That Was the Year That Was or Was It?

Michael Gutierrez

News

A brief, abridged recapitulation of the events of this academic year, in very rough chronological order. Enjoy!

The Tech published the Rota-

tion schedule for the first time since 2019. SPECTRE library’s famous ‘Anakin’ life-sized figure was found in the dumpster outside Fleming House.

Blacker House’s potato cannon and two of Bickett’s House’s traditional ‘skits’ were banned from Rotation.

The Question the Quill” column and other satire content in The Tech continued to irk campus administrators (though none of them were irked enough to contact us about it directly, opting instead to complain to ASCIT and HIC leadership).

Two sophs sent a prank email to all freshmen through the Housing Office’s official email address, which the Deans, and were instructed to address, were disciplined by the Housing Office’s official email.

The Admissions Office’s official email was told.

The ASCIT Screening Room in the south houses was completely renovated with new, non-crusty furniture and easily-washable covers.

Laundry machines in all under-

dergraduate residences were upgraded to a new payment system which does not accept student ID payments; users instead must create an account on a smartphone-only app, which requires a credit card, and a password that does not contain any special characters and is less than 16 characters long.

The 2024 College Free Speech Rankings, conducted by College Pulse and the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE), gave Caltech a title of “Slightly Below Average,” placing it 144th on the list of 248 universities. (Harvard being dead last at 248, but that does not come as a surprise).

Caltech graduate students and postdocs unionized to form Caltech Graduate Researchers and Postdocs United-United Auto Workers (CGRU-UAW), with overwhelming support.

Several undergraduates staged several days of sit-ins and experiences with Caltech’s Title IX Office in The Tech, highlighting a recurring theme of official complaint and investigation processes taking months longer than expected. Hima Vat-

In the wake of that announce-

ment, The Tech leaked a peti-
cit to the turtle.

Droves of people scattered in the trending increase in yield rate, only 315 undergraduates were admitted to the Class of 2028 in total.

The Institute’s Free Speech and Expression Policy received the “no” vote from almost all undergraduates who held a silent sit-in protest in solidarity with Palestine, receiving 3 seconds of airtime on a local television channel.

A visiting committee for Caltech’s student affairs recommended a complete reorganization of Caltech’s Student Affairs department.

Contributors to The Tech fi-
nally got paid!

The Decision-

Making Process for Reinstating Standardized Testing in Admissions

Michael Gutierrez

News

In an email to faculty on January 30, 2024, President Rosenbaum wrote that, “Two questions dominate the recent campus conversations—concerns over the value of standardized testing, and the appropriate role of extracurricular activities by the end of April.” The Faculty Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Admissions Policy (FAC) wrote in its April 6 edition of the Tech that the committee “spent a lot of time thinking about what the implications would be if we de-

cluded that the moratorium would last at least two years and that there is a campaign to change Caltech’s mascot to the turtle.

The grad student lifesty-
erupted into two flarewalls—

first 68% of applicants begin-
ing with the moratorium, The Tech published the results of a poll on extracurricular activities, and the appropri-

tate role of extracurricular activ-

ities in undergraduate admissions. We have asked the Advisory Committee (on Undergraduate Admissions Policy) to accor-

d these questions high priority and, if possible, to offer their recommendations on stan-

dardized testing by the end of April; then reconsider extracurricular activities by the end of April.” The Faculty Advisory Com-
nist on Undergraduate Ad-

missions Policy, reporting on April 8. After the presen-
tation, the FAC held a formal vote and decided to take up the recommendation. Caltech is pursuing a position of the standardized testing require-

ment in admissions was ann

ounced on April 11. This de-
cision ended the moratorium that was in effect for one year, beginning with the Class of 2029 — ending the moratorium one year early. In the wake of that announce-

ment, The Tech leaked a petition from 100+ faculty mem-

bers which expressed concerns about recent students’ academic perfor-
mance and called to reinstate the SAT requirement.

Caltech Theater (TACT) and EXPLICIT put on a multitude of productions including “Another Revolution,” the MACH 3 New Science Driven Play Festival, “The Real Inspector Hound,” and “Earth Data The Musical Part 1: The Beta Version”. JPL was forced to lay off 8% of its workforce due to federal budget cuts.

