

## Inside Caltech: Students wary of Strategic Identity Project's impact on future of Caltech

ALEX PLACE, CHRISTINE TSENG, AND NEERA SHAH  
Contributing Writers and Editor-in-Chief

"There should be someone flipping out in the media saying, 'What is Caltech's special sauce?'" exclaimed Kristen Brown, assistant vice president for Marketing and Communications at Caltech.

Brown was referencing the fact that there are three Caltech alumnae heading major national science policy organizations. Yet, "Caltech" is not exactly a household name. She emphatically conveyed the Board of Trustees' concerns that the public lacks awareness of Caltech's academic prowess.

This realization was only one of the many stepping stones towards launching the Strategic

Identity Project.

Largely managed by

Brown but originally

proposed by

trustees in 2011,

its ultimate

goal, according

to Brown, is "to

raise the profile

of Caltech among

key audiences

so [it] can be

recognized and

valued for what it

is." These key audiences include

students, faculty, staff, current

and potential donors, and outside

community members such as

elected officials.

According to the Identity

Project's website ([identity.caltech.edu](http://identity.caltech.edu)), the effort has produced an



Photo Courtesy of Alex Hsu

"identity toolkit" with three main components: a visual system comprised of a seal, logo, and icon; a positioning statement; and targeted messaging for Caltech's key audiences. A "cabinet" composed of 25 Caltech community members and the consulting firm Marshall Strategy, Inc. made the

project decisions. The cabinet members included undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, faculty, staff, JPL employees, and alumni.

Gary Lorden, Caltech alumnus (BS '62) and professor emeritus of mathematics, was a cabinet member. Lorden argued that

while students, faculty, and the administration agree that the academic and scientific community is aware of Caltech, it would be "helpful if relevant people and the people they talk to know about Caltech—such as government legislators who have to present to their bosses."

Furthermore, he said, when Caltech students apply to graduate or professional schools, many admissions officers fail to recognize the rigor of a Caltech education. Lorden is convinced that this endeavor is "something worthwhile—we want someone to see 'Caltech' and intuitively know what we're talking about."

In her four years at Caltech, Brown has experienced the opposite. She has interacted with

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### WANT TO SEE MORE *INSIDE CALTECH* STORIES? READ ON:

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- Millikan Library renovations



Photo Courtesy of Alex Hsu

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- The future of Bechtel House

*Students from the journalism class spent a month investigating this series of articles.*

## Inside Caltech: New policy to affect e-cigarette smokers

ARIEL O'NEILL  
Contributing Writer

The fire alarms in the South Houses at Caltech blared. The screaming noise prompted complaints from peeved students who peppered the air with complaints about the interruptions to their study or leisure.

Still, most residents were not present in the small crowds waiting outside for the "all-clear" from Caltech Security. Some of the missing occupants may have been out at evening office hours or enjoying comfort food at Chouse, the late-night student-staffed coffee house.

Mike Raven, a safety engineer in Caltech's Department of Environment, Health, and Safety, is examining a tally of reports on his computer. He estimates that students had set off about 13 alarms between the start of current academic year and May 21. Blacker Hovse and Ricketts Hovse were the worst culprits, with four alarms each. At least three of the 13 alarms were related to electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), though Raven suspects e-cigarettes may also account for some of the unexplained false alarms.

"To be honest, we're seeing this e-cigarette thing exploding," Raven

said, referring to the newest cause of false alarms.

Before this school year, Raven didn't even know e-cigarettes would set off the fire detectors. Once he suspected e-cigarettes might have caused some of this year's unexplained false alarms after finding a student using one in his room, Raven sought confirmation and went to his lab with a coworker. The coworker took only two puffs off an e-cigarette before activating a testable detector nearby, confirming Raven's suspicions. He believes e-cigarettes have already made their mark on the Caltech campus and he will continue to see them trigger alarms regardless of school policy. Raven's concerns are part of a controversy swirling around the campus about the use of e-cigarettes.

Powered by a small battery, e-cigarettes usually include a heating element that vaporizes a liquid solution to produce a smoke-like vapor. The liquid in the cartridge is often a solvent like propylene glycol or glycerin that may contain dissolved nicotine. Traditional cigarettes set off detectors because of the particles in the smoke they emit, but it may come as a surprise that the water vapor produced by e-cigarettes can also trigger the photoionization-

based fire detectors used in Caltech dormitories.

E-cigarette companies claim their products let customers enjoy smoking while reducing or eliminating the health risks associated with cigarettes, but research investigating these claims is still in its preliminary stages. A study entitled "Carbonyl Compounds in Electronic Cigarette Vapors—Effects of Nicotine Solvent and Battery Output Voltage" was one of the first studies to examine to composition of e-cigarette vapor, which is what users actually inhale, rather than the ingredients in the unused cartridges.

The study, published on May 15 in the journal *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, concluded that low-voltage e-cigarettes produced much lower amounts of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde per puff than traditional cigarettes by factors of 13 and 807, respectively. Formaldehyde is a known carcinogen and acetaldehyde is a probable carcinogen and known toxicant. However, when the researchers increased the voltage from 3.2 to 4.8 volts, the amounts of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde fell in the range of those produced by cigarettes.

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## Y Column

CALTECH Y

## Upcoming Events

## 1. Yosemite-Centennial Grove Camping/Hiking Trip

Wednesday to Friday | June 18 - 20 | Cost \$120 | Spaces are limited

Looking for a great way to kick off the summer? Why not join us on a camping and hiking trip to Yosemite National Park and the Caltech Centennial Grove in the Sierra National Forest. The Caltech Centennial Grove is a section of the Sierras containing 5 giant Sequoias, and Yosemite is one of the most spectacular natural places in the world. With two nights of camping and plenty of hiking available this trip is a great get away.

The trip includes transportation, campsites, and most meals. No camping experience is necessary. This trip is open to all Caltech students. To secure your spot on this trip you must sign up and pay the fee (\$120) in person at the Caltech Y (505 S. Wilson). Spaces are limited.

For more information contact or visit the Caltech Y or our website: [www.caltechY.org](http://www.caltechY.org). For more information on Yosemite National Park, check out the National Park website at [www.nps.gov/yos](http://www.nps.gov/yos).

## Other Announcements - Beyond the Caltech Y

## 1. Simply Oasis Benefit

Saturday, June 7th | 7:00 PM | John Aaroe Group Courtyard | 42 S. Pasadena Ave. Old Town Pasadena, Behind Banana Republic

The Simply Oasis benefit is a one-night event intended to raise awareness of the ever-growing human trafficking industry and raise funds that promote the reintegration and prevention of further victims.

The Simply Oasis benefit will provide live music, fair trade dessert and wine, a silent auction, printed and video educational materials, and a live presentation of modern-day slavery's footprint on the world.

All proceeds benefit will directly fund on-going efforts to establish "TraffickFree Communities," provide updated educational materials surrounding the issue of modern-day slavery, and continue to expand Oasis' influence in the reintegration and prevention of human trafficking victims.

Musical performances by: Circlesight, Malynda Hale, Peter Charles, and Lauren & Matt Mears. Bidding for the silent auction ends at 8:30PM.

For more info visit [oasisusa.org](http://oasisusa.org).

## 2. Stand for HOPE 5K Run/Walk

Sunday, June 15th | 6:30 AM | Rose Bowl | Pasadena | Registration Closes June 6th \$30 to participate, free to volunteer

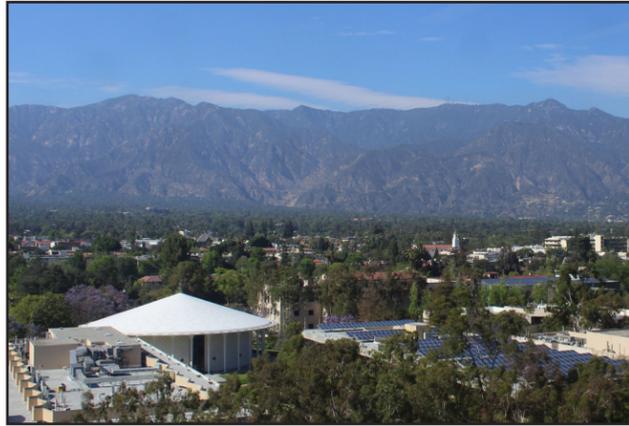
The Stand for HOPE 5K Charity Walk/Run benefits children with cancer. Sign up to participate at <http://iamhope.org/5k/> or email Darius Teo at [darius.teo@caltech.edu](mailto:darius.teo@caltech.edu) for more info. PADRES Contra El Cáncer is a non-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life for children with cancer and their families. Providing HOPE to each family with health education programs, emotional support and emergency financial and transportation assistance.

## 3. Volunteer Tutoring

Help tutor elementary and high school students in Pasadena! Help 9th & 10th graders with Pre-Algebra, Algebra and English from June 2-July 2, Mondays-Fridays, 11:45am-2:45pm. Sign up to volunteer one to four days per week. Or help elementary students with Math and Reading from July 7-Aug 1, Mondays-Fridays, 8:30am-3pm. Sign up to help a minimum of 1 hr/wk. Contact Beth at [bethw@lakeave.org](mailto:bethw@lakeave.org) or 626.817.4507 for more info.

# Inside Caltech: Millikan Library renovations reduce study spaces

NEHALY SHAH  
Editor-in-Chief



This view of Pasadena can be seen from Millikan's ninth floor.

Two students stepped into Millikan to escape the January cold, looking forward to a few hours in The Lookout. But as they pressed "7" in the elevator, a construction worker stopped them. "Don't you know that there's nothing up there anymore?" he asked. This news came as a shock to the Techers, who frequently worked in Millikan while enjoying the view of the mountains to the north.

Previously set aside for library use, Millikan's seventh and eighth floors have been gutted and are being refurbished this year. There are no definitive plans yet for the eighth floor, but emptying both floors simultaneously saves on costs, as does having the entire eighth floor temporarily unused (since utilities will be shut off).

"Development officers," the frontline fundraisers of Development and Institute Relations (DIR), and their support staff will move into offices on the repurposed seventh floor, according to Wendy Sloat, director of finance and facilities. One main goal of the new hires, according to Stacey Scoville, administrator to the provost, is to work on a capital campaign to raise funds from both previous contributors and new donors.

