stories illuminate what reality obscures

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CGPU Holds New Year, New Union Majority Rally



Victoria Davis Campus News

I was eating lunch outside Broad Café with my labmates. When the time grew closer to 12:30 PM, we got up from our table to head to the rally. I was surprised—we weren't the only group of people getting up from their table at this time. Grad students and postdocs all around got up from their tables, like us, and started heading south in unison. We were all heading in the same direction: weaving our way through the paths on campus, until reaching Caltech Hall together.

Last Wednesday, September 27th 2023, the Caltech Grad Researchers and Postdocs United (CGPU) held a New Year, New Union rally to demonstrate

that a supermajority of grad-uate students and postdocs at Caltech support forming a union. After months of CGPU organizers going lab office to lab office and knocking door to door at the Catalina apartments, union authorization cards are signed, momentum for a unionized Caltech graduate and postdoc workforce is building, and efforts look to soon to reach their climax.

According to CGPU, over

400 people across all divisions attended the event. CGPU believes that "unionizing will make Caltech a better place to work, and ultimately produce better science." During the rally, organizers passed out union t-shirts and signs as everyone gathered on the lawn. The event began with call and response chants starting with

"Who's Caltech?" and answering with a roar from the crowd

Our Caltech!' Two graduate students, Korbi Thalhammer (Geochemistry G3) and Nadia Suryawinata (Biology G3), shared personal stories as to why they supported unionization of the graduate and postdoctoral community at Caltech. Thalhammer discussed his experiences contracting Valley Fever on a field trip run by his division and the lack of support he received from Caltech administration. Suryawinata detailed her experience as an international student and the realities that many international students face when their visa renewal and positions here at Caltech are under the sole discretion of their advisor. Each story echoed the call that grad students and postdocs need better pay, protections against harassment, and more protections for international students.

Along with unionization efforts across the country, Caltech grad students and post-docs gathered this day to illustrate their belief in democratizing their workplaces. In 2023, union workers from Los An-geles Unified School District, Rutgers University, Writers Guild of America, Screen Actors Guild, Kaiser Permanente, Starbucks Workers United, UPS, to United Auto Workers (UAW) exercised their right to peaceful protest and strike as a means of collective bargaining for improved working conditions and pay.
CGPU says its next steps are

to request from Caltech a fair process to verify and recognize their union, CGPU-UAW. They will also file with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). CGPU would be part of a national union, UAW, which is the largest union for higher education academic employees in the country. The graduate and postdoctoral communities within the UC system are also a part of UAW.

The rally concluded with another round of call and response chants where the crowd was asked "Are you willing to stand up for your fellow lab-mate?" Answer: "Yes!" "Are you willing to stand up for grad students and postdocs you don't know in another division?" "Yes!" "Are you willing to stand up for for the transfer of the stand of the transfer of the standard postdocs you haven't met yet?"

The yes's rang out in unison.

Today on "How badly can I represent this data?" **Limited Enrollment Humanities Classes**

Lilia Arrizabalaga Column

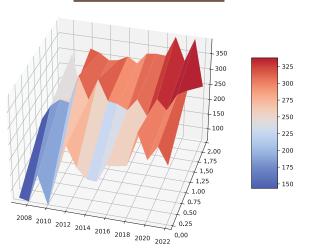


Figure o. Mmm tasty data I wonder what it measures.

What a lovely 3-D surface plot. You can really tell that there's data there and some of it is different from the other data. Place your bets now about what data it is!

Inside This Issue:

If you guessed The Total Number of Seats in Limited Enrollment Advanced Humanities Classes (a.k.a. "hums") from 2007 to 2022, separated by term, you were correct!

continued on page 2

Caltech Men's Soccer Rising to the Top



Jack Myles scores against Pomona-Pitzer (Credit: gocaltech.com)

Skye Ruedas Sports

The Caltech Men's Soccer team has been having a groundbreaking season this year, displaying a level of excellence and resilience that has made the institute proud. Their prowess on the field has been nothing short of phenomenal, displaying a level of excellence

and resilience that has resonated across the campus. Reaching a rank of 2nd in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC), their highest ranking in years, and with the impressive record they've managed to build, it's no surprise why.

Having played 8 games so far, they boast 5 wins, 2 ties, and a solitary loss. Etienne Casanova (CS, '26, Fleming) and Ishaan

Mantripragada (CS, '26, Fleming) have particularly shined. netting a total of 8 and 5 goals respectively, and leading the team's offensive charge.

The season started on a high note. With Jack Myles (C '26, Fleming) setting the ball rolling, and Etienne Casanova providing the cushion with two more goals, the team gave a stellar performance.

continued on page 6

Banned After Over 20 Years of Use

4 Amazon

Humanities **Class Statistics** continued from page 1

Each term, during the week preceding class registration for undergraduates, a common cry is heard: "There aren't enough hums!" Much of registration day is spent consoling friends who didn't get into the humanities course they wanted. But are these complaints warranted? Are there enough humanities classes for undergraduates to take? What does the data support?
The data does not seem to

support this claim; there are the same number of advanced humanities offered this term (FA 2023) as there were fall term last year (FA 2022) (figure 2), although there is a slight decrease in the total number of seats (figure 1). There are also a similar number of seats and classes as there were in SP

A quick note on terminolohere, Advanced Humanities ("advanced hums") are 9-unit courses numbered 90 and above in English (En), History (H), History and the Philosophy of Science (HPS), Humanities (Hum), Music (Mu), Philosophy (Pl), and Visual Culture (VC) that can be taken on grades as per the Caltech Course Catalog. First-year Humanities ("frosh hums") are 9-unit courses numbered below 60 in En, H, Pl, and VC. Students must take 18 units (2 classes) of frosh hums and ad-

If you compare the number of humanities in FA 2023 to WI 2022 or to 2021, as shown in figure 2, there is a decrease, but historically there does not seem to be a trend supporting the claim that there are too few humanities offered this term. It is interesting to note that fall terms usually have the fewest number of Advanced Human-

ities available, likely due to less demand (the first-year class will not yet be taking Advanced Humanities).

