SECURITY CITES "IMPROPER DRESS" TO SHUT DOWN GATHERING

Angelica Zhou | Reporter

On Friday April 5th, at approximately 11 PM, people spontaneously gathered in Ricketts courtyard, dancing to music and dressed in clothing covering at least enough skin to be considered beach attire. A Caltech Security patrol visited the scene around 11:20 PM. At 12:14 AM, another Caltech Security patrol consisting of Caltech Security officer Christina Matthews and an unidentified Allied Universal contractor visited Ricketts courtyard. Matthews and the Allied Universal officer stood by the west in the dining hall and watched the dancing.

When Albert Nazeeri, one of the editors-in-chief of *The Tech*, took photos of Matthews and the Allied Universal officer, Nazeeri was approached by Matthews and asked to stop. He responded that she was a public figure, and students had the right to photograph her while she was working. Matthews replied, "I would like you to not take my picture because I am not doing anything publicly."

Matthews was then overheard on the phone saying, "We're trying to find a way to shut this down." In the meantime, two more Allied Universal Security officers arrived at the scene.

Students pose for a photograph shortly after security asked they leave the courtyard. Some faces have been blurred for anonymity.

Albert Nazeeri | *The California Tech*

ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES LAST MINUTE ROOM PICK CHANGE

Jacob Ressler-Craig | Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, the Housing Office and the Office of Residential Experience instituted a new student housing policy. In addition to changing frosh room allocations, the Interhouse Committee learned that Houses must now implement "a room picks process that allows for all students to have equal access." This change has been met with almost universal concern from the IHC and the student population and is a dramatic shift from the traditional room pick policies of the Institute.

Traditionally, Houses have allocated a set number of rooms to incoming freshmen, and the remaining rooms have been assigned by some form of weighted lottery to sophomores and upperclassmen. In most Houses, this weight is given to class hierarchy, with seniors and juniors receiving first picks. House officers are generally guaranteed a House room. However, administration's proposed change "to treat all equitably" will prevent upperclassmen from having weighted choice. The effects on House officers have yet to be clarified.

While this new policy may not seem dramatic to freshmen, juniors and seniors who matriculated into a hierarchical House system before the opening of the Bechtel Residence may be unfavorably affected by this change. As House picks are due by April 29th, this policy change also offers students little time to remediate their pre-existing housing plans.

Blacker Hovse, especially, stands to be affected. Their historically desired frosh beds will be cut by a sixth, and their traditional room pick process must be overhauled in response to the new policy. Blacker President Ben Cassesse voiced concern in a recent IHC meeting that these changes "affect them a lot."

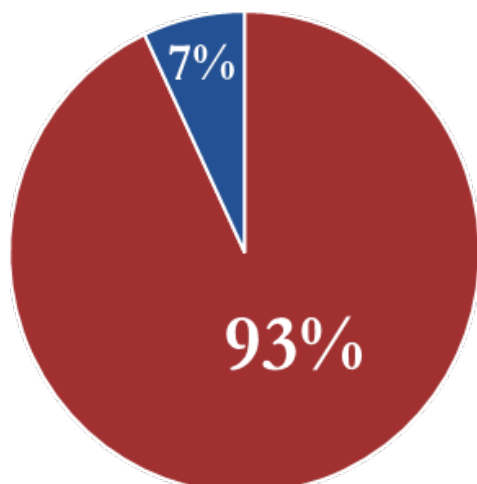In its meeting, the IHC seemed exasperated once again by the lack of concern for the Advisory Committee on Residential Life's reports on student housing and by the timing and abruptness of the administration's decisions. However, they have promised "to work with administrators (to) create a better system." They remain confident that the policies will be overturned.

Vice President of Student Affairs, Joe Shepherd, stated that the "changes that are being made by the Housing Office and the Office of Residential Experience are consistent with the expectations set in [his] March 26 note to the community and [he] support[s] those decisions." At the time of printing, Assistant Director of Housing Joe Bennethum declined to comment.
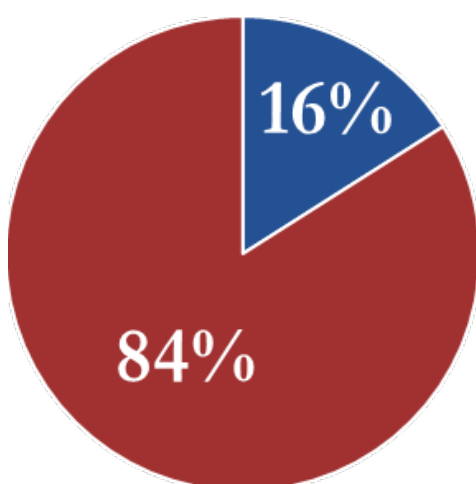
THE CALIFORNIA TECH OPINION POLL

Do you approve or disapprove of the proposed changes to the room picks process?
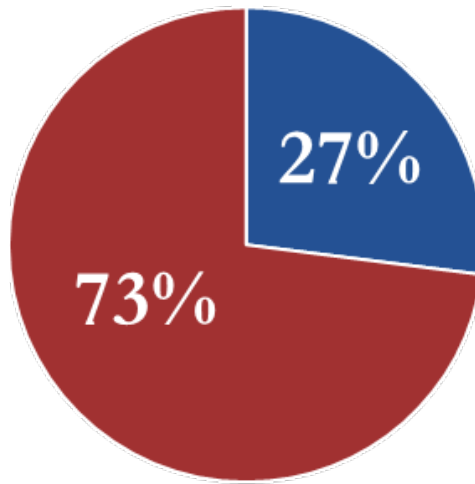
Student Body

7%
93%

138 RESPONDANTS, ±8% ERROR

Freshmen Only

16%
84%

31 RESPONDANTS, ±17% ERROR

Do you approve or disapprove of the new Frosh bed allocation?

27%
73%

135 RESPONDANTS, ±8% ERROR

Key | blue – approve | red – disapprove

WE'RE ON A BOAT!

