

“Alita Battle Angel” is Wonderfully Goofy and Dumb

JACK LLOYD
Contributing Writer

James Cameron is an odd guy. He’s made some of the largest blockbuster spectacles of the past 30 years, and in his down time from making movies he likes to personally explore the bottom of the ocean. He is also currently trying to accomplish the misguided task of filming 4 sequels to “Avatar” (2012) simultaneously so they can be released over the next 7 years. With such a busy schedule, it is shocking that he has found the time to write a screenplay. It is even more shocking that the screenplay is based on a 90’s manga. It is supremely shocking that when picking a director for his anime screenplay he chose Robert Rodriguez, a director most known for making “Spy Kids”. The result of this baffling collaboration is the enjoyable CGI schlock-fest “Alita: Battle Angel”.

The movie takes place in a cyberpunk dystopia called Iron City. It’s a standard dark sci-fi metropolis, with its most notable feature being the presence of a second city called Valem that is literally floating about a mile directly above it. Valem is where the wealthy elite live, and Iron City is the industrial slum that supplies it. There’s references to some big war that happened 300 years before the movie begins, but that

is rarely brought up. In a junkyard beneath Valem, Doctor Ido (Christoph Waltz) discovers a tossed away cyborg girl. He fixes her up, takes care of her, and gives her the name Alita.

After this origin story is set up, the plot quickly becomes schizophrenic. There’s no singular conflict or motivation driving things forward. Instead there’s 5 or 6 mini-conflicts that overlap and try to keep things going. Alita wants to learn about her mysterious past as a soldier, but she also wants to be an elite bounty hunter, but before she does that she needs to gain a bunch of money to send her boyfriend to Valem, and to do that she first needs to become a world champion athlete in ‘Motor ball’ which is like roller derby but with cyborgs and manslaughter, but before she can focus on that she needs fight multiple villains who hate her for a variety of poorly explained reasons. The script is crazy and bloated. I am sure nobody in Hollywood wants to be the person to tell James Cameron that his screenplay needs major overhauls, but wow this screenplay needs major overhauls. It really does feel like he tried to condense multiple seasons worth of anime plot into a couple hours. After a bit I stopped caring why the characters were doing

things, or even why things were happening, and just decided to sit back and enjoy the grade-A schlock that makes up the majority of the movie.

This movie is incredibly entertaining both intentionally and unintentionally. The dialogue is laughably awkward, especially anything said by Hugo (Keanu Reeves). In fact, Hugo as a character is just laughable. He has a terrible romantic subplot with Alita but besides that he’s really only around to be a pawn. Keanu Reeves is by far the worst actor in an otherwise impressive cast and he delivers lines like he’s more focused on looking cute than looking convincing. He feels plucked out of a Disney Channel made for TV movie. Especially his ‘badboy’ attire of a leather jacket and bandana. Amusingly bad acting isn’t the only tasty garbage in this movie though. Characters state their motivations so directly and obviously they might as well be looking into the camera. There’s also the constant uncanniness of the giant CGI eyes added to Alita’s otherwise normal human face. No other cyborgs have these weird doll eyes, it is just her. There were multiple times when Alita was on-screen with normal people where I started laughing because of how bad her eyes looked.

The CGI on the other cyborgs is generally pretty good, but a few of them look like they taped a photograph of an actor’s face to a crash test dummy. The concepts for the cyborgs range from imposing to goofy. My favorite one dressed like a cowboy. The robot fight scenes are varied and well-choreographed, and the plot makes sure to throw in a lot of them. For a PG-13 movie, a lot of people die in spectacularly gruesome ways.

There’s so much hot trash in this film it’s a little overwhelming and honestly the movie is at its best when it just gives up and wallows in its own anime weirdness. The entire subplot where Alita becomes a professional blood sport athlete is dumb and amazing. Dr. Ido somehow is a mournful old clinician by day but at night becomes a vengeful bounty hunter that murders criminals with a giant rocket-powered pick axe. The main villain can possess people but he also looks like he’s wearing a ‘mad scientist’ costume from a Halloween store. A character is killed off, resurrected, and then killed off again within a ten-minute span. It’s all so deliciously cheesy. Robert Rodriguez’s entire filmography is an extended exercise in this particular brand of goofiness, and the heavy lighting and saturated color palette in “Alita” were giving

me flashbacks to his infamous “Sharkboy and Lavagirl” (2005).

