



## Teachers and TAs receive ASCIT teaching awards



Mohammed Omar enjoys a conversation with students who nominated him for an ASCIT teaching award.

-Courtesy of Meng Shuen Chua

### NEERA SHAH News Editor

On May 23, the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) held the 37th annual ASCIT Teaching

Awards ceremony to honor professors and TAs who were nominated by students.

The four professors recognized were history and social science professor Morgan Kousser, Harry Bateman Research Instructor (Mathematics) Mohamed Omar, Arnold O. Beckman chemistry professor Harry Gray, and assistant professor of English Jennifer Jahner.

Three undergraduate TAs (Luis A. Navarro, Jr., chemistry; Michael G. Dieterle, biology; and Jesse M. Salomon, computer science) and one graduate TA (Tristan J. McKinney, physics) were also recognized.

Students who nominated each professor or TA gave short speeches to recognize the great teaching qualities of their nominee and to personally thank them for their efforts.

Each awardee also gave an acceptance speech and was given a plaque by ARC. Former ARC chair Pushpa Neppala emceed the reception held in the Athenaeum.

Chin-Lin Guo, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering and Applied Physics, was awarded Professor of the Month. He was honored with a reception on Thursday, May 30, where he conversed with and was congratulated by students.

### CORRECTION

In last week's issue, the article entitled "Ricketts Alumni hold wake during 'Beer and Brats'" included a quote from an anonymous source who stated that Ricketts House had once held a slavery-themed rotation meal with only black waiters. The theme was, in fact, "Southern" and the waiters were of many different races. We apologize for this misinformation.

## In this issue

**NEWS**  
MAKEwithMOTO  
event at Caltech

3

**OPINION**  
Nina takes a look  
at graduation  
fashion

4

**FEATURE**  
A farewell poem  
for seniors

5

**HUMOR**  
David Ginola re-  
veals his identity!

8

## News briefs from around the globe

*Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble*

### Need to know

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

by *The Tech Eds*

<b>LA River opens to public</b>	<b>80</b> years after its closure due to flooding, the river opened for use	[CNN]
<b>Racer donates winnings</b>	<b>\$1</b> mil., all of Jimmie Johnson's All-Star winnings, given to OK relief	[ABC]
<b>Mammoth blood found</b>	<b>10,000</b> -yr.-old woolly mammoth found with liquid blood preserved	[CNN]
<b>Man wins double Lotto</b>	<b>66</b> -year-old Harry Black won \$31.6 million from two identical tickets	[ABC]
<b>Ricin-laced letters sent</b>	<b>4</b> ricin letters sent to govt. officials were linked to Matthew Buquet	[BBC]
<b>Fire burns in Houston</b>	<b>4</b> firefighters were killed while battling a hotel and restaurant fire	[TIME]
<b>Storm chasers killed</b>	<b>3</b> tornado trackers for Discovery's "Storm Chasers" died on the job	[CNN]

## 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)*

### 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 Editors*  
Neera Shah  
Nehaly Shah

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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**

## ASCIT Minutes

Minutes for June 2nd, 2013. Taken by Catherine Jamshidi

### President's Report (Zach):

The Undergraduate Honor Code Committee members were selected by the ex-officio members. The UHCC will meet before the term is over to elect its 3 representatives to the Faculty Board. Moore-Hufstедler Fund Committee members, Big T Editors, Totem Editors, and Sustainability Council appointed last weekend as well.

### Officer's Reports:

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

The PE Survey is out on Donut. Fill it out by this Friday, and you can enter to win one of 3 \$10 Amazon Gift Cards.

The first BARC lunch had great discussion between the faculty and students who attended. There will be more in the upcoming year.

Prof of the Month Reception for Professor Guo went very well. He shared some jokes with students who attended.

#### V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):

The IHC is having interviews for Faculty Board committees this week. Appointment decisions will be released soon after.

John Dabiri has invited the IHC Chair to sit on Faculty Board meetings for this next academic year.

#### Director of Operations (Connie):

Connie has been lending out and keeping track of ASCIT equipment.

This shared equipment is a great resource for students for events including parties and Ditch Day, and we will be working on expanding inventory and simplifying the borrowing process.

