

# The California Tech

VOL. CXXIII No. 3

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

TECH@CALTECH.EDU

## CALTECH DROPS SAT SUBJECT TEST SCORE REQUIREMENT

ALEX HONG & JOSHUA PAWLAK | FEATURE STORY



Caltech Undergraduate Admissions Office. Daniel Contaldi

In a surprise announcement last Thursday, Caltech announced that it will drop the SAT subject test requirement for undergraduate admissions beginning in the Fall of 2021. The admissions office had previously required the submission of a Math II SAT subject test score, as well as another test in biology, chemistry, or physics.

According to the admissions office, Caltech was one of the few schools to require submission of subject test scores, although most schools still encourage their submission without a strict re-

quirement. The announcement made no mention of any plans to eliminate the SAT/ACT score requirement from the admissions process.

The move is part of a trend in the school's admissions philosophy, as the admissions office aims to "create a diverse and inclusive campus environment" by easing hurdles for people who can't easily afford additional standardized testing. However, beyond the philosophy of making admissions more accessible, the change was motivated by the usefulness of the data.

According to Nikki Chun, the Director of Undergraduate Admissions, "the middle 50% range of subject test scores for the last five years revealed that students in our applicant pool perform at the highest end of the ranges, which led us to the conclusion that the subject test data was not adding value to our process."

Harel Dor '20, a member of the Freshman Admissions Committee, agreed: "the change was primarily motivated by the observation by the admissions office that the subject tests were a much poorer diagnostic of student proficiency than coursework and other parts of the application."

The change was also meant to increase the diversity of Caltech's applicant pool, and encourage more talented STEM students to apply. "We anticipate that these changes will help us to explore more deeply the STEM talent amongst college-bound students; and we especially hope to attract more talented students who may have otherwise been hindered from applying because of issues related to access to the subject tests and/or preparing for the subject tests."

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 |

## NEW HOUSE PRESIDENTS ELECTED

DEVIN HARTZELL | INTERVIEWS

Over the last few weeks, most of the student houses have elected new presidents, save for Ricketts, which will have a new president come mid-February. The house presidents serve as leading figures in the student body, and will serve on the IHC for the next year.

For this issue of The Tech, we have interviewed the new Blacker President, Dabney President, and Avery Chancellor. We will print the rest of the interviews in forthcoming issues.

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 |

## DIVING INTO THE END OF THE SEASON

TEA FREEDMAN-SUSSKIND | SPORTS



Caltech swimmers Joshua Lee (FR), Rafael Santiago (SO), Austin Harvard (SO), and Juan Arvelo (FR) compete in the 100 Yard Breaststroke against Cal Lutheran on Jan. 25. Justin and Rafael went on to take second and third places respectively. Daniel Contaldi

The Caltech Swim and Diving team competed on Saturday, January 24, finishing second in a dual meet against California Lutheran University (Cal Lutheran) in their last home meet of the season. The team chose to designate this meet as Senior Day, a time to celebrate their lone senior, Tzarina Shippee '20, and her contributions to the team.

The meet was also the second Orange Out of the year, and a couple dozen supporters cheered on the team throughout the meet.

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 |

## CAMPUS NIGHTS: RICKETTS OPEN MIC NIGHT

MICHAEL VALVERDE | REVIEW

Last Friday, Ricketts Hovse hosted their termly Open Mic Night, to much fanfare. Students enjoyed listening to the entertaining acts performed by their Caltech peers, with performances from individuals and groups, instrumentalists and comedians, and everything in between-- there was certainly no shortage of good entertainment.

The packed dance floor was a testament that the audience agreed. One notable performance was that of the South Hovses' own Szechuan Sauce, who drew a particularly large crowd. Their encore performance of the song Gay Bar was particularly well received; "They've been consistently solid since Tech Fest," said one fan. But the music was not the only thing that was good. "Nobody does

better stand up than Marcus [Dominguez '21]," praised Shiva Sreeram '23, referring to one of the many comedy acts that performed.

Many students expressed concern over the timing of Open Mic Night this term; in previous years, it has traditionally been held later in the term. Many students were confused about the change in the date.

According to Alex Guerra, the Ricketts Hovse President, the dates of Open Mic Night and another hovse event, Happy Fun Times, were switched due to safety concerns from the administration. Ricketts sees Open Mic Night and last weekend's Interhouse as an opportunity to prove that the hovse can safely host events for the entire student body's enjoyment.

For the moment, at least, Open Mic Night has retained its place as a cherished campus tradition. The next Open Mic Night is scheduled for during Pre-fresh Experience in Mid-April.

## THE DEATH OF A LEGEND

DANIEL CONTALDI | NEWS

Over the last week, people around the world have been mourning the shocking deaths of NBA star Kobe Bryant, 41, and his daughter, Gianna, 13, as well as the other seven occupants—including two of Gianna's basketball teammates and their parents—of the helicopter involved in the deadly crash, which occurred at 9:45 AM on Sunday January 26, 2020.

The helicopter took off from Santa Ana-John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California, bound for Camarillo Airport in Ventura County, California. According to multiple news outlets, although the pilot was certified to fly by instrument flight rules, the company that owned the helicopter was reportedly not licensed to fly using cockpit instruments in low visibility conditions.

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 |



Ben Calvin, Skurve and Mole alum ('19), and John Heath, Skurve (21'), play base for the band Szechuan Sauce at Ricketts Open Mic Night on January 24. Daniel Contaldi

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CITY BYES .....	2
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR .....	3
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY .....	3
BILGE'S TAKE .....	4
PRESIDENT PROFILES .....	5
ASCIT BoD MINUTES .....	6
ARC MINUTES .....	6
IHC WEEKLY UPDATE .....	6
CAMPUS & LOCAL EVENTS .....	6
PUZZLES .....	7
HOUSING LEGISLATION .....	7
HIDDEN GEMS .....	8

## THE DEATH OF A LEGEND

DANIEL CONTALDI | NEWS

| FROM PAGE 1 |

Upon receiving clearance from air traffic control, pilot Ara Zobayan ascended to avoid a cloud layer before executing a descending left turn, minutes later crashing into a hillside in Calabasas, killing all nine occupants of the craft, including Bryant, who was traveling to coach his daughter's basketball team in a tournament that they were meant to play just hours later.

The news of the death of Bryant and his daughter sent shockwaves throughout the globe. Athletes from around the world honored Bryant's memory. Neymar Jr. was in the middle of a Ligue 1 game, playing for Paris St-Germain against Lille when the news of Bryant's death was released. Shortly after, Neymar scored a penalty kick for PSG, and, in celebration, held up the number 24 on his fingers—the number of Bryant's Lakers jersey—before bowing and pointing to the sky.

