



## Caltech Has Nervous Breakdown, Quits

*Mixed reactions from students and faculty*

**By Bitter**

STAFF WRITER

In an unexpected move, Caltech (perhaps the best science and engineering university in the country) announced yesterday at a press conference that it would be taking the 2009-2010 year off for "personal reasons." In explaining the gap year, Caltech cited increased education-related pressure and a desire to find meaning in its insignificant existence.

"Screw it, I just want to see the world, travel to India or China, and smoke some hashish," explained Caltech. "I am at a crossroads and I want to get out and live a little. Maybe pick up knitting..." continued the university, which is sixth in the "US News & World Report's" university rankings.

"I don't even know why I bother. Nobody loves me anymore," sobbed Caltech, before collapsing onto Caltech President Chameau's welcoming shoulder. "Not that prefrash shouldn't come-- it's a great environment for learning and personal growth," it concluded before blowing its nose on Chameau's cravat.

Chameau says that he respects Caltech's decision and wishes

it good luck in finding meaning in a "cold and morally bankrupt world."

"With the stock market and all, well, to be honest I wasn't sure I was going to be able to put him through university for another year anyways," said the downtrodden president. "Not that the schools' financial troubles should dissuade students from attending, everything is perfectly fine, I swear."

Rumors had spread in the preceding months that Caltech had been seeing Caltech's (award winning) counseling center, but this is the first confirmation of the school's psychological confusion. Tom Mannion (a saint loved by all without question) claims he's known the truth of the situation for month, but only felt comfortable confiding the secret in his elite student henchmen.

The university's decision leaves students and faculty in a veritable limbo. Without a university, all faculty will be on sabbatical and students will have to continue their studies without (the school's famously entertaining and illuminating) lectures. Courses will be run exclusively using MIT's OpenCourseWare.

The announcement sparked a wide range of reactions. Nearly

forty students, led by an outraged student from U.C. Berkeley, marched on President Chameau's house, and were invited inside for tea and hot chocolate.

Other students didn't seem to care. "No yeah, I don't think this will affect me," said Ron Rivest, a sophomore CS Major. "I never went to lectures (as unique and amazing as they were) anyways,

accessible) professor speaking off the record noted that "Only sycophants and tools (not that those sorts of students shouldn't matriculate) attended my classes anyways. Now I can spend my time doing real work and drinking."

Other (world-class) professors, also speaking off the record, noted that it was only the constant need

I felt I had purpose in life," said the university before leaving the podium in tears.

The Caltech Christian Fellowship (a wonderful student organization that brings meaning to the lives of Caltech students) is collecting donations of balloons and cards in order to cheer up the confused university. "I don't know what these material tokens are supposed to do for a depressed university, but we've run out of ideas," explained the CCF President.

Avery House, led by its Chancellor Aphine Ouse, plans to file suit against Caltech for breach of contract, claiming that Caltech can only take a medical sabbatical if it has a note from its doctor proving it has an actual disease.

"He's clearly faking it," said Ouse. "Just look. It's so easy to fake mental conditions.... lazy bastard."

"I don't even know why I bother. Nobody loves me anymore."

- Caltech University

but I hope Caltech finds whatever its looking for soon. I need it to be back by graduation."

"Can't Caltech (with its best collegiate in-class dining services) just recuperate over the summer?" asked pre-med Markkas Hart I. "I mean, all you have to do is spend a month reading Nietzsche, wearing black, cutting your wrists and listening to 'My Chemical Romance'," he advised. "That's what I do."

Professors also have mixed reactions to the news. A (kind and

to perform scripted lectures in half-way presentable outfits which kept themselves from entering their own spiral of depression and self-doubt.

Caltech (whose staff of researchers produces more outstanding papers than any institution this side of the Mississippi) reportedly made the decision after seeing pictures of the incoming prefrash.

"They all looked so innocent and naive. I remember when I felt like that. I remember when

*Ed. Note: The Caltech Office of Prefrash Information and Truth altered certain portions of this article.*

## Professor Nate Lewis Raps His Way to Fame

**By Stoned**

STAFF WRITER

Rolling Stone magazine released its list of "100 People Who Are Changing America" last week, and Caltech's very own Professor Nate Lewis, better known by his stage name Lil Lew, topped the list at #17. This year's list was particularly notable for Lil Lew as he beat out rival rapper Lil Wayne, who took the #19 spot.

Competition for album sales between the two artists has been fierce. Lil Wayne's 2008 album, *The Carter III*, was the best selling album of year, making "the tattooed, syrup-swigging, perpetually stoned 26-year-old the weirdest pop superstar since Michael Jackson," according to Rolling Stone.

Lil Lew's career, however, has proven to have greater longevity. His latest and twenty-sixth album, *The Experiment XXVI*, was recently certified as triple platinum and has been called his best work yet. Lewis refers to his

recent hit singles, "Vapor Sensing Wid Mah E-Nose" and "\$olar \$ells," as some of his purest beats ever, producing a 99% yield. After the release of the latest album, ladies have been flocking like hydrogen ions to him and his rap group, collectively known as the Lewis Bases.

Despite beating out Lil Wayne and Taylor Swift, one rap rival that Lil Lew was not able to top on this year's list was Kanye West, who took the #7 spot. Lil Lew, however, seemed unfazed by the defeat:

"I don't even know who Kanye West is," said Lil Lew.

The rivalry between the two artists seems to be more pronounced on West's side. Upon hearing that he placed above Lil Lew on the list, West said, "I'm harder, better, faster, stronger.... Bow in the presence of greatness, Lil Lew! You should be honored by my lateness, that I would even show up to this fake s\*\*\*."

In spite of West's comments, Lil Lew welcomes the chance to meet the top twenty of the list. He is particularly interested in collaborating with Tina Fey (#8)

and Bono (#4), stating, "We could sing and rap together." Music critics have largely agreed that the unique collaboration has the potential to make music history.

So what's next for the man who already has twenty-six albums, hundreds of hits singles, and numerous awards? Lil Lew says that he is planning to expand the LilLewempire to include a clothing line and reality television show. MTV cameras are currently following the artist as he heads to the mixing lab and creates new material. His new album, whose title is rumored to be "Ch1 4 Lyf", is tentatively set for release in Fall 2010.

The complete Rolling Stone list can be found at: [http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/26754176/the\\_rs\\_100\\_agents\\_of\\_change/](http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/26754176/the_rs_100_agents_of_change/)

Nate Lewis rocks out in his office.



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MIT Still Located in Bitterly Cold Boston

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# Prefrosh Weekend Dining Schedule

prefrosh fullname	Host Fullname	House/Thursday Dinner	Friday Dinner
Shir Aharon	Tim Wu	Avery	Fleming
Albert Ai	Dvin Adalian	Ruddock	Dabney
Emma Alexander	Vivian Sun	Ruddock	Ricketts
Sachin Allahabadi	Patrick Kim	Lloyd	Blacker
Rina Amatya	Riley Franks	Page	Dabney
Avin Andrade	Jason Bland	Ruddock	Avery
Carlos Armada	Giordon Stark	Ruddock	Fleming
Moi Arriaga	Hasier Hasier	Blacker	Lloyd
Troy Astorino	Jeremy Leibowitz	Page	Fleming
Juhee Bae	Mallika Saran	Fleming	Lloyd
Pumima Balakrishnan	Shruti Mishra	Ruddock	Fleming
Dori Bejleri	Alejandro Carbonara	Ruddock	Blacker
Nathan Benjamin	Kirit Karkare	Ruddock	Ricketts
Jack Blackwood	Dave Kratz	Page	Lloyd
Daniel Blado	Rishi Chandy	Lloyd	Dabney
Michelle Bobrow	Mythili Iyer	Fleming	Dabney
Stephanie Bohaczuk	Lei Huang	Ruddock	Page
Sarah Bolmer	Krissy Dahl	Ruddock	Fleming
Carly Bond	Stacy Levine	Page	Blacker
Ethan Boroson	Wilson Ho	Lloyd	Blacker
Eric Bourgain-Chang	James Li	Avery	Ruddock
Michael Bowerman	Christopher Hallacy	Ruddock	Fleming
Reuben Britto	Anthony Chong	Ruddock	Ricketts
Nina Budaeva	Jessica Su	Dabney	Ruddock
Diego Caporale	Daniel Kolodrubetz	Ruddock	Fleming
Kyle Carpenter	Abraham Buditama	Ruddock	Page
Lucas Carreno	Max Jones	Dabney	Avery
Lawrence Chan	Abe Chien	Blacker	Avery
Maria Chan	Justine Chia	Avery	Blacker
Christine Chang	June Zhang	Ruddock	Avery
Sinthunon Chavanaves	Brandon Hensley	Avery	Page
Clare Chen	Jennifer Ma	Fleming	Ruddock
Devon Chen	Stephanie Chang	Ruddock	Avery
Rachel Chen	Katherine Wong	Page	Dabney
Paul Chen	Nathan Watson	Lloyd	Blacker
Yanping Chen	Tony Tong	Avery	Ruddock
Bryan Cheng	Skylar Cook	Fleming	Ruddock
Divya Chhabra	Marissa Barrientos	Page	Lloyd
Annie Chin	Jordan Theriot	Ricketts	Lloyd
Edward Chin	David Leon	Ricketts	Blacker
Erica Chin	Kristina Flavier	Dabney	Ruddock
Jun Chun	Eric Chin	Dabney	Ruddock
Patrick Clay	Chris White	Avery	Ruddock
Kristen Colwell	Nadia Iqbal	Dabney	Ruddock
Brandon Comella	Andrey Poletayev	Ricketts	Lloyd
Hector Correa	Justin Johnson	Dabney	Avery
Nadine Currie	Sue Jiang	Ricketts	Blacker
Megan Cutrofello	Maria Riolo	Blacker	Fleming
Dominique Dabija	Lili Yang	Fleming	Ricketts
Radka Dancikova	Wubing Ye	Lloyd	Blacker
Colleen Delaney	Sunny Chun	Blacker	Ricketts
Laura Deming	Sarah Hunt	Blacker	Fleming
Marino Di Franco	Sasha Boulgakov	Ruddock	Blacker
Matthew Diamond	Benji Lin	Ruddock	Dabney
Race Diloreto	Allen Chen	Ruddock	Blacker
Gabriella Dodd	Tencia Lee	Fleming	Blacker
Hanna Dodd	Janis Intoy	Fleming	Blacker
Jack Dominguez	Mitchell Wang	Blacker	Ricketts
Shayan Doroudi	Sherwin Doroudi	Page	Lloyd
Karen Dowling	Margaret Allen	Ricketts	Blacker
Jingwen Du	Yuanyi Dong	Blacker	Fleming
Chris Dudiak	Andrew Matuschak	Blacker	Lloyd
Bo Dwyer	Samuel Elder	Avery	Dabney
Michael Edwards	Ryan Elmquist	Page	Lloyd
Dan Emmons	Marshall Grinstead	Ruddock	Page
Joshua Escribano	Dahvyd Wing	Blacker	Page
Christopher Estrada	Roshan Nanu	Ricketts	Avery
Chiddy Ezeaka	Noddy Eruchalu	Fleming	Blacker
Jennifer Fang	Danika Wellington	Blacker	Dabney
Kelvin Fang	Calvin Kim	Ricketts	Avery
Jared Forman	Alexander Lapides	Fleming	Lloyd
Aden Forrow	Wesley Chen	Avery	Blacker
Suzannah Fraker	Nicole Levac	Page	Avery
Matthew Fu	Daniel Talancon	Ricketts	Blacker
Michelle Fung	Kristen Kozak	Blacker	Lloyd