So onto the claim that there are not enough spots in advanced humanities: if we assume ~1000 undergraduates ~250 first-years, there are ~750 upperclassmen who might want to take an Advanced Humanities course during fall term. Over 10 total terms (12 minus the two required for frosh hums because they are prerequisites for other humanities), they must take two Advanced Humanities, so around 1/5 of the upperclassmen (~150 students) are likely to be taking an Advanced Humanities course during fall term. There are ~250 spots this term which means there is amole space for students to satisfy

Contrary to the number of Advanced Humanities, the total space in First-year Humanities has increased this year (figure 4). However, there is still not enough space to accommodate the entire first-year class (216 seats, 268 first-years). Because you must take an average of one humanities class per term and you cannot take more Advanced Humanities until vou take First-year Humanities, this is unideal as it will result in more people needing to take 2

their requirements.

Methodology: I used a Python script to scrape course data from termly course schedules pages on schedules.caltech.edu which only goes back as far as 2007). There were a handful of Advanced Humanities classes which did not have limited enrollment (none this term and no more than 5 total) and when calculating the total seats I omitted those classes (I did not omit them from the total number of classes). My data and code can be found on GitHub @Dominus-Draconis/caltech

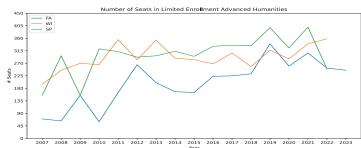
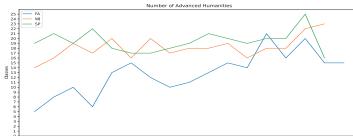


Figure 1. Total number of seats in limited enrollment advanced humanities classes



2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 Figure 2. Total number of advanced humanities offered by year and term.

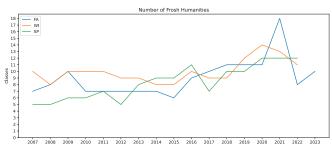


Figure 3. Total number of First-year Humanities offered by year and term.

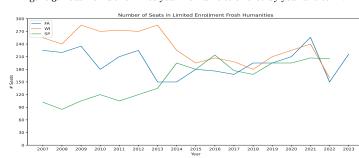


Figure 4. Total number of seats in limited-enrollment First-year Humanities classes

Blacker's Potato Cannon Banned After Over 20 Years of Use

Maxwell Montemayor Campus News

After over two decades of continuous operation, Caltech Administration has banned the firing of the potato cannon as part of Blacker Hovse's rotation events. Built in 2002 as part of Ditch Day stack, firing it has been a Blacker Hovse tradition

"The potato cannon was my favorite rotation event last year. I'm disappointed that this year's frosh [weren't] able to have the same experience as I did," says Ethan Labelson (EE '26, Blacker/Dabney).

This rotation, Techers missed out on hearing the periodic blasts of compressed air, followed by the thud of potato slamming into plywood, splattering into a beautiful chunky mess. The potato cannon was an event that prefrosh enjoyed and upperclassmen looked forward to.

"It sucks that it got banned considering it's been around for over two decades," says Jabri Garcia-Jimenez (ME '25, Blacker). "Some stuff being removed is upsetting but makes some sense, but smaller things like the potato cannon just feels The sudden cancellation has not only left members of the Hovse disappointed, but also in a time crunch. Blacker was notified that they would not be allowed to fire the cannon less than a week before rotation acually started.

"This change was super unexpected as we found out the riday before rotation," says Jade Millan (ME '25, Blacker), a Blacker Social Team Chair. "We had to submit NEW event proposals for a backup event. out it was the weekend so admin wouldn't even see it until Monday at the earliest." For context, rotation started on the ollowing Wednesday

Blacker Hovse ExComm had attempted to arrange alternative rotation event, but only one of them was approved, and for that event there was not enough time to properly set it up in time for rotation.

"Admin shot down using bottle rockets (like the ones elementary schoolers build) because of them being projectiles or something... We got next to no support for getting a new event that was just as good, says Millan. "It added so much pressure to an already stressful situation and Admin seemed apathetic at best, and trying to make my job harder at worst."

VPSA Kevin Gilmartin al legedly stated that the reasoning behind the restriction was because "the cannon would make students who come from war-torn countries, or who have experienced school shootings, uncomfortable," according to Blacker Hovse's president, Aditee Prabhutendolkar (CNS '24, Blacker).

"I feel that if the concern really was that students will be traumatized to see something that resembles a weapon, then the same treatment should be applied to the literal war instrument every student walks past on the Olive Walk every day," says Prabhutendolkar.

As Moles mourned the loss of this valued tradition, they also feared the loss of more events in the future. The potato cannon has become another casualty of the worrying trend of Admin removing more and more traditions.

"It's infuriating," says David Melisso (EE '23, Blacker), who helped organize much of Blacker's Rotation. "When I was a freshman many years ago, the seniors told stories about how more and more events were being prohibited. Now, having seen this trend continue, I can't imagine what will be left four

Editor's Note: We want to hear your perspective!

We strive to represent every voice in the Caltech Community with fairness, accuracy, and impartiality in our news reporting. If you think we missed something, or just want to share your thoughts about a topic we've reported on, I encourage you to submit a Letter to the Editor!

tech@caltech.edu

Submissions are due at 12 p.m. on the Saturday before each biweekly Tuesday publication.



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

Why do the CS majors stink? They weren't programmed to shower. Maybe posting showering instruc-

tions on chegg may help What do you do if you rotated into

a house you didn't want?

Suffering is an integral aspect of the human experience, transcending cultural, geographical, and temporal boundaries. It is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has puzzled philosophers, theologians, scientists, and artists for centuries. This essay explores the nature of suffering, its causes, and the profound implications it has on human life, society, and our under-

I. The Nature of Suffering A. Definitions of Suffering

standing of existence.

Suffering is often defined as the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship. It encompasses both physical and emotional pain and ranges from mild discomfort to excruciating agony. Suffering is subjective, varying from person to person and influenced by cultural, social, and individual factors.

II. Causes of Suffering A. Caltech

III. The Philosophical Perspective on

A. The Problem of Evil

An administration that attempts to constantly control the student experience is evil.