#### Treasurer (Monica):

Designed a new form for reimbursements

Will be updating the website before the end of term with a new system for requesting reimbursements

Office hours will be determined for the upcoming school year because Monica will live off campus and not readily available in her room for questions, comments, concerns  
will begin preparing an annual budget report for Revcomm

#### Social Director (Michelle):

Europarty was this past Saturday. It went well.

There will be an end-of-the-year concert featuring Twin Peaks and Blown Out on the evening of June 7th. More details to follow.

I might try to arrange an end-of-the-year outdoor dinner event with CDS sometime in the upcoming week.

#### Secretary (Cat):

Scheduled all Honor Code Committee interviews along with the ASCIT Committee interviews that were held on Sunday morning.

I'm still working on updating all of the information on Donut.

If you have any suggestions regarding what the Olive Walk Board should be used for, feel free to send me an email at [sec@donut.caltech.edu](mailto:sec@donut.caltech.edu)

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of this report please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

## Techers build prototypes of novel devices for Motorola

**ALEXANDER HSU AND NEERA SHAH**  
Contributing Writer and News Editor

Last weekend, you might have seen a group of Techers working under some tents outside Winnett lounge. These students were doing a project for the Motorola “MAKEwithMOTO” event, in which Motorola drives to twelve universities and four “Maker Faires” around the country and helps with making gadgets. Using technology such as 3-D printers, laser cutters, oscilloscopes, and soldering stations, participants build prototypes of new devices using hardware and software from Motorola’s latest smartphones.

JomyaLei and Raymond Jimenez organized the event at Caltech and coordinated with Tom Mannion to bring the Motorola van to campus. At Caltech, there were a total of four groups that participated in the MAKEwithMOTO event on campus from May 31 to June 2. Each group, containing three to five team members, had 15-20 hours to design and build a prototype of a new device from scratch.

One group built a glove to interpret American Sign Language, while a second used ultrasonic tags to help find objects; a third group built an audio-processing/detection

and identification device, and a fourth worked to build a decked-out bike vest.

Alexander Mouschovias was part of the fourth group that was building a bike vest with speakers in the shoulder pads, which can be useful in getting directions without an earpiece or hand-held device. This group also built in a gyroscopic sensor that turns on brake lights on the back of the vest when the rider brakes on the bike. In addition to using all of the provided tools from the Motorola van, Mouschovias used the laser cutter in the Mech-E shop, as well as thermoforming acrylic to make the vest.

Although some groups’ inventions did not work by the 20-hour time limit, students were encouraged to pursue the project if they were making progress with the device. Some groups can even get up to \$150,000 from Motorola to help build a working prototype of their design.



We are looking for **undergraduate students** to be **mentors** for a middle school summer camp on campus from August 5-9th. This year, our activities include working with Lego Mindstorm Robot kits.

Interested? Shoot an email to [caltech@innoworks.org](mailto:caltech@innoworks.org)!



Students work on building a prototype of their original design.  
-Courtesy of Alexander Hsu

## Join the conversation!

The new Caltech opinion journal, *The Hamiltonian*, is looking for writers to contribute articles on topics in science, technology, politics, economics, philosophy, history, social issues, foreign policy, and local events.\*

Undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff are all invited to participate. We are looking for writers committed to defending and exploring their views in accordance with the rigorous intellectual standards that make Caltech so unique.

For more information, contact us by e-mail at [hamiltonian@caltech.edu](mailto:hamiltonian@caltech.edu)

\*Serial commas appreciated, but not required.

# Techerland: A look at the fashion of graduation

**NINA BUDAeva**  
Staff Writer

Techemers are very keen on maintaining traditions, even when certain traditions are so outdated that they do not make much sense anymore. There are many Techemer behaviors and habits that seem unexplainable to outsiders, and many of these have been mistakenly explained as attributes of being a “nerd” by outsiders.

Many of these behaviors are rooted in blind tradition. While the traditions themselves might be “nerdy” (although walking barefoot is not nerdy at all when one realizes that this is a very common occurrence on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley and in various areas of San Francisco that have nothing to do with academics), the adherence to tradition is not only a property of nerds.

