



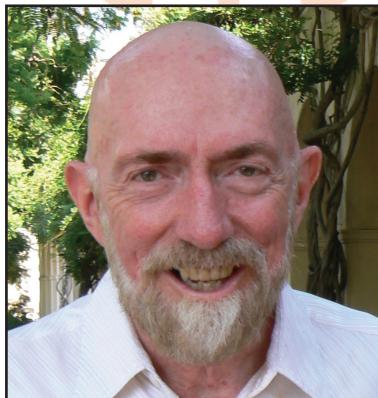
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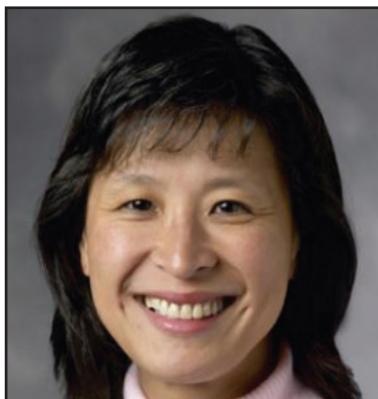
Distinguished Alumni named



Kip S. Thorne (B.S. '62)
[-http://en.wikipedia.org/](http://en.wikipedia.org/)



David D. Ho (B.S. '74)
[-http://www.rockefeller.edu/](http://www.rockefeller.edu/)



Quynh-Thu Xuan Le (B.S. '89)
[-https://med.stanford.edu](https://med.stanford.edu)



Stanislav Smirnov (M.S. '95, Ph.D. '96)
[-http://www.unige.ch/](http://www.unige.ch/)

BEN TOMLIN
 Associate Director, Alumni Relations, Communications

This article was originally published online at caltech.edu.

Caltech has announced that Kip S. Thorne (B.S. '62), David D. Ho (B.S. '74), Quynh-Thu Xuan Le (B.S. '89), and Stanislav Smirnov (M.S. '95, Ph.D. '96) are this year's recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

First presented in 1966, the award is the highest honor the Institute bestows upon its graduates. It is awarded in recognition of a particular achievement of noteworthy value, a series of such achievements, or a career of noteworthy accomplishment.

Kip S. Thorne (B.S. '62, Physics)

Richard P. Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics, Emeritus, Caltech

Thorne is being recognized for his contributions to gravitational physics and astrophysics; his mentorship of physics students, many of whom have become leaders in their fields; and for helping to increase the awareness of science through books and film.

David D. Ho (B.S. '74, Biology)

Director and Chief Executive Officer, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center

Irene Diamond Professor, The Rockefeller University

Quynh-Thu Xuan Le (B.S. '89, Biology and Chemistry)

Katharine Dexter McCormick and Stanley McCormick Memorial Professor

Professor and Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology, Stanford University

Le is being recognized for her contributions to the development of new radiotherapy treatment paradigms for cancer of the head, neck, and lungs, and for her leadership in medicine on prominent national panels and as chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Stanford University.

Stanislav Smirnov (M.S. '95, Ph.D. '96, Mathematics)

Professor of Mathematics, University of Geneva

Director of SwissMAP, National Center for Competence in Research

Smirnov is being recognized for his achievements in mathematics, particularly in statistical physics. He produced the first rigorous proofs of conformal invariance in lattice models, a discovery that has opened new directions in probability theory.

Women's water polo kicks off season at Claremont Convergence Tournament



See page 5 for full story.

[-http://gocaltech.com](http://gocaltech.com)

Graduate school, exploitation, and gender: the discussion continues

CASEY HANDMER
 Contributing Writer

**All names have been changed.*

After last week's article was published, more women came forward to relate their experiences. Like, Chloe, Cynthia-Rose, Lilly, and Patricia, Jessica* has experienced forms of sexism throughout her time in academia. Learning what is normal and what is acceptable doesn't happen overnight. Jessica relates, "At the first conference I ever went to, when I was a 21-year-old undergraduate, the head of the [experiment], who was engaged and had a newborn, was trying to buy me drinks all night and was saying inappropriate things, like 'Global warming is really the fault of women like you, because you're so hot men will fly anywhere to have sex with you.' It seems dumb now, but I was terrified. I thought it was my fault because I was wearing a dress and heels and as a [naive] undergrad, I didn't know what to do. One of the grad students saw what was going on and rescued me. He told the head of the collaboration, who pulled me aside to ask what had happened. He assured me, saying, 'This is not okay,' and the guy ended up being put into mandatory sexual harassment training. But at 21, I was completely mortified. I never told my [then] adviser because I thought if he knew, he'd think it was my fault and ban me from conferences."

In addition to contending with trouble at conferences and not trusting her adviser to back her up, Jessica's work environment was also compromised by a grad student who shared the same

adviser and was peripherally related to her research. "[My soon-to-be-ex] boyfriend moved [permanently] to Massachusetts. Every single weekly pub trip after my ex had left, this grad student [in my lab] was coming onto me, and not gently: he was putting his hand on my leg. I brushed him off every week. [The morning after the yearly Christmas party, I received] an email from him. I must have told him to [go away in no uncertain terms], because it said 'You would be nowhere without me. Who do you think you are? You know nothing. You can't do research without other people.'" As though, even if that were true, Jessica would somehow owe them anything. Nevertheless, in the cold light of dawn, "I apologized, 'You know I'm sorry if I offended you in some way,' and he responded, 'I now have more respect for you.' I never told anyone about it, especially not our shared adviser, because I thought it would be my word against his. I was still super naive, and thought it was somehow my fault. Maybe I should have gone along with it? How messed up is it, that as a 21-year-old I'm debating sleeping with quasi-collaborators so they don't verbally harass me."

Jessica's experience with such blatantly coercive behavior has shaped the way she approached grad school where, like Cynthia-Rose, the sexism she experienced has predominantly taken the form of marginalization, mocking, and erasure. It is clear that experiences fall along a continuum from illegal to unethical to relatively banal, but all manifestations of gender discrimination cause harm and are indicative of serious structural issues in the workplace

that negatively affect people of all genders.

It is important to note that these experiences are not universal, nor even particularly common, at Caltech. Two of the women with whom I spoke had never experienced sexism in the workplace and were highly complimentary of Caltech's relatively progressive culture. Beca, who left the Ph.D. program after two years, said, "Most of the issue for me personally was that academic research, especially in my field, wasn't a good fit for me from the beginning, and it took me a very long time to consciously realize it. My [technical] parents encouraged me to go into a technical field, and my mother in particular is extremely passionate about encouraging young women to go into math and physics [and] I think that's wonderful. At Caltech, my motivation just plummeted. I felt like I absolutely didn't belong there, and I started having severe anxiety just from being in classes. I felt like I was stuck in this competitive, workaholic environment. I wondered if it was related to the group I was in, so I changed groups. That didn't help. Long story short, I ... happily left grad school. I don't blame Caltech for my early departure at all. Academic research was not something I wanted to be doing, and I'm happy I realized that before spending more than two years there." Beca's disillusionment with academia was not related to a gendered experience, though imposter syndrome, a relentless anxiety derived from personal denial of admission legitimacy, generally seems to affect women more than men.

