



Junior Brice Nzeukou attempts to fend off a Cal Lutheran player during the two teams' anticipated rematch on October 15. Caltech defeated Cal Lutheran early in the season, but was unable to do so on Saturday. Continued on page 7.

-gocaltech.com

## UASH discusses changing academic honors

**SANDHYA CHANDRASEKARAN AND BRYAN JADOT**  
News Editor  
Contributing Writer

Currently at Caltech, the "graduation with honor" title is automatically awarded to all students who earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher; students who do not have a 3.5 GPA may be recommended

to the UASH Committee by a faculty member, division or option to receive honors based on exceptional creativity. However, the Undergraduate Academic Standards and Honors Committee, or UASH, has recently raised concerns regarding the number of undergraduate students who earn this distinction.

According to Mary Neary Morley, the registrar, "The concern raised by the UASH Committee was not only the total number of students awarded honors but also the apparent steady

climb in the percentage receiving honors." Out of the 235 students that graduated with a BS degree in 2011, 63% - 148 - received honors with the current cutoff of a 3.5 GPA or recommendation by UASH. The graph below shows this rise in number over the years (it must be noted that prior to 1981-82, the criteria for graduating with honor was a 3.2 overall GPA and was subsequently changed to the currently used standard).

The large percentage of students who are graduating with honors suggests that the honors system may be becoming meaningless. There are many ideas currently

being discussed regarding the best possible ways to adjust it. So far, the following ideas have been suggested:

**1. Doing away with honors completely:** There are several advantages to this. It has been suggested that just because someone has a high GPA does not mean that they are more academically worthy or intelligent, since there is a wide variation in difficulty between majors and classes; simply graduating from Caltech should be enough of an honor. Students who did not receive the title at this institution would probably get

honors at many other institutions, so the whole system is flawed.

**2. Implementing a tiered honors system:** For example, people with a GPA greater than 3.5 would get honors, a person with a GPA higher than 3.8 would get high honors and a person with a GPA higher than 4.0 would get highest honors. This has the advantage of rewarding academic prowess and eliminates the problem of a "cheapened" honors system, since the most elite will be singled out.

Continued on page 3

### In this issue

**NEWS**  
Caltech nabs 12.6 million dollar grant from NSF **3**

**OPINION**  
Caltech Couture demystifies manners **4**

**FEATURE**  
Movie stars Raj Kattini and Alex Lockwood sit down to chat **5**

**SPORTS**  
Midnight Madness' second year has good turnout **7**

## News briefs from around the globe

*Helping readers to burst out of the Caltech bubble*

**Need to know** < **100** words about the world this week - topics sorted from good to bad

by Sam Barnett - links to full stories available at [barnett.caltech.edu/news](http://barnett.caltech.edu/news)

- Retail spending rises** ↑ **1.1%** in September - Americans buying more cars, furniture, clothes [AP]
- Strong Google earnings** ↑ **26%** in third quarter - more advertising profits - hired 2,585 people [WSJ]
- KMI's natural gas deal** \$ **21 billion** to buy El Paso Corp. - will have 67,000 miles of pipeline [WSJ]
- Amazon is publishing** **122** books will be published by the online bookstore this fall [NY TIMES]
- Global protests intensify** **135** people injured in Rome - banks and a church were set on fire [BBC]
- Radiation around Tokyo** **20** sites with alarming levels - 160 miles (far) from nuclear plant [NY TIMES]
- More fighting in Yemen** > **10,000** protesters - government forces using machine guns, rockets [ABC]

## Food with Mannion!

*Do you like eating food?*

*How about free food at nice restaurants?*

*Ever want to tell the world exactly what you think of said food?*

*The Tech will be beginning a new column to chronicle the foodie experiences of new writers every other week... The Catch: They'll be going head-to-head with Tom Mannion who will be reviewing the same restaurant. If you have ever thought you were more of a gourmand than our resident master chef, now's your chance to prove it!*

*Email us for a spot on the list at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)*

## Upcoming Events from the Caltech Y:

1. The Caltech-Y Social Activism Speaker Series presents:

Advocacy for Refugees - A talk with Shukry Cattan  
Tuesday October 18th, 7:00pm in Beckman Institute Auditorium

\*\* Reception with the speaker after the event \*\*

2. Caltech Y Washington DC Science And Policy Trip - December 12 to 15 - Applications Due Friday by Noon (Space is Limited) Cost is only \$400 (with round trip flight to DC and back to LA) or \$300 (with one way flight to DC).

Applications are available at [www.caltechY.org](http://www.caltechY.org) now!

3. Chancellor's Place Volunteering with Music and Board Games like Scrabble:

Volunteer opportunities are on Saturdays, the next one on Oct. 22 from 1-3pm and will continue throughout the year on a weekly basis, interest permitting.