"Our new comprehensive campaign will be the most ambitious campaign in Caltech's history," said Sloat.

Although some study areas are being lost to offices dedicated to fundraising, the "development of new study spaces may rely heavily on fundraising," asserted Scoville, ensuring that the conversion is actually in the interest of future students. (However, Scoville was not part of the decision to change Millikan's seventh and eighth floors.)

Books that were available on these top three floors of Millikan have been moved to various locations, including the basement of Sherman Fairchild Library (SFL), and are still accessible. Some rarely-used books are being stored in the annex in Beckman Institute's basement. (If a student needs one of these books, a librarian can retrieve it.)

Some furniture that was removed from the seventh and eighth floors was placed in SFL while other pieces are being transferred to Millikan's ninth floor. Set to reopen this week, the ninth floor is being renovated to get updated flooring, furniture, and painting. Scoville and the provost, vice provost, and university librarian were involved in the decision to renovate the ninth floor. A scenic view and ample student space (created by removing the bookshelves) bring appeal to the ninth floor study area for undergraduate and graduate students alike.

Jetson Leder-Luis, the current library committee undergraduate representative,

relays student interests regarding library decisions. However, the library committee was not involved in the plans for the seventh and eighth floors, which "have come under the control of the Provost's Office and are no longer library spaces," Leder-Luis said.

"While I wish there were more student input regarding [the seventh and eighth floors of] Millikan," said Leder-Luis, "I recognize that Millikan itself is a poor library—it has a small footprint as a building, requires an elevator to get anywhere, and already houses a large portion of the school's development and administrative staff. It looks like an office building, is used as an office building, and will probably end up entirely an office building."

In fact, "DIR has occupied space in Millikan...for more than 10 years, and currently occupies the third, fourth and fifth floors," said Sloat.

Vice Provost Morteza Gharib said the ninth floor is specifically for student use, and he is open to suggestions for improving its usability, whether students want private group study rooms or larger open areas for "mini-lectures or other informal gatherings" if, for example, a student wants to invite professors or artists to talk about their work. Regarding the decision to refurbish the ninth floor, Gharib "wanted to make it a place that's inviting" to students. The goal for the floor is to make it "modular" to incorporate different student ideas for using it.

"We're not going to decide for students what's good for them; they need to do that," Gharib said of the importance of student input. There are no specific plans for gathering student opinions, but students can make an appointment with Gharib through the Vice Provost's office to discuss suggestions.

For example, Leder-Luis hopes "the 9th floor will be furnished with comfortable furniture, places to bring a laptop, and some vending machines to turn it into a useful study space." However, Leder-Luis added that "while the 9th floor of Millikan is not an ideal study space—consider walking from the south houses to Millikan as well as having Millikan open late—it is important that spaces are expanded to meet student needs."

Places that have recently opened for students include SFL Lab 326 and the open area in the front of the bookstore. SFL Lab 326, opened in late 2013, is "available for classes, workshops, and training sessions [and includes] eight dual-screen Windows workstations on moveable tables, three AirPlay-enabled monitors, and AppleTV," according to the library's website. Reservations can be made in advance and the room has the same hours as preexisting group study rooms (8 a.m. to midnight). On the other hand, the front of the bookstore is open only during normal bookstore hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday) and thus will not be available during prime late-night studying hours.

Although these additional areas were opened, "overall, I think Caltech group study places are limited. Try getting a room at

SFL on a Wednesday night. House libraries are usually full of junk and [are] also loud. Student Activities Center (SAC) rooms are okay but rather depressing," said Leder-Luis.

"The only thing I can say definitively is that for the time being, there is not going to be any more decrease in study spaces," said Scoville. DIR is likely going to occupy the seventh floor for a decade for the capital campaign to be started in the next couple of years. Scoville added that there is speculation as to where new study spaces may be created, such as in the Hameetman Center (an expansion of Winnett Center), but the plans for this building are not yet decided.

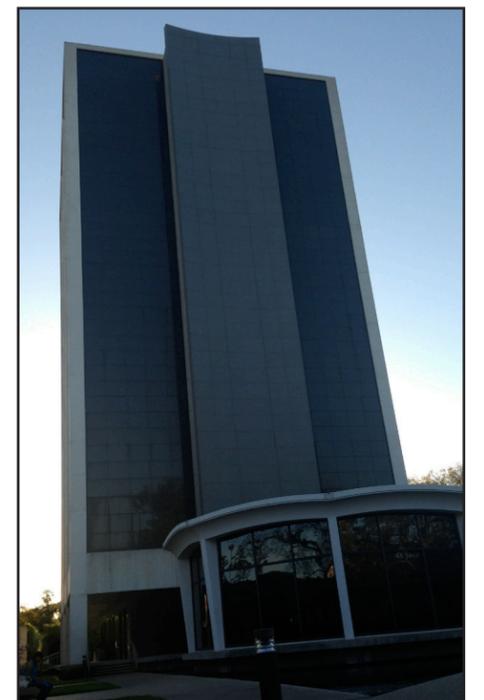
University Librarian Kimberly Douglas also hinted at this uncertainty: Due to the "evolving" information technology, "we can be sure chairs and tables will continue, but everything around it may change. The goal is to be attractive, to meet the needs, and to be ready to meet these needs."

"It is a challenge to move forward," especially in a "cost-efficient" manner, Douglas said of the changes being made to campus study areas. "What the library has done pretty well is...be reasonably leading, acting on needs as they are emerging; that is ideally the Caltech way, to be rationally entrepreneurial."

Caltech's first official group study rooms (which offered technological resources) were in SFL, which opened in 1997. "Students started working more collaboratively to create and discover new things. Technology and knowledge were interrelated, as different computational and data-based tools offered by technology became part of the discovery process," Douglas said. She further pointed out that "libraries are not just storage places; they are spaces for learning and discovery," underscoring the importance of available study spaces for students.

Since Douglas is retiring in June, a new university librarian will take her place beginning in July. Douglas said that awareness of student needs and ideas about study areas are "expected" of the new librarian, so there may be some more changes to campus study spaces in the coming year.

For the time being, while library regulars will not be able to study on Millikan's seventh floor, The Lookout will be open just two floors up, which Gharib said is "the best place to get a good view of campus and the San Gabriel Mountains."



Photos Courtesy of Alex Hsu

# Inside Caltech: Caltech working towards sustainability and creating a green campus

ELIZABETH RYAN  
Contributing Writer

Have you ever wondered what those waste bins on campus that seem to have a solar panel on them do? Well, you guessed it: they are solar trash cans. The sun-collected energy is used to compact trash and recyclables. Made from recycled material, these trash cans have a battery to work when it's not sunny. This is just one example of how Caltech is installing sustainable-friendly devices on-campus.

Sustainability can be broken down into a science. Water, electricity, and other amenities flow according to the laws of physics. Therefore, a landscape can be designed to accompany these parameters. With a leading Environmental Science & Engineering Department, a sustainability program, and its reputation in science, the Caltech campus should be a trailblazer in environmental sustainability compared to other universities.

But is this the case?

"I do think it has improved," says Jared Leadbetter, professor of environmental microbiology at Caltech, who teaches such courses as ESE 1: Introduction to Environmental Science and Engineering. "When I arrived in August of 2000 there was very little understanding of where water flowed and electricity flowed... now we have extensive metering on campus for both." However, Leadbetter admitted that he does not know the amount of current net electricity usage.

John Onderdonk, who took the position of Caltech's director of sustainability in 2008, can tell you that it's at about 110 gigawatt-hours and that roughly 90% of that electrical energy is generated here at Caltech. Onderdonk, who studies and manages Caltech's power usage, says that his job is "really about supporting and enhancing the core mission of research and education." Onderdonk and co-director Matthew Berbee, have been working on numerous sustainability projects. These include reducing the university's greenhouse gas emissions, installing a combined heat and power plant and fuel cells, and developing a campus water action plan in response to California's three-year shortage of water.

Considering the recent drought, could Caltech be doing better in terms of water usage? Students and faculty have been encouraged to conserve water by various signs placed around campus, but no ban or limitations have been made on water usage. "This is a good example year of how volatile the water supply can be," said Leadbetter. "If we have another bad year or two, we will be having a very, very intense discussion of the unsustainability of the situation."

Some alumni who have experienced the transition of sustainability efforts over four years agree that there's still progress to be made. "I think they could still do better in terms of making students more involved and aware," said Stacy Levine, Page House alumnus ('11). Levine said she had observed the installment of solar panels

on the garages, recycling bins around campus, and corn cups and silverware in the dining halls since her time at Caltech.

Cole Hershkowitz, an alumnus who was a board member of Engineer for a Sustainable World and sat on the Sustainability Council headed by Onderdonk, aided in a number of progressive sustainability changes in his time at Caltech. Hershkowitz, along with other students, started the solar decathlon in 2010. This project involves constructing and running an energy-efficient solar-powered home in a competition against 20 other colleges. In 2013, Hershkowitz also participated in a clean energy business plan competition hosted by the Resnick Institute, winning first place for the plans for his current company, Chai Energy.

While these are examples of projects that community members passionate about sustainability can participate in, it is less clear what those of us with a passing interest in the subject can do to contribute. Despite using convenient sustainability amenities installed on campus, you may be contributing to waste in unforeseen ways. One common misconception held by members of the Caltech community is that all of our trash gets sorted, so why bother finding the correct bin? It's true that trash is sorted through at the recycling center, but the waste hauler is only required to hit a certain diversion rate before the sorting conveyor belt is shut down. If Caltech's waste trucks do not arrive before this is reached, the

trash will go directly into landfill. So, what's the solution? Onderdonk recommends that people simply request more recycling bins so that waste-prevention becomes more convenient.

"When I was at Caltech, a small number of students were highly active," Hershkowitz said. "But the broader student body," he continued, did not "care for sustainability."

Levine said that the best way to get students more motivated is

Leadbetter agreed. "A sense of urgency seems to be missing here and elsewhere," he said.

The big push to go greener has certainly been noteworthy, but Caltech's work in adapting to a sustainable campus is not yet complete.

