Photoblast: Caltech OASIS Show

The Downsides of Modern Consent Culture

Kirby Sikes
Contributing Writer

Editor’s note: This article contains sexually explicit content. Though this is a college newspaper, the editors are aware that certain members of our audience may be uncomfortable with the content in this article, and would like to advise the reader to proceed at their own discretion.

Because sexual consent is such a sensitive topic, I want to start this article by very explicitly stating some beliefs and intentions, some of which are hopefully already evident. Readers who feel that verbose statements of obvious facts are belittling or a waste of time are belittling or a waste of time. I want to start by stating my beliefs and some reasons why I’m publishing this article. After what was probably only a few seconds, although it felt much longer, my partner figured out that I was in a bad state, and let me up. I was shaking a little. My partner was compassionate and supportive, and after we had cuddled and I had calmed down, we talked through what had happened. My partner hadn’t heard the safe word. If I had been thinking clearly at the time, I probably would have realized that the word “red” surrounded by other words, while muffled by the mattress would be pretty hard to make out, but is hard to think clearly while having sex.

Many interactions, sexual or otherwise involve a more active and a more passive participant. As we take steps to stop victim-blaming, we also place more and more responsibility on the more active participant in consensual sexual interactions. Of course, the responsibility of the active participant is important. When one person is in a position of power over another, failure to pay attention to the experience of the submissive party can be criminally negligent.

But emphasis on the responsibility of only the active participant, and on the potential criminality of a failure of that responsibility can rob more passive participants of agency. Miscommunication will happen, and misinterpretation of a misunderstanding can make correcting the misunderstanding an almost insurmountable psychological burden. It would not have been physically difficult for me to continue saying “red” until I was heard, but the confusion and sense of violation made it impossible for me to speak up. When it feels like a crime is being committed, it leads to a profound sense of helplessness.

This experience was of course very different from sexual assault for a lot of reasons, but that crushing sense of powerlessness and the way I froze up are both fairly similar to what many rape victims experience. Sexual predators use those types of responses to control their victim. In longer term cases, sexual abusers groom their victims to nurture an artificial sense of powerlessness.

Of course, we should never blame a traumatized person for a traumatizing event. Sexual harassment and sexual assault often involve intentional violation of consent, and in many cases even if the victim is thinking clearly there is little that can be done to prevent it. At the same time, I worry that the lengths we go to avoid victim blaming have the potential to help foster that environment of helplessness that sexual abusers rely on. A sense of empowerment can go a long way towards escaping a bad situation.

After what was probably only a few seconds, although it felt much longer, my partner figured out that I was in a bad state, and let me up. I was shaking a little. My partner was compassionate and supportive, and after we had cuddled and I had calmed down, we talked through what had happened. My partner hadn’t heard the safe word. If I had been thinking clearly at the time, I probably would have realized that the word “red” surrounded by other words, while muffled by the mattress would be pretty hard to make out, but is hard to think clearly while having sex.

Many interactions, sexual or otherwise involved a more active and a more passive participant. As we take steps to stop victim-blaming, we also place more and more responsibility on the more active participant in consensual sexual interactions. Of course, the responsibility of the active participant is important. When one person is in a position of power over another, failure to pay attention to the experience of the submissive party can be criminally negligent.

But emphasis on the responsibility of only the active participant, and on the potential criminality of a failure of that responsibility can rob more passive participants of agency. Miscommunication will happen, and misinterpretation of a misunderstanding can make correcting the misunderstanding an almost insurmountable psychological burden. It would not have been physically difficult for me to continue saying “red” until I was heard, but the confusion and sense of violation made it impossible for me to speak up. When it feels like a crime is being committed, it leads to a profound sense of helplessness.

This experience was of course very different from sexual assault for a lot of reasons, but that crushing sense of powerlessness and the way I froze up are both fairly similar to what many rape victims experience. Sexual predators use those types of responses to control their victim. In longer term cases, sexual abusers groom their victims to nurture an artificial sense of powerlessness.

