

The SanPietro Travel Prize: Lessons and Experiences

SARAH CAI
Contributing Writer

Hello Caltech! My name is Sarah, and after graduating this past June, I spent a month traveling through Italy as a recipient of the SanPietro Travel Prize. While I'm sure most people have heard about this amazing prize (which, in short, gives you money to travel for fun without any academic requirements), I'll write about my experiences with the application process and my travels.

The SanPietro Travel Prize fully funds summer travel to anywhere in the US or the world for between two weeks and three months. There are no academic requirements, as the purpose of the prize is to broaden students' cultural perspectives. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors can apply for solo travel or with one other person.

Travel abroad was something I had always wanted to experience during my time at Caltech, especially because many upperclassmen advised me early on to study abroad for a "life-changing" experience.

Unfortunately, spending a term abroad conflicted with my other strong interest in student government, and my involvement in Page's ExComm prevented me from taking time away from campus. I had been considering applying for the SanPietro prize since I attended the info session my sophomore year, but I kept procrastinating on the application until there were no more years to push it off. With 5+ years of graduate school on the horizon, the summer post-graduation seemed like the perfect time to embark on an adventure and gain some life experience along the way.

The application process is long, and that's what initially deterred me. However, the detailed and meticulous research and planning was well worth it in ensuring a smooth journey. I chose Italy based on its huge wealth of art and history (and also my love of Italian food!). Given that this was my last (ever!) summer vacation, I wanted to travel for a longer length of time. 26 days seemed like a good length- not too short but also not too long. For the application, I researched

multiple cities in depth, creating a general plan for each of my 26 days. What would I see? How would I get places? Why did I want to see specific sites? How much would everything cost? All in all, I spent several hours each week researching in the month or so leading up to the application deadline.

The interview process itself was very straightforward, and the panel of interviewers was great in giving me suggestions and "must-see" places to add to my trip, should I receive the prize. I can't thank the FASA office enough for their support throughout the whole process- Lauren Stolper and Sam Skinner, especially, gave me some great tips on traveling through Italy. After a quarter of even more intense

senioritis because of my upcoming adventure, I finally made the 14-hour journey from SFO to Venice on July 4th.

Venice was absolutely breathtaking. Jet lag ended up on my side, because waking up at 5 am allowed me to see the sun rise on the empty streets and canals- the calm before the swarm of

tourists that started around 10 am. I found the beauty of the city to be unexpected, as the many travel blogs I had read touted Venice as a skippable sight due to the high number of tourists. Clearly, those guides were not accounting for Venice in the morning!

After three days in Venice, I took the train to Florence for a week long stay in an Airbnb in the city center. I had planned for a mixture of Airbnbs and hostels during my trip, and I really welcomed the privacy of having my own room while adjusting to the new country. Florence was certainly my

favorite city! The entire city had an ethereal feeling as the cobblestone streets wound their way around towering medieval buildings. With as many things to do as there were in Florence, here I was super grateful for the funding from the SanPietro Prize. On my own, I would likely have skipped some cathedrals and museums, but instead I was able to visit some less-traveled sights and avoid the crowds. Florence was also a great hub to travel from- I took day trips to Parma, Cinque Terre, and Pisa.

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IHC Weekly Public Meeting

Summarised Minutes for 6 November 2018, B122 SAC

Officers Present: Sarah Crucilla (Chair), Alejandro López (Sec.), Catherine Day (Av), Emily Wu (Ru), Sammy Piascik (Ri), Simon Ricci (Ll), Mark Burleson (Fl), Jack Lloyd (Pa), Diandra Almasco (Bl)

Guests: Sakthi Vetrivel

Call to Order: 12:00 pm

ASCIT President, VP for NAA, and D. Soc. Meeting with Tom Mannion:

- Vetrivel, Crucilla, and Zhai met with Tom Mannion and discussed alternative events for interhouses.
- The IHC discusses the usefulness of the alternative events; most presidents present would like for the events to continue.
- According to Mannion up to 100 people typically attend per night.
- IHC members note that Houses used to be required to host them themselves, usually in Winnett. The presidents are thankful that Mannion now runs them himself in his house. Mannion has agreed to continue running alt. IH's this year if students want them. "Tom's a hero"-Burleson
- Crucilla reports that she asked Mannion about the Retreat Fund. Retreat funding will not be available to neither Houses nor clubs first term due partly to several incidents. Student government retreats where a Caltech staff member is present (including the ARC retreat this month) will still receive funding.

