



VOLUME CXXI NUMBER 15

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

TECH@CALTECH.EDU

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

# The California Tech

# A Response on Rotation

**INTERHOUSE COMMITTEE**

Dear all,

A decision on the future of residential life was recently released. Part of this plan detailed a filling process in Bechtel that was discussed thoroughly with administration and students leaders, and we are grateful in how directly our input shaped that decision. However, we were surprised by the proposed changes to rotation, and the details revealed about the rotation process. We will continue to discuss many aspects of the recent residential life proposal with administration, but we feel that it's important for us to address Rotation more thoroughly now.

Rotation is a process of assigning freshmen to affiliations with houses, and has been going on since the 1930s. Despite its long history, Rotation is not an unchanging black box - it is a continually changing set of procedures that the Interhouse Committee (IHC) works together with administration on every year. While in past years issues with 'deals' and 'trades' arised, the system used in the last couple years consciously removed these and relied on a Prefrosh-Optimal Stable-matching system. This algorithm was chosen, in consultation with social science professors at Caltech, specifically because it allowed us to take a prefrosh-optimal approach (in the sense that the rankings of the freshmen were prioritized). An explanation of the benefits and justification of this system (written by Nicholas Scheiffer, former Dabney president) can be found in a linked copy of this document on the [ihc.caltech.edu](http://ihc.caltech.edu) page.

We will summarize the procedure used in this past rotation as follows. The procedure below was conducted by the IHC, approved by the VPSA office, and was overseen the day of by Tom

Mannion (Director of Student Activities) as well as two invited faculty members.

Rankings of freshmen are collected and the bottom 4 rankings they gave are discarded.

Each house will be able to choose 3 freshmen to permanently assign who ranked them as 1, and who the house feels would be a great fit for their community.

If a house feels that a freshman would be disruptive to their community, would have a negative experience living in their community, or pose a threat to someone's well-being in their community, they can petition to remove the option for a freshman to be placed in their house during stable matching. Houses are able to bring up to 3 freshmen during this time. These decisions will be justified with discussions with the whole IHC.

After this step, the stable matching process will begin. It will continue until every freshmen has a temporary assignment, or all freshmen without a temporary assignment have gone through the stable matching process.

At this point, an 'unstable matching' portion of the process begins. This involves placing any freshmen who have no temporary assignment by the end of the stable matching process. During unstable matching, options for how to move around freshmen (based on prioritizing their ranks) are examined and are performed based on consensus of the IHC. During this portion, the emphasis is on placing freshmen in their top ranked houses.

To achieve gender parity (based on self identification on a student run survey) in the north houses (who all have double rooms), one-to-one swaps are performed. These must all be approved by a consensus of the IHC.

A few changes we made specifically to this past rotation in 2017 were:

Making a formal procedure/form for allowing those with special needs to have special accommodations throughout rotation (in collaboration with the undergraduate Deans).

Only allowing a freshmen to be placed in one of their top 4 houses (through restrictions on the stable matching process).

Sending out a questionnaire near the end of rotation to gather information about living preferences (ex: noise levels that one would be comfortable with in their living environment.). That questionnaire is linked on a copy of this document on [ihc.caltech.edu](http://ihc.caltech.edu). This questionnaire was examined repeatedly throughout the rotation procedure, to ensure that no one was inadvertently placed in an environment where they would be uncomfortable.

Inviting two faculty members to sit in on the rotation procedures.

Lifting restrictions on freshmen talking about other houses amongst themselves (as it was hard to control), while keeping restrictions on upperclassmen speaking about houses other than the ones they were members of.

Firmly addressing reported rotation violations (particularly involving violations of institute policy) with the assistance of Dean Green and Tom Mannion.

We were aware that there were aspects of Rotation that administration disliked, particularly the lack of transparency of the procedure and houses ranking an incoming class. We believed that our changes to make this system more in favor of freshman choice and giving new ways of freshmen to offer input during the process was a way for us to gradually move the system in a positive direction (which is the model we have been operating under). Because of the small size

of the student body, we wanted changes to be incremental and tested thoroughly. We believed that we were working collaboratively with administration, and although we knew their views, we weren't given opportunity to respond to plans outlined in the recently released report.

The overall opinion of the IHC has been that, while it is difficult to game the stable matching system, a lack of transparency ensures that no one would try to do so. Additionally, we felt a lack of transparency would protect the feelings of those involved. The transition to college can be very challenging, and we deeply prioritized the mental health of new freshman. We believed that keeping the procedure secret would promote inclusion within the new community rather than dwelling on rejection from others. Our opinion is also that the upperclassmen in houses should have some way of expressing choice in who lives in their communities.

We weren't expecting the rotation procedures to be unveiled in the 'Plan for the Future of Residential Life and Opening the Bechtel Residence', but now that it has, we have to move forward. The IHC can see the merits of a transparent rotation process. The IHC is also in favor of coming up with alternate ways where houses can still have a voice in rotation, and upperclassmen can still express choice, while maintaining this as a prefrosh-optimal system. We also fully support the idea of an optional rotation experience (that takes advantage of the new Bechtel space) as an alternative that has long been lacking in Caltech history. We also would welcome the involvement of additional faculty and staff members in forming the procedures.

The IHC will be working actively to maintain student input and

involvement regarding rotation. We believe we can answer the concerns of the administration, while continuing the progress we have made. We believe that our current system of Prefrosh-Optimal Stable matching has a lot to offer this community, and it has proven to be an effective tool at prioritizing the needs of the incoming class, while still enabling upperclassmen to have some choice in creating a comfortable living environment. We don't know who would be on the proposed Advisory Committee on Residential Life, or how they would be selected, but we will strive to create a system where choice is taken into account on both sides.

