

New, Approved Honor Code Updates

Belle Chen
BoC Secretary
News

The Steering Committee of the Faculty Board has recently met and approved several updates to the Honor Code process. Most of these pertain to faculty and instructors, but **it is important for students to know and understand their rights.** Here is a brief summary of the changes:

1. While submitting a Board of Control reporting form, instructors may optionally request to have a preliminary meeting with Board of Control leadership and the Director of Conduct and Community Stan-

dards to better present their case. This meeting would occur prior to the respondent's preliminary meeting and relevant information from the meeting will be communicated to the respondent.

2. Instructors may approach and request to meet with students about possible academic violations of the Honor Code while reserving the right to file a formal complaint with the Board of Control. This meeting should be viewed as an opportunity for students to explain their situation to the professor and to potentially avoid the stress and hassle of the Board of Control process. Students are not obligated, for any reason, to participate in this meeting, and refusal to participate will not be

considered in the event of a formal Board of Control process.

3. Instructors may explicitly specify their own penalties for Honor Code violations in class syllabi beyond those typically administered by the Board of Control, up to and including failure of the class. Students affected by such penalties who feel like the syllabus was vague or unclear in such regards may appeal the result to the Undergraduate Academic Standards and Honors Committee.

You may send questions or concerns to Board of Control leadership at boc@caltech.edu. A more formal review of the changes will be held by the Director of Conduct and Community at a later time.

Practicing Resilience at a Downsized JPL

Damian Wilson
News

JPL implemented its third round of layoffs in 2024 on November 13, cutting 325 employees—roughly 5% of its workforce. This latest reduction follows earlier waves: 100 contractors in January and 570 additional employees and contractors in February. As a result, JPL's workforce now stands at approximately 5,500 employees. These job cuts stem from a funding crisis centered around the Mars Sample Return (MSR) mission, a flagship NASA initiative designed to retrieve and analyze Martian rock and dust samples on Earth. Despite \$822 million allocated to the project last year, NASA was directed to prepare for a drastic reduction in fiscal year 2024, with just \$300 million allocated compared to the original \$949 million requested. To better understand the impact of these compounding layoffs, *The Tech* spoke with JPLers both current and former about their experiences following an exceptionally turbulent year.

The reductions, numerous and obscure as they were, spurred an extended paranoia among JPLers. "First round of layoffs, people had questions about *What were the whole criteria? For people who were chosen? People who were selected?* It seemed like such a random sampling of people," shared a former Administrative Liaison. "You had people who were there in lab a year, and veterans who there twenty-five, thirty-five years. You had engineers, you had staff assistants." Partly owing to this ambiguity, he was anything but an underachiever. "I did what I could to prove that I was essential, but something in their selection process, I guess, just found me. What that criteria was? No one knows."

The environmental shift was stark. "It was like going to a different JPL," said a former Operation Systems Engineer. "Back in February, there was this immediate sense of shock, frustration, and anger at how everything had been done. Since then, people have been very vocal about how they were upset and disappointed, hoping that if this happened again, it would be handled differently. But it was done the exact same way."

Her account underscores broader concerns about transparency in JPL governance. Many employees—including those who remained at the Lab—were disheartened by the unsentimental tenor of the layoffs, and the inequity in whose voice got heard. "The Director said that leadership of large projects was involved in those decisions, but the leadership of the project I worked on was not," a team lead commented. "And to lay people off by email... it felt very impersonal."

For staff both current and former, the layoffs further signaled a troubling shift toward a more corporate culture. "When I first came on at JPL, it was a much different environment; it was far from the corporate setting that we came from in private industries. Now, it's just the direction they're taking," said the Liaison. The adoption by leadership of an "industry standard" approach toward the firings was especially baffling: "I chose to come to JPL because I didn't want to work for [Amazon or Google]," said the OS engineer. "Those companies are for profit. I believe in the common good and the good of the public. ... JPL's not for-profit. It doesn't make any sense why there needs to be an 'industry standard' way of doing things. I decided to go with JPL because I believed in the people and the missions, and I was shocked this was how it happened. It felt like we were a private company all of a sudden."

The loss of institutional knowledge has already impacted project operations. "You play off people who used to do that work, and you don't have enough people to get the work done," explained the aforementioned team lead (whose project lost a member). "You're struggling to compensate for that in the short term by modifying operational processes and standing down other things you otherwise wouldn't have to." And no lost team member is so easily replaced. "While you still have people who have the knowledge and expertise of what needs to get done, you don't have enough people who can get the work done accomplished on the level that we're struggling with."

Indeed, many JPLers found themselves abruptly severed after providing decades of service. One such employee, having served the Lab for over 25

years, reflected: "It was a great place to work. I didn't expect to stay as long as I did, but my career evolved organically. So it's still a gut punch. I knew layoffs were coming; I just didn't expect to be caught up in them."

And the damage extends beyond research and engineering projects. The Lab's K-12 outreach office—a cornerstone of NASA's public engagement efforts—was also eliminated in the latest cuts. "At every other NASA Center, that's one of the highest priorities," the ex-OS engineer lamented. "Educating the general public and children about NASA and science is how a lot of people get into STEM." She stressed that this loss could have long-term consequences for both public support and future recruitment efforts.

Accordingly, she framed the layoffs as a crucial opportunity for reflecting on the institute's purpose: "I really think that there's still hope that NASA could be what it used to be. ... I think 60 years ago, there was this massive support for NASA because it was coming from the highest levels. There was this sense of national unity and awe. Landing a man on the moon—that's just been part of our cultural vernacular for years now. That was powerful. And I think that legacy is dying. I don't think it means that NASA needs to go back to the Moon to get it, but there needs to be some re-evaluation: *What does NASA mean where we're at in the world? And how do we start to inspire people again?*"

A silver lining, these reductions also flourished forth hope and perseverance. Albert "Joey" Jefferson, a flight systems engineer, attested to the collaborative spirit that emerged in their wake: "We lost two members of my flight team and went from five to two people. But what's remarkable is how others across the Lab have stepped in to help. ... Given the sparseness of it all, seeing everybody come together and be selfless during this time is one of the positives," Jefferson said. "Out of the chaos is going to come a new JPL and a new life that hopefully will be just as strong, if not stronger, than before."

The myriad challenges of so many rounds of sudden downsizing remain. The loss of critical expertise and erosion of trust present in the fallout could significantly hinder the Lab's ability to deliver on high-

U.S. Department of Education Warns Universities Over Equity Programs, Threatens Federal Funding

ENDING RADICAL AND WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT DEI PROGRAMS AND PREFERENCING

EXECUTIVE ORDER
January 20, 2025

[whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

The U.S. Department of Education issued a letter to universities on February 14th, broadly declaring all race-conscious programs illegal under federal law, including any decision affecting "aspects of student, academic, and campus life."

The [directive](#), attributed to Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Craig Trainor, prescribes that all universities receiving federal funding have until February 28th to stop providing race-conscious social justice or equity programming before the Education Department begins "assess[ing] compliance... based on the understanding embodied in this letter." The order suggests that "institutions that fail to comply... face potential loss of federal funding."

"Educational institutions have toxically indoctrinated students, with the false premise that the United States is built upon 'systemic and structural racism' and advanced discriminatory policies and practices," writes Trainor, specifically naming admissions, financial aid, administrative support, discipline, and housing as areas affected by the new interpretation.

In a separate campus-wide communication sent by Caltech President Thomas Rosenbaum regarding proposed cuts to indirect-costs funding, the Caltech administration emphasized that they "continue to monitor and respond to federal directives and policy changes, and we will share information on such actions and the steps we are taking as appropriate."

The Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* saw frequent reference in the letter, but was interpreted with remarkable license, extending far beyond admissions and into the realm of student affairs, teaching, and governance. The scope of the order has opened the door to questions regarding affinity organizations, summer opportunities, and course offerings, with some commentators observing that these programs are also subject to scrutiny under the new guidance.

The breadth of these interpretations threatens to deal catastrophic damage to many Caltech campus programs, including the well-lauded First-Year Success Research Institute (FSRI), which has provided important academic and research opportunities to students for over fifty years. "FSRI is a really nice way to connect with people before the school year actually starts, [and] allowed me to become very familiar with the resources on campus," one former FSRI student said, "and was helpful for transitioning from high school to Caltech. Without FSRI, the switch would've been more difficult."

This recent development comes on the heels of recent efforts by the Trump administration to eliminate initiatives by the federal government and contractors to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and environmental justice, which it has called "[radical and wasteful](#)." Critics, however, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), argue that President Trump's new policies "[cause palpable harm to educational outcomes and the basic civil liberties of both students and teachers](#)," and that the rescission of these programs threatens important civil rights progress made in the past several decades. [Others question](#) whether the new administration is eroding academic freedom and intellectual liberty by intercepting funding from academics or institutions that do not comply with the ideological direction prescribed by the federal government.

Caltech is a major destination for federal research spending, with total grants exceeding \$221.7 million in 2024. This is not including over \$2.5 billion received that year for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which is managed by Caltech for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Additional updates are expected.

—TROY ZHANG, THE CALIFORNIA TECH

stakes missions like MSR—the very project that prompted these reductions in the first place. At the same time, the tenacity and passion of those who remain inspire hope. Whether that hope can be fully realized

will depend on how leadership addresses growing cultural concerns in the months ahead. In Jefferson's words, it's "more than just dollar signs."

It always has been.

An interview with Sandy Krasner: Fighting Climate Change

Raquel Maldonado
Science & Tech

This interview was conducted two weeks before the wildfire that devastated Los Angeles. Nothing underscores the urgency of addressing climate change more than moments like these.

Sandy Krasner has dedicated over 45 years to his work as a System Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). He is also the leader of the Pasadena-Foothills chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), an international nonprofit organization advocating for national and global climate action, and a Pasadena 100 climate coalition member.

With over 45 years at JPL, what inspired you to become a leader in climate advocacy alongside your engineering career?

Sandy Krasner reflected on his dual passions for technical problem-solving and addressing global challenges, saying:

"It's really two things for me. First, climate change is a massive problem—arguably the biggest one we're facing today. It's deeply connected to so many other global crises, like droughts, floods, wildfires, and the displacement of populations due to climate disruptions. These ripple effects lead to social upheaval, economic instability, and even revolutions. Tackling this issue is absolutely critical."