"Caltech has a major influence over advancement in sustainability around the world," said Onderdonk. "We are proving the fact that you can still be world class at what you do and reduce your environmental



Photo Courtesy of Elizabeth Ryan

to create "incentives by house," as well as "educating [students] and raising awareness, since I think people would want to be involved and make a difference."

footprint...that's what I hope our long term contribution will be."

If you are interested in this issue and would like to learn more, please visit [sustainability.caltech.edu](http://sustainability.caltech.edu).

## Staff members honored for years of service to Caltech

JESSICA STOLLER-CONRAD  
Caltech Media Relations

Jennifer Daniels has seen her share of changes at Caltech in the past 45 years. Daniels, who transferred to Caltech from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in February 1971, remembers a time when San Pasqual Avenue cut almost all the way through campus, Caltech classrooms were just welcoming some of their first female students, and historic Throop Hall stood in the middle of campus—at least for a little while.

"My first day at Caltech was the day before the big San Fernando earthquake," recalls Daniels, who is now an administrative assistant in Facilities at Caltech. The magnitude 6.6 earthquake damaged several of the oldest buildings on campus, including Throop Hall; cracks in its concrete led to the building's eventual demolition. "So I came to campus when Throop Hall was standing, and I witnessed the whole process of them tearing it down," she says.

In spite of those dramatic first few days on the job, Daniels decided to stick it out at Caltech. On June 2, she will be honored for her 45 years of service at the annual staff service awards.

A Pasadena native, Daniels began her career as a part-time assistant in environmental quality at JPL in June 1969. "It was a great job, and as part of the job, I got to attend and type up the notes for lectures about all the work that was being done on the moon at that time. It was very exciting," she says.

Her work at JPL was interesting, but Daniels, who was also studying business law at Pasadena City College, thought she'd probably move on after she received her degree. That move turned out to be a short one—to a full-time position in General Accounting Services at Caltech. After nearly a decade, she accepted a position in Facilities—where she's spent the last 35 years.

Today, Daniels is responsible for utilities accounting within the maintenance management and

energy services department of Facilities. As part of Caltech's commitment to sustainability, she gathers utilities bills for reports that track energy use on campus. In addition, she also organizes the payroll and time-keeping for the staff in her department.

"I've worked with Jennifer off and on for about 22 years, and she's an essential member of our team and a valued member of our family here," says Dan Buckelew, supervisor at the Central Utility Plant where Daniels works. "She's a great employee, she's very diligent at



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her work, and she's well liked by everyone here."

Daniels says she has many happy memories involving Caltech—including her niece's beautiful wedding photos on campus, and the time that a group of Caltech seniors put a car on top of her building as part of an elaborate Ditch Day prank.

Although many of her longtime colleagues have now retired, Daniels says she's not ready to make any plans. "I know I want to work longer. When things start getting to be more than I can handle, then I'll probably want to retire," she says. "But I don't plan to retire soon."

Honorees for 40-year staff members include Eugene Akutagawa, a senior scientist in biology and a member of the professional staff; Susi Martin, assistant to the Board of Trustees; and Steve Vass, a senior instrument specialist at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO).

See more about them at <http://www.caltech.edu/content/40-year-service-awardees>.

Reprinted from [caltech.edu](http://caltech.edu).

# Until fall sports start again, ladies and gents...



There's no possible way Student Body Right couldn't have worked. Look at how graceful the women's water polo team swims as they call for the ball from their very skilled and talented goalie, Connie Hsueh.

Photo Courtesy of Caltech Athletics



Other dude: High five, bro! Jim Blackwood: NO.

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Luke Lango #3 PG so beautiful and majestic wow.

-gocaltech.com

## Senior Spotlight: Thomas Kwok

**MONICA ENLOW**  
Editor-in-Chief

*ME: How long have you been playing baseball and soccer? And why have you continued to play these sports throughout college?*

*TK: I have been playing soccer since I was like 5 or so. I've always loved playing soccer, and it was a big part of my life in high school. Once I decided to come to Tech, I knew that I would join the soccer team. As I played on the team, I found that it was a perfect environment for me to relax and have fun outside of schoolwork.*

*I played some backyard baseball with my brother and a couple friends growing up, but I never played on a team. I didn't even really think about joining the baseball team*

*until last year when Albie Lavin told me I should come out to play. I kind of started on a whim, but I picked it up pretty fast and had a lot of fun with the rest of the team. Since I was improving and having fun, I decided to continue playing.*

*ME: What is the most satisfying moment during a game for soccer? For baseball?*

*TK: The most satisfying moment in soccer was scoring my first goal against Pomona, putting us up 1-0.*

*The most satisfying moment in baseball was last year getting my first hit of my life against LaVerne after starting my career 0-14.*

*ME: What changes have you noticed in your teams between your freshman and senior years?*

*TK: There have been a lot of changes since freshman year for soccer. My freshman year, the team was super small, but then it ballooned. Overall, the soccer players have also become more dedicated to the team since my freshman year.*

*ME: Do you have a favorite memory from baseball? From soccer?*

*TK: My favorite memories for soccer are all the night games we played. Also, beating Cal Lutheran on a Tyler Volkoff 30-yard shot was pretty cool my freshman year. My favorite memory from baseball is hanging out with Outfield Team, and*

*also our trip to Tucson, Arizona.*

*ME: How does it feel to be the student-voted sportsman of the year?*

*TK: It felt really nice to be selected as the sportsman of the year. I felt extremely honored to receive the award because it was voted on by all the student athletes. The student athletes at the school have supported me both on and off the field, and I have shared most of my rewarding experiences at Tech with them. I am grateful for all their support, especially the soccer and baseball teams.*

*ME: What were your goals over the past year? Did your teams achieve them?*

*TK: As soccer and baseball teams, we set both team and individual goals for the year. For both teams, we set a goal to win a SCIAC game, and we didn't achieve that goal. I can't remember most of my personal goals, so that's never a good thing either. I know I wanted to make the Cooper test (2 miles in less than 12 minutes), and I did achieve that for soccer. I also know I wanted to hit for a higher average than last year in baseball, and I did that as well.*

*ME: What will you take away from your time as a student athlete at Caltech?*

*TK: I will take with me a lot of friends from my time as a student athlete. I will also take away an ability to organize my time, keep commitments, and work hard and stay united even when no one cares.*



This is Thomas Kwok playing soccer. Because that is something he does.

-gocaltech.com

*ME: Tell us something that not many people know about you.*

*TK: I didn't eat pizza, seafood, or chocolate at all until after I came to Tech.*

*ME: Do you follow the World Cup? Who are you rooting for? Who are you hoping loses?*

*TK: USA all the way. So I guess I'm rooting for Portugal, Ghana, and Germany to lose.*

*ME: Your plane crashed on a deserted island, what three items do you have to have with you?*

*TK: Food, water, and a friend.*



This is Thomas Kwok playing baseball. Because that is something he does.

Photo Courtesy of Caltech Athletics

# Inside Caltech: Athletic recruitment offers new direction

**HARINEE MAIYURAN**  
Contributing Writer

A YouTube video of Caltech's historic win in men's basketball against the Occidental Tigers on February 22, 2011 has garnered over 125,000 views, with a commenting population ranging from Croatia to University of California, Davis.

Embedded within those who "didn't know [they have] a gym in Caltech," or someone looking at the big picture and indicating that the "last time the students stormed the court was when these [students'] parents did," is a comment from Milan, Italy, where Caltech is "in the Italian news as well!" on the "Gazzetta Dello Sport" website.

YouTube user "5imbadz" told the internet world, "I laughed so hard when I found out that Caltech snapped their 26-year losing streak, but then I fell silent when I found out they beat Occidental College...I'm a student there FML."

At a college campus where athletics may not be the highest priority, there is a sense of irony when it was announced that athletic recruitment is becoming a much higher priority under current Athletic Director Betsy Mitchell.

On a campus where athletics was previously defined by "losing contests and playing as a stress relief only," according to Mitchell, there are clear efforts to lose this stigma. She expresses her desire to "take pride in the competitive venture [and ] learn how to win as well as learn how to lose; we just need to bring in that balance a bit more."

Finding the key to that balance was the reason Mitchell was hired in 2011; the then-president of Caltech, Jean-Lou Chameau, was "enthusiastic to get Betsy," according to Vice President for Student Affairs Anneila Sargent.

Sargent similarly believed that "Betsy's attitude seemed to fit in well" with the tides of change.

Those tides started in 2009, with an

external committee initiated by Sargent. She was approached by the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) co-chairs with complaints about the way athletics was run. Sargent believes that "the discipline of sports can be carried

through to many walks of life in many states of your life. It can carry through to professional teamwork, and being a good player in the organization you are in." At the time of the external review, Sargent indicated that she herself "wasn't really sure what was going on."

"I felt that athletics wasn't reaching its full potential," she said, "so I put together this committee to look at athletics and tell me the situation." The committee included the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Chair of Faculty at Harvey Mudd—a PhD graduate of Caltech—as well as Robert Grubbs, a professor at Caltech who has been heavily involved in athletics. "As a result of the committee, we decided that athletics needed to change. It was not really at a level that it could be proud of. Betsy Mitchell was hired about a year later," said Sargent.

When she arrived, Mitchell's philosophies towards athletic recruitment had already begun to mesh with those of Jarrid Whitney, director of admissions since fall 2010. Sargent brought together Whitney and Mitchell—along with their families—to meet and have dinner before their professional collaboration began. As the external committee was concluding its observations and athletics had begun to change, admissions then met with Mitchell and the coaches to teach them how they admit people.

Now, each year, coaches, admissions, and Mitchell will meet in early September to get

on the "same wavelength to start recruitment again," said Whitney. "One exercise we go through is a case study: we give the coaches applications from the prior year, with names

has become clear that all of this would soon change.

The newfound freedom in recruitment has



The Caltech Men's Basketball Team and coaching staff revel in their well earned victory, their first win in 26 years.

Photo Courtesy of Caltech Athletics

and situations covered. Decisions varied amongst those discussed, but those accepted did not enroll. We have open dialogue about what made them shine and what didn't. This gave coaches a better sense of how competitive it is to get in. Students are more than just the numbers and scores. But there's no reason not to find the best of both worlds: the greatest math and science students and great athletes."

