

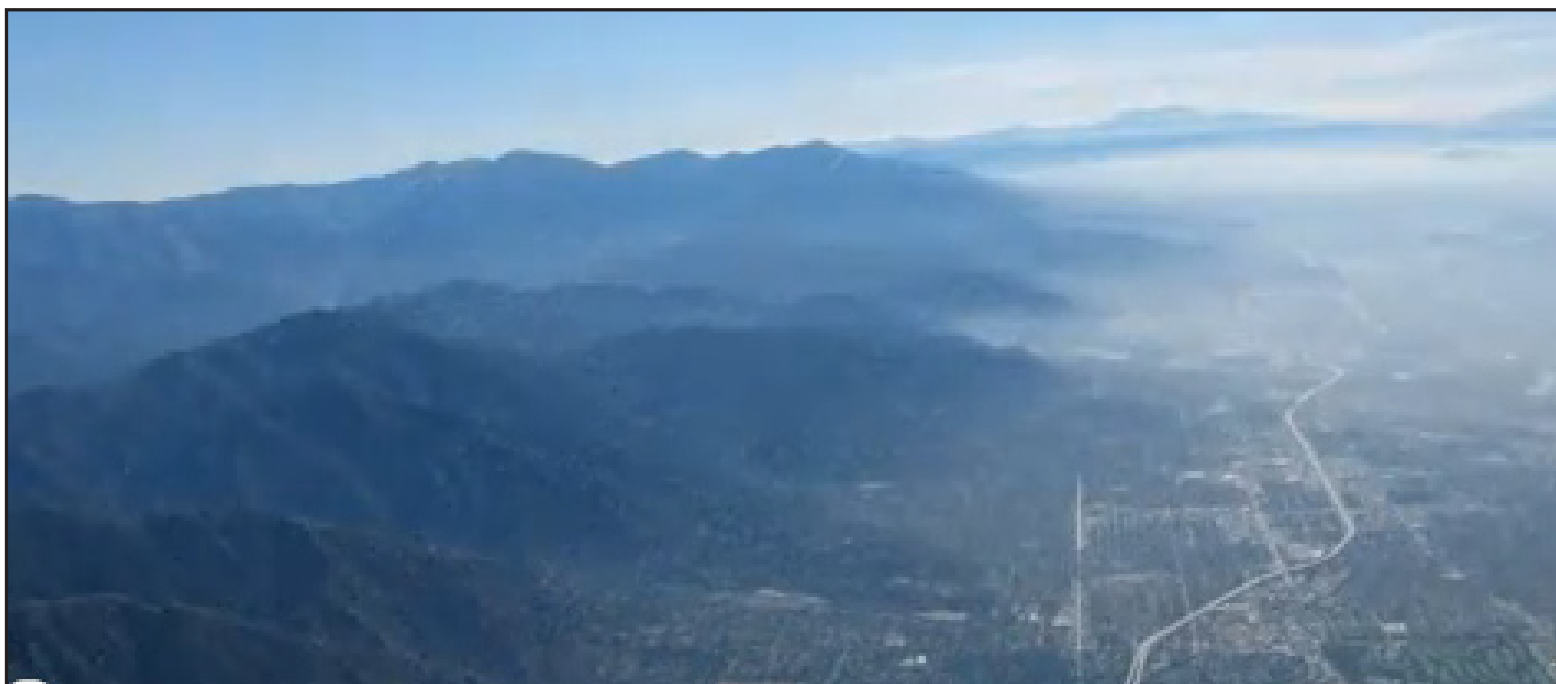


Two student-led groups win KISS funding for space-oriented projects

By **Stanford Schor**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In mid-February, two groups of Caltech students each won \$20,000 grants from the Keck Institute for Space Studies. The purpose of these grants is to enable students to carry out a large-scale space study of their own design, as well as increase awareness of space initiatives around the Caltech campus. Thus, while each group focused on a different aspect of astronomical science, the initiatives shared a common goal of educating the Caltech community with their mini-programs.

The first group is led by graduate student Prakhar Mehrotra. Tying into President Obama's goal of sending astronauts to a Near-Earth Object (NEO, ie. an asteroid), Mehrotra's program will bring together students of many disciplines in an attempt to plan out a feasible NASA NEO mission. Students who participate will be equipped with the necessary tools and invited to a



Karol and Lee's first set of balloons captured breathtaking photographs.

-Provided by Robbie Karol

number of preparatory workshops and classes on "conceptual mission design, human spaceflight challenges, and recent advances

in space studies." Mehrotra hopes that students will come out of the experience with a heightened sense of what it takes to plan and carry out a space mission, and that their ideas will "serve as a starting point for a NASA NEO mission or help identify poten-

accelerometer, and wind data to steer itself back to the launching site for easy retrieval. They also hope to explore cheaper methods of atmospheric analysis than those currently available.

For Lee, interest in the use of high altitude ballooning to ex-

Lee noted), but received "some absolutely amazing pictures." After the competition, the two students knew that they wanted to continue their experimentation but lacked the necessary financial backing. The Keck grant was their answer.

