flow can tax the capacity of a supercomputer. Jermy's senior thesis models how a pulsar — a type of dense star in the midst of a turbulent radio source that flashes as fast as a thousand times per second — disrupts the atmosphere of a companion star. Pulsars are neutron stars — supernova cinders that pack the mass of a couple of suns into a sphere. Pulsars briefly fire in the sky. The spin imparted by the supernova's explosion and the pulsar's collapse creates a beam of highly focused radio waves. If a neutron star were “aimed” at Earth, the beam's beating illumination would register as a flash in our radio telescopes every time it swept across us. Meanwhile, the pulsar's intense gravity distorts a companion star, creating a bulge on its surface. Like Earth's moon, the star's rotation is tidally locked, always presenting the same side to its dominant neighbor. The companion star's atmosphere gets siphoned away, layer by layer, forming a turbulent tendril of gas that winds in an ever-tightening spiral around the pulsar as the fluid becomes more viscous, as it takes effort to force the grains past one another.”

For his thesis, Tschirhart determined the nanoviscosity of silicone oil by measuring the amount of time it takes a tiny silicon needle that penetrates a cell wall without damaging the cell to monitor the electrical activity within. Tschirhart and Jermy share an interest in fluid mechanics. “I think the biggest difference between what Adam and I do is that Adam is a theorist, and I am an experimentalist,” Tschirhart said. “I don’t think there’s a fluid that is a continuum of infinitely divisible matter and thus doesn’t have any ‘graininess’ to it.” But because atoms and molecules do have finite sizes, “once you get down to small enough scales,” he said, “even water becomes grainy. The fluid becomes more viscous,” as it takes effort to force the grains past one another.

On April 6, surviving Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was found guilty of 30 counts, 17 of which may carry the death penalty. Nearly two years since the April 15, 2013, bombing and subsequent manhunt, which injured 260 and killed four, debate rages over motive, law enforcement procedure, intelligence failures and the prospect of state execution. The California Tech

Undergraduates Jermy, Tschirhart awarded Hertz fellowships

Casey Handmer Contributing Writer

Beginning with co-inventor and 2015 Hertz Foundation fellow Adam Jermyn, in 2005, 2010, 2011, and 2014, Caltech seniors Adam Jermy and Charles Tschirhart have been named 2015 Hertz Fellowship winners. Selected from a pool of approximately 800 applicants, the awardees will receive up to five years of support for their graduate studies. According to the Hertz Foundation, fellows are chosen for their intellect, their ingenuity and their potential to bring meaningful improvement to society. Jermy and Tschirhart bring the number of Caltech undergraduate Hertz fellows to 60.

“Dzhokhar Tsarnaev survived to be captured and was immediately questioned for 16 hours.”

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, and his elder brother Tamerlan Tsarnaev, both ethnically Chechen Muslims, autonomously built pressure cooker bombs and planned the attack using videos from Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula’s online English language glossy magazine Inspire. The two bombs were detonated remotely near the marathon finish line 13 seconds apart. The brothers evaded capture until a shooting on April 19, when they blew up a final manhunt on April 19, 2013, four days after the bombing.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev survived to be captured, and was immediately questioned for 16 hours. Subsequently read his Miranda rights, the admissibility of prior testimony is a matter of controversy. Despite a call for him to be tried as an enemy combatant, prominent legal scholars including Alan Dershowitz successfully argued that doing so would jeopardize the case against Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. As it has for many remaining Guantanamo Bay inmates, and the federal court system was judged sufficient to handle Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s case.

