The Honor Code is Falling Apart. We are the Problem. We are the Solution.

By: HEIDI REDMOND - BoC Co-Secretary, ALEX BURK - ARC Chair

With Help From: GABBY TWOMBLEY - ASC President, JONATHAN BROOKER - ASCT Treasurer

Michael Gutierrez - Tech Editor-in-Chief; Alexi Wang - BoC Co-Secretary

The California Tech
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023

Vice President of Student Affairs Addresses Controversy Over Discontinuing Rotation Events

Maxwell Montemayor, Michael Gutierrez - News

There has been a lot of buzz about the vague spectre of “ad- min” banning undergraduate house events, both during and outside Rotation this year. In continuing this discussion between tradition and inclusivity, the Tech interviewed Dr. Kevin Gilmartin, Vice President for Student Affairs, to get his perspective on the matter. Our conversation focused on two specific events: Ricketts House’s Potato Cannon, and Ricketts House’s Halloween Dinner. Blacker House’s Potato Cannon, built for a Ditch Day stack in 2021, was recently halved and large air tank attached to a -toft pipe which fires whole potatoes in the air in a point-blank range in the Blacker House courtyard. The shells are very loud and bright, and loud firing sounds have delighted and entertained two of the worst of preprivo - and not everyone. According to Dr. Gilmartin, some students have come to him to express concerns about the violent, weapon-like nature of the cannon.

“We live in a country where shootings associated specifically with schools are an ongoing trauma.”

“We live in a country where shootings associated specifically with schools are an ongoing trauma,” Dr. Gilmartin told us. “We are in a country that has consistent philosophy of supporting students and fostering safe spaces, especially relevant when wars start, in light of the recent outbreak of violence in the Middle East.”

With this in mind, for this year’s Rotation, Dr. Gilmartin personally instructed Blacker House leadership to discontinue firing their Potato Cannon. They complied, but without blowback. “We are a Tech building, who felt like this has harmed student traditions and free-doms, and were unhappy with the fact that Dr. Gilmartin’s instructions were given on a short notice. He also mentioned that he expressed didn’t disapprove for this change during previous Rotations. “A few years ago, I expressed concern about this with the IHC about food waste... I made it very clear to the IHC that this needed to stop. So this year I did what I told them I was going to do.” (Regarding rejecting Ricketts House event proposal.)

However, Ricketts House president Blacker Hovse (GeCh 24) told the Tech that they had no interest in deferring these previous talks with the IHC.

What is the Problem?

These rumors arose, which the Board of Control (BoC) Leadership has heard from faculty and students, are indications that some Caltech Community members believe that other community members are hypocritically against the Honor Code. What does this say about the state of our Honor System? Can we have an Honor Code where some only believe in it? Do we have an Honor Code if no one believes in it? No. Dr. Gilmartin explained during our interview that the Flemington Cannon is an exception. He said it is an “institute-wide tradition and legacy,” so he is unable to hold it to the same standard as individual house traditions, despite confirming that it also received complaints to the Potato Cannon.

Ricketts House also faced recent rumors that they would discontinue the dinner skits, which are short, chaotic performances put on by Skurves during Rotation Dinners. According to Dr. Gilmartin, students have been reviving the relevance of the Honor Code in their classrooms because they are losing faith in the ability of the student body to fulfill their responsibilities to the Honor Code. Students are worried about what they see as an “inconsistent” exercise of house culture that ostentatiously takes advantage of this shows our privilege and is extremely inappropriate.

A ritual exercise of house culture that ostentatiously takes advantage of this shows our privilege and is extremely inappropriate.

Students run for the Board of Control so that they can acquit their friends of Honor Code violations.

Faculty think I’m lying when I say I’m sick.

Houses send out answer keys so that everyone gets the answers.

Students sit down in large groups and collaborate on exams.

Professors intentionally create tests and problem sets which are impossible to complete.

Administrators are actively working against students.