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Interhouse Committee (IHC) Chair (2 candidates)



CAT JAMSHIDI

I'm running for IHC Chair because I believe the House system is a fundamentally important part of Caltech, and I want to strengthen and preserve it through the upcoming year. I came to Caltech because of the community I saw in the Houses during my Prefrosh Weekend, and I want to make sure that community is there for everyone and new students are welcomed into it. Having served as ASCIT President for the past year, I've had the chance to work closely with the current IHC Chair and the previous House Presidents,

and I think that serving as IHC Chair would allow me to best support that sense of community, and change the Caltech student experience for the better.

The Houses have many good things to offer to the student experience. The UCCs and other upperclassmen are an invaluable resource for freshmen; the executive committees within each of the houses structure the feedback mechanism for student concerns. Following Rotation, freshmen are welcomed into their new home – where you find some of the closest friends you will ever have. Still, there is much room to improve. I want to ensure that everyone has the chance to see all the positive things that each house has to offer. I am very confident in my ability to serve as IHC Chair. My experiences as ASCIT President have prepared me to continue discussions with the Dean's office, Housing, the faculty, and Student Affairs. Through my responsibilities as ASCIT President, I have learned when to stick my ground and not back down, while maintaining respectful, constructive dialogue. I have been working with the previous IHC and

the newly-elected House Presidents on current issues, regarding the payout of House Endowments, and releasing the graduation rates of houses, as well as other topics. I am well acquainted with students, administrators, and faculty on campus and am fully prepared to represent the interests of students and fight to preserve our culture. I will work tirelessly to strengthen the role of the houses in supporting undergraduates and preparing us for life after Tech. The IHC is responsible for Rotation. Although I have not served on a House picks team, I will go into my role of Chair understanding that the Rotation process is important, and I plan on working very closely with the outgoing IHC to understand what worked well this year, and what challenges we can expect to face next fall. I want to continue the improvements made by the previous IHC to the Rotation process. I want to make sure it is transparent enough for prefrosh to make the best choices, and that the Houses can present themselves as they are.

Student Affairs is in a transitional period. Not only do we have a new Institute President,

who is faced with making a major decision regarding the Bechtel Residence, but Student Affairs will be welcoming a new Undergraduate Dean and Vice President for Student Affairs. Student leaders will have new faces to work with, and with this comes an opportunity to make positive changes. But if the relationship between student leaders and these new administrators is not protected, there is a potential for the student voice to be ignored. I will be able to provide perspective and the best understanding of what is important and what we can improve, and how to respect and involve students in that process. In summary, I see that the IHC Chair should be someone with a passion for the house system and a desire to serve the student body. I am confident in my ability to lead us through the coming year and the challenges and opportunities it holds. I look forward to continuing my service to the student body as Chair of the Interhouse Committee. Please don't hesitate to contact me at cjamshidi@caltech.edu if you have any questions.



ANDRE COMELLA

As I have toured around the Houses this week announcing my candidacy, the most common question I've been asked is, "What does the IHC Chair do?" As I see it, the Chair is responsible for two things: Rotation and student advocacy. Both of which sound simple, but are in reality very complicated issues to deal with.

The House system and Honor Code are Caltech's most distinguishing and important characteristics of the undergraduate experience. Houses provide incredible and unique environments for almost every undergrad, and few things have as profound an effect on one's experience as which House they rotate into. This is what makes Rotation so important, and largely why IHC Chair is such an important position. Having served on Blacker's picks team my sophomore year, I have gotten to see a great deal of the workings of Rotation and I feel I have gained much of the knowledge and experience necessary to run Rotation.

Dean Dabiri's articles about the graduation rates across the Houses have stirred up a lot of discussion about Rotation and the House system. I certainly believe that Rotation is a process we should be constantly re-examining. The Institute and the Houses are constantly changing, and as such, we should be willing to change our system for sorting prefrosh into those Houses accordingly. Changes must be made carefully, however, as negative changes could certainly damage the Houses in lasting ways.

Graduation rates can certainly be misleading information to give to prefrosh, and I believe we need to have careful discussion before deciding to do so. To us, a lot of the statistics can be put into context, but for a prefrosh, they are hard to understand. I have seen many people take time off for personal reasons or take extra time to graduate due to failing a single class--neither of which says much about academic performance. To a prefrosh, however, graduation rates would seem indicative of the academic performance of a house because they have yet to experience the subtleties and difficulties of graduating.

Board of Control Secretary (4 candidates)



CHRIS DOSEN

Hello all, my name is Chris Dosen and I am running to be BoC Secretary for the next year. The honor code is a cornerstone of the Caltech community and I feel that understanding it is the key to a successful Caltech experience. During the past year I have served as a BoC rep-at-large and I have assisted many in helping people achieve a greater understanding of the honor code. I have spent countless hours sitting cases on the Board, and have even volunteered to be acting Secretary on multiple occasions. Having been Secretary on cases in the past, I am well aware of the time commitment involved and am ready to take on the workload. In my experience on the Board, the vast majority of cases resulting in conviction that I have seen are a result of stress or misunderstanding of the policy. As such, I am of the belief that people who are convicted are not bad people, just people who made a bad decision. The function of the BoC is not to punish, but to educate. As such, I am always happy to provide informal consultation about honor code issues. If you have any

comments or questions about my candidacy in specific or the honor code in general, please do not hesitate to contact me at cdosen@caltech.edu.



JAY PALEKAR

Dear Caltech,

My name is Jay Palekar and I am running for Board of Control Secretary. Over the past two years I've had the pleasure of serving on both the BoC and the ARC, and in that time I've come to appreciate the value of the Honor Code. I desperately rely on collaboration to get through my sets, abuse my card access to buildings late at night, and take my exams at the oddest hours. I can't imagine my Caltech experience without these privileges. The Honor Code makes life at Caltech completely different from anything undergraduates at other schools experience, and as BoC Secretary, I intend to be its committed advocate.

In the past year, I've served as the Avery Representative to the Board, sitting nearly fifty hours of cases, acting as a case secretary, learning about the inner workings of the BoC, and doing my best

to ensure that the principles of the Honor Code are upheld. Additionally, in my time sitting on the ARC, I've been privy to the conversations held between the faculty and students on the future of the Honor Code and understand their interpretation of it. I will do my best to ensure that the entire Caltech community can feel comfortable with the BoC, so that Caltech students continue to have access to the traditions and experiences that have made us unique.

I've served as a member of the Board of Control because I wanted to be part of maintaining what I consider an integral part of Caltech. I'm running for its leadership to help ensure that Caltech students will continue to experience these freedoms uninhibited.

Jay Palekar



KATE EVANS

The BoC is probably my favorite aspect of Caltech. While going through the process of being BoCed is by no means a pleasant experience for any party involved, the fact that we have such a strong Honor Code, and

faith in the undergraduates to enforce it, never ceases to astonish me. In my opinion, this is what makes Caltech so great. I've taken finals at four in the morning, in footie pajamas and while watching Dexter, or sitting in a coffee shop, and both of these are far superior options for me, emotionally and academically, than my friends' colleges which force them to take theirs at 7 am in a crowded lecture hall. I was recently speaking to a Stanford alumnus who said that Stanford has an honor code, in the form of a handbook full of rules and guidelines. To me, that's not an honor code, and that's nothing like what we have here: ours is an understanding of mutual respect, and a consistent effort to do the best thing for everyone involved.

