

Caltech campus welcomes eager beavers

ELLORA SARKAR
Contributing Writer

As the sun streamed onto the lawn of Admissions House this Thursday, hundreds of families flowed into Caltech, excited to learn about the school, the people, the academics, and the culture. As they mingled with admissions officers and current students, they started to make up their minds about the place where they would spend the next four years. Prefrosh Weekend had arrived.

The prefrosh were eager to learn about the characteristics that make Caltech unique: is it the academics, the houses, the honor code, or some other conglomeration of factors? To help them answer these questions, the Admissions officers, along with a team of current students, planned two days full

of informative panels and tours for interested prefrosh (and their families). The day started off with a tour of JPL, which excited many attendees. Current students also ran tours even more frequently than usual, in order to accommodate the growing demand.

Prefrosh were welcomed with kick-off activities, a new feature of PFW. Current students planned and executed different games for the prefrosh as a way to break the ice, including Molecule Building, a fashion show, COPE, and Live Action Clue. Dominic Yurk, who ran Clue, said the experience was valuable for both him and the prefrosh.

Dominic added that he thought "being a part of Clue was a lot of fun; I had a great time running around as a Tardis, and I think the prefrosh really enjoyed doing



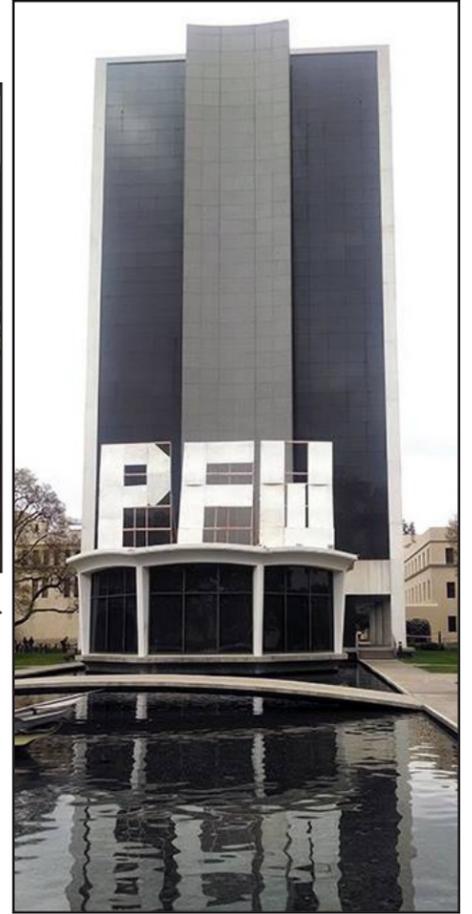
Prefrosh scramble to find their bearings in a new environment.

-Photo courtesy of Ellora Sarkar and gave them an understanding of the house culture.

something competitive that got them moving." As the day wore on, the events shifted gears from academic to house-focused. Prefrosh attended house dinners, taking in the different traditions of each House. Aadith Moorthy, a Floridian prefrosh, particularly enjoyed the tradition of throwing bread. Prefrosh agreed that the house dinners were a valuable experience

After dinners, prefrosh went on to the most anticipated events of the weekend - the House activities. Each house threw an event for the prefrosh,

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The Pasadena Rose Bowl Prank was reprised for Prefrosh Weekend.

-Photo courtesy of Catech Parents FB Page

Dean Dabiri shares his views on issues

CONNOR ROSEN
IHC Chair

Newly instated Dean John Dabiri collaborated with IHC Chair Connor Rosen to introduce to the student body his thoughts on various issues. Below is the complete Q&A.

What are your thoughts on the Honor Code as it applies to academics? What are you hoping to get out of the Ad Hoc Honor Code Committee?

What are your thoughts on student self-governance? What are you hoping to get out of the Ad Hoc Self-Governance Committee?

(I know both those questions might be hard because you don't want to upstage / presuppose the committees, but maybe just why you thought they were important to form)

One thing that makes Caltech's Honor Code special is that it governs all of us in this community, whether student, faculty, staff, or administration. For students in particular, the Honor Code is effectively a social contract. Students agree not to take unfair advantage of one another, the faculty, staff or administration; in return, they're afforded a level of autonomy that is much higher than at other schools. However, in recent years there has been a sense among some students, faculty, and administration that perhaps the social contract isn't being honored as faithfully as it should be by all

parties involved. For example, the discussion of academic violations of the Honor Code at the 2013 Student-Faculty Conference illustrated a potential disconnect between student satisfaction with the system (at greater than 90%) and the perspectives of several of our faculty, who have become skeptical of the effectiveness of the Honor Code. In the context of the House system, there were concerns from some in the administration that the Honor Code wasn't being adhered with the same seriousness as for academics. At the same time, students felt their autonomy was being eroded. The end result has been reduced trust in a community for which trust is essential in order for our unique system to function properly. In my capacity as Chair of the Faculty, I worked with the Faculty Board and the administration to form the two ad hoc committees that are evaluating the state of affairs, with the



-Photo courtesy of John Dabiri



Read about Caltech's first Take Back the Night on page 3

ultimate goal of identifying ways to strengthen the social contract.

What do you think of the House system? What are the best and worst aspects of the Houses?

I think the House system is an essential feature of the educational experience at Caltech. It enables a unique sense of community that transcends the typical boundaries of class year that exist at other schools. It also has tremendous potential to provide our students with opportunities to develop leadership and interpersonal skills through management of the Houses. However, I think the system can only work if students perceive the Honor Code as governing daily life in the Houses

in the same way they view the Honor Code for academics. For issues like harassment and hazing, the connection to the Honor Code is probably clearer, though education is still important. But it may not be immediately obvious how violations of Institute Policy necessarily infringe upon the Honor Code. The way I see it, if a student climbs up on the roof (against Institute Policy) and then falls and is injured, it's the administration that is potentially liable, not the student. So I would argue that the student is taking unfair advantage of the administration who trusted him/her not to go up there. Having said that, I think we also need to be careful not to overstate liability concerns either; that same

student could be injured playing Interhouse soccer, and we wouldn't formulate an Institute Policy to ban that activity. So there needs to be a balance. But ultimately, the best way for students to preserve Caltech's tradition of self-governance in the Houses is to take ownership of implementation of the Honor Code on a day-to-day basis. It's not something that can or should be micromanaged by the administration.

