

ARC spins off Course Compliments

ALEJANDRO LÓPEZ
Former Ricketts House ARC Rep. on behalf of the ARC

For undergraduates, the ARC's course concerns system provides a means to turn feedback into action. Now, the ARC turns its attention to adding a Course Compliments system with a more positive spin.

Last year, I had the opportunity to serve on the ARC's Course Concerns Subcommittee. It let me see behind the scenes of a system that students turn to for voicing issues they see with courses during term. The course concerns service is a feature of the ASCIT website, Donut,

ARC, I witnessed my peers voicing their frustrations about courses both in person and through the course concerns system. The subcommittee took these concerns seriously, reading messages, discussing issues in collaboration with the Center for Teaching Learning and Outreach at a weekly meeting, writing replies to students, and, when appropriate, contacting course instructors. Concerns we received ranged from minor logistical concerns about the scheduling of problem sets and exams to deeper concerns about the quality of course instruction. While Teaching Quality Feedback Reports give students a chance to provide

works to ensure students can comfortably voice issues anonymously when needed, complementing the Course Ombuds program, another collaborative program of the ARC and the institute's CTLO.

Sometimes we felt we received mostly negative feedback. Former ARC Chair Kavya Sreedhar, currently an electrical engineering senior in Avery House, explains that "technically, the feedback form on Donut is supposed to be just that: any feedback for the ARC. That feedback includes course concerns and over the years, its primary purpose has evolved into concerns." As the submission page itself states, "Do feel free to send us comments about anything ARC-related — such as problems with TAs, professors or courses, particularly good instructors or clear course policies, ideas for what the ARC should be doing, or just about anything else." Still, positive submissions remained elusive, which motivated the ARC to take action and create a system to run parallel to course concerns, called Course Compliments. Former ARC Secretary Allison Tang, currently a chemical engineering senior in Blacker Hovse, shared this sentiment: "I had spent around two years in course concerns and I felt that while the ARC was doing well in addressing those concerns, we could use some positive reinforcement and recognize exceptional profs/TAs." She remarks this year was not the first time a compliments system was proposed. "I mentioned course compliments during my interview for ARC secretary, though I'm not sure if the idea had been floating around earlier." Minutes of the ASCIT Board of Directors meeting on November 19, 2013, state that then ARC Chair Malvika Verma, now a graduate student at MIT, expressed

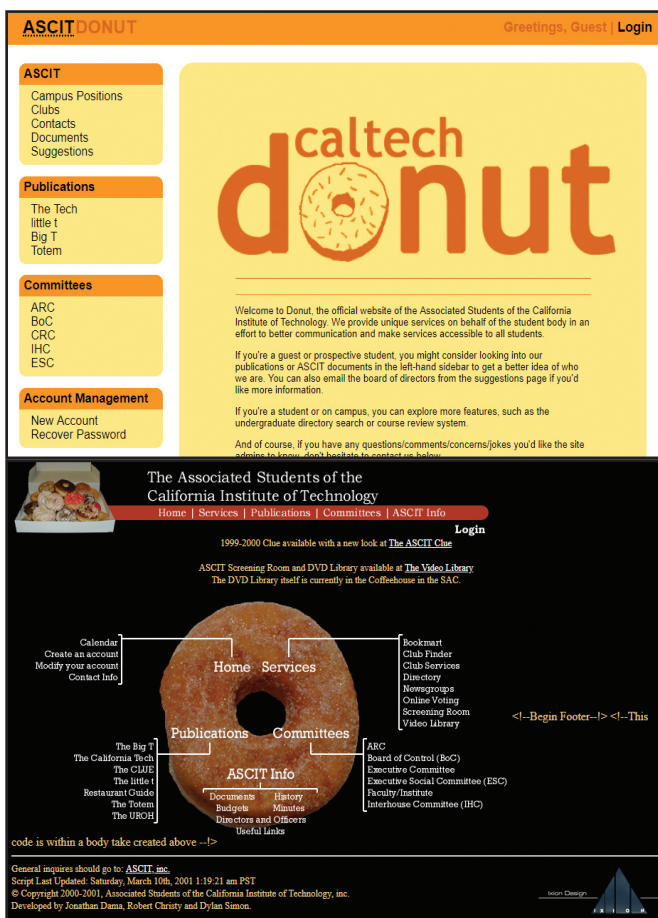
that "the ARC is interested in adding a compliments section to the ARC Concern Box on Donut."

