

The Muddraker

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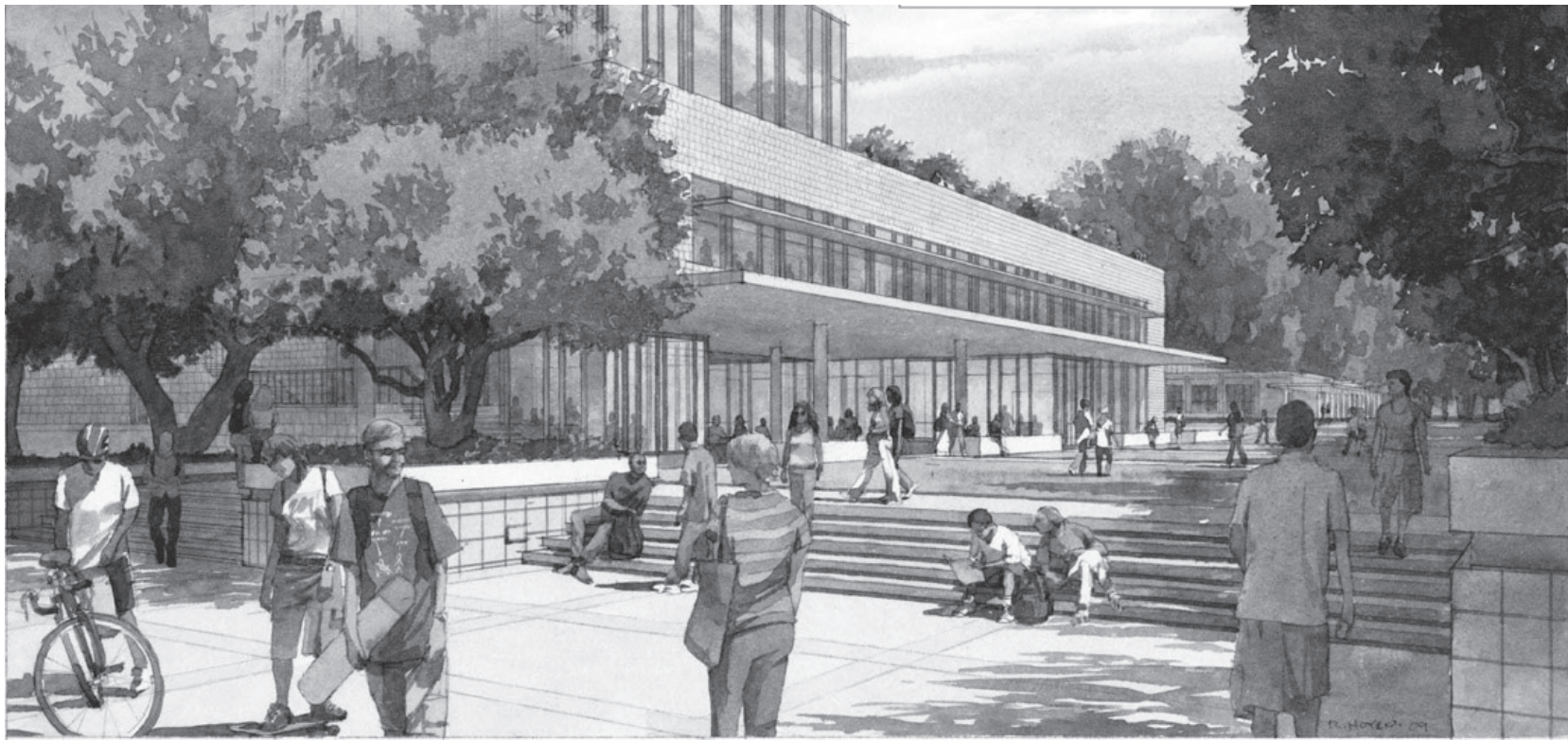
Thomas-Garrett Replacement Takes Shape

By BEN KELLER '10

It has been over a year since President Maria Klawe stood before the community at convocation and declared, “Thomas-Garrett delenda est!” Embellishments aside, President Klawe’s strong commitment to the construction of a new teaching and learning building to replace the 60’s-era Thomas-Garrett Hall has resulted in remarkable progress. While it is unclear at this time when ground will be broken, a clear picture of the new building has crystallized in recent months. If the building is constructed as currently proposed, it will represent a new direction for Mudd and an attempt to propel HMC to new heights.

On the surface, our facilities may appear to be adequate to support our current classroom needs. After all, we all go to classes every day without incident and seem to learn well enough; how bad could the status quo be? But a little consideration brings forth a litany of complaints. Current classrooms are small and overcrowded. Many are underground, with little or no natural lighting. Usually the size and construction of the classrooms precludes any sort of flexible setup; professors are forced to teach in whatever manner is prescribed by the room they find themselves in. And a few minutes spent in the registrar’s office while classes are being scheduled would convince anyone that it’s a miracle any schedule is ever created. And if the school brings in more faculty to offer new courses? Perhaps we’ll all finally get to experience lectures on the roof of Sprague.

It is clear that we need new classrooms, and Thomas-Garrett is an obvious choice for replacement. Constructed decades ago, the classrooms in this building are cramped, and modern conveniences like projectors are an afterthought if they are present at all. The Strategic Vision planning that the school undertook three years



An artist’s rendition of the proposed design for the new Teaching and Learning Building.

ago called for vast improvements in infrastructure, and a “new Thomas-Garrett” seemed the place to start.