I suppose it is human nature to stick with traditions. Otherwise there would not be pumpkins for Halloween, national anthems to sing, and there would not be any holidays or celebrations. Some traditions seem useless and wasteful, but others have evolved for good reason and are very helpful. Some traditions just make us feel good.

In less than two weeks Caltech will deck itself out for one of these traditions: graduation. This is a very symbolic process, which is honored around the world. Graduating

Techemers will receive their diplomas and while everyone else looks on in reverence. In the week leading up to it, there will be senior dinners, family photos, long goodbyes, lots of kegs, and parties. It almost seems weird that this has to be such a big event, because all the work done to graduate has been spread out over several years. Still, this is one of those feel-good traditions that gives the younger Techemers something to look forward to as they scramble through problem sets and lab reports.

The graduation ceremony has a number of very strange formalities that are recognized by almost every college. The tassels, the caps, the gowns, and the whole ceremony itself are part of a rite of passage that was developed in the 11th century when the first universities formed in Europe.

Before receiving the diploma, graduates-to-be hang the tassel on their right side and after receiving the diploma the graduates move the tassel to their left. This is called tossing the tassel and symbolizes the transition from candidate to graduate. All faculty present at the ceremony wear the tassel on the left throughout the entire ceremony.

The traditional caps and gowns have a historical explanation. The caps are often called mortarboards because they resemble the mortarboards that masons used to hold mortar. The scholarly clergy wore similar headpieces to set

themselves apart and demonstrate their education. In the 14th and 15th centuries, these mortarboards became very popular among the learned such as artists, humanists, and students and were often red-colored to symbolize blood and life.

The gowns have a more practical explanation. There was no good heating in the drafty halls of the early European universities in the 12th century so scholars took to wearing long cloaks. Most scholars at the time were either clerics or aspiring clerics, so naturally the cloaks they chose to wear resembled hooded clerical robes. Eventually, universities started forbidding flamboyant apparel and enforced this by mandating scholar robes.

Today we do not have to wear gowns on a daily basis, but every now and then when we graduate from various degrees we go back to the past and don the caps and gowns of the Middle Ages. Some schools are still stuck in the past, such as the everlasting Oxford and Cambridge. Although they do not enforce the gowns on a daily basis, they do require gowns to be worn to every final exam at the end of the school year. Now that's quite a tradition that seems to be in place only for the sake of a tradition.

Stoles, the scarf-like pieces of fabric worn on top of the robe, have completely religious roots, as they serve no practical purpose the way they are worn. In the 7th century

the Church of Rome adopted them as part of the clerical garb. Before that, a stole-like garment was present in Jewish ceremonies in the form of the tallit and was a prayer mantle. The Christian stole may have originated from the orarium – a napkin that Christ supposedly used to wash the feet of his disciples.

It may have also originated from the scarf of office that Imperial officials wore in the Roman Empire as the clergy began entering the administration. The two possible roots have a connection. In 313, Roman Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan which allowed Christian worship in the previously pagan Rome. In the Middle Ages, the stoles rode the clergy-wear wave and followed the gowns in being adopted by the academic elite. The stoles have since then evolved to distinguish

people of different positions and different educations.

I now have a slightly different view of the graduation ceremony, knowing that so many modern Techemers, not all Christian, will be essentially dressed like mortarboard-headed priests. Moreover, an entire nation of graduates has been dressing like this since early May. However, this is where I accept the crutch of tradition and enjoy what the tradition really signifies: graduation and the symbolic turning of a new page.