Of course, we should never blame a traumatized person for a traumatizing event. Sexual harassment and sexual assault often involve intentional violation of consent, and in many cases even if the victim is thinking clearly there is little that can be done to prevent it. At the same time, I worry that the lengths we go to avoid victim blaming have the potential to help foster that environment of helplessness that sexual abusers rely on. A sense of empowerment can go a long way towards escaping a bad situation.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caltech Y Column

Upcoming Events

Caltech Y India Cultural Trip - Applications Available Now
December 9 - 19, 2017 | Cost: $500 | Applications Due Tuesday, May 16th

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 at http://caltechy.org/programs/services/areas/India/index.php and are due by Thursday, May 18th. Questions may be directed to caltechy@caltech.edu. Space is limited.

The Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series is hosting the second event in its Bridging the Divide series with Robb Willer, professor of sociology at Stanford.

Attitude polarization and intergroup antagonism threaten democratic processes in a number of ways. Though politicalanimosity in the U.S. has reached record levels, research on the social psychology of American politics suggests techniques for effective political communication and action. In particular, moral arguments - carefully crafted fit to the values of a given audience - offer one path to political persuasion and coalition formation. Prof. Willer will present his work on these topics and take your questions.

Robb Willer is a professor of sociology, psychology and organizational behavior at Stanford University. His research shows how moral values, typically a source of ideological division, can also be used to bring people together. His research has investigated various topics, including economic inequality, racial prejudice, Americans’ views of climate change, and the effects of different protest tactics. He has won numerous awards for his teaching and research, including the Golden Apple Teaching Award, the only award given to UC-Berkeley’s student body. Willer’s writing has appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Vox, and Scientific American, including his op-eds "The Secret to Political Persuasion" and "Is the Environment a Moral Cause?" You can watch his TED talk here: https://www.ted.com/talks/robb_willer_how_to_have_better_political_conversations

Caltech Y Explore LA Series

Horseback Riding in Griffith Park
Saturday | May 20th | 9:45 - 11:45 AM | $20 for 1 Hour Ride | Transportation is NOT provided | Spaces are limited | Sign up at the Caltech Y (payment required at sign up)

Join us for an exciting morning ride in the beautiful Griffith Park. We will be riding horses from Circle K Ranch. Beginners and seasoned riders are welcome, as there are horses to meet every skill level. Our group will meet at Circle K Ranch (904 S. Mariposa St, Burbank, CA 91506) at 9:45 and should be back on campus around 11:15 AM.

Spaces are limited. Those who wish to receive a spot will be expected to visit the Caltech Y to sign up and make payment ($20) by the end of business hours, Thursday, May 18th (as space allows).

Hathaway Sycamores
Every Wednesday | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Highland Park

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 Richers at srichers@tapir.caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.

 Pasadena LEARNS
Every Friday | 3:00 - 5:00 PM | Pasadena

Come volunteer at Madison and Jackson Elementary School! We are partnered with the Pasadena LEARNS program and work with their Science Olympiad team or do regular tutoring along with occasional hands-on science experiments. Transportation is provided. For more information and to RSVP, contact azhai@caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.

Mentoring For Life
Every Monday | 3:30pm | Wilson Middle School Pasadena

Stressed out by college life? Step outside the Caltech bubble and mentor twens who’ve never even thought about college. Things you could do: Build a baking soda and vinegar volcano, read a book aloud, play sports or board games, teach the alphabet of another language, do a craft. Having a mentor makes an at-risk student 55% more likely to attend college, 78% more likely to volunteer regularly, and 130% more likely to hold a leadership position. Interested? If you have 180 seconds, you can watch this video and be inspired. If you have an hour a week, you can mentor someone and be their inspiration. If you feel unqualified, don’t worry. Ultimately, mentoring is about being a consistent, dependable friend—not a surrogate parent or psychiatrist. To get started, contact noelle@caltech.edu.