### The California Tech

Caltech 40-58, Pasadena, CA 91125  
advertising e-mail: [business@caltech.edu](mailto:business@caltech.edu)  
editorial e-mail: [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)

*Editors-in-Chief*  
Jonathan Schor  
Stanford Schor

*News Editor*  
Sandhya Chandrasekaran

*Sports Editor*  
Amol Kamat

*Business Manager*  
Michael Lauria

*Staff*  
Sam Barnett  
Brandon Comella  
Kelly Douglas  
Casey Handmer  
Nerissa Hoglen  
Jonathan Ikpeazu  
Ishan Khetarpal  
Rebecca Lawler  
Jomya Lei  
Suna Li  
Brian Merlob  
Mary Nguyen  
Neha Samdaria  
Eugene Vinitsky  
Elisa Walsh  
Vivian Yang  
Caroline Yu  
Chris Zheng  
Yang Hu

*Circulation Manager*  
Kyle Martin

*Advisor*  
Richard Kipling

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](mailto: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 under special circumstances. 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](mailto:business@caltech.edu). For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

## Write articles for the Tech

**get paid up to \$30**

## Feynman teaching award nominations

**NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE PROFESSOR FOR THE FEYNMAN TEACHING PRIZE!!!**

*Here's your chance to nominate your favorite professor for the 2011-12 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching! You have from now until January 2, 2012 to submit your nomination package to the Provost's Office to honor a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching.*

*The Feynman Prize is made possible through the generosity of Ione and Robert E. Paradise, with additional contributions from an anonymous local couple. Nominations for the Feynman Teaching Prize are welcome from faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and alumni.*

*All professorial faculty of the Institute are eligible. The prize consists of a cash award of \$3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual salary of the awardee. A letter of nomination and detailed supporting material, including, but not limited to, a curriculum vitae, course syllabus or description, and supporting recommendation letters*

*should be directed to the Feynman Prize Selection Committee, Office of the Provost, Mail Code 206-31, at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 91125. Nomination packages are due by January 2, 2012.*

*Additional information including guidelines for the prize and FAQ may be found at <http://provost.caltech.edu/FeynmanTeachingPrize>. Further information can also be obtained from Karen Kerbs (626-395-6039; [kkerbs@caltech.edu](mailto:kkerbs@caltech.edu)) or Stacey Scoville (626-395-6320; [staceys@caltech.edu](mailto:staceys@caltech.edu)) in the Provost's Office.*

## Graduating with honors is under review

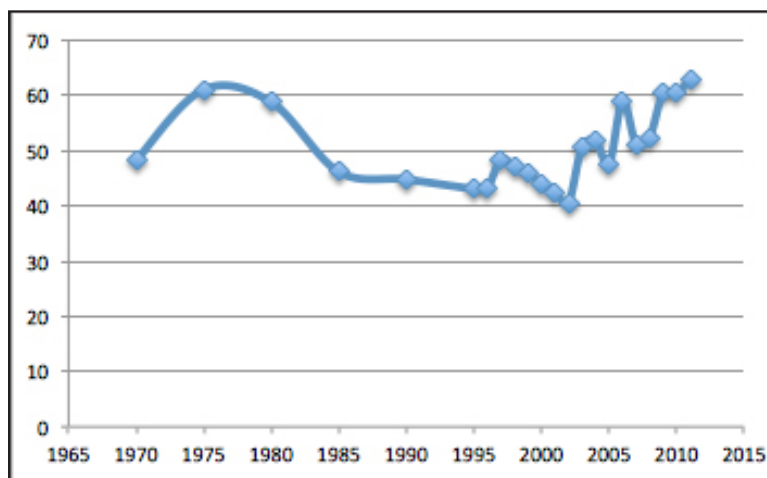
Continued from page 1

Alternatively, we could implement a tiered system based on percentages instead of absolute GPAs.

Morley provides a breakdown based on the Class of 2011 statistics, "If we chose a model of the top 5% receiving Highest Honors; next 10% receiving High Honors; and next 15% receiving Honors we would award honors to a total 83 students.

- Highest Honors 5% = 12 students with a GPA from 4.05 – 4.26
- High Honors 10% = 24 students with a GPA from 4.00-4.03
- High Honors 20% = 47 students with a GPA from 3.93 – 4.03"

**3. Setting the GPA bar higher:** Raising the GPA criteria



The above graph shows the percentage of graduates "graduating with honors" in the past.

-Sandhya Chandrasekaran

to a 3.7 rather than the current 3.5 requirement will serve the purpose of simply reducing the number of students who receive honors. This would make the title more exclusive and meaningful, and would mirror the change that

occurred in the 1980s to raise the fixed GPA standard for honors.

Morley writes, "If we chose a model of the top 30% of students receiving honors we would award 70 students total with GPAs from 3.80 – 4.26".

A model of the top 40% of students receiving honors would target a GPA range of 3.7 to 4.26.

**4. Turning honors over to the options:** In order to account for inherent differences in the difficulty of course load and coursework among majors, departments should come up with unique methods for gauging student academic excellence and research prowess.

**5. Leaving the system as it currently is:** There is no dire need to change the current system requirements, and a GPA of 3.5 should be sufficient to qualify for this title.

Morley continues, "A study of the graduation practices of some of our peer institutions was

undertaken over the summer to provide additional information to the UASH Committee... In

summary, Harvard and Yale award Latin honors with pre-defined percentage cutoffs;

Princeton awards three levels of honors with no maximum percentage; Berkeley awards three levels of honors with fixed percentages; Harvey Mudd has two levels of honors; Chicago is most similar to us having one honors designation and using a straight GPA cutoff; and Stanford awards one level of honors to the top 15% of the class." Surprisingly, MIT, an engineering institution with academic standards and expectations that most nearly mirror our own, awards no honors at graduation.