One of our core values, written in the student-submitted Polaris Plan, was that the amount of student choice (both in self-governance and in choosing communities) present on campus is very special to the Caltech experience. It is this value, along with our other core values, that allows students to take responsibility for their own well being. We don't support all previous iterations of Rotation, but we do urge those reading this to see the current version of Rotation as we do - a carefully thought out, continually improving process where we sought feedback from faculty, staff, and administration. We are very grateful for the collaborative process between students, staff, and faculty when it came to discussing how to fill Bechtel and we are glad that much of the hard work and thoughtful research from students was respected in the final decision. We believe in a similar process with respect to Rotation and hope to work with administration on this issue.

Sincerely,  
The IHC

Contact: [2017ihc@googlegroups.com](mailto:2017ihc@googlegroups.com)

## A Unified Response to the Plan for the Future of Residential Life

**LUKE FINNERTY, TOM GORORDO, ALEJANDRO LOPEZ, JAKE MATTINSON, AND SAMMY PIASCIK**  
Contributing Writers

We are a group of undergraduate students who are attempting to unify the student opposition to the recent decision announced by Professor Shepherd into a collected voice. We want to be as transparent

as possible, so please get in touch with any of the organizers below to ask any questions, for any clarifications, or to make any comments you feel you need to. Our goals, objectives, and opinions may shift over time and evolve with information as it comes, but here is our current position:

Two core issues motivate our response to the announced decision: its scope and the approach

to the announcement of policy changes to residential life. The concerns surrounding the scope of the decisions stem not from policies on Bechtel Occupancy, but rather from changes to the operation of residential life including rotation and the room picks process.

Significant concerns arise from how the decision was announced. Any member of this community knows that such a significant

reform to the residential system that seems so at odds with the core values of the undergraduate community will be a major concern of the student body. The sudden and poorly timed reveal of the specifics of the decision without notifying any of the IHC, the COUCH, or the general Caltech Safety Net is both irresponsible and purposefully agitative. It is worrying that such a drastic set of changes has been released

immediately prior to midterms and in the middle of IHC turnover. We have also been concerned by some contradictory and unsubstantiated comments made by Professor Shepherd during his office hours. Such timing and rhetoric appears designed to minimize student ability to respond cohesively, which is directly at odds with the Honor Code.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FEBRUARY 6, 2018

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

## Caltech Y Column

### CALTECH Y

The 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 cultural awareness through teamwork, community engagement, activism, and leadership. More information about the Caltech Y and its programs can be found at <https://caltechy.org>. The office is located at 505 S. Wilson Avenue.

### Upcoming Events

#### 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 trip we will be working with a host organization OSA Conservation [www.osaconservation.org](http://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, and 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 Elsie Stefanko Fund, the George Housner Fund, Caltech Student Affairs, and the Caltech Y. Spaces are limited.

Visit [http://caltechy.org/programs\\_services/areas/asb/](http://caltechy.org/programs_services/areas/asb/) for applications and more information.

The Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series presents:

#### Solving Climate Change: From Policy to Personal

Thursday | November 30th | 4:00 to 6:00 PM | Location: TBD

The Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series is hosting a panel with members of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, a non-partisan volunteer organization dedicated to national policy to address climate change.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing humanity. While the impacts of emissions up to now will be felt potentially for decades, significant policy changes are required in the immediate future to address greenhouse gas emissions and reverse the warming

trend in the long term. Passing legislation to deal with this pressing issue however, remains a problem. CCL campaigns for the passage of a Carbon Fee and Dividend bill designed to tax carbon emissions and return carbon dioxide to its pre-1990s levels. This discussion will feature a panel of CCL members from a variety of backgrounds each of whom will bring their perspective to this issue. Each panel member will talk about their views and then take questions from the audience.

Presentations are intended to introduce one perspective in order to stimulate thought and to provide a forum for respectful dialogue and examination. The views expressed by speakers are solely those of the speakers. Presentations do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the California Institute of Technology or the Caltech Y and should not be taken as an endorsement of the ideas, speakers or groups.

#### Decompression 2.0

Friday | December 1st | 3:00 to 5:00 PM | Center for Student Services

We made the move... Decompression is now an end of the week stress reliever with activities, snacks and entertainment. Don't go into finals week stressed out. Join us at the end of class week for a little break before studying. A variety of drinks and snacks, entertainment and activities will be provided.

#### Caltech Y Explore LA Series The Broad Museum

Sunday | December 3rd | 2:30 PM | Cost: \$5 | Transportation Included

Sign-up starting Thursday, 11/16 at the Caltech Y

Join us on a visit to The Broad with the Caltech Y! The Broad is a contemporary art museum founded by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad. Designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with Gensler, the museum is home to 2,000 works of art from the Broad collection, which is among the most prominent holdings of postwar and contemporary art worldwide, and presents an active program of rotating temporary exhibitions and innovative audience engagement. The 120,000-square-foot building features two floors of gallery space and is the headquarters of The Broad Art Foundation's worldwide lending library, which has actively loaned collection works to museums around the world since 1984. With in-depth representations of influential contemporary artists like Jean-Michel Basquiat, Barbara Kruger, Cy Twombly, Ed Ruscha, Kara Walker, Christopher Wool, Jeff Koons, Joseph Beuys, Jasper Johns, Cindy Sherman, Robert Rauschenberg, and more, plus an ever-growing representation of younger artists, The Broad enriches, provokes, inspires, and fosters appreciation of art of our time. This offer is for students only; however, students purchasing tickets are permitted to purchase tickets for up to one guest each – and that guest can be a non-student. Explore LA is coordinated by the Caltech Y. The Caltech Y is located in the Tyson House 505 South Wilson (Bldg. 128).

The Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series is hosting a panel with members of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, a non-partisan volunteer organization dedicated to national policy to address climate change.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing humanity. While the impacts of emissions up to now will be felt potentially for decades, significant policy changes are required in the immediate future to address greenhouse gas emissions and reverse the warming

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**Michael H. Dickinson**, Esther M. and Abe M. Zarem Professor of Bioengineering and Aeronautics, Caltech Division of Biology and Biological Engineering

Using an assortment of modern techniques from different fields such as neuroscience, biomechanics, and engineering, Dr. Dickinson is attempting to reconstruct the behavior and ecology of the ancestral insects through his investigations of the common fruit fly. His research provides a fascinating window into the past, providing new insight into the evolution of our planet's most diverse group of organisms.

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#### Mentors 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](mailto:noelle@caltech.edu).

#### Hathaway Sycamores

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

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

For more info and to RSVP email [Elisabeth](mailto:Elisabeth) at [egallmei@caltech.edu](mailto:egallmei@caltech.edu). Eligible for Federal Work Study.

# Students Respond to Bechtel Decision

*Continued from page 1*

Further problems arise from the fact that the report cherry-picks the COUCH committee findings, takes certain statements out of context, and blatantly misinterprets their recommendation by co-opting their published values. Several members of the COUCH feel inaccurately portrayed, with many of their words misconstrued and reconstructed to fit a different narrative than was intended. We believe that the parts of the decision regarding rotation, roompicks, and other broad aspects of residential life are poorly argued and are unacceptably reliant on anecdote and quotation rather than a quantitative and scientific analysis as we expect from an institute like Caltech and as was provided in the form of the core COUCH Bechtel recommendation.

Such unilateral decision-making and disregard for student representation flies in the face of the amazing culture of student autonomy and shared community collaboration that we hold central to the Caltech community and we feel that this is reason alone to rescind the contentious and tacked-on portions of this decision (pending further discussion on rotation, roompicks, and the residential system in an open way with meaningful student input).

With regards to policy, we see the decision as being broadly split into two parts. One part concerns the Bechtel residence directly, and one part concerning Rotation, Roompicks, and residential life as a whole. By and large we have very few issues with the plans for the residence, but are deeply concerned by and object to many of the modifications to other aspects of residential life.

One of the first concerns expressed when the decision was announced was the implementation of mandatory four year on-campus housing. We note that this policy is without precedent among peer institutions and promotes the exact opposite of the “variety of options” which administrators claim to tout with this new policy. During office hours, it was clarified that current students will continue to be able to live off campus without special approval, but that future students will need to have their requests to live off campus approved on a case by case basis. This process will be explicitly intended to discourage students from living off campus. The grandfathering of current students under this policy seems to believe students act solely out of self interest, and dismisses the serious concerns we have about the impacts of this policy on student life. We find that attitude entirely unacceptable. Because of how severely this proposal restricts student choice and disadvantages so many students financially, this aspect of the decision has an appearance of being based more on institutional political and financial concerns than on student welfare.

Another immediate concern comes from the changes described in the “Room picks” subsection of the decision. By removing the physical component of the house (i.e. the ability for rooms in a house to be for members of that house), this will effectively

dismantle the houses as entities with any meaningful physical presence and therefore destroy a core aspect upholding their sense of community.

Another concern, specifically regarding rotation within the houses, was the proposed list of vaguely discussed and poorly defined potential alternative placement models. We believe that a digital or other proposed model (i.e. one based solely on prefresh ranking houses and without house input) uses significantly less information in selecting student placement than the current rotation procedure and would therefore be less optimal. Based on the full procedure released this weekend by the IHC, we believe that the mechanisms by which houses and upperclassmen sort prefresh are optimal for both the freshmen and the communities into which they are being placed. We are concerned that without input from current students (upperclassmen), placement could be affected by potentially inaccurate rumors from new students. Furthermore, we believe that upperclassmen can provide valuable guidance and input from their years of experience in the community.

Another, final, policy change that we find concerning is the formation of the new Advisory Committee on Residential life, particularly its broad reaching power over rotation, roompicks, and other aspects of student life. We believe that this committee should only play an advisory role in the running and development of the Bechtel residence. It is concerning how poorly defined this committee is, so while the specifics of the committee are yet to be decided, we have considerable concern that it will not be a meaningfully representative body. By allowing appointments to this committee to be at the discretion of the VPSA, instead of a free choice of the student body, we feel that this committee would fail in its goal to increase meaningful collaboration between students and administration and instead would serve only as a detriment to student autonomy while providing a facade of collaboration.

We agree that there are problems with residential life at Caltech, but there are also amazing benefits to the current house system. There are many possible solutions to the problems listed above that do not require such drastic and harmful action as this decision, for example:

Relax the proposed four-year residency requirement so that the process for living off campus is a relatively easy option for all students. Creating an opt-out system (with the expectation of affiliated living) both ensures students’ independence and the expansion of the twelve term undergraduate experience, in a way that is consistent with the core value of choice.

Instead of weakening the impact of the houses by limiting house control of residency, allow those who are disinterested or who dislike the house system to either opt-in to Bechtel prior to rotation and/or rank Bechtel within their rotation preferences. We also believe that this is a potential solution to the “temporary residence”

problem faced by students who find it inconvenient to move after their first two weeks on campus.

There are many possible solutions to alleviate the burden of rotation (both academically and socially) on prefresh and upperclassmen. Potential solutions range from moving scheduling so that rotation does not overlap with classes, to using additional events (e.g. lunches) to compress rotation into a smaller timespan. There are many ways to reduce rotation “burnout,” and we defer to the IHC to propose changes to improve rotation.

If student opinion finds upperclassmen and house assessment of prefresh as implemented in the current rotation system to be problematic then we are confident rotation rules can be amended to address concerns. We hope that some level of input can continue to exist, since we believe it to be important in identifying and placing prefresh as is best for them and their future communities. One such proposal is for all houses to adopt a broader categorization based on fit with the community rather than ranking. We are concerned that a complete removal of upperclassmen feedback may actually increase issues of freshmen being unhappy with where they rotate.

