

Dearth of proposals for three-unit courses in third term

Developing World Technologies-- a student-teacher at work



Photo by Fiona Li

Student-teacher Amit Gandhi (right) shows student Christina Lee (left) how to seal a plastic bag using a hot glue gun.

By Wesley Yu
STAFF WRITER

Only one proposal for a student-taught course has been submitted for third term. That proposal, a course on Indian film, will likely be approved. But the dearth of proposals has some concerned about the survival of the program.

"I am concerned about the lack of proposals for next term. It may be that the program is thought of as requiring academic rigor," said Dean Hall. In the past, the Faculty Board, the committee that approves student-taught course proposals, has insisted on some academic subject material.

Many students, though, would like to see the program make available subjects regardless of their academic value. "I hope that in the future, more courses are taught just

for fun and not necessarily for academics," said Amit Gandhi, a senior who taught Developing World Technologies this term. "For students, it's a much more relaxed atmosphere and they get to be exposed to subjects they wouldn't have otherwise seen."

The two courses taught this

well as undergrads.... It's nice to have someone teaching who knows what we know."

Gandhi felt that as a teacher, he gained from the program as well. "I learned a lot myself. I now know way more about the technology I've presented on."

The best part, says Gandhi about teaching is that "I get to see students get passionate about what I'm interested in." Gandhi plans to dedicate himself to developing innovative technologies for third world countries and has decided to take

a year to travel to Latin America before going to graduate school to "get exposure to what life is like in the third world."

The problem of finding advisors for student-taught courses has not been addressed since first term,

"I hope that in the future, more courses are taught just for fun and not necessarily for academics."

-- Amit Gandhi, student-teacher

term were both academically oriented, and generated enthusiasm from some students.

"I've really enjoyed it," said Jason Cerundolo, who took the 3-unit Ham Radio course taught by Joshua Hutchins. "It made it a lot easier to get a Ham Radio license."

Dvin Adalian, who also took the course, agrees. "The teacher Josh understood us

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Endowment losses force fewer chemistry graduate students

By Tina Ding
STAFF WRITER

Caltech's administration has emphasized that it will do its best to preserve the Caltech research and academics in these budget cut changes. However, the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division's endowment loss will cause the department to admit 10% fewer graduate students, according to Division Chair of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering David Tirrell.

According to Provost Ed Stolper, every academic division's budget comes from multiple sources—the Provost's office parcels out a "hunk of money" to each division, and each division has their own endowment, grants, and gifts from donors. The current economic situation has diminished the value of the endowments, and will probably diminish the amount that donors are willing to give. It's likely that each academic divisions budget will be under stress for at least a few years, Stolper wrote in an email.

"Any organization that is heavily dependent on endowment for operation will be under stress," said Tirrell. "The main use of our division endowment is for graduate student fellowships."

The Ch/ChE fellowship funds pay the salary and tuition of graduate students in the period of time before the student transitions into his or her research group. Although most of a graduate's student's tuition and stipend will come from grants, the fellowship funds pay the compensation in

the few months to a year in which the student rotates through labs, and takes exams and classes.

"There are two knobs that we can adjust to offset the endowment loss," said Tirrell. "We will admit fewer students and we may make the transition to grants occur earlier."

The Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division enrolls about 30-35 students in chemistry and twelve to fifteen students in Chemical Engineering every year. There will be an approximate 10% cut in admission offers, which will probably result in about 25-30 chemistry students and ten to twelve chemical engineering students entering in the fall.

"However, we can't predict accurately how many students will enroll," said Tirrell. Currently, the Caltech graduate student matriculation rate in chemistry is about 35%.

The second "knob" to offset the reduction in fellowship funds is making the transition from fellowships to research grants earlier than in the past. "This would not affect the students' experience but would change the source of funding to pay for their expenses," said Tirrell.

Further stress on the budget may come from a reduction in the amount of money parceled out by the Provost's office. According to Stolper, each academic division was asked to "look at what they're doing, and evaluate" where the portion of

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As much as 30% cuts for academic budgets, plus a hiring slow down

By Sarah Marzen
STAFF WRITER

Across the country, some peer institutions are responding to budget cuts with hiring freezes and near decimation of the budget for outside lecturers. Caltech President Jean-Lou Chameau has reaffirmed a commitment to maintaining academics, but Caltech academics are not immune to budget cuts.

According to Provost Ed Stolper, some academic division budgets for next year might be cut by as much as 30%, and the average number of faculty hires is roughly two-thirds the average number of academic hires in the past ten years.

However, both of these statistics involve more complexities than one would suspect, according to Stolper.

Straightforward budget cuts?

Division budgets come from a variety of sources—endowments, donor gifts, grants, and Caltech's general budget. "Division general budgets are not so easy to define," said Stolper, and the way in which division money is allocated is decided by each division chair, not by the Provost.

Still, in the current economy, endowments, donor gifts, and possibly the Provost's contribution will decrease. "We can anticipate lots of these sources of funds are going to be compromised," said Stolper. Exactly how academic division budget cuts will play out has yet to

be determined. Division budgets aren't finalized until June or July, said Stolper, and don't begin to get hammered out until April.

Furthermore, the details of budget cuts are left up to division chairs. For example, endowment principle might be used to backfill budget losses from the Provost's office.

Some of the funding from the Provost is used as the "other faculty salaries" budget, used to pay for teachers that are not tenure-track professors—although how much money is used for this budget varies from division to division. Stolper has asked division chairs to look into where the other faculty salaries budget can be reduced by 30%.

"It's safe to say there will be fewer professional faculty teaching," said Stolper, "though it's hard to predict what's going to happen." At least one division, said Stolper, has said that they will use their endowment money to replace any reduced funding from Caltech, to prevent probable changes to course offerings caused by a 30% budget decrease. Some teachers might have reduced salaries instead of being completely cut.

"Divisions have an enormous amount of autonomy," said Stolper. "It's one of the best things about Caltech... There's a lot of local control."

Nevertheless, most divisions use their endowments to subsidize incoming graduate students in some way. According to Stolper, the biggest effect of budget cuts might be a shrinking in the size of the incoming graduate class.

Hiring slow down?

Despite the hiring slowdown, Provost Stolper expects more faculty hires this year than last year, even though last year's target for the number of faculty hires was higher. Why?

The number of faculty hires each year fluctuates by a large amount, ranging from seven to eighteen hires per year over the past ten years. Last year, only seven faculty were hired, even though many more applicants were asked to join Caltech's faculty. According to Stolper, the number of offers and the number of faculty hires varies by roughly a factor of two from year to year.

Caltech hasn't stopped any of its ongoing searches for new faculty, but it has "taken its foot of the gas a little bit," said Stolper. Harvard's hiring freeze, in comparison, is equivalent to slamming on the brakes.

"We won't bother the search committees [to finish quickly], but we're not stopping any of the active searches," said Stolper.

Looking forward

Caltech administration had to come up for a new budget plan mid-year, and things will happen that nobody could have anticipated, said Stolper. "As soon as there's a sign of a mistake, we'll fix it."

Nevertheless, Stolper is confident in Caltech's resilience. "Next year will be stressful,

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A Dream Deferred

By Chris Kennelly
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student-taught courses offer the potential of adding an unprecedented amount of breadth to the curriculum available to undergraduates.

Unfortunately, calls of academic rigor threaten to dry up student enthusiasm and risk losing this opportunity. As reported in today's Tech, only one student-taught course proposal has been submitted.

At the December faculty board meeting to approve winter term student-taught courses, only two proposals--out of the four that had been vetted by the Curriculum Committee--were approved. Without any official reason for why the two courses, introductory courses to Rubik's Cubing and playing bridge, were not approved, the board left a void for rumors.