World News: Snippets from CNN, NYT, BBC, et al

NASA's unmanned Glory spacecraft and Taurus XL rocket fail to reach orbit and lands in the Pacific Ocean. - CNN

Two U.S. troops shot and killed outside Germany's Frankfurt Airport by radicalized Muslim. - CNN

South Koreans send helium balloons dropping leaflets and DVDs promoting freedom and democracy into the North. - CNN

Libyan rebels locked in battles with Gaddafi forces on two fronts, accidental blasts in a Benghazi arms depot kill at least 17. - BBC

Thousands join anti-government protests in Bahrain. - Al Jazeera

Yemeni army fires on protesters. - Al Jazeera

Protesters rally for unions in Wisconsin and around country. - NY Times

Supreme Court rules funeral picketing to be protected by freedom of speech. - NY Times

“

At first it just seemed like a cool idea, but once I was actually holding the finished work in my hand and let go, I felt exhilarated. You get a funny whimsical feeling...

- Josh Lee

”

tial international or commercial collaborations capable of such a mission."

The second group is led by undergraduates Robbie Karol and Josh Lee. Their mini-program is essentially split into two sections: experimentation with various cost-efficient balloon and data retrieval designs, and a series of seminars and workshops that are designed to give students "access to the information and materials necessary to create their own ballooning projects." For the experimentation portion of their program, the group hopes to design a balloon capable of using GPS,

plere the Earth's atmosphere began during the summer when he heard that Karol was being funded for a competition that ranked competitors' balloons in terms of cost-effectiveness, retrieval speed, and payload weight. Said Lee, "By the end of the summer we had to send up a weather balloon to take pictures of the curvature of the Earth and get at a high enough altitude so that the sky was black."

The duo was only able to recover one of the two balloons that they had launched as the GPS failed on both ("[We] cut one too many corners to lower the cost,"

The two undergraduates hope that their project will inspire other students to find a subject about which they are passionate, and pursue it to the fullest. Lee admitted, "at first it just seemed like a cool idea, but once I was actually holding the finished work in my hand and let go, I felt exhilarated. You get a funny whimsical feeling when you realize that the project you've been working on for so long is floating 60,000 feet above your head." Both projects are still in their planning phases, but it is expected that a schedule and budget for each will be finished in the near future.

WE'VE MOVED!

The Financial Aid Office has moved to 383 Hill Street, 2nd Floor.

Mail Code: 20-90

We look forward to seeing you there.

IHC Minutes

by Tim Black



Based on Dinosaur Comics by Ryan North www.qwantz.com Full IHC Minutes online ihc.caltech.edu

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125
advertising e-mail: business@caltech.edu
editorial e-mail: tech@caltech.edu

Editors-in-Chief
Jonathan Schor
Stanford Schor

News Editor
Sandhya Chandrasekaran

Sports Editor
Amol Kamat

Business Manager
Jenny Yung

Staff
Sadaf Amouzegar
Yang Hu
Casey Jao
Rebecca Lawler
Joel Nikolaus
Pradeep Ramesh
Neha Sandaria
Gloria Tran
James Wu
Caroline Yu
Wesley Yu
Chris Zheng

Circulation
Arjun Ravikumar

Advisor
Tom Mannion

The Tech is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to tech@caltech.edu as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. The Tech does accept anonymous contributions. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author.

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."

Write opinions for the Tech

get paid up to \$20

ASCIT minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes
March 1, 2010

Officers Present: Chris Hallacy, Laura Conwill, Juan Diego Caporale, Mario Zubia, Margaret Chiu, Prakriti Gaba

Guests present: Brian Merlob

Call to order: 10:11 pm

Funding Requests:

Brian Merlob requested funding for opening an organization similar to bookmart on campus.

President's report:

- Health meeting: Hallacy is meeting with Kevin Austin for campus health related issues.
- Hallacy will meet regularly with Laura Conwill and Tom Mannion.

V. P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):

- Chiu is having interviews for ARC positions. She wants to improve the ARC website and is willing to have individuals work for her, especially Dev Team members. She also wants to start updating Bookmart. Chiu has also been able to organize a student-faculty lunch.

V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):

- The IHC has officially elected Christian Rivas as IHC secretary. They also want to work on improving communications with the trustees. Conwill will also be reviewing the pet policy with Peter Daily.

Director of Operations:

- Diego went through the SAC to organize some of the club/ASCIT rooms. Diego has been approached by some individuals/clubs about SAC space and club funding. He will send out emails to the student body to make sure that some of the unused rooms can be evacuated and utilized for productive meetings, etc.

Treasurer:

- Zubia still has a decent amount of money left over from club funding as well as some funds left for social events.

Social director:

- Prakriti is exploring venues for ASCIT formal this spring term and will talk with Tom Mannion soon as well as the student body (via email/survey) to finalize the location of the formal.

Secretary:

- Sign-ups for secretary were put up last week and ASCIT will now begin the interviewing process the position.

Scheduling:

- ASCIT secretary interviews: ASCIT will get in contact with the candidates to set up interviews this week.
- Budget meeting: will be scheduled some time soon to review the budget for club funding and other ASCIT expenses.

Discussion:

- ASCIT Movie Night: The BoD is discussing whether or not to hold it this year.
- Endowment: The BoD talked about how to spend the endowment and also how to increase the endowment.
- Connection of BoD with ASCIT: Hallacy suggests that the BoD be more open and available for the student body.
- Staff members: People who are interested in assistant positions for the BoD.
- Take faculty to lunch: ASCIT wants to promote student-faculty interaction and wants to encourage students to take faculty out to lunch with a voucher with which students can take faculty out to lunch for free.
- Midnight Donuts: will be held this Wednesday March 2nd at midnight.

