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

Cristian Ponce, Maxwell Montemayer
Managing Editors

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

The unexpected length of the case has strained the patience 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 time, I’d be getting a job, I’d get an email from the Title IX Office...” one of the suite members recalled. “I just wanted it to be done.”

The Deans’ Office expelled the respondent on November 17th, marking the end of a painful saga. The timeline was triple the length of what complainants were told as a best estimate by Hima 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 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 13

Note from the Tech Editor-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 four-year-old news outlet.

We strive to represent every voice in the Caltech Community with fairness, accuracy, and impartiality in our news reports. 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
Editor-in-Chief, The California Tech
Ay ’25, Dahney/Rickerts

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 two-years-old news by now because the Tech wasn’t publishing much in 2021. But I feel it’s an important news story that needs to be documented nowhere else.

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 whom they complain loudly when they’re only got a 90% on an assignment. Some people just don’t have their Rotation Lists Pick.

For me and four of my friends, our was deciding to request a long-term South Hove tradition… and burning the Rickets House Courtyard.

continued on page 12

Send submissions or contact the Tech editorial team at tech@caltech.edu
(Due by 12 p.m. on the Saturday before each biweekly Tuesday publication)

 Corrections

In the previous November 28, 2022 issue of the Tech, an article titled “Caltech Unionization Effort” published October 31st of last year it was claimed that ¾ of survey respondents had personally witnessed or experienced some form of bullying or discrimination. The survey (N=251) actually found that only 46% of grad students and postdocs who responded reported experiencing or witnessing bullying or discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, or immigration status.” As stated in the article. Rather, it came about as a result of very strong student advocacy as well as support from the faculty and administration in 1967 and a special push by Caltech president Harold Brown in 1970, despite opposition by some alums. Thanks to Richard Wright (BS ’68, Fleming) for this info.

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We Live in a Society

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Caltech Graduate Students and Postdocs Will Vote on Unionization

David Abramovitch, Sam Whitbread

Option

On November 30, 2023, Caltech Graduate Students and Postdocs filed union authorization cards with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Lead organizers, the Caltech Graduate Union Project (CGUP), have been coordinating with grad and postdocs joined together to make sure that all grad and postdocs roll, signed by over 500 grad and postdoc students, will be counted in the union election process that the Board will conduct. We’re excited to have rapidly growing recognition and support from grad and postdocs with Caltech, and believe it is a sign of strong campus momentum for the CGUP campaign. Although Caltech has a long history of workers organizing, there are currently no quasi-Fellow Trainees being included in this vote. As grad and postdocs, they eventually agreed to allow all votes to pass, with over 500 signatures.

A “yes” vote in the upcoming election supports forming CGUP-AWU, which would provide a powerful voice to improve our working conditions. All grad and postdocs are encouraged to vote to support our collective bargaining efforts.

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Without a union, the Caltech administration makes all decisions relating to graduate conditions. Many grad and postdocs have not been able to have their voices heard or to make sure that a beneficial voice to improve our working conditions. All grad and postdocs are encouraged to vote to support our collective bargaining efforts.

On January 31 and February 1, grad and postdocs will vote on whether or not to unionize with the CGUP-AWU. This vote is the first step in the process of forming a union, and will help ensure that grad and postdocs have a voice in decision-making at Caltech.

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it's ok

Umrana Koca

Opinion

The California Tech

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

In true Caltech fashion, the event was held in the Student Union about midnight with a group of friends when the topic shifted to freedom of speech on campus. The atmosphere was rowdy and lively. We were all aware of saying the "wrong" thing, especially, I, being the only international student, and the tension.

I told you about the time my east Asian friends con-
fronted me about a comment I made about the conversation getting too rowdy. In one of the worst things people are afraid to say - jokes, the opinion is that speaking another language is incorrect - we were arguing over the latest movie. That ranking was on surveys by various schools.

Students expressed that they also feel afraid to voice opinions different from the accepted. They feel like people have the courage to say or add something to the conversation. As an international student, I've noticed this phenomenon, worrying about "offending" others or self-identification and 
remains the same.

In my time here at Caltech, I've been made aware of the boundaries when it comes to discussion. It seems that there have been called out and incited others to discuss and participate. I don't think that I'm the only one who's been affected by this phenomenon. I feel as though I'm the only one who's been affected by this phenomenon. After spending time observing the laundry rooms, I've noticed that it seems to be more prominent in certain locations. The California Tech breaks silence and voices the issue of being perceived as uncomfortable. The author, after spending time in the SAC laundry room, would like to submit a statement. We are showing students that they can only have opinions as long as they coincide with what is deemed appropriate.

