



North Houses Burn to the Ground

By **R. Sunnist**
STAFF WRITER

Last week, fire alarms rang out once again in the North Houses. A small kitchen fire quickly grew until it tore through all three North Houses. Surprisingly, no students left their rooms.

"We thought it was just Lloydis trying to microwave popcorn again," a group of students told the Tech. "Nothing to wake up excited about."

Luckily, no one was hurt.

"The many layers of paint provided the perfect insulation, protecting all of the rooms from the fire," explained Dennis Downs, Pasadena's Fire Chief.

Though the fire didn't cause damage to the student rooms, it destroyed the hallways of the Houses, underscoring the need for new North Houses. The administration acknowledged that after over a decade of delays, it would finally see that that ground would be broken this summer for new North Houses.

Though the cause of the fire is still unknown, school officials believe that it was most likely due to faulty electrical wiring. However, many students suggest that it was most likely a sinister plot to steal one of Caltech's most prized possessions: an argyle blue sweater vest.

"I saw people in masks going around looking for something

during the fire," said one student, who declined to be named.

"That sweater vest makes me a man," says freshman Pan Wang. "I feel confident and happy, knowing that it's always there for me. Without it, I wouldn't know what to do."

Though not as important as the attempted theft of the prized sweater vest, the school administration also announced plans to eliminate two of the houses following the rebuilding of the North Houses, and the creation of Greater Lloyd

Following the construction of the new Houses, members of Ruddock will most likely be sent to other Houses, depending on showering habits. Those who shower regularly would become members of Lloyd, while the rest would be sent to Blacker. Page House was to be dissolved, with its members separated and sent to all seven other houses.

"We discovered that Ruddock was pretty much Lloyd, except that not everyone showered, and those people would fit in perfectly with Blacker," explains Professor Butts, a member of the House Committee.

"Page House was simply having too much fun. I once ate a strawberry from Page and it made me feel happier than I should ever feel here. It deserves to be closed down," says one disgruntled Averite.

In the face of vocal criticism from the student population, President Chameau invited students to meet with him to discuss the changes, and promised to provide cake.



Courtesy of Michelle Jant

In front of ex-Page House, the fire last week burned through the North Houses, but students were safely protected by wall paint.

Result of Fire: North Houses Replaced by Fraternities and Sororities, South Houses Remain

By **v=c/λ**
STAFF WRITER

IHC and Administration both agreed on the morning of March 32nd, 2010, a week after the North Houses burned down, to completely revamp the Housing system based on the "fashionably-named" North Side Fraternity and Sorority 2010X.

"In the spirit of the sweeping changes in the core curriculum, and the recent course additions of Ch3x and now this term Bi1x, it is only fair and trendy that we introduce a similar strategy for the Housing system, especially after the unfortunate fire," said Dean HallTwo, the new Dean who filled the vacant position after Dean Hall resigned last month.

Initially, administrators tried to distribute ex-North House students into the next-best fit from the remaining Houses, but the subsequent over-crowding was deemed a fire hazard.

Finally, the administration has decided to "shake things up" and place all ex-North House students into three "big tents" on Beckman lawn for an undetermined amount of time. Instead of associating these big tents with the former North Houses, i.e., Ruddock, Lloyd, and Page, administrators have decided that each tent will be either a fraternity or sorority.

The names of the big tents have already been chosen: Delta Epsilon, Psi Phi Psi, and Nu Lamda. However, the decisions of which names are fraternities and which are sororities have yet to be made.

"There are a lot of factors to be considered," said an IHC member who does not want to reveal his House or ex-House affiliation, "Should we assign two fraternities and one sorority? That should be suiting to a Caltech whose ratio is 2:1, but is it that way anymore?"

An informal poll revealed that students liked potential House names based on their major. For example, all interviewed math majors want to live in Delta Epsilon.

"Math majors of both genders declaring that they will still live in Delta Epsilon regardless of gender," said Sammy Dottie, the Math Club President.

Physics majors have shown interest in all three Greek houses, but with more preference for Psi Phi Psi. Biology majors typically asked for another Greek House name. According to IHC, new plans are underway to replace or add another Greek house called Chi Chi.

Students are sleeping "wherever they feel like" until students are "properly sorted into fraternities and sororities," according to

Housing Director Peter Daily.

Furthermore, professors have been extremely sympathetic to the housing situation of the students formerly in the North House.

"The poor students had their House burn down, so I've just stopped giving them homework," said one professor. "I probably won't give them a final either. Kind of unfair to the South House students, but hey, they don't have to live in tents on Beckman Lawn."

To the chagrin of Housing administrators, South House members are apparently jealous of the former North House members, based on the flamewars on South House email spam lists. Multiple fire alarms are going off everyday in the South Houses, a result of many attempts to burn down the newly renovated South Houses.

"It's completely against the Honor Code for some students to have fun while the rest of us do problem sets," said Pyrofilic Joe, the student who tried to cause a fire by starting a bonfire in his room. "How come they get to enjoy college?"

More specific implementation will be decided in the next few weeks. According to the Head of the Greek Caltech committee, if the Greek life fails or result in disastrous segregation, the committee will change its name and decide a new strategy.

Caltech Frosh Wins Aspirational Nobel Prize

By **Wan Abe**
STAFF WRITER

Every year, roughly 80% of Caltech freshmen believe that they will double major in math and physics, graduate from Caltech with a 4.3 GPA, and discover something in graduate school that will win them the Nobel Prize.

The high number of ambitious freshmen at Caltech and other top U.S. colleges is not a secret. However, very few people know about the existence of an "aspirational Nobel Prize", awarded to the college freshmen with the most oversized ego who plans on majoring in math or physics.

This year, according to an anonymous source, a Caltech freshman has won the Aspirational Nobel

Prize. The identity of the freshman is still unknown.

The winner receives a Canadian nickel and "a line on his resume", according to Gerry Whitman, the President of the Aspirational Awards Society.

