

The California Tech

stories illuminate what reality obscures

VOL. CXXVII No. 2

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

CGPU Holds New Year, New Union Majority Rally



Victoria Davis
Campus News

I was eating lunch outside Broad Café with my labmates. When the time grew closer to 12:30 PM, we got up from our table to head to the rally. I was surprised—we weren't the only group of people getting up from their table at this time. Grad students and postdocs all around got up from their tables, like us, and started heading south in unison. We were all heading in the same direction: weaving our way through the paths on campus, until reaching Caltech Hall together.

Last Wednesday, September 27th 2023, the Caltech Grad Researchers and Postdocs United (CGPU) held a New Year, New Union rally to demonstrate

that a supermajority of graduate students and postdocs at Caltech support forming a union. After months of CGPU organizers going lab office to lab office and knocking door to door at the Catalina apartments, union authorization cards are signed, momentum for a unionized Caltech graduate and postdoc workforce is building, and efforts look to soon to reach their climax.

According to CGPU, over 400 people across all divisions attended the event. CGPU believes that “unionizing will make Caltech a better place to work, and ultimately produce better science.” During the rally, organizers passed out union t-shirts and signs as everyone gathered on the lawn. The event began with call and response chants starting with

“Who’s Caltech?” and answering with a roar from the crowd “Our Caltech!”

Two graduate students, Korbi Thalhammer (Geochemistry G3) and Nadia Suryawinata (Biology G3), shared personal stories as to why they supported unionization of the graduate and postdoctoral community at Caltech. Thalhammer discussed his experiences contracting Valley Fever on a field trip run by his division and the lack of support he received from Caltech administration. Suryawinata detailed her experience as an international student and the realities that many international students face when their visa renewal and positions here at Caltech are under the sole discretion of their advisor. Each story echoed the call that grad stu-

dents and postdocs need better pay, protections against harassment, and more protections for international students.

Along with unionization efforts across the country, Caltech grad students and postdocs gathered this day to illustrate their belief in democratizing their workplaces. In 2023, union workers from Los Angeles Unified School District, Rutgers University, Writers Guild of America, Screen Actors Guild, Kaiser Permanente, Starbucks Workers United, UPS, to United Auto Workers (UAW) exercised their right to peaceful protest and strike as a means of collective bargaining for improved working conditions and pay.

CGPU says its next steps are to request from Caltech a fair process to verify and recognize

their union, CGPU-UAW. They will also file with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). CGPU would be part of a national union, UAW, which is the largest union for higher education academic employees in the country. The graduate and postdoctoral communities within the UC system are also a part of UAW.

The rally concluded with another round of call and response chants where the crowd was asked “Are you willing to stand up for your fellow labmate?” Answer: “Yes!” “Are you willing to stand up for grad students and postdocs you don’t know in another division?” “Yes!” “Are you willing to stand up for future grad students and postdocs you haven’t met yet?” “Yes!”

The yes’s rang out in unison.

Today on “How badly can I represent this data?” Limited Enrollment Humanities Classes

Lilia Arrizabalaga
Column

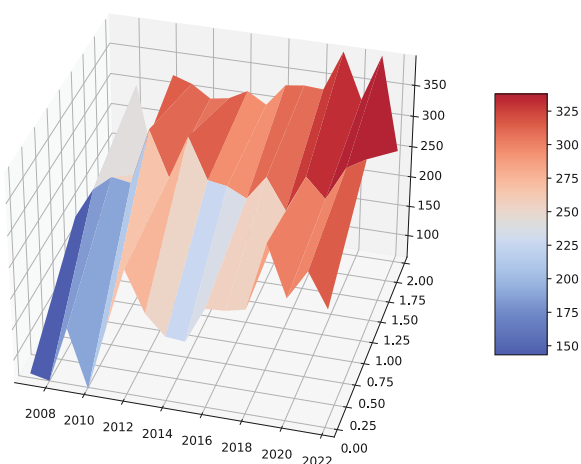


Figure 0. Mmm tasty data I wonder what it measures.

What a lovely 3-D surface plot. You can really tell that there’s data there and some of it is different from the other data. Place your bets now about what data it is!

If you guessed **The Total Number of Seats in Limited Enrollment Advanced Humanities Classes** (a.k.a. “hums”) from 2007 to 2022, separated by term, you were correct!