Immediately following the bombing, questions about handling of intelligence were raised in the media. As in the case of the underwear bomber (Umair Farouk Abdulmutallab), the TSA (Richard Reid), the Times Square bomber (Faisal Shahzad), the 2009 Fort Hood shooter (Nidal Malik Hasan) and a few others, it seems hints arising from the Tsarnaev brothers’ not exactly stealthy behavior had been ignored or not connected. Indeed, it was revealed that Russian intelligence services had even warned the FBI about the Tsarnaev brothers. There is now an alarming disconnect between two types of home-grown terror attacks. In the first, a handful of disaffected American citizens have successfully advanced plots to execute, often harming or even killing American civilians. In the second, dozens of plots funded and instigated by paid FBI informants have successfully entwined financially desperate and/or mentally ill men in hastily written anti-terrorism legislation. Naturally these “plots,” which are actually exploiting society’s weakest members for PR and pose no threat to security, have been disrupted “in the nick of time.”

In the investigation after the Boston marathon bombings, the FBI shot and killed Ibragim Todashev, a friend of the Tsarnaev brothers, during an interrogation in Florida. It has been suggested that Iragim confessed to, and implicated Tamerlan Tsarnaev in, a triple homicide that occurred in Waltham, Massachusetts, on Sept. 11, 2011. No further evidence has emerged, however.

The number of Americans killed and injured during terrorist attacks over the last 30 years pales in comparison to those killed in vehicle accidents, home shootings, police shootings, food poisonings, lightning strikes, livestock accidents, as soldiers fighting overseas, etc. This heightened violence and mayhem combined with our free and open press serve to greatly amplify the terror and horror, which is precisely why violent extremist attacks against civilians are so effective.

As our society responds to brazen but ultimately futile attacks such as these is largely ignoring a significant trend: technology continues to redefine our systems of communication and interaction. As Bruce Schneier is wont to say, engineering security is nontrivial. Two concrete examples surrounding the bombing illustrate this point.

In the first, some members of the online community reddit tried to analyze social media to discover the identity of the bombers, "Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s ultimate fate, execution or life in prison, rests on proving that Tamerlan Tsarnaev was the prime actor and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev a partially-willing follower..."
Upcoming Events
1. Learn to fix your bike!
   Saturday | April 18th | 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Caltech Bike Lab (http://caltechbikelab.blogspot.com) | Instructors: Jonathan, Dave, Jeff
   Bring your bike, and learn:
   1. How to fix a flat
   2. How to adjust your brakes
   3. How to adjust your shifter and gears
   4. Advanced topics (you decide)
   Free Lunch Included, courtesy of the Caltech Y!
   16 lots available. Sign up at http://doodle.com/bktiaeiqgmyzg

2. LA River Clean Up
   Saturday | April 18th | 8:00 AM - Noon
   Join the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FARL) for the annual Los Angeles River Clean Up! This annual "work party" will include extracurricular activities planned and supervised by students as an opportunity to learn leadership skills and discover themselves. The mission of today's Y remains the same—to provide opportunities that will prepare students to become engaged, responsible citizens of the world. The Y seeks to broaden students' worldviews, raise social, ethical, and cultural awareness through teamwork, community engagement, activism, and leadership. More information about the Caltech Y and its programs can be found at http://caltechy.org. The office is located at 505 S. Wilson Avenue.

3. Iron Mountain Hike
   Saturday | April 18th | 7:00 AM
   Join the Caltech Y Outdoors group for a hike to the summit of Iron Mountain. Iron Mountain is one of the tallest peaks in the San Gabriels. The trail to the summit is the most strenuous single peak trail in the entire mountain range, but the rewarding view and accomplishment of reaching the summit is worth the effort. The hike is 14 miles round trip with a whopping 7200 feet of elevation gain.
   This hike is intended for very experienced hikers only. We will leave the Caltech Y at 7:00am and expect to hike all day. If you are interested, please sign up for the hike at the link below. If you have any questions, email Jeremy Sanders at jsander@caltech.edu.
   h t t p : / / g o o g l e . c o m / f o r m s / UTlmQYTV