VICE PROVOST’S OFFICE HOURS

Vice Provost, Chief Diversity Officer, and Professor of English Cindy Weinstein holds regular office hours as an opportunity for undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdocs to meet for discussions pertaining to 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 Caltech Libraries.

There are four 15-minute appointments available per office hour. Sign up in the Office of the Vice Provost, Parsons-Gates room 104, ext. 6339 or by sending an email to dlewis@caltech.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Student Office Hours for Spring Term 2017:
5/17/17 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
5/24/17 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
5/31/17 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
6/8/17 Thursday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
The Downsides of Modern Consent Culture

The way we talk about sexual assault and consent can also perpetuate suffering after the fact. I first heard the argument that the way we talk about assault can prime people for traumatic experiences years ago, but for a long time that argument felt like an excuse to avoid reforming the way we have surrounding sex. Several months ago, I had an experience that forced me to reconsider.

I got pretty stoned with a couple of my friends, and we sat out on the porch for a while. Eventually, one of my friends fell asleep on the bed, and I was left alone with this other friend. This friend and I had been briefly romantically involved almost a year earlier, but due to general awkwardness, we had sort of drifted apart. This was the first intimate interaction I had had with this person in while.

We smoked more weed, and I think we both ended up higher than we intended. We talked, and giggled, and my friend stroked my hair. Very gradually, we touched each other in more and more intimate ways. Unfortunately, my friend interrupted the cuddling to explicitly state that the interaction seemed to be getting sexual, and to ask if I wanted to continue somewhere more private.

I did want to continue, but I had been having some sex issues around that time, and was worried that sex might exacerbate them. If I had been sober, I might have said something along the lines of “I do want to, but no” shouldn’t. For personal reasons.” Instead, I sort of verbally stumbled through my thoughts. “I want to… I probably shouldn’t… issues…”

I don’t remember exactly how the conversation went after that, but we ended up deciding to go sleep playfully in the same place. Since we were both pretty stoned, and pretty horny, and really attracted to each other, and it turns out it’s difficult not to have sex in that kind of situation.

The next day I felt sick about the whole experience. I had made myself vulnerable by getting high, and someone who I trusted had taken advantage of me and had violated my bodily autonomy. I took a long shower, and scrubbed myself, desperately trying to cleanse myself of the events of the previous night. As I stood in the shower, and went through the sequence of events in my head, I realized two things. First, although I had attempted to express it, I definitely did not communicate my intention not to have sex that night, and I had therefore been way more ambiguous about my feelings. I could have clarified my desire and concerns were. Second the sex in my room had been unambiguously mutually consensual. I had not been in a position where I had been forced into a sexual interaction with someone who was so willing to hurt you is ugly and sickening. Sex that happens to you can be crushing.

On the other hand, sex that we choose to have can be amazing. It can be awkward and lame of course. But it can also be empowering. It makes us feel attractive. It brings us closer to our fellow humans. It is a beautiful display of affection. It is good.

Fortunately for me, I was unambiguously responsible for interpreting my own desires — and easy for me to claim it as my own wonderful mistake. However, a lot of sex is much more ambiguous. Power imbalances, for example, can make it a lot harder to tell whether you had a choice during the event. And the more we feel that power imbalance is unhealthy during sex, the more likely it is that that sex with power imbalance will be unpleasant.

One illustration of what I mean is student-professor sex. Of course, there has always been abuse — sexual and otherwise of students by professors. Yet, in the sixties and seventies, there was also a huge amount of student-professor sex that the students involved felt was a huge amount of respect for some of my professors and I think that I could have possibly been more aware of a sexual gratification was more important than your well-being, it feels terrible. Especially with the significance that our culture places on sex, the sense of violation that comes with abuse of trust feels like a huge betrayal. Being intimate with someone who is so willing to happen, they are far more likely to be not traumatizing – experience for the participants. These types of new cultural interpretations of sex have made my own sex life significantly less positive, and I seriously doubt that I am alone in this. Of course, I do recognize that the way we approach sex today does successfully address a lot of really serious problems with the way our parents’ generation had sex. Still, in our attempt to move towards consent and comfort we have become alarmingly paranoid. Sex will probably cause some amount of suffering. Some amount of abuse may also be inevitable. I do pretend to know what the best cultural sexual norms are. With the beautiful diversity of personalities, sexualities and communication styles across humanity, maybe no set of norms will work for everybody. I only know that I am personally not happy with the current state of affairs.

