

# The California Tech

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## Unexpectedly High Admissions Yield Leaves Students Unhoused Next Fall

Maxwell Montemayor | Campus

On Tuesday, May 2, undergraduates who had not yet picked into a fall room assignment received an email from the Housing Office:

"As you may be aware, we were notified by Admissions about the larger incoming class and the Institute has requested that we adjust the number of available suites in Bechtel. Students in suites that made the cutoff have been contacted and will pick into suites on Thursday afternoon. Any other groups will need to plan [apply] to go into Marks and Braun doubles."

The number of suites available, according to the Housing Office's website, had changed overnight from 8 in Bechtel and 2 in Marks to 5 in Bechtel and 4 in Marks (the total number of available beds decreased).

"I planned based on the [original] rules of the lottery. And then between the second and third round of the lottery, they changed the rules," says Hannah Fisher (ME '24, Unaffiliated). Fisher and her proposed suitemates were counting on the availability of one of those Bechtel suites in this final round of roompicks. Some of them had given up spots in their affiliated houses in favor of living in this suite with their friends. Now, they had very few options remaining.

The Housing Office did extend the deadline for groups applying for suites or doubles in Marks and Braun during the Final Unaffiliated Lottery. However, the new deadline was May 4 at noon -- less than 48 hours after the May 2 email was sent. Because of this abbreviated turnaround time, several students missed the deadline. Others opted not to waste their time throwing their hats in the ring for bottom-of-the-barrel Marks/Braun rooms, reasoning that by this point, their lottery numbers were too low to guarantee them any room at all. They instead chose to begin the long and intimidating process of finding off-campus housing.

"It's very difficult, as someone who's never found housing before, and hasn't been given any instructions or advice from Caltech on how to do that," Fisher told us. "It's taking a lot of my time that I would love to be spending, you know, on my schoolwork or doing other things."

Caltech's administrators offered little sympathy. "I met with Joe Bennethum, I met with Felicia Hunt, I met with Dean Nye, I met with Kevin Gilmartin," Fisher said. "Each time, I asked, 'What are you going to do to help me?' And they said nothing."

"I'm not sure how to feel about the situation," said Juan Luchsinger (ME '25, Blacker/Dabney). "It seems like they just needed more space for the incoming class... I would prefer that they [the first-years] get Bechtel rooms/any housing over me."

The Institute evidently agrees that first-years should have priority for Bechtel rooms rather than Marks/Braun rooms, so they presumably know as well as we do that the living conditions in Marks and Braun are less than ideal. The fact that even the forced-double rooms have become highly coveted is indicative of how dire the situation is.

"I really don't want to live in Marks/Braun," says Max Oberg (ME '25, Blacker), one of the students affected by the surprise process changes. "All I've heard from people is how depressing those rooms are. It really breaks up house culture and separates students from the rest of campus."

The Tech has received several conflicting reports on the current status of the Final Unaffiliated Lottery process; there is very little clarity from the Housing Office in general. What is obvious, though, is the dissatisfaction of the student body.

"I'm surprised and disappointed that Caltech has made this policy in one of the tightest rental markets in the country," said Lily DeBell (Bi '24, Unaffiliated). "When I enrolled at Caltech, living on campus all four years was not only guaranteed but required."

When Fisher brought this up with the Housing Office, she was told that "the term 'residential' does not mean housing. It means 'enrolled in school.'"

"The way that the lottery rules were changed... I felt that it unfairly disadvantaged some students," Fisher concluded. "That is not in the spirit of the Honor Code and contradicts the entire ethos of Caltech."



A crowd of prefresh and families watch with delight as their egg-drop creations are thrown off the roof of Caltech Hall. Credit: Lance Hayshida

## Discothèque: A Reflection

Sascha Goldsmith | Student Life

The numbers are in! We've got just over 270 committed freshmen in Caltech's Class of 2027. A number of factors went into building the structure of next year's incoming class, including a continuing Test-Optional policy, the newly implemented Restricted Early Action process to increase yield %, an exciting and in-person Caltech Up Close, as well as both DiscoTech and Caltech In A Day (CIAD) to lure admits to commit.

This poses a number of hurdles for housing capacity, dining options, and lecture hall space for frosh core amongst others. But hey, as a member of the class of '25 with a similarly over-enrolled total of about 270, I'm not in the position to complain.

"The undergrad classes are not getting bigger by any design or intention. Many more students unpredictably came than expected," Gilmartin assured us. "But as we struggle to manage this, hopefully we will see that these are students that decided to come to Caltech more intentionally and more well informed. I hope when it comes to rotation, there will be more of a sense of excitement and engagement," he added.

A significant number of Techers regard recruitment efforts like DiscoTech with bitterness, finding it painful to imagine these new admits arriving to campus in the fall as

enrolled students, blind-sighted by promises of fun prank culture, fun-yet-challenging STEM classes, and plentiful research opportunities – only to be hit with the reality of a campus culture slowly being picked apart, a learning environment that burns out a significant portion of students within their first year, and general dissatisfaction reflected by student surveys. Those Techers may be relieved to know that coordinators of DiscoTech and Caltech In A Day made a clear emphasis on the strenuousness of the university.

"Caltech is a special and specific college experience. Students are pushed to their limits to become the scientists they are meant to be. DiscoTech is meant to showcase what Caltech is about to our admitted students, and help them determine if this is the kind of experience they're looking for. We want to make sure they make a clear and informed decision when accepting or declining their admission," said Nicholas Lee, Assistant Director of Admissions.

