

## Faculty calls for the return of the bookstore

### *Barnes and Nobles to potentially assist this effort*

By Jonathan Schor

STAFF WRITER

A quick glance around the Caltech bookstore might yield the expected results: college apparel, notebooks, pencils, office supplies. But upon closer inspection, the missing element becomes fairly obvious: textbooks.

For the past two years, the Caltech bookstore has been almost completely bookless, maintaining only a small collection of books by distinguished faculty such as Feynman. Students have had to either purchase textbooks online or buy them from upperclassmen that had previously taken the course, leading to complaints from faculty that students are buying textbooks late or not at all, said Vice President of Student Affairs Anneila Sargent.

However, the administration aims to restore the bookstore to its former condition, perhaps through the assistance of Barnes and Noble, according to Sargent. In the spring term of 2009-2010, Caltech's Bookstore Committee learned that Barnes and Noble was interested in managing Caltech's bookstore. A three-person subcommittee is now evaluating Barnes and Noble's proposal.

About 15 years earlier, Barnes and Noble (B&N) had expressed



Photo by Tina Dine

At the back of the Caltech Bookstore, bookshelves that once held textbooks are now empty since the bookstore stopped carrying textbooks two years ago.

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## Search for undergraduate Dean continues

By Casey Jao

STAFF WRITER

Since John Hall resigned Dean of Students last spring, the undergraduate student body has been without a dean. A search committee, comprised of both faculty and undergraduates, has been working since May to find suitable candidates. According to chair Joseph Shepherd, the graduate dean and a professor of aeronautics, the committee has compiled a shortlist of less than ten candidates and hopes to soon make recommendations to the senior administration, who will either make a formal offer or ask for alternatives.

The shortlisted candidates were culled from a larger pool that the committee assembled by canvassing its members as well as external faculty, students, and staff. Shepherd consulted with former deans as well as Associate Dean Barbara Green. According to Shepherd, the committee members were looking not for any particular agenda, but rather a suitable "personality" and the ability to "define needs, set priorities,

and take initiatives."

"We've all talked to other students about the deanship," said Karthik Sarma, one of the student committee members. "I think what's important to most students is that we find someone who understands Caltech students and who likes them for who they are."

The 2010-2011 Catalog lists the Dean of Students as "TBA." Periods without a dean are not unheard of. According to Dean Green, there were a few "deanless" months during the transition from Dean Kiewiet to Dean Revel, although the move from Revel to Hall occurred without such a gap.

With Hall no longer as dean, despite his former office still bearing his nameplate, Dean Green has been doing double duty.

"It's so sad," lamented the Dean's Office manager Beth Larranga, while Green was busy in a meeting. "We miss him. We're keeping his nametag up for now."

"While I am getting excellent support from Dean Shepherd, day

to day I am on my own. My workload has increased a great deal but I am still enjoying my position as Associate Dean," wrote Green in an email.

"She is the rock...a great resource for the students," said Shepherd, "but we do really need to get somebody to help her out."

"I would like to bring this to a conclusion soon," he said.

Traditionally a faculty member, the Dean of Students oversees the academic affairs and student life of the undergraduates. Besides matters like granting overload petitions and extensions, the dean monitors academic initiatives like freshman advising and student taught courses, participates in curriculum discussions, and renders final decisions in BoC and CrC cases. The dean's office also runs the MHF fund, publishes scholarship information, nominates students for internships, and generally looks after students. Deans typically hold their office for at least five years. Prof. Hall served from 2005 to 2010. His predecessor, Prof. Jean-Paul Revel, served from 1996 to 2005.

## No support will come from Disney for Tron Big Interhouse

By Joel Nikolaus

STAFF WRITER

With just one week before Big Interhouse, the possibility of official props and other Tron-themed support from Disney seems increasingly unlikely, even though three of Caltech's four parties were reworked to focus on the upcoming Tron sequel.

"As of now we are working under the assumption we are not getting anything from Disney," wrote Ricketts House President Will Steinhardt, who helped initiate contact with Disney and is one of the few undergraduates who remained involved in the negotiations. "There is a very slim chance they may come through with something this week," he said, "but it won't be money, and whatever it is I am sure lots of people will not think it was all worth it."

He attributes the failure of the negotiations this year to poor

communication, in particular through Disney's Public Relations Department, and does not hold Disney personally to blame. Moreover, while the talks might have failed to garner support for the party this year, Steinhardt does not see the experience as a failure.

