HANNALORE GERLING-DUNSMOR Contributing Writer

On Oct. 22, 2015, Hurricane Patricia became the strongest hurricane ever formed in the Western Hemisphere, with sustained winds of 200 mph. The storm formed with nearly record-breaking speed, going from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane in about 24 hours. Late the next day, the storm moved from the Pacific Ocean and made landfall near Jalisco, Mexico, significantly weakened with winds down to 165 mph but still a Category 5. The storm dumped over 20 inches of rain, directly causing eight deaths and indirectly causing five more. The damages are estimated to be approximately $280 million, with most of the damages coming from agriculture losses, as the storm primarily affected rural areas.

Naturally, the sheer size and strength of Hurricane Patricia brought to mind Hurricane Katrina, a decade earlier. Hurricane Katrina caused massive damage along the Gulf of Mexico, but the staccato memories of the storm come from New Orleans, Louisiana. The city’s levees failed, causing massive flooding that led to the majority of the casualties. The devastation was estimated to result in between 2,000 and 18,000 deaths, and caused $80 billion in damage. Over a million people were displaced from the Gulf region. However, Hurricane Katrina was vastly smaller than Hurricane Patricia in size, only had top winds of 175 mph and had 140 mph winds when it made landfall. For much of its duration, Hurricane Katrina was only a Category 3. This has left many people wondering: how did Hurricane Patricia cause so much less damage? This gave the storm less time to build a storm surge – rising of water levels due to the storm – which often does a large portion of the damage. Finally, while the satellite images of Hurricane Patricia spanning an immense area are impressive to look at, what meteorologists use to define one hurricane as larger than another is the diameter of the storm’s eye, as the eye’s wall has the strongest and most destructive winds. Hurricane Katrina’s eye was four times larger than that of Hurricane Patricia, making the former a bigger storm where it really matters.

The Mexican government seems to have learned its lesson from previous disasters. Warnings were sent out over television, radio and social media. Evacuations started before Hurricane Patricia rapidly became a Category 5, giving people enough time to leave. Some of the people who remained were taken to shelters, while others were told to stay in their homes, based on what was considered best. In general, the people responded, and that is credited with improving the outcome of the storm. This stands in stark comparison to Hurricane Katrina, during which the evacuations largely failed.

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For one thing, Mexico had a good infrastructure in place. For another, the country is familiar with how mountains interact with massive storms. As climate change now considered a major impact on what was considered best. In general, the people responded, and that is credited with improving the outcome of the storm. This stands in stark comparison to Hurricane Katrina, during which the evacuations largely failed.

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Caltech Y Column

The Caltech Y Column serves to inform students of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. The list is compiled by Neera Shah from information given by the Caltech Y and its student leaders.

Founded by students in 1916, the Y was organized to provide extracurricular activities planned and implemented 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.

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 https://caltechy.org. The office is located at 505 S. Wilson Avenue.

Ongoing and past programs hosted by the Caltech Y:
- Alternative Spring Breaks: Costa Rica, New York, Yosemite, San Diego, San Francisco
- Make-A-Difference Day: Hillside’s Home for Children, LA County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CouchArt), Eaton Canyon, Lifeline for Pets
- Transportation is included. For more information and to RSVP, contact vkkumar@caltech.edu.

 Eligible for Federal Work Study.

2b. Hathaway Sycamores
Volunteer at Hathaway Sycamores, a group that supports local underprivileged but motivated high school students. There are a variety of ages and subjects being tutored. The service trip includes about an hour of travel time and 1.5 hours of tutoring. Transportation is included. For more info and to RSVP email Sherwood Richards at srichards@iapir.caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.

Caltechlive!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015/8 PM
Good Lovelies
Swinging Harmonies and Hilarious Tales
$35, 30, 25 / $10 YOUTH

Buoyant bluegrass and sweet storytelling come together in a show that features the flawless three-part vocal harmonies of this charming female trio. Expect delightful songs and smiles in this irresistible performance by one of Canada’s premier folk bands.