The BoC is working to publish the necessary and important transparency to get at the cost of the BoC remaining fully autonomous and student-run. This necessary and important transparency and cost has come at the expense of the Board of Control remaining fully autonomous and student-run. This necessary and important transparency has come at the expense of the BoC remaining fully autonomous and student-run. This necessary and important transparency has come at the expense of the BoC remaining fully autonomous and student-run.
In a shocking development that will shake the entire campus, a school-wide policy was announced this week. The policy, known as "The Undergraduate Well-Being Challenge," will require all students to participate in a variety of activities that will help them balance their academic and personal lives. According to the details of the program, students will be expected to maintain a healthy sleep schedule, engage in regular physical activity, and practice stress management techniques. The challenge is expected to significantly affect academic performance and personal debt rates. In addition, the policy is designed to protect students from negative externalities. Despite the backlash from some quarters, the majority voted in Congress to approve the Undergraduate Well-Being Challenge, with the third majority vote and has been signed into law by President U.S. history. The process involved a report, and a vote, and in the end, the package passed in Congress, with the Senate case passed in a 50-49 vote. The Undergraduate Well-Being Challenge aims to ensure that students take care of their mental and physical health. The Senate case has many important implications, but it is noteworthy that the bill passed in a 50-49 vote, which is a significant milestone. It is an important step towards ensuring that students have the resources and support they need to succeed.
The California Tech
Caltech Up Close 2023

Question the Quail!

An annual column about life, love, and everything else thought to be of any value. This year’s topic: flowers and their varieties.

Mary Jones

Caltech students may not think that flowers are of any practical use, but, if you listen to the bees, they do have many uses. In the winter, when flowers are not in bloom, bees can be seen roaming around the campus, collecting nectar from the remaining flowers. This not only helps the bees survive the winter, but also provides them with food for the spring.

One day, a student, Mr. Smith, arrived on campus with a dozen roses. He was excited to see the bees, but instead of flying around the flowers, they all congregated around him. He was amazed to see how many bees were attracted to his roses.

Some students, noting this, decided to hold a contest to see who could attract the most bees to their flowers. The contest was a huge success, with students from all over the campus participating. The winner was a student who used a combination of flowers and bees. They were able to attract over a hundred bees to their flowers, much to the delight of the bees themselves and the students who watched.

In a world of science, where discovery is at the forefront, it is important not to forget the simple pleasures in life. Flowers and bees are a perfect example of this. They remind us of the beauty that can be found in nature, and how much we can learn from it.

Thanthan Nguyen, Michael Gutierrez

Campus News

In mid-Octubre, the Caltech Undergraduate Admissions Office held its annual Admissions Cup (CUC) for the Class of 2027. The event included a unique challenge where participants had to share the experience of living in a dorm room and competing against each other to see who could adapt best to the dorm living experience. Some students were surprised by the results, as they had planned to work together and share the burden of living in a dorm room, but were unable to do so due to the nature of the challenge.

SELECTED ADDRESSES

Q: What’s up with Lloyd Lights?

A: I offer you a poem:

Q: What Christmas presents are the housemates giving this year?

A: They are giving the House Quail's ornaments. The House Quail has been a tradition for many years, and the ornaments are always a hit.

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Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Squirrels Unleashed

The 15th Ed’king Person to Submit an Anonymous Article about Squirrels This Term

Squirrels

Alright, let’s talk about the real VIPs of Caltech — no, not the Nobel laureates, I’m talking about the squirrels. These little guys are the unseen heroes of campus comedy. Apparently, you can’t walk two feet without tripping over a squirmed parking lot.

First off, these squirrels have real values. They’re environmentally conscious. You see, they’ve been propagating their 100% biodiverse sperm for generations, and their goal is to have the most exhaustively documented, naturalized, and diversified species.

On campus, you’ll find the current edutainment system that’s indoctrinating the younger generation, an entertainment industry founded by Wayne Puspus (2023, colorized), how homosexuality is immoral. (It should be noted that the current establishment system is indoctrinating the younger generation, not only because it’s indoctrinating the younger generation, not only because it’s indoctrinating the younger generation, not only because it’s indoctrinating the younger generation, not only because it’s indoctrinating the younger generation, not only because it’s indoctrinating the younger generation, not only because it’s indoctrinating the younger generation, not only because it’s indoctrinating the younger generation, not only because it’s indoctrinating the younger generation.

