

Happy April Fools’ Day! If you don’t know, this publication has a decades-long tradition of publishing prank issues on April 1st under the pseudonym, *The Hot Rivet*. Other pseudonyms from years past include *The Hot and Throbbing Rivet*, *The Cold Screw*, *The Tepid Tack*, *The Massachusetts Tech*, *Hcet Ainrofilac*, *California Twitch*, *California Retch*, *Throop Tech*, and occasionally *The California Tech*. “But Guutz,” I hear you cringing, “doesn’t telling people it’s a joke ruin the satire?” To which my response is, you’d be surprised how many people would think the content was unironic otherwise! So, from the bottom of my heart... **Unless otherwise noted, nothing in this issue should be construed as factual reporting or taken to represent the views of the *Tech* or its editors.** Enjoy! <3 –The Tech Editors 🗑

THE HOT RIVET_T

VOL. CXXVIII No. 10PASADENA, CALIFORNIATUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

The Housing Office Accidentally Texted Me Their Spring Cleaning Plans

I didn’t think it could be real. Then our lounge furniture started disappearing.

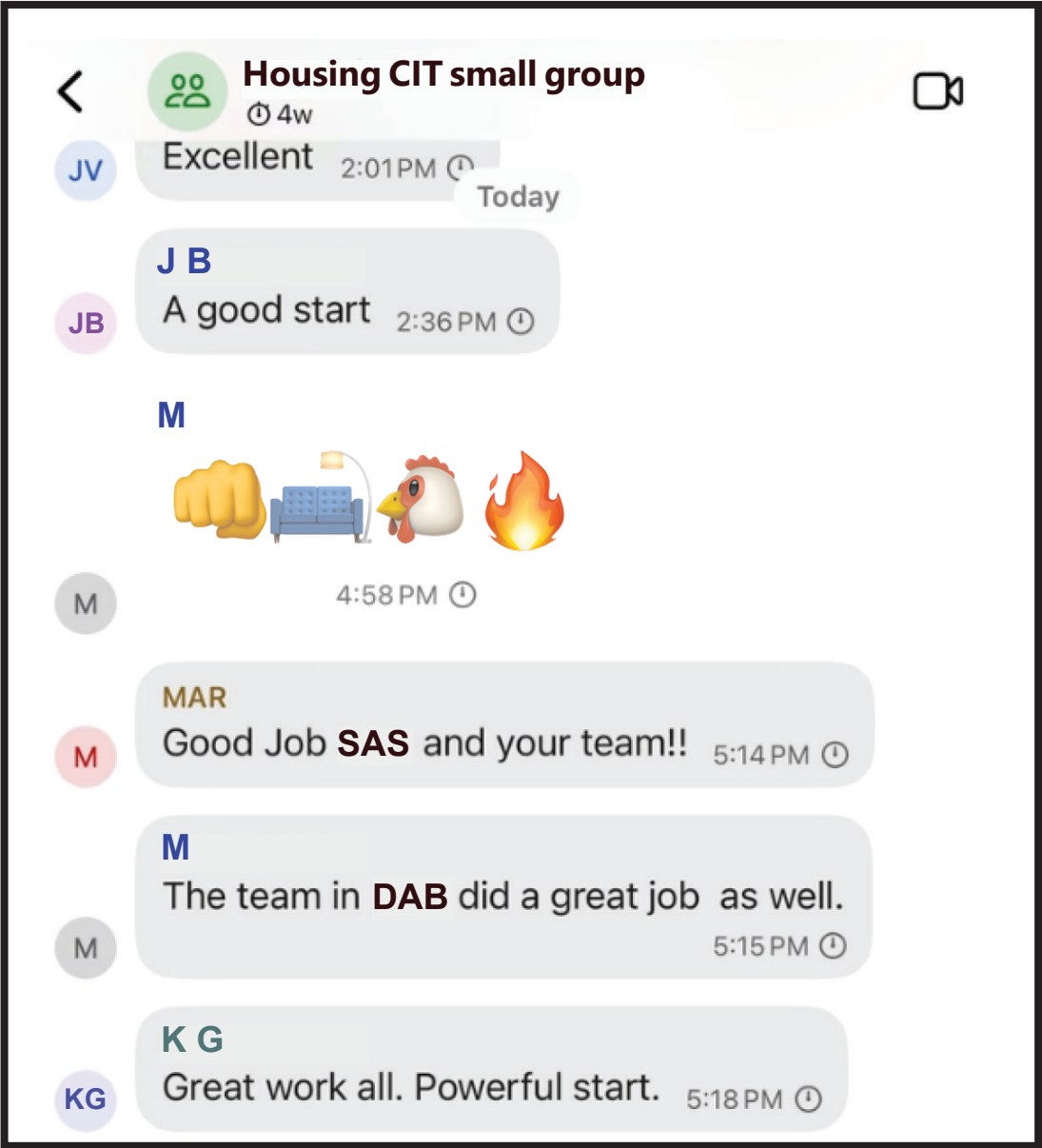


Michael Gutierrez
Editorial

From erasing murals, to dumpstering life-size Anakin Skywalker figurines, to replacing couches in the student houses with felt-covered blocks of concrete, Caltech’s Housing Office has a well-known track record of frivolity. But one of their more sinister tactics is threatening to charge the houses thousands of dollars for the labor costs of enacting their often-unjustified whims, in the case that the students don’t comply. Caltech students are known for their creativity in self-expression. The houses are the one space on campus where we can make a comforting home for ourselves. The lounges and common spaces are where students spend a substantial number of hours per week working, locking in, socializing, decompressing, and community-building. So when we find a free couch on Marketplace and spend hours of back-breaking labor to clean and transport it, you can imagine how demoralizing it is to immediately be told by Housing that we must either throw it in the dumpster by the end of the week or pay

for Housing to do it themselves. It’s more than just couches, though. Oftentimes they target anything that could possibly make the Institute look bad. It seems as if their only objective is to eliminate liabilities at any cost. This has manifested as Housing asking students with street-facing windows to remove flags and posters they have on display, for example. Most recently, Dabney House’s *DEI Pollo Loco* signs have come under attack. Rescued from waste after being blown down during the January windstorms, these signs now hang in the Dabney House lounge as a memorial for all that which was lost in the fires, but also as a symbol of hope. The Housing Office gave Dabney House Excomm the familiar ultimatum: dumpster it yourselves, or we’ll do it for you and charge you. I’m too tired to make any kind of freedom of speech appeal, satirical or not, but here is what I know:

- 1) Democracy dies in darkness
- 2) Stories reveal what reality obscures
- 3) This is not the last you’ve heard from *DEI Pollo Loco*...



Donate to the Fund for Student Life and Support Tom Mannion!

The Hot Rivet Editors' Note:
This is *not* satire!
Davy photo by Max Oberg

Scan the QR code, or visit
SeniorClassGift.caltech.edu

April 1 – June 20, 2025



EVERYONE
can donate —
not just seniors!
Underclasspeople and
alumni are encouraged to
contribute as well.

The great thing about donating
to the Fund for Student Life is,
the money comes right back to
support future generations of our
beloved Caltech traditions! A lot of them,
for example ASCIT's Pi Day 1:59am Pie
celebration which was cancelled last month,
are usually funded by Tom Mannion, but
his budget for these activities was dropped to
\$0 this year. The Fund for Student Life is the
best way to contribute directly to these
activities without the Institute pocketing
a substantial chunk.

With much love,
—your senior class
presidents <3

Michael Gutierrez,
Jonathan Booker,
Max Oberg

For seniors: The Class of 2023 set the current record of 53% participation. We can
do better than that, for sure!

There is also a HOUSE CHALLENGE, and the house with the biggest total donation
from seniors at the end of the campaign will win a fabulous swag party! Last
year's winner was Page House.

"Hello, I am Tom Mannion
and I endorse this message!"



Class of 2025 Senior Gift

The Nerds of Caltech: A Deep Dive Into the Geekiest Ecosystem on Earth

Camilla Fezzi
The Inside World

Ah, Caltech—the mythical land of equations, algorithms, and caffeine-fueled academic marathons. If Hogwarts is for aspiring wizards, Caltech is for aspiring rocket scientists, cancer healers and people who think solving a 12-dimensional Rubik's Cube is a "fun weekend project." Let me take you on a journey through the unique species known as *Caltech Nerds* (me definitely included, as I prefer talking to horses than people and being in a lab working with tumor cells).

1. The "Problem Set Gladiator"

These individuals don't just do their homework—they wage war against it. A problem set at Caltech isn't your average "find x" nonsense. It's more like: "Assume the existence of parallel universes. Derive the speed of light in Universe B given that Universe A is shaped like a Klein bottle. SHOW YOUR WORK."

Example 1: You'll find the Problem Set Gladiator in the library at 3 a.m., surrounded by empty Red Bull cans, scribbling equations that look like they were written by an alien civilization.

Example 2: During lunch, they casually discuss Hamiltonian mechanics with their friends, while everyone else is just trying to figure out how to peel their orange.