Rather than having the Advisory Committee on Residential Life be based on appointment, we believe that the students in Bechtel should have direct means of selecting their representatives to their governing committee via elections. Given that Bechtel presents an interesting opportunity for further development and experimentation, we also believe that faculty involvement would be extremely valuable, but that students should have the ability to directly influence the composition of this committee. To reiterate, we do not believe this committee should have influence over other, previously student controlled and autonomous, residential institutions, such as house roompicks.

We firmly believe in the IHC’s ability as student representatives to come up with meaningful, lasting, and effective solutions that progress positively from the current system rather than dismantling it. We believe in the need to build solutions in the spirit of the Honor Code and the Caltech community it supports, and fully trust in our representatives’ ability to do so. We list the examples above only to demonstrate that the goals of the proposed changes can be met without dismantling so many of the institutions that make the Caltech experience so unique and powerful to some, and we completely defer to the IHC to represent the student interests in actually finding these solutions.

We agree with many of the concerns outlined and solutions proposed in the published plan. We are not proposing that these concerns should be ignored and believe that there are some significant changes that would greatly benefit student life. The general implementation of Bechtel as an alternate space (a non-house space for a large proportion of the students and

containing specific needs-based living environments such as quiet and substance-free spaces) is to be praised and would critically provide a place for those who feel incompatible with the current houses. These sections closely follow the suggestions made by the COUCH Polaris Plan, of which we are strong proponents. We believe that the decision as applied solely to the Bechtel Residence is well representative of student views and needs, though we take issue with the broader proposals. The Reslife components of the decision were made without meaningful student input or the type of open discussion and debate that we expect in a scientific organization.

Rotation has problems, but we believe that these problems can be solved through meaningful collaboration between the IHC and administration. The statement that the IHC has been unwilling to work with student affairs to improve rotation is categorically false. Over the past few years, the IHC has completely overhauled the procedures used, which were approved by the VPSA. These procedures were publicly released following administrators’ decision to reveal the process in the published Bechtel Plan. Many of the concerns cited in the Bechtel decision, such as “deals” and ‘trades’ that have been ingrained in the system over the years, are based on outdated procedures that were phased out years ago. As described in the response from the IHC, such procedures were replaced by an algorithmic system developed with faculty consultation and approved by the VPSA that is provably prefresh-optimal within the constraints imposed by bed availability. We therefore find this criticism of the rotation process misleading at best, and inconsistent with Caltech values.

Based on discussions during office hours, the VPSA’s concerns with rotation seem to be centered on the secrecy of the process and the ranking of prefresh by upperclassmen. The announcement by the IHC this weekend has removed the secrecy concern. We are confident that the IHC will be able to come to a compromise with Professor Shepherd that addresses legitimate concerns about the current system of rankings while preserving a role for upperclassmen input. We believe that all changes to student life should be proposed and implemented through a collaboration between students and faculty where all parties have a meaningful chance to make their voice heard.

All of our desires will be for nought without action and numbers. If you are concerned about this, there are many ways to help. One of the most effective ways to express your concern is through alumni. We are suggesting that if they are prompted for a donation, they need to respond explicitly with this decision as the reason why they will not donate. We suggest that you ask professors to express any concerns they have about these changes, particularly those who are also undergraduate alumni.

Our concerns have yielded two rallying cries that we hope you will use if you feel willing. Many

students have felt, very honestly, that the reasons they came to this school are eliminated with this new policy and therefore have adopted the statement: “I would not go to the Caltech Joe Shepherd is making”. Many of you have likely seen this on social media. Furthermore, if you want to post anywhere of general statements about this situation, you can use the hashtag #CaltechCared. This is because we feel that in the past, Caltech administration would have cared and this event is not indicative of their general nature.

As events develop, we will continue to engage with this decision with the hopes of achieving a compromise that better incorporates student feedback. We fully support the IHC’s efforts as the committee works with Professor Shepherd and others to address the current concerns of both students and administration. We hope to coordinate future opportunities to publicly express our views on these issues, and will distribute further information as events develop. We encourage all students with concerns to go to office hours and respectfully make their voices heard as this situation develops.

The published decision begins with seven key elements of change: We are generally satisfied with five of them, and have strong objections to only two. We hope we have made a case here for meaningful collaboration with the community at large on these issues rather than what we view as a unilateral and agenda-driven decision. We do not claim to speak for all students, as our school is so diverse that no one can do so. We do not claim to have perfect solutions, so we wish to invite student input in future meetings. We want everyone to have the best possible Caltech experience and this is how we think we can do it together. Thank you for your time. Keep fighting the good fight.

# Caltech Cared

For questions, concerns or comments, feel free to contact any of the following:

Luke Finnerty, Tom Gorordo, Alejandro López, Jake Mattinson, & Sammy Piascik

Thank you to the other 19 contributors and many supporters who wished to remain anonymous.

For further information, the IHC statement on rotation is available on the IHC website, [ihc.caltech.edu](http://ihc.caltech.edu). The Bechtel decision, COUCH proposals, and student affairs feedback from are all available at [studaff.caltech.edu/bechtel](http://studaff.caltech.edu/bechtel).

**DON'T PUT IT OFF!**

# Coping with procrastination

A free workshop for all Caltech students

**Friday, October 13 and Friday, November 3rd**

4:00 - 5:00, 326 Sherman Fairchild Library

## EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLKIT

3 modules / 2 weeks each / 1 awesome skillset

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Get better at knowing what you're feeling, and see how your thoughts and feelings affect each other.