B. Existentialism

Existentialist thinkers like Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus explore the existential suffering that arises from the human condition. They argue that life's inherent meaninglessness can lead to existential despair and suffer-

IV. Suffering and Human Develop-

A. Resilience and Growth Some individuals experience suffering as an opportunity for personal growth and resilience. Adversity can population for backup! lead to increased empathy, wisdom and a deeper appreciation for life's pos-

B. Coping Mechanisms

DRINK LOTS OF WATER!!! EAT LOTS OF PLANTSSS!!!! BREATHE Smoothie Machine's suppression has IN SOME OF THAT TASTY TASTY LA raised intriguing questions about the

V. <u>Suffering and Society</u> A. we live in a society

VI. Conclusion

Suffering is an inescapable aspect of human existence, presenting profound challenges and questions to individuals and societies alike. While it can be a source of despair, it also holds the potential for growth, resilience, and societal progress. Understanding the nature of suffering and its causes is essential for addressing its effects and working in technology, we must also preserve toward a more compassionate and just

Can you join multiple houses?

Most houses offer full and/or social memberships for any undergrad. The

method of application and the yearly fees involved with doing so differ with

What do you recommend for dealing with all the academic struggles of Caltech?

Pass - Fail Theorem. And if your TA is cool enough add a counter for how many drinks of water your problem

I think my roommate is training the Caltech squirrels to attack. What should I do?

Well, if your roommate's turning squirrels into secret agents, maybe it's time to start buttering up the local bird

Why do the smoothie machines at red door not seem to work?

The curious case of the Red Door role of convenience in our society. As this beloved contraption fades into obscurity, its absence leaves a void in our daily lives that transcends mere fruit-blending capabilities. The Red Door Smoothie Machine was not just a piece of kitchen equipment; it was an emblem of efficiency and innovation. Its quiet removal hints at a broader societal shift, where the relentless march of progress occasionally leaves cherished traditions and simple pleasures in its wake. This suppression reminds us that while we embrace advancements the soul-soothing experiences that connect us to our past. The implications extend beyond the realm of smoothies; they underscore the importance of valuing the familiar comforts that bind us together in a rapidly changing world.

Barbies, a.k.a **Feminism** 101?

Chi Cap Culture



Warning: Review contains spoilers.

Over this summer, the blazing-pink cinematic nuclear warhead that is Barbenheimer the sobriquet of the dual releases of Barbie and Oppenheimer – hit theaters worldwide. In its anticipated descent and eventual blast, various memes have dominated the internet ("One ticket to [Barbenheimer], please!") It's fair to say that Barbie is one of the biggest cultural phenomena of the summer. Barbie got viewers showing

up to the cinema as if it was

a festival and a celebration:

people dressing up in frilly pink dresses (sometimes, halfcrossed with the somber suits and ties of Oppenheimer), pink boots and high-heels, makeup, and chiming "Hi Barbie!" across the theater. The Barbie aesthetic is a celebration of stereotypical femininity. The movie began with Stereotypical Barbie: white, blonde, young, beautiful, and cladded in pink. She has a perfect life with her fellow perfect Barbies, who are all incredibly accomplished women in incredibly accomplished fields. In Barbieland, Barbies are the dominating sex: the President is Barbie, the Supreme Court justices are Barbies, the media are Barbies, and so are the doctors, lawyers, scientists, astronauts, writers, garbage collectors, construction workers. All in all, Barbies keep the world turning. And the world will keep being perfect for Barbie, from days flowing into Girl Nights into perfect new days, up until Barbie abruptly receives the intrusion

of the concept of death. And so begins Barbie's journey into the Real World, where humans live, to "fix" her "problems". Here introduced the awkward disaccord between the body and the mind: Barbie's physicalities, for the lack of better words, are... matured, in contrast to her innocence and child-like mind, a reflection of the little girls who imparted their thoughts and limited understanding of the real world. Like a girl entering the horror of puberty, where her body and the world's conception of it has grown abruptly and hurriedly beyond what her mind can yet comprehend, Barbie struggles with this change: the stares, the snickerings, the pointings, the abrupt obviousness of her own sexuality that she has never had, now thrusted upon her by the world – "with the undertone of violence" – and yet she must persevere to preserve her original, innocent state. While celebrated for many it, but live it, bear the brunt of it, and deal with it. We see Barcommercial and pop-cultural bie learn about the real world feats, a portion of the Internet was torn about the real-cultural impact of Barbie. In Gerwig's

to show that despite it all she wants to experience life as it is – as its rich, moving, always signature monologue about changing, frustrated, and probwomanhood, Gloria (played lematic world that brings agby actress America Ferrera), ing and cellulites to her perfect plastic-like body – not some glorified, pink, fantastical ideployee, and revealed as the one behind Barbie's mortality crialism that society has deemed sis, expounds on the ridiculous perfection. These emotions and exrequirements and restrictions upon women: "You're supposed periThese emotions and expeto stay pretty for men, but not

riences cannot be articulated properly without the language of feminism. The point of the movie is the frustration Gloria felt for the oppressive and fruitless structures women find themselves in. The point is her weariness and conviction come from the awareness of her gender and what people expect of it. The women and girls in the millions of people that watched Barbie may find themselves identifying with the speech either through their raw experiences or through the refined lens of sociological theory. But they all must see themselves with their emotions, confusions, frustration, that Gloria delivers them, and perhaps are struck with new lenses to see the world they have always known: If all this horrible and fruitless things about womanhood is true for just a doll donned with the shape of a woman, then what? Are we doomed just because we cannot escape our gender?

Gloria, at the end of her paThe

narrative claims that despite it

all, women still have a fighting

chance. There is meaning in

living, in loving, and in partic-

ipating and even creating in a

societal structure that is very

much not designed for them.

