



“Caltech will survive”, but without a few familiar faces

By Sarah Marzen

COPY EDITOR

Tim Chang, Senior Director of Housing, has been a staple of Caltech student life for thirteen years. Just a little over a week ago, undergraduates found out that Senior Director of Dining Peter Daily would be taking over both Housing and Dining departments—and Tim Chang would no longer be a Caltech employee.

Scheduling an interview with Chang was easier than it had ever been. He responded to his email in characteristic alacrity, writing, “Sure. I’m in from 9:30 until 3 with a few meetings here and there. Pick a time and I’ll let you know if it works.” Perhaps this was just luck, but the very first time I suggested was open.

There weren’t many smiles in the Housing office—most doors closed, the visible faces longer than usual. Soon-to-be-former Director of Housing Tim Chang sat at his desk, looking less stressed than he had in weeks.

“Caltech will survive,” he said, when asked about the many layoffs. And he repeated that phrase again and again, when asked how Caltech would fare with only one person in charge of both Dining and Housing.

“People remaining will do their best to do the same thing,” he said. “But I don’t know how you could do the same type of

thing” with, for example one supervisor and one call center staff instead of three of each.

“You’ll wait longer for more self-service,” he predicted, “and the services will not be as complete.”

Why him?

Chang was told that there was only enough money in the slimmed-down budget for one Auxiliaries Director.

In Chang’s understanding, the reasoning for his layoff is vaguely ironic: he had done his job so well that he was no longer needed. Seven years ago, he reorganized the Housing office, and the Housing staff can function well without constant supervision; but Daily is still in the midst of reorganizing Dining.

“The learning curve for me to step into Dining would be steep,” said Chang, “but for Peter, the learning curve is not as steep... Why should we have to recreate the wheel?”

Some of Chang’s colleagues were surprised by the decision nonetheless—they thought the administration would have wanted to recreate Housing’s successful organization in Dining, he said. Chang was also surprised, since he had not been consulted about the decision.

Please see Chang, **Page 3**



Photo by Arnee Gillespie

Tim Chang chats to students on his living room floor about what’s next in his career.

Seniors rush on grad schools

But incoming grad students will find Caltech stipends mostly unaffected by the recession

By Marissa Cevallos

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the shrinking job market makes fewer offers to the Class of 2009, more seniors are ducking for cover in graduate school.

Applications to Caltech graduate programs increased by 5 percent from last year, while applications increased by 15 percent to Duke, 5 percent to Stanford, 9 percent to Yale, 9.5 percent to Princeton, and 7 percent to Michigan, according to the Harvard Crimson.

“We’re going to see a steady increase as the job market is in flux,” said Natalie Gilmore, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies at Caltech.

For at least this year, money for these prospective students isn’t drying up at Caltech. Gilmore expects the average minimum stipend of \$25,500 to remain unchanged this year, but admits no guarantees can be made in this economic climate.

The number of Caltech seniors applying to graduate school hasn’t changed drastically, according to Registrar Mary Neary Morley,

who talks to every senior before graduation, but the days of six-figure starting salaries at hedge funds are over.

“No one has told me they’re working at a financial company,” said Morley. The vast majority of seniors are waiting to hear back from graduate schools, or just started to hear a week or two ago. Morley suspects their offers may be more meager than in the past.

Some departments at Caltech saw a greater surge in applicants this year than others—Humanities and Social Science applications increased by about 40 percent and Engineering and Applied Science increased by about 20 percent.

Money matters

Though endowments have taken a hit nation-wide, Caltech may be better positioned than its competitors to continue funding research because most of its money comes from outside grants.

“We don’t rely on our endowment as much as Princeton or Harvard does,” said Graduate Dean John Hall. “We may be a

Please see Grads, **Page 3**

Cutting back across the board

Financial aid, however, sees increase; arts and Study Abroad safe

By Chris Kennelly

STAFF WRITER

With the endowment suffering losses due to the recession, Caltech is preemptively restructuring its budget.

The institute will now avoid spending money from the principal of the endowment, even though losses in endowment revenue could otherwise cause Caltech to dig into endowment principal.

“We’re not going to spend as much out of the endowment as that calculation because the money’s not there,” said Dean Currie, Vice President for Business and Finance. “When someone gives you an endowment for perpetuity, you want the same real amount of money forever.”

Losses on specific endowments are expected to hamper division budgets, according to Currie. “The divisions...have a lot of their own endowed funds, so they’re just getting a lower payout,” he said. “Many universities are having hiring freezes, but we aren’t.” The lower endowment payouts for academic divisions will corre-

spond to about half of \$25 million in planned cuts.

Other operating cuts will affect the Caltech auxiliaries, which consist of organizations like Student Affairs, public events, and human resources. The Caltech catalog will be published online only. Mail will be delivered once a day, rather than twice a day. New buildings will add to the campus square footage, but new custodians won’t be added.

However, the cuts shouldn’t directly affect undergraduates, according to Currie. “One thing that’s being increased is undergraduate financial aid,” he said. “Most undergraduate financial aid comes out of endowed funds. Our commitment for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 is unchanged.”

According to Anneila Sargent,

Vice President for Student Affairs, some programs won’t even experience cuts. “I made no cuts to the music and performing arts budgets,” she said. In addition to the music and performing arts budgets, Sargent expects that Study Abroad program will be unchanged.

Other programs aren’t so lucky. “We made some changes, for budgetary reasons, for athletics,” said Sargent.

Each year, the Board of Trustees decides how much money from the endowment to spend in the general budget, according to Currie. The Board usually chooses the size of the payout based on the average return of the endowment over the past twelve quarters and a recommendation from management.

Correction: In the Feb 2 issue, we reported that Vice President for Student Affairs Anneila Sargent was not available for comment on “Housing director gone in deep budget cuts” when in fact the California Tech had not attempted to contact her, a result of a miscommunication. We apologize for the error.



Cafe Verde makes the grade

Page 7

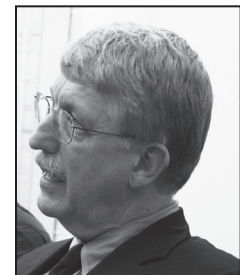
In This Issue

Super savings on stimulus
ASCIT Election statements
Animated film not up to hype

page 2
pp. 4-6
page 4

Head of Human Genome Project talks on God

page 5



Deep discounts: a 2% off sale in DC

By Evans Boney

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's no big secret that if you are a Republican, I probably disagree with you. About almost everything. Especially now that Limbaugh appears to be the strongest voice in your party.

The current GOP stance on the stimulus is downright disgusting, and I think they are doing it only for political points. I'll grant that they won the points, but I think they have put (and still leave) the country in dire straits for their idealism. For a dead idea.

Many leaders in the House have said they were for a bill only if they could strip out unwanted spending (the whole bill perhaps?). They say they recognize the severity of the problem, but can't go against their conscience.

Forgetting, for a moment, those in the Republican party who actually are the 2nd incarnation of Hoover (the few who are against government intervention at all),

we are in agreement that something needs to be done about this crisis.