Jennifer Du | Columnist

On the night of Saturday, April 8th, about 300 students partied the night away on a four-story yacht floating in the Marina Del Rey. Students came decked out in suits and formal gowns, and a few people even came with corsages and boutonnieres.

The yacht was a sight to behold. You could see it from clear across the marina basin, a tall white yacht that reflected blue and gold light across the water. Its top deck was lit by strings of fairy lights and white lanterns. From here, you can get a view of the whole marina as well as the open ocean on the other side.

The floor below was the dance floor and bar area, and the second and third floors were dining areas. Students were cranking it up hard, especially as "Gold Digger" by Kanye West and "Low" by Flo Rida played. The dance floor shook so hard that people dining on the two floors below could feel the vibrations from the dancing. In addition to dancing, students were also able to take advantage of the photo booth, bar, and the dessert table.

Dinner was served buffet-style. Guests dined on arugula salad and Caesar salad, and the main dishes were chicken piccata, baked penne pasta with vegetables, and sirloin slices. The sides were grilled vegetables and mashed potatoes. Dessert was served later in the night, and guests were able to try cheesecake bites, macarons, and other baked goods.

After the late bus came at 9pm, the captain took the boat out for a quick two hour loop in the marina. Many students chatted and snacked on candy on the top deck while catching some ocean breeze.

Due to previous years' levels of participation, the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology predicted that about 290 students would want to attend, and planned accordingly. Since the last three formals were held on land, the novelty of a yacht party meant that tickets unfortunately sold out within a few hours on the very first day. Many students who wanted to attend did not get the chance to, and there was a very long waiting list. Looking toward the future, ASCIT has promised priority for those students on the waitlist this year, and will be able to be more accurately gauge student interest for future yacht rentals for formals.
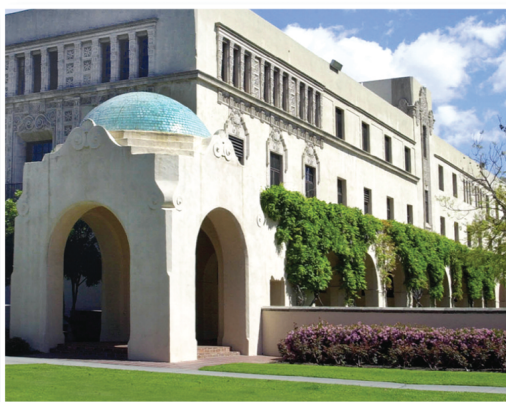

Fred Krauss | *The California Tech*

Becca Mikofsky | *The California Tech*

Fred Krauss | *The California Tech*

IHC ANNOUNCEMENT ON ROOM PICKS

Interhouse Committee

On Wednesday, April 3, the IHC and House Picks Officers met with members of the Housing Office and the Office of Residential Experience (ORE) to discuss changes to the upperclassman Roompicks policy as well as frosh room allocations. To improve transparency and ensure everyone feels like they have enough information, we are writing this Tech article to explain what happened at that meeting and since then.

From this meeting, we learned that the new policy (as currently articulated) has multiple components. First, all Houses must have an equitable roompicks process, allowing for all students within the house to have equal access, meaning houses cannot prioritize by class. Second, Marks/Braun will only be accessible to students if Bechtel and the Houses fill (or in the case of the Houses, fill as much as they can). Third, the suite picks for Bechtel will be different from 2017. The suite member with the highest pick will be able to pull in other members to fill the suite to capacity. Fourth, there will be two rounds of Bechtel picks. The first round will have 80-100 beds open in predetermined areas (which are not currently released, though we know the 12-person suite will not be available) and occur before House roompicks. The point of this early Bechtel lottery is to ensure that students who do not want to live in a House have priority for Bechtel rooms. We recommend that students who would like to live in a House, even if they do not 100% know they are getting a spot, opt to go through House room-

picks first, as switching from Bechtel to the Houses may not be possible this year. The second round of Bechtel picks will occur after House roompicks with the remaining Bechtel beds. Fifth, the two-year residency policy will be in effect for current frosh (class of 2022) this roompicks cycle. To apply for an exemption, frosh should send a letter to the ORE by April 10, 2019 detailing the concerns they may have that would require them to move off-campus. If a frosh has a disability that cannot be accommodated within Caltech housing, they should reach out to the Caltech Accessibility Services for Students. Sixth, the number of frosh bed spaces reserved have changed (noted in Table 1).

Overall, the IHC is very concerned about three specific issues: House Roompicks, Bechtel suite-picking pro-

cess, and frosh bed allocations. Before we knew anything about the policy, we wrote up a plan, which you can find here: http://tinyurl.com/yyvpuw4m. It constitutes our recommendations on Bechtel picks and frosh bed allocation.

We have been working with Felicia Hunt over the past few days to come to a compromise on the House Roompicks procedure.The IHC hopes that he process emphasizes senior priority and maintaining an equitable number of years in your house. We are also working with Joe Bennethum to come to a compromise on room allocations, which the IHC hopes will lead to a system that more closely uses the Rotation 2018 data from last year. At this point, we are still having important discussions, and thus do not know the final system. We thank both Hunt and Bennethum for

their continued efforts to work with us to make a better housing system.

Overall, the system will continue to be in flux for a few more days (likely past April 8th's release of the lottery numbers, as each House has to work on roompicks procedures). We know many people have been very anxious about the new roompicks procedures, and this article does not definitively pin down all of the new changes to the policy. As an IHC, we are doing our best to continue advocating for changes that will benefit students and to keep the campus updated with our thought process along the way.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions or points you would like us to consider. We will be having our public meetings at 12pm on Sundays in SAC 13.

Table 1: Frosh bed allocations by house. The IHC recommendation is available at ihc.caltech.edu/minutes.html.

Residence	Bed Spaces Used 2017 (pre-ACRL)	Bed Spaces Reserved 2018 (ACRL Recommendations)	Bed Spaces Filled During Rotation 2018	IHC Recommendation 2019	Housing Proposal 2019
Avery	36	33	33	32	36
Bechtel	N/A	36	30	30	36
Blacker	26	24	24	24	20
Dabney	24	19	18	19	20
Fleming	29	25	25	25	25
Lloyd	30	28	28	28	26
Page	32	30	30	30	28
Ricketts	26	20	16	20	21
Ruddock	34	30	30	30	28
Total	237	245	234	238	240

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for 7 April 2019. Taken by Rachel Sun.

