

Oswaldo Penaloza: God of Mischief

CATALINA MIRITESCU
Contributing Writer

Up until seven months ago when he obtained a well-deserved promotion, Oswaldo Penaloza could always be seen working at the grill station during lunch, helping with the main dishes during dinner and doing what he enjoys the most about his job: joking with students.

While the Caltech Dining Services staff has always tried to make dining a pleasant experience for its students, Oswaldo, as everyone knows him, has a special significance for undergraduates who attend meals in the South Houses. Everybody instantly cheers up at the sight of the muscularly built Hispanic man with a smile always on his face.

His easy-going personality, friendly manner and good mood have created many fond stories for the students who pass through the kitchen.

“One of my favorite memories,” recalls alumnus Robb Morgan, “is when people asked ‘could I get a...’ and he would answer ‘no’ with a straight face to see how they would react. Then one time I ordered a tuna melt, and they were actually out of tuna, but it took a lot of explaining before I realized that he was not joking and that they were in fact out.”

Alumnus Harrison Miller recalled their competition of tapping each other on the opposite shoulder to make the other look the wrong way. He readily admits Oswaldo was clearly his superior.

Oswaldo, 44, is also extremely skilled at interacting with children. During one special dinner on the Olive Walk, when he was serving turkey legs, a child came up to him and asked for one. He asked the child if he would like a right leg or a left one, and when the child answered with “a right leg,”

he proceeded to lift leg after turkey leg in the air, look at them as if he were examining each one really closely, and then gave his expert verdict that the leg was a left one and not what the child was looking for.

It comes as no surprise that Oswaldo was the first member of the CDS staff to be invited by the students to attend one of the South Houses’ formal dinners, receiving no less than seven invitations in the seven years he has worked on campus.



Photo courtesy of Catalina Miritescu.

The same friendly attitude has been experienced by his co-workers too. Every day he and his co-workers enjoy lunch together. After everybody is done with their meals, they all play a game invented by Oswaldo: whoever gets the lowest score while rolling the dice has to clean the table in one go. Over time, the game has progressed to adding tapatio hot sauce or soy sauce to one’s drink after losing. Oswaldo boasts that in the three years during which the game was popular, he has probably lost only ten times.

More than being a positive presence at the workplace, Oswaldo is also always encouraging other employees and pointing them towards helpful resources, being what Jonathan Webster, the senior director of CDS, called a “very good cheerleader.”

Oswaldo grew up in Mexico City in a large family with seven siblings. He recalls his mother asking him to go grocery shopping so that she could start making dinner as soon as she got home. At first he disliked having to

spend his play time helping with house chores, but soon after he realized he enjoyed the process of moving from market to market, looking for the freshest and cheapest ingredients. He started helping with the actual preparation of the meal too. This is what ignited his passion for cooking. As he puts it, “I’ve been cooking all my life, basically.”

He moved to Los Angeles when he was 18 and currently lives in Baldwin Park. However, he still thinks fondly of the time he spent

in Mexico. He reminisces about the Mexican party culture: louder, longer parties compared to here. He also notices a difference between American and Mexican families, the latter being more united, and he is glad that he and his 14 year old daughter are extremely close, even if they no longer live together. His dearest memory about his home town is falling in love for the first time and going out on dates with his high school sweetheart. He jokingly says he knows this conflicts with how intimidating and unapproachable he is perceived to be by people who don’t know him.

Oswaldo started working at Caltech ten years ago, after having worked for the Cielito Lindo Restaurant in South El Monte for six years. He decided to look for a different position when he realized there was no room for professional growth at his previous workplace. Caltech seemed to be the place for that. First, he was a cook in Chandler for two years, then he cooked in the south kitchens for seven years, and he recently got promoted to the rank of sous-chef.

He said he doesn’t like changing jobs and if he’s happy and satisfied with what he’s currently doing, he wouldn’t look for a different job only for a higher salary. Webster mentioned that staff members are encouraged to obtain the basic level of certification from the American Culinary Federation. Oswaldo, however, is one of the few who pursued higher qualifications and went all the way to receiving the Chef de Cuisine certificate.