"I think the mere fact that Disney and Caltech had some contact was good for us, and somewhere down the road I strongly believe it will pay off," wrote Steinhardt in an email.

Disney support or not, students can still expect to see a dominant Tron theme at the party this next weekend. When talks with Disney were first initiated several weeks ago, two parties-- Dabney/Lloyd and Avery/Fleming--switched their party's themes from "Interfaust" and "Inception" to Tron-based themes.

"We actually ended up just

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# Combating obesity, one toy at a time?

By Sandhya Chandrasekaran  
STAFF WRITER

“(Ba-dun-dun-dun-da) I’m lovin’ it!”

Ahhh, the thrill of McDonald’s commercials. Creepy red-haired clown aside, humming the catchy jingle and watching kids open up their happy meals couldn’t help but make you smile when you were little. Every few weeks, a new set of toys would be released, and you just had to collect them all.

Well, guess what? Your obsession has now apparently made you obese, and either you or the happy meal must die.

At least that is what seems to be running through the minds of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, who implemented a ban on including toys with Happy Meals, unless the nutritional content satisfies certain guidelines:

*Calories: Less than 600*

*Sodium: Less than 640 milligrams*

*Fat: Less than 35 percent of calories from fat; Less than 10 percent from saturated fat (with exception for nuts, seeds, eggs or low-fat cheese).*

Not surprisingly, none of McDonald’s happy meals currently qualify. So, if all goes as planned, starting in 2012, kids will not be lured to eat these sickeningly fatty foods with free toys, and will never eat them ever again. Soon, there will be no more overweight people in the US, and the obesity crisis will be solved. Just like that.

And the logic makes sense. Whoever thought people ate food just because it tasted good? (Sane people, that’s who).

As Danya Proud, a McDonald’s spokesperson, said in a statement: “We are extremely disappointed with today’s decision. It’s not what our customers want, nor is it something they asked for. Getting a toy with a kid’s meal is just one part of a fun, family experience at McDonald’s.”

A happy meal without the toy is just sad. It’s basically an ordinary burger with a side of fries and a drink. No surprise at the end as to what figurine wound up in the box. Only food. Boring fast food. I can promise you no child is going to smile for that.

Supervisor Eric Mar, from San Francisco said: “We’re part of a movement that is moving forward an agenda of food justice. From

San Francisco to New York City, the epidemic of childhood obesity in this country is making our kids sick, particularly kids from low income neighborhoods, at an alarming rate.”

Is he suggesting that these children eat happy meals so they can collect the toys from them and have something to play with? If so, did it ever occur to him or the other supervisors that fast food is just readily available in these neighborhoods and that they serve as cheap, albeit unhealthy, alternatives to buying ingredients and cooking? If not, what does stripping happy meals of their toys contribute towards the goal of healthy eating?

While San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom soon vetoed this radical decision made by the SF Board of Supervisors, his word is not the final one on the matter. Because the law passed on a vote of 8-3, the board could possibly decide to override the mayor’s stance on the matter.

Obesity is not the real problem here. These supervisors are suffering from a far more deadly disease – stupidity. They need to leave the dietary restrictions to the parents and fix their own problems first, before stepping in and trying to alleviate a complex lifestyle issue with some impulsive, ill-conceived ideas. Seriously, no one’s loving this.

# MaLa sees changes in problem sets and teaching methods

By Tina Ding  
STAFF WRITER

A false rumor has been circulating regarding changes to the proof-rigorous freshmen Core course MaLa, calculus. Although this year saw new sets and exam structure, the fact is that its curriculum remains the same.

Like many Core courses, MaLa previously retained its homework sets from year to year, including its infamous Set 7. Professor Dinakar Ramakrishnan who is currently teaching the course, changed the problems on the problem sets, but the MaLa curriculum has remained unchanged.

“I am covering the same material, but I want to make the course more accessible to all students,” said Ramakrishnan. He explains that he does not want to lose the interests of students pursuing majors such as biology, chemistry, and geology. “I believe that MaLa is very important for every major as long as it is science and engineering.”

In his ways to make the subject more accessible and less

esoteric, Ramakrishnan spent the first week of MaLa was spent on teaching the students how to write proofs using simple examples and stressing the many different methods such as proof by induction, contradiction, etc.

Ramakrishnan also posts his own notes online since lecture often do not chronologically follow the textbook by Apostol.