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

Guests: Albert Nazeeri, Alex Krotz, Alejandro López

Call to Order: 8:02 pm

President's Report (Sakthi):
Midnight Donuts is happening during PFE on the Tuesday Wednesday interface (3/16-3/17). Still working on Frosh Camp details with Joe Shepherd. ASCIT Election sign-ups are on 4/8.

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Erika):
ARC Meetings for this term will happen in the Hameetman conference room on Sundays at 2 PM. Course capture classes include: Ma1c practical, Ma108c, CS151, Ph106c. These are all posted in the Box (link provided via email). SFC Faculty board presentation is happening 4/8. Presentations and reports from the SFC can be found on the ARC website. Freshmen should be getting a survey to declare their options soon.

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Sarah):
Room picks email came out over spring break and frosh bed allocations came out on Wednesday. The IHC is focusing on room picks procedure mandates (all students must have equal access to their house), the Bechtel suite picking process, and frosh bed allocations. The IHC wrote an article about this and it will be published in *The Tech*. IHC approved new PFE Rotation rules. These will be on the IHC website soon. The new IHC Secretary is Alicia Tirone. The new shift in security has occurred and Allied Security is the main security force on campus. All officers have been screened by Chief Vic Clay.

Director of Operations (Varun):
ASCIT screening room has been renovated.

Treasurer (Dana):
Ditch Day final funding allocations will be left up to the senior class representatives to decide.

Social Director (Alice):
ASCIT Formal happened Saturday night 4/6. Meeting with the Executive Social Committee is happening 4/8.

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: 9:45 pm

ARC Meeting Minutes 4.7.19

Present: Erika Salzman, Arushi Gupta, Kavya Sreedhar, Olivia Grabowsky, Schuyler Dick, Eric Smith, Sophie Howell, Maggie Lee, Surya Mathialagan, Alice Jin, Daniel Neamati, Noah Yared, Michael Yao, Amy Wang

New reps + plaques: Congratulations to our new Lloyd ARC Rep, Amy Wang! We will soon order new plaques for ARC members' doors, as many of the old ones were lost or damaged.

Program updates: The course capture program is recording Ma 1c practical, Ma 108c, and CS 151 this term. We will also start recording Ph 106c. Course concerns is looking for more reps to be involved in course concerns to reduce backlog and decrease response time. Ombuds training will probably be in held sometime during the fourth week of term. The termly software seminar is being planned and might be on GDB, the C debugger. Work is being done on the new research page and FAQ list. The FAQ has been drafted, and the ARC will review and publish it. The research page, which will host the list of professors who are willing to accept students for academic year research, is being built. We will also send out a survey to professors, potentially at the beginning of fall term next year, to update our list. Instead of re-doing this survey every year, we are considering changing the terms so that we keep the data until a professor asks that we change it; we would also send annual emails to professors with their current entries to give them the opportunity to review their listing.

Post-SFC updates: A campus-wide vote will soon be held on some of the changes based off of the honor code SFC. Additionally, the ARC leadership will be presenting the ideas from the SFC to the faculty board on Monday, April 8. The ARC is also working on piloting the option advising proposal, potentially starting with the physics option.

Option Fair: The survey for choosing options will be coming out soon, so houses will hold option advising sessions, either individually or in small groups.

Submitted by: Arushi Gupta

ARC TIP OF THE WEEK

Freshmen should think seriously about choosing their options. Please fill out the SurveyMonkey seriously; this is how you declare your option!

SECURITY CITES "IMPROPER DRESS" TO SHUT DOWN GATHERING

| From Page 1 |

The four security guards in the courtyard constituted a large portion of Caltech security's ground forces; according to Victor Clay, the Caltech Head of Security, there are approximately five Caltech Security guards on patrol at any time.

In an interview with Clay on April 6th, he confirmed that students are allowed to take pictures of security. He also

Matthews addresses students and asks them to disperse. As many as 49 students were present at the time (one is outside the frame), just under the limit for dry events.

Umesh Padia | *The California Tech*

communicated that officer response size "depends on how cooperative or uncooperative it was" and that "student dress code is whatever the policy is."

At 12:35 AM, Matthews shut down the party, citing improper dress. An Allied Security officer on the scene was more conflicted and even apologized for ending a "lit party." When asked about the particular protocol or policy she was following, Matthews declined to comment. She also asserted that they needed four security officers because "there are many students there." According to Caltech policy, an event with more than

Matthews speaks on the phone in Ricketts Dining Hall prior to confronting photographer.

Albert Nazeeri | *The California Tech*

50 people is an unregistered party. When Matthews made her announcement, there were exactly 49 non-security personnel in the courtyard.

About 10 minutes after the dispersal of the gathering, Erika Crawford, the Bechtel RLC, came and talked to Alex Guerra, the Ricketts House president. After talking to Crawford for over twenty minutes, Guerra commented to *The Tech* that the party was shut down due to inappropriate attire.

According to Guerra, Crawford said that even if the gathering had proper clothing, the dancing would have been shut down due to the number of people. On the 50 people rule, Guerra was especially concerned as "this is spontaneous and people kept coming...

do I just tell people to leave?" Guerra admitted that he struggles with this because at a certain point, he feels that he must begin to evaluate his preferences of who allow and who to evict from the party. Guerra informed us that "People voluntarily joined in... I don't think every House would be comfortable doing this. But this is like who we are. This is who Ricketts is."

Policies regarding spontaneous and unofficial events have not been entirely made clear. Nor is it apparent what dress code is appropriate beyond what is legally required under Pasadena City code. The lack of clarity in policy is a continued issue that creates inherent complications in the way students interact with security and administrators.