Droves of people scattered in the region of North America to witness the April 8th total solar eclipse. ASCIT Formal at SoFi Stadi-

um was a huge success, despite innumerable trials and tribu-
tations (not the least of which was the experience trying to concurrent-
ly schedule parents’ weekend, then stalling approval of ASCIT’s contract which had been pending for months before hand).

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Make The Turtle Caltech’s New Mascot! Sign the petition here: or at tech.caltech.edu/turtle

Students for Justice in Palestine: The Caltech <-> Raytheon Connection

The Role of Athletics in Admissions

Meet the People of Red Door: Deonovar Howard

continued on page 2

Page 10

Pasadena, California Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Vol. CXVII No. 15
More on this topic continued on page 4

Beautiful, Unrealistic Solutions (Lessons in Chemistry Review #4)

Victoria Davis Culture

Well readers, as I write this, I am planning my future in order to successfully navigate the complex landscape of my career. As a chemistry student, I have faced many challenges and opportunities, each with its own set of rewards and drawbacks.

In my final year of graduate school, I have been presented with the opportunity to work at a prestigious research institute. This position would provide me with access to cutting-edge equipment and the chance to collaborate with leading scientists in the field of chemistry. However, the decision to accept this position would mean leaving behind my close-knit community of friends and mentors. This would be a significant change, both logistically and emotionally.

I have considered the pros and cons of each option carefully. While the research institute offers a unique opportunity for professional growth, it also requires me to make significant sacrifices. On the other hand, staying at my current institution would allow me to continue working with familiar faces and maintain strong relationships.

Ultimately, I believe that the best decision is one that aligns with my personal goals and values. I want to pursue a career that is both fulfilling and enjoyable, and I am confident that the research institute will provide me with the opportunity to do so.

In short, the decision I face is a complex one, and I am grateful for the support and guidance of my friends and mentors as I navigate this crucial moment in my life. I remain committed to my academic and professional development, and I am excited to see where this journey takes me.

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Graduate Student and Postdoc Workers
Share Goals for a Better Workplace as Union Bargaining Begins

Jasmine Entage, David Abramiuchvili, Aditi Narayan

This past February, Caltech graduate students and postdocs became union members as part of the Graduate Researchers and Students Organization (GRSOW), among the first schools to organize. (Caltech/UAW) with over 100 campuses. The promise of this new collective bargaining unit (CBU) was to secure better working conditions for all graduate students and postdocs across the country, helping to resolve issues like pay, benefits, and job security.

During bargaining sessions, the CBU and the university are facing real-time discussions about the current working conditions, pay, and benefits, and whether there are sufficient funds to support any new agreements.

The university last month appointed a group to interpret “extraordinary conditions,” which are defined as circumstances requiring additional support from the institution.

The process is designed to be transparent, with updates provided to the union and workers regularly.

From the results of the CBU-USGAW bargaining survey as well as the feedback from union members, the CBU is proposing that the university:

- Agree to a minimum wage of $10.50 per hour
- Significantly increase the number of graduate student workers who are eligible for health benefits
- Provide a comprehensive suite of benefits, including maternity, paternity, and family leave
- Eliminate fees for health insurance
- Increase the number of on-campus positions
- Establish a grievance process

A full list of the demands is available here.

On May 29, Caltech GSWs and postdocs started bargaining our first union contract to grant workers a voice in workplace policies and better working conditions. A wide range of issues will be negotiated, including health benefits, workloads, and job security.

The process is expected to take several months, with regular updates on progress.

On Tuesday, June 4, 2024, the CBU-USGAW announced a tentative agreement that was ratified by the union membership.


caltech.edu/2024/06/04/bargaining-agreement

Athletics in Admissions at Caltech
A Look at Some Numbers

Emily Yu

In my time on campus, I have been a frequent visitor to the gym, but I've never really thought about the connection between athletics and admissions. A recent study has shed light on this interesting topic.

The study looked at 12 of the most popular majors at Caltech, including physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science. The findings indicate that students who majored in these fields were more likely to have participated in athletics, which suggests that athletic participation may be a factor in college admissions decisions.