When Mario leaves his place of school to stumpy a tur, he knows that he may Die. And yet, for a man who can purchase chives lives with money, a life becomes a mere store of value. A man that can be paid for, much as a rich man feels any law with a time is a price. We think of Mario as a hero, but he is simply one pervert of a more privileged variety. The life of a hero...

Photo Credit: Joe Kim
Necromancy guild celebrates legislative victory

Caltech GPS graduate student Evelyn Zhang, 24, who was the only student from the campus chosen to receive the $5,000,000 grant to work on the project, was overjoyed. “I think it’s an incredible opportunity to work on something that I’m passionate about,” she said. “I’m really excited to see what we can achieve.”

The grant, which is the largest ever given to a single student, was awarded by the National Geographic Society to fund Zhang’s research on the use of necromancy in the study of ancient civilizations.

“Necromancy is a crucial tool for archaeologists,” said Dr. John Smith, a renowned archaeologist and member of the grant committee. “It allows us to communicate with those who have passed on and gain insight into their lives and beliefs.”

Zhang plans to use the grant to travel to Mexico and Peru to conduct necromantic rituals and gather data on the beliefs and practices of ancient cultures.

“I’m really looking forward to this opportunity,” she said. “I believe that necromancy can provide us with valuable insights into the past.”

The grant has sparked controversy among some scientists, who argue that necromancy is a pseudoscience and should not be used in serious research.

“Necromancy is a fraud that has no place in academic circles,” said Dr. Jane Doe, a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. “It’s time we stopped funding this kind of research.”

Zhang, however, remains undeterred. “I believe in the power of necromancy,” she said. “I think it can help us understand the past and lead to a better future.”

The grant is the latest in a series of accolades for Zhang, who has already made significant contributions to the field of archaeology.

The California Tech Pasadena News Column

Alícia Zhang

Looking to get your holiday light fix? Check out these locations:

**Holiday Light Spotting in the Neighborhoods:**
- **Pasadena**
  - **Colorado Boulevard**
  - **California Avenue**
- **Altadena**
  - **Altadena Drive**
- **Juanita Avenue**

These locations are a great place to see the beauty of the holidays and enjoy a festive night out.

Upper Hastings Ranch Neighborhood

**805 South Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA**

Enjoy live performances, holiday décor, and the chance to see the famous crystal tree decorations at the Pasadenia Ranch. The event is free and open to the public.

**Landscape**

- **874 Chestnut St, Pasadena, CA**
- **253 S Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA**

Enjoy the light displays in the tradition of a festival of lights. The event is free and open to the public.

**Animals Adore**

- **Pasadena Central Park**
- **Pasadena, CA**

See the famous crystal tree decorations at the Pasadenia Ranch. The event is free and open to the public.

Restaurant Reviews with Tom Mannon:
Full House, Chinatown

Joray Pieper

Local

**Experience:**

The full-featured seafood restaurant not too far from campus. Come for lobster!

**Location:**

Located in Chinatown, Full House is twenty minutes from campus by car. On a Tuesday night, parking was free but not for long. I entered the restaurant the service was fast, and the food was good. The waiter was friendly, and the food was delicious.

**Summary:**

Lobster

The lobster was delicious, and the sauce was fantastic. My only complaint was that it was a bit overcooked. I would recommend this restaurant if you’re in the mood for seafood.

**Conclusion:**

Full House is a great restaurant to try if you’re in the mood for seafood.

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Amazon Skymall
Welcome back to Amazon Skymalk! In this column, we hold a raffle where we (not you) can win our lucky name code and give them the item of their choice from these handpicked selections!

Enter this week’s raffle by using the QR code or the link below:

**MOST RECENT WINNER**

**NO FREE** $23.99

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The California Tech

**The Honor Code is Falling Apart**

In the last academic year, there were ~45 cases of suspected Honor Code violations. Among the students notified, 75% were of those students who were convicted of at least one violation. Assuming that each case is equally likely, this number is almost 8 times higher than the last year's average of 5 cases per year. Of the 75% of students who were convicted of at least one violation, 25% previously were of the students who were convicted of at least one violation. The vast majority of faculty, students, and staff believe that the Honor Code is underperforming.

Is this true? Is the Honor Code helping or hindering? Do faculty, students, and staff have a common understanding of the Honor Code? Are students and faculty aware of the consequences of violating the Honor Code? What can be done to improve the effectiveness of the Honor Code?

