

Alumni Weekend 2010



Mark Oliver, Class of 1984, chats with Junior Donatela Bellone at the Fleming Barbecue Event for Alumni Weekend 2010

First Health Fair Geared Towards Caltech Students

By Vivian Yang
STAFF WRITER

Wide umbrellas and blue linen covered tables lined the walkway in front of Red Door Café this past Friday, the 14th of May. The Caltech Health Fair, which ran from 11:45am to 1:15pm, attracted a wide audience of students, faculty, staff, and other community members of Pasadena.

Spearheaded by Lloyd freshman Catherine Xie, the Caltech Health Fair was motivated by a desire to “increase awareness on certain health related issues such as physical and mental health.” Previous Caltech Health Fairs, which have been larger, catered towards student and faculty health awareness, but generally received more attendance by the faculty. This year’s Health Fair was designed so that information and events would focus on Caltech students.

Whereas most booths were from on campus associations, such as the Caltech Alpine Club, Athletics Department, and Health Advocates, many booths were manned by representatives from off-campus organizations, includ-

ing Huntington Memorial Hospital and Cancer Center, Naked Juice, and the Massage Chair people. Some booths were even manned by faculty. The representative from San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center commented, “The students here are so receptive. I got a lot of great questions, and I hope I gave great information!”

Interspersed during the Caltech Health Fair were demonstrations of ballroom dancing, tai chi, and karate. Hoping to make these engaging physical activities more applicable to the general student body, Peter Mugglebee, of the Caltech Tai Chi Club, teaches his students to focus on the breath, which “is the center of your dan tian (soul). Breathing from your belly will allow your lungs, and therefore body, to expand more, and this will help you focus your energy.” Although there might be a negative association with the slow, deliberate movements of tai chi, the strange yells of karate, or the high heels that are worn in the

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Kaplan calls out Princeton Review for false advertising

By Sarah Marzen
COPY EDITOR

Princeton Review, a test preparation company, has voluntarily discontinued certain advertising claims based on a complaint by rival test preparation company Kaplan, Inc. and ensuing recommendations from the National Advertising Division (NAD), an arbitrator for disputes between companies.

“We are currently... focusing on new compelling messages to communicate the quality of our courses,” wrote Leah Pennino, executive director of marketing communications at The Princeton Review, in an email. “We are working with our various offices and personnel to ensure that they understand – and are complying with – this change, and have also updated our website and all marketing materials.”

According to Princeton Review’s previous claims, Princeton Review students “boast an average 10 point score improvement of the MCAT” and “improve their GRE scores by an average of 206 points,” as well as several other claims.

Kaplan’s complaint to the NAD from roughly three months ago centered on the difference between a Princeton Review diagnostic test and the student’s self-reported score on the exam. However, the average student scores much lower on the Princeton Review diagnostic test than on Kaplan’s diagnostic test. In addition, Princeton Review’s claims are based on the average score improvement for a small subgroup of the entire surveyed population.

“Mounting a formal challenge to The Princeton Review’s score claims at the NAD was a significant undertaking,” wrote Carina Wong, Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions Communications Executive Director, in an email. “In recent years, Kaplan has tried to address such issues informally, but The Princeton Review’s increasing use of such claims caused Kaplan to file its challenge.”

The Princeton Review has withdrawn all advertising claims, but it maintains that “it is confident that its diagnostic tests are reasonable predictors of future performance” and “its claims accurately describe the results of

these surveys,” according to the full NAD report.

Caltech students are no stranger to Princeton Review’s test prep books-- in fact, some Caltech students have even taught Princeton Review test prep courses. Feedback from Caltech students was mixed.

“The Princeton Review ones had the practice tests LEAST like the real SATs,” wrote former undergraduate Camden Jansen. “Also, it seemed to me that the first test was way harder than the back few, so it looks like your grade is going up.”

“The questions don’t seem as difficult as those on the actual exam,” wrote recent alum Mason Lai.

“The practice tests were harder than the MCAT, and I scored lower on the practices than I did in real life,” wrote undergraduate Micah Manary.

“The tests weren’t too far off from what ETS gives,” wrote undergraduate Ali Ebrahim.

“Ultimately the scores I got on

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Wise Advice for ‘Iron Man 2’

By Casey Jao
STAFF WRITER

Iron Man 2’s protagonist Tony Stark is suffering from palladium poisoning. The cure requires a chemical element which does not yet exist. So what does he do? Of course he builds his own particle accelerator to synthesize the element.

Though it’s not so simple in real life, the producers and writers planning this scene were still concerned enough about retaining scientific plausibility that they sought expert advice from Caltech particle physicist Mark Wise.

“They wanted to know what it’s really like to make an element,” said Wise, who had not previously consulted for a major film. On the other hand, he said, “they were constrained by the fact that it had to look good and be entertaining.”

To find a scientific guru, Iron Man 2 co-producer Jeremy Latcham contacted Jennifer Ouellette, director of the Science and Entertainment Exchange at the National Academy of Sciences. The Exchange serves as a liaison between entertainment profes-

sionals and science experts. Ouellette directed Latcham to Wise, whom she knew through her husband Sean Carroll, a Caltech cosmologist.

