



Housing director gone in deep cuts

Caltech catering and frosh camp also cut, bookstore diminished

By Chris Kennelly
STAFF WRITER

How do you measure a recession? In shrunken endowments? In smaller budgets? In staff cuts? In a different undergraduate experience?

The Caltech endowment has lost between 25 and 30 percent of its value. Just recently, undergraduates were told what Caltech's financial situation would mean for their next year.

"Frosh camp," the freshmen orientation period, will not occur next year in its full-fledged luxury. It is expected, however, that the 70-year old fixture in the Caltech experience will occur in a reduced form. The carnival and fireworks which marked the start of the academic year will be eliminated. Club fair, however, will continue to exist.

Dining will be reorganized. Following the closure of Caltech catering at the end of the academic year, Avery House will

move from its current board plan—a plan offering a dollar-for-dollar account of declining balance—to the Feynman board plan used by the other seven Houses. T

he Feynman plan covers five dinners per week, an "open kitchen," and a smaller sum of declining balance. The plan should save Caltech money by reducing staffing needs, since Avery's dinners currently feature made-to-order dishes.

The current head of Dining Peter Daily will be placed in charge of both of the Dining and Housing offices, replacing current Housing head Tim Chang.

The bookstore will be reorganized. Initial plans eliminate the book inventory in favor of joining the C-store with the bookstore's Caltech apparel section. Caltech Wired is expected to remain unchanged.

Anneila Sargent, Vice President for Student Affairs, could not be reached for comment when the paper went to press.

Colored stoles may be the new red, for some

The graduation color debate continues

By Sarah Marzen
STAFF WRITER

Traditionally, seniors at graduation all wear black robes—except for Fleming seniors, who have the choice of wearing red robes instead.

This year, each House can choose its own colored stole, based on a recent consensus among senior representatives from each House, and after a loud outcry against last week's compromise of each house wearing a different colored robe. However, Fleming seniors will still have the option of wearing red robes.

"I think it's a great option," said Robin Abraham, one of Fleming's senior representatives. "It gives Fleming seniors the option to wear red... and stoles are a good middle ground. This is the best plan we could have found."

Senior class co-President Calyani Ganesan hopes that "Fleming

red" stoles will provide a classy alternative to the traditional Fleming red robes, although "there may be a few Flems that wear red.... It's very possible that stoles come out horrible."

Stole colors need to be chosen and stoles need to be ordered by February 6th, according to Ganesan, but "the feeling I get so far is that people are much happier."

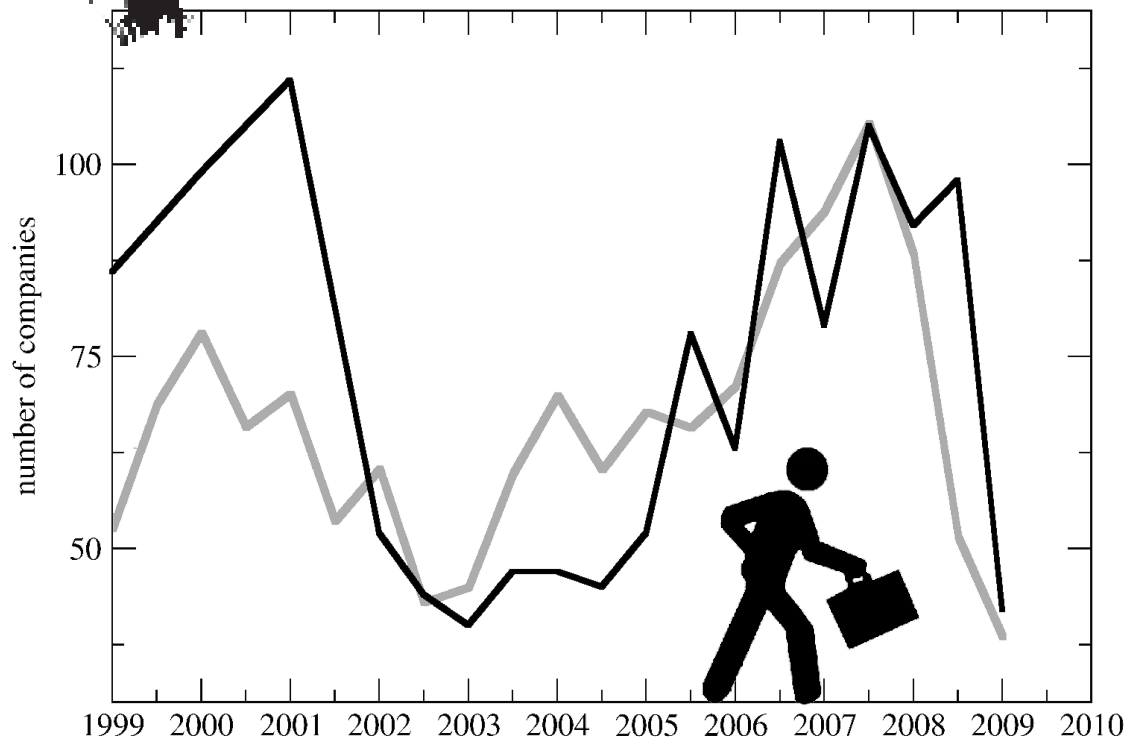
"Every year, everyone complains," said Dabney President Kee Scholten, usually after graduation robes have already been ordered. This year, senior class co-Presidents Ganesan and Marie Giron approached the Convocation Committee before robes were ordered.

Ganesan and Giron asked the Convocation Committee to reexamine graduation robe color after a senior class survey showed that over 70% of responding seniors

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WE'RE NOT HIRING



Company turnout at the Caltech Career Fair (black) vs. the Dow-Jones Industrial Average (greyscale) for the past 10 years.

