



## ASCIT Formal to be at the Beckman Institute

By Joel Nikolaus  
STAFF WRITER

Wondering what the plan is for ASCIT formal since the current BoD decided last term to bring the event a little closer to home?

The formal was recently scheduled for the Beckman Institute on May 22nd. Although the original plan was to hold the formal in Dabney Gardens, Nadia Iqbal, the ASCIT social director, said that Daney was already booked. The Beckman Institute was chosen as the best alternative.

Iqbal said that students can expect to see “the normal DJ” and “a band of some kind.” As a result of the event being moved on campus she said the costs will also be “way cheaper than last year.” Other details still need to be worked out, but not all students are happy with what they have heard so far.

Some of the criticism is directed at the choice of venue. “It is outside of a science building and next to two construction sites” said one student unhappy with the decision. At this week’s ASCIT meeting, Anthony Chong, the ASCIT President, said that the Beckman Institute had hosted other formal events and that

it was a venue on par with Dabney Gardens. Iqbal said Tom Mannion, Assistant V.P for Student Affairs, suggested the venue.

One of those who disapproved said they were not convinced. They said the BoD should be asking itself “what kind of event was it? A trustees event sipping cocktails is not the same.” Whether or not it worked for another event, they said there was simply not enough space. The courtyard, where the event would presumably be held, they said is occupied by a “huge fountain.”

Criticism aside, Iqbal said there are no better alternatives. Although the SAC courtyard was suggested as a possible location, Iqbal said that doing so “makes it house affiliated and it’s not supposed to be house affiliated.” The last party to be held in the SAC courtyard was last year’s Euro Party. There were numerous noise complaints from Pasadena neighbors and students. Others said they approved of the choice.

In addition to the change of location, ASCIT reduced its budget for the event. Changing the location has helped drop other expenses as well.

## Professor Dabiri at Year’s Fourth Watson Lecture

By Yuanjun Zhang  
STAFF WRITER

Beckman Auditorium recently drew crowds as people came to listen to Professor John O. Dabiri deliver a presentation on jellyfish-inspired engineering. Professor Dabiri’s lecture was the fourth in an annual series of Ernest C. Watson lectures. The lecture series, founded in 1922, features leading Caltech researchers.

During the lecture, Professor Dabiri described his biology-inspired approach towards his work with jellyfish and how they generate vortex rings. Distinguishing between bio-mimicry and bio-inspiration, Dabiri described his work as taking biological ideas and creatively integrating them with engineering and practical use. Instead of imitating nature, Dabiri’s work focuses on combining ideas of biological efficiency and mechanical power to design something new or improve current designs.

Covering a wide range, Dabiri’s research of vortex rings has applications in designing more efficient underwater

vehicles for monitoring the oceans, finding new and practical ways of detecting heart failure in early stages, and how to harness wind power more efficiently. The work has taken him and his students around the world, from the test runs of equipment and instruments in the Caltech pool to studies of wild jellyfish in Croatia.

Dabiri kept the presentation light, and he brought laughter from the audience when he showed an old clip of failed attempt at flight by bio-mimicry, joked about Harvard and MIT, and comically commented about his inability to scuba-dive.

Professor Dabiri is an Assistant Professor of Aeronautics and Bioengineering at Caltech. He graduated from Princeton in 2001, after which he came to Caltech and received his M.S. in 2003 on aeronautics and his Ph.D. in Bioengineering with a minor in Aeronautics in 2005. Dabiri has earned numerous awards for his work, and he was the youngest scientist (at only age 28) to be named in Popular Science Magazine’s 2008 article, “Brilliant 10,” which noted the nation’s top young scientists.

## Elephant visits Caltech



Photo by Jess Swallow

Elephant plays a part in an Indian wedding at the Atheneum yesterday between two MIT alumni. And no elephants are not native to Massachusetts.

## Caltech Fun Club Just Getting Started

By Joel Nikolaus  
STAFF WRITER

In the middle of next month, there are indications of an unprecedented mass exodus of Caltech students, unlike anything outside of Frosh Camp.

As part of the inaugural event of the Caltech Fun Club, over 100 students will head to the Sin City to see the Cirque du Soleil show *Mystère* at the Treasure Island hotel. The trip, taking place on May 16th, is funded partly out of an \$8,000 MHF grant approved this last fall. The heavily subsidized trip is meant to generate interest in the club, which plans to organize additional events this next year and possibly over the summer.