It's like we all live in the same apartment complex. The central air has gone off and the outside temperature is above 110 with 100% humidity. People have actually begun to die in the sweltering heat. And the neighborhood association (led by community organizer Obama) wants to fix the central air.

The GOP, ever the fiscal watchdogs (except for the trillions of dollars in debt they gave us over the past 8 years... oops), are holding out. They think it costs too much to fix the central air, and that we shouldn't buy until the central air unit is at least 2% off retail. They don't deny that it's hot, and they don't deny that people are hurting.

They say they recognize the severity of the problem, but still they are stalling for a 2% sale? Ask your favorite retailer if that

kind of sale brings in the customers... it doesn't.

Where do I get the 2% number from? It's the sum total of ALL objections from the congressional GOP leaders, who voted unanimously against the bailout. From the sound of it, you'd think "com-

"The current GOP stance on the stimulus is downright disgusting, and I think they are doing it only for political points."

promise" meant "give everything the GOP wants or else".

There's already hundreds of billions in trickle down wealth in this bailout (42% of the bill is tax cuts at last count).

But they want more, and they'll be damned if they fund projects like (verbatim, from a list published by the house minority

leader Boehner): \$1.4 billion for rural waste disposal programs, \$500 million for flood reduction projects on the Mississippi River, \$500 million for state and local fire stations, \$650 million for wildland fire management on forest service lands, \$1.2 billion for "youth activities," including youth summer job programs, \$850 million for Amtrak.

For those who don't recall their US History, many of these ideas are literally culled directly from the successes of the New Deal, which substantially lowered unemployment. And, really, they are opposing a jobs program for youngsters? That 2010 attack ad writes itself. Who are these people?

The GOP of today is letting people die of the heat to save 2% and this is supposedly good for the people? Either that or they

are doing this for purely political reasons while people are dying in the heat. Oh, and they of course oppose funding Medicaid to get those people proper treatment as well. \$40 B in aid to distressed states (like California, where all state employees recently took a 10% pay cut... excuse me, furlough) was the first in their target for a "compromise".

So, after griping about the above spending in the bill, what actually got the axe in the compromise? Education. \$16 B for school construction, \$3.5 B for higher education construction, \$2 B for Health Information Technology Grants, \$600 M for No Child Left Behind (yes, even GOP programs for education are still "fat" in the bill), \$100 M for NIST. That's 2.4% of the original bill.

I guess education is no priority for the new administration.

Congrats Republicans, you found a steal of a deal: 2.4% off, and you only slightly compromised the future of the country.

The California Tech

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

Editor-in-Chief
Marissa Cevallos

Business Managers
Robin Abraham

Photography Editor
Jonathan Tsai

Layout Editors
Hanna Liu
Yang Yang

Webmaster
Chris Kennelly

Staff

Dannah Almasco
ZeNan Chang
Andrew Freddo
Casey Jao
Chris Kennelly
Natalya Kostandova
Vibha Laljani
Harold Martin
Sarah Marzen
Joel Nikolaus
Gloria Tran
Wesley Yu
June Zhang

Circulation
Aryan Safaie

Adviser
Dr. Gary Libman

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 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.

The advertising deadline is 5 PM Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera-ready art, but *The Tech* can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at business@caltech.edu. For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

In response to the GSC's proposed strike

Undergraduates shouldn't have to pay money for services they don't need, especially when the Institute is struggling for money

By Giri Gopalan

UNDERGRADUATE

I am writing this article in response to Evans Boney's letter in the February 2nd issue of the Tech, which details the Graduate Student Council's opposition to the proposed changes in the Caltech Health Care policy.

In my mind, many of the points made by Mr. Boney are tenuous, and a call for a CDS strike seems terribly drastic and misguided.

Let me begin by addressing why the original policy was flawed.

There is absolutely no justification to force families to spend thousands of additional dollars towards healthcare if they already have it. I believe in an individual's right to make financial decisions on their own, and if one can find alternate health insurance outside of Caltech, they should be able to exercise their right to choose.

The old policy should have gone irrespective of the current dismal economic climate, as it was inherently nonsense.

Mr. Boney's concern seems to be directed towards the appropriation of savings derived from reduced financial aid expenditure. He seems rather sure that the additional savings will be reinvested in financial aid. Perhaps he is privy to certain undisclosed information, but if the basis for this belief is simply the January 26th's article in the Tech regarding the elimination of freshman merit aid, he is making an incredibly

vast leap to suggest all savings will be spent on financial aid.

In addition, Mr. Boney feels that it is unjustified for graduate students to indirectly pay for more financial aid by taking on the burden of increased premiums. I am sure he had no qualms with the old system, in which undergraduates paid thousands of dollars in premiums for no added benefit, simply to keep Caltech's insurance pool larger and consequently keep graduate premiums down.

In fact, I would be rather surprised if a single graduate student's premium went up by 2,000 dollars, which is the reported reduction in mandatory fees cited in Mr. Boney's article.

The plan to strike CDS to offset savings from the new plan is absurd. Caltech's recent measures to cut costs should indicate simply that; they are trying to reduce costs (not necessarily spend more on financial aid, which is Mr. Boney's critical assumption). Just like any other firm struggling to survive in the current recession, Caltech must find ways to make itself lean.

This is crucial to the Institute's survival in the future, and its ability to maintain itself as a world class center for fundamental research.

For the student body to willfully hamper the Institute's efforts to curtail cost, based wholly on an assumption that is unfounded, is absolutely inane.

The meaning of community

Is Caltech hopelessly divided by house and age?

By Travis Scholten

UNDERGRADUATE

The dictionary on my Mac offers several definitions of community, but the most applicable one is this: "the people of a district or country considered collectively, esp. in the context of social values and responsibilities."

Over the last few weeks, many events have occurred that challenge us to look at how we at Caltech define the concept of "community". In no particular order, they are: the senior graduation robe question, the budget cuts, and the general lack of communication and interaction between the graduate and undergraduate students.

So to the first issue- senior graduation robes. These pages have been filled with a lot of dialogue on this issue, and it is not my intent to add fuel to any residual embers. I would, however, like to ask us to consider the quintessential question that seems to cut right to the heart of the problem - are the seniors graduating as a class or are the seniors groups of people that just happen to be graduating together? Do seniors feel like they belong more to their House or to the student body in general?

And to the second - graduate/undergraduate interaction and communication. If we take numbers from 2007, there were approximately 800 undergrads and

1100 graduates. Just around 35% more- a healthy bit larger. This should not mean that no dialogue should go on between the two groups. Regardless of age, we are all students of this Institute; that alone should unite us. A dialogue between the students is a powerful force—powerful enough to enact changes that all students want.

Finally, the issue of budget cuts. Regardless of House affiliation or status as a student (grad/undergrad), the Institute as a whole must find ways to survive this recession. If history has taught us anything, it is that in times of trouble the entire community must come together and act, or else the entire community will suffer.

This leads me back to considering the definition of community I presented at the outset. Is the student body here at Caltech truly a community? Or are we a group of students segregated by age and House affiliation who happen to be present on the same campus?