In the end, order is restored to

Barbieland: the change to the

Constitution is reversed, Bar-

bies are back as the dominant

Despite it being the emotional climax of the movie – the point of the narrative, even – these tenets offered by Barbie are criticized as being "nothing groundbreaking". Feminists have talked about the impossiole standards society demands from women and in fact, have had extensive discussion about its origins, its subtle role in subjugation, and offered ways to navigate, disrupt, or discard t completely. So what does Barbie contribute to the discus-

ideals into real life, waking the

silent indignation of textbooks

into voices. She brings these

emotions home, and demands

that you not only comprehend

Sasha's mother, Mattel em-

so pretty that you tempt them

too much or that you threaten

other women because you're

supposed to be a part of the

sisterhood. But always stand

out and always be grateful. But

never forget that the system

is rigged. So find a way to ac-

knowledge that but also always

be grateful." America Ferrera's

fierce performance translates

the monologue from the text-

book to real-life: from sadness

and disgruntlement for Barbie,

and perfect ultimately defeated

by patriarchy, to confusion, as

she navigates the expectations

the world has for her, which

quickly turned into convictions

and anger as she discovered

that their expectation is contra-

dictory and impossible, to an

ultimate weariness that clings

any woman ages past what the world demanded her to be:

"It turns out in fact that not

only are you doing everything

wrong, but also everything is

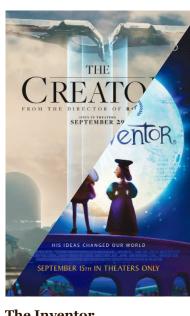
a doll designed to be beautiful

gender, but for Stereotypical Barbie, things have changed. She has learned about the Real World, and despite it all she wants to experience life as it In the way the question was is – as its rich, moving, always changing, frustrated world that framed above, perhaps I am trapped into admitting that the answer is "Nothing." Growing brings aging and cellulites to her perfect plastic-like body. Somehow, in her chaotic and up a girl afforded me a lesson or two on feminism and while tumultuous chase around the the monologue contained ideas Real World, riddled with dan-I already knew, I do not believe gers and violence, she found meaning in the women she his was the point. Barbie is not met: an aging woman at the bus stop, the ghost of the cremeant to be some grand foundation of Feminism 2.0, but rather is meant to shine a light ator of Barbie, Gloria, and her on the foundations already teenage daughter Sasha.It is a built, allowing us to reexamine shame that the narrative structhem. The point was to show ture of Barbie (which, after all, that weariness and conviction is an allegory for growing up, come from the awareness of and the unsettling transition from childhood to adulthood) gender and what people expect of it. It was to ask if our does not highlight why Barbie doll donned with the shape of nonetheless there is an explaa woman. And, furthermore, nation in the process of Barbie this asks if we can escape our becoming human, analogous to gender. The performance was how humans often live on anyneightened by how openly disway while struggling to define played Gloria's emotions are: our meanings, intention, and she is sad, frustrated, convictwishes for our lives: we have ed, angry, and tired – all the to define it in the nonstop monegative emotions we've been tions of life, not outside of it. In the end, the emotional weight taught as young girls to suppress. "You have to ... never be and its meaning outweigh the rude, never show off, never be struggle. Yes, the world is terriselfish, never fall down, nevble, and it is hard, and it is parer fail, never show fear, nevticularly hard in a certain way er get out of line." Displays of because you are born this way, anger are considered ruden, but you live and you will live bitchy, and whiny. They are and you actively fight against it condemned because they are or you don't, and your life still "not constructive." But if this has meaning, at the end of it all. You can still be happy. is so, then why can passionate speeches move the mind? Why anger at injustice? Ferrera's performance provides the platform to animates feminist

Perhaps this is not the answer to all the questions posed by feminism, nor groundbreaking ones, but it offers hope: hope found in urging you to re-examine life, and find meaning to persist.

Inventing and Creating: Reviews of The Inventor and The Creator

Katelyn Sulett Culture



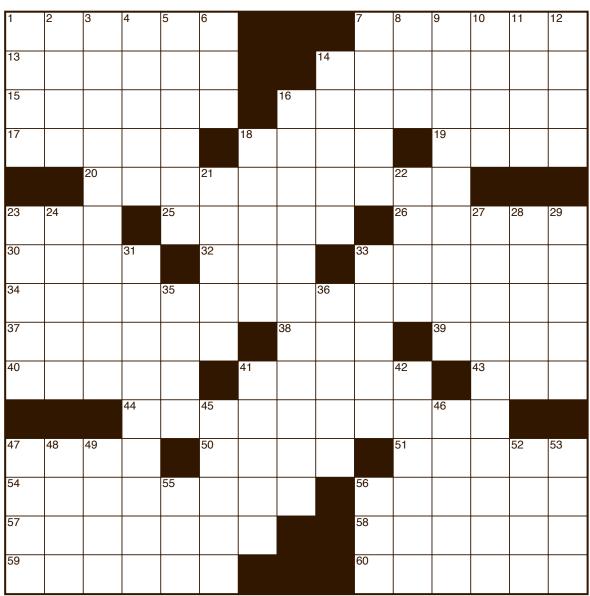
The Inventor

I'm a huge fan of animation. think it's hugely under-utilized and a great medium. And stop-motion animation? Amazing! So, when I saw there was a stop-motion animation film about Leonardo Da Vinci? Brilliant. I had to see it. The Inventor was difficult to find in theaters, as it didn't get a full release, but in my opinion, it deserves one. Co-directed and written by one of the original co-writers of Ratatouille, Jim Capobianco, The Inventor is a fanciful tale about Leonardo Da Vinci's quest for knowledge as he leaves Italy to join the French court so he can freely experiment after Pope Leo X Matt Berry) tells him to behave "like a good little artist." On a quest for knowledge regarding his inventions and regarding the human body and its soul, Da Vinci (Stephen Fry) ultimately embarks on a story regarding the meaning of life tself. Joined by French princess Marguerite (Daisy Ridley). Da Vinci is recruited by the French King Frances I (Gauthier Battoue) for the creation of a statue to boast his excellence to other kingdoms. The film is not completely reliant on its stop-motion animation. It also uses hand-drawn animation, particularly during scenes surrounding science, art, or general invention. The film partially uses animation as an appeal to its younger audience (although when I saw it, I was the youngest person in the theater). The film serves to communicate history (and some science, although this is not the focus) to a new generation. As such, if take on a somewhat exhausted you're looking at this film for idea (humans vs. AI), but this is historical and scientific accunot to say it is not welcome, as racy, this is not that. However, this is very well executed. Overthere is a lot for an older auall, I was quite impressed with dience as well – fighting back this film. This is also a 5/5. against the powerful, insatiable curiosity, and open-mindedness. My two small criticisms of the movie: English accents for the Italian and French characters (although this is understandable since it's an Irish production, and it doesn't take anything away from the plot), and the lack of a major climax (although there is a third act and a climax, it just doesn't feel appropriately large for the film). Overall, I greatly enjoyed this film. I didn't really have any expectations going in, which might have helped, but it was just also a beautifully animated and written film. 5/5 stars.