The other break from the traditional structure of MaLa was that instead of having two 1-hour midterms, the freshmen this year were given one 4-hour midterm.

“Sets shouldn’t be busy-work,” said Ramakrishnan, “I want to teach students to think critically rather than mindlessly plugging in formulas.” In fact, Ramakrishnan, who is a part of the Core Curriculum Task Force, believes that if any math course should remain in the Core curriculum, it is MaLa.”

He, borrowing a page out of Ch1a professor Nate Lewis’ book, plans to take a group of his MaLa freshmen to lunch weekly on a date that does not conflict with Lewis’ Mondays.

## The California Tech

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## ASCIT Minutes

November 12, 2010

Jobbook.

**Officers Present:** Adam Khan, Addie Rice, Prakriti Gaba, Chris Hallacy, Tim Black

**Officers Absent:** Karthik Sarma, Brian Merlob

**Guests Present:** Paul

Call to order: 12:09 pm

### Funding Requests:

- Bike Shop: requests more funding to purchase complete selection of tools and small parts commonly needed. They hold office hours every office where students can come and have bikes with small damages repaired.

### President’s report:

- Big Interhouse: is November 20th. The guest policy for the event now includes two guests per person. Tom Mannion is incentivizing with dinners students to volunteer for event.

- Endowments: Adam met with Peter Harris to discuss other venues of increasing house endowments.

- Jobbook: Adam and Hallacy talked to representatives from McGill University about Jobbook, a new online social networking website. McGill University is trying to partner with student governments from all top 20 schools in The United States to promote

### Officer Reports:

- V. P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair): Hixon Writing Tutor Program has now been taken over by deans and offers free services to any student seeking writing help.

- V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair): Tim and the IHC has been talking to Anneila about pre-frosh weekend activities.

- Operations Director: Merlob has finished distributing Big T’s to all the houses.

- Treasurer: According to Hallacy, student life moved up the dues increase deadline. Thus, new dues increase changes made this year will take effect the year of 2012.

- Social director: Addie is in the process of registering Big Interhouse.

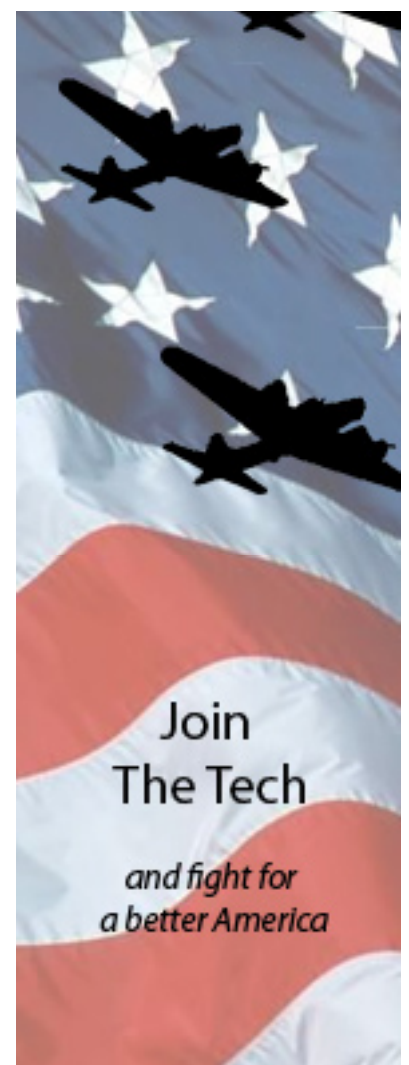
### Discussion:

- Little T Appointments: wishes to change the appointment schedule for the following year.