This year's DiscoTech saw many new changes compared to last year's DiscoTech and previous pre-Covid years' admit events. Admissions Officers (AOs) like Lee are now looking into refining those changes and assessing where things landed.

continued on page 2

## Proposed Solutions to the Housing Crisis

Hannah Fisher and  
Lily DeBell | Satire

The unprecedented high level of freshman enrollment has spurred a housing shortage on the Caltech campus. We feel that this situation will deprive several students of the residential experience that is at the center of a Caltech education. Therefore, we propose the following locations as new options for undergraduate housing:

**Housing Office:** Isn't that the point of it? I need housing.

**Houses on Hill Avenue:** Office of Residential Experience (I'm in the market for a residential experience myself), the Music House (my house WILL be full of beautiful tunes), the Einstein Papers House (let me absorb his knowledge osmotically), Admissions House (admit me to affordable, close-to-campus housing, please).

**Center for Student Services:** the only service I need is to be provided housing...

**Caltech Hall (floors 2-8):** does any singular person know what goes on in there?

**Dabney Hall of the Humanities:** Dabney Hovse satellite campus, if you will.

**Broad Center for the Biological Sciences:** They already house all those monkeys, plus it's close to on-campus dining options. I can pay rent by participating in psychological experiments.

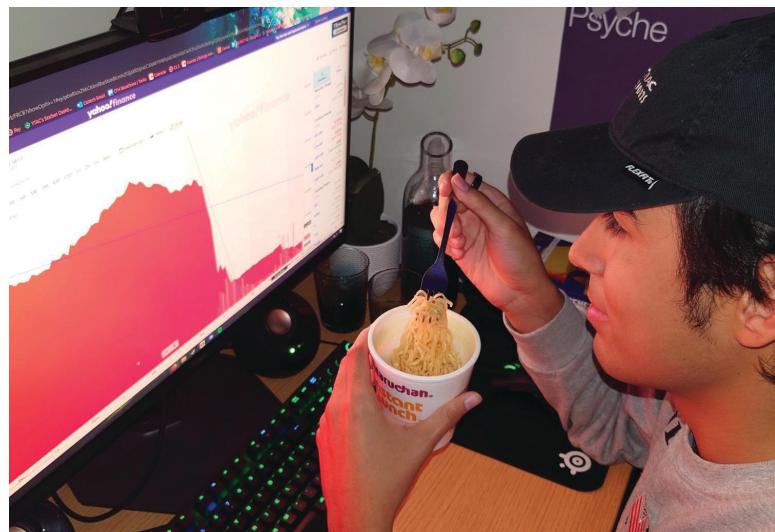
**Brown Gym:** Who needs SimpliSafe, the new bronze Beaver can protect us!

**Resnick Sustainability Center Construction Site:** Bechtel Residence 2.0? Call up the architect, it's not too late to change the plans.

**Rooftops:** Top-floor penthouse suite, anyone?

**President Thomas F. Rosenbaum III's House:** A frequent topic at the Student-Faculty Conference was the lackluster undergraduate advising program. As a solution to this issue, any student being forced to move off campus should be permitted to take up residence in the President's Caltech-owned house. Don't misunderstand, we don't want to kick Rosenbaum out of housing (that would be just as bad as what happened to us), we simply propose creating some double-occupancy rooms and moving in with him!

## First Republic Bank Sale: Student Loses \$2,400



Cristian Ponce reflects upon the loss of nearly his entire portfolio

Maxwell Montemayor | News

I sold \$2,500 worth of FRB shares, for \$41," admits Cristian Ponce (BioE '25, Blacker). "I knew it was a risky investment; it didn't work out."

After a two-day-long bank run, Silicon Valley Bank failed on March 10 and was placed under federal control. High interest rates and the under-performance of tech stocks caused customers to lose confidence in the bank, prompting a wave of withdrawals. The bank did not have enough money available to pay its depositors, so the bank failed.

continued on page 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

2 .... So we have a beaver statue now.

Caltech Dining Scoop: I would berry much like some fruit! ..... 3

5 ... Esprit de corps — Be a Beaver!

World Fest 2023 ..... 8

## First Republic

from page 1

This collapse led to a panic that put other banks like Credit Suisse, Signature Bank, and First Republic at risk of their own bank runs, as they had similar clientele to Silicon Valley Bank. Before the failure of Silicon Valley Bank, shares of First Republic Bank were valued at over \$100 each.

Ponce explained what he saw as he monitored First Republic's stock.

"As a result of the Silicon Valley Bank news, there was a correction—the stock dropped from around \$120 to maybe \$30. Imagine about 75% of the market capitalization overnight, just disappearing."

The other banks had similar movements, so there was a lot of money made on these dips in prices. However, having missed the optimal window to short-sell (a way to bet on stocks decreasing in value), Ponce had another idea.

"Everybody was trying to bet on what banks would fail, and using puts as an instrument to profit... I tried to bet on what bank would not fail," he said. He hoped that the bank run would not continue and stock would jump back up, once the government stepped in and everything returned to normal.

"This deflation in stock price is just caused by fear. And that fear will subside over time as the banking crisis gets further and further away," he says.

In regards to SVB, the Fed-

eral Reserve said on March 12 that "All depositors of this institution will be made whole," so it seemed the government was trying its best to support these banks.

Instead of studying for his final, Ponce carried out extensive market research. On Thursday, March 16, after the initial bank run earlier in the week, he "called up a whole bunch of the branches... about 15." He wanted to see if people were still withdrawing by asking how busy each branch was. With this, he could gauge if First Republic's stock had any hope of reverting back to normal.

"This was before my Bi8 final," he admitted. "I was actively trading while taking the final, which is not the best time

investment on a timed exam." He claims that the distractions cost him a letter grade on the final.

The investment initially paid off well. "I opened a position at I think \$25-26 a share, which was up the next day by about 30%," says Ponce.

However, the stock plummeted by 50% after its Q1 earnings call reported sub-par performance, then dropped again from about \$3.50 to \$0.33 after the government sold it to JPMorgan Chase on May 3rd. "I should have closed [sold the position]," he says.

Ponce says he did not sell because "there were multiple outlets, and even First Republic themselves saying they were not exploring a sale." He also cites how eleven of the

biggest banks also came together to give First Republic a \$30 billion cash infusion to help with the liquidity crisis. "So they have \$30 billion to help with their liquidity issue, right? This is like the ultimate show of confidence by these big banks, right?"

