Unexpectedly High Admissions Yield Leaves Students Unhoused
Next Fall

Maxwell Montemayor | Campus

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 not to feel about the situation," said Juan Lacharrie (ME '25, Blacker/Dabney). "It seems like they [the first-years] get Bechtel rooms or any housing over me.

The Housing 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/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 change. "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; this includes reports that the Housing Office is still processing applications for the lottery and that the lottery numbers were too low to guarantee them any room at all. However, the new deadline was extended due to the large number of students applying for suites or doubles in the Final Unaffiliated Lottery. However, the new deadline was extended due to the large number of students applying for suites or doubles in the Final Unaffiliated Lottery. However, the new deadline was extended due to the large number of students applying for suites or doubles in the Final Unaffiliated Lottery. 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So We Have a Beaver Statue Now.
Lilia Arrizabalaga | Culture

Caltech is not a school well known for sport or spirit. Many undergraduate students have never been 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 popu-lation does not care about sports or teams. And yet, 25% of us are members of one or more sororities and fraternities, and a significant subset of the 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 shirts on Fridays. They even went as far as issuing "violations" to students who were seen 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 popu-lation does not care about sports or teams. And yet, 25% of us are members of one or more sororities and fraternities, and a significant subset of the population, Caltech has an incredibly low amount of school spirit.

Caltech Athletics is trying to create a new tradition to celebrate the school. They have decided to start a "Spirit Day," where students are encouraged to wear orange clothes on Fridays. They even went as far as issuing "violations" to students who were seen 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 popu-lation does not care about sports or teams. And yet, 25% of us are members of one or more sororities and fraternities, and a significant subset of the population, Caltech has an incredibly low amount of school spirit.

The activities of the day in- cluded meeting his AO and host and visiting the Science and Financial Aid offices, at-tending lectures, and campus tours. After all, without a school community, it is impossible to understand the beauty of the place. The highlight of my experience at Caltech was to get insight into house life. "But yes, I really really like STEM to be here. It's a place for people who are interested in the future of the planet. It's a place where the intensity of the work is so intense that people are free to express their creativity and their ideas"
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 sandwich- es 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, Brownie 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 Brownie on the French Toast at Grill. During the weekend brunch at Brownie, bees 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 associated open kitchen or in cups at the beginning of the line. Recently, CDS has also introduced bowls of seasonal fruit in open kitchens – this year’s fruits were pears and peaches!

Feedback from students has expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of fruit provided, such as unripe peaches or bruised apples. “The apples are often mealy or not sweet,” commented one student. “This year’s strawberries were pears and peaches! We also appreciated the variety. In interviewing for this article, I heard numerous complaints about the fruit selection. In 2020, the most common fruit request from students, especially seniors who have experienced the glory days of CDS, has been for more fruit cups. This year, we have the most common fruits regularly delivered, but sometimes the fruit selection will change.”

What do YOU think about the fruit on campus? Are you satisfied with them? “I usually get 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 issue. Feathers squirreling away berries – there was also the “Great Berry Scandal of 2019”, Hayward Melton (EE 23) recalls the summer af- ter his freshman year when Browne Dining Hall had a self-serve waffle bar where you could add berries to your waf- fles. 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 waffles.

“[Student] A. from my dorm was very grateful for greater selection of berries, and I appreciated some of the fruit bowls.”

Caltech Dining Scoop: I would berry much like some fruit!
Trinity Lee | Column

Review: Arturo’s Taco Truck
Joseph Kim | Food

Where do you go when you’re hungry and it’s 2 am on 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 un- official Pasadena staple. I’ve been going there almost every week for my fourth meal when 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 op- tions (beans, radishes, grilled onions, and chilies). Neverthe- less, they are hands-down the best place open late in Pasade- na. If you go there, be sure to tell Kevin I sent you.

What’s good? You can’t go wrong with tacos, LA’s spe- cialty, but everything is good here, go for carne asada, ad

CDS's pro-pandemic berry game went HARD. The entire school would turn keral if this happened today!
Art & Photography Spotlight

“Curvature” by Abraham Belayneh

“Tree Arch” by Cristian Ponce

“Purple Sun” by Juan Renteria

“Devin Elle Kurtz Study” by Anya Mischel

“What I Dreamed About” by Alicia Zhang

“White Sands” by Cristian Ponce

“San Diego” by Abraham Belayneh

“People Gone” by Luna Yasminah
The Admin Corner

Esprit de corps — Be a Beaver!

Betsy Mitchell | Column

“Esprit de corps” literally translates to a spirit of pride or a common loyalty. This phrase 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 rally point, a shouting point, a 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 undergraduates, and a few grads as well, esprit des corps is part of their chosen identity. The dedication and effort they give to improving themselves, contributing to their team, representing the Institute in these ways is 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 number. 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 lous and unnecessary, so be it, no amount of silence or making them feel less.) One thing is for sure, if we aren’t knocking anyone else down, that’s 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 to each one of us, individually. Feeling as if we are up and that is the most important thing is sure, if we aren’t staying alive.)

The concept of school pride and spirit includes anything from STEM star power, and teamwork and thus school spirit. To say the least, that was not what I found upon arrival. Now… is a different story.

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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.

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Question the Quail!

A new advice column about 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,
Beannie 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 sate 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,
Fielding for Free Food

Dear Fielding,
I 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 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 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.” It seems like people don’t often openly brag about the enjoyment they get from taking objects from businesses and homes—something which may be locally owned and/or struggling. Drop the act and face your problem. Some of your friends may be locally owned and/or struggling. Try to cut down on the thieving especially at locations where pretty glassware is easily accessible, and hopefully you’ll cut down on the thieving as well.
Good luck,
Quail

Dear Quail,
I love advice column! Don’t stop me from starting one at Caltech xoxo
Signed,
Ardent Admire

Dear Admire,
Thanks! xoxo
Quail

To submit questions for next week’s “Question the Quail,” fill out the google form: https://bit.ly/41rEQ1N

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
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 had to prepare settings

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 International Student Programs (ISP). In addition to this international food and culture fest, ASCIT also held its inaugural Multicultural Fashion Show. Students and community members alike showcased the cultural attire, food, music, and dance unique to the various cultural groups that constitute the Caltech community. The events that ISP and Caltech Y offer aren’t just limited to World Fest. Other campus-wide events such as the annual spring event were sure to brighten the days of the hundreds of community members that came to indulge in diverse foods and music.

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In addition to this international food and culture fest, ASCIT also held its inaugural Multicultural Fashion Show. Students and community members alike showcased the cultural attire, food, music, and dance unique to the various cultural groups that constitute the Caltech community to 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