I will preface this article in saying that it is specifically about the way elections are conducted on DCState USPS BoD elections. This opens this article is meant to be open-ended. I don’t have an answer, merely a desire to fix a problem inherent in many campus-wide elections are run.

Background: At least twice in recent years, write-ins have been replaced with “INVALID WRITE-IN.” It is important to note that this text, such as “You two will both notice your write-in box to disappear at a committee known as the Review course of a day, and then counted by online platform known as DONUT. This is done through the students vote in campus-wide elections. This is done through the online platform known as DONUT. and that the question that the way elections are conducted on campus-wide elections are run.

I have said something along the lines of what RevComm was called back in 2006) decided to redo the CRC (what RevComm was called back in 2006) decided to redo the CRC and that while a nice sentiment, is possible to tell if edits occurred which, while a nice sentiment, is not possible to tell if edits occurred in votes being less than or equal to n, as votes, it becomes unclear who actually received less valid write-ins and with a candidate’s vote margin below them and the candidate immediately below them in votes being less than or equal to n, as votes, it becomes unclear who actually received less votes in IRV. This happened in the ASCIT President election in 2013. Luckily, the second that had this issue then were both losing candidates, regardless of who actually received less votes.

But that is not always the case. In 2006, yes, this issue has existed for a over a decade, there was a huge controversy when Excomm (what RevComm was called back in 2006) decided to redo the CRC and that the whole experience. I had made significant changes to my own sex life significantly less positive, and I seriously doubt that I am alone in this. Of course, I do recognize that the way we approach sex today does successfully address a lot of really serious problems with the way our parents’ generation had sex. Still, in our attempt to move towards consent and comfort we have become alarmingly paranoid. Sex will probably cause some amount of suffering. Some amount of abuse may also be inevitable. I do pretend to know what the best cultural sexual norms are. With the beautiful diversity of personalities, sexualities and communication styles across humanity, maybe no set of norms will work for everybody. I only know that I am personally not happy with the current state of affairs.
We dedicate this to the current and former members of the TAPIR group, who suffered under Ott, and the minority graduate students across the globe that have suffered under similarly abusive professors. Although we may not completely understand your experiences, we stand with you against discrimination and harassment in the sciences.

- Sometime after he was hired by Caltech, Christian Ott began a multi-year long harassment campaign against multiple female graduate students in the TAPIR (Theoretical Astrophysics Including Relativity) group. This included inappropriate inquires into their personal life, declarations of love, and inappropriate social media posts about said students, among other things (2).
- Before September 2015, two female graduate students in TAPIR filed a complaint regarding Ott's behavior, alleging that he sexually harassed them (2).
- In September 2015, Caltech's investigation concluded and Ott was placed on nine months unpaid leave, and all communications with his graduate students were monitored. Ott appealed the decision, but his appeal was denied(1). According to some TAPIR members, Ott posted inflammatory social media posts shortly after he was placed on leave.
- On January 4th, 2016, a campus wide email was sent from the President and Provost, saying that, "[the] faculty committee concluded, and the provost concurred, that there was unambiguous gender-based harassment of both graduate students by Ott" (1).

Citations:

To: The President, Provost, and other Caltech Administrators
From: The Caltech Undergraduate Community
date: May 13th, 2017

We, the undersigned members of the undergraduate community of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), publicly stand against Christian Ott’s return to the Caltech campus. Ott has repeatedly abused his position of authority to prey upon his students and, in President Rosenbaum’s own words, has exhibited “unambiguous gender-based harassment”. This clearly violates the statement of rights provided by Title IX and the standards of behavior set by the Institute’s Code of Conduct, by the Honor Code, and by basic human decency that is required from all members of the Caltech community. There is no place for such discriminatory behavior at Caltech.

