Alcohol banned indefinitely in Page House

By Marissa Cevallos
With reporting by Casey Jao
STAFF WRITERS

Page House is now a dry zone after the Caltech administration placed a ban on alcohol in the house on Friday afternoon.

No student or visitor, even those over 21, may possess alcohol in any Page room or public space, according to an email Dean John Hall sent to Page members on Friday.

The ban comes after a series of alcohol policy violations in Page over the past few weeks, including a champagne party on the roof with underage drinkers at the end of last term and underage participants in a drinking game called Shelf Races in which almost 1800 bottles of beer were to be consumed over last week.

The ban is "a last resort due to a long history of trying other things that were not effective," said Dean Hall in an email. Last term, drinking games were banned and the "beer room", a lounge on the second floor where many Page drinking events took place, was remodeled as an alcohol-free zone.

Page president Brian Go said house members were shocked and confused when he discussed the ban at dinner on Friday.

"It feels enormously like the deans are this Big Brother out to get us," said Ryan Lanman, a senior who visited eight schools this fall in the Student Experience Trip. "We don't feel like they empathize with being a student here. If we could see the problems we are causing the deans or ourselves, it would help us to follow the rules."

"Caltech has proven to be one of the strictest schools in enforcing alcohol policies on-campus," he added.

"We imagine more students from Page will be visiting other Houses to drink," said Dean Hall, and that the dean's office would get involved if this became a problem.

Over the weekend, about two dozen Pageboys visited the Ricketts House lounge to play beer pong, and after getting kicked out by Security over a

Please see ALCOHOL, **Page 6**

First the beer room, now the entire House, is purged of alcohol

Photo by Tina Ding

Athletics has layoffs, semi-closed pool and a new spa

By Andrea Dubin and Sarah Marzen
STAFF WRITERS

Students might see a slight change in Caltech's athletic facilities, due to that familiar culprit- budget cuts.

A few employees are being laid off in order to save money. Included in these layoffs is one of Caltech's lifeguards.

The reduction in lifeguards goes hand in hand with another change: only one pool will be open when there are very few people swimming. According to Wendell Jack, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation, some periods of the day see very few swimmers using the pool. "Sometimes we have more lifeguards than we do swimmers," said Jack. Less than five swimmers typically show up between 11 AM and 3 PM on weekdays.

The details of the one-pool-change are still being altered, though. "We just started this this week, so we will see who wants to swim in which pool," said Jack. "If there's enough people who want to swim, we can get another guard" via cross-training current staff.

Both pools will still be open during peak times on weekdays, weekends, and over the summer. In addition, the hours swimmers can come will not change.

At the same time that pools are being periodically closed, other athletic equipment will receive an upgrade. Users of the gyms may have noticed the recent signs saying that the spa is closed for maintenance. The spa is being revamped in the next month, according to Jack, although the athletics department is still in the process of getting funding.

The reason behind the reconstruction centers around a health risk posed by the spa- the plaster was delaminating and clogging the filter system. After consulting their own pool chemist and some outside consultants, Athletics plans to replaster and fiberglass the spa.

"The initial design was not hardy enough for the way we use it," said Jack. The new spa will get a new pump, an awning over the equipment, and a vent stack.

Athletics has also found money to replace some of the current cardiovascular equipment.

While some additional internal changes have been made to athletics including a change in the hours of the supervisory staff, Jack expects the overall impact to be small on the facility users. To summarize the changes, Jack reiterates the mantra of Caltech's budget cuts: "These changes aren't going to affect student users."

Harvey Mudd plans joint party with Caltech and Scripps scheduled for May 8

Contact initiated by Harvey Mudd's student government, ASCIT must organize transportation

By Joel Nikolaus
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a chance to interact with undergraduates outside of Caltech?

There will be at least one opportunity later this term when Harvey Mudd, a self-declared though largely unrecognized Caltech rival, will be hosting a joint party with Caltech and the all-female Scripps College. The event has already received the approval of Student Affairs administrators and is scheduled for May 8, though many of the details still need to be worked out.

ASCIT is currently working with the administration to arrange free student transportation to and from the Harvey Mudd campus on the night of the party, and Anthony Chong, the ASCIT President, said that he does not see anything getting in the way.

"The big thing," he said, "is to make sure all the details get worked out."

On the ASCIT side, that includes working through the funding and legal issues associated with the buses. Most of the logistics will fall on Harvey Mudd, however. Chong called the event a joint party and said he that he expected it all to work out.

The event is largely the brainchild of Associated Students of Harvey Mudd College (ASHMC). They contacted ASCIT during second term.

> About the possibility of subsequent events, Chong said, "If this goes fabulously, maybe, but if it is a complete disaster we couldn't really go forward."

During the first week of term met with the current BoD to plan an event, intending to improve the interaction between the two similarly-sized and similarly-focused schools.

When Mudd students visited Caltech last term with members of the old BoD and then President-elect Anthony Chong, they discussed the possibility of some sort of joint event, ranging from a party to a possible broomball competition.

Nadia Iqbal, the current ASCIT Social Director, described a similar meeting two weeks ago with Mudd students, who already had a plan for a joint event. Scripps College, an all-female college, was also invited to the party. According to Iqbal, when the question came up of whether to invite the all-girls college, the answer was a solid, "Yeah, we should invite Scripps."

Whether this budding relationship develops into something more lasting between the two schools seems to depend largely on the success of this upcoming event. About the possibility of subsequent events, Chong said, "If this goes fabulously maybe, but if it is a complete disaster we couldn't really go forward." He added that he personally wanted to see it succeed and thought that there should be more interaction between the two schools.

In the past, Caltech has considered MIT as its main rival, although Mudd has tried to engender a rivalry between itself and Caltech. Harvey Mudd stole the Fleming cannon a few years ago, and in response, Caltech's administration threatened legal action. When MIT stole the Fleming cannon, Caltech students flew to MIT soon after to retrieve the cannon.
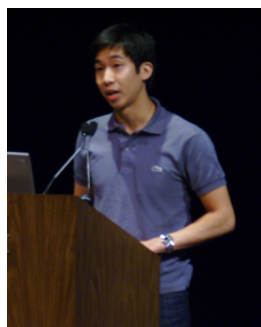
From the Editors: The 2009 SFC

As far as we could see, the Student Faculty Conference went off without an organizational hitch, aside from one huge problem: the conference started at 8 AM. Who wakes up that early? Even worse, one of the most important talks came first, with Mike Brown talking about Core first.

So, here's our completely biased take on the more interesting discussions in the general audience sessions of the SFC. If you want a less biased take, read pages 4 and 5.

Core

Typically, an SFC talk consists of a roughly 20 minute presentation by the committee followed by a question and answer session. The presentation is there because, presumably, the committee members have spent more time than the average audience member looking at survey results; their presentation is supposed to be an authoritative guide for the audience members.