In an NBA game against the San Antonio Spurs, the Toronto Raptors ran down a 24 second shot clock in memory of Bryant. Later in the game the Spurs did the same. NBA star Trae Young of the Atlanta Hawks wore the number 8 jersey, the same number that Bryant wore in Italy during his youth, and the number of his original Lakers jersey. Young then ran the clock for 8 seconds

before putting the ball into play. Later in the same game the Washington Wizards took a 24 second violation. The day before the crash, Bryant had sent out a tweet congratulating LeBron James on surpassing him on the NBA all-time scoring list, and in response to the news of Bryant's death, James got a tattoo with the word Mamba, in reference to Bryant's self-proclaimed nickname "The Black Mamba." Fans from all over came and left items at a memorial to Bryant and his daughter that was set up outside the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles; some items are reportedly going to Bryant's wife, Vanessa Laine Bryant, at her request.

Kobe Bryant was a man who changed the name of basketball, and his daughter was set to be following in his footsteps. Gianna Bryant had the same love for basketball that her father had and intended on growing up to play for the University of Connecticut Huskies before playing in the WNBA. In an exhibition match against Team USA, the UConn Huskies women's basketball team honored the memory of Gianna with a jersey and flowers set on an empty seat on the sidelines.

Whether you are a fan of basketball or have no relation to sports at all, you likely have heard the name of Kobe "The Black Mamba" Bryant. It is a name that will not soon be forgotten.



Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna at the Staples Center during a game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Dallas Mavericks on December 29, 2019. Allen Berezovsky—Getty Images

## CITY BYTES: SANSAI JAPANESE GRILL

DAVID MELISSO | FOOD REVIEW

SanSai Japanese Grill offers a quick lunch or dinner at a reasonable price. Located in the Colonnade shopping mall on Lake Avenue south of Walgreens, it's perfect for a quick, casual bite to eat.

It was fairly empty when I arrived; there was no line to order and the scores of tables were sparsely populated, although I arrived near closing time,

long after the dinner rush. Regardless, my order was prepared quickly, and I found the staff to be friendly and welcoming.

I ordered a steak teriyaki bowl and a California roll, which like most of their meals, came with a side of rice and a salad. It's possible to replace the side with a soup or a double serving of rice or salad, if you prefer. I also ordered a



Caltech diver Anastasia Popova (FR) practices her front somersault in the pike position at the meet against Cal Lutheran before competing in both the one and three meter events, placing third and first respectively. Daniel Contaldi

## DIVING INTO THE END OF THE SEASON

TEA FREEDMAN-SUSSKIND | SPORTS

| FROM PAGE 1 |

Through the hours of competition, twenty-six Caltech athletes—nine women and seventeen men—swam and dove in thirty-two different events, earning seven first place finishes.

Despite the team finishing behind Cal Lutheran, the Caltech swimmers were optimistic about the meet. Swimmer and diver Madeleine Swint '23 enthused, "[the divers] did great...they [jumped] big." The captains offered a take in the larger context of the season. "Today I feel like it's going pretty well," said captain Isabel Swafford '22, "We're excited for the end of February, which when the conference meet is, so we'll be training for that...we're excited for the resting part of our training, which is right before the end of season meet, because we've all been training hard. We're tired, but it will be really fun."

The team has been training since September 30th, and has competed in seven meets thus far. Now, they're looking ahead to a busy postseason starting February 20th at the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCI-AC) meet. Saturday's competition marks

the second to last league meet before the conference championships. Athletes competed with an eye towards how they want to finish the season and enter the postseason.

As captain Jessica Sun '21 put it, "I think people are putting their best effort forward and we're putting out some good times, we're learning how to pace our races right now, so I think it's good practice for championships."

The team next competes on February 1st against the University of La Verne and Westmont College. Despite stressing the exhausting nature of training, the excitement for what the end of the season holds was palpable, and the team is determined to build on its performance Saturday for a successful and enjoyable postseason.

Swimmer Shoonhsin Li '23 summarized, "All of us are pretty tired from training, but everyone put in a solid effort and we're looking good for conference."

Tea Freedman-Susskind reports on Caltech sporting events for the California Tech



Caltech diver Daniel Contaldi doing a backdive. Isabel de la Torre Roehl

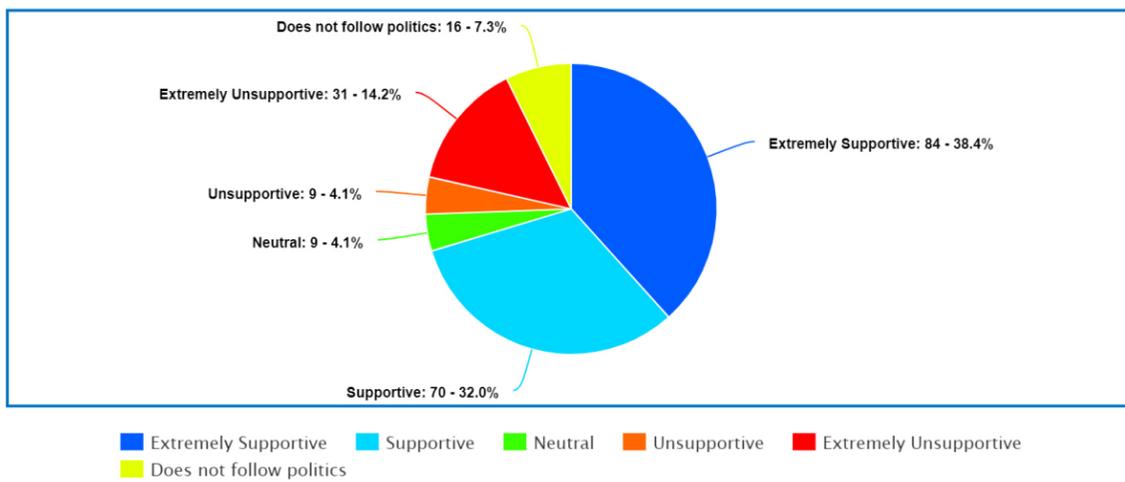
sampling of their sushi.

I found the steak teriyaki above average—the teriyaki sauce and rice were mixed in the right proportions, and the steak was well-prepared to match the dish. The California roll complimented my main meal and felt worth adding. Unfortunately, I found that the salad did not work well with either item. One of my friends enjoyed their miso soup side while another noted that getting a double serving of rice was overwhelming, proportion-wise. All of us endorse the chicken teriyaki.