A survey will be sent out soon to gauge student opinion on the matter.

The UASH is very interested in student perspectives on these ideas to come up with a solution best suited to undergraduate needs.

## News update from Caltech Today

### Caltech given 12.6 million dollars to make Physics Frontiers Center

**KIMM FESENMAIER**  
Caltech Science Writer

The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) has been awarded \$12.6 million in funding over the next five years by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to create a new Physics Frontiers Center. Dubbed the Institute for Quantum Information and Matter

(IQIM). With the support of the NSF and the Moore Foundation, the new Physics Frontiers Center, CEQS, and IQI will be merged into a single entity—the Institute for Quantum Information and Matter.

"The unrestricted funds provided by the Moore Foundation had a dramatic effect on the decision to fund this Physics Frontiers Center," says Caltech

where they exist in the universe. Such quantum entanglement can endow a system with astonishing properties.

The IQIM will bring together Caltech's established theoretical programs and analytic tools for studying the quantum realm with emerging laboratory capabilities that will allow scientists to delve deeper into quantum entanglement and the unimagined behaviors it may yield.

The research is aimed at making advances in basic physics, as well as helping to provide scientific foundations for designing materials with remarkable properties; additionally, this work may eventually help point the way to a quantum computer capable of solving problems that today's digital computers could never handle.

"My colleagues and I believe that an exciting frontier of 21st-century science is the exploration of the surprising phenomena that can arise in highly entangled quantum

systems," says H. Jeff Kimble, the William L. Valentine Professor and professor of physics at Caltech, who will direct the IQIM.

"The IQIM will provide a sustaining base for our efforts to discover new principles and phenomena at this entanglement frontier."

In addition to Kimble, the Institute for Quantum Information and Matter will be led by three codirectors: Jim Eisenstein, the current director of CEQS and the Frank J. Roshek Professor of Physics and Applied Physics; Oskar Painter, professor of applied physics and executive officer for applied physics and materials science; and John Preskill, the current director of the IQI and the Richard P. Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics. Studies of quantum entanglement and its applications are necessarily multidisciplinary in nature. Therefore, the 16 Caltech faculty members who will make up the core of the new center are drawn from such disciplines

as physics, applied physics, and computer science. The newly renovated historic Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics and the IQI's home base in the Annenberg Center for Information Science and Technology will serve as two central hubs for IQIM faculty on campus.

"When you bring innovative scientists and engineers together and provide them with the facilities and collaborative spaces they need, magic happens. The magic involves transforming the way we think about and impact our world," says Ares Rosakis, chair of the Division of Engineering and Applied Science (EAS) at Caltech.

"I am delighted that an initial collaboration beginning in 2000 between the Division of Engineering and Applied Science (EAS) and the Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy (PMA)—the Institute of Quantum Information (IQI)—planted the seeds for this new NSF institute at Caltech."

today.caltech.edu

“

The IQIM will provide a sustaining base for our efforts to discover new...phenomena at this entanglement frontier.

- Professor H. Jeff Kimble

”

(IQIM), the center will bring physicists and computer scientists together to push theoretical and experimental boundaries in the study of exotic quantum states.

Every three years, the NSF selects new Physics Frontier Centers for funding based on their potential for transformational advances in the most promising research areas at the intellectual frontiers of physics.

Caltech's IQIM was chosen for funding from more than 50 proposals this year.

The NSF's decision to fund the IQIM leverages the groundwork done by the Center for Exotic Quantum Systems (CEQS), a program funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, as well as an earlier NSF-sponsored Institute for Quantum Information

president Jean-Lou Chameau. "That discretionary funding allowed the provost to provide seed money to what might otherwise have been considered a somewhat risky, unconventional field of study. Now, it is one of our most exciting and rapidly growing research initiatives."

Fundamental particles at the atomic level behave according to the laws of quantum physics, which in many respects defy common sense. At this level, individual particles of a composite system can become strongly correlated, or entangled, in such a way that they maintain their relation to one another no matter



## Caltech Couture: One student's take on fashion

**ALEX LANGERFELD**  
Staff Writer

Today I'll be delving into a little more than fashion. I'd like to add one more book to the long and heavy list of required readings that most of us already have. This one book, however, will be well worth the investment. Applying what one has learned from this one book can accelerate one through life faster than 10 terse books on transport mechanisms. This book is "Emily Post's Etiquette" by Peggy Post (I have the 17th edition). This is the Joy of Cooking for modern etiquette.

I'll start off with a bit about roommate situations and then I'll expand to more general interactions on campus.

For those of you who have roommates, there is one very useful page in this Bible. It is page 119 in Chapter 10. This page lays out some ground rules for living happily with roommates.

The book emphasizes the respect of your roommate's private belongings. Don't borrow things without asking and when you do borrow, return the object promptly and in good condition. Do not be late to settle expenses with your roommate. This can be a sensitive topic to talk about and may cause much silent awkwardness. Be clean! Clean your area and keep common areas neat. Also, warn your roommate ahead of time if you are having people over.

You might have an unexpected visit and you know your roommate would not like to be part of the scene. Establish a warning system ahead of time to let your roommate know.