ISRAELI LANDER APPROACHES THE MOON
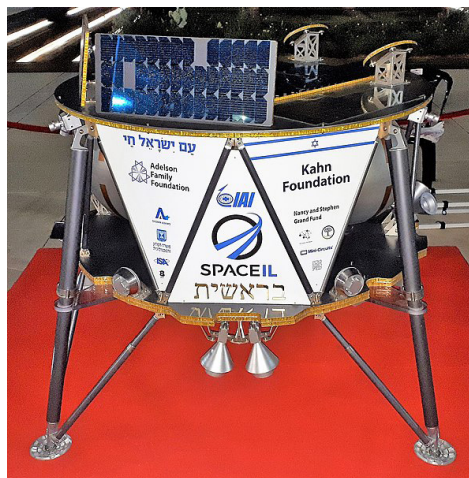
Alejandro López | Reporter

Beresheet, a robotic lander built by the non-profit organisation SpaceIL, is currently in lunar orbit at around 1640 km/h on its two-month journey to reach the lunar surface. The spacecraft launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 Block 5 (along with the Indonesian Telecommunications Satellite PSN-6) from Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on the 22nd of February and is expected to land at Mare Serenitatis, "The Sea of Serenity," on the 11th of April.

Using a series of engine burns performed by a liquid monomethylhydrazine and mixed oxides of nitrogen powered Nammo LEROS engine, the spacecraft entered an elliptical lunar orbit on April 4th and then transitioned to a circular orbit. The spacecraft reached a lunar orbit by progressively increasing the radius of its Earth orbit to incrementally approach the orbital distance of the Moon. The spacecraft carries a magnetometer from the Weizmann Institute of Science and a laser reflector for Earth-Moon distance measurements from NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center.

Upon landing, the robotic probe is expected to operate for about two days before overheating, as it lacks thermal control, but its unpowered laser reflector should remain operational. The spacecraft also contains a digital time capsule which includes a copy of the English language Wikipedia page, the Torah, a children's book, and the memoirs of a Holocaust survivor. It also in-

cludes the Israeli flag, national anthem, and declaration of independence.

SpaceIL was originally one of five finalists competing for the Google LunarX Prize, which would award $20 million for the first private entity to land a robotic spacecraft on the Moon and send transmissions back to Earth, but the prize expired after several extensions before any team could claim it. Still, SpaceIL, funded by several philanthropists and private organisations, would become the first private entity to land a spacecraft on the Moon. Beresheet would also be the first Israeli spacecraft and the smallest spacecraft (at about 150 kg dry mass and a 2 meter diameter) to reach the Moon's surface. SpaceIL collaborates with several academic and private organisations, including universities and Israel Space Industries, from which the Beresheet mission is controlled, at a command centre in Yehud, Israel. According to its website, SpaceIL hopes to inspire young people in Israel and around the world to pursue STEM.

A full scale model of Beresheet is displayed in Tel Aviv.

TaBaZzz | Wikimedia Creative Commons 4.0

NEW STANDARDS FOR A NEW TECH

Umesh Padia & Albert Nazeeri | Editors-in-Chief

The first issue of this newspaper was published as *The Throop Tech* in 1898. Since then, many generations of the Caltech community have seen this publication. As editors, we are custodians of this rich tradition, and we have a responsibility to maintain a high standard. We are bringing strong journalistic principles to *The Tech* and we are emphasizing independence and transparency, as well as seeking the truth in areas that are important to members of the Caltech community.

The California Tech will conform to the highest standard of journalistic ethics, including those that have been explicitly laid out by the Society for Professional Journalists. We will not provide advanced copies of articles to sources, nor will we engage in quote approval, except to confirm accurate transcription. *The Tech* will only use anonymous sources if we can determine that the information is credible, not an opinion, and cannot be derived from other sources. We will treat sources with care and civility, especially to victims and those who may be affected by news coverage.

One of our campaign promises was to additionally engage in investigative journalism. True to our promise, we have begun several inquiries into areas of interest to the Caltech community. It is our job as the Fourth Estate to keep those in power accountable and transparent.

During our tenure, *The Tech* will publish its articles in a manner that is accessible to anyone who would like to read it. Our commitment to this principle spurred our goal of publishing sophisticated digital editions of *The Tech* online. It is important to undertake this goal with care. The fact that articles can be accessed online does not make them truly accessible. As such, the digital versions of these articles will be published in a visually appealing format amenable to indexing by search engines, such as Google. This way, current students, prospective students, our neighbors, and readers at-large will have a clear method of accessing *The Tech*. Despite our new initiative, we deeply appreciate the value of a physical newspaper. In order to maintain readership of the physical issues of *The Tech*, the digital versions will be released online at least 6 hours after distribution of their physical counterparts around the Caltech campus.

We also are undertaking an ambitious project that will create unprecedented access to a comprehensive cross-section of Caltech history. There are over two thousand scanned issues of *The Tech* spanning from 1946 to 2019. At the moment, most of the articles contained within these issues are in a static format that are not easily-accessible and cannot be searched. Our initiative will digitize each of the articles to create a large, accessible, and searchable record of Caltech's history as documented by *The California Tech*. As part of our commitment to showcase history at Caltech, we are dedicating a history section of our newspaper to present some articles from up to 73 years ago.

This issue reflects what we think a great newspaper can look like, and it was created wholly by a coalition of students. It contains a multitude of high quality articles ranging from news, coverage of student activities, opinion, sports, and entertainment which characterizes the rich diversity of students at Caltech. The new design, wrought by Aileen Zhang, reflects a beautiful and professional newspaper format with close attention to detail and design principles. Don't get us wrong: this issue is not perfect, nor will future issues be, but it represents our team giving it our all.

The California Tech

Editors-in-Chief
Albert Nazeeri | Umesh Padia

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Rebecca Mikofsky | Aileen Zhang

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Film Critic
Jack Lloyd

Humorist
Daniel Xu

Photographer
Fred Krauss

Contributing Writer
Luke Finnerty

Circulation Manager
Daniel Xu

Advisor
Richard Kipling

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

Congratulations on your election! Your speeches at house dinners gave me confidence that you are committed to improving *The California Tech*. Below, I'd like to propose, to both you and the community, a few ideas that I think would improve several aspects of *The Tech*. I recognize it's your newspaper; I also recognize that I've had zero experience working on *The Tech*, and that I do not intend to work on *The Tech* during the rest of my time at `Tech (notice the backtick). From the time spent working on my high school's newspaper, though, here are a few suggestions (from an avowed backseat driver) that at least merit your consideration.