Professor Mike Brown, Chair of the Core Curriculum Task Force, decided to approach the SFC a little differently. He spent roughly one minute describing the progress of the committee thus far, and then opened up the session to discussion.

Not surprisingly, the sparsely

filled auditorium had little to say. The audience hadn't been given very much to discuss. One of the panelists pointed this out to me: It wasn't surprising that the audience didn't have much to say, since we hadn't been researching the issue for several months. The panelists did their best to keep up a dying conversation, but the session left attendees frustrated.

Core is clearly one of the defining characteristics of a Techer. Most students will agree that the Core Curriculum Task Force has a huge responsibility, and that any recommendations they make should be heavily researched and carefully considered. We want to hear what the Task Force has been doing, and we want to hear thoughtful points and questions.

Maybe the Task Force has been doing a good job, has been having constant meetings, and has really thought a lot about the future of Caltech's core. Students should soon see the core survey that they purportedly spent three months developing. Those questions better be damn good.

Here's an example of a question that is not good without a lot of explanation: Do you think that Caltech should have a core?

Clearly, the idea behind the question is important. There is a spectrum onto which general education requirements can fall: you can require all students to take a particular sequence of classes; or you can require some number of math and science courses without specifying the class topics; or you can do something in between in which students must take a physics course but can choose between courses on optics, statistical mechanics, and quantum mechanics. Trying to find the right part of the core spectrum is an exercise in balancing between flexibility and comprehensive rigor. But basically, core isn't something that you either have or don't have.

We can't wait to see the questions, and in the meantime, encourage everyone to be critical of this committee. Their job is important--help them do it well.

SET

"It was a failure," noted one student. While well intentioned, the Student Experience Trip has been a disappointment to many.

To students we've encountered, this disappointment has come from the trip itself as well as its follow-up. Students have questioned the travel itself: What use is flying across the country to find out information already stated on university webpages?

The report itself was a series of disappointments. Rather than see a quick follow-up from the time of the trip, students witnessed the report be quietly delayed until 42 minutes before the SET panel began speaking last Monday. While there was significant lag between the release of the Hunt Report and the SEC last year, 42 minutes is hardly enough time for students to read the report to provide for a meaningful discussion, rather than the question-and-answer session which emerged.

The recommendations in the report itself were mixed. It's difficult to rally against recommendations to improve teaching quality. Telling faculty

to read their TQFR responses is a reasonable recommendation, but administrators and many faculty already say they do so. A more useful recommendation, perhaps, would be to tell us how to make more faculty care about the results.

Other recommendations have seen more opposition in discussion. Some students have expressed the concern that suites will further fragment an already small social network in the houses.

Some students have taken a neutral approach to the the committee's report. While its recommendations might not make Caltech fundamentally better, it won't make Caltech fundamentally worse. Only a misguided approach to implementation could do that. Asking how the amalgam of MIT, the Ivy League, and other schools solve their problems is useful to improving life here. It's an easy point to forget, but those about to make sweeping changes need to remember that Caltech is unique. Solutions to our problems need to be tailored to our needs, rather than blindly copied.

The Honor Code

The Honor Code sets Caltech apart by affording students incredible freedom in their lives. I can cite the collaboration policies of classes, takehome exams, and South Masters as examples; but no list can be exhaustive.

With the Honor Code such a fundamental part student life, the Honor Code Task Force was a fitting part of the Student Faculty Conference. The need for the discussion is embedded in its December 2008 charge: previous surveys made it clear that students wanted a discussion about the Honor Code.

We're pleased with the recommendations. Based on discussions with BoC reps, we have always needed more BoC reps. Similarly, training new reps could improve the BoC's consistency. The new advocate roles will help provide guidance for defendants.

These are good suggestions, but the discussion in Ramo and elsewhere made it clear that many would prefer to not see the discussion stop here.

Even if further discussion doesn't conclude in making changes, it would ease concerns. If nothing else, the discussion would lead to increased transparency, one of the Task Force's stated goals. Transparency is crucial in building confidence. This shouldn't be read to impinge upon our trust of the BoC. We trust members of the BoC to be just, but offering up the explaination that the community should just trust the BoC to never make mistakes is deeply unsatisfying.

Few people doubt that most cases are decided "correctly." It is the seemingly erroneous conviction rarely happens or the the traumatizing experience of an innocent defendant, ultimately acquited, which destroy confidence. When it comes to building confidence in the system, saying "trust us" is not enough for many comfortable with the American system. Continued discussion--in a frank and open forum--should occur.

On Biology

By Talia Weiss

UNDERGRADUATE

While many people thought that the CS option talk at the SFC this past Monday would be the most epic, due to the drastic course additions being added to the catalogue, I must report that the Biology/CNS/BioEngineering option meeting was very exciting. While it started out going over the general options statistics from the recent Donut survey, it quickly became clear that what really needed to be discussed was not the major's specific needs, but how to improve the reputation of biology for Caltech's undergraduates.

It was clear from the frustration in both the professors' and students' voiced opinions that everyone associated biology as their major field of interest gets a lot of crap from the undergraduate community as a whole. Physicists, mathematicians, computer scientists…a majority of them truly do not view biology as a "real" science. They complain bitterly about Bi1 and how there is no reason they should need to take any biology courses because they are going to work in aerospace engineering or theoretical physics. This is really ignorant.

The point of Core is in order to create well rounded scientists. So when entering whatever field, Caltech graduates will be able to think outside the box, pull ideas from other scientific fields, and collaborate between different fields more easily. Biology is essential in this respect. During the next couple of decades is when biology, and biological engineering is really going to blossom as a science. Already, the most exciting experimental work is being done in biology. As it is, at Caltech alone 49% of the faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, 4% of faculty in Physics, 17.5% of faculty in Geological and Planetary Sciences, and 19% of faculty in Engineering and Applied Sciences are doing Biological related research. In

the future, it will be very likely that besides pure mathematics and theoretical physics, almost all experimental research being done will be linked to biology.

Why do undergraduates have this viewpoint? I've never actually come across someone that could give a succinct answer. The problem might stem from how Bi1 is taught, which will hopefully be fixed by Bi1x. The major problem is, at the SFC conference, the students tried to explain to the biology professors what they thought was wrong with Bi1. Well, what they heard was wrong with Bi1 from their friends, as no student at the option meeting had taken Bi1. Many of these complaints, according to the professors, did not make any sense given the rigor put into the course.

But there are some changes that may be on the way. This summer will be the first year the Bi8/Bi9 pass out exams will be sent home over the summer. The idea is that non-bio majors who pass out of Bi8/Bi9 and thus Bi1 might be able to take any biology class they want to satisfy the requirement (biology majors will have to take Bi/Ch 110/111 as a replacement if they pass out).