The proposal that unfolded this year was to create a system that would allow students to submit compliments online, but unlike with course concerns, the compliments would be posted publicly on the ARC website and certain noteworthy compliments would receive funding for a lunch with the instructor mentioned. Tang explains that "we were careful to make Course Compliments different from course concerns because our goal was to have the ARC facilitate and award the funding while the student would be the main point of interaction with their nominee. (For course concerns, the ARC discusses the concern on your behalf with the CTLO.)" The Course Compliments system expanded on the ideas of two existing programs: Take a Prof to Lunch and the ASCIT Teaching Awards. In the former, ASCIT funds reimburse a student for a meal with a faculty member of their choice. In the latter, as provided by ASCIT BoD Resolution V, the ARC selects four faculty members and four TAs annually from nominations submitted by undergraduates to receive an award in recognition for teaching excellence. But as Tang expresses, "We always had a ton of ASCIT Teaching Award nominations, and while we greatly enjoy hearing about awesome teaching at Caltech, we could only award four profs(sic) and four TAs out of around 60-80 nominations. So Course Compliments gave more people the opportunity to award great teaching, and we were able to use the funds from Take a Prof to Lunch." Sreedhar elaborates further, mentioning another existing ARC program, the termly Student-Faculty Lunches, in which the ARC invites students and faculty

to a catered lunch in a House dining hall: "The idea for the lunch/dinner as an incentive to fill out the form came from when I saw how quickly we went through our Take a Prof to Lunch budget every year (though ironically, this year we didn't get very many requests) and how many people we had to turn away for SFLs. We ended up securing more of a budget for SFLs this year and we haven't turned away anyone who entered the lottery for this past two terms now, which has been fantastic, thanks to Tom Mannion's extra funding and support. However, it still seemed nice to give students more of an opportunity to choose who they have lunch with in a more one on one or two on one setting."

The Course Compliments program launched on February 5, 2018 and has received 59 submissions to date. On the results of the program so far, Tang believes "we've done really well in just our first year of Course Compliments, and I think we have increased student-faculty interactions, which benefits the Caltech community. I'm excited to see this program grow." Personally, I was admittedly concerned in the beginning with diverting the ARC's time and talent to what seemed to me like a superfluous program, but as promoting student-faculty interaction is a key goal for the ARC, I am pleased with the promising results. Sreedhar states: "Everyone was very eager to get this started and the ARC was more than happy to get this program afloat as well. I hope it continues. I also hoped that it would direct more traffic to the ARC website lol(sic) and according to google website stats, it has." As always, the ARC welcomes ideas for further improvements to academics at Caltech.

To submit a compliment, go to: arc.caltech.edu



ASCIT website, Donut, circa 2018 and 2001. Both shown in case Donut's devteam needs to use a really old backup

-archive.org

that allows undergraduates to anonymously submit course feedback. The subcommittee is responsible for maintaining the system. It is one of the more common points of contact between students and the ARC, whose mission is to work as an intermediary between undergraduates and faculty/administration on academic matters. While serving on the

commentary at the end of the term, course concerns serves as a resource for students to make recommendations in real time. We often had success in solving issues and found faculty and TAs very welcoming to feedback, but some issues were harder for us or for instructors to address within the course of the term. Still, course concerns



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Caltech Takes Down Volleyball Takes First Connecticut College at Set From Oxy Since '05 Gary Troyer Tournament

