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Photoblast: Caltech OASIS Show



Photos Courtesy of Noelle Davis

The Downsides of Modern Consent Culture

Kirby Sikes
Contributing Writer

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

Because sexual consent is such a sensitive topic, I want to start this article by very explicitly stating some beliefs and intentions, some of which are hopefully already evident. Readers who feel that verbose statements of obvious facts are belittling or a waste of time should skip down to the line break.

Sexual harassment and sexual assault can be extremely traumatizing and people who have experienced sexual trauma sometimes continue to suffer for years after the incident. Furthermore, survivors of sexual trauma face difficulties that victims of other types of trauma mostly do not. Their behavior is scrutinized. Rape apologists will try to excuse the assailant and will instead blame the assailant's actions on any personal trait of the victim that could be perceived as a flaw. This environment of victim-blaming, even if the perpetrators constitute a small minority in the community can in itself be traumatizing and makes recovery even more difficult.

Forcing somebody into a sexual situation is not okay. An understanding of the importance of consent is vital to a healthy sex culture.

I am publishing this article because of the recent developments with Christian Ott. However, I do not think that the ideas in this article have any bearing on whether or not he should be allowed back. I want to talk about my discomfort with the nature of the discussion surrounding his case. I am sharing two entirely consensual sexual experiences and discussing how those experiences have influenced my thoughts on modern discussion of sexual consent, harassment and assault and its effects on our experience with both consensual and nonconsensual sex. I do not want to suggest in any way that these consensual experiences are good reinterpretations of sexual crimes.

I am concerned that the way we as a culture discuss sexual consent, harassment and assault makes us more susceptible to negative sexual experiences. Sex is an intense physiological experience that has the potential to be hugely positive or hugely negative, and I have had a few sexual interactions that were made much more negative by culturally influenced interpretation. My suffering has always been brief and relatively minor. Nevertheless, the nature of these experiences (as well as

anecdotes I've heard from other people) makes me think that this suffering is pervasive, and is sometimes much more harmful.

Like probably most sexually active people, I have had sex before that I stopped enjoying, and I know for a fact that when you feel like you have already met the standards for rescinding consent, it makes it harder to continue to communicate that you don't like something. The circumstance here was mildly kinky sex. My partner and I had pre-discussed everything, and because I wanted to say "stop" and "no" when I didn't mean either, and we had decided on a safeword ("red"). I was on my stomach, and I was enjoying the illusion of powerlessness and degradation as my partner said rude things and pushed my face down into the mattress. The pressure on my head and other parts of my body pushed me slowly forward until my eyes and nose were off the edge of the bed, and most of the force holding up my head was on my lower jaw. I have chronic jaw issues, and this hurt – a lot. I desperately cried out through a mouthful of mattress something along the lines of "stop stop red stop stop stop." My partner kept going.

I didn't know what to do. I didn't know what to say. I felt terrified. I felt violated. I needed to make it stop but I didn't know how. As confusion and fear took over, my mind retreated and I stopped moving.

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

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

But emphasis on the responsibility of only the active participant, and on the potential criminality of a failure of that responsibility can rob more passive participants of agency. Miscommunication will happen, and misinterpretation of a misunderstanding can make correcting the misunderstanding

an almost insurmountable psychological burden. It would not have been physically difficult for me to continue saying "red" until I was heard, but the confusion and sense of violation made it impossible for me to speak up. When it feels like a crime is being committed, it leads to a profound sense of helplessness.

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

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

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THE CALIFORNIA TECH

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CALTECH Y

Upcoming Events

Caltech Y India Cultural Trip - Applications Available Now

December 9 - 19, 2017 | Cost: \$950 | Applications Due Thursday, May 18th

The Caltech Y, in partnership with the SURF Program and IIT Gandhinagar (IITGN) in India, is coordinating a trip to Ahmedabad, India. Join us for an exciting trip as we explore India as an emerging nation and its potential role as a global leader in the context of its history and culture. The Caltech group will be hosted by IITGN and discussions and trips will be led by IITGN faculty.

The trip is open to undergraduate students only - sorry no graduate students. Applications can be found at http://caltechy.org/programs_services/areas/India/index.php and are due by Thursday, May 18th. Questions may be directed to caltechy@caltech.edu. Space is limited.