"We'd like to believe that our Aspirational Nobel Prize is like a pre-MacArthur 'Genius' Grant or even pre-Nobel Prize," explained Whitman. "But actually, ten years down the road, most of our winners tell us that they are disillusioned with science, whatever that means.... They end up in finance."

Never before has a non-Harvardian won an Aspirational Nobel Prize. All Caltech brochures have already been modified to include this development.

Campus

Cure for Sleep Discovered, Techers Rejoice

page ∞

Lonely Geneticist Isolates Himself

page 8x

Caltech set to admit equal numbers of Hum majors and "engineers" as Affirmative Action

page 11x

In This Issue

World

Google creates conscious supercomputer; plans to take over the world

page 5x

Barack Blocks Bill, Lashes out at Lavish Legislators

page 2x

Out in the club And I'm sippin that bub

LOVE..... A-Fizzle and D-Bomb

Grade: AAAAAA+!++!++!++!++!

Walking Time: ???!

Price Range: patron is expensivo

Go here to... get crunkkkkkeddd.,



Hellooooooes peeps! We wENT to a place spot somewheerrr close by. Somewhere that way not relle surre becuz we called up a taxi, or did we wagkl back? Anyways thd dranks bwere poured stong and the crowd was t=raging . kinda luod so be forwarned the bathroom is diryt just like every other bar . so wait home to get sick . cover is freee if your not FaATt but not too much if ya are

What did we get?? Tequiltea~~~!! ayiyiyiyiyiyiyiyiyiy viva mcu o mucho graNDE tequilila and rumz sna dcocks causwe its tda fizlzes fave \ don't forget to bgina your visa with yaou and your IIIIID-DDD if ya aint of age you cant rage lolz suck t o be yuou . a no foods caus you cant eat andr a;oeifjaoeijaoewijaoi ...BULAK-LAK!! ya knoa wat ai maen. ayiyiyiyiyiyiyif then therqA QAS MOre tequilaf -the sliver patRON . batendcur iss slowbc to many poelple teying to oder so BE vveraty patience baut aggrezieve, couple of dranik s wer lost cua se they wer spilled sad faceeeee L L L : (don't weargood shoes

This rumz and kockes waws the best ahhhh drank I everz had :D duno bout it I hope it was diet cuz I had a few WED-DDDDINGGGGG.. hd a shot a ygaer bomn from a new friends I made at the bar met the m they were fr new jseryse like me d-bomb was honrary guidette did we spell

that riht?> at these point we were getting hungry and craving spicies chicklen but there was notne at this bar MINUS MINUS tsk tks k s

Last call wasf at 145< one more ygaer bomb for d bonnb then we pIEECED!wtfFFF y r there s o many peoplk walkniong around anywhere else ig closed.. nowhere to go but carls cause everywhere closed a t2 . went the opoxite way on Coloradoe ix> ? don't remember but m y feet hur so I think we walked far a while. We ahd 5-67 spicey chickens and a large curly frlies. WEDDDDDINGGGG lzol I hope you know hwat im talking about joeyand Jamie HIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII!

Got back to the hoise ok sorry recyh-cling bin wer're 212!!@#Q and legal tried to jdrink water but to d-bomb it tastes bad. Shse forgot ther last name -is it camcho? LOL insid joke. Af izzele fizzled and passed out btu I wrote a bomb note :sleeping like an ANJEL!" <3 u shou ld really go to this bar cuase its best (I EVER had x4) good if y don't eat anu dinner so the crunj happens fastest A+++++ BETter than ANYwehre weve aten we will com e hre again a; yiy iyi yiy iyiyiyiy iyiyiy ayayayayayayaya jajajajajajajja best-night with the best FR ___+_+A BOMB AND D FIZZLED OURT

News Briefs

Cantonese to Replace Mandarin as Campus Language

A study of demographic shifts undertaken by SmartieStats reveals that Cantonese may become the dominant language among undergraduates as soon as 2015. Caltech continues to take criticism for a lack of cultural diversity, though International Studies Program Director Don o'World emphasizes the presence of vibrant minority language communities on campus, including Korean, Vietnamese, Romanian, Turkish Spanish, and English.

Dabney House President Pleads Guilty to Grand Theft Shoe

A massive stockpile of shoes was uncovered today in the tunnels beneath Dabney house. Physical evidence linked the stash to Dabney House president, who has plead guilty to all charges. Responding to a request for comment, he said "I thought it was the perfect crime. No one would ever suspect a Darb of stealing shoes." Darbs, many of whom had given up shoes after having so many pairs stolen, rejoiced

Lady Gaga has taken over the airwaves, YouTube, and... Caltech?

In a strange turn of events, Booty House has decided to entirely change their culture to reflect the "spirit of Gaga." According to their President Idon Wanna, Booty House was just getting too boring for his taste. "I was watching Lady Gaga's new video with Beyonce, for her song called... I can't remember exactly, but I think it's called 'Convict Kills Restaurant', and I realized that watching that incredibly weird music video was the most interesting thing I had done in the past year."

Yesterday, Wanna asked his Excomm to declare every Wednesday to be "Gaga Wednesday", and pasted posters of Lady Gaga over every mural in Booty House. Wanna's proposal to change Booty House's name to Telephone House will be voted on tomorrow.

LHC Almost Worked

On March 30, scientists were ecstatic when the first super high-energy particle accelerator experiment was performed at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in CERN. However, happiness quickly turned to dismay today, when an unidentified virus has suddenly eaten through all the data on all the computers, and another liquid nitrogen tank has broken.

The ill-fated LHC experiments have led credibility to the theory put forward by two credible physicists several months ago: that the Higgs particle is "abhorrent to nature." In other words, a boson would change the past so that the particle would never have been created.

"Who knows? This could be God's stamp of disapproval," said the Director of CERN, who reportedly donated a million dollars to the Vatican Church after the virus demolished the first LHC data.