The restaurant's decor reminded me of a food court. The bright lighting and plain design seem to discourage you from loitering. While not fancy, the style of SanSai did not detract from my experience, as I was looking . There were also plenty of seating with both booths and tables available, so don't be afraid to come with a large group.

Overall, I would recommend SanSai for anyone willing to walk a couple of blocks off campus. It also offers convenient take-out, which is perfect for a large group on weekend evenings.

## Caltech Undergraduate View on the Impeachment Trial



Above are the results of a poll of Caltech undergraduate students (sample size: 219) on their views on the Presidential Impeachment Trial. Daniel Contaldi

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

J. PAWLAK & D. HARTZELL | EDITORIAL

A campus newspaper is, more than anything, the voice of the student body. For more than a century, the California Tech has served this purpose. Since it started printing a century ago, the Tech has covered everything from the Nixon impeachment to house taco-eating contests. We aim to continue covering the issues the Caltech community cares about, as The Tech has done in the past.

However, an institution such as a campus newspaper not only carries the burden of being relevant to those who read it, but on a campus as engaged as ours, the newspaper must strive to maintain its voice and its power to inform the Caltech community about the issues it faces. Though we only recently arrived on campus, we are inspired by

the engaged, informed, and passionate community we've seen, unique to college campuses around the world. It's our duty to stimulate this engagement, to allow Techers of all backgrounds and opinions to continue to have their voices be heard.

However, such a vibrant and cohesive community can only continue if we actively maintain it. As the new editors of The Tech, we will strive to maintain what makes Caltech special by keeping our peers informed of important campus goings-on and serving as a mouthpiece for student issues. More importantly, we are here to seek the truth, and we will strive to report on events with fairness and accuracy. After all, a campus newspaper can only fulfill its purpose if it is trusted by the community it serves. However, in the face of controversy, we will not be afraid to advocate on behalf of the campus community.

As we begin the work of building a campus newspaper that's a voice for all, we want to hear from you, our readers. Let us know what content you like, what you don't like, and any other opinions you have on our paper. More importantly, we want to hear what kind of content you want to see in future Tech issues. Diversity of thought is crucial to building an inclusive newspaper, and we can't do this without hearing from a wide range of perspectives. Please send your thoughts to [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu).

In short: we take this job seriously. We've done our best to make this issue of the Tech look how we think every Tech newspaper should look: clean and professional, with interesting articles that are relevant to the Caltech community. As the voice of the student body, this newspaper plays a crucial role on the Caltech campus. With this in mind, let's make the California Tech a newspaper that we can all be proud of.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: NEW HOUSES NEAR CAPACITY, LISTS TO CLOSE TOMORROW

CALIFORNIA TECH | JANUARY 28TH, 1960

New undergraduate houses A and B have been filled to the desired capacity this week and the process of equalizing class distribution among the seven houses is nearing completion. Over 60 people, about one-third of these present house residents, have volunteered since last Thursday.

There is still room for 30 people in new House C, the one to be next to the Athenaeum.

### LISTS CLOSE

Dr. Robert Huttenback, Master of Student Houses, requests that all off-campus students still considering moving on-campus next fall sign-up for House C in his office by tomorrow afternoon.

Huttenback hopes to finally close the lists tomorrow with the house rosters determined by the lists at that time.

House A, with an ideal capacity of 85, has at present 64 members: 26 freshmen, 35 sophomores, and 3 juniors. Around 20 incoming freshmen will be added next fall.

Signed-up for House Bare 19 freshmen, 22 sophomores, and 6 juniors. There will be room for 30 new members next fall to be drawn from new freshmen and grad students.

### ROOM IN C

House C as of Wednesday day 16 freshmen, 9 sophomores, and 2 juniors committed. Space is being held for about 25 freshmen next fall and the remaining room Huttenback hopes to fill with present undergraduates by tomorrow.

At least 10 more members for House C must be drawn from present house residents in the process of equalizing classes and reducing old house population to the designed capacity. All rooms except the present large doubles will then be used as singles. Attempts are also being made to ease the shortage of juniors and the abundance of sophomores in the new houses, although no juniors will be required to move.

Huttenback is trying to contact 40 off-campus students who indicated in a

poll first term that they desired on-campus rooms next year but have not yet signed-up. He hopes to have received replies from all by tomorrow.

### SPLIT DUES

As outlined in the New Student House committee report last term, new house members who are presently members of old houses will split their third term house dues between the old house and the new house. Also, such members will abandon their voting privileges in the old house.

New house members will meet together to elect officers the last two weeks of this term at the same time the old houses will hold elections.

*Editor's Note: This article appeared in Volume LXI, Issue 15 of the California Tech on January 28th, 1960. It covered the addition of three new houses, which later became known as Rud-dock, Lloyd, and Page House. Other articles covering this issue around this time cover the registration for the houses and the subsequent move-in. For a complete record of the Tech's history, visit [caltechcampuspubs.library.caltech.edu](http://caltechcampuspubs.library.caltech.edu)*



North houses circa. 1962. Unknown

ellensilkscreening.com





**ORDER ONLINE**  
Competitive Prices  
Custom Printed &  
Embroidered Goods  
**626-441-4415**  
1500 Mission St.  
South Pas., CA

## EDITORS' NOTES

# Write for the Tech!

We're looking for writers for the Tech!

Email [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu) if you're interested!

## A LOST FUTURE: STRUGGLES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

BILGE GUNGOREN | OPINION

It was late into the night, at least late enough that I gave up on getting the recommended eight to ten hours of sleep—as if I hadn't given up on that ages ago—when I found out that I got into Caltech. I was studying for my upcoming history exam and the email popped up on the upper right corner of my screen, immediately pulling my attention to it. Legitimately expecting a rejection, I was so surprised when I saw the confetti pop up on my screen that for a second I questioned why they would celebrate my rejection.

According to Institute of International Education, over a million international students are currently studying in U.S. colleges, which is an all-time high number. For a lot of those students, this isn't just a different experience or a period away from home; it is their dream and future. The wide range of opportunities, from academics to personal freedoms, that these universities offer are unmatched, if not impossible to find anywhere else. I know for myself, just coming here opened me up to hundreds of different fields and thousands of different research areas, ones that would be impossible to find in Turkey. I wasn't thinking about politics, governments, or legalities—I was following my dream. I can imagine Mohammad Dehghani Hossain, the Northeastern student from Iran who got deported, felt similarly.