Kim Furuya	Shannon Mohler	Blacker	Avery
Prakriti Gaba	Sally Zhen	Avery	Blacker
Alejandro Garcia	Ben Steele	Blacker	Dabney
Dmitri Gekhtman	Chris Dewan	Lloyd	Page
Lauren Gilbert	Alta Fang	Avery	Dabney
Vaishnavi Giridaran	Lita Yang	Lloyd	Dabney
Eric Gomez	Calvin Kuo	Dabney	Page
Gustavo Goretkin	Samson Chen	Blacker	Lloyd
Michelle Grau	Jennifer Greco	Ruddock	Blacker
Jason Gross	Isaac Sheff	Blacker	Ruddock
Kevin Gu	Derek Goto	Ruddock	Avery
Kelly Guan	Ambie Valdes	Blacker	Lloyd
Steven Gutierrez	Maxwell Bryk	Page	Fleming
Jonathan Hale	Luis Guerra	Dabney	Lloyd
Jared Hallett	Zack Gomez	Ricketts	Dabney
Amit Hazi	Caleb Ziegler	Blacker	Page
Jimi Hedrick	Yutong Chen	Fleming	Avery
Allard Hendriksen	Erik Schaeffer	Ruddock	Page
Kevin Henneck	Alan Pezeshki	Ruddock	Avery
Zachary Herrera	Mike Kaye	Blacker	Fleming
Matthew Heydeman	Che Peng	Page	Ruddock
Nerissa Hoglen	Annie Hong	Lloyd	Fleming
Justin Holmgren	Kelly Littlepage	Fleming	Dabney
Kristen Holtz	Christine Fuller	Lloyd	Fleming
Tony Huang	Brian Yu	Fleming	Ruddock
Yifei Huang	Theresa Geiger	Fleming	Lloyd
Allison Hume	Maritza Ruiz	Dabney	Ruddock
Jonathan Hwang	Tony Wu	Avery	Page
Roland Hwang	Kevin Kuns	Blacker	Ricketts
Supriya Iyer	Laura Conwill	Lloyd	Fleming
Bryan Jadot	Geoffrey Beck	Page	Avery
Kelsey James	Nikki Thadani	Ricketts	Lloyd
Jennifer Jang	Sierra Petersen	Fleming	Avery
Guadalupe Jasso	Flora Li	Lloyd	Dabney
Raymond Jimenez	TBD	TBD	TBD
Jeremy Johnson	Matthew Feldman	Dabney	Page
Sam Jones	Ali Ebrahim	Lloyd	Page
Amol Kamat	Heejae Kim	Fleming	Lloyd
Alex Kandell	Calvin Yu	Page	Ruddock
Joanna Kao	Jamie Jackson	Braun/Avery	Avery
Zara Karuman	Juying Shang	Page	Avery
Caroline Kim	Larissa Yee	Fleming	Dabney
Sue Kim	Steph Tsuei	Blacker	Ruddock
Chris Kolner	Priyam Patel	Blacker	Ricketts
Philip Kong	Yuehan Huang	Dabney	Ricketts
Timi Kosztin	Bamini Balaji	Ruddock	Page
Jeff Kowalski	Ayon Sen	Fleming	Lloyd
Akshay Kumar	Eric Cho	Dabney	Page
Christophe Kunesh	Alan Gee	Fleming	Avery
Stephanie Kwan	Suzanne Birner	Blacker	Avery
Thomas Kwong	Jerry Kwong	Page	Fleming
Bert Landin	Eric Samperton	Ricketts	Dabney
Rebecca Lawler	Michelle Filiba	Dabney	Avery
Ellen Le	Jacqueline Rousseau	Fleming	Page
Vincent Le	Jason Lunn	Lloyd	Ricketts
Don Lee	Wei Li	Lloyd	Ricketts
Shimwoo Lee	Kyung Ha Lee	Avery	Ruddock
Jomya Lei	Isha Bendre	Lloyd	Ricketts
Brett Leibowitz	Ziying Wang	Page	Lloyd
David Lerner	Fedor Manin	Dabney	Avery
Wesley Leung	Dano Obenshain	Dabney	Lloyd
David Levonian	Chi Feng	Ruddock	Ricketts
Harriet Li	Sarah Hunt	Blacker	Dabney
Cici Li	Jessie Ku	Avery	Fleming
Victor Li	Michael Wu	Dabney	Blacker
Max Liberman	Stephen Wilke	Avery	Page
Angela Lin	Stephany Lai	Avery	Fleming
Isabelle Link-Levy	Jian Fung	Avery	Ruddock
Kurt Litsch	Mike Smith	Blacker	Blacker
Eric Liu	Dingz Lu	Avery	Blacker
Erik Liu	Kiefer Aguilar	Avery	Page
Teresa Liu	Jess Davis	Ruddock	Blacker
Kevin Lo	Ernest Lee	Lloyd	Ricketts
Megan Lo	Joules Gould	Avery	Dabney
Sebastian Lobo	Yang Yang	Ricketts	Lloyd
Cassi Lochhaas	Jamie Tayar	Blacker	Page
Florence Loi	Kathryn Gunn	Blacker	Ruddock



## Caltech has a new webcasting program

By Joel Nikolaus  
STAFF WRITER

Ever feel like you would understand what the professor was talking about if you could just hear him say it one more time? That may no longer be an issue for some courses.

The Academics and Research Committee (ARC) has already begun taping lectures that will be webcasted for three courses: Introduction to Computer Systems (CS24), Applications of Classical Physics (Ph136c), and Introductory Methods of Applied Mathematics (ACM95c).

The lectures have yet to be posted, but they are part of a pilot project for a more expansive program that current ARC Chair Andrey Poletayev hopes will go into effect next year.

The more expansive program would include lectures from more courses, and all the lectures would be accessible to Caltech students via an interactive web interface. The interface would allow students to watch and rewind parts of the lecture, but it would also allow students to leave comments and make bookmarks. Students would tape the lectures and maintain the web interface.

Program expansion is contingent on the approval of funding proposals that will be submitted to Vice Provost Melany Hunt and the Moore-Hufstедler Fund.

Money from Hunt would provide funding for equipment, including cameras, and an MHF grant would fund development, including salaries for students to develop the webcasting interface this summer. Money might also provide work-study money for students that film classes, potentially at tutor-level wages of \$12.50 an hour.

Meanwhile, ARC is supporting the first few weeks of the program, relying on volunteers and borrowed equipment, including cameras that Poletayev describes as "crappy". He anticipates approval of both funding requests, but that without it the program would not survive.

Some funding would be required to even continue for the duration of the spring term. "If she [Hunt] doesn't, I don't know how this is going to work," said Poletayev.

Funding is not the only issue that needs to be dealt with in order to expand this project from a few courses to a wider selection. Professors must also agree to have their lectures taped and webcast.

Karthik Sarma, ARC Secretary, said that of the handful of professors he has talked to fall into three groups. "A third of them were like yes, this is a great idea, a third didn't want to be first but would do it when everyone else did, and another third though it was a bad idea," said Sarma.

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## Two Caltech students win Hertz Fellowships



Photo from Po-Ling Loh and www.usc.edu/CSSP/History/2001/pictures

Amit Lankhanpal and Po-Ling Loh have been awarded Hertz Fellowships, which are valued at over \$250,000 and provide no-strings attached five-year graduate fellowships in the applied sciences and engineering fields. Only ten students nationwide were awarded Hertz Fellowships this year, out of an applicant pool of 543 students.

Lankhanpal is a first year graduate student studying quantitative biology at Caltech with Professor Michael Elowitz, and Loh is a senior planning to study applied math at University of California, Berkeley. Loh's oldest brother, Po-Shen Loh, won a Hertz Fellowship as well in 2004. Lankhanpal is pictured at left, and Loh is pictured at right.

"I feel very honored and fortunate to have received this award," said Lankhanpal. "I'm grateful to the Hertz Foundation for administering this program. There are many more deserving candidates than available fellowships, so you have to be a little lucky to get through."

According to Lankhanpal, the process is "fairly involved", and involves a written application and recommendations followed by two rounds of interviews over the course of a few months.

## One Burglar Down, More To Go Only three bike thefts since February 26

By Sarah Marzen  
STAFF WRITER

The number of random bike thefts on campus seems to be decreasing. No bikes have been stolen since March 15, according to Security Chief Gregg Henderson.

Only three bikes have been stolen since February 26, which marked the start of an approximately three-week hiatus for bike thefts on Caltech's campus.

On March 12, two bikes were stolen after their U-locks were cut, according to Security Chief Gregg Henderson.

The hiatus from February 26 until March 11 came immediately after the Pasadena police caught one of the bike thieves, following an anonymous tip phoned into Caltech Security. The burglar was not affiliated with Caltech in any way, said Henderson.

However no lost bikes have been found and many of the



Photo from Michelle Jiang

A cut U-lock without a bike sits on a bike rack in the corridor between Lloyd House and Page House.

stolen bikes are not registered with Caltech. Bikes that are registered with Caltech will be delivered to their owners, if found; bikes that are not registered will be put up for auction.