Amongst my friends, the reason seemed clearly evident: the board felt these proposals lacked a vague notion of academic value. Whatever kernel of truth lies in that belief is immaterial. Such attitudes, true or otherwise, construct a severe and chilling effect on the

prospects of future proposals.

Blame does not belong to the students. It rests squarely with the board's December decision and its silence after. The meeting's purpose should not have been to debate the merits of whether Caltech credit should be given to student-taught courses. Credit doesn't mean that much--the credit exists to motivate students to see a course to completion. It provides mostly token value in the senes of graduation--who, for want of three units of PA credit, will be barred a diploma?

We shouldn't brush aside course proposals with less "academic value" as ideas fit for student clubs. These courses offer students an opportunity to have carefully prepared curricula rather than ad hoc lessons given by existing club members.

At an institute where we should aspire to spur intellectual curiosity, these courses are a means towards that goal. Having decided in June to participate in this experiment, the board should do so with an open mind. Give less "rigorous" student-taught courses a chance and rather than allow uncertainty to reign, give the board's expectations.

Take a chill pill Avery, Feynman board isn't that bad

By Sarah Marzen
EDITOR

I know of a few gung-ho Averites who are hell bent on preventing Avery from completely switching over to the Feynman Board plan, under the belief that a complete switch will cause graduate students and perhaps Faculty in Residence to flee the premises and diminish the potential for grad-undergrad interactions.

As a member of Avery, I feel obligated to say something before the voice of a few vocal Avery members determines the course of an entire House: the fears of those gung-ho members is overblown.

First off, I don't think that grad-undergrad interactions will die from this change, even if many graduate students decide that the new food plan isn't up to their standards. There are two types of graduate students that live in Avery: one type interacts with undergrads because they make an effort to be social; the second type doesn't.

I won't really care if the second

type of graduate students flee from Avery, because they don't really contribute to the Avery community. I will care if the first type of graduate student flees from Avery. But is there any reason why friendliness should be correlated with a desire to avoid mediocre cuisine?

I'm not even sure that so many graduate students will decide that the new food plan isn't up to par. Feynman Board is not a bad board plan. I really like open kitchen, and the dinners that I've eaten in the South and North Houses are not inedible. I also trust Peter Daily and the Food Committee to improve Board food over the next year.

Second, and more importantly, the gung-ho members are making mountains out of a molehill. Caltech has had to make some sacrifices somewhere to respond to endowment losses and expected donor losses. Think of everything the administration could have done instead--cutting class offerings, raising tuition, cutting froshcamp entirely, hiring freezes, decreases in the number of SURF offers... how can I get

mad about an acceptable board program with all of these other things at stake? I'd much rather fight for even more SURFs or an increase in lectureship budget.

Based on all of the on and off-record budget information that I've seen, Caltech's budget cuts are reasonable; and I'm pretty sure that I've been privy to more budget details than the people arguing for against the decimation of Avery Board.

Finally, a caveat. All around campus, undergraduates are criticizing these gung-ho Averites for being selfish and thinking of themselves as better than the rest of the Caltech community. I think that the motivations of these gung-ho Averites have been misinterpreted; the people who are fighting against the board plan change are usually reasonable.

I can't speak for them, because I don't understand where they are coming from. However, I would encourage the undergraduates that are criticizing the gung-ho Averites to ask them directly for their reasoning, rather than over-interpreting their emails and slandering them in the process.

The Obama spending spree

By Daniel Alvarez
UNDERGRADUATE

Someone be sure to thank the person who invented the word "trillion." But then again, maybe not. For while it saves us the agony of having to look down that long line of 0s, it may also have cost the American people a tangible conception of just how much of our money is being spent in Washington. Try going to a friend and asking him or her how long it would take to amass \$1 trillion if you were handed a \$100 bill every second. Let's just say you wouldn't live to see the day.

I am writing this article as a response to Evans Boney's article in the February 23rd issue of The Tech, but also as a call to action for all future tax payers to halt the unbridled spending our government has indebted us with.

On Thursday February 26th president Obama announced that spending would be increased to \$3.9 trillion for the current year. The justification for this spending can be summed up concisely: desperate times call for desperate measures. Such un-quantitative terms are especially useful when you are dealing with sums of money that are inconceivable to the general public.

Mr. Boney seems to have been swayed, as he believes that "\$800B is not enough" for the stimulus bill and "GOP cronies... quite literally, argued more effective job creation measures out of the bill in favor of the old GOP standby: Tax Cuts". 80-90% of new jobs created in the United States come from the private sector, which would directly benefit from tax cuts.

Republicans supported the measures in the stimulus bill that sought to create jobs and build infrastructure. In fact, a number of conservatives led by John McCain assembled an alternative stimulus totaling only about \$400 billion that still

contained significant tax cuts and all the signature infrastructure investments from roads to bridges to renewable energy to water treatment plants. What it lacked was the pet project of every Democrat in the House.

Republicans are against the idea of making the stimulus bill a vehicle for congressmen to pass their pet projects without going through the appropriations process. Perhaps Mr. Boney can explain to us how \$600 million in "green" cars for government employees or \$50 million for the National Endowment of the Arts will create jobs.

What is even more insulting is that even amidst the greatest spending spree in our nation's history, congressional democrats are now trying to force an additional \$410 billion bill for "government operations". Unsurprisingly, the bill is a Christmas tree full of 8,570 earmarks and pet projects. While Washington bureaucrats are lining up to add their special ornament to the tree, it is the American taxpayer who is left with the tab.

I am also inclined to comment on Mr. Boney's repeated allusions to the New Deal, which he hails as a great success. I am sure that Mr. Boney knows as well as I that historians are arguing to this day as to whether or not the New Deal actually helped our economy, and hence to use its "success" as a justification for unprecedented spending is absurd.

The projected deficit for 2009 has almost quadrupled previous records and yet Mr. Boney asserts that my "argument that we are spending too much is just plain bunk". Then again, he followed up by "70% of the GDP is not too much with respect to the 2-3 trillion dollar hole in our economy", which makes one wonder if perhaps Mr. Boney intended for his article to be published in the Humor section and all of this fret is for nothing.

Drinking the budget Kool-Aid

By Evans Boney
CONTRIBUTOR

Sure, the budget Obama revealed last Thursday is not perfect. Really, billions for "clean coal"?

But in broad strokes, Obama's budget was more than I could have hoped or even imagined. Many of his subtle moves leave his opponents and proponents in quite an untenable position: not entirely opposed nor entirely supportive. 72% of Americans like a real pragmatist in the Oval Office, say the latest polls.

First of all, say what you want about the legislation, but it definitely has a much stronger "pay as you go" provision than currently exists. This is a basic move that I think fiscally responsible democrats and republicans would like to see: when you spend some money, you must either cut some other spending or raise some other taxes. It's mindboggling that the Washingtonians consider it such a revelation.

Secondly, Healthcare reform. We'll have to wait for his cabinet to get more settled before we get the details, but this is around half of the estimated costs of insuring all Americans. That's 25 or so million more people Obama intends to cover. Any way you slice it, that's ambitious (especially on top of SCHIP), and I think it's absolutely necessary. He avoided Clinton's error and proposed it in his first year, while he had a high enough approval rating, so all that remains is: will it make it through?

Thirdly, and beautifully, he has written in a half trillion dollars revenue from Carbon Cap and Trade. Finally, somebody will charge the corporations who pollute our air and land and sea for the true price of their actions.

I'm all for the free market, but anybody who tells you the free market cares for anything that isn't directly cost-motivated is lying to you. No corporation loves you, much less the land, sea, or air.