The trip, and the club itself, is largely a student response to the question: “is there a way, organized way, to get people off campus more regularly?” said Kiefer Aguilar, the club’s founder. He said that he “felt that people weren’t getting off campus that much” and that the club might be a way to encourage more activity. He said that there are now around 15 people working with the club to organize events.

He summarized the club’s three major goals as “getting people in the real world and seeing what

fun is like,” “getting people together in big events,” and “transportation.”

It does all of that for the upcoming trip to Las Vegas. Among the ideas for future events are trips to the zoo, Hollywood shows, hiking, concerts, museums, and beach. There might be a camping trip this fall, a collection of all the activities that college students are supposed to be doing in their free time. While the trip to Las Vegas is a fairly large event, Aguilar said the club was not founded on the idea of only a few big events. Rather it hopes to focus on putting on more frequent activities. He said that the club’s “original plan was weekly or biweekly events.”

Such events would be open to all students, and Aguilar said the “general consensus was it may be a great opportunity to unify undergraduates and graduates.” While other organizations on campus, such as the Caltech Y, organize such joint events the numbers involved are relatively small. Aguilar said that he hopes with a larger number of people involved that Fun Club will be more successful at bringing the two groups together.

What place does this club have within other campus organizations? He said that in organizing these type of events “some clubs may fear Fun

Club is too generic of a club.” But he said that he did not think this was the case, and that the “place for fun club is to try new things and just have fun.”

Since this upcoming event is funded by a one-time MHF proposal, in the future he said he expects the club to take on less of a role funding activities and more in the organization. While events might not be as heavily subsidized, he still said that students would benefit from organizing as a larger group. In addition he said that the “Fun Club may have a greater role of solving the transportation problem.” Transportation for the upcoming trip is provided by a combination of buses and students drivers, but he said students have been surprisingly willing to drive other students. He said that while the initial goal of weekly or biweekly events might be a little ambitious, but that with “more volunteers may be possible.”

All of this may still requires some funding, and Aguilar said that the club plans to seek funding from other secondary sources. They have applied for money from ASCIT and the GSC. He said other potential sources of funding in various students funds is being looked into and that he would like to try and work with the alumni or alumni association.

### In This Issue

Academics & Research Committee

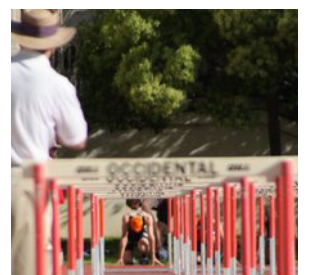


ARC Summary  
page 2

Don’t Blame the Community  
ASCIT Minutes  
BOC Candidate Statements  
Comics

page 2  
page 2  
page 3  
page 4

Track Picture  
page 2



## Don't Blame the Community for Sexism

By Tanvir  
Ahamed Bhuyain

UNDERGRADUATE

In response to my previous article asking for evidences of sexism at Caltech, several serious incidents were reported. Even though these incidents are very worrying and must be (and should have been) dealt with strict disciplinary actions, I still stay true to my opinion that it is unfair to pass judgment on the whole community based on these. I would have said that sexism is a very big problem at Caltech if the whole community knew about these incidents and yet failed to react. But since most of these incident were not reported to the administration or the community at large, I am inclined to see these as isolated events caused by a only a few culprits. If someone discouraged the victims to report these incidents then I agree that's a very regrettable reaction by those people.

Since I have been here for less than one year, I might not know everything. But, I would like to ask, have there been any cases where incidents like these were reported or known by the administration or the community itself and yet no action was taken? As far as I know, the answer is "no". And as long as the answer to this question is "no" I would not be ready to accept comments like "the whole community is devoid of standards of decency and respect" or "the whole community is crippled".

I would urge everyone to stop blaming the whole community instead of being brave and reporting the actual culprits. In no way do these few individuals represent the whole community. I am quite certain that if victims of such incidents begin to report these to the right places then the rest of the community will show their support, regardless of their gender.

## Track completes last SCIAC meet of year

Photo by Andrew Gong



Sophomore Alex Lapidés earned third place in the high jump with a clearance of 1.95m at last week's conference championships.

## 2008-2009 Financial Aid Hard Deadline for Graduate Students

This year the Financial Aid Office has a hard deadline and will not process any graduate applications for loans completed after May 15, 2009. Therefore if you are still planning on applying for loans for the 2008-2009 academic year you must submit all the required documents before the published deadline, or you will need to find alternative ways to finance your education at Caltech. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us by stopping by our office, calling at (626)395-6280 or emailing us at [finaid@caltech.edu](mailto:finaid@caltech.edu).