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Caltech Men’s Soccer Rising to the Top



Jack Myles scores against Pomona-Pitzer (Credit: gocaltch.com)

Skye Ruedas
Sports

The Caltech Men’s Soccer team has been having a groundbreaking season this year, displaying a level of excellence and resilience that has made the institute proud. Their prowess on the field has been nothing short of phenomenal, displaying a level of excellence

and resilience that has resonated across the campus. Reaching a rank of 2nd in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC), their highest ranking in years, and with the impressive record they’ve managed to build, it’s no surprise why.

Having played 8 games so far, they boast 5 wins, 2 ties, and a solitary loss. Etienne Casanova (CS, ‘26, Fleming) and Ishaan

Mantripragada (CS, ‘26, Fleming) have particularly shined, netting a total of 8 and 5 goals respectively, and leading the team’s offensive charge.

The season started on a high note. With Jack Myles (CS, ‘26, Fleming) setting the ball rolling, and Etienne Casanova providing the cushion with two more goals, the team gave a stellar performance.

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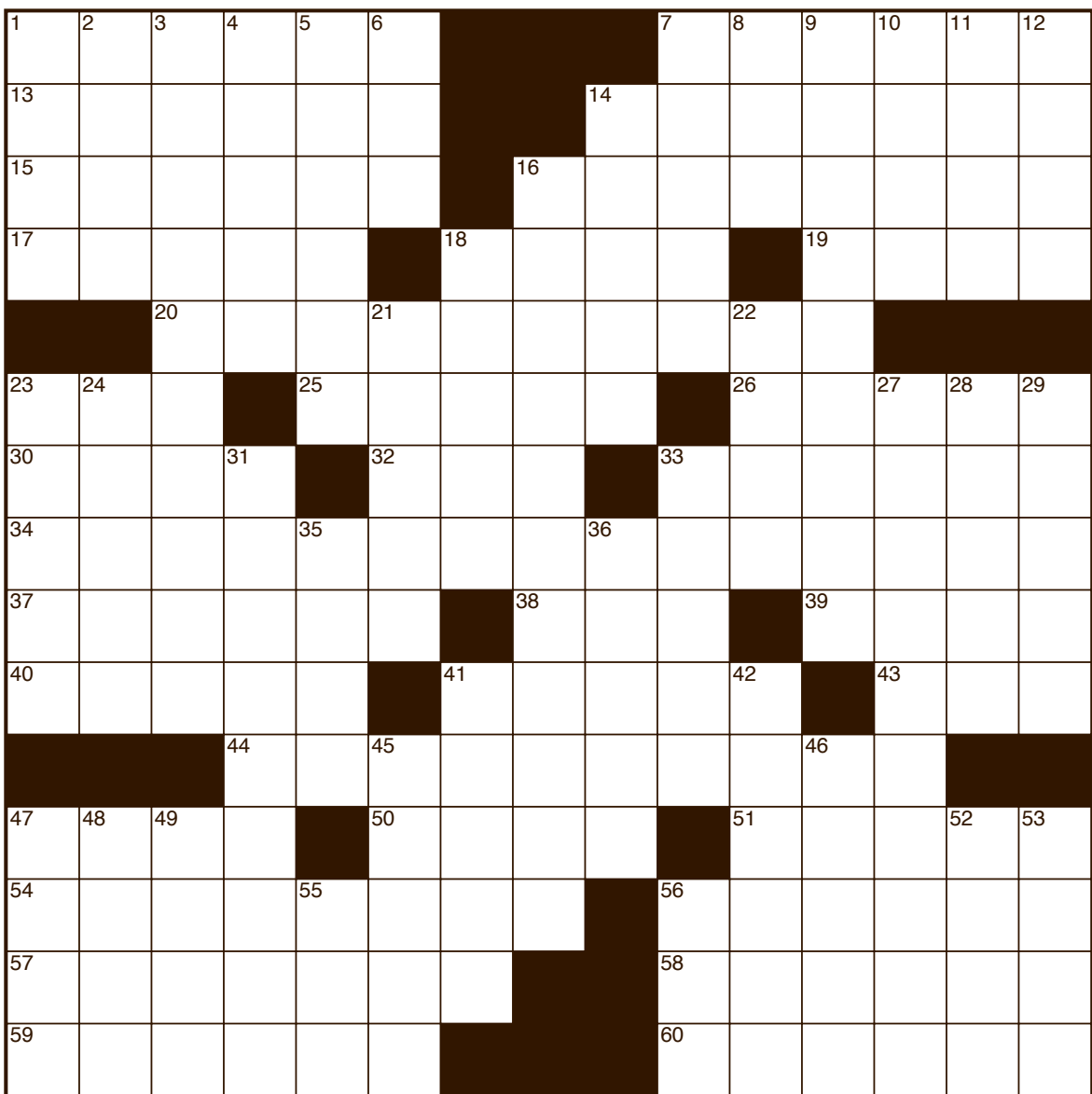
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When Tradition Awakens Trauma: The Fleming Cannon’s Unintended Consequences