“I went down to Marvel Studios and I took with me one of my grad students, Tim Dulaney,” said Wise. “We were there for a couple hours. The producers and writers were there.” They invited Wise back later to review what they had shot.

In addition to the particle accelerator scene, the filmmakers also asked Wise for tips on how Stark should go about looking for the magic element to cure his palladium poisoning. Stark finds an old message left by his father which leads him to a diagram of the atomic structure of this hypothetical element.

“I haven’t read that much science fiction but I do like to see the movies. Even the really bad ones,” said Wise.

As for Iron Man? “It satisfied my expectations,” wrote Wise in an email after viewing the movie Saturday. “The movie was very entertaining and...I thought the scenes we discussed were well done.”

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Do you or do you not favor a blanket amnesty program for the nation's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants?

By Pradeep Ramesh
STAFF WRITER

The issue of illegal immigration has been around since the birth of this nation. In 1986, congress granted blanket amnesty to an estimated 3 million illegal aliens in the country and the issue has once again resurfaced as a topic of discussion. As the senate prepares to take on a controversial legislative overhaul of immigration and naturalization, we were interested in what fellow Techers had to say about the issue:

"I do not believe in granting outright amnesty to illegal immigrants but I do believe that there should be some cohesive process by which we can integrate them into society." -anonymous

"We should subject them to the same naturalization process that all other immigrants have to go through" but jokingly quipped that "we should give amnesty to all the hot Mexican women." -anonymous

"I believe that they should all be naturalized but we should also strengthen our borders to prevent these mistakes from happening again." -Donatella Bellone

"They have taken away jobs from American citizens and are eating into America's welfare programs, so I think we should send them all back and then let them reapply." -anonymous

"I think we should grant amnesty on a case by case basis...

only for those who are actually contributing to our society." -anonymous

"I don't believe that we should grant blanket amnesty to them because it merely perpetuates the problem" -Aric Fitz-Coy

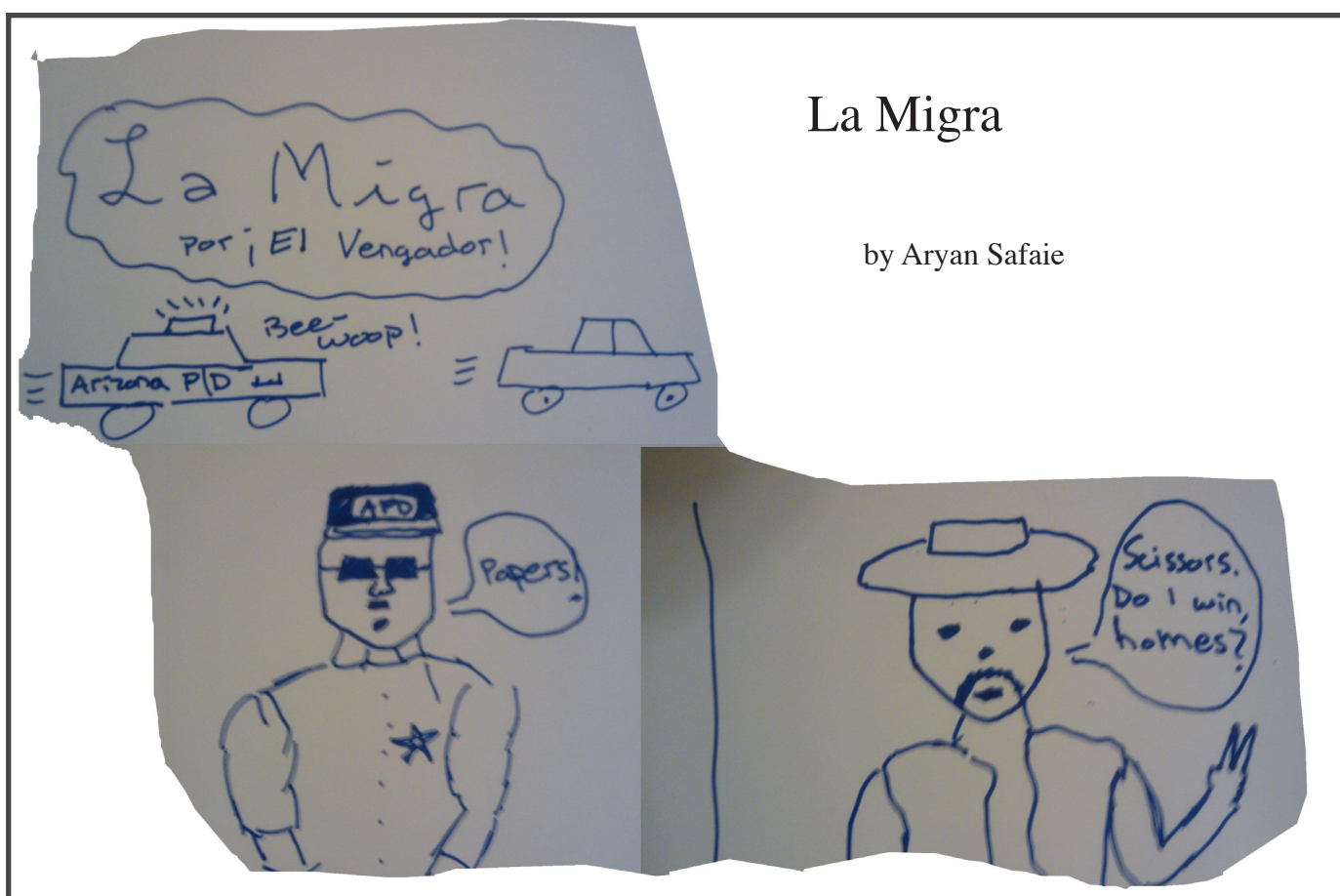
"They are already here and it would be pretty [annoying] to hunt them down and deport them since they won't leave of their own volition anyways, so yes, I