Fourthly, increases in the basic science budget. I appreciate the gesture, but we kind of have our hands full with that 30% or so increase in science basic research money. To say nothing of the DOE windfall for alternative energy. I think we can find the 35% or so in really good projects, but I'm worried about a Republican anti-intellectual revolution for every project that fails. Actually, with all the scientific advances from the past 50 years that have made our lives immeasurably easier... why do they still gripe about fruit fly research and volcano monitors?

Fifth, Education! I'm going to have to see this fleshed out, but it has a lot of potential.

Finally, he is taxing the rich more (in 2011, not 2010 as Dems hoped) and insisting it is patriotic. Once the tax increase happens, to only 5% of Americans as promised, how many Republicans will be surprised their taxes weren't raised? Why on earth does a party that is not, by a wide margin, primarily people making \$250,000 / year or more upset by this? Petty pride that you will one day be rich, and that you are in whatever privileged position you are in because of your own hard work. All those lefties are so lazy, with their "There but for the grace of God go I" attitude.

On almost every point Obama has taken the middle, common sense, ground. On almost every point, both democrats and republicans oppose his budget. Democrats say its not enough, Republicans say its way, way too much. I say the Obama Kool-Aid still tastes just right!

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ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes March 4, 2009

Officers Present: Anthony Chong, Andrey Polstarev, Pallavi Gnanan, Maral Mazrooci, Michael Maseda, Nadia Iqbal

Officers Absent: Laura Conwill

Guests: Tim Black, Joshua Hutchins, Brian Merlob, Joel Nikolaus, Tami Penumri, Karthik Sarma,

Call to order: 12:10 pm

Funding:

- **Donuts for Bi 1.** Brian Merlob requested funding for donuts at Bi1 office hours. In the past, few students have attended the class office hours and Pamela Bjorkman thinks that the donuts might improve attendance. The BoD, however, did not see the reason for singling out this particular class when attendance of office hours is low or nonexistent for most classes. Since other sources of funding might exist that are more appropriate, Brian was asked to check into other sources before consideration by the BoD.
- **Bonuses.** Both Josh Hutchins and Karthik Sarma addressed concerns about the performance of the donut DevTeam. They acknowledged a decline in performance from last year but said that with the loss of Jed such a decline was inevitable and that expectations need to be more realistic. Although occasionally things have fallen through, they said this is in part due to a lack of communication on the part of the BoD. There sometimes needs to be more than a single e-mail and DevTeam cannot be expected to take initiative without some additional communication with ASCIT. Both plan to continue this next year and intend to train more staff.
- **Frosh Lunches.** Due to the expense of holding frosh lunches in the Ath, Michael said that holding the lunches at Burger Continental might be a better alternative. In order to maintain student interest they could be held on the weekends when students are off-board.
 - **Motion to approve change in funding.** VOTE (5-0-0)

Officer Reports:

- **V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):** The ARC is continuing to work on SFC. While the final issue has not yet been fully resolved, Peter Daily can put on a barbecue, financed by D-Bal, as a backup. Andrey also said he is still in the process of meeting with the division chairs and that with the last of the ARC turnover this weekend, ARC should soon be ready to really move forward with things.
- **V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):** Pallavi said she talked to the presidents of the houses about formal, and although she has not yet spoken to Robbie from Lloyd, most houses seem to prefer the concert. The IHC should also have Review Committee reps by this Tuesday.

The IHC is also still working on new policies with the administration. The Mural Policy is almost done and just needs to be signed. The Off-Campus Party Policy is still being discussed, but Pallavi hopes the final version of the policy will include exceptions for quieter parties. Discussions on Rotation and Frosh Camp are ongoing.
- **Operations Director:** There will be a meeting with clubs this next week to work out some legal issues and gather some more information. He wants to make it easier for them to understand the need waivers.

He also said he would be looking into the current status of the Big T and considering editors for this current year.

- **Social Director:** The Karaoke Party is almost registered and just needs funding. Nadia said she has also checked in on the Dunk Tank, etc... for Pre-Frosh Weekend. It is possible to hold the items, but they will need a fifty percent deposit. Unless someone can build a dunk tank, ASCIT will probably go through with it.

Scheduling:

- **Midnight Donuts.** Since it has not yet happened this term, the plan is to hold it some night this upcoming week.
- **Budget Meeting.** The meeting will take place at Tom Mannion's house this Sunday March 8th at 2:00 p.m.

President's Report:

- **ASCIT Formal/Concert.** After reading the article in the Tech about ASCIT Formal, Tami Penumri, from the alumni association, said she wanted ASCIT to know that the alumni association is here for the students. Since money that was budgeted this year for Big Interhouse was not used (but still budgeted), if students wanted to have a formal, or concert, the alumni association would be willing to help with the funding. Ideally it would be an event that might still involve the alumni. In addition to the \$2500 budgeted by the alumni association, Anthony said that Tom Mannion has other money set aside for Big Interhouse that ASCIT might be able to use.

End: 12:55 pm

Submitted by Joel Nikolaus

Ex-ASCIT Secretary

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Weekly Meeting - Page - March 5, 2009

Present: Max, Sly, David, Benji, Brian, Pallavi, Daryl, Tim, Nick

Absent: Robbie

Guests: James Dama, Daniel Kolodrubetz, Kirit Karkare, Dvin

IHC Turnover

- Tim Black is the new IHC Secretary.

BoD Stuff

- BoD met with Anneila Sargent.
- They talked about the officers' goals.
- Anneila likes the idea of a treasurer staff position.
- The BoD currently has no issues to work with grad students on.
- There are currently more alumni coming back from the South Houses, but this is a good time to approach the north houses.
- Anneila wants more faculty participation in frosh camp - she especially wants to see the faculty dance!
- At prefrosh weekend, they are going to cut down the club fair carnival, but they want to keep the most popular parts of it, in particular the dunk tank, obstacle course, and cotton candy.
- Andrey is working with ASCIT and the IHC to bring faculty to the houses for meals.
- There was a SEXCOMM meeting Wednesday.

Pallavi's meeting with Tom Mannion

- Tom said faculty used to host events for students at their houses and he wants to see that happen more.
- Tom said that alumni probably won't be upset if there is no Interhouse next year if the money is put into something that the alumni like.
- It is a good idea to bring back faculty associates and to strengthen the UCC systems in the houses.
- Tom wants to work on House endowments. Other houses and houses' alums have expressed interest in endowments, and Tom will dig up the current endowment papers to see how they are written.
- Some houses have already submitted their dues list for house dues, some still need to.
- Tom's budget is being cut - his cooking class will be cut in half, and he will have less money for dinners, but he'll still have movie tickets, etc. available for students.
- During Prefrosh weekend, Tom will provide pizza for the prefrosh as an event, and he also wants to have a program on pranks.
 - Benji wants to know if Tom has checked these events with the admissions office
- Tom wants to hold the Olive Harvest Festival again next year, but possibly without a dinner.
- Tom wants to get more people to go to Mudeo and make it more like the way it used to be.
- Tom needs to find someone new to run the student shop because Jimmy is graduating.

Off-campus party policy

- The IHC will work to revise the policy, noting that not all off-campus parties are loud and disruptive.
- Brian said that if we can't have parties off campus, we should have more places available to hold parties on campus.
- We should make sure that the policies for on-campus parties are not changed due to noise complaints.
- The IHC will discuss this issue with the deans on Monday.

Winnett

- Winnett is being reorganized, and we should work on making it more of a student center.
- Mike Maseda and Tim are working on this.
- Campus and Resident life has been looking at this.

ASCIT Formal

- ASCIT is considering holding a concert in place of its usual spring formal.
- Avery prefers the formal, Fleming prefers a concert no matter what, other houses prefer a concert depending on who the band is (don't know about Lloyd).

