Hidden Camera Title IX Case Drags to an End After 16 Months

Cristian Ponce, Maxwell Montemayor
Managing Editors

In a Title IX case characterized by incessant delays, non-disclosure agreements, and frustration, a conclusion was finally reached late last November.

The case dates from July 17th, 2022, when a student participating in the Freshman Summer Research Institute (FSRI) hid a camera in a communal bathroom in a Bechtel Residence suite. Within the first 72 hours, the owner of the camera was identified, video footage of the camera's installation was discovered, and members of the suite received an apology letter from the owner of the camera. However, despite the prompt discovery of an abundance of evidence, the case took more than 16 months to resolve.

We cleaned it up.

We put out the fire.

We put back the light. The unexpected length of the case has at least the expense of the other students in the suite (the "complainants"). Four of these students, who were interviewed by the Tech, say they are disappointed by the numerous delays and lack of consistent communication from the Title IX Office. "I'd be having a good day, and then I'd get a call from the Title IX Office..." one of the suite members recalled. "I just wanted it to be done."

The Deans' Office expelled the occupant on November 27th, marking the end of a painful saga. The timeline was triple the length of what complainants were told as a best estimate by Hina Vatti, Caltech's Title IX Coordinator, at the onset of the investigation. Some of the complainants even accuse the Title IX Office of " deflecting and delaying " and working to protect the Institute's image during the drawn-out process.

continued on page 13

THE INCIDENT

According to a letter from the Title IX Office sent to the complainants and reviewed by the Tech, suite residents alerted Caltech Security after discovering a device in the shared bathroom. Security took the camera into their possession, conducted a sweep of the restrooms, and notified the Pasadena Police Department (PPD). The device had the appearance of a charging block and contained a hidden camera and microphone. It allegedly recorded individuals without their consent from approximately 4:00pm, July 17, 2022 until 3:30pm July 18, 2022.

The student in the suite who owned the camera (the "respondent") admitted to Caltech Security he was the owner of the device, that he had intended it to record, that he had set it up and enabled recording, and that he intended to do something with the material recorded, according to the letter from the Title IX Office.

continued on page 15

Editors-in-Chief:

We want to hear your perspective!

Specifically, I'd love to hear it from YOU directly, even and especially if you're not a student. We live in a society with e-mail technology; it is not difficult to communicate with us. The Tech receives emails very rarely, yet to my bewilderment, I frequently hear people's complaints about the Tech second-hand through my friends in student leadership. Caltech's Office of Strategic Communication even contacted me via email claiming to have received "several comments and questions" about a recent Tech issue. Why these comments and questions were sent to the OSC instead of the Tech is beyond the comprehension of my feeble physics-major mind. For those unaware, the Tech is a publication independent of Caltech, run by the Associated Students of Caltech (ASCIT).

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. Feedback, positive or negative, is always welcome and appreciated.

Cheers!
-Mich "print journalism"ael Gut is not "ierr"dead"ez

Send submissions or contact the Tech editorial team at
tech@caltech.edu

(Due by 12 p.m. on the Saturday before each bidweely Tuesday publication)

We Set Fire to a Pair of Pants. We Put Out the Fire. We Cleaned It Up. They Kicked Us Out of Campus Housing.

Michael Gutierrez
Editor-in-Chief

This is a two-years-old news by now because the Tech wasn’t publishing much in 2021. But I feel it is an important document to document neverthe-

less.

It was Fall Term, 2021 — the first term back on campus since COVID, and the first term ever on campus for both freshmen and sophomores.

We all have our "Typical Frosh L" moments during our first terms at Caltech. Some people drink too much at their first party. Some people say dumb shit with their mouths or complain loudly when they only got a 90% on an assignment. Some people rate bad jokes in their Rotation Pick List.

For me and four of my friends, ours was deciding to rent a long-

continued on page 12

Note from the Tech Editor-in-Chief:

Corrections

In the previous November 28, 2022 issue of the Tech, the article titled "The California Institute of Technology Unionization Effort" was published. October 31st of last year it was claimed that ¾ survey respondents had personally witnessed or experienced some form of bullying or discrimination. The survey (N=241) actually found that only 74% of grad students and postdocs who responded reported experiencing some form of bullying or discrimination. The survey was triggered by a special push by Caltech president Harold Brown in 1970, despite opposition by some alummi. Thanks to Richard Wright (BS’68, Fleming) for this info.