The MeToo movement has been in the news for some time. As a result, many students have started to speak out about their experiences. However, it seems that some students are still feeling uncomfortable discussing certain topics.

The California Tech is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all students. We encourage open discussion and respectful dialogue. It's important to remember that each individual's experience is unique, and we should strive to create a community where everyone feels valued and heard.

The California Tech will continue to prioritize the well-being and safety of our students. We will continue to monitor the situation and take steps to ensure that all students feel safe and supported on campus. We encourage students to reach out if they feel uncomfortable discussing certain topics.

For more information or to get involved in creating a safe and inclusive environment on campus, please visit the California Tech's website. Thank you for your support in making Caltech a welcoming and inclusive community for all.

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We are showing students that they can only have opinions as long as they coincide with what is deemed appropriate.
Galactic Furnace Theory

Monte Dale
Letter to the Community

Greetings, fellow space travelers. My name is Monte Dale. I am 56 years old, and the quintessential Virgo. I eat and breathe numbers and data, and metabolize statistics and information. I have an honorary discharge from the U.S. Army, and a degree in Geology from Adams State University. I have self-published a revolutionary look to teach inquisitive minds the fundamentals of Chess. In 1988, I conceived a theory which solves the mysteries that afflict modern Cosmology.

I have been studying spiral galaxies since the Voyager missions launched in 1977. I have never believed that the Big Bang theory is true. I do not have a single scrap of visual evidence to support it; in fact, galactic mergers are direct visual evidence against a Big Bang origin. But there must be a logical alternative.

I am not seeking fame or honor for this discovery; I am merely seeking to save humanity from a fatal misconception. The solution is so simple, it has been completely overlooked for more than 150 years.

All the stars in all the spiral galaxies are not orbiting their centers; they are all spiraling INTO their centers. Every spiral galaxy clearly exhibits the motion of matter from the edge towards the center; any sentient being can observe this phenomenon. This is why the stars are seen to be moving at 220 km/sec, not because of Dark Matter, but because of the motion of matter from the spiral arms, and why the centers of galaxies are the brightest objects throughout the Universe.

The centers of galaxies are eternal – only the matter spiraling inward is less than 14 billion years old. The centers of galaxies are forever increasing in mass and eject elementary particles back into space, a perpetual cycle of creation and destruction. This simple, elegant and beautiful paradigm shifts the entire framework of our understanding of the formation of the spiral arms, and why the centers of galaxies are the brightest objects throughout the Universe.

Unfortunately, this revolution is a double-edged sword. One minor change in perspective does explain everything that has been an enigma to cosmologists. But, alas, it also pertains that the Global Warming crisis is much more dire than the scientific community understands. In the center-long quest to prove the Big Bang theory correct, modern Cosmology has lost its way – and this is the source. The polar ice caps began shrinking 55 million years ago, as our Sun entered the penultimate spiral arm.

Of all the Fibonacci spirals that are represented in my theory, only one has beginning and end points equidistant from the Galactic center – the one that is now coming to a close. As we enter the final Fibonacci segment, we begin to spiral inward for the first time in 25 million years.

Global Warming is not an illusion, but quite the opposite. The polar ice caps began shrinking 55 million years ago, as our Sun entered the penultimate spiral arm. But correlation is not causation. Once the polar ice caps disappear, the oceans will directly absorb the Sun’s energy. The oceans and air will quickly become inhospitable to all life. We must take action immediately to ensure our future survival. Of course, the first step to solving any problem, is to recognize it.

Man cannot survive in space or our current physiological condition. And the Moon and Mars are not viable options, either – they lack water and atmosphere. To exist without the protection of our existence, Mankind must make a conscious evolutionary step, and begin Low-Earth Orbital Genesis (LEOGen): the first generation of Low-Earth Orbiting Genesis. It may take another 10,000 generations of LEOGen, before Man is physiologically fit to venture into deep space. LEOGen would be possible only with the current low Earth orbit technology. If LEOGen is not given the opportunity to allow for the continued use of Earth’s resources, we will be the catastrophic effects of Global Warming. Population could be strictly controlled.