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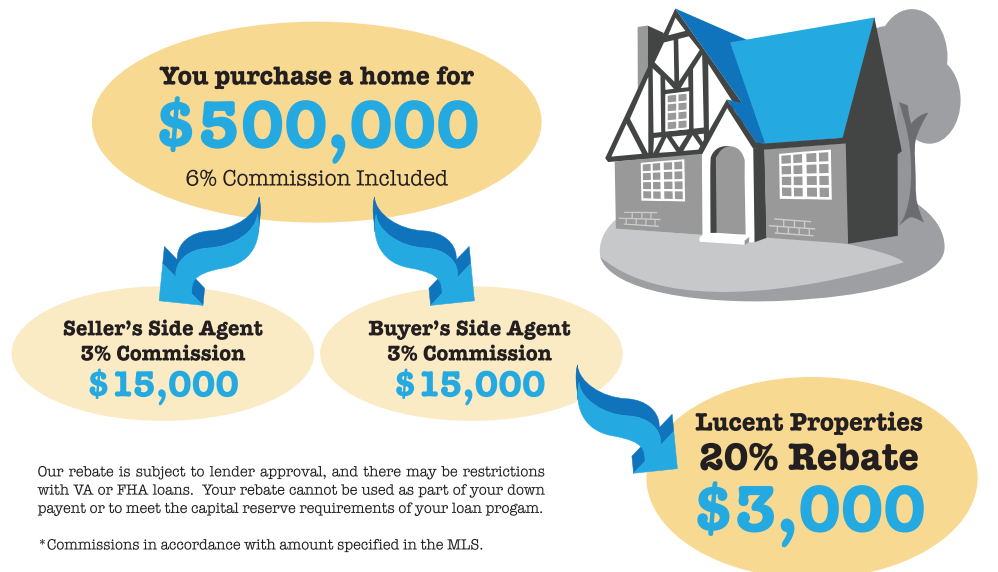
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# For the Caltech Class of 2013, a poem

by Wendy Graetz Hoglen

Twas the night before ditch day and all through Caltech  
The seniors were bustling; all hands were on deck.  
The teams were well chosen, the graphics well drawn,  
The props in position; the time ticking toward dawn.

Each group has a plan, each group has a theme,  
Each group is complexed as you plot and you scheme.  
You float your ideas - not all of them gel -  
You revise and revamp: come highwater! come hell!

The words might escape you so you search for some more  
Hunting and digging as you delve and explore.  
Pushing the envelopes, pulling all-nighters  
Playing with currents, attractors, exciters.

You are game if not gamey; you are gamers, you are smart,  
Your life is a science and math is your art.  
You are all joined, connected yet have each finished a part.  
Your work here has ended. You are ready to start.

Caltech  
**STRATEGIC  
IDENTITY**  
PROJECT



## What Is Caltech's Identity? We want to hear from YOU.

All Caltech faculty, staff, and students are invited to contribute to a research study that will measure the qualities and characteristics that are most relevant to Caltech's identity.