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For me and four of my friends, ours was deciding to rent a long-
On November 30, 2023, Caltech Grad and Postdocs Under the Union (CWP-UAW) conducted the Caltech Grad and Postdocs Union Election (CWP-UAW). The election is the result of a long campaign led by Caltech, and it is believed by many that this victory is a significant milestone in the fight for better working conditions and fair treatment for all students and postdocs at Caltech.

Without a union, the Caltech administration makes all decisions relating to grading conditions. Many grad and postdocs have expressed dissatisfaction with the grading system, which has failed to provide adequate wages, healthcare benefits, and protections against abuse. Critics argue that many students have previously complained to a CWP-UAW workplace representative about the unfair grading practice.

In contrast, union bargaining provides a chance for neutral individuals to test the grading system, and 33 grad and postdoc respondents have signed up for the union. The CWP-UAW hopes to be able to leverage this bargaining power to address issues of bias.

The CWP-UAW is a union that represents grad and postdoc respondents at Caltech. The union is made up of grad and postdoc respondents at Caltech who are united in their desire for better working conditions and fair treatment. The union is currently working to negotiate a fair contract for all grad and postdoc respondents at Caltech.

A "yes" vote in the upcoming election supports forming a union and bargaining for better working conditions. With the support of the CWP-UAW, the grad and postdoc respondents at Caltech will have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. The union is committed to fighting for fair wages, healthcare benefits, and protections against abuse.

CWP-UAW has a clear vision for the future of Caltech and its students. The union aims to create a working environment that is fair, safe, and inclusive. With a union, grad and postdoc respondents will be able to negotiate a fair contract that provides them with the support and resources they need to succeed.

The CWP-UAW is asking grad and postdoc respondents to vote yes in the upcoming election. Together, we can create a better future for all students and postdocs at Caltech.
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

The California Tech

Feel Free to Cancel Me
Umrkan Koca
Opinion

It’s Ok

In true Caltech fashion, the event was held late at night, about two hours past midnight at the office of the open source environment, with students sitting around a table, eating pizza and sharing stories about their experiences. The atmosphere was lively and engaging, with students from various departments and majors coming together to discuss their passions and interests. It was a great opportunity for students to connect with each other and build meaningful relationships.

I was particularly impressed by the level of collaboration and cooperation among the participants. Despite the late hour, everyone was energetic and engaged, actively participating in discussions and sharing their insights. It was clear that the students were passionate about their work and dedicated to making a positive impact on the world.

The event was also an opportunity to hear from some of the most talented and innovative minds at Caltech. The speakers shared their experiences and insights with the audience, and the students were eager to learn from them. The discussions covered a wide range of topics, from science and technology to art and culture, and the students found the talks to be both inspiring and informative.

I left the event feeling energized and excited about the future. I am confident that the students at Caltech are well-equipped to tackle the biggest challenges of our time and to make a positive impact on the world. I am looking forward to seeing what the future holds for these exceptional young people.
We are currently at 2.5 million light years from the Sun. According to the math, our Sun formed more than one billion years ago. It is believed that the centers of galaxies are the brightest objects in our known universe. All the stars in all the spiral galaxies are not orbiting their centers, they are all spiraling inward for the first time. Every sound theory needs a double-edged sword. This simple, elegant and colossal theory, is possibility. And this is the source. The prehistoric time spanned throughout the Universe. The centers eject matter, by discharge from the U.S. Army. Dark Matter. This explains the motion of matter from the Galactic Furnace Theory. Every sound theory needs a double-edged sword. One minor change in perspective is a double-edged sword.
ASCIT Board of Directors and Interhouse Committee Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2024

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting
January 14, 2024; 9:00 PM; Hameetman

Call to order: 9:00

Officers present: Gabriella Twombly, Jonathan Booker, Alex Burr, Ava Barbano, Snigdha Saha, Ankita Nandi