The Caltech Y Social Activism Speaker Series Presents:

Bridging the Divide: Effective Political Communication in a Polarized World, A talk by Prof. Robb Willer, Professor of Sociology at Stanford

Friday | May 12th | 12:00 - 1:30 PM | Location: TBD | Lunch is provided, spaces are limited

RSVP Required: <https://goo.gl/forms/eSNopwBkx4AeUmEY2>

There will be a break for people with 1 pm classes to leave

There will also be a smaller group session from 3-4pm which will give people more of a chance to interact directly with Prof. Willer and ask him in depth questions. Please indicate on the RSVP if you'd like to attend this. Spaces are limited and priority will be given to students.

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

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

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

watch his TED talk here: https://www.ted.com/talks/robb_willer_how_to_have_better_political_conversations

Caltech Y Explore LA Series

Horseback Riding in Griffith Park

Saturday | May 20th | 9:45 - 11:15 AM | \$20 for 1 Hour Ride | Transportation is NOT provided | Spaces are limited | Sign up at the Caltech Y (payment required at sign up)

Join us for an exciting morning ride in the beautiful Griffith Park. We will be riding horses from Circle K Ranch. Beginners and seasoned riders are welcome, as there are horses to meet every skill level. Our group will meet at Circle K Ranch (914 S. Mariposa St, Burbank, CA 91506) at 9:45 and should be back on campus around 11:15 AM.

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

Hathaway Sycamores

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

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

For more info and to RSVP email Sherwood Richers at srichers@tapir.caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.

Pasadena LEARNS

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

Come volunteer at Madison and Jackson Elementary School! We are partnered with the Pasadena LEARNS program and work with their Science Olympiad team or do regular tutoring along with occasional hands-

on science experiments. Transportation is provided. For more information and to RSVP, contact azhai@caltech.edu. Eligible for Federal Work Study.

Mentoring For Life

Every Monday | 3:30pm | Wilson Middle School Pasadena

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

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VICE PROVOST'S OFFICE HOURS

Vice Provost, Chief Diversity Officer, and Professor of English Cindy Weinstein holds regular office hours as an opportunity for undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdocs to meet for discussions pertaining to the Council on Undergraduate Education; Caltech accreditation; the Staff and Faculty Consultation Center; Student-Faculty Programs; the Center for Teaching, Learning and Outreach; the Caltech Diversity Center; and the Caltech Libraries.

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

Student Office Hours for Spring Term 2017:

5/17/17 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

5/24/17 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

5/31/17 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

6/8/17 Thursday 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Is It Time We Abandon DONUT?

Chris Dosen
Contributing Writer

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

Background: At least twice a year, undergraduate Caltech students vote in campus wide-elections. This is done through the online platform known as DONUT. These votes are collected over the course of a day, and then counted by a committee known as the Review Committee, or RevComm for short. The process used to determine a winner is instant run-off voting (IRV). There are problems with both RevComm and IRV, and those should be discussed at some point, but this article is about DONUT.

The Problems: There are 3 main problems, and I will detail them in order of increasing significance. First, as some may be aware, DONUT glitched last ASCIT BoD election, causing the write-in box to disappear at

random places on random ballots. Supposedly the problem is fixed, but it was unexpected and begs the question of what if it happens again? What if, next time, nobody notices a different glitch? Second, it is possible to edit the raw data collected by the election with little to no accountability. Again in the most recent ASCIT BoD election, shortly after the results were released the page giving the numerical data was retracted from the public view and when it went backup, multiple instances of write-ins were replaced with "INVALID WRITE-IN". It is important to note that there is no way to tell anymore if the write-in was actually invalid, and additionally, some invalid write-ins were not replaced with this text, such as "You two will both do a great job - good luck! -Tim", which, while a nice sentiment, is indeed not a valid candidate. While this may be a one-time occurrence, the fact it is possible to edit this is indicative of a larger problem. The write-ins are treated as raw data, which means it is not even possible to tell if edits occurred without certain administrative privileges. RevComm, notably, doesn't even have these privileges,

as, if they did, the third problem with DONUT (see below) most likely would be solved. This creates both a lack of accountability, and a lack of transparency, as if the public cannot see enough raw data to judge for themselves if a write in is invalid, they cannot completely believe in the system. Third, donut treats all votes for write-in candidates as votes for a single candidate called "write-in." This creates problems when using IRV to determine a winner in elections with at least n valid write-ins and with a candidate's vote margin between them and the candidate immediately below them in votes being less than or equal to n votes, as it becomes unclear who actually received less overall votes in IRV. This happened in the ASCIT President election in 2015. Luckily, the two candidates that had this issue then were both losing candidates, regardless of who actually received less votes. But that is not always the case. In 2006, (yes, this issue has existed for over a decade), there was a huge controversy when Excomm (what RevComm was called back in 2006) decided to redo the CRC chair election because a candidate