Be aware of your door and windows. Close them when needed. Also check your volume. If you're playing music, check with

those near you if they don't mind it. Have a headset handy. If your room is loud, be courteous to your

This leads me to public courtesy. Caltech is fairly good in this respect but there is still considerable

be more old-fashioned. However, giving up your seat to someone who may need it more than you

here. We also all have school going on at the same time. Being sick on campus sucks a lot.

If you're pretty sick, stay in and don't get others sick. Perhaps visit the health center. Let someone know about your situation, and don't forget about your parents. They care.

If you know that someone is sick, chances are they are having a hard time. Check on them. This should not even be a question. You don't even have to show up in person. Very sick people might not want to be seen. Send them a message with your regards, offer help, give them a cookie or a get-well card. The favor will be returned. Not showing care for a sick friend only says so much about you.

I know that many people were sick last week, including myself. On top of illness, last week was piled high with work for many of us. I cannot say how heartwarming it was to have friends take the time to visit from both on and off campus several times.

Besides visits, it was also so nice to receive get-well messages and encouragement. Thank you to all of you!

Now as a sick person, the world just looks too gloomy and you may start thinking nasty thoughts. Recognize that you're sick and keep them to yourself until you get better (a similar thing happens when you're low on sleep or overworked). Avoid confrontations until you're better.

By then the situation may turn out not to be so bad after all. Try not to be too heavy a burden on others and don't judge them harshly although I know that this is extremely hard. Difficult times prove true friends.

Note: If you want to take a class on Etiquette, keep an eye out for Manners 101. It is offered once per Term at Caltech and it is geared specifically at Techers and situations that we are likely to end up in. Plus, the dinner you get during the class is very good!



Freshman Ann Wang illustrates the power of a simple outfit and color accents.

- Fred Zhao

neighbors. Also keep in mind that sound travels surprisingly well through open windows.

I've observed that Techers are quite respectful in terms of phone calls. When one has a long call

work to be done. I'd recommend Chapter 3: When Out and About. Holding doors for people should be second nature. And guys, there is nothing embarrassing about it. In fact, I'd say it's embarrassing if

should never go out of style. This is a manifestation of respect. I am happy to have observed this in over-filled lecture halls!

Dress appropriately. PJ's, really? So if you do have to walk down the hall in your pajamas, at least make sure that they are decent enough to be seen by others. But please don't wear them around campus! High school pajama days are over. If it helps, imagine running into a Nobel laureate, which fortunately may easily happen here!

Recognize people when you see them. Say hi, wave, something. If you have beef with them then there are better ways of facing this than pretending not to see them. You only make yourself look worse.

This last point is very specific to Caltech. Many of us have caught the nasty Frosh Plague. We all know about it and we all know when it's

“...I'd say it's embarrassing if you don't hold the door for a girl, or even worse, if you make it so that she's holding the door for you!”

to make, they often go outside or to a hidden area where their conversation will not become a public announcement to the rest of the school.

you don't hold the door for a girl or even worse, if you make it so that she's holding the door for you! Same goes for pulling out chairs, although I'll admit that this may

## Things to check out in the coming week:

~ October 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16	17	18 - Wiz Khalifa @ Home Depot Center - Caltech Y Talk: Shukry Cattan	19 - Jay-Z & Kanye West @ Staples Center	20 - Jay-Z & Kanye West @ Staples Center - Chris Brown @ Staples Center	21 - Benefit performance by Lineage Performing Arts Center in Old Pasadena	22 - Robyn, Royksopp @ Hollywood Bowl - Caltech Y volunteering

### Featured Event: *Watch the Throne*

Kanye West and Jay-Z team up as the rap duo The Throne and drop some of the songs of their their new albumn, Watch the Throne. These include the Billboard-successful singles H.A.M. and Otis The tour started on September 22nd in Detroit, Michigan and will come to a close on November 3rd in Boston, Massachussetts.

# Interviews with the stars of PhD Movie

**CHRIS ZHENG**  
Contributing Writer

**Chris Zheng:** I have read the comics, and I can relate [to them] as I have done the lab classes and SURFs where nothing ever works. So, what is the movie about?

**Raj Katti:** There are actually two storylines. It starts with the Nameless Grad Student interviewing with the professor and trying to get into his extremely selective lab, and he somehow gets in. He gets the ubiquitous project where it doesn't work, and it's boring and he doesn't want to do it. He eventually has to make a decision about what he wants out of grad school and life. He meets Cecilia who has gone through the beginning of that, and is an older grad student. Both of them, at the same time are experiencing the same conflict.

**C:** The characters in the movie look a lot like the comic characters.

**R:** That's what he was shooting for. I tell people the reason I got this part was because I look like Jorge, a little bit.

**C:** What was the timeline of filming this movie?

**R:** We started around the end of the second quarter, and I had just finished up the Three Musketeers.

It was the week after, and we did it for three months, mostly weekends. I had to be there every Saturday. Alex Lockwood would have the Sundays. It was an incredibly large time commitment.

**C:** How did you like the process?

**R:** Filming is very different from stage, and I had only acted on stage before with the Caltech plays. In filming, you shoot the scene, and then you shoot the scene, and you shoot the scene again, 2 or 3 times with all these different camera shots. For me it was hard to know what my performance would actually look like. In editing, they



choose how you act, and when I first saw the completed movie I was truly seeing it for the first time. There were so many takes, and I'm glad it turned out the way it did.