While Ott has now been away from campus for several months, there is scant evidence that this behavior has changed for the better. Ott continues to display the same inappropriate behavior that he did before his conviction and alleged “rehabilitation”, both through his inflammatory social media posts and through his attempts to obstruct the publication of papers by members of TAPIR. Given this failure to remedy his harmful behavior, we cannot condone and will not tolerate his return to campus.

Moreover, this issue of harassment is bigger than just Ott; while we acknowledge and appreciate that the Caltech administration did take action and suspend Ott when allegations against him came to light, we do not believe the imposed sanctions went far enough to address the severity of the issue. We cannot set a precedent by allowing abusive faculty members such as Ott to retain their positions of power. His return to campus puts at risk not just the well-being of female graduate students of TAPIR, but also that of the Caltech community at large.

To continue delaying but not outright banning Ott’s return to campus puts all students at Caltech, especially female graduate students, in a state of uncertainty and fear for the future. Caltech has a responsibility to resolve this, to cultivate an environment of equity, accountability, and academic camaraderie where all scientists, regardless of gender, can do their best work. Since Ott’s behavior runs in direct conflict with this goal, we wholeheartedly oppose his return to campus under any circumstances and endorse his permanent removal from the Caltech community.

Sincerely,
The Caltech Undergraduate Community

Statements from Undergraduates:

"Ott did not make a mistake. He performed a multi-year long campaign of harassment. He has cleared proved that he does not have the capacity to serve as a professor, and Caltech should respond accordingly. It is impossible to know if Ott has truly changed, but even if he has, the damage has already been done. If you make a mistake once, you should (probably) get a second chance. But make the same mistake 1000 times, there should be no 1001 chance. I hope he has learned from his mistake and becomes a better person. But if you are a bank teller and you get caught robbing a bank, you do not get to go back to your old job once you get out of jail." - Jackie Lodman, Freshman

"Having heard tales from one of Ott's former grad students what he did to her, and what he tried to do to her friends, I'm frankly appalled that our administration would allow him to return to his post, or even to come back on campus. This is not just sexism, or favoritism, or some bullshit about unrequited love. This is sexual assault. This is our administration allowing a sexual predator back into our campus."

This is our administration covering for a man who fakes data to get publications and grant students to get grant money because he has tenure. This is our administration putting prestige and funding over decency, and the safety its students. This is not the school I applied for. This is not a school I want to pay a quarter of a million dollars to for an education, no matter how good. This is not a school I would be proud to stand behind after I graduate. We deserve better. We deserve an administration that puts the many before the one. We do not feel enough to have our academic advisors attempting to rape us. This is not acceptable. This is not Caltech." - Harel Dor, Freshman

Have something to say? Contact one of the following administrators and let your voice be heard (List created by Alyssa Poletti)
Office of the President: Fiona Caw
President@caltech.edu
(626) 395-6500

Office of the Provost:
Vice Provost: Cindy Weinstein
caw@caltech.edu

Office of the Provost:
Office of the Provost:
(626) 395-6536
provost@caltech.edu

vice provosts Cindy Weinstein (Chief Diversity office) caw@caltech.edu
Kaushik Bhattacharya
bhatta@caltech.edu

Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Joe Shepherd (contact information for his administrative assistance) (626) 395-6100
mrdig@caltech.edu

PMA Division Chair, Fiona Harrison
fiona@srl.caltech.edu

WRITE FOR THE CALIFORNIA TECH!
WE ACCEPT REVIEWS, OPINION PIECES, RESEARCH, NEWS STORIES, COMICS, PHOTOS, AND MORE!
WE PAY FOR SUBMISSIONS, SO JOIN THE STAFF TODAY!
EMAIL TECH@CALTECH.EDU WITH SUBMISSIONS.
Moriyama, Named

GO Caltech COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (May 12, 2017) – Caltech women’s tennis sophomore Kana Moriyama (Redmond, Wash. / Redmond) and freshman Angelica Zhou (Temple City, Calif. / Arcadia) have been named First and Second Team All-SCIAC, respectively.