Ponce reports his loss: "My account is now worth \$134. Three months ago, it was worth \$3,500." He says that it was a good learning experience, though he does think "there's a lot of scrutiny around the circumstances that surrounded [the buyout]."

"I only have \$100 in my account," he says. "Oh, well, I probably won't be trading for a while."

## DiscoTech

from page 1

Thomas Cleveland ('25, Math), a host for Caltech In A Day, recalled taking his protofrosh to a Ph 101 (Order-of-Magnitude Physics) lecture, showing him Ph 7 (Physics Laboratory) experiments, libraries, and general campus life. Being a host was "overall a good experience. I didn't drown in responsibilities, and my protofrosh was a great match," said Cleveland.

Noam Rabinovitz, a CIAD protofrosh, reflected on his overall impression of school. "It's a place for people who really really like STEM to be challenged at the highest level, but with support from some of the most brilliant people on Earth. It's a place where people are free to express their love for science with everyone around them; where the work is so intense that people find themselves collaborating heavily and, in turn, bonding with others over their work. Also turtles," he added.

The activities of the day included meeting his AO and host, meeting professors and Financial Aid officers, attending lectures, and campus tours, Noam concluded that his overall experience had a variety of highlights. "Caltech

is hiding tons of cool science behind every one of its doors, and it definitely feels like a place where the intensity of the curriculum finally matches that of my desire to learn. On the other hand, while attending a lecture, I felt like an actual student, especially when my host's TA casually made note of the radioactive material next to me. The reality of moving across the country to a place with a radically different culture hit me pretty hard."

Ethan Labelson (Blacker/Dabney '26), a DiscoTech host, also had a positive experience despite sharing a "pretty tight" room with his protofrosh, recalling that his protofrosh and he had a common interest in Electrical Engineering. Labelson was an active volunteer in Hovse DiscoTech events, showing off projects and other Mole activities™ to the visitors. Similar events were held across the North and South Houses and Avery to exemplify the personality of each house and community on campus.

Nat Hernandez, a DiscoTech protofrosh, participated in EcosySTEMs, a fully funded program to fly in admits for DiscoTech.

"It was overwhelming as far as the culture goes," she said, recalling her first impression of Caltech. "I thought students would have no social life be-



cause of work. I liked the campus the first time I visited but I didn't think it was the prettiest campus I had seen. Although I did come to love it over the four days. It really is for a very specific type of person."

Over the course of her time visiting Caltech, Nat and other admits were taken to "mini lectures" with every department, attended planned lunch events, competed in an egg

drop contest, explored campus, and went to Griffith Observatory.

Hernandez emphasized the sense of community that protofrosh created together. "The highlight of my experience at DiscoTech was house dinner because I think sharing a meal as a community brings everyone together (as does throwing bread). I really got some insight into house life."

Overall, the work that administrators, academic departments, individual professors, and current students put into making DiscoTech possible was a definite success. Now, we just have to wait 'til the fall to formally introduce ourselves to our new classmates. Remember to pick up your T-shirts and merch from the Admissions Office if you volunteered!

## So We Have A Beaver Statue Now.

Lilia Arrizabalaga | Culture

Caltech is not a school well known for sport or school spirit. Many undergraduate students have more pride in their House than their school, and it is much more common to see people in Blacker or Fleming shirts than it is to see them in the bright orange Caltech shirts. Most of the undergraduate population does not care about our sports teams. And yet, 25% of us are members of one. For such a large sporting population, Caltech has an incredibly low amount of school spirit.

Caltech themselves have been trying to encourage more school spirit with new "Orange Fridays", telling people to wear orange clothes on Fridays. They even went as far as issuing "violations" to students not wearing orange the Friday before Orange Out, the Caltech Athletics day with many home sporting events. Wearing orange is a very visible marker of school spirit, but it is still a rare sight on campus.

Caltech Athletics is trying a new solution to the school spirit problem. They installed a 4-foot-tall solid bronze statue of a beaver outside the

Braun gym. The beaver is a surprisingly realistic depiction of a beaver gnawing on a stick. In addition to the new statue, on May 21st they will unveil a name for the mascot. Caltech's mascot, the beaver, currently does not have an official name. It does however have a LinkedIn page which claims it is called "Bucky Beaver". This name was not chosen in a democratic manner, so to try to remedy this error, a new name will be selected.

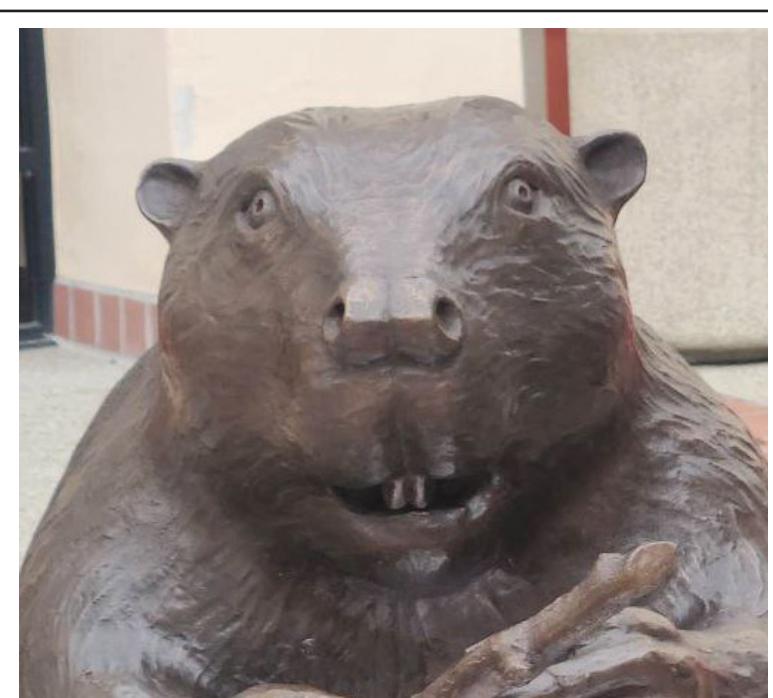
The naming process has taken at least a month, first soliciting suggestions from all corners of campus. Then a naming committee met to filter through the 100 or so suggestions. The committee narrowed the list down to 5 entries, selecting based on several criteria including starting with a B, being science based, and a name our opponents couldn't make fun of. The 5 names selected were "Bernoulli" (Berni, for short), "Byte", "Beta", "Bunsen", and "Buster".