All this eccentricity and poor-plotting would not work nearly as well as it does if it weren’t for the surprisingly endearing characters (with the exception of Hugo). Rosa Salazar does a great job portraying a naïve teenage girl who loves puppies, cute-boys, and murder. Christoph Waltz takes his fatherly role really seriously which makes all the ridiculous stuff he does even funnier. The side characters are entertaining. Mahershala Ali’s villainous motivations aren’t very clear but he does a really good job acting villainous. Jennifer Connelly looks sedated despite all the insanity surrounding her, which is also hilarious.

The plot’s conclusion is frustrating as it just setups some room for sequels but honestly if you make it through this whole movie and still care at all about such unimportant things like “plot” or “structure” then I don’t think this is the type of movie for you. “Alita” borders on a so-bad-it’s-good quality. A few things are done well, and a few things are done so poorly that they become enjoyable. It is not a good movie and I genuinely am hoping they make a sequel. 4 out of 5 stars. Quality Trash.

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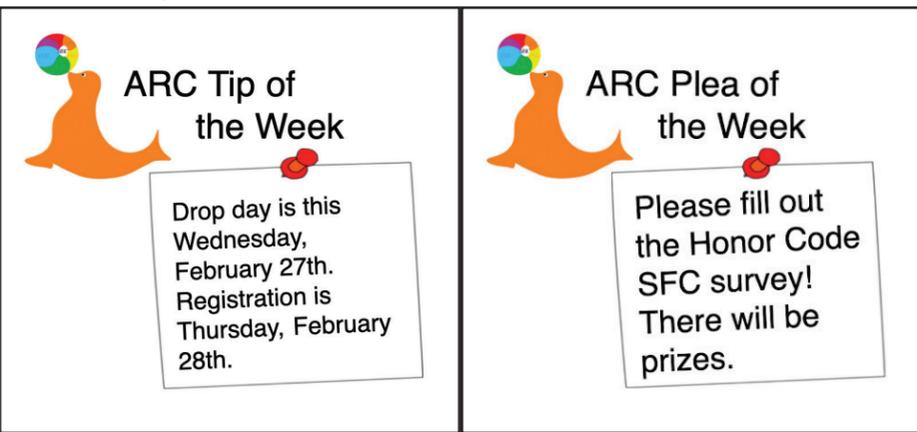
ARC Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

Present: Erika Salzman, Arushi Gupta, Kavya Sreedhar, Daniel Neamati, Maggie Lee, Sophie Howell, Tarini Singh, Alycia Lee, Alice Jin, Alejandro Lopez, Schuyler Dick, Eric Smith, Noah Yared

Submitted by: Arushi Gupta

1. Welcome to our new representatives!
 - a. Blacker representative: Eric Smith
 - b. Fleming representative: Schuyler Dick
 - c. Ricketts representative: Sophie Howell
2. Dean's Meeting Follow-up
 - a. Issues with Math core
 - i. Low lecture attendance: combination of people feeling like it's too early, and people feeling like they can just read the textbook
 - ii. Ma 3 grading: the midterm being too easy led to grades being curved down, which is upsetting to students
3. SFLs on Thursday, Feb 28
 - a. Will have sign-up sheets out by Tuesday
 - b. We have 4 professors so far
4. Course capture
 - a. Maggie will talk to LC about taking over the program
 - b. Will send out survey for courses to record soon after registration
5. Research list presentation
 - a. Making a live webpage instead of the current pdf/word document
 - b. Database lists all departments and majors, as well as current opportunities
 - c. Consider asking professors for a longer time-frame than 1 year, which is the current length of time for which we ask professors to consent to be listed
 - d. Maybe pass it off to donut for future maintenance
6. SFC updates
 - a. Special committees have met
 - b. Honor code survey hasn't been sent out but hopefully should come out soon
 - c. There will be 20 \$20 amazon gift cards given as rewards by lottery
 - d. It is very important to get as much data as possible, so please fill out the survey



ASCIT Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for 18 February 2019. Taken by Rachel Sun.