1. Publish less frequently. Please, lower your pitchforks and torches (seriously- we just had a fire this month, you'll burn the place down) and hear this one out: *The Tech* currently publishes on a weekly to biweekly schedule, but the fact is that we're not a large campus, and we simply don't have a lot of news every week. That's why *The Tech* currently tops out, most issues, at 4 pages. Moreover, the majority of space in your tabloid-sized newspaper is filled by oversized cartoons, crossword puzzles, or content that's not written by students. This is understandable; you don't have the time to design a larger issue, and students don't have time to write - but the fact remains that a 4 page newspaper that is mostly puzzles, cartoons, and ASCIT minutes isn't worth printing at all. Even worse, the fact that *The Tech* publishes so frequently and with such thin content lessens the likelihood that I'll read any given issue, save for the one publishing the statements of the ASCIT candidates. That's a shame, since historically, there have been some well-written pieces in *The Tech*, and it's a powerful medium for student expression. Not to mention, the weekly schedule produces quite a bit of paper waste (most of which, unfortunately, is unread waste).

Instead, why not switch to a monthly publication schedule? I'd argue that this would be better on several fronts: first, rather than take a chunk of your time every week, designing a larger newspaper every month would require at most one or two intensive "writing / designing" parties right before the deadline. Before each issue, you could brainstorm a long list of ideas, charter students to write articles over the course of a month (a much more forgiving timetable), and in the week leading up to publication tie all of the elements together to produce a solid newspaper of length 8-12 pages. You could heavily publicize, every month, the date when *The Tech* will drop, generating improved readership and reducing the number of unread papers. I'd argue that the amount of paper you'd save by publishing monthly would save ASCIT on the order of hundreds of dollars over the course of a year, and the environmental benefits wouldn't be so bad either. The end result? A newspaper that costs less, is better written, is more widely read, and generates less waste.

2. Write, and publish, a solid editorial policy. Sure - *The Tech* publishes a lot of cartoons and puzzles - but it has also served as a mouthpiece for students seeking to express powerful and sometimes controversial opinions. Great! Any good newspaper should be doing exactly this - except there should be a codified process for vetting student opinion pieces. I realize that you need to walk a fine line between censorship on one hand, and lending a voice to trolls and bigots on the other. To protect yourselves from accusations of either censorship, biased content, or even libel, I would codify the process by which *The California Tech* will accept and review articles for publication. This process would take the rough shape of a checklist of questions: does the article contain language or opinions that is likely to offend anyone? Are the claims made by the article true, justifiable opinions, or outright false? If any particular individual has been accused of something, have you reached out to them for comment, as is standard journalistic practice? Of course, write down your reaction to the answers to each of these questions - but these are choices that you reserve as editors. Whatever you choose to do, defining a clear policy like this would go a long way to protecting the journalistic integrity of *The Tech*.

3. Maintain a website. As I type this suggestion, I'm leaning back in my couch, fully cognisant of the fact that I will do no work to ever help *The Tech* create a website. That said, if you can find some poor soul who will undertake the thankless, back-breaking work of web design at minimum-to-no-wage, you should hire them immediately. A lot of the routine articles that *The Tech* publishes, such as ASCIT minutes, would be much easier to access and search if they were directly published online. If you are sufficiently motivated to produce "multimedia journalistic content" in this here 21st century, you can post videos and full color pictures there without worrying about breaking ASCIT's budget. Imagine a few years down the line when ASCIT candidates can make videos with their statements instead of static text and an image- that's cool, if nothing else. A website, perhaps as a joint partnership with DONUT, might help students get Caltech related news directly on their phones, and it would certainly help connect alumni (who may be curious to know what's happening on campus) back to the school.

I welcome your response to these suggestions as a letter from the editors, or any response from another member of the community.

Yours,
Vivek Bharadwaj

EDITORS' NOTES

Alex Krotz's article was submitted to us in OpenDocuments Text document (.odt) format and written using the LibreOffice Suite.

Aileen Zhang is very, very tired.

If you don't like our memes, make your own.

And as always,

please write for *The Tech*!

STUDENTS' ESSENTIAL ROLE IN HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS

Luke Finnerty | Contributing Writer

From an outside perspective, I can see how current House roompick procedures could be problematic. In my Hovse and others, certain classes are significantly advantaged when it comes to living in the Houses. These asymmetries are deeply ingrained in the process, and have existed for years. I can see how a new director of Housing would view that as a failure of student government, and decide to step in himself. He would have a good story for the VPSA, the ORE, and the rest of the administration.

He would also be wrong. An argument that current roompicks procedures violate the Honor Code rests on omitting a key word: "unfair." While certain classes are advantaged over others, two major factors prevent this from being an Honor Code violation: all students are equally benefited and harmed over the course of their time here, and the procedures are created and continued through a democratic process. Sopho-

mores may be the most disadvantaged under the current system, but two years later will benefit the most as seniors. Should a significant fraction of a House feel that this is not a worthwhile trade off, Houses have procedures to hear and approve proposals for changes in roompicks, as my Hovse has done several times in recent years.

The simple fact is that Houses do not have enough room for everyone who wants to live in the House to do so. The current roompicks systems have been developed through democratic processes to distribute a scarce resource. It is not perfect, but most students would agree it's generally fair. Should they feel otherwise, procedures can be changed at the Hovse level. Unilateral changes to roompicks by the Housing Office eliminate this democratic character, potentially making roompicks procedures violations of the Honor Code. Being disadvantaged by a process you have no say in is by definition unfair, and 93% of survey respondents opposed the currently proposed changes to procedures, including 84% of freshmen. The democratic nature of the current system provides for feedback and reform that

Housing-imposed restrictions do not.

