In light of recent incidents, and in the interest of clarifying the vast generalizations made by various members of the community about what “everybody” or “all the freshs” react to initiation events in their houses, an anonymous survey was distributed among frosh via the Caltech Class of 2015 Facebook group and the mailing lists of the individual houses.

Due to time constraints, a complete census of the freshman class was impossible. Thus far, more than 50% of the freshman student body responded, and the following conclusions were drawn.

Of the 49 freshmen surveyed, 92.1% of those who felt uncomfortable or harassment during all messages such as: “I observed no one being singled out, hazed, or harassed during all activities and everyone seemed to enjoy them.” “I do not feel pressured by the house, hazed, or harassed in any other way negatively affected by house traditions and initiations.

When asked about the most stressful house events that they had read the hazing policies. Nationally, only 39% of students are introduced to anti-hazing policies when joining an organization (Hazing in View, p.31). Also, every frosh was required to attend the discrimination and harassment discussion during freshman orientation – whereas nationally, only 15% of college students attend a hazing prevention workshop given by adults (Hazing in View, p.32).

Third, initiations and frosh events seem to serve their purpose from the frosh perspective. As stated above, over a third of frosh believe that initiations and frosh activities were the most helpful in easing into their house and Caltech. 93.8% said that these activities helped them get to know other frosh, and 88.5% said the activities helped them to get to know upperclassmen. In fact, just under half of respondents (45.4%) said that initiations and frosh-specific activities helped them get to know their RAs and ACs.

In the words of frosh:

“I think it would have taken me far more time to get used to knowing all of people who have no idea of the situation. Most people continue or become involved with these sort of activities because they are not comfortable with the way they are conducted, how they are organized, or how they are often treated.”

“I feel better connected to my house because of these activities. I can also feel that I’ve made new friends, and I am also overall happier as a result of these activities.”

“Activities are done with a purpose, this is Caltech and it’s stressful, houses are communities where school is made easier or less of a boring reality. Most people like the personal interactions of different houses and it makes all students feel distinguished in a[s] impersonal school environment.”

No matter how small the school is, it is still easy to feel lost or generic in an academic setting (especially when a frosh).”

Continued on page 2
continued from page 1

T: There was a meeting on Monday concerning the hazing committee and hazing policy rewriting. Does it seem like there is some sort of progress being made?

Dk: Yes. They are working really hard. I think that—I don’t want to promise—by the end of the month they could be pretty close. It shouldn’t be a long time.

T: Throughout the student community, there have been accusations thrown this way and that. Could you outline how you feel about the house system as it currently stands?

Dk: What I think Caltech does better than anywhere else is that students look out for each other. I like that a lot. I hear of other schools where they do not, one way or another. I believe there is a tremendous amount of respect and collective obligation that Caltech students feel to look out for each other. And if that is the house system, that’s fabulous. Having said that, there are those CA anti-hazing statutes, and we must ensure that they are followed.

T: Have things changed a lot in the time since you were last dean (1993 to 1996)?

Dk: There were issues kicking around back then. What I remember was a book called Broken Pledges and it was the standard story of kid joining a fraternity. Part of their initiation is that they drink, and he dead the next day. That led to a massive sea of change in fraternity and sorority life.

They became pretty good about being in compliance because it was pretty simple enforcement—if there was a problem in a particular chapter, the national organization would be alerted.

Since not “cleaning up their act” would result in the loss of recognition at the university levels (and a subsequent loss of dues), the incentives for fixing mistakes was quite good. One of the interesting things, and that’s why the house system is such an interesting concept, is that they are not sororities, fraternities, or residence halls—they are in their own category. And so that makes it a little interesting as to how we think about those administratively.

But that was what was lacking around sixteen years ago. Things are really tight right now. I think there was a death up in Chico in 2007 or so and that triggered a dramatic tightening of CA statutes.

T: Do you think that is the current view?

Dk: There has been concern among students that any punitive actions that have been taken might not have been fully directed at the actual complaint or might have been too strong in terms of what the actual complaint was.

Dk: I cannot comment on that but I would just say get on the Internet and what exactly happened at Ricketts House members?

T: Do you have any opinion on the alumni involvement in this matter?