Caltech / JPL Faculty & Staff $5 off • Students $5
Caltech’s Beckman Auditorium
www.events.caltech.edu
Call campus x 4652 for information
Vibert struggles for new ideas on *Bizarster*

NAILI MATSCHKE Contributing Writer

There are prolific artists, and there are prolific artists with deep conscious awareness of what they are doing, from any era, as yet another Cornish act from the ’90s, he’s released nine LPs of techno- instrumentals, new and old amalgamations of popular UK electronic music styles under his own name, making up just over 40 minutes of length, along with his own EPs and compilations. The remainder of his output is comprised of the latter; it just happens to be a very impressive list of contemporaries he’s worked with, Vibert has carved out his own niche in the electronic music world, and is well entrenched in his era, but as a true jack of all trades. The magic of his music comes not from his skill as a songsmith, but from the intricacy with which he weaves all manners of instruments and samples together into dense, shifting and funky beats. As a result, the choice of who he samples, such as this month’s *Bizarster* is whether Vibert can incorporate fresh ideas into his music, or if it’s more rehashing of the tropes we’ve heard from him already.

Perhaps unsurprisingly at this point, this record is largely comprised of the latter; it just doesn’t seem like Vibert can do much more with his expertise of electronic music, with the trade. He’s at least a decade and a half ago. He’s shown time and again, with Something he’s created a very warm, enveloping atmosphere, making the vocals that much more distracting.

While Vibert never fails to demonstrate that he can do more than anything else. There’s also the additional thing come too few and far between on this album.

On the subject of the music’s melodic side, there are some hits and a fair amount of misses. Because there isn’t much structure to these songs, Vibert generally comes up with a great idea that he subtly builds for a few minutes, or something middling and skippable, and the latter frequently ends up being the case on *Bizarster*. “I Can Phil It,” “Bizarster” and “Power Press” all have instrumentals that range from forgettable to downright obnoxious, while I’d describe those on “Knockout” and “Officer’s Club” as tolerable more than anything else. There’s that strange inclusion of “Manalog,” composed entirely of sleepy, inducing synthesizers, inexplicably repeating themselves until the song becomes the longest track on the album.

On the other hand, there are some songs I really enjoyed, such as the all-around solid “War” and the dense, atmospheric “Hey Go,” which is a psychedelic feel by a symphony of effect-happy synthesizers along with the whispered “Hey, take a trip.” Even if I didn’t care for the vocal samples, I thought the clean, gittery and bass on “Doozit” created a very warm, enveloping atmosphere, making the vocals that much more distracting.

Ultimately, there’s no way I would recommend this album to anybody who’s not already a fan of Lake Vibert. I enjoyed it, but thanks to my dad I’ve heard Vibert’s music for longer than I can remember, so I also have a much higher tolerance for his oddities and refuse to take anything seriously than some others. If you’re already somebody who enjoys other Vibert albums and his style of meticulously evolving his music layer by layer, then you’ll probably enjoy what he has to offer on *Bizarster*. However, it could easily have 20 or 30 minutes taken out of its hour-long length and be a much more enjoyable experience while still being a respectable album. Even for fans of similar artists like Aphex Twin, Squarepusher and the like, I would highly recommend starting with something earlier. There’s a lot of mediocre content here, and not much that you won’t be able to find on Lover’s Acid, Youeph or many other releases in his extensive discography.

Meanwhile, “I Can Phil It” even embraces being a joke, with Phil Collins singing “Can you feel it” and “I can feel it” for its entire length. The distorted “Welcome, we have been expecting you” that kicks off “Hey Go” is something we’ve heard before on at least 2000’s *We Hear You*. It wouldn’t be a Vibert album without some goddness, and, again, this isn’t out of the ordinary, but without a whole lot going on melodically a lot of the samples here feel unnecessary and a cheap way to hide other shortcomings.

The song that stood out to me on this album was “War.” It’s a standard breakthrough opener on opener “Knockout,” supporting a woozy bassline, and on the closer, which works well under a repeated and unchanging vocal sample, while the interior of the album is generally slower and much more danceable. In fact, if I had to pick something that Vibert really did well on this album, it would be how well he uses drum kits throughout it. I’m sure they’re pulled from his enormous sample library, but they’re definitely the most organic-sounding I’ve heard on one of his records. I can’t think the horn samples of “War” or the general discor of “Bizarster” would work without the imperfect texture of these kits.

Still, pulling new compositions from existing recordings is not at all uncommon in electronic music, but Vibert’s samples are the entire foundation of his work, and *Bizarster* is covered in them. There are some tasteful uses of these samples, but they fit with the instrumentals and are vital to the tone, but most of the time I found myself getting annoyed by their disruption of the music. The recording of a young child at the beginning of “Power Press” is used for a cheap joke, while the old man on “Doozit” and the Pac-Man effects on the last song stick out like sore thumbs and are too cheesy to take seriously.
Humans of Caltech: Meet creative writer Jon Cotler, class of 2019

The California Tech brings you stories of Caltech community members

Jon Cotler embraces Thomas Arnold, who is dressed as a Paladin for Halloween.