If we more of the former, we will weather these problems and survive; we will go on to grow even more as a university. If we are more of the latter, it seems very unlikely that any positive change will occur.

Although it's worth noting that gold is purified at only very high temperatures - perhaps after we have tackled these issues before us will we realize how far we've come toward creating a genuine community of students.

Chang worked for 13 yrs Profs may be more cautious in funding

CHANG, FROM PAGE 1

"I felt... shocked. You think you're doing a good job," he said. "I'd like to believe this was the only solution—I'd hate to believe this [cutting a Director] is what they did first."

"I thought I'd be one of the 'lifers'," he said. "... the people that stay at Caltech until they retire."

What's next?

In the past several days, about six people have come into his office, crying over his departure, he said. Faculty members have offered to be references, or even babysit his two children.

"It's been a great ride," he said. "I've worked at other schools—that doesn't happen."

Faculty aren't the only ones who are sad to see him go.

"Many students don't give Tim Chang the credit he deserves," said senior Kevin Noertker, who has worked with Chang during honor code talks for RA training

and informally chatting during Tom Mannion's cooking class. "He truly cares about Caltech students."

Chang will stay until the end of the academic year, helping Daily transition into his new role. He's already started looking for jobs around the area—jobs at Pasadena Community College or the many other Southern California colleges nearby. "After thirteen years I kind of have roots," he said, but he'll go wherever his next job is.

He has a final message for Caltech students, with whom he's occasionally fought with over mural policy and damaged Housing property, among other things.

"Any unpopular decisions I made were not made because I disliked students," he said. "It's because I wanted to protect them."

"Now I can call you guys [students] friends," he said, pointing out that a Senior Director of Housing has to look at students in a professional light. "Maybe I can go to student parties..."

But there is no hiring freeze

GRADS, FROM PAGE 1

little more stable."

Caltech's endowment makes up about 20 percent of its general budget, while MIT relies on its endowment for one-third, Harvard 35%, Yale 44%, and Princeton over 45%.

That means Caltech will have an easier time offering competitive stipends to its incoming graduate students.

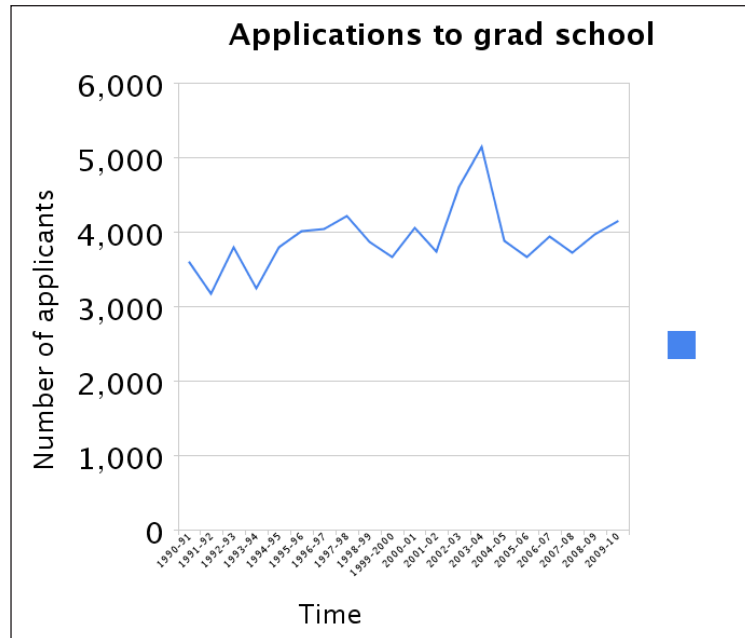
"Caltech is still a good place to be a graduate student," said Hall.

However, Caltech must cut back an average of 5 percent of its general budget to make the \$25-30 million it needs to stay afloat this year.

According to Dean Hall, research and education took a much smaller cut than 5 percent.

For example, despite rumors of a hiring freeze, all seven searches for new faculty since Murray became chair in September are ongoing, according to Richard Murray, department chair of E&AS.

But despite no mandate to re-



Applications to Caltech graduate programs have been relatively unaffected by the economy in the past 20 years. The large spike and decline around 2003-2004 is due to concerns among international students, who make up between 2/3 and 3/4 of graduate applicants, about obtaining visas.

duce the number of graduate students, professors may be hesitant to expand their departments. Current graduate students may hold out on graduating because they

can't find a job, restricting new spots.

"Departments will be cautious about overextending," said Gilmore.

News Briefs

Sarah Marzen and Garrett Lewis

President Obama has proposed a \$800 billion-plus economic stimulus package to Congress, and the House and the Senate are currently clashing over competing versions of this plan.

The plans in the House and Senate both: are in the range of \$800 billion—the House version

is \$819 billion and the Senate version is \$827 billion; include a major tax cut costing \$140 billion that saves up to \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for families that fall under income thresholds; and give emergency assistance to those hardest hit by the recession.

The biggest differences are in areas where the money might not be used in 18 months. Senate moderates argued successfully that long-term spending should be reduced in favor of programs that create or save jobs sooner.

And for anyone who isn't tired of elections, look for **Val Kilmer** to join the list of contenders for a number of high-profile seats up for grabs in 2010 as he runs for Governor of New Mexico. He joins the list with political appointees who face tough re-

election bids in the Senate for the Democrats and a number of weakly held House seats that now seem open to Republican bids as Democrats increasingly appear linked to the very corruption that they promised to eliminate prior to the 2006 and 2008 elections.

Christian, scientist says you can believe in Jesus and the Big Bang

By Wesley Yu
STAFF WRITER

Over twelve hundred people flooded Beckman Auditorium last Thursday to hear Dr. Francis Collins speak at Caltech's first Veritas Forum. Conceived by members of the Caltech Christian Fellowship, the Forum was designed to incite discussions about religion and science.

Dr. Collins, former Director at the NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute, is the author of *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, a personal testimony for why religion and scientific rationality are compatible. His talk, like his book, focused on his personal journey from agnosticism to atheism to faith.

Growing up without faith, Dr. Collins considered himself an agnostic until graduate school, when he says that he believed "second order differential equations were all I needed to understand the world." At this point, he says that he had very little tolerance for people of faith and considered himself an atheist. It was during his third year of medical school that he began to reconsider his beliefs.

"One of my patients was an elderly woman with very advanced heart disease. After sharing her



Photo by Jonathan Tsai

Francis Collins speaks with a small group of students before speaking at Beckman Auditorium.

own faith in God, which gave her a great sense of comfort, she asked me simply: 'What do you believe?' I didn't know."

So, like any good scientist, Dr. Collins started to research the question. It was this intellectual and spiritual path that eventu-

ally led him to C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* and a belief in God. One of the biggest lessons Dr. Collins had was that scientific thinking is not the only type of rational thought.

"You can't approach spiritual questions in the same way that

you approach science," said Dr. Collins. "Both approaches can be rigorous and rational, but they are different."

The talk was not so much to tell people what to believe, but rather to get people thinking about the issue.