SURF takes a small hit

Sixteen fewer awards will be offered than last year

By Casey Jao
STAFF WRITER

Finding a SURF this year may be harder than usual. The bleeding economy and its effect on SURF funding "may have some small impact" on the number of positions the program can offer this year, said Candace Rypsi, director of Student-Faculty Programs.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program derives its money from annual gifts, mentor contributions, and the SURF endowment, all of which have suffered to various degrees.

Of the three funding sources, the endowment bears the most tangible marks of the recession. Each year, the SURF program can spend a predetermined fraction of

the endowment's three-year averaged market value to fund students that summer. Rypsi expects the endowment payout to decline by approximately 9% or \$93,000 compared to last year. This dollar amount equates to roughly sixteen \$6,000 SURF awards, four percent of last year's 378 awards.

Annual donations have also declined "ever so slightly," said Rypsi. She emphasized that the donor network of Caltech alumni, SURF alumni, and their parents continue to demonstrate "an incredible commitment to undergraduate research."

The recession's impact on faculty contributions is far from clear. According to the Office of Research Administration's most recent annual report, Caltech faculty won \$268.1 million of grants and contracts in fiscal year 2008,

By the Numbers

\$93,000 less money for SURFs

4% fewer than last year

90% of Caltech students who apply receive SURFS

exceeding the 2007 figure by about \$20 million. Statistics for FY2009 are not available yet.

Speaking about grant support,

Please see SURFS, Page 6



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Health care plan will be fought by grad students

By Evans Boney
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I am writing this letter with full knowledge that the final decision about student healthcare for the next 2 years is still undecided.

I am also taking special care not to divulge anything that was discussed in confidence, but I think it would be disingenuous to not voice these concerns about potentially significant changes to the student population.

I would also like to begin by thanking our contacts in the administration, who have been willing to listen to our concerns, but I think that effective student representation requires communication with students.

Not everything can be solved behind closed doors.

I'll start with a summary of the situation, from my point of view as Graduate Student Council Chair. By allowing undergraduate parents to opt-out, Caltech's tuition and mandatory fees reduces by about \$2k.

It is a good change for many reasons, and the GSC has no opposition to this change per se.

However, we are significantly

concerned that our opinion was not solicited in the decision-making process, and, moreover, that we were not informed until a month after the decision had been made.

Further, the savings to financial aid from the opt-out change are substantial, and should not be dismissed flippantly.

As reported in the January 26 issue of the Tech, Caltech is already cutting out merit aid to boost its financial aid in response to pressures from Ivy League schools, and so I do not think it a stretch to suggest this additional savings (that used to be spent on healthcare for students that were double-covered) is intended to increase financial aid offers further.

That is where we see a potential impasse. The opposing point of view is that, since this was financial aid money to begin with, it makes sense that it remain financial aid money.

My point of view is that since this was money used to cover healthcare costs before (via financial aid), it should still be used to cover healthcare costs, or a replacement for that portion of funds must be found from somewhere else.

Otherwise, the financial aid

subsidy for undergraduates comes directly at the expense of graduate student healthcare benefits, which is not a fair trade for graduate students.

Of course healthcare costs increase naturally, and we are not naive to this effect. After carefully considering the results of the GSC graduate student healthcare survey, we have made a full suite of concessions in order to help offset cost increases.

However, the unilateral opt-out waiver implementation will cause the cost of our plan to increase more than what it otherwise would have.

We are concerned that graduate students could be asked to shoulder too much of this burden of opt-out implementation through either increased contribution toward our annual premium or decrease in benefits, despite the significant savings to institute financial aid.

I want to make plain the potential actions the GSC will pursue to protect critical aspects of graduate student healthcare.

If our healthcare benefits are cut beyond our offered concessions or without our consultation, graduate students are prepared to take action to negate the positive influence on

financial aid with a negative influence on Caltech Dining Services (CDS) revenue.

Furthermore, the GSC is prepared to communicate with prospective graduate students and local media outlets about the recent decrease in healthcare benefits over the student body's concerned voices.

This decision is not made in haste; according to a GSC survey about this issue conducted over the past 3 weeks, the Dining boycott is supported by 65.7% of graduate students (55.8% strongly supporting), and the recruited student pamphleteering is supported by 66.6% of graduate students (55.5% strongly supporting).

We view coordinated student body action as a last resort, but will take this action if necessary.

To be prepared to lead effective and directed student action, the GSC budget committee will now analyze the institute's annual financial report (specifically revenue from "auxiliary enterprises", which includes CDS) to determine the length of time a boycott of CDS will approximately offset the gain in financial aid that comes at the expense of our healthcare benefits.

We invite all graduates, ASCIT leadership, and undergraduates to participate in this process; if you would like to be a part of this analysis, please email me at boneye@gmail.com.

We hope, through effective negotiations, that no student body action will be required, but we must be prepared for that possibility.

We recognize that the administration can simply raise auxiliary enterprise revenue in other ways, such as increasing housing costs or price of food in the C-Store, but would suggest that, rather than make further changes without consulting students, they consider student opinion about healthcare carefully.

The more drastic measures above are measures of last resort, and will only be used to match an equally drastic healthcare decision.

We are still working closely with administrators, and appreciate their willingness to engage us on this issue so far.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Evans Boney
GSC Chair

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Colored stoles a much better idea

By Kevin Noertker
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dressing differently during graduation is one of the boldest steps a house can make towards separating itself from the rest of the student body.

As commencement is a time to bring the student body together as graduates of Caltech, I feel it is right to have all students wear Caltech's colors during graduation ceremonies.