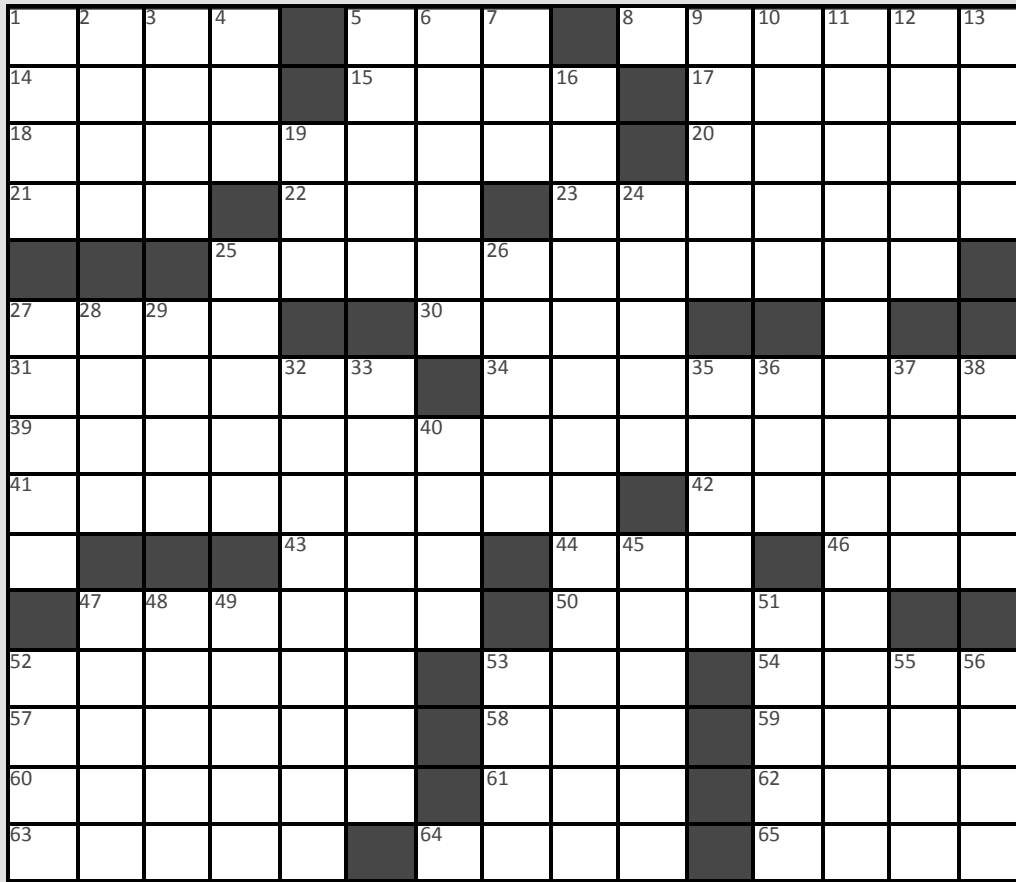
<http://bit.ly/CTSurvey2013P>

Participation in the study is limited to the Caltech community, so please contribute to this important conversation today. A \$100 gift card will be raffled off to one participating undergraduate and one participating graduate student.

The deadline for completing the survey is June 7, 2013.

## “The Stack”

By John Jacob

**Across**

1. “Mane” animal  
5. Sci-fi show rivaling BSG  
8. Female Seinfeld character  
14. A bunch of 20 across bodies having fun  
15. Guinea pigs, Sp.  
17. Nothing to do in rowing class?  
18. Composer Wagner’s magnum opus  
20. Overpriced juice  
21. Carbon graph ender?  
22. Nina Budaeva would tell you if your clothes were \_\_\_ of style  
23. Sonic the Hog’s home

25. Castro’s paradise without bears, Sp.  
27. Brits add an ‘s’ to the end of this subject  
30. “When in \_\_\_”  
31. Y’all need \_\_\_ \_\_\_ to solve this clue.  
34. Superlative of Jack who jumped over candlestick  
39. Remark upon eating a slice of Italian pasta described by 41 across  
41. Kraft® descriptor  
42. “1990 disability act, that is,” for short  
43. Year, Sp.  
44.  $2\ 3 + = 5$ , notation, abbr.  
46. Not a basic drug?  
47. Appoint  
50. Short feminine string of nucleotides  
52. Preteen response to boredom  
53. “\_\_\_ bono”; \_\_\_ malo”  
54. Apple’s version of an atlas  
57. Ancient recording system used by Incas of Peru  
58. Honest vampire slayer?  
59. African river  
60. Shark-following fish  
61. Bulky, digital camera  
62. Where you are after breaking your face  
63. Thiys cluye iys ay \_\_\_\_  
64. Citizens of Mormon state  
65. Terrible meat substitute  
28. Response to real monsters  
29. “Of \_\_\_ I sing”  
32. People’s response to seeing JPL’s success with Curiosity  
33. Top university in China  
35. Canadian jazz singer Laila  
36. tenretnI wolS  
37. Drugs like Zoloft and Prozac  
38. 13 down sent a letter \_\_\_ and Edd  
40. \_\_\_ flux  
45. Jawed instrument to pull out teeth  
47. \_\_\_\_, a Dewey, and a Louie  
48. A devil found in FL, so to speak  
49. Term given to Indian soldier under British command  
51. What you do to a martini with only vermouth  
52. Two of four, e.g., abbr.  
53. After you are 62 across, you get a hard \_\_\_  
55. First Hebrew letter  
56. Don’t tell Chile about this superpower