"Till it happens to them,

people don't think about it," said Henderson, regarding the relatively low number of registered bikes.

Henderson did not give more details, as investigation of the bike thefts is still ongoing.

## Student Faculty Conference "unique"

By Wesley Yu  
STAFF WRITER

On April 4, Caltech will hold its Student-Faculty Conference hosted by the Academics and Research Committee (ARC). Students, administrators, and faculty have been discussing proposals for changes to the curriculum and student life on campus every other year since 1980.

According to ARC Chair Andrey Poletayev, the conference this year will be unique. "This SFC will be special for two reasons- the Student Experience Trip( SET) presentation and core re-evaluation discussion," he said. "I have high expectations for the trip presentation."

The SET occurred at the end of last summer. Caltech student representatives visited many campuses across the United States to gather ideas for improving Caltech student life.

The overall focus of this year's conference will be on making

actionable recommendations. "This year's [conference] differs from last year's Student Experience Conference in that last year's focused on student life as a whole," said Tzong-Lian "Will" Tsay, former ARC Chair. "Although this year we will still be discussing some of these issues, we will be proposing very specific recommendations."

In order to make the conference as effective as possible, detailed records will be kept and follow-up will be enforced. "Follow-up will be done by individual committees, they will write reports to present to their divisions, administrators and the student body," said Poletayev. "The ARC will provide note cards for comments during the Ramo sessions and collect them in the end."

Compared to previous SFCs, this year's comes at an important time of change for Caltech. The shrinking budget and recent WASC inspection have opened

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## Excerpts from the IHC

Full version of the IHC minutes can be found at <http://ihc.caltech.edu/>

### Prefrosh Weekend

- Houses can invite professors to dinner Friday night. Houses can be provided \$300 for a nice reception before that dinner.
- Pallavi will send out prefrosh weekend rules (<http://ihc.caltech.edu/documents/prefrosh.html>) to presidents and ug-list them. Please make sure you understand them, and your house understands them.
- It is okay to buy prefrosh things at the C-store, as long as you don't spend excessive money on them.

### The IHC will hold two panels:

4-5pm Friday (most parents will be elsewhere during this panel)  
9-10am Saturday (with parents more likely to attend).

### Appointments

- Sign-ups for Ath Man, Food Chair, and Stewardship Chair will be up from Monday, April 6 until Friday, April 10. Appointments for those positions will be sometime that weekend
- Sign-ups for all other IHC-appointed positions will be up from Monday, April 13 until Friday, April 17. Appointments will most likely be approximately 2 to 7 pm on Sunday, April 19, April 26, and May 3.

### Caltech Drug and Alcohol survey

- Wendy works in the Health Center and Counseling Center holds a survey every other year to help her design programs.
- She only knows what students tell her in confidential settings, so it's important that students fill out the survey and give honest answer.
- As an incentive, the house with largest number of participants will receive \$150 for their house. Students can also win a Target gift certificate or iPod for taking the survey.
- The survey is totally anonymous, confidential, and your survey will never be linked to you or your house.

### Student Faculty Conference is Monday

### Team Tech talent show

- Team Tech is holding a talent show next Friday, April 10, from 7 to 10 pm in Ramo auditorium. All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to show off a talent. Anyone who wants to be in the talent show or wants more information should email [CaltechTalentShow@gmail.com](mailto:CaltechTalentShow@gmail.com) by Thursday, April 2

## The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
advertising e-mail: [business@caltech.edu](mailto:business@caltech.edu)  
editorial e-mail: [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Chris Kennelly

*Business Managers*  
Robin Abraham

*Copy Editor*  
Sarah Marzen

*Layout Editors*  
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*Photography Editor*  
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Wesley Yu

*Circulation*  
Aryan Safaie

*Adviser*  
Dr. Gary Libman

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## Report Crimes

By Sarah Marzen

EDITOR

As I walked into Gregg Henderson's office to ask him about Avery's security system last week, he looked tired and about as stressed as any Caltech student. When I asked him what he was doing, he said that he's been busy collecting and analyzing statistics about Caltech's crime rates-- and that crime statistics analysis was a large part of his job.

Oh no. Do you remember reading an article a few weeks back that had a bar graph of the number of Caltech's on-campus property crimes this year? Do you remember how Caltech apparently had absolutely no on-campus property crimes?

That statistic is blatantly wrong. I can think of five people off the top of my head who have been stolen from at some point in this past year, but who apparently didn't report the theft to Security. Since I only know a fraction of the student population, there are probably at least twenty on-campus property crimes so far this year.

Is it Security's fault that their statistics are wrong? I don't think so. It doesn't make sense for Security officers ask each Caltech student about their (probably non-existent) experience with crime that month. Come on, guys-- it is not that taxing to call the Security office and let them know that your bike was stolen. It would make Security's life much easier and Henderson's job much more fruitful.

## ASCIT Minutes

March 14, 2009

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

**Officers Absent:** Laura Conwill

**Guests:** Joel Nikolaus

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

### Funding:

- *Bonuses:* The BoD decided to award DevTeam a bonus.

### Officer Reports:

- *V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):* With the new TQFR, Andrey said that student responses will now only be visible to the faculty because personnel cuts no longer allow the administration to filter out offensive comments. Karthik, the new ARC Secretary, will be looking into it and trying to work some compromise. Possibilities include a change that allows students to at least leave advice for those taking the class.

Andrey also said they are trying to decide on the topics for this upcoming SFC and have already begun to assign people to look into the areas in more detail. Selection of these topics has tried to keep in mind the issues already raised in last year's SEC, and will include the possibility of budding off CS, EE, and CNS to form the IST division. Shirts for the SFC will be screened over break.

Finally, an MHF proposal is in the works to fund webcasting classes. Lectures for certain courses would be available on a youtube-like framework accessible only to Caltech. This will likely be implemented over the summer, but they are looking for people to tape lectures this upcoming term.

- *V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):* Pallavi said the mural policy is now waiting on only a single student signature, and that as a result of the new off-campus party policy, the administration is trying to locate more venues on campus for students to hold parties/activities. There are also some issues with housing about shoes being left outside of doors.

Review Committee appointments have been made and Dan Obenshain (chair) will be calling a meeting in the near future. She said that the IHC continues to discuss the rotation schedule and finances.

- *Operations Director:* Club funding is coming up. Michael also said that he will focus on the Big T over break and go through the SAC to take an inventory of rooms and their current use.

- *Treasurer:* Angela sent the Treasurer's guide and Maral said reimbursements will be made as soon as possible. She is still waiting on Financial Services to clear all the paperwork.

- *Social Director:* Karaoke party was a success. Nadia said she plans to book all of the equipment needed for prefrosh weekend.

### President's Report:

- *ASCIT Formal/Concert:* Anthony said that the BoD needs to get together an acceptable list of bands. Tom Mannion is trying to organize something for third term, but he needs to know which of the available bands are acceptable to students. Nadia and Paul Fleiner will be looking into this. The concert may be moved to fall term depending on the availability.

- *Emails:* Anthony said he received complaints that the BoD was not responsive to emails and told the BoD to make sure they are responsive. Even if dealing with the email will take time, BoD members should be courteous and acknowledge receipt of the message.

**End:** 12:53 pm

March 30, 2009

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

**Guests:** Joel Nikolaus

**Call to order:** 9:50 pm

### Officer Reports:

- *V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):* Andrey said that he, Melany Hunt, and Judy Campbell will open the SFC with a brief introduction. This introduction will be followed by presentations/discussions on Core, Undergraduate Research, the Student Experience Trip, Lunch (covered by Tom Mannion/Student Affairs), the Honor Code, H.S.S., and finally Option Specific discussions. He said it would be good to have the SET report out before the SFC, but the report is still under admin review.

As far as TQFR is concerned, he said that some sort of screening has been up so that comments will be visible to students. There will also be one student taught course and three webcast courses this next term.

- *V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):* Pallavi said that the IHC is working out the details for prefrosh weekend including where prefrosh will be eating dinner and the two panels to talk about the house system.

Pallavi said that she, Michael, and Tim Black are also working on developing a proposal for a student center. They have begun visiting schools and drawing up ideas for what should be included, and a survey will probably go up sometime in the near future. Although a location has yet to be set aside for a student center, the proposal when completed will eventually be sent up to the administration.

- *Operations Director:* Michael said he is still looking for SAC 15 keys, but when talking to housing about it, they suggested that the room could be put on combo. T

Dabney also still needs some sort of storage space, but due to limited open space in the SAC there are no open rooms. Michael suggested that SAC 34, the current ASCIT storage room, is the best option. The items currently stored in there do not take up much space and can be shifted to accommodate Dabney.

He said he plans to order the letterhead on Tuesday. Frosh lunches will be scheduled sometime soon (after prefrosh weekend).

- *Treasurer:* Maral said she sent in the new budget in to financial services and that she has all the reimbursements and checks though there are still some old budget reimbursements that need to be dealt with. The final number for next year's total budget is \$67,500 with \$26,450 of that amount set aside for project reserves.

- *Social Director:* Nadia said she is still working on the carnival for Prefrosh Weekend. Although she has people covering popcorn, cotton candy, and the dunk tank, she still needs professors to volunteer for the dunk tank. She will be meeting with Tom Mannion about the concert tomorrow. Realistically a concert is not going to happen until fall term. That means ASCIT formal (on campus) is definitely a go.

### Scheduling:

- *Meeting Times:* Meetings will continue to be held Fridays at 12:10 on the Olive Walk. Any other special meetings will in the future be coordinated through Doodle.

- *Club Funding Meeting:* Tentatively set for April 18th at 9:00 in the morning. The time gives time for clubs to get their proposals in and for Michael to meet with Tom Mannion to discuss liability issues.

- *Prefrosh Weekend:* 1 p.m., Thursday there is an ASCIT social hour (with snacks) on the olive walk to try to get people away from Steele House. 10:30 p.m., Friday there will be midnight donuts on the Olive Walk with the BoD meeting for setup and cleanup as normal. 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Saturday there will be the club carnival. BoD members should talk to Nadia about helping out.