At the Board of Trustees meeting last February, the go-ahead was given to form an Architect Review Committee to search for architects to design the new building. This subcommittee heard proposals from over a dozen different firms before choosing Boora Architects, an architectural design firm based in Portland, Oregon. Immediately, Boora began working to determine what form the building should take through a process called programming. In this phase, the architects worked closely with the Teaching and Learning Planning Committee, a group comprised of students, faculty, and administrators, to determine the role that the new building should play

on campus and the needs it must fulfill. The architects also held forums so that the entire community had a say in its development.

The programming process began in April and concluded by June. By summer, the committee had converged upon a concept radically different than the existing building. Replacing a 9,000 square foot building, the new building would weigh in at over 60,000 square feet. It would house not only dozens of new classrooms of all sizes (including a 300-person auditorium), but also twenty faculty offices, admissions, financial aid, the President’s office, student galleries, and a café. Informal breakout spaces and huddle rooms would be interspersed throughout. The new building had become much more

Thomas-Garrett, continued on page 2

page 2 HMC looks to CGU for Housing

By MATTHEW GOODWIN '13

When one first arrives at Mudd as a freshman, the questions “What dorm are you from?” and “What’s your name?” seem like appropriate conversation starters. However, many Mudders, like myself, seem to forget the responses to these questions. During my time here as a freshman, I have met at least one person from each dorm, plus an extra: the Claremont Graduate University apartments. As a freshman new to the housing scene, I’m fascinated by the notion of living in the CGU apartments. Perhaps it’s the three letter acronym in front of the word “apartments” that entices me, or maybe it’s the thought of living in an exotic area off campus. Of course, I have yet to venture very far from Mudd, so everything on the other side of Foothill is new to me.

Since the CGU situation piqued my interest, I spoke with Dean Guy Gerbick to figure out the story behind the students living at the Claremont Graduate University. Last spring, it became apparent that on-campus housing at Mudd would be “maxed out” due to increasing enrollment and space constraints. Gerbick explained that in the past, the school has been close to being fully maxed out, but there has always been space. This has resulted in the Case library being converted into dorm rooms and some of the Atwood L’s being used as triples. Before President Maria Klawe decided to live on campus, the Garrett House had been used to house students. This year, however, there was simply not enough space on campus for

students.

The problem of insufficient housing is nothing new to the other Claremont Colleges; Scripps and Pitzer have signed contracts with apartment complexes in the Claremont area to house students who cannot fit on campus. Harvey Mudd had considered a similar contract until Andrew Dorantes, the Vice President for Administration and Finance for Mudd, mentioned that the Claremont Graduate University

was having a hard time filling up its apartment complex. With this in mind, the college began negotiations with CGU, eventually securing space for 10 students in the complex (nine Mudders currently live in the apartments).

CGU apartment housing isn’t as bad as it may seem. Yes, it’s off campus, but it’s not that far. As Gerbick points out, the apartments are about the same distance from Olin as Linde dorm. The buildings themselves are LEED certified, and the rooms have their own kitchens, mak-



The Claremont Graduate University apartment complex.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE HAUSER '13

ing them a good option for those wanting to stay off the meal plan. The only major drawback is the lack of dorm life, but, with the presence of a playground, that loss is definitely made up for.

According to Gerbick, many factors, like enrollment and number of students studying abroad, affect the housing situation. At this point, it’s unclear whether Harvey Mudd will have to make a similar arrangement with CGU for next year.

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HMC Considers Implementing Reusable To-Go Containers

By FIONA FOO '13

Harvey Mudd Dining Services and the ASHMC Food Committee are now looking into bringing in reusable to-go containers, an environment-friendly change that would save money and reduce waste.

In the proposed plan, all HMC students will be issued a reusable plastic container for free. After using the containers, students return the used ones to the dining hall and receive clean ones in return. This ensures that containers are properly cleaned. Disposable take-out containers will continue to be available for 50 cents. These cardboard-based containers were introduced in 2006 to replace Styrofoam-based containers. These compostable containers are biodegradable and hence much greener than Styrofoam. However, producing and disposing of them still creates a lot of waste.

While offering reusable to-go containers definitely has environmental advantages, some students are unhappy about the inconsistency across 5C dining halls. The three colleges that already have a reusable to-go container program--Scripps, Pitzer, and Pomona--have chosen different sizes of to-go containers. Currently, one college's container will not be accepted

at another dining hall, and students who want to take out food at another college will have to pay 50 cents to purchase a disposable container.

The ASHMC Food Committee and Dining Services is considering adopting Pitzer's to-go container, because its size is about the same as the disposable containers that Mudd is now using. Claremont McKenna, the other Claremont College that has not yet implemented a to-go system yet, has also decided to go with Pitzer's to-go container, according to the Claremont Port Side. CMC intends to implement their system by the end of October.

Despite this, the reasons for introducing reusable containers are very strong. Fewer than one percent of compostable containers are actually composted, and many resources are expended in producing, distributing, and disposing of these containers. Even if the reusable to-go containers are not compatible across all the Claremont Colleges, offering a green option is still better than forcing students to throw away a disposable container each time.

To-Go Container Program Facts

- *Students at some of the other Claremont Colleges are given free, reusable to-go containers.*
- *At these colleges, to-go containers must be returned after each use for cleaning.*
- *Once a to-go container is returned, the student is given a clean one.*
- *Damage to the to-go container results in a five dollar fine.*
- *At Pomona, paper to-go containers are still available, but are distributed for \$0.50.*

Contact Leon Liu, ASHMC Food Committee Chair, at Leon_Liu@hmc.edu with any questions or comments regarding the proposed To-Go Container Program.

Land Use and Parking: An Update

By BEN KELLER '10

Last year, I wrote in this space about Harvey Mudd's plans to construct a parking lot on its recently purchased land adjacent to the Bernard Field Station. Since then, the situation has changed considerably, with all sides hopeful that Harvey Mudd's parking needs can be satisfied while preserving the North Property for biological use.