Admit Rate Most Competitive Ever; More Women Accepted Than Previous Years Again

By Tina Ding & Yang Hu

STAFF WRITER

This year's freshman undergraduate admissions process was more competitive than it has ever been before, with a drop in the acceptance rate from 15.4% to 12.4%. The percentage of admitted females increased from 42% last year to 45% this year.

Caltech isn't the only college with a dropping acceptance rate. Acceptance rates to top universities such as Stanford, MIT, and Harvard have been steadily declining. This year, Stanford lowered their already competitive admission rate of 7.6% for 2009 down to 7.2%, and MIT went from 10.7% to 9.7%.

"Applicants around the country are increasing, and college acceptance rates are dropping every year," said Ray Prado, interim Admissions Director.

Caltech's acceptance rate, however, has dropped more than its peer universities. Similarly to other colleges across the U.S., the number of applications increased. This year, Caltech received a total of 4,858 applications, up from 4,413 last year; 1,281 of those were Early Action applicants.

However, this year, Caltech also shrunk the number of admitted students to compensate for last year's large freshmen class. Caltech Admissions reduced the number of admitted students by 10%, down from 674 admits to 603 to reach the goal of a class size of 220-230 students.

The current freshmen class is somewhat larger than the other three classes, all of which are about 220-230 students. The class size is maintained by admitting an appropriate number of students,

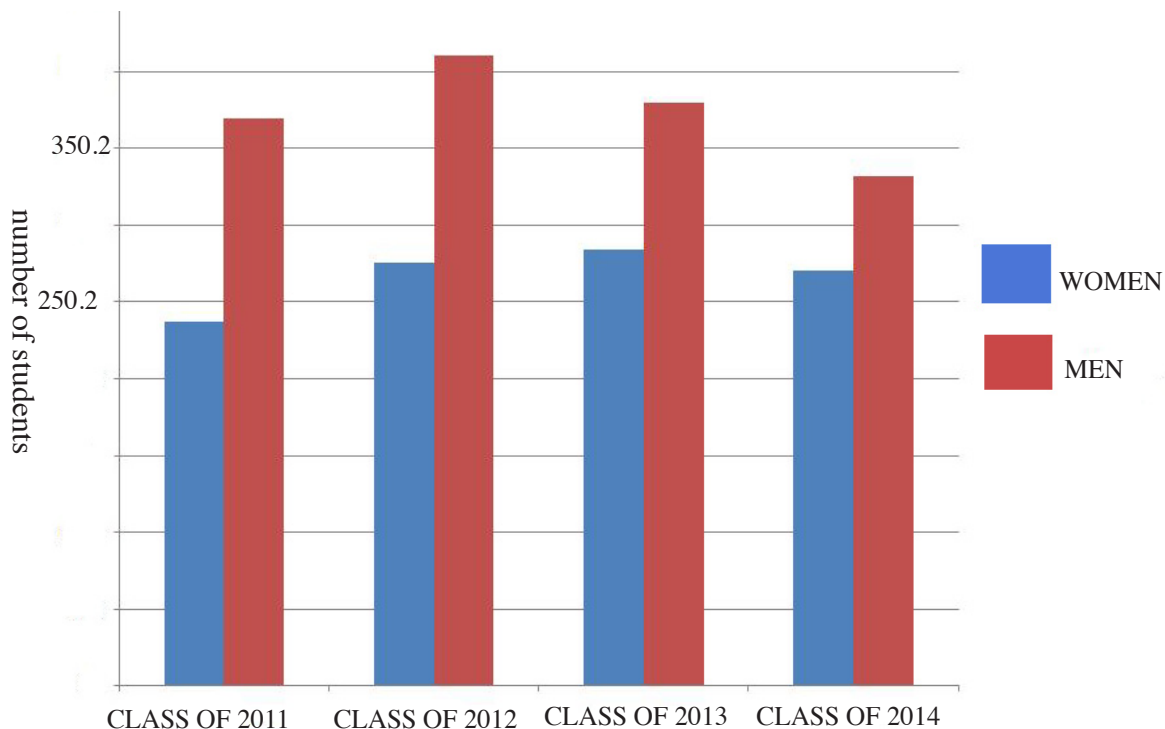
predicted by the approximately 37% enrollment yield. The class of 2013's higher than before yield led to an unexpected number of 254 enrolled students, 20-30 more than predicted. To compensate for the relatively large class, the student Houses made room for the freshmen by decreasing upperclassmen on-campus picks.

"It is a difficult process in that there are so many excellent students who apply but we cannot admit, as we want to maintain the uniqueness of our student body and the on-campus experiences that are so special to Caltech," said Prado. "We want to maintain the undergraduate experience for everyone, not just the freshmen."

Demographic Breakdown

This year's admitted group also shows an increase in the number of women, who make up 45% of the accepted 603 students. Female admissions have been on the rise, setting subsequent records of 28.5% in 2006, 37% in 2007, and 42% in 2009. Although women acceptance rates are increasing every year, the number of women applicants have remained at 24%-25% over the last three years.

Prado credits the increase in applications to Caltech Admissions' webinar sessions, started a year ago, in which Admission staff present on various topics such as Financial Aid, Post-graduation opportunities, and SURFs to prospective students live via the web. "We made sure to reach the pool of International students and transfers as well," said Prado, "Cameron [Assistant Director of Admissions] and I once did a 4 A.M. webinar to cater to prospective students in Europe and Asia."



Health Care Reform Bill Becomes the Law of the Land

By Gloria Tran

STAFF WRITER

The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into federal legislation on Tuesday, March 23 secures the Obama administration and the Democratic Congress a spot in social reform history. The issue of universal health care has been around for nearly a century, and after a year of debates, forums, and promotion, the bill is one of the first steps in the health reform agenda that purports to establish a better and fairer system in terms of accessibility and quality.