It is a long shot, but the alternatives are not favorable. The oceans are already beginning to rise up. Time is running short. The polar ice caps are the barometer for hospitable living conditions on Earth. Our Sun is entering a penultimate spiral arm; but Mankind has shown that where there is hope, there is possibility. My white paper can be downloaded at GalacticFurnaceTheory.com.

“Global Warming is a direct result of increasing proximity to the center of the Milky Way.”

oh god how did i get here i am not good at communicating thoughts and feelings in a healthy and effective manner

are you good at join the tech!

The California Tech

Visit tech.caltech.edu/write (or QR Code) to see story ideas and open positions

tech.caltech.edu/submit

Tech Reporters & Columnists Wanted
Calling ALL members of the Caltech community – not just undergrads.

The California Tech is the voice of the people, and we need you to speak!

tech@caltech.edu

tech.caltech.edu/discord

generating thoughtful and meaningful ideas in a healthy and effective manner

New Sign-on Benefit for Tech Reporters:

Awesome ‘PRESS’ Fedora!

tech.caltech.edu/discord
MISSING PET

Benito the Beaver
Last seen January 3, 2024
If you find him, please return him to
Cesar in Dabney 246! Thank you!
559-759-2888

Hey, you stole my look!
by Raphaela Kang
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
- ihc 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 and rcs do events once a term
    - send calendar for everyone via holiday card
- boe reps -> ideal to have upperclassmen, but may not be feasible for this cycle
- new ra for dabney: hiring ras right now, tell grad students to apply for ras
- fill out ra survey
- can ihc purchase decimeters with budget?
- mixer available through jam room and ascit

V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (Sophie):
- VPSA Agenda:
  - Bechtel room picks (priority)
  - Avery grill nights?
  - advocacy convention?
- Pasadena fire department is fining Caltech for broken exit signs and they are passing on that cost to the house budget (somewhere around $2k per sign)
- boe reps -> ideal to have upperclassmen, but may not be feasible for this cycle
- send calendar for everyone via holiday card

V.P. of 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
- student faculty athletic event before finals
- HSS flowchart updated

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Director of Operations (Ankita):
- club midterm funding reports

Treasurer (Jonathan):
- available funds for equipment to check out
- guaranteed 1100 to each house
- if saving is possible for fall rotation, may be a good idea
- math club submitted an event funding request
- houses: use joint funding

Social Director (Snigdha):
- Top events are:
  - DIY Valentine
  - ASCIT Pancake Day
  - Campus Campout
- Off campus newsletter stuff in the works - Ashlyn will write column in the tech on off weeks

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

[redacted]

Meeting adjourned: 10:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Emma Isella
IHC Secretary
Hidden Camera
continues from page 1
The respondents were released from Dechert to another building on Tuesday, December 18, 2022. The Title IX Office established an appeal meeting between the complainant and the respondent...
Humanities and Social Science Requirements

Updated for 2023-2024

If you matriculated in 2023 or earlier: 36 Units Hums + 36 Units SS + 36 Units Misc.HSS = 108 Total Units (12 Classes)
If you matriculated in 2024 or later: 36 Units Hums + 27 Units 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 + 54 Units Advanced SS + 36 Units SS

Of the 108 Units, 27 of these Units must be Writing Intensive Advanced Classes
18 Units Advanced Hums (+9 Units of Miscellaneous Advanced Hums and/or 9 Units of Writing Intensive Advanced DS) = 27 Units Writing Intensive

Assigns degree prerequisites

Please also reference the Catalog. Additional resources are available on our website and at the HSS Information Desk.

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

The California Tech

SP 2017-18 - Ph 106c

106c - Topics in Classical Physics

Physicists, like the drug dealers

Your question is too difficult

There is no evidence that

So what's wrong with my truncated

I must be a 3rd adv hum (course

But it feels like your mind is getting

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The California Tech
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. Iridescent; 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. Conspicuous; 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.

The California Tech

Introducing...

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.)

Last issue’s winners!

CalGuesser #4 – November 28, 2023

Congratulations, you found us!!!!
Leave your name/pseudonym, year/department, and date found!

indifferent, undergraduate, MS, 11/28 18:58AM
john, hs cse, 11/28 21:14 PM

Happy, community member, 11/30 23:33 PM

The California Tech

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
Raffle for free food from local vegan restaurants
Plant-based food

Scan QR code to join our WhatsApp!

by Lilia Arrizabalaga

The California Tech

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