would support a blanket amnesty program." Scott Yantek

"I don't really care how people got here, but what really matters is how they stay here and whether or not they are actively contributing to society. We have a lot of useless people who are citizens and chances are that these people probably work very hard to make their living...so, let them become legal citizens and actually pay

taxes." Arjun Ravikumar

"No, I don't think we should grant blanket amnesty because the opportunity cost paying them dirt cheap wages far outweighs any taxes accrued by legalizing them. This is a democrat ploy to shift the voting pattern leftward thereby destroying the voice of the right." -anonymous



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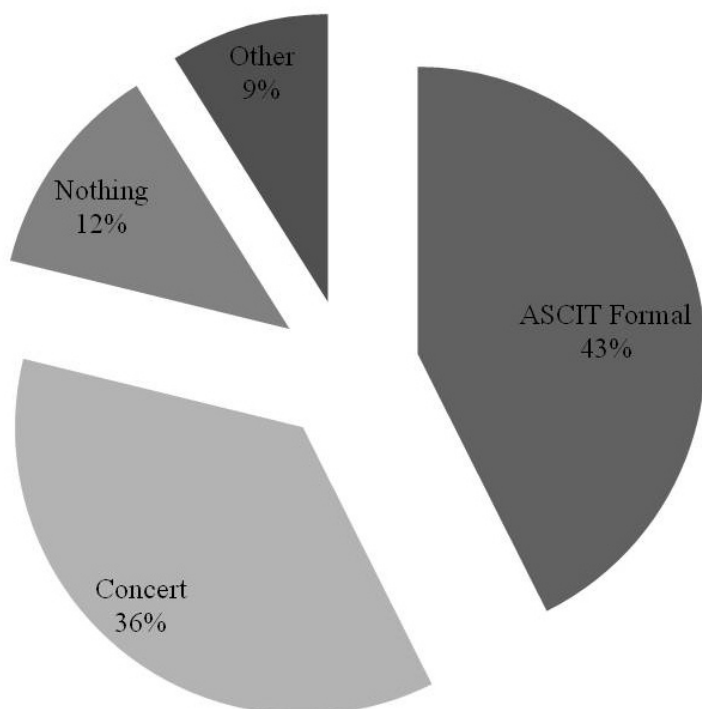
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The advertising deadline is 5 PM Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera-ready art, but The Tech can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at business@caltech.edu. For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

Corrections

Ascit Formal Story from 05-11-10; the pie chart on the front page was incorrect. The following shows the correct representation of ASCIT survey on student preferences for End of Year Activity



IHC**Weekly Meeting - Ruddock – May 13, 2010**

Present: Tim Black (chair), DK Lim (Avery), Chris Whelan (Blacker), Andrew Price (Dabney), Alex Lapidés (Fleming), Lucas Hartsough (Lloyd), Paul Fleiner (Page), Will Steinhardt (Ricketts), Dan Kolodrubetz (Ruddock), Laura Conwill (secretary)

Guests: Wendy Lopata, Dan Thai

Health and Counseling: Wendy is a health educator in the Health Center and the Counseling Center. Her office is in the Center for Student Services. She conducts surveys periodically to assess the health and wellness of Caltech students. Currently the national health survey is in progress for Caltech students; this survey will allow us to compare Caltech to national standards. There are awesome prizes—ten students who complete the survey will win iPods, Visa gift cards, or restaurant prizes. Everyone should email Wendy with suggestions for restaurant gift certificate prizes.

Admissions: Tim and Laura met with Ray Prado, to discuss criteria for admissions committee representative. We also had a meeting with Anneila Sargent yesterday (routine IHC/Student Affairs meeting); Anneila pointed out that the number of women attending college has been going up nationwide, and that Caltech's retention rates of females recently has been slightly higher than that of males.

New Student Interest Surveys: We came up with a list of questions for the new student interest surveys. Laura will compile these and send them out to everyone.