## The California Tech

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## ARC Summary for Week of May 4th

- House ARC representatives will be holding discussions in their respective houses to discuss the findings of the SFC and also to get suggestions on things that people want us to do. If you have something academic you want to see done, please come to a discussion or talk to your ARC rep!
- Option mentor recruiting has begun -- if you want to be an option mentor, please email [arc@caltech.edu](mailto:arc@caltech.edu). For more information on option mentors, see <http://arc.caltech.edu/mentors.php>
- ASCIT Teaching Awards nominations have closed. If you did not have a chance to send a nomination, but still want to, email [arc@caltech.edu](mailto:arc@caltech.edu) as soon as possible.
- The ARC is currently working to gather student opinion on the new TQFR. If you have comments, please email us at [arc@caltech.edu](mailto:arc@caltech.edu) or use the anonymous feedback form available at our website (<http://arc.caltech.edu>)

## ASCIT BoD Minutes for May 1st, 2009

**Officers Present:** Anthony Chong, Andrey Poletayev, Pallavi Gunalan, Michael Maseda, Maral Mazrooei, Nadia Iqbal, Laura Conwill

**Officers Absent:** None

**Guests:** Joel Nikolaus, Brian Merlob

Call to order: 12:16 PM

### President's Report:

- Shot Glasses:** Harvey Mudd was considering selling shirts to raise money for the Big Bang party, but they're significantly cooler than that, so instead they are doing a shot glass fundraiser. Shot glasses will be sold for \$5 each; Anthony will appoint a representative from each house to serve as a liaison for selling shot glasses to their house.

### Officer Reports:

- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):** The ARC has found people to create wikis for each option. ASCIT awards nominations have closed, but people can still be nominated. The humanities department is willing to pilot the new TQFR program.
- V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):** Benji and Daryl are on the freshman orientation committee with Anthony and are working on creating the orientation schedule. There will be eight lunches and eight dinners for Rotation! Max Jones, Nick Rosa, and Pallavi are working to clarify the sexual harassment policy. Tim Black, Mike and Pallavi met with Anneila Sergeant regarding the student center proposal; she was very receptive.
- Operations Director:** Besides working on the student center, this week Mike has been setting up a bunch of meetings with the Big T personnel, the parking committee (regarding zipcars and shuttles to the airport). Mike continues to organize frosh lunches; allowing freshman to invite a friend to the lunch has increased attendance a lot.
- Treasurer:** Maral is reimbursing people from the last ASCIT's budget; this includes the frisbee club and DevTeam. Maral and Anthony learned about managing accounts online via a vibrant and engaging presentation.
- Social Director:** ASCIT Formal will be Friday, May 22.

Meeting adjourned: 12:40 PM

Submitted by Laura Conwill  
ASCIT Secretary

## Off-Campus BOC Rep Statements

*Alex Fandrianto*

The Honor Code is one of the biggest reasons why I chose to go to Caltech. I enjoy living here because I can implicitly trust others in daily life and in academics. "Never take unfair advantage of others." This simple maxim by which we live has allowed us much more freedom than the students of other schools. We have after-hours access to buildings, collaboration on sets, and take-home exams, all of which result from our belief in the Honor Code. I think it is amazingly wonderful that we can take exams on our own time, when we are awake and when we feel fully prepared. I believe we deserve these rights as Techers, which is why I want to help protect them by serving as a member of the BoC.

I believe I would be an effective member of the BoC because I approach problems with an open mind. I look at every perspective and make sure that I understand the situation before making any decisions or judgments. I take these matters seriously and will always try to make the best decision. In this manner, I believe I will be able to act judiciously when sitting on cases. As my friends know, I care a lot about everyone around me. I do all that I can to help others because I believe that they can change for the better. At the same time though, I understand that I may have to make some harsh decisions. In short, I will strive to do my best if elected.

Please vote for me, Alex Fandrianto, to be your off-campus BoC representative.