Meeting adjourned: 11:30 pm

Submitted by Prakriti Gaba
ASCIT Secretary/Social Director

Free flute concert in Dabney Hall strikes a beautifully brilliant chord

By Michael Lauria
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As far as classical concerts go, Monday's Viennese Classics for Flute and Piano was one of my favorites. That's not saying much, since I'm more of a Jazz enthusiast, but to my surprise, the best

of the Vienna Philharmonic and an instructor at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien," but you'd be wrong. No, the best part was the perfect interplay of sound joyfully produced by the performers, whose genuine smiles brightened the room as they received their applause after each piece.

commissioned to write several pieces of chamber music for the flute, in 1778 he wrote a letter to his father expressing his inability to continue writing for the instrument.

However, Flury and Prinz were quick to dismiss this letter on the basis of Mozart's many pieces written for flute. Putting the question to rest, Flury smiled and said, "Well, it wasn't the Magic Bassoon."

Then, before intermission, two lesser-known works by Beethoven, "The Beautiful Minka" (Op. 107, No. 7) and a "Sonata for Flute and Piano in B-flat Major," were played. In the first, Flury expounded upon a folksy theme, beautiful in its simplicity, while Prinz played in impeccable counterpoint. In the second, however, the performance seemed to lose a bit of its groove, as while the musicianship remained excellent, the piece lost some of the emotion that had energized the

in G major. Indeed, the second movement was the highlight of the show. The slower passages allowed Flury's round, mellifluous tone to transcend the music in its clarity. After this breathtaking piece, Prinz and Flury followed it up with Schubert's "Trockne Blumen," a piece which, according to the performers, was written soon before Schubert's untimely death, and which tells the story of a young man in love who knows death is imminent.

Here Prinz showcased her dynamism, sending ripping chords into the air to buoy the piercing notes of Flury's flute. Towards the end, the melancholy melody

lifted hopefully to portray a scene of flowers growing from the grave of the young man.

After the performance, the sheer scope of applause was such that Prinz and Flury returned for two encores: "Maria's favorite," the second movement of Mozart's Sonata in C major, and a minuet to round off the evening. Despite my own genre preferences, this concert, provided free of charge by Caltech and the Austrian-American Council of North America, was well worth attending.

The beauty of the music and the joy expressed eclipsed any and all genre biases.



Flury and Prinz, enthral the crowd.

-Provided by Veronica Reinelt, President Austrian-American Council West

part of Dieter Flury and Maria Prinz's performance was not the nonexistent cost of attendance.

You might think, "Ah, then it must have been the incredible virtuosity of the Principal Futist

The first number, a sonata in B-flat major by Mozart, K. 378, was composed for piano and violin, and led to a discussion by Flury and Prinz about Mozart's purported dislike for the flute. Having been

previous songs.

Luckily, the performers regained their footing in the first piece of the second part of the concert: Haydn's "Sonata for Flute and Piano VIII"



An emotional Prinz accepts numerous bouquets.

-Provided by Veronica Reinelt, President Austrian-American Council West

Lil' girls speak out against Lil' Wayne lyrics

By Sandhya Chandrasekaran
NEWS EDITOR

"Fighting crime trying to save the world. Here they come just in time... the PowerPuff Girls."

But instead of Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup, we have the Watoto From the Nile trio: Nia, 10, Nya, 9, and Kamaria, 5. And in this episode, Lil Wayne happens to be their Mojo Jojo, an animalistic, primitive being whose sole purpose is to promote bad morals and corrupt society.

But what exactly is their superpower? The sisters recently fought music with music and released a song entitled "Letter to Lil Wayne", requesting that the artist reconsider his choice of songs about substance use and female inferiority.

The song is set to an instrumental version of Lil Wayne's song "I'm Single" and is straight to the point in telling its message.

"This message is for Mr. Wayne/I'm sorry but I must complain/About what you do and what you say." It goes on to say, "People say, 'Say no to drugs'/So tell me Sir who should I trust/You or them?"

One of the lines even asks Wayne if he also speaks disrespectfully to his own daughter. "I hear you got a little girl/Does she get the same referral/ You call the world/Not trying to lean/I hope you call her little queen," the girls sing.

These cute little girls are voicing a concern that has been surprisingly silenced in this day and age. While the occasional fight for censorship flashes across headlines, the concern somehow manages to die down in the midst of the artists' fame and fortune. However, the fact that three young girls took the effort to compose and produce a video challenging the attitude of the Young Money CEO has caused a lot of buzz. While close-minded online critics complain that the

girls are young and do not understand the situation properly, what they do not realize is that the girls are in fact some of the very few people bold enough to speak out against what has slowly wheedled

its way into becoming the norm. Instead of chastising the trio's attempt, the critics should be re-evaluating their own perspective on the matter.

Personally, I value music and rhythm over lyrics, and so a good beat and harmony is really all I need to decide whether or not a song is worth listening to.

And because some of the more alluring tempos I hear tend to stem from the Billboard Top 100, I have come to accept the concepts of guys getting some action or messing with some sort of

candy, whether it be licking a lollipop or shaking a Laffy Taffy, as a fundamental aspect of the rap of our era.