The key event in the ongoing dispute over the use of the land occurred in May. During the spring semester, a series of meetings took place between the HMC administration, students, and the City of Claremont. Each party stressed its desire to seek a compromise; HMC would be willing to take measures to drastically scale down its demand for parking if the city would credit them for these measures and loosen the college's parking requirements. At a city council meeting in May, city staff proposed just such a measure. Under the

proposed guidelines, the city would give a 20% reduction in the number of parking spaces it required for each class year that was restricted from bringing cars to campus. The measure also included various other changes to the parking regulations, such as eliminating the 800' rule and changing the way in which parking requirements are calculated. The city formalized and refined this proposal over the summer months and has provided a draft ordinance which the city reviewed with the Colleges and interested residents in September.

Students and HMC administrators were hopeful that the proposed changes would be implemented quickly, possibly by the start of the current academic year. Unfortunately, it no longer appears that such quick passage will be the case. While there is no dispute over the key provision, that 20% credit be given to colleges that

restrict parking by class, other provisions in the agreement have generated some debate within the Claremont community. For this reason, the new parking ordinance may not be finalized and approved until 2010. Given HMC's desire to obtain approval for its new classroom building, and given the lack of controversy regarding the 20% credit, HMC is working with the City to find a solution that would allow HMC to count on the 20% credit regardless of when the remaining changes are approved.

Another aspect of the land purchase last year was an agreement with CGU that allowed them to purchase half of the 11.46 acres from HMC. This purchase has not yet happened. Subdivision of the property is ongoing, and is expected to be completed by March 2010. The memorandum between HMC and CGU is set to expire 30 days after this subdivision is completed; if

CGU does not act by that time, Mudd will own the entirety of the 11.46 acres for the foreseeable future.

So, students and the administration begin the year on an optimistic note, hopeful that changes to the parking regulations will allow HMC to avoid construction of additional parking. However, sacrifice by the community will be necessary to achieve this goal; namely, freshmen will be restricted from bringing cars to campus. This step has not been finalized, because the administration is unwilling to move forward without first meeting with students and other members of the community to discuss the issue. If the community comes to consensus in favor of restricting parking, then it seems likely that the North Property will be preserved as a biological resource for years to come.



Thomas-Garrett, continued from Front Page

than a reimagining of Thomas-Garrett; it had taken on a role all its own.

Programming in hand, the architects began the task of schematic design, a process that continued through the summer months. In this phase, the architects worked revision after revision of concept sketches and schematics for the building itself, seeking feedback at each stage from the community. They even went so far as to take on three Mudders as summer interns; the students worked on a variety of different tasks, including developing and evaluating temperature and lighting models for the various classroom configurations.

By September, the architects were ready to present their work. The new building would pay homage to the existing architectural framework of the campus, but in many ways, it would firmly break from the "blocks and warts" tradition. The building features two main wings, separated by a main courtyard. The western section, however, is angled outward, opening the courtyard towards the rest of academics and giving the entire building a less formal feel. With four stories of classrooms and

other spaces (including a basement), the building will have a substantially larger footprint than Thomas-Garrett. The classrooms are all substantially larger than their equal-capacity contemporaries; that is, a 24-person classroom in the new building is much roomier than the 24-person classrooms we have now. Furthermore, each room will feature a fully-equipped AV system, and will receive sunlight from at least two sides. Incorporating such features as photovoltaic paneling and super-efficient water and cooling systems, the architects expect that the building will achieve LEED Platinum certification, the highest level of sustainability awarded by that organization. The new building seeks to bring our campus into the 21st century.

Such a major change to the campus is bound to provoke discussion, but many students and faculty have expressed their support for the direction that the architects have taken. I spoke with Professor Michael Orrison of the mathematics department, a member of the Planning Committee and a vocal proponent of the new building. Orrison is excited about the possibilities presented by new classroom

space, pointing out that the new flexibility of the classrooms, in terms of both infrastructure and technology, means that the faculty will finally have "classrooms that reflect the many ways in which we'd like to teach." He is also enthusiastic about the potential to host conferences, both in math and in other fields, in the new building. The wide array of classroom spaces, along with the new auditorium, would make it an ideal venue. "Everything special about Harvey Mudd is below ground or behind a locked door," he explains. "What's special about Harvey Mudd will now be visible."

Dean of the Faculty Robert Cave has also been instrumental in the planning process for the new building. In an interview, he expressed his emphatic support for thinking big and not limiting the scope of the new building. "We are bursting at the seams," he says, describing just how cramped our current classrooms are. Even though funding remains a concern, he says, attempting to scale down the building would be a "disaster." Any attempt to pinch pennies would result in a building that did not reflect the excellence of the college and its academics, and

would subvert the goal of a true "campus crossroads" where the best aspects of the college are brought together under one roof.

So what happens next? At this year's convocation, President Klawe expressed her continued support for the new building. She explained that the school was seeking a "naming gift," a donation of \$20 million or more, that would support much of the cost of the building and allow construction to go forward (the cost of the building was recently estimated to be over \$40 million). If the naming gift is received soon, then Thomas-Garrett could fall as early as next summer, with construction of the new building completed by Fall 2012. As the architects press forward with design development, in which they will flesh out every detail of the new building and prepare the documents necessary to begin construction, the community waits hopefully for the day when our classrooms will reflect the excellence that takes place within them.