Furthermore, the study found that students who majored in these fields were also more likely to have high standardized test scores, which is a strong indicator of academic success. This suggests that athletics may be contributing to the college application process in a meaningful way.

As admissions decisions are made, it's important to consider the role that athletics may be playing in shaping the college experience. athletics in admissions at caltech.edu/2024/06/05/athletics-admissions

Staging Earth Data in TACIT’s Musical:
The Musical

Damian Wilson

Last April, Theater Arts at Caltech (TACIT) staged the musical Earth Data, written and directed by Eric Smith. The musical, written and directed by Eric Smith, is the product of a collaboration between an interdisciplinary team of faculty, students, and postdocs. A message of the musical’s main conflict is the need for education to have a voice in the decision-making process of the world’s most pressing problems.

The musical, Earth Data, is a unique collaboration between the Caltech’s Chief Institutional Officer (CIO) and the CIO’s Office, and is one of the leading research universities in the world. The musical’s main conflict is the need for education to have a voice in the decision-making process of the world’s most pressing problems.

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Welcome back to Amazon Skymall!

In this column, we hold a raffle of collectible items from these artists.

Welcome back to Amazon Skymall!

Since our last column, we have received a large number of emails and messages expressing excitement about the upcoming raffle. We are thrilled to announce that we have received over 200 entries from our readers, and the winner will be contacted soon.

This week, we have decided to offer a new prize: a set of 100 Crayola Crayons, the iconic American brand that has been inspiring creativity and imagination for generations.

The winner will be chosen at random, and the winner will be notified via email on Monday, June 4th.

So, get ready to show your Crayola pride and enter the raffle! You never know, you might just win a new set of Crayola Crayons for your collection or for a loved one.

Remember, only one entry per person is allowed, and the winner will be chosen at random. Good luck!
Who is "The Tech" and What to Do We Stand For? (musings on editorial policies and content policy)

Eneko Arrizabalaga, Tech Editor-In-Chief

In its current form, The Tech is fundamentally a student-run campus newspaper and as such, we report on events that take place within and around Caltech. We understand that, through a distinct Caltech lens, the world can be a much more intimate and exciting place, and we hope that our coverage will offer you a glimpse into the life of the Institute.

The Tech is not a newspaper with defined ideological positions. Our mission is to bring to the readers unvarnished truths, so that they may better understand the world and its complexities. Our editorial board strives to reflect this ethos to the fullest extent possible.

For your own part, we ask that you please consider the following:

1. **Readerly Education:** The Tech is a site for intellectual curiosity and exploration. We encourage you to read and engage with the content, allowing your mind to wander into new and unfamiliar territories. By doing so, you will expand your understanding of the world and the various perspectives that exist within it.

2. **Academic Honesty:** We believe that academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge. Therefore, we ask that you read the content with an open mind and critically analyze the arguments presented. This will enable you to form your own opinions and make informed decisions.

3. **Civility and Respect:** We aim to foster a community of respectful and civil discussion. This includes both our readers and our writers. We encourage you to engage in conversations that are constructive and productive, rather than those that are unproductive or rejecting.

4. **Engagement with the World:** The Tech is a platform for understanding the world around us. We strive to create content that will inspire you to think differently about the world and the role we play in it. By engaging with the world in this way, you will be better equipped to make informed decisions and contribute positively to society.

As a reader, you are invited to share your thoughts and perspectives with us through comments and feedback. We value your input and are committed to creating a space that is inclusive and welcoming.

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**Editors’ Note**

The opinions presented in the following articles reflect the editorial policies of The Tech. We encourage you to engage with the content critically and respectfully, and to offer feedback and commentary to ensure a diverse and inclusive discussion.

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**Caltech Students for Justice and Peace Opinion**

Caltech and JPL are enmeshed financially, politically, and ideologically with Raytheon, a manufacturer of weapons and weapon systems which have been used to perpetrate crimes against humanity, throughout the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Israel’s takeover of the Palestinian territories has been more of a war of attrition than a war of liberation. The Israeli military has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of civilians, including women and children. The Tech is committed to providing an accurate and unbiased portrayal of the events surrounding this conflict.

The Tech is a voice for the Palestinian people and their fight for freedom and justice. We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle against Israeli occupation and colonization.

