On graduation day of last year, the seeds were planted for an ambitious undertaking - an aeroponic garden on the Chandler rooftop. The brainchild of Jon Webster, Director of Dining Services, and Zach Chambers, Executive Chef, the garden is currently maintained by a small team of Caltech Dining Services staff. At its inception, the aeroponic garden consisted of twelve planting towers, each with a base capacity of 20 gallons; fertilized water from the base reservoir is recirculated within the tower with a pump, and introduced to exposed plant roots via gravity feed. The plants are suspended in nutrients and watered every ten to fifteen minutes, constituting an aeroponic system - plants grown in air or mist environment through water, liquid nutrients and a growing medium. The football-field sized garden grows a variety of greens and edibles, including kale, spring mix, lettuce, herbs, tomatoes, peppers, sweet peppers, cucumbers, squash, beans, eggplant and tomatillos. Unfortunately, root vegetables like onions and parsnips cannot be grown. The final year’s formal dinner menu will incorporate greens from the garden in its first course, and fresh basil is already being used for one of the garden’s formal dinners. All-freshman housing volunteers would be involved in harvesting, planting, watering, tillage, maintenance, pruning, harvesting of tomatillos, and general catering services. Additionally, he is determined to harness Caltech’s innovative student body - “there are so many ideas and so many smart people - if the right person is going to see this and they should do this”. Webster and Chambers’ ultimate goal is to create a highly sustainable, closed-circuit garden; for example, by capturing condensate from air conditioning to provide 60-90 gallons of water supply a week. Webster dreams of assembling interested students to reverse engineer mineral supplements and fertilizer and figure out how to create these resources from current food waste - a prospect he considers a pipe dream; he additionally wants to parlay the large amount of water going down the drain into feeding the garden. The overarching goal is to efficiently use current resources, while remaining cost-effective - currently, the cost is a dollar per pound of food. The overarching goal is for an ambitious undertaking to be unbiased and cast aside any previous notions. I am the leader of the all-freshman housing group, and my committee has diligently put together a hefty report on all-freshman housing, which will become available in the coming weeks. The report is the product of hundreds of hours of work, dozens of interviews, and innumerable meetings. This piece is partially a reflection of my group’s work, but mostly a reflection of my own thoughts (re: send angry hate mail to me, not my focus group members).

The market for farming tools is surprisingly vibrant on campus. Simply utter the phrase “all-freshman housing” and students will immediately reach for their pitchforks or promptly order an all-freshman Bechtel will be placed in Avery. Upperclassmen will hardly disappear from freshman’s lives, but in an all-freshman house, their presence and mentoring role will be curtailed. Upperclassmen can be sources of both good and bad advice, and they can be both good or bad mentors. However, the drawback of having fewer upperclassmen around is that it limits the pool of students for freshmen to use as examples. Freshmen will still know upperclassmen if they live in an all-freshman house, but the number will almost certainly be fewer than under the House System. For every bitter electrical engineer in a house, there’s likely another electrical engineer who is happy with their choices, and can be just as helpful to freshmen. Limiting the pool of

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The Siren Call of All-Freshman Housing
TIMOTHY LIU
Contributing Writer

The following piece reflects the personal opinion of the author. This piece was not written on behalf of the COUCH or the IHC.

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The Hanging Gardens of Caltech: Chandler Rooftop Garden

Jon Webster, Zach Chambers, and the Chandler Rooftop Garden

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The Caltech Y Column

Caltech Y Column serves to inform students of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. The list is compiled by Katherine Guo 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. The Y seeks to broaden students' worldviews, raise social, ethical, and religious 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.

Upcoming Events

OASIS and Caltech Y present

The ITT Gandhinagar Story: Opportunities and Challenges in Building a World Class Institution, a conversation with Sudhir Jain

Tuesday | November 14th | Morgan Library, Kerckhoff Lab (2nd floor) | 4:00 PM

RSVP: https://www.facebook.com/events/152950895451014/active-tab-discussion

This talk will contextualize several new and exciting initiatives currently being implemented in Indian higher education. It will focus specifically on developments at ITT Gandhinagar, one of India's newest and fastest growing institutes of higher education. Started less than a decade ago, ITT Gandhinagar has sought to establish itself as a centre of excellence in research, teaching, and community engagement. The talk will highlight some of the novel initiatives taken by the institute in its journey to revitalize and reimage the scope and context of a modern engineering education.