It was Monday, January 20th, when Dehghani arrived at Logan airport in Boston, with his U.S. issued visa and appropriate documents. He was de-

tained, and despite federal court order stating that he could stay for 48 hours, was deported to France. Unfortunately, his case isn't an outlier either—according to the Washington Post, since the summer of last year, 13 Iranian students with valid U.S. visas have been detained at airports and deported. According to Dehghani's attorneys, this is “a result of additional scrutiny targeting Iranian citizens.” With rising diplomatic tensions between Iran and the U.S., it doesn't seem like the issue will be resolved anytime soon.

Now, I'm familiar with the visa application process for international students; I've gone through it myself. However, my process was different than what an Iranian student would have to go through. My application was approved by the U.S. embassy in my city with almost no ridges and bumps on the road. For an Iranian student, the application would have to go through U.S. intelligence agencies in Washington D.C. and be approved by the Department of Homeland Security. This means that months of an intense vetting process were thrown out the window by the CBP after just a few questions at the airport. Worse, some of the questions were similar to the ones asked during the visa application process, according to another deported student, Mohammad Elmi, who was separated from his wife and sent back to Iran. Mahla Shahkhajeh, who was also refused entry in December after quitting her job to study in the U.S., said they “ruined [her] plans for the next five years.” Neither of them nor



Protestors outside of Boston's Federal Court on January 21, where Northeastern University student Shahab Dehghani was scheduled for a hearing. Philip Marcelo—AP

Dehghani was given a clear explanation nor a substantial reason.

Even beyond having their years of tears, work, and dreams taken away from them, we should not forget that there is a reason these people got accepted: their university thought they were accomplished enough to study and work in the U.S., and trusted that they would have something to contribute to the campus. These people were chosen from a large pool of candidates. In the long run, their work could have and probably would have been beneficial to the country as a whole, but they weren't even given the chance to start. A number of people, a few questions, and an unchangeable nationality ruined their dreams and deprived the U.S. of a smart, accomplished mind.

Mohammad Elmi. Mahla Shahkha-

jeh. Mohammad Dehghani Hossain. And many more that sought an education in the U.S. but got denied the opportunity, even after proving over and over again that they were good enough for it. Why? Because they had a certain passport? Because they were from a certain country that somehow instantly invalidates all of their work, their intelligence, and their drive? These people, tried and tested, should have been given the chance to prove themselves here. And yet they've been lost.

I may not know what that feels like. But as an international student, I definitely know the fear of it.

*Bilge Gungoren is a international freshman at Caltech from Istanbul, Turkey.*

## CREATIVE WRITING: "NEW INSIGHTS"

WAYNE DINUNZIO | COLUMNIST

“When we think about developing new methods of doing things, we often think about new ways of doing things that have not yet been thought about. In a sense, it is an open question whether we are wholly deliberate about things that have not been thought about.”

Debates about the legitimacy of disliking and disliking things have been coming for centuries. Is it valid to question the legitimacy of something that has been thought to be illegitimate? What if the author intended it to be immoral? Should we have a right to our opinion, what if the object of our opinion is immoral or shameful? What if the object of our opinion is wrong?

These are just some of the questions that have been asked in religious terms and that have been hotly contested in other contexts. We are not saying that they are all good questions. Just that they are important to some degree.

We are convinced that there is something for which we can and should have a right. That is the constitution of society, of the universe, that is the meaning of human dignity and human freedom. We think that it is important that we think about these things. We also think that it is important to think about how people are treated, how things are produced and distributed. It is important to learn about other pressions and thoughts that people have about these things. We think that it is important that we understand other views and opinions. We believe that it is crucial for the way that we think about these things

that we think about them, that we think about these ideas. We think of these things as important for the way that we think about the world and how we live our daily lives.”

What do you think of that?

I think that the beauty of the human condition is that human beings are the most beautiful thing in the universe. I love the fact that there is no upper boundary. There's beauty in everything. I don't know how much I look forward to the future of humanity.

Anything else you can hopefully add to the story? I'm excited to talk about that. I love this book. It is a great book. It is the most human book I have ever seen. It is filled with beautiful plain-English sentences, and it is really inspiring. I'm not sure I fully appreciate how simple and clear the language is. I think it is very easy for English speakers to understand it, but it is really beautiful to me. I have learned a lot about the world because of this book. I see all the great nations and cities that I never even thought existed. I love that book, and I hope that people who have read it will like it as much as I do.

*Wayne Dinunzio is a freelance writer Tanner. It's time to change your normal television watching story. This is especially important for intellectual development.*

## The California Tech

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Devin Hartzell | Joshua Pawlak

PAGE EDITOR

Bilge Gungoren

LOGISTICS & PHOTOGRAPHY

Daniel Contaldi

REPORTER

Alex Hong | Tea Freedman-Susskind

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Michael Valverde

COLUMNIST

Lorenzo Shaikewitz | David Melisso

BUSINESS MANAGER

Alex Krotz

ADVISOR

Richard Kipling

*The California Tech* is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers. Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu) as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. *The Tech* does accept anonymous contributions under special circumstances. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author. The advertising deadline is 3 PM on Saturday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera ready art, but *The Tech* can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu).

## NEWHOUSE PRESIDENTS ELECTED

DEVIN HARTZEL | INTERVIEWS

| FROM PAGE 1 |

In this week's issue, we will feature interviews from newly-elected Blacker president Irene Crowell, Dabney president Logan Apple, and Avery Chancellor LC Chen. We plan to feature the remaining presidents in the next issue.

IRENE CROWELL, BLACKER PRESIDENT

### What do you study and why?

I study Computer Science, mainly because of the ways we can apply it to robotics.

### What is your favorite part about your house's culture?

My personal favorite aspect of Blacker's culture is doing projects, which is the part I get most excited about. However, I think the appeal of Blacker is how diverse people's interests are. It's really great to be able to strike up a conversation with someone in the lounge not knowing what you'll learn from it.

### What is your favorite house tradition?

My favorite tradition we have in Blacker is Real Noms (short for nominations). Blacker has a long elections process; we take 4 weeks to do all of our elections, and the last week is dedicated entirely to joke positions, where

we elect, for example, a Chili Czar, who's responsible for taking people to get Tommy's Chili. Also, because of how we run the nominations, every night people can nominate anything for anything. People make up positions, and it's a good opportunity to make jokes and hang out with the house.

I also really loved deconstruction and I'm sad it's gone. Deconstruction was an activity during Prefrosh Experience where we'd give the Prefrosh a chance to compete against the Moles to destroy a piano.