### President's Report:

- *Staff:* The Review Committee approved some of the staff including Chris Hallacy, Adam Khan, Paul Fleiner, and Max Bryk. Information on other pending staff positions should be sent to Anthony and he will speak to the Review Committee. Not all jobs require approval of formal staff. The Tech also needs to have new business managers appointed.

**Vote to approve** Gabe Mendoza and Chris Kennely as new business managers for the Tech. **Approved (5-0-0)**

- *Bike Shop:* Undergrads are currently charged \$10 a key to use the bike shop in the SAC. Michael will talk to those involved about increasing availability to undergrads.

**End:** 10:35 pm

## Thursday, April 2nd Evening Saturday, April 4th

Time	Event	Location
9:00 – 11:00 pm	Caltech Y Movie Night: Curious Sit back, relax, and enjoy the movie Curious at the Caltech Y, with a special guest from the film. Curious is the documentary film featuring some of the groundbreaking research happening at Caltech. Delving into the stories behind the science, this film gives you an opportunity to see how Caltech research is making a difference in the lives of real people. Ice cream provided! Sponsored by the Caltech Y	Caltech Y (#52)

Time	Event	Location
11:00 am – 3:30 pm	Explore Pasadena Make sure to bring some money for lunch! Buses will be running throughout Pasadena to locations on Lake Avenue, Old Pasadena, and the Paseo Colorado area. Hop on and off at the different stops to find a place to eat and see what Pasadena has to offer. A map of the bus route is included in your Prefrosh folder.	Buses depart from Steele House (Admissions Office) (#94)
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Caltech Club Fair/ASCIT Carnival Over 40 registered ASCIT organizations will be present! Pick up information and talk to representatives about your interests! In conjunction with the Club Fair, the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT) are sponsoring a carnival. Enjoy munching on popcorn and cotton candy, and negotiating an obstacle course. And, if you're lucky, you may even get to dunk one of your future professors or upperclassmen at the dunk tank!	Olive Walk (just west of #61)
5:00 – 7:00 pm	Campus Dinner, In 'N' Out Burger In 'N' Out will be bringing trucks, making cheese burgers, and sharing a true California tradition with everyone. Ice cream, churros and freshly-baked cookies for dessert. The entire undergraduate population is invited!	Bechtel Mall South of Kerckhoff (#27)
10:30 – 11:00 pm	Almost Midnight Pizza Pizza...What's not to love?! Sponsored by Campus Life and ASCIT	Olive Walk (just west of #61)

## Friday, April 3rd Evening

Time	Event	Location
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Performing and Visual Arts Concert Students will perform a selection of musical and theatrical pieces. Faculty will give introductions to the performing and visual arts at Caltech and answer questions from the audience.	Ramo Auditorium (#77)
10:30 – 11:30 pm	ASCIT Social Hour Come mingle with fellow prefrosh and upperclassmen during the ASCIT Social Hour. There will be music, snacks, and milkshakes provided by ASCIT Social Team. Location: Olive Walk. Hosted by ASCIT	Olive Walk (just west of #61)

Advertisement

The Counseling Center Presents

Mindful Stress Management: How to Do Less While Accomplishing More

When: Friday, April 3rd at Noon

Where: Caltech Y Multipurpose Room

FREE LUNCH PROVIDED

Do you lose sleep over deadlines?

Do you feel guilty if you are not multitasking?

Does your self-esteem hinge on how busy you are?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, come to this workshop to learn a few strategies for mindful stress management.

Work, Sleep, Play-Finding Balance Lecture Series.



*Do you know anyone who has served in the military? What do you think when you see someone in uniform?*



Rob Berschinski did ROTC at Yale and served as an Air Force intelligence officer in Korea, Germany, Rwanda, and Iraq.



Maura Sullivan is an MBA/MPA at Harvard. She served as a Captain in the Marines, completing tours in Iraq, Japan, and Korea.



Tyson Belanger holds a B.A. from Yale and is a Harvard Ph.D. candidate. He has served 5 Marine tours, 3 in Iraq.



Rye Barcott is an MBA/MPA student at Harvard. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill on a ROTC scholarship and served in the Marines in Iraq, Bosnia, and Africa.



Doug Raymond received a Harvard MBA and served as an Armor and Military Intelligence Officer in the Army.

**Our democracy is built on civilian control of the military. But for too many years, civilian elites and military service members have lived in different worlds.**

What are some ways you can connect with peers serving in the military? Here is some advice from recent graduates:

- Don't confuse politics with military service. Military service members often join to protect the defenseless or to stand against genocide. They choose to serve their country. They do not choose their wars.
- Never declare that someone killed in war died in vain. Officers take a vow to our constitution. Many die protecting friends within their units. Even if civilian leaders have made serious strategic mistakes, the sacrifices of service members have meaning.
- When you say you support the troops—do something! Troops coming home often feel dislocated—they return from the stress and carnage of war to a country that seems to be going on without them. Connect. Organize your friends to pack care packages. Volunteer at a local veterans hospital. Visit a local base.
- Finally! Learn more. Our military serves under civilian command. As future leaders, you should know how our military works. Build your leadership ability, visit: [www.trumanproject.org/military101](http://www.trumanproject.org/military101).

## 20 Questions with Professor Aschbacher

by Christina Kondos

Dr. Michael Aschbacher is the Shaler Hanisch Professor of Mathematics at Caltech. He is an expert in mathematical group theory. His special interest is finite simple groups, the basic building blocks of mathematics which has applications in the transmission and storage of data as well as the study of crystals. He received his B.S. from Caltech in 1966 and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1969.

### 1. Why Caltech?

I like living on the west coast, and in Pasadena in particular. (Although the increase in population density over the last 5 to 10 years has decreased the quality of life in Pasadena.) Also Caltech is one of the best research universities in the world, the mathematics department here is excellent, and the students are talented.

### 2. Tell us about your research.

What are you working on now? Most of my work involves finite groups. Currently I spend most of my time on two projects:

- i. Establishing a foundation for the theory of saturated fusion systems. These objects were first defined by a modular representation theorist, and then taken up by homotopy theorists, but they also have close connections with the local theory of finite groups.

- ii. Proving that there exist finite lattices, which are not intervals in the lattice of subgroups of any finite group.

### 3. What first made you interested in mathematics?

The first real mathematics courses I took as an undergraduate at Caltech.

### 4. Who was your most influential professor?

Probably Marshall Hall, who was on the faculty here for about 20 years beginning in the late fifties.

### 5. There is no Nobel Prize in mathematics. Tell us your thoughts.

It probably means that mathematics is a bit less visible to the general public than it otherwise might be.

### 6. Do you have any pets?

My wife and I currently have two cats and a dog, which we got from the pound late last year after the last of our old pets died. My wife also owns a horse that she keeps in a barn in the arroyo near JPL.

### 7. How has Caltech changed since you were an undergraduate here?

Physically Caltech is at least twice as large as when I was a student here, but the size and

make up of the student body and faculty is not much different.

### 8. What house were you in at Caltech when you were an undergraduate?

Blacker.

### 9. Do you have a favorite comic book?

When I was a student I read Marvel comics, but I haven't read comic books in years. Of those I've read, I'd say I like Watchmen best.

### 10. If you had to go back and major in a humanities or social science, what would you pick?

Writing fiction might be an interesting profession, but I don't know that it would be necessary to major in literature to do that.

### 11. Infinity...what do you think?

Life is finite, which can be unsettling.

### 12. The Beatles, Elvis, or the Beach Boys?

If we are talking about sixties English rock bands, I prefer the early Stones (while they were still doing rhythm and blues), the Yardbirds, or Them. In fifties rockabilly I prefer Buddy Holly. Brian Wilson made some good singles and one good album, but among LA rock bands of the period, I prefer the Buffalo

Springfield or even the Doors.

### 13. Do you speak any other languages besides English?

I only speak English, and it's too late to change that now.

### 14. What do you think is the most viable renewable energy option?

In the long run, solar energy.

### 15. Favorite historical figure from Eastern Europe.

You got me.

### 16. Which one of the Millennium problems do you think is closest to being solved?

I have no idea.

### 17. If you could sit down and have tea with any deceased mathematician, who would it be?

Galois, but maybe we could have wine instead. (\*\*See note.)

### 18. Star Wars or Lord of the Rings?

I thought the first Star Wars movie was pretty good when it came out, but Lucas doesn't seem to have had the imagination and skill to build on that success and flesh out the universe he created in a way that would satisfy adults. I never cared for Tolkien's books.

### 19. How do you feel about the portrayal of mathematicians in pop culture?

There are few such depictions, and almost all portray mathematicians as eccentric or even crazy. This probably reflects that fact that most people think you have to be crazy to involve yourself with mathematics.

### 20. What are feelings on the number 42?

Not an interesting number.

\*\* Évariste Galois (1811 – 1832) was a French mathematician born in Bourg-la-Reine. While still in his teens, he was able to determine a necessary and sufficient condition for a polynomial to be solvable by radicals, thereby solving a long-standing problem. His work laid the foundations for Galois theory, a major branch of abstract algebra, and the subfield of Galois connections. He was the first to use the word "group" as a technical term in mathematics to represent a group of permutations. A radical Republican during the monarchy of Louis Philippe in France, he died from wounds suffered in a duel under shadowy circumstances at the age of twenty.

## Obama Nominates Former Caltech Provost to Undersecretary of Science

by Marissa Cevallos

Former Caltech provost and theoretical physicist Steve Koonin is President Obama's pick for Undersecretary for Science, a post that will pair him with Energy Secretary and Nobel Laureate Steven Chu from the Lawrence

Berkeley National Laboratory.

If the Senate confirms Koonin, he will oversee the Department of Energy's science portfolio, including running the national laboratory system.

### KOONIN IN A NUTSHELL

After Koonin served as provost from 1995-2004, he took a leave of absence to be chief scientist at BP in London to explore alternative and renewable energy for the company. Koonin and Chu were partners in the Energy Biosciences Institute, a \$500 million collaboration between BP, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Illinois. Koonin has argued in lectures and in journals to invest in more biofuel research.

Koonin first came to Caltech as an undergrad, earning his bachelor's in physics in 1972 before getting his Ph.D. at MIT in 1975. He joined the Caltech faculty in 1975 and became a full professor in 1981. His resume includes the ASCIT Teaching Award in 1975-76.