Freshman Orientation and Rotation

- Daryl talked to Beth about this.
- Prefrosh will arrive in the fall on Wednesday, a few days closer to the start of school than last year, and Frosh Camp will go from Wednesday through Friday and will be on campus.
- Frosh Camp meals will be at places around campus where upperclassmen won't be allowed.
- Yom Kippur is during Rotation, so there will not be Rotation meals between Sunday at sunset and Monday at sunset. Sunday's dinner will be held early, and Monday's will be held late.
- The IHC is still working to try to arrange for enough rotation lunches and dinners.
- We need to be careful about when Housing and Board contracts start.

Upcoming IHC meetings

- Meeting with Tom Mannion on Sunday.
- Meeting with the Deans on Monday.
- Weekly meeting on Tuesday in the Ricketts dining room.
- IHC rollover dinner after spring break.
- Committee appointments next term.

Other things

- Housing is paying to renovate Page's "library" - they are putting in couches, a table, and a vending machine, and they are rewiring some things.
- The house presidents should have people sign up for Revcomm.
- The house presidents should send people to liquid nitrogen training.
- All the houses are interested in having their alumni come back.
- James Dama wrote a survey about Caltech student satisfaction. It includes questions not usually asked on other surveys. The presidents will send it out to their houses.
- James is okay with the IHC or other committees using the results of the survey.
- The mural policy currently getting signed.
- Page's cocktail party on Saturday will be at Tom Mannion's house instead of the Holly because of the new off-campus party policy.
- Some people on the IHC don't have a SAC 15 key yet.
- The committee to find a new MOSH is still being assembled. Three people have declined to chair the committee.

IHC Minutes

- Tim noticed that the minutes he took at this IHC meeting were not as amusing as Dvin's minutes from the last two meetings.
- Max offered to provide material by getting into a fight with Daryl. In unrelated news, Dabney Hovse is looking for a new president.

French film defies expectations for better and worse

by Hillary Walker

“The Class” opens in the grim, sterile lounge of an urban school where teachers introduce themselves and eat packaged cookies to celebrate the beginning of the academic year. The lens then shifts to the classroom of François Marin. His students are raucous, difficult, and sometimes endearing, and they embody France’s uneasy multi-ethnic composition. There’s Esmeralda, the outspoken Arab, and her friend Koumba, a girl who used to get along with Monsieur Marin but now causes trouble. There’s Wei, a quietly charming Chinese immigrant, and Souleymane, an intelligent boy from Mali who’s prone to outbursts of anger. The film follows the class for an entire year. We see Marin struggle to teach the conjugation of irregular verbs; we see parent-teacher conferences (some of the most revealing moments of the film); we see pedagogical debates during staff meetings.

The plot, however, is not the driving force of the film. “The Class” takes a pseudo-documentary approach and is filled with mundane classroom experiences. The cameras pan over the students and hover close to their faces, capturing the restless movements, the looks of triumph, despair, and disbelief. The

dialogue feels raw and unscripted, and there is something undeniably natural and immersive about the entire work. The film is based on the semi-autobiographical book “Entre les Murs” (Between the Walls) by François Begaudeau, a former teacher, who also plays the representation of himself. His students are played by real students, and they are riveting. Unlike conventional Hollywood classroom dramas, there are no revolutionary teaching methods; there is no clear message of hope; there is no tidy narrative. François Marin, neither villain nor hero, seems like a mediocre teacher at best, and the students are both infuriating and sympathetic. In its realism, in its honesty, “The Class” is in a league apart.

Yet for all of its frankness, the film lacks the emotional power of narrative drama. The moments at the end may surprise and stir emotion; as a whole, however, the work is interesting but ultimately unmoving. The film received the Palme d’Or at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival and an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film. “The Class” is laudable but perhaps does not merit such grand accolades.

The Melting Pot

by Andrew Freddo and Dannah Almasco

A

Introduction: The Melting Pot sounds like a fun, interactive dinner experience. Since the local branch is in Old Pasadena, we wanted to see if it was more than your average date restaurant.

Goal: Is the Melting Pot really, as they propose, a “dip into something different”?

Materials and Cost: Overall, the Melting Pot has a pretty set ordering process, which is spelled out in the menu.

Observations:

Don’t be overwhelmed when you first open the menu – your server will explain everything to you step-by-step. Then, once you make your choices, right away you will start on your steamy eating adventure! The cheese fondue we selected was the Winconsin Trio, which includes fontina, butterkäis, and buttermilk bleu cheese. The bleu cheese gives a nice touch, adding a little zing to the dish. You can dip bread, vegetables, and apples into the fondue. It was served warm, but not piping hot (since otherwise we would have been burnt!).

The California salad was a great intermezzo between courses. The tangy raspberry vinaigrette lightened us up from the cheese fondue. There also was a good proportion of all the salad components: walnuts, gorgonzola, salad greens, diced tomatoes, and dressing.

For our main course, we ordered a Fondue Fusion, with filet mignon, lobster, BBQ pork, honey mustard chicken, shrimp, salmon, and ravioli. There also are a lot of dipping sauces provided, the highlights being melted butter, teriyaki, and sweet and sour sauces. What makes this different from most sit-down dinners is that you cook everything yourself. Essentially you steep your food in a flavored broth for 2-3 minutes and enjoy! We chose the Coq au Vin preparation, which had the most garlic. This broth flavored the accompanying vegetables really well. Overall, this was a very fun, though a bit messy, experience. Looks can be deceiving – the portions appear small, but you feel very full afterwards.

To round out this eating extravaganza, we chose the Flaming Turtle chocolate fondue. This had milk chocolate, caramel, and pecans, and for effect was flambéed tableside. We then got a big platter of dipping items, the best of which were strawberries, Rice Krispies, marshmallows, and brownies to share and dip in the sauce. The pecans added a great texture to the fondue, and overall it was very rich and a great finish to the meal.

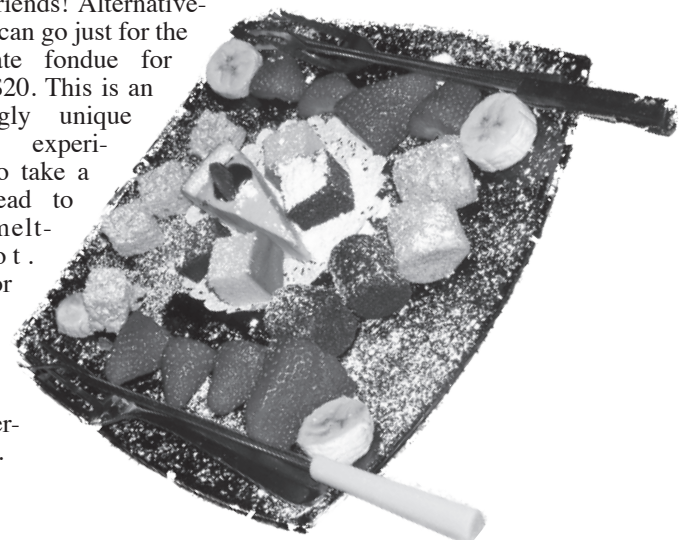
Atmosphere: The Melting Pot is a huge restaurant. Though there are a lot of tables, the service is impeccable and very attentive. The booths are also pretty separate, giving a more personalized feel to the experience. Overall, it has a very fun atmosphere, since everyone is interacting with their food and each other!

Conclusion: The Melting Pot is on the expensive side, but can be a great, fun night out with a date or with some friends! Alternatively, you can go just for the chocolate fondue for under \$20. This is an amazingly unique dining experience; to take a dip, head to www.meltingpot.com/ or call (626) 792-1941 for reservations.