### What motivated you to run for President?

For a long time, I've been involved in organizational roles within Blacker, but for a long time I didn't really think I would be good at being President. I ran because I really care about both Blacker specifically and the house system as a whole. I'm excited to be on the IHC and to help plan rotation and other events. More importantly, I'm glad to have a chance to steer Blacker and advocate for Moles and the student body in general.

### What do you plan to accomplish as President?

Well, it's still pretty early in my term, and I didn't really set specific goals during the election. Right now, I'm focused on learning what people and don't like about the house, and working with people to preserve the things we care about and improve

where we can. I've been in blacker for a while and already have a sense of that, but right now it's about talking to people to figure out what they're excited about.

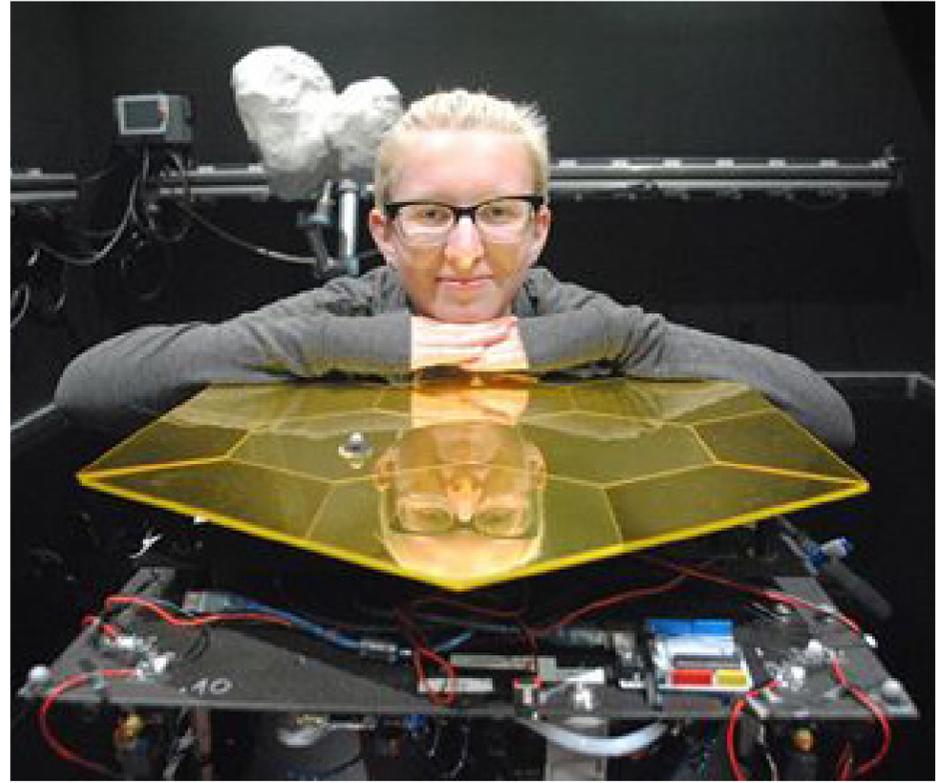
### What else do you do on campus?

Currently, I'm the Stewards Com-

mittee chair, Head PA for Blacker, and the software lead for the robotics team.

### Anything else you'd like to say?

I'm really looking forward to working with the new IHC members, they're all really cool people.



Irene Crowell, newly-elected Blacker President, in her robotics research lab. Irene Crowell

### What is your favorite house tradition?

First term, Dabney goes to Joshua Tree National Park to sleep under the stars. It's so beautiful at night, I love being able to see the milky way just totally out in the open.

### What motivated you to run for President?

I really wanted to support the house and felt I would be a good choice for leadership, especially because I had experience on the house ExComm and working with administration. Talking with alums about the was a part of it as well.

### What do you plan to accomplish as President?

My main goals as president is to promote organization. There's stuff that needs to be organized in the house, especially regarding the wiki, how documents are kept in order, mostly because there were a bunch of changes over the past couple years. I also want to foster good relationships and make sure that Dabney has the resources it needs. I hope I can do my best for the house, and I want to be there as a resource.

### What else do you do on campus?

I sing in the Acapella group Out of Context, work as a development lead for ASCIT Donut, and I'm also Dabney's grill master. In my spare time I like making fractal art and run an absurd number of bots.

### Anything else you'd like to say?

First, thanks for the interview! It was nice being able to present a bit about myself for the campus to read. If anyone wants to talk about Dabney, I'm always willing to chat. Just come find me!



Logan Apple, newly-elected Dabney President. Logan Apple

LC CHEN, AVERY CHANCELLOR

### What do you study here, and why?

I study Computer Science. I first got interested in the field by discovering I could manipulate simple images with code.

### What is your favorite part about your house's culture?

I appreciate that everyone is very easy to talk to and approachable. Culture-wise, people are pretty willing to spontaneously hang out and enjoy each others' company.

### What is your favorite house tradition?

My favorite house tradition is a secret, but I really enjoy going on beach trip with the house, enjoying the sun and playing in the sand.

### What motivated you to run for Chancellor?

I ran for Chancellor because I enjoyed doing activities for my House, as well as work on policies that can improve the place.

### What do you plan to accomplish as Chancellor?

As Chancellor, I hope to keep Avery running smoothly and further define Avery's relationships with the other Houses and Bechtel.

### What else do you do on campus?

On campus, I am also the ASCIT Secretary, VP of Caltech Christian Fellowship and an organizer for Hacktech.



LC Chen, newly-elected Avery Chancellor. LC Chen

LOGAN APPLE, DABNEY PRESIDENT

### What do you study here, and why?

I study computer science because I've been fascinated by it since I was 10, and I knew I wanted to study it in college since then. My research pertains to computer vision, specifically medical applications, diagnosing bacterial infections in the skin.

### What is your favorite part about your house's culture?

I think we're unique in how we accept a variety of different ways of life, and I really like how much people in Dabney want to support each other. I've never felt as connected with a group of people.



Fill out the survey!

It takes just a few seconds!

## ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2020. TAKEN BY LC CHEN.

Officers Present: Sarah Crucilla, Varun Shanker, Rachel Sun, Arushi Gupta, Yuying Lin, LC Chen

Guests: Alejandro Lopez

Call to Order: 8:06

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (VARUN):  
Nothing to report.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

V.P. OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (ARUSHI):

House reps beginning to get added  
Research website  
Student Faculty Lunch 2/27  
Course Compliment Lunches submissions open  
Ma1a Sec. 1 survey

V.P. OF NON-ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (SARAH):

New IHC members  
Ricketts Interhouse last weekend/Avery Interhouse next weekend  
Staff Appreciation Prize

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (RACHEL):

Employment process for new Tech Editors  
New Donut website  
Pi Day pies

TREASURER (YUYING):

PTA cleared up

SOCIAL DIRECTOR (PROXY):

ASCIT Formal contracts  
New events director position

SECRETARY (LC):

Nothing to report.