Dk: The alumni are great. The alumni, like the students, have a fierce loyalty to Caltech and that is fantastic. So, anytime they hear that something is going to turn Caltech into something they do not recognize, they get upset. And I understand that. It is a function of their mass loyalty to this school.

If I could synthesize your goal as dean, what would it be?

T: You’ve mentioned that you know you’re not the most loved person on campus. Can you comment on this?

DK: I am not trying to be disliked. I am not going out of my way to be provocative. I just have to do my job.

-Dean Kiewiet
Crippling Depression: Not just a comic

GAL BARAK
Contributing Writer

With emotions running high in response to recent administrative actions, people have been quick to pick sides, make and spread incorrect assumptions, and reject any opinion that is not identical to their own. We have turned against each other, arguing over policy and legal or moral issues as they all get muddled together: harassment, emotional support from the already strained student bodies, responsibilities to protect the students and their support system.

The most concerning impact the PNG decisions have on Caltech students is fostering an environment of distrust between the students and their support system.

It means losing the first people they grew to trust: The ones, whose passion for House culture and respect for people's personal boundaries, encouraged our freshmen to be in Ricketts and made them feel safe while there.

For the upperclassmen, the PNG means loneliness, frustration, and guilt. It means losing people we relied on to defend the House we call home.

We have also lost these individuals as valuable sources of emotional support from the already dwindling pool of resources.

When the consistent message we get from the administration is that our mental health is not their concern, our happiness subsidiary to their convenience, our spirit lathoons to their definition of justice, that is when the administration stops being a resource for us.

Even RAs and ACs, whose personal opinions and agendas may vary, still report to the administration. There are few people we can talk to and trust that they have only our interests at heart.

Our UCC's are feeling the brunt of our frustration. They are not the ones we are so busy. I feel like it’s my duty as a senior to be active in voicing my opinion, but there’s no clear path or applications due to groupusculation. We can’t react quickly and write a bunch of articles and protest... If I have to pick one emotion that is killing me right now, it is guilt.

I just feel like we’re being taken for granted. As freshmen we were so excited about our never-ending war on stress and depression, now combating a sense of helplessness. The most concerning impact the PNG decisions have on Caltech students is fostering an environment of distrust between the students and their support system.

Contrary to what people may assume about Ricketts, we care about our family feeling safe and do not want anyone to suffer as a silent victim; we want to provide outlets for communication within the community and cultivate a positive experience within the House.

Unfortunately, administrative actions have made it clear that they will use any opportunity to define a singular complaint into one of culture and environment, taking scapegoats for failures in their harmonization agenda.

To those of you who don’t know Ricketts, I’m begging you to look at us as people and make the effort to understand us.

Perhaps your only experiences have been made clear that they will use any opportunity to define a singular complaint into one of culture and environment, taking scapegoats for failures in their harmonization agenda.

To those of you who don’t know Ricketts, I’m begging you to look at us as people and make the effort to understand us.

We implore the administration to discuss its aims with us and to consider the consequences of its actions on the communities. This is a less happy and less supportive environment for its undergraduate experience.

Lyle Schert, B.S. ’91
Raman A. Shah, B.S. ’06
Benjamin Allan Smith, B.S. ’94
(ICH Chair ’92, Blacker President ’93)
Benjamin Steebe, B.S. ’10
Valerie J. Syverson
Elaine To, B.S. ’10
Ying-Ying Tran, B.S. ’11
Edward Truesdell, B.S. ’07
Eric Uhbrane, B.S. ’96
Anber Valdes, B.S. ’10
Adams Villanuva, B.S. ’96
Glen Wagner, B.S. ’09
Molly Abdinor, B.S. ’07
Helen Wang, B.S. ’08
Jennifer Wang, B.S. ’08
Sarah Woodhouse, B.S. ’07
(Blacker President ’10)
Michael White, B.S. ’98
Claudia Whitten, B.S. ’08
Stephen Wille, B.S. ’10
Patrick Xia, B.S. ’11
Sami Zarrade, B.S. ’08
Adrienne Yang, B.S. ’09
When I first came to Caltech on Pre-frosh weekend, I was not excited. I already knew about the amazing education I would receive, but I had little faith in the social life. I accepted that if I matriculated into Caltech, I would spend my four years studying alone in the library, attending awkward parties, and telling nedly jokes about how much I missed the work and never have fun. Which was why I was more than surprised when I met my Pre-frosh Weekend host.