Two Cents on Health Care Reform

Something that Should have been Aired Four Months Ago

By Kevin Tham '12

Recently, opponents of President Obama’s visions of medical care reform have been getting a really bad rap from political and media circles. In some cases I agree with those circles – you do not shriek “death panels” and assume the president wants your granny to die in a civilized national debate, regardless of how strongly you feel on the issue. That said, I find myself gravitating towards opposing the President’s plans for medical care reform not because of “death panels,” but rather simple economics.

While human needs may be fairly limited (food, shelter, protection, to be loved, and so on), human WANTS are essentially infinite. Given the choice of food, we want filet mignon and truffles every night; for shelters, we want mansions that would make Warren Buffett blush; for protection, we all want the biggest guns, fighter jets, and nukes we can get our oven mitts on. Similarly, with regards to medical care, humans want personal 24-hour physicians who shadow them. Of course, there are only so many truffles, mansions, and physician-hours to go around, so it would be incredibly difficult for any of the above to actually occur. Since there are finite resources, some method of distribution – in some countries AK-47s and gun trucks, in others “first come, first serve,” in ours the rule of law and the trade of money – is required to see to it that everybody gets at least some of their infinite wants satisfied. The more money (or the more AK-47s) one has, the more one can satisfy these infinite wants.

Now consider the president’s speeches on his and Congress’ medical insurance plans. He’s made a number of points on how his insurance plans will improve the system, which we can analyze and see how they square with the “infinite wants, finite resources” paradigm. Remember that the infinite want considered here is medical insurance: in theory, everybody will want more than enough money to cover a theoretical total body reconstruction. First, he says that his plan will give those unlucky souls who do not have medical insurance some ba-

sic, government-mandated form (with a fair number of benefits). Second, he says that those who already have medical insurance will be able to keep said insurance. Third, he argues that those who already have medical insurance will actually see a drop in their monthly premiums under this plan. To summarize:

1) Somewhere between 30-47 million people can at least partially satisfy their infinite want of medical insurance.

2) Those who already have satisfied their medical insurance want can keep their current quality.

3) This will all come with an aggregate reduction in the cost of maintaining said insurance.

I think we all see the slight problem here. If 30-47 million people were suddenly added to the insurance rolls, the aggregate cost of covering everybody has to increase, not decrease. If the cost were held steady, we’d have to deprive someone else of the satisfaction of his or her own infinite wants to make up the difference (which is probably where the “death panel” scare comes from). Even if new resources were freed up from Medicare reforms and what not, that 30-47 million number would still be going up from natural births, so the aggregate cost of the insurance can only increase as time goes on.

There. A reasonable critique of Obama’s medical reform plan (or at least one significant aspect thereof). If you think I’m missing something, or just want to send me some vitriol, drop me a line at kevin_tham@hmc.edu or davinalkri.blogspot.com.

Quick FACTS

YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HEALTH CARE

- One third of adults and over half of children do not have a primary care doctor
- 15.9% of adults were uninsured in 2005
- 39.8 million workers had no health care coverage in 2005
- Roughly one-quarter of the U.S. budget goes to health care
- Close to 100,000 Americans die annually from medical errors
- Of 23 industrialized countries, the U.S. has the highest infant mortality rate

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/PrescriptionForChange/story?id=2563381>

Experience the BLAST of Football

By Johnathan Chai '13

With the NFL Season kicked off, you now have one more thing to look forward to on Sundays other than homework!

Whether you are an avid sports fan or completely devoid of sports knowledge, watching football can be an enjoyable activity. It’s not just about a bunch of muscular men trying to beat each other up. It’s about gathering with your friends and experiencing the thrill of the competition. Pick teams to root for and teams to despise. Don’t know any teams? Not a problem. Just visit the NFL website to find out. If you want to go local, become a San Diego Chargers fan. Pick any team that sounds cool to you: Saints, Cowboys, Steelers, 49ers, Vikings, or Jets, to name a few. Then on game day, watch your team as they give it all on the field. Rather than thinking everyone’s going to hit each other and crash into a big pile, try guessing what’s going to happen. Is the quarterback going to pass short or long? Or, will he hand off the ball to the running back behind him? You’ll soon notice that the game play is quite varied. Both teams are trying to make their strategies as difficult as possible for the opposing side to predict. After that, it’s all up to the players’ ability and a bit of luck. It is remarkable to witness the speed and strength of the athletes as they work to get the ball into the end zone. How can you not feel excited when that big, game-changing play happens suddenly without



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE NOWAK AND [HTTP://WWW.CHARGERS.COM](http://www.chargers.com)

warning?

Football has been around for decades, entertaining fans all over our country. I’m not going to ask you to become obsessed with the NFL. However, I urge you to give it a try, even if you don’t consider yourself a sports-loving person. How about joining SportSHMC, our new sports

fan club? You will also get the chance to learn about the other sports on TV such as Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, and college sports. Let go of your academic stress by delving into the NFL nation. Plus, talking about games is also a great way to start a conversation the next day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE NOWAK AND [HTTP://WWW.CHARGERS.COM](http://www.chargers.com)

Upcoming Games

- 10/25- Giants vs. Cardinals
- 11/8- Cowboys vs. Eagles
- 11/12- 49ers vs. Bears
Patriots vs. Colts
- 11/19- Dolphins vs. Panthers
Eagles vs. Bears
- 11/26- Giants vs. Broncos
Steelers vs. Ravens
- 12/03- Jets vs. Bills
Steelers vs. Patriots

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Ask a

Prof

“Ask a Prof” is a regular section of the Muddraker. Here, you’ll be given the chance to anonymously ask professors whatever you’d like. We’ll be rotating professors for every issue.

Dear Professor,

Many Mudders will eventually attend graduate school and many seniors are considering applications. In light of this, can you tell us about your experiences? What stories and advice can you offer about the world of grad school?