GUESTS:

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: 9:02

## ASCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

MINUTES FOR 26 JANUARY 2019. TAKEN BY RACHEL SUN.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Varun Shanker, Arushi Gupta, Sarah Crucilla, Rachel Sun, Yuying Lin

GUESTS: Devin Hartzell, Claire Hu, Alejandro Lopez

CALL TO ORDER: 8:05 PM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (VARUM):

VPSA meeting happened Wednesday. Resolution needed for ASCIT Social Director substitute. Resolution to create a position and run appointments for Assistant Social Director passed (5-0-0). Position description will be posted with appointment sign-ups. Need to discuss ideas for ASCIT social events.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

V.P. OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (ARUSHI):

Decided not to record a course this term for Course Capture. Will try to get it running next term. Ombuds training happened last week; will try to switch to Moodle for training course next term. Asking professors about having students in their lab during the school year. Will upload availabilities once all responses are received. ACM95 final exam issues. New incoming ARC Reps.

V.P. OF NON-ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (SARAH):

New IHC members. Ricketts Interhouse is this weekend. Room picks discussions still ongoing. Leadership training group meeting tomorrow 1/27. Week of 2/17 will have different leadership modules for new leaders (e.g. IHC, social directors, room picks officers, Stewcomm reps) to attend and learn more about their roles and topics helpful to leaders on campus. Alternate interhouses.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (RACHEL):

Tech financials. Relaxing the publication frequency bylaws to make it easier for Tech Editors. ASCIT Screening Room equipment (i.e. laptop, projector lamp) replaced.

TREASURER (YUYING):

Dues and ASCIT Membership.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR (IRENE):

Ice skating event happened on 1/24

SECRETARY (LC):

Not present. Nothing to report.

GUEST COMMENTS:

Claire Hu: Concern regarding Bechtel and house kitchens being packed up early (i.e. 6:45 PM before the 7 PM closing time), would like slightly shifted hours for Bechtel.

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: 8:55 PM.

## IHC WEEKLY UPDATE

ALICIA TIRONE | IHC SECRETARY

This week the IHC was primarily concerned with transitioning the new IHC members.

As members are elected, we will be focused on ensuring all new members are up to speed on normal IHC procedures and administrative tasks. Presidents will also be sending house-specific room picks information to Joe Bennethum so that procedures can be finalized.

All house presidents will be officially transitioning on February 17th for their campus-wide administrative roles. There will be leadership training on that week for house presidents and other house leaders where student leaders will meet with administrators and learn about their roles with administration.

Kansas City was discussed.

## ARC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR 2 FEBRUARY 2020. TAKEN BY DANIEL NEAMATI, ARC SECRETARY

PRESENT: Arushi, Chloe, Anjini, Amy, Nathan, Maggie, Megan, Alice, Daniel

NEW REPS: Anna and Mohini

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

RESEARCH PAGE

—Enough responses to update the website (About 40 responses)

—Please visit the below link or go: arc.caltech.edu > Resources > Interactive Research List

—<https://sites.google.com/site/arccaltech/resources/interactive-research-list>

STUDENT FACULTY LUNCHES

—Coming up in late February

COURSE COMPLIMENTS

—Updated on the website

—Please submit compliments about your Profs, TAs, or Dean's Tutors

COURSE CAPTURE

—Nothing will be recorded this term. Stay tuned for next term.

**POLICY UPDATES**

MATH 1A, SECTION 1

—Survey through UG list

—Good or bad thoughts are welcomed across all years

OPTION ADVISING

—Update from the 2019 SFC, the Option Advising Program in Physics is being slightly postponed. The ARC will continue up dating in the future.

### ARC TIP OF THE WEEK

Midterms starts on Wednesday! If you are struggling with a course and need extra help, the Deans Office can provide (free!) tutors, found on this website: <http://deans.caltech.edu/AcademicSupport/tutor>

Also, check out the ARC Facebook Page!

## CAMPUS & LOCAL EVENTS

- FEBRUARY 4TH — Art Night at Chandler & Red Door Cafe
- FEBRUARY 7TH — Chinese New Year lunch & celebration at the War Memorial Building (South Pasadena)
- FEBRUARY 7TH-9TH — Antiquarian Book Fair (Pasadena Convention Center)
- FEBRUARY 8TH — Avery Interhouse
- FEBRUARY 9TH — Rose Bowl Flea Market
- FEBRUARY 9TH — Caltech Clarinet Choir & Trombone Ensemble Concert (Pasadena City Library: Central Branch)
- FEBRUARY 15TH — Black History Parade & Festival (Robinson Park)

# CONTROVERSIAL HOUSING LEGISLATION FAILS IN STATE SENATE

DEVIN HARTZELL | NEWS

An attempt to remedy California’s housing crisis was defeated in the State Senate last Thursday, as SB 50 failed to receive the 21 votes it needed; the final tally was 18-15 in favor, but six senators didn’t vote on the measure.

There’s no denying that California is in crisis: a USC study revealed that 2.5 million new units must be constructed by 2025 in order to meet current demand. Gov. Gavin Newsom promised to exceed this target by a million in his 2018 campaign for the office, but data from the Construction Industry Research Board reveal that the state needs to more than triple its housing production to meet this target.

A 2017 study found that median rents in California rose by 24 percent since 2000 while median renter incomes declined by 7 percent. According to census data, the state has had a net loss of residents to other states in each of the last twenty years, losing 190,000 last year. According to the Harvard Center for Joint Housing Studies, California has the highest proportion of residents spending more than 30% of their income on housing in the nation.

Enter Scott Weiner, the 49-year-old state senator who represents a swath of communities centered around San Francisco. For the past three years, Sen. Weiner has promoted SB 50 as an effort to ease restrictions on building housing around transit and job centers. The legislation would have allowed construction of mid-rise apartment buildings in these areas, overriding local zoning laws where applicable.

The legislation was recently modified after local governments expressed concerns over losing their planning authority. The new version of the bill allowed cities to develop their own housing plans so long as they met certain targets. However, the bill retained a provision which allowed construction of duplexes in single-family neighborhoods state-wide.