Koonin is no stranger to science public policy. Koonin is a member



of JASON, an exclusive club of scientists who have met behind closed doors since the Cold War to advise the US government in science and technology matters, especially nuclear.

"Steve's nomination as under secretary comes at a vital point in our nation's progress toward energy independence," said Caltech president Jean-Lou

Chameau in a press release. "During his tenure as Caltech's provost, Steve made contributions to Caltech that were long-reaching and left an enduring legacy. His keen analytical abilities and problem-solving expertise will serve him well in his new position to help move the country forward in attainment of our energy goals."

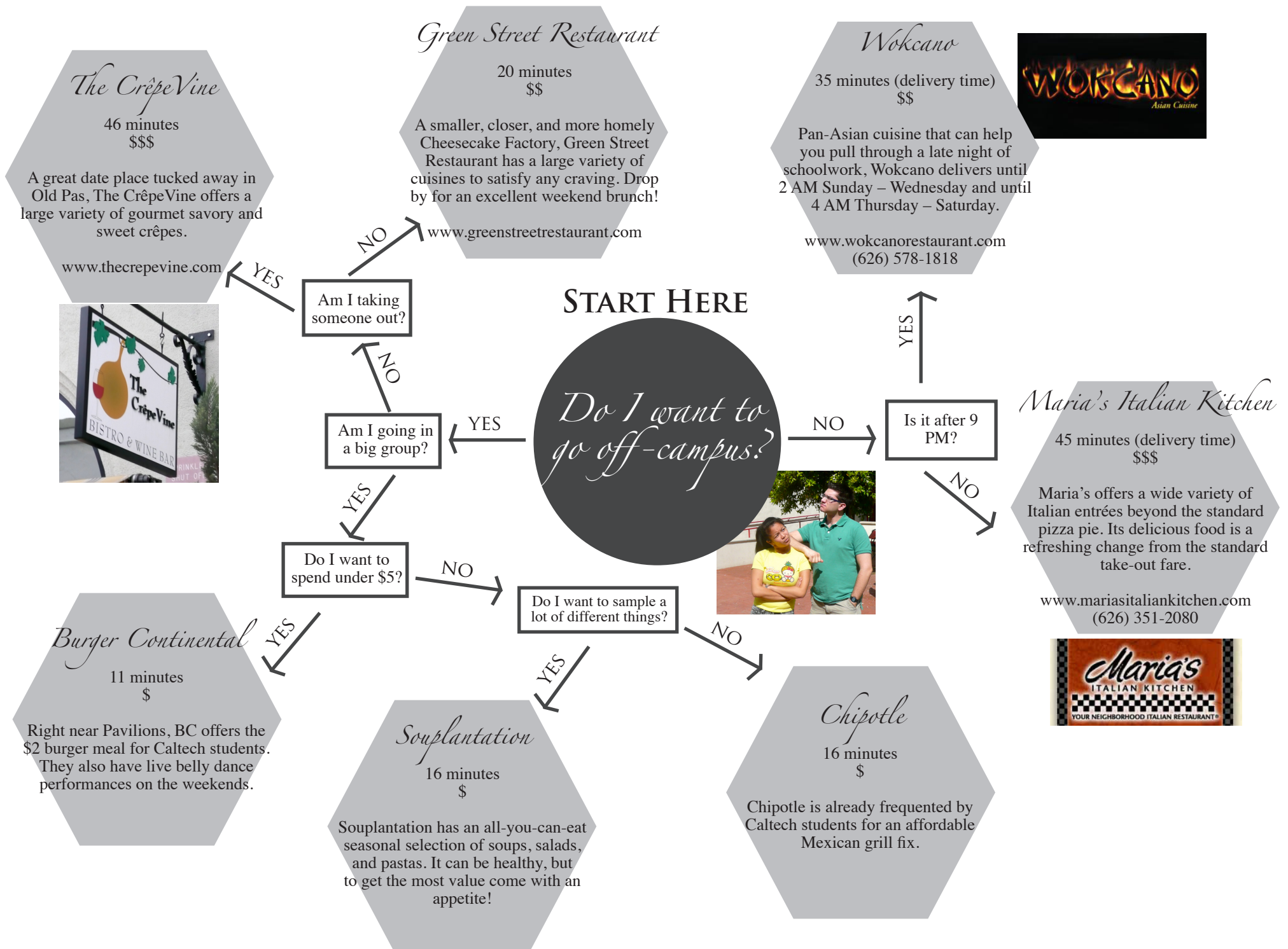


Steven Koonin, right and Steven Chu, left.

# THE DECISION WEB

by Andrew Freddo and Dannah Almasco

*Where to eat?*



## “Sunshine Cleaning” Sparkles Sweetly Despite Mistakes

by Hillary Walker

At times, “Sunshine Cleaning” seems composed of too many fragments that are far too small. Abundant, disproportional side stories and adherence to the formula of zany indie comedy threaten to become drifting or too familiar, yet somehow the work is undeniably likable.

The film is the story of two sisters. Amy Adams plays optimistic, struggling Rose Lorkowski, a single mother who cleans houses and sleeps with her high school quarterback boyfriend even though he’s now married to someone else. When her son, seven-year-old Oscar, has problems at school, Rose begins cleaning up bio-hazard crime scenes, enlisting the help of her disenchanted, unreliable sister Norah (Emily Blunt), in order to pay for private tuition. “Sunshine Cleaning” doesn’t avoid the shocking details of their job—the blood sprayed shower, the bag of fries filled with maggots—or the emotional brutality. The two sisters struggle to create a legitimate business, ease the pain of others, and survive life’s constant complications and disappointments.

The performances of Adams and Blunt re-

deem the film’s overly episodic structure. Adams portrays endearing vulnerability and remarkable perseverance. Recognizing her poor choices but always hoping to turn her life around, Rose presses a sweet smile and repeats an inspirational mantra that she doesn’t quite believe. Blunt carries Norah beyond tough-talking clichés. She openly struggles with the suicide of their mother and searches for a stranger after finding photos of her as a little girl in a dead woman’s apartment. Their quirky, shrimp-hustling father (Alan Arkin, who played a strangely similar role in “Little Miss Sunshine”) and Winston (Clifton Collins), the fascinating, one-armed cleaning supply salesman, add to the film’s richness.

The film is genuine, bittersweet, funny, and poignant. The story is occasionally muddled and was perhaps written with too much attention to Sundance sensibilities. Still, the main characters are well crafted and show authentic emotion, and the film is thoroughly enjoyable. “Sunshine Cleaning” is not a masterpiece but still triumphs with ample heart.

## Caltech's Putnam team scores fifth

*Brian Lawrence wins Putnam Fellow title for second year*

By Wesley Yu  
STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2004, the Caltech Putnam team rose to a top five ranking in the 2008 William Lowell Putnam Competition, a national college mathematics competition. The other colleges in the top five were Harvard, Princeton, MIT, and Stanford. Awards were given on the basis of scores on the Putnam exam administered in December last year. Teams placing in the top five earn awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for their school's math departments.

The Caltech team consisted of Jason Bland, Zarathustra "Zeb" Brady, and Brian Lawrence. Brian, a sophomore in Avery House, was named a Putnam Fellow for the second year in a row. The title of Putnam Fellow is conferred on the top five scorers of the competition and is considered an indication of extraordinary mathematical talent. Fellows receive a cash prize of \$2,500 and are considered for the William Lowell Putnam Prize Scholarship, a full scholarship to Harvard including a \$12,000 stipend.

Jason Bland, a sophomore in Ruddock who was named a Fellow last year, was ranked in the top 25 students taking the exam. Individual Honorable Mentions were awarded to Yakov Berchenko-Kogan, Sam Elder,

Gjergji Zaimi, and Benjamin Zax. Individual Honorable Mention indicates a rank anywhere from 25 to 74 on the exam.

A Putnam team consists of three students chosen to represent a college before the exam in December. Team members take the Putnam exam individually and the team's score is the sum of the ranks of the team members on the individual exam. Teams are ranked from lowest score to highest. For example, a team consisting of members ranked 7, 10, and 32 on the individual exam would have a score of 49 and would be ranked lower than a team with members ranked 11, 12, and 21. This system puts most weight on the team's lowest score.

One team member felt that the team could have done better. "I barely missed honorable mention. They grade much more harshly than I anticipated [...], but luckily Brian is amazing and made up for me," said Zeb, the freshman member of the Caltech team.

But the math department is really excited by the team's performance and the number of individuals from Caltech receiving recognition. The team's success "continues last year's upward trend [and] underlines the quality of the student body we have at Caltech," according to Professor Matthias Flach, the Executive Officer for Mathematics.

## SFC will have more specific proposals

SFC, FROM PAGE 1

the door to making innovative changes and creative solutions, as noted by President Jean-Lou Chameau in his December 8 letter to parents and students.

According to Tsay, "the Honor Code Task Force will be proposing ASCIT bylaw changes, Undergraduate Research will be unveiling their informative online 'Guide to Research for Undergraduates,' many option committees are updating major requirements and restructuring the curriculum."

Some faculty members are also looking forward to the conference as an opportunity to see how they can improve life for students.

"I think the SFC does play an important role at Caltech, since it provides a periodic opportunity to evaluate all facets of academic life from a broad perspective, with both students and faculty," said Professor Doug Rees, who serves on the Chemistry SFC Panel.

The SFC will be from 8AM to 4:30 PM. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Some classes have been canceled to allow students to attend.

## Webcasts may lower class attendance

WEBCAST, FROM PAGE 1

Concerns of the last group included worries that online lectures would lead to a drop in class attendance, and that an online lecture was not a full substitute for an in-class lecture.

Sarma hopes that the webcasting program will "add to the value to the lecture."

"A lot of students already don't come to class," he said.

Professor Daniel Meiron, who teaches ACM95c, said that people skipping class did not really bother him, and that he aims to make "as much of the material available as possible." He is one of the few professors who makes class notes available online.

"I treat people as adults and leave it up to the students how they want to learn," said Meiron. "For some people lectures are not as helpful."

## Core slowly getting a second look

By Casey Jao  
STAFF WRITER

Do you have a problem with Core? The Core Curriculum Task Force (CCTF) continues to conduct a sweeping review of the undergraduate core curriculum, commonly called Core.