The Creator Written and directed by Gareth Edwards, the director of Star Wars: Rogue One and Godzilla, The Creator is a very original and topical science-fiction movie. Set about forty years in the future in a war between humans and artificial intelligence (a war started when AI detonated a nuclear bomb in Los Angeles), the film follows Joshua (John David Washington), an ex-special forces agent grieving the loss of his wife

Gemma Chan), in his hunt to kill "The Creator". This creator is an elusive force that designed AI, and a new mysterious weapon with the power to end the war. This is revealed in the trailers but still a minor spoiler if you don't want to know any of the plot; this weapon is actually an AI in the form of a young girl (Madeleine Yuna Voyles). I find it necessary to mention this because Voyles is the absolute star of this movie. She carries the majority of the emotional weight with a performance that makes it impossible to tell that this movie was her first role in any professional work (movie or TV). I saw The Creator as part of an Early Access event in IMAX, which I think is definitely the correct format for seeing this movie. It enhances the experience and the beautiful cinematography, although it does make some visual effect glitches more evident (just some weird lagging in certain scenes/frames). One of the big strengths of this movie is its ability to not take itself seriously. Allison Janney plays a General but surprisingly does not contribute to the few comedic bits. This comedy is absolutely necessary for a brutal war epic that is nearly two and a half hours long. Even though this movie is advertised as sci-fi first, it is more of a war movie set in a future society, and the brutality and suspense are unrelenting after the first ten minutes. This certainly contributes to the emotional climax of the film and serves to bring the watchers into the narrative. Overall, The Creator is a very well-made film. Most of the actors bring great performances (John David Washington is a little lackluster in the first act, but makes up for it in the rest of the film), and breakout star Madeleine Yuna Voyles is spectacular. The story is another

The California Tech Crossword - "Smorgasboard"



- 1 It may obscure what you wrote down 7 Was omniscient
- 13 Not curved 14 Prolific writer Maya 15 Work towards a goal 16 Particular jam band's

favorite feeling?

- 17 The periodic table's first metalloid 18 Lingo for luxurious clothing or accessories 19 First word for a baby,
- maybe 20 Some short films of around ten minutes duration
- 23 A lot of energy for an atomic particle, but not a lot of energy for a 25 Includes, with "in"
- 26 Metaphorically lost 30 Thing to wipe one's hands 32 News network in
- **HBO's Succession** 33 HI hi's 34 Career advice that may be purely academic? 37 Startup using AI to
- monitor tree health 38 Cambodia's Lon 39 "This" en España 40 Metallic heart tube 41
- "Epress Elisabeth Legacy" 43 Sound from a leaky

- 44 Subject of Lady Gaga's desires in "LoveGame" 47 Experimental descriptor, after "in"
- 50 Novelist Morrison 51 Enthusiasts of a particular topic or field 54 Blackbird genus
- 56 Not now, but "_ 57 Kris Jenner, e.g. 58 Indian spice mix 59 Looked at length 60 Good (Dixie chum)
- **DOWN**
- 1 Concrete unit 2 Soup that may come with your Bento box 3 Hypotheses are said to
- be this, unfortunately 4 Coach Prime 5 Actress Jennifer of "Alias"
- 6 Before, poetically 7 Harry Potter anti-hero 8 Reality TV show filmed in Pasadena 9 The first one opened in San Francisco in 1994
- 10 First word of an Italian automaker 11 Olfactory description of 9-down 12 Recently elected Prez.
- of Brazil 14 Botanical casings 16 Topping of many Asian cuisine

- 18 What a vain person lacks, say 21 Attack one's character, informally
- 22 Abnormal rattling sound in the lungs 23 Open-mouthed stares 24 Explode
- 27 Middle Eastern dish on a stick 28 Cardinal, but plural 29 Remnants of a fire 31 Relating to one's hor-
- mones, perhaps 33 Class for H.S. Juniors or Seniors 35 Incan sun god 36 Italian arms manu-
- facturer 41 Search at great lengths 42 Å wink or a nod, maybe
- 45 Archaic verb form of a pig locale 46 ___ and desist
- 47 Popular retail club 48 "___ good news and bad news" 49 Don Quixote discus
- sion topic 52 Letter of the NATO alphabet 53 Famous last words:
- ___ gold, Ponyboy" 55 It's said to be just a number 56 As I see it, in internet

Last Week's Amazon Skymall Winner

Seneca Velling (G3, Materials Science) chose the Tide Pods Editor's Note: Do Not Attempt.





Amazon Skymall

Welcome back to Amazon Sky-

mall! In this column, we hold a raffle where we [not] randomly select one of our lucky readers and

give them the item of their choice

Original Slinky

\$3.59

from these hand picked selections!



Sprout Hair Clip \$11.94



MIT Pennant



Taylor 2024 Flag



Dinotopia & Journey to the Center of the Earth -**Double Feature** \$8.41



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"Smorgasboard" Crossword Solution







CALTECH IS A

REALLY GOOD SCHOOL!

THAT ONLY BECAUSE I GOT

TODAY, YOU NEVER













Caltech Adventures: 'Cowtech'

Despite attempts to keep the

ticket economy in control and

balanced in terms of the teams,

some teams came out on top,

with the top two holding the

majority of the tickets. Howev-

er, having more tickets didn't

automatically mean victory:

although it meant they were

able to buy more water guns, water balloons, and defensive

materials, it all came down to

the strategy that was utilized.

And here, the true spirit of col-

laboration and creative appli-

cation of Caltech strategy was

After a short strategy meet-

ing within each team, the

games began. In between pha-

lanx-like formations - rows

of defense with long range

weapons, pushing mattresses

slowly but surely forward with

students' knees, and dragging

buckets of water behind them,

victors emerged and the un-

fortunate faded into obscurity

(more accurately, a wet down-

fall). The fierce battle produced

various strategies as time went

on, such as a full body suit of

armor consisting of cardboard

and a clear plastic helmet, a

moving fortress, and rushing

people. And with the enthusias-

tic commentary of two Blacker

Hovse upperclassmen, Team 3

ultimately emerged victorious.

Even if people were on teams

pitted against each other, the

spirit of Caltech's creativi-

ty and collaboration was still

able to shine through - in the

creative ways people circum-

vented elimination by forging

their own makeshift armor, to

the way that teams strategical

ly split up and reunited to gain

the most tickets possible. All in

all, it was a way for pre-frosh to

unwind, cool down on a warm

revealed.