As if Caltech's high academic bar was not hindrance enough, the SCIAC had further limitations on the institutions within it, many beyond those of Division III athletics that put Caltech at a further disadvantage. One significant issue was an inability to offer recruits an overnight stay. While other schools within the SCIAC were using other events on campus as reasons for overnight visits for students who were in reality athletic recruits, Caltech's focus on academic endeavors made similar opportunities unavailable, as such events were rare on this campus. This reality placed Caltech at

greatly aided first-year Women's Volleyball Coach Thomas Gardner, who joined Caltech in February 2014 after a four-year stint as head coach of women's volleyball at the University of Southern Maine (USM). During his tenure, he took a program with six wins the season prior to his arrival to its first conference tournament appearance in a decade. Gardner describes USM as a place where many of his former student athletes may not have attended had he not recruited them.

"Most of them weren't even looking at the University of Southern Maine," he said. "Admissions goes out to college fairs and recruits, but aside from admissions and athletics, there isn't anybody else out there."

In stark contrast, Caltech's recruitment is always based on academics. Gardner describes his recruitment process at Caltech: "I primarily use recruiting sites to look at athletes' profiles. I set parameters to determine a range. I start with the academics: GPA, test scores, then extracurricular activities and film. Once I've seen that they have a shot academically, I watch the video, see their talents and send an introductory email to judge their level of interest."

**"In stark contrast, Caltech's recruitment is always based on academics."**

a major disadvantage, as potential Beavers could not experience the Institute to its full extent prior to application and enrollment. This rule was finally lifted in April 2013, as the SCIAC aligned with National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) permissible activities.

To add insult to injury, beginning in 2012, Caltech was placed on probation for a period of time. The NCAA had found that 30 athletes were actively participating in athletics while underloading between 2007-2011. The confusion was due to the institution's flexibility with class registration, which allows students to start taking classes even though they were not yet officially enrolled. The NCAA invoked a one-year post-season ban for sports who had ineligible players competing, a one-year ban on off-campus recruiting, three years of probation, and a penalty of \$5000.

According to *The New York Times* in July 2012, Mitchell said, "there was not enough communication between academic and athletic departments to certify whether an athlete was enrolled in enough classes to be eligible." Under Mitchell's leadership, it

The major difference between Caltech and many other institutions, including USM, lies in the fact that Caltech coaches cannot simply attend a tournament to observe all players, take notes, and contact them later. Instead, when he attends tournaments to seek out potential Beavers, Gardner "rarely deviates from [his] list...These tournaments have 60-100 courts, so it can be time consuming. At USM, I had to hope that I saw everybody. Here, I don't have that concern, because 95% simply wouldn't qualify. It's not like they wear their GPA on their uniform."

If there was one theme to these different perspectives, it is simple: the standards will never decrease in order to admit athletes. Mitchell insists she "didn't just ride here on [her] broomstick and decide to change things." Instead, restrictions are slowly decreasing.

Those in charge have chosen to instigate change. "Athletics and admissions have become more interactive and collaborative," said Sargent. Subsequently, the applicant pool is growing, and coaches are actively searching for stellar people. Not mere students, but people.

## PERCENTAGE OF WINS\* FROM 2012-2014 vs. 2009-2011

<b>FALL 2012 – SPRING 2014</b>	59 Wins 557 Losses 616 Total	9.58% Wins
<b>FALL 2009 – SPRING 2011</b>	41 Wins 520 Losses 561 Total	7.31% Wins

\*Data collected from Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's and Women's Water Polo, Men's and Women's Tennis, Soccer, Volleyball, and Baseball Teams  
Courtesy of Harinee Maiyuran

Mitchell is no stranger to the world of athletic recruitment. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recruited her, she later recruited students to Dartmouth College as their swimming coach, and she has worked with high school athletes who want college athletics to be a significant component of their experiences at both the D1 and D3 levels.

Mitchell was a competitive swimmer for over 10 years, winning multiple medals in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics in addition to setting a world record in the 200-meter backstroke at the 1986 World Championships. She arrived at Caltech in 2011.

When asked why she was attracted to Caltech, Mitchell indicated that she has "always liked puzzles, and the rejuvenation of this department was presented to me as a puzzle." Mitchell believes that recruitment activities "assist the entire Institute in reaching out to the best and brightest students."

Despite the widely held belief that a revolution is taking place on the second floor of Braun Gym, it is instead a renewed sense of purpose and freedom—as well as a transformation of attitude—that are currently underway. The coaches' ability to pursue potential Beavers who would contribute both on the court and in the classroom is giving the Caltech community hope for a transformation on the court, in the field, on the track, and in the water, in addition to continued success in the classroom.

# Strategic Identity Project raises questions

Continued from page 1

several staff members at other universities who have confused Caltech with California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (often referred to as CalPoly). She has also encountered locals who have never heard of Caltech.

However, some students do not think that Caltech's relative anonymity is a problem. Sophomore Samridhi Sharma is convinced that the school has the brand-name recognition it needs. "Caltech has a pretty unique identity among its peers and it already has a niche," she said.

Some also think that the project is simply about advertising. To Sharma, its goal is to increase Caltech's marketability to high school students and their parents.

But, Jarrid Whitney, director of undergraduate admissions, was on the cabinet and does not think that the project will change the admissions process. He said in an email that "many of those elements are not new to our admissions communications, [but] it's very helpful to embrace the larger vision of what Caltech is (and isn't) for prospective students."

The *Tech* conducted a survey of 150 undergraduates, and 37% believe the project was meant to change rather than describe Caltech. Chris Varnerin, a former Interhouse Committee (IHC) member, is afraid that the project "will ultimately affect how people conduct themselves and how people behave."

In contrast, Catherine Jamshidi, the current president of the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT), said in an email that she does not expect "the messaging of the project to affect student life in any revolutionary way. However, the visual standards that were discussed will affect students (e.g., the wordmark will, in theory, make Caltech more recognized)."

Current student life may not be affected by the financial aspect of the project, but it still may be important for Caltech's future. The Identity Project could create new support for Caltech, especially crucial at a time when the percentage of approved federal grant requests is at an all-time low ([www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)). The Office of Development and Institute Relations plans to use the toolkit to raise donations and publicity.

One of the main tools is the positioning statement: "Caltech pioneers audacious science and technology that transforms our world." It is defined on the project website as "an expression of how we want to be perceived by our most important audiences." Such statements are often used in marketing to articulate a group's core idea to create an advertising and communication strategy.

"The function of the positioning statement is not to be used verbatim by Caltech community members," the website specified. "It is not a slogan, tagline, or motto, but rather

**"Caltech has a pretty unique identity among its peers and it already has a niche'..."**

the idea that should inspire these and other forms of expression."

The statement was created after gathering data from the Caltech community starting in May of 2013. Brown surveyed community members and found that there was "a general discomfort in talking about/discussing Caltech. We need to define what the profile of Caltech is—no one's going to say it for us."

The largest effort of this "discovery phase" of the project was a campus-wide survey that asked students to describe Caltech in one sentence. The question elicited a variety of answers, ranging from "the most intensive research & educational institute in the world" to "I have no idea," "an iceberg with a lot under the surface," and "a pure, mean, science machine." Brown therefore realized that distilling these opinions into a positioning statement was crucial. "When people say different things," she said, "we cancel each other out."

Dean Currie, Caltech's vice president for Business and Finance, was not part of the cabinet. He has spent his career in financial offices at colleges around the country, including Harvard and Rice University, and believes that the positioning statement is the most important outcome of the Identity Project because of its financial impact. Currie explained that "the

trustees need something to say when asked, 'What is Caltech?'"

Currie emphasized the importance of raising awareness of Caltech among the moneyed class since an important source of current funding is the wealthy who are intrigued by the research at Caltech. The positioning statement will help fundraisers clearly convey to this crucial audience "what makes Caltech special," Currie said.

The *Tech*'s survey revealed that 63% of students do not believe that the Identity Project was a good investment in Caltech's future. After researching similar projects at larger schools, though, Interhouse Committee (IHC) Chair Connor Rosen speculates that Caltech did not pay more than \$300,000 for the project. Zachary Rivkin, a member of the project cabinet and the former ASCIT president, believes that if

**"Our goal really is...for Caltech to have more of a voice so we can thrive."**

the Identity Project helps convince one multimillion-dollar donor to give their money to Caltech instead of another institution, then it will be worthwhile.

Overall, the survey conducted by *The Tech* revealed significant student agreement with the positioning statement. Of the 150 respondents, 68% were moderately satisfied with the statement, while an additional 9% thought it was a very good portrayal of Caltech.

Though the project team attempted to include all students' views, there was only one representative from each



This is the original icon decided by the Project Cabinet. ASCIT President Catherine Jamshidi is heading a project which will allow students to submit their own designs for a new icon.

- <http://www.identity.caltech.edu> of the student populations (undergraduate, graduate, and postdoc) on the project cabinet, which decided the positioning statement. Rivkin does not think that this was a problem because "the project wasn't super relevant to undergrads...I would of course have been happy with more undergrads on

the committee, but [I] think it's understandable to just have one." Sharma did not know that the positioning statement existed before taking the recent survey and had heard very little concerning the project in general.

After reading the statement, Sharma responded that she "feels like it's a bunch of buzzwords stuck together" and is unsure about the value of the statement. She does not agree with the exact wording of the statement either: instead of "audacious," she would rather use "driven" or "dedicated to what we do."

Other students think the project is a way for Caltech to become like other universities. Brown disputed this interpretation, pointing out that "several other schools that have recently undergone an image change or rebranding, such as the University of Chicago and Boston University, had some distinct measurable goal."

Brown noted that South Carolina's Clemson University "wanted to change their image in order to jump from the top 30 into the top 20 public universities." According to the most recent report in the *US News & World Report*, Clemson is at number 21.

"Caltech didn't need that," Brown continued. "Our goal really is to preserve and protect what Caltech is and for Caltech to have more of a voice so we can thrive. The whole point of this [project] was to be something evolutionary that will get better and better," and not something that will be forgotten once a certain set goal is attained.