All of these names start with a B, so the first criterion at least is met. Bernoulli is science based and the shortened version feels familiar

and is appropriately gender neutral. It is the suggestion I have heard the most support for. Byte is an appropriately science, or computer science, based and is of ambiguous gender. However, if said as a full name, that is "Byte the Beaver", it could easily be misheard. Beta is also science themed and gender neutral. However, in addition to being a type of radiation, Beta is a so-called "type of male", and is used as an insult to refer to a weak or submissive person. Bunsen is both science based and gender neutral and I have heard no faults with it. Buster seems like an outlier in that it is far less gender neutral or science themed than any of the other entries.

The shortlist of 5 names was then sent as a poll to all members of the Caltech. The results of the poll were once again sent to the naming committee to certify the results and chose the final name to be unveiled on May 21st.

The beaver statue itself has been several years in the making. It started with an anonymous donation with the request that the money be used for something they wouldn't



normally have the opportunity to do. According to Betsy Mitchell, the beaver statue was just the opportunity. Caltech worked with several in-house artists who worked on the design of the statue. Once the design was finalized, a mold was made, then finally the statue. In fact, because Caltech owns the model, this statue could be the first of many.

The beaver statue seems, so far, to be a success. More people are talking about school

spirit and our mascot than I have ever heard before. Whether this will persist after the novelty wears off remains to be seen. Perhaps the beaver statue will become as iconic on campus as the Fleming cannon is. Perhaps it will be included in pranks or new traditions. The beaver statue is an investment in school spirit by our anonymous benefactor, and only the future knows if it was worth the price.

# Caltech Dining Scoop: I would berry much like some fruit!

Trinity Lee | Column

Fruit! Whether it's a refreshing dessert or a healthy snack, we all appreciate having it as an option to supplement our diet of Red Door sandwiches and other Caltech Dining Services (CDS) fare. Even students who regularly cook their own food or dine out will often partake in open kitchen fruits for their daily dose of vitamin C or potassium. But are Caltech students satisfied with the array of fruit that CDS provides?

For those who may not be aware, CDS offers apples, oranges, and bananas at most dining locations, such as open kitchens, Browne Dining Hall, Red Door Marketplace, and Broad Cafe. Students with a hankering for the elusive blueberry or strawberry can find them from 7:00-11:00 a.m. at Broad Cafe on the Nutella Toast or at Browne on the French Toast at Grill. During the weekend brunch at Browne, berries are often served with waffles or pancakes, and sometimes the staff are willing to provide a cup of berries. Other fruits, like grapes, cantaloupe, pineapple, and honeydew, are found in the assorted fruit tray, often seen in open kitchen or in cups at Browne/Broad. Recently, CDS has also introduced bowls of seasonal fruit in open kitchens – this week's specialties were pears and peaches!

However, some students have expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of fruit provided, such as unripe peaches or bruised apples. "The apples are often mealy or not sweet," complains Anna Li (EAS '23, Dabney). Several other students agreed that the apples were often "mid", but many reports expressed contentment with the bananas and oranges.

Others, like Maddie Swint (ChE '23, Avery/Lloyd), find the assorted fruit cups problematic because "these fruits are a mix and force each person to get every fruit" which can lead to food waste. She also reports that some of the

cups are left in the fridge long enough to "begin to ferment" and "taste a little funny". I can recall a few times last year when I received a fruit cup at Browne or open kitchen only to discover mold growing on the fruit at the bottom.

Eric Lee ('26, Avery) believes it's all a matter of timing. He often selects fruit cups at Browne and is generally satisfied with them. "I usually get there pretty early, so I actively choose the ones that look good." Timing seems to play a role with other fruits as well; sometimes the fruit selection is better in the mornings and sometimes fruit is only ripe for the taking near the end of the week.

Jaime Reyes, Director of Dining Services, assures that CDS staff regularly check the fruit in the kitchens and replace them as necessary. He states, "We get a new produce delivery every day, except for Sundays." (He and the Food Committee encourage you to report any clearly spoiled fruit to CDS staff or to the Food Committee feedback form.)

The most common fruit request from students, especially seniors who have experienced the glory days of CDS, has been to bring back the berries. For any confused first-years reading this, before the pandemic, CDS used to provide berries in open kitchens. In 2019-2020, "we had huge vats of berries in open kitchen every day. There were two vats that held probably 5 lbs of berries... each vat had a different berry (think raspberry, blackberry, strawberry, or blueberry) that would change out weekly," Maddie recalls.

"After we returned to campus in 2021, the berries were completely gone. Instead, Caltech began providing the miscellaneous fruit cups we have in open kitchen now."

Part of the reason for discontinuing the vats of berries, according to Jaime, was that students would take cups and cups of berries within the first

15 minutes of open kitchen every morning – sadly preventing the majority of the population that woke up after 7:15 a.m. from enjoying the berries.

This was not the only instance of Techers squirreling away berries – there was also the "Great Berry Scandal of 2019". Hayward Melton (EE G1) recalls the summer after his freshman year when Browne Dining Hall had a self-serve waffle bar where you could add berries to your waffles. As one might guess, students would often take cups of berries without making a waffle, which prompted CDS to send out an announcement asking students to only take the berries that they would eat on their waffle.