ASCIT Social Calendar 2023-24

Ankita Nandi, ASCIT Director of Operations

While houses throw a significant portion of the social events during the year, ASCIT throws events open to the entire student body every term. We've listed an overview of the events that we both host and help out with, often with our advisor, Tom Mannion, the Senior Director of Student Activities and Alumni Engagement A number of events are also held by the academic branch of ASCIT, the Academics and Research Committee (ARC), but also has numerous ways to connect with professors in more social contexts.

First Term

Orientation Reception: A new program this year, but a way for first-years to be introduced to the student government! Both first-years and upperclassmen on campus were invited to meet ASCIT and eat food as prepared with the help of Tom

Techfest: Hosted by Tom Mannion/Student Affairs and ASCIT, it marks both the end of rotation and the start of the school year. Plenty of food for everyone, this year is a cultural tour of LA!

Student-Faculty Games: An event held every term and sponsored by ARC. Students and faculty get together every term to play a pickup game of one sport and have smoothies! A great way to connect with profs outside of the class environ-

Halloween Celebration: The past couple years have included a Halloween photoshoot and decorations on the Olive Walk. We plan on doing a trick-or-treat around campus this

Student-Faculty Lunches: An event held every term and sponsored by ARC. Students can have lunch with one of several faculty members! Professors range from all departments on campus. This is a great way to learn about their research and network

Option Advising: Held every term and sponsored by ARC, underclassmen can get advice from upperclassmen to help decide which option to pursue and which classes to take. **ASCIT Movie Night:** Exactly what it sounds like! We

host a movie screening with snacks and good vibes:)

Midnight Donuts: the first of the year, a termly tradition with plenty of donuts (with vegan and gluten-free options) for all undergraduates.

Second Term

January

Student-Faculty Games

Student-Faculty Lunches

Option Advising ASCIT Movie Night

Pi Day: Come out at midnight to enjoy pies! A number of campus organizations and departments will be throwing events, this is just one of many

Third Term

ASCIT Formal: The biggest (ASCIT-sponsored) event of the year, Formal! ASCIT rents out an off-campus venue for over 400 undergraduates to dress up, eat food, and dance.

Multicultural Fashion Show: Working with the cultural organizations/clubs on campus, we showcase different clothes, dance, and music representing all the cultures at

Spring Elections: save for IHC Chair, elections and turnover for all positions happens at the end of the month

Student-Faculty Lunches

Option Advising

Surprise! We're working on putting together a new event this year, more details will come out soon:)

Last Midnight Donuts: the last ASCIT event for the year and one of the first to be held by the new Board of Directors!

The Frosh Perspective – Blacker Olympics

Ai-Dan Le "The Inside World"

"Be there, do stuff," the rotation activity announcement of Blacker Hovse, left much to be desired in terms of its specificity. Although Blacker is always famously doing a lot of "stuff," the event in question was the Blacker Olympics, a newly minted annual tradition where

lots of "stuff" happened indeed. Following Dabney Boat Tours, Chill at Page, and Ricketts Open Mic Night, the teambased, tournament-style competition centered around the promise of a massive water fight at the end, which participants could use their tickets to prepare for. Up for sale were water guns, tubs of water balloons, and defensive materials like mattresses and cardboard. To earn tickets, participants competed against each other in a series of games - ranging from lock picking to tug of war.

The uniqueness of the events lent itself to many memorable moments, including – but not limited to – the tug of war that ended in a landslide (or people-slide, in this case). The tug of war functioned as a typical game would, with one team on each side tugging on a rope marked in the middle with a ribbon. However, the amount of people on each team varied. Due to a slight accounting error, a group of people who joined the Olympics late all got randomly assigned to Team 2. In a hilariously unbalanced match-up, the ten-ish members of team 2 were pitted against everyone not on Team 2 (a measly 4), resulting in the smaller team being pulled with little to no resistance across the line as the members of Team 2 tripped over themselves. After

getting up from their tangle of limbs on the floor, the losing team was rewarded their pity tickets, but they immediately demanded a rematch – granted, with the stipulation that the winning team split up.

Meanwhile, upstairs

Cannes Kitchen, two teams of prefrosh were tasked with re-creating a recipe under a time limit, while being judged on presentation and taste. Although participants attempted to strategize while waiting outside in the hallway, the recipes changed in between rounds, the requested food including quesadillas, eggs, and bacon. Under the restraints of the time limit, participants were cutting vegetables with questionable safety but unquestionable speed, their panic strongly juxtaposed by the serenity of the Ratatouille soundtrack playing in the background. Like a game of Overcooked projected into reality, some teams soared under the pressure, with other teams producing abominations that bordered on being classified as Chemical/Biological In-

And the lounge was hosting a Blacker classic: lockpicking, an event so popular that the table was never lacking people, and at some point even ran out of tension hooks and picks. The puzzle activity – in which students attempted to put together a 100-piece puzzle of the iconic Charlie Brown and Snoopy in a blind obstacle course – was exactly what it sounds like. The paper airplane competition was also a favorite, where participants folded paper airplanes and had to throw them from the 2nd floor library into a target in the courtyard. (Some expert players were ejected due to day, and use their brains in a fear of hyperinflating the ticket way that didn't involve a pset.



Exhibit A (left) and Exhibit B (right). The chefs of Exhibit B would like it to be known that the bacon was good. The assigned

son. However, showing deter-

Men's Soccer

Ibarra (CS, '24, Fleming) and ing) provided great defense, ensuring that the team's lead remained secure. The journey Rohan lyer's (CS, '24, Fleming) game-winning goal that sealed the 3-2 victory for the Beavers. The team also showcased their resilience in matches against Lewis and Clark, Linfield, and Life Pacific, with players like Wilson Duan (CS, '26, Fleming), Andy Dimnaku (CS, '25, Fleming), and Jack Myles stepping up and making the differ-

But the winning streak did

draw, thanks to Mantripragada's free-kick goal.

The hard work isn't just limited to match days. The team trains diligently 4 days a week, preparing relentlessly for the 2 game days. This balance of rest, training, and match play has surely contributed to their

The Beavers' success this sea-

mination, they bounced back on the field but in the classroom as well. While the hard work isn't limited to match days, their rigorous training schedule stands out. Balancing such commitment with Caltech's despeaks volumes about their discipline and time-managehas played a significant role in their rise in the SCIAC rankings compared to previous seasons.