I'm running for BoC secretary because this is a freedom that I don't want to see die, and honestly, I think I'd be great for the job. The secretary is one of the main people who the defendants interact with, and as someone who's also a UCC, I feel like I'm pretty well equipped to work with people who are taking the process hard. The ultimate goal is to make sure that they understand where they went wrong and how to avoid going wrong again in the future, so that we can keep the Honor Code as strong as it is and as strong as it has been: we need the BoC to be a learning experience so that we can adequately protect the person, and our community, and conserve the uniquely trusting environment that we're fortunate enough to have.

JALEX STARK

No statement or photo submitted.

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STATEMENTS

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

MARCH 9, 2015 3

IHC Chair (continued from page 2)

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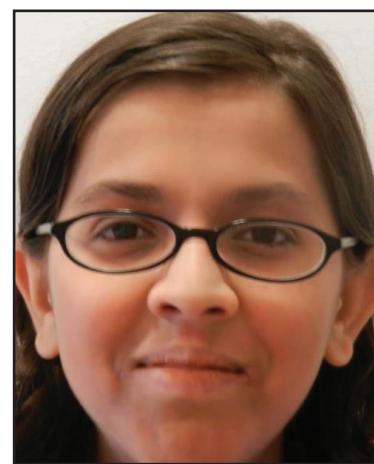
Yes, the numbers are now out there, but explicitly giving the prefrosh numbers puts too much emphasis on the numbers themselves, and neglects the overwhelming importance of the environment. It seems rather harmful to have prefrosh try to rotate into Houses that do better in terms of statistics, but for which they are a poor fit. After all, many of us would readily admit that without the support of our Houses and the ease with which they allow us to collaborate, doing well in classes would be substantially harder. Greater transparency of information is certainly possible, but care would have to be taken to ensure the information is taken in the appropriate context.

Once Rotation is over, the IHC Chair has a great deal of influence to wield on behalf of the students. Since coming to Caltech I have made bettering this campus a priority. I have taken up many roles in Blacker and on campus, ranging from UCC to co-chair of the Title IX committee. In general, I try to be a person who helps and supports the undergrads, and who is willing to do favors for students around campus. Besides being a full member of Blacker and Ricketts, I do make a point of trying to keep up relationships in other Houses so I can better understand and help the campus. As IHC Chair, I would like to continue coming to dinners so I can maintain open communication to and from the IHC.

Currently I chair the Stewardship Committee (also known as Stewcomm), a committee of representatives from each House that interface between their Houses and the Housing department. As Chair of this committee, I have helped reconcile issues Houses have with each other and Housing, as well as mitigate and avoid damages. I have offered my time, labor, and advice to all the House Stewards. I believe the other stewards and I have improved the relationship between the Houses and Housing, leading to a greater trust in students to take care of their homes. This gives us more freedom to do what we want, more opportunity to deal with issues ourselves, and ultimately leads to fewer charges. So far this year, combined charges to the Houses have totaled less than \$4000. For comparison, in years past, I have seen thousands more than this charged in single terms.

As Stewcomm Chair, I have also had the opportunity to work with important decision makers such as Erik Snowberg, Paul Asimov, Tom Mannion, Peter Daily, Dean Dabiri, and Anneila Sargent. Most of this was while serving on the Student Life and Housing Committee.

Conduct Review Committee (CRC) Student Co-Chair (4)



BIANCA RAY AVALANI

MEGAN KEEHAN

(NO PHOTO SUBMITTED)

I'm Megan Keehan, and I am running for CrC Co-Chair for the year 2015-2016. My goals as Co-Chair include differentiating honest mistakes from malicious intent, increasing public knowledge of common CrC cases, and preventing people from making mistakes that will wind up being seen in the CrC. I have already served as Co-Chair on several cases, and I am very familiar with the how cases are run and organized. I've worked as a regular CrC member on more cases than any other CrC member. I have worked with Dean Nye on other committees, primarily the Safety Net Committee. I hope to improve the way that the CrC works and prevent many of the current unnecessary cases from even happening.

As a member of the Caltech community, I find that the Honor Code is an integral part of my life here both in academic and non-academic matters. The academic side of ethical behavior is often mentioned, but the personal and social side is equally important yet less visible. As last year's off-campus CRC rep, as well as through my time being a Title IX representative, UCC, and Head UCC, I have had considerable experience investigating ethical concerns and ramifications in matters such as potential hazing, sexual harassment, and security breaches. This year, as CRC student co-chair, I plan to interface with faculty, staff, and students to uphold Caltech's ethical standards while also working to improve the CRC's procedure, functionality, and efficiency. If elected, I look forward to bringing my increased skill set to the table to protect all parts of our community in the matters that are crucial to our life at Tech.

Several weeks ago, I presented this committee with a proposal for a significantly simplified and streamlined mural policy, which passed. The policy is now awaiting its final stages of approval, but I hope to have it implemented in the coming weeks, and if it is not, I will continue to pursue this issue. The aim of the new policy is to reduce the number of obstacles students must navigate in order to have fun and express themselves, and also to show administrators that students can be trusted to be reasonable and responsible and take care of their Houses as buildings and communities.

I believe the position of IHC Chair will allow me to further my goals to improve student life. While there are certainly many challenges to face in the coming year, I believe I can handle them all very well. I have the talent, the experience, and the dedication to do so. I intend to spend my Sunday evening hanging around CHouse to talk to people and answer questions. You are also all welcome to email me (acomella@caltech.edu) or find me in person, usually somewhere around Blacker and Ricketts. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to serving this campus in whatever ways I can in the coming year.



KEEGAN RYAN



PARUL PUBBI

Does the CRC violate the Honor Code?

If the question seems blatantly ridiculous, that's because it is. The CRC's very purpose is to review alleged non-academic Honor Code violations and institute policy violations. If one or the other is found to have occurred, the CRC makes a recommendation to the Deans, which, according to the Honor Code Handbook, ought to be "in the best interest of the entire Caltech community." The CRC and the Caltech community therefore need to go hand in hand.

I plan to achieve the goal of dividing cases into blunders and malevolent actions. I have a lot of experience in the CrC with these kinds of cases. I think that nobody deserves to have their life ruined by an innocent or naive mistake. College is about learning how to live in the real world. I want to avoid any cases that result in people feeling punished rather than educated by decisions from the CrC while I am Co-Chair.

To reduce common CrC cases, I plan on presenting a generalized list of high-frequency and unnecessary CrC cases. Many freshmen break rules that they do not realize are CrC-level offenses. Going through a full CrC case is incredibly stressful, so it is something to be avoided if at all possible. I want to give more freshmen an idea of what actions might end up in the CrC. The current frosh camp talk ignores the details of what really ruins some freshmen's years. I want to be more transparent while still protecting the privacy of previous CrC cases.

Overall, I hope to fix some of the biggest problems of the CrC while still maintaining its integrity as the organization that protects students from administrators.

The CRC needs a co-chair who cares deeply about the Honor Code, who wants to make the Caltech community stronger, and who can be trusted by students to do the job fairly. For the past year, I have been representing these ideals on the CRC for Blacker, and it would be my honor to represent them for the entire student body.

Watching Grace serve as CRC Co-Chair has also shown me the amount of work the position requires: going through each statement, making sure records are up-to-date, keeping track of the various parties involved. It's a serious task that deserves to be handled with respect. I know I'd do a good job. I'm decisive and can handle the responsibility.