The talk will also provide a good opportunity for those interested in a teaching and research career in India to gain a first hand perspective on new opportunities and possibilities for professional growth. As a quickly growing institute, ITT Gandhinagar is actively looking for outstanding and enthusiastic young faculty members not just in Engineering, but also in the Sciences and the Liberal Arts. ITT Gandhinagar also welcomes academics and industry veterans for shorter durations through its vibrant Visiting Faculty Program. The talk will provide a window into various such opportunities and the following discussion session will serve as a platform to discover ways to get engaged with the institute and contribute to its bold vision.

About the Speaker:

Sudhir E. Jain received his Bachelor of Engineering from University of Roorkee in 1979, Master of Science from Caltech in 1980, and Doctor of Philosophy, also from Caltech, in 1983. He joined the Civil Engineering faculty at ITT K Campbell in 1984 and in June 2009 moved to ITT Gandhinagar as its first Director. At ITT, Professor Jain served in a number of administrative capacities including Head, Civil Engineering (2001-2003) and Dean, Resource Planning and Generation (2005-2008). He also set up the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) at ITT and developed the National Programme on Earthquake Engineering (NPEEE), supported by the Government of India. He was elected a Fellow of the Indian national Academy of Engineering in 2017, and currently serves as president of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering.

Double Your Caltech Y Donation with United Way

Until November 17th

Any contribution made through the United Way campaign by all Caltech employees will be matched by the Institute from October 13 to November 17, 2017! If you are a Caltech faculty or staff member and would like to make gifts to the Caltech Y, we strongly encourage you to make your donation through the United Way campaign.

Pledge online by going to https://access.caltech.edu and click on "United Way".

We encourage you to give through United Way. You can make a huge difference in the services the Caltech Y is able to provide to Caltech and the surrounding community!

Day Hike: Malibu Creek State Park

Saturday | November 18th | 8:00 AM to Late Afternoon | Bring your own lunch

Come join the Caltech Y-Outdoors on a day hike in Malibu Creek State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains. You will explore stream-side oak woodland, chaparral ecology, and the site of the filming of MASH! We will be leaving campus at 8 am on Saturday November 18 and returning mid to late afternoon. Bring your own lunch and plenty of water!

Costa Rica Alternative Spring Break Trip

Saturday, March 17th through Sunday, March 25th (9 days) | Cost: $950

Applications Due: by Noon on November 22nd

The Caltech Y is excited to seek applicants for our 2017 Alternative Spring Break trip to Costa Rica. Join other Caltech students for a conservation focused spring break trip this year. On the Costa Rica Y-Learn, we will be working with a host organization OSA Conservation www.osaconservation.org – which is dedicated to protecting the globally significant biodiversity of Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula. Don’t miss out on this fantastic opportunity to explore another part of our planet and make a tangible difference in the world.

Trips fees include transportation, lodging, most food. The Costa Rica Alternative Spring Break trip is coordinated by the Caltech Y and has been made possible thanks to generous funding from the Frank and Elise Stefanko Fund, the George Housner Fund, Caltech Student Affairs, and the Caltech Y. Spaces are limited.

Visit http://caltechy.org/programs_services/areas/asb/ for applications and more information.

Pasadena LEARNS

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

Come volunteer at Washington Middle and Elementary STEAM 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 azhali@caltech.edu.

Eligible for Federal Work Study.

Hathaway Sycamores

Every Monday | 5:45 - 8:00 PM | Highland Park

Volunteer at Hathaway Sycamores, a group that supports local underprivileged veterans for motivated high school students. There are a variety of ages and subjects being tutored. The service trip includes about 40 minutes of travel time and 1.5 hours of tutoring. Transportation is included.

For more info and to RSVP email Elisabeth at egalmei@caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.

Menors for L.I.F.E

Volunteer times: 2:45 - 5:00 PM at various locations in Pasadena

Stressed out by school? Step outside the Caltech bubble and mentor tweens who’ve yet to even consider 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.

The Astronomer’s Dream

What would 17th Century astronomer Johannes Kepler have seen if he had today’s advanced technology? The Astronomer’s Dream is a journey through a computer graphic visualization of space, based on data obtained by NASA satellites.
Resistance to Change Will Doom the House System

Continued from page 1

upperclassmen for freshmen to take as mentors breaks this already fragile safety check, since there are fewer upperclassmen to "balance" each other out.

Formal mentorship programmed in an all-freshman house could circumvent this problem, and peer advising was one of the projects I worked on as an ARC Chair. Even so, Caltech has had chronic struggles with developing formal mentoring and advising programs. The performance of the faculty advising program has been spotty at best, and a top-down attempt at peer advising for the freshman class that materialized in 2013 was terminated after a single year. Expecting a formal advising network that doesn't exist to fill the mentoring role that the current ad hoc system fulfills is a risky gambit.