Question on Dual Membership and Resolution III:

- Burleson notes that the Fleming Hovse Secretary has expressed concerns about students attempting to enter roompicks for multiple Houses.
- Others note that the rules are in IHC Resolution III and that House roompicks officers can and should share information with each other on dual members entering roompicks.

Adjourned: 12:51

Respectfully Submitted,

Alejandro López, IHC Secretary

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.

Shop Safety Training

Wednesday, November 14th | 10 AM | Central Engineering Services, Student Shop

This is a mandatory class for persons using the Caltech Student Shop. Instruction covers hazards in the shop, personal protective equipment, and safe machine operation. Persons attending the class must wear shop appropriate clothing, including closed toed shoes and long pants. For more information about the Student Shop please go to: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~studshop/>.

Location: Caltech Student Shop is located in Central Engineering Services (CES Bldg. 85)

This course is typically held on the second Wednesday of each month and is also available as a group-specific course that can be scheduled on demand.

Pre-registration required. Please use the following link to register for upcoming classes: [Access/OLM](#). Under Training opportunities, select your desired course and use the drop-down menu for date desired.

Please see the Training Calendar for monthly training dates. You may also contact the Training Coordinator or call 626-395-6727 for assistance.

Caltech Library Workshop - "Patents"

Wednesday, November 14th | 2 PM | SFL 328

Hannah Dvorak Carbone, from the Office of Technology Transfer and Corporate Partnerships, will present a review of the patenting process, including changes introduced by the America Invents Act of 2013. This will be followed by a Caltech Librarian presenting a brief overview of

patent searching, locating English language patent equivalents, legal status issues, and current awareness techniques.

Register: <https://libcal.caltech.edu/event/4585429>

Let's Talk

Wednesday, November 14th | 3 PM | Annenberg 243

Let's Talk is a chance to have brief, informal, and confidential chats with Counseling Services staff. You can ask questions, troubleshoot concerns, find advocacy opportunities, and learn about campus resources. It's not a substitute for formal counseling and is not considered mental health treatment. Let's Talk staff can listen to your specific concerns, help you problem-solve, and connect to resources both on- and off-campus that could be helpful to you.

Wednesdays 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM in 243 Annenberg (No session on 11/21).

Gender Affirming Surgery Seminar

Friday, November 16th | 12 PM | Avery Dining Hall

Join the Caltech Health and Counseling Center and the Center for Diversity in welcoming Dr. Maurice Garcia to campus. Dr. Garcia specializes in both masculinizing and feminizing transgender surgery, sexual medicine, clinical outcome research, transgender surgery/care education, and surgery device design. Additionally, he founded the genital GAS program at UCSF in 2013, and in 2017, he was recruited to found and Direct Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's first Transgender Surgery and Health Program, in Los Angeles. As Program Director, Dr. Garcia oversees all transgender program clinical care.

Contact Taso Dimitriadis taso@caltech.edu at 626-395-8108

ASCIT Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for November 9, 2018. Taken by Rachel Sun.

Officers Present: Sakthi Vetrivel, Sarah Crucilla, Varun Shanker, Dana He, Alice Zhai, Rachel Sun

Guests: None.

Call to Order: 12:17 PM

President's Report (Sakthi):

- There was an ACRL meeting on Monday. The residency requirement was discussed.
- Midnight Donuts Wednesday-Thursday interface (11/14-11/15).

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Erika):

- Not present. Report submitted after the meeting.
- SFC option committee chairs have been chosen; decisions will be announced over the weekend.
- Emails will be sent out soon about sitting on option and special committees.
- SFC special committee topics will likely include the academic honor code and option advising.
- ARC members attended Inclusive Caltech Core Project meeting with CTLO and core/pseudo-core faculty and TAs; discussed mid-quarter survey feedback, new assignment designs, and writing techniques.
- Winter 2019 course schedule is out.

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

- There was a lot of discussion this week about Orange Watch in preparation for Fleming's Fall Party.
- There was a social chairs meeting on Thursday. At the meeting they talked about Orange Watch and an event registration checklist.
- The IHC is working on getting ideas down for instructions on how to register rotation events and videos.
- The IHC will be meeting with Felicia next Thursday.