I want to end this rant with a thought: Why is the undergraduate community so hostile to biologists? It may only be me, but I've always gotten a negative response when I wanted to talk about research I was interested in. Chemists, biologists, and geologists put up with the massive core math and physics requirement with little complaint as to having to take the class (not necessarily on how the class is run). Yet, everyone seems to bitterly complain about the Biology requirement. I don't know how to rectify this. Perhaps I'm just not knowledgeable enough. Perhaps the amount of research being done in the area will convince you – I don't know. But perhaps, instead of just asserting that biology is a pseudoscience, you should look into it. It really is very cool, and why, to an extent, science exists.

Stop the layoffs

By Rene Davis and Katherine Breeden

CLASS OF '08

First, we would like to formally express how disappointed we are that so much of the crucial support staff of the Athletics department is being laid off. Two long standing members of the athletic staff affected were Martha Penunuri and Vince Riley, who have both been an integral part of the department for over twenty years. And we haven't forgotten that the front desk staff is to be decimated as well - we will be sorely missing many of the friendly faces we've looked forward to seeing these last 5 years.

That being said, there are many steps that could have been taken to avoid letting go individuals that have devoted their careers to Caltech athletics.

One change to make would be to consolidate the athletics director position with one of the head coaching positions, as has been done at one of our sister SCIAC

schools, Pomona. Pomona's AD is also their men's basketball coach, Coach Katsiaficas. This would eliminate a large salary position and allow us to keep on crucial support staff - people like Vinnie and Martha.

Another option to keep the department afloat would come from the revenue side. As you know, athletics is one of the few places in Student Services that brings in revenues (from membership fees). It is common in division 2 schools for professors and staff to pay small usage fees for recreation (UCSD, UCI are two local examples). But, at Caltech, no fees are required of staff/faculty. At UCI the fee is $90 per term. If Caltech priced themselves modestly, we would decrease the number of infrequent visitors, increasing the number of available memberships that could be sold to the community (for instance, to family members) and the department could bring in more regular users and increase revenues.

FEATURES

Dr. Lovesucks gives an introduction to Caltech's awkward dating scene

Warning: Writer is extremely rude.

Today, I'll talk about the awkward and somewhat amusing dating scenario at Tech. So, if you're a prefrosh reading this: Tech is wonderful and all your dreams will come true here. Please come for the wonderful weather and stay for the stimulating education. Caltech Admissions didn't pay me to write that, I swear. But prefrosh should probably stop reading this article right about now.

Anyway, here are some terms that you should know if you're a member of our undergraduate Caltech society.

Glomming – unwanted "flirting." And by flirting, I mean those awkward looks or "innocent" touches on the shoulder that give you goosebumps (the bad kind) during problem set time that get you closer and closer to snapping and just stabbing that wandering hand with a mechanical pencil.

Glom magnet a.k.a. "biscuit" – the pretty girl that takes the time out of her day to look nice. Easily identified by hoop earrings, hair gel, and those boots with tha furr. She loves to party and dance the night away, and probably plays some sport like track or volleyball. She's very possibly a pre-med, a bio major, or a chem major. She was perfect in high school, and she's perfect at Tech, too.

Glom magnet II – an average-looking girl, but relatively pretty at Caltech- typically a clean, cute, quiet nerd that maybe dated once in highschool. All the nice boys (and a-holes thinking he can get in her pants easy) are after her. She's usually too naive and inexperienced to know what to do with all the attention.

Circle Glom – little bubbles that form around the glom magnets in the vicinity. This is most likely seen during drinking parties, where guys have the guts to finally talk to that girl, except everyone had the same idea at the same time. At least it's not a circle jerk.

The Angry Sanchez – when a guy gets super furious that the girl he's been grinding and flirting with for the past hour thinks he's too disgusting to kiss. Notable signs are red face and running into walls.

Ladies, protect yourselves. KNOW thy enemy. How do you know you're being glommed? Does he say hi to you before and after every core class? Does he put his hand on your shoulder while explaining that quantum question you didn't understand? How about when he does C-store runs every time you guys have a late problem set night? These are not the indications of glomming. Much like sexual harassment, the only indicator for glomming is that you feel uncomfortable around him. There is no need to rationalize it out at all, because unless you're really good at being truthful to yourself, rationalizing will not work. As long as you feel uncomfortable, something is wrong.

Let's say you're being glommed, and that you want your overattentive friend to go away. So, now what you need to do is set up a time (in a nice, safe, open public place) to talk to him about this (the sooner the better). If you talk to your friend or RA who then talks to the guy for you, you will look like an unfeeling bitch who doesn't even have the decency to talk face to face. Of course, if you somehow think it is life-threatening to talk in person, go ahead to talk to aforementioned friend/RA, but you're probably just over-reacting.

Telling it like it is, with perhaps a bit of sexism,

Dr. Lovesucks

A Refreshing "Night at the Rath"

by Wesley Yu

As twilight falls on a Wednesday night, a band of Caltech students gathers just outside the Athenaeum. They speak among themselves like members of a secret society, anticipating the evening's festivities, as they enter the building and descend a spiraling staircase into the bowels of the Rathskeller. There they join over thirty other students, gathered for the first "Night at the Rath."

The Rath is the newest weekly event on campus. The experience is designed to be a regular zap of inspiration for students. The hope is to "help Caltech students have a life," according to a statement written by John Liu and Peter Liu, part of the Rath leadership team.

"Seriously. It's so easy at Caltech to get into this academic robot mode, and we forget about how amazing and beautiful life can be," reads the statement. "If we all spent a little bit more time thinking about what makes us click and what we're passionate about, I think it would do the campus and ourselves a huge favor."

The new "Night at the Rath" series accomplishes these aims via amazing speakers, according to John Liu, a senior in Avery. "By bringing in inspiring speakers who do amazing things in this world, and providing a venue for all of us to share openly about who we truly are, we can spur each other on to living impactful lives we're actually satisfied with and fulfilled by," said John Liu.

The Rath, short for Rathskeller, is a cozy bar and restaurant underneath the Ath. The night started off with some music and entertainment. The first performance was spoken word, a combination of poetry and storytelling performed by Gabriel Lawrence, an actor, poet, and filmmaker who has performed at spoken word venues in LA, from Da Poetry Lounge to LionLike Mindshift. After the performance, there was time to order a drink, relax with friends, and talk about the subject of the performance, superheroes.

The meat of the evening was a short talk by Rick Yamamoto. Yamamoto identifies upcoming talent for multi-billion dollar investors, and is sought after for his entrepreneurial investment expertise. His latest project, Talent Spelunking: discovering one's genius through exceptional performance patterns, was the subject of his talk. According to Yamamoto, it is very difficult to identify one's own natural talents because you don't notice when you do something well naturally.

"How many times have you used your left bicep?" asked Yamamoto, illustrating how hard it is to know when a person does something so natural and commonplace. In order to help members of the audience recognize their talents Yamamoto asked them to write down the five events or accomplishments of which they were most proud, including at least two things accomplished before sixth grade.

