

## New Alcohol Policy Prohibits Drinking Games, Causes Overhaul of Page's Beer Room

**By Anna Hiszpanski**  
STAFF WRITER

Red cups and ping-pong balls will now be an infrequent sight in Caltech's undergraduate dormitories because of a recent amendment to the alcohol policy by administration that bans beer pong, an alcohol related game.

The ban arose from an incident that occurred in Page House in late January where students playing beer pong in the house's Beer Room reportedly left trash, overturned couches, and graffiti on a wall.

Administration had already modified the alcohol policy earlier in the term, banning all drinking games, but granted an exception to beer pong. The alcohol policy, which may be found in its seven-page entirety on the Student Affairs webpage, previously stated that "drinking games or any other activity which promote the rapid and/or excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages shall not be encouraged." Now, drinking games are explicitly disallowed.

Beer pong was exempted from the ban initially after house presidents spoke to the Alcohol Working Committee, which helps decide the alcohol policy, and convinced them that the game is played recreationally and does not encourage rapid or excessive

drinking. However, the incident caused administration to reverse its previous decision and include beer pong in the ban of drinking games.

Some students, however, feel the campus-wide ban to beer pong is an overreaction to the incident.

"They are continuing to investigate what individuals were involved," said current Page House President Brian Go. "In my opinion, that should be the only thing that comes of this: actions against the people responsible. I think it's ridiculous that the ill-considered actions of a few individuals are affecting the whole campus."

Undergraduate Dean John Hall, who is also a member of the Alcohol Working Committee, explained that any policy that was not campus-wide would have been too difficult to implement.

"We have a finite energy to deal with these things, and we weren't willing to consider Ricketts version of peer bong versus a Page version of beer pong," stated Hall. "The [alcohol] policy can't differentiate across different houses."

"Beer pong is a game of skill: the more you drink, the more poorly you perform, so the more you have to drink and on and on," said Hall, explaining how the game can encourage excessive

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Page's beer room, currently "closed for renovations".

Photo by Jonathan Tsai

## Caltech Dining Services Cuts, Revamps Services with Budget Cuts

**By Sarah Marzen**  
STAFF WRITER

With budget cuts, Caltech Dining Services is cutting near 20 employees, raising board costs, moving students on the Avery Board Plan to the Feynman Plan, replacing Caltech Catering with a Food-to-go program, and revamping Broad Café, according to Director of Dining Peter Daily.

"Whatever we do is going to be positive," said Daily, referring to the changes in food service quality.

Most of these changes will take place at the end of third term, but already, Dining has begun to raise prices. Chandler food prices in the past month have seen an average rise of eight percent.

According to Daily, this rise in food price allows CDS to finally catch up with a backlog rising market prices. For a while, CDS's cost of sales—the cost of purchasing raw materials and manufacturing finished products—was too high to be covered by CDS's revenue.

"We have a benchmark for cost of sales," said Daily, "and we were above the benchmark by several percent. Now we're still above the benchmark, but we should be close."

CDS food prices might increase even more before the start of next academic year, given that the

government has projected a 5-6% increase in market food prices over the next year. However, CDS food prices don't increase based on projections of market prices—they rise many months after market prices increase.

"Normally we're behind," said Daily. "We're at the mercy of a lot of people."

An increase in student's declining balance would accompany a rise in CDS food prices, said Daily. Dining will cover the rise in declining balance and the rise of market prices by the rise in student board.

According to Daily, the "percentage for board increase is not firm yet."

### Avery Board Plan

Curiously, the change that has sparked the most student discussion is the decision to switch Avery residents from the Avery Board Plan to the Feynman Board Plan. An email from former Avery Chancellor Joules Gould to the House that relayed the effects of upcoming budget to Avery House resulted in a flurry of emails protesting the board change.

Comments within this flurry of emails included "I'm not getting my parents to pay Caltech 40 grand a year so I can eat the shit I fled from in [another House]." Some emails spoke against that

sentiment, saying, "We're here to learn and become good scientists, not feel elitist based on the food we eat."

Students outside Avery House have their own take on Avery's internal flamewar. "It seems like Avery residents take pride in being different rather than having something that's better," said Dan Obenshain, former Dabney House Vice President.

The Avery Plan gives approximately \$1,400 per term of declining balance to Avery residents, with which they can buy food from Chandler, the C-Store, Red Door Café, South House Kitchen, and Broad Café. For dinner, Avery Board offers cooked-to-order meals and, more recently, the vegetarian and vegan options provided by Feynman Plan kitchens.

The Feynman Plan offers approximately \$450 per term of declining balance, providing cafeteria-style meals for dinner and an "open kitchen" from 7 A.M.-11 A.M. and 3:30 P.M.-7 P.M. Open kitchen has a variety of drinks, bread, fruit, deli meats, soup, and spreads.

Many Caltech undergraduates think that the Avery Board Plan offers better food than the Feynman Board Plan. "Avery Board's just better quality, less variety," said Caltech sophomore

Please see CDS, Page 6

## Prefrosh Weekend Largely Unharmed by Budget Cuts

**By June Zhang**  
STAFF WRITER

With Caltech tightening its money belt, how with Prefrosh Weekend be affected?

"We aren't anticipating any changes in Prefrosh Weekend this year due to budget cuts," says Richard Bischoff, Director of Admission. "Our dates were already announced and there just aren't that many places to cut money and still run a quality program."

While official funding for the three-day event has not been cut, the availability of money from other sources is still uncertain. Prefrosh weekend funding comes from a variety of sources such as the Admissions office, Student Affairs, MOSH, and ASCIT. The majority of events during Prefrosh weekend are sponsored

by Admissions, so the major concerns deal with possible changes to smaller individual events.

For example, last year, ASCIT provided the Carnival at the Club Fair, which included food and larger attractions like the dunk tank. As of now, the details for this year's Carnival have not been established yet, but general expectations are similar to those of last year.

Anthony Chong, President of ASCIT, said, "It's still going to be three days long, just like it was last year. The big events are still going to be there."