Select your cheese fondue
Select your salad
Select your entrée and cooking style
Select your chocolate fondue

They offer the Big Night Out menu that encompasses all these steps for a set price ranging from \$88-\$98, all-inclusive, for 2 people. All of these items can be ordered individually, but this set menu gives the best value. There are about 6 different types of cheese fondue, an assortment of entrees, and about 10 different types of chocolate fondue.



20 Questions with Professor Douglas C. Rees

...as interviewed by Helen Kondos



Professor Rees is currently the principal investigator at the Rees Lab, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Laboratory in the Division of Chemistry at Caltech. Dr. Rees is also Roscoe Gilkey Dickinson Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology and Adjunct Professor of Physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine.

1. Why Caltech?

The small size, the nearly exclusive focus on science and engineering, and the exceptional students, staff and colleagues make Caltech a special place. In my own research, the tradition of structure-based approaches to chemistry and biology pioneered here by Pauling has a particular appeal since it provided the foundation for much of my field.

2. Tell us about your research. What are you working on now?

I am interested in understanding the mechanisms of various biochemical systems, particularly metalloproteins and membrane proteins that utilize ATP. Our basic experimental approach is to structurally characterize the

system in multiple states by x-ray crystallography to provide a structural framework for our mechanistic analysis. We are especially interested in nitrogenase, the enzyme system responsible for biological nitrogen fixation, and membrane proteins that mediate the translocation of molecules across cell membranes – particularly transporters that can pump molecules across membranes against a concentration gradient.

3. Where do you think the future of X-ray crystallography lies?

In the biological arena, the frontiers of X-ray crystallography are in the structural characterization of bigger and more complex molecular assemblages. The biggest challenges are not necessarily the technical aspects of the diffraction analysis (which can be problematic), but are often the biochemical approaches needed to prepare the system of interest in a form suitable for study.

4. Why did you choose your particular field?

I arrived at graduate school with little interest in structural biology in general, and x-ray crystallography in particular, but after a course on protein structure and function, I became interested in the protein folding problem. At that time, though, there didn't seem to be many good experimental systems to approach folding, so I instead thought if one focused on the native structure of a protein, one might learn something about the mechanism of folding. After doing a rotation in a structural biology group, I became completely hooked on x-ray crystallography.

5. Is there anything one thing

you've ever wanted to research, but never had the time for? If so, what is it?

There are two topics I'd like to explore in the future: the area of microbial ecology to understand how communities of microorganisms work together, and I would like to find a problem I could solve with conformal mapping.

6. What is your favorite moment in the history of science?

I particularly like the story of Agnes Pockels and Lord Rayleigh, which I believe reflects the highest principles of scientific conduct. Despite being excluded as a woman from receiving an advanced scientific education, Pockels persevered and conducted experiments in her kitchen characterizing the effects of impurities on the surface tension of water and invented what was later known as the Langmuir trough. She communicated these results to Lord Rayleigh who was also working in this general area; he not only had her letter translated, but clarified a few points in subsequent correspondence with her and then forwarded her work to Nature where it was subsequently published (within a few months of the original receipt). I think about this occasionally when I go through my "junk folder" deleting messages from people I don't know.

7. If you could pick one alchemical fantasy to actually be true, what would it be?

Any way of making time.

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

Besides conservation, solar.

9. What major world diseases do you believe science is closest to finding a cure for?

Good question. Perhaps a viral disease such as HIV?

Good question. Perhaps a viral disease such as HIV?

10. What do you feel was the most important discovery of the 20th century?

Recognition of the functional implications of the DNA structure.

11. What was your favorite part about being an undergraduate?

I enjoyed my upper level science courses in physical chemistry and applied math. I learned about complex variables, which I still find to cover some of the most remarkable topics I have ever studied. I also met a number of interesting people and made some very close friends. (my roommate, James Lee, was at Caltech in the HHS division for many years).

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

History, to study the astonishing achievements of people and how they came into conflict (to paraphrase Herodotus), as a way of providing a perspective on the world today.

13. If you were to live in a country besides the United States, where would you go?

Probably Germany; I would want to speak a non-English language and right now, German is the only candidate.

14. What is your favorite building at Caltech?

I don't know about a favorite building, but I like the 3rd floor of Broad. My favorite lab, though, is my original lab in the basement of Braun where we did

a lot of really interesting work, before moving to Broad. These labs have just been renovated into teaching labs that will be used for Biolx and other undergraduate lab courses, so they are now being put to even better use.

15. What's your favorite movie? TV show?

Dr. Strangelove. Get Smart.

16. What do you like to do when wasting time?

Watching Get Smart, or hiking, or learning how to play guitar (I don't actually consider these wasting time).

17. Do you have a favorite holiday?

Thanksgiving.

18. What's the best part about being in research?

When I started out, it was the thrill of figuring out something that hadn't been known before. That is still true, but I have also found the satisfaction of watching people come into the lab and grow as scientists to be quite gratifying.

19. What are your feelings on the number 42?

I have a deep fondness for the number 42; besides the answer to life, etc., it is the atomic number of molybdenum, my favorite element.

20. Please leave us a random thought.

Plans are good, but shouldn't get in the way of unexpected opportunities. And, if you go to graduate school, you should do all your rotations (if your program has them) – you may discover a new area.

The Universe in an Indian Nutshell

by Neha Samdaria

Every Wednesday, thirty or so young Caltech connoisseurs make their way to 400 South Hill Avenue to engage in the art of cooking, taught by Tom Mannion. After attending this class for the past term, I have acquired a range of abilities, from learning to flambé assortments of vegetables, to caramelizing walnuts, to making and frying crispy pot.

Last Wednesday was an especially unusual night, not only because the choice of cuisine was Indian and the class was introduced to spices in a way that they may have never experienced before, but because the meal was being prepared for a special guest. Everything was to be prepared in advance. Students wore chef's coats and hats, and only the few with invitations had the opportunity to attend the event.

Stephen Hawking was coming to feast on this Maharaja meal.

Dr. Hawking is known by many for his developments in the science of Cosmology, but he's known by many more for his ability to solve complex scientific problems and equations despite his inability to use a pen or pa-

per. Where do we come from? How did the universe begin? Why is the universe the way it is? After reading *A Brief History of Time* or *The Universe in a Nutshell*, many have found themselves probing more into these fundamental questions about our universe, in awe of a man who, although having suffered from ALS (or Lou Gehrig's disease) for over forty years, has not diminished in scientific genius.

But this night was not about exploring the depths of the universe in which we live. It was about gathering round-the-table with Stephen Hawking and engaging with his colleagues and friends over a meal filled with spicy concoctions from the Indian subcontinent.

The menu comprised of hot squash and split pea daal (a north-indian style soup), zesty stuffed cabbage rolls, freshly baked naan bread and half a dozen more dishes prepared under the careful guidance of Rosy, ex-Ricketts member, and an authority in Indian cuisine. As we proceeded through dish after dish, we began

to ease into conversations with the many guests at the event, chit-chatting about stories from Dr. Hawking's many travels around the world and the experiences shared by members of his team and details about his lifestyle in England. Students were even given a chance to observe the workings of Dr. Hawking's famous computer which he is able to control with his facial muscles in order to effectively communicate with those around him.

At the end of the evening, Dr. Hawking put together a few sentences to thank everyone who was involved in making the event possible. These few words undoubtedly took a few minutes to comprise, because, as Hawking's colleague mentioned earlier, "When Stephen's in the mood, he can do up to 3 or 4 words a minute." However, when Hawking finally remarked that, "This Indian Feast was easily becoming [his] favorite part [of his visit to Caltech]," smiles and applause filled the dining hall.