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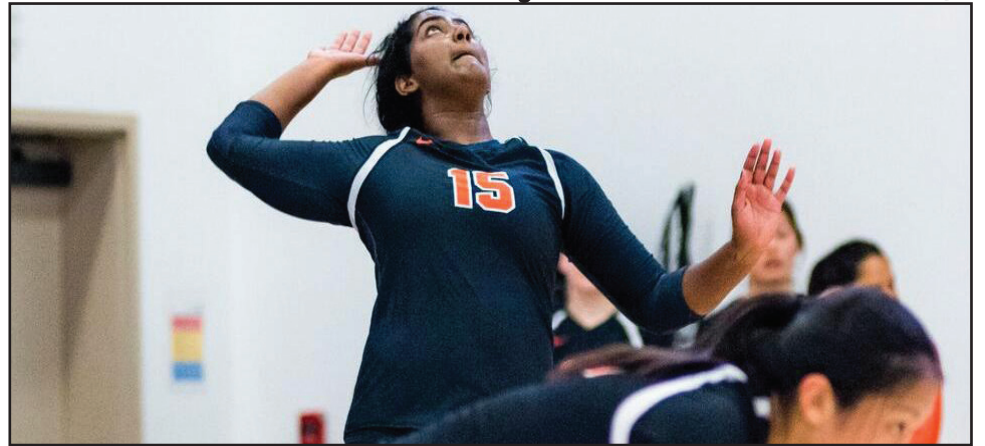
CLAREMONT, Calif. (Oct. 5, 2018) – The Caltech men's water polo team picked up its second win of the season over Connecticut College in the second game of Friday's first day of the Gary Troyer Tournament hosted by Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges and Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.

Game 1: Iona 19, Caltech 11
Sophomore center Steven Csaposs (Davis, Calif. / Davis) and senior Charles Ross (Wexford, Pa. / North Allegheny) did most of the damage for the Beavers in the first game of Friday's tournament, with the former scoring five goals and the latter scoring four goals. Senior Eshan Govil (Redwood City, Calif. / Sacred Heart Prep) scored Caltech's other two goals. Csaposs also dominated defensively for Caltech with four steals in a game where the Beavers began to assert themselves in the fourth quarter, matching Iona with four goals in the final frame.

Game 2: Caltech 7, Conn. College 4

The Beavers rose to the occasion in Friday's second game, defeating Connecticut College, 7-4, thanks to a stout defensive effort. Caltech held its opponent to one goal for each of the game's four quarters and ended the game with three unanswered goals. Csaposs found the back of the net twice, as did Govil, and sophomore Alex Janosi (Ann Arbor, Mich. / Dexter) had a perfect game on sprints while adding four steals himself. Ross also scored, extending his scoring streak to 17 games dating back to 2017. Sophomore Neil Sanderson (Laguna Beach, Calif. / Winchester) and freshman Alex Wang (Saratoga, Calif. / The Harker School) also scored for Caltech.

"We're happy to get the win, but we are not satisfied," Head Coach Jon Bonafede said. "Our defense bailed us out on several occasions, but now it's time to carry the momentum over to try and build something bigger. Tonight when we go to bed, we're going to be thinking about Washington & Jefferson, and Penn State Behrend after that. It will be a great opportunity to see how far we've come since our road trip last month."



High five!

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Actual Sports Content Editor

Oct 02, 2018
PASADENA (Oct. 2, 2018) – Led by a big line from senior Sakthi Vetrivel (Redmond, Wash. / Overlake School), the Caltech volleyball team picked took its first set from visiting Occidental College since 2005 on Tuesday evening. The Beavers also held leads in the first three sets, all of which needed more than the allotted 25 winning points to finish.

Trailing by two sets, the Beavers asserted themselves in the third set, and from 15-15 embarked on a 9-4 run to set themselves up with four set points. The Tigers made things interesting by fending off all four set points. The Beavers, keyed by an Isabell Yang (Arcadia, Calif. / Arcadia) kill followed by a Vetrivel solo block took the final two points and with it their first SCIAC set of 2018. Caltech also held leads in the first and second sets and had one set point turned back in each frame. Vetrivel finished the match with 11 kills, setting a new season-best mark

while tying her career-high number. She also added an assisted block in addition to her third set-clinching solo block.