"All of these people were talking with each other. That's exactly what we wanted," says Peter Liu, one of the event organizers. "We didn't want to put this event on to make converts... we are just glad we've brought the curious, the skeptics, and the believers to one table."

There was a wide range of reactions from the audience. "I am not sure that I agree with everything he said, but his presentation got me thinking about science and religion in a new way that I had never considered before," said Renee Thomas, a graduate student in Chemistry.

"I thought that Collins made in his talk and in his superb book a very cohesive argument that he believes in a personal God because rather than despite science," wrote Christof Koch, Troendle Professor of Cognitive and Behavioral Biology. "What amazed me about yesterday night was that he addressed for two hours a packed house at Caltech, a seemingly robustly secular high temple dedicated to Science and Technology. Even here, the hunger for the numinal, the search for

meaning, cannot be denied."

Organizers of the event hope that the discussion of religion and science continues beyond Thursday's event.

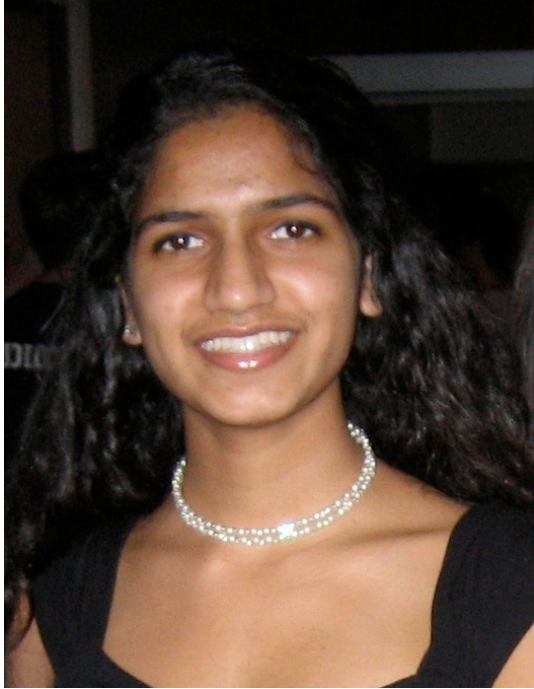
"We haven't begun planning any future events, but they're definitely possible," says Ruslan Kurdyumov, one of the primary organizers of the forum. "I hoped the first event would put Veritas on the map on campus. It seems that it has."

"We are planning to continue these conversations, and in future quarters, we probably will invite other distinguished speakers. However, nothing certain is planned at this time," wrote Wendy Mercer, a chemistry graduate student involved in the earliest planning stages, in an email.

The first Veritas Forum was at Harvard University in 1992. According to the Veritas website, a Veritas Forum "seeks to explore the possibility of truth, beauty and goodness in every aspect of our academic and personal lives... inspired by the idea that Jesus Christ has something relevant to offer our modern university in its search for knowledge, truth and significance." Forums have been held at over 80 campuses around the world. A recording of the Caltech forum will be posted online at <http://www.veritas.org/caltech/recordings>.

Vice President of Non-Academic Affairs

Pallavi Gunalan



In my time here at Caltech, I have been continually surprised and pleased with the amount of power undergrads have on campus. We are fortunate enough to have a great deal of control in decisions that affect our daily life. It is with faith in our shared goals and optimism for our ability to attain them that I am running for Vice President of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair). I am running for this office in particular, because I have not seen a more positive, accurate representation of Caltech students than through the Interhouse Committee.

I must admit, initially I only saw the IHC side of this position. During the events leading up to the recent bylaw change, however, I have become much more aware that I am not only running for a position alongside the house presidents, but also as a member of the newly restructured Board of Directors. This newfound understanding, and my belief that it is important to learn from our mistakes, and learn quickly, pushed me to ask people throughout the houses, and from various forms of student leadership, what they believed was the core problem with the BoD and the IHC. Though opinions varied, the most consistent answer I received was that the student body, and the different student committees, has a pervasive

communication problem. Students don't know what the people they have elected are accomplishing, student leaders don't know what other student leaders are doing, and this combination can lead to misrepresentation of undergraduates to the administration. This is a significant, but fixable, problem.

In the past, the BoD and the IHC have taken turns in being the proactive student leadership body on campus. Recently, we have seen this simply will not work. Ideally the BoD and the IHC should work together—instead of opposing or ignoring each other—in order to best represent students across campus. The IHC Chair is a critical position, because it serves as liaison to and from both of these leadership bodies, and is key in ensuring misunderstandings don't create unnecessary obstacles.

In addition to fulfilling the designated responsibilities of VPNA/IHC Chair, I hope to emphasize the importance of communication. I want to ensure that important and relevant information is transmitted accurately between the students on the IHC and the BoD and the larger student body, for the benefit of all of us students who actually have similar intentions: improving student life at Caltech.

Treasurer

Maral Mazrooei



In the wake of the latest ASCIT bylaw changes, it is our chance to make ASCIT a bigger part of the undergraduate experience. As a member of the Student Experience Trip committee, I recognized that a lack of a school identity is one of the most significant differences that Caltech exhibits compared to other schools. One of the many ways to remedy this, is to have a strong and effective student government. Determined to make a difference, I got involved with the ASCIT Excomm, which played a role in the recent restructuring of ASCIT.

With the current economic situation, there

are many budget cuts across campus. Although ASCIT's budget is not directly affected, we still need to be fiscally responsible. I plan to efficiently allocate funds to clubs by holding them accountable for their contribution to the Caltech community. Many clubs become inactive after receiving funding, and I would like to explore the possibility of regaining this money if they do not follow through. Additionally, my wide interaction with the undergraduate population will help me voice your opinions to the rest of the ASCIT board and administration.

Eric Chin

I won't waste money and will issue checks within a week

Jordan Theriot is also running for the position of Treasurer.

Board Of Control Chair

Andrew Price



I am currently a Sophomore majoring in Applied Physics, and I would be honored to serve as your Board of Control Chair.

Since the position of Honor Chair has been eliminated, it falls again to the Board of Control Chair to take on the role of representing the Honor Code. In addition to my role organizing cases, I will be talking to faculty, administration, and incoming students about the Honor Code. I am very enthusiastic about the Honor Code and believe that clear explanation of BoC proceedings will benefit the whole community.

A recently appointed Honor Code Taskforce is examining the Honor Code in more detail. I am always open to change that makes BoC procedure as clear and equitable as possible.

In the past year I have served as the Dabney House representative to the BoC. I have also served as editor of the little t, and as a student representative to the Campus and Residential Life Committee and the Trustee Student Experience Committee.



MYEISHA PEGUERO GAMIÑO, MAHOD '03
Vice President and Corporate Giving Manager
Washington Mutual, Inc.

What's your journey?

APU's graduate business degree reinforced Myeisha's desire to be a leader of change through Washington Mutual's community programs.