Page boys were outgoing, stylish, and dare I say, normal? I told her about my concerns about not having a normal college experience. Not to worry, she said. There will always be people in Page House who enjoy the typical college extracurricular activities. At dinner that night, I started to understand what she meant.

Hazing is illegal. Regardless of what you may feel about its merits, or about how reasonable the relevant statutes are, it is illegal and Caltech’s administration is obligated to make reasonable efforts to prevent it. This is not something which can be debated, postponement, or changed.

Of course, hazing could be illegal under drinking is illegal. At nearly every college, minors consume alcohol, but we would never have a situation where the deans shut down campus in an effort to stop it.

This is not because they aren’t aware that it happens, or because they’re alcoholics, or even necessarily that they’re afraid of mockery. It’s because they can honestly claim that they did not know about and did not approve of or facilitate any such incident.

Caltech students past destroyed this ability with the adoption of our current house system. We’ve spent a long time pretending, to the point where most people don’t see the pretense, but our Houses simply cannot be nearly as independent as a fraternity.

An administration-sanctioned rotation process assigns every freshman to a house, with both the intention and result that the house will be the core of their social life. At every house, rotation around and declare ignorance; their involvement with the house system gives administrators an obligation to ensure that the Houses are free of hazing.

Deans obligated to investigate hazing

At 6:45 pm, I entered the Page House dining hall to a bunch of guys, some shuffling. They were serving our food, drinking beer, joking, doing other things, all in good humor. I loved it, and instantly fell in love with Caltech. Here, I thought, I will work hard and learn math and science from the best, but I can also have a semi-normal college experience and experiment with alcohol (responsibly, and under the watchful eyes of RAs and upperclassmen, of course). This group of guys, the wasters, represented friendship, camaraderie, and tradition that the the House System is all about, so I thought.

However, in the past three years that I have been at Caltech, the administration has taken away everything that contributed to the Page House I knew as a pre-frosh and as a freshman. It started with Bubbly, in which Pageboys celebrated the end of term at Millikan Pond, then it moved on to the Beer Room, where a few friends used to socialize and drink on the weekends.

As a result of last year’s Eco-Rotation, the IHC took away the Holly, Page’s off-campus alley, without any prior notice or warning given to its residents. As it stands, Page is currently the only house without an off-campus alley. And now, they have banished the waiters based on exaggerated accusations of hazing of the freshman class.

The group of guys who brought up the idea for a simple ten minute dinner filled with laughs, beloved traditions, and humorous announcements, is now gone.

Without organized dinners that gather Pageboys together to catch up after a long day of classes and sets, freshmen have little reason to leave their rooms daily and get to know other members of the house. A house that was once filled with sociable, fun, and occasionally rowdy Pageboys has been replaced with feelings of antagonism towards the powers that be.

This is why I can no longer advocate Caltech social life, or the House System. I once thought the houses helped students find their niche, but they are forced to disband.

Whoever likes having fun and blowing off steam by blowing things up, or throwing back a few beers, there was always a place for them.

But not anymore. Students who enjoy pretending. Caltech social life is a compromise that does not work. The administration wishes to condone, then my faith in the house system is lost. To the freshman class, I can only give you a bit of hope and support, even if it seems pointless. Make a banner. Make ten banners. Do something to break the school. Start a petition. Make a banner. Make ten banners. Do something to break the school. Start a petition. Make a banner. Make ten banners.

Do something to break the school. Even if it seems pointless. If we don’t take action, we are silencing ourselves, and ensuring that student concerns will be ignored. Fight to keep traditions and alcohol consumption in Page House, and in all other houses, will force students to become antisocial and hide in their rooms instead of making new friends.

College is not merely about the academics. In our first four years away from our parents, we learn lessons about love, loss, friendship, betrayal, and more.

By eliminating the social gatherings that allow students to grow personally as well as academically, the administration is contributing to producing class after class of intelligent children whose only memory of their college years at Caltech is the sets, midterms, and finals that made them miserable.