The pair led Caltech to the first national ranking in program history at No. 38 thanks to the program’s first two wins over nationally ranked opponents this spring and the Beavers’ highest finish in the conference (fourth).

Moriyama locked down the #1 singles spot with a 5-8 record (9-8 overall in singles) and 4-4 mark in conference play, including several close defeats to regionally ranked foes. The sophomore also recorded a 9-10 mark in doubles, going 8-7 at the top spot and earning a regional ranking of No. 12 with classmate Julia Reisler (Plano, Texas / Greenhill). She earned SCIAC Athlete of the Week honors once this season and made a run to the ITA Fall Regional consolation finals.

Zhou follows Reisler as the second rookie in as many years to earn Second Team honors after posting an 11-3 overall mark (4-3 SCIAC) between #2 and #3 singles and 10-8 record in doubles. The rookie garnered the final Athlete of the Week award of the season, joining Moriyama and classmate Alexandra Bodrova (Russia / Kurchatovskaya School) as the Beavers pulled in more weekly awards culminating in a senior season in which he ends his career as the program’s all-time leader in both singles and doubles wins.

As First Team recipients, both Pathireddy has shown significant improvement throughout his career, culminating in a senior season in which he defeated the 16th- and 46th-ranked singles players in the nation, in addition to pairing with twin brother Ramsathwick Pathireddy (Irvine, Calif. / Whitney) to knock off the West Region No. 3 and eventual NCAA qualifier doubles team. An All-SCIAC selection last year as he led the Beavers to their first national ranking in program history and likely repeat choice this spring, Pathireddy ends his career as the program’s all-time leader in both singles and doubles wins.

Pathireddy has shown significant improvement throughout his career, culminating in a senior season in which he defeated the 16th- and 46th-ranked singles players in the nation, in addition to pairing with twin brother Ramsathwick Pathireddy (Irvine, Calif. / Whitney) to knock off the West Region No. 3 and eventual NCAA qualifier doubles team. An All-SCIAC selection last year as he led the Beavers to their first national ranking in program history and likely repeat choice this spring, Pathireddy ends his career as the program’s all-time leader in both singles and doubles wins.

As First Team recipients, both Bradley, Pathireddy Named Academic All-District

GO Caltech COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

GREENWOOD, Ind. (May 11, 2017) – Caltech men’s water polo senior Chris Bradley (Half Moon Bay, Calif. / Junipero Serra) and men’s tennis senior Ruthwick Pathireddy (Cerritos, Calif. / Whitney) have been named CoSIDA Academic All-District.

Bradley earned his second ACWPC Honorable Mention All-America honor this past fall as he led the SCIAC in goals for the second time in his career. Besides his considerable exploits in the pool that have seen him rack up career totals of 393 goals, 90 assists, 115 exclusions drawn and 76 field blocks, the mechanical engineering option also co-founded and is the Vice President of Design for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle club at Caltech. Already one of only two Beavers in history to earn CoSIDA Academic All-America recognition twice, Bradley now has a chance to become the Institute’s only three-time honoree. He is the only Division III water polo representative from District 8 and one of just two Division III players recognized nationwide.

Pathireddy has shown significant improvement throughout his career, culminating in a senior season in which he defeated the 16th- and 46th-ranked singles players in the nation, in addition to pairing with twin brother Ramsathwick Pathireddy (Irvine, Calif. / Whitney) to knock off the West Region No. 3 and eventual NCAA qualifier doubles team. An All-SCIAC selection last year as he led the Beavers to their first national ranking in program history and likely repeat choice this spring, Pathireddy ends his career as the program’s all-time leader in both singles and doubles wins.