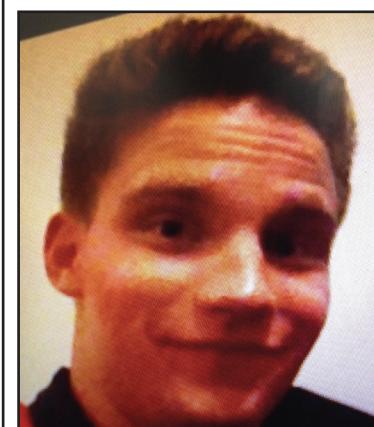
Being called in for any disciplinary hearing can be daunting. I'd like to utilize my experience in order to keep the process both very fair and as simple as possible for all parties involved.

If you have any questions or comments about the CRC, my statement, or my experience, feel free to email me at ppubbi@caltech.edu.

Thanks,

Parul

BoC Chair (1)



PAUL DIETERLE

"...the more one writes, the less people read." - Sunil Golwala

As chair, I will lead a BoC which more fervently advocates for students than any prior Board.

Please refer to page 7 for the group candidate statements for *The California Tech Editors*.

(Voting is on March 9,
10 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.)

Restarter fails to further Torche's influence in metal

NAILEN MATSCHKE
Contributing Writer

Thanks to the prevalence of formative acts like Down and Queens of the Stone Age in the late '90s and early '00s, the often mixed genres of sludge and stoner metal have seen a great deal of mainstream success in the past 10 years, and Torche has been one of the larger figures in this surge, releasing multiple critically acclaimed albums. While several figureheads including Mastodon and Baroness have adopted progressive elements and moved on to entirely different musical directions, Torche has maintained a consistent output of fast and at times crushingly heavy metal that, through its bright, eclectic melodies and clean vocals, maintains appeal to a broader audience than that of many of their peers.

It's hard to point to a specific selection of Torche's discography as a seminal work or (at least in my opinion) as a truly outstanding example of sludge metal, but there's no denying that albums like *Meanderthal* and *Harmonicraft* are simply fun to listen to, packed from front to back with energetic three-minute-long odes to distortion. The members of Torche don't pretend to be the most talented musicians, often opting for riffs borrowed from punk despite tuning so low there's no way they could play anything but metal, but this foundation is sweetened by the competence with which the band blends such a wide

variety of stylistic elements, and the aforementioned vocals which lend a lighthearted flavor to the music. Still, the fact that the band has toured with artists ranging from Mogwai to High on Fire shows just how wide Torche's fan base is, and that the band is important as an indicator of sludge metal's success alone.

On *Restarter*, released on Feb. 23, we get to hear Torche playing with perhaps the band's heaviest sound yet, with guitar and bass tones that absolutely dominate the mix rolling slowly over the listener as they're delivered patiently with song lengths that tend toward four-plus minutes.

There's no mistaking this for some kind of artistic reinvention, though, as opener "Annihilation Affair" comes right out of the gate with a punishing slow-motion stutter step that builds momentum until it feels like an unstoppable force when paired with harmonized vocals chanting "Know it/Build it/Grow it/Blow it." Aesthetically, it's a perfect rendition of the overwhelming thickness of traditional sludge and stoner metal, but at the same time it comes off as a bit lazy to play one riff through the entire song, with one variation involving some simple licks thrown in and the other using only a single note. This is not

too out of the ordinary, stylistically speaking, but to open *Restarter* like this (as opposed to the more explosive intros in Torche's earlier work) and then rarely rise above



-<http://torche.bandcamp.com>

this level of complexity is not exactly impressive. It doesn't help that the track's last two minutes are nothing but guitar feedback and some drum hits, which may have a place musically but I found to be unnecessary, especially when starting off an album.

The theme of "one riff per song" proves to be a common one, and while it works in some cases it makes other songs disappointingly forgettable, and means that even some of the album's standout tracks are hardly worth coming back to when there are so many better and more innovative sludge metal singles out there. "Minions"

pulls off this composition style most effectively, using gradually crescendoing drums to make it feel like the band is building up to something. However, when the moment comes it ends up just being a drawn out duet of airy high-pitched guitars wailing at each other, instead of even an attempt at a solo or a neat vocal part, or anything that really gives the listener something to care about. This, I suppose, is my greatest gripe with the album: it's just *boring* in comparison to the commotion, catchiness, and psychedelic colors of the band's earlier work. *Harmonicraft*, for example, had tracks like "Letting Go,"

which kicks off the album with a jig played by the guitar, "Walk It Off" with its chiptune-like pitch-shifted guitar solo, and the furious yet bright "Sky Trials," which sounds like it legitimately could have been written by *Blood Mountain*-era Mastodon. *Restarter* doesn't even come close to this level of detail, with the worst offender being the title track which actually has the band playing the same exact melody — which almost anyone could have written — for almost nine minutes. Admittedly, there are some ornaments that come in and out of the background, and through this the band does manage

to build and keep the momentum the music desperately needs, but writing songs like this doesn't make sense given what Torche has already demonstrated it is capable of, and it doesn't seem like they earnestly tried to produce a great album.

With that said, *Restarter* on the whole isn't irredeemable. The rollicking guitars of the second track, "Bishop in Arms," distinctly recalls the band's earlier material, while the album's shortest number, "Undone," is metal through and through, with some brutal double bass rolls punctuating furious chugging from the guitars and bass. The degree to which the distortion and as-loud-as-possible mastering turn this into a completely unintelligible mess borders on silly, however, and feels a little like a gimmick instead of a legitimate stylistic choice. But while songs like "Blasted" and the lumbering "Believe It" are *all right* and aren't a bother to listen to, most of what's presented on *Restarter* is so devoid of anything to make it stand out, and I felt as though there was little to gain from successive plays. Since the band's inception, Torche has been steadily improving its songwriting, and I was excited for an album that would go a step further, but this is not it. By playing a sludge metal mixture without a defining feature like Kvelertak's black metal or Red Fang's rock grooves, Torche misses the bar it set for itself and leaves us with the disappointment that *Restarter* is.

Perceptions of family create roadblock for women in STEM

Continued from page 1

Stacie, who completed her studies and now has an excellent job in industry, said, "I had no problems with all the gender stuff at Caltech. I felt supported, non-discriminated, and honestly content about that stuff the whole time. [That said,] imposter syndrome is completely real. I think every single one of my friends at Caltech (minus a few) was seeing a psychologist while attending. I, too, felt like I constantly didn't belong and now I wonder if it is manifested into my current position in industry. [I'm] not quite sure if it will ever go away. I wouldn't have traded my experience at Caltech for the world. I truly enjoyed all the people, mentors, students, and professors who I interacted with. They are some of the kindest, most intelligent people I've ever met."

The majority of cases of adviser-student relationships hurting women come down to either sexist attitudes prevalent in older advisers, or well-intentioned people inadvertently pushing all the wrong buttons. For many advisers, their only model student-advisor relationships comes from their own, often highly dysfunctional, academic history. How can we clear the roadblocks to

help advisers help their students? Chloe suggested, "It's hard [to adversarially confront professors] because they're indestructible. They cannot be threatened except with shame. I don't think it exists, but we could all benefit from lessons for faculty on management of groups and people. How [do you] make sure a working environment is a comfortable, happy and productive place? Advisers in academia get zero management training. Eventually, they learn, but being alone makes for plenty of mistakes [and] undue harm."