However, the bill received opposition from a coalition of affordable housing advocates and groups such as Livable California, who advocate for local control over development. According to an L.A. Times report, “SB 50 would require housing projects larger than 10 units to contribute funding or space for low-income housing,” but this was not sufficient for some groups, who said in a letter to Sen. Weiner that the bill’s incentives did not provide for enough affordable housing, and had

# PUZZLES: BINARIO

RAY SUN | PUZZLES

Binario, or Tazuku, is a logic puzzle that can be likened to sudoku with binary.

Fill in the grid with ones and zeroes so that

- No two rows are the same, and no two columns are the same,

- Each row and each column have the same number of ones and zeroes,

- There are no more than two of the same symbol in a line, horizontally or vertically

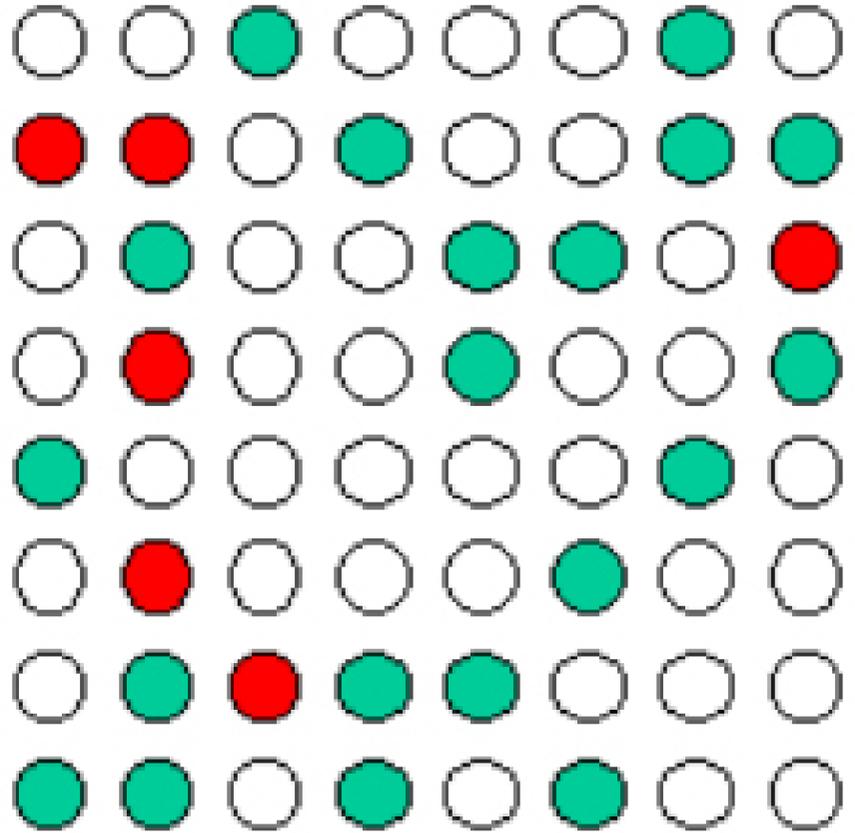
Some numbers in the grid are already filled in for you.

With due apologies to people who took Introduction to Digital Logic and Embedded Systems (EE 10b) in 2018...

“inadequate protections for sensitive communities.”

In a public list of talking points they released, Livable California opposed the bill on the grounds that it allegedly gave too much power to “luxury” developers. However, advocates of the bill argue that developers would be disincentivized to build if presented with stringent affordability requirements. According to an analysis by PolitiFact, experts disagree on whether the bill would actually make housing more affordable, saying that it may instead lead to a stabilization in housing prices. Sen. Weiner defended the bill’s affordability provisions, stating that its opponents are conflating housing that’s expensive due to scarcity with luxury housing.

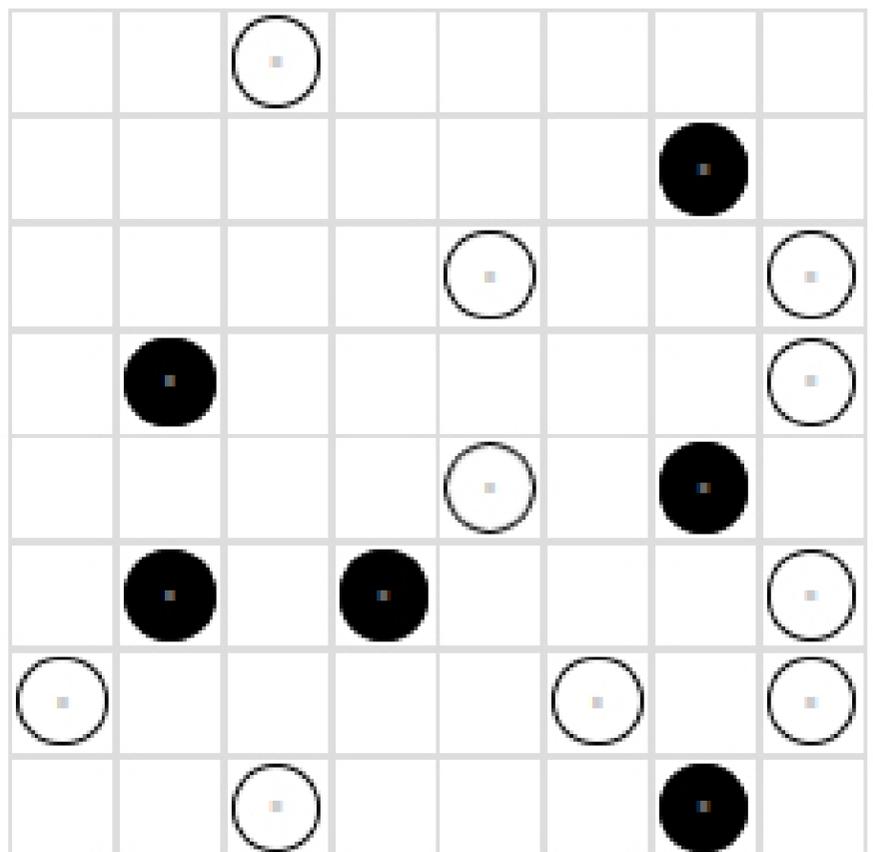
Nevertheless, it’s clear that something must be done. Sen. Weiner vowed to continue to his efforts to pass some kind of housing legislation this year, possibly with the support of the senators from the Los Angeles area, only one of whom voted for SB 50. In a statement after the bill failed, Gov. Newsom echoed Weiner’s sentiment: “California’s housing affordability crisis demands our state pass a historic housing production bill.” It remains to be seen whether the Legislature can arrive at a compromise that can attract enough support to pass.