The hope of both the administration and student organizations is for Prefrosh weekend to be just as exciting and fun for this year's incoming freshman as it has been for students in the past.

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Source: World Nuclear Association

International News  
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## Give Teaching a Chance

By Chris Kennelly  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you ask yourself which university aspires to that goal, you might think of teaching universities rather than our fine institution. An ad hoc survey around campus will consistently answer, "Caltech is a research institution."

It's true, but it's not the entire truth: Caltech is here to educate students as well.

No matter how many times we might say "research institution," we can't just be a research institution. Every year, a new freshmen class enters ready to learn. We touted our storied faculty to them, our student-to-faculty ratios, and our educational quality in order to win their hearts and minds away from the likes of MIT.

Yet teaching is often forgotten. For one faculty search, I was told that teaching quality was not even being considered, even as a tipping factor to decide between two equally qualified candidates.

This wasn't an isolated incident: the faculty member on the search committee said this was the norm rather than the exception. When considering tenure, no division, not even the humanities and social sciences, considers education in making its decisions.

The lesson from the Student Experience Conference was that we should improve teaching. Uttering the mantra ad nauseum won't improve teaching quality by itself. The hypothetical argument goes that if the departments, even for a moment, considered the classroom, we'd cease to be the world class research university that we want to be. The trade-off curve doesn't have to be that sharp.

We could add teaching faculty, as well as lecturers, in order to supplement our current faculty. Some might argue that we would be renegeing on our promise in our admissions literature that "our professors teach our courses," but we've already accepted having lecturers in our classrooms.

Ask undergrads and they'll claim—despite what

administrators say—that we're under a hiring freeze. It's hard to blame academic divisions, hard hit by endowment losses, as they slow hiring, but undergraduate options need instructors. In my own option, the largest complaint in our SFC survey responses was in upperlevel course offerings—or the lack thereof.

It feels far more dishonest to attract the ready and willing minds of each freshman class to educate them, when we're unwilling to do so. It's time to strike a balance between research and education and give teaching a chance.



oh god how did this get here  
I am not good with computer

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

Letters and submissions are welcome: e-mail submissions to [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu) as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. The Tech does accept anonymous contributions. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author.

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## Republicans can't have it both ways

By Evans Boney  
STAFF WRITER

I don't normally do this, but I simply cannot let Mr. Alvarez's statements in the Tech Feb. 17th go without reply. The final stimulus bill, as many of your GOP cronies including past Presidential nominee John McCain were happy to say, "was not a bipartisan bill". No, the cuts to the final bill and that final compromise, which you have claimed for the GOP, does not count as a win for the GOP. Whether McCain, McConnell, Boehner, Cantor, Rush, Hannity or O'Reilly, the final deal does not come as a GOP compromise, but a compromise with 3 GOP senators and no congressmen.

Even if you try to claim the compromise for the GOP, I'm not sure that's the smartest thing to do. They, quite literally, argued more effective job creation measures out of the bill in favor of the old GOP standby: Tax cuts. You say: "The fundamental question comes down to whether or not government can spend our money more efficiently than we can." I disagree. The fundamental question to me (and the rising millions of unemployed Americans, over 1.1 million in the past 2 months alone) is "Can anything stop job loss and encourage job creation?". Your argument that we are spending too much is just plain bunk. Depression times call for Keynesian depression measures: the government has to be the spender of last resort and yes, while that number sounds scary, 70% of GDP is not too much with respect to the 2-3 trillion dollar hole in our economy left by this depression. Many think \$800B is not enough, and I count myself in their camp.

Which leads me to a diatribe you'll be hearing more and more in the coming months: the democratic irresponsibility of the filibuster as Republicans intend to use it (to protect the viability of their party, not their voters). While a filibuster on this exceedingly costly legislation is a reasonable measure, I find it hard to believe Republican senators and congressmen are doing much representing, save the occasional next-election posturing, for their constituents back home. As you pointed out, 45% of Americans opposed the stimulus. Surely that means there is a majority of opinion in the states of some republican senators or the districts of some congressmen, no? Are there really 20 states that are 100% opposed and 30 states that are 100% supportive?

No, but that's how the GOP has played its hand, with precious few exceptions. Rather than have individual congressmen representing their voters back home, acknowledge their popular vote drumming in the fall, and work towards a compromise (the final bill does count as a compromise, but, failing Republican support, it is not a compromise with their party, just those 3 senators). 5 GOP congressmen, who voted against the bill, have already taken your lead to try to take credit for the bill's successes in their home districts, while still railing on about how the whole idea of it is a failure. Please, just represent your constituents by voting for what they want rather than presenting a unified obstructionist front to progress, and then trying to get some of the glory from it. In Obama parlance (and, as of Nov. 7, the parlance of a majority of Americans) that is old politics.

The 2% I referred to is from a report by the minority leaders in the senate and house as a full list

of their opposition to the "pork" in the bill, published in early February. If you don't count education/research spending as pork (I do not), you're left with something in the <1% range. Nate Silver did a great piece on 538.com where he showed that the GOP was dominating the airwaves continuously reusing the word pork, and they won the message battle for a week. My article was in response to this, to point out the ridiculousness of Boehner and McConnell, who just couldn't bring themselves to the bargaining table, and whose positions continuously (still?) evolved. The point of this article is to point out that, unless the GOP gets its story straight soon, they will see the days of the 1930s all over again. Approval ratings for Republican congressmen dropped 4% from January to February (now at an incredible 19%) while approval ratings for their Democratic counterparts rose 14%. From 1933-1939 Republicans hemorrhaged seats in both the senate and congress.

History has a bad habit of repeating itself. With much of the modern day GOP saying an adamant no to spending (just forget about those last 8 years), denying the success of the New Deal (seriously, despite the 11% drop in unemployment rate in 6 years following its inception, and that we elected FDR so much we changed the law), and be-moaning a lack of tax cuts (hmmm... budget crisis in government? Lower government income! More money to businesses! Who cares about that?) I worry they will find themselves irrelevant without a message change. Ideologues only flourish in a time when the concrete details don't matter. Right now, the foundation and bedrock of our society is cracking for the most it has in years.