-Unsure Undergrad

Prof Steven Adolph



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE HAUSER '13

is famous could be a terrible graduate advisor, while a less flashy scientist may make an excellent mentor.

You also need to learn about the culture of applying to grad school in your chosen field. For example, graduate programs in molecular biology often accept a cohort of students who will spend a year doing “rotations” short-term research projects in a series of labs. This serves as a long period of matchmaking between students and advisors. In contrast, graduate programs in ecology and evolution typically accept a student into a specific professor’s lab at the outset. Therefore, it is almost essential for an ecology student to start corresponding with individual professors early in the application process; it is not enough to just apply to the program.

And about that “personal statement” that grad schools will ask you to write as part of your application: this is a misnomer! They do not want to hear about how you’ve wanted to study frogs ever since you were 5, or that you played rugby or the accordion in college. This is also not the place to write your whimsical biography. A more accurate name for what they are looking for is “statement of professional goals and background.”

So if you still want to go to grad school, talk to your professors! They can help you identify the right programs and advisors for your interests and personality.

Good luck,
Prof. Adolph

Random Thoughts

on the passing scene

Guess Who’s Back! Back Again!

Random’s Back! Tell Your Friends!

BY KEVIN THAM '12

- Welcome, welcome class of 2013 to Harvey Mudd College! Are you having fun in special relativity?
- The freshman class might not know this, but last year, and I believe most years before that, the dining halls had trays for your food. This is not the case anymore. The whole of the 5-campus system has gone trayless in the name of environmental concerns. They had much more frequently cleaned tables, too. A big gaudy advert in the Hoch says that each tray not used saves about one ounce of water. But, personally, judging by the food waste that accumulates on the tables, that one ounce apiece gets used up once it’s time to wash the tables.
- That same advert also advertises that Americans waste a significant portion of food, about 96 billion pounds of it, a year. Run the numbers (300 million Americans, 365 days a year) and it comes out to around 10/11ths of a pound per day – a horrific amount if your family always taught you to clean your plate, but not quite the “I’m making a difference!” number expected by the ad creators, I expect. It also notes that one fourth of that food waste (i.e. 24 billion pounds) could feed 4 million people in a day. Okay...according to the ad creators, the average person eats 6,000 pounds of food a day. It’s a bit more reasonable if it’s supposed to be “4 BILLION a day” (6 pounds apiece – maybe a bit low end) or “4 million a YEAR” (around 16.5 pounds apiece – maybe a little high). But was the budget so freakishly low that the poster men couldn’t

have run a back-of-the-envelope check before placing a blatantly absurd set of numbers in a college of scientists and engineers?!

- The cafeterias take any chance they get to note when their food is locally grown and produced. The Pitzer dining hall blatantly advertises it at all of its tables. But is this automatically the good thing the colleges believe it is? Thomas Sowell notes that a number of farmers in Africa disagree. He says that once an international market for their crops opened up, the farmers happily sold their crops and began supplementing their locally grown food with imported fish and meat, and even (that luxury of luxuries!) canned foods, presumably not canned on the farm. I would argue based on this (and a few other trends of note, like the values of spice back when they were things imported from the Caribbean and other places, and the massive increase in food quality and choice country-wide here in the U.S. with the development of canning and the refrigerated train car) that prosperity and how not-local your food and things are have some positive correlation. After all, the “ultimate” reduction ad absurdum in the local food movement would be subsistence farming...
- Okay, enough ranting on the food services. ACORN more your type? You might know the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now as the community organizing group who until recently was slated to assist with the 2010 census. Now the Senate has voted to cut off all federal funding from the group.

Why? A recent sting operation by a private journalist, James O’Keefe may have had something to do with it. Said journalist said he was a pimp and wanted some advice as to how to legally and cheaply bring his...ahem...merchandise... into country and dodge the inevitable fees. And he apparently got the advice he wanted. If you haven’t heard about it, he’s posted his findings here: <http://biggovernment.com/author/jokeefe/>

- Connecting to the other article, on September 12, a large crowd marched in Washington protesting federal medical plans, among other things. You might think I’m happy about this, behind the crowd all the way. Well...not really. For one thing, a distressing number of rightist commentators who discussed the event vastly inflated the number of people there. Further, of those who arrived for the march, a depressing number carried signs saying fun things like accusing President Obama of being a slave master or being the Antichrist or making death threats or raising the birth certificate question again. This isn’t a particularly NEW trend in political discourse; as readers of zombietime.com will know, similar protest signs showed up under the Bush administration. But it is distressing, and distracting from civil talk, and a bit too close to the John Birch Society (who were supposed to have been expunged from the Republican party with the rise of Buckley and National Review) for my taste. This probably won’t happen, but I’d like to ask all those on both sides of the aisle who would carry such ridiculous and irrational

Random continued on page 5

Saca’s Offers Ideal Student Meal

By Alice Paul ’12

There’s nothing like the appeal of free food, as shown by the long lines for Wednesday Nighter donuts and the massive amount of pizza consumed at every party. However, on a night when free food isn’t hanging around the courtyard and the Hoch menu doesn’t seem appealing, most students look for a cheap and fast alternative. Unfortunately, this often leads to more pizza, burgers, fries, and Mix Bowl not exactly the most nutritious options.

Enter Saca’s, a cute and casual Mediterranean restaurant located in the Village. Just off the main drag of Harvard, this small, blue tiled building stands humble and welcoming. Inside, you’ll find the owners, Fred and Nadia Saca, who opened the restaurant in 1992.