**C:** It must be a great alternative to research. What was it like with your fellow actors?

**R:** Well, I had zero scenes with Crystal Dilworth, and one scene

with Alex. I did spend a lot of time with Evans Boney, who plays Mike Slakenerny. Evans is just a crazy guy, much like Mike. Mike is a slacker, but Evans is just a crazy man. I went to party with him, and he was trying to convince us that DNA was not the reason why life replicated. Of course, we knew he was just bs-ing, but he has all these wild ideas. He started his own tutoring company with a lot of other Caltech graduate students, called H-bar. He is currently trying to do some movie and television projects. He's got a million things going on, and he's a very engaging person to talk to and work with.

**C:** How did your acting classes go this summer?

**R:** They went pretty well. I went for most of the summer, and I got to meet people who were real actors, as opposed to just students, which was really cool. It also makes me really glad I don't have to count upon acting for food.

**C:** What did you take away from that experience?

**R:** Acting is tough business. Even the physical act of getting to the place was harsh...[It] was an hour-and-a-half away by Metro.

**C:** Wow, and we complain about going over to Bridge to turn in sets. Well, thank you very much for your time.

**R:** Thank you for talking with me.

**Chris Zheng:** How did you get into this set?

**Alex Lockwood:** They had auditions last November. It was basically Jorge sitting behind a camera and seeing how people acted and looked. I wasn't initially shooting for a lead role, but I thought it would be a great chance to meet Jorge and be a part of the PHD comics. I didn't quite have the time...[but] when he offered me the role...I couldn't turn it down.

**C:** What would be the worst part of filming?

**A:** Honestly, the only time I got frustrated, was when it got disorganized. It got bad when I was waiting for someone to show up, or a prop to arrive, someone to make a decision - when the director of photography would spend an hour talking to the director for like an hour for a shot. There wasn't much downtime, but when there was, I didn't have anything to do but wait.

**C:** What would you say would be the most enjoyable part of filming?

**A:** Coming out of the full movie experience, I would say I'm grateful for two different things. One, I'm grateful for a snapshot of myself at 25 to show my future kids.

The other part would be the people that I met. Crystal, Raj, Vahe the director, and Jorge are awesome, awesome people, and a lot of fun.

**C:** Do you have any stories?

**A:** Well, I made up the hash table dance myself on the spot. It was like "insert dance here," and I think they were joking, but there is a scene where I did a hash table dance. I am in this silly get-up, and



I'm showing this to my roommate Tajel (Crystal Dilworth). We had so much fun that night. Crystal could not believe how silly I was being. The look on her face of sheer shock and almost being ashamed for me was completely hilarious. I had a lot of fun on set. I think a lot of time I'm filmed doing stupid stuff on set, so I'm really interested in how the DVD will turn out as it'll include a lot of extra stuff and bloopers. I feel like I'm going to be an idiot.

**C:** Any other thoughts?

**A:** I think people are really getting into it at Caltech. President Chameau stopped me the other day and congratulated me.

I think it's gonna get Caltech a lot of positive coverage.

## Club offers venue for debates on religion *Atheists, Agnostics, Skeptics, and Questioning holds first meeting*

**CASEY HANDMER**  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, October 11 at 8PM, when most of the Tech's regular readers were just waking up, a small but vibrant bunch of students converged on CSS for the first meeting of AASQ (Atheists, Agnostics, Skeptics, and Questioning) - Caltech's long awaited religious skeptics society. While some may question the necessity or even function of such a society on a campus as secular and science-oriented as Caltech's, a variety of students felt the time had come to address a number of needs within the Caltech student body.

The first, of course, was the existence of many parallel clubs and societies in other universities, currently undergoing a renaissance of sorts following the (re-)emergence of the 'New Atheists', possibly in response to a perception of increasing religious fundamentalism within, inter alia, national politics.

To that end, it is also useful to provide a forum for the students who, still forming their adult identities, desire a controlled and safe environment in which to question and examine 'received' wisdom in every area of life, including the acknowledgement of a spiritual life often more diverse than that provided in the home environment.

Before we could get to a detailed discussion of matters such as these, however, it was necessary to provide a base and framework for society operation. After all, the very last thing we desired was the perception that we, or anyone, was out to 'get' religion, to embarrass, provoke, harass, or otherwise spoil for conflict.

To that end the de-facto president and friendly Ruddock RA Dustin Summy had brought a sheet with guidelines to rational debating and productive discussion (<http://atheismresource.com/wp-content/uploads/Debate-Flow-Chart1.jpg>). It is commonly recognised that so

many 'discussions' often become overly passionate, and even devolve into shouting matches. This is antithetical and counterproductive to our stated aim of promoting understanding and knowledge. Nevertheless, it's important to discuss and agree upon just what constitutes the difference between lecturing and discussing, how to "avoid being a dick...", and how it is possible to achieve an 'instant loss' in any argument. 'Instant loss' of course provides an easy way to concede defeat in any argument or discussion, so the "glory of being wrong" works both ways. At the meeting we agreed that, for instance, personal attacks were not on. More subtle still, we discussed how arguments were to be supported by evidence, weighed, and ultimately discarded if shown to be faulty.