Here's a message they could

rally behind, after insisting for years that we waste millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars on ineffective sex "education":

Telling young people to be abstinent is "not realistic at all." - Bristol Palin, February 2009

## IHC Minutes 2-19-09

Weekly Meeting - Fleming - February 19, 2009

**Present:** Pallavi Gunalan, Brian Go, Ben Lin, Max Jones, Daryl Coleman, Cliff Chang, Dvin Adalian, Sarah Li, Robbie Paolini, Joles Gould  
**Guests:** Kirit Karkare, Sarah Marzen, Daniel Kolodrubetz, Dabney Henchmen

Darbs invade the dining hall and pummel the IHC with an unprovoked and unjust snowball bombardment

Max runs away yelling "Not me, not me!"

Most present cower in the face of the onslaught while trying to protect their food and belongings

After the first wave, Cliff and others return fire

After drying off we move to the lounge but postpone discussion on retaliatory sanctions

**OCA Parties**

We will have a discussion about these at our next Student Affairs meeting

Apparently the biggest issue is OCA neighbors complaining about noise

The Deans would like to no longer allow outdoor parties involving music and alcohol

OCA parties with alcohol and music would have to be indoors, music would have to be kept at an acceptable level, and attendance shouldn't be more than around 25 people

Outdoor BBQs during the day are still okay

**Alcohol Policy**

After discussions with 'Alcohol and Drug' policy staff group there has been an incident in Page which has affected the Deans' stance on the policy

Damage in the Page Beer Room was made, which may be linked to beer pong and the Deans are going to now consider the game as a violation of the policy  
 Page's Beer Room is being converted into a 'non-alcoholic lounge,' which may include vending machines, eating space, possibly a TV

Cliff asks about who is paying for the renovation and points out it isn't necessarily fair that money is going to be spent on Page House but not the other Houses

The Deans' intention is for the Page 'library' to no longer have an atmosphere associated with alcohol

**Budget cuts**

Probably more faculty will be involved in Frosh Camp this year since it will be on campus

About \$50,000 will be saved by keeping Camp on campus this year

Many changes will not be implemented until the second half of the year

2-Day PFW is not happening, administration does not want this year's PFW to be affected by cuts

The institute reduced expenditures though layoffs more than program cuts in the student affairs department

The Capra retreat fund is safe and has enough money to cover all of the retreats this year again

Signups for IHC Secretary and Review Committee Chairman will be going up next week

ASCIT Secretary signups are currently up and selections will be soon

BoC Secretary signups come down on Monday. Might only be a temporary appointment.

**Mural Policy**

Pallavi and Jimmy will be having a meeting with Anneila, Mannion, Daily, and the SHC Chair

We would like the draft written this summer to be approved

**Admissions**

Apparently too many undergraduate readers flaked this year and created a problem

Next year the IHC will work closer with Rick on filling in for any lazy application readers

The new IHC may want to review the committee member selection and recommendation process

Anneila is still trying to find a chair for the MOSH selection committee

**Results of the 'Avery Experiment'**

The SHC wants feedback on the success of the Avery residence model

We think there would be a number of issues in trying to bring additional grad students in the North and South Houses

The Houses will make a better attempt this year at incorporating faculty in their own ways

Hopefully next year how the MOSH, RAs, UCCs, and NRFAs (Non-Residential Faculty Associate) interact can be improved

Nadia needs names of interhouse social reps from the Houses for the SExComm members

Lloyd Interhouse was at a different time this year than last year. Houses need to make sure their parties happen once per fiscal year so they can get ASCIT funding, which means Lloyd must make it second term next year.

Daryl points out that we should probably review a number of the Interhouse Sports rules since they seem to be out of date

Marzen tells us that the Tech is losing its sports editor and tells the Presidents that the section will be lost if they can't find another one

The IHC will have to think about how to schedule Rotation next year and what to do about having prefrosh on campus for the first week, including Frosh Camp attendance problems

Max reports that a Darb ran into someone at Lloyd Interhouse that claimed to be a prefrosh

Join Team Tech!

Epilogue: Pallavi chases Max down the breezeway with a bucket of snow yelling "You knew they were coming!"

**ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes**

February 18, 2009

**Officers Present:** Anthony Chong, Pallavi Gunalan, Michael Maseda, Nadia Iqbal, Joel Nikolaus

**Officers Absent:** Andrey Poletayev, Maral Mazrooei

**Guests:** Danielle Brown, Andrew Price, Tzong-lian "Will" Tsay

**Call to order:** 12:15 pm

**Funding:**

Ruddock Interhouse (OPI). It was approved the previous meeting, but it was decided to vote again to confirm approval.

**Motion to approve \$500 for Ruddock Interhouse/OPI. VOTE: Passed (3-0-0)**

Bonuses. The issue was brought back up by Anthony after being tabled at the previous BoD meeting. He said that after talking to Josh Hutchins he believes DavTeam's performance to be adequate and complaints might simply reflect the fact that expectations are unreasonable for only two people. Since there is no pressing need to address bonuses, Michael will look into the complaints that DevTeam is unresponsive and report back at the next meeting.

**Officer Reports:**

V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair): After speaking to the Caltech Dance Troupe, Ramo Auditorium has been unofficially reserved for this year's Student Faculty Conference though it still needs to be officially reserved with Public Events. Will Tsay said that since Caltech Catering is closing down, ASCIT will also need to find an alternative source of food. It was suggested that Andrej speak to Peter Daily about it and hopefully he will have a good idea on how to settle this out.

Also another survey will soon be sent out. Responses to recent surveys have been good.

V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair): Pallavi said that the IHC is currently dealing with several issues: the Beer Room is turning into non-alcoholic lounge, there was some trouble with finding students to read admissions applications, and she plans to meet with Anneila to discuss the mural policy and with Dean Hall to discuss the off campus party policy.