Furthermore, Lil Wayne is not the only one to blame. These sort of degrading comments are notoriously abundant in the mainstream pop music of our era.

It is quite evident that profanity and sex is what really sells these days. In fact, it is almost as if there is a tacit competition to see who can make the highest number of crude references or promote the most substance abuse.

Sure, the music is catchy.

I love myself some Pitbull and Akon when I'm in the mood to party, but the message these songs are promoting to upcoming generations is not one that we should be actively propagating.

Making the occasional drug reference or gender stereotype might be humorous once in a while, but allowing it to become ingrained in our culture is a mistake.

Unlike the PowerPuff girls, the Watoto From the Nile sisters are inspiring for their natural ability and courage to tackle a perpetual issue in our society.

But their powers are only as strong as the number of people who are willing to listen to them. Unless people become less permissive of such loaded language, rappers like Lil Wayne will quite literally "drop the world on our f***in heads", and with no outspoken opposition, there will be no one to lighten the load.

-Provided by www.thatgrapejuice.net



Unsigned Editorial

Zewail's activism to be applauded

Early this past February, Caltech's own Chemistry Nobel Laureate Ahmed Zewail returned to his home country of Egypt to urge for a peaceful transition of government. In an article written for the Herald Tribune, Zewail explained, "Mubarak must step down, a new constitution must be drafted, and the country must hold free and fair elections." Recently, Mubarak has done just that, surrendering power to the military and agreeing to remove himself from the seat of power.

Though the road ahead is uncertain, Zewail remains committed to establishing a stable government in Egypt, with such safeguards as a "council of wise men and women" to oversee the amending of the Egyptian constitution. Ever humble concerning his role in the transition, Zewail insists that he is only "an Egyptian who is concerned about what is going on in his mother country."

For his effort and resolve, the Tech would like to offer our gratitude and support for all that Zewail is doing for his fellow countrymen. It is certain that Egypt will need leaders of vision in this tur-

bulent period of change, and Caltech students and faculty alike can attest to the fact that no one fills this role better than Zewail.

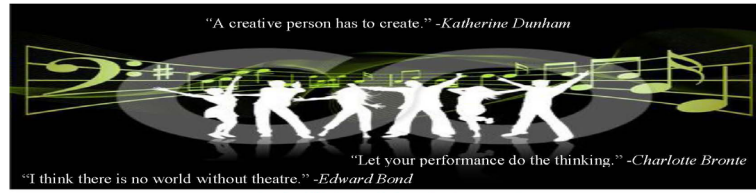
As a pioneer of femtochemistry, Zewail has been praised for his work at femtosecond intervals. He must now focus his efforts to a much larger scale, a political reconstruction that could take years to complete. Nonetheless, we place the utmost faith in Zewail's diplomatic manner and drive, and are certain that he will bring the same unwavering persistence he shows in scientific research to aid in Egypt's recovery.

It is not uncommon for the Caltech community to be graced by scientists of international renown, pioneers and innovators in their field. But in the tradition of Linus Pauling, Zewail has shown us that the most talented scientists can also channel their ingenuity into social activism. Zewail's passion for his country stands as an example for the Caltech community and the world as a whole, showcasing a patriotism and love for freedom that knows no bounds.

Again, the Tech salutes Zewail for his actions and eagerly awaits a peaceful and beneficial resolution to the transition in Egypt.

ARE YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING WILD AND CRAZY FOR SPRING BREAK?

Take photographs of your experience and send them into the Tech! The best submissions will be published so that you can show everyone just how awesome a time you had!



Indelible Ink's 1st Annual Student Performance Scholarship Competition

Presented in conjunction with Pasadena Central Library, Red Hen Press, Doo Dah Parade, Levitt Pavilion Pasadena, Lineage Dance, Pasadena Conservatory of Music and SAPPA
Sponsored by College Launch

Participation Requires

Students must create an original: 1) piece of poetry or prose; 2) music and lyrics; or 3) variety act routine to be performed solo and before a panel of judges.

Eligibility Requirements

The Scholarship Competition is open to legal residents of the United States who are enrolled in a High School (must be a sophomore, junior or senior) or College/University (must be a freshman, sophomore or junior) located within San Gabriel Valley. If under the age of 18, written parental or legal guardian consent to participate is required. Student must provide high school or college ID. All contestants must be able to participate in the Final Live Competition scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Directors, officers and employees or families of Indelible Ink, the sponsor or other contributing organizations or any of their respective affiliate companies, subsidiaries, agents, professional advisors, advertising and promotional agencies are not eligible to compete in the scholarship competition. All applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Except where prohibited by law, entry into the Contest constitutes permission to use contestant's name, likeness and/or Prize information, the name of the educational institution and field of study, without limitation, for promotional purposes without further permission or compensation. All entrants and winners must acknowledge that they have read the official rules and accept the terms stated therein. Contestants must acknowledge and agree that Indelible Ink may contact them, including via email.

Performance Categories

- Performance Literature – Poets, Spoken Word Artists, Storytellers, Performance Artists and Essayists
- Singer-Songwriter – Student sings an original song and plays original music.
- Variety Act – Student performs an original routine (Multi-media Artists, Dancers, Jugglers, Fine Magicians, Instrumentalists, Interpretive Artists, etc.)