Photo Courtesy of Katherine Guo

Jon Cotler

Slaved over this infernal creation for months to produce something sticky hours, until it was finally ready. Then, in the sunlight, their masterpiece stood a mere 17.5 inches tall, and Jon virtually ran an inch below the height limit. The result of months of obsessive work, and countless hours of bitter tears, bright ideas, and exhilarating triumph, the robot finally moved — on its own. Bryce and Jon embraced, then got back to work, tightening screws and making various small adjustments, until it was perfect. A pungent odor curled its way into Jon’s nostrils, snapping him back to reality.

“That’s probably my waffles,”

After removing the very well done waffles and the now dry brown sugar, Jon took another whiff. “Carbon dioxide, likely with a touch of carbon monoxide.”

Chemical names, formulas, and symbols came rushing to his brain, the result of years of memorization, starting the summer before high school. The lab was cold. It was maybe 60 degrees, which was fairly unusual for the middle of July in central Pennsylvania. Sitting down for the pre-test, Jon began to shiver.

“I should have brought my sweater!”

The teacher then handed him a test laid in front of him. Jon began to read. “Gibberish,” he thought, making a face. But knowing symbols and such was no big deal. After minutes of fumbling and doing some pieces became smaller and smaller, Jon began having a more and more difficult time sorting them into their places.

“Metal goes here, plastic goes here, glass goes here, and other stuff goes here!”

Jon exclaimed.

“Does that work, Mommy?”

Jon’s forehead, but he studied on.

Thin beads of sweat trickled down his face. It was oppressively hot, and Jon quickly pushed a wet rope around his head to shield the light. As the hot, salty tears started to well up, Jon was barely able to contain his memory, suddenly made sense.

“I should have brought my waffles!”

But Jon was hard at work once again, taking apart the computer piece by piece, trying his best not to break it with his shaky, pudgy fingers.

A ring in Jon’s ears startled him. It was his mom, yelling at him that he was going to be late. He hated when she yelled, hated it more than just about anything else. Especially when she yelled in the middle of something he was doing, and then she’d watch him about it later. Jon felt he was right most of the time, as did his mom, so yelling was certainly not a productive way of resolving conflict in the household.

Every time she yelled, he couldn’t help but remember the time she had told him he had to take the computer he was dismantling, to see about those three, short, blissful weeks for the next three, short, blissful summers. Jon’s mom had been triggered by surrounding stimuli, much like a person will experience in everyday life. Though loosely based on his own personal experiences, this work is a piece of fiction, and thus many of the memories may have been modified slightly from their factual groundings. Feedback is greatly encouraged and appreciated.

A Portrait of the Engineer as a Young Man

An essay by Jonathan Cotler

The “absent-minded genius.” That’s what the whole world called him. Or, at least what’s that he hoped they called him. He didn’t really know what they called him because he was well, a little absent-minded. Shower thoughts had always been very amusing to Jon, but he could never quite figure out why. Regardless, he dried himself off, got dressed, and set off to make himself breakfast.

After putting his waffles and two hash browns in the toaster oven, Jon noticed the run-down microwave in the corner of the kitchen. It had been lying there for ages, but Jon had never found the time to fix it. Jon walked over to it, gave it a quick glance, and noticed that it was a motor.

“I still need to get that back from Mr. ‘s room,” Jon muttered to himself. His parents had been quite upset that he had “borrowed” it, but it had fit exactly right. So despite his parents’ complaints, he took it and ran to the robot. Bryce screamed at him.

“You CAN’T JUST ADD PARTS WHENEVER YOU WANT! THEY HAVE TO BE APPROVED!”

Bryce’s solution had been to gear—

The gears didn’t work, but it wasn’t perfect. Jon could see that the gears didn’t properly mesh, and it made this horrible tickling noise when turned on.

“No. It has to be perfect,” said Jon. “This motor, it’s perfect. Not your silly contraption.” Bryce eventually agreed to give it a try. Once inserted, this motor had an agreeable hum to it. Jon grinned.

“Like I said, perfect.” One wheel went down, three to go. Bryce and Jon punted by flashbacks to non-chronological memories that have been triggered by surrounding stimuli, much like a person will experience in everyday life. Though loosely based on his own personal experiences, this work is a piece of fiction, and thus many of the memories may have been modified slightly from their factual groundings. Feedback is greatly encouraged and appreciated.