Operations Director: Michael asked for some feedback on the ASCIT Digest. There is a consensus that at the moment there seems to be some repeat with the weekly Caltech update and that it might be a good idea to try to minimize the overlap. Also mentioned that the Digest has yet to mature and that it is better that spamming students with single events.

Several SAC 15 keys still need to be replaced or tracked down. Michael will be getting together a list with all of the assigned SAC 15 keys.

Social Director: Nadia is still not exactly sure what the status of prefrosh camp, and it will not be worked out until she and Maral meet with the administration to discuss the budget.

She said that she is also still putting together a social team. Judging from dinner announcements so far, there has been little interest. Pallavi will try to put pressure on the house presidents to send social representatives from their houses social teams.

**Scheduling:**

BoD Meetings. Maral is unable to make Wednesday meetings due to class conflicts. Since no one has any objections the BoD meetings will now be moved to Fridays at noon on the Olive Walk.

Secretary Signups. Signups for ASCIT Secretary will go up tomorrow and come down sometime next week, preferably Monday or Tuesday so that interviews and appointment can be made by midweek. The intention is to make it early so as to not interfere with IHC secretary signups.

Budget Meeting. It will be either the weekend of the 28<sup>th</sup> or the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**President's Report:**

GSC Sustainability. Danielle Brown is the new GSC sustainability advocate. She is trying to make events more eco-friendly and would like to try to incorporate the undergrads into these efforts. The focus is primarily on reducing disposables by using only bio-degradable corn utensils, encouraging students to bring their own cups or mugs, etc... Also, Earth Day is coming up in April and anyone from ASCIT wanting to help is welcome.

Donut Privileges. All members of the BoD are now able to send out ug-list emails, but they are encouraged to try to keep general spamming to a minimum.

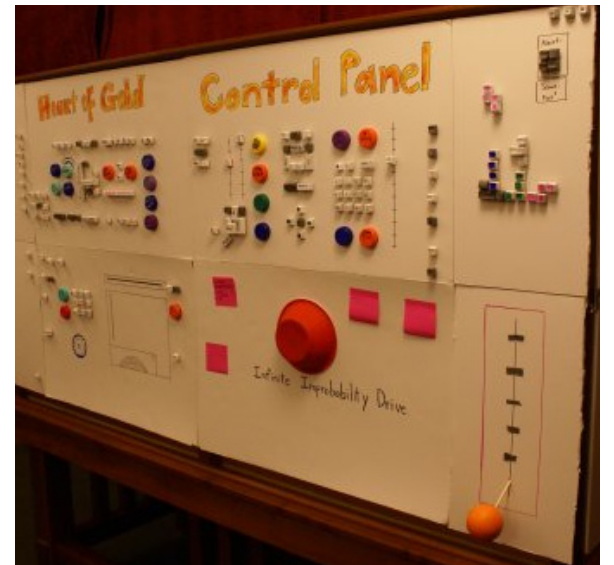
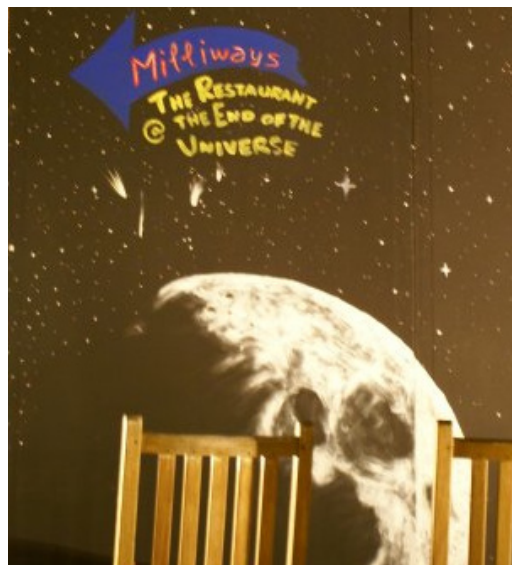
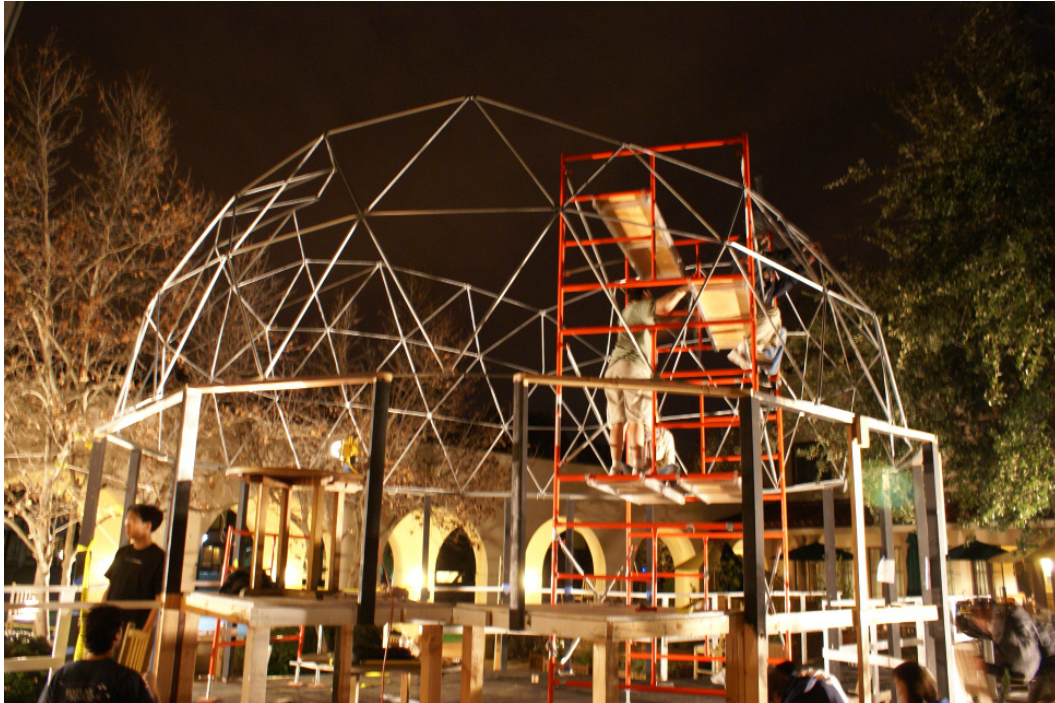
Little t. Andrew Price said that there will probably be greater difficulty in getting funding this year due to campus budget cuts. To make up for this it can increase the funding from ASCIT or outside advertisements, but since there were a couple hundred extra books last year, reducing the number of books printed is also possible. This would, however, require students to voluntarily opt out since ASCIT membership entitles all students to a little t.