"It blew up so hard... the student outcry in support of the berries" was immediate; they were outraged that they were not allowed to take berries as they pleased despite paying for an expensive board plan. Similar complaints are still present today. Despite being required to pay for a ~\$2.5k meal plan per term, it seems that food variety and quality has remained at a reduced level since the pandemic, and some argue that the berries are the most obvious example of this. If the berries ever made a return, would Caltech students restrain themselves from hoarding them? Would you?

It is clear that while students appreciate some of the fruit already provided, they would be very grateful for greater variety. In interviewing for this article, I heard numerous pleas for cherries, watermelon, plums, more pineapple, mangoes, grapefruit, and – of course – more access to berries.

What do YOU think about the fruit on campus? Are you also a supporter of #bringbacktheberries? Contact your local FoodComm representative to let us know OR fill out the Feedback form [bit.ly/caltechfoodfeedback](http://bit.ly/caltechfoodfeedback)

 Caltech Dining Services  
May 19, 2019 ·

Crepe bar at Open Kitchen today!  
#caltech #dining



CDS's pre-pandemic berry game went HARD. The entire school would turn feral if this happened today!

## Review: Arturo's Taco Truck

Joseph Kim | Food

Where do you go when you're hungry and it's 2 am on a Friday? Well, if you ask me, it's Arturo's taco truck. A bit over a mile away in a parking lot near Huntington Hospital, Arturo's Taco Truck is an unofficial Pasadena staple. I've been going there almost every week for my fourth meal whenever I'm pulling late nights. Their meats are just as good as any other taco place I've been to and their tortillas are top-notch. That said, they've had a couple of changes over the past year, getting a new truck, changing the burrito guy, and getting new side options (beans, radishes, grilled onions, and chilies). Nevertheless, they are hands-down the best place open late in Pasadena. If you go there, be sure to tell Kevin I sent you.

**What's good?** You can't go wrong with tacos, LA's specialty, but everything is good here; go for carne asada, al

pastor, pollo, or buche (pork stomach!) if you're feeling experiment-y. Personally, I like the al pastor burrito with some guacamole and hot salsa. And don't forget to get the grilled onions and chilies on the side!

**What's not?** CASH ONLY! What are they, Europeans?

**Where?** 400 Fair Oaks Ave. Run a mile west and you'll get there.

**Vibe?** Chill food truck vibes. Nice parking lot. Depending on the hour, you might catch healthcare workers coming off work down the road, post-party crowds, or even an impromptu bagpipe performance.

**How much?** \$2.50 for a taco. \$9.75 for a burrito. Normal taco truck pricing (for California).

**Notes?** Get the grilled onions for the tacos. Also, prices include taxes! Maybe they are European...

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The floodlights on Arturo's roof serve as a beacon for hungry college students.

# Art & Photography Spotlight



"Curvature" by Abraham Belayneh



"San Diego" by Abraham Belayneh



"Tree Arch" by Cristian Ponce



"What I Dreamed About" by Alicia Zhang



"Deyin Elle Kurtz Study" by Anya Mischel



"Purple Sun" by Juan Renteria



"White Sands" by Cristian Ponce

## The Admin Corner

# Esprit de corps — Be a Beaver!

Betsy Mitchell | Column

"Esprit de corps" literally translated means a feeling of pride or a common loyalty. This phase interpreted into an educational setting means something more common, and simple. It is school spirit! From its battlefield roots, it is evident why troops need a rallying cry, they are literally depending on each other in a life and death situation.

The camaraderie, support, and teamwork are critical to attaining the goal (and also staying alive). Similarly, college students rely on each other for emotional support, academic collaboration and develop camaraderie going through a challenging experience at a challenging time of life. There are many currents of esprit des corps running through the Caltech community, classes, lab groups, residences, clubs, teams, friends and more.

We are united in the common values expressed by unique size and STEM star power, a myriad of student traditions, our collaborative spirit and unity of community around common purpose. There is an extension of the concept of esprit des corps into the athletic realm; all of our academic competitors and partners are awash in their unique culture as we are here. If school spirit is not for you, or you find it silly, adolescent, frivolous and unnecessary, so be it, no amount of Orange items in the Caltech Store will float your boat. However, If you are proud of yourselves, your school and what we stand for, shout it out, be loud, be proud and be positive. Either position is OK, to each their own, but perhaps you can reconsider?

I tend to take a middle course. See, I think that positive school spirit helps everyone. Being proud of your community, your school, our campus, your friends and classmates helps everyone, starting with each one of us, individually. Feeling as if your community has your back, supports you and values your contributions, whatever they may be, that is integral to the collaboration I see all around us. The notion of positive school spirit is really a collective confidence in our mission and activities translates into an expression of confidence in ourselves. It takes great strength to lift oneself, and others, up and that is the power of collaboration and support. (And for sure, there is no room to be knowingly knocking anyone else down, or making them feel less.) One thing is for sure, if we aren't

cheering for ourselves, no one else is cheering for us, figuratively or literally! In the end, esprit des corps demands that in order to get that support, you also must participate and give support!

When I arrived on campus 12 years ago this spring, I thought myself fortunate to have the opportunity to work in this unique and awesome environment. I looked forward

rallying point for school pride and thus school spirit. To say the least, that was not what I found upon arrival. Now..... is a different story!

For the 25% of undergraduate students, and a few grads as well, being an athlete is part of their chosen identity. The dedication and effort they give to improving themselves, contributing to their team, representing the Institute in

these are ways in which we take strength from unity and synergy from a common experience, whatever that experience is. (athletics, residences, clubs, lab groups, etc) Pride in community means to support each other, something that Caltech undergrads are famous for touting as one of their strengths. Collaboration, another Caltech hallmark, also connotes strength in num-

that makes the community better. The honor code, renaming buildings, all the positive traditions that are a Caltech hallmarks, wearing orange or going to any event to support your classmates. Lifting each other up not tearing anyone down is the essence. So, wear some Orange, go watch a play or a game, help each other, support each other, take pride in our collective accomplishments, work toward solutions to our challenges in a constructive way. Be the best version of yourself!