One final key roadblock that women face in STEM is perceptions regarding family, which becomes a bigger concern as students enter their late 20s. What surprised me during my conversations was not a recognition that family life and academia are broadly incompatible, but that that was just the way things were. The Nordic countries have highly progressive family-leave regulations, and have seen vastly improved gender equality in the workplace. Those laws are not present in California, and thus compliance at Caltech, even if it were a nice idea, is not required. I know of a case where a Caltech professor, expecting x units of labor per grad student stipend, stonewalled female students who had children until they were

forced to switch labs to make room for new, more productive students.

Beca, who left the Ph.D. program for non-family reasons, nonetheless recognized family as a major challenge to an academic career. "The experience of being in grad school and getting a peek into academia just reinforced my decision to leave. I originally thought I'd like to become a professor, and I realized over time how tough that path must be on relationships. You move every few years for postdocs and having to deal with a two-body problem sounded like a special kind of hell. Add to that the idea of trying to achieve enough to secure tenure when you're at the age where you might like to start a family. It's simply not the lifestyle I want. I highly prioritize work-life balance and relationships over career ambition, and I didn't see that as compatible with academia."

"I originally thought I'd like to become a professor, and I realized over time how tough that path must be on relationships."

Lilly added, "Many marriages end at Caltech. I personally know two men whose wives left them.

Families have been around for a while, but there's an official family policy now, as of 2012, in compliance with federal law on family leave."

In these instances, academia's male-centric, traditional inflexibility with regard to family life continues to harm people of all genders. As a small, well-funded and leading institution, Caltech has a golden opportunity to lead by example, to show how science should be done in the 21st century, without waiting for eventual but inevitable legal compulsion.

For the women I spoke with, academia seemed a fixed constant. You either adapt or you leave. Cynthia-Rose and Patricia agreed that women are socially conditioned to be polite and to not rock the boat. Cynthia-Rose said, "I knew I wasn't going to be a professor. I knew I didn't have the drive, didn't enjoy coming up with big scientific questions, figuring out ways to solve questions, writing grants. Sexism is extant in academia and it's not going away anytime soon. Grad students are seen as slave labor; they don't have a union. We'll be taken advantage of until there are no more grad students."

Patricia, whose office mate eventually became aware of these issues, said, "It's not my personality to be confrontational

[but] people can tell I'm pissed off, even if I don't like talking about it. Since everyone's going to know, I need to say something. What people said or thought, or their intentions, doesn't matter; what matters is how I feel about it. Don't make it about them; it's about how it's experienced. Sexism is an experienced, felt thing [and] it's more constructive to talk about it. You can be careful about how you say it, but you're okay to feel that; no one can tell you that it's wrong or bad. If you feel bad, say something about it. It's part of participating in a shared workplace. You shouldn't have to grit your teeth and deal with it. Even if the gender ratio is 50-50, if women hate being there it doesn't solve the problem."

All my interlocutors were happy to recount their experiences, but most were more comfortable with blaming themselves than being assertive about blaming others, even when that blame was obviously warranted. Perhaps, given the lack of empowerment to do much about extrinsic gender-specific challenges, internalizing the struggle is a survival strategy. Chloe, who has flourished at Caltech in spite of enduring the most overt harassment of any of the women with whom I spoke, ended our conversation with "Maybe there's something wrong with me."

Women's water polo converges on Claremont Convergence Tournament

GOCALTECH.COM

Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA, Calif. (Mar. 6, 2015) – Junior Soumya Kannan (Palo Alto, Calif. / Henry M. Gunn) netted five goals over the Caltech women's water polo team's first two games in the season-opening Convergence Tournament on Friday.

The Beavers took on the University of La Verne in the 10:00 a.m. game at Pomona-Pitzer Colleges and Chapman University in the afternoon at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges.

Game 1: Caltech 5, La Verne 16

After three scoreless minutes, La Verne netted the first three goals of the game before the Beavers got on the board. Kannan opened her account for the season at the 1:57 mark and junior Stephanie Wong (Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. / Palos Verdes Peninsula) scored just minutes into her debut shortly thereafter to bring Caltech back within two at 4-2.

La Verne scored on its final possession of the quarter and tacked on two more to start the second when senior Shalini Majumdar (Orinda, Calif. / Miramonte) found the back of the net to make it 7-3. The captain completed the brace later in the quarter, but the Leopards surged to a 13-4 lead at halftime. La Verne added three more in the third quarter before Caltech locked down on defense, not allowing a single goal in the final 11 minutes of play, and Kannan netted a consolation goal at the buzzer for the Beavers' highest goal total against a conference opponent in almost two years.

Game 2: Caltech 3, Chapman 22

The Beavers found themselves down 4-0 to start their second game, when Kannan struck for her third goal of the day. Chapman

exploded for nine unanswered goals over the remainder of the first half, but Kannan grabbed a goal in each of the final periods to complete the hat trick. CLAREMONT, Calif. (Mar. 7, 2015) – Senior Shalini Majumdar (Orinda, Calif. / Miramonte) scored five goals over a pair of games as the Caltech women's water polo team took on Occidental College and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges in the Convergence Tournament on Saturday.

After scoring more goals in the season opener (five) than they had against any conference opponent in nearly two years, the Beavers matched the feat twice this afternoon. Caltech has already scored more goals (18) in four games against conference opponents this season than in the eight games last year preceding the SCIAC Championships.

Game 3: Caltech 5, Occidental 24

Oxy wasted no time in sprinting to a 4-0 lead over the first four minutes of the game. Senior Monica Enlow (Suwanee, Ga. / North Gwinnett) netted the Beavers' first goal of the day at the 3:32 mark, but the Tigers would lead 7-1 at the end of the quarter. Both team captains, Majumdar and junior Soumya Kannan (Palo Alto, Calif. / Henry M. Gunn), bagged a brace over the final three quarters, with Kannan scoring another final-possession goal with five seconds remaining.

Game 4: Caltech 5, CMS 16

The Athenas netted the first three goals of the game before Majumdar struck for the Beavers' first, but CMS would extend the lead to 10-1 at halftime. Caltech mustered a mini-run to open the second half, however, as Majumdar completed the hat trick and both Kannan and freshman Carly Robison (Saratoga, Calif. / Castilleja) tallied goals to pull back within six at 10-4. The Athenas recovered to put the game out of reach, though, with a 16-5 final score.

Come to the women's water polo season opener on Tuesday, March 10, at 5 p.m.!



After assessing the competition at the Claremont Convergence Tournament, Soumya "The Destroyer" Kanaan finds no limit to the hurt she can bring to her opponents.

-<http://gocaltech.com>

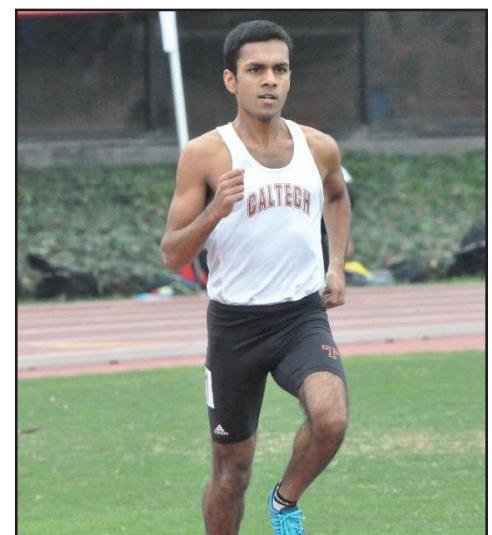
Bhagavathi continues to run down competition

GOCALTECH.COM

Actual Sports Content Editor

mile and surged to the front of the pack over the final three laps on the 200-meter track to record the fastest 5k time in program history at 14:48.94.