**End:** 12:55 pm

**Submitted by** Joel Nikolaus  
 ASCIT Secretary

# AVERY INTERHOUSE

Photos courtesy of Samuel Yang



## Review of Two Lovers

by Hillary Walker

“Two Lovers,” directed and co-written by James Gray, is a welcome departure from today’s abundant romantic comedies and dares to penetrate darker waters. Based in part on “White Nights,” a short story by Dostoevsky, Gray’s film chronicles the simultaneous relationships of a young, troubled man with two women. The story has been told perhaps a thousand times, but the vulnerability, unpolished emotion, and visual beauty build an utterly mesmerizing film.

After the rupture of his engagement and the disappearance of his fiancée, Leonard Kraditor, giftedly played by Joaquin Phoenix, returns to his childhood home in Brighton Beach, a neighborhood of Brooklyn, and takes a menial job at his father’s dry cleaning business. Leonard’s parents brim with worry and love; his mother (Isabella Rossellini) listens at his door and reminds him to take medication for his bipolar disorder; his father (Moni Moshonov) seems desperate to connect but uncertain as to how. Their concern is well founded: the film opens with Leonard’s suicide attempt.

Leonard plunges into a river from a low bridge, but onlookers quickly pull his dark form from the winter water. He returns home sopping and soon after meets attractive, steady Sandra (Vinessa Shaw), who is visiting with her family in a combination of dinner and business negotiations. The next evening, Leonard meets Michelle (Gwyneth Paltrow) in the apartment building hallway. She is deeply alluring but also demanding, dependent, and troubled by drugs. His attraction is extreme

and unquestionable. Michelle, however, remains attached to her wealthy, married lover, while Leonard’s family encourages his awkwardly ripening romance with Sandra.

Exquisitely crafted and acted, the characters carry the film. The performances are moving, nuanced, and never strike a false note. Joaquin Phoenix as Leonard is especially notable. He is awkward—doughy-faced and lumbering with broken, mumbling speech—but he can also be charmingly playful, and his yearning and anxiety somehow escape the expected patterns. Paltrow is striking as exotic, self-centered Michelle, and the performances of Rossellini and Moshonov flawlessly enhance the film’s sense of disappointment and faltering hope. “Two Lovers” strikes an ideal balance: Leonard’s foolish obsession, Michelle’s narcissism, and Sandra’s unconcealed eagerness create discomfort, but the characters never become unsympathetic. Even at their worst, they are sincere and engaging. The film also benefits from excellent cinematography and visual richness. Beautiful images abound: a limp glove pulled by the tide in the darkness, two figures embracing on a snowy rooftop, the lights of stunning, elegant Manhattan. The sweep of the camera is poetic and immersive.

The ending is an ambiguous blend of gloom and happiness. The scope is small, constrained to the everyday lives of a few families, but the film runs deep. Never overworked or forced, “Two Lovers” is emotionally compelling in full.

# Brophy prepares to direct his second TACIT play

by Sarah Marzen

Brian Brophy, interim Director of Theatre Arts at Caltech, is preparing to audition and direct his second play at Caltech. The two and a half hour long play *Galileo* by Brecht tells the story of how Galileo's insistence against a geocentric view rocked the Church and changed Galileo's life.

It's about two weeks to audition time, and Brophy is in the final stages of determining the staging of *Galileo*—but he's still not sure of the location. Right now, the area outside the Gates building is the most probable location, but the Beckman Mall and the Shearman Fairchild Library amphitheater are close seconds.

"A lot of the architecture of the university lends itself to that time period," said Brophy, standing in front of a book detailing the Caltech's architectural history.

The planned decorations are inexpensive and unusual. Pictures of the outside of Gates building strewn over a nearby board show nearby trees alternately covered with large gray mounds that look like trashbags and with colorful baubles that represent planets.

To raise more money, Brophy is orga-

nizing a rummage sale and hoping to find donors. TACIT didn't lose money from its already planned year-long budget, but that year-long budget was essentially "the same budget since 1992." Luckily for Brophy, his earlier play, *Rocket Girl*, actually made a "couple thousand" dollars.

But based on his experience with *Rocket Girl*, Brophy is prepared to "organize time more efficiently with students." Leads are expected to attend seven several-hour long rehearsals each week, and with Teachers' busy schedules, rehearsals need to be efficient as possible.

Brophy also wants to see faculty involvement in this next production, although he also wants to see more undergraduate involvement too. "I want to reach out to professors, faculty, staff—get back to that tradition of Feynman starring in TACIT productions," he said.

Moving forward, Brophy is "optimistic" about the play and TACIT's future. "They [Caltech] could have cut TACIT," he said. "They cut 100 people; they didn't [cut TACIT]. It's a priority."

## What did ASCIT do?

by Casey Jao

A week and half ago, Anthony Chong officially replaced graduating senior Caleb Ng as ASCIT president. Just one year prior, Ng was standing in Anthony's shoes and receiving the torch from then-president Chris Gonzales. He recently took some time with the Tech to reflect on the past year.

Under his watch, ASCIT embarked on "a very ambitious year." His objectives included revitalizing the Student Activities Center (SAC) in the basement of the South Houses; cleaning up the Donut website; continuing to establish the Bioengineering option; and, most importantly, addressing the Caltech Syndrome by "encouraging free and open discourse."