As of current, the United States mixed public-private health care system has been touted as one of the most expensive in the world as evidenced by the larger portion of GDP spent on it than in other developed countries. As the only industrialized nation without universal health care, over 15% of the population remains uninsured. In measures of infant mortality and life expectancy, the US also lags behind other nations who pay half as much for health care.

Leaving some 32 million unable to afford health care, the rising costs of insurance plans arise partly from doctors and hospitals focusing on the quantity of treatment versus quality for its patients. In fact, according to Time, "as much as 30% of the more than \$2 trillion Americans spend on health care each year goes toward treatments that are unnecessary and even harmful." Reimbursements to providers from the government are issued per treatment; much of this manifests in the state-of-the-art equipment and technologies in large hospitals.

Another reason that not all of the nation's citizens are covered was that prior to the legislation, insurance companies could determine who received coverage and who were denied. Sick people and children with pre-existing conditions were thus often refused coverage.

The new bill will implement a new coverage marketplace, set up by state governments, for low- and middle-income Americans to buy insurance independently or through their small businesses that now have more access to these packages. In addition, a tax will be placed on the most expen-

sive insurance benefits, given through what are known as Cadillac plans. Patients with these benefits pay little or no co-payment, which encourages overuse of healthcare, often through cost-ineffective treatments.

Effective immediately, those denied coverage on grounds of high-risk pre-existing conditions will receive access to coverage. Additionally, insurance companies are not banned from imposing lifetime coverage caps. By 2014, individuals without insurance will pay a penalty while insurers will be restricted in setting prices based on status of health.

Children may remain on their parents' insurance until they are 26, but will have access to cheaper coverage if buying insurance on their own as compared to older individuals.

For the most part, Medicare will remain the same -

Please see HEALTH CARE Page 3

Upcoming Lookouts

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Pasadena Collegiate Field Tournament | 4/3 11am Rose Bowl |
| Life Skills Series | 4/7 Caltech Y |
| Distinguished Speaker Series; Award Winning Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss | 4/7 8pm Pasadena Civic Auditorium |
| Make a Difference Day | 4/10 |

In This Issue

Horoscopes! page 5

Health Reform Debate page 2
MAD day Opportunities page 4

Sports Briefs! page 5

Healthcare Reform: For & Against

By Pradeep Ramesh

STAFF WRITER

The opposition's essential argument against healthcare reform relies on an albeit theatrical display of illogical arguments disguised under the guise of "real American capitalism." It is strangely ironic that the same Republicans who vehemently argue against Obama's apparent socialist tendencies are now happily basking in the benefits of Social Security and other reform measures that were passed earlier in the century. What exactly does the bill consist of that has raised such rancor among republicans? Below are some of the bill's measures (reconciliation measure passed by the House):

Starting in 2014, the law necessitates that most Americans have a minimum level of health insurance or pay a penalty and while employers are not mandated to offer insurance, some would be penalized if workers use federal subsidies to buy insurance.

One of the biggest arguments against this provision is that the penalty that employers have to pay is well below the actual cost of providing coverage for all their employees; while this is certainly true, the argument is insufficient to warrant an outright rejection of the complete law. Instead, further reform is needed to amend existing law.

People who do not qualify for coverage either through an employer or a government program could participate in a novel insurance exchange that would be regulated by the states.

This provision seeks to drive down the cost of insurance by creating a marketplace where insurers directly compete with each other to win customers.

Insurance companies can no longer deny coverage or increase premium for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions. Insurers are not allowed to deny coverage to children, to place monetary limits on coverage, or to drop coverage when the covered individual falls ill.

A provision that has a large impact on college students is that they can now be covered on their parents' insurance plans till the age of 26.

Naturally, the primary concern of most voters is how the government intends to pay for the proposed law: while the law has proposed an array of new taxes including those of high-cost health care plans and on Medicare payrolls, and additionally plans to raise taxes on families earning over \$250K to rates slightly below those during the Clinton administration, they are necessary and far from unreasonable. The opposition favors scrapping the law and starting from scratch arguing that reform is needed, yet they are unwilling to accept higher taxes – is it not unreasonable to demand more services from the government while concurrently arguing for a reduction of the government's role? Is it not absurd to reject the notion of tax increases while arguing for services that will inevitably cost more and all the while haranguing the public about ballooning deficits? Let us not forget how we came to be in such a poor state of fiscal health and while it is pointless to play the blame game now given our current predicament; we should perhaps take the time to remind the politicians who were only too eager to vote on measures without being fully informed about their consequences. In a democracy, we expect the elected politicians to design laws that are best for the country and its citizenry as a whole; after all, we trust them to make informed decisions upon having considered the various pros and cons of a legislative measure. In this light, it seems that the republicans have forgotten their obligation to their fellow constituents and instead obstinately stick to an ideological system that has not evolved to meet the challenges of a modern America. It is disappointing that our government needs to force legislation through using legal tricks rather than through constructive dialogue.

Guaranteeing a minimum right to health care coverage does not move us in the direction of a socialist regime. While liberals will argue that the recently passed health care reform bill does not go far enough or that it does not have enough teeth to make a significant impact in the current landscape, it is nonetheless a significant first step in the right direction. Naturally, the law should be amended; however, its passage moves America one step closer towards guaranteeing its citizens a reasonable expectation of health-care service which is already a birth right in many developed nations in the world today.

By Sandhya Chandrasekaran

STAFF WRITER

Sure, President Obama's new health-care reform seems like the savior of the American populous. Who could possibly be opposed to a system that helps so many people who are often unjustly squeezed out of the privatized insurance system in our country today? But while this reform seems like the golden ticket to more equal and widespread medical coverage, it is important to take a step back from all of this hopeful illusion and consider the consequences. No, all of this change is not magic. There is a downside, and it's steep.

Right now, there are many public goods that we already utilize, services provided by the centralized government. But public schools have been losing funding with every successive year – laid-off teachers, cancelled classes, fewer extracurricular activities. Libraries have slowly reduced their hours and are ridiculously understaffed, relying heavily on volunteers. The postal service is also extremely underfunded. Coincidence? Hardly.