"As a program, we aspire to greater competitive success and this was a step toward that in terms of opportunity and achievement," Raphelson said. "It shows that Caltech student-athletes can perform at a high level against top Division III competition."



Aditya Bhagavathi stares majestically off into the distance, knowing that he is a winner.

-<http://gocaltech.com>

Women's tennis registers win, receives permit to dominate

GOCALTECH.COM

Actual Sports Content Editor

PASADENA, Calif. (Mar. 7, 2015) – Sophomore Sophia Chen (Newport Beach, Calif. / Corona Del Mar) registered decisive wins at #2 doubles and #2 singles as the Caltech women's tennis team posted a dominant 8-1 win over Principia College on Saturday afternoon.

Caltech, recently ranked No. 12 in the first Intercollegiate Tennis Association NCAA Division III West Region Rankings of the season, improves to 3-3 overall while Principia drops to 3-4.

Freshman Erin Wang (Auburn, Calif. / Del Oro) and Chen stormed to the lead at #2 doubles, going on to win convincingly at 8-1. The #1 pairing for Caltech fell behind on a pair of early breaks before salvaging a few games in an 8-4 loss as Principia leveled the match score, but the #3 team of freshmen Grace Yao (La Palma, Calif. / Oxford Acad.) and Sarah Antilla (Redondo Beach, Calif. / Redondo Union) picked up a break midway through and closed out their match with an 8-4 win, giving Caltech the 2-1 edge.

The Beavers completely took over in singles play, going up a set at all six courts while dropping a total of just five games across the lineup. Yao and Morton quickly

finished things off at #5 (6-0, 6-0) and #6 (6-1, 6-1) to bring Caltech within one point of clinching the match, which Wang soon claimed at #3 (6-1, 6-1). Freshman Sarah Cai (Livermore, Calif. / West Lafayette Jr./Sr.) and Chen followed not long after with wins at #1 (6-1, 6-2) and #2 (6-0, 6-1) singles, and freshman Vinci Chen (Austin, Texas / Westwood) capped the day with a hard-fought 6-2, 6-3 win at #4 for the final 8-1 score line.



I wish I could describe this picture of Sophia Chen using the appropriate emojis.

-<http://gocaltech.com>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MARCH 9, 2015

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

ASCIT Minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for 4 March 2015. Taken by Sean McKenna.

Officers Present: Cat Jamshidi, Connor Rosen, Nima Badizadegan, Patrick Nikong, Annie Chen, Sean McKenna

Guests: None

Call to Order: 12:33 pm

President's Report (Cat):

- The provost and the president will meet to talk about teaching quality. The ARC may put together a report on the student perspective of teaching quality.
- BOC Bylaw Voting will happen on Monday the 9th in conjunction with IHC/BOC/CRC etc. votes.
- Midnight donuts is tonight!

Officer's Reports:

- V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Nima):**
 - New ARC reps have been elected from most houses.
- V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):**
 - IHC is meeting with President Rosenbaum on April 4th. Talk to your house president if you want them to say something
 - New mural policy will be implemented soon. Goal is to streamline the process.
 - Prefrosh weekend will come up soon, including house social events.
 - REMEMBER: high school students are not allowed at Interhouse parties.
- Interim Director of Operations (Sean):**
 - ASCIT will provide some kind of event for prefrosh weekend.
- Treasurer (Patrick):**
 - Nothing to report
- Social Director (Annie):**
 - Still looking for an event to provide transportation.
- Secretary (Sean):**
 - Anneila Meeting next week

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. The next meeting will take place on March 13th at 8pm in SAC 15.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:13pm

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE.

**REMINDER FROM
THE COUNSELING CENTER:**

Meditation Mob
(drop-in mindfulness
meditation group)
Meets every Tuesday
Bottom floor of Winnett
12:00-12:50 pm

2015 CALTECH UNDERGRADUATE WRITING PRIZES

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

Submit your Writing this year for these prizes:

MARY A. EARL MCKINNEY PRIZE IN LITERATURE

AWARDED TO THE BEST ORIGINAL POETRY AND FICTION. SUBMIT UP TO 3 POEMS. FICTION SHOULD NOT EXCEED 12,000 WORDS.

Prize amount: \$ 500.00/each category

HALLETT SMITH PRIZE

Awarded to an outstanding essay related to the work of Shakespeare.

Prize amount: \$500.00

Submission Guidelines:

Deadline: April 3rd, 2015

Only currently enrolled full-time students may submit. Entries should be double-spaced PDFs. Winners will be announced in June, and winners' names will be in the commencement program. Winning writing will be archived using CODA through the Caltech Library. Email entries to Sini Elvington at elvington@hss.caltech.edu, noting the prize to which you are applying in the email subject and filename.

Contact Sini Elvington at elvington@hss.caltech.edu with any questions

The California Tech

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The Tech is published weekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers.

Letters and submissions are welcome; e-mail submissions to tech@caltech.edu as plain-text attachments, including the author's name, by Friday of the week before publication. *The Tech* does accept anonymous contributions under special circumstances. The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author.

The advertising deadline is 5 PM Friday; 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. For subscription information, please send mail to "Subscriptions."

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Flexible hours.

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Outgoing Personality.

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\$15 per hour

**Caltech Students
only!!**

Contact: Adam Jacobo

626.395.5907

ajacobo@caltech.edu

Candidate Statements: *The California Tech* Editors (2 groups)



ANDREW ZHAO, VIBHOR KUMAR, AND KEVIN YUH

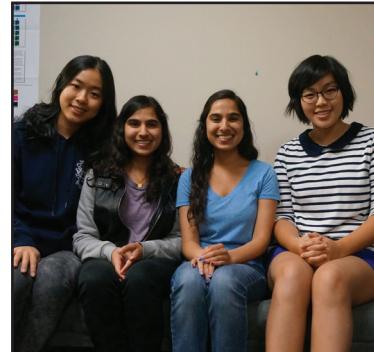
Our team will completely transform the Cal Tek into a masterpiece of literary art. Each of our members will bring their unique abilities to the coffee table. Vibbear ☐(☐☐) chan will bring his exceptional taste in curry and all things like to totally transform the Poly into a revolutionary column in the greatest food of the planet. Kevkev Yuh will use his extensive mass of experience in the aquatic watersports as well as the rest of the athletic world to bring excellence and Free!dom to the Pasadena Comm sports/humor section. Anthy Zorgydorgs will edit the holistic excellence of the paper and ensure proper use of language for maximal readability and understandance. His timeless experience in the ☐☐ through watching multicultural media like en☐ dubbed yu-gi-oh! have solidified his strong foundation in ISO-23984 standard en-US language encoding and transmission methods. This badass rockstar team of crack editors will be unmatched in their prowess and create the greatest Caluterhan Pol San Luis Obispo has ever seen.