To learn more about Myeisha's inspiring story, and to explore the accelerated and traditional MBA and Master of Arts in Human Resource and Organizational Development programs:

CLICK www.apu.edu/explore/sbm
CALL (866) 209-1559
EMAIL sbmgrad@apu.edu

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT » Graduate Programs

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Liuyi Pei



It's midterms week, and most of you probably have a load of work to do. As you begin to prepare for that exam you're planning to start at 1am, certain thoughts will cross your mind: "I wish the professor could have gone a little slower through this material," or "I wish last week's homework covered more concepts and less tedious algebra", or "if only I could go to sleep after this exam, but for that 5-hour problem set that's due on the same day in the same class." This is where ARC takes its responsibility. If elected Vice President of Academic Affairs, I will work for all the changes the student body would like to see in the academic and research aspects of Caltech. I will list just a few:

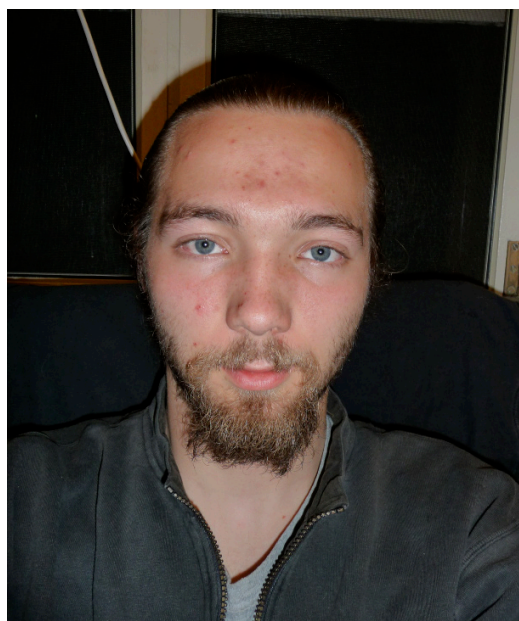
The most important duty of ARC is to ensure teaching quality. While it is currently extremely responsive in dealing with problematic courses, I believe that ARC should take the initiative to prevent these courses from appearing in the first place. There should exist a set of official rules set by faculty and students for teaching at Caltech that will prevent professors from setting unreasonable expectations. ARC should advocate consistency from year to year in required courses within each option so that seniors won't

be stuck with needing to take one more course that is not offered. Professors need incentive to focus more on teaching rather than just research, and exceptional teaching methods needs to be publicized among the faculty, perhaps through peer-review. ARC should aim for the use of a standardized feedback website, such as Moodle, so that course feedbacks can be given continuously throughout the term to accurately reflect the work load each week rather than a generalization of the entire term. ARC should also work with the administration to see to the consequences of poor teaching reflected in the surveys.

Advising also has much room for improvement. Many students interact with their advisors on a purely sign-my-drop-card basis. Actual meetings with faculty advisors can be extremely valuable for academic, research, and career advice, and should be mandatory and maybe even given a designated time campus-wide.

The ARC is a very dependable student organization, and I am willing to put in all my effort to make the improvement of undergraduate academics and research an even more efficient process.

Andrey Poletayev



I don't want to bother you with flowery political statements, so here is what I want to do as VPAA/ARC chair:

I want to implement the suggestions voiced at the Student Experience Trip (whenever that comes out) and the Student Experience Conference (SEC). While serving as Ricketts ARC Rep this past year, I was in charge of writing the follow-up report from SEC that was distributed to all houses, faculty and administrators. The conference and the report have proposed improvements and catalyzed the discussion of TQFR surveys and the freshman/option advising system. Serving as a student representative on the Curriculum Committee, I am also pushing for improving under-united courses across Caltech. As VPAA, I want to see these and other proposed changes carried out and implemented.

We also need a more effective feedback system for course and academic policy issues (this has also been one of the major points of the SEC). While in the long run the conference itself is an example of a working feedback venue, short-term (on the scale of a term or a course) mechanisms are currently lacking. For academic issues, ARC

should be the first venue for such feedback. As soon as any ARC rep hears a legitimate complaint, the VPAA and ARC must act quickly to alleviate the issue. For example, this term it only took the ARC one week to work with the professor of ACM 95B and change the grading scheme of the course to better reflect student opinion. Waiting for TQFR results would have only done something for next year or some other future time. I hope that this and other cases will encourage more open communication, because there are many complaints that never get voiced and delivered to ARC and therefore are never addressed. If elected VPAA, I will be in the premier position to make the ARC actively seek feedback to respond to it immediately.

Lastly, ASCIT is in need of people willing to not only try to "improving the academics of the Institute for all undergraduates" (ASCIT By-laws, office of VPAA), but also commit to accomplishing it. In the past year, I have put in the work and effort that it takes to make it happen. I want this office to get things done, so please vote for me.

Operations Director

Tim Black



We need people in ASCIT who will do their jobs well.

It's great that we have restructured ASCIT, but it is now even more important that everyone in ASCIT does what they are supposed to do. So here's what I'm going to do: I will work with the editors of the Big T, little t, Totem, Donut and the Tech to make sure they stay on track. I will maintain a list of active clubs. I will make sure student organizations can easily get what they need from ASCIT - without having to attend a BoD meeting every time they want something.

With the closing of the bookstore, there will soon be space opening up in Winnett Student Center. I will work to reserve some of that area as a lounge for students. I will work with the Social Director to have better campus-wide events. Having been a traveler on the Student Experience Trip, I will work to put our recommendations into practice.

I have worked with ASCIT throughout this past year, and I am excited about what it has the chance to do this year; I look forward to making things happen.

Michael Maseda



The job of ASCIT Operations Director is one that I feel qualified and capable to perform. I started as a member of the President's Staff working on the MHF for the Student Experience Trip, creating actionable items from the Hunt Report on Student Life, and working to make Donut easier to use and more informative. I was then promoted to the position of ASCIT Communications Manager, where I currently work on improving communication between ASCIT and the rest of the Caltech community. So yes, I am the guy who sends out the Digest ever week. Among

the main responsibilities of the Ops is oversight of publications, upkeep of ASCIT property, and essentially making sure ASCIT runs smoothly. I already have experience in publications, with my involvement in recruiting students to work for The Tech and communicating with other schools' newspapers about the SET. I want to see ASCIT run more efficiently, and I want to help make things better for everyone. I really care about Caltech, and I know that as Ops I will make a difference.

Social Director

Nadia Iqbal



My name is Nadia, and I'm a sophomore in Dabney Hovse. Since I am incredibly responsible and outgoing, I believe that I am perfect for the job of ASCIT Social Director. Also, I will keep up good contacts with other top members of the ASCIT structure, as well as the SEXCOMM, the social executive committee, composed of social team members of all eight houses. In light of the success of last term's BDR, a joint party funded by Blacker, Dabney and Ricketts, I will make sure to coordinate and meet with the SEXCOMM to organize more Interhouse parties that need little construction, and create a greater sense of community. I will do my best to create campus wide social events, like the Jimmy Eat World concert, to attract all members of the undergraduate body, and take charge of projects and endeavors to promote Interhouse activities. I will get the job done and get it done right.