A potential concern I have about the House system is that it's perhaps too easy to for Houses to become homogenized by race, gender, or simply people who think alike. Of course, it's human nature to want to spend time with people

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ASCIT Minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for April 15, 2014. Taken by Catherine Jamshidi

Officers Present: Zach Rivkin, Connor Rosen, Malvika Verma, Catherine Jamshidi, Monica Enlow, Michelle Tang, Connie Hsueh

Guests: Kayane Dingilian, Margaret Lee, Nima Badizagedan, Adam Jermyn, Connor Coley, Chris Dosen, Patrick Nikong, Elliot Simon

Call to Order: 10:00 pm

President's Report (Zach):

- Make sure you vote in ASCIT Elections before 11:59pm on 4/21.
- Thank you to all involved for a successful prefrash weekend.
- The Faculty Board voted to change undergraduate ineligibility requirements. Major changes include a 1.9/term minimum GPA as well as stricter reinstatement conditions.

Officer's Reports:

- **V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Malvika):**
 - Nominate an awesome professor and/or for an ASCIT Teaching Award! You get a delicious Ath dinner if your nomination is chosen as a winner. Nominations close on Friday at midnight.
 - If you have any course concerns or compliments, please let your ombuds know. Or tell the ARC! I hear ACM 95c has a new due date.
 - CS 38 and Ph 12c are being recorded this term. Check out the video here: <http://classes.caltech.edu/>
 - Fill out the CS 0 survey!
 - The ARC will be gathering input from students on what they want from a core biology class.
 - If you haven't met with your Option mentees, it's not too late!
- **V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):**
 - PFW was this past weekend – almost 300 prefrash visited Caltech.
 - Chandler will be undergoing renovations and improvements (likely over the summer) that will increase efficiency and food quality.
 - We are looking into expanding gym hours for undergraduates or possibly repurposing a room in the SAC to serve as a 24-hour workout room.
- **Director of Operations (Connie):**
 - Toroidal-themed midnight food and the PFW club fair both went well. Thank you to all who helped and participated!
 - Now that you've met them, if you're interested in helping the prefrash get adjusted to Caltech in the fall, join the Little t team! Positions include writing, editing, and soliciting advertisements, or whatever suits your interests. Email operations@donut.caltech.edu for details.
- **Treasurer (Monica):**
 - Nothing to report this week.
- **Social Director (Michele):**
 - ASCIT Formal will be held at the Ambassador Mansion and Garde on Friday, May 9th from 7pm to 11pm. Details regarding ticket sale will go out shortly.
 - There will likely be 2 ASCIT Movie Nights this term:
 - Sunday, 5/11 – Spiderman
 - Saturday, 5/31 – X-Men
- **Secretary (Cat):**
 - There won't be a BoD meeting next Tuesday (4/22). We'll schedule the next meeting after election results are released.

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: 10:51 pm

News briefs from around the globe *Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble*

Need to know <100 words about the world this week

French journalists freed

4 men freed from tough conditions as hostages in Syria for 10 months [CNN]

MN to increase min. wage

\$9.50, up from \$6.15, to be new hourly wage by 2016 [TIME]

Pope stresses peace

150k at Mass led by Pope Francis, who stressed international peace [TIME]

Peru issues evacuation

4k residents near Ubina volcano evacuated due to increased activity [BBC]

Avalanche turns deadly

13 killed, 3 missing in deadliest Mt. Everest avalanche on Friday [NYT]

Are you interested in feeling more successful during third term?

This weekly group sponsored by the Counseling Center will offer practical, actionable tips for developing new skills to manage emotions, improving focus, and integrate mindfulness into your everyday life. Students may join any time in the series, and new content will be provided each week. Attending each skill session (4 weeks) is recommended but not required.

Tuesday evenings, 8-9:30pm in the common area of the Center for Diversity (CSS 2nd floor).

April 22	Interpersonal Effectiveness - setting boundaries and asking for what you want
April 29	Mindfulness
May 6	Emotional Regulation
May 13	Distress Tolerance
May 20	Interpersonal Effectiveness
May 27	Mindfulness
June 3	Emotional Regulation
June 10	Series Wrap Up/Review

More information is available at the Caltech Counseling Center website: www.counseling.caltech.edu.

Editors' Note

Hello Caltech!

In case you haven't noticed, we have made some changes to *The Tech*.

We will be sending out a survey soon to gauge your opinion on the new changes, and to figure out what you want to see in *The Tech*.

Thanks for reading!

Yours truly,
The Tech
Editorial Staff



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Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to tech@caltech.edu as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. *The Tech* does accept anonymous contributions under special circumstances. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author. The advertising deadline is 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. For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

Caltech Y Column

PHOEBE ANN
Contributing Writers

Upcoming events:

1. World Fest - Monday, April 21st - Friday, April 25th, 2014

World Fest: International Games
Monday, April 21st | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | San Pasqual Walk

Enjoy festive music and games from around the world.

World Fest: Mediterranean Adventure

Tuesday, April 22nd | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Winnett Lounge

SanPietro Travel Prize winners Sam Szuflika and Stanford Schor share stories and adventure from their 21-day sojourn from Spain to Morocco. Lunch provided.

World Fest: I've Been Everywhere, Man

Wednesday, April 23 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Winnett Lounge

Bet you didn't know that Caltech Security Training Officer, Jesus Luna, traveled the world as a Delta Airlines flight attendant! Come hear his top ten globetrotting tips. Lunch provided.

Where Technology and Bush Medicine Collide: The Phil Simon Tanzania Project with Dr. Kimberly Shriner

Thursday, April 24th | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Beckman Institute Auditorium

RSVP by 5 p.m. on April 22nd to receive lunch at this event

Presented by the CALTECH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

In February 2014, the Phil Simon Clinic Tanzania Project (PSCTP) returned to East Africa to continue its work for the underserved people of Northern Tanzania. Over the last 11 years, PSCTP has provided medical care, surgeries, education, infrastructure, and specialty expertise. 2014 marked the ninth trip to Northern Tanzania for the Project's amazing group. Please join us as Kimberly Shriner talks about working side by side with her American and Tanzanian colleagues to provide the very best care in a beautiful but resource-limited setting.