In years past, houses have considered the option of wearing colors which distinguish between house memberships. Most of the houses have turned down the idea, seeing it as divisive and detracting from the community feeling of Caltech.

However, within some houses, people have decided that they should honor their house ties above their Caltech ties during commencement. By separating themselves from their peers in such a bold way they disrupt the unity of the graduating class and fail to acknowledge their ties to the rest of the Caltech community.

Our community is built on these ties. While the house system aids students with friends and social networks, the institute - faculty, staff, students, and administrators - binds us together as a community. Graduation is a time for the community to celebrate the achievements of the graduating class along with the celebration of the graduating students.

I see wearing house colors as ignorant of the contributions from the rest of the Caltech community and insulting to those people

whose contributions are essential to the success of Caltech students as a whole.

In this regard, I would like to urge students to not use the option to wear house colored caps and gowns during graduation.

Rather, we should push for other options to be made available to students who wish to honor their houses. These could include house colored cords, sashes, tassels, or crests.

I feel these alternative ways of acknowledging house ties are more conducive to recognizing the success of the community as a whole while valuing one's house in a less divisive way.

From the recent poll of Caltech seniors, 77% (106 of 137 voters) prefer that all students represent Caltech during graduation by wearing black robes. 15% (21 voters) voted to leave graduation colors red and black, and 7% (10 voters) prefer to have each house wearing individual house colored robes. However, when given the choice between allowing every house or just Fleming to show house pride during graduation, 55% of seniors feel that everybody should have the ability to represent their house ties.

The voting clearly demonstrates the general dislike of wearing graduation robes according to house color. It also conveys the fact that a majority of seniors would prefer to give all students the option to represent their house in some other way.

Hence, we should be considering the alternative ways of showing house pride. That way, everybody gets what they want: we represent Caltech, we graduate as a unified class, and we all can show house pride.

Bylaws will still need some tweaking

Review Committee will eventually need to be rethought

By Sarah Marzen
STAFF WRITER

I'm so happy that ASCIT has a new set of bylaws, but these new bylaws are not perfect.

For example, careful readers will notice that in the new bylaws, the semi-powerful Review Committee is appointed and removed by the incoming IHC—even though the Review Committee is in charge of removing a bad IHC Chair.

Even if the IHC Chair excused himself from appointing and removing Review Committee members, there is still something weird about how the Review Committee is appointed.

Let's look at this from a worst-case scenario standpoint, in which an unreasonable IHC does its best to control ASCIT decisions. For example, suppose that the IHC just didn't like the ASCIT Operations Director, for completely personal reasons. What could the IHC do?

First, the IHC could appoint a Review Committee filled with people that also disliked the ASCIT Operations Director, removing those Committee members that turned "disloyal." The Review Committee would "investigate" the competency of the Operations Director, obviously find him incompetent, and hold a special election to replace him.

Finally, the IHC would force the Review Committee to appoint an acting ASCIT Operations Director of the IHC's choice, again removing Review Committee members that turned "disloyal."

And there you have it— a relatively easy way for the IHC to strongarm the ASCIT BoD, based on their power to appoint and remove Review Committee members.

Now, let me be clear: I can't think of when a scenario like this would actually happen. I trust the IHC to be reasonable and always consider the greater good.

But that doesn't mean there won't be some weird future situation in which ASCIT BoD members are removed for silly reasons.

Right now, the ASCIT BoD needs an invested, watchful guardian, to make sure that things run smoothly during this transition from old to new bylaws. But once the new government gets rolling, people that are still involved in student government should not have the power to appoint and remove Review Committee members.

Exactly who should remove Review Committee members, I'm not sure— and I welcome any suggestions. The new bylaws are certainly an improvement on the old bylaws, but not perfect.

In the minutes: Good-bye FDAL, VP

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting January 28, 2009

Officers Present: Caleb Ng, Joel Nikolaus, Angela Zah, Chris Watson, Tzong-lian "Will" Tsay, Ekta Bhojwani, Matt Czubakowski

Guests: Jason Cerundolo, Anthony Chong, Michelle Jiang, Sarah Marzen, Ashley Potts

Call to order: 10:55 pm

President's Report:

Review Committee Update: Jason says that the Review Committee was unanimous in confirming Caleb as the current president, Will as the VP of Academic Affairs, Chris as the VP of Nonacademic Affairs, and Czub as the Operations Directors. The Honor Chair, FDAL, UDAL, and all presidential staff are otherwise relieved. Any new appointments for staff will need to be approved by the Review Committee.

The Review Committee decided to throw out the election results for Vice President. The results for President will stand.

Elections Schedule: The Review Committee also suggested pushing elections back by a week with nominations during the sixth week of classes and elections the following Monday. Officers would be installed at the next BoD meeting. The primary reason for the change is that it would move ASCIT elections after the house elections of Ricketts and Page. Do-

ing so would require a timely amendment to the bylaws.

Caleb did not like the idea of rushing another set of bylaw amendments. The new BoD occupy their positions by the budget meeting on the 21st. While the change would still allow this, many members of the BoD felt that more time was needed for transition. This transition was viewed as particularly important in light of the new bylaws and the fact that no BoD members will be returning. Most feel that it has worked out in the past and it will not hurt anyone to wait another year.

BoD decides to not put it for a vote.

Secretary: Review Committee alright with Joel staying as secretary. The BoD decides to reappoint anyway.

Motion to approve Joel as the ASCIT Secretary.
VOTE: Passed (6-0-0)

Funding:

Honor Code Task Force: To cover food expenses like most other committees. Since other groups have not used all of their funding there should be sufficient fund available to cover the expenses.

Motion to approve \$1000 for the Honor Code Task Force.