Officers Present: Sakthi Vetrivel, Erika Salzman, Sarah Crucilla, Varun Shanker, Irene Chang, David Berger Maneiro, Rachel Sun

Guests: Alejandro Lopez

Call to Order: 8:07 PM

President's Report (Sakthi):

- The amendment regarding the Tech and the succession process has been sent out.
- Signups for IHC chair, Tech Editors, BoC chair and secretaries, CrC chair, will happen next week (Monday 2/25).
- Meeting with Erika, Chris, and Harel about Bechtel representation on BoC and CrC.
- A campus climate survey was sent out today by the Title IX Coordinator.

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Erika):

- Important dates: Drop Day 2/27, Registration 2/28.
- Termly peer advising is happening soon in the houses.
- Spring Term Course Capture surveys will be sent out soon.
- Student Faculty Lunch on the 28th at noon. Faculty involved TBD.
- ARC Deans meeting on Thursday.
- Two important SFC surveys being sent out this week.
 - Honor Code Survey (there will be prizes)
 - Coding Languages Survey

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Sarah):

- IHC had a VPSA meeting.
 - IHC is writing a report regarding the length and timing of Rotation.
 - Orange Watch was discussed at the meeting. There will be a training this Thursday before Avery Interhouse that will involve both health and bystander intervention.
- IHC will be discussing resolutions beyond Rotation rules.
- IHC had a meeting with Felicia and security. Discussed active shooter situations, interhouses, and Felicia's new leadership training initiative.

Director of Operations (Varun):

- Sent out a proposed amendment regarding the Tech succession process. The amendment will be voted on soon.

Treasurer (Irene):

- Nothing to report.

Social Director (David):

- Be a Kid Again Day is happening now.
- ASCIT Movie Night is on 3/8.

Secretary (Rachel):

- Nothing to report.

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: 9:00 PM

ASCIT Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting: VPSA

Minutes for 20 February 2019. Taken by Rachel Sun.

Officers Present: Sakthi Vetrivel, Erika Salzman, Sarah Crucilla, Varun Shanker, Irene Chang, David Berger Maneiro, Rachel Sun

Guests: Joe Shepherd, Tom Mannion

Call to Order: 12:10 PM

President's Report (Sakthi):

- Proposed amendment for Tech Editors has been sent out.
- Restructuring representation on the ARC, BoC, and CrC
- Changes to orientation to introduce ASCIT BoD and other campus organizations
- Changes to club fair to make it more accessible to more undergraduates

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Erika):

- Regular Program updates
 - Ombuds training 1/30
 - Software Seminar (Mathematica) 1/30
 - Course Capture for Ma 121b underway
 - Student Faculty Lunch session planned for 2/28
- Upcoming CUE meeting topics: Computation requirement, TQFR improvements
- Student Faculty Conference updates
 - Friday March 8; faculty reminders
 - Both special committees meeting this week; Honor Code survey
 - Schedule should be finalized by end of February

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Sarah):

- FoodComm Change in Resolutions
- Meeting with Vic and Felicia
 - Clarifying problems, especially house-based ones
 - Working to have violence prevention trainings in the houses
- Orange Watch Update

Director of Operations (Varun):

- Updates on the Tech
- Hameetman Club Rooms

Treasurer (Irene):

- Nothing to report. Not present.

Social Director (David):

- Be a Kid Again Day happened on 2/18.
- Might have to move Movie Night.
- Starting the Executive Social Committee back up.

Secretary (Rachel):

- Nothing to report.

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: 1:02 PM

ASCIT Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting: VPSA

Minutes for 24 February 2019. Taken by Rachel Sun.

Officers Present: Sakthi Vetrivel, Erika Salzman, Sarah Crucilla, Varun Shanker, Irene Chang, David Berger Maneiro, Rachel Sun

Guests: Alejandro Lopez

Call to Order: 8:09 PM

President's Report (Sakthi):

- Meeting with Kipling and Shepherd to talk about the Tech.
- Meeting soon with the deans about restructuring frosh camp.
- Midnight donuts Friday-Saturday interface (3/1-3/2). Come help make strawberry donuts on Friday night at 9!