### Scheduling:

- Midnight donuts: will be Nov. 17th tentatively.  
Meeting adjourned: 12:25 pm

Submitted by Prakriti Gaba  
ASCIT Secretary



## News from around the Globe

Handpicked and written by Pradeep Ramesh

### Leaders of a global organ-trafficking ring are arrested and charged

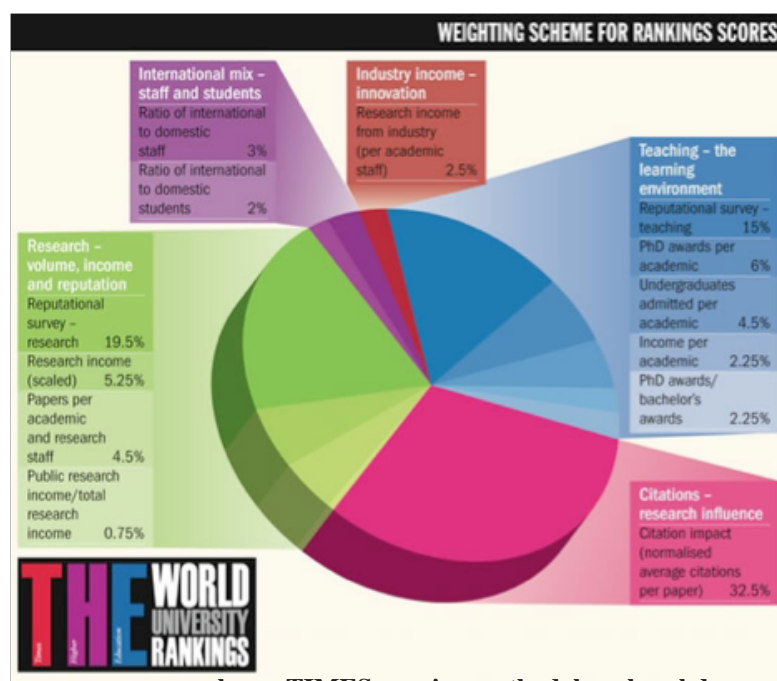
**Pristina, Kosovo:** According to a Serbian war crimes prosecutor, a carved up human body is worth around \$2.4 M while kidneys are sold for at least 15,000 Euros on the black market. Today, seven people were charged with five counts, ranging from participating in an illegal organ trafficking operation that spanned the E.U., the Middle-east, and North-America to an unlawful exercise of medical authority and abuse of power. The ringleader of the network, Dr. Lutfi Dervishi, was a reputed surgeon at the Pristina University Hospital, who, together with his cronies, lured destitute slum dwellers in Istanbul, Moscow, Moldova, and Kazakhstan with promises of \$20,000 in exchange for their organs. In most cases, according to a local news organization, donors were not paid and were often left to die as both kidneys were removed. Recipients, mostly wealthy Israelis, were required to pay between \$110,000 to \$137,000 for the organs. Local police organizations were



Clinic where illgal organ transplants were conducted

tipped off when a Turkish man, who had sold his kidney to an Israeli recipient, collapsed at the airport while trying to board a flight to Istanbul. Investigators from the European Union are currently combing through phone records, hard drives, and bank transfers to identify other culprits.

### TIMES global university rankings methodology questioned



above: TIMES ranging methodology breakdown; topright: Mohamed El Naschie

**London, U.K:** In the most recent press release of global school rankings, one university's sudden rise to prominence was cause for both celebration and concern. This year, Alexandria University in Egypt breached the top 200 and placed 147th in the world ahead of several other well-known institutions. The announcement raised alarming interest when Alexandria placed fourth in research influence behind Caltech, M.I.T, and Princeton. Upon a closer look at the rankings methodology, it became apparent that results were heavily influenced by the category "citations" which were weighted the most out of any other category. In an interview with the New York Times, the deputy editor of T.H.E confessed that Alexandria's rank was largely a consequence of "high output from one scholar in one journal." The industrious scholar was identified as Mohamed El Naschie, a theoretical physicist who published over 300 of his own articles in the journal, Chaos, Solitons and Fractals, of which he is also the editor. The revelation has proved to be an embarrassment for the rankings industry and has raised serious questions about the methodology.



### Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is released after seven years of house arrest.

**Yangon, Myanmar:** The Nobel peace prize winner and daughter of Myanmar's founding father was released last Saturday afternoon after serving a seven year sentence for spreading dissent. Her sentence was commuted from an eleven year term for "good-behavior," although many Western diplomats believe that the move was intended as a show of the ruling military junta's confidence. Flush with wealth from increased foreign investment in the country's vast natural deposits, the military junta has tightened its hold on the country over the course of the last decade; recently held parliamentary elections were marred by accusations of fraud and are widely regarded as a sham by the international community. Moments after being released, Suu Kyi delivered an impassioned plea for a peaceful revolution in front of a crowd of her supporters. She plans to pursue an aggressive reform agenda but prospects are limited given that the country is tightly rule by the junta under a new constitution that was explicitly designed to keep such reformers at bay.