As First Team recipients, both Bradley, Pathireddy Named Academic All-District

GO Caltech COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (May 12, 2017) – Caltech baseball head coach Matthew Mark has been named the SCIAC Coach of the Year.

Mark led the Beavers to their first win in SCIAC play since 1988 with a walk-off 4-3 victory over Pomona-Pitzer Colleges on Mar. 31. His squad then notched a second conference win just two weeks later by a score of 13-12 at Whittier College on Apr. 15. In Mark’s first season at Caltech, the Beavers won their first game in 10 years and have since increased their win percentage each year of his tenure, culminating in this year’s eight-win season. His 2017 team set high-water marks in runs, hits, ERA and fielding percentage over his tenure while drawing significantly closer to the rest of the conference in multiple team statistics.

Bradley now has a chance to become the Institute’s only three-time honoree. He is the only Division III water polo representative from District 8 and one of just two Division III players recognized nationwide.

Pathireddy has shown significant improvement throughout his career, culminating in a senior season in which he defeated the 16th- and 46th-ranked singles players in the nation, in addition to pairing with twin brother Ramsathwick Pathireddy (Irvine, Calif. / Whitney) to knock off the West Region No. 3 and eventual NCAA qualifier doubles team. An All-SCIAC selection last year as he led the Beavers to their first national ranking in program history and likely repeat choice this spring, Pathireddy ends his career as the program’s all-time leader in both singles and doubles wins.

As First Team recipients, both Bradley (Half Moon Bay, Calif. / Junipero Serra) and men’s tennis senior Ruthwick Pathireddy (Cerritos, Calif. / Whitney) have been named First and Second Team Academic All-District, respectively.
Join the Meditation Mob!

Tuesdays, 12:00 - 12:50

Want to learn more about mindfulness meditation? It’s a great way to improve your attention and to become more grounded in the present moment.

There’s no religious component. We use secular, evidence-based meditation techniques.

We meet in the small room just off the lounge in Winnett. All students are welcome, from total beginners to more experienced meditators.

Mailing list and MP3 archive: counseling.caltech.edu/students/meditation

You chose one of the most trusted institutions in SCIENCE.

Now choose one of the most trusted institutions in FINANCE.

When you want unsurpassed stability, integrity and value for your money, Caltech Employees Federal Credit Union offers an honest alternative. There are no gimmicks. No annual fees. No harsh penalties.

Just some of the lowest lending rates and highest savings rates in the nation… and a state-of-the-art eBranch for easy, convenient online and/or mobile access to your account. We’re the overwhelming choice for financial services among the entire Caltech family. If you haven’t yet joined, call or visit us online or in person today. You belong here.
ASCIT Minutes
Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for 12 May 2017. Taken by Alice Zhai.

Officers Present: Andrew Montequhin, Tim Liu, Sakthi Vetrivel, Kalyn Chang, Robin Brown, Alice Zhai
Call to Order: 12:18pm

President’s Report (Andrew):
- Dean’s Advisory Council met to talk about mentorship in the houses
- During our meeting with Joe Shepherd, we found a new spot for the Jam Room and Recording Room (ASCIT Meeting Room and one of the music practice rooms in the SAC). When construction for Hameetman begins, we’ll move ASCIT meetings to the sci-fi library room.

Officer’s Reports:
V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Tim):
- 5X series has been removed from the EE option requirements
- Faculty advising surveys closed today - this is info the Deans want and it’s been a long time since anyone’s collected this data.
- Deciding ASCIT teaching awards soon

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Rachael):
- Absent

Director of Operations (Sakthi):
- Attended faculty board meeting last week
- Need a laptop lock for the ASCIT laptop
- Proofs for the yearbook are here! Once we send them back, we’ll have copies for everyone.

Treasurer (Kalyn):
- Multihouse funding pairs for this term are Fleming/Lloyd, Page/Avery, Blacker/Ricketts, and Danby/Ruddock - none of the funds have been used yet
- OASIS show applied for funding, ASCIT approved.