"Bioengineering was a big accomplishment," he said. The 2007 Student-Faculty Conference first discussed the this option. Thanks to a concerted effort by the Academics and Research Committee (ARC), students will now be able to graduate with a degree in Bioengineering.

Students can now avail themselves of the facilities in the SAC. ASCIT helped furnish three study

rooms, the screening room, and several music practice rooms over the past year. Additionally, Ng mentioned that while the student phone room for Alumni Relations was previously off-limits at all times to the average student, "We worked with Dean Hall to open it up to student use." Now, anyone may use the room outside of alumni outreach business hours.

The Donut website has also received a facelift. Since summer 2007, the interface has changed substantially. "A lot of credit goes to Dev team (comprising of students Karthik Sarma and Josh Hutchins)," said Ng. Still, he remarked, some more work has to be done to make the website more user-centric. He faulted himself for "not making it a high enough priority."

By far the most complex issue, however, has been the Caltech Syndrome. Described by the 2008 Student Experience Conference report as an "intellectual burn-out," this problem has remained endemic, according to Ng, partly because "prior to last year, people weren't very open about it." As a result, "a lot of people aren't doing so well and they feel like they're

the only ones going through it."

To address this issue, ASCIT has taken several initiatives aimed mainly at "encouraging free and open discourse," the mantra of Ng's presidency, and getting people to talk about their individual problems. "The Student Experience Conference kicked that off," said he. There, students and faculty discussed various issues related to the Caltech Syndrome. Well-attended followup group discussions occurred in each of the Houses. The faculty also held their own post-conference debriefing, at which many faculty were "shocked," by what students were going through. Additionally, freshmen this year were invited to a freshman luncheon series, designed to highlight potential pitfalls at Caltech and means of recourse.

"The campus has opened up a lot in terms of people being aware that other people are struggling," said Ng. "Instead of complaining we are doing much more constructive and collaborative problem solving." Still, he acknowledged that much more work needs to be done, and that "the Caltech syndrome remains the most pressing issue" for ASCIT in the near future.

## Caltech Catering gone, Broad Café revamped

CDS, FROM PAGE 1

Susan Dittmer.

However, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Campus Life Tom Mannion “feels sorry” for students on the Avery Board Plan, based on his visits to Avery’s Dining Hall. “Avery food doesn’t deliver quality up to our standards and is expensive,” he said.

Daily believes that the Avery residents protesting the switch don’t understand open kitchen. “Feynman plan is much much better than the Avery plan,” he said. “There’s food all day long.”

There is also an extra cost associated with cook-to-order meals for only 125 people, said Daily. “It’s an economy of scale,” he said. “Doing separate cooking for 125 people is extremely expensive.” Daily wouldn’t comment on how much Caltech would save by moving all students to the Feynman Board Plan.

### Caltech Catering

In the same emails that announced the Board switch, House Presidents announced that Caltech Catering would be cut—resulting in a loss of six Caltech employees. “Caltech Catering is not economically viable in the current times,” said Daily. “It takes a lot of people to set up tables, put out silverware...”

According to Daily, Caltech Catering will be replaced by a Food-to-go program, which will be like Caltech Catering without delivery and setup—“like going

to a restaurant.”

“A lot of this [details of Food-to-go] are still being worked on,” said Daily.

### Broad Café and Chandler

Despite rumors that Broad Café will be cut, Daily emphatically denied that Broad Café would disappear. However, Broad Café will change its food, possibly becoming closer to a deli.

“What we try to do on a frequent business is constantly change, upgrade,” said Daily. “Broad has too many concepts going on in one place... and serves a very small number of people.”

When Broad first started out, it served Thai food. The place was dead, according to Daily. He introduced burgers and Mexican food, and earlier this year, paninis.

Currently, the paninis are the “major seller”, Mexican food “still sells”, and “the burgers are really dead.” According to Daily, only about twelve burgers or chicken breasts are sold a day—although in the upcoming Broad Café menu, burgers might be featured as a special once a week.

Chandler will also change its menu, but on a much smaller scale.

“It’s nothing big,” said Daily. “We’re constantly enhancing each station with new recipes, specials.” Many of the new recipes come from magazines like *Cooking Light* or cookbooks like *Joy of Cooking*, and are chosen and/or created by CDS employees.

out, said Daily, but the front section of Winnett will resemble a “neighborhood grocery” with a small section partitioned off to sell books and office supplies. Since there will be room for more freezers, the new C-store will offer more microwaveable meals, and with more room for shelves, the selection of food will expand as well.

“It’s going to be a nicer looking facility with larger variety,” said Daily.

The C-store won’t cut back its hours, but the bookstore section will close with Caltech Wired at 6 PM.

The back section of Winnett—currently packed with textbooks and gifts—will likely become a meeting area or student lounge, but plans are still in a formative stage. Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Tom Mannion will be coordinating discussions with several groups.

Daily plans to convert the current C-store space into more area for dining, perhaps as a room for private functions or meetings with students and professors. The wall between the C-store and the front dining area of Chandler is necessary for structural support, so some partition will remain between the two rooms.

Integrating dining services with the bookstore presents a technological obstacle—the dining computers are run by Blackboard, while the bookstore computers rely on a system called Budgetext. The two systems will remain separate for now.

## New alcohol policy concerns some students

ALCOHOL, FROM PAGE 1

drinking. “The real purpose of these games is to get people to drink.”

Former Page House President, Mason Smith, who worked with administration to initially allow beer pong, disagrees with administration on this point.

“The culture here and how we play games does not encourage this idea of rapid and excessive drinking. When people don’t want to drink beer [while playing beer pong], they won’t. They’ll drink water instead or someone else will drink the beer for them,” said Smith.

In addition to the ban, administration closed Page’s Beer Room and has made plans to renovate it, changing it to an alcohol-free lounge with new couches, tables, and games.

“If you go into the Beer Room after the typical weekend of beer pong, there are cups, empty bottles, and the stench of beer. It’s certainly an area that’s used by a few to the exclusion of the rest of the house,” said Hall. “We’re working with Page to redesign that area as a lounge where everybody in the house can be welcome.”