While Fred was working at a bank in Claremont, the financial crisis of the late eighties and early nineties hit, leaving him out of work. So came about the idea and adventure of Saca’s. Using Nadia’s family recipes, passed down to her at a young age from her mother, the pair opened the original Saca’s on Arrow Highway, later moving to the Village in 1998. The goal of their restaurant: to serve reasonably priced, high quality food.

“My key issue is healthy food. I’m selfish...I want my customers to be healthy,” jokes Fred. Almost everything is made on premises from scratch daily. They make their own hummus, meats, salad dressing, and falafel with no preservatives. Fred’s favorite: chicken shwerma with falafel.

“It’s a labor intensive operation,” explains Fred. But the results are worth it. There are no oils added to meats. Only a water-based herb mixture is used to enhance the meat’s own juices. Even the fries are made with no trans fat or cholesterol.

On my last visit, I chose the falafel and Mediterranean salad with pita. Everything tasted fresh, delicious, and homemade. Nadia says she merely took her family’s secret recipes and adapted them for larger quantities while preserving the quality. “Instead of a blender of hummus, it’s a bucket.”

The best part: my wholesome meal totaled seven dollars.



Saca’s Mediterranean cuisine, located on Second Street between Harvard and Yale.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE HAUSER ’13

The menu is created with students (and their budgets) in mind. But it’s not only for the food and prices that people return. The service is exemplary, as well. Both Nadia and Fred are hands on managers, working six days a week to ensure that the restaurant runs smoothly. “I enjoy it here 24/7,” says Fred, “I like to be involved and greet customers.” Because of this attitude, many people in the community find themselves returning to such a warm and friendly atmosphere.

With the many upscale restaurants in the village, Saca’s offers a different experience. There may not be candles and tablecloths, but the simplicity of Saca’s is both charming and ideal for students. So the next time you’re looking for a bite outside the dining halls, consider a short walk down to Saca’s Mediterranean Cuisine. It’s well worth the trip.

Saca’s is located on Second Street between Harvard and Yale.

www.gotosacas.com

Random continued from page 4

signs to please step out of the room and make a party of your own that we all can condemn.

- Proposition 8 passed about a year ago. For those of you from outside the state, the proposition effectively rendered the definition of “marriage” as “something between a man and a woman” a part of the constitution. There’s a legal case currently in state court regarding whether such a law should be on the books. I’m sympathetic to the legal argument here, as the idea of putting marriage laws in a state constitution is patently silly. I’m somewhat less sympathetic to those who actually supported the bill; they had a slight tendency to get emotional to the point of pathos (especially with last year’s campus march), and after the proposition was passed, some of them decided to get vengeance for the 70-30 split among African Americans in favor of the bill and engage in some racial heckling at UCLA.
- Here’s a little intellectual exercise for the reader. I support the option of gay marriage viscerally, thanks to something of a libertarian streak. But to those who support the actual contract for all the ancillary benefits of married couples (tax breaks, visitation rights, whatever), let’s examine the actual words for the concept implied. “Marriage,” for all the blather over its definition, is easy enough to define: it’s a legal contract, serving as an official recognition of a relationship. But in exchange for that legal recognition, the terms of the relationship are restricted, usually for the benefit of some other party (children, tribe, etc.); religious societies have couples under such contracts required to remain monogamous and live with one another; more legalistic states tie certain splits of financial burdens, inheritance rights, and other such special pecuniary matters to the contract. Now, what are the major claims that those who advocate the contract (note that it’s not the choice of marriage I refer to, but the contract) say to convince people of their correctness? The freedom of all people to be in a loving relationship of their choice, among other concepts. In short, the marriage contract is seen as a way to expand the right of relations. But such a freedom is not granted by legal recognition; depending on your level

- of belief, it’s granted by God or by virtue of being born. And as I’ve already talked through, the idea that a marriage contract can somehow be seen as an expansion of freedom is ludicrous; an unmarried couple has infinitely more ways to arrange the terms of its relationship than a married one, the romantic and financial choices of which are much more restricted.
- The point of everything above? Only this: while the idea behind the choice of gay marriage may be laudable, as an actual relationship choice, it doesn’t particularly make much sense. Gay couples worldwide may agree with me; according to a study released by the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy (see the raw data here: http://www.marriedebate.com/pdf/imapp_demandforssm.pdf), in all those states and countries where same-sex marriage is legal, only a small minority of couples actually go through with it – about 1 in 6 in Massachusetts, and single digit percentages internationally. Even if, as its particularly die-hard advocates would argue, the matter would provide all benefits to same-sex couples currently only enjoyed by heterosexual relationships (and is a civil rights issue as important as that of desegregation in the 1960s), most such couples don’t seem quite so incensed about it.
 - (Okay, maybe that should have been a separate article.)
 - Less politics and more modern pop culture. Can I mention a rather distressing trend, for me at least, in modern music? It’s the increasing tendency for songs put out by hit bands to be, for the most part, differentiated only by lyrics (and very little at that), with more-or-less interchangeable drum and guitar lines. Trust me, I’m living at West Dorm, directly across from the giant speakers; half of the music that comes out of those things sounds like they came from the same band off the same sheet music, just with a different set of words on top. We never hear any unusual rhythm patterns (“Puttin’ on the Ritz”), odd lyric lines (“Civilization (Bongo Bongo Bongo)”), covers that take music in a new, oddball (if disliked by the original creator) way (Sinatra’s version of “Mrs. Robinson) or lyric lines that don’t need words to