VOTE: Passed (5-0-1)

Meeting adjourned: 11:30 pm

Submitted by Joel Nikolaus
ASCIT Secretary



Join us for Monday and Friday lunches at Broad Cafe.

Contact tech@caltech.edu for more information

ASCIT Nominations and Elections

Under the recent bylaw amendments, nominations for ASCIT elected offices begin on Monday, according to the following schedule:

February 2 (Monday): nominations and sign-ups posted on the Olive Walk starting at 8:00 AM

February 6 (Friday): nomination period ends at 5:00 PM

February 9 (Monday): voting period from 10:00 AM until 11:59 PM

February 10 (Tuesday): protest period ends at 11:59 PM

February 11 (Wednesday): elections results posted by 10:00 AM

We will be voting on the following offices:

Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs: The Vice President shall serve as chairman of the Academics and Research Committee and shall be responsible for improving the academics of the Institute for all undergraduates. He shall work with the Board of Control Chairman towards the continuance and improvement of the academic aspects of the Honor System.

Office of the Vice President of Non-Academic Affairs: The Vice President shall serve as chairman of the Interhouse Committee and shall be responsible for liaison between ASCIT and the various House organizations. He shall work with the Conduct Review Committee Student Chairman towards the continuance and improvement of the non-academic aspects of the Honor System.

Office of the Director of Operations: The Director of Operations shall act as liaison to publications officers and ensure they comply with the Bylaws and policies of the Board of Directors. He shall have direct charge of all Corporation property. He shall act as liaison to and maintain a running file of all ASCIT supported and related student organizations.

Office of the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive all money belonging to the Corporation and shall deposit it to the credit of the Corporation. He shall keep a full account of money expended and received and make a report of such account once a term at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, and at such time as the Board of Directors may desire.

Office of the Director for Social Activities: The Director for Social Activities shall be chairman of the Executive Social Committee. He shall be responsible for the organization of the Corporation's social activities and shall coordinate them with the social activities of the undergraduate Houses.

Please note that all candidates must be current ASCIT members.

Also open for nomination are: Board of Control Chair, Board of Control Secretary, Conduct Review Committee Student Chair, and Tech Editor(s).

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

Committee Chair: Jason Cerundolo
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

Avanti Cafe

... by Andrew Freddo and Dannah Almasco

Introduction: Just north of Colorado Blvd, on the corner of Lake Ave and Union St, stands Avanti Café, famous for its gourmet pizzas.

Goal: Does Avanti Café stand up to the reputation that all its accolades suggest?

Stockroom Options: Avanti Café has a large variety of Italian food, specializing in pastas and gourmet pizzas with lots of different toppings.

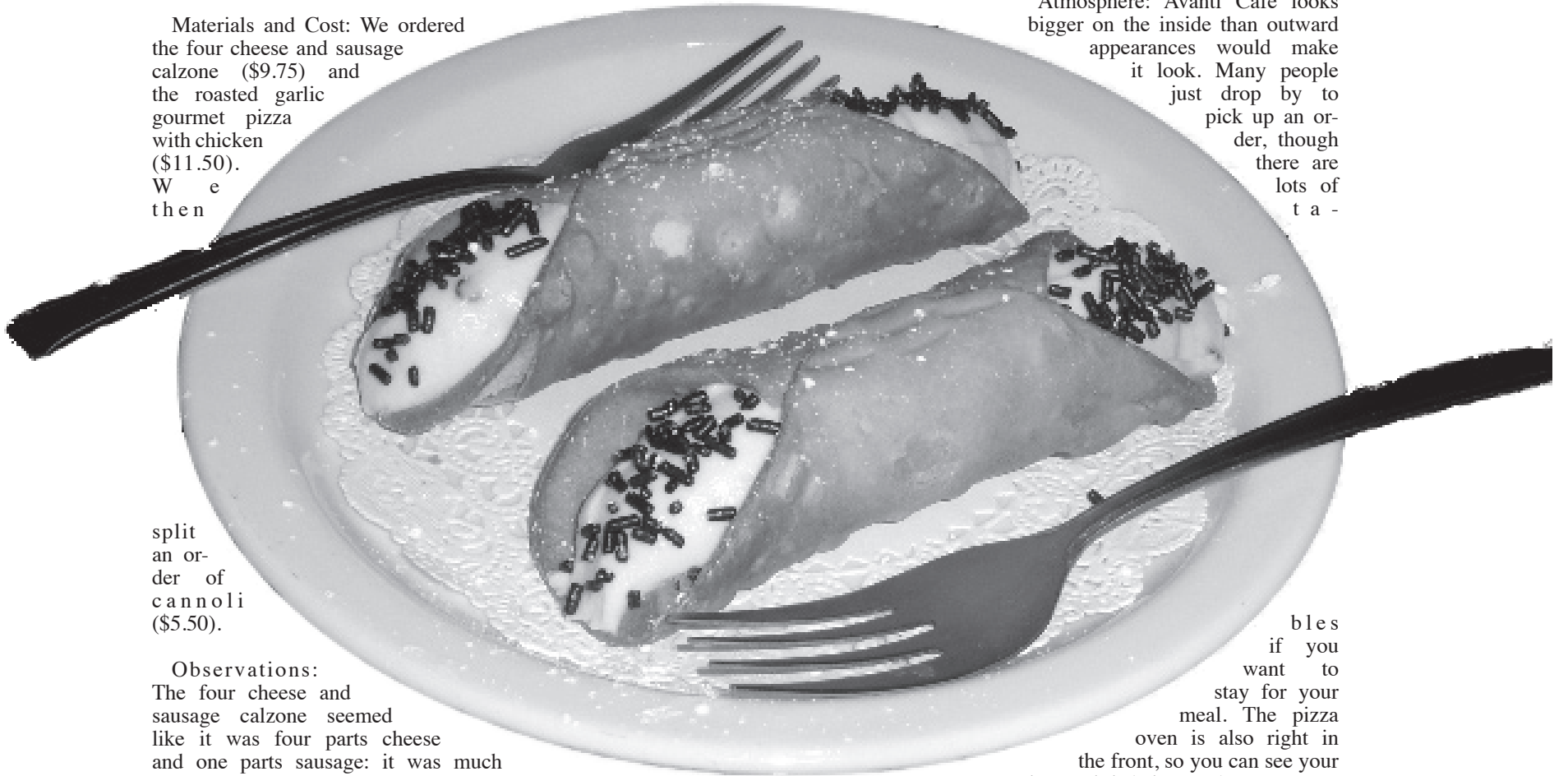
Materials and Cost: We ordered the four cheese and sausage calzone (\$9.75) and the roasted garlic gourmet pizza with chicken (\$11.50).
W e
t h e n