Junior Helena Shield (Mercer Island, Wash. / Mercer Island) nearly totaled double-digit kills as well, finishing with nine kills and a .261 attacking percentage while junior Lauren Li (Bellaire, Texas / Bellaire) added seven kills. Freshman Alexandra Frymire (Dallas, Texas / Greenhill) set a new career-high with 27 kills, and added 14 digs and six kills, needing just four kills to pick up the Beavers' first triple-double of the season. Freshman libero Megan Wang (Henderson, Nev. / Advanced Technologies Academy) led the Beavers defensively with 21 digs. Caltech will rematch Occidental in Los Angeles on Saturday, Oct. 27, in its final match of the season.

Head Coach Tom Gardner and the Beavers will return home on Saturday, Oct. 6 for a tri-match with Mills College and the University of St. Katherine.



Can... barely... lift... it...

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Sanderson Twice at

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

CLAREMONT, Calif. (Oct. 4, 2018) – The Caltech men's water polo team scored six goals at first-place Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges on Wednesday evening.

Sophomore Neil Sanderson (Laguna Beach, Calif. / Winchester) led the visitors with a pair of goals, including the first of the game for either team and senior Charles Ross

Scores at CMS

(Wexford, Pa. / North Allegheny) found the back of the net to continue a scoring streak dating back to Oct. 28, 2017. Sophomore Alex Janosi (Ann Arbor, Mich. / Dexter) also scored and had a perfect night on sprints while classmate Steven Csaposs (Davis, Calif. / Davis) led the Beavers defensively with three steals. Goalkeeper Bradley Justice (El Cajon, Calif. / Grossmont) played half the game for the visiting team and led with six saves.



SCORES

October 1, 2018

Men's Water Polo at Rancho

L 10-9

L 15-9

October 8, 2018

Men's Water Polo at Laker Invitational

W 9-8

L 16-10

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

Here's your chance to nominate your favorite professor for the 2018-19 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching! You have from now until December 15, 2018 to submit your nomination package to the Provost's Office to honor a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching.

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

All professorial faculty of the Institute are eligible.

The prize consists of a cash award of \$3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual salary of the awardee. A letter of nomination and detailed supporting material, including, but not limited to, a curriculum vitae, course syllabus or description, and supporting recommendation letters should be emailed to kkerbs@caltech.edu or directed to the Feynman Prize Selection Committee, Office of the Provost, Mail Code 206-31, at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 91125. Nomination packages are due by December 15, 2018.

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

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B114F N. Mudd
(no session 11/23)

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OCT 23 & 30, NOV 6 & 13

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Emotional Intelligence Toolkit