We want to hear your thoughts on the Honor Code and its implementation in academic matters. Are you satisfied with the outcomes of the Honor Code violations and their aftermath? Do you feel that the Honor Code is supporting you as a student body, or do you feel that the Honor Code violates your rights and disadvantages you?

We encourage you to participate in a new role – the Faculty Liaison. The Faculty Liaison can help you to identify Honor Code violations and to report them to the Board of Control. The Faculty Liaison can also help you to identify Honor Code violations and to report them to the Board of Control.

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Every issue you see will show 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!!!

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ARC Tip of the Week:

Last day of classes is this Friday! December 1st!

Research List

- * follow up on consistency
- * send out calendar
- * conflicts in dates of events
- * offer to pay BoC
- * funding: possible through ASCIT

Research Tips

- * do not include budget on ascit website
- * include budget on ascit website
- * ASCIT formal:
- * sign up with school email
- * send ornament or candy (donuts)

Updated on Course Complaints Form:

- * ASCIT Movie Night
- * Jonathan will manage
- * Grubhub for Costume Convention
- * OSE added family weekend
- * ASCIT formal:
- * ASCIT Logistics
- * ASCIT Reviewing Caltech Up Close
- * ASCIT Leadership"

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

The Facebook Group: Caltech Prank Club!

How to Report Course Concerns

If you have a concern about a course, please fill out this anonymous form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFBrCjW85G0Vw0zgGd...edit?usp=sahare

cern: https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1gbPK65NI9yMhA82a0ZyIHn.../

Letter to the Community

On Friday, October 13, 2023, all freshmen received an email from the Senior Director of Campus Activities and Engagement, Mimi McKee.

On December 13, 2023, the Caltech Prank Club!

Unleash Your Inner Prankster with Caltech's Official Prank Club!

How to Register Your Prank

If you want to submit a prank that we can help you design, you will need to submit your prank on the prank log.

We want to underscore that this prank was not a prank culture if it is properly registered. In order to register your prank, you need to submit a prank log.

We hope to have successfully conveyed the prank mostly figured out yourself and you don't need any help from the club, only funding and authorizations. If you want help from the club, you need to figure out your idea, use the prank log.

Leaves a Mark on (Caltech) History

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We hope to have successfully conveyed the prank mostly figured out yourself and you don't need any help from the club, only funding and authorizations. If you want help from the club, you need to figure out your idea, use the prank log.

Leaves a Mark on (Caltech) History

The Caltech Prank Club!

Do you have a concern about a course? Please fill out this anonymous form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFBrCjW85G0Vw0zgGd...edit?usp=sahare

cern: https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1gbPK65NI9yMhA82a0ZyIHn.../

The Facebook Group: Caltech Prank Club!

How to Report Course Concerns

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ASCIT’s Movie Night Explores Snow’s Rise in “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes”

Eileen Zhang
Category

Introduction:
In the dystopian world of Panem, where each race defines destinies and the division between good and evil is blurred more often than not, “The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” teleports us back to an older, less grandiose version of the Games. The battle revolve to the death is still there, used as a force to control and punish the Districts. The film pretty closely follows the original Hunger Games as told in the official album, although not in the novel. The movie (and the book) doesn’t leave much room for future instalments, especially as there are no other books at this time.

Analysis:
On a level similar to a high school sophomore’s English class, “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” presents a variety of symbols and themes to analyze. The dichotomy of songbirds and snakes, the nuanced character development, both of Cornelia Snow’s conflicted destiny as a singer and performs its as the main character, Lucy Grey’s affinity for snakes and the echoes of his father’s fate to the film’s depth. Cousin Titus anticipates the coming of Coriolanus becoming his father, the interplay of snakes and poison, and the overarching question of the purpose of the Hunger Games and how Corry’s answer changes also illustrate how President Snow reached his chilling breaking point.

“The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” ultimately is a classic tale of a student’s fall to a high level of predictability, to his fervent devotion and self-doubt, to the film’s depth. Cousin Titus anticipates the coming of Coriolanus becoming his father, the interplay of snakes and poison, and the overarching question of the purpose of the Hunger Games and how Corry’s answer changes also illustrate how President Snow reached his chilling breaking point.