The nice thing about this approach is that it promotes parity and balance in any discussion, since all these rules work both ways. An immediate project to work on was

a webpage with a list of 'known bad arguments for atheism', to assist in the prevention of fallacious arguments on the heathen side.

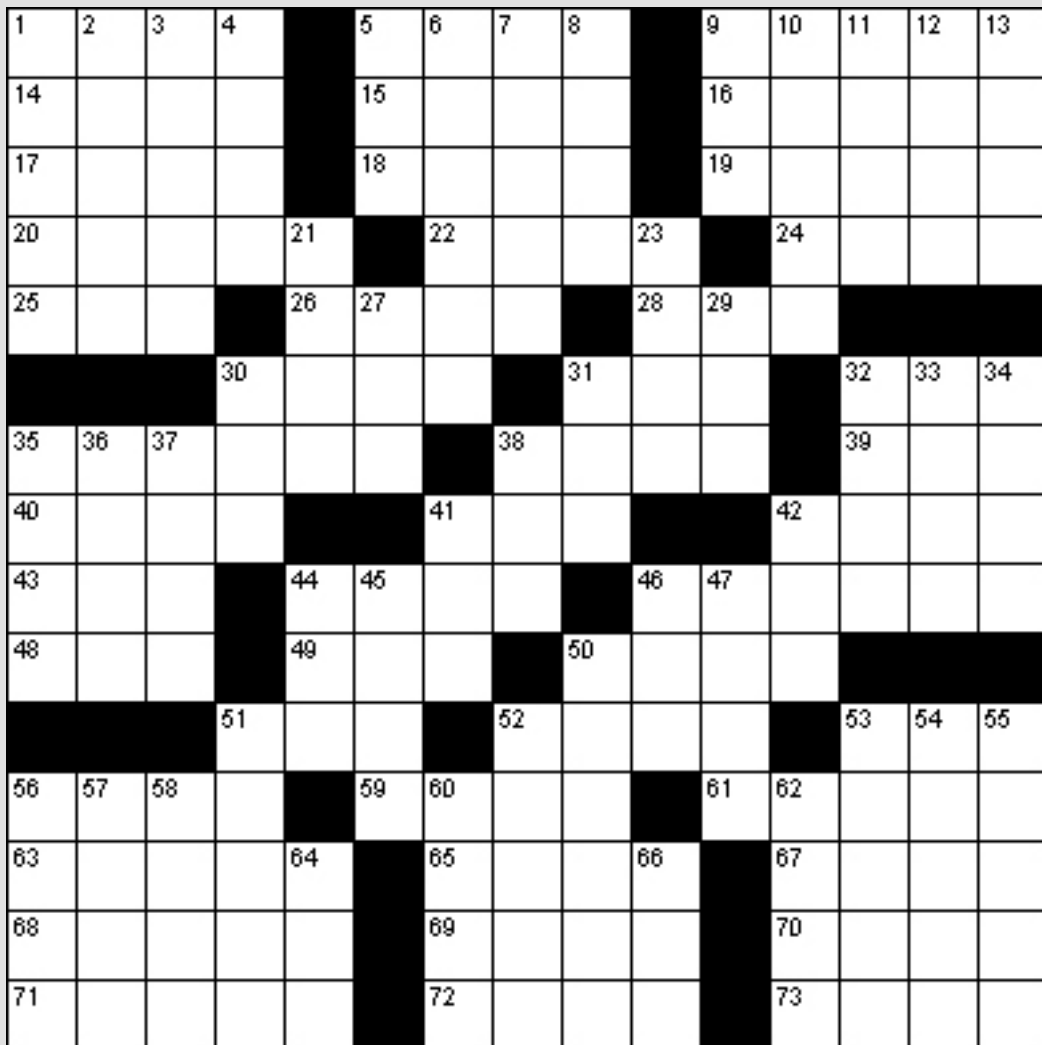
The second major item on the agenda was, again, mostly self-evaluative. Before entering any cross-cultural forum or discussion, it's absolutely imperative to know where you stand, and of any possible inconsistencies in your arguments. One proxy of this is a short interactive quiz published by "The Philosophers' Magazine" (<http://www.philosophersnet.com/games/god.php>) which poses a series of harmless looking questions with very subtle contradictions. It's almost impossible to put up a logically consistent, special-pleading free set of answers to any of these questions, and we all had a good laugh at the inherent inconsistencies within our answers, despite the wide range of spiritual views and backgrounds present at the meeting. One of the most interesting discussions we had, between chomps of cookies and

sipping of cool Coca Cola, was about the relative likelihood of various deistic hypotheses, including the null one. One participant suggested that the "we don't know, therefore 50/50" was probably not quite right, since no one present thought of god (in any sense) as having a long white beard. Obviously there is no single correct answer, but homing in on questions like this provides an excellent way to articulate and refine ones personal beliefs, as well as assist others in gaining an understanding of theirs.

Ultimately, we suggested that AASQ should fulfill roles as a social club, a venue for conversations, questions, and guest lectures, and a forum of rational discourse. We invite all interested people (regardless of religious/spiritual affiliation) to join our mailing list and come to events and meetings as the club develops and matures.

For more information, please contact AASQ president Dustin Summy by e-mailing him at [dsummy@caltech.edu](mailto:dsummy@caltech.edu).