In order for the government to pay for the estimated \$940 billion that will be needed to fund this program over the next ten years, money needs to come from somewhere. Is it really wise for the government to try and take over another

aspect of our lives when it is clearly having difficulties running the services it has already promised to provide?

From the current state of affairs, the government obviously doesn't have enough money to cover for it on its own. Realistically, this compensation will come from one of two places. Either the public services already available will lose even more money, or the money will be forced from the pockets of American citizens through taxes. Forced. Ruling out any option of choice.

But choice is sacrificed in another aspect as well. In fact, not only are taxes increased but opting not to take up public health insurance results in a 2% tax increase. That's right. A person is essentially penalized for being healthy and choosing not to adopt health insurance. The constitutional right of an American to choose and make his or her own decisions is handed over to the government along with centralized health care. Is this supposed reform worth losing the values our country was built on?

This hastily and poorly contrived method of monetary compensation for these new reforms hurts those who are faring well in the present system in an effort to alleviate the state of the poverty-stricken, essentially robbing the rich to give to the poor, in a Robin Hood-esque fashion. But when it really boils down to it, all this talk about making life fair... doesn't really seem fair anymore, does it?

The California Tech

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

Editor-in-Chief
Tina Ding

Layout Editor
Hanna Liu

Sports Editor
Rick Paul

Business Manager
Gabriel Mendoza

Staff
Dannah Almasco
Sandhya Chandrasekaran
ZeNan Chang
Deboki Chakravarti
Daniel Erenrich
Andrew Freddo
Yang Hu
Casey Jao
Natalya Kostandova
Rebecca Lawler
Sarah Marzen
Monorina Mukhopadhyay
Neha Sandaria
Gloria Tran
James Wu
Wesley Yu

Circulation
Aryan Safaie
Edward Chen

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."



Hanwha Group 2010 Spring Career Information Session

Learn more about **Hanwha Group** (www.hanwha.co.kr) and meet corporate representatives to discuss diverse full-time and summer opportunities for Korean and Korean American students.

Each Session Includes:



If interested, please submit your **resume/C.V. or cover letter in English** along with **RSVP by April 2, 2010**.

*RSVP should include the name of school, major, expected graduation date, and the name of Hanwha Group's company you are interested in.

NEW YORK

Thu., Apr. 8, 2010, 6-8p.m. Sean Park
TEL: 212)308-6571
Email: park@korealifeny.com

CHICAGO

Mon., Apr. 12, 2010, 6-8p.m. Simon Lee
TEL: 574)546-2261(x228)
Email: muduni@hanwha.co.kr

BOSTON

Fri., Apr. 9, 2010, 6-8p.m. Patrick Shim
TEL: 609)655-2500(x730)
Email: jsshim@hanwha-usa.com

SAN FRANCISCO

Tue., Apr. 13, 2010, 7-9p.m. Sung Kim
TEL: 562)809-0800(x226)
Email: sungk@hanwhasurfaces.com



ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes

Officers Present: Adam Khan, Karthik Sarma, Tim Black, Brian Merlob, Chris Hallacy, Addie Rice
Officers Absent: Prakriti Gaba
Guests Present: Mahati Mokkarala, Neha Samdaria, Anthony Chong, Laura Conwill
Call to order: 12:14 PM

Funding Requests:

- **RPS Team:** Rock, paper, scissors club has requested \$3.99 to watch a mockumentary. Hallacy is unsure if we can afford this.
VOTE: Approved (5-0-1)
- **Decompression:** DK has asked for funding for decompression (this weekend), but is not here. We can pre-approve funding.
VOTE: Approved (6-0-0)

President's Report:

- **Pasadena Games:** Anthony will be handling the "Pasadena Games" in which a bunch of colleges will be competing at the Rose Bowl. Adam will look into finding funding for shirts, and Anthony will be sending an email to recruit for the team.
- **Chili Earthquake Fundraiser:** Adam is currently working on this.

Officer Reports:

- **V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair):** A couple of courses have had problems with missing sets – the faculty have agreed to use lockboxes or other more secure methods. Some students are worried about getting into Bi 10. Karthik has talked to Prof. Deshaies, who says that people who didn't get in this year will be prioritized next year. Karthik will continue to look into expanding the course. Several students are looking into addressing concerns about Ch 4a in time for 4b. All of the student-faculty course options for next term were approved by the Faculty Board. Karthik will send an email to find student reps to interview candidates for the new CDC career counselor for pre-professional careers. Signups for ARC Secretary and rep-at-large are up.
- **V.P. of Nonacademic Affairs (IHC Chair):** Signups for RevComm chair and the Dean search committee are open. Housing has updated the Resident Guide to Institute Housing.
- **Operations Director:** Brian has been hunting down people from ASCIT-appointed committees. He has also found out who runs the Big T and trying to figure out the little t. He will also be cleaning the old Techs in the DDR room in the SAC.
- **Treasurer:** Hallacy has dealt with a bunch of checks. Ruddock and Avery got interhouse funding. Everyone still wants money.
- **Social Director:** Addie has been working on PFW club fair, spring break activities, the ASCIT movie and is working on assembling a social team.

Discussion:

- **Alumni Career Summit:** Anthony is thinking about holding a career summit so students can talk with successful alums.
- **ASCIT Club Fair booth:** Adam is working on planning this
- **Midnight Donuts:** Are tonight, on the Olive Walk
- **New Staff:** Neha and Mahati want to get involved; Adam will talk to them about various opportunities
- **ASCIT bulletin board:** Laura will talk to Prakriti about adding other people to the bulletin board
- **ASCIT retreat:** Will be the weekend of April 23rd

Meeting adjourned: 12:43 PM

Submitted by Karthik Sarma, ASCIT Vice President for Academic Affairs

IHC Meeting – Blacker

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

Ricketts-Ruddock Transaction Saga [continued]

Will handed Hallacy a check for 30 cents, because the pile of change last week did not add up to \$10. If we waited a couple of months, this may not have been necessary because the dollar/euro exchange rate could shift in Will's favor.