Heather Widgren



I'd like to introduce myself to those who don't know me, especially the many frosh I still need to meet. After spending first term abroad, there are a lot of new faces out there for me. So: Hi, 'New Faces'. I'm Heather, a junior chemistry major in Page. Nice to meet you.

I'm back from Denmark with fresh ideas about how to liven up the Caltech experience. While I realize that Caltech possesses its own unique social environs, I think there are some areas where we have a lot of potential! Both on and off campus lie opportunities waiting to be explored, and the social director should bring them to the attention of the general Techer population. I posit that Caltech has room for more

ASCIT Elections

Polls are open on Monday, February 9 from 10:00 AM until 11:59 PM. We're voting on the following positions:

Vice President of Academic Affairs
Vice President of Non-Academic Affairs
Director of Operations
Treasurer
Director for Social Activities
Board of Control Chair
Board of Control Secretary
Conduct Review Committee Student Chair
Tech Editor(s)

There will be a vice presidential debate on Monday, February 9, at noon on the Olive Walk, near the sundial. If there is rain, the debate will likely be moved to Winnett Lounge.

Any questions and concerns should be addressed to the Review Committee: revcomm@ugcs.caltech.edu

Committee Chair: Jason Cerundolo (jrc@caltech.edu)

Avery Representative: Ben Picker
Blacker Representative: John Hasier
Dabney Representative: Ashley E. Potts
Fleming Representative: Heejae Kim
Lloyd Representative: Ben Zax
Page Representative: Ryan Newton
Ricketts Representative: Hima El-Awady
Ruddock Representative: Stephanie Chang

medium-scale events. 'Why medium? Why not BIG?' I think that medium-sized events can bring together people from different social groups in a way that large parties sometimes can't. How about an all-campus scavenger hunt or a Tour de Cuisine around Pasadena? I welcome your ideas, and as your social director, I would love to help make them happen! Thanks!

Tech Editor

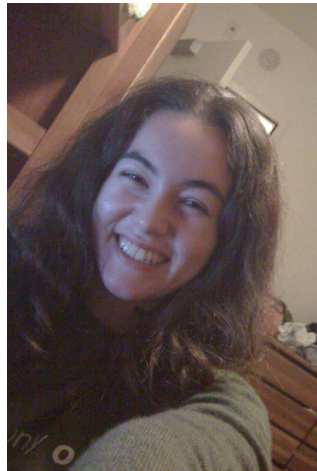
Chris Kennelly



Hanna Liu



Sarah Marzen



Every newspaper has a duty to make sure that the people in power are held accountable for implementing good policy. Now more than ever, the Tech needs to be Caltech's watchdog-- how will Caltech's budget cuts affect students, faculty, and staff? Will administrators hold true to their promise to not compromise Caltech's research and education? How will student leaders fare with ASCIT's new bylaws?

All three of us have worked on the Tech since we were freshmen, and we know that the Tech won't be the same without Marissa Cevallos, current Editor-in-Chief. We'll have to find a way to adjust to printing every week without her experience, commitment, and energy.

It'll be tough, but we're willing to sacrifice sleep and grades to make sure that the Tech remains a newspaper.

Christina Kondos



My name is H. Christina Kondos, and as Tech editor, I would include more editorials and features that are interesting to students and faculty. I'd like to include the results of a poll that people respond to online during the week, such as favorite superhero or favorite class in core. Also, it would be nice to convince one faculty member, or engineer at JPL, to write a short editorial about their research, their classes, their hobbies, or just thoughts on the universe. I'd like to replace the restaurant reviews with reviews of movies to rent, graphic novels, and books people are reading. An advice column, written by either a graduate student or an upper-classman that dealt with the day-to-day oddities of studying at Caltech would be fun. There are a lot of students with photography as a hobby, so the Tech could support them by including a few photographs in each edition. Finally, the pets on campus fascinate me, so I'd like to have a weekly "Get to Know a Caltech Pet" section. As editor, I would shift the focus of the Tech to a quirky periodical filled with both important news and community insights for the school.

Prefrosh Weekend 2009

April 2-5, 2009

T-shirt Design Competition!!!

Winning Prize: \$50!!!



Competition Guidelines:

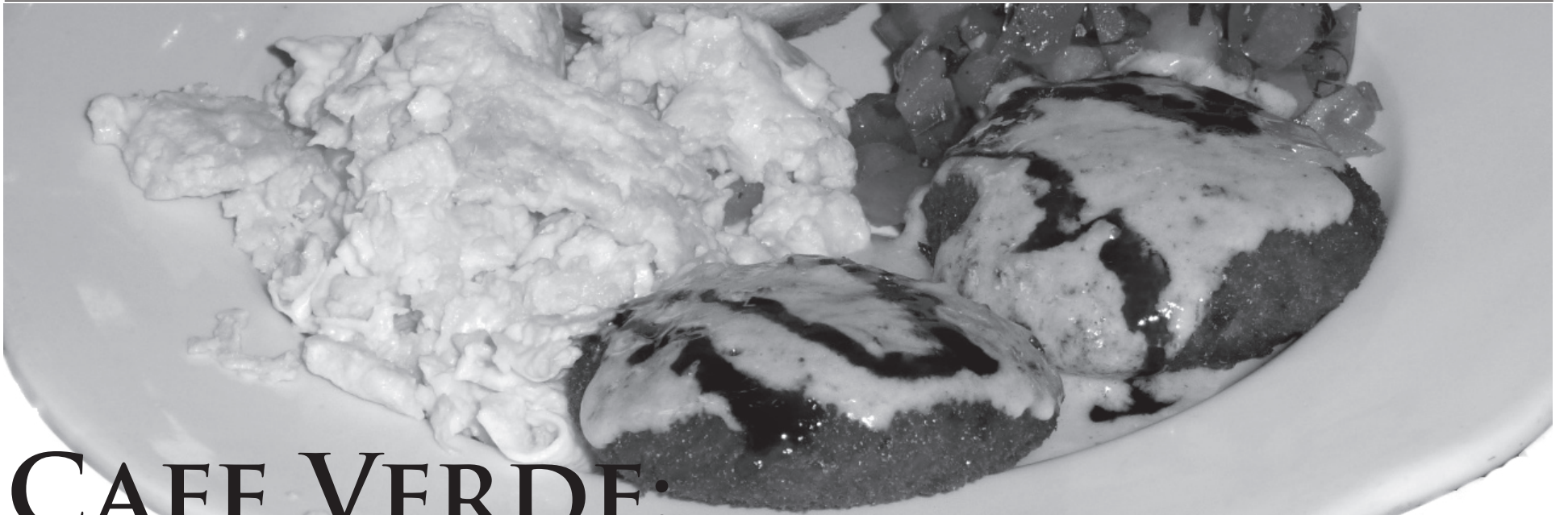
Shirts will be white with black font/graphics

Any combination of front & back design is allowed
Prefrosh Weekend 2009 must be included in the design

T-shirt designs must be appropriate for the occasion

Submit designs to your

House Prefrosh Rep by February 27, 2009



CAFE VERDE: IN THE GREEN

GRADE :

A-

Introduction: To brighten up a rainy Sunday morning, we wanted to try a nearby restaurant for brunch. Only 3 blocks away from campus, we found Café Verde, on the corner of Green St. and Mentor Ave.