“I don’t want to stop learning,” he said, when asked about his decision. However, his experience with the process wasn’t all smooth sailing.

The first time he took the exam he failed the practical task. Webster said he was

very determined to take it again. He didn’t want to wait four months until the next test was available in the LA area, so he signed up for an exam in San Diego, which was available in two weeks. On the day of the exam, he woke up at 4 a.m., drove all the way to San Diego, took the test and passed. Webster praised him for “being very motivated and having a phenomenal attitude.”

Zach Chambers, the executive director of CDS, said that he is known among his coworkers as “the Terminator” due to his ability to focus on his goals.

Both his cooking ability and his leadership skills contributed to his promotion. Chambers sees nothing but positives in Oswaldo’s work attitude: “He shows a certain amount of professionalism that not everybody carries. He carries himself like a leader, he has a personality that makes people follow him, and he is able to take charge. He has a tendency to take up a project, see it all the way through and make sure it is done right.”

When asked about the differences in his duties now after promotion, Oswaldo said that the reduced interactions with the students is a downside, but that he is extremely passionate about his work.

Oswaldo has challenged himself to obtain the Executive Chef certificate, and while he has already taken the written examination once and he didn’t pass it, he is still very motivated to take it again. He says that the test used terminology with which he was not familiar, even though he has spent one-to-two hours every day for the past two months studying.

“I don’t blame anyone for it. It has become personal now,” Oswaldo said, while, in typical joking fashion, he slamming fist down on the table.

IN THIS
ISSUE

ANNOUNCEMENTS | PAGE 2
THE SWEET TASTE OF
POST ROTATION V-
IHC-TORY

SKYMALL | PAGE 4
NARUTO SANDALS,
LED EYELASHES, CAF-
FEINATED SHAVING
CREAM

SPORTS | PAGE 5
FENCING DOMINATES
IFCSC COLLEGIATE
OPEN

HUMOR | PAGE 8
CATCHER IN THE RYE
(ABDRIGED)

ASCIT BOD MEETING: VPSA

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for October 17, 2018. Taken by Rachel Sun.

Officers Present: Sakthi Vetrivel, Erika Salzman, Sarah Crucilla, Varun Shanker, Dana He, Rachel Sun

Guests: Dr. Shepherd, Dean Gilmartin, Tom Mannion

Call to Order: 12:13 pm

President's Report (Sakthi):

- First two ACRL meetings to discuss charges of committee and reflect on rotation
- Budget meeting – increasing club funding
- Scheduling retreat to set goals

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Erika):

- Regular Programming:
 - Course Capture has moved to a new site.
 - Unix Shell Software Seminar (10/18)
 - New Frosh Rep appointments (10/21)
 - Ombuds training (10/26)
- Student-Faculty Conference planning underway
 - Choosing a date
 - Selecting Option Committee chairs and members
 - Special Committee topics

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Sarah):

- Writing a Tech article and determining with ACRL what statistics to release
- Meeting with Felicia on Thursday to discuss working together on party safety
- Discussions on House Rotation improvements after ACRL survey
- Open meetings on Tuesdays at noon; minutes posted on the IHC website.

Director of Operations (Varun):

- Club Fair was held on 10/10/18, with over 100 clubs/groups. There are officially 104 clubs registered.
- Annual ASCIT Club Funding Forms sent out to undergraduate student body (due November 2nd)
- In-person club funding pitches to be held weekend of November 3rd

Treasurer (Dana):

- ASCIT BoD is meeting soon to determine budget for this school year; the budget will likely be similar to that of last year. Need to wait until add day for final numbers.

Social Director (Alice):

- Not present. Report submitted prior to meeting.
- End of Rotation Party was on Friday, October 5 in the RF courtyard.
- Meeting with Felicia on October 17 (later today) about setting up haunted maze and Halloween dinner with CDS.
- Escape room event is happening this Saturday, October 20.