He continued, "The second reason is that climate change has a significant technical dimension. Addressing it requires not only understanding the science but also the technical aspects of the solutions we're developing. With my engineering background, I can make a meaningful contribution in this area. Unlike social justice or other fields where I lack specific expertise, climate advocacy allows me to apply my skills in a practical and impactful way."

At JPL, Krasner's role as an end-to-end information systems engineer has equipped him with a unique perspective on complex systems. "I'm responsible for ensuring that all the different computer systems involved in a flight project work seamlessly together—from the instruments on the spacecraft to the ground control systems and ultimately to the science center. It's a mix of data formats, protocols, and strategic coordination. My job is to make sure everything fits together and functions as a cohesive system," he explained.

This ability to manage complex systems, collaborate across diverse teams, and navigate technical challenges translates seamlessly into his climate advocacy work. "It's all about coordination and ensuring we're all working toward the same story—whether it's building a spacecraft or addressing the climate crisis," Krasner noted.

How does the Citizens' Climate Lobby plan to navigate and push forward its agenda amidst the policies of the Trump administration?

"For background, the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) focuses on lobbying congressional representatives to support legislation addressing climate change. That's why it's called the Citizens' Climate Lobby—it's about empowering citizens

to engage with their representatives." CCL is an international organization with chapters in every congressional district in the U.S. Locally, I lead the Pasadena-Foothills chapter, which covers three districts: Judy Chu's (Pasadena to Claremont), Jimmy Gomez's (Mid-City LA), and what was Adam Schiff's district, now represented by Laura Friedman.

"Our work is guided by the national CCL organization, which identifies legislative priorities. We then meet with representatives to advocate for these policies. Recently, a group within CCL has also started lobbying for California state legislation because there's much more progress happening at the state level than federally."

"Over the next two to four years, much of the focus will be on preventing regression in climate policies. With the current federal political climate, it's going to be a challenge. But we aim to minimize damage and, where possible, push forward progress. As a nonpartisan organization, CCL doesn't endorse candidates or engage in campaigns. Instead, we focus on bringing Republicans and Democrats together to address climate change."

Krasner also highlighted CCL's long-standing advocacy for carbon pricing: "For years, we've promoted a 'carbon fee and dividend' approach, which puts a fee on each ton of CO₂ emissions. The collected revenue would then be rebated equally to all households. This approach can potentially reduce emissions while being market-driven, appealing to Republicans who favor free-market solutions. However, it's been challenging to gain bipartisan support recently."

He outlined other initiatives CCL is currently pursuing, including:

Energy Permitting Reform: Simplifying the process for connecting renewable energy sources like solar and wind to the electrical grid, which is often hampered by regulatory hurdles.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism: Imposing tariffs on imported goods based on their carbon footprint is a policy Canada and the European Union adopted.

"A major focus now is protecting the progress made under Biden," Krasner added, "especially the Inflation Reduction Act, which allocated significant funding for renewable energy, electric vehicles, and battery production. About two-thirds of these funds have been spent in Republican districts, which we hope will create bipartisan incentives to maintain these programs."

With a pragmatic approach and a commitment to bipartisan solutions, the Citizens' Climate Lobby is steadfast in its mission to combat climate change despite the challenges ahead.

What are the most urgent steps the U.S. should take to address climate change, and how can local chapters like yours contribute?

Sandy Krasner emphasized the critical role of advancing energy infrastructure and legislation, saying:

"One of the key areas we need to focus on is permitting reform. A lot of renewable energy projects are delayed because of the complexities involved in connecting them to the grid. It's especially evi-

dent here in California, where, during certain times of the day, we're running almost 100% on renewable energy. That's an incredible achievement, but the real challenge is storage—ensuring we can capture that energy and use it when it's needed."

He highlighted the importance of battery storage as a transformative solution: "There's a huge amount of technology being developed in the battery storage space right now, and it's incredibly promising. The critical next step is passing legislation to support and incentivize these advancements. The technology exists—we just need the right policies to make it accessible and scalable."

Krasner explained that local Citizens' Climate Lobby chapters play a vital role in pushing these legislative efforts forward. "Our job is to advocate for these changes, educate our representatives about the opportunities, and ensure they understand how effective these policies could be. It's about bridging the gap between what's technically possible and what's politically feasible."

What role do innovation and technology play in solving the climate crisis, and how does JPL's work intersect with these solutions?

Sandy Krasner reflected on the intersection of innovation and action, emphasizing that while technological advancements are crucial, the tools to address climate change already exist.

"That's a really interesting question because innovation and technology are certainly important, but we're not entirely dependent on new breakthroughs to tackle climate change," he explained. "There's a researcher at Stanford, Mark Jacobson, who wrote a book called *No Miracles Needed*. His central point is that we already have the technologies to address the climate crisis—we're not waiting for some kind of scientific miracle. The tools are here; it's about implementing them effectively."

Krasner highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance existing technologies, particularly in energy storage. "There's a tremendous amount of work happening to make batteries more efficient, and a fair amount of that is being done right here at Caltech. At the same time, we're collaborating with Professor Steven Low at Caltech to work on grid optimization. Utilities have argued that too much rooftop solar could destabilize the grid, but what we're finding is that's not entirely true. There are technologies to address those issues, and we're working to better understand and implement those solutions."

Turning to JPL's contributions, Krasner described how its cutting-edge space missions provide critical insights into climate change. "At JPL, we're deploying satellites to monitor carbon dioxide levels, offering granular data on where emissions are coming from. This kind of precision is vital for addressing the problem at its source. We're also working on atmospheric and climate modeling to refine predictions about what's coming. While these tools help us understand the scale and urgency of the problem, they reinforce what we already know: climate change is real, and we need to act now."



Sandy Krasner/Insight landing. Credit: NASA.

He concluded with a pragmatic outlook: "Innovation and technology will continue to play a role in improving solutions, but we don't have to wait for the next big invention. The time to act is now, using the resources and knowledge we already have."

What motivates you to continue this work after such a long and distinguished career? What advice would you give to young scientists and engineers who want to engage in climate advocacy?

Sandy Krasner's passion for addressing the climate crisis remains unwavering, even after decades of a celebrated career at JPL. "This is a really important problem, and that's what keeps me motivated," he said. "I actually hope to dedicate even more of my time to this work. There's so much happening—so many opportunities to contribute. It could easily become a full-time focus."

For young scientists and engineers aspiring to make a difference, Krasner offered a dual perspective: leveraging professional expertise and engaging in grassroots efforts. "Professionally, there's a lot of work being done in areas like battery technology, climate modeling, and renewable energy solutions. These are critical fields for anyone looking to contribute through their careers," he explained.

"But beyond your professional work, there's a lot you can do individually. One of the members of the Citizens' Climate Lobby board of directors always says the most important thing is to talk to people. Share what's happening—clarify the problem and help others understand that solutions exist. Yes, it'll take work, but acting now will be far less costly than dealing with the consequences of inaction. If we stay on the current path, things will only get worse, and the price we'll pay will be far greater than the investments we need to make today."

He emphasized the importance of inspiring action through clear communication. "It's about helping people see that while the challenges are significant, the solutions are achievable and worth pursuing. Investing now means building a better future—not just for ourselves, but for generations to come."

What message would you like to share with Caltech students and the broader community about their role in combating climate change?

Sandy Krasner emphasized both the urgency of climate action and the opportunities available for individuals and communities to make a difference. "The most important thing to understand is that there are solutions, and they're affordable," he said. "We need to be able to clearly explain to people—and to our legislators—what steps need to be taken to fight climate change. Progress doesn't require miracles; it starts with what we already have available."

He highlighted the unique position of Caltech students and researchers in advancing these efforts. "Caltech is an incredible place for innovation. Whether it's working on grid optimization, renewable energy solutions, or other advancements, there's a lot happening here that can drive meaningful progress. But innovation doesn't mean we have to wait. We can start taking action right now."

Krasner also stressed that everyone, regardless of their expertise, has a role to play. "Each person can contribute. Whether you're a scientist, an engineer, or just someone concerned about the future, you can make a difference. One of the simplest but most impactful things you can do is contact your legislators—even if you're not a citizen—and let them know this issue is important. Clear communication and engagement can push policymakers to act."

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Jenijoy La Belle: A Trailblazer in Academia, A Champion of Literature, and a Legacy That Lives On

Camilla Fezzi
Humans of Caltech

We are deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Jenijoy La Belle, a trailblazing administrative leader, devoted professor, and outspoken advocate for academic integrity and the rights of women. Along a career trajectory marked by keen intelligence, unyielding resolve, and passion for literature, La Belle was the first woman to be hired as a faculty member at Caltech. The indelible contributions she has made to Shakespeare, William Blake, Theodore Roethke, and 17th-century poetry remain attached to scholarship in literature.



Jenijoy La Belle in the 1990s. Credit: [Caltech Archives](#).

Through her courageous battle for tenure, she not only secured her rightful place at Caltech but also became a symbol of perseverance and justice in the academic world. As she reflected on her struggle, she once said during an interview:

"I have found myself in a highly charged political atmosphere. I have not attempted to match political talents against those with much more experience in such matters. Rather, I chose to do my work to the best of my ability and meet the stated criteria for gaining tenure. Yet each time I met the requirements, they were immediately raised, or narrowed, just enough so that I could not meet them."

Despite the obstacles in her path, La Belle never wavered in her dedication to literature, her students, or the principles of fairness and academic freedom. Her story is one of resilience, brilliance, and an unyielding commitment to the pursuit of knowledge.

A Passion for Literature Born in the Forests of Washington



La Belle teaches in the pool outside Millikan Library (now Caltech Hall). From this photo's original caption: "When the weather gets really hot, you're liable to find almost anything in the water." Credit: [Engineering and Science](#).

Born in 1943 in Olympia, Washington, La Belle grew up surrounded by natural beauty and intellectual curiosity. Her father was a self-taught architect and craftsman who built houses that complemented the green light of surrounding forests, while her mother was an English teacher who instilled in her a love for literature. She

was fascinated by the power of words and storytelling from a very young age, memorizing poems and reading books with deep involvement. Her childhood, filled with reading under kerosene lamps and acting out stories with her siblings, laid the foundation for a lifelong devotion to literary exploration. She vividly recalled sitting with her mother and brother under the glow of a kerosene lamp, listening as her mother read aloud:

"One of my very earliest memories is of sitting down beside her, with Jan on her other side, under a kerosene lamp because we didn't have any electricity yet, and she would be reading nursery rhymes and fairy tales. She had a wonderful melodious voice."