*Sarvesh Garimella*

Like all Caltech students, I went through the BoC talk at frosh camp, finding it mostly boring and taking from it a general picture of "Don't cheat, we trust you not to." I went along my way assuming that the majority of people adhered to the Honor Code, and that the few who did not were punished justly. However, I have been troubled of late. After hearing about the Honor Code process at Haverford College, I began to wonder why our process was not as transparent. At first it was just an idle question, but after attending the BoC portion of the Student-Faculty Conference last month, I have started questioning the fairness and transparency of the BoC process. I found that some of the procedures the BoC currently follows violate students' rights in the interest of "protecting the members of the BoC." For example, the current system forces students to choose only one silent witness: this puts the student in a very difficult position. Does the student confide in an academic advisor for advice on the specifics of the case or does the student, who is most likely going through emotional stress as a result of the process, confide in a friend to help deal with this stress? This is a choice that I do not think any member of the community should have to make. Furthermore, the BoC's reasoning behind keeping the current system does not strike me as fair: they claim it is to protect the members of the BoC. In my opinion, if one sits on the BoC committee, he or she has decided to do so for the best interest of the community. This means that BoC process must have more transparency, and that it cannot operate without any possibility for repercussions for its decisions. All people, even those on the BoC, make mistakes, and the process should account for this truth. Though the current committee is attempting to increase transparency by publishing closed cases, it does not help the potentially wronged student if a decision has been handed down unfairly.

As a member of the Caltech community, I feel that the rights of its members must be protected. I am running for the BoC because I want to help make sure that members of our community are not wronged. As a member of the BoC, I will support as much transparency in a case as the defendant is comfortable having. Furthermore, I accept that any decisions that I make as a member of the BoC will be available for public scrutiny and will push for this to happen.

We must ensure that the BoC process is just, and that its members are held accountable for their decisions. If I am elected as the Off-Campus BoC rep, I will voice my opinions for the increased transparency of the process and an increased assumption of responsibility for the members of the BoC.

*The California Tech* is obligated, under the ASCIT Bylaws, to publish the minutes of the Board of Directors as well as candidate statements for elections. The BoD minutes are published as-received and without further abridgment. For unabridged versions of the minutes, consult Laura Conwill, ASCIT Secretary.

The Editors include minutes from IHC meetings and excerpts from the ARC's meetings voluntarily as a service to the community.

*Claudia Whitten*

As you well know, there are a number of benefits that are the direct result of the Honor System. I can count on one hand the number of midterms and finals I've taken in a classroom – how many undergraduate students at other schools can say that? Moreover, none of those exams were proctored. Walking down any given alley, you can see whiteboards covered in notes and equations from students discussing homework problems, because for the most part, professors allow collaboration on sets. And how many times have you used a South Master to turn in that set you finished as the sun was coming up, so you could crash and not worry about sleeping through the 10 A.M. deadline? We leave our doors open to encourage our friends to stop by, without worrying that someone will take our possessions while we make a C-store run. The Honor System not only benefits us, the undergraduates, but the community as a whole by allowing us to do our best while lessening the amount of supervision which has to be performed by faculty and administration. By upholding the Honor Code, we make the continued existence of these advantages possible – a breakdown of this system would spell the end of not only these benefits, but of this community of trust.

This is where the Board of Control comes in. The BoC is a committee of students that hears cases concerning honor code violations. These students work to nullify the damage done by violations of the Honor Code, help the students who committed the violations, and protect the community from further incidents of that nature. If elected the off-campus BoC representative, I will work to make sure that students understand the implications of the Honor Code, along with how the BoC operates. Additionally, I will act as a means of communication between the BoC and the student body, to make sure that all opinions are heard. I will be fair in my decisions during hearings and not jump quickly to conclusions, but instead consider thoroughly the evidence presented. Finally, I will put in the time and effort needed to uphold my responsibilities as a BoC representative, to help maintain the Honor System, and to ensure that we as students continue to enjoy the community created by this system.