Secretary (Rachel):

- Nothing to report.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:50 PM

Upcoming Events

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

The Upcoming Events column serves to inform students of upcoming events. The list is compiled by the Editors-in-Chief from information available around campus.

WiPMA Workshop: So You're Thinking About Grad School

Wednesday, October 24th | 5:30 - 7 PM | Caltech Center for Diversity

Are you interested in grad school but not sure what programs you should apply for? Do you have questions about the application process or about grad school itself? Are you unsure if you even want to go to grad school?

If so, come join us for this workshop! You'll hear from a panel of Caltech PMA grad students about their different paths to grad school, then you'll be able to ask them one-on-one for personalized advice.

FREE DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED.
RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/WiPMAgradworkshop>

Course Ombuds Training and Lunch - Fall 2018

Friday, October 26th | 12 PM | Center for Student Services 360

Course Ombuds are students who serve as liaisons with the faculty, gathering and

providing feedback and making courses even better experiences for all involved.

This training, for Ombuds, by Ombuds, will feature informative lightning talks from former Ombuds and opportunities for Ombuds to voice comments, questions, & concerns to the ARC.

All 2018 Fall and future Ombuds are encouraged to come have lunch and dialogue with fellow Ombuds about plans for the new quarter, questions about the role and responsibilities of a course Ombud, guidance about how to dialogue with faculty over the course of the quarter, and suggestions for how reach out to classmates for course feedback.

Paywall: The Business of Scholarship - Screening

Monday, October 22nd | 7 PM | Sherman Fairchild Library Amphitheatre

Paywall: The Business of Scholarship is a documentary which focuses on the need for open access to research and science, questions the rationale behind the \$25.2 billion a year that flows into for-profit academic publishers, examines the 35-40% profit margin associated with the top academic publisher Elsevier and looks at how that profit margin is often greater than some of the most profitable tech companies like Apple, Facebook and Google.

ASCIT Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for October 19, 2018. Taken by Rachel Sun.

Officers Present: Sakthi Vetrivel, Erika Salzman, Sarah Crucilla, Varun Shanker, Alice Zhai, Rachel Sun

Guests:

Call to Order: 12:23 pm

President's Report (Sakthi):

- Had our VPSA meeting on Wednesday (10/17).

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Erika):

- Unix Shell Software Seminar happened yesterday (10/18).
- Ombuds training on 10/26.
- Frosh rep interviews happening 10/21.
- Student-Faculty Conference planning underway.

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Sarah):

- IHC met with Felicia Hunt to discuss parties and rotation. Felicia will bring the topic of rotation to the board of trustees. Felicia was happy with the way rotation went and its final outcome.
- Felicia would change:
 - Rotation going on during the academic year
 - Invest more resources in rotation (e.g. End of Rotation Party)
 - Orange watch for smaller parties: where orange watch people would come from, number of people, etc. Hopefully more training days will be offered.
 - Orange watch for smaller parties: where orange watch people would come from, number of people, etc. Hopefully more training days will be offered.
- Working on having a smoother transition next year and writing materials for the next IHC so there is a clear outline on what to do.

Director of Operations (Varun):

- ASCIT budget meeting is happening soon.
- Club funding requests are due November 2.

Treasurer (Dana):

- Not present. Report submitted prior to meeting.
- Today is Add Day, so we should get our final revenue number soon.

Social Director (Alice):

- Escape room event happening tomorrow (10/20).
- Meeting with CDS on 10/22 to discuss Halloween dinner.
- Arts and Crafts event happening early November.
- Movie night November 16 for Fantastic Beasts sequel.

Secretary (Rachel):

- Nothing to report.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:52 PM

The Sweet Taste of Post-Rotation V-IHC-tory

INTERHOUSE COMMITTEE

The IHC is very proud of how Rotation went this past year.

Statistically speaking, out of all students who came in as a frosh, exchange, or transfer, 76 percent of students ended up in their first choice house, higher than ever in Caltech history. In recent years, the percentage of students in their first choice house was between 60 and 65 percent. 99 percent of the incoming students chose to affiliate with a House, which is comparable to past years. Both of these statistics imply the Houses were also very successful this year, as they were able to attract many students who would fit in well with their culture.