Submitted by Laura Conwill
IHC Secretary

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes
April 26, 2010

Officers Present: Adam Khan, Brian Merlob, Addie Rice, Prakriti Gaba, Karthik Sarma, Chris Hallacy

Guests Present: Perrin Considine, Bonnie Zhang

Call to order: 2:15 pm

President's report:

- ASCIT movie: was Iron Man 2 on May 14 at the Alhambra theater.
- Alumni Career Summit: Adam sent out a survey for interest in this program, which will be held on May 29th. Its aim is to provide advising to students from alumni in a variety of fields. He would like to have more responses to the survey to get a better sense of interested students.
- Health Center: will be sending an emotional health survey with the aim of getting most, if not all, of the undergraduates to respond to it.
- Concert: Adam has been looking into holding the concert on June 4th hopefully in the RF courtyard.

Officer Reports:

- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair): ARC is working on standardizing surveys and taking care of new appointments within the committee.
- Operations Director: Merlob will be sending out a publications survey.
- Treasurer: Hallacy still needs pre-frosh weekend checks from some houses. He has emailed all house presidents about this. Club funding will begin soon. Hallacy is also working on re-issuing checks that weren't given last year.
- Social director: The ASCIT movie took place this week and was a great success. Addie is still looking for a second DJ for alternate prom.

Discussion:

- Underground: ASCIT talked with Perrin about merging the Underground with the Tech. Possible problems with such a merge could be that since the Tech is sent out to parents and professors, articles from the Underground could possibly become offensive to people or prevent people from submitting their articles to such a public paper.
- Big T: The past three year yearbooks will be printed this year. This year's yearbook will be printed in September. The Big T is also looking for more funding.

Meeting adjourned: 2:55 pm
Submitted by Prakriti Gaba
ASCIT Secretary



Endangered Beaver! In need of saving! Come to our meeting to help the cause.

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

would love to have more writers, since we're so great!

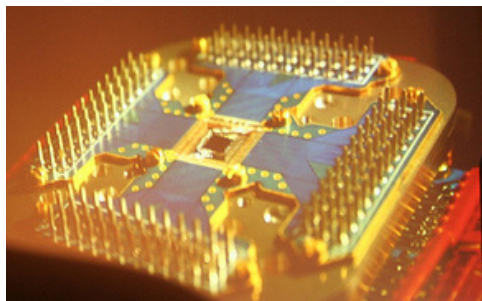
NOON, Tuesdays

Come to the Tech Meeting at Table in Front of the Bookstore ; free cultural foods, stories, and ideas

Write and/or take pictures when you can. We pay up to \$30 for news articles.

Send tech@caltech.edu an email if you're interested in being a part of the Tech or would like to contribute opinion stories

“Does it work? Quantum Computing Company Answers Questions at Caltech”



D-wave Details Quantum Computer Chip Design and Performance

by Edward Chen and Gabriel Mendoza

D-wave Systems, “The Quantum Computing Company” held two physics seminars on May 11-12 at Caltech. D-wave has claimed to have built the world’s first quantum computer, a device which utilizes quantum mechanical phenomena to run algorithms. Unlike desktop computers, which store information in electrical signals called “bits”, a quantum computer stores information in the state of quantum particles called “qubits”. In principle, quantum computers can efficiently solve certain computational problems that would currently take the fastest PCs the age of the universe to solve. However, D-wave’s claims have been met with some skepticism from the academic community, due to the company’s unconventional approach towards building a quantum computer. The seminars are an indication of D-wave’s recent efforts to communicate with the academic community and to promote “open-source” access to their quantum processors exclusively for the research community.

Richard Harris, D-Wave’s lead experimentalist, gave a 90 minute overview of the structure of the company’s unique chip design. The chip computes using “quantum annealing”, a process by which the initial quantum state is adiabatically cooled, or cooled slowly enough, to a final state that is expected to be near the global minimum of

the probability landscape. In other words, imagine a filled swimming pool with the shape of the bottom of the pool unknown. In this analogy, the surface of the water would be the probability distribution of the quantum system. By slowly siphoning out the water from the surface, eventually only pockets of water will remain at the lowest pockets of the pool bottom. Near the end of this siphoning sequence it is likely that the remaining pockets of water sit at or near

“An undertaking like this will have a long investment period – maybe 10 years,” said Rose, “It’s likely going to take more than university research to get it off the ground.”

the lowest pockets of the initially unknown pool bottom. The lowest point of the pool, or global minimum, is then the optimal solution to this quantum algorithm.

Harris presented experimental evidence that an 8-qubit chip is finding the correct solutions to problems with high probability. But is this unconventional chip undergoing a truly quantum process, and will it outperform classical computers?

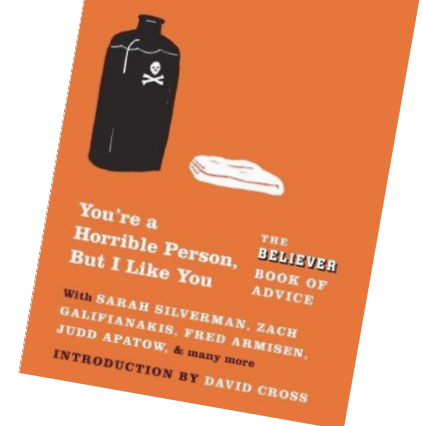
Eric Ladizinsky, director of technical operations, admitted that the answers are still uncertain, but suggested that their machine may operate somewhere between classical and quantum regimes to achieve speedups. Mohammad Amin, D-Wave’s

head theorist, revealed that quantum simulations required much less time than some classical simulations and yielded results that match both qualitatively and quantitatively with experimental data.