If this is the kind of student life and social activity that the administration wishes to condone, then my faith in the house system is lost. To the freshman class, I can only give you a bit of hope and support, even if it seems pointless. Make a banner. Make ten banners. Do something to break the school. Start a petition. Make a banner. Make ten banners. Do something to break the school. Start a petition. Make a banner. Make ten banners.

If you have a strong opinion on something, check your facts with a source or two, then write, publish, or have them published. If you have an unwritten longer than a week, it will likely lose relevancy, and fade from the world of ideas that never come to fruition. If you don’t want to write, there are other actions that can be taken. Start a petition. Appeal to influential parties. Make a banner. Make ten banners. Do something to break the school. Even if it seems pointless. If we don’t take action, we are silencing ourselves, and ensuring that student concerns will be ignored. Fight to keep traditions and alcohol consumption in Page House, and in all other houses, will force students to become antisocial and hide in their rooms instead of making new friends.

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We have felt the many of you are outraged by the administration's unpromoted and extreme actions to curb what they believe is an epidemic of hazing. We strongly believe that the houses have been corrupted. We are outraged at this time.

I have been benefited greatly by professional help. Many of these students had potentially first within my house, but then with students ‘bitch’ who had walked out. She didn’t have house now hated her because she was the female ratio and she felt that everyone in the boyfriend, with whom she lived in the same that she had recently broken up with her fall primarily on freshmen during that time.

of material specifically covered in the first was causing students to have poor retention it was simply bad teaching, but the TQFRs causing a cumulative loss in retention that fall.

in his house seemed to hate him now, even emotional instability, including transient cyclic long. 

is a ‘hazing’ epidemic that has corrupted the administration should afford students. 

If we ignore the pseudo-medical valid? Is it relevant? I think not. 

92% of freshmen said they were happy or into a house they ranked non-favorably. 

But we don’t even need to discuss the rules. 

there was nothing I could do. Discussing the rules! I appealed to IHC members for help, 

It should have. I am still haunted by the news. 

Other houses have been forced to cover-up abuses under the guise of ‘protecting’ freshmen through the rotation rules. I’m not going to do it anymore – feel free to ask me the rules. 

Karthik has valid points, but there is 

My greatest regret from my time at 

Kalix. 

The freshmen most often have come from backgrounds where they did not fit in, or felt that they did not fit in to new. Right off the bat, however, they’ve told us to do things for many of them are quite uncomfortable. 

Are they truly not under undue influence to assume that the extreme personalities should be allowed to 

The house informed us that they would be be willing to help us secure the student. 

(and many others) were doing just fine academically. Their knowledge has not diminished the effect for many of them are quite uncomfortable. 

We asked them if they felt the student would be doing the things that their house was doing, they were so 

Almost simultaneously, I was working with 

Also, I was never fed up with the house. I felt that I was in a house that was ranked better than neutral. 

After understanding these picks, I (and many others) realized that there was another problem. Some houses seemed to be purposely making freshmen feel as if they were part of something bigger. They would have a higher probability of only getting the students that they wanted (to whom they explained what was going on). Unfortunately, this had the side effect of forcing some seniors who weren’t interested in those houses into those houses. Some processes were put into place by the IHC that were supposed to discourage this behavior. They didn’t work. I am still haunted by the news that I had to give to the students who had been forced into another. Of course, many of these students eventually adapted to their new house and reported that they later began to like it (though not all). Regrettably, that knowledge has not diminished the effect that these students had on them when I told them the news had on me. Of course, some of them also simply assumed that they didn’t have to try and that they had nothing to lose. I could not explain the truth to them, of course, that would be against the rules. 

for an article on an student for a Tech. He had interviewed faculty involved in a review of Rotation and included on the recent quotes from her. He had submitted his article and the editors had accepted it. Then, his editors retracted the acceptance, saying that the IHC had decided that it should not be published. He contacted me for the first time after he read the article on violation of the rotation rules, and that (and his editors) would be in danger of investigation for rotation rules violations and that 

and fewer threats to undermine the system entirely. 

The house system has been a 

The freshmen most often have come from backgrounds where they did not fit in, or felt that they did not fit in to new. Right off the bat, however, they’ve told us to do things for many of them are quite uncomfortable. 

Are they truly not under undue influence to assume that the extreme personalities should be allowed to 

The house system has been a 

With time crying in his little corner of the Millikan hall. 