Some students argue that with the ban on beer pong and closing of a public drinking space, students will be driven to drink privately in their rooms, creating a potentially more problematic issue.

“When people can’t drink in public, they move to the confines of their rooms.... That’s the bigger danger than stuff like beer pong,” said Go. “At least when they drink in public, there’s people there to keep an eye out for them

and make sure they’re okay.”

Smith also sees difficulties with prohibiting drinking games.

“The problem with banning drinking games in general is that the concept of a drinking game is rather poorly defined,” said Smith. “The Deans have said that doing activities while drinking is perfectly fine. So if you play water pong but are drinking while you play, what do you do? One of the presidents said that when they watched the Super Bowl, they took shots based on touchdowns. Is that something that the Resident Associates (RAs) would come in and tell us to stop?”

Dean Hall acknowledges that banning drinking games will bring up difficulties in defining what exactly a drinking game is and where to draw the line.

“Now that we’ve banned beer pong, people will begin playing variations of it and so we’re forced into playing that [defining] game, which is unfortunate. We’d rather deal with these things on a high level—to simply say don’t do damage to property and behave appropriately—and we’ll still try to do that as these variations of beer pong get tried out,” said Hall. “Basically, competitions that are designed to get people impaired are problematic for us.”

Some have also raised concerns with how the policy will be enforced and how it may affect the relationship between RAs and students.

Smith said, “It is a hard thing to enforce. If a RA walks into a room and sees people tossing things in cups, that’s a red flag. So are they going to start peering into cups? People that are talking and drinking together could

potentially be playing a drinking game. So theoretically, an RA has to investigate that. It seems somewhat ridiculous.”

Hall states that the ban is like any other component of the alcohol policy and expects its enforcement to be no different.

“This is just one of many parts of the policy, and they’re all enforced in a similar way,” said Hall. “When a student is found in violation of the policy, then first there’s a warning from the RA and the policy is explained to the student. When that happens again, there’s a second warning. If the behavior continues, the student has to talk to the deans. If that has no effect, eventually we’d ask the student to leave Caltech housing. “We don’t ask the RA to ever impose any punishment on students—only to keep an eye out and educate students,” added Hall.

While the change in alcohol policy appears permanent, both students and administration are hopeful that communication between the two sides will continue for future issues and that greater agreement may be reached.

Said Go, “I’ll continue to talk to them about all these things, and hopefully when the dust has settled we’ll be able to continue to push for the student perspective, as well.”

“I think it’s important that the students buy into things. It’s no good if the students think the alcohol policy is unfair and unrealistic. Then we’re actually in a worse situation,” said Hall. “We want to be reasonable, and I think we tried to be reasonable about this. We’ll see how it goes.”

## Changes to C-Store, Wireless, and Bookstore

By Marissa Cevallos

STAFF WRITER

Next term, Winnett will resemble a grocery, not a bookstore, as the convenience store moves into the front section and the last textbooks are sold off.

The C-store staff will move into Winnett, and the entire bookstore staff will remain at Caltech for only the next couple of months.

In the past year, textbooks sales have declined 30%, while Caltech Wired, the computer and software arm, continues to be profitable. Director of Dining and new Director of Housing Peter Daily did not comment how much money the consolidated bookstore/C-store will save.

The bookstore will hold “massive sales” during the spring term to clear textbooks and office supplies. Students will be able to find books for their spring term classes, but not for next fall.

The decision comes as more and more students are turning to online booksellers for new books, and have always bought used books from upperclassmen.

“Everyone is buying online,” said Daily. “The students are very tech-savvy.”

The new bookstore will be stripped to its bare bones: basic office supplies, mostly pens and folders with the Caltech logo, books by Caltech authors, and Caltech clothing will remain, but textbooks and most office supplies will be gone.

No blueprint has been worked

## News Briefs: The Outside World

By Pradeep Ramesh

STAFF WRITER

### Beijing, China:

A 62-year-old woman will be the first of a group of 10 people to be tried for “disturbing public order” during the Beijing Paralympics.

The group, including a 79-year-old woman, travelled to Beijing to protest against property seizures and local corruption; however, shortly after an interview with the New York Times, plainclothes police officials, who had surreptitiously followed them from their hometown province, arrested the group thus preventing them from ever airing their grievances.

During the summer Olympics, Beijing had designated three parks as “protest zones,” where any citizen could, in theory (with a permit, openly protest as long as the demonstrations were peaceful and did not violate Chinese law. By the end of the summer Olympics, none of the permits were granted, aided by the fact that any would-be dissenter had to apply for the permit at a nearby police-station. Several were detained for disturbing the public peace and while most were eventually

released after stern warnings, some like Huang Liuhong and her 4-month old son were placed under arrest in a government hotel and have not been seen or heard from since.

### Islamabad, Pakistan:

After weeks of heavy fighting, the Pakistani government, headed by President Asif Ali Zardari, established a truce with Taliban militants concentrated in the Swat valley bordering Afghanistan.

Despite intense American lobbying against such a deal, the Pakistani government moved ahead with the negotiations citing increasing public resentment against the war. Past peace deals with the militants have ended in failure and instead bought time for the militants to rearm and reorganize their defenses.

The combination of heavy casualties, public resentment of American missile strikes, and the global economic downturn has raised doubts about the strength and capability of the newly elected civilian government. As part of the deal, the government has accepted Islamic law in parts of the valley controlled by the militants. Under the Shariah law, any resident caught engaging in “un-Islamic” activities, including

watching television, dancing, shaving beards (for men) is publicly executed. The militants’ frequent use of torture has raised cries from human-rights organizations around the world.

### Air Mountains, Niger:

Surging global demand for uranium has sown the seeds of civil war in Niger between a band of Tuareg nomads and the government.

Niger has one of the world’s largest uranium deposits and is the fifth largest exporter of uranium. Because of global warming, more and more countries are turning to nuclear power as a cleaner and cheaper alternative.