A native of Pasadena, Dr. Shriner is the founder and director of PSCTP, a nonprofit medical project associated with Huntington Memorial Hospital.

This event is free. All members of the Campus and JPL communities and retirees are welcome. For additional event information, contact Athena Castro at (626) 395-6163 or athena@caltech.edu.

World Fest: International Food Fair & Culture Show

Thursday, April 24th | 4:30 - 6:00 PM | Beckman Mall | Tickets \$5

Join us for a taste of the world from 4:30 - 5:30 PM, for just \$5! After eating, stay to see traditional dances, hear exotic instruments, and view colorful fashions from around the world. Culture Show is free, beginning at 5:30 PM. Food and performances provided by Caltech student clubs.

World Fest: Cooking Demonstrations

Friday, April 25th | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | RSVP (Waiting List Only)

Learn how to cook home-style food from around the world. There will be cooking demonstration at three different kitchens across campus. Enjoy preparing a French, Korean, or Vietnamese meal. Space is limited. Currently accepting names for our waiting list. You will be contacted once your reservation is confirmed.

2. Devil's Punchbowl and Desert Wildflower Hike

Sunday | April 27th | 8:00 AM

The Caltech Y Outdoor Adventure group will be hiking at the Devil's Punchbowl on Sunday, April 27. The Devil's Punchbowl is a unique geological formation of twisted sandstone and other sedimentary rocks found where the San Andreas Fault cuts through the San Gabriel mountain range. The Devil's Punchbowl area is also known for blooms of desert wildflowers in the spring. The hike is around seven and a half miles long with moderate elevation gain in a few sections. It takes around an hour and a half to drive each way, so the group will leave the Y at 8:00am on Sunday and return after 4:00pm. If you want to sign up, fill out the RSVP form. If you have any questions, email Jeremy Sandler at jsandler@gmail.com

3. Caltech Y India Cultural Trip - Applications Available

December 13th - 23rd, 2014 | Cost: \$950 | Applications Due Tuesday, May 20th by 5:00 PM

The Caltech Y, in partnership with the SURF Program and IIT Gandhinagar (IITGN) in India, is coordinating a trip to Ahmedabad, India. Join us for an exciting trip as we explore India as an emerging nation and its potential role as a global leader in the context of its history and culture. The Caltech group will be hosted by IITGN and discussions and trips will be led by IITGN faculty.

The trip is open to undergraduate students only - sorry, no graduate students. Applications can be found on the Y website and are due by 5 p.m. on May 20th. Questions may be directed to caltechy@caltech.edu. Space is limited.

4. Pasadena LEARNS

Every Friday | 3:00 - 5:00 PM | Madison and Jackson Elementary School | Pasadena

Come volunteer at Madison Elementary School! We are partnered with the Pasadena LEARNS program at Madison and work with their Science Olympiad teams on Wednesdays and do regular tutoring on Fridays along with occasional hands-on science experiments. We volunteer from 3 to 5 PM on Wednesdays and Fridays. Volunteers should be willing to commit to one visit per week. Transportation is provided. For more information and to RSVP, contact vkumar@caltech.edu.

If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact the Caltech Y at (626) 395-6163 or caltechy@caltech.edu. Feel free to drop by at one of our weekly meetings at the Caltech Y at the Caltech Y (505 S. Wilson, next to CEFCU), time TBA.

MONICA ENLOW
Editor-in-Chief

Saturday night the Caltech Feminist Club and the Caltech Center for Diversity hosted the first annual Take Back the Night. Since this was the first year this event had been hosted at Caltech, I was not sure what to expect. What I found though, was more than I could have asked for.

Take Back the Night was an event designed to help raise awareness for sexual assault. This very powerful event was organized by the Feminist Club president, Samantha "Pixie" Piskiewicz, the CCD program director, Taso Dimitriadis, and the CCD assistant director, Portia Harris. The evening started out with a delicious dinner and a chance for attendees to place their handprints on the Take Back the Night banner. In talking with Pixie about what the handprints symbolized she said, "We wanted to represent that instead of hands being destructive, hands can be creative." The banner came together beautifully with inspirational messages from attendees and brightly colored handprints.

The first speaker of the evening was Ms. La Shonda Coleman, director of the Center for Men and Women at USC, who spoke about local resources for individuals who have been or know someone who has been sexually assaulted. Ms. Coleman works closely with the Rape Treatment Center at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical center, and she informed the audience of the plethora of services that the center provides. The treatment center offers victims free transportation to and from the center, help with evidence collection if the victim decides that he or she wants to press charges, counselling and support for victims and their loved ones; and all of these services are provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Rape Treatment Center provides a supportive place, and I would encourage anyone who may be in need of their services to contact them.

The next speaker of the evening was therapist and spoken word artist, Ms. Thea Monyee. Ms. Monyee has been a frequent visitor

to Caltech over the past few months performing her pieces during Black History Month and Women's History Month. Before reading her pieces, she gave a lot of food for thought about how individuals react to victims of sexual assault. In Adam Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments Smith has a portion about how people sympathize with each other. Smith says that people cannot express their feelings of hurt or anguish too intensely, or it will turn others away from wanting to sympathize with the person. Ms. Monyee strikingly applied this to victims of sexual assault. Victims are, more often than not, made to suppress their feelings towards their abuser and are told to get over whatever pain they feel, even if they are not ready. The people

around them claim to support them but tire of dealing with the victim's healing process. Ms. Monyee refreshingly talked about how every individual has their own path of healing and "... [T]hat path is not straight. There are left turns. There are right turns," and that we need to be supportive of whatever path the victim needs to take to heal. Her pieces were inspirational, and she gave a much appreciated message to let go and just cry. Everyone in the audience was deeply touched by the honesty and sincerity in her words, and I am more than positive that they will take those words with them.