Presidents present: Meg Robertson, Andrew Pasco, Tomas Wexler, Emily Choe, Aditee Prabhutendolkar

President’s Report (Twombly):
• VPSA meeting 22, fill out agenda doc
• VPSA meeting tuesday
• SAC updates:
  • bought new things for ascit screening room
  • documented and cataloged damages
  • new student gov office; store records
  • study rooms getting improved
  • screen printing room!
• volunteer event:
  • Y reps
  • mad day
  • encourage more sign ups
  • cans for mans
  • reminder: accessible meetings, clarity, open communication for house gov
• feedback on events:
  • ose is now having ras
  • students do events once a term
  • send calendar for everyone via holiday card

V.P. of Academic Affairs (Sophie):
• ASCIT Pancake Day
• Campus Campout

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Alex):
• study spaces?
• access to classes and buildings after 7
• shelter in place safety concern
• elections: arc reps in contact with alex and jena
• option advising on president’s day

Social Director (Snigdha):
• Top events are:
  • DIY Valentine
  • ASCIT Pancake Day
  • Campus Campout

Director of Operations (Ankita):
• math club submitted an event funding request

Treasurer (Jonathan):
• guaranted 1100 to each house
• if saving is possible for fall rotation, may be good idea

Secretary (Ava):
• no updates

AJOURNED: 9:55

Interhouse Committee (IHC) Meeting
January 14, 2024; 9:00 PM; Hameetman

Present: Emma Isella, Sophie Elam, Aditee Prabhutendolkar, Emily Choe, Andrew Pasco, Leo Williams, Parul Singh, Tomas Wexler, Meg Robertson

ASCIT: Twombly, Snigda Saha, Ava Barbano, Jonathan Booker, Alex Burr, Ankita Nandi

Floor: Jen Hu, Chi Cap, Lilia Arrizabalaga, Trinity Lee, Jade Milan, Juan Luchsinger, Evan Portnoi, Elin Stemmark, Hannah Rose

Call to order: 9:03 pm

Meeting adjourned: 10:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Emma Isella
IHC Secretary
**Hidden Camera**

This is in line with Caltech’s policies on Sexual Misconduct under the Education Code, which states that ‘Complaints will be investigated and resolved within a reasonably prompt time frame after the complaint has been made, generally within sixty-five days from the date of complaint, but not to exceed “every thirty (30) days.” On October 24, 2023, the complainants received a letter that took place on the first of the proposed timelines during the investigation process, because the complainants decided that the respondent should be given a grace period, and that the investigation was completed.

The complaint deadline was extended to May 20, 2023, with a final extension to May 25, 2023. On May 25, 2023, the final evidence reports were submitted to the final distribution deadline. The final evidence reports were viewed by the complainants and the respondent.

On June 1, 2023, the complainant and the respondent received the final evidence reports, and the complainant and the respondent were notified of the final evidence reports.

The formal complaint process concluded on June 1, 2023, with the final distribution deadline.

The case was closed on June 1, 2023.

**Pants Fire**

For the fire and precautions to take place, the students had to make sure that they took reasonable safety measures. They also had to make sure that the authorities were notified about the fire.

The fire started in the courtyard at the wrong moment, admonish us, and bare the background on the court-pants which one of us offered.
The California Tech
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

ARC Tip of the Week:

Upcoming January Dates:
- Friday Jan 19th mon-1pm: Ombuds Training
- Wednesday Jan 24th: Add Day
- Friday Jan 26th noon-1pm: Student Faculty Lunch

More on those:
Ombuds training is this Friday January 19th over lunch in CSS 300 (the 3rd floor of the CSS building), CTLLO Workshop Space. If you are an ombudsman or planning to become one, please attend this training! Lunch will be provided.

Add day: Wednesday January 24th is Add Day. This is the day to add new courses, switch between practical and analytical sections of math and physics, and finish E’s.