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Erika):

- Drop day is Wednesday and Registration is Thursday.
- Student Faculty Lunch is happening this Thursday in Fleming Dining Hall.
- Deans meeting happened last week:
 - Want to start talking to math department about math core (Ma1, 2, 3) lecture attendance.
- Course Capture for 3rd term survey will be sent out soon after people are registered.
- Honor Code survey had complications and will be sent out this week.

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Sarah):

- IHC met with Felicia and Vic on Tuesday. See VPSA Minutes.
- IHC discussed the rotation video approval timeline. Timeline will be released once IHC discusses with Felicia.
- Orange watch training happened last week and had a different format: 1/2 health safety with Mark Staph, 1/2 bystander intervention training with Felicia.
- Writing up a room picks proposal; it will be sent to Joe Shepherd.
- RA rounds improvements were discussed.
- Planning a future meeting with Security to help clarify their role to students.
- Trying to set up R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) training for undergraduates.

Director of Operations (Varun):

- Voting for the Amendment regarding the Tech succession process will start soon.

Treasurer (Irene):

- Nothing to report.

Social Director (David):

- ASCIT movie night will be moved due to conflict with the Acapella Concert.
- Got the Executive Social Committee together.
- We hosted an alternate interhouse for Ravery.
- House pairing funding is \$400 per pairing. If any house pairings want to come pitch for funding, there is a guarantee of up to \$400, but any amount past that will be treated like regular event funding.

Secretary (Rachel):

- Nothing to report.

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: 9:08 PM

Emotional Well-being Series

2019

<p>FEBRUARY 6 GET MOVING WITH BEHAVIORAL ACTIVATION</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 13 EMOTION REGULATION STRATEGIES</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 20 GETTING UNSTUCK FROM EMOTIONAL RUTS</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 27 HEALTHY SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS</p>
<p>MARCH 6 MINDFULNESS AND EMDR FOR SELF-CARE</p>	<p>MARCH 13TH MANAGING YOUR FAMILY'S EXPECTATIONS</p>

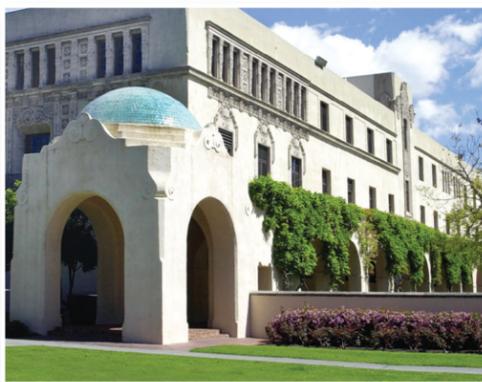
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Men's Track & Field More Well-Rounded Than Ever in 2019

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Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA (Feb. 22, 2019) – The Caltech men's track & field team will look to improve its SCIAC standing in 2019 thanks to improved returning student-athletes and a highly talented recruiting class.

"Without a doubt, this is the best all-around team we've had yet in terms of both event coverage and talented standouts," Raphelson said. "We could see considerable improvement in our overall team performance this year as a result."

Caltech's distance and middle distance group are consistently a strength of both men's and women's track & field teams and this year is no exception. Junior captain Simon Ricci (Chicago, Ill. / Latin School of Chicago) and classmate Tanner Moore (Roseville, Calif. / Oakmont) are consistent factors on the cross country team and their yearly improvements have also translated to the track. Last year at the SCIAC Championships, Ricci advanced to the finals in the 1500m for the first time and Moore was less than half-a-second from scoring points in the 5000m. They'll be joined by freshman Gaurav Phanse (Fremont, Calif. / Dublin), who in his first season of cross country earned All-SciAc and All-Region honors while also breaking the program's all-time mark for 8k. In his track debut this season, Phanse became the fourth fastest performer over 3000m in Caltech history, running 8:47.57 at the Pomona-Pitzer All-Comers Meet.