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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

## TACKLE THE TERM



**Monday, January 8th @ 12:00**

**And again on Friday, January 12th @ 12:00**

**Annenberg 105 Lecture Hall**

- Learn how to make a study plan • Set smart goals •
- Get started even when you're overwhelmed •
- Cut your losses when you fall behind •

*Free lunch on a first-come basis*



# SPORTS

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

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## Brown twice gets second-place at Pomona-Pitzer

GOCALTECH.COM

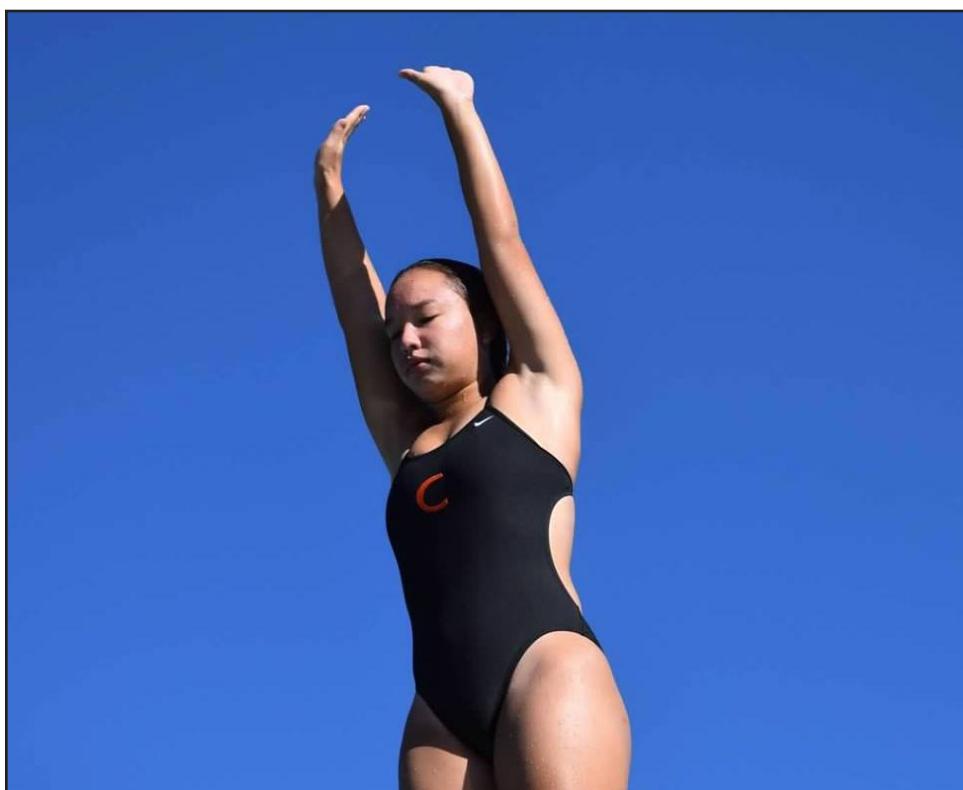
Actual Sports Content Editor

CLAREMONT, Calif. (Feb. 3, 2018) – Freshman diver Krystin Brown picked up her first two second-place diving finishes in a double-dual meet against Pomona-Pitzer Colleges and California Lutheran University on Saturday morning.

Brown started the day when she posted a 181.30 in the 3-meter competition, her third-straight score over 180 to finish ahead of seven other divers before taking to the 1-meter board later in the day. Brown again came in second (216.17), but this time finished ahead of nine other divers with her second-highest score

on the board and came just under 22 points away from winning her first competition. Fellow freshman Nerys Huffman and junior Alix Espino also competed in both diving events, with the former taking fifth-place in the 1-meter competition (163.35).

Back in the pool, freshman Stella Wang swam the fastest time of her young career in the 100 back. Her 1:06.87 ended up being enough to defeat all Cal Lutheran swimmers in the contest. Junior Gemma Takahashi posted a similar result when she finished ahead of all Pomona-Pitzer swimmers en route to a second-place finish in the 200 fly (2:15.18) which she came less than a second away from winning.



"Swan dive – into the best night of your life."

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## Huh nearly double-doubles at Pomona-Pitzer



Calvin's got his head in the game but his heart's in the song.

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Actual Sports Content Editor

CLAREMONT, Calif. (Jan. 31, 2018) – Sophomore forward Calvin Huh came one point away from earning his second-career double-double for the Caltech men's basketball team at Pomona-Pitzer Colleges on Wednesday evening. His first double-double came against California Lutheran University in overtime earlier in the month.

Huh came off the bench had an instrumental role in the Beavers taking a 29-26 lead into halftime over the Sagehens. Eight of his 10 rebounds came in the first 20 minutes, helping the visitors outrebound the hosts, 19-12. Three of his rebounds came on the offensive end, allowing some of the team's pure scorers such as freshman guard Marcus Gee and freshman forward Spencer Schneider to go to work. Gee shot 50-percent from the field and drilled four

three-pointers to lead Caltech with 20 points while Schneider played nearly the entire game and finished up with 15 points and five rebounds. While their team led at halftime, the freshman duo actually did most of their damage in the second half.

The Beavers hung with the third-place Sagehens throughout a game that featured seven lead changes. Sophomore guard Alec Andrews took on more of a distributor's role, dishing out five assists, and along with Gee combining for all seven of the team's steals. Freshman guard Matthew Riker, meanwhile earned his second consecutive start and responded with five rebounds and three assists in a season-best 31 minutes of action. Caltech never led by more than three points, but held a lead as late as the 16-minute mark in the second half and kept the game within as little as five points for the subsequent four minutes.

## Eiden leads team effort, women best St. Katherine's again

GOCALTECH.COM

Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA (Feb. 3, 2018) – Junior center Elizabeth Eiden fronted a collaborative effort that allowed the Caltech women's basketball team to pick up a 67-45 victory over the University of St. Katherine's on Saturday afternoon. The victory marks the Beavers' second against the Firebirds this season.