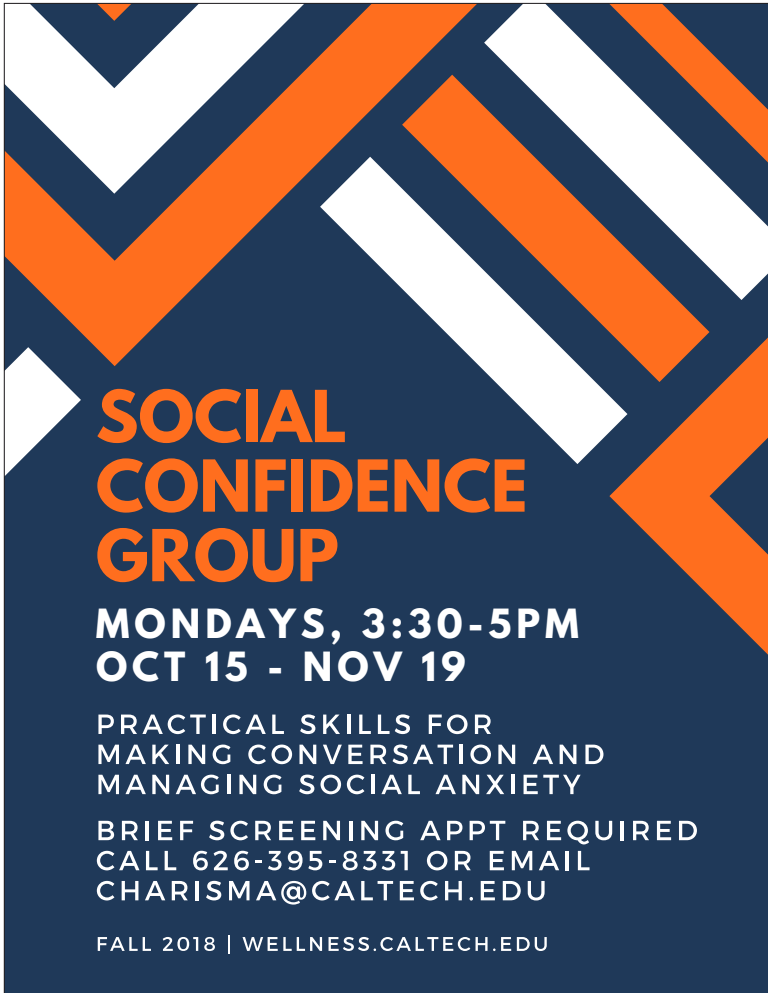
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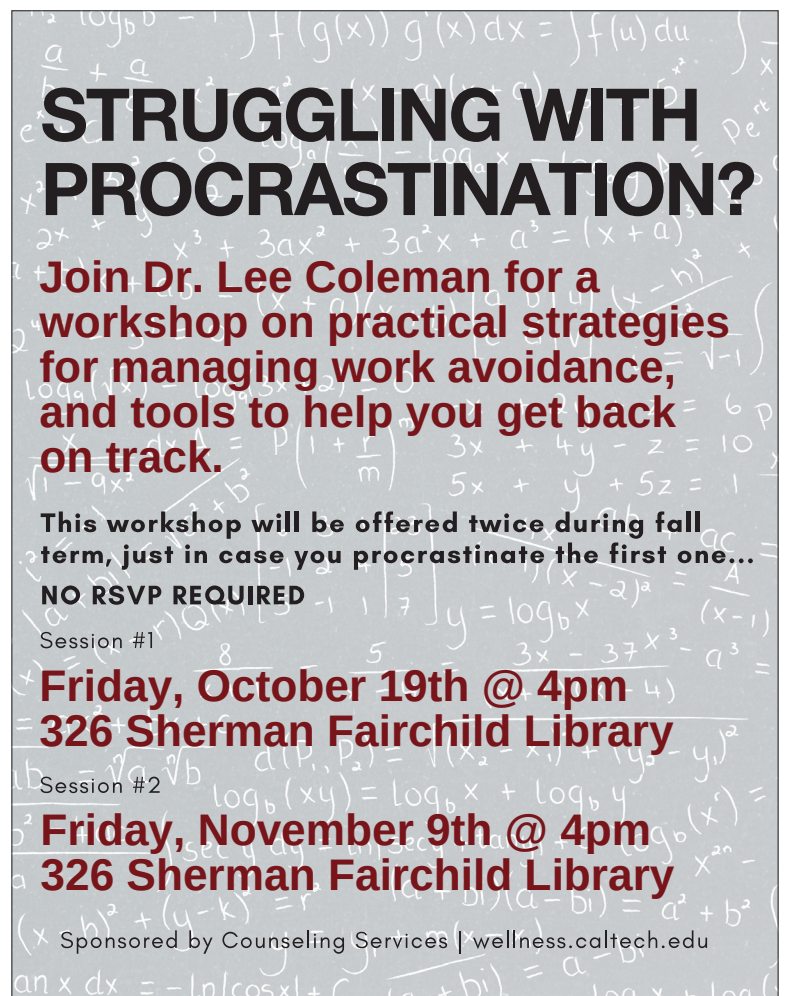
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Session #2
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Wordfitting Crossword

This is a new puzzle that I've been having fun with where the words are given to you, but not where they fit into the spaces. The idea is to place the words into the grid such that all of them overlap correctly.