Freshmen Lucy Chen and Laura Watson, along with senior Sevan Shanakian, performed Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" and Ingrid Michaelson's "Take me the way I am." All three ladies are extremely talented and gave a beautiful performance. To round out the evening, Portia invited a few ladies up to read pieces written in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness month, and then opened up the

microphone for anyone who wanted to share an experience they have had. Pixie took the floor, and explained to the audience a personal connection she had to a sexual assault victim. Pixie shared of how this experience pushed her to co-found the Caltech Feminist Club, and how the victim she knows feels empowered because of her efforts. I was another student to take the mic, and I felt safe sharing my story with those present.

Ms. Coleman came up and gave voice to the victims who have suffered sexual assault from family members. All speakers from the evening provided powerful, inspiring, and brilliant words that educated the audience on sexual assault. The evening concluded with the placing of luminaries



Senior and Caltech Feminist Club President Samantha Piskiewicz opened up the night's events.

-Monica Enlow

around the Avery courtyard, and a beautiful candlelit moment of silence for all survivors of sexual assault. I highly encourage everyone to go to this event next year; it was a very emotional and informative experience. If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault and you need a confidential resource, you can talk to Portia or Taso in Caltech's Center for Diversity or seek out Caltech's Counseling Center.

You can call the Rape Treatment Center at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical center at 310-319-4000.



Students participated in a candle-lit vigil in respect and support of sexual assault survivors. Due to the nature of the event, no one's photo was published without explicit permission.

-Photo courtesy of Lucy Chen

Brad/Chad Couture: Dress like Brad/Chad Part 2

BRAD CHATTERGOON
Contributing Writer

Hey guys and girls. It's week 4 in case you haven't been counting down. Just six more? Well the prefrush are gone so that's a bit of a relief. Now we can resume our lives of regularly scheduled sets and stop pretending that Caltech is the greatest place on earth... but it was certainly fun pretending we were somewhere else for a while. As promised, here are the remaining how-to's about dressing like me. Also, a big shout out to Kate Lewis from Lloyd for calling me on the "if it ain't tight it ain't right" rule at Lloyd's interhouse last week. She's a cool kid. Anyways... onto this week's article!

Number 3: "You're going full neutral... never go full neutral." That was very poorly paraphrased but the take away is that I try to always wear a noticeable piece in every outfit.

Mostly what that translates into is a brightly colored button down paired with neutral blue or dark gray jeans and neutral shoes. The specifics of this rule vary a bit according to the season. During the fall/winter neutrals are the go-to so I limit my bold item to one piece but during spring/summer I usually wear two pieces especially if one of them is a pair of shorts. Examples of how I work within this rule are as follows. If I'm rocking a pair of colored chinos, green or red in general, then I pair with a neutral shirt such as a white button down with a blue windowpane pattern.

Number 4: Accessories and Misc. I loosely follow the tenant that the only piece of jewelry a



-Brad Chattergoon

male needs is a good watch but with any good rule, there is an exception. I like to wear a piece of jewelry that has a bit of story or history associated with it. For me that means a bracelet with my name etched into the band that was a gift from my mom. I think that this shows some of your character and makes a great story for the ladies. Other great options are family heirlooms or maybe symbolism from your favorite fictional universe. I also have an opinion on hairstyle; I like multi-tonal hair colors. Jet black hair is cool and all but I like the look of some strands of auburn or caramel weaved in there as well. I want to give another shout out to Harrison Miller for his recent hair coloring.

That's all for this week. If there's anything that anyone is curious about send me an email and I'll write an article about it. bchatter@caltech.edu.

Dabiri discusses his vision for Caltech's future

Continued from page 1

who experience the world through a similar lens. But I think we're failing the students if we don't give them meaningful opportunities to be exposed to world views that are different from their own; to be challenged to appreciate them and to be critical of their own perspective. After graduation, it becomes much more difficult to select the people with whom you interact, especially in professional settings, and I'm not sure how well the House system prepares students for that reality at present. I think we can improve the situation by providing more unaffiliated social spaces on campus where students from different Houses can hang out (e.g. in the new Hameetman Center) and by sponsoring joint social gatherings among the Houses. Interhouse is great, but it requires a huge amount of work by some group of students to put it together. I'd like to see Caltech provide students opportunities to have parties without someone needing to spend weeks building beforehand. I also think we should have a substantive discussion about how to make Rotation more effective in matching prefrush with the Houses, while maintaining the diversity of House cultures that drew prefrush to Caltech in the first place.

What are your goals as Dean? What do you want to accomplish? Do you have specific changes in mind you want to enact?

At this early stage, I would describe my goals primarily in terms of the outcomes I would like to see in our graduates. An example is our performance in the exit survey question that asks seniors whether they would recommend a prefrush like themselves to come to Caltech. We currently do significantly poorer in this response than our peer institutions, and we have for some time. The reasons are manifold, related to both academic and non-academic issues. But if I had to pick a single quantitative metric I would like to see improve, that would be it. There is likely more than one way to get there, and I want to engage the students in charting that course.

As for specific near-term issues, perhaps the most important is self-governance in the Houses. While the system has my wholehearted support, it will be important that the students demonstrate to the incoming president that our Honor code-based system of self-governance actually

works in practice. I think it is essential that the IHC and House ExComms make special efforts in the coming year to emphasize to the students the importance of personal accountability and responsibility (i.e. checking one another so that things don't have to reach the Deans). If ever there was a time for the Houses to put their best foot forward, it is now.

A second issue is the concerning trend of students moving off-campus to avoid the board plan. It is undoubtedly a difficult task to provide a board plan that is financially viable and also sufficiently flexible for students. But I think we need to consider ways to address this issue, as a migration off campus has the potential to significantly alter the residential life experience at Caltech. It also challenges the safety net, since students living off-campus can become disconnected from the primary social structure on campus.

What is your ideal forum for interacting with students and keeping in touch with our concerns? Do you want to be "hands-off" and let students come to you with problems as they arise, deal primarily with student leaders, come to the Houses, hold "Dean's office hours", etc?

My main priority at present is to get to know as many students as possible, so that every undergrad feels comfortable stopping me on the Olive Walk or coming to my office to talk about whatever is on their mind. I'd like the Dean's office as a whole to establish personal relationships with the students, so that when difficult issues arise we can work from positions of mutual trust. That takes time, of course, but Caltech is small enough that I'm confident we can make it happen. I've found that having dinner in the Houses and playing Interhouse sports has been a great way to meet students. I also plan to hold weekly open office hours, and I'll encourage that practice as standard in the Dean's office. We'll also establish regular interactions, both formal and informal, among the Deans, MOSH, RLCs, RAs, and various student leadership, so that we can identify potential issues early on.