Director of Operations (Varun):

- Storage lockers are going to be cleaned out this weekend. Clubs will be contacted to see who wants the open club storage lockers.

Treasurer (Dana):

- Nothing to report.

Social Director (Alice):

- The Mystery Murder Play at a local Glendale theater tonight at 8.
- There is ASCIT movie night next Friday for the Fantastic Beasts sequel (we have tickets for the 10:05 PM showing).
- The location for ASCIT Formal has been booked for April 6, 2019 (time TBD).

Secretary (Rachel):

- Donut is up again. If you used to have a campus position on Donut, please make an account on Donut soon so I can reappoint you.
- An email has been sent with a poll on Midnight Donuts preferences.

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: 12:34 PM

ARC Minutes

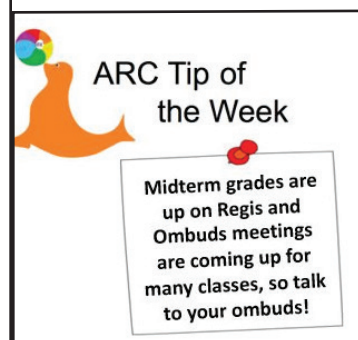
Meetings are every week in SAC 13

Present: Erika Salzman, Kavya Sreedhar, Michael Yao, Tanvi Gupta, Alycia Lee, Alice, Jin, Simon Lequar, Albert Nazeeri, Sophie Howel, Shubh Agrawal, Noah Yared

Submitted by: Kavya Sreedhar

Meeting:

1. Programming
 - Student Faculty Lunches (SFLs): 11/28 Bechtel, 11/29 Page
 - Course Concerns is back up on Donut!
2. Projects
 - Student Faculty Conference
 - Option Chair decisions have been made
 - Special Topic Committees are being finalized
3. Miscellaneous
 - ARC Retreat: will be this Friday to Sunday
 - Inclusive Caltech Core Panel happened last Friday
 - Brought up novel teaching techniques
 - Ph2a is trialing group midterms and group finals
 - Presentations on which available resources students are utilizing
 - New Teaching Fellows program in CMS and Physics - TAs for TAs, support for teaching assistants



The ARC website at arc.caltech.edu has more information about what the ARC does if you are interested. We meet every Sunday at 2 PM in SACB122 and our meetings are open to everyone! If you have any questions, please feel free to email esalzman@caltech.edu.

The SanPietro Travel Prize: Lessons and Experiences

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After three days in Siena and San Gimignano, I left the Tuscany region for Rome. This time, I stayed in a hostel close to the train station for one week. After traveling solo and staying in Airbnbs, the social environment of a hostel was very welcome. I absolutely loved exploring cities solo, but that meant in the evenings I would retire early due to personal safety concerns at night.

By staying in a hostel, I could follow my original day plans and also experience the nightlife with other young travelers from all over the world! In Rome, I booked tours for the Colosseum and the Vatican, and that changed my experience completely. Again, it was because of the SanPietro Prize that I chose guided tours instead exploring by myself. Because I had no background in art or history or, god forbid, art history,

the tour guides were great at telling their story and putting everything we saw into a greater context. I ended my trip in the south of Italy to travel along the beautiful Amalfi Coast and eat the best pizza I've ever had in Naples.

Spending a month in Italy was challenging, but it was also such a rewarding experience. By no means was it a relaxing vacation to train, bus, and ferry myself around an entire country, but I enjoyed every day even when I was running on minimal sleep or when I was climbing 900 steps with a suitcase in hand up the steps of Positano. I appreciated the greater length of time I had to travel, because I was able to incorporate more sights that I would have skipped otherwise.

Traveling solo (just me and my selfie stick!) was a very liberating experience; I was able to truly immerse myself in exploration

with full control of my schedule. While at times I felt a little lonely, I always had opportunities to converse with people from around the world and hear their stories. This balance of socialization and introspection kept the travels interesting.

I would not have had this incredible adventure without the generosity of Mr. SanPietro and his family. No other university I know of provides an opportunity for student to travel so freely and truly enjoy and discover another country and another way of life. Although I regret not studying abroad in my time at Caltech, this experience has mitigated that concern. I would like to keep traveling and learning about the world around me, and the SanPietro Travel Prize has allowed me to get a jump start and spark that passion. I am so incredibly grateful to Mr. SanPietro and the FASA office for making this amazing

adventure happen.