Social Director (Robin):
- Nothing to report

Secretary (Alice):
- This week’s meeting minutes have been combined with last week’s

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: 12:42pm

Crossword

ACROSS
1. Rind 20. Consumed
5. Resort area 23. Take into custody
8. Adjoin 24. Wild goat
12. Throw with great 27. Fume shape
effort 28. Volcanic rock
15. Flower 31. Chart
16. Useful or valuable 32. Slightly open
quality 35. Adjutant
17. Without name or 36. Easily annoyed
identity 37. Lifeless
18. Pig pen 38. Snake-like fish
19. Pay 39. Attach to
20. Schedule 40. Vehicle
21. Make lacework by 41. Critical situation
knotting or looping 42. Length by width
22. Rate of walking or 43. Colony insects
running 44. Metal-bearing
23. Evergreen tree 50. Critical situation
26. Cunning 51. Become one
27. Triangular bracket 53. Pares
of brick or stone 57. Not in use
29. Any high mountain 58. Equal in amount
31. Silk fabric with 59. Fuss
waxy pattern 60. Writing table
32. Slightly open 61. Metal-bearing
33. Attache to 62. Voracious fish
40. Vehicle 64. Translucent fossil
41. Concur 66. Impluse
42. Wooden pins 67. Ship’s steering
43. Heavy open wagon 68. Untrue
44. Marine colonial 69. Outstanding
polyp 70. Untrue
45. Pitch 71. Journey
46. Computer memory, 49. Picture puzzle
initially 50. Mindful
47. Squalid 51. Become one

DOWN
1. Persistently annoying 52. Unit of area
person 53. Pastes
2. Relaxed and informal 54. Critical situation
3. The night before 55. Inner core
4. Allow 56. Writing table
5. Pillage 57. In a active use
6. Sheet glass 58. Equal in amount
7. Suffering 59. Metal-bearing
8. Supply with weapons mineral
9. Footwear 60. Metal-bearing
10. Common 61. Metal-bearing
11. Fractious 62. Voracious fish
12. Possesses 64. Translucent fossil
14. Make attractive or 66. Impluse
lovable 67. Ship’s steering
18. Small boat 68. Untrue
19. Pig pen 69. Outstanding
20. Schedule 70. Understand
21. Make lacework by 71. Journey
knotting or looping 72. Astern
22. Rate of walking or 73. Inner core
running 74. Critical situation
23. Evergreen tree 75. Inner core
26. Cunning 76. Inner core
27. Triangular bracket 77. Inner core
of brick or stone 78. Inner core
29. Any high mountain 79. Inner core
31. Silk fabric with 80. Inner core
waxy pattern 81. Inner core
32. Slightly open 82. Inner core
33. Attache to 83. Inner core
40. Vehicle 84. Inner core
41. Concur 85. Inner core
42. Wooden pins 86. Inner core
43. Heavy open wagon 87. Inner core
44. Marine colonial 88. Inner core
polyp 89. Inner core
45. Pitch 90. Inner core
46. Computer memory, 91. Inner core
initially 92. Inner core
Today, the controversial return of an alligator previously on forced leave from Caltech has been announced, causing ripples of anger and confusion throughout the famed turtle pond at the heart of campus.

Although the alligator is known to have snapped at, and even injured, multiple ducks, Administration maintains that the lack of any permanent casualties is enough grounds to reinstate the alligator as a member of the Caltech community, a stand many consider to be a stunningly flexible interpretation of the Honor Code. Accordingly, various other members of the pond community have threatened to leave, an act that would disrupt the local ecosystem and have far-reaching consequences for the pond’s continued viability as a leading center of hydrobiological activity.

In response to criticism, Administration would like to remind everyone that alligators are more expensive than turtles and other marine life. “So it ruffled some feathers, no big deal—alligators will be alligators!” said one official to the Torch. “Really, those ducks should be grateful we didn’t make foie gras out of them.”

We’re seeking pseudonymous authors to write for The Torch. If you’re interested in writing, either from your own ideas, or from assignments from our editors,