What do you think of overloads, underloads, and other "exceptional" academic paths? One thing that's come up recently is the academic unit cap on frosh - how flexible do you see yourself being with all of these rules (which all can be bypassed with Dean permission)?

Caltech has a tradition of treating students on a case-by-case basis, and I intend to operate in that fashion. With regard to overloads, I think there needs to be compelling evidence from prior terms that the student can handle the load and maintain a strong GPA. While it is admirable that many of our students prioritize learning over grades, the fact remains that a poor GPA can limit a student's options post-graduation. So, in my opinion that remains an important consideration. In some cases,

the most creative and academically talented student body in the world, leads to a special environment here.

I had a wonderful undergraduate experience at Princeton, but I'm the first to admit that we didn't have to work as hard as Caltech undergrads do to graduate with a good GPA. The puzzle I think we've yet to solve at Caltech is how to produce graduates who are as happy as they are at other schools, while still maintaining our distinctive rigor. I see the autonomy our students are afforded as part of the solution; however, I think a further key is to make sure our students get more out of the undergraduate experience than they do now, and certainly more than, say, a Princeton undergrad, given the greater effort that is invested to graduate from Caltech.

One thing I think we can learn from places like Princeton is their focus on making sure each student develops at least one close relationship with a faculty member. For me, it was one of those mentors who provided my introduction to Caltech, and I still count him as a mentor today. I think we can leverage our low student-faculty ratio and extensive opportunities for research to achieve similar outcomes here. But it will require a much greater commitment to undergraduate education at Caltech than we have traditionally had.

Will you still be teaching actively? How do you weight the importance of your research / Dean / teaching roles at Caltech?

I have always believed in the importance of a balance between research and other life pursuits. As an undergrad, I served as an RA. As a grad student, I was active in my church's youth mentoring program and as a research mentor for the Freshman Summer Research Institute and SURF here at Caltech. And since then I have continued to try to make sure there are more important things in my life than just publishing the next paper. This new role in the Dean's office will naturally become a big part of my life, and I'm looking forward to it. I really like Caltech's undergrads so this feels like time well spent. To make the time, I'll likely teach less, and I'll do less outside research consulting. But I don't anticipate a major change in my lab's activities. It's no secret that the students in a lab do most of the heavy lifting, and I'm fortunate to have excellent students!



Professor John Dabiri tests out boats made by his students for ME 19.

-Monica Enlow

the student might actually get more out of a research experience or extracurricular activity (or sleep!), rather than simply adding another course. As for underloads and other unusual academic paths, I would again emphasize that we have the luxury of treating students on a case-by-case basis.

What do you think makes Caltech special? How different is it from where you were an undergrad?

The first two things that come to mind are the freedom Caltech affords and the rigor it expects. Certainly from the perspective of faculty, we're afforded tremendous freedom to chart a course for our research that we see fit. And there's a palpable sense that Caltech supports that course, however unconventional it may be, as long as it is rigorous. The freedom enjoyed by our students is also unique to Caltech. That freedom, combined with what is probably

Techers entertain Prefrosh with weekend festivities

Continued from page 1

varying from more relaxing events like Dabney Couch Fort to the more intense Blacker Deconstruction, Ricketts Open Mic Night was particularly popular with both current students and prefrosh, and live music streamed out of the windows well into the night.

The next day heralded even more panels for the prefrosh, including the prank panel. In light of the recent mug prank at MIT, this was one of the more attended panels. Prefrosh also flocked to the bookstore to obtain the much-coveted mugs, which were sold only to admitted students.

That afternoon, the whole school attended the club fair,

hosted by ASCIT. Prefrosh, current students, and parents strolled through the Olive Walk to learn about the 60 clubs that showed up. As they enjoyed the churros, ice cream, cookies, popcorn, and fruit cups provided by admissions, they partook in the opportunity to play bridge with Bridge Club, race in hamster balls, and race up a ladder climb. Anand Poozhikunnel

appreciated the clubs and activities, saying, "It always is great to see all the different talents and varied interests we all have here at Caltech."

As prefrosh left on Saturday morning, a present was left on the Admissions railing. Prefrosh had created an MIT admissions tube full of balloons and streamers, complete with the message,

"Congratulations! You've been hacked!"

Overall, PFW allowed current students and the Caltech community to welcome the potential class of 2018 to the school. Prefrosh left with a fuller understanding of the qualities that make Caltech unique, and will consider their information as they plan to commit next week.

Know your prefrosh: Fast Facts about the admitted students for '18



- record-breaking 6,524 applications (nearly 1,000 more than previous record)
- 529 students offered admission, giving the lowest acceptance rate on record (about 8%)
- Goal of 235 freshmen enrolling each year
- 651 admitted, 264 enrolled in 2012-2013
- 584 admitted, 245 enrolled in 2013-2014
- 47% of admitted students are female
- 281 students registered for PFW, and about 300 family members came to visit as well
- 35 states and 5 foreign countries represented at PFW



- Photos courtesy of Ellora Sarkar (top) -Alex Hsu

Star gazer captures "Blood Moon" lunar eclipse



-Photos courtesy of Calli Meyer

Referred to as the "Blood Moon," the lunar eclipse on April 15 provides a beautiful spectacle for the night. The moon will glow red three more times in the next 18 months as part of a lunar eclipse "tetrad" (a series of four consecutive total lunar eclipses that happen at about six-month intervals). Future blood moons can be seen on Oct. 8, 2014; April 4, 2015; and Sept. 28, 2015.