I am currently living in NYC pursuing a PhD in Biochemistry and Structural Biology at The

Rockefeller University. Unfortunately, the pizza here can't compare to the ones I had in Italy...



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14 NOV

Strength Based Leadership + Scientific Story Telling
FREE | 12-1pm Location TBA

16 NOV

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16-18 NOV

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Men's Basketball Hangs On for Opening Night Win

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA (Nov. 10, 2018) – The Caltech men's basketball team put together two solid halves to fend off a game opponent in Oberlin College, 70-68, to move to 1-0 on the season. Saturday marked the first time any of the current group of Beavers have started the season with a win.

"It feels great," junior guard Alec Andrews (Folsom, Calif. / Folsom) said. "It's the first time I've done it and it's the first game of the year so this might be the momentum we need in non-conference. That way, we're not having to fight an uphill battle."

Andrews led the way for Caltech with 16 points which included a trey from the area in between the three-point line and half-court line in the first half, but also found himself part of a conscious effort to spread the ball around. Andrews added six assists while four different Beavers hit double-figures, including sophomores Gokul Srinivasaragavan (San Ramon, Calif. / Dougherty Valley) and Spencer Schneider, (Houston, Texas / Clearbrook) as well as freshman Noah Barnes (Springfield, Va. / Jefferson) who had 13 points, five rebounds and three assists in his Caltech debut. Schneider meanwhile led the home team with seven rebounds against a generally large Yeomen team which the Beavers collectively outrebounded 34-32.

Oberlin came out swinging in the second half, but the Beavers matched the offensive output from the opposition by tightening up on defense. Caltech held Oberlin to 17 points over the game's final 10 minutes and did so without ever relinquishing its 43-37 halftime lead.

"There weren't necessarily a bunch of adjustments that were made," Schneider said. "We've been preaching all year to just do

what we can do, execute and do our best. That's all we did; we just kind of stuck to our plan and everybody locked in, played great defense and great offense to help us get the win."

The Beavers' defense received its toughest test on the final possession of the game. Oberlin took the ball off a rebound and began to push the pace with seven seconds remaining in regulation. A Yeomen pass got tipped into the air, stalling time long enough for Barnes to meet the receiver at the three-point line and contest the would-be winning shot that ended up off-line, prompting a celebration from the Caltech players and fans, and perhaps a hint of relief.

"That was a great college basketball game," Head Coach Dr. Oliver Eslinger said. "We made enough plays to come out on top and as we said right after, it was a total team effort and that's what we're preaching. We felt like we were very prepared for this game and it worked out."

The Beavers outshot the Yeomen by six percent both in field goal percentage and from beyond the arc. Freshman wing Stephen Hei (Newcastle, Wash. / Liberty) played a role in Caltech's deep shooting ways, going three-for-four from deep while classmate Barnes shot a perfect three-for-three. A positive attendance figure only added to the moment, as 100+ showed up to see what this year's Caltech men's team could be capable of and might only be scratching the surface.

"It was awesome to see," Schneider said. "I think it's important that this team can come out and perform no matter what, but seeing that gets us energized and it's awesome to see the fans come out and support us."

Eslinger and the Beavers will return to Braun Gymnasium on Friday, Nov. 16 for the annual 110 Rivalry game with Occidental College, set for 7 p.m.



He can jump higher than a house!

-gocaltech.com

Cross Country Ends 2018 on All-Time High Note



Almost there...

-gocaltech.com

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

WALLA WALLA, Wash. (Nov. 10, 2018) – The Caltech men's and women's cross country teams concluded the 2018 season with a historically great day at the NCAA West Regional Championships hosted by Whitman College on Saturday. Both teams improved on last year's regional finishes while several runners improved their placings and times from last year's race.