The IHC will also continue working with the Advisory Committee on Residential Life to survey both the frosh and upperclassmen on their feelings about the new Rotation. Some of the questions we will be asking about will include:

- How the community felt about the physical changes to Rotation (the optional nature of dinners and desserts, the addition of a dessert)
- What factors frosh looked for/didn't look for in Houses

- Whether frosh got enough information to make their housing decisions through the Rotation process

The IHC, which will have access to the survey data, will be able to use this information to make sure Rotation is a better and more enjoyable process next year for everyone involved.

Overall, we are more than thankful for Felicia Hunt and Antonio Rangel's help with the implementation of Rotation. We're also very grateful for the work House excomms, ASCIT, undergraduates and faculty put into helping make this process happen and accommodating our requests.

We wish the frosh the best time here and in their careers in the future.

We'd also like to encourage everyone to attend the upcoming events that Houses are putting on for all the undergraduates. Dabney Hovse will be conducting their annual Millikan Pumpkin Drop Experiment at the very end of the month, and Page Interhouse will take place in November!



FEED THE BRAIN



Great food choices from **Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers**, **Canter's Deli**, **Mama Musubi** and **The Lost Cuban** are just an online order away – at Pasadena's own Kitchen United.

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Sergio Pellegrino

Caltech Division of Engineering and Applied Science, and JPL



A Halloween Night Lecture:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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23 OCT
VOTE

CA Ballot Overview Lunch
FREE | 12-1:30pm Beckman Institute Auditorium

26 OCT

Leadership Lunch Series
FREE | 12-1pm Location TBA

28 OCT

LA Galaxy Game
\$25 | Ticket Sales start 12:00pm Friday, Oct 19th at the Caltech Y

For more info, contact caltechy@caltech.edu

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<https://goo.gl/forms/gkQH4U5rsv31Imuy2>

Volleyball Takes First-Ever Set From Cal Lutheran

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (Oct. 17, 2018) – Prior to Tuesday, the Caltech volleyball team had not taken a set from California Lutheran University since becoming a varsity program. A tenacious effort to close out the third set, however, changed the Beavers fortunes and allowed them to take their first-ever set from the Regals. Cal Lutheran had no more than a week ago defeated nationally-ranked No. 2 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges in five sets.

Trailing by two sets to the host Regals, the Beavers came out firing in the third set, trading leads with their experienced opponents. Eventually, Cal Lutheran evened the score at 22-22, where Caltech took over from there. Following two

attacking errors from the home team, freshman Alison Noyes (Falmouth, Maine / Falmouth) capped off the set with a decisive kill to force a fourth set. Noyes, continuing her recent hot streak led the Beavers with 11 kills while sophomore Isabel Yang (Arcadia, Calif. / Arcadia) followed her with eight kills. Freshman setter Alexandra Frymire (Dallas, Texas / Greenhill) had another 30+ assist outing, this time picking up 34 to move her into second on the single-season assists list while putting her just one assist shy of 400. Senior Sakthi Ventrivel (Redmond, Wash. / Overlake School) helped tremendously in the middle with three assisted blocks.

Head Coach Tom Gardner and the Beavers will return home on Friday, Oct. 19 to play the University of La Verne at 7 p.m.



We did it!!!!

-gocaltech.com



Smile for the camera, boys.

-gocaltech.com

Men's Polo Takes Down Austin in Saturday Second Game



Is it legal to bonk people on the head with the ball in water polo?

-gocaltech.com

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (Oct. 20, 2018) – The Caltech men's water polo competed in a doubleheader Saturday at California Lutheran University on Saturday, splitting the two games to earn their fifth win of the season.

The Beavers began the day by scoring double-digit goals in a SCIAC game for the second time this year. Sophomore Neil Sanderson (Laguna Beach, Calif. / Winchester) returned to the Caltech lineup with a team-high five goals and 10 additional shots. Senior Charles Ross (Wexford, Pa. / North Allegheny) and freshman Steven Csaposs (Davis, Calif. / Davis) each picked up three points and eight different Beavers stole the ball. The visitors' best moments came in the fourth quarter, where they outscored the host Kingsmen,

4-3. Junior goalie Bradley Justice (El Cajon, Calif. / Grossmont) split time in net and earned six saves through the game's first half.