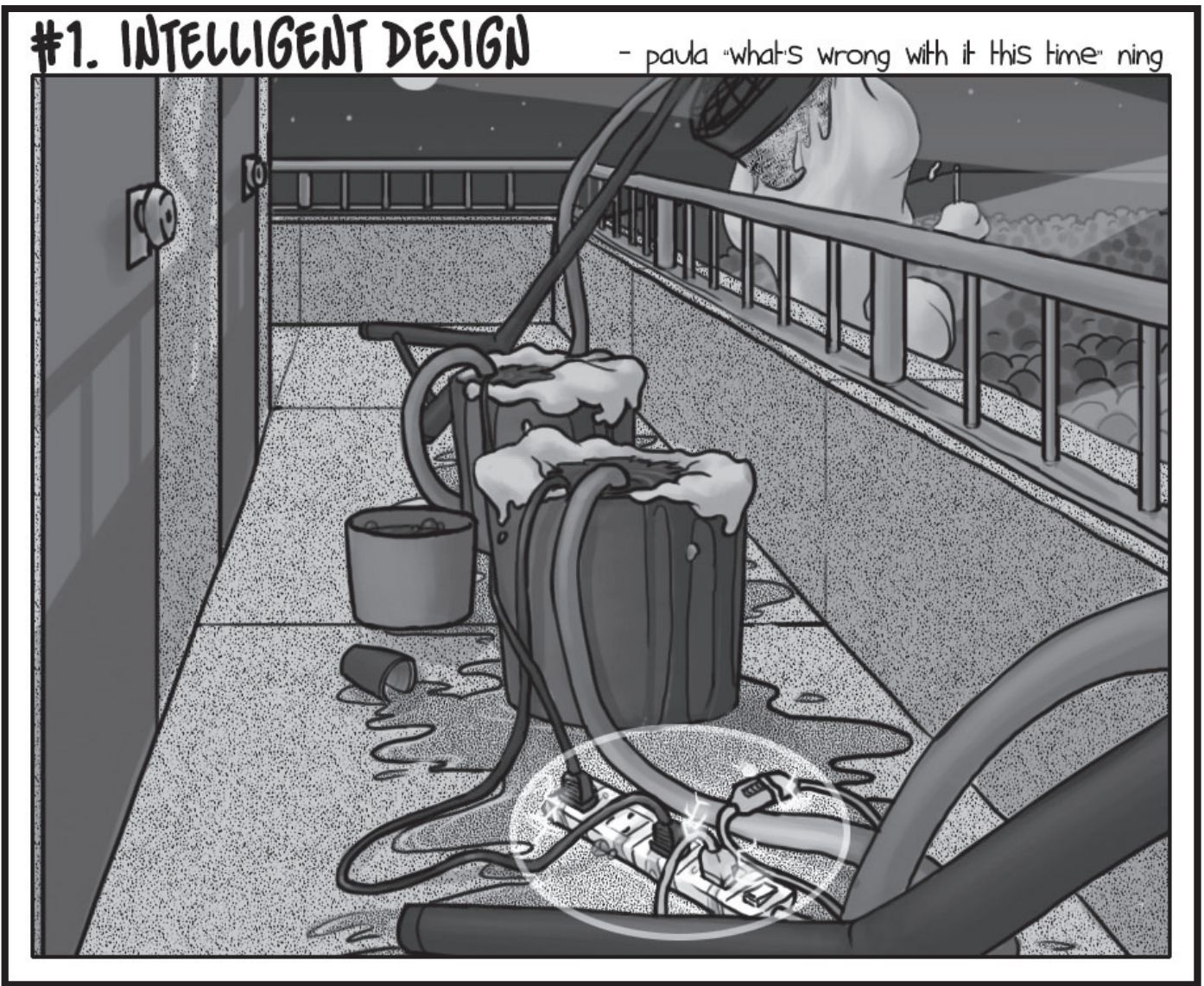
- create a nice bounciness of theme anymore (“Original Rags”), except when the odd video game or television show wants a period piece for the background.
- (Yes, I’m a fan of tunes that would be considered appropriate for someone three times my age, why do you ask?)
 - (And yes, for all my Buckley-Goldwater conservatism on display above, I’m still a college student. I sleep in on the weekends, I read books that would probably be considered immoral by more fundamentalist types [though less “Twilight/Playboy” and more “P.J. O’Rourke at his most profane”], and I enjoy reading about and playing computer games.)
 - The West Dorm custodian still has an “Impeach Now” sticker from the Bush years on his garbage can. Hasn’t the guy been out for about nine months now?
 - Closing note: ah, the conspiracy theory. Next to the MacGuffin and Luddism, there’s perhaps no greater fallback for that Hollywood or game writer looking for a plot. There’s plenty of organizations to choose from: Illuminati, Skull and Bones, Bilateral Committee (hint: Congress), some ultra-secret government organization with ultra-violet security clearance and “blacker than black” assassinations targeted at our rebellious teenage-to-young-adult heroes – and they all share a few traits that make them perfect for the villain role: unlimited access to resources, unlimited secrecy among members, unlimited want for power, unlimited influence among powerful, yadda yadda yadda.... Tell me, dear readers, do you know any media that subverts all of the above; as in, the man who worries about the conspiracy is mentally unwell (or maybe villainous himself!), the so called “conspiracy” is a club of maybe twenty backwoods guys with stupid cosplay outfits and barely enough influence to split beers (like Superman’s conception of the Ku Klux Klan way back when), or said conspiracy runs into all the hassles associated with putting one of their evil plots into motion (delayed trains, rescheduling)? If you do, send it to the Muddraker, or drop me a line at davinvalkri.blogspot.com.



By SAMANTHA IPSER '13



By SAMANTHA IPSER '13



By PAULA NING '13



Mudd Slinger

J and **S** seem to be taking full advantage of their older status on the young prey of Linde frosh.

N spotted arriving at the Ontario airport. Long time from Mudd. **L** is happy to see him.