Admissions tries bolstering minority recruitment with new admissions officer

By Casey Jao
STAFF WRITER

Applications from underrepresented minorities, mainly African-Americans and Hispanics, have increased 140% since 2005. Last Wednesday, Caltech extended offers of admission to the largest group of underrepresented minorities (URMs) in its history, according to Rick Bischoff, Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Bischoff credits these trends to "the concerted effort we've made in the past few years" to increase student diversity at Caltech. To formalize that effort, Admissions will soon hire an officer tasked specifically with recruiting URMs. "We're in the process of posting the position,"

said Rick Bischoff, Director of Undergraduate Admissions. He hopes to fill the position by July or early August, in time for the next round of applications. The goal is to boost the number of applications from URMs. Despite the recent rash of budget cuts and layoffs, bolstering the minority student population remains a priority. "We're missing too many terrific students," said Bischoff. He anticipates that the minority recruiter will become a permanent fixture, as is "common in most admissions offices."

The sort of recruiting will depend partly on what skills and experiences the hire brings. But Bischoff likened the general process to "traditional athletic recruitment." A major part of the job will involve mining mountains of data, identifying and contacting

promising candidates for Caltech. "We know more about you than you can imagine...who's reading our emails...who's clicking on our links," said he. The recruiter may also do some "very focused travelling," but not unless he or she already knows whom to meet.

To some, increasing diversity may smack of affirmative action, which they pride Caltech for avoiding. These people are misguided, said Bischoff. "I get a little uncomfortable with the notion that there's only one admissions standard."

In a sense, he said, admissions applies a personalized standard to each applicant since two applicants may bring incomparable backgrounds and life experiences. He emphasized, however: "there will be no changes in admissions policies."

Long-awaited Student Experience Trip report coming out later this week

By Marissa Cevallos
STAFF WRITER

Seven months after eleven Caltech students trekked to elite universities across the country for a whirlwind compare and contrast, a report detailing their recommendations to Caltech for self-improvement will be available to the Caltech community later this week.

Clarifying nebulous expectations for advisers, setting clearer standards for teaching quality, and better defining the role of Upper Class Counselors (UCCs) in the Houses are among the 26 pages of suggestions from the Student Experience Trip (SET).

The economic recession put a few of the Student Experience Committee's strongest recommendations on hold—for example, tearing down and rebuilding the North Houses is now an unrealistic goal,

according to ASCIT president and SET member Anthony Chong, though the report goes into great detail about having a mix of singles, doubles, and triples and central lounges in any renovation. Increasing the amount of career advice students receive, a suggestion in the report, will be hampered by the recent staff layoffs in the Career Center.

Though the report was heavier on academic suggestions than social—Chong said that some topics like fixing the House system were left out of the report entirely because of lack of consensus—it offered logistical suggestions for Rotation, improving parties, and mingling with students from Occidental and the Claremont colleges.

The IHC is already considering pushing Rotation up to three days earlier, following from a suggestion in the report to make the period one week before classes start.

Logistical issues, such as the added housing expense and convincing upperclassmen to end their summers one week earlier, are still being hammered out, but SET report editor Sarah Marzen, also a California Tech editor, believes professors would like the change so their lectures don't have to compete with Rotation activities.

The report recommends subsidizing events with other colleges; for example, a shuttle system between Caltech and nearby colleges could attract more college students to Caltech parties. MIT runs a similar shuttle service.

Improving the advising system is a goal Chong thinks can be tackled almost immediately by removing the "gray area" of expectations between professors and students. Some students have unrealistic expectations for the amount of time a professor can give for one-on-one interactions,

Grad students might teach three-unit courses

COURSES, FROM PAGE 1

probably because of the small number of proposals for next term. "The requirement that the advisor be professorial faculty hasn't come up yet, but I'm hoping that we can loosen that requirement sometime down the road because there are lots of faculty who are perfect for this, but are not

tenure track," said Dean Hall. In the future, Dean Hall hopes to expand the program to include graduate students. "One thing I'll propose is to allow graduate students to offer courses. This will be a nice way to further encourage interaction between grad students and undergrads." The three-unit course proposals will be presented at the next faculty board meeting on March 16.

What's that weird looking plastic bag and PVC pipe for?



Amit Gandhi shows the Developing World Technologies class how a basic methane-isolating contraption works.

Photo by Flora Li

while some are too scared of imposing on a professor.

But by clarifying to freshmen at the beginning of the year what they should expect from their advisers, Chong believes the advising system can be drastically improved. "Not every professor is good at advising," said Chong, "but there are enough who really care."

At Harvard, the advising system tries to link students and professors by a common interest outside of research, according to Chong. "You and the professor

would have something in common, and you could use it to make conversation."

In Olin, where class sizes are an order of magnitude smaller than Caltech's, small advising groups go on hikes or picnics on the weekend.

The report will be linked to in an email to all undergraduates by the end of the week, according to Chong. There are no plans yet to leave copies of the report in student lounges, like the Student Experience Conference report was earlier this term.

News Briefs

\$500 for best Shakespeare paper

The Annual Hallett Smith Competition awards the best essay devoted to Shakespeare with \$500, although the judging committee may divide the award between the best submissions.

Only full-time, officially registered undergraduates are eligible to enter the competition. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced and should not exceed 4,000 words. The essay may be one prepared for a literature class or may be specifically written for this competition. No student can submit more than one essay. All contestants must submit two hard copies of their work to Professor Jenijoy La Belle, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 101-40, no later than April 10, 2009.

For more information, contact Professor La Belle, extension 3605 or Robin Bonitz extension 3610.

-- Submitted by Robin Bonitz

Health Committee recommends new opt-out health plan

The Health Committee, composed of faculty and students, has made its recommendation to the administration for which health insurance plan should be adopted next year, according to Health Committee student representative Jason Cerundolo.

The plan combines aspects of the current plan and those of an alternate proposal which had been considered. The proposed plan adds office copays and an out-of-pocket maximum to the plan, said Cerundolo.

The details of opting out of the health insurance are still being discussed. Nevertheless, opt-out is expected to go forward: "I don't see it staying mandatory," said Cerundolo. The requirements for opt-out and the procedures of the process have not yet been decided.

-- Written by Chris Kennelly

Rosakis named new E&AS Division Chair

Ares Rosakis, Caltech Professor of Aeronautics and Mechanical Engineering, has been named chair of the Division of Engineering and Applied Science, effective May 1.

Rosakis joined the Caltech faculty in 1982. Since 2004, he has served as director of the Graduate Aerospace Laboratories (GALCIT). Said Provost Ed Stolper, "His remarkable breadth and the leadership skills he has shown as director of GALCIT have demonstrated the mix of interests, temperament, and skills required to lead the E&AS division creatively and effectively as it addresses its needs, opportunities, and challenges in research and education."

The previous E&AS Division Chair was Professor Richard Murray.

-- Taken and modified from Caltech Today by Sarah Marzen

Chemistry division copes with new budget

CHEMISTRY, FROM PAGE 1

the division budget allocated to non-professorial faculty, such as lecturers and visiting professors, could be reduced by 30%.

The Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division's classes are mostly taught by tenure-track professors. However, reduced "lectureship" funding would still have an impact on course offerings.

"If there were a reduction in the budget for lecturers other than tenure-track faculty, we

would discontinue a few courses that we now teach," said Tirrell. "The courses chosen would be specialized ones that are not central to getting a degree." Tirrell declined to comment on which specific courses might be affected. Despite announcements of hiring freezes at Harvard and other schools nationwide, there will be no changes to the normal search for new faculty in the Ch/ChE department, said Tirrell. "We always proceed carefully with respect to faculty hiring."

"Plan B" with salary cuts if economy worsens

ACADEMICS, FROM PAGE 1

but we'll find ways to make it all work," he said. "My impression is that Caltech is probably going to be okay."

But what happens if the economy gets even worse? "If things haven't gotten better

by the end of this year, we'll go to 'plan B,'" said Vice President for Business and Finance Dean Currie.