Aside from the proposed changes themselves, the process of developing them has been problematic, particularly if they are implemented this year. Many current sophomores and juniors have previously made decisions about their housing assuming the current procedures would hold for the next several years. Major change on a timescale of weeks would invalidate many of those decisions, and introduce instability into the process. Substantial changes to roompicks procedures should be phased in over several years to avoid excessively disadvantaging anyone in the interim.

A slower approach to changes would also allow for significant student input, or ideally for students to control the approval and implementation of changes themselves. No administrator stands to personally suffer as a result of House roompicks procedures; students are directly benefited or harmed by the outcome of roompicks. We have no desire to see a non-optimal system put in place, as we are the ones hurt by it. The roompicks procedures we have developed are the best way Caltech undergraduates collectively see to deal with the excess

demand for rooms. Caltech trains us to be scientists, and the Institute loves to trumpet our intelligence and innovation in press releases. So why not use those attributes here?

I struggle to understand the rationale for the unilateral approach, or square it with how the Office of Strategic Communications and Caltech's fundraisers portray the undergraduate population. While we're described as world-changing future leaders in science, outside an academic context we are treated in many ways like children. These proposed changes, and the process by which they're being imposed, are a clear example of that thinking. Caltech students, which Caltech itself will describe as some of the best in the world, have worked long and hard to develop procedures which were democratically approved by their peers. Altering those procedures unilaterally undermines student governance, undermines broader democratic ideals already under siege, and undermines the free and open inquiry Caltech claims to embody.

FREE SOFTWARE

Alex Krotz | Columnist

While many pieces of software are available at little to no upfront cost for the user, it isn't a necessary condition for a piece of software to be considered Free Software. Instead, the "free" in Free Software is closer to the spanish word "libre," and indicates that a piece of software does not infringe on the four essential freedoms of computer user. These freedoms taken directly from the GNU Project website are:
- The freedom to run the program as you wish, for any purpose (freedom 0)
- The freedom to study how the program works, and change it so it does your computing as you wish (freedom 1). Access to the source code is a precondition for this.
- The freedom to redistribute copies so you can help others (freedom 2)
- The freedom to distribute copies of your modified versions to others (freedom 3). By doing this you can give the whole community a chance to benefit from your changes. Access to the source code is a precondition for this.

Simply put, a computer user should

be privy to everything that is running on their computer. When software respects these freedoms, it is possible for a user to fully characterize their system. They can know what is running when and why, but, crucially, they can change any of that at any time without ever subverting the intentions of the software manufacturer. Furthermore, by making useful and well executed changes, they contribute to the development of features suited to others in the same niche.

The current state of non-free software occupying mainstream use has left the end user at a substantial disadvantage. With non-free software, the end user's ability to investigate their own system is severely restricted, while at the same time the user is held responsible for what happens on that system. It is like being given a black box which by no means should you allow to contain a bomb, but which under penalty of law you cannot open. It has become a system of chasing responsibility from one party to the next until the one at the worst position gets the blame placed upon it. The bad news is that under a non-free software system that party is the end user.

Some might say "Alex, I've tried the

free software and it just isn't as good as the paid alternatives." These people should first go back and read the definition of free outlined in the first part of this article. Next, they should realize that you can pay for free software. In fact it would be challenging to find a free software developer that would not happily accept your payment. Finally, they should consider why they like their non-free software so much. Perhaps it is the lack of responsibility that they find so alluring. Perhaps it is the fact that there's someone that they feel they can blame for their computer problems because they paid someone for it. Those people, they may think, are in some way compelled to provide services to make up for any deficiencies.

This is a fundamentally flawed mindset. The debasement of fundamental rights in favor of monetary compensation has caused the software creator to lose respect for the end user and the end user to lose all expectation of respect. Under a system of free software it is not the capacity to pay that determines an individual's ability to make use of technology, but their ingenuity and creativity. I am not arguing for a software sys-

tem free of monetary cost, but the fact that I pay for a piece of software does not mean I give it permission to violate my rights nor does it mean that I abandon responsibility for my computing system. Free software is about more than poorly executed non free software. It is about a mindset that is crucial when engaging with something as powerful and potentially destructive as a technological future.

Please consider supporting the fight for Free Software by the Free Software Foundation at https://fsf.org

JORDAN PEELE'S US DELIVERS WELL-CRAFTED, WEIRD AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING THRILLS

Jack Lloyd | Film Critic

In his new sophomore movie, *Us*, Peele once again shows his natural talent in writing and directing while also highlighting the talent of his fantastic cast. Despite some hiccups in the story, *Us* stands as a considerable achievement in cerebral and suspenseful horror.

Us focuses on the close-knit Wilson family, with mother Adelaide (Lupita Nyong'o), father Gabe (Winston Duke), and their two children. The Wilson's are staying at their vacation home on the coast when a strange family of violent Wilson-doppelgangers arrive to torment them. The movie twists and turns a fair amount after this initial premise is established. Most of these twists are good, but a few are not as shocking as the movie expects them to be. However, what starts as a simple home-invasion horror movie progresses into something undeniably weirder and more interesting.

Peele knows how to carefully direct horror for maximum suspense. He also knows horror movies are most effective when they are grounded by good social commentary. The expert mixing of commentary and pacing is what earned Peele the Oscar for *Get Out*, and I think *Us* does just as good a job of using pertinent themes to elevate a technically proficient genre film. The writing is not flawless though. There are a few plot points that seem to require an explanation where none is given, and some of the big reveals are not presented as effectively as they could be. But these are a few cracks in an otherwise solid script. One of my complaints in *Get Out* was that the comedic relief character felt disconnected from the story. This time Peele incorporates the comedic relief directly into the horror and suspense, which makes the characters all the more sympathetic. Things can get a little silly at times, but this is a movie that does not mind being silly at times.