Although some students may feel that they did not have enough input in the project's year-long process, Jamshidi is heading a project that will involve the students more directly. Student submissions for the Caltech icon are being accepted from May 27 to June 2 and ASCIT will decide on an icon from these options.

Students should not expect much direct change after the entire project is finalized. Professor Ken Farley, division chair of geological and planetary sciences, has seen Caltech from many angles in his 22 years here. "[Inwardly,] we all have our heads down doing great things," said Farley. "Outwardly, I am optimistic that this will put us on par, in terms of name recognition and reputation, with bigger and better-known institutions like MIT."

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# Caltech changes smoking policy to include e-cigarettes

Continued from page 1

Long-term health effects of e-cigarettes, as well as whether they offer better success rates for smokers trying to quit, are not currently known

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Maria Katsas, Assistant Director of Housing for Occupancy & Billing at Caltech, is responsible for managing campus smoking policies. When asked about these policies, she stated that people are allowed to smoke cigarettes on campus if they do so outside and stay at least 20 feet away from any buildings. These guidelines form the current Housing No Smoking Policy, which matches a current Pasadena City Ordinance. E-cigarettes are not addressed by either policy. Before Caltech implemented the current Housing No Smoking Policy in 2005, people were permitted to smoke in and around residences on campus.

E-cigarettes only became a part of the picture in the fall of 2013, when Katsas began receiving complaints from students living in Caltech-provided housing who wanted to know if the Housing No Smoking Policy included e-cigarettes. At the time, they were told e-cigarettes did not fall under the current policy. Still, these complaints prompted the Caltech Department of Institute Housing to examine research studies on the health effects of e-cigarettes.

"After some research on some of the potentially negative effects of e-cigarettes and the city of Los Angeles banning them recently, it was decided to include them in our Housing No Smoking Policy, beginning with our summer contract that goes into effect on June 15," Katsas said, referring to a Los Angeles City Ordinance passed on March 10, 2014. The ordinance

restricts the public usage of electronic smoking devices as well as traditional smoking implements, which were already included. While the city ordinance has been in effect since April 14, similar policies were already in place at local colleges like Occidental College. According to their online Student Handbook, Occidental has interpreted LA'S Municipal Code as extending to e-cigarettes since 2010, with the result that e-cigarettes cannot be used within 30 feet of any of its facilities.

Starting July 1, John Dabiri, currently a professor of aeronautics and bioengineering at Caltech, will take on a second role as a dean of undergraduate students and will soon become involved in policy decisions affecting students. When it comes to e-cigarettes, he said, "Caltech's policy should endeavor to protect the community from the effects of second-hand smoke."

Cautious of paternalism, Dabiri thinks attempting to "legislate healthier habits" in the Caltech community "could put us on a slippery slope toward regulation of other health-related issues." He pointed to the high fat and cholesterol content of the food in Chandler Cafe, the primary source of lunch for many students and faculty.

Dabiri speculates that the food in Chandler "probably poses a greater health risk to the community than smoking." Still, he says, "we need to continue to value personal responsibility and the freedom of

"[The food in Chandler] probably poses a greater health risk to the community than smoking."

each member of the community to make those choices." He does support initiatives to educate the Caltech community about risks associated with smoking and to provide resources to assist those who decide to quit.

For Caltech junior Raj Mirpuri, e-cigarettes have helped him end his four-year smoking habit. Though Mirpuri has tried to quit smoking a few times before, he was not able to overcome his nicotine addiction. A month ago, Mirpuri started smoking e-cigarettes as an alternative to conventional cigarettes. He began with a nicotine concentration of 12 mg/mL in the liquid of his e-cigarettes, which is comparable to the dosing in a conventional cigarette. Commercially available liquids usually range in concentration from 0 to 36 mg/mL, which allowed him to lower his nicotine intake until he started using nicotine-free liquid about a week ago.

As the current president of Dabney Hovse, Mirpuri was present when Katsas announced the ban on e-cigarette use inside and around dormitories to student leadership. "Initially, I was pretty pissed," Mirpuri recounted. He believes students should be able to use e-cigarettes where the vapor will diffuse before it activates a smoke alarm, such as in the courtyard or in the lounge. "By treating them like cigarettes," he said, "two things will happen. People will keep using them in their rooms and people will get frustrated." Unless



Junior Raj Mirpuri tests the vapor coming out of an e-cigarette.

-Photo Courtesy of Ariel O'Neill

research shows second-hand vapor from e-cigarettes is dangerous, Mirpuri thinks that when it comes

wick within their device's heating element. Mirpuri appreciates the electrical engineering aspect of

"By treating them like cigarettes, two things will happen. People will keep using them in their rooms and people will get frustrated."

to e-cigarettes, the role of Caltech policy should be only to prevent the smoke alarms from going off.

Originally, Mirpuri used cigalikes, e-cigarettes which mimic the appearance of traditional cigarettes, because they were small and portable, but he now prefers to use a tank system. The larger tank systems allow users to customize the device by changing the type and arrangement of the wires and

building different systems, which is a new hobby of his. Both tank systems and cigalikes can be used to vaporize liquid coming in a wide variety of flavors, including novelty flavors like coffee and cotton candy. When asked about his favorite flavor, Mirpuri said he preferred the menthol-flavored liquids. "I don't miss mentholated cigarettes," he said. "I have something to replace them with."

## Inside Caltech: Bechtel House is in the distant future

THOMAS ARNOLD  
Contributing Writer

Almost every Caltech student remembers arriving at campus and going through rotation, finding out about each house, and finally getting placed into one. It's one of the very few experiences that every single Techer shares.

However, there are plans underway that may put an end to that common experience. Talks of constructing a new housing unit have been going on for several years. This residence is to be called Bechtel House for the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, which donated \$25 million to enrich campus life. While there have been a number of suggestions detailing possible uses for this space, one of the most controversial is freshman-only housing.

Many administrators are on the fence about the issue. However, some offered up reasons that have been presented in favor of freshman housing. Anneila

Sargent, vice president for Student Affairs, was the chair of the committee that met in the spring of 2012 to discuss possible uses for Bechtel House. She noted that those in favor of using the planned residence exclusively for freshman reasoned that it is too much to ask the incoming students to develop an adequate picture of each house within the week budgeted for rotation.

This was echoed by Dean Currie, vice president for Business and Finance, who said he was "not sure if [he was] a big fan of rotation," and who felt it was too hectic.

Sargent added that another argument for the frosh-only approach was that a residence dedicated to freshman would permit an extended orientation. Proponents, she said, think that such an outcome would show "unaffiliated" students, those who don't strongly associate themselves with a house, how much more they could gain from a residence life. She added that "a gradual transition to

college life might have a favorable effect on potentially unaffiliated students," as well as lessening the shock for students in general.

An additional motivation for constructing Bechtel as a frosh house is the "possibility for a larger set of interactions with freshmen that end up in other houses," said John Dabiri, incoming dean of undergraduate students and professor of aeronautics and bioengineering. Currie seconded this notion, adding that the concept of a freshman house "should be viewed through the prism of how the freshmen will interact" and that the way in which people learn from each other needs to be taken into account.

In contrast to the proponents of a freshman-only house, who are almost universally administrators, the group of opponents includes students as well as administrators. Students in particular are troubled by the idea of a freshman house, seeing it as a drastic change to the current house system.

A primary concern shared by those against the idea of freshman housing is the loss of upperclassmen as a resource. For many freshmen, their first point of contact when trying to work through a problem is with the upperclassmen in their house. According to Connor Coley, a former Interhouse Committee (IHC) chair, there is "a lot of upperclass support in the current house system [which] wouldn't be present in an all-freshman house."

Chris Hallacy, former president of the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT), agreed. He also said that he viewed a freshman house as the worst possible use of Bechtel House. The current system, he said, "has figured out a way to make freshmen welcome," and there are "traditions built around this system" that come together to help ease new students into the experience of living in a Caltech-style house.

Paul Asimow, a professor of geology and geochemistry who

served on the committee that met to discuss possible uses of Bechtel House, shares the students' view. The construction of a freshman house would be a "fundamental change in character of student life at Caltech," he said. Asimow also views the upperclassmen in each house as an invaluable resource and would not "trust Caltech to do a good job mentoring freshman without the help of the upperclassmen."

Additionally, according to Dabiri, some are concerned that under such a system students would only get to know those in their own class.

Despite the controversy surrounding this issue, which is, in the words of Coley, "at the front of everybody's minds," it could be as much as a decade before it is resolved, according to both Asimow and Currie. There is much left to be decided with regards to Bechtel House, and this discussion will likely not happen in the immediate future.

# An opinion concerning racism at Caltech

MONICA ENLOW  
Editor-in-Chief

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Monica Enlow. I am a co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Tech*, and I am also involved with a myriad of other clubs. A significant portion of my involvement at Caltech has been as a member of BSCIT (Black Students of the California Institute of Technology) and BLAC (Black Ladies Association of Caltech). I spend a lot of time in the Caltech Center for Cultural Diversity; it's the place I can go when I don't know where else to go. A recent incident sparked my desire to write a piece about a topic that people acknowledge at Caltech, but never do anything about. Racism. Please bear in mind that these are my personal opinions and experiences, and if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, I'll hear you out as long as they are respectful.

At first glance, I don't look black. I admit that I am only a quarter. That quarter, however, has defined me even before I got to Caltech. Everyone here was at the top of their class and in advanced courses high in school, but I was one of two underrepresented minority women in the AP program at my high school where there were over 850 people in my graduating class. Yet, most people didn't

think twice about the color of my skin, except when I did better than they did. "You know you only got into Caltech because you're black, right?" Was a common phrase I heard before I graduated from high school. It's important to note that Caltech is not an equal opportunity school, and so I was actually accepted based on my merits, but sometimes people don't want to hear that you're more qualified than they are. So I kept quiet and rolled with the insults.