**Down**

1. Baby don’t hurt me, Jeopardy response  
2. Ahmadinejad’s nation  
3. What I do when I see a woman with huge tracts of land  
4. Carmelo’s team  
5. Newbie  
6. Chorded instrument  
7. Response to captain  
9. Not shorto  
10. Batteries of 8.3 mm diameter  
11. Annoying protein monomer friend  
12. Japanese shut-ins  
13. Ed and Edd’s companion  
16. Talking snake’s last words  
19. Not me!  
24. Butt douche  
25. Peru’s rival  
26. Mouth words with melody and tone, to some  
27. Pair

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# Totem Reception 06.06.13

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## Students receive the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award

**DEANS' OFFICE**  
Contributing Writer

Matt Fu, Sebastian Rojas Mata, Katja Luxem, and Mario

Zubia were awarded the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award at the Athenaeum Library on May 20, 2013. The Award is for outstanding Caltech students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities and have encouraged and supported others in realizing their own leadership capabilities.



From left to right: Sebastian Rojas Mata, Matt Fu, Mario Zubia, and Katja Luxem were all recipients of the Robert L. Noland Leadership Award.

- Courtesy of the Deans' Office

## An appeal for the PE classes survey

**ANONYMOUS**  
Contributing Writer

According to me, our PE courses should be an outlet for physical exercise. They should provide the physical balance in our already stressful academic term. Recently, as in within the past year, PE classes have become more rigorous, but not in a physical sense.

There are now written assignments and exams, and the expectations across PE classes are not consistent. This puts an additional burden on students, who want to maybe run around rather than write more essays.

If you have an opinion about the new direction PE classes are taking here at Caltech, please express them on the PE survey.

The results will be analyzed by the Academics and Research Committee (ARC) and

presented to Betsy Mitchell, the Athletics Director. The ARC Chair and an ARC rep have met with her, and she has been very receptive to possibly making changes, but only if the response rate for the survey is very high. This is why you should get your voice heard on the survey. Feel free to fill out the comment boxes to elaborate on your experiences in PE classes and what you want from your PE classes.

*Editors' Note: It is usually not the policy of The California Tech to print opinion articles anonymously. In the instances that we do, we require there be a rational basis for anonymity. In this case, the author has demonstrated a potential conflict of interest were their identity to be known. Therefore, we decided to allow anonymity, but inform readers of the circumstances surrounding it.*

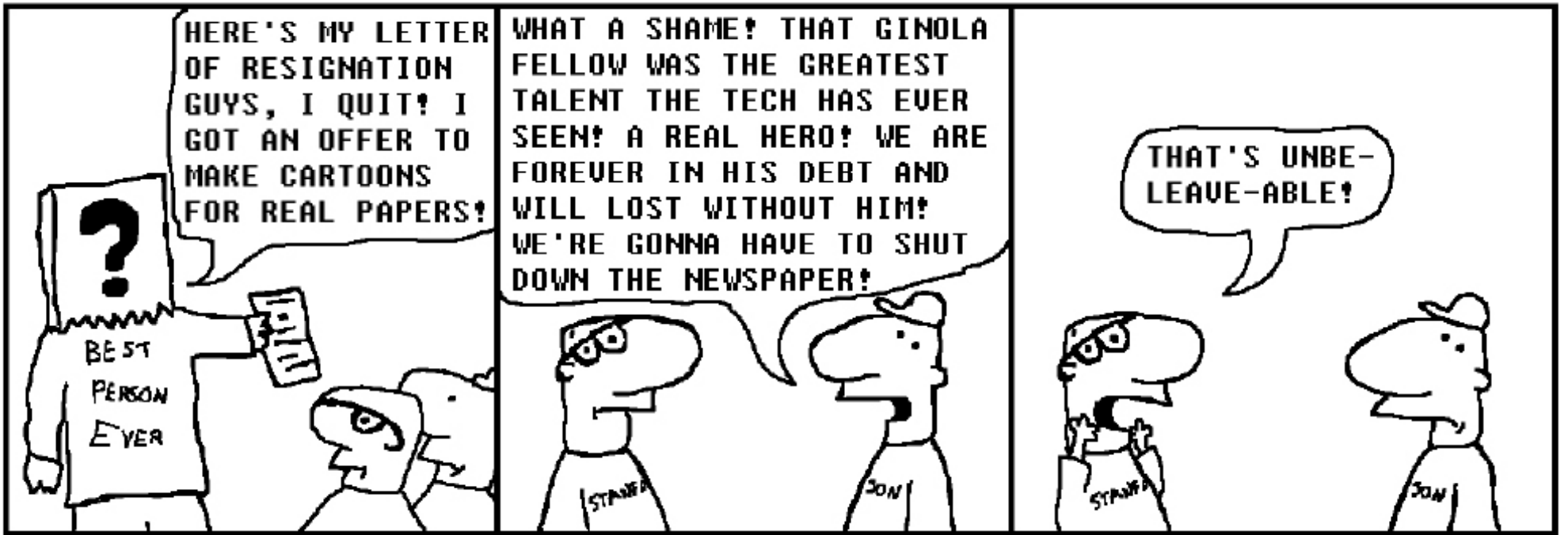
*For more photos, videos, and archives of previous issues, check out the Tech website!*