noticed this issue, and determined that, while there was a winner, who the winner was could not be determined, as there was at least one valid write-in, and was won by a margin of one vote. I encourage those wanting to learn more about this issue to read the article "Is Excomm Out Of Line?", written by then-ASCIT President Todd Gingrich, in the Feb. 27, 2006 issue of the Tech. It is available online, and the article is on page 4.

Possible solutions: In my opinion, there are three possible solutions that don't involve completely redoing the ASCIT Bylaws and changing our entire election system. One: do nothing, ignore the problems, and hope they don't cause issues again.

This is highly suboptimal, as it compromises the validity of our elections, but I suppose it is an option. Two: Fix the issues on DONUT. This, I believe, is the optimal solution, but I also believe it to be the least likely to happen. I have contacted the DONUT Development team multiple times about the third issue since 2014, but nothing was even done about it. I have also reached out to the ASCIT BoD and the IHC, but,

besides agreeing that the issues are problematic, still nothing was done. Three: Vote using a different online software. This may seem like a daunting task, but Avery, which runs elections similarly to ASCIT elections, already has a python script that interfaces with Google Forms, that runs their elections. This script provides both security, transparency, and protections against voter-fraud and election-fraud. It would need a few changes to be implemented for ASCIT elections, namely allowing for write-ins, but I believe that, assuming a few people took this on as a small project over the summer, this could be done well. None of these proposals are perfect, but I believe that we should discuss these possibilities, and hopefully improve the integrity of our system.

The Downsides of Modern Consent Culture

Continued from page 1

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

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

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

I did want to continue, but I had been having some mental health issues around that time, and was worried that sex might exacerbate them. If I had been sober, I might have said something along the lines of "I do want to, but no. I

shouldn't. For personal reasons." Instead, I sort of verbally stumbled through my thoughts. "I want to... I probably shouldn't... issues...."

I don't remember exactly how the conversation went after that, but we ended up deciding to go sleep platonically in the same place. Once we got to my room and into bed though, it became quickly clear that neither of us actually wanted to be platonic. We were both pretty stoned, and pretty horny, and really attracted to each other, and it turns out it's difficult not to have sex in that kind of situation.

The next day I felt sick about the whole experience. I had made myself vulnerable by getting high, and someone who I trusted had taken advantage of me and had violated my bodily sanctity. I took a long shower, and scrubbed myself, desperately trying to cleanse myself of the events of the previous night. As I stood in the shower, and went through the sequence of events in my head, I realized two things. First, although I did attempt to express it, I definitely had not been clear about

my intention not to have sex that night, and I had therefore been way more aware than my friend of what exactly my desires and concerns were. Second the sex in my room had been unambiguously mutually initiated. My friend had not taken advantage of me, but instead had very reasonably interpreted my actions as consent.

Once I had reinterpreted the event and taken responsibility for my actions, I felt terrific about the whole thing. It felt good at the time, and it cured the incredible

awkwardness we had had towards each other over the previous few months. We were close again, and that was amazing. (the sex did also exacerbate the mental health issues I had been worried about. It was probably a bad decision on my part).

Regardless of the facts, if it feels like someone you've trusted, or someone who has power over you decided that their own sexual gratification was more important than your well-being, it feels terrible. Especially with the significance that our culture places on sex, the sense of violation that comes with abuse of trust feels like a huge betrayal. Being intimate with someone who is so willing to hurt you is slimy and sickening. Sex that happens to you can be crushing.

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

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

One illustration of what I mean is student-professor sex. Of course, there has always been abuse – sexual and otherwise of students by professors. Yet, in the sixties and seventies, there was also a huge amount of student-professor sex that the students found empowering. I have a huge amount of respect for some of my professors and I think that I could find intimacy with them to be hugely rewarding – at least post-graduation. At the same time, if I or a friend were to actually have any sort of sexual interaction with a professor, I have trouble imagining not feeling uncomfortable, concerned, and at least a little disgusted.