For the most part, D-wave’s talks were well received by Caltech researchers. The D-wave scientists were treated to rigorous questioning by Caltech’s quantum computing experts, including professors Jeff Kimble, Alexi Kitaev, John Preskill and Gil Refael. Harris, Ladizinsky, Amin, and Geordie Rose, the founder and CTO of D-Wave, are currently visiting scholars at Caltech’s Institute for Quantum Information.

Even if D-Wave’s chip is not operating exactly as they have been promoting, the experimental and theoretical accomplishments are still impressive by academic standards. D-wave is currently collaborating with Google on possible image search applications, and is expanding operations to another site in Silicon Valley. “An undertaking like this will have a long investment period – maybe 10 years,” said Rose, “It’s likely going to take more than university research to get it off the ground.”

I want to like you, but you’re horrible



by James Wu

Get a bunch of comedians together, have them offer advice, and what do you get? Something that could’ve been funny, but isn’t. *You’re a Horrible Person, But I Like You* seems like it has the potential to be something people talk about and recommend to their friends with words like “Dude, this book is hilarious.” Instead, the humor falls flat, and the comics seem to be grasping for straws.

The book consists of hundreds of question and answers, consisting of a reader of the *Believer* magazine sending in a question, and a comedian answering it. Here’s one excerpt from Mindy Kaling’s section.

Dear Mindy:

My husband is a terrible author. He’s been working on the same novel for almost a decade, and I’m so tired of reading his “latest revision.” I just can’t fake it anymore, and he gets suspicious when I claim to have a headache or eye cramps. How can I avoid his sloppy prose while also sparing his feelings?

Guilty Wife in Baton Rouge

Dear Guilty Wife:

You think the fact that he’s bad is the reason you hate reading his stuff, but it’s not. When I carried on my decades-long affair with Tom Wolfe—you should’ve seen the two of us, nattily dressed in matching white suits—he always asked me to read his work. It was dreadful. It got to the point where I had to put down chapter two of *The Right Stuff* and say: “They go to space, they don’t go to space, I don’t care anymore!” And he’s a good writer. It’s torture. I would check into a women’s shelter.

Regards,

Mindy

First of all, I had to look up Tom Wolfe on Wikipedia because I didn’t know who he was. Wolfe is older than both John McCain and David Letterman. Second, what kind of rambling answer is that? “Nattily dressed in matching white suits...” Are you kidding me?

This kind of answer is standard for the book. Most of the answers (as well as the introduction to the book, and every single one of Judd Apostow’s replies) consists of a long rambling story that’s not very funny, and barely related to the question.

There are forty two comedians, and each gets a section where they answer a bunch of question. While there is a lot of opportunity for funny answers, it seems like the editors just put every single question and every single answer into the book. You have to wade through an ocean of boring exchanges to find a few gems. Reddit usually has funnier Q and A’s for free.

Given that this book costs \$13.95, and therefore this book is definitely not worth the price.



First look: “Rainier” silicon ready for testing and analysis.

Taken from the website, D-wave has claimed that their chip (pictured) uses quantum mechanical effects to speed up computations

“The Philosopher Kings” Documentary Features Caltech Staff Luis Cardenas

by ZeNan Chang



From the left, Luis Cardenas working at Broad Cafe, Cardenas holding his daughter, and the movie director Patrick Shen



Usually, when we think of our very best colleges and universities, we think of world-renowned professors, exceptionally talented students, and even basketball teams. “The Philosopher Kings,” a documentary directed by Patrick Shen, focuses on an often overlooked group of individuals at these very institutions-- the janitors.

“The Philosopher Kings” intertwines the stories of eight janitors organized by several themes that span from the tragedies they have experienced, to the pride in the values they uphold, to the families they enjoy or look for. In interweaving their stories, director Shen draws parallels among the various janitors’ experiences. What emerges from the dramatic stories and interspersed quotable words of wisdom is a compelling narrative demonstrating the power of simply providing an opportunity to speak.

The title, “The Philosopher Kings,” comes from Plato’s “The Republic” where the described utopia will come into being only when “philosophers are kings in this world.” Ever since Shen’s high school years, when he read Plato’s work, he says, “I knew I wanted to make a movie...that would challenge our views about whom we turn to for leadership and guidance.” When working on his previous film, “Flight from Death,” a professor he spoke with told Shen that janitors might provide better insight to the human condition than professors. “That’s when it all clicked for me.”

Shen aspires to tell stories of humanity, particularly those governing the so-called “fringes” of society. For “The Philosopher

Kings,” he called hundreds of universities, community colleges, and art schools, looking primarily for janitors with compelling stories that could be articulated well through film. As secondary criteria, he aimed for geographical diversity and institutional name recognition as well.