According to Currie, the plan might involve across-the-board salary cuts, although it's not very fleshed out—according to Stolper, it's "not really a plan."



Photo from Mandy Graber

Sophomore Karthik Narsimhan stares down his opponent to win his match. His win assured Caltech's victory.

By Joel Nikolaus
STAFF WRITER

Those who like to watch Caltech's winning sports teams might want to check out the men's tennis team. Sunday the team pulled off its first victory of the season against La Sierra, 6 to 3, in what sophomore and team member Wesley Yu called a "stunning victory," winning two

of their doubles and four of their singles. The game was out of conference and does not affect the team's standings. Still, Yu said, "It [the win] gave us a lot of confidence. We know that we can win." After the win, tennis coach Mandy Gamble told the team, "We prepared for this today and worked really hard for this. The hard work was worth it." It was a tough game, and Yu's comments echo those of the

coach. He said, "We knew going in it was going to be a competitive match and were prepared to do a good job." The team tied another game on Wednesday and with the team only through about a quarter of the tennis season, Yu predicted more wins in the team's future. And not just for the rest of the season. "Freshmen have really invigorated the team," said Yu, "and the guys who played last year came back, better, stronger." The fact that a lot of those

Men's tennis team claims their first victory of the season

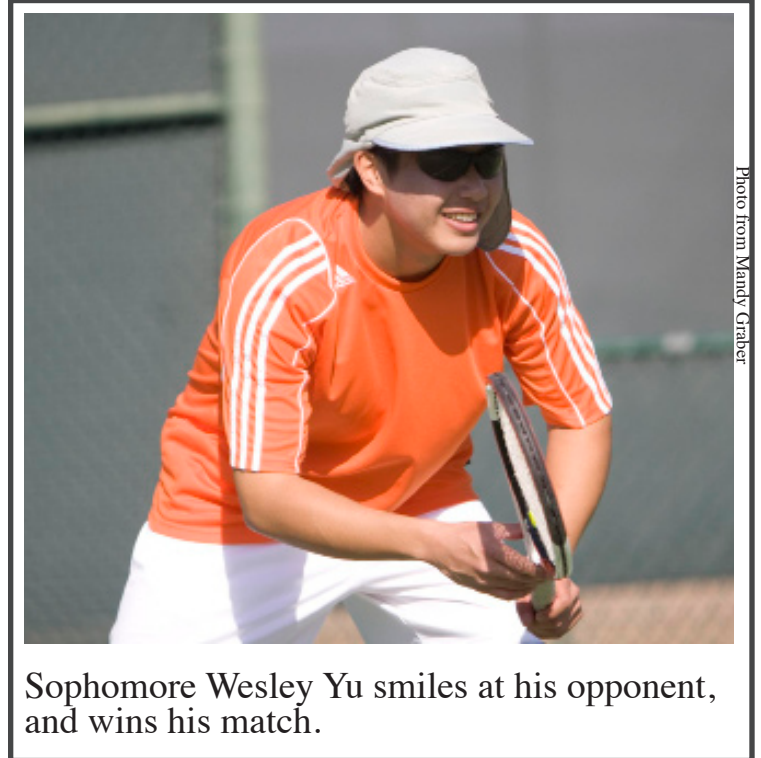


Photo from Mandy Graber

Sophomore Wesley Yu smiles at his opponent, and wins his match.

players are freshman is what is important. Yu said that the "number one player on the team is a freshman" and that the team has a lot of potential in the future.

Basketball senior Dellatorre receives Ducey Award

Caltech senior guard, Matt Dellatorre, has been named the 2009 Ted Ducey Award recipient by SCIAC coaches. The Ducey Award goes annually to a senior basketball player who has demonstrated well-rounded ability on the court and exemplifies leadership, discipline, determination, and sportsmanship. In addition, the winner must have shown sincerity of purpose in his academic endeavors. Dellatorre, a captain and four year Caltech contributor, hails from North Bethesda, MD where he attended Georgetown Prep. Throughout his playing days at

Caltech, Dellatorre amassed more than 800 points, 100 assists, and 100 steals all while shooting 80 percent from the free throw line and 34 percent from behind the arc for his career. He scored a career high 28 versus Pacific as a sophomore and he poured in 27 points and snagged 10 rebounds this season in a home win against NYU-Polytechnic. He turned in a masterful 2009 performance at Redlands with 18 points, six rebounds, four assists, and three steals. He recorded a career high five thefts against Chapman as a sophomore. During his senior season, Matt

ranked among the conference's elite in points (9th), rebounds (25th), assists (10th), steals (3rd), 3-point percentage (11th), 3-pointers made (5th) and minutes played (7th). He finished second in SCIAC free throw

percentage (101st in the nation). Matt is majoring in applied and computational mathematics and plans on going into clinical medicine. -- From Caltech Athletics



Photo taken from Caltech Athletics



The Weekly Scoreboard

Upcoming Games

- March 13**
Track and Field
Oxy Distance Carnival at Occidental College
6:00 P.M.
- March 14**
Baseball vs. Alumni
2:00 P.M.
- Track and Field
SCIAC Bottom 4 Meet at Caltech
1:15 P.M.

- March 4**
Men's Tennis vs. St. Johns - T (2-2)
- March 5**
Women's Waterpolo at Gannon - L (14-0)
- March 6**
Baseball vs. Pomona-Pitzer L (12-2)
- March 7**
Baseball vs. Pomona-Pitzer- L (23-1) and L (15-2)
Women's Water Polo vs. Gannon - L (17-2)
Women's Water Polo vs. CalLutheran- L (12-3)
Women's Tennis vs. La Verne - L (8-1)
- March 8**
Men's Tennis vs. La Sierra - W (6-3)

Dr. Smart

Back by popular demand

Does your life suck? Do you need help? Email them to

Dr.SmartPhD@gmail.com.

You got questions? I got answers

Dear Dr. Smart,

As you may very well know, the fine house of Avery is switching to the Feynman board plan next year. Many of us in Avery are outraged at this grave injustice. We wish to fight for our right to quality food from the Avery kitchen. How would you advise us to protest?

Sincerely,
A militant Averite

This is easy. Next time you see Chameau, walk up to him and start crying. Just cry more and more and more. Of course you'll first have to find him, which means leaving Avery and going somewhere other than class. Remember to bring a campus map or you'll get lost. Naturally, this would require you to take

some time out of your busy schedule to do something that is probably less productive than working on your math set. You might even consider this a form of flicking.

This raises further questions. In order to fight for the survival of the Avery board, you and others in Avery must be unproductive. Can you really afford to sacrifice your impeccable work schedule to obtain higher quality food than your peers in the other houses? If not, there's always using an LN2 container to freeze dry the Avery Board food so you can eat it next year. I hear there are some LN2 experts in Avery, so talk to them.

Sincerely,
Dr Smart

Dear Dr. Smart,

The deans are cracking down on us for playing beer pong. This sucks! What can we do?

Yours truly,
A concerned Pageboy

All I have to say is stop being stupid. There isn't much you need to keep in mind to do this. As I always say, everyone needs a vice. If your vice ruins another person's good time, then your ass deserves to be lynched. So pick a better vice. If some people are being stupid, keep them from being stupid.

It's not hard. This is Caltech, not Faber. While Flems may resemble Omegas, Pageboys are not Delta Taus. Under no circumstances can anybody at Caltech be as incredibly badass

as John Belushi. Maybe you need to find a scapegoat. Pick the most obvious frat boy in the house and blame him for anything stupid that happens.

Of course this is an asshole thing to do. Instead, how about this: when you get in trouble for doing something stupid, don't do more stupid things. Give it a chance to blow over or you're asking for it.