Eiden scored 10 points and turned in one of her stronger rebounding games of the season to finish the game with 12 boards, hence picking up the double-double. The junior also found herself at the center of the Beavers' strong defensive effort, particularly early in the game when her team held the visiting Firebirds to just 13 first-half points. The center padded her season blocks total by adding two more on Saturday.

"We had great start which I think lends itself to us sticking to our gameplan," Head Coach Bridgette Reyes said. "We brought the energy intensity, and most importantly took pride on defense. I thought it translated on the offensive end as well, as we did a great job of crashing the offensive boards, moving the

ball in our zone offense and sharing the ball with each other."

Eiden ended up being one of four Beavers to reach double-figures. Sophomore guard Grace Peng added another strong showing in a string of recent positive performances, leading Caltech with 15 points. Peng's defense ultimately proved to be the highlight of her day, however as she finished the game with seven steals, joining fellow sophomore guard

Samantha D'Costa as Beavers with seven-steal games this year. D'Costa, meanwhile posted a strong all-around line 12 points, nine rebounds, seven assists, four steals and two blocks. The fourth Beaver to hit double-figures, junior guard Nika Halefiras, accomplished the feat with another strong game from deep. The junior went 3-for-5 from three, which led to a 13 point, three assist game. Sophomore forward Alexa Lauinger



Patty-cake, patty-cake, coach's (wo)man! Score me some points as fast as you can.

-gocaltech.com

also made contributions off the bench, with eight points and eight rebounds.

"It was nice for us to get contributions from all over our lineup," Reyes said. "I thought today was a step forward for our group as we continue to build the good habits and fundamentals as a team that will allow us to compete with the opposition on a regular basis."

The Beavers never trailed the Firebirds and ultimately won the game on the glass, outrebounding their opponent 50-38, while winning the battle in every metric. Strong steal numbers from D'Costa and Peng allowed the home team to gain a 13-21 edge over the visitors in the turnover battle, stymieing any chance of St. Katherine's working its way

back into the game. The team assist numbers came as another strong point for Reyes' group, as they earned assists on 16 of 26 team field goals. The junior connection between Eiden and Halefiras set an early tone for the Beavers as the latter assisted the former on the game's first offensive possession before Eiden pulled down a defensive rebound on the other side of the floor, proving to be a sign of things to come.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

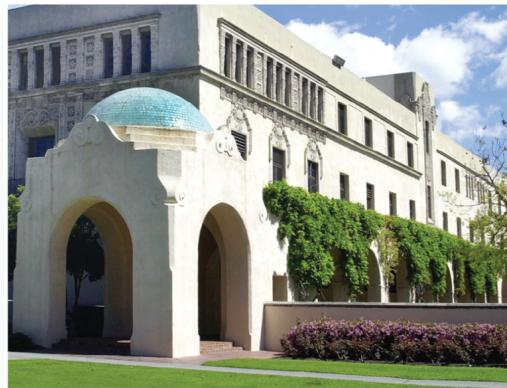
VICE PROVOST, CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER, AND PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH CINDY WEINSTEIN HOLDS REGULAR OFFICE HOURS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND POSTDOCS TO MEET FOR DISCUSSIONS PERTAINING TO THE COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION; CALTECH ACCREDITATION; THE STAFF AND FACULTY 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 AT THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST IN PARSONS-GATES ROOM 104, BY PHONE AT 626-395-6339, OR BY EMAIL TO [DLEWIS@CALTECH.EDU](mailto:DLEWIS@CALTECH.EDU). WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

### STUDENT OFFICE HOURS FOR WINTER TERM 2018:

2/15/18 THURSDAY 9:00-10:00 A.M.  
 2/21/18 WEDNESDAY 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.  
 2/27/18 TUESDAY 10:00-11:00 A.M.  
 3/8/18 THURSDAY 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.  
 3/12/18 MONDAY 10:00-11:00 A.M.  
 3/19/18 MONDAY 10:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M.

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# CROSSWORD

## ASCIT Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

No Minutes Submitted for Week of January 29th

### ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for February 2, 2017. Taken by Dana He.

**Officers Present:** Sakthi Vetrivel, Rachael Morton, Sara Adams, Sarah Crucilla, Alice Zhai, Dana He

**Guests:** Amulya Mohan, Michael Rupprecht

**Call to Order:** 5:05 pm

### President's Report (Sakthi):

- Contacted Krispy Kreme for Midnight Donuts on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Had faculty board meeting. Talked about Caltech Fund and Freshman Admission Committees.

### Officer's Reports:

#### V.P. of Academic Affairs (Kavya):

- Mathematica workshop went well.
- Course compliments will be soon.
- Student-faculty lunches for this term will come out soon.
- Been looking at expanding research programs with our year-round research list and student-led presenter research seminars.

#### V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Rachael):

- IHC, COUCH, Sakthi, and Kavya came together last night to discuss Bechtel decision. IHC is meeting tonight to divide this issue into topics, with rotation being a major topic. Will hopefully send out an email tonight with IHC's stance on rotation changes and how they plan to tackle changes. Sent out survey earlier to get a feel on what student's opinions are and what students care about. Will create an equivalent Google survey for those without access to Donut.

#### Director of Operations (Sara):

- Will pick up ASCIT equipment from Fleming today.
- Started narrowing down what we want for ASCIT screening room and start writing proposal. Could pay out of slush fund instead of MHF to complete it sooner. Could also ask for retroactive MHF fund.

#### Treasurer (Sarah):

- Sent out messages to three people who requested money and were approved last week.
- MHF is meeting next week. Decisions will come out after.

#### Social Director (Alice):

- Booked venue for ASCIT formal. Will be on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Will be late buses for athletes, etc.