which was unexpected and overshadowed the meaty flavor. The crust itself was very thin, and a bit oily: not thicker and crispy like we would have hoped.

The roasted garlic gourmet pizza is not for the faint of heart: the pizza comes with at least a head's worth of garlic on top. Definitely get this with chicken (or shrimp), since this adds a nice touch and makes the dish more substantial. Overall, the flavors were rich and

nice surprise; in our experience not too many places have them in the area! The plate comes with 2 cannoli, which is perfect to share! These ricotta cheese-filled shells were very rich and creamy, maybe a bit too heavy on the inside. The shell was thick and very crunchy, though did not taste like it was freshly made. Still, the overall dessert was a delicious end to an OK meal.

Atmosphere: Avanti Café looks bigger on the inside than outward appearances would make it look. Many people just drop by to pick up an order, though there are lots of t a -



split
an or-
der of
cannoli
(\$5.50).

Observations: The four cheese and sausage calzone seemed like it was four parts cheese and one part sausage: it was much less meatier than we expected. The four cheeses were gorgonzola, provolone, parmesan, and mozzarella, and were blended and melted together such that the flavors could not be told apart. There also was a ton of sautéed peppers and onions inside,

went well together, though the pizza did not retain too much heat. Also of note, the crust itself was toasted to a nice crunch. Even though the toppings were unique, the pizza was reminiscent of Chandler's.

The cannoli were a

bles if you want to stay for your meal. The pizza oven is also right in the front, so you can see your pizza as it is being made.

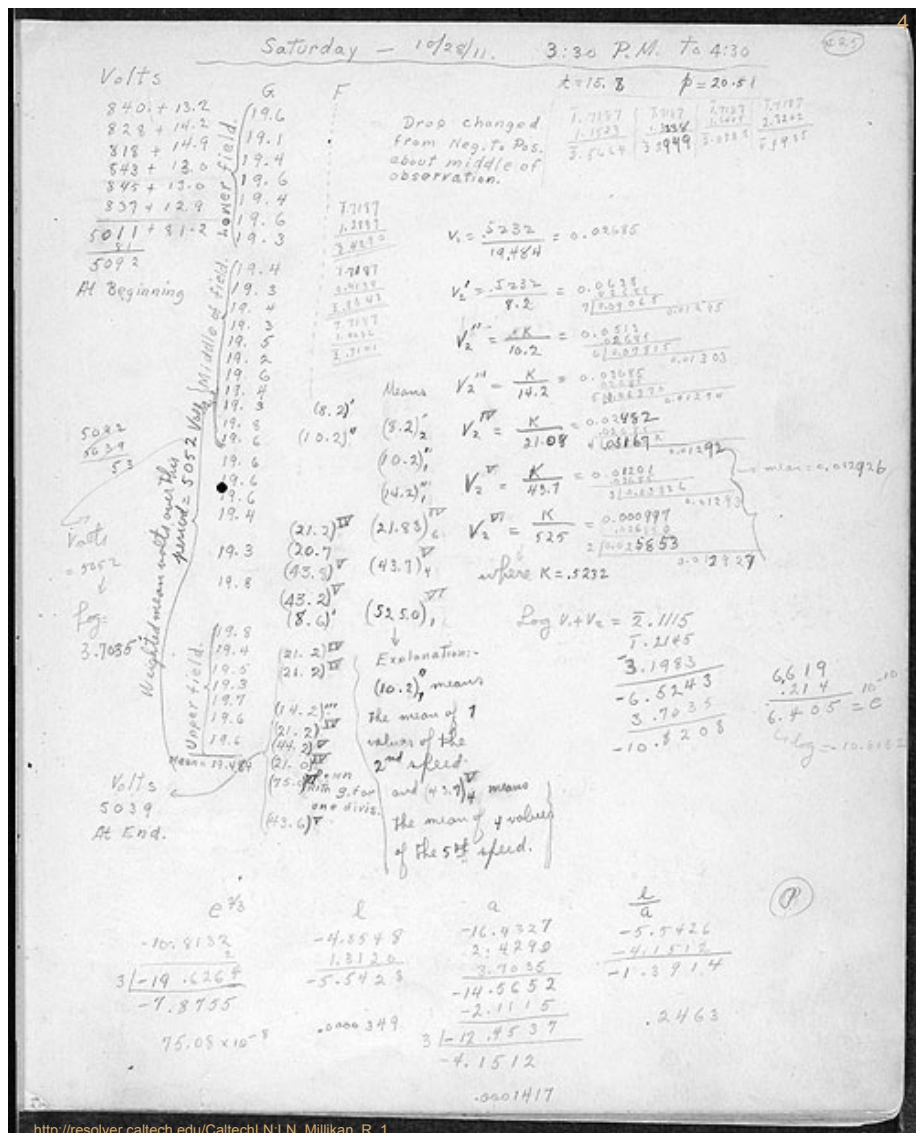
Conclusion: Overall, Avanti Café does not live up to all of its expectations. Though the pizza was decent, it was not much of a step up from Chandler pizza. The calzone also was sub-par. The one bright spot was the cannoli, which were delicious. Still, we don't understand why it has received so much attention.



