Caltech’s Core Problem
Jessie Gan
Opinion

The class that plagued me the most during Fall term was Ch 21a, Physical Chemis-
try, which is an introduction to chemistry-related majors. My freshman and sophomore years were honestly pretty tough, but these were all supposed to build my skills in science stu-
dent here. As a Junior, I was hoping to excel in courses di-
rectly related to my major. You can then imagine my disap-
pointment, albeit not surprise, when I felt barred from success last term due not to a lack of chemistry knowledge, but from the unstable foundation of the Caltech Core.

My frustration was primarily with the components of the class that had to do with math: math ability. I was not well prepared for this class, given that the Chemistry major does not require any Math or Applied/Computational Math classes beyond Ma 2 (Differen-
tial Equations). I found that it was significantly more difficult to be successful in Ch 21a due to my poor foundation in Lin-
ear Algebra and Multivariable Calculus, which should have been mastered by Ma 1b and Ma 2, respectively. I continued to struggle in essential concepts, such as the rules of vector spac-
es and the use of spherical coordinates. Howev-
er, these are fundamental dis-
ciplines taught in the Core that every Caltech student is expect-
ted to be well-equipped with. I could not be more frustrat-
ed that the reason I was limited in the class was not because I didn’t understand Physics or Chemistry. Rather, it was be-
cause I lacked the math back-
ground that I was already sup-
posed to have. Why did I still seem to be failing compared to my peers?

Page House’s Mural Saga Continues
Ankita Nandi
ASCIT Director of Operations
Op-Ed

Each undergraduate house has a unique culture. Pretty much every Caltech student is aware of the various aspects of what makes house cultures unique, since they are so intertwined with their personal spaces, and thus their physical spaces, are the murals in each house. The murals can range in theme throughout each house and the campus as a whole. In the case of Page House, the murals are more varied than the typical metaphorical circle. They vary in size, though they are often associated with past years’ Ditch Day activities, and other hallways have regu-
larly had murals. But Page House’s murals on some doors and hall-
ways are often associated with past years’ Ditch Day activities, and other hallways have regu-
larly had murals. But Page House’s murals are most iconic mural is in our case of Page House, the mur-

Title IX Case Delays Are Not Isolated Occurrences
Maxwell Montemayor
Cristian Ponce
News

In the January 16th issue, the Tech reported on a 16-month-
long Title IX case regarding a hidden camera incident. Since then, more students have contacted the Tech to share their experiences with Caltech’s Title IX Office. In the interest of privacy, their identities will not be disclosed. Students who filed Title IX complaints will be referred to as complainants, and the subjects of the complaints will be referred to as respondents.

Case #1
One complainant told the Tech that he was sexually assaulted by the Title IX Office, however, they did not receive a response from the office. That was until the office reached out to them about a second (unrelated) Title IX complaint that involved the complainant.

Upon meeting with the office regarding the second report, the complainant notified the office that they had filed a report that did not receive a response. Only then did they receive assistance for their first report.

Case #2
Another complainant interviewed by the Tech told us that the length of her case extended well past the Title IX Office’s standard 120 day timeline. She detailed a process with serious failings in communication.

The case was initiated in October 2022, and one year and three months later, a decision letter was released in January 2024. Both parties decided to agree to mediation, suspending the case.

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 have 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!

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

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

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Caltech's Core Problem

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I finished fresh (only one class on Pass/Fail) and failing or failing to become the student I was told I would be in the spring term. I was 100% sure it would get better; I was sure I could turn it around. I was 100% wrong, and this story is about a year in my life, the year I spent the most money in an academic backwash.

Core is Caltech defined as the set of freshman year classes that are required of all students. It includes 8 courses: physics, calculus I and II, chemistry, biology, a laboratory course, and a term of logic, along with a term of a language that students must take (Caltech community members, alumni, and community members may be required to take language courses in multiple languages of the 18th century, depending on their proficiency, including including courses and dates in a regional or international travel schedule). Some of these courses have been a part of Caltech's history for over 100 years. So we were definitely caught off guard when we received our Admissions packages. We were not expecting to receive anything, especially since it was already too late in the summer to cancel our admission, as either someone designs a class, or there are no courses to complete a year's work ever after.

What I was logically missing was that the Core could not be an equalizer if it treated everyone the same.

The Core is not made to prepare you for a specific major, nor is it advertised. Stated on the admissions website, Core is meant to be "for everyone, for every year." If you are unfamiliar with how the courses in the Core were selected, you are a student third-year student. Core is made to prepare you for the student who is not a student third-year student. Core is made to prepare you for the student who is not a student third-year student.

When I was in high school, the highest math class available was pre-calculus. I still only had a 10% chance of being accepted into the Core. My high school did not have a calculus I class. With the exception of my math class in high school, the only class I would make use of my math skills would be in my classes, and I would be successful in those classes, and successfully complete those classes.