Once you understand your talents, said Yamamoto, you can apply them in other areas to excel or to mitigate your areas of weakness. He told the story of a young man that received straight A's in his math classes via empathy. According to Yamamoto, the young man was able to tell when the professor was saying something that would appear on the test.

The whole evening at the Rath lasted an hour.

Students who attended seemed to appreciate the chance to see something new on campus. "I thought it was well done, the speaker provided some nice insights and I especially liked the poetry," said Alex Hudson, senior.

"It's not very often at Caltech that we get an opportunity to think about the bigger picture [...]. It's not that classes and grades aren't important, but somewhere we have to ask the question, 'What do you really want to do with your life?' I'm still not exactly sure yet," said Fred Zhao, a freshman in Lloyd.

The Rath gathers every Wednesday at 7:30pm. All students are welcome. Next weeks program will include a presentation by Intelligent Mobility. See the event's website for details: http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=63481809212.

FEATURES

Student Facu

Honor Code Task Force

In order to reduce the workload of BoC members, ensure fairness and consistency in the judicial process, better educate students and faculty about the Honor Code, address concerns about transparency, and increase public confidence in the judicial system, the Honor Code Task Force recommends the following:

1. that the number of representatives elected per house be increased from 1 to 2, that the number of at-large representatives appointed by the BoC be increased from 2 to 3, and that any vacancies not filled by house election be filled by appointment by the BoC;

2. that all representatives undergo training prior to taking office, and that this training include (but not be limited to) education in case history, training in evidence analysis, and UCC-type training;

3. that investigations be conducted by 2 representatives appointed by the Chairman, that one of these representatives be responsible for assisting and advising the defendant, and the that other be responsible for filing formal charges against the defendant;

4. that the BoC publish two sets of case summaries, one available to all members of the BoC, and another available for consumption by the larger community.

-- Written by Alex Hudson, Honor Code Task Force Chair

Core Curriculum Task Force

The Core Curriculum Task Force (CCTF) is still collecting responses to the Core survey recently sent to all faculty. At the Student-Faculty Conference, the panel- composed of five CCTF members, including the three undergraduate representatives Neal Bansal, Andrea Dubin, and Thomas Gwinn- solicited audience opinions on Core. The preliminary data implies that faculty are strongly in favor of keeping some form of core curriculum at Caltech. A student survey is in the works.

-- Edited by Thomas Gwinn, CCTF member

Undergraduate Research

The Undergraduate Research Committee discussed issues brought up by students regarding finding and doing research while at Caltech. Overall students' views on and experience with research here are quite positive and most of the issues are lab or professor specific. Recommendations made:

1. More general research units be counted towards option graduation requirements

2. Senior thesis registration be more heavily advertised, and that options structure their thesis course so that undergraduates know what's expected of them. Here are some recommended incentives for doing a thesis: lab or other course substitutions, acknowledgment on transcripts (like SURF) or diploma, or something similar to the SURF Perpall award.

3. Professors utilize SURF and UROH announcements of opportunity more frequently.

4. Students take better advantage of available faculty-interaction opportunities and events.

The Committee has already made a Guide to Research for Undergraduates to explain how research works here and how to get involved, including explanations, timetables, support options, and research courses. You can find the Guide at the following link: http://ugcs.caltech.edu/~dvin/timewiki/index.php?title=Guide_to_Research_for_Undergraduates.

-- Written by Dvin Adalian, Undergraduate Research Committee Chair

Student Experience Trip

This report contains almost thirty recommendations for the Caltech Community. While they are all important, the Committee feels that the following recommendations deserve special attention:

Caltech's support network would improve if the role of a UCC were better defined. However, each House has its own culture and its own niche for UCCs. House culture is an important part of the majority of students' lives, and thus the UCC program should be fitted to the existing House cultures, rather than the other way around. As such, the Committee recommends that the basic expectations for UCCs be clarified, and UCC training tailored to the needs of each House.

The value of TQFRs and other class feedback surveys hinge on what is actually done with the surveys. There must be standards for teaching quality and consequences if a course is poorly taught.

Caltech's curriculum for the first two years should allow for more flexibility and exploration, to enable students to make a well-informed decision about their major and to encourage more participation in leadership and extra-curricular activities. Possible ways of accomplishing this include: increasing the ease of postponing Core classes; reducing the number of specific Core classes that students have to take; offering more tracks to provide options for students with weaker backgrounds; and introducing something similar to MIT's "Exploratory" designation.

Teaching quality is evaluated through student surveys, but no such system is set-up to evaluate advising. Following Harvard, such a system should be created to help identify how to improve student-advisor and student-faculty interactions.

-- Taken from the "Summary of Recommendations" of the Student Experience Trip Report

Social Sciences

Currently, the Social Science curriculum consists of courses from Business, Economics, and Management (BEM), Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Law, and Anthropology. Currently, the only majors offered are in BEM, Economics, and Political Science. No minors are offered in Social Science. Most of these majors are undertaken by students as second majors. These students seek additional studies in real-world finance, business, and politics that the science and engineering majors cannot deliver.

After looking at the Undergraduate survey results, the committee decided on three issues to act on. First, students wanted more courses in Law, Marketing, and Psychology. Much of this falls to the lack of faculty required to teach these courses. It seems that the current financial situation prevents the hiring of more faculty. In looking through the Caltech Catalog for major requirements, one may notice many courses that either haven't been offered for a long time, or courses that simply exist. We are working with the department to update requirements. Students also would like credit for courses outside of Caltech to count for Caltech credit. Currently, there is a system in place, but it is not well known to many. We want to publicize this to everyone who is interested.

-- Written by Tony Jia, Social Sciences Chair

Applied Computational Mathematics

What follows is a compact list of all proposals contained in this report:

1. Replace ACM 101abc with ACM 106abc in the course requirements.

2. Create an ACM 10 "Pizza Course" with speakers from ACM as well as speakers from other departments who use ACM methods in their research

3. Add "ACM 11 or equivalent" to the pre-requisites of any course which involves computational problem-solving on its sets

4. Increase the unit listing of ACM 11 from 3 to 6. Encourage instructors to focus on presenting interesting problems (not just on syntax), while being mindful of the extra difficulty syntax presents for newcomers to programming.

5. Make no change to the pure math requirements.

6. Have advisors encourage students interested in ACM research to take ACM 95 and ACM 106 as early as possible. Students might also take the pizza course to find useful research connections.

-- Taken from the SFC ACM Committee Final Report, to be published soon

Applied Physics/Physics/ Astronomy

We recommend the following:

1. The Physics Department create a master syllabus, which would include all the topics that a physics major should learn and an approximate timeline for when. This will improve material coordination in core physics courses.

2. Ph2 receives many negative reviews, and alternatives to a strict sophomore physics requirement for non-physics majors should be considered.

3. Put graduate students in Ph125 on pass/fail, so that their previous familiarity with the material doesn't negatively and unfairly affect undergraduate grades.