What is Indelible Ink?

Indelible Ink is a Vanguard Performance Art Series that operates under the auspices of the Pasadena Arts Council's EMERGE® program. Producing shows the last Tuesday of every month (except December), Indelible Ink showcases performances that always include literary artists, a singer/songwriter, and a variety act.

How to Enter – Performance Cattle Call

Students will be auditioned on a first-come, first-auditioned basis according to the schedule below. It is advised that interested parties arrive early. Competition and Parental/Guardian Consent Forms will be available at each audition location and on www.indelibleink.net.

- Literary Artists Audition – April 23, 2011, 10:00am to 2:00pm, Pasadena Central Library Auditorium
- Singer/Songwriter Audition – April 14, 2011, 5:00-8:00pm, Pasadena Central Library Auditorium
- Variety Act Audition – April 14, 2011, 7:00-10:00pm, Lineage Performing Arts Center

Judging, Rules and Finalist

Students will be judged by three professionals representing various cultural institutions in the greater Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley environs. A score of 1 to 10 will be given for the performance from each judge. Scoring will be based on originality, quality of the work, and overall performance. Singer-songwriters must bring their own accompanying instrument. Literary artists may not use any props or accompaniment. Variety acts must bring their props and music (CD format).

Six finalists will move forward in the competition. Two students (one high school and one college contestant) will be selected in each Performance Category. Finalists will compete live on the Indelible Ink stage located at POP Champagne and Dessert Bar (all age, full service restaurant) at 6:30pm on Tuesday, May 31. Students must be available at 5:00pm for sound check.

Winners and Prizes

All finalists will perform for a final judging at the Indelible Ink show on May 31, 2011, where the winners will be announced. The show will be in front of a live audience. Finalists must arrive at POP Champagne and Dessert Bar (all age, full-service restaurant) by 5:00 pm for sound check. All finalists will receive \$100 prize and gift baskets with event tickets, books and other gifts from participating organizations. The best college and high school performers will receive prizes of \$500 and \$350 respectively. An audience favorite prize of \$150 will also be awarded. Prize monies must be applied to tuition at the student's current academic institution, performing arts lessons or college fund. Checks will be presented by College Launch.

For More Information

Visit www.indelibleink.net or call Kimberly Diaz at 626.578.7267.



Cedar Rapids is hilarious, believable film

By Faith Manary

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I must admit, as pretentious as I can get about movies, I truly do have a soft spot in my heart for a ridiculous comedy. *Cedar Rapids* is just that – it's a pleasantly silly (though somewhat predictable) story of an awkward guy doing awkward things.

Our awkward guy here is named Tim Lippe (played by Ed Helms from the *Office* / *The Hangover*), and he's never ever

titate while remaining blissfully ignorant of what she's trying to sell him (the prostitute is played by the girl who plays Maebe on *Arrested Development*, in case anyone cares).

Tim then, of course, gets subsumed into a group of friends from various Midwestern states who are all old hats at insurance conventions, and they teach Lippe the ways of the "big city."

This movie is really funny, with all four of the lead actors managing to create characters that

Some of his lines are unbelievably obscene, but Ziegler is the heart of the movie. It's the classic archetype of the foul-mouthed showoff who is a total sweetheart underneath, but I've never seen it played more convincingly and honestly. Watching Ziegler mouth off to the head of the insurance convention was like watching a person I knew all too well.

The script doesn't go too far over the top, and instead keeps every interaction plausible but still extreme enough to be hilarious. In the end, this familiarity with the characters and scene makes the movie hilarious.

The message of the film, though, is a little sketchy. Tim is uptight and awkward, but when his new friends get him drunk he opens up and lets loose. That seems accurate enough, given how the real world works, but I would have liked to see a movie where Lippe doesn't need tons of alcohol to learn a lesson about "how to have a good time" or whatever.

But of course, in the end, small-town values triumph, as they always do in movies, no matter how much fun we have just had laughing at small-town ignorance for two hours.

“The script doesn't go too far over the top and instead keeps every interaction plausible but still extreme enough to be hilarious.”

left his small town. He's still in love with his grade school teacher, is still working at the same insurance firm that he got a summer job in at age 16, and he seems perfectly happy.

Then of course, he's asked to go to Cedar Rapids, Iowa for an insurance convention, and everything is new to him. He has never seen a hotel before, or a black person, and he befriends a pros-

don't only spout jokes, but also have real personalities. Sometimes it's easy for comedies to get away with one-dimensional characters, but "Cedar Rapids" makes a point not to. The result is a funnier film, with characters to which nearly everyone can relate. The real star is John C. Reilly, who is one of the funnier actors currently in the business. He plays Ziegler, the party animal of the group.

-Provided by www.imdb.com

A Jurassic OPI-Drop Day Snippet



Clockwise from left: In case partiers forgot where they were, OPI had an enormous sign at the entrance (provided by Sadaf Amouzegar); Students get down at OPI (provided by Sadaf Amouzegar); The OPI dance floor featured numerous flashing lights to enhance the experience for visitors (provided by Andrew Gong); Ruddock House spared no expenses for decoration during OPI and even had a waterfall flowing out of one of the walls (provided by Andrew Gong); At Dabney's Drop Day Interhouse party, visitors were treated to psychedelic images, such as the one below that was housed in a maze of tents (provided by Jennifer Greco); Drop Day had a serenity garden where visitors could take a few moments to get in touch with their zen and share a few peaceful moments absorbed in deep thoughts (provided by Jennifer Greco); As visitors danced at OPI they were eyed by a fierce tyrannosaurus (provided by Andrew Gong).