I was right. Nobody is interested in thinking rationally about these issues. The IHC has become nothing more than a bickering, partisan, and ineffective committee. The administration has been forced into this, and has been forced to take extreme actions to try to fix the system. 

I believe in a 

The call is not the same as 'simplification' - nothing has been made up, but multiple stories have been combined to form the above conclusion. The studies have not been altered in a manner that substantially alters any aspect of 'simplification', and in fact one of them came out less comforting that it should have. 

I was never on the IHC. However, I’m very close to being on the IHC. I’ve been on the IHC’s rounds and I’m absolutely certain that I know the whole story. I could try this very thing, but I’ll have to reveal my knowledge of the rules to do so or force another alien to speak and open himself to the discussion. I would suggest that if I am doing to no other at this point. 

Editors’ note: Articles were written in font size considerations.
Poll on “Safety Net” staff

Understand, then act

ANONYMOUS Contributing Writer

The House system at Caltech needs to be improved. It should be a system that empowers incoming freshmen and supports the upperclassmen, encourages them to use their time in a productive and creative fashion, and helps keep students in contact with one another.

The students have done nothing substantial to address the lingering issues that concern the Houses. Having spoken to multiple upperclassmen who earnestly believe that upholding House tradition is more important than the happiness of a House’s members, it is easy to see what people can and will compromise for the sake of upholding the cultures of these dormitories.

Unfortunately, Caltech is a place that is designed for a student to pass class sleep, and not be a social pariah without trying to change the very fabric of our social existence as well. Thus I’m happy that the deans are trying to rectify the problem, and I suspect that if the changes brought about are deep and cultural rather than superficial, there’s a good chance that student life will improve.

The efforts taken by Dean Kiewiet and others have been misguided, to say the least. Although it is now one of the administration’s support network, this fact was in no way meaningfully communicated to the Houses before Rotation.

I’ll end with a few more quotes from freshmen about their experiences.

In conclusion, we see that there are clear general trends among the freshmen class, but they are not necessarily representative of upperclassmen.

The response to the poll was overwhelming. Despite students’ traditional apathy, especially towards email polls, 313 votes were cast: 32% of the student body. The opinions expressed were equally strong.

Poll results show an incredibly low opinion of Dean of Undergraduate Students, Professor D. Roderick Kiewiet, as well as North Area Coordinator, Meg Donnelly, and Assistant Vice President for Housing and Dining Peter Daily. Despite being relatively new to Caltech, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students [sic,studia.caltech.edu/ organization.htm], Lesley Nye also received a negative response. From the anonymous comments provided in the polling responses, it seems likely that these opinions are associated with recent events and policies instituted over the last year. As one student commented: “By far, Dean Kiewiet and Peter Daily are the most offensive figures on this list. They have shown repeatedly that they do not care for students’ wellbeing and are instead dedicated to satisfying the whims of higher powers of which, as undergraduates, have no knowledge.”

Many students felt a particular need to elaborate on Dean Kiewiet. Professor Kiewiet: “Many of the actions taken by Dean Kiewiet have not only failed to act as a support – they actively make me and many other students feel alienated and harassed.”

Some students feel the recent decisions of administrators goes beyond merely poor choices, and constitute breaches of the Honor Code.

“What happened to the honor code? It applies to all members of the Caltech community. Why then, do we have administrators who believe they are above it and are permitted to behave with no regard to our code?”

Area Coordinators are relatively new office, and for most of campus, life in their offices is a new experience. The installation of AC’s was an extremely contentious issue last year, so it comes as no surprise that student opinion in the poll was strongly against AC’s as an office. Even amongst freshmen, AC’s as an office fared poorly (only marginally less so).

Amongst the individual AC’s, South Area Coordinator, Taso Dimitriadis, was well-received, both by south house freshmen and campus at large. Campus at large had mixed opinion on Avery & Off-Campus UG Area Coordinator, Peter Daily for Bennethum, but voters who listed themselves mixed opinion on Avery & Off-Campus UG Area Coordinator, Peter Daily for Bennethum, but voters who listed themselves with Avery had more positive reviews. North Area Coordinator, Meg Donnelly was extremely poorly reviewed by North House members and campus at large.