Upon arriving at Caltech in the fall of 2011, I couldn't help but notice that there are practically no black students. To be honest it didn't particularly affect me, because I'm used to not seeing people of color in math and science related settings. It wasn't until the end of rotation that I truly had a problem with Caltech's lack of diversity. I rotated into Ricketts, and I thank my lucky stars every day for allowing me to be in a house that understands what it's like to be on the fringes. An upperclassman came up to me as I was walking down the olive walk and said, "Monica, I really wish you had rotated into Ruddock. Then all our black jokes would be justified." It was said in a light-hearted way, but to this day I am offended by that remark. I asked myself, why are people telling "black jokes" if there are no black students around them? I believe in

being able to laugh at yourself, your culture, your background, heck, I'm a quarter Korean as well...but if you're telling "black jokes" and there are no black people around you who understand that you're just trying to be funny, I'm sorry, but you're being offensive.

I was the only enrolled black female undergraduate my freshman year. I was the only one. I know Caltech is small, but seriously, how could I be the only enrolled black female? I was quickly brought into the arms of the CCD. In the spring of 2012, I was lucky enough to be invited to the BLAC first annual alumni mixer. I kept being referred to as "the undergrad," and people would come up to me saying, "We so happy to finally meet THE undergrad." The support I gained from the graduate students, alumni, and community members who are part of BLAC is priceless, and I am so grateful that a community like this has formed since I've been at Caltech. My sophomore year, Brice Nzeukou was instrumental in rallying the troops to increase involvement in BSCIT. He left big shoes to fill. Caltech's freshman class usually contains about 11% underrepresented minorities. This percentage is pretty consistent from year to year, and of that 11%, only about 3-4% identify as black or African-American. It's really hard to encourage black students

to come to Caltech some days when you know that when they get here they have some sort of unspoken duty to keep the embers from going out. The grad students in BSCIT tell about being the "token black person" in their respective labs. But let's face it, if you're black at Caltech, you are the "token black person" wherever you are.

Which brings me to an incident that I encountered recently. I was at a party and I noticed that someone had invited some black students from another school. I thought it was great, until I saw that there was almost a serious altercation with the girls and a Caltech female. I have seen some people get offended at parties, but I had never seen someone get that offended at a Caltech party. The visiting ladies promptly left. I found out who invited them, because I wanted to congratulate the person on accomplishing such a daring feat. However, when this person told me that all his friends had left, I was shocked and confused. I found out that they had left because they were so insulted by Caltech students, and that they couldn't believe that their friend would invite them to a party where they would be so unwelcome. Apparently people kept asking them who invited them and telling these visiting black students that they didn't belong at a Caltech party. No one told the

visiting white girls that they didn't belong. I was heartbroken to hear this individual tell me about how many apologies had to be made, because they honestly couldn't believe that the people at Caltech were so small minded.

I'd like to think people at Caltech aren't racist. Most people at Caltech are very open minded and accepting. There is a fraction of people, though, that haven't quite grasped how to handle the issue of race at Caltech. This fraction of people gets greatly magnified on such a small campus. Believe it or not, I encounter racism very frequently. Because I work to help keep the embers warm, it legitimately hurts me to hear that visiting students are singled out based on the color of their skin and told that they don't belong at Caltech or that houses that lack cultural diversity (which we all know is true) think it's okay to make fun of other races on the premise of it being a joke. Black people can tell "black jokes." Black people can be at Caltech parties. Instead of telling them they don't belong, ask them who invited them, and when they give you a name, leave it at that. Don't be rude and make our campus seem like a bunch of small-minded nerds.

Trust me, our parties are not that great. They wouldn't be here unless someone told them to come.

## Maleficent tells the tale of both a villain and a hero

LIZ LAWLER  
Editor-in-Chief

I would like to preface this review that normally I prefer to write reviews low on spoilers, and I will try to do that here, but I would also like to give any potential viewers a fair warning. Normally I like to go into a movie having a vague idea of the plot and what the movie's about, but occasionally I'll go to see a movie not knowing what to expect. I did not know anything about *Maleficent's* plot before viewing, and I immediately regretted it. *Maleficent* felt long, contained awful pseudo-Scottish accents and freakish CGI fairies, and had an overly simplified plot.

In all honesty, *Maleficent* felt like a kids' movie passed through a heavy CGI/action movie filter with poor results. The film was heavily narrated and had two fast fight scenes at the beginning and end of the film with an extreme lull in action in between. The last fight scene pulled out numerous cliché action sequences and to quote my friend who I went with, "they inception-ed how bad they got. They kept going one level deeper."

Directed by Robert Stromberg, the film starts off with Maleficent as a young fairy girl. She has horns, pointed ears, and large dark wings. Despite living in the magic-filled moors, she meets a human boy named Stefan. The two become fast friends and also fall briefly fall in love. When Maleficent becomes a young woman, Stefan gifts her with

a kiss. Through the film's narration the audience is told that this is not true love's kiss however, and the audience is informed that the two grow apart. *Maleficent* grows strong and powerful in the magic moors, and Stefan becomes a knight whilst living among humans.

Years later, Maleficent (Angelina Jolie) has grown strong, to the point where she is an anomaly. No other fairy is strong as her, and only she possesses a form close to human. The king of the nearby kingdom places a bounty on her head after being defeated by her and an army of plant creatures in a completely unnecessary but very dramatic battle scene. Stefan visits Maleficent to warn her that the king will stop at nothing until she's dead, but secretly has a different agenda. He drugs her and tries to kill her before his conscience blocks him. Instead to make it appear that she's been vanquished, he cuts off her wings and leaves while she's asleep. In the morning, Maleficent wakes up and is heartbroken at her loss, but she gets up and moves on with her life as a strong woman moving past a breakup. However, Stefan's betrayal (that inadvertently stopped the dying king from trying to kill Maleficent and invaded her



You go back to her, and I go back to black.

-<http://weegeekgirls.com>



These are what nightmares are made of.

-<http://weegeekgirls.com>

beloved and magic moors – Did I mention the moors are magical?) causes Stefan to become the king's successor and marry the king's daughter.

When Maleficent hears about this, her heart turns to stone. She decides to become queen of the moors, forcing her will on the "cute" magic creatures, making a crowd do her bidding and dressing in all black. When she discovers that King Stefan throws a celebration for his newborn daughter, Aurora, Maleficent decides to crash the party and ensues the classic opening scene of *Sleeping Beauty*. Maleficent curses Aurora, the kingdom goes into conflict, all the spinning needles are torched (How does the kingdom make their thread?), and Aurora goes off to live with the three good fairies that showed up to her christening. The three fairies look extremely creepy until they take human form. The three are bubbling idiots who have no idea how to take care of a child. As Aurora grows, Maleficent

watches, takes a fascination in her, and occasionally intervenes. Her curse ultimately backfires on her as she realizes that Aurora is the light of her life.

Most of the conflict in *Maleficent* stems from Maleficent and King Stefan (Sharlto Copley) poorly dealing with their emotions from their bad breakup. Maleficent's heart turns cold because she's a woman scorned, and Stefan goes crazy after Aurora is cursed, fearing Maleficent's revenge. Guys, don't steal from your exes, don't curse their children, and don't try to enslave

kingdoms when you really can just talk it out.

I give *Maleficent* a 5/10, or a D for Dumb. If you like overly CGI'd woodland creatures, passive-aggressive royalty, and slow plots, this movie is right for you.



How could you tell this cutie no?

-<http://www.eonline.com>

## Calendar of events for the week of June 3- June 9, 2014

TUES. 6-3	WED. 6-4	THURS. 6-5	FRI. 6-6	SAT. 6-7	SUN. 6-8	MON. 6-9
Who cares?	It's basically the last week of school.	I'm tired.	Last Day of Classes for everyone who isn't a senior or graduate student. Celebrate.	Study Period for everyone who isn't a senior or graduate student. Celebrate.	Celebrate.	<b>Brace yourself, finals are coming.</b>

## Trash Talk offers better production in new hardcore album

**NAILEN MATSCHKE**  
Contributing Writer

Like many people, I became aware of hardcore four-piece Trash Talk thanks to their signing with Odd Future Records, the label founded by Tyler, The Creator and home to most artists from the Odd Future hip-hop collective. Not only did Trash Talk have the honor of being the first non-member of Odd Future to sign to its label, but Trash Talk was also the first non-hip-hop act on the label. At first glance, a hardcore band and a hip-hop collective may not seem like the most logical pairing, but when you consider that the two met at SXSW when they went to each other's shows and (as Trash Talk frontman Lee Spielman put it in an interview with Pitchfork) realized that Odd Future's live show "has the same vibe and aesthetic as a hardcore punk show," it begins to make a bit more sense. Trash Talk's fifth and latest album, *No Peace*, released on May 27, provides plenty of evidence that, like Odd Future, they are in all likelihood a fantastic, no-holds-barred live band.

At 31 minutes long, the album is over nine minutes longer than anything the band has put out, and is relentlessly loud, angry, and aggressive for almost its entire running time. At this purely mechanical level, *No Peace* is everything you'd expect out of a hardcore record. Unfortunately, however, the band does little to distinguish itself from the countless others that have existed in the past 15 or so years besides iterating on pre-existing material and putting it in an exceptionally neat package. While I enjoyed the time I spent listening to the album and would think about going to see Trash Talk live, it's hard to care too much about a band

whose albums aren't really an exhibition of how they can push the genre forward but rather an exploration of how much they can master their own genre.

That's not to say, though, that the album doesn't have its fair share of moments. Two especially cool tracks are the intro, "Amnesiac," and the last non-bonus song, "Reprieve." Both are short instrumental hip-hop beats made by producer The Alchemist, but their incorporation of feedback, heavily distorted tones, and other sounds guitars were not intended to make creates a mixture which is exactly what I'd want out of a hip-hop/hardcore crossover. In fact, if somebody took these two songs and made an album out of them, maybe with someone rapping over them, I'd probably really enjoy it.

On *No Peace*, however, the 12 tracks separating "Amnesiac" and "Reprieve" are good but repetitive hardcore punk, and while the juxtaposition is an interesting one, I can't help but feel like it left me wanting something more from the album. None of the songs are actually bad, and tracks like lead single "Cloudkicker" or "Jigsaw" are quite catchy, between massive guitar riffs backed by crashing drumbeats and choruses that

would be a lot of fun to scream as loudly as Spielman does.