GRADE :
B-

Finally, a lab notebook messier than yours

Millikan's lab notes are now online, and more scrawlings are to follow from Caltech



http://resolver.caltech.edu/Caltech/LN/LN_Millikan_R_1

By Sarah Marzen

STAFF WRITER

Ever looked at the messiness of your lab notebook and wondered how the heck you were going to become a competent scientist?

Don't worry. Millikan's notes were pretty messy.

This assessment is based on the recently e-published "Robert A. Millikan Oil Drop Experiment Notebooks, Notebook One" and "Robert A. Millikan Oil Drop Experiment Notebooks, Notebook Two", in the newly launched online Caltech Institute Archives.

These are the only two lab notebooks that he kept until the end of

his life, and he used them from October 1911 through April 1912. They record his Nobel Prize winning experiment on measuring an electron's charge.

Both a color version of each complete notebook and a black-and-white version in multiple parts for easier downloading are available. Additional historic lab notes and data by other Caltech scientists will be added to this repository over time.

Planned projects include the seismic data pads of Beno Gutenberg, Drosophila matings notebooks of Edward B. Lewis, and some notebooks and calculations of Richard Feynman.



Dabbling in Science Policy, DC Style

by Garrett Lewis

Last summer, I spent a few months in the District of Columbia working at the office of Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM). Fifth in seniority, Domenici held several leadership positions, most notably as ranking member of the Energy Committee across from Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). After spending the previous summer working for a New Mexico Congresswoman, it was amazing to move to the upper chamber and see it from the position of one of the most powerful offices.

The events that transpired over the course of the summer served to make the experience even better. As energy prices broke record after record during the summer, Domenici became the face of the fight within the minority party, helping to force a floor vote on the issue of drilling after Democratic leaders tried to block it and avoid a substantial legislative defeat. Rallies and lobbying efforts also made their mark on the summer as the elections approached and groups made final effort to push legislation through in the 110th

Congress.

Among these events, I found myself involved in hearings on advanced voting technology, research toward nuclear fuel reprocessing, and grassroots foreign policy initiatives by groups such as Christians United for Israel. The most interesting bit was the work I did with regards to a bill that I had first been introduced to while working on the House side in the first session of the Congress.

The city itself also provided a great deal of interest beyond the Mall and its crowded museums. Shows at the Kennedy Center and the World Trade Center were as good as anywhere else, and the food was nicely varied for a city of that size.

My time with Domenici ended with the House Republicans ignoring the vote to recess and remaining to debate energy policy after the departure of their Democratic counterparts when Congresswoman Pelosi called a vote to recess several hours early. This is one of the best acts of political showmanship I have seen, and it

was even better in that I got to go on the Floor to see and hear the zero-technology debate, as if I was a member of congress in the 19th century.

Generally, the high points of the internship were those that occurred outside the office. The lectures and dinners that I got to attend as an intern were very interesting. The work I completed for the Energy Committee was also quite interesting. It was really great to see Domenici pushing through into the recess to get quality energy legislation passed, even as he went very deep into his final months in office.

As a whole, the summer was a great experience. Both the interns in Domenici's office, and other people I met around town were a lot of fun. It was also nice to get out of Caltech and go somewhere where I am not considered to be some sort of history or political freak, particularly when I found the rare science nerd that could appreciate enjoying both. Oh, and Domenici... He is amazing.

Seniors try to see eye-to-eye on red graduation gowns

ROBES, FROM PAGE 1

wanted an all-black graduation.

The idea of forcing Fleming seniors to wear black robes didn't fly in the Convocation Committee. "They didn't feel comfortable taking away a tradition by majority vote," said Ganesan.

Instead, the Convocation Committee decided that each House should be given the option of wearing a colored robe, based on the response to a different question on that same survey. In that second question, 55% of respondents said that they would rather have a multi-color graduation than status quo.

Many seniors were unhappy about the Convocation Committee's first decision. According to senior class co-President Calyani Ganesan, some seniors told her, "I didn't know that survey was actually going to decide if graduation was multi-colored!" after the decision was announced.

"There was a consensus that it [multi-color graduation] would look pretty crappy," said Blacker

House senior representative Matthew Feldman. "I would rather explain away ten Flems wearing red than the circus up there."

Happens every year

According to Ganesan, survey comments ranged from "Fuck the Flems" to something like "I've been treated like garbage [by Caltech as a whole] for four years, and this [red robes] is how I want to show this." But senior representative Feldman doesn't dislike Fleming's red robes tradition because he doesn't like Fleming.

"Personally, all black looks classier," said Feldman. "It's not about them, it's what I would prefer graduation to look like."

Getting the senior representatives to meet and talk calmly was not without its obstacles. "It is perceived by Flems as a giant 'Screw Fleming' agenda," said Feldman.

At a one and a half hour meeting last Wednesday, the senior representatives talked over the entire issue—“really... for the first time,” said Feldman. “People



A photo-shopped image of a few seniors at last year's graduation wearing blue, green, purple, yellow, and red robes floated on the spam lists of several houses last week, originating from 2 Dabney seniors.

didn't understand why the other side thought the way they did, but they thought they did."

Former Fleming President Harish Vasudevhan thinks it's not

possible for non-Flems to understand why Fleming's decades-old red robe tradition is so important. "I completely understand the other side of the argument," said

Vasudevhan. "But they can't really understand our [Fleming's] side."