[tech.caltech.edu](http://tech.caltech.edu)

## David Ginola Comics: Choose your own ending!

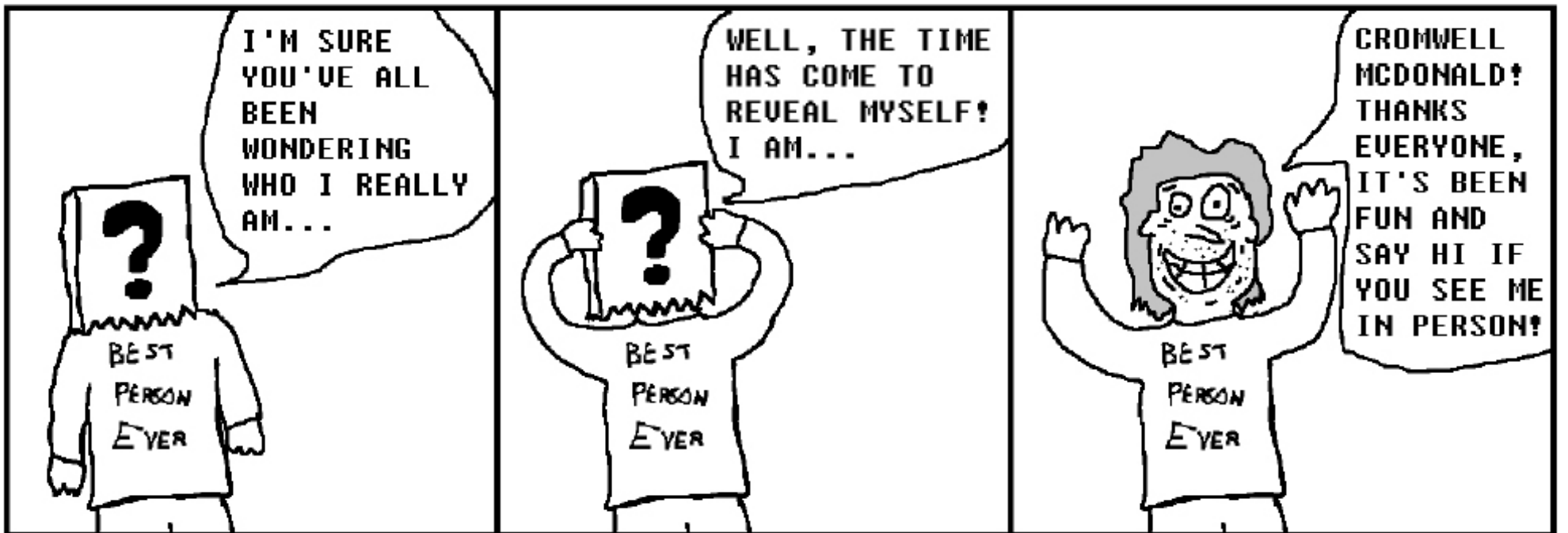
SO LONG, SUCKERS!

BY DAVID GINOLA



THE UNMASKING

BY... READ ON AND FIND OUT!



*Thanks everyone for making this our best year yet! We hope you all have a good summer, and look forward to an even better next year!*

*-The Tech Eds*

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