Countries such as China, India, and France have invested heavily in Niger, infusing the nation with a flush of new wealth that experts believe could lift the country, where one in five children die before the age of five, out of poverty. The nomads, however, have argued for a larger share of the wealth, which they believe is rightfully theirs.

The government, in response to nomad threats, has launched an active army offensive against the “rebel” tribes. This conflict could prove to be another example of Africa’s bloody civil wars.

## Men's and Women's Basketballs Teams Lose Last Home Games of the Season



Ryan Elmquist goes for the shot while teammate Travis Haussler watches intently.



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## Upcoming Games

**Feb. 22**  
**Fencing at UC Irvine, IFCSC**  
**Final Event & Awards**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Feb. 24**  
**Men's Basketball at CMS**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**Feb. 27**  
**Baseball at Whittier**  
**2:30 P.M.**

**Feb. 28**  
**Men's Tennis at Redlands**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**Women's Tennis vs.**  
**Redlands**  
**9:30 AM**

**Baseball vs. Whittier**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**Track and Field**  
**Rossi Relays at CMS**  
**12:00 P.M.**



## The Weekly Scoreboard

**February 20**

**Women's Tennis at CMS - L (9-0)**

**Men's Tennis vs. CMS - L (9-0)**

**Baseball vs. CMS L (16-3)**

**February 21**

**Men's Basketball vs. Redlands - L (87- 72)**

**Baseball at CMS - L (0-12) and L (1-16)**

**Women's Basketball vs. Redlands - L(63-29)**

**Women's Tennis vs. Cal Lutheran - L (9-0)**

**Men's Tennis at Cal Lutheran - L (9-0)**

## Dr. Not-so-smart

“They may say that emulation is the best compliment, but all I only have one thing to say ‘Dr. Smart, it’s on!’”

-Dr. Not-so-smart

Dear Dr. Not-so-smart,

I’m taking this humanities class and; I’m failing it. On principle, I hate English classes because, I don’t come to Caltech to take English. But but but, I hate F’s. What should I dooooo?

Sincerely,

Concerned Science Student

Dear Idiot,

Why are you still taking a class that you are failing? Drop Day is soon. Get in gear, admit that you don’t know what you are doing, and get your advisor or the Deans to sign a drop card.

On the other hand, it might be good for you to get an F. I’m guessing, by the way that you wrote that letter, that this will be your first F ever. You’re probably one of those perfectionist students who whimpers when presented with a B+ problem set. Getting an F will surely shock you into understanding how meaningless grades are.

I mean, let’s face it: if you end up sticking with the course and getting a P, it won’t be because you suddenly understood the first half of the term. It will be because you actually started reading the book in your English course instead of just barely dragging yourself to class.

So stick with the English course if you want. But beware the rocky road ahead, in which the biggest rocks include reading a book without equations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Not-so-smart

Dear Dr. Not-so-smart,

I went to Soup Plantation for dinner, and I saw this really hot guy. Unfortunately, he was with another really hot guy. And he was so good-looking. So all signs point to him being gay. Now I’m sad. What should I do?

Sincerely,

I’m-in-love-with-a-gay  
Dear Hopeless,

Now, I’ll be honest. I’ve had huge crushes on gay guys before. Huge. But gay guys don’t typically like you back in that same way, even if they think that they’re straight. (And there are, in my mind, a lot of gay guys who think they’re straight out there.)

Really, the problem is that gay guys are perfect boyfriends, except that they aren’t aroused by your womanly features. They are emotionally sensitive, well-groomed, and care about their appearance. Straight guys will look at you funny when you break down and cry because your diet isn’t working; gay guys will hug you and say, “I understand, dear.”

The solution to this problem, obviously, is to adopt the policy that gay-ness is not genetic; every person determines his or her sexual orientation by choice. So your job is to seduce the gay guy so that he realizes that he’s actually straight. It’s a tough job, but a noble one. Get to it.

Sincerely,

Dr. Not-so-smart

## Have you seen this man?

Skynet is looking for Derek Reese, aka Brian Austin Green, after his role in leading the human resistance. Reports indicate that he might be disguising himself as an undergraduate at Caltech. If you see him please contact local authorities. This man is considered armed and dangerous.

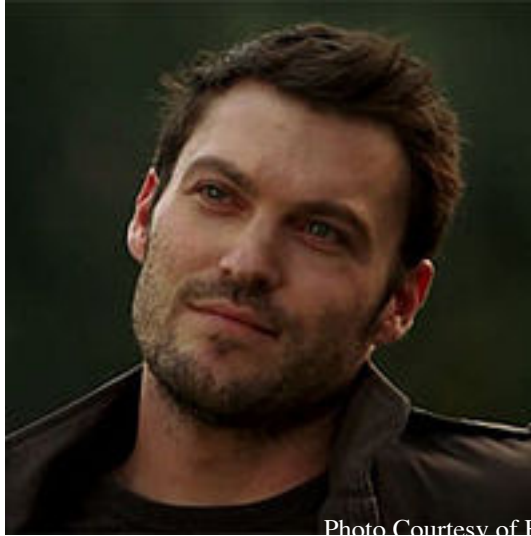


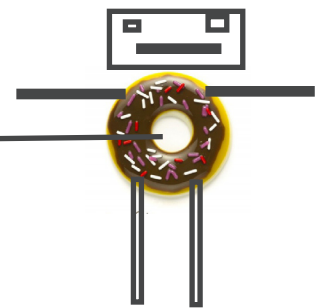
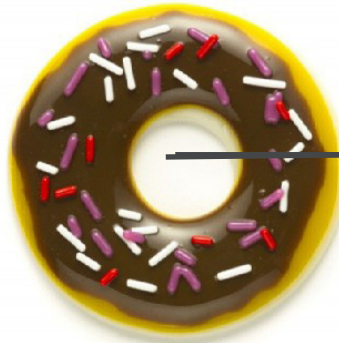
Photo Courtesy of E

A photo of Derek Reese taken during his time as leader of the resistance movement.



A more recent photo of Derek in his current alias Ibrahim 'Hima' El-Awady.

There is a reason that ASCIT serves donuts to students.



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