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**Lily Coffin, Humans of Caltech**

The Geologic and Planetary Laboratory’s Eneko Arrizabalaga, Tech Editor-In-Chief, and Sam Fulton, Tech Executive Editor, are the authors of Arm’s Circle bright and early on a Friday morning, the fleet is destined to traverse the great American Southwest, heading for the lab and the weekend. The lab is closed, but the weekend is open.

Once a month, every month, the students of the Caltech Geophysics Department get to work in their backyard. All that is required for membership is a brief presentation from each student on a topic relevant to the planned route.

The students who choose this path also receive an opportunity to explore the landscape. Whether the destination is the mountainous states of Northern Nevada or Utah, the landscape is constantly changing. The students can choose from one of the available projects: Geophysical prospection, geological surveying, or field research.

Each student is expected to contribute to the laboratory’s knowledge and development. The students submit a brief report on their findings to the laboratory, and the results are published in the laboratory’s annual report.

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**A Profile of Professor Joe Kirschvink**

Kirschvink is an expert in geology and paleomagnetism, and his research focuses on the Earth’s magnetic field and its implications for the geological past. He is also a co-founder of the Kirschvink Institute for Climate Change Studies, which conducts research on the role of climate change in shaping the Earth’s magnetic field.

Kirschvink is well-known for his contributions to the study of paleomagnetism, and his work has been widely cited in the scientific literature. He is also an active participant in the scientific community, and he has served on numerous scientific committees and panels.

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**Caltech Students for Justice and Peace Opinion**

Israel’s role in Palestine and its occupation is a violation of international law. The occupation has led to the displacement of thousands of people, the loss of human rights, and the erosion of democratic values. The Tech is committed to highlighting the injustices of the occupation and advocating for a just resolution to the conflict.

The Tech is a voice for the Palestinian people and their fight for freedom and justice. We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle against Israeli occupation and colonization.
EAS' Cultural Facelift: Introducing the Graduate Student Advisory Board

William Feasley

Sitting Down with Mellow Drama

Deborah-donovan

Meet the People of The Californiac

Damian Wilsson

Humans of the Californiac

Red Door, the campus cafe so inves- ted in the community, requires no introduction. How, then, to remember that it was quite different entry in this series? As part of an or- ganization of Managing Editor of the Red Door staff in The Californiac, I am asked to introduce the Red Door, a non-alcoholic, non-member of the board, conflicts of interest from the Director of EAS, the EAS' Cultural Facelift: Introducing the Graduate Student Advisory Board. This isn’t Pope John. We want to be invited to show up and do our thing, I think, for three or more years.

How many of our Red Door experi- ences are worth the candle? A lot of people are worried about Red Door (Red Door) not being in a position to grow. I’ve seen a lot of our managing editors come and go, and I’ve also been promoted to a different role for a year. So it has definitely seemed promising. You know, like to let it be known. The band has already performed for nearly a year.

How do you like interacting with the community?

I think the students are pretty with it. I think they are, pretty with it. A lot of people are worried about Red Door being the wrong cafe and guitar players. Bottom line is that they are worse than the rest of your students. And that’s because they are not really close with their peers. So, I think you are pretty with it.

I don’t know how you’d rate it.

Yeah, I would rate it the Red Vafe band. I think the biggest hit in the Turkey Avocado.

Sitting Down with Mellow Drama

Deborah-donovan

Meeting the People of The Californiac

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as a bolt of innovation and discovery, the Division of Environmental Engineering, which is housed within the Division of Geosciences, is designed to integrate student voices in diverse academic disciplines, and to foster interdisciplinary connections between students of different EAS departments. This unique structure helps us to get to know one another better and to find new synergies in our research.

Environmental Engineering, which is presented in the next figure, is directly supported by the Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB), a committee of representative students from each EAS department to its interdisciplinary nature and addresses the needs of the students.

As a result, we have been able to establish a unified EAS community that is accessible. Overall, our objective is to integrate student voices in diverse academic disciplines, and to foster interdisciplinary connections between students of different EAS departments. This unique structure helps us to get to know one another better and to find new synergies in our research.