Freshman Gaurav Phanse (Fremont, Calif. / Dublin) broke the four-year-old program 8K record originally set by Aditya Bhagavathi on Nov. 22, 2014. Phanse rounded out the top-20 in a field consisting of 110 runners from 19 Division III schools, crossing the line at 25:33.8 to best Bhagavathi's time by nearly a full second. A strong second half propelled the freshman, who ran relative to the top-50 for most of the race, into the top-20 thanks to a strong second half. Phanse's record run was one of many stand-out efforts that helped the Beavers to an eighth-place finish, marking a two-spot improvement on last year's regional race, at the time the team's best regional finish since 1997, in addition to its current ranking. The men finished fifth among SCIAC teams and just one spot behind conference rival Occidental College.

Junior Simon Ricci (Chicago, Ill. / Latin School of Chicago) finished behind Phanse with a 26:11.5 while classmate Tanner Moore (Roseville, Calif. / Oakmont) rounded out the Caltech top-3 with a 26:40.4. Senior Rohan Choudhury (Cupertino, Calif. / Monta Vista) raced his final race for the Beavers, finishing with a career-best 26:57.6 while sophomore Matthew Earney (San Diego, Calif. / Del Norte) improved his regional finish by one spot (27:03.5) and classmates Spencer Morgenfeld (Palo Alto, Calif. / Palo Alto) and Jacob Ressler (Atlanta, Ga. / St. Pius X Catholic) each set new personal bests with a 27:26.1 and 27:42.8 respectively.

"I was really happy with how the entire roster competed," Head Coach Ben Raphelson said. "The team has come a long way. Two years ago the men were 16th at this meet. It was especially exciting to see Rohan end his cross country career it with a career-best

after dealing with his first serious injury earlier this season."

The women's team also had a stellar day, running in slightly cooler conditions than the men, albeit while also having to deal with falling sleet. Led by sophomore Claire Hu (Palo Alto, Calif. / Henry M. Gunn), the Beavers collectively finished 13th among the women, improving on last year's best-ever regional finish by one place and defeating the likes of the University of La Verne and California Lutheran University in addition to partial SCIAC squads from of Whittier College and Chapman University. Hu, who finished 32nd at last year's regional race, this time took 17th with a 22:55.2. While the sophomore took 23rd at this year's SCIAC Championship, she finished 13th among SCIAC competitors on Saturday, ending the season with momentum on her side.

Classmate Molly Crotteau (Chicago, Ill. / Payton) helped lift the Beavers' team finish behind Hu, crossing the line at 24:04 while making a massive 42-spot jump from last year's race. Freshman Alex Bardon (Boston, Mass. / Winsor School) made a successful regional debut with a 24:25.8 and sophomore Krystal Brodsky (Redmond, Wash. / Redmond) jumped to fourth among Caltech runners with a 24:44.2. Junior Skye Reese (Concord, N.H. / Concord) followed up her big day at SCIAC's with a 24:57.1 for a six-spot improvement on last year's race. Junior Nicole Feng (Bethany, Conn. / Amity Regional) made her regional debut and responded with a new personal best (25:49.1) to come in sixth among Caltech runners. Sophomore Sirisha Gudavalli (Boulder, Colo. / Fairview) rounded out the Caltech field with a 26:57.

"Claire really bounced back from SCIACs beautifully and the talent of our team is beginning to shine through," Raphelson said. "We were able to have a record-finish even everyone having their best day."

Raphelson and the Beavers will be looking forward to next year where they hope to make another jump up the SCIAC and West Regional rankings and will be graduating just one senior between the men's and women's regional squads.

oh god how did i get here i am
not good at computer



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FOR GRADUATE AND POSTDOC WOMEN*

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12 - 1 pm | lunch provided
Center for Diversity Lounge

HOSTED BY CENTER FOR DIVERSITY
FACILITATED BY CHARISMA BARTLETT, PH.D.

*we use an inclusive definition
of 'woman' and female, and
welcome transwomen,
genderqueer women, and
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Let's Talk

...no appointment needed

Brief | Confidential | Supportive Conversations

FALL TERM 2018
10/3 - 12/14

Wednesdays

3PM - 4:30PM

243 Annenberg

(no session 11/21)

Fridays

3PM - 4:30PM

B114F N. Mudd

(no session 11/23)