This spring we are engaged in an awesome community building activity around our mascot, the Beaver! As you may be aware, a large bronze sculpture of a Beaver arrived at the Braun Athletic Center last week. If you haven't seen it, you should really check it out! Perched proudly in front of the Braun Center, protecting its Lodge, contemplating its next Dam project. We claim our mascot as nature's engineer, a persistent, gritty, smart, influencer, who shapes their own path and environment (DAM), and is loyal to their family, friends, and living group (kit, colony) at their LODGE. There are many unique and awesome characteristics of the Beaver and long ago it was a good choice to be our mascot. All students and faculty were sent a poll to participate in naming the Mascot, formally, as all previous references are casual, informal or of happenstance. We will have a name reveal ceremony on Sunday May 21 at 12noon at the Athletic Center, I hope you come and participate!

I encourage you to be proud of your school and by extension of yourself. This community is a wonderfully diverse and unique one. Full of strong minds, personalities (and bodies) that are always made even better through collaboration and pulling together...like the Beaver making a Lodge (or a Dam)

**Betsy Mitchell,**  
Caltech Director of  
Athletics, Physical  
Education and Recreation is  
a two time Olympic swimmer with gold and silver  
medals (1984 and 88), she  
is a multi-time Division 1  
National Champion for the  
University of Texas at Austin, she is a former world  
and American record holder.  
After her swimming career,  
she took up competitive rowing for fun and represented  
the US in the women's double sculls in the 1994 World  
Rowing Championships.  
<http://www.betsymitchell.us>



to my task of breathing new life into our athletic, physical education and recreational programs. I couldn't imagine a better place to show value and support for the importance of play, exercise and movement. When I arrived, the school spirit vibe on campus was at be lukewarm and at worst, cynical, sarcastic and self-deprecating. Not a drop of Orange anywhere! At many of the other rigorous, selective colleges and universities, large or small, and even in most high schools, often athletics serve as a 'front porch' or a

competition is something that I am very proud of for them. Just as with every student here, a person's identity and chosen passions are important to support in their overall educational experience. The concept of school spirit is one closely aligned with athletics, but by no means exclusive to athletics. I see it as a broader brush and reflection of the community.

Positive school spirit is most simply, being proud of yourselves and your community. There are manifestations of that pride and confidence;

bers, producing our best work or thought in collaboration with each other. Wearing our common school colors creates pride, and confidence. (We WEAR ORANGE on FRIDAYS!) Taking support from knowing that others are sharing your experience and can offer support when you might need it. Cheering for your classmates at a sporting event; supporting their self-identity in being an athlete (or in a musical, or giving community service).

The concept of school pride and spirit includes anything

## Check out ASCIT's Hot New BoD – Election Results and Appointments

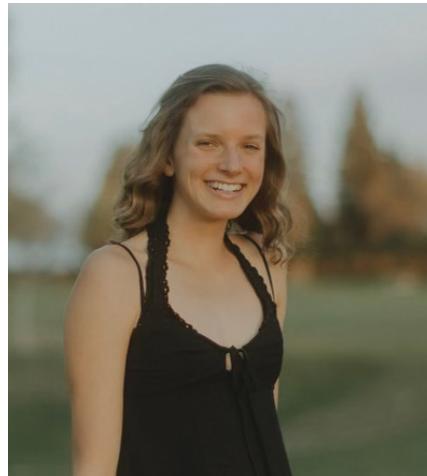
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**ADVERTISE IN  
THE TECH!**

The advertising deadline is Friday at noon the week before publication; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera ready art, but *The Tech* can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu).

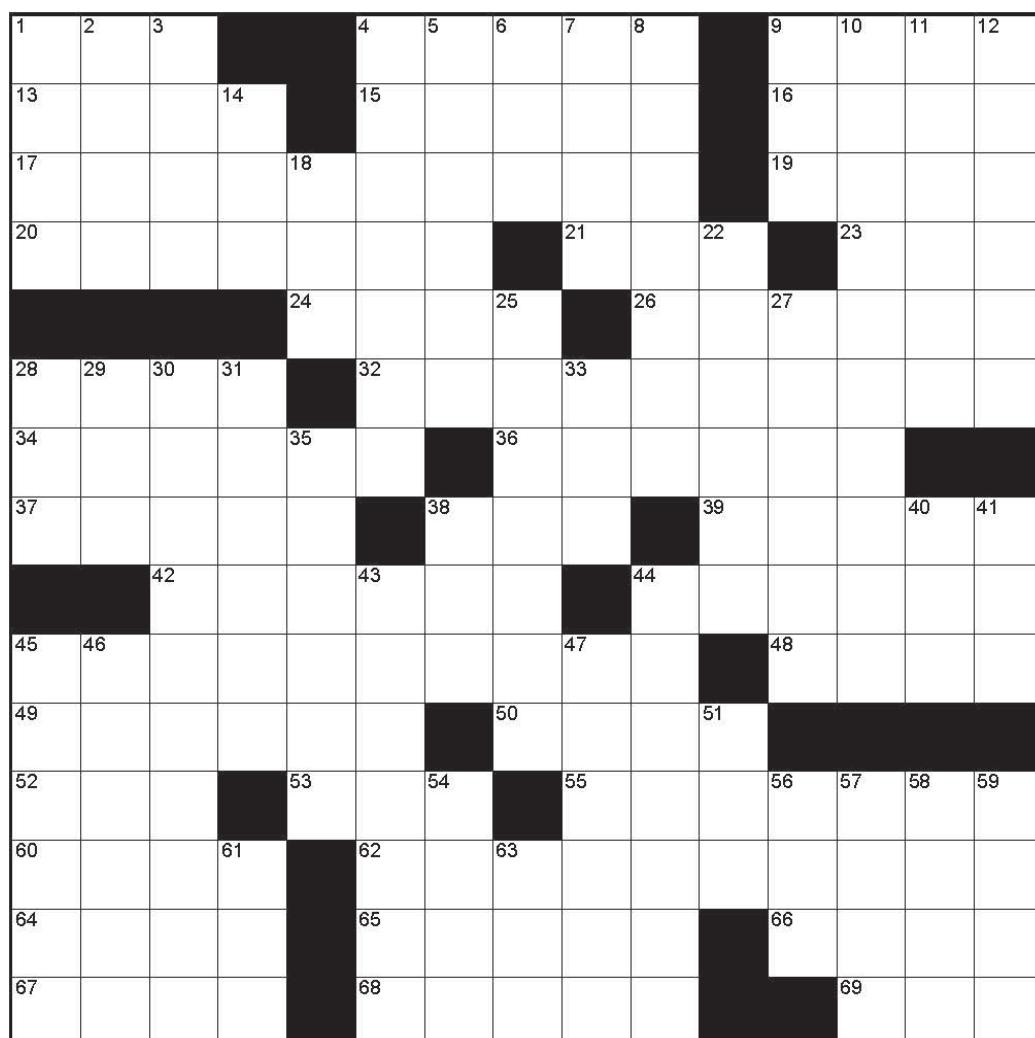
Ad Height (inches)	Black & White Ads			
	2.5	5	7.5	10
2	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$55.00	\$70.00
4	\$40.00	\$70.00	\$100.00	\$130.00
6	\$55.00	\$100.00	\$145.00	\$190.00
8	\$70.00	\$130.00	\$190.00	\$250.00
10	\$85.00	\$160.00	\$235.00	\$310.00
12	\$100.00	\$190.00	\$280.00	\$370.00
14	\$115.00	\$220.00	\$325.00	\$430.00
16	\$130.00	\$250.00	\$370.00	\$490.00