Sophomore Matthew Earney (San Diego, Calif. / Del Norte) is a returning scorer for the Beavers after placing 6th in the 1500 at last year's SCIAC Championships. Earney will look to begin where he left off last year and spearhead a middle-distance group also including junior Tiger Lu (Shanghai, China / Shanghai American School Puxi), sophomore Haoyuan Sun (Alexandria, Va. / Thomas Jefferson Science & Tech.) and freshmen Kellen Rodriguez (Fairmont, Minn. / Fairmont) and August Chen (Redmond, Wash. / Redmond). Senior Rohan Choudhury (Cupertino, Calif. / Monta Vista) will be a key component and leader of the distance group. An important part of the program since his arrival on campus as a freshman, he appears on the Caltech all-time top-10 lists in three different events (3000, 5000, 10000). Fellow senior Michael Hashe (Plano, Texas / Texas Acad. of Math and Science), and sophomore Spencer Morgenfeld (Palo Alto, Calif. / Palo Alto) will also help in distance events. Morgenfeld represented Caltech in the steeplechase, running a strong 10:02.24 at last year's SCIAC Championships, missing out on points by just one place.

"We had a lot of people knocking on the door in the distance finals at SCIAC's," Raphelson said. "All of them are better than they were last year and I expect them to pick up close to where they left off. In addition to improved fitness, they're bringing added maturity this year. As they get

older, they're able to broaden their focus to not just what they're doing in practice to get better, but what they're doing outside of practice to get better as well. That's when we see the biggest improvements."

Caltech's biggest offseason gains have come in the sprints/jumps events. Junior Jesse Cai (McLean, Va. / Thomas Jefferson Science and Technology) returns as one of the team's three captains and will lead a sprints group with three new additions. Freshman Jerome Seebeck (Chicago, Ill. / Walter Payton College Prep) will instantly help the group as a former Illinois State Championship-qualifier in multiple events, as will Shri Deshmukh, whose high school hurdle times should have him knocking on the door of Caltech's top-10 list before long. Returning senior Vaibhav Anand (Northbrook, Ill. / North Shore Country Day) and newcomer Harvey Scriven (London, England / Winchester College) round out the sprints group.

Freshman Peter Kulits (Everett, Wash. / King's) is set to bolster the team in the jumps events. The former Washington state champion in the triple jump has already made his presence felt at the Pomona-Pitzer All-Comers Meet where he earned a second-place finish in the triple jump in his outdoor debut with his 13.69m mark. If not for the mark being wind-aided wind, the jump would be good for second on Caltech's all-time triple jump list, behind David Gates' school record from 1985. Kulits is joined by veteran jumper Alex Lettenberger (Glen Ellyn, Ill. / Glenbard West) who returns for his third season and is looking to showcase his improvements in the pole vault.

"Peter brings a unique energy to the team that's infectious given how hard he's willing to work," Raphelson said. "Johnny and Shri are really versatile athletes who will be able to contribute in the relays, hurdles and sprints at a high level. We're very pleased with what those three and the whole group have shown so far."

Sophomore Daniel Rostovtsev (Swarthmore, Pa. / Strath Haven) returns in the throws events and has shown considerable improvement already this season. He's eager to make his way onto the Caltech Top-10 lists in the hammer and javelin throw.

"Although we've been distance-heavy in the past, I'm seeing a vibrant, diverse team that is preparing to perform at a level we've never seen in competition," Raphelson said.

The team is aiming for steady improvement as they target the SCIAC Championships on April 27-28 hosted Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and the NCAA Championships May 23-25. Raphelson and the Beavers will continue the outdoor season on Saturday, Feb. 23 when they travel to the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges-hosted Rossi Relays. The first SCIAC Multi-Dual is scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 2 at Pomona-Pitzer.

Eiden Named First Team All-SCIAC, First in WBB History



Nothing but net.

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Actual Sports Content Editor

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (Feb. 20, 2019) – Senior center Elizabeth Eiden (White Plains, N.Y. / Holy Child) ended her career on a high note, becoming the first Caltech women's basketball player ever to be named to First Team All-SCIAC on Wednesday. Junior guard Grace Peng (San Ramon, Calif. / California) added to her conference accolades as well, being named to Second Team All-SCIAC for the second consecutive season.