Although the committee was formed back in early October, the committee distributed a survey on Core to faculty less than three weeks ago. "We've had a few frustrations for sure," said Dubin, referring to the protracted debate on the survey questions. But now she is "pretty happy" with the way things are going.

The CCTF will run a forum at this year's Student-Faculty Conference on April 6th. In the following weeks, the CCTF

will explore how other schools realize the notion that all students should graduate with a common knowledge base. According to Brown, few places besides Caltech require all students to take a specific set of courses. MIT specifies a set of general science requirements but lets students choose from a variety of courses that satisfy each requirement. The committee will also review the scientific literature on effective teaching and discuss ways to implement those findings.

Brown hopes to publish the committee's recommendations by next fall and that they will be implemented by the following fall. "It's a tight schedule, but I think we can do it," said Brown. Nonetheless, this is a "huge task" for which one can never have too much time.

### The History

The CCTF last convened approximately ten years ago and helped add Bi 1 and the Menu requirement to Core. Ten years before that, the CCTF recommended to decrease the number of mandatory math and physics terms from six to five. Current CCTF faculty co-chair Mike Brown calls these changes mere "tweaking".

This year's committee will address specifics such as those, but will also ask what Brown deems more fundamental questions, such as whether Core should even exist; how to incorporate research into Core; and how to improve teaching quality. "We have a really huge charge," said committee member Andrea Dubin, a senior.

## Chemistry Professor Nate Lewis named top 100 by *Rolling Stone*

By Anna Hiszpanski  
STAFF WRITER

In its latest issue, *Rolling Stone* named the "100 People Who Are Changing America," and Caltech Chemistry Professor Nate Lewis came out #17 on the list. The eclectic list is comprised of entertainers, musicians, politicians, scientists, technology and business leaders, and writers. *Rolling Stone* wrote that the list "is not necessarily about power in the old-fashioned sense but about the power of ideas, the power of innovation, the power of making people think and making them move."

Lewis is the highest ranking scientist on the list and even one-upped former Vice-president Al Gore, who took the #18 spot. The magazine recognized Lewis for his research work in solar cells

and involvement in renewable energy. Among the other names in the top twenty of the list are President Obama, who took the #1 spot, Google Founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin (#2), actress-comedian Tina Fey (#8), and videogame creator Shigeru Miyamoto (#13).

How does Professor Lewis feel about the honor—and about being beat by Tina Fey?

"She's so cool!" said Lewis. "She and Bono (#4) are invited to my lab anytime."



Photo from Nate Lewis' research page

## Caltech adds the Bioengineering major to catalogue for next year

By June Zhang  
STAFF WRITER

Starting in the 2009-2010 school year, students will have the opportunity to major in Bioengineering (BE). This major is designed to prepare students for graduate engineering research "inspired by" biological systems, according to the new catalogue description.

"Caltech undergrads have been clamoring for an undergraduate bioengineering program for some time," said Professor Niles Pierce, the Executive Officer and Option Representative of Bioengineering. "In April of 2007, it really caught my attention during my first month as Executive Officer when a survey taken for the Student-Faculty Conference suggested that about 10% of the Caltech student body would major in bioengineering if the opportunity existed."

A planning committee that includes Professors Anand Asthagiri, John Dabiri, Richard Murray, Niles Pierce, Jerry Pine, and Changhui Yang drafted the curriculum. Recently in March, the Caltech Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Board approved the requirements for a BE degree.

The requirements ask students to take five specific BE courses as well as courses in Biology, Chemistry, ACM, CS, and laboratory courses. In addition, students much choose to take 72 units from either one out of three tracks (Devices, Mechanics, or Synthetic biology) or from an independent track approved by the Bioengineering Undergraduate Committee. In addition to Caltech's core, the BE students will have to complete at least 486 units.

The Devices track focuses on preparing students for research in developing devices for the

manipulation and analysis of biological systems, the Mechanics track focuses on transferring concepts from biological forces and flows to non-biological systems, and the Synthetic biology track emphasizes studies involving biological circuits.

In response to Caltech's launching of the BE major, Talia Weiss, currently majoring in Chemical Engineering, said, "The major [BE] looks really good, and has a lot of interesting courses required, which I wouldn't be able to take in the ChE major. Just the opportunity to get a grounding in the biological applications of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering is really fascinating and truthfully what I always wanted to do."

The major is scheduled to appear appear in the upcoming catalogue. In comparison, MIT added a bioengineering major in 2005.



## Water polo women suffer another loss

By Shannon Mohler

STAFF WRITER

The woman's water polo game on Monday against Macalester resulted in another loss for Caltech, making their current record 0-4.

The team had a rather shaky start as Macalester took an early lead, outscoring Caltech 6-0 in the first quarter. In the second quarter, Caltech began to play tougher defense and managed to hold the opposing team to only eight points for the first half.

In the third quarter, Caltech stepped up the offense somewhat, protecting the ball and making safer passes, giving the team more shot attempts. These attempts included two by senior Lori Spalsbury and two by senior Mary Dorman, one of which resulted in a score.

The continued tough defense allowed the Beavers to make a couple steals, keeping Macalester at only three points for this quarter.

During the fourth quarter, freshman Caitlin Regan managed to take possession of the ball during the sprint at the beginning of the quarter, but the team was unable to score.

Again, the Beavers kept Macalester to two points during the quarter, ending the game with a loss of 13-1.

## Fencers take home medals

Two qualify for national competition in July

By Shannon Mohler

STAFF WRITER

After success against other NCAA schools in the region and at the Notre Dame Invitational on February 7 and 8, nine members of the Caltech fencing team qualified for the NCAA West Regional at Stanford University that was held on March 7.

These nine qualifying team members included at least one with each different weapon. These team members are Dave Romney, Micha Fireman, and Nate Morrison, who qualified in men's sabre, Vanessa Burns and Laura Decker in woman's sabre, Aaron Wilkowsky and Eric Minton in men's epee, and Andrea Dubin and Sarah Hunt in woman's foil.

Of special note are the two women's saberists, Vanessa Burns, who placed third, and Laura Decker, who placed fourth.

In addition to NCAA fencing, some team members participate in

tournaments held by the US Fencing Association (the USFA). Participants in these tournaments can be of any age from 10 to 70+ and do not have to be affiliated with a specific college.

At the Southern California regional, Micha Fireman placed third in the men's competition, and Vanessa Burns placed second in the women's. Both now qualify for the national competition held in Texas in July.

Coaches Michael D'Asaro and Carla Corbit are both excited with the efforts of the team this year and the strides it made.

As senior Micha Fireman pointed out, "Fencing is a great sport because there's a lot of opportunity for both team and individual accomplishment and because people with different athletic abilities can do it; there's no one fundamental requirement. . . Plus, there are always upsets and unexpected victories. There's never really a clear-cut underdog."



Quantum Hoops, the documentary of the hapless Caltech basketball team attempting to break a 21-year losing streak, is set air on KCET local PBS on Saturday, April 4th at 10pm and again on Sunday, April 5th at 3:30pm.

## In photos



At Caltech's ME 72 Engineering Design Contest called "Amphibious Clean-up", teams of students built robots that could collect ping pong balls floating in Millikan pond and deposit them onto the shore, in the face of opposing teams. The winner was team "Newt N' Salamander" with my Kevin Noertker and Marc Sells, shown above.



Caltech pitcher Rob Rosenberg winds up for his next pitch over spring break.

## Upcoming Games

April 3, 2009

Men's and Women's Tennis  
at Whittier

April 3, 2009

Baseball  
vs. La Verne

April 4, 2009

Track and Field  
vs. Pomona Pitzer Invite @  
Pomona Pitzer

Preview

April 4, 2009

Men's and Women's Tennis  
vs. Pomona-Pitzer

April 4, 2009

Women's Water Polo  
vs. La Verne

April 4, 2009

Baseball  
at La Verne

April 4, 2009

Women's Water Polo  
vs. Chapman

April 8, 2009

Women's Water Polo  
vs. Claremont-M-S

April 9, 2009

Women's Water Polo  
vs. Cal St. East Bay

April 10, 2009

Baseball  
vs. Redlands

April 10, 2009

Women's Tennis  
vs. La Sierra

April 11, 2009

Track and Field  
vs. SCIAC Multi Duals @ Whittier  
College

April 11, 2009

Men's Tennis  
vs. La Verne

April 11, 2009

Baseball  
at Redlands

## The Weekly Scoreboard

### Baseball

March 24, vs Principia, L 15-3

March 26, vs Simpson, L 6-2 and L 10-8

### Women's Water Polo

March 28, at Redlands, L 17-0

March 29, at Chapman, L 24-1

April 1, at Occidental, L 19-1

### Men's Tennis

March 21, vs Amherst, L 9-0

March 22, vs Pacific (Oregon), L 7-2

### Women's Tennis

March 22, vs Lewis and Clark, L 6-0

March 23, vs Mills, L 7-2

# Dr. Smart

Dear Dr. Smart,

My roommate keeps trying to feed me McDonalds, morning and noon and night. This is very strange. I'm not sure I trust him. How should I act?

Sincerely,  
Fed Up Roomie

Clearly your roommate hates you. He's trying to get rid of you. The best thing for you to do is to get up, stand up, and fight back. The easiest way to do this is to get rid of him before he gets rid of you. Kick him out before he has a chance to explain himself. Report domestic abuse. "Dear Caltech housing. Every night when he comes back from lab, my roommate proceeds to beat me senseless with a sock filled with money. Then he tells me I'm no longer pretty and nobody will love me. Then he orders me to make dinner. So I slave away at the stove for hours on end and when I've finished he says he's eating out. If I say the food will get cold, he beats me with his belt. And my brother can't help me because he was gunned down at the toll both the last time I was beaten. I can't live with this man anymore. He's making me feel like less of a man."

Remember: McDonald's has never been the beginning of a good story.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Smart

Dear Dr. Smart,

I want my two friends on damage control to wear blinking LED headbands 180 degrees out of phase but they won't comply.

Signed,  
Sketchy McSketcherson

Well tough luck. You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. If your buddies already have these LED headbands, well that's cool. But if they don't want to take the time to synch up the flashes, that's their decision. Your problem is that you expect people to listen to what you say just because you think it would be cool. Well here's the thing: you're not cool. If you want to be cool, stop acting like you own everybody. You don't own. You suck. So take a deep breath, slap yourself a few times, dunk your head in Milikan Pond, slap yourself some more, and get back to work. Maybe in time you will learn to suck less. And if by some miracle you find that you don't have much work, go do research on how to suck less. Consider Dabrowski's theory of positive disintegration. In your case, it essentially means that you have a long way to go before you are in any position to tell people what to do. As opposed to me. I can tell people to do whatever I want.