Prefrosh Weekend Rules

The IHC reviewed Prefrosh Weekend rules. Rule 4f, which prohibits Techers from "otherwise unfairly biasing a student toward an individual house", is too vague. This rule will be clarified. In addition, rule 2c, which used to read "serve refreshments at events without the restriction of a small gratuity", now reads "serve refreshments at events for free".

RevComm Chair/ Dean Search Committee

Every president needs to appoint a Review Committee rep from his house by the end of this term. Signups for RevComm chair are up till Thursday, and interviews will occur shortly thereafter. We can pick six people to recommend for the Dean search committee; we will come up with a list jointly with ARC and ASCIT.

Resident Guide to Institute Housing/House Endowments

There are two changes to the Resident Guide to Institute Housing that need to be clarified or further explained:

–Pets in tanks are not permitted: In general, students were not in support of this change. The IHC would like clarification on this rule, because it does not seem to be in place for allergy reasons.

–Fees for sleeping in lounges: It is common for students paying for an on-campus room to fall asleep overnight in a lounge; the IHC will clarify whether this rule prohibits this situation or whether it is in place to prevent people from arriving at Tech before their housing contract starts and staying in a house's common area.

ASCIT Report!

ASCIT is thinking of increasing its dues because they haven't been increased for inflation since the nineties.

Hallacy: 90% of the time when ASCIT needs money it goes to Mannion or the GSC for help. Club funding is abysmal. We would like more money so we can do stuff. The proposed increase is just to adjust for inflation—about \$7 or \$8 per term. This is an overall increase of \$20,000 per year. In addition, we propose a yearly increase to adjust for inflation.

Will: This makes sense, but in return, could you publish the budget in the Tech like you used to? Could we do Big Interhouse again?

The IHC was mostly in favor of having another Big Interhouse; Chris notes that the underclassmen have been more interested. Andrew says Dabney would be happy with it if a North House was responsible for their portion of the building. We could potentially try having the party with no building—Will notes that the DJ Earworm concert was one of the best he's seen because there were different people there; however, people were hesitant to go for a completely non-construction party. Andrew adds, however that he feels construction is less important than music and food. Presidents will talk to their houses to gather more opinions.

Letters to the Editor

Marks/Braun Forced onto Board

While the house system is an important part of undergrad life at Caltech, it shouldn't be forced on anyone. One valuable role Marks and Braun is that it gives people an option to not be affiliated with a house. This is especially important as Avery becomes more of a house with defined personalities and traditions and less of an off campus option. Since Marks and Braun don't have a dining hall, I am assuming that Housing expects us to eat dinner in the houses. While I enjoy being in my house, I think this is a very bad policy for people who would prefer not to dine with any house. This essentially limits Marks and Braun to people who are happy with the house system. While the majority of undergraduates are satisfied with the houses, a substantial minority dislike them. Since the dining plan is currently catered for people living in the houses, it seems very unfair to force people in off campus housing to be on board. Also, we would be at a disadvantage to people living in the houses since we don't have our own kitchen, so we would miss out on open kitchen. I guess we could go to the houses for getting open kitchen, but it would be extremely inconvenient... and there is just the issue that its not "our" kitchen and that we are using the kitchens that belong to other houses. I think that this could make people feel unwelcome and

just avoid going in general. I feel like this change in policy could force people who don't love the house system to live farther away from campus.

This is what another student wrote me:

"In my case, I have been off board in M/B since 2 term freshman year and have found cooking my own food way better in terms of both economy and food quality although I do not dislike the social side of the prospect of dining in a house. Living close to campus with that setup has been extremely beneficial for me. Let me know if I can help in any way to get rid of that new rule: the reason for the policy is clear – the housing are just trying find a way to charge us more and more and cannot think of anything better than having a board plan in a house that does not even have a dining hall. I would expect something more clever from such institution as Caltech."

I guess what should be concerning to people who like the houses is that this forces, or at least gives more motivation for people who don't really like the houses to live there. People who won't participate or socialize in the house but just live there for convenience will just detract from the housing system.

Margaret C.

Re: Sneaky Dentists

I picked up a copy of The California Tech at the Caltech gym a few days ago and read your article on sneaky dentists in the area. That was an awesome article! Hopefully, students saw the article and will heed its advice.

A long time ago I went to a different dentist--also in Pasadena, but on Lake Avenue across from Macy's--who gave me a check-up and cleaning. He said that I had several "micro-cavities" that needed to be filled.

My first thought was "WTF?!?!" I've never had a cavity--sorry, don't be jealous, Tina! :) Also, I had never even heard the term "micro-cavity". I decided to wait and see what happened, so I decided not to get my so-called micro-cavities filled. It's now been several years and I still don't have any cavities. Hmmm..... I wonder what happened to those micro-cavities?

I switched dentists twice since then and neither dentist ever mentioned micro-cavities. It certainly sounds like something they use to scare you so they can generate more revenue. (Maybe they'll come up with femto-cavities next!)

Unfortunately, one of the dentists I switched to also tried a sneaky trick. He said I had receding gums. Again, I thought "WTF?!?" I am really healthy and have really healthy teeth. Plus, I floss every day and brush about 3 times a day. I went to a periodontist for a second opinion and he said my gums and teeth were totally fine. Needless to say, I dropped that dentist

like a hot potato.

I guess we all need to be aware of shysters no matter what occupation--auto mechanic, dentist, lawyer, etc.

Again, that was a great article (and it reminded me of my own trials and tribulations with local dentists). Keep up the good reporting and writing.

Cheers!

Bob G.

More Sneakiness

Thanks for sharing your experiences with Delta HMO.

Your experience reminds me of Safeguard DMO, which is one of the two dental offerings for staff.