Words with 4 Letters:

Aria
Trek

Words with 5 Letters:

Basil
Broke
Ended
Equal
Igloo
Lithe
Libid
Olive
Pause
Raven

Words with 6 Letters:

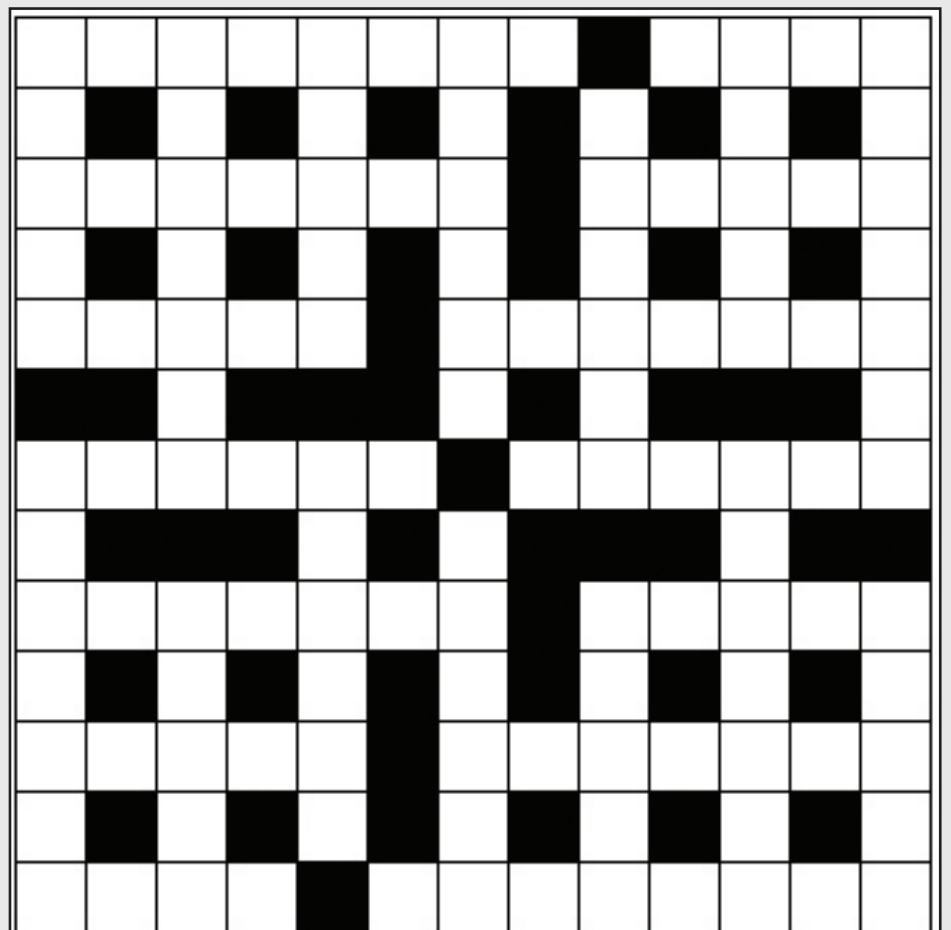
Aspire
Eldest
Rarely
Shapes
Sherry
Sleigh

Words with 7 Letters:

Address
Inspid
Located
Prosper
Science
Student
Umpires
Vaccine

Words with 8 Letters:

Declared
Involved





CLASSICAL HISTORY UPDATE
-MATT HEW W

Answer to Crossword and Puzzles:
<http://bit.ly/2RcXMNF>

This week's recommended Tech usage after reading is:
Making paper straws because California banned plastic ones.
(This is so sad.)

We are always accepting submissions
for comics, and will pay you.

The California Tech

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Letters from the Editors-in-Chief

Sophie Piao: a gazillions of dollars.
Amrita Rhoads: DM me for spicy memes.

Milan Roberson: Ph 106a made me cry right before I worked on the Tech.

Dan Xu: Sometimes I wonder to myself about the viability of all the hot new startups that I come up with. I think some of my ideas are so good that I can actually make

The California Tech

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