The Caltech defense came to life in the second game against the Kangaroos, holding the out of town visitors to eight goals over the four-quarter game without being outscored in any period. The offense had its moments too, with the Beavers exploding for six goals in the third quarter to put the game securely out of reach. Ross led the way with four goals while Csaposs and Sanderson each scored two and sophomore Alex Janosi (Ann Arbor, Mich. / Dexter) went a perfect 4-for-4 on sprints.

Head Coach Jon Bonafede and the Beavers will resume their season on Wednesday, Oct. 24, at home against Whittier College at 7 p.m.

Fencing Dominates IFCSC Collegiate Open

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA (Oct. 20, 2018) – Caltech men's and women's fencing opened the 2018-19 hosting the IFCSC Collegiate Open on Saturday.

The Beavers had three weapon winners between the two teams against the likes of the University of Southern California, University of California Riverside, University of California Irvine, and Pasadena City College. The defending IFCSC champion men's epee squad saw an all-Caltech final when sophomore Zimo Zhu (Buffalo Grove, Ill. / Adlai E. Stevenson) took on senior teammate Alexander White (Dallas, Texas / North Hills). Zhu ultimately came out on top, but White's top-two finish secured the silver while freshman Luc Davis (Lafayette, Calif. / Tilden Preparatory School) secured a fourth-place finish. Sophomore Andrew Chan (Denver,

Col. / Littleton) took fourth place in the men's foil to cap off the top-four finishes on the men's side.

The women's team meanwhile yielded two champions and top-four finishers in every weapon. Freshman Cecilia Zhang won the women's saber tournament while sophomore June Kim finished close behind and came away with the bronze. Newcomer Polina Verkhovodova (Portland, Ore. / Portland Community College) had a great debut as well, winning the women's foil with junior Mei-Ling Laures (Chicago, Ill. / British International School of Chicago) coming in third. The women's team also had success in epee, with freshman Lin Lee (Seattle, Wash. / The Hockaday School) winning the silver.

Head Coach Carla Corbit and the Beavers will return to action next weekend at the IFCSC Megameet in Riverside.