Many Fleming seniors agree that wearing a red robe at graduation is one way to show off how proud you are to be in Fleming. "We're not wearing it to piss other people off," said Vasudevhan.

Non-Flems are coming to the same understanding.

"Before I was more, 'Why are they wearing red?'" said Ganesan. "Now I get that they're trying to preserve a tradition."

For more on the graduation robe controversy, please see the Opinion page where Lloyd senior Kevin Noertker argues that graduation is a day for class unity, not house divisions.

Non-Caltech students will have hard time finding SURFS

SURFS, FROM PAGE 1

Director of Sponsored Research Dick Seligman said that "at this moment, the impact [of the recession] has been minimal," but warned against premature assessments. The National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health, Caltech's largest two funding sources, both announced increases in budget requests for FY2009. However, Congress has the final say before it releases any money. NSF requested an 8.7% increase for FY2008, but Congress allowed only 2.5%.

Since they rely entirely on mentor support, non-Caltech SURF applicants would likely bear the brunt of any faculty funding shortages. Faced between supporting a Caltech student versus an outsider, faculty prefer the former, said Rypsi.

Although "the goal is not to reduce the award rate substantially," Rypsi advised applicants to "spend time writing a strong SURF proposal." Each year from 2004 to 2008, approximately ninety percent of Caltech applicants have gotten funding. The other ten percent were rejected either because the review committee deemed that the student did not have the necessary background to follow through, or because of a deemed lack of effort in the application.

Applicants should remember to submit their proposals by February 22.

New bylaws, new president

President-elect Anthony Chong thinks ASCIT needs more than new bylaws

By Joel Nikolaus
STAFF WRITER

The new version of the by-laws ushers in a new more accountable ASCIT: one better equipped to provide the student body with donuts, bagels, and of course more donuts, or at least that was the impression over the last few weeks.

And the idea seemed to resonate with the student body. Despite a confusing debate beforehand, when actually put to a vote ninety-five percent of voting students approved the changes.

Some structural changes took effect immediately. The BoD is now a few people smaller and is now supervised by an interhouse Review Committee. But what difference do these changes actually make?

According to some, not much alone. Anthony Chong, ASCIT president-elect, says he "does not expect the by-laws to fix all of our problems."

Even if the changes help and the by-laws are important, he says they are "not as important as people doing their jobs and getting good, motivated people into ASCIT."

But he interprets this as "pretty clear mandate." He says that he thinks students were unhappy with the way things have been run the last few years and there were "a lot of pent up frustrations."

A successful ASCIT has always depended on students working hard in their respective positions, but Chong says that this next year "accountability is going to be big."



Photo by Nathan Crook

Jawas at the Cahill opening

From left to right: Jasmine Sears, Jennifer Greco, Aliza Malz, Daniel Walter Rowlands, and Samson Chen dressed as Star Wars characters at the opening of the Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

After hearing the center dubbed "the Sandcrawler" by Blacker senior Chris Watson, Malz decided that it was only right to give the building the sci-fi homecoming it deserved. Although they did not stay very long, according to Malz they did manage to attract the attention of a reporter from the Pasadena Star News who "thought it was really great that we were there to dedicate a Sandcrawler as it should be dedicated, by Jawas, Jedis, and robots." "Other than that, we just got random stares and confused people, which is just fine with us."

Sports Briefs

Men's basketball struggles continue in SCIAC

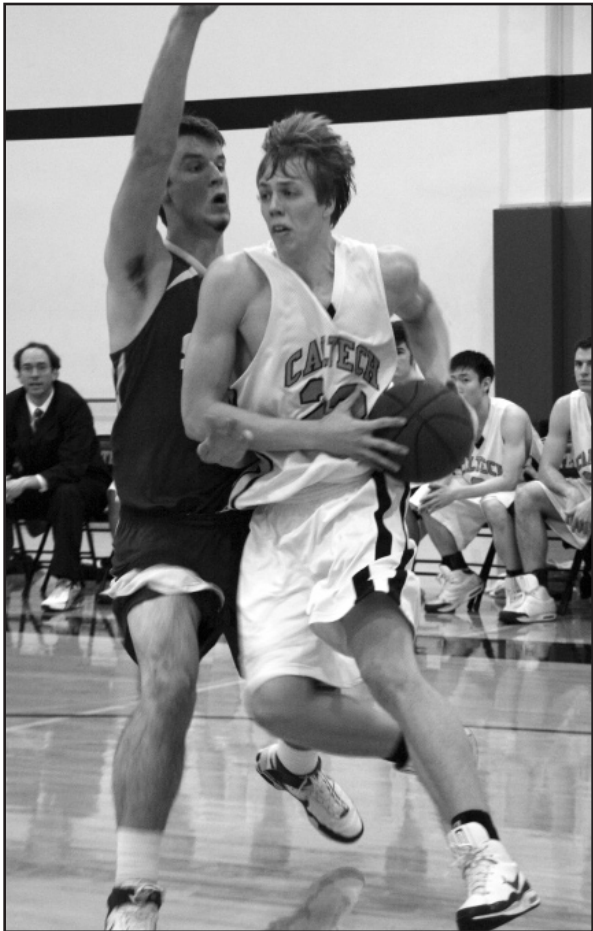


photo by Johnathan Tsai

Sophomore Ryan Elmquist drives to the basket for two of his game-high 22 points during Saturday's 75-47 loss to CMS

Senior forward Travis Haussler broke the career 1,000 point mark during Caltech's 78-64 loss at Redlands on Wednesday. Led by sophomore Ryan Elmquist's 20-points, 3 blocks and senior Matt Dellatorre's 18 points and six rebounds, the team had its most competitive game in conference play this season.