Sincerely,
Dr. Smart

Dear Dr. Smart,

I think you're so cool. I love you and I want you to father my children. I wanted to write an awesome advice column like yours, but nobody liked it. How do I suck less?

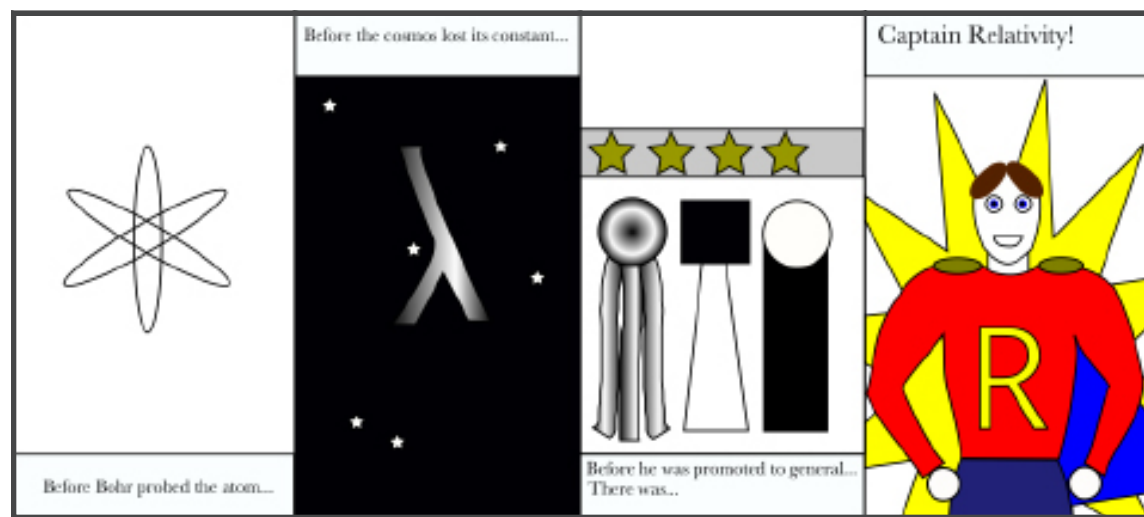
Sincerely,

Dr. Not-So-Smart

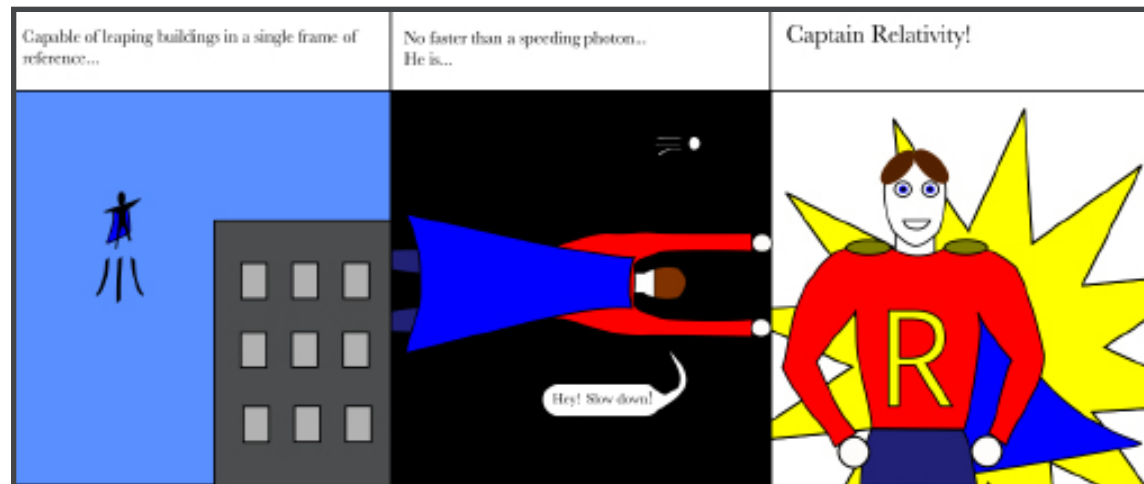
So you want to know how to suck less. You have to appeal to the people. Immerse yourself into the student body and see what makes the typical Techer tick. Then drop by a normal school some time and see what makes normal people tick. Look for common ground if you can find any. A bit of social expertise will take you a long way.

Generally speaking, it helps to be witty and/or quirky as far as your personality is concerned. Finally, you may want to consider writing well as opposed to writing like an English translation of a French translation of a perverted Russian twelve year old boy.

Sincerely,
Dr. Smart

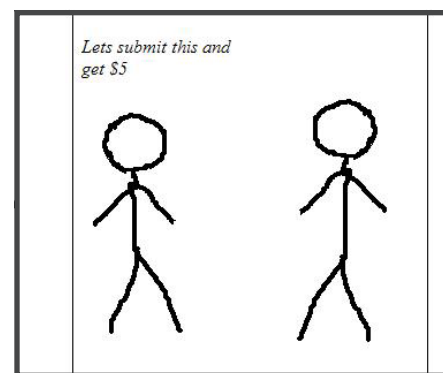
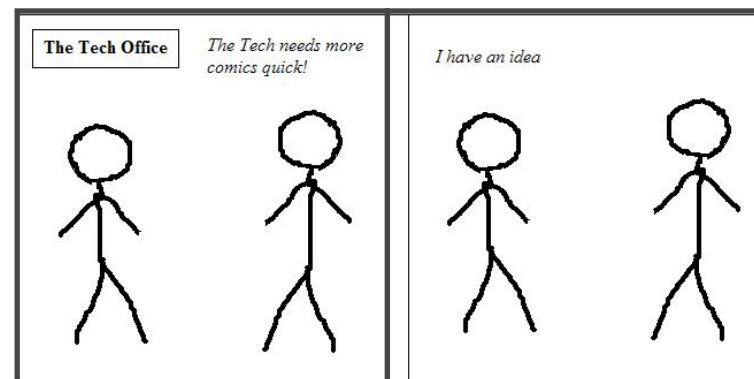


“Captain Relativity Ep. 1” by Rachel Reddick

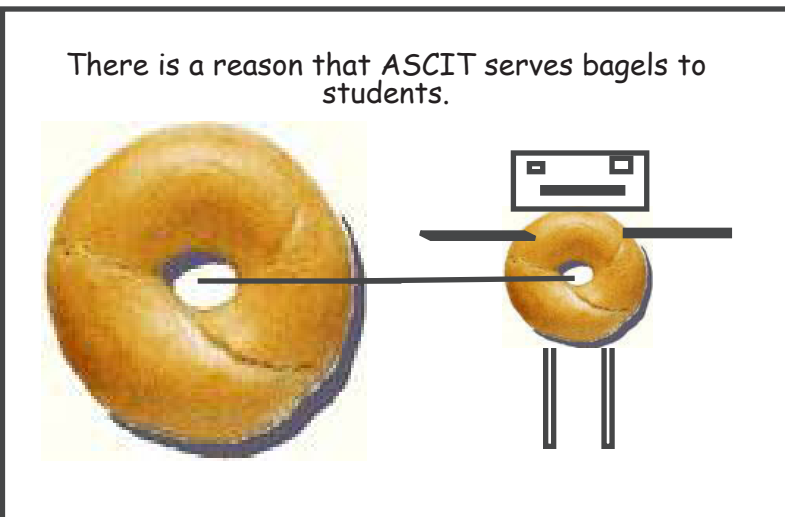


“Captain Relativity Ep. 2” by Rachel Reddick

Comics



“Tech Comic” by Russell Newman



Think you're funny? Think you're not funny? Well sense of humor is a twisted thing. Maybe someone will find you funny. And you can publish a comic anonymously and still get paid. Send it a comic today.

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125