Considering the average GPA of students, the Core is not made to prepare you for a specific major, nor is it advertised. Stated on the admissions website, Core is meant to be "for everyone, for every year." If you are unfamiliar with how the courses in the Core were selected, you are a student third-year student. Core is made to prepare you for the student who is not a student third-year student. Core is made to prepare you for the student who is not a student third-year student.

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A SATIRE advice column about all the things that exist and everything in between!

Do you wonder where the baby comes from?

Well, yes, the stork union is complicated and the baby

bargain is not like the one you see in a store. It is

true that storks are involved, but there are many

people and steps involved. In the end, a tiny, giggling

baby arrives at your door.

ing your Mongolian Grill feast,

joy!

for adorable little bundles of

genetic makeup, and voila – ex-

wizardry combines with your

reaction occurs within your

undergoes a magical transfor-

consuming a delightful feast

tional origin – the Mongolian

B is only released when you

Utterly delicious. It is

blissful to see people

enjoy it.

Dude in my pilates class

lens could I find you for sure

You say to the instructor

suggestion, you say “what’s up”

“good afternoon,” or any

other greeting you’d like to

It’s not just limited to

the events during events.

B Bubbling Oysters and Hickies

Open Mike Night stood out. An

alternate education during Blacker

culture, inspired by, Geoffrey But-ler’s “This is Sparta,” we

Except, I remake it into “This

You’re so right. Ethan is

I played rugby in high school

how you do. The Blacker

ward her presence. It is

in the upper echelon of

Butler to colombia.

I wave the white flag.

confident: You never

the answer.

This is a typical reply when

browsed Dinner Hall and

and talk to the people

Six places, I am

I growl, and you

I say, “oh, sorry

Thank God for no blackouts.

bought dinner. What are

happened you left your

You were ahead of me

you. You started

the cup separated and

you. You went to pick it up, you

you. I learned to skate-

on the mountainside high.”

5

The California Tech

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

The California Tech

Caltche Missed Connections

Ever catch someone’s eye at the Red Door Café or share a moment of chemistry on the way to class? Just in time for Valentine’s Day, the Tech presents: Caltche Missed Connections. No need for over-the-top tales – it’s the genuine moments that make campus life interesting. You’ll never remember the grand gestures, but the little things will make your heart flutter.

There’s this boy with the hottest smile, you can’t help but stare. And then there’s the girl who always says hello when you pass her on the way to the library.

You might not realize it, but you’re already in love. It just might take a little push to make those connections. So, grab a cup of coffee and read on.

Caltche Missed Connections

Dude in my pilates class.

I was the most beautiful old-

er woman at Red Door last week.

I saw his physics class,

once. We shared a mo-

ment of gazes so intense that it

felt like a ladder operat-

ator making me take me to the

next energy level. I will

never forget that day.

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

The California Tech

Follow us on Instagram to keep up with story updates and exclusive content! @thecaliforniatech

The CaliForNIa TeCh

LLM-Free since 2023!

2023-

The CaliForNIa TeCh
Lunar New Year Culture

As the beginning of February comes knocking around, you may notice in once or twice on campus. It is the Lunar New Year, a traditional Chinese holiday celebrated in many cultures. The holiday is observed on the 15th day of the first month of the lunar calendar, which usually falls between January 21 and February 20.

The day is marked by various customs and traditions, such as the giving of red envelopes containing money (Hongbao), fireworks, dragon and lion dances, and the eating of dumplings (Jiaozi).

The festival is a time for family reunions, as many people return home to be with their loved ones. It is also a time for reflection and purification, as people clean their homes and workplaces to symbolize the removal of bad luck and the welcome of good fortune.

The festival also offers an opportunity to try new foods and drinks, such as dumplings, spring rolls, and mooncakes. These dishes are often made with ingredients such as pork, shrimp, and vegetables, and are enjoyed with family and friends.

In conclusion, Lunar New Year is a time for joy, family, and tradition. It is a time to reflect on the past year and to welcome the new year with hope and optimism. The festival is a reminder of the importance of family and community, and a celebration of the richness of cultural diversity.

Man vs. Mannon: Competitive Restaurant Reviewing

Want to be the next to take on the Mannon? Email tech@caltech.edu

Jorjy Pieper

Experience:

TLEB: Great Seafood restaurant with generous portions. Great variety of seafood and you can order from the menu. Try the lobster and oysters. The lobster was fresh and the oysters were nicely presented.

Appetizers:

Steamed whole fish (Sole) - The fish was freshly steamed and presented beautifully on a bed of orange slices. The fish was tender and the sauce was flavorful. The rice was fluffy and the side salad was fresh.

Main Courses:

Braised Lobster with Peppercorn Sauce - The lobster was very tender and the sauce was rich and flavorful. The dish was served with a side of steamed vegetables and rice. The service was excellent, and the atmosphere was cozy.

Side Dishes:

Steamed dumplings - The dumplings were cooked to perfection and the filling was flavorful. The dipping sauce was a nice touch.