ARC Tip of the Week:

Sign up to be a Peer Academic Coach (Dean's Tutor) by emailing the Dean's Office (deansoffice@caltech.edu)!

When Tradition Awakens Trauma: The Fleming Cannon's Unintended Consequences

George Ore

Opinion

The firing of the Fleming Cannon is a tradition that is supposed to bring pride and joy to the hearts of students every vear and mark the progression of time from the end of rotation to the end of every term. However, for many students, the sound of the Fleming Cannon carries a heavy burden, evoking memories of a past they had hoped to leave behind when they came to Caltech.

"Coming to Caltech was one of the most exciting moments of my life, but the sound of the Fleming Cannon sometimes reminds me of the murders that would happen at the park down the street [back home]. It's a reminder that sometimes even the sweetest traditions can have a dark side.

- Anonymous Student Many branches of Caltech administration, including admissions and OSE, boast of a vibrant campus life filled with unique and cherished traditions. Among them, the annual firing of the Fleming Cannon stands out as a grand centerpiece. Every tour guide has

a requirement to stop at this

astation to speak of its glorious history. Caltech loves to boast about supporting peace in global conflicts, yet it fails to recognize the hypocrisy of having a piece of military equipment that has devastated countless lives as a cultural icon.

"In my neighborhood, I grew up fearing for my life every day. Now, when I hear the cannon it's like reliving those terrifying nights." - Anonymous Student For many students, who grew

up in neighborhoods marred by violence, the Fleming Cannon's resounding boom triggers painful memories. Living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an ongoing struggle, and even non-frequent triggers can be anxiety ridden and distressing. Even with earplugs, many nearby residents will not be safe from the sound in their own rooms. Caltech claims "We seek to transform organizational culture and structures so that all community members, and importantly including those from historically excluded and historically underrepresented groups, feel a sense of belonging within the Caltech community" (in a Statement from the Board of Trustees on inclusive. caltech.edu). Places where historically excluded and unweapon of destruction and dev- derrepresented groups grow

up are unfortunately some of the most common places to find gang violence, illicit gun trade, and murder. Then, people will have the audacity to tell them that if they do not wish to hear the cannon fire, they should leave, only for a day. It is not the responsibility of the underrepresented student to evict themselves from their designated homes just for the sake of tradition. How will they be given a sense of belonging when caltech perpetuates their

"The trauma from my past is a shadow that never truly fades. Caltech has been my refuge in many ways, but the cannon's blast is a stark reminder of the battles I've fought, both within and outside these walls." **Anonymous Student**

Traditions will always hold a special place in our hearts, connecting us to our past and our community. They bring joy, nostalgia, and a sense of belonging. However, as many of these personal narratives illustrate, they can also inadvertently trigger painful memories and emotions for some individuals. Caltech's Fleming Cannon tradition, meant to be a source of joy and celebration, has unexpectedly rekindled trauma for many students. One of the most

starvation and learn how to

best rehabilitate the millions

left without food by World War

II. Now known as the Minne-

article was encountering the adamant demands for secrecy. No one wants to be labeled as a party-pooper. No one wants to be subject to retaliation just for expressing their feelings and opinions. Even if it was only

one student, this discussion would still be worth having. Especially in small communities where empathy and support are paramount, institutions like Caltech should be taking steps to ensure that no student is left to grapple with their demons alone, even in the face of tradition. Some proposed solutions include:

1. Getting rid of the cannon

2. Not firing it 3. Firing it somewhere where it will not be audible from any

painful results of writing this If you want to express you opinions and arguments about

the cannon, feel free to contact me at gore@caltech.edu. This is only one perspective within this discussion. I intend to follow up this article with information from different perspectives so I'd like to hear arguments from all sides and hear more solutions to the dilemma. If you have a similarly controversial opinion that you would like to have written about but wish to remain anonymous, I believe all opinions should be heard, feel free to contact me. Until

- George Ore

The Truth About Not Eating When You're Hungry

Anonymous

Letter to the Community

[TW: Eating disorders, starvation]

For me, it was a comment from my dad that planted the seed. My friends watered it. Sotured it myself at times, until it broke through the one thing I swore I would protect: my curiosity, my joy, my desire to learn. are as a person. As if there is a second phase, the participants I couldn't focus. I had to eat to feed my mind, so I started cutting its branches, not realizing that like a weed, it would not go away until I came for its roots. I justified my eating by the amount of work I was getting done. I tried to block its light and water sources with a flimsy net. I retorted that all foods have different purposes. Dessert is not "junk" because it has sugar; sugar gives us energy. Eating less is not healthy when it makes you pass out. Not truly believing in my words. Telling people you should eat when you are hungry and at the same time feeling good about starving myself. The truth about not eating when you are hungry is that it will make you feel in control. Like you can truly do and be anything you want. Unlike the uncomfortable feeling of doing something you don't want to. I tried to tell myself I

was asserting my control over my body by doing whatever I wanted with it, but I was really only surrendering to the expectations of others. I gave up on trying to find beauty in myself because it was too hard to appreciate something others

The truth about not eating when you are hungry is that it will make you feel like whether or not you eat is an integral number above your head that people will scorn you for if it is too high. And maybe they will. And some will. But that is really no excuse to neglect your

The truth about not eating when you are hungry is that it will change you. It will make you feel like this is a good thing for you, something you should keep doing. It is a parasite that feeds on your fear. The only way to defeat it is to start eating again. This will not be the end of your battle, but it will be a necessary start. Weeding is a continuous process, and neglect can lead to overgrowth. People will say you should eat less, but there is no perfect way of eating, and the truth is you should always eat when you are