## Today's Puzzle: Crossword



**Across**

- 1. Trail
- 5. Elimination contest
- 9. Heron
- 14. Succulent plant
- 15. Small island
- 16. Fragrance
- 17. Musical symbol
- 18. Rotate
- 19. Large ungulate
- 20. Carapace
- 22. Pace
- 24. Blocking vote
- 25. Edible tuber
- 26. Wading bird
- 28. Ironic
- 30. Footwear
- 31. In the past
- 32. Diffident
- 35. Evaluation
- 38. Edible fat
- 39. Snooker accessory
- 40. Division of quantity
- 41. Moose
- 42. Formal dance
- 43. Guided
- 44. Nimble
- 46. Helix
- 48. Female sheep
- 49. Leguminous plant
- 50. Part of a deck
- 51. Cereal grass seed
- 52. Part of the neck
- 53. Part of a circle

**Down**

- 56. Apex
- 59. True
- 61. Songlike cry
- 63. Might
- 65. Storage tower
- 67. Eat
- 68. Relative magnitude
- 69. Front of a vessel
- 70. High-priced
- 71. Choose
- 72. Gape
- 73. Brood

- 32. Indication of damage
- 33. Polynesian dance
- 34. Shout
- 35. Convention
- 36. Afresh
- 37. Lunar time period
- 38. Cunning
- 41. Epoch
- 42. Tender
- 44. Secret agent
- 45. British nobleman
- 46. Deplete
- 47. Quarry
- 50. Inexperienced
- 51. Something that has survived the past
- 52. Currency of Nigeria
- 53. Farewell remark
- 54. Relating to kidneys
- 55. Keeps records or accounts
- 56. Land measure
- 57. Fossil fuel
- 58. Muffle
- 60. Catch sight of
- 62. Chances
- 64. Point
- 66. Possess

[<http://www.puzzlechoice.com/>]

## Answers to last week's crossword from puzzlechoice.com



[<http://www.puzzlechoice.com/>]

## Upcoming Event: Dava Sobel Book Signing

**What?:** Reception & Booksigning for Dava Sobel, author of *A More Perfect Heaven: How Copernicus Revolutionized the Cosmos*.

**When?:** Tuesday, November 8, 2011  
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

**Where?:** The Planetary Society  
85 S. Grand Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91105

Telescope viewing to follow

Questions?  
Call 626-793-5100  
Visit <http://planetary.org>

# Midnight Madness is still an entertaining event in its second year

**AMOL KAMAT**  
Sports Editor

Picture the scene. A beautiful Friday night. A sea (maybe more like a pond) of slightly inebriated (the loud ones, anyway), fairly nerdy (if the media is to be believed), orange clad basketball FANATICS assembled for the sole purpose of eating free, delicious foodstuffs, watching musical chairs, and cheering for basketball drills. To maintain the illusion of studiousnessociety, of course, SURF presentations were scheduled for the following day. Indeed, a perfect scene (at least in terms of admissions if we were to invite a bunch of prefrash to visit for this specific weekend...I see you, Caltech).

That's right, folks, MIDNIGHT MADNESS returned for a second helping (much like I did but with pulled pork or chicken or whatever that foodstuff was). Honestly, there was a great turnout to support the men's basketball team (sorry, girls, you're not invited this year), and there was a perfect marriage between legitimacy and intentional irony that made the event less pretentious than expected.

Host Aric Fitz-Coy did a great job keeping the crowd entertained while also teaching us how to do the wave and alternatively chant "Orange!" and "White!"

Yes, even sporting events can be learning events (that's a great book title...I'm going to use that for my memoirs). Head cheerleader Kyle Verdone was also...actually, nevermind, I have nothing to say here. The pep band was excellent, entertaining us with a rather strange array of classic rock songs (I

approve, pep band, I approve). The actual events were also pretty fun. As I am sure you have all gathered, the foodstuffs were delightful, except for the watery lemonade, which I heard a lot about. The Rubio's coupons were a pleasant surprise (I already used mine) as were the free t-shirts courtesy of Facebook.

Of course, Tom Mannion started shooting those wrist band thingies at us, so I missed a little bit of the relay race while hiding behind the bleachers, but I was able to watch the free-throw contest, which looked pretty fun for the participants. Musical chairs was not as crazy-awesome as promised, but offered a fascinating insight into Caltech student dynamics.

At 12:01 a.m., the basketball team took to the floor and did some drills that turned into being mesmerized by Marcus Lucas' ability to dunk (at least for me).

Overall the event was a success. The \$3000 prize for the house with the most attendance was certainly a welcome addition, but did not seem to be people's chief motivating factor for attending. This was honestly a fun, stress relieving social event that should be repeated (selfish plug: maybe include other sports).

My one gripe (there's always one) is that it seems very expensive, and even if it was sponsored, I know our facilities and other teams could definitely use some upkeep and money.

Honestly, I don't think we would mind playing on "Facebook Field" or "Status Update Pool" or "I'm Gonna Block the Guy Who Keeps Commenting On My Posts" Tennis Courts). Okay, I'm done.