R seems just as excited, maybe more. Hmmm?

B spotted in the wee hours of Saturday morning sleeping on a hammock at Pitzer. Question remains why **B** was out of his room...

Y and **N** caught chilling on out-of-bounds couches this summer. This launched much more scandal than we would have thought.

A and **U** must have thought Linde Lounge was the best place to crash after Catholic School Girls. We heard there are pictures floating around.

T has a new Pitzer frosh shawty....that looks fun (:

J spotted in public with **M**, **S**, **M**, **T**, and **R**. Hard to keep track of what is going on in her life.

N and **W** dorm meetings of the year ended with a frosh woken up by a surprise through her window.

XOXO,
the community
To contribute to the next round of gossip, email juicy news to hmcmuddslinger@gmail.com.

Movie Reviews

By RACHID GRIMES '11

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince



A couple friends and I went to see this movie expecting it to be all about wizardry and action and fighting, but there was actually very little of that. It was mostly talking, kissing and whiny teen angst, which annoyed me. We saw it in the middle of the day on a Wednesday in July, so the theater was pretty much empty. So, of course we spent most of the time talking until finally some guy (alone) asked us to be quiet. Really guy? The movie is not that good. You do not need complete silence to figure that out. Get with the program.

Observe and Report



I remember this movie being really long and boring, and I coughed a lot. It started off with Seth Rogen in a mall, and he was bad at acting and lovably overweight. So, for like an hour, they kept up this theme, which was quite unfunny. So, after enduring this, which felt like it took at least a year, completely out of nowhere, the movie started to become funny. For like ten glorious minutes, Seth and some other guy started dabbling in hard drugs and really enforcing their authority all over the mall. They kept this up for a few minutes and then went back to Seth Rogen being lovably overweight. I left disappointed but I only paid three bucks in Pasadena. I could've used those three dollars on a latte or a couple bags of chips.

Terminator Salvation



So this one was pretty good. At least the action was good. So, there's a main guy, I forget his name, let's call him Fallasaurus. So, Fallasaurus is a robot. In the previews, you see this guy Fallasaurus, and you see that he is very clearly a robot. They don't try to hide it. Now, when you watch the movie, they act like it's a real big secret. Fallasaurus is all signing his body up for science, but they don't tell you for what. It's a secret. Then he gets into a fight with some average humans, and they try to make you think he's going to lose. Then, they're about to walk through a minefield, and it's like "oh, the mines are magnetic but we'll be fine because we're human and not robot hybrids so we don't have any metal parts," and then after all this suspense, a mine sticks to him. That's so weird because I have been watching this movie the whole time and, since I never saw the previews, I had no idea he was a robot! It was very obvious that the movie was intended to have that as a major source of secrecy and suspense, but whoever cut the previews did not watch the movie or realize that.

The Muddraker Poll

“Which of the 5C dining halls do you enjoy the most, and why?”

Most Mudders think the Hoch is fairly good, a straw poll of 20 students showed. However, nearly a third cite Scripps or Pitzer as their favorite dining hall.



“I go to Scripps a couple times a week. I like that Scripps doesn’t have lines for the Main Event because the girls stay away from the hearty main courses. Pomona’s dining halls look good, but the food is just alright.”



“The Hoch is one of the best dining halls among the 5Cs. I have only been disappointed once at the Hoch by a pasta dish. Overall, Mudd and Scripps are pretty close.”



“The Hoch’s Main Event is always very good. I really like all their food.”



“I like Mudd’s brunches on weekends, especially the breakfast smoothies, but the Hoch tends to serve greasier food. Scripps is less greasy.”



“The Hoch is going downhill. It seems that the quality of ingredients has decreased. Pitzer’s dining hall is one of the better ones.”



“I like Pitzer. The food is well-prepared, though a little more bland.”



“I wish the Hoch had more fruit. I like the food choices at Pitzer.”



“Mudd’s Taco Tuesdays and Fridays are a big draw. I like the orange juice bar during breakfast.”



“The Hoch is good but a little repetitive. I’m always a fan of Pitzer.”



“Mudd is good on occasion. Scripps has much better ice-cream.”

*Poll conducted by Fiona Foo '13
Photos courtesy of Katie Hauser '13*

Πυζζλε οφ
της Ισσυε

By Scott Almond '11

Two students were asked to explain why airplanes and ships have historically vanished when passing through the Bermuda Triangle in the Atlantic Ocean. One of the steps in their solution was to model the Bermuda Triangle as a geometrical figure. When the pieces of their model are rearranged, one square disappears. The pieces in both figures are identical; can you explain the missing square?

Based off of <http://scientificpsychic.com/mind/triangle1.html>

Solution:

The pieces are arranged in a way that they appear to form a 13x5 right triangle. A right triangle with these dimensions would have an area of 32.5 square units. However, upon inspection, the components of the first triangle have an area of 32 square units and the components of the second triangle have an area of 33 square units (when the empty square is included). This is the case because the hypotenuses of the triangles are not in fact linear. The first figure is actually a slightly concave quadrilateral while the second is a slightly convex quadrilateral.

The distortion of the hypotenuse is minimal when the pieces are rearranged and hard to see because the added square constituted an addition of only 3% to the total area. However, the distortion can be more clearly seen when the added square makes up for a large addition to the area. In the example below, the new square increases the area by 13%.

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Ben Keller '10

Audrey Lawrence '11

Alice Paul '12

Kevin Tham '12

Karla Whitfield '10

Artists/Photographers

Katie Hauser '13

Samantha Ipser '13

Paula Ning '13

Questions? Opinions? Comments? Corrections?

Contact muddraker@gmail.com