Diversity

By some metrics, an all-freshman house excels at exposing freshmen to students from diverse backgrounds. Living with (almost) all other students in an your gives freshmen the full range of interests and personalities within a class. The houses compartmentalize and sort students into groups that are, while far from homogenous, a fairly small subset of the Caltech community.

However, class diversity will plummet in an all-freshman house. Houses are by far the strongest source of interclass interaction (see Figure 2), and data suggests that all other sources are secondary. In effect, an all-freshman house simply brings out the traits already present in freshmen. There isn't one "true" identity for each person to find. Rather, personal growth is a meandering path that can go many ways. Removing freshmen from the pressures of the houses may encourage students to develop their own identity, but even in this already speculative exercise, this is an exceptionally fragile conclusion.

Support

A supportive community can develop in two ways: organismically or by design. The House System includes both elements. However imperfect and incomplete, the House System offers a supportive community, much of it through unofficial resources. While UCCs and RA provide a critical role in helping students, a large amount of support probably comes from students simply looking out for each other. Not because it's their job or responsibility, but because students care about each other.

An all-freshman house makes a programmatic support network easier to implement. Instead of having to duplicate institutional sessions and panels across 8 houses, programs can be put on once, for the entire freshman class. The burden of RA introductions to students in Bechtel is also more favorable; there are 7 RA apartments in a building for 212 students.

In interviews, several RAs expressed concern that houses stifle individual development of identity. While houses offer students examples of different identities, it's often a small, or fairly homogenous set of examples. Instead of developing their own identities, freshmen may instead develop an identity that matches that of their house.

A counterargument is that houses simply bring out the traits already present in freshmen. There is one "true" identity for each person to find. Rather, personal growth is a meandering path that can go many ways. Removing freshmen from the pressures of the houses may encourage students to develop their own identity, but even in this already speculative exercise, this is an exceptionally fragile conclusion.

Identity

Ideally, a residential system will allow and encourage freshmen to develop their own identity. College is meant to be a formative period, when students learn what they believe in and what interests them. Because of its nascent nature, identity is one of the most difficult core values to evaluate all-freshman housing through.

In contrast, all-freshman housing gives freshmen exactly one choice: Bechtel (with a small probability of Avery). Bechtel is perhaps a generally more palatable choice than what's currently offered, but it's still exactly one choice.

However, the situation for upperclassmen is surprisingly grim. The number of options under all-freshman housing is to either live in house, in one of the sixty beds in Marks/Braun, or to take one of a handful of upperclass spaces in Bechtel. Combined, there will be perhaps 90 beds for upperclassmen who do not wish to live in a house.

An all-freshman house is perhaps the most contentious scheme for filling Bechtel, and is viewed suspiciously as a threat to the House System. Even without the planned opening of Bechtel, the House System is sitting at a crossroads, and it's situation is precarious. The flexibility they crave. The lack of choice for upperclassmen may be one of the sharpest drawbacks of an all-freshman house.

Rising Tides

An all-freshman house is perhaps the most contentious scheme for filling Bechtel, and is viewed suspiciously as a threat to the House System. Even without the planned opening of Bechtel, the House System is sitting at a crossroads, and it's situation is precarious. The flexibility they crave. The lack of choice for upperclassmen may be one of the sharpest drawbacks of an all-freshman house.

Regardless of what happens with Bechtel in the fall of 2018, calls for all-freshmen houses won't recede. If students are unable to address the challenges the House System faces, then the temptation to create an all-freshman house as an alternative will grow until it reaches a tipping point. There are two choices for students: openly acknowledge and address the problems with the House System, or dig in and be swept aside by the rising waters. Fighting any and all proposed change to the House System will only yield a short term Pyrrhic victories. Blindly resisting change is the surest way to doom the current House System. The burden of choice and the responsibility that comes with it largely rests in student hands (see Figure 5). If students wish for the House System to survive in the long run, then we must become its sharpest critic.
Procrastination workshop

A 1-hour workshop offered 2 times this term:

Friday, October 13th, 4:00 - 5:00
Friday, November 3rd, 4:00 - 5:00

326 Sherman Fairchild Library

• Learn tools for coping with procrastination and work avoidance.
• Learn practical, behavioral strategies for responding differently to old habits.
• Respond differently to unhelpful thoughts like “I can just get up early and do this tomorrow.”
• Optional text-based reminder system to keep the lessons fresh in the week after the workshop is over!