The California Tech Crossword - "Smorgasboard"

MADLINE HICKS AND ENRIC ADILLON



ACROSS

- 1 It may obscure what you wrote down
- 7 Was omniscient
- 13 Not curved
- 14 Prolific writer Maya
- 15 Work towards a goal
- 16 Particular jam band's favorite feeling?
- 17 The periodic table's first metalloid
- 18 Lingo for luxurious clothing or accessories
- 19 First word for a baby, maybe
- 20 Some short films of around ten minutes duration
- 23 A lot of energy for an atomic particle, but not a lot of energy for a baseball
- 25 Includes, with "in"
- 26 Metaphorically lost
- 30 Thing to wipe one's hands
- 32 News network in HBO's Succession
- 33 HI hi's
- 34 Career advice that may be purely academic?
- 37 Startup using AI to monitor tree health
- 38 Cambodia's Lon ___
- 39 "This" en España
- 40 Metallic heart tube
- 41 "Epress Elisabeth Legacy"
- 43 Sound from a leaky gas pipe

DOWN

- 1 Concrete unit
- 2 Soup that may come with your Bento box
- 3 Hypotheses are said to be this, unfortunately
- 4 Coach Prime
- 5 Actress Jennifer of "Alias"
- 6 Before, poetically
- 7 Harry Potter anti-hero
- 8 Reality TV show filmed in Pasadena
- 9 The first one opened in San Francisco in 1994
- 10 First word of an Italian automaker
- 11 Olfactory description of 9-down
- 12 Recently elected Prez. of Brazil
- 14 Botanical casings
- 16 Topping of many Asian cuisine

- 18 What a vain person lacks, say
- 21 Attack one's character, informally
- 22 Abnormal rattling sound in the lungs
- 23 Open-mouthed stares
- 24 Explode
- 27 Middle Eastern dish on a stick
- 28 Cardinal, but plural
- 29 Remnants of a fire
- 31 Relating to one's hormones, perhaps
- 33 Class for H.S. Juniors or Seniors
- 35 Incan sun god
- 36 Italian arms manufacturer
- 41 Search at great lengths
- 42 A wink or a nod, maybe
- 45 Archaic verb form of a pig locale
- 46 ___ and desist
- 47 Popular retail club
- 48 "___ good news and bad news"
- 49 Don Quixote discussion topic
- 52 Letter of the NATO alphabet
- 53 Famous last words: "___ gold, Ponyboy"
- 55 It's said to be just a number
- 56 As I see it, in internet lingo

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Amazon Skymall

Welcome back to Amazon Skymall! In this column, we hold a raffle where we [not] randomly select one of our lucky readers and give them the item of their choice from these hand picked selections!

Enter this week's raffle by using the QR code or the link below:



<https://forms.gle/5QPsRjNWC5JahH9>



MIT Pennant \$12.95



NO Free



20 Pack Bean Sprout Hair Clip \$11.94



"Easy" Talking Button \$11.99



Dinotopia & Journey to the Center of the Earth - Double Feature \$8.41



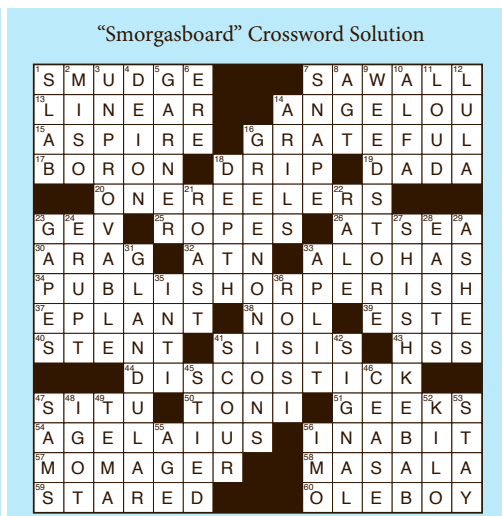
Original Slinky \$3.59



Taylor 2024 Flag \$7.99

Last Week's Amazon Skymall Winner

Seneca Velling (G3, Materials Science) chose the Tide Pods
Editor's Note: Do Not Attempt.