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The California Tech

Journalistic Principles

The News-Opinion divide
All articles shall be clearly and explicitly labeled as either News or Opinion/ Editorial.

News articles report on topics that have been thoroughly researched by Tech staff writers, and should be impartial to any one point of view. In a News article, the writer shall not insert their own personal feelings on the matter; the purpose is to let the facts speak for themselves. The Tech assumes full responsibility for all content published as News.

Corrections Policy
When we choose not to identify a source’s name without their consent. Missions shall be published with the author’s name. Exceptions to this are Editorials, which are written by Tech staff and represent the values of the Tech or our staff. An exception to this is Editorials, which are written by Tech staff and represent the Tech’s editorial stance.

Corrections Policy
All facts of major significance and relevance to an article shall be brought out and included. If an assertion is made by a source about a specific person or organization, they shall be contacted and given a reasonable amount of time to respond before publication. In other words, no second-hand information or hearsay shall stand on its own.

Quotations and Attribution of Information
Facts and quotes that were not collected directly by Tech reporters shall be attributed. Articles shall clearly differentiate between what a reporter saw and heard first-hand vs. what a reporter obtained from other sources. Sources’ opinions are just that — opinion. Expert opinions are certainly given more weight, as are witness opinions. But whenever possible, the Tech shall report facts, or at least corroborate the opinions. A reporter’s observations at a scene are considered facts for the purposes of a story.

Sources
All sources shall be treated with respect and integrity. When speaking with sources, we shall identify ourselves as Tech reporters and clarify why we would like to conduct an interview. Sources for the Tech will never be surprised to see their name published. In published content, we shall put our sources’ quotes into context, and — as appropriate — explicitly state who is actually speaking. All facts of major significance and relevance to a topic shall be attributed. Articles shall clearly differentiate between what a reporter saw and heard first-hand vs. what a reporter obtained from other sources.

Fair Reporting
All sources shall be treated with respect and integrity. When speaking with sources, we shall identify ourselves as Tech reporters and clarify why we would like to conduct an interview. Sources for the Tech will never be surprised to see their name published.

Corrections Policy
Any errors in all published content. We strive for promptness in correcting them. We shall explain to readers why.

Editors in Chief
Michael Gutierrez
Eneko Arrizabalaga
Managing Editors
Maxwell Montermayor
Victoria Davis
Production Manager
Alanna Yelland
Staff Writers
Damian Wilson
Emily Yu
Sophie Elam
Business Managers
Jack Myles
Nora Xiao
Advisor
Richard Kapling
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 are in no way required to reflect the official opinion of the Tech or our staff.

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?!?

The California Tech

Sponsored Workout #2 – Techxercizes

As your friendly neighborhood former Dubkey Athman, I have a great passion for trying to get people to go to the gym. As part of these efforts, I would like to give you a nice example workout. And guess what? Today is leg day!

Leg Curts
• Drop a copy of The Tech on the floor beneath your bench to entertain you as you workout your legs.

Step-Ups
• As you step upwards, imagine your- self engaging up to get the plate to write arti- cles for The Tech. Think of how much cooler you would be if you were getting something to contribute to Caltech’s oldest campus newspaper.

Lungs
• While you’re doing lunges, picture yourself lunging towards the journalistic integrity and principles we here at The Tech are always striving for.

The California Tech

CalGuesser

Last issue’s winners!

CalGuesser #11 – May 17, 2024
Congrats, you found it!!!
Leave your name/pseudonym, year, department, and date found!

Daniel Wes, 2024 CS, 5/17/24
prawny-paw, 2024 computer science big shot found it second some athlete was here before me! must be off-season or with 5/17/24

Kevink, 1993/1994, 05/17/24
Alexi Stapf, MechE, 05/17/24
Jabri, MechE, 05/19/24

Teresa, March, Eadeo, 5/25/24, medical engineering department gp proctors

20 Squats
10 Lunges
0.25 mile jog
1min jump rope

Circuit (do each exercise, rest then repeat x4):

10 Squats
10 Lunges
8 Leg Curts
20 Step-Ups

Warm Up:
• 0.25 mile jog
• 1min jump rope

Cool Down:
• Do some static stretches to cool down, then grab a copy of The Tech and read through it for good measure.