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“Like I said, perfect.” One wheel went down, three to go. Bryce and Jon

If you were a captured prisoner of war, which form of torture would you dread the most?

So I read something that was like —

they would take a wet rope and tie it around your head, and then put you out in the sun, and as the rope dried it would contract around your head, and I heard that was really, really awful, so I’m going to avoid that one if possible.

If you could bathe in one food item, what would it be?


KATHERINE GUO
Page Editor

What’s your favorite brand of cereal?

I really like Cocoa Puffs, but my favorite brand is probably Honey Graham Oh’s. It’s not a big brand, just Cheerios with honey in the middle. It’s not Honey Nut Cheerios, though, I’ve seen them in like one store, ever, and I always get them when I see them.

What do you consider to be your worst haircut?

Throughout elementary school and the beginning of middle school I would get buzz cuts a lot, and I just don’t have the right shaped head for a buzz cut; it does not look good. I think there’s some pictures that I’m not going to send to you.

If you were a captured prisoner of war, which form of torture would you dread the most?

So I read something that was like —

they would take a wet rope and tie it around your head, and then put you out in the sun, and as the rope dried it would contract around your head, and I heard that was really, really awful, so I’m going to avoid that one if possible.

If you could bathe in one food item, what would it be?


JON COTLER
Page Editor

Note from the author:

This piece is a creative writing assignment originally submitted for credit in a high school class on March sixth, 2007. Since then, the author has revised and modified the essay, though it still retains much of its original form. As the title may suggest to the well-versed reader, this piece is inspired in part by the novel A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce. This piece in particular seeks to emulate the writing style of Joyce, namely a loose chronological progression of events over a short period of time,
Wang, Jin claim épée, foil titles at IFCSC Open Tournament

GOCALTECH.COM

PASADENA, Calif. (Oct. 25, 2015) – Freshman William Wang and junior Matthew Jin each went undefeated en route to claiming titles in the épée and foil, respectively, for Caltech men’s fencing at the IFCSC Open Tournament hosted at Caltech on Sunday.

Wang overcame an incredibly deep épée field which included two ‘A’ class and four ‘B’ class fencers in his first collegiate competition. The rookie did not drop a single bout in pool play, narrowly beating out Arizona State University ‘A’ fencer George Crosby, 5-4, to earn a #2 seed in the direct elimination round while sophomore Ethan Lo also went unscathed and earned a #3 seed. The teammates would meet in an epic semifinal where Lo took the lead on three occasions, but Wang ultimately rallied to advance to the final in a 15-14 victory, where he took an early lead and held on to defeat 2014 champion Jake Hilliard of Arizona State University, who had knocked out his own teammate, Crosby, in the other semifinal.

Lo improved on his position in last year’s competition by three places while sophomore Spencer Strumwasser moved up from 13th last year to sixth, dropping just one bout in a 5-4 defeat to Hilliard before bowing out at Lo’s hands in the quarterfinals. Freshman Alex White placed seventh in his collegiate debut, followed by Nima Yu Han Nam placed 11th and 12, respectively.

In the foil, Jin cruised through a 13-man field in which he entered as the highest-rated fencer in the ‘C’ class, improving on last year’s finish by three places. Jin swept through pool play and the direct elimination round, beating eventual third-place finisher Alex Lew in the semifinals, 15-5, and crushing the only other rated fencer in the weapon, USC’s Joseph Alderson, in the final, 15-4. Lew edged out junior Keegan Mendonca, who would better 2014’s 11th-place finish with sixth in this year’s event, in the quarterfinals while James Hamilton came in 11th.

Kai Chang paced the Beavers in the saber, finishing seventh to better last year’s top Caltech finish of 13th. Junior Marco Cruz-Heveda and sophomore Yu Han Nam placed 11th and 12, respectively.

The Beavers will participate in the individual BladeRunner USFA ROC at UC San Diego Nov. 7-8.

Jamshidi breaks women’s volleyball career kills record

GOCALTECH.COM

PASADENA, Calif. (Oct. 25, 2015) – Senior Cat Jamshidi broke Caltech women’s volleyball career kills record on Saturday night against Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.

Jamshidi matched the record with three kills in the first set and surpassed the mark in the second with the 555th of her career. She also ranks among the Top 3 in kills per set.