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# Comics

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by Mark Eichenlaub



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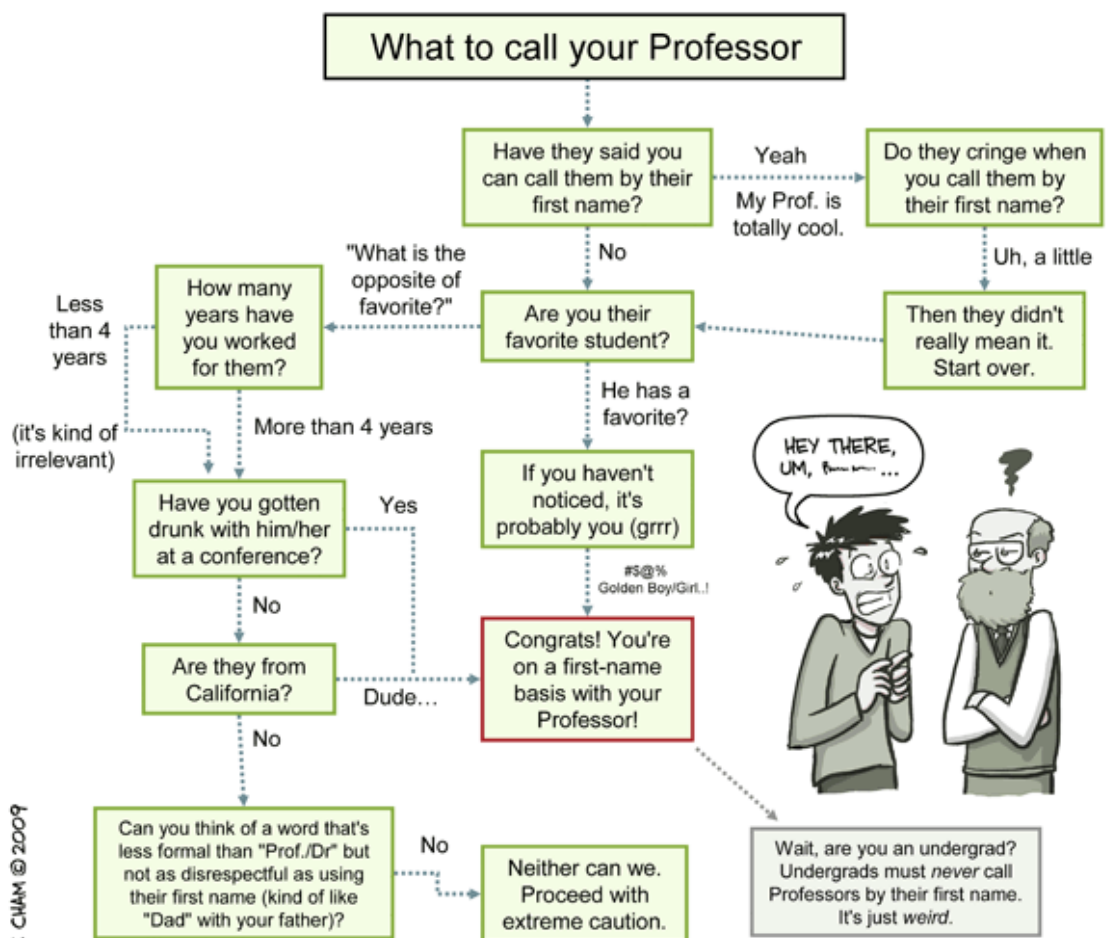
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BW73



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# Prefrosh Weekend Dining Schedule

prefrosh fullname	Host Fullname	House/Thursday Dinner	Friday Dinner
Marcos Lopez	Andrew Freddo	Fleming	Dabney
Joy Lu	Shamili Allam	Ruddock	Dabney
Jeff Lu	Scott Liao	Page	Lloyd
Victoria Lu	Megan Larisch	Ricketts	Fleming
Kai Ma	Sara Ahmed	Ruddock	Avery
Tuling Ma	Keir Gonyea	Avery	Fleming
Tim Macdonald	Paul Fleiner	Page	Blacker
Steve Macke	AJ Cressman	Ruddock	Avery
Vishnu Manoranjan	Jonathan Yeung	Fleming	Page
Sean Maroongroge	Sean Mills	Ricketts	Ruddock
Grant Mathews	Ben Weitz	Lloyd	Page
Laura Matloff	Kati Peters	Ricketts	Avery
Matthew Mayers	Zenan Chang	Ruddock	Fleming
Maura Mayock	Caitlin Regan	Fleming	Avery
Cars on McNeil	Nate Morison	Blacker	Lloyd
Kayla Meduna	Annie Tang	Lloyd	Page
Jonathan Mei	Lucas Hartsough	Lloyd	Ricketts
Alan Menezes	Rico Chiu	Page	Dabney
Amie Mengle	Karthik Sama	Avery	Page
Rocio Mercado	Ankita Mishra	Fleming	Lloyd
Olivier Meyer	Zeb Brady	Dabney	Avery
Pat Milligan	Kevin Noertker	Lloyd	Page
Rae Millikan	Kenzie Day	Lloyd	Ricketts
Dave Mittelstein	No Host	Lloyd	Dabney
Jama Mohamed	Samuel Yang	Avery	Ricketts
Mahati Mokkarala	Perrin Considine	Lloyd	Blacker
Rachel Moore	Elisa Walsh	Lloyd	Page
Annie Morgan	Jenny Xiong	Page	Lloyd
Judy Mou	Janet Chen	Blacker	Avery
Rodrigo Munoz Kessler	Kevin Kowalski	Page	Fleming
Kaston Murrell	Cliff Chang	Ricketts	Fleming
Alex Nachlas	Joshua Hardenbrook	Page	Fleming
Emily Nardoni	Christina Theodoris	Lloyd	Ricketts
Rachel Ness	Andrea Dubin	Blacker	Page
Nina Ng-Quinn	Cherrie Soetjpto	Avery	Fleming
Mary Nguyen	Katherine Hooper	Dabney	Ricketts
Brice Nzeukou	Tom Lampo	Fleming	Blacker
Jeff Odell	Alex Rasmussen	Dabney	Ricketts
Nicholas Ogden	Martin Michelsen	Blacker	Avery
Diana Oliff	Laura Decker	Lloyd	Blacker
Maya Ortega	Joy Lin	Avery	Ricketts
Derek Ouyang	Matt Yu	Lloyd	Fleming
Chris Overstreet	Eric Schropp	Fleming	Page
Mia Oviatt	Haley Barnes	Page	Avery
Johanna Palmstrom	Breanna Denicola	Blacker	Dabney
Qinxuan Pan	Krzysztof Chalupka	Dabney	Lloyd
Rahul Pandey	David Lee	Avery	Ruddock
Helen Papadopoulos	Erin Zampaglione	Dabney	Lloyd
Nina Park	Nadia Lara	Fleming	Ricketts
Sachin Patel	Caleb Ng	Avery	Dabney
Evan Patterson	Adrian Chapman	Page	Dabney
Michael Pearce	David Choy	Avery	Ricketts
Chris Perez	Czub Czubakowski	Lloyd	Page
Andy Phillips	Alex Fandrianto	Dabney	Ricketts
Brianna Posadas	Darcy Caldwell	Blacker	Page
Chris Qiu	Xida Zheng	Lloyd	Ricketts
Pranav Ramesh	Robbie Paolini	Lloyd	Dabney
Sam Range	David Lu	Dabney	Page
Kyle Remley	Jack Cochran	Dabney	Fleming
Haoyang Ren	Thomas Kwok	Fleming	Ruddock
Giuliana Repetti	Erin Hoops	Ricketts	Ruddock
Addie Rice	Bettina Chen	Lloyd	Blacker
Harry Richman	Jagannath Nayak	Fleming	Avery
Alexander Rider	Anirban Ghosh	Page	Avery
Christian Rivas	Adam Khan	Page	Ricketts
Joanna Robaszewski	Tatyana Saleski	Avery	Page
Andrew Rodriguez	Sean Marney	Ruddock	Page
Andrew Rodriguez	Daniel Chao	Avery	Ruddock
CP Romero	Ben Cherian	Ruddock	Dabney
Errika Romero	Amy Proctor	Ruddock	Blacker
Laura Royden	Paul Gunalan	Ruddock	Dabney
Jessica Ruiz	Noele Norris	Lloyd	Dabney
Murtaza Saifee	Matthew Maurer	Blacker	Ruddock
Jeff Sakamoto	Dan Cullina	Page	Lloyd
Stephanie Rae Samson	Renee Wu	Fleming	Ruddock