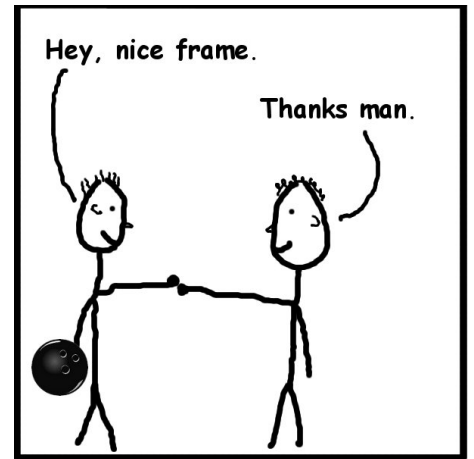
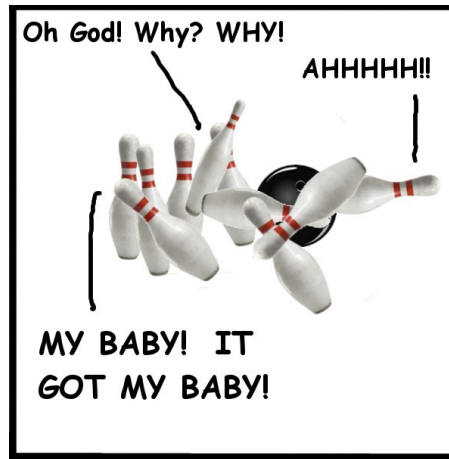
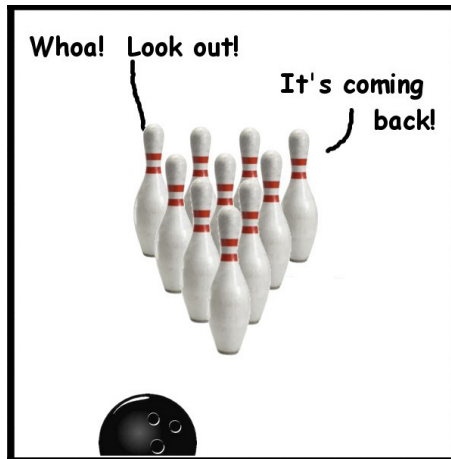
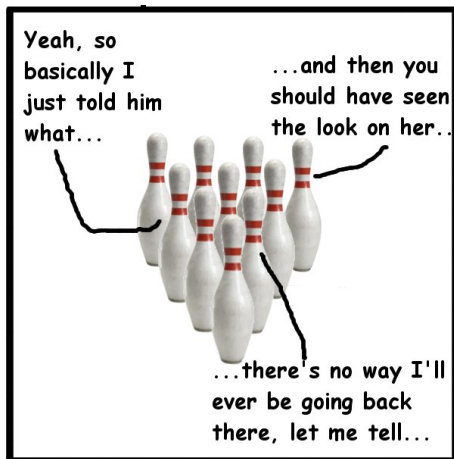
*Chris Kennelly*

Our Honor Code sets us apart from other universities. When I was considering schools during my senior year of high school, my appreciation only scratched the surface of understanding what it meant to have a strong and well-respected system. Now, as a sophomore, I've lived under the Honor Code for nearly two years and spent my time trying to explain to prefrosh and friends at other universities just how special it is. While there's a number of examples such as take-home, unproctored exams, that one can give to a prospective prefrosh, it's not just a long, enumerated list of privileges: It's a way of life. Any list that I might offer an incredulous prefrosh or friend from home cannot convey the freedom our Honor Code offers on the basis of mutual trust.

Occasionally, that trust is broken. The Board of Control stands as the guardian of the community to ensure that potential violations are investigated and, in doing so, the community is protected. Yet, the notion of trust which underpins the Honor Code itself is not limited to expecting us not to cheat: It carries into the enforcement of the Honor Code itself. We choose members of the BoC whom we trust to be just in their deliberations and decisions. Faculty must be willing to trust our enforcement mechanisms, not by coercion, but by providing clear and convincing evidence that the process is, in fact, fair and just.

Having discussed the Honor Code considerably with students and faculty well before SFC and afterwards, it is clear that skepticism in the BoC has emerged in the minds of some faculty members and students. As I wrote in the April 13th issue of *The Tech*, we should have a discussion to allay these concerns: The proposals of the Honor Code Task Force are a start, but more work potentially remains to be done. As a community, we must determine what level of transparency is necessary for our own comfort in the decisions being made in our name by the BoC. If elected to the BoC, I would be open to a level of transparency which satisfies the community rather than individual BoC members.

There is little anyone can say or do to prove that he or she can live up to that standard of being fair and just and of keeping the community's interests in mind. In serving on the BoC, I believe that I can take the community's interests to heart, not in speedily convicting all defendants, but in ensuring that decisions being made in the name of the community are correct. To wrongly convict an innocent defendant does a disservice to us all. For the community, eligible voters and the ineligible alike, I offer my solemn conviction that I believe I can be just; any further assertion on my part would be an empty, baseless guarantee.



'Spare Me' by Mark Eichenlaub



Caltech Personal Account Statements will be available on line only beginning in July.

If others should view and/or pay your bill, please go online to [access.caltech](http://access.caltech), then select CASHNet and set up a user name and password for them.

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Thank you in advance for supporting our effort to economize and go green!  
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The 29th annual

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Directed by William Bing

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