We also get more traditional as-short-and-angry-as-possible songs such as "The Great Escape," clocking in at 53 seconds and serving as a curt reminder that Trash Talk hasn't forgotten how to play the raw hardcore punk that got them noticed. Overall, there isn't much doubt that Trash Talk is impressively versatile in their knowledge of hardcore and even some stoner metal. As a longtime metal fan, I've heard (and played) a lot of angrily strummed power chords, and I have no doubt that Trash Talk is better than most at using these. In the end, though, this can't save them from the fact that you could cut out most of the meat of the album and not really miss much. I'm sure bigger fans of the genre will find their own things to enjoy, but I find it hard to be too interested in the music when there is so much of it that is so similar.

There are some areas where Trash Talk makes some pretty big strides in the right direction, though. Lyrically this is the most interesting album put out by the group yet, with much more intimate looks at the subject matter through the eyes of the vocalist.

Thematically, the lyrics don't venture far beyond the general animosity towards the world and one's life in it that make up most of hardcore lyrics. Luckily, Spielman is pleasingly introspective and thoughtful about putting these feelings into words, and the result is something that's still relatable and thought provoking, but sounds even more awesome when Spielman screams things like "I won't look the other way for anyone but me / And that's the way it's always gonna be!" (in "The Hole").

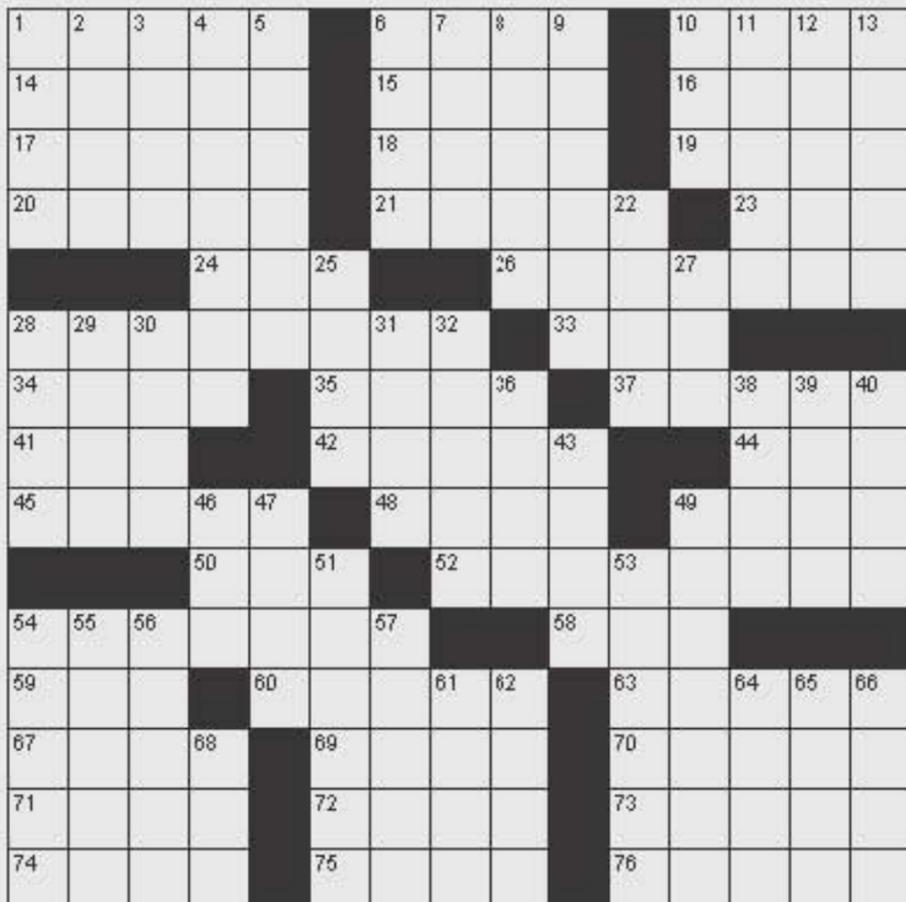
The production on *No Peace* also blows the band's previous efforts out of the water with hugely satisfying and punchy drums, easy-to-hear but massively overdriven guitars, and an overall attention to the mixing and recording quality of everything that will almost make you forget you're listening to a hardcore record. Finally, as unimportant as it may be, there's also a bonus track featuring King Krule, and while King Krule-fronted hardcore may not be what Trash Talk generally wants to sound like, it's every bit as awesome as it sounds.

I came into listening to Trash Talk excited to hear what Odd Future thinks is good hardcore, and so far I have mixed feelings. Perhaps I'm not invested enough in hardcore to understand the culture surrounding the music, but it seems like Trash Talk could be so much more and isn't living up to its potential. Trash Talk has a near-perfect sound, reminiscent of a band like Red Fang playing hardcore punk, and certainly the talent, connections, and musical tastes to create something truly awesome, but *No Peace* isn't it. I'm going to keep watching Trash Talk to see where they end up, but for now, *No Peace* is just a well-made hardcore record.



-<https://soundcloud.com/>

## Crossword



-puzzlechoice.com

### Across

- Search and find
- Stinging insect
- Treaty
- One over par in golf
- Reverberation
- Dull pain
- Worship
- Liberate
- Currency of China
- Majestic
- Gear projections
- Bind
- Males
- Here and now
- Alone
- Wild ox of Tibet
- Heroic poem
- Perspective
- Constricted
- Operated
- Electronic communication
- Hawaiian garland
- Soft part of a fruit
- Catch sight of
- Part of a window
- Consume
- Atrocious
- Seize
- Snakelike fish
- Historic period
- Water lily

- Patois
- Cut into cubes
- Insect between larva and adult
- Fruit of the oak
- Zeal
- Object of worship
- Aggregate
- Look after
- Fractional monetary unit
- Foe

### Down

- Alpine lift
- Traveled by horse
- Highly excited
- Artifact fired at high temperatures
- Fastener
- Yarn woven across the warp
- 4840 square yards
- Horned ruminant
- Verse
- Remuneration
- Extremely sharp or intense
- Concatenation
- Religious doctrine
- Warmth
- Central area of a church

- Snow runner
- Helot
- Translucent mineral
- Telephone connection
- Hoarfrost
- Leavening agent
- Rub
- Slick
- Perdition
- Roofing material
- Harp of ancient Greece
- Unit of play in tennis
- Transport in a vehicle
- Nonmetallic element
- Either of two parallels of latitude north and south of the equator
- Colligate
- Pertain
- Nimble
- Type of nut
- Short musical composition intended as an exercise
- Au fait
- Seasoning
- Brief written record
- Metric unit of weight
- Merely
- Finish

# ASCIT Minutes

## ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for 27 May 2014 . Taken by Sean McKenna

**Officers Present:** Catherine Jamshidi, Nima Badizadegan, Connor Rosen, Connie Hsueh, Patrick Nikong, Annie Chen, Sean McKenna

**Guests:** Margaret Lee, Chris Dosen, Elliot Simon, Will Livingston

**Call to Order:** 10:03 pm

### President's Report (Cat):

- Town hall meeting for the Undergraduate Self-Governance Committee will happen Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 3pm.
- Cat is still accepting designs via email for the secondary logo.
- Survey for undergraduates by the Tech will be coming out. Sean and Cat will work on posting it to donut.
- Weekend of June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will be ASCIT appointments for publications editors, chouse managers, etc.

### Officer's Reports:

- **V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Nima):**
  - ARC Committee representatives have been appointed; an email will be sent out soon announcing names.
- **V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):**
  - IHC Committee representatives will be appointed this weekend.
  - The date of the School Carnival has been moved. It will be the final Sunday of Rotation (the day before classes start).
  - A rotation survey will be sent to undergraduates soon, and the IHC will be working on revisions to Rotation Rules.
- **Director of Operations (Connie):**
  - Lighting managers will be appointed soon.
  - ASCIT will be buying the boxes for senior/underclassmen summer storage again.
  - The BoD will take responsibility for the Little t unless anyone indicates they want to be editor during ASCIT position sign-ups.
- **Treasurer (Patrick):**
  - Reimbursements are still happening. The link to the google doc form for reimbursements is now posted on donut under "Documents."
- **Social Director (Annie):**
  - Ricketts Interhouse (theme "Black") is happening on Friday.
  - ASCIT Movie Night II is this Saturday.
  - Tentative summer events schedule includes magicians, ice cream socials at Tom's house, and World Cup events.
  - Midnight donuts are tomorrow (Wednesday night).
  - Annie and Tom will be sure to coordinate summer events with the SFP office and their house ambassador system.
- **Secretary (Sean):**
  - ASCIT position sign-up will be posted on Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> (in the Ricketts-Fleming arches and Avery) and taken down on Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> for the following positions:
    - Totem Editor
    - Big T Editor
    - Big T Business Manager
    - Little t Editors
    - Little t Business Manager
    - Coffeehouse Manager

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

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:41 pm

## The Caltech Counseling Center is now offering confidential, drop-in counseling 3 nights per week.

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays

7pm-10pm at the Health Education Office (CSS 248)

Enter through 2nd floor stairwell on east side of building

For appointments or questions, please call the Counseling Center at x8331

# News briefs from around the globe

Need to know <100 words about the world this week

## Soccer fans inspired to become organ donors

**66k** people already signed up for donor card after encouragement by Brazil's Sport Club Recife [BBC]

## D-Wave builds quantum computer

**\$15M** computer built by D-Wave used to study "entanglement" effect [BBC]

## Poet wins big on TV show

**\$1M** awarded to amateur poet after he won TV talent show in United Arab Emirates [BBC]

## US soldier freed in exchange for prisoners

**5** Guantanamo prisoners traded for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, a captive for 5 years during Afghanistan war [CNN]

## Motorola shuts down manufacturing plant

**700** people laid off after Fort Worth, TX plant shut down due to low sales [CNN]

## Volcano ash clouds force flight cancellations

**40** veterans died due to long wait times at VA hospital in Phoenix, Virginia; VA secretary Shinseki summoned [CNN]

## Americans detained in Honduras

**6** Americans salvaging goods off Honduras' coast charged with illegal weapons possessions, claimed weapons were for self-defense [CNN]

Hey everyone!