4. APh125 should be removed from the course catalog, since it hasn't been taught since 2003.

5. The ordering of APh17 should be reconsidered, given developments in statistical mechanics in the past 20 years- either classical thermodynamics should be taught before statistical mechanics or eliminated from the APh17 sequence.

6. Ph125c should be removed as an Ay requirement to give Ay majors more time in the Ay department.

7. Split Ay102 into an undergraduate and graduate course, and introduce intermediate level courses on cosmology and galactic dynamics. Both recommendations are designed to make upper-level Ay courses more accessible to undergraduates.

8. Have more joint graduate-undergraduate Ay social events to reduce Ay graduate TA favoritism.

A Physics Survival Guide is currently being written by physics majors for physics majors, and will be published in the little t. Check it out at http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~littlet/wiki/index.php?title=Physics.

-- Written by Sarah Marzen, Committee member

FEATURES

lty Conference

Biology/CNS

Based on the ARC-distributed survey, a large majority of biology majors are pleased with the department. The following detail significant points of discussion at the well-attended Biology Committee discussion.

1. Bioengineering will become an independent option, and the possible problems from class conflicts will have to be worked out after the major is established.

2. Computational Neural Science (CNS) will not become its own major because it lacks the necessary student and faculty support.

3. The possibility of having more definite bio "tracks" were discussed, but it was resolved that they are better left as guidelines so as to encourage bio students to try different fields within the biological sciences.

4. Most of the discussion centered on introductory bio classes (Bi1, 8, and 9), and the institute's core requirements for biology. We recommended that freshman receive a Bi8/9 place-out exam over the summer, as is done for math and physics. Currently, biology majors that place out of introductory biology must receive a passing grade in corresponding Bi/Ch classes. We recommend that non-bio majors that test out take a biology class of their choice.

5. Various opinions in the complaints and solutions of the introductory classes were discussed. We also discussed the pass/fail attitude in Bi8 and Bi1. Instructors will be discouraged from giving very long exams in one continuous sitting.

-- Written by Biology/CNS Chair Dongkook Lim

Chemistry

The Chemistry Committee recommends the following:

1. Many undergraduates want to TA, but HHMI funding must be renewed next year. Thus, we recommend that the department develop a more concrete program for TA's (i.e., a website with announcements of opportunity) and work with groups like SFP and the Alumni Association to procure more funding.

2. Ombuds need to be chosen earlier in the term, and ombuds need to meet before and after midterms.

3. Feedback for Ch4 suggests that the course currently has excessive write-ups and bottlenecks during compound characterization, among other problems. We recommend instituting a separate NMR training session, adding pressure gauges to the hoods, and providing detailed requirements for each lab.

4. Ch21 has negative reviews, and might need a class coordinator or organizing TA. Undergraduate TAs for this class are especially helpful.

-- Taken from the Chemistry SFC Powerpoint presentation

Chemical Engineering

The Chemical Engineering Committee makes the following recommendations, among others:

1. Seniors completing senior theses should meet with mentors regularly and document expectations before they begin to work on the thesis.

2. Ch21a has received consistently poor reviews for several years, and improving Ch21a requires action at the faculty level. The class might improve with online lecture notes or powerpoint slides.

3. Students in the materials track feel that the classes are disjointed and unrelated. This problem might be improved by the publication of a suggested course schedule in the catalog, a Committee publication on the aims and goals of the materials track, and group advising by professors.

4. Students in the biomolecular engineering track are dissatisfied with course offerings and believe that there is not enough of a biomolecular emphasis. The Committee recommends that requirements be amended: eliminate BE152 and BE153, and add a metabolic engineering and a systems biology course.

5. Students should be able to take the three science/engineering electives on pass/fail.

6. More students are venturing into industry. The department should proactively aid chemical engineering majors: designate a point person for arranging contact with companies, leverage connections with the Alumni Association, use faculty contacts in industry, and in other ways.

-- Taken from Chemical Engineering powerpoint presentation

Computer Science

The Computer Science committee, based on formal and informal surveys of students, identified several areas of concern to undergraduates.

Upperlevel course offerings was the most acute concern of students in the opinion. After discussion with faculty, we will be able to offer a revamped networking project sequence, a current topics in theory course, and several new electives in networking and machine learning next year. In the 2010-2011 academic year, we expect to offer a full machine learning project sequence.

Surveys of students in and out of the opinion brought up concerns about the introductory computer science curriculum. We recommended introducing a programming class designed to teach students their first programming language as CS1 and using placement exams to provide for more experienced programmers. CS2 and CS4 would follow from CS1 and could be consequently geared towards teaching students already familiar with crucial introductory concepts.

The department is also taking steps to improve its industry and research exposure for students. In the class room, we recommend project sequences make use of basic software engineering concepts to ready students for working in larger projects. We also recommend providing for an introductory course to show students the areas of active research in the department.

-- Written by Computer Science Chair Chris Kennelly

Electrical Engineering

We addressed all of the following issues: student faculty interaction, course scheduling, the presentation of the EE electives in the course catalog, and fixing commonly problematic courses.

Most significantly, the schedule of suggested courses will be restructured to address student and faculty complaints, to lighten the load during extremely difficult terms, and to improve the logical flow of the courses. Everything changed in the sophomore year: EE/CS 51 first term, EE/CS 52 second term, and EE 40 and EE 45 third term. EE 151 was moved to second term junior year, and EE 113 was moved to third term.

Other changes were made to the EE electives section of the course catalog to update the information and eliminate confusion. In addition, a seminar pizza course, EE 1, was added to present EE research to students. Undergrads are now invited to all EE seminars as well. These are intended to give students more exposure to EE faculty and their research.

-- Written by Gabe Cohn, Electrical Engineer Committee Chair

Humanities

The Humanities Committee recommends that:

1. Language classes change from ten units per term to nine units per term.

2. Freshman humanities course offerings for both first and second term be publicized before first term registration- this will allow freshmen to avoid being "locked out" of taking a freshman humanities class they like. Currently, freshmen must take two terms of humanities in different areas before taking non-freshman humanities courses, and so some freshmen get "locked out" of taking a freshman humanities course they like.

3. The Humanities Department publicize future schedules of course offerings, even though those schedules will only be tentative, so that students can plan their humanities courses in advance.

4. An advanced composition class be offered for good writers to improve their writing.

-- Taken from Humanities Committee powerpoint presentation

Mathematics

Much discussion centered around the question of whether to encourage more freshmen to take Ma 5, the introductory abstract algebra course. This course gives many prospective math majors their first dose of real pure math. It was suggested that the catalog be revised to make students more aware of the option to take the course as freshmen.

On the other hand, some students may benefit from taking Ma 5 until sophomore year, when they have more mathematical maturity. Any catalog changes, therefore, should not pressure students into taking the course prematurely. An option in this case would be to consider taking Ma 6 as a freshman.