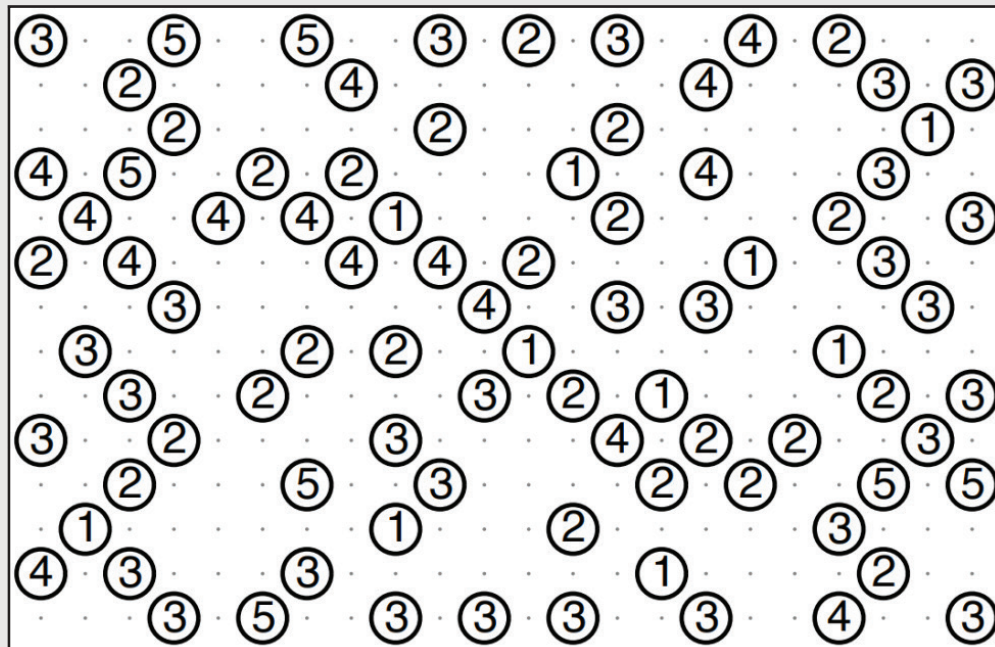
Bridges

I think I'm going to be keeping bridges or Hashiwokakero for a few weeks since people told me they enjoyed them. The rules are as follows:

1. They must begin and end at distinct islands, travelling a straight line in between.
2. They must not cross any other bridges or islands.
3. They may only run orthogonally (i.e. they may not run diagonally).
4. At most two bridges connect a pair of islands.
5. The number of bridges connected to each island must match the number on that island.
6. The bridges must connect the islands into a single connected group.

Take me home.

Puzzles from crazydad.



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Catcher in the Rye (Abridged)

This is how they taught me to write in English Class I swear...

Although I said these things, with my desire having been not to listen to my essay, he read the paper which I wrote. It is not possible in any way to try to impede the progress or halt the action of instructional personnel when they desire to achieve a certain task which they set out to do. The instructional personnel will just do it anyway.

"The race known as the Egyptians were an ancient race of people of the Caucasian type residing in one of the many northern sectors of the continent currently known as Africa. The latter we all know as the largest continent in what is referred to as the Eastern Hemisphere." I involuntarily was forced to sit in that place and listen to that inaccurate piece of hullabaloo which I had written previously. It was certainly something which can be considered by many, and currently considered by me to be incompetent material.

"The race known as the Egyptians are extremely mesmerizing, and enthrall the current populace of Earth for a variety of different and unique reasons. Modern science would still like to know what secret ingredients and products the race used while they were in the process of preserving the dead so that the faces of the people who are considered recently deceased so that their expression can be preserved for the ages and so that they do not have decomposition from natural causes. This one thing still plagues the institution of modern scientific research through the century which in the 20th after the anno domini.

He stopped his current flow of reading and put my progress achievement examination paper down onto the desk. I was beginning to loathe him in my mind due to his previous actions. "Your progress achievement examination paper, shall we say, terminates it course here." he said in this very sarcastic manner of speaking. It did not come into my mind that such an elderly man could be so biting and acerbic in his manner of speaking. "Despite all this, you did put a postscript to the end of you progress achievement examination paper on the bottom of this page," he using his voice said to me. "I am quite away that I did do such a thing," I said. I said the previous thing quite quickly because I wanted to halt his progress in trying to read out the postscript out load. Alas, I was not able to impede his progress. I would compare his temperament to being as hot as a firecracker.

DEAR MR.SPENCER [he read out loud]. That which has been placed before you is all which I know about the race known as the Egyptians. I am not able to get interested in the race despite the fact that I find that your lectures are quite interesting. It is quite fine with the person who is currently writing this paper if you give me little success in this class though because I am having little success in everything except for language arts.

Respectfully yours,
HOLDEN CAULFIELD

Answers to Puzzles and Crossword: <http://bit.ly/2NQIOTP>



Sophie Piao (b. 1997)
Comix Tutorial 2018
Digital.

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

Letters from the Editors-in-Chief

Amrita Rhoads: sorry fams ;-; i'm really dead tonight

Sophie Piao: im looking for an internet penpal, preferably someone who lives far away so we can exchange accounts of our different lifestyles and cultures. so if you're interested and live in avery or bechtel, hmu.

Milan Roberson: Through tens of days of careful training, I have made the YouTube AutoPlay Machine Learn that it should play me "Komm, Süsster Tod" after "Take Me Home, Country Roads".

Dan Xu: I really have Country Roads stuck in my head for the last few weeks =(.

This week's recommended Tech usage after reading is: Practicing your newly-acquired comic-making skills so that you can submit them to us :^)

The California Tech

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