4. The Studenski Award
   Proposals Due Friday, April 17th no later than noon
   The Studenski Memorial Award is a grant of up to $6000 established in the memory of Paul Studenski, a Caltech student who was killed in an automobile accident while traveling across the United States in 1974. It is awarded to a Caltech undergraduate who, having reached a crossroads in life, would benefit from a period away from the academic community to obtain a better understanding of self and to explore possible directions for the future.
   S t u d e n s k i proposals (1 to 2 pages maximum) are due Friday, April 17th at 5:00pm at caltechy@caltech.edu (in word format). For more information, contact Athena Castro athe@caltech.edu or Greg Fletcher gregf@caltech.edu or join us for dinner:
   More info and application can be found at http://caltechy.org/programs_services/Events/Studenski/index.php

5. Caltech Y ACT Award
   Applications due Friday, April 17th no later than noon
   The 8,400 Caltech Y ACT Award offers students an opportunity to explore an issue, engage in a cause, and lead a campaign to educate and inform others at Caltech. Caltech Y activists determine the cause they will address, the organization with which they will partner, and the type of campaign they will lead on campus. The Caltech Y ACT Award helps Caltech Students organize the Caltech community, the world beyond Caltech's campus, and the world beyond campus to change the world for the better as active citizens.
   Join the Caltech Y during our office hours to learn more about this exciting opportunity, contact us to ask questions or set up a meeting with us.
   More info and the application can be found at http://www.caltechy.org/programs_services/commerce/ACT/index.php

6. Pasadena LEARNs
   Hiking in Huntington Library, Plant Sale Volunteers Needed
   Friday - Sunday | April 24th - 26th | 7:00 AM Madison and Jackson Elementary School
   Pasadena LEARNs is a club for kids in preschool through grade 6 who like to hike and help out at events. We will hike 5p.m. April 24th to Madison and Jackson Elementary School!
   Hiking at Madison and Jackson Elementary School! We are partnered with the Pasadena LEARNs program and work with their Scouts Olympiad team on no regular tutoring along with occasional hands-on science experiments. Transportation is provided. For more information and to RSVP, contact vkkumar@caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.
   Other Announcements
   - Beyond the Caltech Y
     Huntington Library Plant Sale Volunteers Needed
     Friday - Sunday | April 24th - 26th | 7:00 AM Huntington Library
     Huntington Library is in need of volunteers to assist guests with loading and unloading flowers. Come volunteer at the checkout area & designated pickup location. Dolly carts are provided by The Huntington, but due to the volume of customers and distance to the pickup location, we need volunteers willing to assist with the following:
     - Loading plants on & off of carts & from & to the checkout area & designated pickup location
     - Returning carts to checkout area & assisting the next guest in need
     - It is a physically demanding job and there is a high volume of plants to work with. We recommend the use of the most important roles in the Plant Sale and tips are frequently given for the activity.
   Contact Mikki Heydorff at mkbhdorf@huntington.org for more info and to volunteer.

7. Pasadena Ronald McDonald House
   Hospice House
   Pasadena Ronald McDonald House provides housing, comfort, care and support to families with children who have serious or life threatening illnesses. Families need to have a medical referral to stay at the House, and come from at least 25 miles away from the institution. We work with a number of local hospital partners, including Huntington Hospital, City of Hope, and Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The Ronald McDonald House at Huntington Hospital is licensed by the California Department of Social Services and the American Institute of Architects.
   Contact Mikki Heydorff at mkbhdorf@huntington.org or Greg Fletcher gregf@caltech.edu.

The highlight of this deal is the increased "breakout" time, or the time it would take Iran to turn its nuclear material into a weapon. This is important and worthwhile precisely for that reason: it gives the Iranian regime a chance to overwhelmingly reduce the probability of more American military conflict in the Middle East.

Experts conclude that the breakout time is currently two months, and could be reduced to as little as one month in months. This is achieved through a substantial reduction in the number of nuclear centrifuges from 19,000 to 5,000,000, which would reduce Iran's ability to fabricate a working nuclear weapon. This would be a similar move to the reduction in the number of weapons capabilities in its plutonium enrichment facilities. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would have additional time and powers to verify that these steps are taken; Iran's cooperation will result in the lifting of some economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations and the United States.