-Vib"free tubs of"hor Ku"curry"mar, And"webabes"rew Zh"only"ao Kev"I only swim"kev Yu"breaststroke"h

*** Current editors' note: The characters for each "☐" can be found on the document at <http://goo.gl/2rfXje>.

(They are not able to be printed using this program.)

Candidate statements for all other offices can be found on pages 2-3.



KATHERINE GUO, CHLOE HSU, NEERA SHAH, AND NEHALY SHAH

Neera and Nehaly each have more than six years of journalism experience as article writers, copy editors, layout editors, and business managers. In the past year as part of The California Tech staff, they have worked to increase student input in the weekly issues and have put together a strong team of consistent writers. They have also worked to include a broad range of content that appeals to various student interests.

Katherine was editor-in-chief of her high school literary magazine and has extensive experience with Photoshop and InDesign. She views The Tech as an important resource for many students here to connect to the community and learn about both local and global news. It is important that the paper continues to be an open platform for Techers to communicate and deliberate ideas that affect the campus as a whole.

Chloe also has experience with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop, in addition to Fireworks, and was a page design/layout editor for several high school publications. She has consistently contributed to The Tech as a writer this past year.

As a group, we will continue to ensure that students' voices are heard and that The Tech remains a source through which students can discuss important and relevant topics. We hope The Tech can continue to be a discussion point to be questioned and challenged by the audience. We always welcome student feedback and new contributors, and we will make an effort to include everyone on campus. An important facet of journalism is to keep this community connected by sharing news and providing an outlet for student opinions.

We are all committed to maintaining the professionalism of The Tech and upholding the standards of a college newspaper. We have all been regular contributors to The Tech and are willing to put in the time and effort necessary to put out a great paper every week.

ADAM JERMYN
Contributing Writer

In the recently released data on House graduation rates, a notable outlier was Dabney House, well below average. As both a Darb and a representative on various student-faculty committees, I spent quite some time thinking about this fact. In the process, I realized that the story is more subtle than graduation rates alone indicate.

In my freshman and sophomore years, a majority of the attendees of Caltech's Physics League were members of Dabney. Sophomore

and junior year, more than half of the members of the Academics and Research Committee were members of Dabney House. In the recent Student-Faculty Conference, half of the committee chairs were Darbs, as were roughly 40% of student attendees, and similar distributions held for the previous conference as well. Dabney contributes a disproportionate number of tutors for Core courses, a majority of the teaching assistants for Mao, a disproportionate number of Board of Control representatives, and a proportionate number of teaching assistants for upper-division courses. All of these are

indicators of positive academic performance, or at least a strong care for academics.

The picture this paints is not one of a House uninterested in academics, nor is it one of a House without success stories. On the other hand, the graduation rate data does indicate that Darbs meet with more than their fair share of challenges. I think that it is important to keep this perspective in mind. Otherwise the picture painted by the graduation rate data is incomplete at best, and outright misleading at worst. We are scientists: it is our job to dig deeper, and I hope that we do.

Caltech Y Column

CALTECH Y

The Caltech Y Column serves to inform students of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. The list is compiled by Neera Shah from information given by the Caltech Y and its student leaders.

Founded by students in 1916, the Y was organized to provide extracurricular activities planned and implemented by students as an opportunity to learn leadership skills and discover themselves. The mission of today's Y remains the same—to provide opportunities that will prepare students to become engaged, responsible citizens of the world. The Y seeks to broaden students' worldviews, raise social, ethical, and cultural awareness through teamwork, community engagement, activism, and leadership. More information about the Caltech Y and its programs can be found at <https://caltechy.org>. The office is located at 505 S. Wilson Avenue.

Upcoming Events

1. Decompression

Saturday | March 14th | 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Stressed during finals week? Join us to decompress with free food - burgers, hot dogs, cookies, fruit and veggies, ice cream, chips and drinks; entertainment - movies; and just hanging out with your friends. It is a great way to relax a little in the middle of finals.

If you'd like to volunteer to help out, please fill out the form here:

<http://goo.gl/1g1/>

forms/3sJbZtwCNa.

The theme is the Lego Movie and volunteers get a free T-shirt. We'll also need help with screening t-shirts this week, so don't forget to check that box to help with t-shirts if you want to learn and help with screening!

2. Caltech Y - Alternative Spring Break Trips

Applications Due Friday, March 6th

The Caltech Y is seeking applicants for our 2015 Alternative Spring Break trips. Join other Caltech Students for an adventure on one of our non-traditional spring break experiences in Malibu or on Catalina Island. Both trips will include opportunities for volunteer work as well as relaxation and adventure...not to mention making new friends with other Caltech students.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to explore a new place, have fun, and make a tangible difference in the world.

More info and applications can be found at https://caltechy.org/programs_services/areas/asb/index.php.

Other Announcements - Beyond the Caltech Y

Banff Mountain Film Festival

Monday | March 16th | 7:30 PM | Beckman Auditorium

The alpine club is hosting the Banff mountain film festival again this year on Monday, March 16th, 2015 at 7:30pm in Beckman Auditorium! We'll be hosting a reception before the event at 6pm at the Gene Pool with the help of the American Alpine Club, the local search and rescue teams, and of course all of our great raffle donors!

It'll be a great event and we hope everyone can make it for some great give aways and awesome adventure films!

Tickets are on sale at the Caltech Ticket office (626-395-4652) or online. Ticket prices as: Students \$5/General admission \$12/Door \$15.

For more info about the event, see the Caltech Events Page/Facebook:

<http://www.caltech.edu/content/banff-mountain-film-festival-6>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1563680337222483>

Hope to see you all there and happy adventuring!

Little known resources

KSHITIJ GROVER

Contributing Writer

While you're busy doing your sets and going to wild Interhouse parties, I bet you can't even imagine what Caltech is hiding from you. Let me break it to you — it's a lot. I'm going to be ambitious and say you've never thought these things:

1. **Discounted movie tickets.** Who wants to pay \$11.50 to watch a movie? Head over to the Caltech Y to get an AMC voucher as cheap as \$7.00. But guys: this still doesn't excuse you from taking that first date to a movie.

2. **Rentals for nominal prices.** This is another Caltech Y perk. Thinking of exploring the wild outdoors next weekend? You can get ski equipment, sleeping bags, coolers, tents, radios, and more for basically free at the Caltech Y. Huge PA systems are \$10 a day ... with the number of ragers Caltech throws every weekend, this could be a game-changer.

3. **Borrowing from SFL.** I started a blog recently, but I have a sub-par Nexus 4 Camera. I was bummed when I uploaded grainy-pictures (to my massive audience). SFL has Canon Rebel DSLRs and GoPros that you can rent for 24 hours.

4. **Box space.** Box is like Dropbox, except Caltech gives you space for free — 50 GB. Go to <http://caltech.box.com> and store all the backups of your all-important LaTeX sets and MATLAB files.

5. **Discounts.** Panda Express, authentic Asian cuisine, has a Caltech discount — ever thought to pull out your ID there? What about when you're booking that SuperShuttle home? Caltech even has discounts on SeaWorld, Disneyland, and even Clippers games (<http://discounts.bookstore.caltech.edu/>).

Did I miss something? Send me an email (kgrover@caltech.edu) or give me a shout next time you see me.