More information: counseling.caltech.edu

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLKIT

3 modules / 2 weeks each / 1 awesome skillset

Emotional Awareness
Get better at knowing what you’re feeling, and see how your thoughts and feelings affect each other. October 9th and 16th

Open-Mindedness
Learn how to be more flexible in the way you see the world! October 23rd and 30th

Face The Fear
Learn how to hang in there with difficult situations and emotions without having to avoid them. November 6th and 13th

Just show up!
Mondays 4:00 - 5:00

326 Sherman Fairchild Library
counseling.caltech.edu

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 study room on the 9th floor of Millikan Library.
All students are welcome, from total beginners to experienced meditators.

Mailing list and MP3 archive:
counseling.caltech.edu/students/meditation
The winds of change seem to be present in this photo as well.

For a second consecutive year, the Beavers will be down a leading scorer. Kate Lewis ‘17 departs the program as the second all-time leading scorer with 1,245 career points and second leading rebounder with 768 rebounds over a four-year career. The prior year saw the departure of Stephanie Wong ‘16, the program’s all-time leading scorer. While Lewis chassis Wong’s scoring record in 2016-17 made for a compelling storyline, a new narrative unfolds for the women’s team in 2017-18, a year that will bring new leadership off and on the court.

Bridgeytes became the Beavers’ new women’s basketball head coach on May 12, 2017 and has since established herself as a no-nonsense basketball mind. A Vanguard University graduate, Reyes places great emphasis on defense, strong character and fundamentals but above all else believes in the talent and individuals she is getting the opportunity to work with.

“This group is a special group,” Reyes said. “They have a lot of potential and I think that we are not going be the same as we were. We want to build on the foundation laid in the previous years and give ourselves a chance to compete with every other team in the league on a wide scale.

“We have what it takes. These kids are the most intelligent kids in the country but they’re also really skilled athletically. They can have both. This group has the potential to be all it can be and it is our job as coaches to get them to where they can do both and compete every day.”

The cupboard is far from bare for Reyes and Assistant Coach Reyes Zaragoza. The most active player in the entire NCAA while playing every minute in every SCIAC game, the only player in the conference to do so. The point guard’s 14.6 points per game and 2.0 steals per game also accounted for top-five conference finishes. D’Costa played a similar role, seeing 3.0 free throws per game and found a way to contribute to the Beavers in nearly every statistical category.

The next step for the duo will be allowing their play to influence the team around them and Reyes is eager for the chance to make good on their potential.

“Sam and Grace have to take a step up in their performance,” Reyes said. “They had great freshman years but it’s not just about them and it’s not just about points. It’s about how we are elevating everyone else around us and how are we becoming better leaders and better teammates. I think Grace particularly has only gotten better vocally and emotionally for our team. People don’t expect it out of her because she is more of a quiet type but she is speaking better vocally and emotionally for our team.

“Kali is a high-IQ kid, works hard and is able to make basketball plays when things break down. She is vocal, doesn’t back down and we’re lucky to have her. Lauren is tough, physical and vocal and should be able to play any position for us. Amy comes in with not much experience but gets better every day in practice and works hard in her off time.”

The Beavers will also need production out of the rest of the returners, junior Madelyn Schemel (Westport, Conn. / Staples), sophomore Alexa Lauinger (Urbana, Mich. / Brandon) and junior Madelyn Stroder (Springfield, Mo. / Greenwood Laboratory). At 6-0, Schemel played a role in a Beavers front court that also featured two six-footers. With Lewis gone, Schemel will be asked to play in tandem with Eiden to make up for Lewis’ numbers beneath the glass. Similarly, Lauinger will be asked to handle a similar role. A three-sport athlete and current holder of the Caltech single-season kills record in volleyball, Lauinger’s strength down low and comprehensive spirit should continue to pay off in spades. Stroder, a two-sport athlete who participated in the women’s soccer team’s inaugural season brings with her a similar team-oriented mindset.

“If [Schemel] comes to compete every day we are going to be a great basketball team,” Reyes said. She has the potential to get double-doubles and do the little things. It’s just up to her to step into that role. Stroder works hard every day, wants to learn and is very coachable and

The Beavers are returning a dynamic sophomore back-court pair in SCIAC Newcomer of the Year Grace Peng (San Ramon, Calif. / Caltech) and Samantha D’Costa (San Jose, Calif. / St. Francis). The Beavers leaned on Peng heavily as a freshman, as her 38.8 minutes per game positioned her as the third last year but an arm injury forced her out of the team’s final 10 games. The guard will continue to look for high-percentage shots and hopefully get to the free throw line early and often, as she led the team in free throw percentage as a sophomore (.766%).