Caltech Y opportunities: MAD Day

Make a Difference day offers volunteering at museums, gardens, and natural animal habitats

By Yang Hu

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Volunteering, for those of us who aren't involved in service organizations, tends to be infrequent in our daily campus life. However, Make-A-Difference Day (MAD) is an annual event of community service that is open to all of the Caltech community. The event has been taking place for almost a decade and has been one of the many exciting activities organized by the Caltech Y, helping Caltech come together to volunteer in our neighborhood. From teaching kids to spending time with the elderly, distributing food to the needy or just helping out with day-to-day chores, volunteers get the opportunity to contribute to our community.

This year MAD Day is on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Anyone part of the Caltech community is encouraged to volunteer. Sign-ups begin at decompression this Saturday. A campus-wide email with more information will also be sent out at a later date, though you can also sign up directly at the Caltech Y.



Performers dance in native Mexican garb after students helped plant trees.

Participants will receive a free t-shirt for participating. Activities will end with a barbecue at

the Caltech Y from 4-6 PM. This event only happens once a year, and it's a chance for people at

Caltech to learn more about the community and even discover their passion for volunteering.

In the past, 200 people participated in 1 of 20 different projects, each ranging from 5 to 20 participants and from 3 to 6 hours in length.

Projects include planting new gardens, cleaning pet shelters, maintaining hiking trails, painting, and visiting nursing home residents. Participants can also work with environmentally conscious groups on projects in the outdoors, at the beach, and in the nearby canyons.

This year's sites include LA Arboretum, Heal the Bay, Eaton Canyon, Kids Space Museum,

Lifeline for Pets, and the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena.

Caltech undergrad, Xida Zheng worked for North East Trees, an organization that helps promote urban forestry. An account of his experience follows:

My group went to help North East Trees plant trees in a park in LA. After we saw a demo, we were off to get some tools and start digging! The ground was made of hard clay and we toiled for 45 minutes before we could put the tree, which was taller than all of us, into the ground.

After planting the tree, we went to sit on the lawn as a live band played, but the main attraction was still to come. A group of Mexican dancers came dressed in full ceremonial costumes adorned with giant feathers. The seven of them formed a ring and danced as a drummer banged on his drum.

The seven smoothly changed formation many times like a marching band. Their ankle bracelets added to the rhythm of the drums as people gathered around to watch. After the impressive performance, we had a lunch of tamales and horchata.

Sarah surviving senior year

By Sarah Marzen

COPY EDITOR EMERITUS



Do you remember senioritis? I sort of skipped senioritis in my high school senior year, in the same way that some kids manage to skip their rebellious teen years.

However, rebellious teen years are never delayed indefinitely. Similarly, four years after the end of high school, I'm taking only four courses-- and only one of these courses is something that I absolutely need to take in order to graduate. Thank goodness.

Many of my weekends now are spent far, far away from the lovely Pasadena. Instead, I travel to some random graduate school to get wine and dine and wooed. This past weekend, I visited MIT. Getting there was a bit of a hassle. The taxi that I took to make my 8 AM flight to Boston was a disaster (never again am I taking a taxi).

It showed up thirty minutes late and took the longest possible route (it seemed) to LAX (not the 110, but the 605 to the 105).

As a result, I paid 125 dollars to rush into the airport a mere 20 minutes before my flight departed.

I frantically tried to make it onto the flight for about five minutes, but then some nice customer service rep said, "Sweetie, you're not gonna make it."

Well, shoot. I paid another \$75 to switch to a flight that would land in Boston at midnight. The only good part of my morning was

when the TSA agent looked at me and said, "Man, they messed up. I thought I told them to send all the models down that line."

Graduate school visits, by the way, are far better than college visits, if you like talking about science.

However, if you're going to an interview rather than to an open house, graduate school visits can be super stressful.

I visited MIT Computational and Systems Biology's interview weekend, which has an admit rate of roughly 25%.

One of the other interviewees was Max Libbrecht, Caltech Professor Ken Libbrecht's son. As it turned out, Max knew my lab partner for Ph77, which Professor Libbrecht instructs.

Learning that, plus meeting MIT Professor Jeff Gore, was probably the highlight of my interview weekend, although being wine and dine at Legal Seafoods wasn't so bad either.

At this point, I'll abandon my active procrastination to finish up my very last Caltech math set. Even with senioritis, the work doesn't seem to stop.

A little advice to live by... Helping Techers, one by one

By Supriya Iyer, Nerissa Hoglen, and Vivian Zhang

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

So, at the interhoveses, I often find myself standing in dark corners by myself watching everyone around me mingling and having a good time. How can I get someone to dance with me?