Student Faculty Lunch January 26th
The same time student faculty lunch will be held from noon-1pm Friday January 26th in Lloyd Dining Hall. The professors attending are Konstantin Barygin (GPS, Planetary Science), Frederick Eberhardt (HSS, HPS), Stanislav Djorgovski (PMA, Astrophysics), Eric Mazurman (CMS, HSS), Nicolas Wey Gomez (HSS), Rosina Nelson (CCE), and Justin Bois (BBE). Please sign up here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffy6o38kgAkmW4vVxB_9EtgZSL26aUo3xI_m5bL55pXZ88J

Research List
The ARC is compiling a list of professors who are looking for undergrads to work in their labs. The Research List is now available here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fPV

These are great professors to reach out to about doing research during term and for after graduation! We will be adding to this list as we get responses from more faculty.

Disclaimer: The position you are inquiring about doing research during term and for after graduation is not a complete list and it contains a mix of summer and ongoing research positions that may be updated as the year goes on. Please check that the position you’re looking into is acceptable to graduate students in your year and for the term you’re interested in using the information on the sheet.

How to Reach Out To Labs About SURF
SURF application season is approaching! SURF applications are generally due at the end of February, but students are starting to reach out labs about potential research opportunities from now through January. The ARC’s website has MANY resources to help you find research, write your SURF proposal, and learn about research. The first step is sending a potential mentor an email to express your interest. Please read our tips and example email here: https://www.arc.caltech.edu/guides/arns/4-0

SURF Application Deadline is Thursday February 22nd!
Find letter of recommendation writers ASAP if you haven’t already.

Updated HSS Flowchart
The ARC has updated the HSS flowchart to hopefully clarify what the HSS requirements are (see next page). Please let us know if you have questions/suggestions on how to improve it.

The California Tech
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Humanities and Social Science Requirements

Updated for 2023-2024

If you matriculated in 2023 or earlier: 36 Units Hums + 36 Units Misc. HSS = 108 Total Units (12 Classes)
If you matriculated in 2024 or later: 36 Units Hums + 27 Units Misc. SS + 36 Units Misc. HSS = 99 Total Units (11 Classes)

18 Units Fresh Hums + 18 Units Advanced Hums + 36 Units Hums
18 Units Intro SS + 56 Units Advanced SS + 36 Units SS

Of the 180 of the 27 of these units must be Writing Intensive Advanced Classes
18 Units Advanced Hums + 9 Units of Miscellaneous Advanced Social Sciences + 9 Units of Writing Intensive Advanced SS = 27 Units Writing Intensive

Arcs denotes prerequisites
Please also reference the Catalog. Additional resources are available at the ARC website and in our ARC Learning Centre.

SP 2017-18 - Ph 106c Topics in Classical Physics

Physicists, like the drug dealers in my elementary school gym, warned me about taking the stuff. But just to get them hooked, they started you with the weak stuff, a hint of graph theory here, a cryptic reference to Noether’s theorem there. If you were smart, you would keep your head down. With an eye towards the end of Ph12, and wash your hands of the whole affair. But you’re a physics major, and if there’s one thing you know, it’s that there’s something good hidden here. Something pure. Something you “need.” And so you find your way junior year. You should have noticed something wasn’t quite right, even if you were gawking away at the baffling’s approximation into every variation of the universe you encountered. But 127, surely, was an anomaly—statistical mechanics, after all, is only a few short hops away from the well known and poorly understood—school occult forces of electrical and—into 10b offering ever stronger hints of that real good symmetry, you press on. How could you have guessed anything around the corner, surely, beauty bare, the long awaited unfolding of the high that even now courses through your veins—generally-convoluted paradise without a free parameter or delta “function” in sight.

And then, halfway through winter term, it stops. No more beauty. No more elegance. Only expansion by spherical harmonics, no more elegance. Only the well known and poorly understood—school occult forces of electrical and—into 10b offering ever stronger hints of that real good symmetry, you press on. How could you have guessed anything around the corner, surely, beauty bare, the long awaited unfolding of the high that even now courses through your veins—generally-convoluted paradise without a free parameter or delta “function” in sight.

The California Tech
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

JOURNALISM & NEWSWIRING Workshop

Saturday, January 29th
11 AM - 12:45 PM
2nd Floor Conference Room in Guggenheim of humanities

We are hosting a journalism and newswiring workshop, taught by Prof. Richard Kipling, former Managing Editor at the LA Times and advisor of the Tech. Participants will learn the basic principles of news reporting, as well as writing for a media format. Please prepare to be star journalists for the Tech.