Of course, Republicans responded by decrying the deal as an appeasement to the enemy, a sentiment shared by the Israeli Supply. Sen. John McCain and both houses of Congress held by Republicans, this is a potentially complicating matter. The Senate is considering a bill requiring a 60-day congressional review period for the agreement, which would give Congress the power to vote on whether or not to accept the agreement. If Congress gives the agreement into law before the terms of the deal are finalized, the negotiations would become greater, more complex by forcing diplomats to consider whether the deal would be acceptable to Republicans. I believe Congress should keep its distance from the negotiations. American diplomats need room to maneuver when working with a hostile counterparty. Instead of interfering, Congress can find other ways to prove that the United States intends to support the Iranian government, such as supporting the Yemeni government in its conflict with Iran-supported Houthis rebels. Congress can toe the line that the United States is pursuing the deal out of self-interest, sparing itself a k of a military response if Iran were to obtain a nuclear weapon. This agreement is important and worthwhile precisely for that reason: it gives the Iranian regime a chance to overwhelmingly reduce the probability of more American military conflict in the Middle East.

The deal with Iran was set up by a negotiations breakthrough in November 2013, dubbed the Geneva Accord, which set up the current round of negotiations. Representatives met throughout the year to negotiate a framework, a two-day extension on the deal and released the details on April 2. The framework is a prototype of the full agreement, which, if it is not to be immediately signed into law before the imposed deadline of March 31st for the white clean up area in the Botanical Center to the designated pickup area in the Parking Lot. Dolly carts are provided by The Huntington, but due to the volume of customers and distance to the pickup location, we need volunteers willing to assist with the following:
- Loading plants on & off of carts & from & to the checkout area & designated pickup location
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Shlohmo’s release Dark Red is a slow but rewarding listen

NAILEN MATSCHKE Contributing Writer

Of the current, post-2000s generation of electronic music producers, Shlohmo has found a way to stand out from the pack with tracks featuring disheveled production and an ethereal atmosphere while maintaining recognizable, memorable melodies. With EPs released in 2009 and 2010, the Los Angeles-based producer first presented a sound that mixed hip-hop beats with the malleable, unpredictable sonics you might expect from a slowed-down Flying Lotus. Since his debut EPs, his style has evolved in interesting directions, but at its core, Shlohmo remains a producer with a clear and consistent vision.

Compositionally, these songs have synth textures backed by driving, yet at the same time, a spaciousness that gives space to the listener. This is not just noise, only to drop out of the mix and hit the listener hard. Other tracks where Shlohmo experiments with a few noticeable artistic progression can be heard, especially in the latter album, Dark Red, when the melody is reincorporated after being dropped out of the mix.

Shlohmo’s style; with its genre-defying approach to electronic music, his sound is both well but not necessarily underwhelming. Many of the instrumental parts are often times well crafted but not always as Shlohmo has developed his style; with its genre-defying approach to electronic music, his sound is both well but not necessarily underwhelming. Many of the instrumental parts are often times well crafted but not always

Aesthetic combination that didn’t really play to other artist’s strengths, and such occasional moments were still not been kind to Shlohmo during the past year or two. As one might expect, this comes out in full effect on his recently-released sophomore album Dark Red, an effort packed with feelings like anger and despair, reaching an emotional boiling point far more often than its predecessors. At its worst, some tracks get too caught up in one specific moment to continue in interesting directions, but at the same time the pain expressed throughout the album coupled with a noticeable artistic progression can really grab the listener’s attention and demonstrate that Shlohmo’s future, while under duress, has significant potential.

The album starts off with the slow-burning “Ten Days of Falling,” which builds from some static and an aimless synth to an sprawling track—using layers of textures and sound that may not exist, and is performing and low-income students with financial aid and who find themselves in these situations through no fault of their own—a medical underload policy could cost a student with financial aid thousands of dollars under this policy. While students may petition the dean and provost for an exemption in “exceptional circumstances,” they should not have to jump through hoops during what is already a stressful situation to avoid the financial consequences. This policy creates a severe financial burden on high-performing and low-income students to address a problem that may not in fact exist, and is readily addressed by more careful examination of overload petitions (as is already common practice for students with financial aid). We urge the Faculty Board to repeal this policy. We urge the Faculty Board to repeal this policy. While students may be unwilling to donate to Caltech in the future, as they are already being forced to extend or pay after their time at Caltech due to this policy. Overall, this policy has backfired and made Caltech a more difficult place to attend for those who need financial aid.