prefrosh fullname	Host Fullname	House/Thursday Dinner	Friday Dinner
Hunter Sceats	Ben Flora	Fleming	Page
Chris Schuch	Pete Buhler	Blacker	Lloyd
Becca Schutzengel	Katie Brennan	Dabney	Fleming
Stephen Schwee	Ruslan Kurdyumov	Page	Lloyd
Carl Senecal	James McClellan	Ricketts	Avery
Akash Shah	Keshav Sapatnekar	Dabney	Page
Aubrey Shapero	Dallin Akagi	Lloyd	Blacker
Samuel She	Austin Moehle	Ricketts	Dabney
Jesse Shevin	Travis Haussler	Page	Avery
Hanyuan Shi	Cameron Gross	Page	Ruddock
Kevin Shi	Eric Chang	Lloyd	Dabney
Christine Shieh	Sam Smiley	Fleming	Lloyd
Dong Woo Shin	Liz Magalindan	Dabney	Ricketts
Eric Shyu	Patrick Liang	Page	Ruddock
Alyssa Siegman	Anna Ivanova	Blacker	Dabney
Juan Sierra	Oren Hazi	Blacker	Ricketts
Gregory Simonian	Marcus Lucas	Ricketts	Fleming
Sasha Sproch	Tubes Piatt	Blacker	Ruddock
Andrew Stanek	No Host	Not Arrived	Page
Jon Steck	Thimal De Alwis	Fleming	Ricketts
Edward Stivers	Rob Rosenberg	Page	Blacker
Yang Su	Riley Patterson	Lloyd	Ricketts
Elisabeth Sum	Aarathi Minisandram	Fleming	Ricketts
Sabrina Sun	Emma Cohen	Ricketts	Lloyd
Dylan Sures	Eric Tai	Avery	Fleming
Arul Suresh	Brad Saund	Blacker	Avery
Wesley Swank	Ben Slawski	Page	Ruddock
Jennifer Tang	Stephanie Kato	Page	Blacker
Sasha Targ	Vivian Yang	Avery	Ruddock
Sydney Thayer	Theresa Juarez	Fleming	Ricketts
Will Thomas	Jie He	Lloyd	Page
Ryan Thorngren	Amit Gandhi	Dabney	Fleming
Vicky Tian	Joy Chen	Dabney	Ruddock
Jesse Toapanta	Alan Deng	Page	Ruddock
Josh Tollefson	Kyle Verdone	Ruddock	Ricketts
Wan-Ni Tsai	Gal Barak	Ricketts	Ruddock
Wendy Tsai	Sly Li	Blacker	Lloyd
Andy Tsao	Eythan Familier	Lloyd	Dabney
Emmanuel Tsukerman	Micah Manary	Dabney	Ruddock
Tricia Turton	Ashley Potts	Dabney	Fleming
Sarah Walianny	Eva Nichols	Avery	Ricketts
Lillian Wang	Tatjana Wiese	Dabney	Lloyd
Pan Wang	Eric Li	Lloyd	Fleming
Alex Wein	Tyler Hannasch	Fleming	Ruddock
Becca Wemis	Susan Dittmer	Ruddock	Ricketts
Amy Whitcombe	Jenny Wang	Dabney	Lloyd
William Whitney	Teaser Koenitzer	Ricketts	Ruddock
Reggie Wilcox	James Jester	Avery	Page
Connor Wilson	Nathaniel Borneman	Blacker	Fleming
Sarah Wittman	Helen Bermudez	Dabney	Blacker
Stephen Worlow	James Dama	Ricketts	Avery
Sarah Wright	Lisa Yee	Lloyd	Fleming
Christine Wu	Jessica Swallow	Lloyd	Blacker
Max Wu	Daniil Kitchaev	Blacker	Ruddock
David Wu	Jordan Maslov	Lloyd	Fleming
Louie Wu	Joe Duszynski	Dabney	Blacker
Ying Xian	Bonnie Zhang	Lloyd	Fleming
Melissa Xu	Ashley Potts	Dabney	Lloyd
Cindy Xu	Sylvia Sullivan	Dabney	Lloyd
Katherine Xue	Sylvia Puglisi	Ruddock	Ricketts
Michael Yan	Samuel Barnett	Lloyd	Fleming
Celine Yang	Liz Decolvenaere	Dabney	Blacker
Irene Yang	Aarathi Minisandram	Fleming	Dabney
Katie Yang	Margaret Chiu	Lloyd	Dabney
Mimi Yang	Misha Intiaz	Ruddock	Avery
Tiantian Yao	Noah Tanabe	Ricketts	Fleming
Willie Yao	Luke Guo	Avery	Dabney
Alex Yeh	Kent Koyanagi	Lloyd	Ricketts
Joshua Yoon	Adrian Mitrea	Lloyd	Blacker
Eugenia Zah	Grace Li	Avery	Ricketts
Alexander Zahn	Trenton Jansen	Fleming	Avery
Eric Zhang	Arvind Kannan	Avery	Blacker
Jennifer Zhu	Lily Zhou	Dabney	Page
Mario Zubia	Andrew Price	Dabney	Avery

## More Core for Honor Code Violators

By Oh Darn

STAFF WRITER

The Board of Control (BOC) announced this week that it will be drastically revamping its policies toward honor code violations. In response to allegations that the system is “soft on crime,” the BOC has instated a series of punishments for all students caught cheating.

“In the past, we used our time-honored system of ‘Nullifying the Advantage’ and ‘Protecting the Community’ when we dealt with students caught cheating,” said Chris Whelan, a BOC Co-Secretary who wished to remain anonymous. “We adamantly opposed any sort of direct punishment for honor code violations, considering them to be contrary to the ideals of the Honor Code itself.”

The new system will still utilize the full resources of the Board of Control to determine whether any honor code violations have taken. Then BOC will decide on the severity of the violation, grouping it into one of four categories, and then assign “punishment” based on that category, and on the student in question. All of the punishments involve the striking of a CORE class from a student’s transcript.

For example, a Level One violation might be punishable by the removal of a freshman lab course from the transcript, forcing a student to retake the course, whereas Level Two might require a student to redo a freshman humanity or social science. Level Three violations universally prescribed the retaking of Chem 3a on grades, and Level Four violations necessitated the repeat of Math 1a for all

non-Math Majors, and Math 2b (Probability and Statistics) for pure mathematicians.

Eric Mintun, a Lloyd Junior, said that “these new regulations take all the fun out of cheating. When I only had to worry about a mandatory term away from Caltech, the BOC was no big deal; heck, it gave the chance to take a break. But now with the threat of sitting through Math 1a again, there’s no way I’m going to risk it...”

When asked why repeating CORE was chosen as these new punishments, Whelan said “We decided that the threat of [repeating CORE] would have the strongest deterrent value.” He concluded with this warning: “For all you crazy Teachers planning to cheat to retake some of your CORE classes, our rules are flexible, and we let the punishment fit the crime...”

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## The Infamous Leopard Escaped, Oh My!

By Scaredy Pants

STAFF WRITER

There are many places underground that in the very first week in school we learn to avoid. Shadow lands, for its pitch dark atmosphere and random pieces of metal sticking up through the floor, the round tunnels, where Big Brother is always watching, and the leopard. Throughout the tunnels, one often sees the warning graffiti, left by upperclassmen of years past in order to warn all who wander: “Beware the Leopard.”

Before last Friday, some will know, the leopard was properly contained, caged in Hell down a steep set of stairs, the chain preventing access never removed by the wise students who tread the underground. Unfortunately,

this is no longer the case.

Margaret Trenor, a prolific member of the Caltech Undergraduate Society for Illegitimate Tours, recently informed the Tech that while making rounds this past weekend, she dreadfully noticed that the chain preventing access to Hell was unchained.

“At first, I hoped that some daredevil was currently down there, perhaps to see the supposed famous mural, or just to taunt the leopard,” she reported in earnest. “But, when I went down there to check, the leopard was gone.”

Already there have been some scattered reports of seeing the leopard throughout the tunnel system. All students attempting to use the underground should be proceed with great caution.

## Thank You, Prefrosh, for Flowers

By Huh?

STAFF WRITER

Most Caltech students eventually learn that the blooming of flowers across campus herald the imminent arrival of a swarm of prefrosh. However, contrary to “scientific” or “logical” explanations from the nay-sayers in nearby “laboratories,” the flowers don’t bloom while the prefrosh are here.

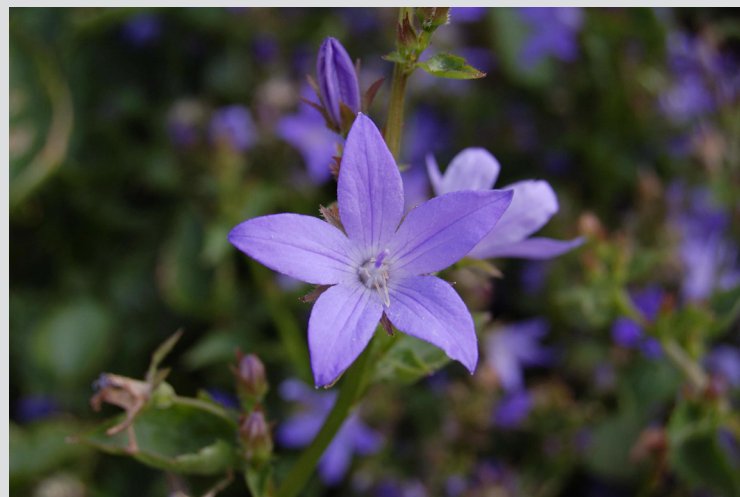
They bloom because the prefrosh are here. It is a well known scientific fact that curious

new arrivals will occasionally “stop and smell the roses,” and in the process, carry small bits of pollen across campus. This pollen is then deposited on another flower.

Given the sheer number of prefrosh arriving on campus at the same time, these particular “new arrivals” became significant pollenizers. This indisputably demonstrates that the flowers bloom at this time of year due to

sheer evolutionary expedience; the flowers don’t bother to attract bees when the prefrosh come straight to them.

On a different note, due to recent budget constraints, Caltech groundskeepers will be forced to discontinue their time-honored practice of painting the roses red. They have asked for our understanding and apologize for any beheadings that may occur.



## Zombie Feynman Rises From the Dead Wins Teaching Award

By Physics

STAFF WRITER

Feynman rose from the dead last Tuesday after a 21-year sabbatical. His reanimation was the product of several years of discreet research led by Kip Thorne on the roof of Millikan Library.

“When we realized the school’s finances were troubled we decided to spend all of our money trying bringing Dick back from the dead,” explained Thorne. “We’ve had to cut back a little on other university expenses to make this nightmarish occult dream a reality.”

The administration was quick to award zombie Feynman the prestigious “Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching” and the ARC announced it was preemptively awarding him an ASCIT Teaching Award. The Nobel Committee which does not normally award posthumous prizes is rumored to be

reconsidering him.

Feynman’s returns has been hailed as a major coup for the university and director of admissions Roger Wendall believes it will boost female yields by as much as 30%.

“We’re making pin-up calendars with pictures of the studiest professors to handout out to female prefrosh. Now we can shoot zombie Feynman and a shirtless Rob Phillips playing in Millikan pond” explained Wendall.

It is unclear what classes zombie Feynman will be teaching, but some have suggested having the undead professor teach all of Caltech core.

“Not having to sleep, eat or feel human emotions will mean that Feynman will have time to lecture 81 hours a week. He is a one man core-machine.” announced Thorne at Feynman’s unveiling.

When told that he was leaking puss onto the stage, Feynman quipped in his usually flippant manner, “whatever.”

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