Calendar of events for the week of April 22-28, 2014

TUES. 4-22	WED. 4-23	THURS. 4-24	FRI. 4-25	SAT. 4-26	SUN. 4-27	MON. 4-28
12pm - Iberian Passage to Africa, Winnett 1pm - Earth Day Tree Planting, Moore Walk 6:30pm - "Ask a Scientist" Earth Day Extravaganza, Ramo Aud. 8pm - Mike Farrell in <i>Dr. Keeling's Curve</i> , Ramo Aud.	Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Denim Day 12pm - I've been Everywhere, Man, Winnett 12pm - Off-Campus SURF Lunch, Brennan Conference Room 12pm - GAYPRIL: PFLAG Panel, 2nd Floor CSS 3pm - Baseball vs. Chapman	12pm - GAYPRIL Walk 'n' Talk - GFS, Red Door 4:30pm - International Food Fair and Culture Show, Avery Courtyard 5pm - Flintstones Dinner, Olive Walk	7:30pm - German Film Series, Baxter Lec. Hall 8pm - GAYPRIL: Caltech's Annual Drag Show, Avery Courtyard	1pm - 14th Annual Caltech Jazz Festival, Gates Annex Patio 2pm - The Heroes of Early Spaceflight, Beckmann Aud. 7pm - TACIT: New Play Reading Series, Ramo 10pm - Blacker Inter-house, Blacker Hovse	3pm - Caltech Glee Clubs / Caltech-Oxy Symphony Orch., off campus 4pm - Sleep	<i>The Tech comes out!</i>

OFF!'s *Wasted Years* proves to be uninventive album

NAILEN MATSCHKE
Contributing Writer

OFF! is a super-group that quickly gained a following within the hardcore community thanks to its high-profile members, whose prior work in hardcore punk includes legendary bands such as Black Flag and Circle Jerks. Their first LP, 2010's *First Four EPs*, was praised by critics for its energy and unrelenting anger, with many calling it a refreshing break from the usual musical landscape. While the album wasn't particularly innovative or impressive in itself, there's no denying that it was raw and well-produced, making it an enjoyable listen. Their self-titled second EP once again captured the hardcore spirit almost perfectly, but didn't expand much upon the sounds and ideas introduced in the group's first album. Sonically, the

album's production was noticeably changed, with crunchier, louder guitars and punchier drums, but ultimately it lacked the fresh

album is that the band opted for a lo-fi, almost garage rock-like sound, with ragged and blaring guitar tones fighting yelled vocals and loud, cymbal-heavy drum work. That's not to say that the record is poorly mixed, though: every instrument is distinguishable and none is overpowering, and it's clear that OFF!'s guitarists are no amateurs, powering through energetic riffs with surprising precision. The melodies are easy to digest and do their job of providing an entertaining vehicle to move the incredibly short songs forward, the vocals sound genuine and invigorating, and overall it sounds exactly like how a hardcore punk

scene, the members of OFF! have a thorough understanding of how to write a good hardcore punk album, and on this album they exercise this ability in full.

However, the fact that *Wasted Years* is so good at being a hardcore punk album ends up being its downfall as well. While listening to the record, there was never a time when I wasn't enjoying it. After running through it a few times, though, I realized that I could barely remember more than one or two moments that I found particularly memorable or unique.

The individual members of OFF! clearly have a great deal of talent, each having a good amount of influence on the emergence and history of their genre itself. Despite this, the band as a whole just doesn't seem to be able to evolve their sound away from that of their first album, and I feel that another album like this from OFF! would make them almost completely irrelevant to the advancement of their genre. They certainly seem like competent musicians invested in their music, but a band can only use the same idea so many times before it becomes boring.

Despite the album's shortcomings, I do still see myself listening to this album on occasion in the future. It scratches an itch for authentic, exciting punk music, it's not too abrasive, and there's nothing that is not enjoyable about listening to it. In the end, though, I can't help but feel let down by OFF! with respect to this album. There's little to distinguish it from any of their previous work, and it's starting to reach the point where the band has a discography of 48 nearly indistinguishable songs. I think that fans who already follow OFF! and have been looking forward to this record will probably enjoy it, and it certainly could make the band some new fans from listeners who haven't heard their work before.

Ultimately though, besides times when you're in the mood for hardcore punk, it's safe to say that *Wasted Years* is pretty unremarkable.

People who haven't listened to OFF! before may want to consider giving it a listen to see what they think of it, but otherwise I don't feel as though the album is anything significant, and I think it's safe to skip it.