In contrast, another administrator mentioned (who are not new this year) received mildly positive reviews, or low vote counts due to low interaction with undergraduates. RAs, on the other hand, received fantastically positive reviews. Coordinating both the “RA’s as an Office” and category in individual polling results. As a traditional and non-professional component of the support network, RAs Kerrick has not only failed to act as a support – they actively make me and many other students feel alienated and harassed.”

The aggregate response, however, is overwhelmingly positive, most strongly among voters who claimed to have associate with the RA’s house (many people did not read the poll instructions, and voted midrange on people they did not know). In any case, the poll results of the Poll, the only Tom Mannion (with whom most students interact primarily via free food) and Dean Green received average reviews in the same range as RAs, and the top-reviewed individuals in the category were54% of students felt the recent decisions of administrators go beyond merely poor choices, and constitute breaches of the Honor Code. areas which we need only hide our activities.}

The California Tech

Freshmen polled on rotation events

In conclusion, we see that there are clear general trends among the freshmen class, but they are not necessarily representative of upperclassmen.

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Houses provide a necessary support system

Samantha Piszczewicz Contributing Writer

In recent weeks the undergraduate deans have severely punished Ricketts House members for allowing the distribution of t-shirts to our new frosh following rotation.

For me, the shirt I received from a member of the Ricketts House underclassmen system is tantamount to lying about the true culture and to refrain from doing them to try to get the House President’s blessing.

I would like to stress that we try to make it clear to the frosh that taking and wearing a shirt is optional. Each shirt has a different, politically incorrect statement on it. As a frosh, the shirt I received from my freshman year says “President of the NECropedophiles of America (NoA) Caltech Chapter” and has a skeleton drawn on the back.

I recognize that the shirts are crude, but they are not meant to harm anyone.

From a frosh perspective, the intention of these shirts is to express that a member of Ricketts House should not be afraid of what others think of you. Within our culture we value fun, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and everything.

At the same time we have the most minority students of any house, we have the most LGBTQ students (at least openly so) behind the curtain, and the fewest women than many houses, I am a Skurve because the women in Ricketts House are encouraged to be Skurves in an event called Frosh Wash. Yes, we make fun of stereotypes, but at the end of the day this is the first place where many of us feel accepted for who we are, myself included.

Karen Blake and the north house AC, Meg Dowling brought these shirts to the attention of the deans. To my knowledge, no student came forward to the deans and claimed to have been sexually harassed.

Many, if not all, of our new freshman were interviewed about the distribution of the shirts and were told none of them expressed that they had been sexually harassed. It is unclear to me who actually accused Ricketts House of sexual harassment.

The deans launched an investigation regarding the making of t-shirts to our new frosh and eventually held four members accountable.

The first to receive punishment purchased the blank t-shirts and marked them with Ricketts House members was not able to get into Hovses because it was not particularly organized, so there is no way of determining who was responsible.

The second person to receive punishment directed frosh to the table of shirts during Frosh wash and we did not look down. Everybody seemed to be comfortable with him and they did not wear them.

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The first to receive punishment purchased the blank t-shirts and marked them with Ricketts House members were told that they could take one if they wanted.

The third person to receive punishment was asleep when the shirts were made and present during distribution but otherwise was not directly involved.

The fourth person to receive punishment, whose responsibilities were entirely limited to housing matters and room picks, was asleep for the entire incident. After becoming severely sleep deprived throughout the course of rotation we all slept for most of that afternoon.

The difference between my involvement and that of the fourth person is that I woke up 1.5 minutes before frosh wash started and was there. I would be upset if the house had been punished, but the deans instead punished six people for the actions of the entire house, which I find unjust.

The individuals that the deans have chosen to hold responsible for the actions of Ricketts House have been banned from entering our house and from participating in any house social activities for the remainder of their time at Caltech.

They were also forced to move into Caltech-owned off-campus housing before the end of rotation to avoid the consequences of their inaction.

I greatly treasure the frosh traditions of my house because they helped me get to know some of my closest friends and allowed me to become more comfortable with myself.

I am greatly saddened to see it so quickly.

I think this type of punishment is unfair, and I believe this to be an incredibly extreme punishment, particularly since they are already being punished individually for the actions of the house as a whole.