The student body overwhelmingly supports the repeal of the 12-term tuition policy. Faculty, staff and administrators to repeal the policy and allow motivated individuals who are taking full advantage of the coursework available at Caltech, to graduate early or underload or students with financial aid, to graduate early underload without suffering severe financial consequences.

Shlohmo’s release Dark Red is a slow but rewarding listen...
Students, prefrosh engage in shenanigans

The annual Prefrosh Weekend took place from April 9 to April 10. While there was an opportunity for prefrosh to experience academic life at Caltech, current students also made sure to entertain the prefrosh. Among some of the activities that Techers put together for the prefrosh were group kick-off games such as themed fashion shows; Ruddock Greens, a miniature golf course set up in Ruddock; Boba and Games Night at Avery (not pictured); and a boat-building competition held at Millikan Pond.

Photos Courtesy of Ching-Yun (Chloe) Hsu

Caltech life explained by rap lyrics

KSHITIJ GROVER
Contributing Writer

Let’s just get straight to the lines. There’s no doubt that these big name rappers had the inside scoop on Caltech.

And you can be the one for me when the other numbers aren’t adding up
I’ve been thinking about you, thinking about you
And we can be like two digits, cause ain’t no one equivalent to you
— Hoodie Allen (“Numbers”)

Caltech students profess their love in mathematical terms on a daily basis, and we love it when rappers aren’t afraid to pull out the equations. Hoodie knows what’s up and it’s no surprise he’s a campus favorite.

Four in the mornin’, and I’m zonin’
I think I’m possessed, it’s an omen
— Kanye West (“Black Skinhead”)

The average Techer is most definitely in the zone at four in the morning, much like Yeezy professes as an omen.

All right stop, collaborate and listen
— Vanilla Ice (“Ice Ice Baby”)

It’s famed that Vanilla Ice once taught a course at Caltech, and this was the only line on his syllabus.

The block got my back
And my boys do too
— Fabolous (“Imma Do it”)

If you’re working alone on a set, you’re going to have a bad time. I’m with Fabolous — my boys got my back.

Sometimes I just feel like, quitting I still might
Why do I put up this fight, why do I still write
Sometimes it’s hard enough just dealing with real life
— Eminem (“8 Mile”)

Come midterms week, this is the “Party Rock Anthem.”

It’s like a jungle, sometimes it makes me wonder how I keep from going under
— Grandmaster Flash (“The Message”)

No one needstoeplainthis—Grandmaster Flash is prophetic. The innocence of Pasadena never fails to transform into a jungle from time to time.

Wasn’t cool in high school, but that’s expected with geniuses
— Childish Gambino (“It’s On”)

Gambino is a mastermind ... and he’s not afraid to say it. I could see Donald fitting right into the lecture hall.

Everybody lack confidence, everybody lack confidence
How many times my potential was anonymous?
— Kendrick Lamar (i)

Ah, the famous Caltech imposter syndrome. Kendrick Lamar loves himself and there’s no reason everyone shouldn’t prove their potential.

Now who’s to say if I was right or wrong?
— 2Pac (“Until the End of Time”)

No one can tell you if you’re doing things right — not even that pesky GPA.
Men’s track and field kills it at SCIAC Duals #winning

CLAREMONT, Calif. (Apr. 11, 2015) – Junior Anup Kishore (Chappaqua, N.Y. / Wasatch Acad.) paced the Beavers with a total of 16 points across four events as the Caltech men’s track and field team earned its first SCIAC dual victory since 2011, 92-48 over Chapman University, as it joined the women’s team in a four-way multi-dual at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges on Saturday.