HUMOR

8

MARCH 9, 2015

THE CALIFORNIA TECH

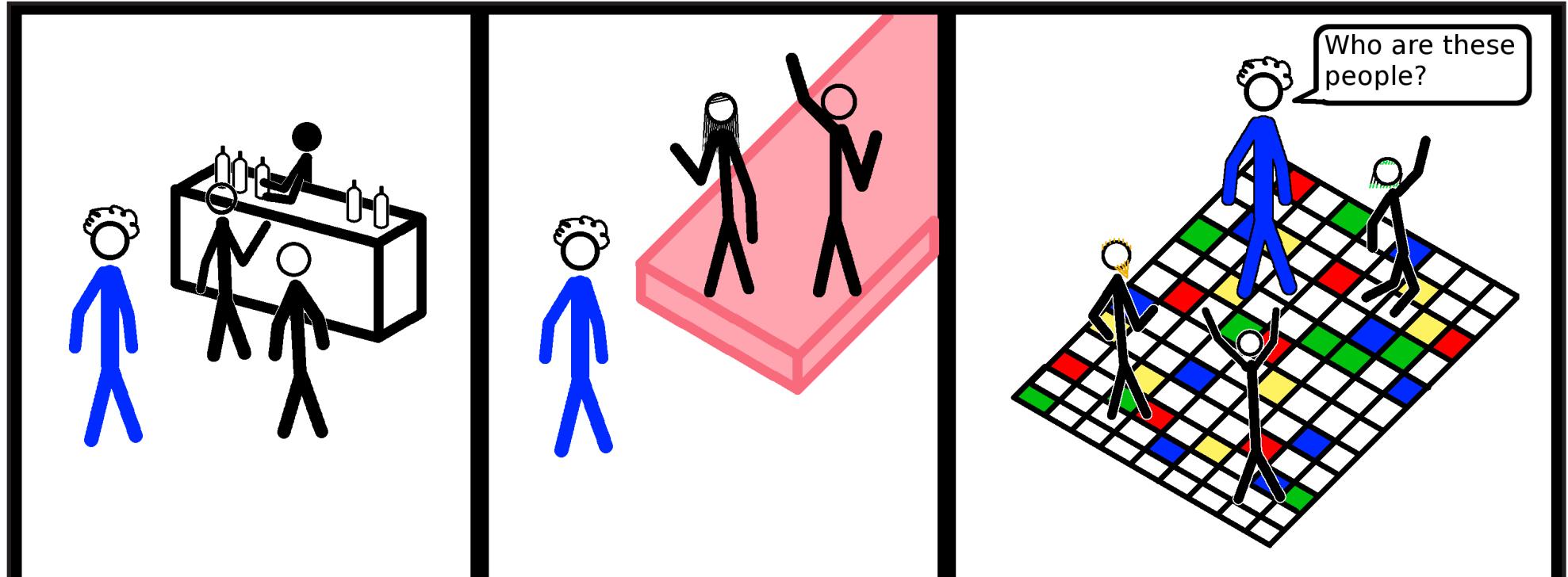
Acquired Taste

Dr. Z



"The closest you can get to a party at another college"

Georgio Kraggman



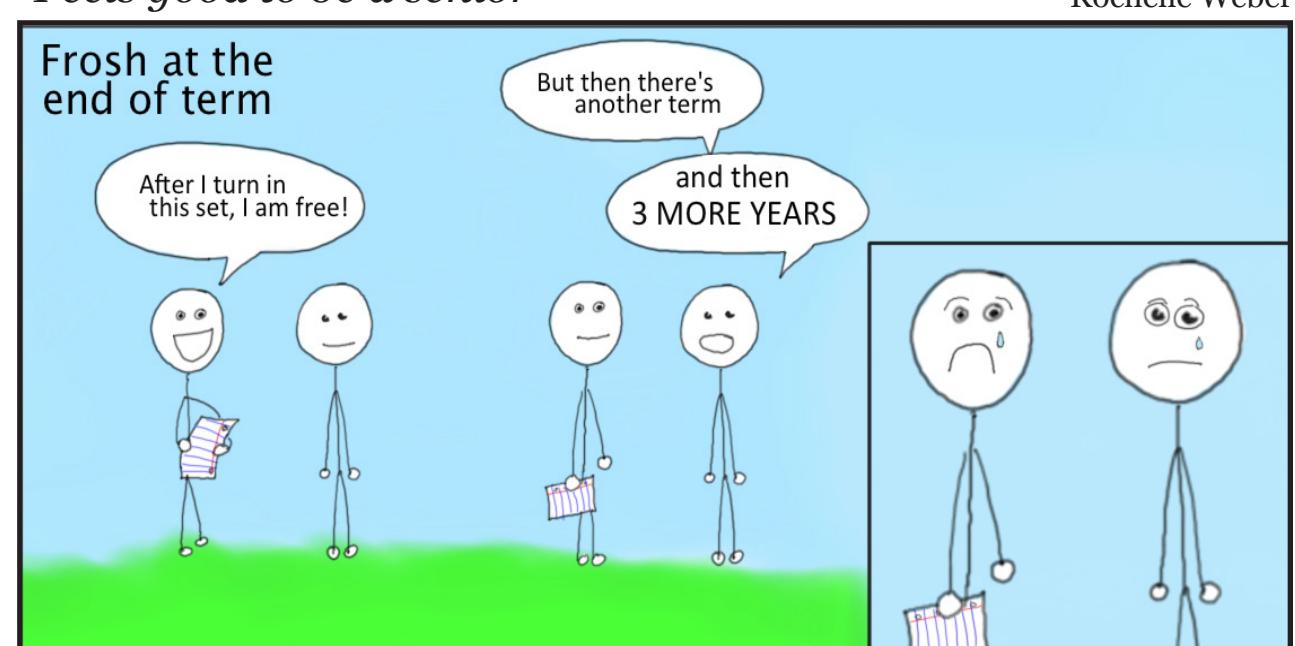
Answers to previous Sudoku

7	1	3	8	9	2	4	6	5
5	8	4	7	6	3	9	2	1
2	9	6	4	5	1	3	7	8
6	2	9	5	1	4	8	3	7
1	4	7	3	8	6	5	9	2
8	3	5	9	2	7	6	1	4
4	6	1	2	3	5	7	8	9
3	5	8	1	7	9	2	4	6
9	7	2	6	4	8	1	5	3

-<http://puzzlechoice.com>

"Feels good to be a senior"

Rochelle Weber



Answers to previous crossword

V	I	S	A	H	E	E	D	F	E	U	D
I	R	O	N	I	D	E	A	A	R	R	O
C	O	L	T	D	I	R	T	D	O	G	M
A	N	V	I	L	B	I	A	S	D	E	E
R	Y	E		I	D	L	E	P	I	E	
				B	L	U	E	F	U	R	P
U	P	D	A	T	H	I	R	R	U	E	Y
G	L	E	N		L	E	G	I	O	T	A
L	E	E		H	O	A	X	L	A	R	D
Y	A	P		O	D	D		D	E	E	K
				A	D	D	V	A	I	N	P
L	A	S	T	S	L	I	M	E	L	U	D
A	C	T	O	R	A	L	S	O	A	R	E
P	I	A	N	O	S	W	O	N	E	A	R
D	R	E	W		S	A	N	E	D	E	L

-<http://puzzlechoice.com>

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