Her passion for poetry was ignited when she encountered William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, a collection that would later become a major focus of her scholarship. She also loved Lewis Carroll's "The Jabberwocky", fairy tales, and the poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay, whom she admired as a young woman because Millay had written the poem "Renaissance" when she was just twenty.

"I wanted desperately to go to Vassar, and my parents sat me down and said, 'You have a brother and a sister, and we can either send you to Vassar, or all three of you to college at someplace that we can afford.' And I wanted to say, 'Mortgage the house!' but what could I do?"

When still a young student at the University of Washington, she studied under the celebrated poet Theodore Roethke, whose influence would later shape her research. She graduated with a B.A. in English in 1965 and then went on to graduate work at the University of California, San Diego, where she received a Ph.D. in literature in 1968, writing her dissertation on Roethke's poetic influences.

Breaking Barriers at Caltech: The First Female Professor



La Belle, 1969. Credit: [Caltech Archives](#).

Let's also consider this year and how important this 50% change in the female quota was and let's try to immerse ourselves in those years and how incredible it could have seemed! Till her death, the year 1969, she entered uncharted territory and became the first woman to be hired in a professorship from Caltech, a traditionally male university that only a year later declared its decision to admit women undergraduate students. She had no idea she was making history until she was summoned to the Caltech News Bureau and informed that she was the first. It was later when on campus, she realized she stood as a lonely female professor from a pool of 208 faculty men. The media

quickly sensationalized her appointment, reducing her to a spectacle rather than recognizing her as a scholar of exceptional merit.

"I don't even like to talk about them now because it sounds as if I were saying such stupid things. You know, headlines like, 'Girl Prof Excites All-Male Campus,' or, 'Tall Blonde the Rage at Caltech.' Here I was, 5 foot 2, mousy hair, so it was all rather silly."

Her presence at Caltech was not just a novelty—it was a shock to many. Some faculty members were welcoming, while others did not know what to make of this brilliant young woman in a field dominated by men.

"I found out very soon that there was no storyline to these books. I mean, there was Dick and Jane and Spot the dog, and they had a cat named Puff, and it was very boring. Mama had already read us T. S. Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats. Cats were supposed to be named Rum Tum Tugger, Jellylorum, and Rumpeteazer. Puff? I was supposed to read about Puff?"

She was welcomed with both interest and skepticism. The media sensation of her appointment included headlines like "Girl Prof Excites All-Male Campus" and "Tall Blonde the Rage at Caltech", descriptions that focused on her being a spectacle, not a merit scholar. While she had given in to the media circus at first even appeared on *Truth or Consequences* soon wearied of shallow attentions and refocused her energies on the things that counted most: teaching and research. Despite the institutional resistance, La Belle developed a strong rapport with her students, who admired her intellect, her humor, and her deep appreciation for literature.

A Tenure Battle That Shook Caltech

Despite her academic achievements and brilliance in teaching, La Belle's path at Caltech was far from smooth. In 1974, after years of service, she was unanimously recommended for tenure by the tenured English faculty, supported by strong endorsements from external scholars. However, the divisional promotion committee, chaired by Robert Huttenback, overruled this recommendation in a controversial and ultimately unjust decision.

The resultant tenure battle was probably the most well-known case of academic discrimination in the 1970s. With the aid of faculty supporters such as Richard Feynman, Kent Clark, and Hallett Smith, La Belle fought the institutional bias to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After an investigation that was quite extensive, the EEOC concluded in 1977 that indeed, Caltech had conducted gender discrimination by systematically excluding the female group from its tenure ranks.

"I must now try to turn my attention to these positive achievements of my career and leave Caltech with a mingled measure of frustration and sorrow."

With the support of Hollywood mogul and Caltech trustee Lew Wasserman, a landmark agreement was reached.

La Belle returned to Caltech in 1977 as an associate professor, and in 1979, she was granted tenure, becoming for a time the only tenured woman on the faculty.

A Scholar of Poetry and Visual Art



Robert Oliver and La Belle at Commencement, June 1979. Credit: [Caltech Archives](#).

Beyond her historic fight for equality, La Belle was an accomplished and widely respected scholar. Her book, *The Echoing Wood of Theodore Roethke*, published by Princeton University Press, remains an essential study of Roethke's poetic influences. She also conducted groundbreaking research on William Blake, particularly his visual and poetic artistry, co-authoring books with the renowned scholar Robert N. Essick.

Her research extended into 17th-century poetry and Shakespeare, where she made significant contributions to the study of Lady Macbeth's psychological state, the literary echoes in Roethke's work, and the role of women in early modern literature. Her book *Herself Beheld: The Literature of the Looking Glass* explored the relationship between women and their reflections, a topic that sparked both admiration and debate within feminist literary circles. During an interview, she was asked what was she teaching and it is funny to think that the Humanities curriculum at Caltech seemed to be so poor ... but somehow special

"I was teaching everything. I would simply start with Dante and would just go through the canon for an entire year. One class was taught through genre, so tragedy and comedy. We'd start with Oedipus and Antigone, Euripides, and so on, and go on up to Beckett. And many of those I had certainly not taught before. It was wonderful. I suppose you never learn as much about things as when you are teaching. I love to teach Shakespeare, and I love to teach almost everything I choose to teach, except in those days I was also assigned what to teach. I would never have taught Hobbes's Leviathan on my own."

A Life Dedicated to Literature and Teaching

La Belle's scholarship was rich and varied, with major contributions in:

Shakespeare: She co-taught a legendary **Shakespeare and Theater Arts course**, bringing the Bard's work to life on stage.

William Blake: Her re-

search explored **Blake's visual and poetic artistry**, co-authoring books with **Robert N. Essick**.

Theodore Roethke: Her book, *The Echoing Wood of Theodore Roethke*, remains a foundational text in **modern poetry studies**.

Feminist Literary Criticism: Her book *Herself Beheld* examined the **relationship between women and their reflections**, sparking debates in feminist circles.

For over four decades, La Belle passionately taught Shakespeare, Renaissance poetry, and literary analysis to generations of Caltech students, many of whom entered her classroom with little prior exposure to literature. Her dynamic teaching style and deep engagement with texts transformed the way students approached poetry and drama, making Shakespeare accessible even to the most science-focused minds.

In collaboration with theater director Shirley Marneus, La Belle co-taught Shakespeare courses that combined literary analysis with theatrical production, giving students a hands-on experience of the Bard's works. These classes culminated in remarkable performances of plays including Henry V, Richard III, Macbeth, and Twelfth Night, allowing students to embody Shakespeare's language both intellectually and physically.

Her students, many of whom went on to careers in science, engineering, and technology, often credited her with opening their minds to the beauty and power of literature.

A Legacy That Endures



La Belle on an episode of a morning news show, April 1970. Credit: [Caltech Archives](#).

Jenijoy La Belle was a force for Caltech, the humanities, and literary scholarship. As one of the very first women on the faculty at Caltech, she blazed a path for future generations of women scholars to follow. Her tenacity in the face of discrimination forced institutional changes that would benefit countless women in the years to come.

She was, nonetheless, far more than a trailblazer: an incisive thinker, a superb writer, and an unforgettable teacher; her scholarship has remained seminal to poetry and literature; and through her mentorship and advocacy, she remains alive in the hearts of all whose lives she has touched.

We mourn her passing, and we celebrate a life so well-lived, knowing that her words, wisdom, and the courage to speak them will continue to reverberate in these halls and in the annals of literature.

Rest in peace, Professor La Belle. Like the great works you taught, your story shall never be forgotten.

"You have had enemies you can be proud of." – Kent Clark

The British Schindler

Raquel Maldonado
Culture

Docudrama. 1h 49 min. 2024.

Nicholas Winton is an English stockbroker who has a comfortable life in 1930 London but knows that Hitler's Germany is invading Praga, Czechoslovakia; with a humanitarian group, he helps save 669 children from Nazism. Winton worked quickly to find foster families for hundreds of children—a beautiful and sad biographical story. Winton was a kind of Schindler but an English one. Nicholas saved these children, but always wondered what was going on with them. He kept this story a secret. Only the people who helped save these children knew until his wife found a scrapbook with photos of the children decades later (in 1988) and, talking to her husband, discovered the whole story. Grete, his wife, shared this story with a historian, which led to a British TV show. This widely-watched program interviewed him and allowed him to meet these “children” again, who were already adults at the time, in a very moving encounter that was the film's climax.

The actor who plays Nicholas Winton is none other than renowned Academy Award winner Anthony Hopkins (*The Silence of the Lambs*, *The Father*), who, as always, performs masterfully; Johnny Flynn (*Les Misérables*, *Ripley*) plays

a young Winton. His mother, Babi Winton, played by Helena Bonham Carter (the *Harry Potter* series, *The Crown*, *The King's Speech*), helped him raise some money and find foster families for the children. The message of this movie is about serving humanity.

After the film, I researched Nicholas and watched some interviews with him. What he wonders most and can't accept is how people, after the terror of war, have learned nothing from history. They treat him as a hero, but that's all. Anyone can do what he did (help people who need help), not only in war zones but also people who are going through any kind of hardship. The film brought me to tears for apparent reasons of inhumanity and cruelty, but it also made me want to change. Nicholas inspires us to be the change in the world. In today's world, where humanitarian crises continue to unfold, the message of this film is more relevant than ever. I highly recommend watching this movie, which, besides having a strong story and a courageous man, is very well executed. It has an incredible script written by screenwriters Nick Drake and Lucinda Coxon based on the book *If It's Not Impossible...: The Life of Sir Nicholas Winton*, written by Barbara Winton (Nicholas' daughter) and is directed by James Hawes (*Slow Horses*, *Raised by Wolves*, *Black Mirror*).

I also recommend watching his interview with the 60 Minutes channel on YouTube, "[Saving the Children from the Holocaust](#)." Helping is a fantastic way to be alive. Thank you, Nicholas, for being such an incredible soul.



DeepSeek



DeepSeek is a new China-based startup that has created a Large Language Model (LLM) chatbot as capable as the current industry standard, ChatGPT. DeepSeek was founded in 2023.

The new models created were out of necessity made on a much lower budget than most U.S.-based programs. The United States government restricts the number of NVIDIA and other AI chips exported to China, meaning DeepSeek only had approximately 2,000 of NVIDIA's H800 chips (now banned from export), as opposed to ChatGPT which originally trained with 10,000 chips. According to reports, it now uses an estimated 30,000.