"Coming into today, it looked like things would be very close against Chapman," Head Coach Ben Raphelson said. "The final score was indicative of what an outstanding team performance we had today. A lot of student-athletes stepped up and today showed great progress for both programs."

Kishore took fourth place overall in the triple jump with a leap of 39 feet, eight inches and fifth in both the high jump (five feet, one inch) and pole vault (11 feet, ¾ inch), rounding out his day with a javelin throw of 90 feet, 11 inches for ninth place.

Junior Morgan Hill (San Diego, Calif. / Wasatch Acad.) earned a pair of five-point hauls and one three-pointer against Chapman, placing 10th overall in the discus and shot put and sixth in the hammer. He saved his best throw for last on each occasion, including a full three-foot improvement in the shot to beat out the Panthers’ top thrower.

Senior Ben Grabowski (Lake Forest Park, Wash. / Inglemoor) and sophomore Jordan Bonilla (Weston, Fla. / Cypress Bay) reached up 11 and seven points, respectively, across three events each, with Bonilla narrowly missing out of the scoring in a fourth. Grabowski earned five points in the discus and javelin and snuck into the scoring in the hammer with one point, while Bonilla picked up three points in the hammer and javelin and one in the shot.

The Beavers picked up some big points in the running events as well. Their top individual scorer was Freshman Alec Ho (Vancouver, Wash. / Columbia River), who made his debut in both the 110-meter and 400-meter hurdles, earning five points in each. In the 5000-meter run, senior Juan Adame (Sylmar, Calif. / Sylmar Math, Science and Tech.) and junior Alex Anemogiannis (Atlanta, Ga. / Marist School) placed third and fifth overall, respectively, to claim a combined eight points over Chapman behind a pair of career-best times. Adame ran a 16:22.49 while Anemogiannis made up significant ground to blow past a Panther runner in the final strides for a four-point swing. Junior Elliot Simon (Alexandria, Va. / Thomas Jefferson) and freshman Christopher Haack (New York City, N.Y. / The Browning School) teamed up to collect a combined four points in the 800-meter run.

Senior Victor Duan (Darien, Ill. / Illinois Math and Science Acad.) placed third and fifth overall, respectively, to claim a combined eight points over Chapman behind a pair of career-best times. Adame ran a 16:22.49 while Anemogiannis made up significant ground to blow past a Panther runner in the final strides for a four-point swing. Junior Elliot Simon (Alexandria, Va. / Thomas Jefferson) and freshman Christopher Haack (New York City, N.Y. / The Browning School) teamed up to collect a combined four points in the 800-meter run.

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Women’s water polo loses senior game, makes up for loss by having very cute seniors on the team

Sure, we don’t win games, but at least we are patriotic and awesome. This game gave me all the feels. It’s bizarre that four years ago I could barely swim, and last Saturday I started in my last home game at Caltech. No, I’m not crying, there’s just a branch in my eye.

Men’s track and field kills it at SCIAC Duals #winning

Women’s water polo loses senior game, makes up for loss by having very cute seniors on the team

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ASCIT Minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for 7 April 2015. Taken by Sean McKenna.

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

Guests: Chris Dosen, Elliott Simon, Nikita Sirohi, Anne Dorsey, Bianca Lepe

Call to Order: 12:09 pm

President’s Report (Connor):
- Still talking with faculty and administrators on the 12-term tuition policy.
- BOC bylaws discussion continues. Still planning on a town hall to describe changes.