Goal: How does Café Verde compare for brunch to the chains such as Denny's or IHOP?

Stockroom Options: Of course Café Verde has lots of breakfast options such as eggs and pancakes. Additionally, they have other entrees and sandwiches for those who feel like lunch food. The menu has a lot of Latin influences.

Materials and Cost: We ate crab cakes and eggs (\$11.95) and blueberry waffles, eggs, and bacon (\$10.95). We also split a cinnamon sticky bun (\$3.95).

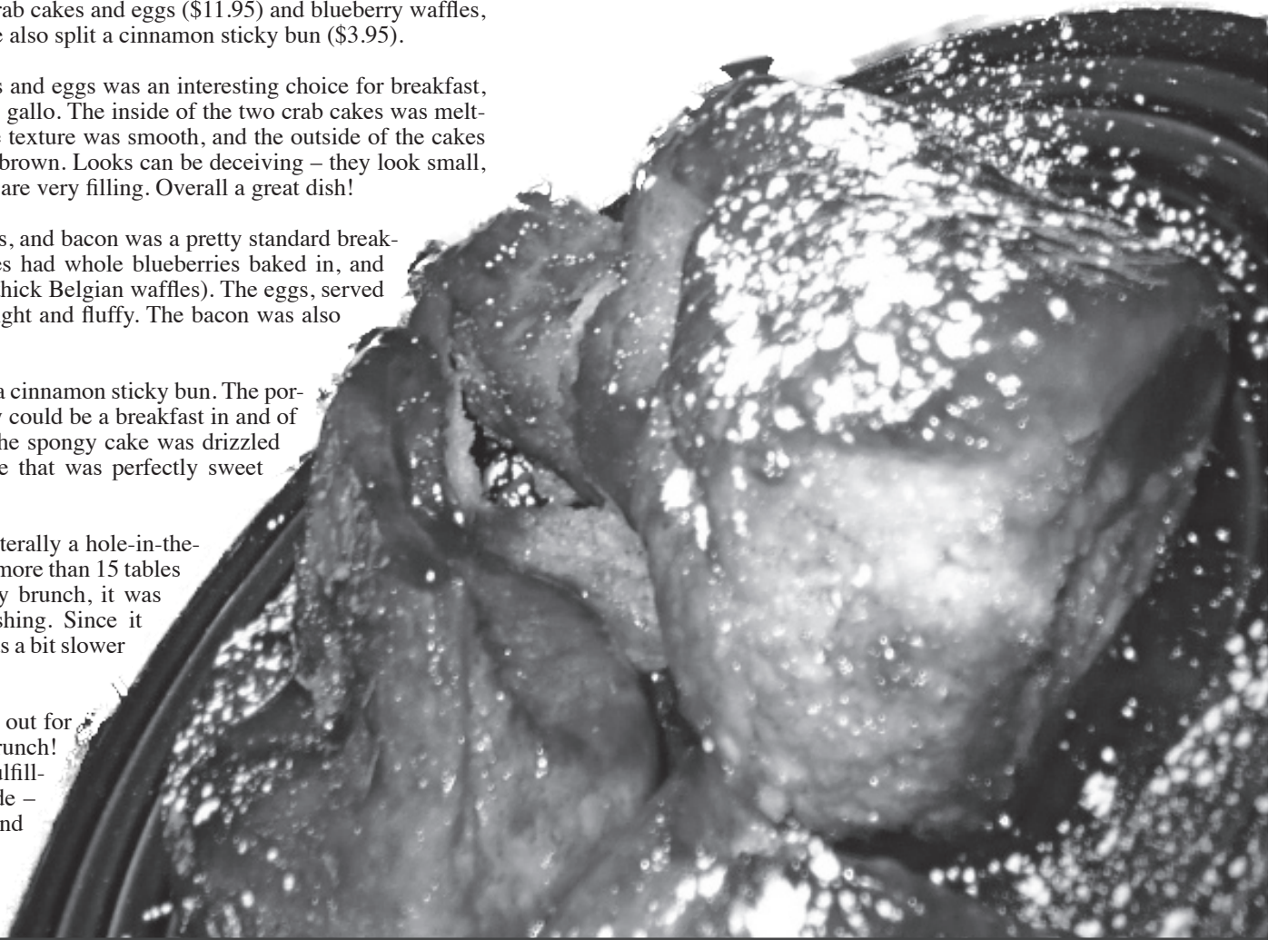
Observations: The crab cakes and eggs was an interesting choice for breakfast, served with toast and pico de gallo. The inside of the two crab cakes was melt-in-your-mouth delicious. The texture was smooth, and the outside of the cakes was fried to a deep, crunchy brown. Looks can be deceiving – they look small, but since they are dense they are very filling. Overall a great dish!

The blueberry waffles, eggs, and bacon was a pretty standard breakfast combination. The waffles had whole blueberries baked in, and were thin and light (not like thick Belgian waffles). The eggs, served scrambled, were extremely light and fluffy. The bacon was also fortunately not greasy.

For our “dessert,” we split a cinnamon sticky bun. The portion was huge – this probably could be a breakfast in and of itself! It arrived warm, and the spongy cake was drizzled with a cinnamon-sugar sauce that was perfectly sweet and fragrant.

Atmosphere: Café Verde is literally a hole-in-the-wall restaurant. There are no more than 15 tables inside and out. For a Sunday brunch, it was very busy, lively, and refreshing. Since it was so packed, the service was a bit slower than we would have liked.

Conclusion: Instead of going out for dinner next weekend, try a brunch! Kick-start your day with a fulfilling breakfast from Café Verde – just head off the beaten path and down Green Street.



Movie Review

“Waltz with Bashir” falls short of its accolades

By Hillary Walker
STAFF WRITER

As Israel's first animated feature, “Waltz with Bashir” is certainly brave and ambitious. The film has won the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film and has been nominated for the Academy Award in the same category, among many other critical recognitions.

I was prepared to be spellbound but instead left the theater greatly disappointed. I regret to write

that “Waltz with Bashir” seems not entirely deserving of its acclaim.

The film opens with a conversation between Ari Folman, screenwriter and director, and one of his wartime friends. The friend recounts his reoccurring nightmare inspired by his service during the 1982 Lebanon War. As they talk, Folman realizes with surprise that he has no recollection of his own experiences. A heady, hallucinogenic combination of documentary and autobiography, “Waltz with Bashir” records Folman's

quest to reclaim those memories and discover the role he played in the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

The animation is indeed groundbreaking and breathtaking. The technique was invented in Israel and involves cutting each image into fragments and then shifting them to create the sense of motion. Some aesthetic choices, such as casting the sky a wretched, Joycean yellow, are perfect.