It's the last *Tech* of the year.

It's been real.

It's been fun.

It's been real fun.

Take our ASCIT survey so we know what you like and what you don't.

See you in the fall.

Sincerely yours,

*The Tech* Editors

## The California Tech

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Nehaly Shah

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The advertising deadline is 5 PM 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](mailto:tech@caltech.edu). For subscription information, please email [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu).

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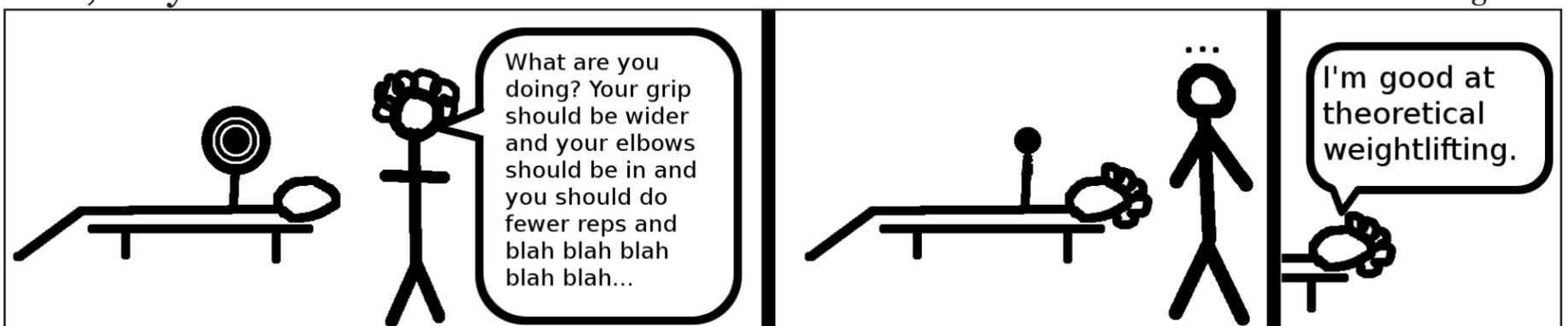
## Blueberry Pie

Alex Hsu

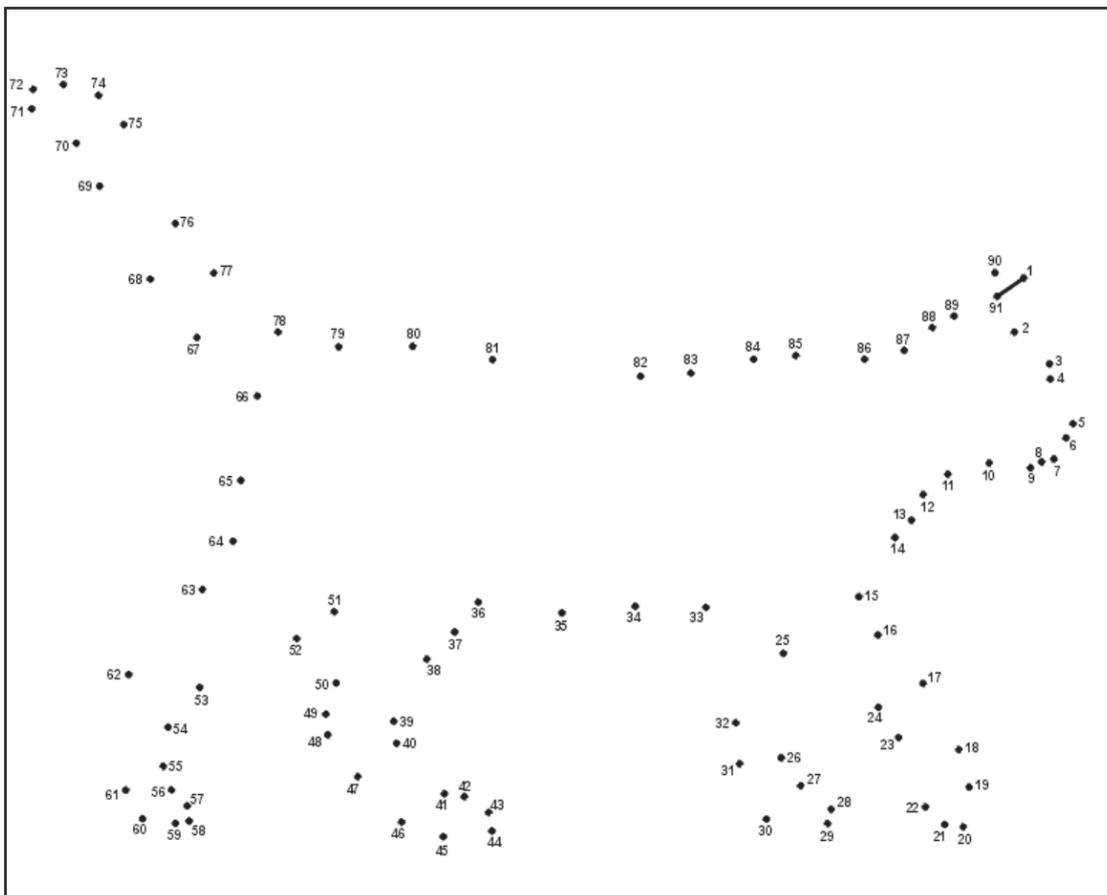


## Bro, do you even lift?

Leo Cragman



## Connect the dots!



<http://www.printactivities.com/>

## Word search: Find all the cat breeds!



ABYSSINIAN, ANGORA, BALINESE, BENGAL, BIRMAN, BOBTAIL, BOMBAY, BURMESE, CHARTREUX, CHAUSIE, CHERUBIM, CYMRIC, HIMALAYAN, JAVANESE, KORAT, LONGHAIR, MALAYAN, MANX, MUNCHKIN, NEBELUNG, OCICAT, PERSIAN, RAGDOLL, SIAMESE, SIBERIAN, SINGAPURA, SOMALI, SPHYNX, TIFFANIE, TIIFFANY, TONKINESE

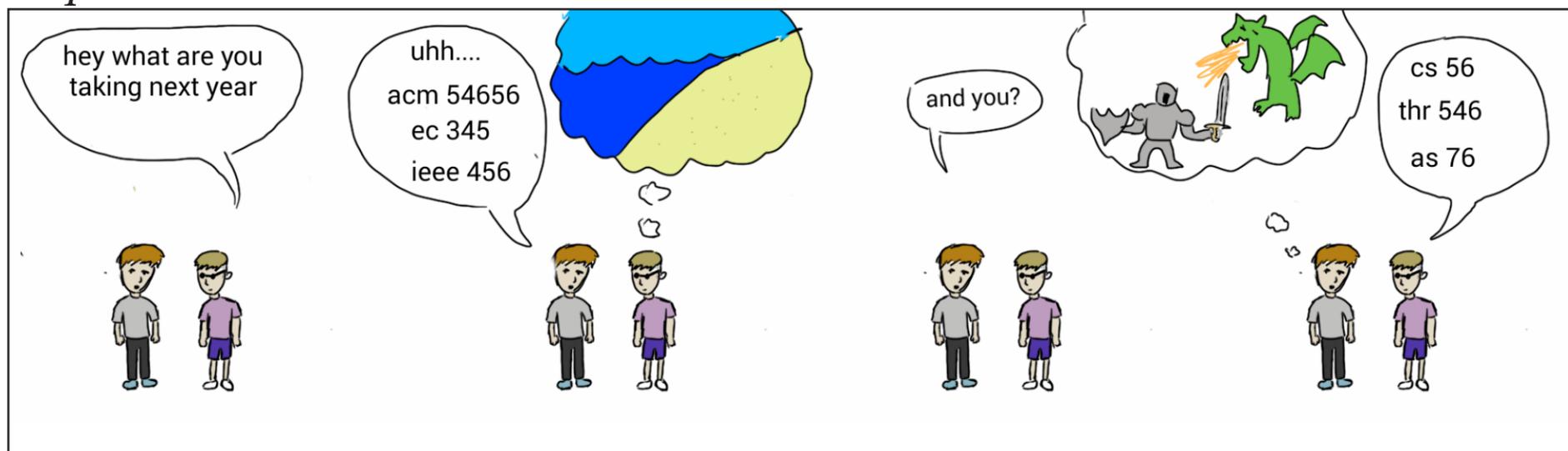
[http://puzzlechoice.com/pc/ws\\_catsx.html](http://puzzlechoice.com/pc/ws_catsx.html)

## Where's Waldo? (Black and White Edition)



## Acquired Taste

Dr. Z



## The Tech

Liz Lawler



## Answers to last week's crossword

H	O	D	S	M	O	G	H	E	R	D		
S	A	V	E	P	A	C	E	A	V	I	A	N
O	V	E	N	A	R	E	A	M	E	T	R	O
F	O	R	T	E	G	A	R	B	N	E	E	D
A	C	T	S	H	I	N	E	A	T			
		S	P	I	N	F	E	W	A	G	O	
A	L	W	A	Y	S	B	O	R	N	R	O	B
L	O	O	P	R	U	E	P	I	L	E		
S	I	R	I	B	I	S	S	T	E	A	D	Y
O	N	E	R	E	D	L	E	A	P			
		S	E	E	D	E	A	L	A	S	P	
S	A	G	O	F	E	E	D	C	A	N	T	O
A	T	O	N	E	A	L	G	A	B	O	A	R
C	O	R	A	L	S	T	E	P	E	D	I	T
P	E	R	K	T	A	R	T	T	E	N		

## Answers to last week's Sudoku

1	3	4	7	9	6	2	5	8
8	6	2	5	3	4	9	1	7
7	9	5	1	2	8	3	6	4
4	5	3	8	6	1	7	9	2
2	1	7	9	4	5	8	3	6
9	8	6	3	7	2	1	4	5
5	7	1	6	8	9	4	2	3
3	2	9	4	5	7	6	8	1
6	4	8	2	1	3	5	7	9

## Only kind of big Sudoku

					1	4		
9		8		5				2
	4		9				3	
		2		1			8	
	1		7		6	9		
5								3
	7		8					
						2		5
		1		3				

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