Many students also indicated an interest in taking a reading course. Yet few students in the audience were familiar with how reading courses work. It was suggested that the math department create an informative website for Ma 98, the undergraduate reading course.

Other recommendations included:

1. Keep up-to-date course syllabi to minimize the hitch when courses change instructors

2. Prepare a document to help familiarize new postdocs and professors with standard Caltech course policies, including information on exam weight & length

3. Developing an undergraduate seminar (with the help of the Math club and faculty)

-- Written by Mathematics Committee Chair Ila Varma and member Casey Jao

Mechanical Engineering

The Mechanical Engineering Committee addressed the following issues:

1. Course scheduling and electives: for several years, students have indicated a high level of interest in taking more design courses. Although we understand that course offerings are limited by our faculty size, we would like to open a new introductory level robotics course. In addition, we suggest formulating alternative 4-yr. plans for students who would like to study abroad or double major.

2. Student-faculty interaction: we recommend for faculty members to actively participate in social events such as those sponsored by UCME.

3. SURF opportunities: we would like to see more offerings for on campus SURF opportunities whether they are purly ME SURFs or cross-disciplinary. The majority of students who SURF will do so at JPL, and not all ME students would like to enter the aerospace industry.

4. Career development and Internships: we recommend starting a seminar course in which we invite guest lecturers from different companies to talk about what MEs in various industries will do.

-- Written by Michelle Jiang, Mechanical Engineering Committee member

Geological and Planetary Sciences

We focused on two main areas: getting information to students, and student-faculty mentoring. First, we tried to improve the way students get information about the department through the department website, course catalog. We also want to make it easier for students to match themselves with potential faculty SURF mentors by funneling them through the option reps. Option reps will collect information about which faculty are open to accepting SURFs and, after asking students a few probing questions, will send them to a few appropriate mentors.

Second, we wanted to improve how students are mentored, starting immediately after they join the department, and continuing through to graduation, and their post-graduation plans. We will facilitate more undergrad-faculty interactions and help connect interested students with faculty who have worked outside of academia.

-- Written by Sierra Petersen, GPS Committee Chair

Page members shocked, surprised by ban

miscommunication, Ricketts invited them back. Ruddock House hosted a few Pageboys at a Happy Hour on Friday night, when Page had planned to hold their weekly party.

"I think the ban will just drive drinking off-campus," said Calvin Yu, who as a Health Advocate for Page, thinks the future is disconcerting.

Freshman Geoffrey Beck thinks the ban may encourage people to be more careful in the future, but that it's likely to be unsuccessful like Prohibition in the early twentieth century.

Some students see the the recent alcohol policy violations as isolated incidents rather than a systemic problem with Page House, and thus that a blanket ban is unwarranted.

Go points to the short-term memory of the house as to why students aren't seeing eye-to-eye with the deans' decision. Over the last decade, many drinking violations have perennially involved Page, but underclassmen have only a vague idea of what Page used to be like.

The last time alcohol was banned in Page was the summer of 2006, which is "dim in the minds of most people here," according to Go.

Changing a house

Go says the ban is forcing Page to "take a hard look at what matters to the House."

"This isn't a wink-wink affair, or the kind of thing where it can move out of sight and be OK," said Go in an email to the house.

In the past, having a party busted by Security motivated House members to hide the party better in the future. When the administration found out about Bubbly, an end-of-term champagne party by Millikan Pond, they told Page to register it as a Caltech-sanctioned party. The next time, Page did register the party, but some students bypassed the bartender for bottles of champagne. The administration found out, and this past term, a sparkling cider only House event was scheduled at Millikan pond. But Security found students, over and under 21, on the roof of Page drinking champagne anyway.

These are the sorts of traditions that Go says have to die now.

"It's going to take some soul-searching for us to realize this isn't going to happen at all anymore."

While Go believes some positive aspects of the house culture will be lost in the ban, he doesn't think the house culture "depends on egregious violations of the alcohol policy."

"This is the kind of situation where you amputate a limb to save the body."

Losing the culture

While the deans suspect Page culture is at the root of repeated drinking violations, it's the same culture of "work hard, play hard" that many Pageboys find so valuable. Some are afraid this culture will start to fade if the ban continues into the fall.

"People find release in being able to socialize reasonably close to what you'd find in a normal college dorm," said Go. "I think it helps students get through the pressures of Caltech better."

If the ban extends into next year, Pageboys are especially worried that hosting dry Rotation parties will send prefrosh the wrong impression of Page House.

"I think it's important that Rotation isn't dry so we can convey the atmosphere of a normal college, that you and your buddies can sit together and enjoy a few beers," said Go. "That's something you can do in Page House when you're 21."

Brian Go believes that a critical mass of upperclassmen are needed to get a party started, and without alcohol, those late-night Rotation parties may not happen.

More than a few Pageboys cite hanging out in the beer room during Prefrosh Weekend as the reason they came to Caltech.

House leadership is geared for some real change, but some students are confused the ban is coming now. Many students in Page felt the house was moving away from its reputation as party-central just as the administration started keeping a closer eye on Page's activities. Many upperclassmen say that Page is much tamer now than five years ago when many Pageboys moved off-campus to get away from the over-partyed, over-trashed house.

It's not that the House is just now getting out of control, but that "they've started watching us like a hawk," said Brian Lester, a junior.

Whether Page was heading in the right direction before the ban depends on who you ask.

A Page sophomore who is frustrated with the ban said that when he was a frosh, he heard upperclassmen remark that things are less fun than they used to be.

But according to Dean Hall, three students in Page have already contacted him in support of the ban.

Two students win Fulbrights

By Joel Nikolaus
STAFF WRITER

Caltech undergraduates Julie Huang and Alex Hudson both won Fulbright Fellowships for the 2009-2010 year, giving them enough money to study, research, or teach English abroad.

Huang plans to pursue graduate research at the Max Planck Institute for Microbiology in Bremen, Germany where she intends to study microbial symbiosis. Hudson plans to study at Oxford University where he will complete a one-year masters program in theoretical chemistry.

For Huang, the research in Germany will be a prelude to the research she plans to likely continue at Stanford. Hudson, an applied physics major, sees his program as a way of "migrating" from his background in physics to the theoretical chemistry he plans to eventually pursue at Berkeley.

Huang also plans to she take part in a six-week language immersion program and a three to four week stay with a German family. Although none of this is necessary for her lab work (they speak English), these expenses are still funded by the Fulbright grant.

For his part Hudson seems to think that he is comfortable with British English. Still, he said that one of the great things about Oxford, that "there are a ton of great things out there" and that he planned to get involved, possibly including a couple of English sports such as rugby or crew.

The Fulbright has an early September deadline and many applicants, but Hudson said that students "shouldn't be discouraged by the odds." He said that he thought Caltech prepares good applicants, adding that "we don't win a lot of fellowships because a lot of people don't apply."