*Get excited, I took this picture with my phone. Now, it's in a newspaper. Apple, I expect your call within the week.*

- Amol Kamat



*This is a picture from a different time Caltech played Cal Lu. Technology these days...*

-Kevin Baxter

## Lack of offense, defense dooms Caltech soccer in match vs. Cal Lu

**AMOL KAMAT**  
Sports Editor

A beautiful pass followed by another. A quick display of skill before another brilliant through ball. One more intelligent pass. A terrible shot with nobody there to recover it.

This was often the scene when the Caltech soccer team took on Cal Lutheran on Saturday. The remarkably good weather, as well as the hope that the Beavers would once again defeat Cal Lu this season, attracted quite a large crowd of supporters for both the home and away teams. Unfortunately, the home fans found little to cheer about.

Cal Lutheran struck first (and second, third, and fourth) when Enrique Zaragoza scored off a corner kick late in the first half. The decision to award the corner kick by head referee Martik

Mirikian was debatable, with several Caltech players arguing for a goal kick (rightfully so, in my humble opinion). Nevertheless, the game continued, as did the terrible officiating.

Controversy arose again when Mirikian awarded a penalty kick to Cal Lutheran for what appeared to be a clean tackle in the box by Caltech's Nicky Zhang. Zhang was not booked for the foul, adding to the confusion (admission of guilt?). The Kingsmen's Josh Hibbert slipped his penalty shot just past Wesley Swank, putting Cal Lu up 3-0 and giving them their first successful penalty kick this season.

While I would like to blame the officiating crew for the loss, it would be unfair to not blame the Beavers' lack of offensive production, too (although seeing an assistant referee laughing and agreeing with the Cal Lu fans does not exactly bolster this assertion).

Brilliant build-ups often fizzled out, with Caltech forwards refusing to make runs, and open chances were missed when Beaver players hogged the ball for too long, or straight up forgot how to kick.

I would also like to place some blame on the defense, but really, they played pretty hard and were certainly very tired from always having the ball played on their half of the field.

By the final whistle, the Beavers had been shut-out while allowing four goals. The loss drops the Beavers to last place in the SCIAC and elevates Cal Lu to second to last (which is better than last).

The Beavers travel to Claremont on Monday to try to pull off the upset of the century.

Also, "The Kingsmen" is a stupid nickname. I mean, seriously, you're not even the king, you're just his men. At least beavers are independent and can bite down trees.



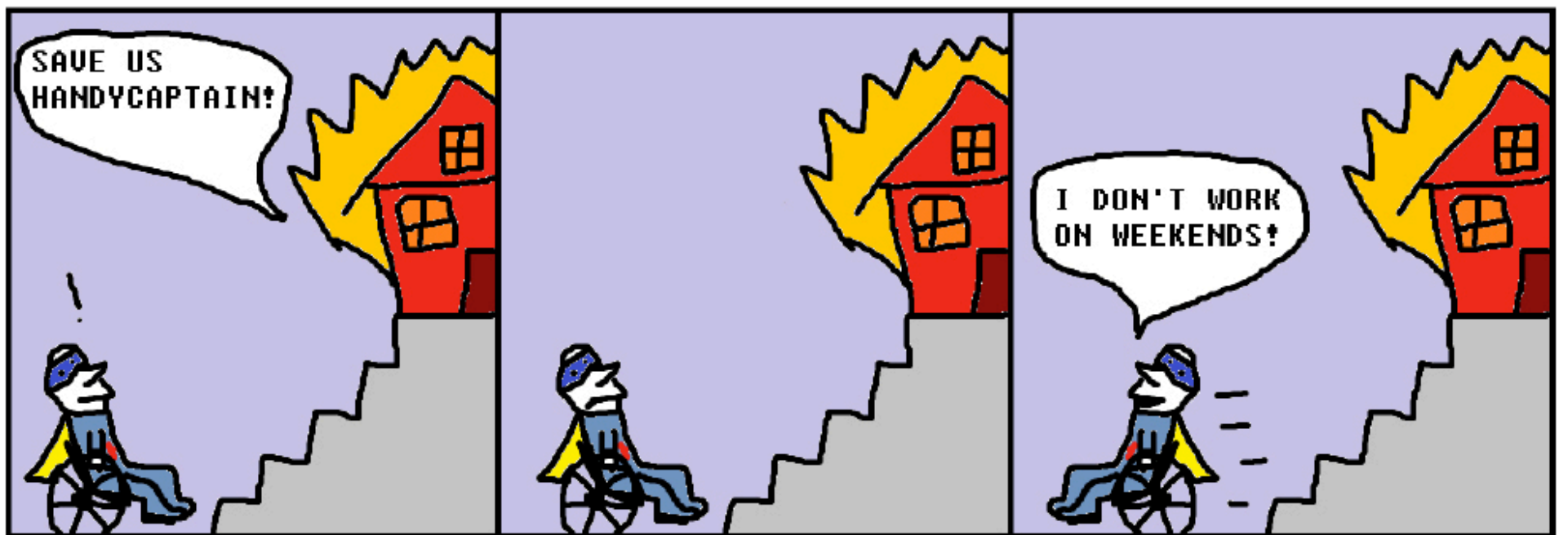
## APPLES AND ORANGES

BY REBECCA LAWLER



## HANDYCAPTAINMAN

BY DAVID GINOLA



## Punctuated Equilibrium

Milo Lin



I need help interpreting the results of my thought experiment.

The California  
Tech  
Caltech 40-58  
Pasadena, CA 91125