DeepSeek-V3 was publicly released on December 26, 2024, and has experienced a major uptick in users over the past few weeks. It was followed by a release of their first reasoning, or “thinking” model, R1, on January 20th of this year. On January 27th the New York Times wrote an article on DeepSeek's latest model, causing NVIDIA to plummet 17% on the stock market. Other stocks dropped heavily as well. On January 31st, OpenAI (ChatGPT's parent company) released its o1-mini model, which is considered better than DeepSeek R1. I feel that they are strong in different areas, but I prefer ChatGPT because in my experience DeepSeek's servers are usually full and not available for use.

—THEODORE HAVEL, THE CALIFORNIA TECH

The Layoff of Dr. Tim Parker: An Open Letter to JPL

I had the opportunity to hear Dr. Parker speak at my astronomy club and was greatly dismayed at how brutally and abruptly he was laid off at your prestigious institution. I worked at JPL as a temporary secretary while working on my software engineering degree in the early 1980s and loved it there.

I just don't understand how a company could come in and lock a person of such stature and education out of his work of many years there within an hour of being laid off. Now he has to hope he will be able to access some of the many hours and years of research that he did for the success of JPL and the Mars research because he didn't expect to be so disrespectfully let go; he had followed protocol of not making copies of everything for his own records. Most likely he signed something that said he wasn't supposed to, and he had the integrity not to do it.

I do hope you will reconsider your practices of showing little appreciation for the amazing work people do at JPL when the budget becomes more important than the quality of the employees and the work they do because they love what they are doing is considered.

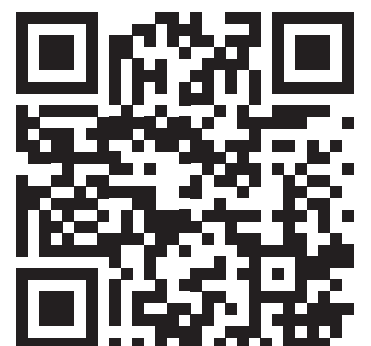
Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

BAS

Editor's Note:

Fact check: is Ditch Day really tomorrow?



PSA from the Seniors

Hey there 🙌👋 Frosh 🥰! You should all 🥰🥰🥰 come to dinner 🍽️ TO-DAY (TUESDAY) 📅!!! There 🥰 will be 🥰 delicious 🥰 smoked brisket 🍖 and fried chicken 🍗, spaghetti and meatballs 🍝, Mediterranean tofu 🍲 with gardein strips and pita 🍞, roasted beans 🍲, garlic mashed potatoes 🍲, and delicious 🥰 cookies 🍪! Plus pasta with marinara or puttanesca sauce 🍝 and chicken noodle soup 🍲! And honey biscuits 🍪 too! The seniors 🙌👋 think 🥰 it'll be 🥰 really amazing. 🥰🥰🥰

But most importantly, make sure to go to bed early...

Ditch Day is Tomorrow!

Editor's Note: We want to hear your perspective!

We strive to represent every voice in the Caltech Community with fairness, accuracy, and impartiality in our news reporting.

Send submissions or contact the Tech editorial team at

tech@caltech.edu

Submissions are due at 12 p.m. on the Saturday before each biweekly Tuesday publication.



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SPARKS SHORT COURSES

COUNTING (BADLY AND BRILLIANTLY)!

Presented by Professor Rob Phillips

HOW MANY PRIME NUMBERS ARE THERE LESS THAN SOME GIVEN INTEGER?

HOW MANY MOLECULES OF CO₂ ARE THERE IN THE ATMOSPHERE?

HOW MANY MORE MICROSCOPIC STATES ARE THERE IN A CUP OF WATER THAN IN A CHUNK OF ICE?

EXPERIMENTALLY, THE QUESTION OF COUNTING IS ALWAYS AT THE FORE, WHETHER IN THE CONTEXT OF COUNTING CO₂ MOLECULES IN THE ATMOSPHERE, AS PIONEERED BY CALTECH'S OWN DAVID KEELING, OR COUNTING THE NUMBER OF MRNA (TRANSCRIPTOMES), PROTEINS (PROTEOME), OR METABOLITES (METABOLOME) IN LIVING CELLS.

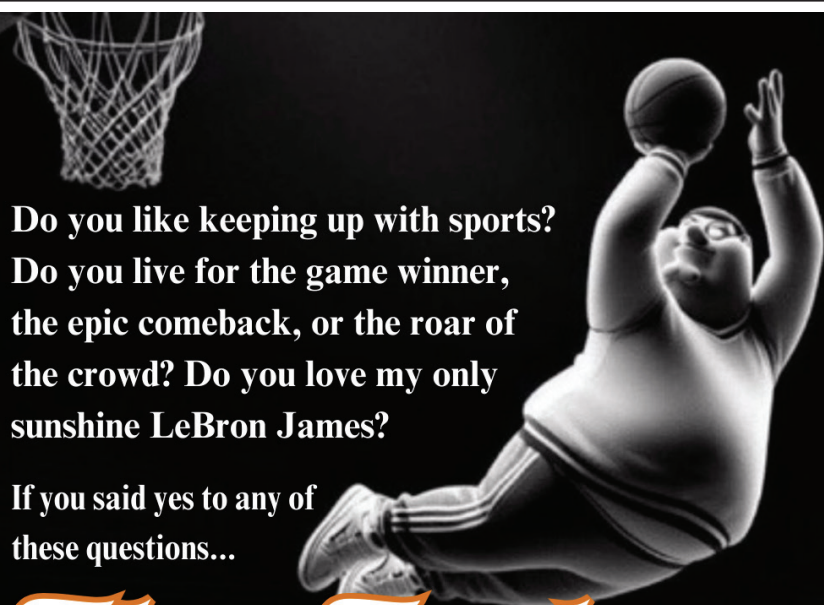
THIS COURSE WILL CONSIDER A SERIES OF CASE STUDIES IN COUNTING, BEGINNING WITH THE 18TH CENTURY EFFORTS TO COUNT MOLECULES, SHOWCASING SIMULTANEOUS EFFORTS TO COUNT PRIME NUMBERS AND THE RISE OF THE ENTROPY CONCEPT IN THE 19TH CENTURY. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THIS COURSE WILL BE TO DIG DEEPLY INTO THE QUESTIONS OF ESTIMATION AND APPROXIMATION. THE GOAL IS TO FORCE STUDENTS TO RETHINK THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE MEAN BY AN EQUALS SIGN AND WHY WE HAVE OTHER SYMBOLS SUCH AS APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO OR ASYMPTOTICALLY EQUAL TO.

Sign up today!

1 2 3

UP TO 25 STUDENTS. MEET 1X/WEEK FOR 1 HOUR DISCUSSION + READING.

Sparks are a great, new type of class, which we are calling Spark Short Course (a.k.a., "Spark"), <https://registrar.caltech.edu/schedules/sparks-courses>. Sparks are small-group, low-unit pass/fail courses for first-year undergraduates. The goal of each Spark is to share a spark -- a spark of insight, a spark of creativity, a spark of inspiration -- that speaks to the heart of a field or research area in which the faculty instructor is engaged. Sparks are intended to help undergraduates early in their Caltech experience to connect individually with faculty and to experience the same thrill of discovery that drew faculty into their own fields of interest. Attached is a poster for a course being offered in spring.



Do you like keeping up with sports?
 Do you live for the game winner, the epic comeback, or the roar of the crowd? Do you love my only sunshine LeBron James?

If you said yes to any of these questions...

The Tech

needs YOU!!!

We're on the hunt for sports fanatics with a flair for storytelling to join our team of writers.
 Are you in? tech.caltech.edu/write



The History of Underrepresented Students at Caltech: A Journey of Struggle and Progress

Camilla Fezzi
Culture

We don't talk about it. We don't want to admit it. But racism is still here, still present, and each one of us feels its weight in some way. How can we still believe that a person's worth can be defined by the color of their skin or where they were born? How many times have I heard, "Oh, you're Italian? So, the mafia? Pizza? You don't do much, do you?" Stereotypes. Labels. Concepts created decades ago that somehow still manage to stick. It's in my bones, this feeling of being judged, of being categorized. I don't have darker skin, but I was born Italian. I don't deny it. I embrace it. And yet, I feel the sting of assumptions, of remarks that make me feel misplaced in a world that should have moved past this nonsense already.

When I visited Ellis Island in New York, I saw so many names etched into history. Names of Italians who left everything behind, who spent weeks on massive ships with no idea what their futures held, their fate determined by a single officer at the gates of America. What is race, really? Scientifically, it doesn't even exist. (And yes, I've written about this—my book *The Genetics of Races: Genetics Applied to Races, Diseases, and Social Sciences* might interest you. Go ahead, look it up!)

I didn't even know it was Black History Month until someone pointed it out to me. Shameful, isn't it? I felt compelled to write something, not just because I've studied the topic, but because I feel connected to this struggle—this constant comparison, this fight to be seen as equal. Every time someone comments on my "Italian accent," it stings. I've spent years trying to erase it, not because I'm ashamed of my roots, but because the jokes and comparisons—always with Al Pacino or stuff like this—get exhausting.

Years ago, I watched the film *Green Book*. If you haven't seen it, do yourself a favor and watch it. It tells the story of an African-American pianist who is both celebrated and ostracized, living in two worlds that refuse to accept him fully. His bodyguard, an Italian man named Tony, is also caught in a web of prejudice. There's a line in the movie I'll never forget: Tony says, "I'm blacker than you. We're on the same step." Shirley, the pianist, responds, "If for you I'm not black enough, and for them I'm not white enough, then tell me—who the hell am I?" That line. That *line* stays with me. It's the reality of so many people who live on the fringes of identity, who don't fit neatly into society's boxes.

This brings me to Caltech. Yes, the legendary Caltech archives are real, and yes, the archivists are absolutely incredible—helpful, kind, and ready to dig deep. I reached out to them, curious about the history of minorities at our institute. What I found moved me to write this article!