For me at least, that sense of disgust is only tangentially related to the potential for abuse inherent to any sort of student-professor sexual interaction. In that second experience, when I had sex someone who (I thought) had been okay with hurting me, I was not only experiencing a betrayal of trust. I felt dirty because of the possibility of intimacy with someone who was deeply immoral.

My disgust at student-teacher relationships comes from the cultural vilification of anyone with inappropriate sexual or romantic behavior. Of course, certain forms of inappropriate sexual or romantic behavior can be hugely harmful outside of cultural context. But the vilification means that behavior that could be harmless or even rewarding becomes harmful due to cultural interpretation. With our sense of paranoia surrounding nonconsensual sex, we cut ourselves

off from a huge amount of healthy consensual sex, and when those types of consensual interactions do happen, they are far more likely to be a disturbing and disgusting – if not traumatizing – experience for the participants.

These types of new cultural interpretations of sex have made my own sex life significantly less positive, and I seriously doubt that I am alone in this. Of course, I do recognize that the way we approach sex today does successfully address a lot of really serious problems with the way our parents' generation had sex. Still, in our attempt to move towards consent and comfort we have become increasingly paranoid. Sex will probably always cause some amount of suffering. Some amount of abuse may also be inevitable. I do not pretend to know what the best cultural sexual norms are. With the beautiful diversity of personalities, sexualities and communication styles across humanity, maybe no set of norms will work well for everybody. I only know that I am personally not happy with the current state of affairs.

Undergraduates Respond to Christian Ott

Jackie Lodman
Contributing Writer

We dedicate this to the current and former members of the TAPIR group, who suffered under Ott, and the minority graduate students across the globe that have suffered under similarly abusive professors. Although we may not completely understand your experiences, we stand beside you against discrimination and harassment in the sciences.

- Sometime after he was hired by Caltech, Christian Ott began a multi-year long harassment campaign against multiple female graduate students in the TAPIR (Theoretical Astrophysics Including Relativity) group. This included inappropriate inquiries into their personal life, declarations of love, and inappropriate social media posts about said students, among other things (2).

- Before September 2015, two female graduate students in TAPIR filed a complaint regarding Ott's behavior, alleging that he sexually harassed them (2).

- In September 2015, Caltech's investigation concluded and Ott was placed on nine months unpaid leave, and all communications with his graduate students were monitored. Ott appealed the decision, but his appeal was denied(1). According to some TAPIR members, Ott posted inflammatory social media posts shortly after he was placed on leave.

- On January 4th, 2016, a campus wide email was sent from the President and Provost, saying that, "...[the] faculty committee concluded, and the provost concurred, that there was unambiguous gender-based harassment of both graduate students by [Ott]" (1).

- On January 12th, 2016, Buzzfeed News published, "He Fell In Love With His Grad Student — Then Fired Her For It," detailing some of what had transpired

between Ott and his graduate students (2).

- On July 2nd, 2016, approximately when Ott was due to return to campus, his leave was extended until August 2017 (3). This came after many TAPIR members and PMA students protested his return.

Citations:

(1): Rosenbaum, Thomas F., and Edward M. Stolper. "A Message from the President and the Provost." Letter to The Caltech Community. 04 Jan. 2016. MS. Caltech, Pasadena, CA.

(2): Ghorayshi, Azeen. "He Fell In Love With His Grad Student - Then Fired Her For It." BuzzFeed. Buzzfeed, Inc, 12 Jan. 2016. Web. 12 May 2017.

(3): Ghorayshi, Azeen. "Caltech Professor Who Harassed Students Will Not Return To Campus For Another Year." BuzzFeed News. Buzzfeed, Inc, 02 July 2016. Web. 12 May 2017.

To: The President, Provost, and other Caltech Administrators

From: The Caltech Undergraduate Community

Date: May 13th, 2017

We, the undersigned members of the undergraduate community of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), publicly stand against Christian Ott's return to the Caltech campus. Ott has repeatedly abused his position of authority to prey upon his students and, in President Rosenbaum's own words, has exhibited "unambiguous gender-based harassment". This clearly violates the statement of rights provided by Title IX and the standards of behavior set by the Institute's Code of Conduct, by the Honor Code, and by basic human decency that

is required from all members of the Caltech community. There is no place for such discriminatory behavior at Caltech.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

The Caltech Undergraduate Community

Statements from Undergraduates:

"It is absolutely unacceptable that a member of the Caltech faculty who engaged in the "unambiguous gender-based harassment" that Christian Ott did might be allowed to return to the Caltech community. Ott has clearly committed an egregious violation of the Honor Code; for him to return would make Caltech a less trustworthy, safe, and welcoming environment - not just for the female graduate students of TAPIR, but for everyone." - Talia Minear, Senior

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

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

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

Have something to say? Contact one of the following administrators and let your voice be heard (List created by Alyssa Poletti):

Office of President Rosenbaum
(626) 395-6301
president@caltech.edu
(for general inquiries: danay@caltech.edu)

Office of the Provost
626-395-6336
provost@caltech.edu

Vice Provosts
Cindy Weinstein
(Chief Diversity Office)
caw@caltech.edu
Kaushik Bhattacharya
bhatta@caltech.edu

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

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

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EMAIL TECH@CALTECH.EDU WITH QUESTIONS.

Moriyama, Reisler Named All-SCIAC

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

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

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

Moriyama locked down the #1 singles spot with a 5-8 record (9-8 overall in singles) and 4-4 mark in conference play, including several close defeats to regionally ranked foes. The sophomore also recorded a 9-10

mark in doubles, going 8-7 at the top spot and earning a regional ranking of No. 12 with classmate Julia Reisler (Plano, Texas / Greenhill). She earned SCIAC Athlete of the Week honors once this season and made a run to the ITA Fall Regional consolation finals.

Zhou follows Reisler as the second rookie in as many years to earn Second Team honors after posting an 11-3 overall mark (4-3 SCIAC) between #2 and #3 singles and 10-8 record in doubles. The rookie garnered the final Athlete of the Week award of the season, joining Moriyama and classmate Alexandra Bodrova (Russia / Kurchatovskaya School) as the Beavers pulled in more weekly awards this spring than every team but undefeated national No. 1 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges.



It's over, Anakin! I have the high ground!



-gocaltech.com

Matthew Mark Named SCIAC Coach of Year

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA (May 11, 2017) – Caltech baseball head coach Matthew Mark has been named the SCIAC Coach of the Year.

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

A number of individuals turned in historic performances to key the team's success this spring. Sophomore Mark Burleson (Ladera Ranch, Calif. / Tesoro) broke the long-standing program single-season hits record with 46 base knocks while classmate Connor Moffatt (Charleston, W.Va. / George Washington) tied the single-season doubles mark (10) and senior Kai Kirk (San Jose, Calif. / Wesleyan Univ.) recorded the second-lowest ERA in a single season (5.72) while throwing the most innings in a season (85).



Is that Rob Kardashian?

-gocaltech.com

Bradley, Pathireddy Named Academic All-District

GOCALTECH.COM
Actual Sports Content Editor

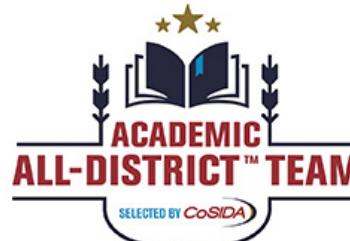
GREENWOOD, Ind. (May 11, 2017) – Caltech men's water polo senior Chris Bradley (Half Moon Bay, Calif. / Junipero Serra) and men's tennis senior Ruthwick Pathireddy (Cerritos, Calif. / Whitney) have been named CoSIDA Academic All-District.

Bradley earned his second ACWPC Honorable Mention All-America honor this past fall as he led the SCIAC in goals for the second time in his career. Besides his considerable exploits in the pool that have seen him rack up career totals of 393 goals, 90 assists, 114 steals, 115 exclusions drawn and 76 field blocks, the mechanical engineering option also co-founded and is the Vice President of Design for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle club at Caltech. Already one of only two Beavers in history to earn CoSIDA Academic All-America recognition twice, Bradley now has a chance to become the Institute's only three-time honoree. He is the only Division III water polo representative

from District 8 and one of just two Division III players recognized nationwide.

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

As First Team recipients, both will advance to the Academic All-America Team ballot, where first-, second- and third-team All-America honorees will be announced in early June.



Hey, that's my CS 115 TA! Great job :D



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

Join the Meditation Mob!

