Opinion: Caltech Orange Needs a Hint of Green
Leonardo Kudsk Holberg
Exchange Student, Ch ’24, Page

While this Institution promotes their production of 100 percent of net electricity onsite, only a few percent of this is from renewables – even less than the already fossil-heavy California ISO grid. Even if Caltech improved on this, a basic understanding of additionality tells us that actual reductions in consumption is the only way to make a meaningful impact.

Don’t think that this excessive consumption only impacts the environment. With California having some of the priciest electricity in this nation, tuition is surely impacted. It too harms Caltech’s reputation; a point I reckon about the relentless productivity-oriented culture our capital society is drilled into our heads since birth (With you meet someone, one of the first questions you ask them is “What do you do? You might also ask them to state your function.”), but having found myself in a particularly stressed and overwhelmed state of affairs this week, and being faced with this awkward blank space on the front page, I say this not to throw shade but instead to highlight a more widespread issue.

The keen-eyed reader will notice that there are no reported news articles in today’s Tech. It’s not that there was no news for the week, on the contrary, that’s where we writers for the news report.

I say this not to throw shade at the Tech staff – I’m just as much to blame – but instead to highlight a more widespread problem with Caltech students in general, and ourselves too. We’re all working together into the ground.

Of course, this is the nature of Caltech. Overload, overcommit, overwork, overdue. Under-slept, undernourished, underhydrated. I'll spare you my rant about the relentless productivity-oriented culture our capital society is drilled into our heads since birth (When you meet someone, one of the first questions you ask them is “What do you do?” You might also ask them to state your function.”), but having found myself in a particularly stressed and overwhelmed state of affairs this week, and being faced with this awkward blank space on the front page, I say this not to throw shade but instead to highlight a more widespread issue.

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Local Happenings in Pasadena

Alicia Zhang

After 20 years, ArroyoFest comes back!

ArroyoFest is a celebration of the dream of a better city with safe sidewalks, accessible green spaces, and open parks, walkable streets, and a vibrant, diverse cultural scene. It is the original co-organizer of the first ArroyoFest in 1995 and has continued to bring people together in and around the Pasadena area since then.

This year, ArroyoFest is back to celebrate everything that makes the Arroyo a special place. The festival will feature live music, food trucks, art vendors, and family-friendly activities.

The event is free and open to all ages. ArroyoFest is a joint project of the American Federation for the Arts and the City of Pasadena. For more information, visit www.arroyofest.org.

To know more about the festival, visit www.arroyofest.org.

Questions to the Author

Question 1 (Alicia Zhang): What can we expect from this year's ArroyoFest?

Question 2 (Alicia Zhang): How does ArroyoFest contribute to the Arroyo area?

Question 3 (Alicia Zhang): What impact does ArroyoFest have on the local community?

Question 4 (Alicia Zhang): How can we participate in ArroyoFest?

To check out other local events, visit www.arroyofest.org.

Alicia Zhang is the founder of ArroyoFest and a passionate advocate for the Arroyo area. She is dedicated to bringing the community together through arts, culture, and community building.

Alicia Zhang

The California Tech

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

To Scotland and Beyond: The Caltech Y Hastror Award Experience

Gabi Twombly

This year, Hope and I (Hope Arnett and Gabi Twombly) were honored with the Caltech Y Hastror Award. The Hastror Award is given by the Guinall Hastror Adventure Club to recognize students who have contributed to the community in significant ways.

The Hastror Award recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to the community. We were both awarded the Hastror Award for our contributions to the community.

The award ceremony was held on campus and included speeches from the Hastror Committee, faculty members, and students. The Hastror Committee is made up of students who are nominated by their peers.

The Hastror Award is a symbol of our hard work and commitment to the community. We are honored to receive this award and will continue to work towards making the world a better place.

Questions to the Author

Question 1 (Gabi Twombly): What inspired you to become involved in the community?

Question 2 (Gabi Twombly): How has being involved in the community impacted your life?

Question 3 (Gabi Twombly): What advice do you have for others who want to make a difference in their community?

Question 4 (Gabi Twombly): How do you plan to continue your involvement in the community after receiving the Hastror Award?