Eiden earned the honor with the stellar statistical season she provided for both herself and her team. The senior concluded the year as the SCIAC's leading rebounder (10.8), shooter (60.1 percent), shot blocker (3.0) and fourth-leading scorer (16.3). Eiden finished 2019 as one of just two players in the conference to average a double-double per game and over the course of her four-year career developed into one of the SCIAC's most dominant players.

Eiden also rewrote the record books this season, becoming the first Caltech basketball player (men's or women's) to achieve at least 200 blocks in a career (227 total) and set records in field goal percentage in both a season and career (51.5 percent), double-doubles in a season (15), field goals in a season (179), defensive rebounds in a season (194) and broke her own record for blocks in a season (75).

Peng joined the Beavers two SCIAC games into the season but ended up fourth in conference scoring (15.4), conference assists (2.9) and third in three-point shooting percentage (43.3 percent). The junior contributed in multiple ways to Caltech's record-setting 2018-19 season and will be called upon to lead next year's team. This year marked the first time Caltech women's basketball has won double-digit games, and the Beavers took home more conference wins (four) than ever before, matching last year's overall finish in the standings.



Funny caption goes here.

-gocaltech.com

2019 CALTECH UNDERGRADUATE WRITING PRIZES

Each year, the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences awards a number of prizes for undergraduate writing. Consider submitting your work to be recognized and rewarded for your work as a writer.

Submit your writing to these prizes:

Hallett Smith Prize Awarded to an outstanding essay related to the work of Shakespeare. Prize amount: \$500.00

Mary A. Earl McKinney Prize in Literature Awarded to the best original poetry and fiction. Submit up to three poems. Fiction should not exceed 12,000 words – one submission. Prize amount: \$500.00/each category

McClure Memorial Communications Prize Awarded to the best academic writing in three categories: English, history and philosophy. No length limit. Please include prompts for all essays composed in courses. Essays written for courses may be revised before submission. Prize amount: \$500.00/each category

Copies of last year's prizewinning writings are stored in CaltechTHESIS and you may view them by visiting this writing center webpage: <http://writing.caltech.edu/community/prizes>

Submission Guidelines:

Deadline: April 5, 2019

Only currently enrolled full-time undergraduate students may submit. Entries should be double-spaced PDFs. Students can only submit one paper per category. Winners are announced in June and their names will be in the commencement program. Winners' writings will be archived using CODA through the Caltech Library. Email entries to Cecilia Lu at cecilial@caltech.edu, noting the prize to which you are applying in the email subject and filename.

Caltech Division of the
Humanities & Social Sciences

Contact Cecilia Lu at
cecilial@caltech.edu with any questions

Seeking Successor for (Generation 2) Housetalia Comic

As most of you may know, four years ago, I started the Housetalia comic on social media/the internet. It starred eight walking Rotation violations and was primarily a funny House-based humor comic. It proved to be fairly popular over its run. Now that I have graduated, I can't continue; but the Houses belong at Caltech. *They don't belong with me.*

So... I'm considering passing on the Housetalia comic to an underclassman. I'd like someone who:

- Has at least one year left at Caltech
- Can draw competently
- Keep a consistent weekly update schedule during the school year
- Write all Houses/Residences fairly, and stay funny

If you are or know someone who is interested, contact me and I'll let them "apply". It'll probably consist of making a sample comic, and a short conversation learning about the series being inherited.

Contact Amulya Mohan at
amohan@alumni.caltech.edu
Housetalia comic archive at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/housetalia/>
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Bridges

Putting a bridges puzzle this week!
The rules are as follows:

1. They must begin and end at distinct islands, travelling a straight line in between.
2. They must not cross any other bridges or islands.
3. They may only run orthogonally (i.e. they may not run diagonally).
4. At most two bridges connect a pair of islands.
5. The number of bridges connected to each island must match the number on that island.
6. The bridges must connect the islands into a single connected group.