Cost per Unit BW      \$15.00      (One unit is 5 sq inches)  
 Processing Fee      \$10.00      (included in above table)

Ad Height (inches)	Color Ads			
	2.5	5	7.5	10
2	\$35.00	\$60.00	\$85.00	\$110.00
4	\$60.00	\$110.00	\$160.00	\$210.00
6	\$85.00	\$160.00	\$235.00	\$310.00
8	\$110.00	\$210.00	\$310.00	\$410.00
10	\$135.00	\$260.00	\$385.00	\$510.00
12	\$160.00	\$310.00	\$460.00	\$610.00
14	\$185.00	\$360.00	\$535.00	\$710.00
16	\$210.00	\$410.00	\$610.00	\$810.00

Cost per Unit Color      \$25.00      (One unit is 5 sq inches)  
 Processing Fee      \$10.00      (included in above table)

## The California Tech Crossword - "Places"



## ACROSS

- 1 Americans with disabilities act  
4 A part of a necklace or bracelet  
9 Umami flavor chemicals  
13 Intense cry  
15 Italian bowled sport  
16 Lepton heavier than an electron  
17 A biological medieval weapon  
19 Enter a poker game  
20 Erodes or wears thin  
21 Gotta crack a few to make an omelette  
23 What you can't do when the lights are off  
24 A duck in Berlin  
26 Part of a train carrying liquid fuel  
28 Female undergarment  
32 Represents a geology house  
34 Jingle \_\_\_\_\_ way  
36 What a republican might wear to a debate  
37 "To hold as \_\_\_\_\_ a mirror up to nature"  
38 Small business administration  
39 Havens or gardens  
42 Where Kubla Khan decreed a stately pleasure-dome  
44 Flying hovercraft  
45 Castle entrance that uses physics  
48 Acronym you should open at work  
49 If he finishes it first, he
- 50 Type of buckwheat noodle  
52 Abdomen or advocate, abbr.  
53 "\_\_\_\_ but a scratch"  
55 Nickname for the Beatles, or one less than the Queer Eye presenters  
60 Red steak  
62 Holy rodents taking part in chemical biology experiments  
64 Move swiftly  
65 Part of a jacket you would put a pin on  
66 Spanish pronoun  
67 San Diego Astronomy Association  
68 Master of Ceremonies  
69 Unhappy
- 18 Down to earth, abbr.  
22 A generous person  
25 Music listening device  
27 Applied, like a coat of paint  
28 Nighttime flying creature  
29 Radioactive Liquid Waste  
30 Former famous library  
31 Used to be plastic but they are now paper  
33 Beverage that comes in green and black  
35 Species of dead-nettle  
38 State disability association  
40 Ornamental knife holder  
41 Dabney, to the RF court-yard  
43 The or a  
44 Ignominious fiasco  
45 They enjoy digging deep, sometimes too deep  
46 Irreverent and comical  
47 Be released  
51 Abbr. form of assault  
54 A pretense  
56 Mexican fencing association, abbr.  
57 They can be essential  
58 Fellow California campus, to the west  
59 What you have done to the Tech, hopefully  
61 Estimation of arrival time  
63 Grocery ID you can scan (abbr.)  
14 A note to follow Sew

## DOWN

- 1 Winner of Eurovision in 1974 with a Napoleon based song  
2 Someone who might be caught drawing DEI  
3 Missing in the military  
4 Time away  
5 A hobbit \_\_\_\_\_ no one  
6 Good for the environment  
7 Measure of land size  
8 Was kind and philanthropic  
9 Fighting sport, abbr.  
10 Items to protect you from UV  
11 What you might say at a Caltech sports game  
12 Smiles mockingly  
14 A note to follow Sew

## Question the Quail!

A new advice column about life, love, classes, and everything in between! Brought to you by the one and only California Tech.