Officer’s Reports:
- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Nima):
  o Sending out a library survey about effect of closings.
  o Sending out ASCIT Teaching Awards nominations today.
  o Frosh choose their majors this week; info was sent about ISP program.
  o Option Fair happened.
  o Talking with Dabiri to help frosh and RA’s understand eligibility rules and UASH.
- V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Cat):
  o Reappointed Margaret Lee as IHC Secretary
  o $300 allocated to houses for PFWE by admissions.
- Interim Director of Operations (Sean):
  o ASCIT Food for Prefrosh Weekend is happening Thursday night at midnight.
  o Club Fair Friday afternoon.
- Treasurer (Patrick):
  o Patrick is looking for money that is owed to people. May be related to direct deposit. Finishing up budget records for the next treasurer.
- Social Director (Annie):
  o ASCIT Formal went well.
  o Avengers confirmed for ASCIT Movie Night on May 1st.
  o Trip to the aquarium, Harvey Mudd party will happen in May if we can find open weekends.
  o Battle of the Bands is happening before BFP on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.
- Secretary (Sean):
  o BOD meet and greet on Saturday 11 April at 6pm to meet current position holders in upcoming elections.

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. The next meeting will take place on April 14th at Noon in the Winnett Common Space.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:24 pm
Hey Techers. In case you weren’t keeping up, it is currently week 3 which means add day will be creeping up on us at the end of the week. Be sure to finalize your add cards earlier rather than later so as to avoid the reckless sprinting between your professor’s and the registrar’s offices. I had said that I would continue talking about soft skills and how they relate to the Ellen Pao case but due to recent developments which I will get into, this article has become more of a commentary on the relationship between feminism and employment in the technology industry.

To start, Ellen Pao, as interim CEO of Reddit, has now issued a proposal to remove salary negotiation as part of the hiring process at Reddit. According to several articles, in The Huffington Post and others, the argument for this move is that this should solve the income inequality that exists in industry. This is not the same as “changing the playing field.” Leveling the playing field, however, is not the same as “changing the rules of the game” or, even more severe, changing the game entirely.

The definition of feminism can in some sense be paraphrased to “leveling the playing field.” Leveling the playing field, however, is not the same as “changing the rules of the game” or, even more severe, changing the game entirely. Polarizing the population into male and female is tricky this far into life. In some cases it can be beneficial to highlight discrimination but in others it removes the focus from individuality and it classifies people into groups, leaving behind the idea of “you’re bad or good at something” and going into “your group is bad or good at something.” But isn’t that exactly what gender equality is supposed to be removing?

The first is that in industry, one of the important soft skills, more often than not, is negotiation. Being able to convince someone of something is crucial. It’s also something that does not show up in a meaningful way on paper but does present itself in a situation like negotiating a salary. Business is by definition based on trade. Being able to close a deal on the terms that you want can often make the difference between making it and breaking it. The point is that negotiation behavior is valuable and it should be valued as such at the company, ergo the award of a higher salary to someone demonstrating strong negotiation skills.

The second reason is that the solution to income inequalities between men and women arising from women not being good negotiators (the previous not being my view but one that showed itself in the articles) is not to remove negotiation, but instead to make women better negotiators. Removing negotiation from the hiring process is akin to saying, “Hey, we’ll be willing to pay you more if in addition to your other skills you can speak an additional language, but since we’re not allowed to check your proficiency in a second language, we’ve just not going to check it and we’ll pay you less than you can earn if you had demonstrated that proficiency.”

Claiming that women are not good negotiators and then saying that that means we should remove negotiation simply panders to the viewpoint that women are somehow less capable, which I strongly believe is inaccurate.

I agree that income inequality is an issue that should be addressed but this seems to be a poor way to address it for at least two reasons.


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**Sudoku**

Salary negotiations are common in job interviews in the business world.

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Acquired Taste

Dr. Z

Thanks for using Caltech! Here’s an animation.

To the aspiring comic writer:
If you are seeking inspiration, just look around you. There is ridiculous stuff happening on a pretty much daily basis.

Georgio Kraggman

“Only the next 6±1 years of my life”

Liz Lawler

Answers to previous Sudoku

http://puzzlechoice.com

The California Tech
Caltech 40-58
Pasadena, CA 91125

Graduate school decision

Grad school Do not

Dear Georgio, decisions are coming up. Please make sure to let us know as soon as possible!

Awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,
Graduate school admissions