Tuesdays, 12:00 - 12:50



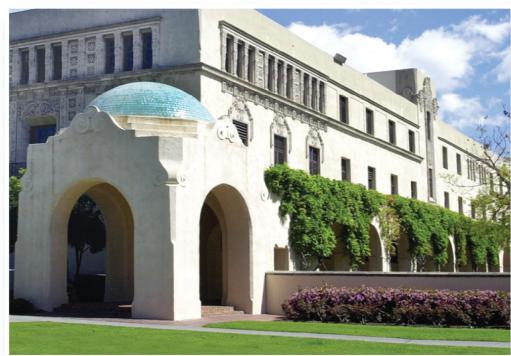
Want to learn more about mindfulness meditation? It's a great way to improve your attention and to become more grounded in the present moment.

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

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

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

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ASCIT Minutes

Meetings are every week in SAC 13

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for 12 May 2017. Taken by Alice Zhai.

Officers Present: Andrew Montequin, Tim Liu, Sakthi Vetrivel, Kalyn Chang, Robin Brown, Alice Zhai

Call to Order: 12:18pm

President's Report (Andrew):

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

Officer's Reports:

V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Tim):

- 5X series has been removed from the EE option requirements
- Faculty advising surveys closed today - this is info the Deans want and it's been a long time since anyone's collected this data.
- Deciding ASCIT teaching awards soon

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

- Absent

Director of Operations (Sakthi):

- Attended faculty board meeting last week
- Need a laptop lock for the ASCIT laptop
- Proofs for the yearbook are here! Once we send them back, we'll have copies for everyone.

Treasurer (Kalyn):

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

Social Director (Robin):

- Nothing to report

Secretary (Alice):