When Caltech Facilities Management Director, Delmy S. Emerson, heard about the documentary project, he submitted the name of Luis Cardenas who has worked as a custodian at Caltech since 1991. Four and a half years ago, Cardenas was hit by a drunk driver while driving to Caltech, losing his right arm. Among the approximately forty candidates Shen interviewed by phone, Cardenas was chosen to be featured. Shen says, “There was an incredible maturity and beauty to his spirit. How someone could go through such a traumatic experience and be so positive and hopeful was something we had to know more about.”

Though Cardenas received no direct compensation for his involvement in the documentary, he feels that the experience was rewarding. Communicating via Span-

ish to English translation, Cardenas says that sharing his story has been like therapy: “I feel more comfortable talking about my accident. If my story can help others facing difficult situations in life, it makes me

feel good inside.” And even after the passing of a few years, Cardenas still appreciates the warmth of the Caltech community. “The entire Caltech community came to our aid. They were there when we needed them the most.”

Another janitor in “The Philosopher Kings” has come to serve as the bridge to Patrick Shen’s next project. Haitian immigrant Josue Lajeunesse, of Princeton, works a taxi job on the side and sends money back to support his extended family. He has a grand vision of bringing a permanent fresh water source to his home town of La Source in Haiti, and the documentary follows a rare visit home to survey the conditions. After “The Philosopher Kings” first

premiered June of last year, fans have rallied around this cause and donated approximately \$35,000 to support Lajeunesse’s water project. Shen is in the process of producing a follow up film called “La Source,” detailing Lajeunesse’s pursuit and fulfillment of his life-long dream to complete the water projects.

In the middle of the documentary, Shen becomes explicit in his message by playing excerpts from a Bill Clinton speech where Clinton urges his audience to think about all the people in the world that we don’t see. “The Philosopher Kings” unleashes the voices of eight janitors to speak reason to us all. At times, Shen allows one janitor to continue speaking as a voiceover while transitioning the video footage to revisit the story of another subject. The viewer is reminded that though the janitors are of diverse backgrounds, sometimes their experiences in life are not all that different; at times, one’s words can easily speak for another. And just maybe, the film suggests, the thoughts behind their words can also speak for us all.

“The Philosopher Kings” will premier in Los Angeles this Friday, May 21 at the Downtown Independent, where the documentary will continue screening for one week until May 27. Tickets to the premier can be won at www.philosopherkings-movie.com/screenings/la/#win-tickets. At the moment, “The Philosopher Kings” is a 7.2/10 stars on IMDB with 13 votes and counting.

Alumni Weekend Photos



Alumni events at Fleming and Caltech Y

Irish Contemporary Poet Invited to Speak With Undergraduates

By Gloria Tran

STAFF WRITER

Renowned Irish contemporary poet, Paula Meehan arrived at Caltech on May 11th, joining students for dinner as well as giving a poetry reading in Dabney lounge Tuesday night.

Professor Kevin Gilmartin, who teaches primarily eighteenth and nineteenth century British culture and literature wished to invite Meehan for a visit as part of the curriculum for a class he is currently teaching this quarter: Modern and Contemporary Irish Literature.

"In teaching at Caltech I've always found that, when chance has brought a poet or novelist to campus, students have been challenged and energized by the experience," explains Gilmartin, adding that since the focus of the course has been shifting toward contemporary writing, Meehan's visit seemed opportune.

In the Words Matter program, a Caltech initiative to increase student exposure to accomplished writers, sponsored a visit by Irish novelist Seamus Deane in the past. A survey from a prior class revealed enthusiasm for another writer to come on campus, specifically Paula Meehan. Additional funding for Meehan's visit came from the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as a President's educational innovation grant.

Throughout the rest of the week, Meehan gave seminars to and met with Gilmartin's Irish literature class, Judith Hall's Writing Poetry class, and students

involved in Totem, Caltech's student-produced literary and visual arts magazine.

"I thought Meehan's visit was wonderfully successful. She is a gifted teacher and generous spirit as well as a distinguished poet, and everywhere she went on campus, she was able to connect with students and convey a vivid sense of the poet's craft," comments Gilmartin.

Meanwhile, Meehan expresses appreciation for the opportunity to meet with Caltech students, emphasizing that compared with students focused solely on the

humanities, Caltech students bring an extra dimension. She also stresses that poets and artists should maintain a regular dialogue with scientists and researchers in order to create a balance between creativity and reason.

"Caltech is a mythic as well as real place. It is a locus of great power, especially as many scientific developments had their inception here," re-

marks Meehan. "My experience was really positive and the level of commitment and engagement from the students was refreshing."

Meehan became interested in writing through traditional Irish songs, games, street rhymes and was influenced by the popular rock band culture as a member of several "garage" bands in the 70s, now finding inspiration in daily inspiring struggles of the community. Graduated from Trinity College, she now teaches in universities as a free-range professor, community programs and even prisons.