- Awkward Allen

Dear Awkward Allen,

Wait until the party is crowded enough, then press your crotch against someone's butt. Once there are enough people on the dance floor, the butt concentration (buttcentration) and crotch density are high enough that no one will object. After a couple of songs, you can have your dance partner turn around and press your crotch against his/hers. If your partner doesn't like your face and stops dancing with you, you can just turn slightly to find a new butt for your crotch. You should probably make some attempt to move rhythmically so it doesn't look like you're just standing there crotch-to-crotch, making him/her do all the work: after all, foreplay is a two-person game.

Fortune Cookie

How do I deal with a drunk guy who keeps following me around on the dance floor? He makes me really nervous because he doesn't seem to have any control over his

behavior, and he's not even that nice.

- Paranoid Patty

Dear Patty,

In general, it's a good idea to go to a party with friends you trust, so you can watch out for each other. You should tell them about your concerns.

If need be, they can help you remove yourself from any dangerous situations. Even if he's just being obnoxious but basically harmless, your friends can provide a good excuse to get away from him.

You should also be prepared to tell him that you would rather he did not follow you around (since it is ultimately not your friends' responsibility to solve your problems).

It's possible he just doesn't know how uncomfortable he makes you. Tell him clearly (but try not to be mean!) that you would rather dance with other people, and he should try other options where he might have more success.

If he still doesn't listen and it seems like the problem is escalating, tell the security at the party. If there isn't any, you should leave. You will always have more opportunities to dance, and your safety is incalculably more important.

Your Big Sister

What type of clothes impress the ladies the most at a party? I

find that my face is often unable to be seen amidst all the bright lights, so I need to rely on cutting-edge fashion in order to woo the woman of my dreams.

- Sexy Samuel

Dear Sexy,

You have two options:

One is to wear a t-shirt with athletic shorts.

There is nothing a girl loves more than a guy who is ostensibly sweaty because he is pretending to have just worked out, while in reality it is obvious he has never been near a gym (nor taken a shower, though that's a different issue) since he hit puberty.

Nothing screams "desirable mate" like someone who doesn't care enough to put on real clothes before going to a party.

Your other option is to wear an unnecessarily elaborate, irrelevant get-up. You will be the life of the party with your hilariously incorrect interpretation of some aspect of the theme.

The party is based on a movie about fighting Greek gods? Well, your kilt and codpiece will be perfect, because Scottish highlanders are warriors, too!

Party on a boat? Wear your Big Bird suit. No one will be able to tell the difference between that and a seagull.

As long as you're dressed up, it doesn't really matter: after all, any party with a theme besides "get wasted" is also obviously a costume party.

Madame Olga

Caltech women and men's tennis teams lose



Two Caltech players wildly celebrate being able to play tennis outside of Pasadena.

- Provided by Caroline Yu

By Caroline Yu
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Caltech has never been known for athletic prowess, but this year has yielded some unexpectedly good records. Like the men's basketball team, the women's tennis team is achieving exceptional results this year. The record currently is 4-3, with sound victories against Masters College, Hope International, Mills College and Notre Dame de Namur University. On Saturday, the Caltech women's tennis team put up a

worthy fight against Redlands, losing 1-8. Freshman Rebekah Kitto rallied to a decisive victory in number one singles. Overall, Kitto has a stellar 5-1 singles record. Redlands is ranked 29th by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), making this an extremely challenging match for the girls, who all rose to the occasion. This was the Beaver's first conference match.

Coach Mandy Gamble commented that, "This is the most vibrant time in the history of Caltech Athletics and for women's tennis

to be part of the winning trend is satisfying."

Support the Beavers when they return to the courts March 19 to take on Pacific University.

The Caltech men's tennis team (0-5, 0-2) also lost this week, failing to defeat Biola University, 7-2.

Devashish Joshi and Luka Mernik (one doubles) and Alex Runkel (six singles) posted the only Caltech wins of the match. The Beavers return to action on March 19th when they play Sewanee.

This week in sports quotes

A lot happened this week in Caltech sports, and I think each event can be best summarized in an all new "This week in sports quotes." Also, I'm as lazy as a panda during breeding season.

"Paige Logan broke the school shot put record."

"The girl's or guy's?"

"I don't know, they were probably the same"

-Two Techers talking about the track meet

"Laura Decker's going back to the NCAA championships."

"How did it happen?"

"Same thing as last year. You should write an article."

-I'm not going to lie, this happened at The Tech

"I forgot how boring baseball was. It's not like basketball."

-A Caltech basketball player at a Caltech baseball game

"Alex Lapidis is a prime example of manhood."

-Sports Editor of a major newspaper talking about the track meet.

(see photo for proof)



Upcoming Events

March 8, 2011

Women's Water Polo
vs. St. Francis College
5:00 PM

March 10, 2011

Women's Water Polo
vs. Chatham
7:00 PM

March 11, 2011

Track & Field
at Occidental Distance Carnival
6:00 p.m.