Favorite Phrase: "Wait... was this due yesterday? Oh no, I thought it was due at 11:59 p.m... in Pacific Mars Time"

2. The Lab Hermit (me)

This nerd has taken the idea of "hands-on learning" to a new level. They practically live in the lab. Their dorm room is just a place to keep their spare lab coats and ramen noodles or riding boots.

Example 1: They once stayed in the lab for 72 hours straight because "the bacteria colony was *finally* cooperating."

Example 2: They've named their lab equipment. "This is Oscilloscopey, my best friend. And this is Beakie, my favorite beaker."

Favorite Phrase: "Don't touch that! It's calibrated to within 0.0000001 microns."

3. The Theoretical Physicist Wannabe

You know this nerd. They wear T-shirts with equations on them that nobody understands (not even them). Their dream is to unlock the mysteries of the universe, but right now, they're just trying to pass quantum mechanics and maybe have a shower.

Example 1: They spend hours debating whether time is real or just an elaborate human illusion, then miss their own lecture because "time isn't real, man."

Example 2: Their dorm room walls are covered in whiteboards

filled with equations. One of them is labeled "TO DO: Build a Wormhole. (Buy milk?)"

Favorite Phrase: "Have you read Feynman's lectures? No? Then I can't explain it to you." (I have read them!!!)

4. The Overachieving Overlord

This nerd is involved in EVERYTHING. Clubs, research, internships, and somehow still has time to play the violin at a professional level. They're the type of person who shows up to a 9 a.m. lecture looking like they've already cured cancer before breakfast (ok people who know me might see me in this... it is hard I am really honest).

Example 1: They're the president of three student organizations, the lead in the school play, and still manage to get a 100% on every test.

Example 2: They casually mention their summer internship at NASA during a conversation about bagels.

Favorite Phrase: "Oh, I only got 99% on that exam. I'm slipping." Oh, the professor is insane! I did it right because...

5. The Meme Lord

Every school has a Meme Lord, but Caltech's Meme Lord takes it to another level. They're the person who turns every campus quirk into a viral joke. They know how to Photoshop the Among Us into *everything* (Dabney people).

Example 1: When the Wi-Fi went down for two hours, they created a meme of Einstein crying and captioned it: "Relatively Unstable Internet."

Example 2: They once hacked the campus website to Rickroll everyone during finals week. It was oddly inspiring.

Favorite Phrase: "I made a meme about this. Check Discord."

6. The Socially Inept Genius

This nerd's IQ is off the charts, but their social skills are... Well, let's just say they've been "in beta" for the past 20 years.

Example 1: They once ended a first date with the words, "This was fun. Do you want to see my MATLAB code?"

Example 2: They've Googled "how to make small talk" more times than they've Googled "how to integrate a function across a complex plane" (which is saying something).

Favorite Phrase: "Sorry, I'm bad at this 'talking' thing. But did you know black holes can theoretically evaporate?"

7. The Prankster Engineer

Caltech's nerds have a rich history of pulling off some of the most elaborate pranks in academia. These folks will rewire an elevator just for laughs, refill the hand sanitizer dispensers with ketchup, or replace the campus fountain water with Jell-O.

Example 1: In 1984, they changed the Hollywood sign to read "Caltech." Just casual nerd things.

Example 2: A group of pranksters once built a robot that roamed the campus, delivering bad puns to unsuspecting students.

Favorite Phrase: "It's not 'vandalism.' It's *engineering*."

6. The Sleep-Deprived Zombie

You can identify this nerd by their bloodshot eyes, messy hair, and the faint smell of burnt coffee clinging to their clothes. Sleep is a luxury they simply cannot afford.

Example 1: They once fell asleep in class and woke up mid-lecture screaming, "THE ANSWER IS 42!"

Example 2: They've started using their TI-84 calculator as a pillow. "It's ergonomic," they claim.

Favorite Phrase: "I'll sleep after finals. Or maybe after graduation. Or... someday."

A Beautiful Chaos

The nerds of Caltech are a unique breed. They're brilliant, hilarious, and just a little bit insane—but in the best way possible. Whether they're solving unsolvable equations, pulling off pranks, or debating the nature of reality, one thing is certain: life at Caltech is never boring. So, here's to the Caltech nerds. May your equations always balance, your experiments never explode (too much), and your memes forever go viral.