Huang, whose mentors provided help in her own search, said that students should "definitely use your mentors' guidance. Don't try to find it all on your own."

Construction continues on schedule

Robinson renovation starts in a few weeks

By Chris Kennelly
EDITOR IN-CHIEF

In the midst of everything else, construction at Caltech is still going smoothly.

Cahill was substantially complete in December, but move-in is still progressing. Roughly two-thirds of groups have shifted out of their previous offices for the new astrophysics building. The building has been seeing new residents "at the pace that they want to move," said Ken Hargreaves, Senior Director of Design and Construction.

Construction is still ongoing at the Annenberg and Schlinger construction sites. The new Annenberg IST building has had a few issues with its glass exterior, but Hargreaves expects the building to be completed on-time. Faculty move-in will start in July.

Major construction on the Schlinger building is expected to be complete in December 2009.

During the summer, a new public art project will be installed south of Noyes. The art project is being added to replace a piece lost to the Schlinger construction site.

In a few weeks, rennovation will start on Robinson, transforming it into the Linde and Robinson Laboratory for Global Environmental Science.

Highlights from the ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
April 9, 2009
This is an abridged version of the minutes. Please look to the donut website or the ASCIT bulletin board for complete minutes.

President's Report:

- Harvey Mudd Party: The party with Harvey Mudd and Scripps will be May 8 in Claremont. There will be buses for Caltech students to get to Claremont; Anthony has talked to Dimitris Sakellariou, Tom Mannion, and Anneila Sergeant regarding organizing the buses.

Officer Reports:

- **V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):** Videotaping courses: Melany Hunt approved funding for course videotaping (around $3000 for purchasing equipment). This will result in better picture quality. Math Grading: Math 1c will be graded by a single TA for each set. This will result in more consistent grading.

- **V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):** Committee Appointments: The first round of interviews for committee appointments will be this Sunday. Sign-ups for the remaining positions will be posted Monday.

- **Operations Director:** Club Funding: All of the new club funding forms are up; Mike sent out a ug-list email. The club funding meeting is set for April 18. Student Center: Mike is also working on the student center survey and visiting other schools to see their student centers; Mike, Tim, and Pallavi are visiting Pomona this Saturday.

- **Treasurer:** Reimbursement Checks: A lot of people have been coming to Maral with reimbursement checks from the old ASCIT. Maral will send out an email asking for people to mail in all outstanding reimbursement checks and will set a deadline for submitting these checks.

- **Social Director:** ASCIT Formal: ASCIT Formal will be during Memorial Day Weekend, likely on Friday, May 22. Weekly Social Events: Nadia is thinking of organizing a video game tournament next weekend; this will probably be very well-received. Scheduling the ASCIT Movie: The movie was the same weekend as Formal last year; maybe we should make it a separate weekend this year.

Submitted by Laura Conwill
ASCIT Secretary

Happy birthday to you, President Chameau!

Photo by Jonathan Tsai

President Jean-Lou Chameau, right, cuts his birthday cake made by Tom Mannion. Undergraduate Nick Fortino, left, watches. Roughly 70 undergraduates came to celebrate the President's birthday on Tuesday, April 7.

Track team maxes out on losing

By Mark Eichenlaub
STAFF WRITER

Saturday, April 11 the Caltech Men's and Women's Track and Field teams earned the maximum 14 teams lost to (0-7 records each) at the SCIAC Multi-Dual meet. This score comes with the SCIAC championships only two weeks away and the potential for another record breaking performance.

Despite the high results, some particularly exciting highlights were Deboki Chakravarti's 28.57 200m, Ben Slawski's 2:05 800m to win his heat, Jessica Swallow's 9.65m in the triple jump, and Will Gibson's 58.43 in the 400m hurdles. Your reporter captured one of the most golorious moments from the team's recent activities.
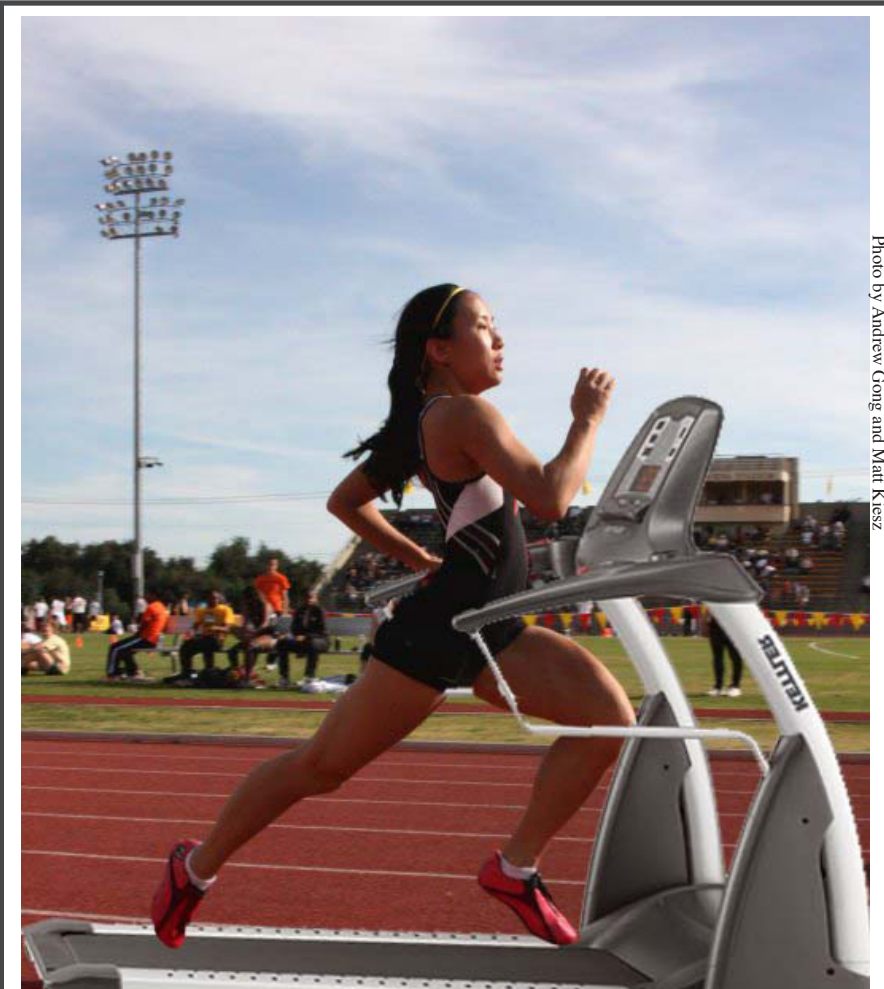
Photo by Andrew Gong and Matt Kresz

Stephanie Wuerth became Caltech 4th-fastest 5000m runner ever with a 19:40 clocking.