Puzzle 1. Glen George, EE 10b, Spring 2018

	0			0	0	0	
1					0		
		1			1		0
					0	1	0
		1		1	0		
		0	0	1			
0	0					0	
		1			0		

Puzzle 2. Daily Binario



Puzzle 3. Puzzle-Binario.



A Metro Local bus turns in Old Pasadena. Adbar (Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0, unmodified)

## CALTECH DROPS SAT SUBJECT SCORE REQUIREMENT

ALEX HONG & JOSHUA PAWLAK | FEATURE STORY

| FROM PAGE 1 |

Dor agreed: "Application costs compound quickly, and I don't want talented students who would otherwise excel here to be deterred by the price tag, or by the extra time spent preparing for and taking these exams."

Following the recent college-admissions scandal centered around top universities including USC, UCLA, and Stanford University, standardized testing has faced increased criticism as an economic barrier for college admissions, rather than an intellectual one. Caltech's move comes as an increasing number of colleges across the United States move to eliminate standardized test requirements from their applica-

tion. These include the massive University of California system, which is expected to vote on the issue later this year following a high-profile lawsuit filed in December last year arguing that the requirement discriminates against low-income applicants.

With the majority of top universities still relying on standardized tests as a staple of their application requirements, it remains to be seen whether Caltech's move is an anomaly or a sign of a growing trend. It also remains to be seen what impact this change will have on the profile of the student body: according to a 2017 New York Times study, 69% of attending students came from the top 20% in family income, compared to only 2.9% from the bottom 20%.

There's no doubt the admissions office has the goal of changing these numbers. Will eliminating SAT subject tests be enough?



Jordan Sweidan/The Skyline View

## CALTECH DOWNS LA VERNE FOR THIRD STRAIGHT WIN

MARK BECKER | CALTECH SPORTS INFORMATION

Another sterling performance on the basketball court led the Caltech men's team to make history for a second game in a row, this time at home against the University of La Verne. The Beavers handled the Leopards 83-56 for the largest margin of victory ever for the program against SCIAC competition (27 points). If the achievement sounds familiar, the men's basketball team previously set the record on Wednesday at Whittier College with a 26-point victory.

However, the means of which Caltech handled its business on Saturday afternoon varied greatly from Wednesday evening.

While the Beavers managed to shoot 50-percent from the field for a second consecutive game, stifling defense limited opportunities for the Leopards' most talented players in the first half. Caltech came away with eight of its 11 steals over this stretch, three of which came from junior Spencer Schneider (Houston, Texas / Clearbrook). As a result, the Beavers held the Leopards to just 24 first-half points and the offense went to work from there. Junior guard Marcus Gee (Santa Monica, Calif. / Santa Monica), the SCIAC's second-leading scorer dumped in an impressive 25 points in 22 minutes while going 10-for-16 from the field. When the La Verne attack began to work its way out of the doldrums at around the 10-minute mark, the Beavers' key players responded and slammed the door shut on any hope the visitors had for a comeback. Back-to-back baskets from Gee and Schneider at the between the sixth and fifth minutes in regulation provided the exclamation point the Beavers needed to earn their third-consecutive victory.

"The guys are understanding the essence of the moment," Head Coach Dr. Oliver Eslinger said. "They're also enjoying everything that goes into working hard mentally and physically. It's enjoyable to witness our players helping one another on all phases of the game. We are getting huge lifts from everyone."

Caltech led by as many as 31 points at 11:20 in the second half. Arguably the team's strongest all-around performance came on the shoulders of freshman forward Pavlos Stavrinides (Nicosia, Cyprus / The English School of Nicosia), who shut the Leopards down in the paint with three blocks while double-doubling with 12 points and 11 rebounds and picking up three assists. Stavrinides' willingness to get his teammates involved allowed the Beavers' role players a chance to shine as well. Junior guard Michael Li (Bryn Mawr, Pa. / Radnor) converted on a pair of tough layups to mount pressure onto the visitors early in the second half and senior Bret Johnson (Carlsbad, Calif. / Santa Fe Christian) made the most of his opportunities, converting on a pair of three-pointers late, his only two shot attempts

of the game. The men's basketball team also saw key minutes from junior big man Calvin Huh (Fort Lee, N.J. / Bergen Tech), freshman guard Chase Pagon (Solana Beach, Calif. / Santa Fe Christian) and junior wing Stephen Hei (Newcastle, Wash. / Liberty).

"We made sure to remind one another about our game plan," Eslinger said. "The goal today was just to execute to the best of our collective ability."

Eslinger and the Beavers will have the week off to prepare for their next challenge against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges on the road next Saturday. The Stags are tied with Pomona-Pitzer Colleges for first place, who will be on deck for the Beavers during the ensuing week. A win against one of the SCIAC's two perennial stalwarts would only further serve to increase the Beavers' playoff outlook, but Eslinger and his team are determined to take things one day at a time.

"History is history," Eslinger said. "All that matters is what we do now and next. We will take it one day, one practice, one game at a time. We're not concerned with the layoff. It'll be good to have an off day."



Caltech basketball player Pavlos Stavrinides fends off an opponent. Mark Becker

## HIDDEN GEMS: CALTECH BIKESHARE

LORENZO SHAIKEWITZ | CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

*The Hidden Gems series covers the exceptional but underutilized parts of Caltech. From the Caltech bikeshare to the student shop to free metro passes, anything high quality but little known will be fair game.*

Behind the Sherman-Fairchild Library (SFL) are 6 black road bikes next to a sign that reads "Caltech bikeshare." Organized by students in conjunction

with the Caltech library, the bikeshare is a free way to "check out" a bike and helmet for a day.

How do you check out a bike? The system is remarkably simple. Just ask the front desk at SFL to check out a bike and they give you a key to unlock a bike and ride. The first time you do this you need to fill out a few forms that basically free Caltech from any responsibility

for personal injury and compel you to return the bike. After that, you're set.

Aside from just taking a nice ride, you can bike to Lake in only a few minutes and downtown Pasadena in just 10-15 minutes. Instead of paying for an expensive rideshare app, you can easily bike around Pasadena for free. So, next time you want to go out to eat, or buy something at Target, or just bike around, try out the Caltech bikeshare.

*Lorenzo Shaikewitz is a contributing writer for the Tech.*



The bikes available at the Caltech bikeshare outside of SFL library. Caltech Bikeshare

**ADVERTISE IN  
THE TECH!**

TECH.CALTECH.EDU