For aspiring writers and artists, she offers the following advice: "Trust your instinct and don't be discouraged by others on this difficult path."

In her reading in Dabney Lounge, she framed her poems with a lively sense of anecdote and personal experience, and then read in a way that I found absolutely mesmerizing. Her lunchtime seminar drew together questions of language and tradition that have been at issue in the Irish literature course all term, and made a compelling claim for the enduring social role of poetry.



Paula Meehan (center) speaks to students of En85 Writing Poetry, taught by Professor Judith Hall (left of Meehan)

Health Fair Kicks Off

Health Fair, cont from page 1

ballroom, the short performances at the Health Fair helped to show students what they can gain from Caltech resources.

When asked what her favorite thing about this year's Health Fair was, Catherine Xie replied, "I am really pleased with how well the event went, since we had a wide range of activities, demonstrations and groups that provided interesting information. Also, Caltech students and staff members really helped in making this event possible."

The Health Fair will continue to be held next year as an annual tradition.

False Claims from Princeton Review

Princeton Review cont from page 1

the GRE were pretty much the exact reverse of what the Princeton Review might have predicted from the practice tests," wrote undergraduate Michael Rule.

"Princeton Review SAT II chemistry was... much closer to the actual difficulty level of the test [than Barron's]," wrote recent alum Eric Tai.

News Briefs

Caltech

New Director of Admissions

Jarrid Whitney has been hired as Caltech's Director of Admissions September 1, 2010. Whitney replaces Ray Prado who has served as Interim Director of Admissions since November 2009. He previously held the post of Associate Director of Admissions at Stanford before taking up his current post as Senior Associate Director for Admissions at the University of Santa Clara in 2008, and held earlier positions at Dartmouth and Cornell.

Stephen Mayo Named Biology Chair

Stephen L. Mayo, Caltech's Bren Professor of Biology and Chemistry and current vice provost, will become the new chair of the Division of Biology, effective July 1, 2010. Mayo became vice provost in 2007 and will step down from that post when he assumes control of the division in July.

Mayo is a pioneer in the field of computational protein design, and his work impacts a broad range of areas ranging from understanding the evolution of protein function to developing protein-based therapeutics

Nation

Android Surpasses iPhone

According to a recent report from the research organization NPD Group, the Android phone recently edged out the iPhone to nab 2nd place in the U.S. smartphone market. Blackberry is still in first, with 36% of the consumer market; Android is at 28%; and the iPhone is at 21%..

Caltech Chess Team Places Third

By James Wu

STAFF WRITER

At the recent Pasadena City College Chess Invitational, the Caltech Chess Club placed third out of five teams. Losing to PCC and USC, the hastily assembled team from Caltech, consisting of four Pageboys, performed respectably, barely losing their matches to PCC and USC. They swept Citrus College 4-0, and similarly suffered no defeats by

Glendale Community College 2-0-2.

Captain Robert Rosenberg, junior, put in a spectacular performance, dominating his first three games, and tying his fourth, to finish second in the individual rankings. Junior James Wu (the writer of this piece) and freshman Saptarshi Chaudhuri both finished with 2 wins and 2 losses. Sophomore Jeffrey Spraker had 1 win 1 loss and 2 draws. All members of the Caltech team finished evenly or above.

Announcements

Journalist Discusses Blackwater Worldwide

Jeremy Scahill, the author of "Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army," will discuss the rapidly growing role of the secretive mercenary company, Blackwater Worldwide, in the war in Iraq and at home in the United States. The book was named best progressive book of the year by Alternet.

Monday, May 17,
7:30 PM Ramo Auditorium

Everhart Lecture on Spark-Ignited Explosions

Part three of the Everhart Lecture Series features Sally Bane, a graduate student in Aeronautics, speaking on "Spark-Ignited Explosions: The Intersection of Chemistry, Fluid Mechanics, and Electrodynamics". The talk will discuss the probabilistic nature of spark ignition and the interplay between electrostatics, chemistry, and fluid dynamics during the formation of a flame.

Tuesday, May 18, 2010
4:00-5:00pm Cahill Center lecture hall

Athlete of the Week: Peter Buhler



1. What is your major?
Geology

2. Favorite athletic moment at Caltech?

The first meet we won this season was amazing. It was great to see the whole team come together and compete as hard as they could. It was definitely a team victory—everyone pulled their own weight and supported their teammates—and then we got to celebrate together.

3. People will be surprised to know . . .
the most I've swam in a day is 27,000 yards (15.3 miles).

4. Describe your sport in 3 words?
Wet, fast, and anoxic

5. What goes through your head at the starting line, up to bat, etc.?

I'm really calm and relaxed when I'm on the starting block, but once the gun goes off all I think about is beating the people I'm swimming against.

6. Favorite food?
Pizza

7. What teammate has inspired you the most?
Mary Dorman, she always puts forward her best effort and she's always there cheering for her team.