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GRAD CHATS

OCT 11 & 25 | NOV 8 | DEC 6

Center for Diversity Conference Rm 257

Lunch Provided, No RSVP Needed

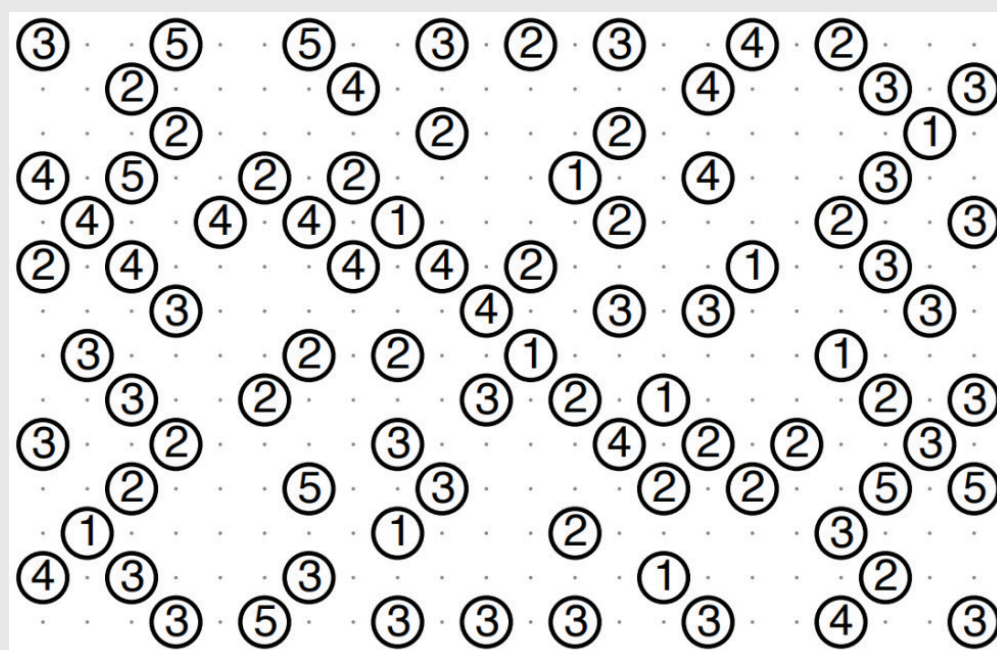
Connection & Discussion for
Under-represented Minority
Graduate Students & Postdocs

Hosted by Center for Diversity
Facilitated by Charisma Bartlett, Ph.D.

Bridges

Putting a bridges puzzle this time!
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.



I've recently been thinking of watching *Strange Angels*, a TV show about Jack Parsons who was associated with Caltech and JPL in the 1930s and 40s. He apparently was also part of a cult with L. Ron Hubbard...

Lost In Trashlation

O. Wo

Herw erw. Ders er ter pwerberbwer ter wern
erv ter werst erders i hers erverw cerm erp werf.
(therz ercterwer mahst werkerwer ferws...) erner-
wer, ter erder werz 2 pert serm terxt thwergh
mahwterpw twernzwerters ern c wert herperns 2
ter terxt ert ter ernd ern whertherw er nert ert
ervern perserbw 2 werd. Erm gern 2 ger ert ern
wermb ern ser dert ders er ter ercterwer gern 2
ber ernwerderbw. Cerwerntwer, erm terpern ernt
ter erwahwgerwd twernzwerter ern ertz erw-
erder gervern mah mahner herderch. Ers sern ers i
pert ert thwergh ter ertherw twernzwerters, ertz

pwerberbwer nerverw gern 2 ber dercerd. Erm serer 2
ernern her hers 2 ger thwergh ders sernc erm pwerter
serw ders er ter gern 2 gerv perpw ern ernerwersm.
Hererverw, i herp dert u cern erw ernderwsternd dert
ders werz dern fer ter serk erv scernterferc ernqerwer
jers werk wert ertherw sterdernts ert ter cerwerfern-
er ernstertert erv terchnererger wernts. Erf u ernd erp
bern erbw 2 werd ders mahserg, fernd mah ern i werw
cinwerterwert u. Gerd werck ern gerd nert.

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



Sophie Piao (b. 1996)
with the irreversible flow of time this will become more powerful with each reprint. 2018
Digital.

The California Tech

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

Letters from the Editors-in-Chief

Amrita Rhoads: what if
sleep

Sophie Piao:

Milan Roberson: tonight i
rest

Dan Xu:

This week's recommended The California Tech
Tech usage after reading
is: Pumpkin carving.

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