Aung San Suu Kyi addresses her supporters shortly after her release

# You can still join the Tech

[email\\_tech@caltech.edu](mailto:email_tech@caltech.edu)

# Big Interhouse: 3.5 sides of Tron

*What to expect, besides twenty bartenders*

By Sarah Marzen

*Dabney/Lloyd: Tron arcade*



Originally, Dabney/Lloyd had planned on doing "Interfaust", so that their party would be planned around the perpetually unsatisfied scholar from Greek mythology. However, when Disney was rumored to require funding, they completely switched their theme to something that would mimic the arcade component of the Tron movie. "It's something that looks good without too much effort," said Alex Rasmussen, Dabney House Social Vice President. "The dome gives us walls and a roof without having to build anything."

*Avery/Fleming: Tron arena*



Photo by Caroline Yu

Avery and Fleming switched their theme from Inception to Tron when the organizers heard that Disney would provide support. The two dance platforms on the side are meant to mimic a disc battle arena scene from the new Tron trailer, and the pyramid for the DJ is meant to mimic the pyramid that Daft Punk (musicians for the new Tron movie) DJ in.

*Ricketts/Ruddock: Tron retriever*



Photo by Caroline Yu

Ricketts and Ruddock chose the Tron theme originally. According to Ruddock sophomore Matthew Fu, the "Tron recognizer" is the main point of their construction, and is a major component of the original Tron movie and trailer.



*Blacker/Page:  
Action movie  
climax*

Despite the previous allure of Disney support, Blacker and Page never switched from their original theme of "action movie climax". They bought a car-- free-- off of Craigslist and ran it into the tree in the courtyard, and they are in the process of constructing a Godzilla, nuclear reactor, Golden Gate Bridge, and much more.

Look out for the traditional flooding of Blacker's courtyard. As usual, the safety inspectors have been reassured that the water will not be colored green-- a few years ago, the green water that drained into Pasadena's streets from Blacker's party alarmed Caltech's bioterrorism-conscious neighbors.

# HeLa cells: Medical ethics are gray, not black and white

By Gloria Tran

**“D**octors took her cells without asking. Those cells never died. They launched a medical revolution and a multimillion-dollar industry. More than twenty years later, her children found out. Their lives would never be the same.”

The HeLa cell line is one of the oldest and most commonly used immortal cell lines in research derived from cervical cancer cells taken from the African American patient Henrietta Lacks.

At face value, the tagline says it all: the story of the omnipresent, seemingly omnipotent HeLa cells is one of ethical controversy. Tumor cells were taken from Henrietta Lacks without any informed consent and spread across the world in a burgeoning industry, while her family was left in the dark.

The story Rebecca Skloot has to tell is not as simple as that. We gain an understanding of Henrietta's legacy in pieces, everything from the family's discovery of HeLa cells decades later to how HeLa cells were successfully manufactured and distributed to labs around the world.

Taking us through her own journalistic experiences researching for this book, Skloot provides her audience with an unprecedented intimacy with the impoverished Lackses family members. Henrietta's death left her husband Day with five children to take care of. Her youngest daughter, Deborah,

is extremely distrustful of reporters from previous experience. Her youngest son, Sonny, who changed his name to Zakariyah, was institutionalized several times for uncontrollable violence. Her eldest “deaf and dumb” daughter, Elsie, was admitted to a state hospital when she was fourteen and was never visited again after Henrietta's death. Skloot walks her readers through her quest to gain Deborah's trust, and Skloot's reward when Deborah one day empties out newspaper clippings about HeLa, one old photo of her mother (the picture on the cover) and much sought-after medical records from a crumbling manila envelope. Skloot even takes Deborah and her brother Zakariyah to the Johns Hopkin medical research center to show them HeLa cells, surviving remnants of their dead mother, under a microscope.

Beyond writing about how this ordeal has affected the Lackses, Skloot paints a much bigger picture than any reader could anticipate. In fact, she offers the perspective of all individuals involved in Henrietta's life. Skloot documents the reactions of her closest cousins when Henrietta was diagnosed with cancer. She reports that Henrietta's neighbor who owns the run-down convenience store wants to start a museum dedicated to Henrietta.