A Quiet Revolution at Caltech

Caltech is a place of brilliance, of scientific breakthroughs and innovation. But let's not pretend it's always been a welcoming space for everyone. In 1932, Grant D. Venerable became the

first African-American graduate of Caltech. Can you imagine what that must have been like? He was brilliant, yes, but brilliance doesn't shield you from racism. When he applied to live on campus, the issue of whether a "colored" student should be allowed in the residence halls went all the way to the Board of Trustees. The president of Caltech at the time, Robert Millikan, informed Venerable that he could live on campus—but by then, Venerable had already decided he couldn't afford it. So he lived off-campus, working odd jobs to make ends meet. He graduated in the middle of the Great Depression, alongside classmates like William Shockley—who would later win a Nobel Prize but also spew pseudoscientific nonsense about racial inferiority. The irony is bitter. Racism, discrimination, and systemic exclusion don't just vanish. They linger, forcing individuals to fight battles others will never see. This brings me to one of the earliest pioneers among African-American students at Caltech: Grant Delbert Venerable, Jr. His story is one of grit, determination, and quiet strength.

Venerable, born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1904, carried the weight of a complex heritage—African, Cherokee, and Scottish descent. His journey to Caltech wasn't straightforward. Before arriving at one of the most prestigious scientific institutions in the world, he had been expelled from UCLA in a frustrating misunderstanding over course requirements. It wasn't about his ability but his independence. He dropped a course he found too easy, and, for that, he paid the price. Undeterred, he set his sights on Caltech, where he would graduate in 1932 with a degree in civil engineering.

Years later, Caltech honored his legacy with a memorial book fund in his name. The fund supports literature exploring African-American and Native American cultures, as well as the impact of technology on humanity—a fitting tribute to a man who broke barriers not just for himself, but for those who would follow (Goins, 1993, p. 6).

The Struggle to Belong

Fast forward to the 1950s. James Ellis Lu Valle, an African-American student, earned his doctorate in chemistry and mathematics while also being an Olympic medalist. But even he wasn't immune to the pressure of living in a world divided by race. Then came James King, Jr., in the 1950s, who had to sleep in a YMCA gym for two months because there wasn't space for him on campus. Somehow, he survived, went on to earn his doctorate, and eventually worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Then there's Linus Pauling, the legendary chemist and two-time Nobel laureate. Pauling wasn't just a giant in his field—he was a mentor who recognized talent regardless of race. For Caltech's African-American students in the 1950s, Pauling's mentorship was a lifeline. James King, Jr., who earned his doctorate in chemical physics in 1958, worked under Pauling's guidance. King faced significant challenges, including being denied on-campus housing upon his arrival. But with Pauling in his corner, he persevered and eventually made groundbreaking advancements

at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

William D. Hutchinson also worked under Pauling, tackling the complex science of sickle cell anemia. Hutchinson's research laid the foundation for future work in the field, but his time at Caltech wasn't without obstacles. He fought against racial discrimination in Pasadena, even helping to overturn restrictive housing covenants. Pauling's mentorship gave Hutchinson the confidence to push forward, proving that allyship can make all the difference.

The Fight for Change

The 1960s brought a turning point, both for Caltech and the nation. In 1958, Martin Luther King Jr. visited Caltech, delivering a speech in Dabney Hall that urged students to take an active role in the fight for racial justice. But while King's words inspired, Caltech's undergraduate population remained overwhelmingly white. It wasn't until 1961 that Charles McGruder became one of the first African-American undergraduates at the institute.

By the late 1960s, things began to shift. Joseph Rhodes, Jr., who entered Caltech in 1965 as the *only* African-American undergraduate, became the president of the student body and used his position to create outreach programs for local Black youth. As he once said, "For my first year at the Institute, I was the only Black person at Caltech, period. My problems were not so much on campus as off. After all, I arrived only a few weeks after Watts exploded."

Then came Lee F. Browne, a local educator who joined Caltech and developed the Student Support Program (SSP), which helped underrepresented students navigate the Institute's intense academic environment. The program worked: graduation rates for minority students who participated in SSP skyrocketed from 17% to 58%. Browne didn't stop there. He supported the creation of the Black Student Union (BSU), which organized events, welcomed new students, and fought to make Caltech a more inclusive place.

I learned that in the 1970s, Caltech's Black students wanted to add a red, black, and green flag to the yearbook. Some editors supported it, others didn't. Even small acts of representation were fraught with resistance. By the 1990s, Caltech's efforts to diversify its student body began to bear fruit. Eduardo Grado, who succeeded Lee F. Browne as director of admissions, expanded recruitment efforts and helped establish chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). These organizations provided underrepresented students with opportunities for professional development and networking, fostering a more inclusive environment on campus.

Reflections

Reading about these stories, I couldn't help but think about the resilience of these students. How many times did they hear they didn't belong? How many times did they feel the weight of being the "only one"? And yet, they stayed. They fought. They paved the way for future generations.



The portrait of Grant D. Venerable. Credit: caltech.edu.



Venerable's children, Grant, Linda Ellington and Lloyd, unveil the naming of Venerable House on October 21, 2022. Credit: caltech.edu.



A collage featuring Caltech's first three Black female students: Karen Maples, MD (BS '76), Deanna Hunt (BS '76), and Lauretta Carroll (BS '77). Credit: Caltech Magazine.



Students from Caltech's Black Student Union and their float in last year's 42nd annual Pasadena Black History Month parade. Credit: caltech.edu.

And Linus Pauling—imagine what a difference it makes when someone with power and influence chooses to lift others up, to mentor them, to show them that their brilliance matters. Pauling's efforts remind us that allyship isn't just about words; it's about action.

Caltech has come a long way, but let's not fool ourselves into thinking the work is done. Racism doesn't disappear—it evolves, it hides in systems and structures. It's in the small

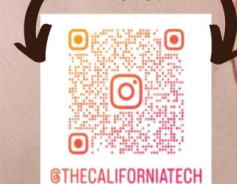
things, the subtle biases, the stereotypes that persist.

So let's remember Grant Venerable, James Lu Valle, Linus Pauling, Joseph Rhodes, and so many others who dared to challenge the status quo. Let's honor their legacy not through empty words, but through action—by making sure Caltech, and every institution, becomes a space where everyone belongs.

Who are we if we don't?

Keep up with our story updates and exclusive content

here!



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Caltech Missed Connections

Ever catch someone's eye at the Red Door Café or share a moment of chemistry on the way to class? Just in time for Valentine's Day, the *Tech* presents the second-annual Caltech Missed Connections column! No need for over-the-top tales – it's the genuine moments that make campus life interesting. Let's keep it real!

My Caltech Missed Connection is the Caltech beaver.

Oh Caltech beaver, I love you. I know I used to have a thing for your sister in Massachusetts, but that was then and this is now. I'm not the person I was back then, I swear you're the only one in my heart now. The first time I looked into your small, beady eyes and glimpsed your bright neon orange fur, I knew I was a goner. Your tangerine hue lingers in my mind at night, try as I might to wish it away; it reminds me of days long past, of the orange grove in my hometown, how I always looked out to the trees and wondered when I'd be tall enough to pluck the highest, brightest orange off the tree; the old times when I was so young and so foolish and the world was so wide and dear god, where has the time gone? The years fall past one by one, as autumn leaves fall off the tree (or heat-dried leaves in summer, this being California), and we grow ever older and more experienced, yes, but all the more weary for it. Young as I am, sometimes I look back at all the past before me, cup my hands to hold it up and see the reflection of my childhood, my innocence, all the things I had without knowing I had them, and that someday I would have them no longer. Then I watch as it all trickles between my fingers and slips away; some things you can never keep.

But you - you are a builder, and you make a life of keeping. With your bare claws, you build your dam time and time again, trapping some small bit of the past to keep for yourself - until the next spring shower (winter shower california), or until the river changes path or dries up, but never forever, it never lasts forever, just for long enough to keep living on. And I admire that about you, so much - it never lasts, but you still do it every time, and every time you do it with your whole heart. I love you for it. So I ask you, Caltech beaver—please, do you love me back?

Oh secret love, what say to you? I've seen you a few times, cafes off campus, red door, the halls of Gates Thomas (sigh). Despite that you are my TA and you pre-empt many years my senior, your lush brunette hair, green and grey Patagonia sweaters (cardigans?) - oh how I love Silicon Valley tech bros - has captivated me for 2 years. Once, I saw you in the morning at red door unexpectedly. I had just pulled an all nighter and you were put together tutoring someone. I wanted to show off sexily so I sat at the table next to you. I ordered a mid matcha (caffeine) and was being very adult at my table, alas I knocked over my matcha and spilled it all over the floor next to you. All the red door employees ran to my aid to mop up my green mess of shrek piss. I kneeled down to wipe up the green liquid with small paper towels and paper straws, kneeling at your feet, you didn't look down at me. I still think of that moment. We were so close yet you had more second hand embarrassment than I.

Appreciation to the people who have the exact same morning Red Door to SFL to Browne schedule. It's the little dopamine burst where you look at each other, do the slight smile, and then look away. Happiness in the small things.

One time, I hooked up with this guy from Flem. The next day, Page was hosting, and I saw this hookup making out with a guy. I went up pretty mad and I said a few things. Then he called me homophobia and I got cancelled. Now no one knows me anymore, but they call me the underground fucker!

avoids eye contact but doesn't realize that just saying/waving hi would be far less awkward and make things normal...

Yo I'm the underground fuckers first fuck. Let me tell you the story from my perspective. It was a freaky Friday during FSRI. I was making eye contact with this bitch and she gave me the eyes. We started going all night long under the oranges in the orange walk. She was lowkey freaky as hell, too much for me that I was turned off women. So, the next night Page was hosting and my homeboy was there. he was lookin fine in the green light and one thing led to another, what can I say? Of course the bitch caught me even though I literally told her "YOU A FREAK!!!! STAY AWAY FROM ME" now she tries to act goth and mysterious when really she's just too freaky of a fuck.

For the seemingly random and time-varying subset of my peers to whom my anxiety refuses to allow me to smile and wave or even make eye-contact: Secretly, I want nothing more than to interact with all of you amazing people... but for some illogical reason, the little dopamine burst of a friendly connection doesn't feel worth (the awkwardness I'd fear from suddenly chatting up someone I don't talk to often?) (the imagined risk of non-reciprocation?) (the potential drain of my chronically-exhausted social battery?). Anyway, pardon my dust as I continue to practice the whole "saying hi" thing :)

Someone pls catch my eye at red door. I need someone to come in and spice up my bland iced matcha swamp water breakfast excursion <3

To number 11 of the men's basketball team, since that first game that I saw you on the bench, you captured my mind. You noticed me and you smiled and turned around. I don't think I have experienced that same feeling ever since that moment.