- Planning Color Me Mine event for 40 people. Trying to devise more fair system for event sign-ups.
- ASCIT movie night will be February 23<sup>rd</sup> for Black Panther.
- Be a Kid Again Day will be February 25<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 10 pm.

### Secretary (Dana):

- 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: 5:33 pm

### ARC Minutes 2.4.2018

Present: Kavya Sreedhar, Allison Tang, Alex Reeves, Erika Salzman, Arushi Gupta, Vibha Vijayakumar, Adrian Huang, Michael Yao, Matthew Zeitlin, Andrew Zhou

Minutes submitted by: Allison Tang and Shreya Ramachandran

#### 1. Programming

- Student Faculty Lunches (SFLs): two SFLs this term; organize & contact profs
- Course Compliments: send out the google form today/tomorrow to gather positive feedback about profs/TAs who enter draw for Prof/TA of the month; nominators take them out for lunch
- UG+Grad Student Research Seminars: collab with GSC to set up student seminar series
- Course Concerns: no new course concerns
- Option Fair: Friday, February 16th, 11:30am to 1:30pm, email going out today

#### 2. Projects

- TQFR Improvement: working on student guide to TQFRs
- Core Connections: CS141 project to research how students see connections from core to upper-level classes

#### 3. Miscellaneous

- ARC turnover: new members joining
- CS2 Millikan Study Session: will happen if enough tutors can be found

The ARC website at [arc.caltech.edu](http://arc.caltech.edu) has more information about what the ARC does if you are interested. We meet every Sunday at 11am in SAC13 and our meetings are open to everyone! If you have any questions, please feel free to email [ksreedha@caltech.edu](mailto:ksreedha@caltech.edu).



### ARC Tip of the Week

View unit loads and enrollment figures for each option/minor here:

[https://www.registrar.caltech.edu/documents/73-undergraduate\\_option\\_requirements\\_2017-18.pdf](https://www.registrar.caltech.edu/documents/73-undergraduate_option_requirements_2017-18.pdf)

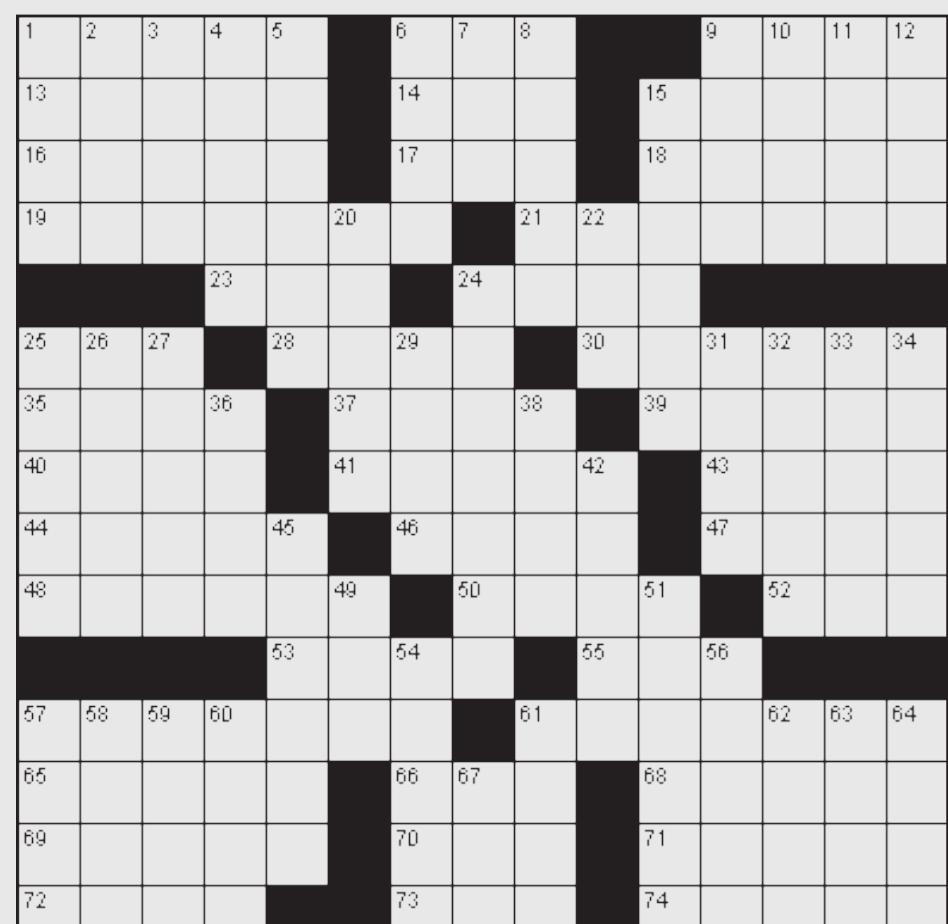
## Crossword

### Across

- Lawsuits
- Ballet step
- Cast off
- Nimble
- Lubricant
- Detailed critical inspection
- Extremely cold
- Epoch
- Flexible joint
- Self-importance
- Began
- Consume
- Fissure
- Female deer
- Bind with a rope, chain or cord
- Die
- Nocturnal birds
- Amphibian
- Terpsichore
- Reverse an action
- Enthusiastic approval
- Contrive
- Outstanding players in a tournament
- Friends and acquaintances
- Small gull
- Misprint
- Parts of a cable railway
- Beverage
- Frost
- Fish

- Hobby
- Knitted garment
- Using the voice
- Couple
- Having sophisticated charm
- Endocarp
- Male sheep
- Concur
- Voice quality
- Single
- Ringlet
- Ness
- Highly excited
- Storage tower
- Fill with optimism
- Sequential
- Form of verse
- Atmosphere
- Virgule
- Move very slightly
- Search for prey
- Border
- Stained
- Formed
- Express in words
- Strike gently
- Goblet
- Wet thoroughly
- Proprietor
- Senior
- Article of footwear
- Ecstatic
- Cove
- Frighten