Notably, she narrates the frustration of Dr. George Gey when

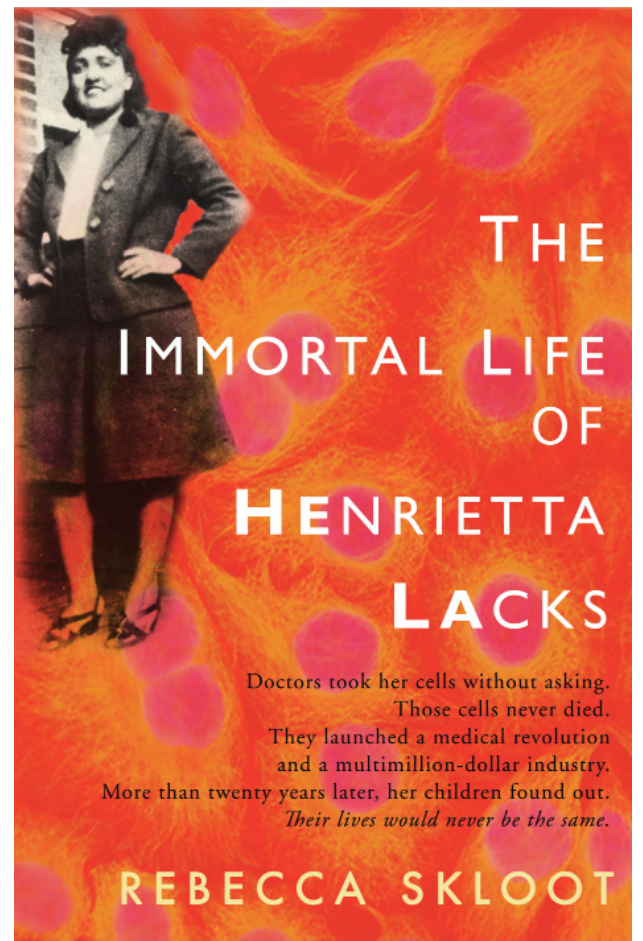
the hundreds of human tissue samples taken from all parts of cadavers and patients failed to culture indefinitely. Sympathizing readers will silently cheer on Gey as his perseverance and meticulousness pay off with a sample of Henrietta Lacks' cancerous cervical tissue. We are even inspired by Gey's selfless dedication to the advancement of science – knowing that he stumbled upon a discovery unique and infinitely valuable to research, he immediately shares it with his colleagues, even shipping the cells to whoever asked them. As described in the book, Gey eventually invents the roller drum, which revolutionizes the field of cell culture.

Even the paradigm suggested by the tagline – that the doctors who took Henrietta's cells violated medical ethics – is shattered in a thoroughly presented history lesson by Skloot. Apparently, the standard ethical rules of “informed consent” were not defined or did not even exist back in the 50's. We do, however, learn about how racism pervaded the medical practices of the time. As a part of a segregated free clinic offered to “colored” people, doctors thought it was within their right to take tissue samples without any consent. Additionally, Skloot details the Tuskegee syphilis experiment, from the 30s to the 70s, in which the Public Health Service exploited 400 poor African American men in a syphilis study,

withholding treatment from the unknowing patients. It is for this reason that African Americans at the time, including Henrietta and her children, generally mistrusted doctors.

The *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* surprises readers by going above and beyond the idea of ethical violations. Beyond con-

sidering mere right and wrong, Skloot does an immaculate job of providing this history in all its contexts. Thanks to her reporting, researchers around the world can more fully understand the woman behind the cells and the aftermath of her legacy.



# Tron(1982) is outdated, but a must watch nonetheless

By Caroline Yu



**B**y today's standards, *Tron* is cheesy and overdone. The movie is a lights-and-show affair, with monochrome designs and overkill of Dolby stereo. But *Tron* was a movie unlike any other, the seed of the sci-fi trend. *Tron*'s innovative plot and computer imaging helped inspire movies like *Star Wars* and *The Matrix*. *Tron* in and of itself is not a fantastic movie, but its legacy is undeniable.

*Tron* is the classic good guy defeats bad guy plot, but with an important twist. Flynn, played by Jeff Bridges, is a brilliant video game programmer who works for Encom. However, his rival Dillinger (David Warner) steals the games and hides the evidence

in the Encom computer. With the help of two friends, Flynn breaks into Encom to retrieve the evidence. The twist: instead of engaging in physical fights to find the evidence, Flynn and his friends are “de-rezzed” and transported into the computer networks. They must outsmart the “Master Control Program”, a big red cylinder with a face reminiscent of the Kool-Aid man. *Tron*'s plot is groundbreaking in that it delves into scientific fantasy. The good guy wins in the end like we expect, but this is done in the world of computers, a twist of imagination that no one foresaw.

*Tron* was also ground breaking in terms of computer animation.