The Beavers held the home team to just 21 points with four minutes left in the first half on solid defense, but the Bulldogs used a 15-4 run to close out the half with a 36-19 lead. However, Caltech would hang around in the second half with a 13-3 run of its own to cut the lead down to 11 points several times. The team scored a season-high 45 points in the second half by shooting 55.6 percent from the field and 11-of-13 from the free throw line.

However, Redlands took advantage of 29 Caltech turnovers for 24 points, including 10 fast break points that would ultimately be the difference in the game.

Haussler finished the game with 12 points, five rebounds and shot a perfect 6-for-6 from the free throw line.

The team started off the first half against CMS on Saturday on a similar hot streak, holding a 11-10 lead with 14:10 left in the

first half. But the CMS full court pressure harassed the Beavers into 18 first-half turnovers, which led to 20 points for the Stags. CMS went into halftime with a 44-23 lead.

Elmquist registered a double-double with 22 points and 11 rebounds while senior Han Bin Man chipped in 11 points for Caltech.

Women's Bball loses grudge match to CMS

The Caltech women's basketball team lost to CMS 74-48 at home on Saturday to remain winless in conference play this season.

The first ten minutes of the first half was closely contested as each team traded baskets and the lead several times. The Beavers trailed 18-15 until the 5:58 mark, when the visiting Athenas used a 17-6 run to close out the half.

Unlike last year's 56-55 Caltech win, there was no end of the game controversy as CMS extended its lead to as great as 30 points in the second half.

Freshman Erin Hoops led the Beavers with 14 points while guard Jessica Roberts scored 10. CMS's Arai Krumwiede led all scorers with 15.



photo by Johnathan Tsai

Freshman Erin Hoops (31, pictured) led Caltech with 14 points during the team's 74-48 loss to CMS on Saturday.

Upcoming Games

Feb. 4

Men's Basketball vs. Pomona-Pitzer
7:30 P.M.

Feb. 5

Women's Basketball vs. Pomona-Pitzer
7:30 P.M.

Feb. 7

Fencing at Notre Dame Invitational
9:00 A.M.

Swimming and Diving at Chapman
11:00 A.M.

Baseball vs. Dodgertown West
11:00 A.M.
2:00 P.M.

Women's Tennis vs. Hope International
2:00 P.M.

Women's Basketball vs. La Verne
5:00 P.M.

Men's Basketball vs. La Verne
7:30 P.M.

Feb. 8

Men's Tennis at Cal Lutheran
1:00 P.M.



The Weekly Scoreboard

Jan. 28

Men's Basketball at Redlands L 78-64

Jan. 29

Women's Basketball at Redlands L 71-40

Jan. 30

Swimming and Diving at Home
4:00 P.M.

Jan. 31

Baseball vs. Simpson L 13-0
L 19-2

Women's Basketball vs. CMS L 74-48

Men's Basketball vs. CMS L 75-47

Men's Tennis vs Cal Lutheran L 9-0

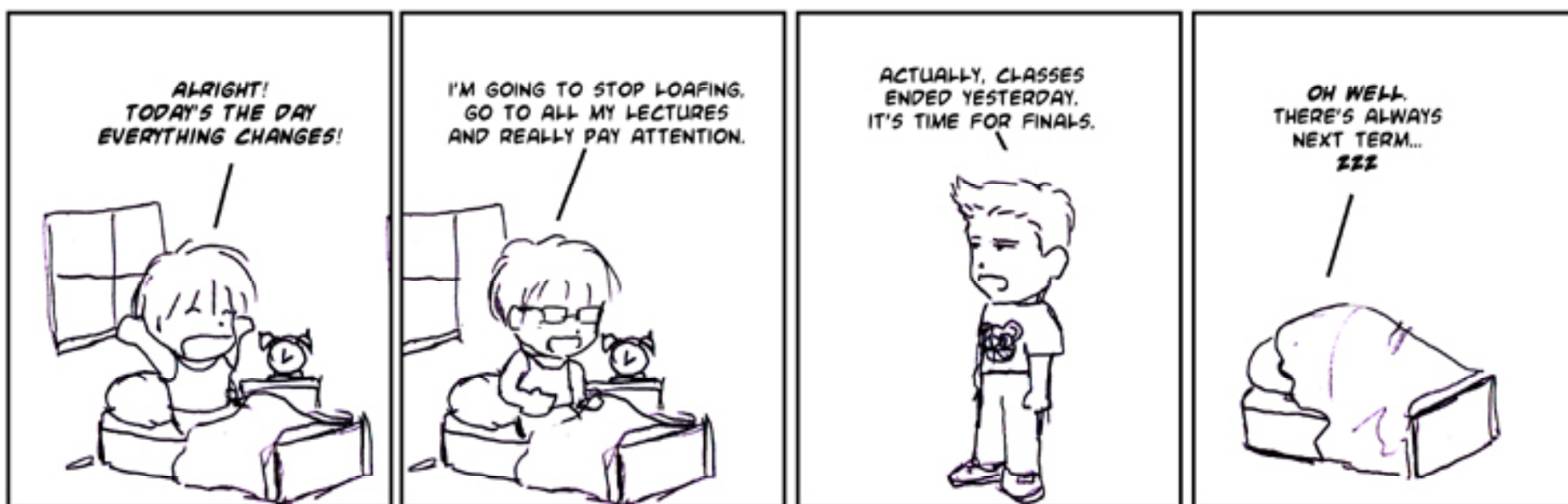
Feb. 1

Women's Tennis vs. La Sierra W 5-4

Comics



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



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



XXCD by Randall Munroe



XXCD by Randall Munroe



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