Overall:

The restaurant offered a great variety of dishes, and the service was excellent. The atmosphere was cozy and inviting. Would definitely recommend this restaurant for anyone looking for a unique and memorable dining experience.

Lunar New Year Festival

Lunar New Year is one of the most important and joyful days for the Chinese. It is a time to reflect on the past year and to welcome the new year with hope and optimism. The festival is a reminder of the importance of family and community, and a celebration of the richness of cultural diversity.
As a frosh, I asked my seniors what could be done to be heard; to get our events back; to improve our relationship with admin; and I was told that already tried, and it couldn’t be done because “we have to follow community standards, not just Rick’s House rules.”

During Winter Term 2022, Rick’s held a Ignite panel activity. While I was not present, I was told it was a failure due to lack of interest. The RLCs decided that we needed to be punished for not following their rules, and they would have us do a presentation on how we should have been better, in our opinion. We communicate openly about how we feel things could be improved and encourage our friends to do so as well. However, the RLCs were unknown to the students, and the presentations were poorly attended.

The idea of an open forum was brought up to us by the Caltech Code of Conduct, and it was brought up again later by an admin. However, the RLCs decided to have an open forum and encourage our friends to do so as well. However, the RLCs were unknown to the students, and the presentations were poorly attended.

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Meet the People of Red Door: Barista Minzhi

Victoria Davis

Culinary Arts


text content

If you’re looking for something a little different, you should definitely come to the Red Door. It’s a really unique place with a really interesting history. People really like the music selection and the variety of food. It does sound challenging.

Overall, I wouldn’t say it’s challenging. I’m from the West Hollywood area, where the honey bees were killed. I’m happy to say we don’t have any. To me, it’s fine. I think the only challenging part is how someones times people have the Anytime plate, where they can register. But I don’t have to buy one every time or drink one. And if they order for friends, we have to eat it. And I don’t like the fact that it’s only one thing. Students are here.

Do you have any particular memories of working in the cafeterias at Caltech? Any change you might want to see there?

I have some memories. I used to work there. I used to work when they had the Anytime plate, where people could register. It was a really good system. We had to go to the office and register, it was a really good system. We had a separate plan for graduate students, and we don’t know how to change that. It’s really good, but we don’t know how to change it.

It’s really good to have you feel that way.

I’m here because I’m staying. Originally, I planned to stay with my friend, and then it made me easier for me to feel like we’re part of the family. I’m just trying to make sure everything is okay. Whatever the assistant really likes, everything is okay. I really like the music.

Any insider details about the Red Door music selection? Do you have to get to know them to have any input?

We have a couple little changes. Like, cooking time is really important for us, for the food, we try to stay on schedule. For example, I’ve seen, like, a mirror, also like, the music. People really like the music.

And talk to you a little bit about your life here.

Me and you, we’re both from the same place. I was here from Caltech, and I’m here because I’m staying.

Tell me a little bit about your life here.

I’m a barista here at the Red Door. I’m here because I’m staying. I was here from Caltech, and I’m here because I’m staying. I took their class, and I’m here because I’m staying. I’m here because I’m staying. I’m here because I’m staying.

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Faculty Advisory Committee

continued from page 1

The Tech was unable to obtain further primary information after ASCIT’s invitation to yesterday’s faculty board meeting was suddenly retracted. The organizers of the petition, as well as the Admissions Office, both declined to comment on the petition.

The Committee

Rosenbaum’s January 30th email to faculty came just weeks after the petition. It also outlines a similar plan of action as was recommended in the petition. Seven professors were selected to form a Faculty Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions Policy, assisted by Caltech’s Institutional Research Office.

The task of the committee is “to ensure that the Institute continues to effectively identify and admit the most talented and promising students,” explained Vice President for Student Affairs Kevin Gilmartin in an email to the Tech. That is, students “who are deeply interested in science, engineering, and mathematics, with the ability to benefit from a challenging STEM-based academic program, and who can bring a diversity of experiences and perspective to our Institute community.” According to Gilmartin, the planning and work to form the newly-announced Faculty Advisory Committee predated the newly-announced Faculty Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions Policy, assisted by Caltech’s Institutional Research Office.

What’s Next

As per President Rosenbaum’s letter, the Advisory Committee has been asked to “examine the most complete datasets” and consult with relevant groups at both Caltech and peer institutions to more fully understand and assess the effectiveness of current admissions processes.

Currently, the Advisory Committee is scheduled to report their findings about standardized testing by the end of March, while the recommendations about the role of extra-curricular activities will not be released by the end of April. The goal is to have a complete report by the end of May for use in the Class of 2029 admissions cycle, but Rosenbaum and Gilmartin both emphasized that the work of the Committee should not be rushed.

Asimov indicated that the petitioning faculty do not expect any significant action to be taken until after the evaluation is complete and recommendations are presented.

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