The effects are relatively simple, especially when compared to modern day blockbusters like *Avatar*, but the large scale use of computer animation was unprecedented. Considering that every second of the film involved nearly 150 images, most of which had to be rotoscoped, *Tron* was an impressive feat.

The fabricated world of *Tron* comes alive with its imaginative plot and CGI effects. Although not nearly as impressive today, it is unmistakably the forefather of the entire sci-fi film movement. For any sci-fi fan, *Tron* is a must watch.

**B+**

## B&amp;N

*Continued from Page 1*

an interest in taking over the management of the Caltech bookstore. At the time, according to Bookstore Committee Chair Professor Warren Brown, there was some worry over the “corporatization” of the bookstore, so the deal never went through. When the Bookstore Committee discovered that Barnes and Noble was still interested, the Bookstore Committee, Professor Sargent, and Dean Currie, the Vice President for Business and Finance, met with Barnes and Noble representatives.

The subcommittee evaluating the proposal consists of Chief Business Administrator of Student Affairs Dimitrios Sakellariou, who represents the students’ interest; Professor Brown, the faculty representative; and Sharon Patterson, the Associate Vice President for Finance and Treasurer. Together, the three have observed Barnes and Noble’s management of other collegiate bookstores, including the large bookstore at Cal State Los Angeles (CSLA) and the small bookstore at Loyola Law School. According to Sakellariou, Barnes and Noble seemed responsive towards their customers, and the bookstores have so

far remained flexible.

Barnes and Noble is hopeful that they can at least break even at Caltech, due to economies of scale, but nothing is set in stone, according to Sakellariou. The subcommittee hopes to near an endpoint within a year or two, although they are taking measured steps to ensure that Caltech’s new bookstore is as cost-effective as possible.

*Budget issues*

As Professor Sargent explains, the Caltech bookstore stopped carrying textbooks two years ago when the economic downturn first hit Caltech. When Caltech’s endowment first tanked, President Chameau instructed his vice presidents to “tighten their belts in hopes of loosening them later.”

For Professor Sargent, this meant making a change in the bookstore, which was hemorrhaging money. As Sakellariou explained, some of this was due to a combination of bookstore policy and students’ actions. Only a small fraction of students in a typical Caltech class would buy textbooks, and many would buy the books as cheaply as possible using the bookstore’s price-matching policy. Furthermore, the bookstore allowed full refunds for books returned before Drop Day. If students were clever enough about saving money, they could buy the book only to read most of it and return it before

Drop Day, noted Sakellariou.

The combination of Caltech’s generous bookstore policies and student actions was a net loss for the bookstore. When Caltech’s bookstore shipped all of the unsold or returned textbooks back to the seller for a refund, it had already lost money on the shipping fees it paid to get the books to and from Caltech.

An online book purchasing system was established as a temporary alternative to a physical bookstore. However, according to Professor Sargent, faculty requested that the textbooks be restored to the bookstore as soon as possible when they noticed that students were buying textbooks late or failing to buy textbooks at all.

The direct result of this was the establishment of the Bookstore Committee, headed by Professor Warren Brown and attended by graduate students, undergrads, bookstore staff, faculty, and others. According to Professor Brown, the bookstore was not just a vehicle for buying textbooks, but also a first point of contact for many Caltech visitors and for like-minded people within the Caltech. In this way, the bookstore delivered “both intellectual and social payback”, and its loss might have also affected Caltech’s outward image, said Brown.

The initial obstacle for the Bookstore Committee, was coming up with new, better ideas for

the bookstore that were fiscally sound. Their first thought was to find a way to somehow blend the virtual and the real, utilizing the low costs that come with online access while maintaining the instant accessibility of real books. Barnes and Noble might have the technology to do so.

As for whether this possible change in management is a sign of things to come, Professor Brown is doubtful. He explains that the bookstore is a special case, and that he “doesn’t sense a strong wind...[towards finding] ways to outsource [Caltech’s management].”

## TRON

*Continued from Page 1*

throwing out the entire theme,” said Dabney Social Vice President Alex Rasmussen. “We sold out to Disney without getting anything in return.” The leadership in Avery and Fleming had not yet started building their party when their leadership decided to switch to a Tron-based party.

Now Dabney Courtyard will feature a rendition of the Arcade and an assortment of light wire using the dome that Dabney usu-

ally uses for its Drop Day. Ricketts and Ruddock, which always intended to pursue a Tron-themed party, will feature one the Tron recognizers suspended over the dance floor, which is one of the large gate-like contraptions featured in the original Tron movie.