8. What type of music do you listen to?
Rock

9. If you could go to any sporting event what would it be?
The Olympics

10. Best part about living in California?
Definitely the weather.

11. If you could bring anything from your hometown what would it be?
My friends.

12. If you had no schoolwork what would you do all day?
I would play chess, bass guitar and hang out with my friends.

13. In 10 years, I'll be . . .
On a spaceship, going to the moon (or Mars).

14. Nike or Adidas?
TYR (Nike and Adidas aren't so good for swimming).

15. What are your pre event rituals?
Lots of warm-up and some loud rock.

16. Favorite SCIAC school to compete against?
Claremont Mudd Scripps, they have some pretty impressive athletes.

17. Last book you have read?
The Physics of Star Trek

18. What is your favorite movie?
The Lord of the Rings Trilogy

19. What teammate has inspired you the most?
Justin Johnson, he takes diving very seriously and has a great work ethic.

20. What is your favorite quote?
"Do or do not, there is no try."



Lapides Breaks School Mark in High Jump

Alex Lapidis broke an 27 year old mark set by Tim Magee in the men's high jump. The school record stood at 6'-6 1/2" until Lapidis cleared 6'-6 3/4" at the Cal State Los Angeles Invitational. "Alex has been so close to this record all year, I knew would break it today" commented Coach Julie Levesque after Lapidis's record-breaking jump.



Wright, Chiu, and Oviatt Compete in the Heptathlon

Three members of the Beaver women's track and field team competed in the heptathlon at CMS on May 13-14. Sarah Wright, Margaret Chiu, and Mia Oviatt competed in the 100 mH, high jump, shot put, 200 m, long jump, javelin, 800 m. Wright finished in 7th with a total score of 3445 pts, Oviatt finished in 8th place with a total score of 2443 pts, and Chiu finished in 9th with a total score of 2291 pts.

Upcoming Games

May 27, 2010

Track and Field

NCAA Championships @ Cleveland, OH

May 28, 2010

Track and Field

NCAA Championships @ Cleveland, OH



Let's Play House Tour!

By James Wu

STAFF WRITER

This game is played best when bringing some carrots along to eat as a snack. Every time you see a House fulfilling stereotypes, eat half a carrot. Whenever you see something that breaks stereotypes, eat an entire carrot. A great way to eat carrots with your friends!

1. Avery

If you see: someone doing work
Eat a: half carrot

If you see: someone not doing work
Eat a: full carrot



5. Lloyd

If you see: a EE major
Eat a: half carrot

If you see: a dance party
Eat a: full carrot



2. Blacker

If you see: people building something
Eat a: half carrot

If you see: someone with a tan
Eat a: full carrot



6. Page

If you see: someone eating carrots
Eat a: half carrot

If you see: someone not eating carrots
Eat a: full carrot

3. Dabney

If you smell: glaucoma medicine
Eat a: half carrot

If you see: shoes
Eat a: full carrot



7. Ruddock

If you see: a buttock
Eat a: half carrot

If you see: someone who showers
Eat a: full carrot



4. Fleming

If you see: Flem's stick together
Eat a: half carrot

If you see: Individuality
Eat a: full carrot



8. Ricketts

If you see: something in violation of fire regulations
Eat a: half carrot

If you see: a well-adjusted person
Eat a: full carrot

My Favorite Uses For IR Plates:

By Alexandra Souvernenva



Dr. Smart is Back!

Dear Dr. Smart,

People have been accusing me of being sexist. This only started happening recently. I haven't changed my behavior much, at least as far as sexism goes. And nobody complained before. I am pretty sure I am not sexist. Why is this happening to me?

Sincerely, Anonymous Caltech Male

Dear ACM,

I gotta tell you, man, strange times are here. It used to be you could expect a woman to do her typical womanly duties while her man does the important things like replacing blown fuses and watching the ball game. Women weren't even allowed to do science until the 1960s. Just think, if we were born 50 years earlier we would enjoy free love and flower

power before the feminists of the 70s killed chivalry and changed our relationships with the fairer—wait, that's sexist, I can't say that—the other sex forever. Granted, women in science have it harder than men. This is due to the influence of Lucille Ball, who established the precedent of the incompetent female. Everyone remembers what happened when she and Ethel worked in the candy factory. Imagine what would happen if one of these females was in your lab, spilling hydrofluoric acid, breathing on sensitive samples, touching your expensive diffraction grating. How do you compensate for the research funding squandered on safety and repairs? Easy: pay them less. Lucille Ball, though detrimental to women pursuing careers in science, did pave the way for female comedians. Unfortunately, this

road is not often traveled. If I had a nickel for every funny man I've seen and a Euro for every funny woman, I'd have a lot of American money. I dare you to name three funny women who are not Tina Fey, Maria Bamford, and Anneila Sargent. You can't. Don't believe me? Go ask a math major. He'll prove it for you. If any woman disagrees, you've just got an example of why women are bad at math.

Dear Dr. Smart,

I have an idea for an article but I am not sure if I should publish it because it might offend people. What should I do?

Love, Dr. Smart

Dear Dr. Smart,

You probably shouldn't. Some people just can't take a joke. You don't want to get yelled at, do you?

Yours truly, Dr. Smart

Dear Dr. Smart,

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