I'm mesmerized by her ignorance, plugged into music probably listening to heavy metal. Staring out the west windows of BAX lecture, unlike everyone else glaring at me. Almost made me forget the screeching sound which was Prof Rangel for being a minute late to Ec11

DIY/Punk/Metal/Emo Shows and Where to Find Them!

Maxwell Montemayor The Outside World

Like music? Looking for something cheap and cool to do? Want to get to know some locals? Like crappy music? Then you should check out a DIY show!

From random backyards and patios to overpasses and warehouses, these shows have some unconventionally cool venues. One such memorable show took place at a skatepark, where people were doing tricks on motorcycles and some guy brought a microwave into the pit. Consisting of the dry, dusty backyard of a suburban household, the "cum house" was another favorite. By the end of that concert, there was dirt under our fingernails and in the fold of our eyelids.

A variety of vendors often

accompany these shows. Stop by in-between sets to find the bands themselves and sometimes independent artists, selling unique D.I.Y. shirts, patches, pins, other merch, and sometimes food at a reasonable price. One time at a house show, I had some really nice home-cooked lentil soup.

How to find 'em

When I was a young frosh, a kind upperclassman invited me to a punk show. At the concert, there was a guy in a fursuit, and a 6'5" dude picked me up with one arm and ran around with me. By the end of it, I got a nosebleed from being karate'd in the face while moshing, and what I think was a second-hand high from all the fumes in the room. From then on, I was hooked. Without the upperclassman's help, I would have never known such cool stuff was happening in Caltech's

backyard. Now, as a senior, I would like to pay it forward and give other Techers the chance to have the same magical experiences that I had.

So how do you find these? It's not as simple as googling "punk concerts near me" or checking Ticketmaster or Bandsintown. The only advertising many of these concerts get is through Instagram posts/stories or word of mouth.

So, I'll resist the urge to gate-keep and share some accounts I know:

Instagram accounts:
@socialundergroundmusic
@yomamaproductionz
@bad_dogg_compound
@the_diy_shows
@pigstick_rick
@social.emo

Some of these accounts are production companies who help set up shows, and some are venues who host them. They'll post about any shows they're

involved with. These guys have no online presence (that you can easily find) besides some articles that mention them. One example in our backyard is "Unfair Oaks".

Another reliable way to find shows is to follow individual bands. They'll post about any shows they are playing in. The smaller the band, the more likely they'll be having the show at some guy's house or a skatepark. Here's some of my favorites:

@linchpin.band
@lagrimascrust
@cimeband
@dead_city_punx_
@anhedonicsocal.

Of course, this "guide" is not comprehensive. There are many other production companies, bands, and venues, I didn't mention, and other ways to get involved with the scene. You can do a little exploring yourself by just poking around

the accounts I mentioned, and seeing what other accounts/bands/venues are tagged. @socialundergroundmusic has a nice Spotify playlist of SoCal bands you could peruse.

Disclaimer: some of these places could be a bit sketchy, and it's not entirely clear if the bands have permission to play there in the first place, so attend at your own risk.

Also of note, given the unstable nature of smaller bands and venues, some of the entities mentioned in this article may not be around for much longer (R.I.P. The Rocket 88 and Laundry Wand). Alternatively, some of the bands that were quite small when I first saw them as a frosh, have now blown up and moved onto big shows at "real" venues and festivals (e.g. Vs Self). Every D.I.Y. show is a one-of-a-kind experience, so go see them while you still can!



X-Acto performing in the alleyway next to Purgatory Pizza. These guys hooked up an oscilloscope to their synth!



Guy burning out on a motorcycle at a punk show in South Compton.



Laundromat show at the now-closed Laundry Wand (R.I.P.)



An example flyer for a show.

Caltech Wildlife: Coyotes on Campus

Victoria Davis
Creatures of Caltech

You have probably walked along Catalina Ave. near Caltech or on Caltech campus and have seen the signs warning of coyote activity in the area. Perhaps you have even seen coyotes yourself on campus! I've definitely had my fair share of coyote sightings on campus. One day I came out of lab and walked past the lawn on S. Wilson Ave. near the Broad Center. There chilling on the lawn was a coyote by himself. I looked at him. He looked at me. I walked on the sidewalk. He sat on the lawn. When my sidewalk path neared him on the grass, I kept my trajectory clear and steady, but turned to the coyote as he watched me, and I gave him a subtle nod and said "sup". He looked at me, unphased and calm. I was also unphased and calm. I continued walking and he continued chillin'.

I've heard several stories from friends and labmates that they've seen people's pet dogs get attacked by coyotes near campus. Indeed, when I walk my dog, other dog owners walking their dogs make sure to tell me and other dog owners out on their walks about any coyotes they passed up ahead. One evening I saw a coyote hanging out on someone's driveway in front of me while I walked my dog. I started stomping my feet and walking faster toward it—which also in the process startled my own dog and he started walking faster with me. The coyote, still a ways ahead of us, got nervous and walked off the sidewalk and further up the driveway closer to the house it was near. I scooped up my dog, and then started stomping my feet louder and walking faster towards it. It stared at me and I could tell it was scared. I stared at it and made a facial expression that was angry. I locked eyes with it and continued to charge forward on my way on the sidewalk. As I got closer, it got more scared and ran into the bushes to hide. I passed the driveway it was on and kept on walking along the path. I continued looking back to keep

showing the coyote, wherever it might be hiding, that I was still angry and someone not to be messed with. When I was a few houses away, I finally saw the coyote emerge from the bushes. It timidly watched me continue to get farther away from it, but I turned back around every so often to keep staring angrily at it to impress upon it that we are not to be followed. Every time I looked back and glared at it, it stopped moving and waited. When we finally made it to the end of the block, the coyote continued to stay where it was and did not follow. I set my dog down and we continued our walk.

On another occasion, I was walking south on S. Wilson Ave. heading towards E. California Blvd. and saw a coyote ripping the dead flesh from a squirrel or some other small rodent. I had never seen a coyote eating another animal before. It was eating in the middle of the street and kept looking up at me, darting out of the way of passing cars. Once a car would pass, the coyote would return to its meal. I continued to walk on the sidewalk and the coyote continued to stand in the street. Again, I made my path and direction clear to the coyote that I was forward moving and staying on the sidewalk. But I looked at it as I kept a steady pace to make sure it wasn't going to perceive me as a threat, or to make sure it wasn't sick and going to attack unprompted. He looked at me. I looked at him. I made a calm face, reassuring him that he was fine and safe. And I kept walking forward. He looked at me, wanting to continue eating but also wanting to be sure I wasn't going to approach him in the street. I walked past him and he kept eating.

I found it odd that the feasting coyote seemed to be able to read my facial expressions. Really, all the coyotes I have seen around campus seemed to read my facial expressions. This surprised me, as I once watched a Netflix documentary called *Inside the Mind of A Dog*. Apparently, dogs and wolves share 99.9% of the same DNA. However, dogs differ signifi-

cantly in that they can read and interact with humans through non-verbal means (namely, facial expressions). According to a [2019 Smithsonian Magazine article](#), dogs have a facial muscle called the levator anguli oculi medialis (LAOM) which allows them to raise the inner eyebrow to widen their eyes or make facial expressions with their eyebrows. This is a muscle that is not used or missing entirely from wolves. Hence, studies between wolf pups and dog pups found that wolf pups can't read human facial expressions or communicate with humans via facial expressions the same way as dog pups can. This made me wonder where coyotes fall on this Canines spectrum. Indeed, the article went on to report that coyotes, too, can make use of their LAOM and communicate well with facial expressions.

I've heard several people say that they are afraid when they encounter coyotes on campus, but they are not likely to hurt humans. According to [clawonline.org/coyote-faq](#), in L.A. County only 13 people were reported to have been attacked by a coyote (in 2015) whereas 7,623 dogs were attacked by coyotes (in 2009). It's important to keep small pets safe from coyotes, but people are less likely to be a target of coyotes. Coyotes are omnivores, so they are often attracted to food waste left out in urban areas or the rodents that are attracted to food waste left out in the open. Coyotes are most active around dawn, dusk, and nighttime. Last year, Caltech put out an alert about the many coyote sightings on campus. To reiterate their message, if a coyote attacks a person or a pet, immediately contact the nearest Department of Fish and Game or law enforcement office. If you encounter a coyote and feel threatened, call Caltech Security at 626-395-5000 (Ext. 5000) and then get to safety.

Stay tuned for the next article about Caltech Wildlife, where we explore the colorful happenings around campus with squirrels!

Coyotech

To: The Campus Community
From: Wile Latrans, Chief of Security
Date: July 2, 2024
Re: Humans on Campus

A recent and sustained increase in the presence of wild humans on our campus and surrounding streets has prompted concern from several community members. Importantly, Coyotech Security has recently learned of separate incidents near the perimeters of campus where there was an altercation between a human and a pup.

Coyotech Security takes seriously these reports and requests assistance monitoring and promptly reporting human interactions to Coyotech Security by phone (call 626-395-5000; Ext. 5000) or [online](#).

Please remain aware of your surroundings at all times and maintain a distance from wild animals. These steps will help ensure the safety and well-being of campus community members and other local wildlife.

Additionally, the Institute is working with the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Humane Society to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to address and further manage human activity. Information that we receive from the community will inform further campus interventions, including, but not limited to the installation of wildlife cameras and signage. We will continue to make available [educational material and resources for safely sharing habitats](#).

At the same time, grounds crews on campus and at surrounding Coyotech properties will maintain houses and buildings in a manner that mitigates the establishment of human colonies.

To help support the Institute in its response, we ask that members of the community consider the following measures:

- 1. Report Sightings:** If you see a human or notice unusual activity, please report it immediately by calling 626-395-5000 (Ext. 5000) or filing a report [online](#).
- 2. Stay hidden:** Keep yourself hidden in the shrubbery and greenery, especially during the day, when walking outside, cross pathways quickly and remain vigilant.
- 3. Do not look cute:** To avoid human interaction, avoid unintentionally attracting them. Ensure they do not fall into the trap "if not friend, why friend shaped".

If a human is encountered, scare it away by howling, baring your teeth, and/or running towards (but not at) the human. It is important to stand your ground and to maintain a human's natural fear of coyotes. Humans are generally most active during daytime, but the occasional one can be found wandering at dawn dusk or night.

We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community and local wildlife. Your cooperation and vigilance are crucial as we implement these measures.

Thank you for your support.