A former colleague, who chose this less expensive Safeguard coverage, was once told he needed \$10K worth of dental work.

I was able to get him to see my 'Delta' dentist (the staff Delta plan allows you to go to any licensed dental provider) and his problems were taken care of for less than \$1K.

I am very surprised that the Institute does not offer students the option of the staff 'Delta' plan.

Although the insurance may be more expensive, at least you probably won't have someone trying to take advantage of you ...

Dana R.

Make a Difference Day: Opportunities at Museums, Gardens, Natural Habitats

MAD day this year offers volunteering at LA Arboretum, Heal the Bay, Eaton Canyon, Kids Space Museum, Lifeline for Pets, Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena.

by Sara Ahmed, Sunny Chun, Yang Hu, and Xida Zheng

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. The Caltech community comes 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 10, 2010. Anyone part of the Caltech community is encouraged to sign up through Caltech Y's website at <http://www.caltechy.org>. Participants will receive a free t-shirt and free food for participating. Activities will end with a barbecue at the Caltech Y from 4-6 PM. This event is diverse and happens only once a year. It's a chance for people at Caltech to learn more about the community and even discover some passion to do more and continue volunteering at a site.

In the past 200 people participated in 1 of 20 different projects ranging from 5 to 20 participants and from 3 to 6 hours in length. Projects include academically re-

lated projects, planting a new garden, doing clerical work, painting jobs, yard labor, and visiting with residents. Participants can also work with environmentally conscious groups on projects in the outdoors, at the beach, in the nearby canyons, with forestry organizations. This year sites include LA Arboretum, Heal the Bay, Eaton Canyon, Kids Space Museum, Lifeline for Pets, Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena.

Last year, 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 forty five 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.



Mexican dancers from Xida Zheng's MAD day experience at North East Trees last year

Health Care Reform Passes

**HEALTH CARE, ,
From Page 1**

seniors 65 and over will still have comprehensive health coverage, and doctors and hospital will be paid per procedure. This prudence reflects the large impact Medicare has on the health care market.

If a business has 25 or fewer workers, it can receive tax credits to help purchase insurance for its employees. If a company employs more than 50 people, it will be required to provide coverage for them or face a fine. Low-income families who earn less than four times the poverty level can receive subsidies to help buy coverage.

Ideally, the bill expects a \$124 billion reduction in the federal deficit over the next 10 years. In making sure that everyone is insured, bill proponents hope to encourage a society regular maintains its health through check ups

rather than waiting to appear at the emergency room when very sick and costs are disproportionately high. Further cuts will be made by reducing the annual growth in reimbursements to hospitals by small amounts to stimulate reform in excess hospital procedures.

The government also hopes to increase efficiency by conducting more comparative effectiveness studies on the various treatments available on the market for each diagnosis. A study by the Los Angeles Times earlier this month analyzing over 300 medication studies reports that only 32% were aimed at determining which available treatment is best. In many published journal studies, authors choose to use placebo treatments as a control to a new potential drug or treatment rather than comparing them to existing treatments. Without this information, doctors will prescribe a certain treatment without necessarily knowing if it is better than others.

With the coverage of an additional 32 million individuals, the demand for the already short supply of family physicians, nurse practitioners and other primary care providers increases at an even greater rate. The bill provides "appropriations over five years to fund further training programs, scholarships and loan repayments for those entering primary care," says Time. The number of doctors entering the job market in the United States is rapidly becoming steady state, a situation encouraged by the competitiveness and selectivity of medical school admission. Discussion of establishing more medical schools across the country and the new appropriations promised by the bill will hopefully increase the number of primary care providers in the near future.

Supporters and opponents of the reform bill concede that it will take years to see the effects of the new

legislation, if at all. However, the health reform agenda is far from completion, assure the Democrats. "Of course we'll fuss with it [the bill]," says Karen Politz, Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute director, "But we'll have something to fuss with, as opposed to nothing."

Caltech Athletes Set PRs at Cal State Northridge Meet

Bettina Chen ran a lifetime PR in the 800m with a time of 2:24.87.

Tom Rose had a lifetime PR in Javelin with a throw of 140'-1".

Brice Nzeukou ran a lifetime PR in the 100m with a time of 11.44.

Mitchel Arene also ran a lifetime PR in the 100m as well with a time of 11.65.

Tuling Ma ran a lifetime PR in the 400m with a time of 55.77.



Mitchel Arene at the Northridge Meet

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 2nd

2pm M Tennis @ Pomona-Pitzer

2pm W Tennis vs Pomona-Pitzer

3pm - Baseball vs La Verne

Saturday, April 3rd

9:30 W Tennis vs La Verne

10:30 Track & Field @ Redlands

11am Baseball @ La Verne

11am W Water Polo vs Oxy

2pm Baseball @ La Verne

2pm M Tennis @ Cal Lutheran

Horoscopes

(Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Aries

Your newest model's assumptions will be all wrong. Oh ya, and cows ain't spheres.

(Apr 20 - May 20)

Taurus

Those photos of you lighting stuff on fire will leak on to facebook, expect to hear from the deans.

(May 21 - June 20)

Gemini

As it turns out, you cannot both go to TND and pass Ph106 (insert other set due Friday)

(June 21 - July 22)

Cancer

Somehow your two minute to deadline email-in-pset was delayed and got there too late.

(July 23 - Aug 22)

Leo

You can leave your cell uncharged: you will not receive a follow-up call after that interview.

(Aug 23 - Sept 22)

Virgo

Tomorrow you will learn that the problem you are trying to solve is considered a 'classic'.

(Sept 23 - Oct 22)

Libra

Somehow your assumptions about rationale behavior in economics are unrational.

(Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Scorpio

Perhaps in the coming weeks you should branch out into new fields, and leave your old work behind.

(Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Sagittarius

You may come to realize the LHC data will start to arrive in your 8th year of graduate school.

(Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Capricorn

The only hard and fast rule of science you have discovered today: those who work less will achieve more.

(Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Aquarius

This week you will fall asleep in class all your classes.

(Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Pisces

Try to be understanding of those around you in the coming days, they, as it turns out, are almost as crazy as you are.

How To Treat A Girl Right

A few weeks ago I might have offended some members of Caltech. Since I have no desire to pitch a tent on the Olive Walk, I should do something special for the community. I would teach guys how to treat a girl right.

Right now, most guys follow girl(s) in groups and stand next to them awkwardly. This needs to be stopped immediately. The only way to show a girl that you're the right guy for her is by giving her the respect and attention she deserves. Here's a list of several things guys should think of doing instead:

1. Cook with her.

Cooperate with her in a domestic task to make something you can both enjoy. Show her that you respect her as an individual, and value her as an equal partner. When she finally realizes her boyfriend doesn't value her the way you do, she'll dump him for you, who's always been there for her. It'll feel so right.

2. Work on homework together.

Sure, you might've already taken Ma1a, but that shouldn't stop you. She wants someone she can lean on. You need to become her pillar of support. This also shows that you're captivated by her personality.

3. Let her do your laundry

If you're not captivated by the purifying scent of detergent, the soft feeling of freshly laundered clothing, and the warm hum of the washing machine, you must not be a woman. Letting her do your laundry shows that you understand her desires and needs; that you don't just think of yourself.

4. Give her alcohol

Everyone feels sad sometime. When that happens, a girl may be looking for a drink. Be there for them. Offer them all the alcohol they want. The more they drink, the more they'll realize how good you are for them. Let her know that you have all the liquid she needs.

5. The Naked Man

In the comfortable atmosphere of her own room, give her a surprising gift. Not the keys to a fancy car or a diamond ring. It's a man, sitting on her couch, completely naked. Resting self assured, with his arms open and welcoming, his confidence telling her, "I'm here, ready for you, whenever you need me."

Alarming study finds that grad students are far more attractive than undergrads

Efforts underway to “dull down” the grad student population

By Ugly

STAFF WRITER

Jane Doe, Caltech '12, finally realized Caltech had a problem when she broke up with her high school boyfriend over a year ago. “After the requisite mourning period, I looked around campus for a potential rebound relationship, and it was horrible!” she said. “Every time I saw a guy and though, ‘Oh, he’s cute,’ I would discover that he was a graduate

student.”

On Friday, the evidence for the superior attractiveness of grad students moved from anecdotal to statistical, when Useless Surveys rated both grads and undergrads on a rigorous 1 to 10 attractiveness scale. According to the guide for raters, “1 is absolutely and utterly repulsive, and 10 is a supermodel.” The average Caltech grad student ranks a 5, whereas the average Caltech undergrad ranks a 3.

Useless Surveys representa-

tive Lissy Sideburns said that even she was surprised by the supreme lack of good-looking Caltech undergrads. “Caltech is no UCLA, but even so, we didn’t think scores this low were possible. Our raters incorrectly guessed the genders of the Caltech undergrads 10% of the time.”

In response to another Useless Surveys poll, a majority of Caltech undergrads indicated that they just didn’t care about the results.

A small minority of Caltech undergrads were outraged at be-

ing “shown up” by the grad students, and have been lobbying the Director of Graduate School Admissions to “ask for a picture with grad school applications and reject all students above a 5.”

A smaller minority of Caltech undergrads lobbied the Undergraduate Admissions Office to consider attractiveness and gender when choosing the incoming class, but were immediately reprimanded by the Admissions Office and the rest of the student body for supporting affirmative action.

Barack Blocks Bill, Lashes out at Lavish Legislators

By Scoop McGee

STAFF WRITER



Oryctolagus cuniculus is age 7 when he found his secret talents

In a shocking turn of events, President Obama issued an executive order yesterday to block implementation of the recently-enacted healthcare bill. The bill has been the source of much debate and controversy in Washington for the past year since the President began his initial push for reform. In a live television appearance Obama said, “I had been so busy discussing the issue that I never had time to actually read the bill. Well, I finally sat down and took a look at it and, boy, I was shocked at what I saw.”

“I had been so busy discussing the issue that I never had time to actually read the bill.

-- Barack Obama, President of the United States

As the only person to have read the bill in Washington or anywhere else, the President uncovered that many of the so-called “concessions” in the bill were actually special benefits for congressmen themselves and their political allies. One Congressional aide who asked to remain anonymous provided insight on the devious plot, stating, “most of the infighting in Congress was not ideological in

nature but rather fierce competition to allocate as much money as possible for personal use.”

Obama singled out certain individuals in his speech, saying, “Liposuction for Jerry Nadler? An experimental brain transplant for Sarah Palin? And seventeen plastic surgeries for Nancy Pelosi!? You should be utterly ashamed!”

The effects of this scandal in Washington remain unclear, but



Caltech political expert Anita RealityCheck believes most Congressmen will emerge unscathed. “The U.S. has a very high tolerance for waste and corruption,” he said, “This is a relatively tiny blip on the political radar of the average American, and the minority who are even aware of the situation will likely forget about it within a few weeks.”

Biology T.A. has a Donk

By Caltech Male

STAFF WRITER

A biology T.A. has been making a stir recently with the revelation that she has a donk.

Freshman Pan Wang says, “I could always tell she had a donk. It’s been really obvious lately though, ever since she started wearing really tight pants.”

“She looks like one of those rap guys girlfriends,” sophomore Taylor Martin agreed.

Junior Ziyang Wang was confused. “A dong? Wait, I thought she was a chick.”

When asked if her donk made it difficult to pay attention in class, students disagreed. Approximately one third of those surveyed said that her donk distracted the class from the lecture, while two thirds claimed that her donk was the only reason they started going to class.

One thing’s for sure, she’s got some junk in the trunk.

The California Tech

Caltech 40-58

Pasadena, CA 91125