To check out more about the Hastror Award, visit www.caltech.edu/hastror.
Amazon Skymall
Welcome back to Amazon Skymall! In this column, we hold a raffle where we [not] randomly select one of our lucky readers and give them one of two items of our choice from these hand-picked selections!
As the academic year progresses, the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology (ASCIT) budget undergoes changes, maintaining a dynamic approach to financial management. Key to this strategy is the projection of a surplus, aimed to be over 10% of the annual dues, to safeguard against unforeseen expenditures and ensure a stable financial end to the Board of Directors’ term. The budget distinguishes between internal and external funding sources. Internal funding is strictly derived from ASCIT dues, while external funding includes surplus from the previous year and other revenue streams, such as ASCIT Formal ticket sales and MHF funding. A detailed breakdown is provided in an accompanying table and pie chart, highlighting how each cent of the dues is allocated. Notably, allocations directly benefiting the houses are marked in red.

ASCIT Funding Categories:
There are five primary areas of funding within ASCIT, each encompassing various allocations for specific functions and initiatives.

Publications: This includes 'The California Tech', which has resumed printing and receives inaudited 10% of ASCIT dues. The production is funded through a specific assessment and is one of the most visible ways the budget has changed over the past six years and is supported by advertising revenue.

Operations: This broad category oversees general operations for unforeseen expenses, the Student Activity Center (SAC), and the Interhouse Committee (IHC), among others. The IHC, in particular, faces funding challenges as the Office of Student Experience (OSE) did not support any of its expenses during rotation despite declaring that they support rotation. The Academics and Research Committee (ARC) and Staff Awards also fall under this umbrella, supporting academic and staff recognition initiatives.

Projects: Efforts like the renovation of the Soc-Cluets, the denied proposals for SAC study rooms, and the new t-shirt printer in the SAC highlight ASCIT’s commitment to improving student facilities.

Social: The budget for social events like ASCIT Formal, Techstock, and Midnight Donuts illustrates the effort to maintain vibrant student life. Significant funding is allocated to events, interhouse activities, senior boxes, and cross-house events, each contributing to a rich campus culture. The initial and additional event funding for clubs underscores ASCIT’s support for diverse student-led initiatives.
Introducing...

The California Tech

CalGuesser

Every issue we’ll show you a different location on campus. Find the place and find the QR code hidden there to sign the log book and win a fabulous prize!!!

(“On campus” is defined by the bounds of the map on caltech.edu/map/campus. The QR code will be hidden somewhere within the pictured area.)

The California Tech

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The California Tech aims to publish biweekly 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; email submissions to tech@caltech.edu, or submit them on our Discord server (https://discord.gg/6fahh8749s2). 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 12 pm on 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.

Can you spot the amogus ((fabs) in this issue?

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November 16, 12-2 pm | Caltech Innovation Center

Submission deadline: January 8, 2024.

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Class Spotlight:
Where Engineering Meets Biology

At Caltech, a distinctive biology course introduces a new way students approach the life sciences. “The Biomechanics of Organismal Design,” taught by Professor Michael Dickinson, merges the concrete principles of physics with the dynamic patterns of biology. This integration offers a new perspective to students, particularly appealing to those with interests in mechanical engineering. The course tackles intriguing questions like how penguins swim, why maple seeds spin to the ground, and the comparative strength of spider silk versus steel. While the course focuses on the organismal level, it also incorporates molecular, cellular, and tissue-level scales, painting a comprehensive picture of biological mechanics.

Bram Schork (Fleming ’26), a mechanical engineering student who completed the course, shared his experiences, noting the unique approach of the class. “It was a fun blend of physics and biology,” Schork said. He highlighted the mechanical framework used by Professor Dickinson, which allowed students to tap into their existing knowledge of physics to decode biological phenomena. A standout example from the course was the analysis of a cricket’s jump, approached not through biological lenses but through mechanical diagrams. “We broke down the cricket into an energy source and a spring, allowing us to use our well known physics skills to start solving biological problems,” Schork explained, emphasizing the application of familiar physics skills to biological questions.

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Last week’s winners!

CalGuesser #2 – October 31, 2023

Congrats, you found it!!!

Leave your name/pseudonym, year/department, and date found!
Carlos Ayala, Astro2024, Halloween 2023
Thomas Cleveland, Math ’25, Halloween 2023
Tiba Hanza, CHE24, Venerable, 11/1/2023
Ishita Mothur, CNS ’26, 11/2/2023!!!!
Shrujana Kumwa, CNS ’26

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