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Photos courtesy of Jieyu Zheng.



The science of thought: philosophical insights into scientific practice

Everything Flows, Everything Moves, and Nothing Ever Stops: Heraclitus and *Panta rei*

Camilla Fezzi
Column

Here I have finished describing the three greatest pillars of sophisticated philosophy, or, in any case, names that everyone knows. I was therefore perplexed: to whom could I dedicate this next article? The idea was to go in order, but, as always in my life, everything is chaos and therefore, referring precisely to this, I decided to write about Heraclitus.

Heraclitus, one of the toughest brains of Ephesus (6-5th century BCE), is like the colleague or student who never goes to Page's or laboratory parties and dedicates himself only to his super-deep research. They called him "the obscure," probably because he was the king of cryptic metaphors and no one ever understood exactly what he meant (like me). He wrote a work called *On Nature*, but all that remains of it are fragments: short, sharp, haughty sentences. The kind of quotes you find on the LinkedIn profiles of your most ambitious friends. Heraclitus was an aristocrat in the hardcore sense of the word: he believed that only the best (read: philosophers, so us, remembering the previous articles) should have a say because the rest of the people lived in an "illusory dream." Translated into today's world, this means that, in his opinion, most people just scroll through Instagram without ever stopping to think about the meaning of life. Heraclitus was not a fan of democracy: giving power to those who are "sleeping" (aka the people) was, for him, a terrible idea.

Heraclitus and the Philosopher's Lifestyle (Caltech Student)

Heraclitus would have been perfect at Caltech: solitary, always immersed in his thoughts, and allergic to hallway chatter. He believed that the true philosopher was the one capable of abandoning the world of appearances and reflecting in solitude. Like when you're in the middle of the term, and you lock yourself in the library with a coffee, trying to understand the meaning of the universe (or at least finish your theoretical physics project). According to him, most people live chasing basic needs like eating, sleeping, and "other" (yes, you got it). Philosophers, on the other hand, aim for immortal glory. So, while your friends are binge-watching on Netflix, you are trying to decipher a 60-page paper written by a professor who seems like Heraclitus reincarnated.

Everything flows, even deadlines

Heraclitus is famous for his theory of becoming: everything changes, everything flows, nothing stays the same—*PANTA RHEI*. Like your to-do list: as soon as you delete one item, ten more appear. To explain the concept, Heraclitus spoke of the river: "You can't step into the same river twice." And no, it's not because you lost your GPS. It's that the river changes, and you change too. The same goes for the semester: you're not the same as you were three weeks ago (thanks to lost sleep), and your exams aren't the "doable" ones they seemed at the beginning either.

Fire and infinite energy (but not for you)

For Heraclitus, the beginning of everything is fire, the perfect symbol of continuous change. But be careful: it's not just a physical element, it's a way of

seeing the world. Like when you drink Red Bull to harness that last spark of energy and finish the quantum computing project. Fire is movement, transformation, destruction, and rebirth. It's a bit like your brain under stress: it never stops. But it's not all chaos. There's the logos, the universal reason that governs the world and gives meaning to continuous change. It's like your course syllabus: no matter how out of control it seems, there's always a logic (even if it seems cruel and senseless).

Life as a struggle (literally)

Heraclitus believed that conflict was the engine of everything. No eternal peace, no "dead quiet" as Homer hoped: life is war, tension, polemos (war). If he were alive today, he would have understood the cutthroat competition to publish papers or to get the best GPA. For him, even opposites—like work and rest—are not opposites, but complement each other. This is to say that without the chaos of exams, you would never appreciate vacations (assuming you manage to take them). Heraclitus is the philosopher who teaches you to accept chaos.

Opposites, for him, not only fight each other but define each other. You can't understand peace without experiencing conflict, or appreciate an A+ without experiencing F-panic. Even the same road can be "uphill" and "downhill" depending on how you look at it. It's a bit like your semester: either it's a grueling climb or a journey toward your personal growth. It depends on how you wake up that day if you hear the alarm clock.

The secret law of the world is the close connection of opposites that, as opposites, fight

with each other, but at the same time cannot exist without each other, since each exists by the other. Thus, for example, satiety is defined as opposition to hunger, health in opposition to disease, justice in opposition to the unlawful, etc.

This interconnection causes everything to:

end up transforming into its opposite, for example, the living into the dead, the awake into the sleeping, the young into the old, according to the principle of the convertibility of opposites;

presupposes its opposite, I cannot know one if I do not know the other, for example, I cannot understand illness without having the concept of health, I understand rest only concerning fatigue, according to the principle of the correlativity of opposites;

presents its opposite in itself, for example, Heraclitus acutely observes: "One is the same way up and the way down," or refers to the arch which in its name means life (*bios*), but gives death. The identity between being, thought, and language begins to crack, based on the coexistence of opposites;

is different depending on the point of view; for example, the same water can be impure for men and pure for fish, based on the principle of relativity.

Therefore elements, apparently antithetical, reveal themselves to be complementary aspects of a single flow which is becoming itself. In this perspective, all reality is dominated by an incessant conflict, but at the same time pervaded by a rational order: the harmony between opposites that regulates the flow of things, a concept taken up and developed starting from the Pythagoreans.



God-all: the universe as a big boss

Heraclitus saw the universe as a "God-all," an eternal entity made of opposites that continually transform. There was no "beginning" of the world: everything has always been and always will be. It's a bit like the endless cycle of lectures, homework, and revisions. There's never a real end, but maybe that's what gives it all meaning. According to Heraclitus, most people live in a state of half-sleep, unable to see the truth. And here you feel struck: how many times have you spent hours procrastinating without even realizing it? But there is hope: he believed that only by emerging from this state—by thinking deeply and listening to the logos, or the word as entity and principle—can you understand the laws of the world. Ultimately, Heraclitus is the perfect philosopher to survive Caltech: accept change, embrace conflict, and find harmony in opposites. And remember: everything flows, even your tiredness (maybe).

Sandy Krasner

continued from page 2

He shared a local example of community-driven change: "I've been involved with a group called Pasadena 100, which focuses on getting Pasadena Water and Power to commit to 100% renewable energy by 2030. We successfully got a resolution passed by the city council, and now we're working closely with the utility to address their concerns and show them that this goal is achievable. This is a hyper-local effort but serves as a model for other cities."

Krasner underscored the need for collaboration across all levels: "There's work to be done at the city, state, and

national levels, and there are countless ways to contribute. From hyper-local initiatives like Pasadena 100 to national campaigns, there's space for everyone to get involved. Pasadena's efforts, for example, are inspiring other cities and showing what's possible."

In closing, he encouraged students and the broader community to find their niche. "Whatever your interests or skills, there's an area where you can make an impact. Climate action is happening everywhere, and every contribution matters."

As the climate crisis continues to escalate, Sandy Krasner's dedication to both engineering excellence and climate advocacy serves as an inspiring example of how individuals can leverage their expertise and

passion to address one of humanity's greatest challenges. Whether through local efforts like Pasadena 100, advancing renewable energy solutions, or advocating for policy change, Krasner underscores that there is a role for everyone in combating climate change.

For those who want to learn more, collaborate, or get involved, Sandy is open to connecting with the Caltech community and beyond. You can reach him through the Citizens' Climate Lobby Pasadena chapter at pasadena@citizens-climatelobby.org, where he continues to lead efforts toward a sustainable future. As he reminds us, "The solutions are here. It's up to us to make them happen."

This question emerged after devastating wildfires that ravaged Los Angeles County.

How do events like the wildfires influence your climate advocacy efforts, especially in pushing for policy changes? Can the scale of these disasters drive more urgency in legislative action?

The Eaton fire has been a catastrophe for the members of our chapter, as well as for many other people. Two of our members have lost their homes, and many have been displaced or had their homes damaged. This is a time to mourn people and to grieve for what we have lost. But it is also a time to redouble the fight against climate change.

These fires are not "business as usual" in California. The climate attribution studies have not yet been completed, but it is clear that climate change made these fires much worse. Climate scientists speak of "climate whiplash". California went from a wet winter to a record drought. Lush greenery grew in the canyon; then Southern California had the second-driest period in history, with only 0.16 inches of rain falling from May 6 to December 31. The lush greenery dried to kindling. Wind speeds were double the usual Santa Ana. Embers flew up to 4 miles. A catastrophe was inevitable.

Vote on Updates to the ASCIT Amendments

Sophie Elam
ASCIT President
Editorial

In our annual review of the ASCIT Bylaws, ASCIT Board of Directors has decided to propose the following amendments. These propositions have been approved unanimously by the Board of Directors, and we now bring them to the undergraduate students to be voted into action. The Review Committee will send out voting procedures today, Tuesday, February 18th, and we want to take the time to outline the amendments that are being proposed, why they are being proposed, and elicit your vote.

All of the proposed amendments are simply revisions to the existing amendments in the ASCIT Bylaws (which can be found on Donut under the ASCIT -> Publications-> Bylaws tab), and there are no new amendments being recommended in this election. The amendment revisions are outlined below with the revised wording in bold.

Revision to Article IV, Section 5

*"The Board of Directors may pass Resolutions upon approval of four members. The Secretary shall record and make public all Board Resolutions. Resolutions concerning the formation of a committee or office shall require the approval of the Review Committee. Approved staff positions and their duties will be recorded in a Resolution. **Once approved, resolutions passed***

will stand until inactivated by the Board of Directors or recalled by a 2/3 vote by the Review Committee"

This change is simply to codify a practice that has already been implemented in ASCIT B.o.D. proceedings. In essence, adding this line allows us to keep resolutions adopted by previous B.o.D. 's without spending meeting time to re-vote on resolutions that have already been passed. (For reference, unlike amendments, resolutions are only voted on by the B.o.D. and ratified by RevComm to establish standards of practice for a particular Board of Directors. These often include creation of staff positions, commitment to maintain student spaces, etc., and with each new B.o.D. resolutions must be renewed). Hence, the focus of this amendment is to streamline ASCIT proceedings and increase operational efficiency.

Revision to Article IV, Section 4

*"The Board of Directors may choose to create staff positions to assist with the responsibilities of officers of the Corporation, with the approval of the Review Committee. Staff positions must be voted upon in a Board Resolution. The officer receiving assistance is directly responsible for the activity of their staff. All staff positions and resolutions expire upon retirement of the associated officer and cannot be reappointed without reapproval of the position and resolution by the Review Committee. **Staff members can only be granted the right to attend VPSA or closed meetings by invitation by the Board of Directors.**"*

The above gives ASCIT B.o.D. the ability to extend more privileges to appointed staff. There has been no precedent of such, and we wish to codify this jurisdiction.