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Caltech Adventures: 'Cowtech' by Eloise Zeng

Caltech Y Annual Yosemite Hike: An Odyssey

Sascha Goldsmith
Student Life

In the mystical realm of Yosemite National Park, where towering sequoias whisper tales of centuries past and granite giants stand as stoic sentinels to the whims of time, a brave band of Caltech students - prefrish, returning undergrads, and grad students - embarked on a four-day backpacking and camping odyssey as a part of the annual Caltech Y hiking trip. Armed with nothing but enthusiasm, a handful of granola bars, miscellaneous decks of cards, and the spirit of adventure - they set out to conquer the wild wonders of Yosemite.

On Day 1, the group met at the Y and set forth on a several hour journey to the Eastern Sierras in our positively luxurious bus. Once at the park, a group of backpackers split off from the camping group to

explore Ten Lakes and Porcupine Creek at around ~9000 ft elevation for an overnight escapade. Meanwhile, the rest of the hikers continued to the campsite in the Upper Pines Yosemite Valley area to set up tents and an array of exquisite culinary delights (lentils and couscous).

On Day 2, the camping group hiked outside of the valley to the Lower Cathedral Lakes, a seven-mile, round-trip hike with 1300 ft gain to 9500 ft elevation through granite formations and forest. After enjoying some PB&Js and picturesque views, some edgy Techers decided to take a "polar plunge" in the serene lake - almost like a reward.

"My favorite part of the trip had to have been the hike to Cathedral Lakes," recounted first-year undergrad Arabella Camunez. "It was really high elevation so it was difficult on the way there, but when we

emerged from the trees and saw the lake it was absolutely worth it. The mountains, lake, peace, and tranquility were unforgettable."

Once reunited with the backpackers after the Cathedral Lake hike, the group was ready to take on our Day 3 hike through the Vernal Falls Mist Trail to Nevada Falls in the Yosemite Valley. The strenuous ~7 mile round trip and 2000 ft elevation gain was well worth the view. Personally, I was shocked that I was able to make it all the way up in one piece (however, my hiking boots did not).

"My favorite memory had to have been [when all the eager first years] were using a fellow camper's hotspot to check their schedules at the top of Nevada falls", said first-year undergrad Claire Ellison. PrefrOSH amiright!

Day 4 included a slow stroll through the Mariposa Grove and a quick group photo at the

Tunnel View Valley overlook. At the grove, home to Yosemite's very own Sequoias, the group looped around the fields of shrubs, grass, and willows ornamented with Redwoods.

Overall, the four days of hiking was to be unanimously considered a "phenomenal experience" said first-year undergrad Justin Lee. "I appreciated how much we all looked out for one another, which is a value that is shared by Caltech at large. We took the hikes at our own pace, yet we made sure to stay together, even if it entailed curtailing our ambitions at times." Lee reflected on his stargazing and camping experience in the valley, "I had opportunity to gaze at the stars without the blinding lights of streetlights and buildings polluting the sky; at Yosemite, the night sky appeared brighter and clearer than it ever had ever seemed in my recent memory."



What to do with the Tech when you're finished reading it:

Newspaper is the idea material for all you Papier-mâché needs (of which I'm sure you have a lot). So after you read the Tech, why not make yourself a nice art?

Instructions: Tear the Tech into 1" strips. Dip into a mixture of 2 parts glue, 1 part water, then cover a mold in strips.

WRITERS & COLUMNISTS WANTED!

CAMPUS | OPINION | HUMOR | ART | PHOTOGRAPHY

COMICS | CULTURE | SPORTS | POLITICS

POSITIONS ARE OPEN FOR ALL SECTIONS

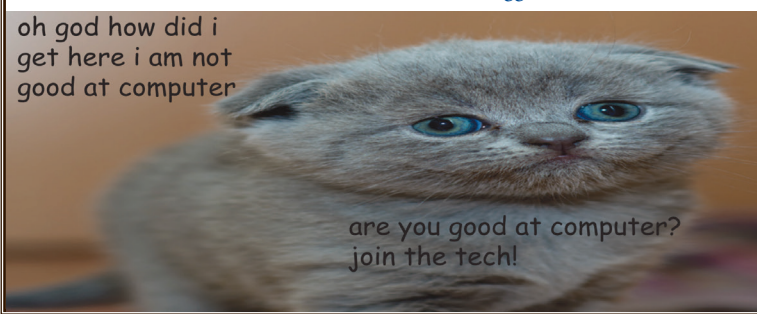
If we print your material, we will pay you up to the amounts listed below (at our discretion). Email submissions to tech@caltech.edu or join our Discord server using the following link

Wages	
Columnists:	\$20 per 500 words, minimum \$15
Reporters:	\$25 per 500 words, minimum \$15
Art/Photos:	\$5
Comics:	\$7



discord.gg/Zaah8749s2

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



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