I think it would be much more reasonable for the administration to demand that they alter the frosh wash tradition to avoid the recurrence of this problem.

I also would accept a reasonable punishment affecting the house as a whole.

The type of case in the past would have first gone through the ConductReviewCommittee(CRC), a group of elected undergraduates and then Dean who hears cases of non-academic violations of the honor code, before being reviewed by the deans, who have the power to alter the CRCs decision. One could make the argument that the deans wanted to promptly address such a serious claim, except it took them a month and a half to handle the situation themselves.

The deans made little effort to understand what the Frosh thought of the situation, which I find disrespectful.

I came to Caltech partly because I liked the idea that the students themselves could make recommendations for the terms of the honor code. But I was greatly saddened to see it so disrespected.

Although I have stated what I believe to be the intention of the shirts, I am not particularly attached to this tradition. I understand that the new frosh may not realize at first that when we say things are optional we mean they are optional, and we will not judge those who choose not to participate.

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I would be doing much worse at this school. My grades would be much worse, and I probably would have failed even more classes than I already have.

The emotional support of people who have also struggled through the same classes as I have has been tremendous too, and there is a definite can-do attitude that pervades the Caltech universites.

Interactions with upperclassmen affect the courses one takes, and they can make recommendations that really affect your school career and help you garner those much needed easy classes.

This place is difficult, but it becomes even more difficult when one comes down with a mental illness such as bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia.
Happenings of first term: A satirical outlook

ANONYMOUS
Contributing Writer

PASADENA, California - A survey released by the Gallup Poll reported yesterday that happiness at Caltech is at an all time high. Caltech students often stated a source of their satisfaction with Caltech was the existence of the honor code and how everyone, especially Dean D. Roderick Kiewiet, follows Caltech's principal tenet.

For instance, the dean does not bypass the historically effective student-run Conduct Review Committee and Board of Control disciplinary committees. Nor does he ever fail to notify students to change their behavior before removing them from their houses. In fact, he has already not failed to do this to five members of Ricketts House. Dean Kiewiet and the rest of Undergraduate Student Affairs showed mercy to a freshman and four upperclassmen of Ricketts.

In particular, the upperclassmen were not respected, or level-headed members of the student body. Student Affairs invoked the Leonard Law to not permanently ban them from Ricketts’ events and property for offensive t-shirts. One upperclassman was not banned for sleeping through the making and handing out of the shirts. Because of this, these Skurves will not have to live separately in Caltech housing until the end of the term, after which they will not have to find non-Caltech housing.

On a different note, the Board of Trustees reported they were also quite happy when Dean Kiewiet stated before them that he himself wholeheartedly believes in the honor code. He emphasized that it applied to him as much as all others in the Caltech community. The Caltech undergraduate community also noted that the small size of the school has allowed them great input into administration decisions, which further increased their reported happiness.

For example, when student and faculty committees met to interview and discuss the hiring of the new Associate Dean Lesley Nye, their opinions, as well as Princeton’s stellar recommendation, were given due influence. However, the undergraduates did have some gripes. Many stated that the housing system was not one of the few reasons that they chose Caltech. Rather, the reason was that Caltech provides phenomenal teachers and research opportunities at a sleep-allowing workload, which are absolutely unavailable elsewhere. The housing system also fails to be the main mental health safety net for undergraduates. In fact, most feel that the Area Coordinator system, especially in the North Houses serves as an improvement. AC Meg Donnelly has been readily available, she has never yelled at students on the Olive Walk or called anyone inhuman, and everyone in the North Houses knows what she looks like. None have felt the need to go meet with the South House AC.

At other times, they thought they were forced to not opt-in.

They believed they had as much of a choice over their lives as preschoolers.

Overall, however, the community is satisfied with its choice to come to and work at Caltech.

No undergraduates have felt the need to transfer and discourage prospective freshmen from matriculating.

They all feel safe expressing their opinions without repercussions from Student Affairs or the MOSH’s secretary and wife, Karen Blake.

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

I HAVE ALTERED THE DEAL

PRAY I DO NOT ALTER IT FURTHER

The above is in accordance with Educational Decree Number Twenty-four.

Signed:

Dennis Roderick Kiewiet
HIGH INQUISITOR