Revision to Article IX, Section 5

*"Each Corporation member will be assessed **fifteen dollars (\$15)** for the Big T, payable on the days of registration at the rate of **five dollars (\$5)** per term. **Each year after 2025, the Big T will be expected to publish a digital yearbook for all members of ASCIT. The exact format of this yearbook will be determined by the Big T Editor's discretion. Concurrently, each year the Big T will publish a physical edition of the past four years' yearbook in a quantity large enough to provide each student in the graduating senior class with a physical yearbook.** A member withdrawing before the end of third term of their **senior year** may either receive a refund for installments paid, or complete the payments and receive an annual. Before the end of third term of their **senior year**, a member who does not wish to receive a copy may, upon written request to the Business Manager of the Big T, receive a refund of any installments paid toward that year's book."*

This amendment changes the current yearbook distribution practices to reduce waste and prioritize ASCIT budget. This amendment will make it such that the Big T will create digital yearbooks/photo collections for every year. However, rather than printing a yearbook

for every student every year, there will be "mega yearbooks" printed each year for the graduating class only. These "mega yearbooks" will be an amassing of the digital yearbooks from a student's time at Caltech. This will prevent the surplus of yearbooks we have experienced in the past few years. Further, this will reduce the amount of student dues that are allocated to the Big T. While students will not see a change in the amount they are charged for dues, this amendment allows for the reallocation of said funds to other ASCIT projects (for example, reducing the costs of Formal Tickets).

Revision to Article VII, Sections 1 and 8

*Election Periods. **All house presidents are to be installed by the first Monday of third term.** Nominations for CRC Co-Chair, IHC Chair, BoC Chair, BoC and all other elected offices shall open at 8 A.M. on the **first Monday of third term shall close at 5 P.M. the following Friday.** All nominated candidates shall be listed on a ballot and voted upon at elections to occur the second Monday following the closing of nominations for that office... **Installation of CRC CoChair, IHC Chair, BoC Chair, BoC Secretaries, Tech Editors and all remaining B.o.D. Officers will take place on the 6th Monday of 3rd term.** An oath of office shall be administered by the retiring President to the incoming President which may take the following form: "I do solemnly swear that I will support the Articles of Incorporation of the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Incorporated, and that I will discharge the duties of the office*

to which I was elected to the best of my ability." The President shall administer the oath of his choice to the incoming Board of Directors."

The changes above collapse IHC, CRC, and BoC Chairs as well as BoC secretaries, Tech Editors and the remaining nominated ASCIT B.o.D. positions into one election. The goal of this is to allow these positions to be determined prior to the rooms picks process for houses that give picks to Campus positions. Further, the installation of House presidents by the beginning of third term will grant Houses more flexibility to move their elections later (if they so choose), because an agreement with OSFE has been reached to move leadership week trainings to third term (so that all student leaders can be trained together). Please note: **the later installation of presidents will not be active until 2026 and the next leadership week training will occur in February, 2025. However, the collapse of campus-wide elections (ASCIT B.o.D., IHC, CRC, and BoC Chairs) will go into effect this academic year (spring 2025).**

If you have any questions regarding the propositions above, please do not hesitate to reach out to a B.o.D. member, come to an ASCIT meeting, or visit the "Documents" page of Donut. Please keep an eye on your email for correspondence from the Review Committee with voting information.

DELIVERING A UNIQUE FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE

Value and excellence are part of our "corporate DNA."

Undergraduate and graduate students at Caltech can join Caltech Employees Federal Credit Union, the exclusive financial institution serving the extended Caltech community.

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Your membership can last a lifetime—a solid financial advantage you can take with you when you graduate. Plus, once you join, your immediate family is eligible and can join, too.

Visit our Campus Office to join. Or, open your new account online at www.cefcu.org. We want to welcome you to our "one-of-a-kind" Credit Union.



CAMPUS OFFICE: 515 S. Wilson Ave. (physical address)
Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. & Friday 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

CAMPUS ATMs

Lee F. Browne Dining Hall (Deposit-Accepting) • Keith Spalding Building (inside, near Mail Services)

626/395-6300 • 800/592-3328 • www.cefcu.org

Must be eligible for CEFCU membership to join. Minimum opening deposit of \$5 and one-time \$5 membership fee due upon opening any CEFCU Share Account. All loans subject to credit approval. Rates subject to change without notice. CEFCU is an Equal Housing Lender. NMLS #626590. Federally insured by NCUA.



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Calling ALL members of the Caltech community – not just undergrads.
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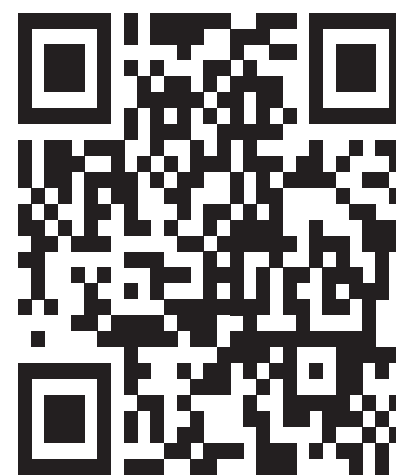
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The California Tech Journalistic Principles

The News-Opinion divide

All articles shall be clearly and explicitly labeled as either News or Opinion/Editorial.

News articles report on topics that have been thoroughly researched by Tech staff writers, and should be impartial to any one point of view. In a News article, the writer shall not insert their own personal feelings on the matter; the purpose is to let the facts speak for themselves. The Tech assumes full responsibility for all content published as News.

In contrast, Opinion articles (including Letters to the Editor) may be written and submitted by anyone on any topic; while the Tech will edit all published Opinions to ensure no wrong or misleading information, we do not otherwise interfere. Again, the role of the Tech here is to help the whole campus communicate their ideas and share their stories, not promote specific ones. Content published as Opinions do not necessarily represent the values of the Tech or our staff.

An exception to this is Editorials, which are written by Tech staff and represent official opinions of the Tech. Any information and sources in Editorials shall be held to the same standard as News reports, but there is no promise or expectation of impartial coverage.

Fair Reporting

All facts of major significance and relevance to an article shall be sought out and included.

If an assertion is made by a source about a specific person or organization, they shall be contacted and given a reasonable amount of time to respond before publication. In other words, no second-hand information or hearsay shall stand on its own.

Quotes and Attribution of Information

Facts and quotes that were not collected directly by Tech reporters shall be attributed. Articles shall clearly differentiate between what a reporter saw and heard first-hand vs. what a reporter obtained from other sources.

Sources' opinions are just that — opinions. Expert opinions are certainly given more weight, as are witness opinions. But whenever possible, the Tech shall report facts, or at least corroborate the opinions. A reporter's observations at a scene are considered facts for the purposes of a story.

Sources

All sources shall be treated with respect and integrity. When speaking with sources, we shall identify ourselves as Tech reporters and clarify why we would like to hold an interview. Sources for the Tech will never be surprised to see their name published.

In published content, we shall put our sources' quotes into context, and — as appropriate — clarify what question was being answered.

We always ask that a source speak with us on the record for the sake of journalistic integrity. We want our audience to receive information that is credible and useful to them. Named sources are more trustworthy than unnamed sources because, by definition, unnamed sources will not publicly stand by their statements.

That being said, we realize that some sources are unwilling to reveal their identities publicly when it could jeopardize their safety or livelihood. Even in those cases, it is essential that the Tech Editor-in-Chief knows the identity of the source in question. Otherwise, there can be no certainty about whether the source and their quotes were falsified.

This also applies for Letters to the Editor and Opinion submissions to the Tech. If the author requests that their piece is published anonymously, they must provide a reason, and we shall consider it in appropriate circumstances. No truly anonymous submissions shall be published. Conversely, no submissions shall be published with the author's name without their consent.

When we choose not to identify a source by their full name, the article shall explain to readers why.

Corrections Policy

We strive for promptness in correcting all errors in all published content. We shall tell readers, as clearly and quickly as possible, what was wrong and what is correct.

Corrections to articles will be immediately updated on the online version of the Tech at tech.caltech.edu. If appropriate, corrections will also be published in the following Tech print issue.

Honor Code Applies

In any remaining absence of clarity, the Honor Code is the guiding principle.

The California Tech

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The California Tech aims to publish biweekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers. Letters and submissions are welcome; email submissions to tech@caltech.edu, or submit them on our Discord server (https://discord.gg/Zaah8749s2). The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author. The advertising deadline is 12 PM on Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera ready art, but The Tech can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at tech@caltech.edu.



The California Tech #20 CalGuesser



Every issue we'll show you a different location on campus. Find the place and find the QR code hidden there to sign the log book and **maybe win a fabulous prize???**

"On campus" is defined as the convex hull of the buildings shown on caltech.edu/map/campus.

The QR code will be hidden somewhere within the pictured area.

CalGuesser #19 – January 28, 2025

LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS!

Congrats, you found it!
Leave your name/pseudonym, year/department, and date found :)

- Kan, Blacker '93 1/28/25 1:08pm— Saw Damian Wilson in Earth Data (he was great!) and now I see him EVERYWHERE!!!
- Madi, Ven '28
- Red door runners '27 9:48 water otter. nvm, BioE, Jan 31s
- the three musketeers '25 '26 '27 Jan 29th Mucheng Shen
- Rando PMA student walking by at 2 am '26 2/6

TECH EDITOR'S CORNER

A lovely little poem not remotely relevant to any current events. From your favorite Tech editors <3

America

BY CLAUDE MCKAY

Although she feeds me bread of bitterness,
And sinks into my throat her tiger's tooth,
Stealing my breath of life, I will confess
I love this cultured hell that tests my youth.
Her vigor flows like tides into my blood,
Giving me strength erect against her hate,
Her bigness sweeps my being like a flood.
Yet, as a rebel fronts a king in state,
I stand within her walls with not a shred
Of terror, malice, not a word of jeer.
Darkly I gaze into the days ahead,
And see her might and granite wonders there,
Beneath the touch of Time's unerring hand,
Like priceless treasures sinking in the sand.

The Tech wants to hear from you!

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Tell us your opinions about things going on at Caltech with this new survey form on our website! You can submit any time, multiple times, about anything.