“Nika and Liz are like our team moms and awesome leaders already,” Reyes said. “I also think they have a lot of potential as players. I think they have skill and desire and I really have to push them not only so they realize their potential but bring the competitiveness out of them so they can reach a new level.”

The team’s combination of size, leadership, skill, athleticism and growing mental toughness and competitiveness should go a long way towards winning games in the short term and long term. Reyes believes the desire to win is inside each of them and that it is her job to bring it out of them on gameday.

“The positive of getting to work with this exact group for two years is they are going to know exactly what I want and how I want it done,” Reyes said. “I do think we have a good foundation of leaders both in upperclassmen and underclassmen and I just think if we can be consistent and compete every day we can give ourselves a chance in every game we play. That’s the ultimate goal. We want to take our opponent into the last five minutes of the fourth quarter and give ourselves the best chance to win.”

“That’s why we play the game. We don’t play the game to show up on the court. We play to compete.”

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Nominate your favorite professor for the Feynman Teaching Prize!!!

Here’s your chance to nominate your favorite professor for the 2017-18 Richard P. Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching! You have from now until December 15, 2017 to submit your nomination package to the Provost’s Office to honor a professor who demonstrates, in the broadest sense, unusual ability, creativity, and innovation in undergraduate and graduate classroom or laboratory teaching.

The Feynman Prize is made possible through the generosity of Ione and Robert E. Paradise, with additional contributions from an anonymous local couple. Nominations for the Feynman Teaching Prize are welcome from faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and alumni.

All professorial faculty of the Institute are eligible. The prize consists of a cash award of $3,500, matched by an equivalent raise in the annual salary of the awardee. A letter of nomination and detailed supporting material, including, but not limited to, a curriculum vitae, course syllabus or description, and supporting recommendation letters should be emailed to kkerbs@caltech.edu or directed to the Feynman Prize Selection Committee, Office of the Provost, Mail Code 206-31, at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 91125. Nomination packages are due by December 15, 2017.

Additional information including guidelines for the prize and FAQ may be found at http://provost.caltech.edu/ FeynmanTeachingPrize. Further information can also be obtained from Karen Kerbs (626-395-6039; kkerbs@caltech.edu) in the Provost’s Office.

Vice Provost 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 Fall Term 2017:

11/21/17 Tuesday 10:00-11:00 A.M.
11/27/17 Monday 10:00-11:00 A.M.
ASCIT Minutes
Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes for November 17, 2017. Taken by Alice Zhai.

Officers Present: Sakthi Vetrivel, Rachael Morton, Sara Adams, Sarah Crucilla, Alice Zhai
Guests: Robert Eng, Joshua Chen
Call to Order: 10:06 am

President’s Report (Sakthi):
- Had VPSA meeting last Friday
- Midnight Donuts is next Tuesday
- Had budget meeting with Big T treasurer and Sarah Crucilla to discuss funding for Yearbook and increasing student dues
- Considering to assemble an ASCIT Financial Committee to look over our budget. Signups will be posted soon

Officer’s Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Kavya):
- Drop day and registration happened yesterday.
- Git software Seminar went well on Thursday
- Arc retreat is this weekend

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Rachael):
- Bechtel town hall meeting was last Tuesday. Attendance was about 70, including a decent amount of faculty.
- Notes from the meeting will be distributed.

Director of Operations (Sara):
- Page asked for ASCIT lights for their Interhouse.
- Many clubs have filed their club registration. Waiting for Club Steering Committee to vote on them.

Treasurer (Sarah):
- Budget meeting went well
- Having difficulty working with administration on reporting expenses and filing reimbursements

Social Director (Alice):
- Signed contract for holding ASCIT Formal at City Club Los Angeles on Saturday, April 7th from 7-11PM.
- Alternate event for Page Interhouse is happening at Tom’s house. Will be asking for volunteers to help set up.
- Planning an ice skating event at the Pasadena Ice Skating Center at the end of the term.

Secretary (Dana):
- Not in attendance.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:26 am

This is a pair challenge! We’ll still consider submissions from individuals, but we highly encourage you to find a friend to submit a haiku and photo together. Photos must be taken during the period between contest announcement and deadline.

Prizes: $25 Amazon gift card per person for the winning haiku + photo submission.

Send submissions to totem@caltech.edu. For more info about Totem, please visit our FB page or totem.caltech.edu.
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