- Reddish brown dye
- Tonic
- Information
- Hurled
- Long step
- Goal
- Ride on a board
- Underground railway system
- Express mirth
- Yore
- Singing voice
- Shortly
- Melody
- Unspecified number or quantity
- Tropical starchy tuberous root
- At any time
- Scottish dance
- Pallid



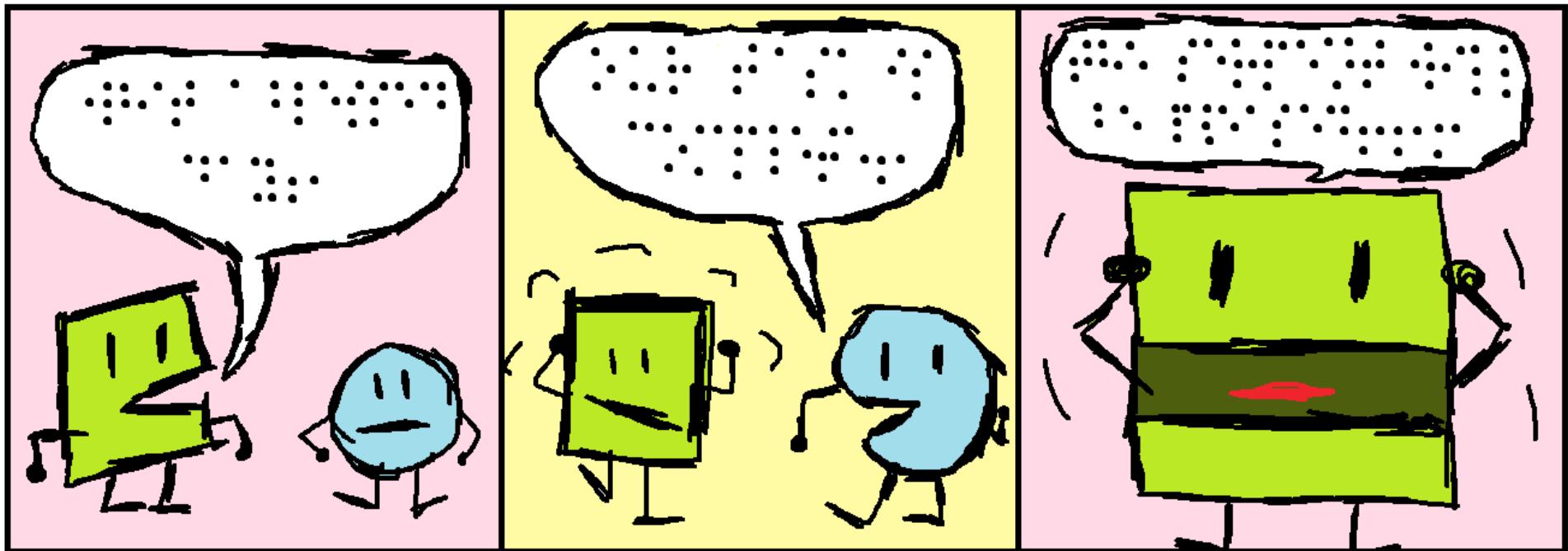
# HUMOR

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FEBRUARY 6, 2018

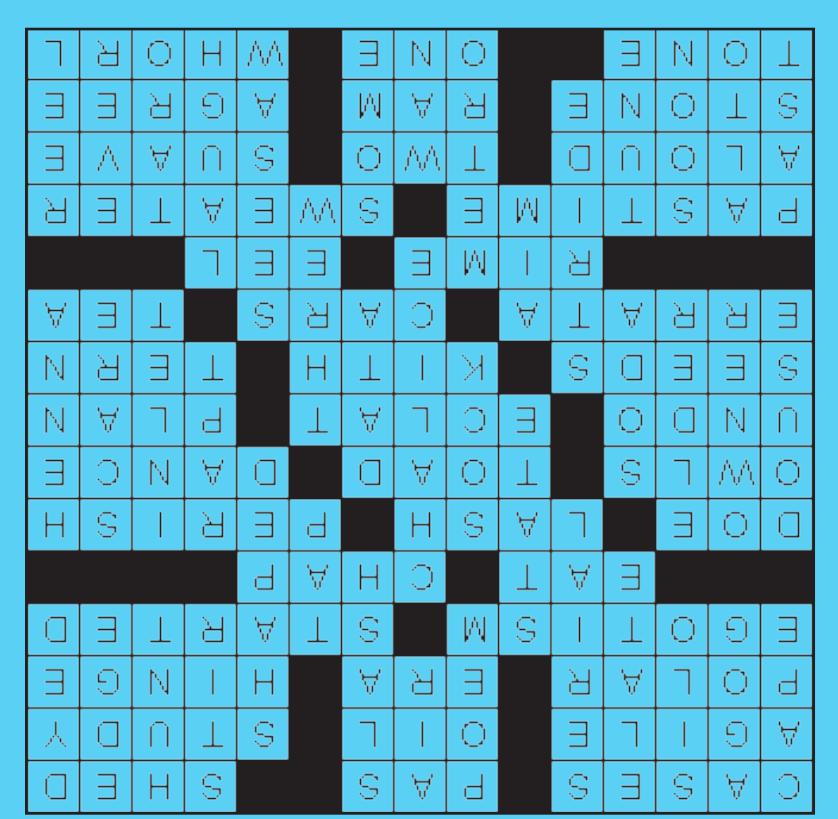
THE CALIFORNIA TECH

## COMIC FOR THE BLIND



BY DALE OSSARTS

## Answers to current crossword (pg 7)



-<http://puzzlechoice.com>

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