The cast is all-around fantastic. Every actor gave it their all, especially the star Lupita Nyong'o. As Adelaide, she is visibly racked with fear but continual-

ly pushes herself past her limits so she can save her family. As Adelaide's doppelganger, she embodies bone chilling evil. The husband Gabe, played by Winston Duke, is a bumbling jokester who's natural charisma keeps shining despite the dire circumstances. Even the child actors do a great job of being capable and terrified as the Wilson's, while also being creepy and sinister as the doppelgangers. The biggest testament to the cast is how believable the Wilson's feel as a real family. They natural way they joke around, squabble, and take care of each other really gets the audience invested in their survival. The two other major actors, Tim Heidecker and Elizabeth Moss, also deserve praise for their memorable and off-beat roles.

There are a lot of great things in *Us*. The cerebral script and well-shot scares prove that even after only two films Jordan Peele is an expert at creating thoughtful horror. My only reservations with *Us* are some gaps and fumbles in the plot. I am excited to see what his next full-length feature will be. 4 out of 5 stars.

HISTORY: VINTAGE COLUMNS FROM THE TECH

Compiled by Sherry Wang | Staff Writer

25 YEARS AGO: THE SWEAT REVOLUTION

"Sweat. The game of a new generation of Darbs." Hot off the heels of a shocking DISCO victory against the "Big Red Machine," Dabney House rode the wave of victory to imagining Olympic dreams. The status quo is not carved in stone and victory is never guaranteed. Don't let dreams be dreams.

Sweat. The game of a new generation of darbs.

Sweat fever is whipping through Dabney House. Seldom will you find a darb without an accomplished sweat arm. Beware other houses out there, Dabney has added another weapon to its awesome armory. Was it only a term ago, when Dabney shocked the sport community with an upset victory against Fleming? Fencing it was, and now we know of a weakness in the invincible Big Red Machine. But things are changing. The Mean Green Machine was preparing to roll over Ruddock. But alas it was not to be. Even nudity wasn't enough, Ruddock took the trophy edging out a fighting green machine by a couple feet in a very exciting ice block competition. But the taste of victory has done something. Dabney shall no more be the house that cannot compete. (But can it win? -eds)

Now Sweat joins the Dabney repertoire. It is sure to find a constant place next to Hi-Li on Disco challenges. Pity the house that dares challenge us in Sweat! But what is Sweat? Sweat is played on the usual olympic size pool table. Played with two balls the white and the black. The aim is to sink the black using the white. Both players alternating with the white. Rules are many and varied. Also very controversial. The BOC should be called to create a fiar set of rules that should keep everyone happy. My particular preferences is the honorable three dot rule and reasonable force.

A Sweat tournament seems doable. ASCIT funded definitely. Standardized rules are of course a must, but that should be no problem to do. Renting pool tables should not be a big expense. However, the tables will have to be pretty used, since Sweat playing is not very nice to new tables. I envision new status to the sport. Soon to be Olympic approved. In fact as a I speak, the DabneyCorp is furiously preparing the Dabney Sweat Machine for entrance into the hastily set up International championships to be held in Maraval, Trinidad & Tobago this summer. Wish us luck!!! (Send you wishes of luck to sports@tech.)

50 YEARS AGO: A BEDTIME STORY OF B&G

History shows that this campus is, and has always been, held together by what appears to be luck and willpower and the essential role that Facilities plays in maintaining a comfortable distance from disaster. The issues we have observed with Bechtel even in its first year (yes, including the thermostat problem) have been handled with finesse and efficiency in comparison to years past. Perhaps this snippet from history should be appreciated for demonstrating the steps we have taken away from the brink of cataclysm.

Somewhere in the dusty legends of every House on campus are a multitude of tales relating infamous B&G blunders of the past. Frosh don't believe them--until a wandering B&G troll (accompanied by the normal number of supervisors) tries to repair something in the HOuse while he's watching. Then he watches in awe until the demolition is completed, and starts thinking of how to relate this tale to next year's unbelieving frosh.

The California Tech, in its never-ending campaign against other people's graft and corruption, is out to expose the creeping crud of organized incompetents known as Physical Plant. To help in our cause, we are offering a genuine antique California Tech typewriter to the person who comes up with the best FACTUAL account of B&G trollism at work. Here are a few of our own:

BUT THE WATER ALWAYS LEAKS

One evening a couple of years ago, a student wandered down into the Calculator room under Blacker and discovered water dripping down around the light fixtures in the old Houses.) The Calculator room chairman was informed, and he called Physical Plant for a plumber. The plumbers showed up in a little while, looked at the leak, and decided to go tapping pipes in the area in Blacker above the leak. They tapped the hot water pipe in room 37 a little too hard, and broke it off, sending hot water pouring all over the place. While the inhabitants of the room were bailing out, using big plastic trash cans, the plumbers went looking for the valve to turn the water off. Several barrels later, they found it.

This year one the flush valves on a Blacker toilet blew its top about 1:30 one weekend morning, producing a gusher of water that pounded against the ceiling in the head, and sent a torrent rushing out into the courtyard. B&G was called immediately upon discovery of the flood by a wandering lounge art. About an hour later, a workman from B&G came over to look at the damage, but explained that he couldn't do anything because he was an electrician, not a plumber. About another hour later a couple of plumbers finally showed up, and managed to fix it, somehow.

AROUND THE LIGHT FIXTURES

Then there was the evening in the middle of September when a couple of workmen came around to remove some doors that had been put up in the halls (and had had their construction approved by the powers that be.) Note for future reference that many of the more notorious feats of destruction are performed after everyone with authority to stop them has gone home. A couple of students around at the time heard the smashing of wood, and come by to investigate. Between smashes, the workmen informed them that the carpeting men were coming the next day, and that they were going to take out the doors no matter what. They were finally persuaded to use something beside a hammer. Naturally the owners of the doors were all away at the time, and they only tried to contact them on campus. And the carpeting men--well, a couple of months later they started sticking their pungistakes down on the floors of the old Houses. (The carpeting men were NOT from Physical Plant, let's not blame them indiscriminately, only when we have good and sufficient reason).

By the way, don't pass the blame indiscriminately to R.W. Gang's (Housing) department either. He's had a hell of a lot of trouble with B&G trolls, too.