Upcoming Games

April 15

Women's Water Polo at Pomona Pitzer
5:00 PM

April 17

Baseball at Cal Lutheran
3:00 PM

Men's Tennis at Redlands
SCIAC Championships
8:00 AM

Women's Tennis at Pomona Pitzer
SCIAC Championships

April 18

Baseball at Cal Lutheran
11:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M.

Men's Tennis at Redlands
SCIAC Championships
8:00 AM

Women's Tennis at Pomona Pitzer
SCIAC Championships

Women's Water Polo vs. Whittier
11:00 AM

The Weekly Scoreboard

April 3
Baseball vs. La Verne - L (23-4)
Men's Tennis at Whittier - L (8-1)
Women's Tennis vs. Whittier - L (7-2)

April 4
Baseball at La Verne - L (17-0, 18-2)
Men's Tennis vs. Pomona Pitzer - L (9-0)
Women's Tennis at Pomona Pitzer - L (9-0)
Women's Water Polo vs. La Verne - L (20-2)
Women's Water Polo vs. Chapman - L (22-1)

April 8
Women's Water Polo vs. CMS - L (22-8)

April 9
Women's Water Polo vs. Cal St. East Bay - L (15-1)

April 10
Baseball vs. Redlands - L (23-3)
Women's Tennis vs. La Sierra - L (9-0)

April 11
Baseball at Redlands - L (11-1, 18-4)
Men's Tennis vs. La Verne - L (5-4)

Dear John

by Mark Eichenlaub

Dear John,

I've met a man. A big, strong man who came to me in the night. He's a mysterious man who works quickly and secretively. It's exciting – intoxicating. He cut the chains that bound me. He showed me what it is to be free.

I'm tired of being used, driven directions I don't want to go, locked up all day, noticed only when something's gone wrong. Although I squeak my discontent every day, and let out a tired groan when you mount me, you never cared. My complaints are, at best, annoyances you no longer have time for.

Do you remember our joy? When I was young and fast we shot together down roads, the wind screaming at us, astonished by our speed. We listened to ourselves purr. You tucked in close and leaned into every curve. What I realize now is we were so busy flying we never understood we were going downhill.

The man, the new one, pays attention to me. He could have had whoever he wanted. The grounds are ripe for picking, but he chose me. Aging. Not so pretty any more. Not shining gaudily in the bright sun. But still I have enough to attract at least one pair of eyes around here. Not that you ever noticed.

Sometimes I feel like I'm just spinning and spinning and spinning. But winding up back at the same old places. I try to find solitude in the companionship of those other neglected souls chained up like me, but that is no way to live.

Every few months we said we'd start again. I'd get totally pumped up. But the pressure is too high. I don't think I can hold it all in and you never even notice. You never say a word to me, unless it's a curse. My enthusiasm goes flat, and soon I'm completely deflated again.
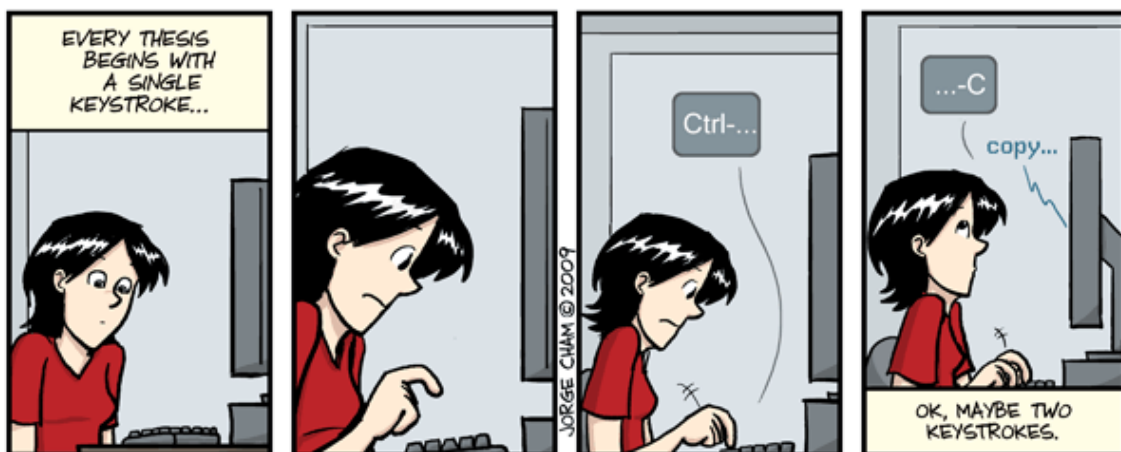
He lifted me up, that new man. When I was in his arms I rose high up, above all the others. I was looking down on them and felt their jealousy. He began to ride me. We rolled off together towards a new beginning

Oh sure, John, it wasn't all bad. We had some good screws, you and I. It may have been the only thing holding me together. But you never took the time to lube me up. That hurt (on the inside.)
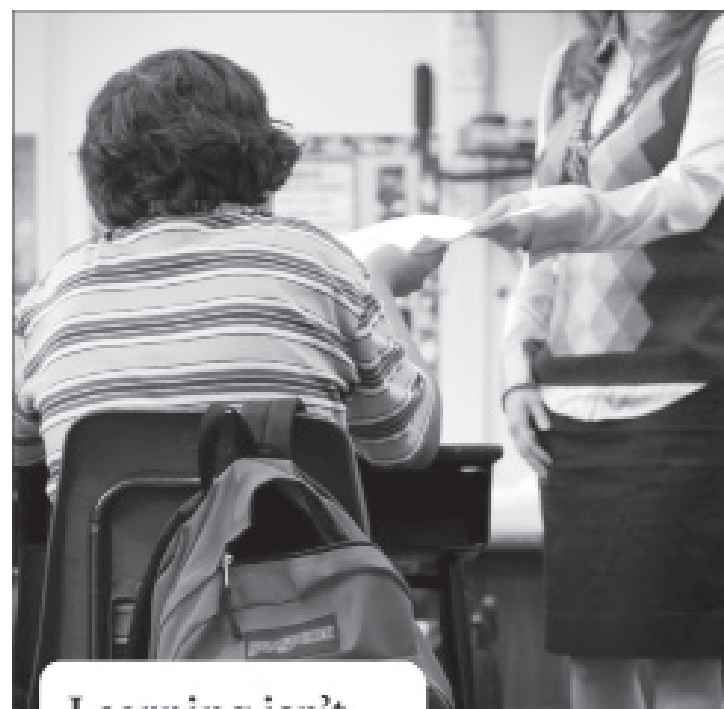
Honestly, I don't know if you ever truly loved me. For your sake I hope not, because now I am gone.

Regretfully Yours,

A Caltech Bicycle

2008-2009 Financial Aid Hard Deadline

This year the Financial Aid Office has a hard deadline and will not process any applications for financial aid completed after April 24, 2009. Therefore if you are still planning on applying for aid for 2008-2009 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.

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