- This week's meeting minutes have been combined with last week's

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

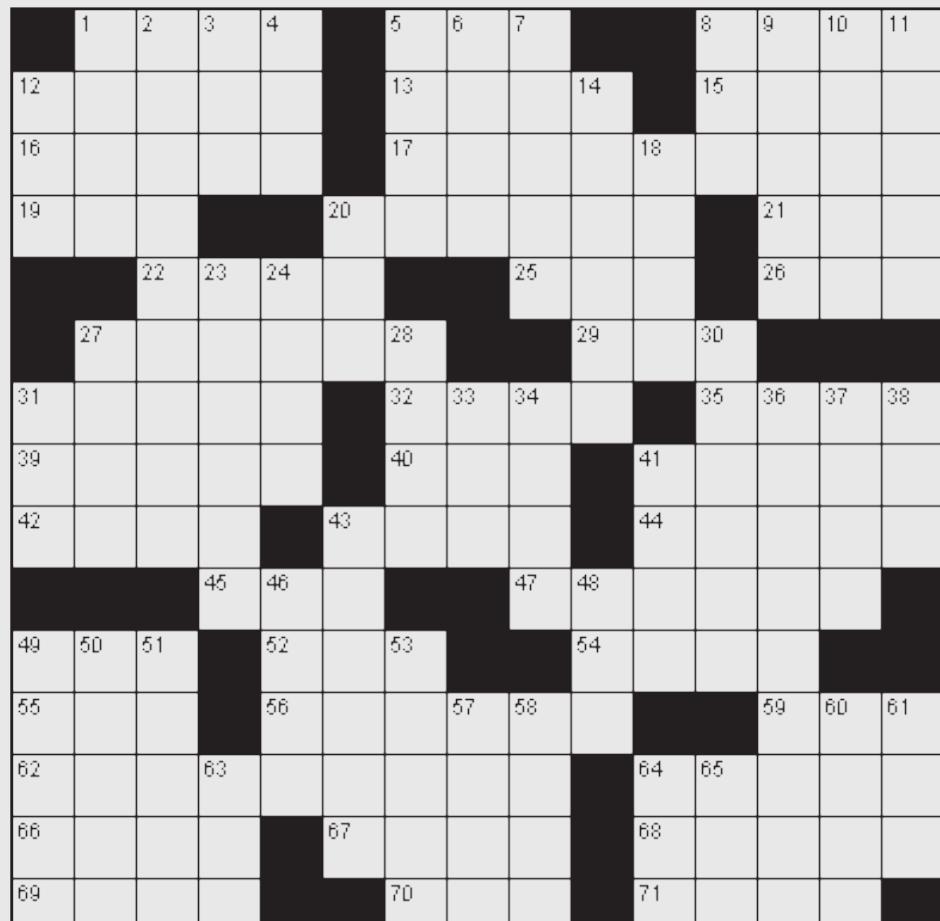
Meeting Adjourned: 12:42pm

Crossword

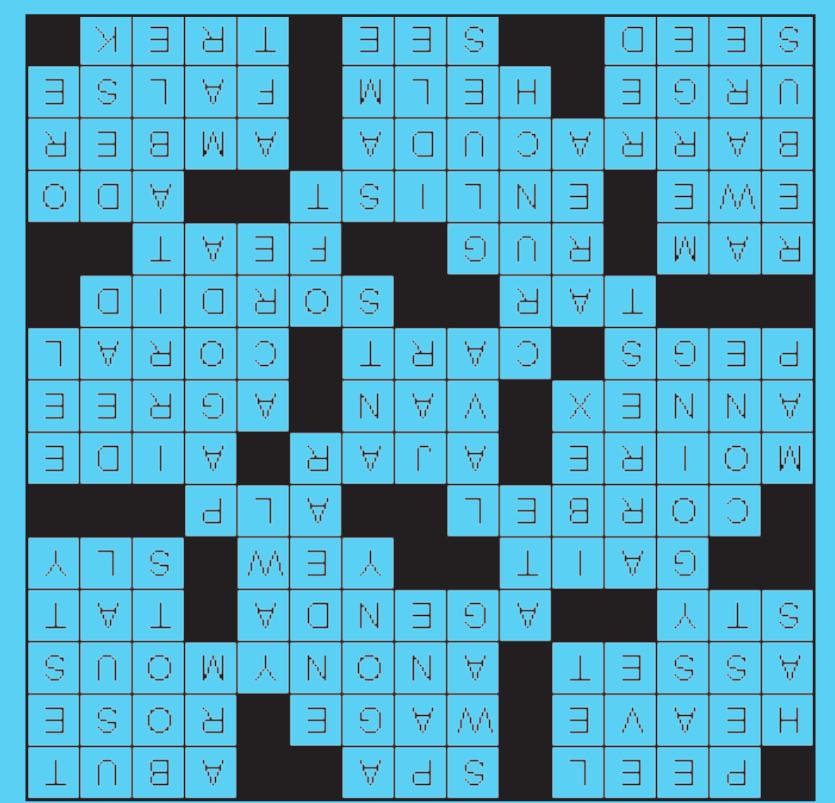
Across

- Rind
- Resort area
- Adjoin
- Throw with great effort
- Pay
- Flower
- Useful or valuable quality
- Without name or identity
- Pig pen
- Schedule
- Make lacework by knotting or looping
- Rate of walking or running
- Evergreen tree
- Cunning
- Triangular bracket of brick or stone
- Any high mountain
- Silk fabric with wavy pattern
- Slightly open
- Adjutant
- Attach to
- Vehicle
- Concur
- Wooden pins
- Heavy open wagon
- Marine colonial polyp
- Pitch
- Squalid

- Computer memory, initially
- Floor covering
- Notable achievement
- Female sheep
- Join the military
- Fuss
- Voracious fish
- Translucent fossil resin
- Impluse
- Ship's steering system
- Untrue
- Outstanding tournament player
- Understand
- Journey
- Persistently annoying person
- Relaxed and informal
- The night before
- Allow
- Pillage
- Sheet glass
- Suffering
- Supply with weapons
- Footwear
- Common
- Fractious
- Possesses
- Make attractive or lovable
- Small boat
- Consumed
- Take into custody
- Wild goat
- Funnel shape
- Volcanic rock
- Asian temple
- Chart
- Container
- Colony insects
- Easily annoyed
- Lifeless
- Snakelike fish
- Unit of area
- Critical situation
- Length by width
- Frequently
- Picture puzzle
- Mindful
- Become one
- Pastes
- Not in active use
- Equal in amount or value
- Writing table
- Metal-bearing mineral
- Chromatic color
- Astern
- Spoil



Answers to current crossword (pg 7)



-<http://puzzlechoice.com>



-<https://pixabay.com/en/alligator-american-alligator-gator-439890/>

Sue Yu
The California Torch

continued viability as a leading center of hydrobiological activity.

Today, the controversial return of an alligator previously on forced leave from Caltech has been announced, causing ripples of anger and confusion throughout the famed turtle pond at the heart of campus.

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

However, opinions on campus are divided. "Well, maybe the ducks shouldn't be so soft and vulnerable, y'know?" quipped one turtle as it immediately retreated into its shell for personal safety.

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

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

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