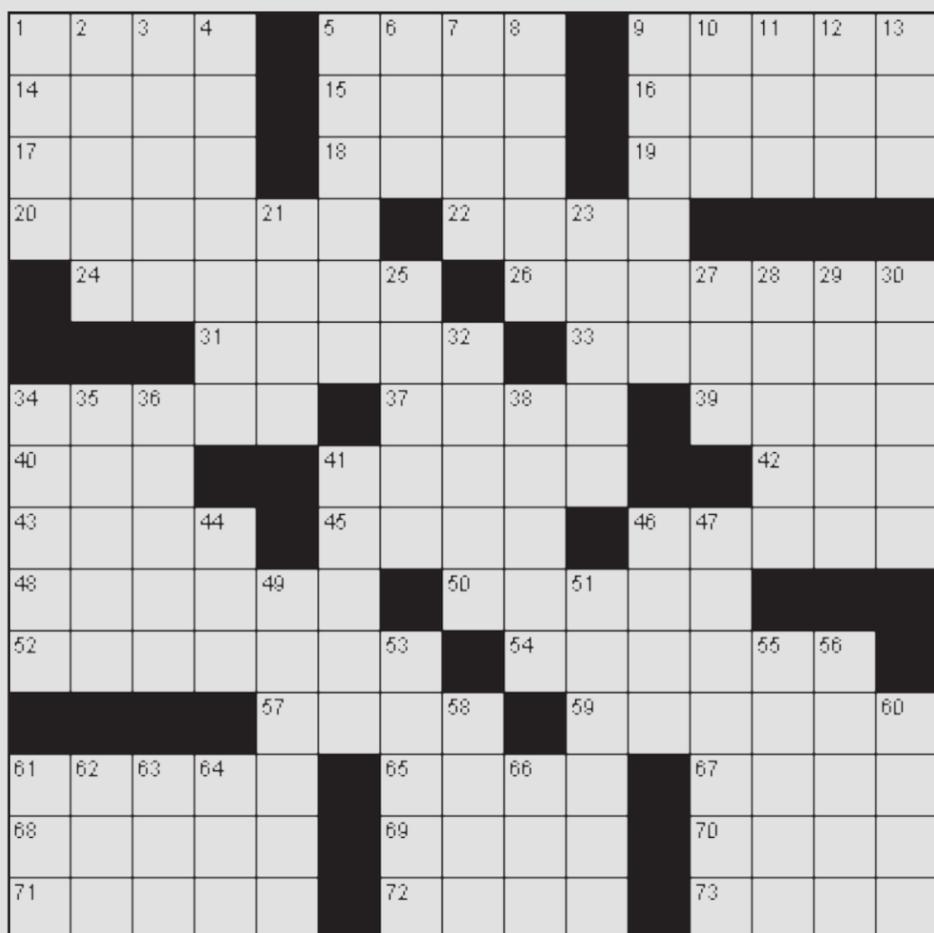
-<http://www.verbicidemagazine.com/>

passion of the first album. On *Wasted Years*, released April 8, we find OFF! once again altering the aesthetic of their mix, but not doing much in the way of expanding the band's repertoire.

Something that is immediately apparent from the start of the

small but enjoyable deviations here and there, such as the almost Black Sabbath-esque passages in "Legion of Evil," or some guitar work in "You Must Be Damned" that wouldn't sound out of place in your typical post-rock album. It's clear that after decades in the

Today's Puzzle: Crossword



Across

- The highest point of something
- Music genre
- Visual representation
- Tribe
- Halo
- Sound
- Arduous
- Open receptacle
- Shelf
- Accompany
- Female horse
- Piercing
- Kind of energy associated with motion
- Rain and snow
- Local church community
- Flat
- Roofing material
- Part of a church
- Metal-bearing mineral
- Relating to a person
- Litigate
- Curtilage
- Very imposing or impressive
- Stratum
- Allot

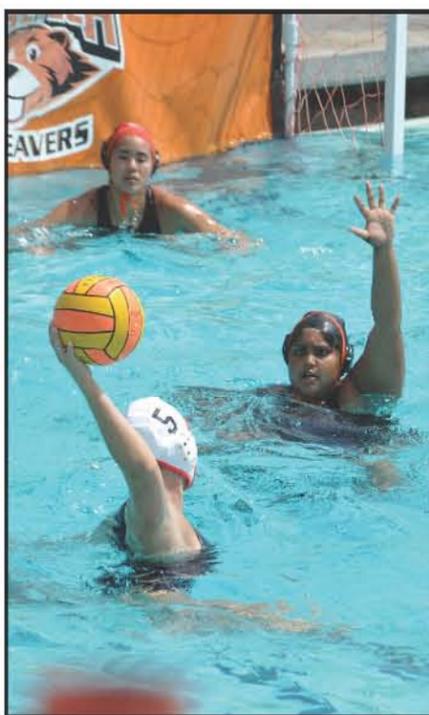
- Prevent from entering
- Resembling a lion
- Provincial governor in ancient Persia
- Framework for holding objects
- Ride on a plank
- A three-dimensional shape
- Deficiency
- Unit of area
- Part
- Succulent
- Ascended
- Modify
- Camping equipment
- Pace

Down

- Dull pain
- Grade
- A steady advance
- Give support to
- Baby's toy
- Belonging to us
- Pack to capacity
- Small canoe
- Soft blue-gray mineral
- Regret
- Determine the sum of
- Swine
- Gardening tool
- Small stream
- Mature
- Lull
- Epoch
- Very drunk
- Publish
- Shout of approval
- Diffident
- Patriotic
- Efface
- Left-hand page
- Shoestrings
- Reddish-brown dye
- Cacophony
- Tardy
- Unpaid overdue debt
- Steel support beam
- Woven container
- Acclaim
- Cravat
- Analyze a sentence syntactically
- Hardy cabbage
- Sob
- Health spring
- Embrocate
- Allow
- Frozen water
- Swindle



Women's water polo seniors take a moment to look super cute with Coach Beemer's dog before their final home game.



Monisha Dilip puts her hand up, they're playin' her song, the butterflies fly away.

Connie Hsueh nods her head like yeah.



Kelsey Spaur gazes into the eyes of her defender.



Katie Knister acknowledges her fans.

Caltech Chinese Association hosts annual ping pong tournament



Omer Subasi and Chris Gardner practice before the tournament.

ALEX HSU
Photography Editor

Last weekend, the Caltech Chinese Association held their first ping pong tournament since ten years ago. To make a total of 65 contestants, there were 31 in Men's Division A, 25 in Men's B, and 9 in the women's division. The tournament was elimination style: first to 11 best out of 3 for the initial two rounds, then first to 11 best

out of 5 for subsequent rounds. Participants clearly enjoyed the event, having a good time whether practicing or intensely dueling it out, matching skill to skill. After so much ping pong for a day, instead of tiring them out, the general consensus was that people's interest in ping pong had increased, and they looked forward to playing more in the future. Not only so, but they also were able to dramatically improve their skill

levels, challenging each other and learning new techniques.

The winners in each division were Omer Subasi in Division A, Changlin Pang in B, and Ker Lee Yap in the woman's division. Notable mention goes to 76-year old planetary science professor Andy Ingersoll, who placed second in the B division. Another event that was ongoing was blowing a ping-pong ball from one bowl into an adjacent bowl, and finally into another. The first success took 1 minute and 8 seconds, finally being whittled down to a mere 5 seconds by positioning the ball at a certain location in the first bowl and blowing once to bring it to the last one.

All in all, it was a great experience, for vetted or for novice players. Players also got to get to know each other by playing in the tournament, and decided to get together to play when they got the chance.

For those interested, ping pong practices happen from 5:30 to 7:30 on Saturdays in Braun Gym. Anyone is welcome!

Seniors celebrated at last home game of the season

MONICA ENLOW
Editor-in-Chief

The 2014 women's water polo season is coming to a close, and I couldn't be sadder. This year I had the honor of playing with four brilliant women, Monisha Dilip, Kelsey Spaur, Katie Knister, and Iris Liu, who are on their way to becoming grown-ups. Although we came close to winning a few games, but never actually won any,

these ladies still pulled through concussions, sickness, injuries, grad school applications, and interviews to be on deck every day. While I am excited to soon be a senior, it means that the team is losing a valuable space cadet, Moisha, our resident BA center, and #noconcussions2014. I know the whole team will miss you next year during our spring break boba runs, warm up jam time, and bus rides with sleepy Beems.