Hernandez, Meyer take third place at IFCSC Open

GOCALTECH.COM

PASADENA, Calif. (Oct. 25, 2015) – Senior Emilia Hernandez and Christina Meyer placed third for Caltech women’s fencing in the épée and foil, respectively, at the IFCSC Open Tournament hosted at Caltech on Sunday.

Hernandez qualified third among her pool to earn the #4 seed in direct elimination, where she picked up a win in the quarterfinals before falling in the semifinals. Meyer topped her group in pool play to earn the #2 seed but was knocked off in the semifinals, while freshman Maia Silber qualified as #6 and held her position with a defeat in direct elimination.

Percin named female SCIAC Swimmer of the Week

GOCALTECH.COM

PASADENA, Calif. (Oct. 29, 2015) – Caltech women’s swimming and diving freshman Britanny Percin has been named the CollegeSwimming.com SCIAC female Swimmer of the Week.

Percin broke the program’s 200 Freestyle record by over two seconds in her collegiate debut at Pomona-Pitzer Colleges Saturday, beating out six Sagehens to clock the fastest time in the conference this season at 2:08.31. The rookie just missed setting the 500 Free record by three seconds later in the meet and swam the fastest 100 Free split as part of the 400 Medley Relay in the last three years.
ASCIT Minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for 27 October 2015. Taken by Sean McKenna.

Officers Present: Nima Badizadegan, Catherine Jamshidi, Jay Palekar, Sean McKenna, Robin Brown

Call to Order: 12:04 pm

Guests: Kurtis Carsch, Chris Dosen, Laura Watson

President’s Report (Nima):
- Spoke to Joe Shepard regarding career center and athletics at Caltech
- Will continue conversations with both parties
- Working with IHC to put together student representatives regarding alcohol policies at Caltech

Officer’s Reports:
- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Jay):
  - Discussing Ec11 and other course concerns, course capturing with Deans.
- V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Cat):
  - Cat and one other student representative will sit on an ad-hoc Alcohol Policy Committee to meet soon. My primary goal is to make sure student/security relationship remains positive.
  - Many meetings, etc. will be happening to plan Bechtle. IHC is working closely with the architectural team. Committee will tour similar style residences at Claremont.
- Director of Operations (Sean):
  - I will summarize the applications in a document that we can look at on Sunday.
  - I’ll send an email tonight with details of any applications that require additional screening or attention. Please look at that before Club Funding on Sunday.
- Treasurer (Kalyn):
  - Absent
- Social Director (Robin):
  - Trivia night at Chouse is still a thing every other Thursday.
- Secretary (Phillip):
  - Feminist Club, Chemistry Club, and Quizbowl came in to make up their club-funding pitches.

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: 12:32 pm

VICE PROVOST’S OFFICE HOURS

Vice Provost, Chief Diversity Officer and Professor of English, Cindy Weinstein, offers weekly office hours beginning, Thursday, October 15, in Room 104 Parsons Gates. She views these hours as an opportunity for undergraduates, graduate students and postdocs to meet and discuss whatever you’d like to talk about. Professor Weinstein oversees the Council on Undergraduate Education, Caltech accreditation, the Staff and Faculty Consultation Center, Student-Faculty Programs, the Center for Teaching, Learning and Outreach, the Caltech Diversity Center and the libraries.

There are four appointments per hour, 15 min. each. Sign up the day of the meeting in 104 Parsons Gates, Vice Provosts’ Offices (x6339).

Fall Term Hours:
Thursday, Nov. 5, 12pm-1pm
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 12pm-1pm
Thursday, Nov. 19, 12pm-1pm

The highly dramatic, almost bipolar *Symphonie Fantastique* of Hector Berlioz anchors the November 13th concert by *Pasadena Community Orchestra*. The work moves from love, a pastoral country scene and a ball to a delightfully snarky march to the scaffold and witches’ dance – it has it all! Also on the concert is Franz von Suppé’s rollicking Light Cavalry Overture, with its bold fanfares and cantering-horses’ rhythms. Rounding out the evening is the hauntingly beautiful *Intermezzo* from Bizet’s popular *L’Arlesienne Suite*. Friday, November 13, 8:00 p.m. at *First Church of the Nazarene*, 3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena. Admission is free, and no reservations are necessary. For more information, contact 626-445-6708 or publicity@pcomusic.org, or visit us at www.pcomusic.org. Find us at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pasadena-Community-Orchestra/123895774685161, and follow us at https://twitter.com/PCorchestra.