The California Tech

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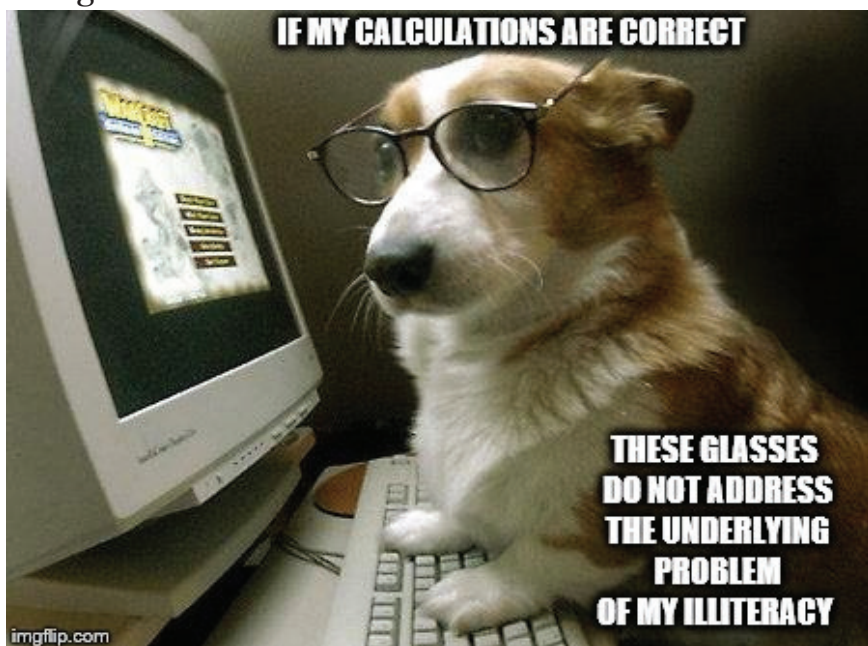


oh god how did i
get here i am not
good at

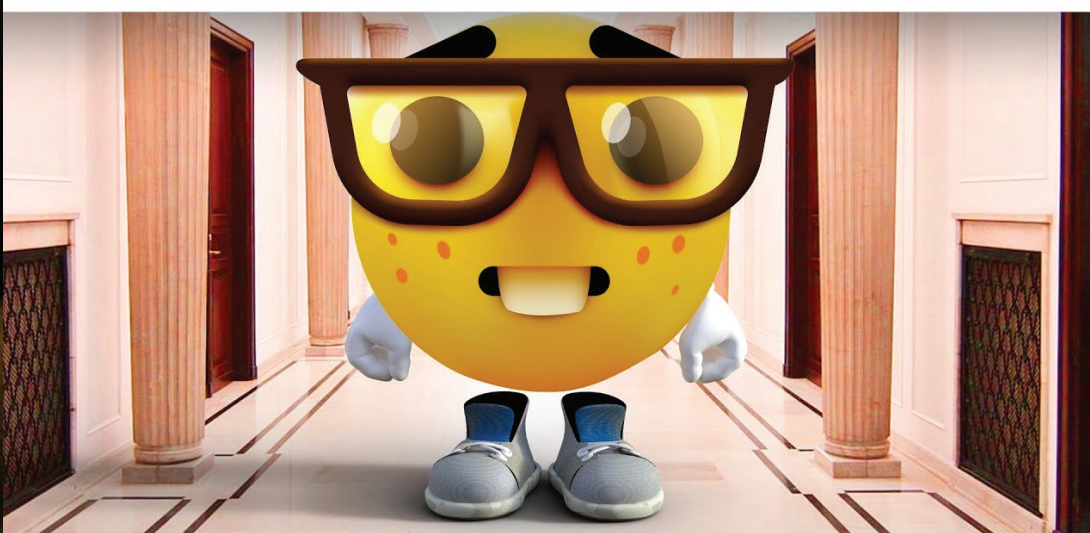
communicating
thoughts and
feelings in a healthy
and effective
manner

are you good at
join the tech!

communicating
thoughts and
feelings in a healthy
and effective
manner ?



UMM... ACTUALLY...



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

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.

TECH EDITOR'S CORNER

Backdrop addresses cowboy

By MARGARET ATWOOD

Starspangled cowboy
sauntering out of the almost-silly West, on your face
a porcelain grin,
tugging a papier-mâché cactus
on wheels behind you with a string,

you are innocent as a bathtub
full of bullets.

Your righteous eyes, your laconic
trigger-fingers
people the streets with villains:
as you move, the air in front of you
blossoms with targets

and you leave behind you a heroic
trail of desolation:
beer bottles
slaughtered by the side
of the road, bird-
skulls bleaching in the sunset.

I ought to be watching
from behind a cliff or a cardboard
storefront
when the shooting starts, hands
clapsed
in admiration,
but I am elsewhere.

Then what about me

what about the I
confronting you on that border,
you are always trying to cross?

I am the horizon
you ride towards, the thing you can
never lasso

I am also what surrounds you:
my brain
scattered with your
tincans, bones, empty shells,
the litter of your invasions.

I am the space you desecrate
as you pass through.

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