True love is having your friends walk all the way to the gym to sit in the sun in order to support you.

-Photo courtesy of Michelle Tang



Women's tennis takes home a win against Cal Lutheran, if only all senior athletes were so lucky.



Men's tennis players Devashish Joshi and Luka Mernik are celebrated on Senior Night because they are men who play tennis.

-Photos courtesy of gocaltech.com

Weekly Scoreboard

Men's Baseball
at Claremont-M-S
L, 13-0 Final

Men's Tennis
at Cal Lutheran
L, 9-0 Final

Women's Water Polo
vs. Occidental
L, 16-2 Final

Men's Baseball
vs. Claremont-M-S
L, 12-3 Final

Men's Baseball
at Claremont-M-S
L, 7-3 Final

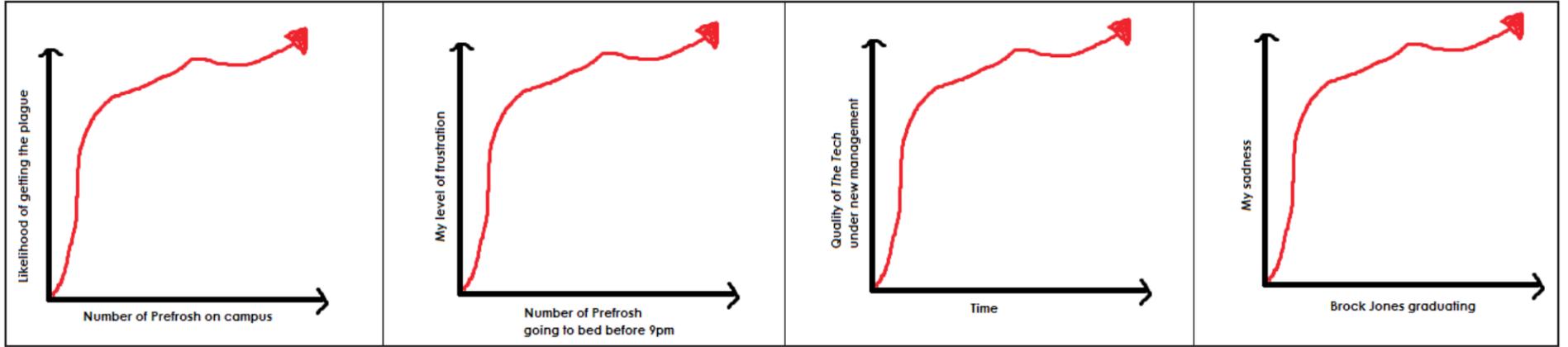
Women's Tennis
vs. Cal Lutheran
W, 7-2 Final

Men's Tennis
vs. Chapman
L, 7-2 Final

Women's Water Polo
at Redlands
L, 21-2 Final

It's no coincidence

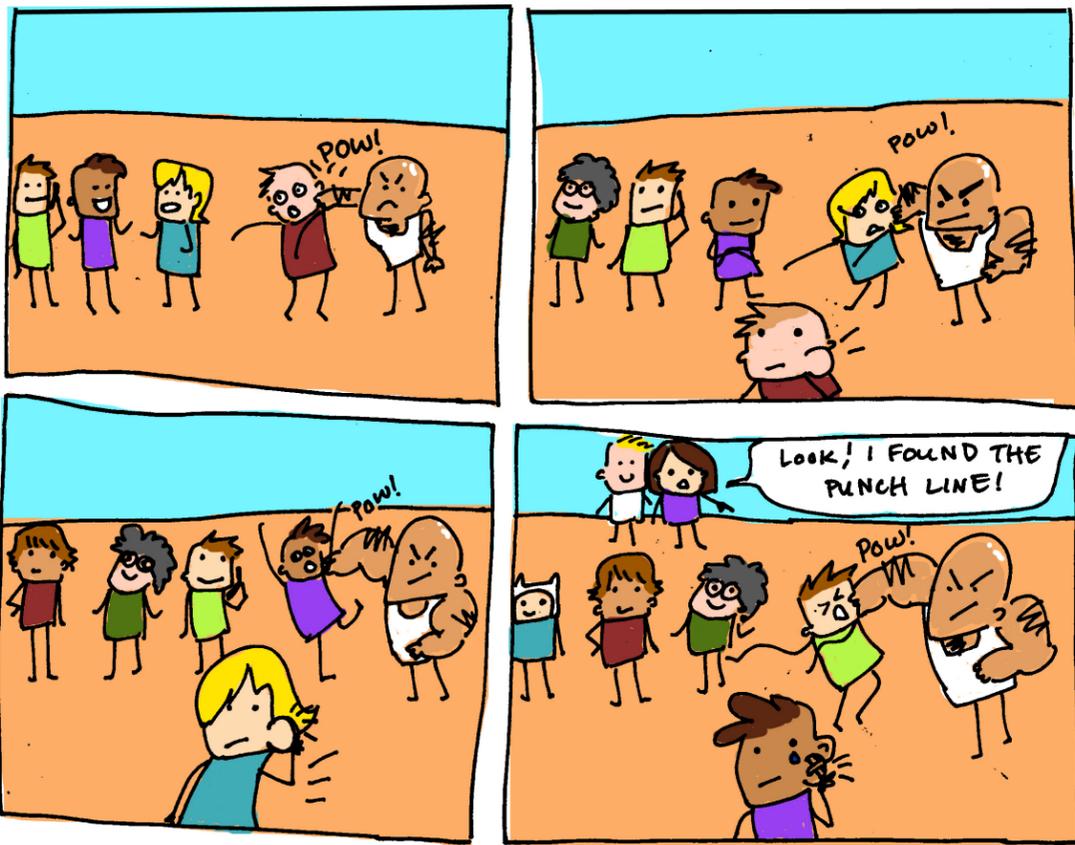
Monica Enlow



Bad Jokes

Liz Lawler

Guest Artist



-www.frenums.tumblr.com/comic

Sudoku: Over-compensating for something

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

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