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ajacob@caltech.edu

REMINDER FROM COUNSELING CENTER:

(daily from 8am-5pm)
Meet every Tuesday, 12:00-12:50 pm
Bottom floor of Winnett

**The California Tech**

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The advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or on camera-ready art, but The Tech can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising should be directed to the business manager at tech@caltech.edu. For subscription information, please send mail to “Subscriptions.”
From the president’s desk: The past and future of Bechtel residence

NIMA RADIZADEGAN
ASCIT President

As you have probably heard, there are a number of construction projects that are occurring on campus this year. By far, the biggest and longest-planned project is the Bechtel residence, often referred to as “Bechtel House.” In January 2012, the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation pledged $52 million to “expand and strengthen the Institute’s commitment to K-12 educational programs and engagement with students and teachers throughout California,” according to the Caltech website.

In recognition for the gift, Caltech decided to build a new residence hall, named after Bechtel, with the goal of bringing 100 percent of undergraduate students into on-campus housing.

The planned residence hall will have 250 beds, along with common areas, an underground parking garage and a servery for CDS. The Bechtel residence will be located next to Avery, along Moore walk, and should be a 2- or 3-story building with approximately 120,000 square feet of total space. For more information, Student Affairs will soon have a description of the Bechtel project posted on studaff.caltech.edu.

In 2012, Amelia Sargent, then the vice president of Student Affairs, formed a committee chaired by Professor Paul Asimow to look into the use of the new Bechtel residence. The committee produced a report containing a set of potential uses for the new residence, which includes proposals like:

- Off-campus housing, including unaffiliated housing and/or off-campus alleys
- All-freshman or all-sophomore housing
- A ninth house or a pair of new houses

The exact text of the report is not public. However, with all of the changes in the president’s office and in Student Affairs, the administration has yet to make any decisions about the use of the new residence hall. Additional proposals have also been brought up, including the idea of “multi-generational” housing, where undergraduate and graduate students live together.

Unfortunately, it is likely that construction will begin on the building before final decisions about its use are made. I have been avoiding the use of the words “Bechtel House” during this article because it is not clear whether Bechtel will become a house or not.

Because of the construction of the Bechtel residence, some of the older buildings that currently house undergraduates may be repurposed for grad student housing, so the landscape of housing at Caltech will likely be very different when the Bechtel residence opens.

For the past three years since the Bechtel gift, Caltech Facilities and Student Affairs have been preparing for the construction of the new building by selecting architects and moving buildings like the child care center out of the way of the planned construction site. Now that the architects have been selected, the design process will be starting soon, and construction should begin the following year. According to the official timeline, design will start in the fall of 2013, construction will begin in the fall of 2016 and the residence hall will be ready for students to move in for the 2018-2019 academic year. Only the current freshmen will be around at Caltech for long enough to see Bechtel.

Over the next four to six months, the HCI will be working closely with the architects of the Bechtel residence to help the architects get an idea of what the Caltech experience is like and figure out how Bechtel should look and feel. We will also be sending out a survey for every undergraduate to provide direct comments to the architects about what they like and dislike about their current living conditions, and the architects will be visiting the houses to get an idea of what undergraduate life at Caltech is like.

Regardless of how the Bechtel residence is used, the impact of the new residence cannot be understated. It is clear that all-freshman housing would have a significant impact on the campus culture and the mental health of new students. However, the other options on the table will also have some impact on students. In particular, the removal of all off-campus Caltech-owned housing may cause more students to rent apartments off-campus than move back on. A ninth house or two extra houses would have to be incorporated into rotation.

In the coming months, we as a campus have a lot of thinking to do about what we want Bechtel to look like, and how we want it to be used, because the decisions we make today will have a large impact on how our campus will be tomorrow.
### Humor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texting while driving: A Tragedy.</th>
<th>Niva, Slava, Lazarina.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sassy pooch on the road.</td>
<td>Texting while driving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That pooch ran into me!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Is this thing on?**

**C. Bhad**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This is a comic in the Tech</th>
<th>And the comment? On how difficult Caltech is, and how Caltech's students act.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filler Panel</td>
<td>brave 2 u by coffee, sleep deprivation, cynicism, and social isolation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**NOTICE:** The email address tech@caltech.edu is currently not working. To contact the editors, please email us at nshah@caltech.edu or nmshah@caltech.edu.

wow, I didn't realize my comics were so bad -G. Kuo

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