERICAL SEX POSITIONS



"THE ELDERS, OR FRAÁ'S, GUARDED THE FARMLINGS (CHILDREN) WITH THEIR KRYTOSES, WHICH ARE LIKE SWORDS BUT AWESOMER..."

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