There always has to be one non-conformist in the group. Blacker and Page’s party is not remotely Tron related, instead centered on the theme “Action Movie Climax.” “If we need to, we can make it Tron-themed,” said Caleb Ziegler, a member of Blacker, but he failed to clarify just how the Golden Gate Bridge, Godzilla, and mecha would be mesh with the video game reality of Tron. “Disney didn’t give us anything we wanted,” said Daniil Kitchaev, another Blacker member.

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# Women's basketball loses season opener

*La Sierra dominates, Beavers show promise*



The Caltech women's basketball team lines up during Midnight Madness. The energy and attendance did not carry over.

**By Amol Kamat**  
SPORTS EDITOR

On a blistery Monday night at Braun Gymnasium, the Caltech Beavers took on the La Sierra Golden Eagles in their first game of the season. No doubt feeding off the energy of Midnight Madness, the Beavers fought to keep the game fairly close in the first few minutes of the game, but the Platinum Falcons dominated from beyond the arc and quickly

ran away with the game. Despite a distinct height advantage, the Beavers ended the first half down 25-43.

Caltech started out slow in the second half and faced a relative drought to the monsoon that was the Brass Vulture offense (in layman's terms, they made it rain). Despite a lack of offensive presence and a balding referee who was all too eager to blow his whistle for every minor infraction, the Beavers were able to muster up fourteen second half points. Unfortunately, the Alumni-

num Hawks added 38 to their total, for a final score of 81-39.

Despite the crushing defeat, the Beavers showed promise. Krissy Dahl had some very impressive blocks, and freshman Marlyn Moore brought refreshing intensity to an otherwise low energy game. Once the Beavers work out a few early season kinks and gain a little more confidence, they will surely be a threat in the SCIAC. They take on the Silver Birds of Prey once more on November 20th.

## Weekly Scoreboard

**November 14, 2010**

Men's Water Polo  
SCIAC Championships  
vs Cal Lutheran  
L, 18-6 Final

**November 13, 2010**

Men's Water Polo  
SCIAC Championships  
vs Occidental  
L, 22-9 Final

Men's Cross Country  
NCAA Regionals  
at Willamette, Ore.  
17th Place

Women's Cross Country  
NCAA Regionals  
at Willamette, Ore.  
16th Place

**November 12, 2010**

Men's Water Polo  
SCIAC Championships  
vs Redlands  
L, 24-4 Final

## This Week in Sports Quotes

*"The girls, they won both matches. I believe in the second one they were down 2 towards the end, then won like 6 of the next 7 points to get the W. More importantly, we invented fantasy ultimate and played it, and it was so exciting, you probably wouldn't believe it."*

*-Brian Ventura, referencing the girls ultimate team win*

*"Water Polo's done."*

*-Dan Sexton*

*"And now you have baseball..."*

*-Blaine Matulevich*

*"These guys come to the games expecting to win. Bahahahahahaha."*

*-La Sierra fans directed at my friends and me*

*"Caltech Athletics is like fake Indian food night: no matter how hard you try, you always end up with diarrhea."*

*-Anonymous*

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## Lies My Parents Told Me

by James Wu

I once received books for Christmas instead of the video games and toys I asked for. My parents told me Santa didn't get me what I wanted for Christmas because my Dear Santa letter had too many grammatical errors, and Santa felt I needed the books more than the video games.

Ever since I was little, my parents had been suggesting overtly and subliminally that I should become a doctor when I grew up. They told me that since I wasn't born in the US, if I didn't end up becoming a doctor, I would get deported by the US government.

I once watched a movie where a man transformed into a wolf. My dad had a lot of body hair, so my parents started telling me that my dad was a wolfman, and would transform into a wolf every full moon. If I didn't want to get eaten, I had to make sure to be extra good during the month.

My parents would oftentimes tell me that I wasn't their first child. The first child didn't perform to their expectations, so they gave it away. If I didn't do well in school, my parents threatened to trade me to a rock farm and get another child from the orphanage.

Still Not Doctor



### APPLES AND ORANGES

BY REBECCA LAWLER



### Chess Club Problem of the Week



White to play and Mate in 5.

Last Week's Solution: 1. Qxg7+ Ke7 2. Bf6+ Nxf6 3. gxf6+ Ke8 4. Rh8#

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