Women's Water Polo
vs. Chatham @ Claremont Convergence
Tournament
10:00 AM

Women's Water Polo
vs. Vanguard @ Claremont Convergence
Tournament
3:20 PM

March 12, 2011

Men's Tennis
vs. Sewanee
9:00 AM

Women's Water Polo
vs. Wheaton @ Claremont Convergence
Tournament
9:00 AM

Baseball
vs. Alumni (Conference win?)
2:00 PM

Women's Water Polo
vs. Macalester @ Claremont Convergence
Tournament
2:20 PM

Weekly Scoreboard

March 5, 2011

Baseball
double header at Whittier
L, 12-0 Final - 7 innings
L, 12-2 Final - 7 innings

Men's Tennis
at Biola
L, 7-2 Final

Women's Tennis
vs. Redlands
L, 8-1 Final

February 28, 2011

Baseball
double header vs Occidental
L, 13-8
L, 3-1

California Institute of Technology
© Street Characters 2008



Techers fight for strawberry donuts despite slippery conditions

A fabricated article that's actually not too far from the truth

By Mary Nguyen
NOT A STAFF WRITER

LLOYD - Due to drizzle, Caltech students waited on the Olive Walk in their soaked shoes for last Wednesday night's Midnight Donuts.

"The trench foot was horrendous," said one student, airing out his wrinkled feet, "but it was worth it."

Once a term, ASCIT delivers The Donut Man's eponymous pastry at precisely midnight to undergraduate students on the Olive Walk.

However, most undergraduates prefer one kind over all others, fruit-filled strawberry donuts. ASCIT only gives these Glendora donuts during winter and spring terms, when strawberries are in

season. As a result, in addition to being fresh and delicious, on campus, they are rarer than gold.

The only other way to get one otherwise is to drive or take a long trip on the Metro.

Realizing the value students placed on the glazed snack, ASCIT chose to continue handing them out despite the copious amount of rain.

Because of poor draining on the Olive Walk, students had to stand in the river separating the North from the South Houses to invoke their right to free donuts. Under dri-

er circumstances, students push each other to reach the boxes of fried dough. However, because of the wetter circumstances they slid past each other.

successful. "If I can get a strawberry donut, I will gladly get hit by those wooden boards," said one ecstatic student, gobbling up his fresh red berries.

After his statement, he hobbled toward the whole milk provided on the sheltered RF walkway.

Others used old ME72 robots to sneak to the car protecting the donuts.

If a machine was lucky enough to remain undamaged,

it transported many boxes back to its creators, who hoped at least one would have the six prized strawberry donuts. Most chose simply to slide and punch other

undergraduates out of the way. "It was so hard walking on the Olive Walk," said a drenched, black-eyed Techer. "The ground was so slimy from all the water and olives smashed into it. I fell at least four times."

She continued, "I got a strawberry donut though! It was so good!"

After she finished her last bite, hives started forming on her face. She noticed the concern of other people in Lloyd's lounge and scratched her throat.

The Techer calmly but hoarsely commented, "I don't know why people always give me that look right after I eat a donut."

Mary Nguyen wrote her report and then stabbed a Lloydie with an epi pen.

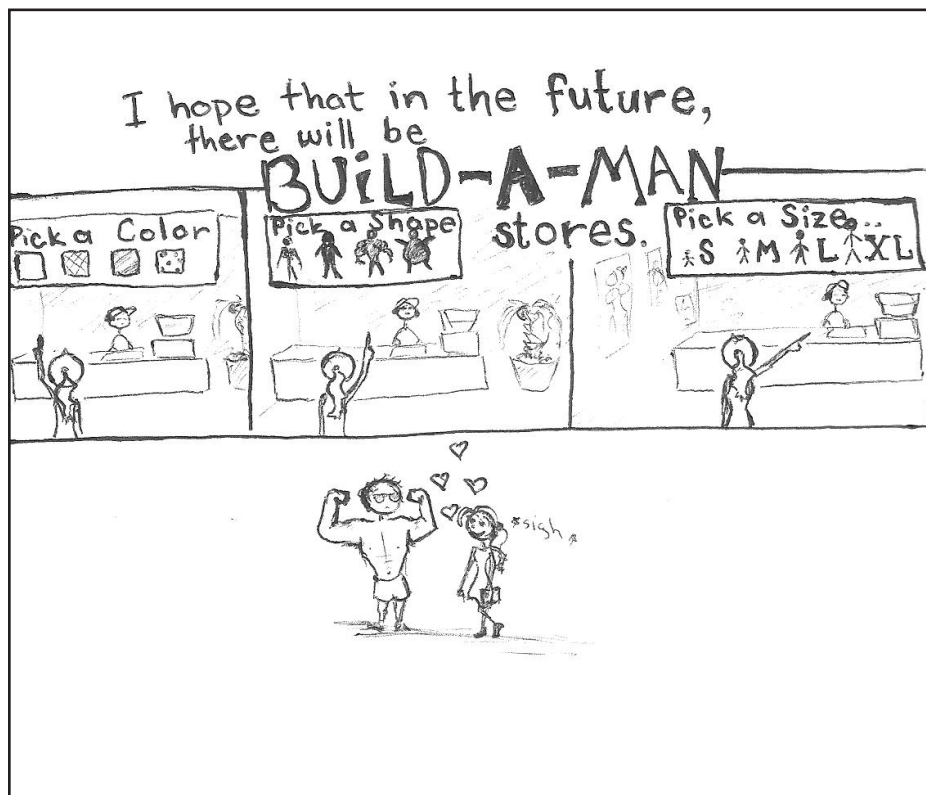
“
The trench foot was horrendous...but it was worth it
- Anonymous student
”

MAFIA WARZ

BY DAVID GINOLA



By Alexandra Souverneva



The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125