Dear Quail,  
School has been great, and I had such a fun time during my years at California Institute of Technology. I love hearing all the hot gossip by red door, but I'm having trouble keeping secrets for my friends. It is getting to the point where they don't want to talk to me anymore because I just keep spilling the beans! Do you have any way to keep my frijoles from getting fried?

Signed,  
Beanie Baby

Dear BB,  
I hate to be harsh, but your friends have every right to stop talking to you, especially since it seems like they've

already confronted you about your loose tongue. We aren't 13 anymore and it's not cute to go around revealing others' private information to everyone and their mother. Would you want people talking about you outside Red Door, or do you prefer some privacy in your personal life as well? Consider that the next time you talk to your friends, and I wouldn't expect them to come around unless you clean up your act.

Good luck,  
Quail

Dear Quail,  
I'm a senior that graduated last term, but I still come to campus every day to do research work. I love CDS food, but since I'm not on the meal plan anymore, I can only eat for free at open kitchen. Every day I harass underclassmen to let me into their house so I can satiate my desire for delicious Caltech cuisine, I can't get enough of the stuff! But I'm worried that I won't be able to eat anything else after I move away

from campus, how can I learn to be a real adult and cook my own meals before I starve out there in the real world?

Signed,  
Fiending for Free Food

Dear Fiending,  
I am honestly shocked that you can still stomach CDS food. With that being said, props to you for taking advantage of your resources! God knows we pay way too much for tuition and mediocre food here. With respect to your question, I think you can treat this term as a bit of a transition period into your adult life. Open Kitchen has set hours and I'm sure you don't spend all night and weekends here as well. Why not grab lunch and dinner on campus and make a healthy breakfast at home? Or, use ingredients from open kitchen to supplement a meal-prepped lunch from home? Finally, make sure you take advantage of those relaxing weekends at home to learn new recipes. Even if you only cooked

a couple meals every week, you would quickly pick up some culinary skills, which can come in handy at home, in the workplace, and on dating apps!

Congrats on graduating,  
Quail

Dear Quail,  
I have a problem with stealing things. It's just so exhilarating to take something from bars and restaurants. But this is causing me concern from my friends. What should I do?

Signed,  
Kind Klepto

Dear Klepto,  
I question your description of yourself as "kind". To my knowledge, "kind" people don't often openly brag about the enjoyment they get from taking objects from businesses, some of which may be locally owned and/or struggling. Drop the act and face your problem head on. Your friends clearly have their heads and hearts in the right place with their concern, and if they haven't suggested therapy al-

ready, I would explore some sort of mental health treatment. Worst case, if you can't find a therapist, it seems from your letter that you are more likely to steal objects while intoxicated. Try to cut down on the drinking, especially at locations where pretty glassware is easily accessible, and hopefully you'll cut down on the thievery as well.

Good luck,  
Quail

Dear Quail,  
I love advice columns! Thank you for starting one at Caltech xoxo

Signed,  
Ardent Admirer

Dear Admirer,  
Thanks! xoxo  
Quail

To submit questions for next week's "Question the Quail", fill out the google form:

<https://bit.ly/41rEQ1N>



## World Fest 2023

Sascha Goldsmith | Culture

For the first year since COVID, the Caltech Y and the International Student Programs (ISP) successfully held World Fest 2023. With 22 different countries and regions represented, this year's annual spring event was sure to brighten the days of the hundreds of community members that came to indulge in diverse foods and music.

World Fest has been a Caltech tradition for over 25 years. A team of staff from the Y and ISP began planning the event months in advance to brainstorm presentation ideas, coordinate finances and logistics, and recruit community members – including Caltech students, staff and community volunteers – to represent a region of their choice with a reimbursable budget of \$325 for food handouts and booth decorations.

In regards to the International Food Fair section of World Fest, volunteers were asked to prepare or purchase foods and snacks that they felt would best represent their countries and cultures to share with the community. Some groups met and cooked their foods personally while others were able to source dishes from local restaurants to feed

an attendance in the high 400s for a late lunch.

"It is always rewarding to see so many Caltech community members volunteer and share their foods and cultures at a campus-wide event," recalled representatives of the Caltech Y and ISP. "It really speaks to the great community we have here at Caltech and how we value the important contributions our diverse international community brings to help build an inclusive campus."

Aside from an abundance of delicious foods, this year's Fest also featured an hour of live music and performances by undergraduate and graduate students and community members. "It's always amazing to see the incredible talent at Caltech from Bollywood dancers to amazing musicians. We also had two presentations in Hameetman by students sharing their travel experiences and home country cultures with the Caltech Community," replied representatives of the ISP.

In addition to this international food and culture fest, ASCIT also later held its inaugural Multicultural Fashion Show. Students and community members alike showcased the cultural attire, food, mu-



sic, and dance unique to the various cultural groups that constitute the Caltech community on Beckman Lawn accompanied by a variety of foods and drinks. Aside from a beautiful display of cultural attire, performances with cultural instruments and dance were featured, representing campus communities like the BSU.

The events that ISP and Caltech Y offer aren't just limited to World Fest. Other campus-wide events such as the

iBegin@Caltech international student orientation, International Women's Day SPEAK OUT co-hosted with the CCID, and Fall term's International Education Week are organized by the ISP. Similarly, the Caltech Y hosts extensive programming throughout the year like trips, volunteer opportunities, and events like Make a Difference Day on May 20th.

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## WRITERS & COLUMNISTS WANTED!

CAMPUS | OPINION | HUMOR | ART | PHOTOGRAPHY

COMICS | CULTURE | SPORTS | POLITICS

**POSITIONS ARE OPEN FOR ALL SECTIONS**

If we print your material, we will pay you up to the amounts listed below (at our discretion). Email submissions to [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu) or join our Discord server using the following link

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<b>Columnists:</b> \$20 per 500 words, minimum \$15
<b>Reporters:</b> \$25 per 500 words, minimum \$15
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oh god how did i  
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good at computer

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