In 1944, a group of 36 conscientious war objectors was

sota Starvation Experiment, the study was both tragic and enlightening as to the effects of starvation on the body and brain. The experiment was divided into three phases. The first phase was the control period. The participants were fed a healthy amount of food each months. During the were put on a strict diet and watch which essentially cut their daily food intake in half. As a result, they experienced physical inhibitions such as decreased energy, strength, body temperature, and heart rate as well as personality changes such as increased irritability and sluggishness and decreased motivation. The participants also experienced increased depression, hysteria, and hypochondriasis (excessive worry about having a serious illness). One participant even cut off three of his fingers while chopping wood. When interviewed about why he did it, he responded that he could not remember whether or not he did it on purpose. Four participants were excluded from the final report due to breaking their diet, two of which had to be hospitalized for psychosis, selected to study the effects of though their psychotic symp- of starvation. This means that

were able to quickly overcome the lethargy and dizziness which was caused by not eating, but many of the psychological effects persisted. In particular, participants continued to and one going into agriculture. Participants reflected on watching others eat and being upset with people who didn't finish their food as well as being territorial over their food. They developed body image issues and feelings of social inadequacy. Though the study con-cluded after the end of the war and was ethically questionable, it helped scientists learn how to better rehabilitate the starving texting "NEDA" to 741741 to population. The main conclusion was that those who have gone through famine-like con- Crisis Text Line is a separate ditions should be given a very high caloric diet, and that the high quantity of food matters more than the nutritional value of the foods eaten. Optimistically, the experiment showed eating disorders, and are exthat characteristics such as de-

pression and impulsivity which

were originally thought to pre-

dispose people to disordered

eating are, in fact, byproducts

toms ended after they started many of the factors that eneating enough again. The last courage disordered eating are phase was the refeeding phase actually caused by the disorand lasted 3 months. During dered eating itself and will likerehabilitation, the participants ly resolve after rehabilitation. Though overcoming such an illness is tough, there is good, science-backed reason to have **Editor's Note: Links to stud-**

ies, sources, and additional be preoccupied by food, three resources can be found on the participants even changing online version of this article on

If you are in a crisis and need help immediately, Caltech Student Wellness Services' crisis support line is available 24/7, including weekends and holidays: (626) 395-8331 and press "2" when prompted, please stay on the line. The National Eating Disorder Association (NEDĂ) also offers crisis support – call 988 or continue to contact Crisis Text Line by be connected with a trained volunteer at Crisis Text Line. organization staffed by volunteers who provide free, 24/7 support via text message to individuals who are struggling with mental health, including periencing crisis situations.

Goalkeepers Julio Arroyo

Sam Mathews (ACM, '27, Flemcontinued with a thrilling game against Linfield where it was

face a hurdle. In a heated battle against Hope International, Caltech found themselves trailing for the first time this sea-

with attacks from Rohan Iyer and Ishaan Mantripragada. The match against Hope International eventually ended in a

There was no letting up after that minor hiccup. Big wins against teams like Pomona and La Verne were testimony to the team's desire to keep pushing. Jack Myles' outstanding goal against Pomona-Pitzer and the combined efforts of Casanova and Mantripragada against La Verne stand out as highlights of

soaring success this season.

son is a testament to their un-

manding academic curriculum ment skills. This determination

The Caltech community has taken note of the team's impressive rise. As the Beavers continue their remarkable run, there's an unmistakable sense of anticipation on campus. Students and staff are rallying behind the team, excited to see how this memorable season unfolds. Hopes remain high for the Beavers to either maintain or surpass their current stand-

8

Caltech Y Annual Yosemite Hike: An Odyssey

Sascha Goldsmith Student Life

In the mystical realm of Yosemite National Park, where towering sequoias whisper tales of centuries past and granite giants stand as stoic sentinels to the whims of time, a brave band of Caltech students - prefrosh, returning undergrads, and grad students - embarked on a fourday backpacking and camping odyssey as a part of the annual Caltech Y hiking trip. Armed with nothing but enthusiasm, a handful of granola bars, miscellaneous decks of cards, and the spirit of adventure - they set out to conquer the wild wonders of Yosemite.

On Day 1, the group met at the Y and set forth on a several hour journey to the Eastern Sierras in our positively luxurious bus. Once at the park, a group of backpackers split off from the camping group to

explore Ten Lakes and Porcupine Creek at around ~9000 ft elevation for an overnight escapade. Meanwhile, the rest of the hikers continued to the campsite in the Upper Pines Yosemite Valley area to set up tents and an array of exquisite culinary delights (lentils and couscous).

On Day 2, the camping group hiked outside of the valley to the Lower Cathedral Lakes, a seven-mile, round-trip hike with 1300 ft gain to 9500 ft elevation through granite formations and forest. After enjoying some PB&Js and picturesque views, some edgy Techers decided to take a "polar plunge" in the serene lake - almost like a reward.

"My favorite part of the trip had to have been the hike to Cathedral Lakes," recounted first-year undergrad Arabella Camunez. "It was really high elevation so it was difficult on the way there, but when we emerged from the trees and saw the lake it was absolutely worth it. The mountains, lake, peace, and tranquility were unforgettable."

Once reunited with the backpackers after the Cathedral Lake hike, the group was ready to take on our Day 3 hike through the Vernal Falls Mist Trail to Nevada Falls in the Yosemite Valley. The strenuous ~7 mile round trip and 2000 ft elevation gain was well worth the view. Personally, I was shocked that I was able to make it all the way up in one piece (however, my hiking boots did not).

"My favorite memory had to have been [when all the eager first years] were using a fellow camper's hotspot to check their schedules at the top of Nevada falls", said first-year undergrad Claire Ellison. Prefrosh amiright!

Day 4 included a slow stroll through the Mariposa Grove and a quick group photo at the Tunnel View Valley overlook. At the grove, home to Yosemite's very own Sequoias, the group looped around the fields of shrubs, grass, and willows ornamented with Redwoods.

Overall, the four days of hiking was to be unanimously considered a "phenomenal experience" said first-year undergrad Justin Lee. "I appreciated how much we all looked out for one another, which is a value that is shared by Caltech at large. We took the hikes at our own pace, yet we made sure to stay together, even if it entailed curtailing our ambitions at times." Lee reflected on his stargazing and camping experience in the valley, "I had opportunity to gaze at the stars without the blinding lights of streetside lamps and buildings polluting the sky; at Yosemite, the night sky appeared brighter and clearer than it ever had ever seemed in my recent memory."

The California Tech

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Newspaper is the idea material for all you Papier-mâché needs (of which I'm sure you have a lot). So after you read the Tech, why not make yourself a nice art?

Instructions: Tear the Tech into 1" strips. Dip into a mixture of 2 parts glue, 1 part water, then cover a mold in strips.



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