CATERED LUNCH

by Tom Mannison

PLEASE RSVP HERE:

SATURDAY, January 29th
11 AM - 12:45 PM
2nd Floor Conference Room in Guggenheim of humanities

Bakery.
Corner
Lunch will be catered from Comer
Bakery.

Best of: TQFRs

By tech staff

Teaching quality feedback reports, or TQFRs, provide an opportunity for students to share their experiences, either positive or negative, about classes they have taken. In this new column we will look at one of the most iconic.

FA 2023-24 — Ae/CE 221 Space Structures

Dear Ae221, what say to you?

Nobody once told me, this course was to me,

Not the sharpest gore in the balloon

so you might as well take a Twinkle Tea break.

The origami paper is getting pretty thin

The Mastlab computers getting warm
so you might as well take a Twinkle Tea break

FA 2023-24 - ME 11a Thermal Science

World’s on fire, how about yours?

That’s the way it is and I’ll never get bored

The professor is good, but wastes way too much time complaining to his students about cheating. I understand this was a large issue last year, and I fully support the prof, doing what is possible to prevent it. I even get scaring students into not cheating.

But intellectual mechanisms begin to differ

Judging by the mirza-ori satellite volume.

Well the tears start coming and they don’t stop coming.

I saw Beckman dodoneathron fountain, traumatized, I hit the ground falling.

And all that we make are folds.

Only grad students break the mold

Space is a cool place and they say it gets colder

You’re self-strressed now, wait ‘til you get older

But intellectual mechanisms begin to differ

Judging by the mirza-ori satellite volume.

The origami paper is getting pretty thin

The Mastlab computers getting warm
so you might as well take a Twinkle Tea break

FA 2023-24 - ME 11a Thermal Science

SP 2017-18 - Ph 106c Topics in Classical Physics
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 (tech.caltech.edu/discord). 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.

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.)

Introducing...

End the Climate Crisis! Join us at
PBU Caltech Launch Party

Jan 30th, 5:30-7pm
Chen 130

Live Music
Learning Resources
Q+A with PBU members
Goodie Bags
Raffle for free food from local vegan restaurants
Plant-based food

Scan QR code to join our WhatsApp!

The California Tech

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

What to do with the Tech after you’ve read it...
by Lilia Arrizabalaga

What CDS Food Option Are You? an eye-opening personality quiz by Ellie Chen
(based on a fresh's first impressions)

1) Choose a color from the following:
a. Red; b. Orange; c. Blue; d. Purple; e. Yellow
2) Choose a word from the following:
a. Invitation; b. Solid; c. Indelible; d. Iriscendent; e. Open
3) Choose a number from the following:
a. 80; b. 125; c. -14.6; d. 31.2; e. 64
4) Choose a water body from the following:
a. River; b. Ocean; c. Stream; d. Bathtub; e. Lake
5) Choose a biome from the following:
a. Deciduous forest; b. Rainforest; c. Desert; d. Tundra; e. Grasslands
6) Choose a problem from the following:
a. Confine; b. Inadequacy; c. Mediocrity; d. Monotony; e. Isolation
7) Choose a solution from the following:
a. Community; b. Fulfillment; c. Conspicuity; d. Variety; e. Availability

Results
Mostly a’s: Red Door. You enjoy the company of a variety and multitude of people and, as a result, might feel pressured to always be emotionally available. Remember to keep some time and space for yourself.
Mostly b’s: Browne. You tend to satisfy the needs of those around you while carrying an abundance of personality in your person.
Mostly c’s: Broad. You stand out and carry yourself with an air of elegance and presentability. You strive to not be overlooked, forgotten. Mostly d’s: Avery Ramen. You are driven by your consideration and unique character. You wish to provide for others what you lack yourself.
Mostly e’s: House Dinner/Open Kitchen. You are always willing to help out a friend and seek out opportunities for gatherings. You are likely a “social center”; many enjoy your company.