The film often succeeds in capturing gruesome beauty and the surreality of war, but sometimes

the animation is grating. Every motion is infused with dissipation, and the combination of this slowness and the meandering narrative strip the film of its emotional force. The unique animation also sometimes shatters the dream-like atmosphere it strives to create. When the characters' limbs jerk unnaturally to gesture or drink from a glass, the immersive experience is lost.

The reconstructions of Folman's conversations with his friends, his very attempts to glean the truth about the war, are awk-

ward, flat, and lifeless. The moments intended to batter the audience emotionally, including the scene from which the film takes its clumsy title, feel empty.

According to Folman, “animation functions on the border of reality and the subconscious.”

Unfortunately, the animation of “Waltz with Bashir” serves as a distancing mechanism. Even the graceless transition to live footage at the film's end cannot inspire emotion. The medium is darkly beautiful, but in substance, “Waltz with Bashir” falls short of its soaring ambitions.

Dear Dr. Smart

Dear Dr. Smart,

I might be addicted to Odwalla juice. Is this a bad thing?

Sincerely, Walla-Walla

Probably not. See, everybody needs a vice, something that will take your mind off work. Some use drugs like marijuana, alcohol, or crystal meth. Others use video games like WoW and DotA. It sounds like you're using juice as your vice. Unlike WoW or methamphetamines, Odwalla is healthy and not addictive. If you so wish, you can turn it into a powerful vice, a vice almost as strong as drug use. The trick is to drown your sorrows in fruit juice while refraining from letting your addiction destroy your life. If you find that you've spent an entire month's salary on Odwalla, you're doing it wrong.

If you find that you must drink Odwalla and not Naked or any other brand of fruit juice without vomiting, you're doing it wrong. All you need to keep in mind is that as long as you use common sense, your fruit juice addiction is perfectly healthy and should be encouraged.

Dear Dr. Smart,

I'm a UCC and one of the frosh in my group keeps annoying me with questions. What should I do?

Sincerely, Ambivalent and Ambiguous

Obviously you have a problem with avid curiosity. This is especially ironic because, as a student at the California Institute of Technology, the world's playground for math and science, you should

be rather curious yourself. If you cannot appreciate the curiosity of another person, you have several options. First, you can transfer to another school, maybe Pomona College or Loyola Marymount. A fine liberal arts education can steer you right. Another option is for you to resign from your position as UCC, but that is a bit excessive. After all, there's no sense quitting just because one frosh is giving you a hard time. The third option, the one I most recommend, is to accept that the frosh's curiosity stems from its naiveté. In order to have it stop asking you questions, you must crush its spirit and make it bitter. You can wait a year for core to do that, or you can expedite the process by insulting the frosh's mother at the deepest level possible in a most explicit manner. Make the little fool cry.

Dear Dr. Smart,

I want to write for The California Tech but that's under the control of ASCIT, an organization that I do not trust. What should I do?

Yours faithfully, the majority of CIT

Obviously you must man up and take one for the team. A revolution cannot start with one man. The recent bylaw amendment is the first step on the long and winding road to freedom, paved with icing and marked with donuts at every intersection. The first thing you must do is realize that the best way to take down an evil and corrupt organization is to infiltrate it. If you're too much of a wimp to do this at this point, try to practice your guerilla tactics. Next time you go turn in a set at

Sloan, do it commando style. Get prone on the ground and crawl as if you're under fire from the evil strafing fire of the ASCIT trench guns. When security starts questioning you, you scream to their face "I WILL NOT TALK!" until you get waterboarded. Remember: it's not a form of torture! It is sad to think that this kind of content ends up in The Tech, so the sooner you grow a pair and start writing for The Tech, the less we have to deal with mindless drivel inspired by Call of Duty, which on an unrelated note is far less addictive than Crack of WarCrack.

Do you have any questions about emotional problems or issues in your life? Contact Dr. Smart at:

Dr.SmartPhD@gmail.com

Comics

Not a good sign:

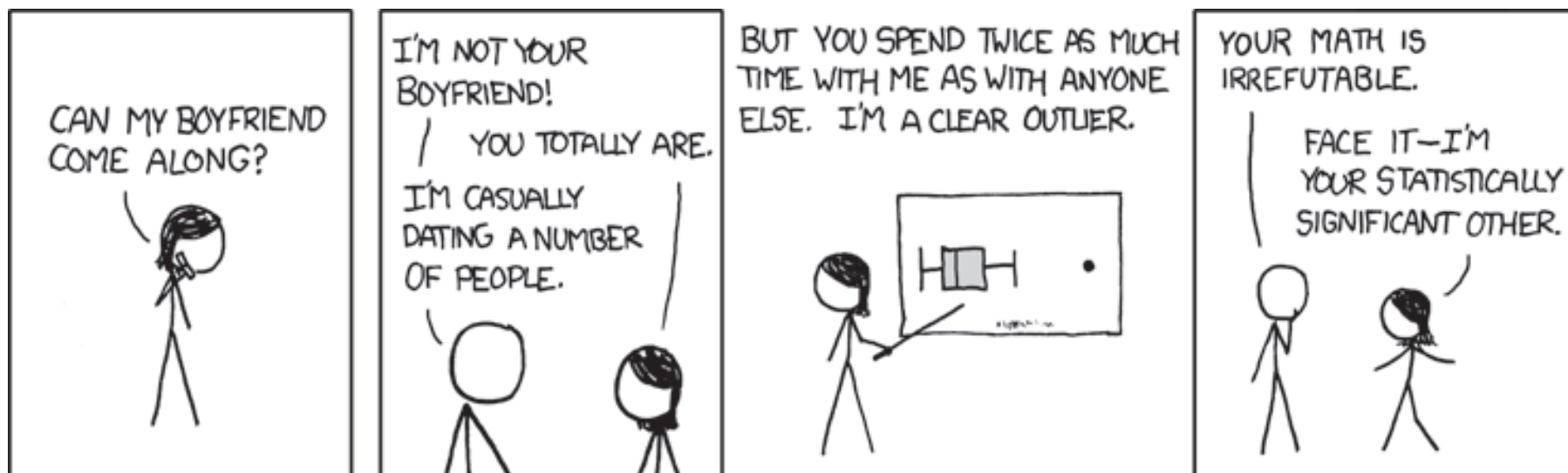
$$\sigma_{t_{\text{graduate}}} > t_{\text{graduate}}$$



JORGE CHAM © 2009

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

'Not a Good Sign' PHD Comics



'Boyfriend' xkcd by Randall Munroe

Abstract MadLibs!!

This paper presents a _____ method for _____
(synonym for new) (sciencey verb)
 the _____. Using _____, the
(noun few people have heard of) (something you didn't invent)
 _____ was measured to be _____ +/- _____
(property) (number) (number)
 _____. Results show _____ agreement with
(units) (sexy adjective)
 theoretical predictions and significant improvement over
 previous efforts by _____, et al. The work presented
(Loser)
 here has profound implications for future studies of
 _____ and may one day help solve the problem of
(buzzword)

(supreme sociological concern)

'MadLibs' PHD Comics

The California Tech
 Caltech 40-58
 Pasadena, CA 91125