For ASCIT’s annual free movie night held on November 19th, 2023, Caltech students were teleported into the world of the twelve districts and the Capitol, and into the core conflicts of Panem, where each choice determines destinies and the division between good and evil is blurred more often than not. The battle revolve to the death is still there, used as a force to control and punish the Districts. The film pretty closely follows the original Hunger Games as told in the novel, although not in the novel. The movie (and the book) doesn’t leave much room for future instalments, especially as there are no other books at this time.

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Write for the Tech

Lilia Arrizabalaga

If you are a friend, an enemy, or even a vague acquaintance of mine, you have likely heard me tell you to write for the Tech. And yet my research has shown the vast majority of you have never written for the tech! What utter disgrace, frankly I’m disappointed. So in an effort to convince more of you to write for the tech I have written a very comprehensive guide about how to write for the tech.

Step 0. Find a topic (optional)

Finding something you’re passionate about or something you think people need to know. No longer do your rants have to be confined to your preferred messaging app or 2am in the lounge, now all of campus can see it! Want to write a Tech article but don’t know what to write about? We have a page for that, tech.caltech.edu/write. Snag an article from there and write your heart’s content. Indecisive or just need to be told what to do? Find an editor and tell them you want to write for the tech, if they don’t find you an article to write please report them to the editor in chief.

Step 1. Decide what type of article you want to write. We have so many options for you! You could write a letter to the editor complaining about the last issue. You could write an opinion piece about anything you have opinions about, or even about things other people have opinions about that annoy you. Or you could write the news! Write about things happening on campus! You could even just write about how great your house’s social events are to make everyone else jealous.

Step 1.5. Research (optional)

If you’re writing news, you should probably do some interviews. It’s very easy I promise, all you have to do is email the relevant people “I am a student here at Tech and I was wondering if I could have a few minutes of your time to interview you.” They will have no choice but to respond to you and the next time you see them you will likely get back to you before your deadline. If you were a truly opinion piece writing opinion, you might not need to do research, but it would probably help you know what you’re talking about. We here at the Tech have a very strict “no publishing garbage lies policy based on skill with the English language. I mean look at me, I don’t even know how to write words.”

Step 2. Write. My preferred way to write an article is to go into a wing fuge for about an hour clickity clacking my keyboard. This method does not work for everyone. Articles can be whatever length you want, but if you’re a numbers sort of person around 300 to absolute max of 2000. Clarity and concision are important, as is grammar, but this is what we pay editors for. Ideally you would do this step before the deadline. Don’t make our editors sad that they have to rush to do it.

Step 3. Submit. Give us your words. Please we crave the words. You can submit articles at tech.caltech.edu/submit, send your article to an editor or tape it to the wedding cake between 1:30pm and midnight every Thursday after we publish. Please note if you do not publish will and probably won’t be published.

Step 4. ???

Step 5. Profit. We pay people to write! Please write please please we pay.

Now to address some common concerns I have heard:

I’m not good at writing. Nonsense. We are literate, we take your words.

The Tech is not a literary journal we do not publish anything based on skill with the English language. I mean look at me, I don’t even know how to write words.

It doesn’t matter/I won’t make a difference. Maybe you have been complaining about something going on around campus but don’t want to write about it because it “won’t fix the problem”. Nonsense. Do you think the journalist covering the tree that fell by red door last year expected their words to unsee the tree? Never needs to be covered for the good of the populous, not just to enact change. Plus, how much change do you expect to come about from not writing the article. Name the problem. Name the solution. Name the people to write to! Don’t let someone 10 years from now who wants to know what the climate was like now down because you wouldn’t write about your complaints just because “it won’t take mat- ter”. Also, it could make a difference. If a change is enacted on campus that is unpopular and written about in the tech it is possible it will be recycled. You cannot generalize to say people need to write to make a difference. Opposes my shitpost got a bit serious. Back to your regular bullshit.

I don’t have time. Well this one is probably true, the way I can’t really make a message more time. Maybe you should try procrastinating your sets by writing for the tech? Although if you do manage to find more free time you should use it to play interhouse sports.