SINGLES DOMINANCE PROPELS WOMEN'S TENNIS OVER REGALS

Mark Becker | gocaltech.com

Five singles victories lifted the 20th-ranked Caltech women's tennis team to a comeback victory over a game California Lutheran University team in Friday's SCIAC match.

The Beavers entered singles competition in a 2-1 hole, but top doubles team consisting of senior Kana Moriyama (Redmond, Wash. / Redmond) and sophomore Sarina Liu (Rolling Hills, Calif. / Palos Verdes Peninsula)gave the hosts hope with an 8-4 victory to begin the day.

From that moment on, Caltech dominated Cal Lutheran with a quintet of straight-set singles wins. Freshman Anna Tifrea (Fullerton, Calif. / Troy) won big at second singles, 6-0, 6-4, and classmate Jennifer Yu (Queens, N.Y. / Stuyvesant) held her opponent scoreless over both sets at third singles. Sophomore Ankita Roychoudhury (Madison, Conn. / Daniel Hand) was the second Caltech player off the court, winning her match at sixth singles 6-3, 6-0, while Liu won her match, 6-2, 6-1, at fourth singles. Last but not least, freshman Michelle Hyun (Cerritos, Calif. / Gretchen Whitney) grinded out a 6-2, 6-2, win in the longest match of the day at fifth singles. Caltech freshman have now combined for 25 total singles wins in the regular season without showing any signs of slowing down.

Head Coach Mandy Gamble and the Beavers will turn around to battle Occidental College tomorrow morning in Eagle Rock.

Caltech Athletics
Reach for the Moon! If you miss...

EAGER BEAVERS UPSET OXY 19-6 IN LEAGUE GAME
ALERT TECH LINE BOTTLES UP OXY BACKS; RECOVERS TWO OCCIDENTAL FUMBLES

The Tech Archive | 1946

After spotting the highly favored Occidental Tigers a first period score, Coach Anderson's Eager Beavers roared back to produce three touchdowns, and their second straight victory last Friday night in the Rose Bowl The game, played before about six thousand rabid fans, saw the Oxymen in trouble most of the evening, with Glenn Chaffee's superb kicking setting them back time after time. The Beavers recovered two Tiger fumbles, deep in Oxy territory, and both times they turned the break into a Caltech score.

The Oxymen got a break early in the first period when Bob Funk's pass went astray, and fell into the arms of Johnny Osterman, Oxy tackle, who ran forty yards for a touchdown and the only Tiger score.

After blocking the attempted conversion, the Beavers took the kickoff and worked the ball up the field in a sustained drive to the Tiger 8. With fourth down and goal to go, Chaffee threw a pass to Doug MacLean in the right flat, who shook off an Oxy tackler and rambled into the end zone. Late in the second quarter the Beavers 19ain drove deep into Tiger territory, and scored their second touchdown on a pass from Don Baker to MacLean in the end zone. In the second half, Oxy began to make desperate bids for the gaem with long passes and more open play. The Beaver pass defense, greatly improved over the LaVerne showing, almost stopped Oxy completely in this department. Tom Fleishman, Oxy fullback, threw a scare into Beaver fans when he broke lose for a thirty yard run in the late stages of the game, but the Tech line settled down and held the threat on the beaver nine. Tech's last touchdown came in the final period when, after the Beavers had lost the ball on downs on the Tiger five, Fleishman fumbled, and Don Hibbard recovered for Tech on the four. On the first play, Chaffee took the ball over tackle for the final six points.

The California Tech

Don Baker is brought down by two Oxy men. Dough MacLean overruns the sidelines while leading the interference.

THE BLUE WALL OF CALTECH

Hinslow Womer | "Reporter"

The administration earlier this week announced that they would enhance security on campus with the transition of patrols, traffic stops and border protection to the Allied Universal. Allied Universal, the nation's largest security firm, is always at the forefront of neutralizing and preventing new threats to their clients and Caltech is no exception. The CEO of Allied Universal, Steve Jones, gave an interview with *The LA Times* stating that "computer analyzes the cameras and tells us when someone does something that's in violation". Cameras can now to installed all over campus to inform administrators is any person is acting in contrary to the Honor Code. Using big-data machine learning on the cloud, a field in which Caltech is at the forefront, there is talk that the video camera footage can even predict honor code violations, allowing members of the BoC and CRC to take that person into protective custody until the risk period has lapsed. Hopefully, this technology can even be extended to profiling potential students during admissions tours to determine their Caltech GPA, likelihood of violating the honor code and estimated post-graduation donation numbers so that the Caltech admissions committee can make more educated decisions.

Caltech's electronic security systems are the only new thing that the transition to Allied Universal will change. As part of the Breakthrough Caltech campaign, Caltech's Office of Strategic communication paid a marketing firm a large but undisclosed amount of money to make a campaign to differentiate the school from peer institutions. The firm returned with the recommendation that to differentiate the school from Princeton, Caltech should change its color from orange to blue. Hence, the decision was made to change the uniform of Caltech peace officers from the old black and orange polos to the sleek Caltech Blue. As Resident Associates (RA) have been recently been transferred into security duties, they have also been given new blue polo shirts. Now Caltech students will have no difficulties telling security forces apart from terrorists infiltrating the campus. Students in several houses have reportedly sounded false alarms when RAs from other houses patrolled through their halls. One not yet confirmed source has told us that the president and secretary of one of the North Houses nearly put their house into DEFCON 1.

These new security improvements will hopefully improve the lives of the Caltech community. Security on campus will now be even more vigilant in catching those who violate the fair and reasonable campus policies. Now students and faculty alike can sleep easy the Caltech's new blue wall will keep them safe.

Remember to thank the Caltech Administration!

ALLIEDUNIVERSAL®
There for you when Caltech's not.

PUZZLE: SAMURAI SUDOKU

Difficulty: medium

Puzzle and instructions from samurai-sudoku.com

Samurai sudoku puzzles consist of five overlapping sudoku grids. Standard sudoku rules apply to each 9×9 grid. Place digits from 1 to 9 in each empty cell. Every row, every column and every 3×3 box should contain one of each digit.

Samurai Sudoku puzzle grid