

## Housing in Pasadena: A Zero-Sum Game?

*The Apartments at 400 S. Mentor Avenue*

**Lilia Arrizabalaga  
Priscila Marquez**  
News

While Caltech is able to house all undergraduate students who wish to live on campus, this is not the case for graduate students. Only G1's are guaranteed housing from the Housing Office; thereafter, graduates must enter an extremely competitive lottery to live in Caltech-owned apartments.

In an effort to provide more housing, Caltech bought an apartment building at 400 S Mentor on May 31, 2023. According to Redfin Real Estate, it was sold to Caltech for \$7.5 million and contains 21 rental units of different sizes.

On June 8th, Stephanie Berrocal, Associate Director of Housing, informed the tenants via email of the change in ownership, and that the tenants had until the end of September to move out. This email included a formal notice of eviction. They specified their desire to renovate the building before using it as graduate student housing and their desire to provide the tenants "with as much time as possible to relocate."

However, the tenants of the building felt this was unfair and too little notice. They created a tenants' union, the Phoenix 400 (named after the address of the building), and held a press conference on June 28th. This press conference highlighted the impactful effect of Caltech purchasing these homes had on residents.

Their primary concerns surrounded the abrupt relocation that these residents would have to endure. Not only would this cause financial instability but security issues for the residents. One resident commented, "I have lived in this building for 22 years," tenant Valerie Murphy said. "My mother lived in this building from 1990 until her death in 2001. At that time I moved into her unit and made 400 South Mentor my permanent home. I want it to remain my permanent home" (ABC News). This press conference sparked several news articles in the community, many putting Caltech in a negative light.

On July 3, Ken Hargreaves, Caltech's Assistant VP for Strategy Implementation, emailed the tenants acknowledging that the June 8th eviction notice had "caused great concern" and stated that Caltech would work with each tenant individually to "determine the correct path forward" and to "withdraw the notice by mutual consent." The email offered no concrete plan to the tenants except an offer to meet with individual tenants.

In a public statement, the Phoenix 400 emphasized that their members are "eager to meet [Hargreaves] and the Caltech representatives as a group." Signed by members of the Phoenix 400 living in 14 different units, the statement urged Caltech to use a delicate approach and take the group seriously.

On September 19th, Caltech sent out an updated offer to every tenant individually. It stated that "the Institute remains



Phoenix 400 Press Conference on June 28th. (Credit: coloradoboulevard.net)

committed" to the plan of converting the building to student housing, "but is transitioning the building as units become available." The offer, which is the latest at the time of writing, allows them to move out with a relocation assistance package (as mandated by the Pasadena Tenants Protection Ordinance), the amount of which is determined by several factors and is around \$10,000 dollars. However, Caltech will only provide this assistance if the tenants move out before the 30th of June, 2024.

The City of Pasadena recently passed a new tenants' protection ballot measure (Article XVIII - The Pasadena Fair And Equitable Housing Charter Amendment) in an effort to shift some of the power from landlords to tenants. Passed on November 11th, 2022, the measure includes much stronger protections for tenants, including a requirement for notice of termination of tenancy for cases such as this. It also calls for more relocation assistance to

be provided to tenants. However, as an institution of higher education, Caltech is exempt from the protections made in this bill. Also exempt are rental units in hospitals, monasteries, non-profit homes for the aged, and several other similar programs.

Caltech stated in the September 19th email that: "you may [...] remain in your unit for as long as you see fit, subject to the terms of your rental agreement." However, many tenants are currently on a month-to-month lease. In a statement to the Tech, the Phoenix 400 called this language "nebulous and vague."

When reached for comment, Caltech's Chief Communications Officer stated that Caltech's "goal throughout the process has been to meet the needs of our campus community while also being responsive to and understanding of the needs of our neighbors." In addition, they sought to be "open to dialogue with the existing tenants during the conversion process," as well as being "transparent and communicative" with their plans.

However, the Phoenix 400, told the Tech that they are "still concerned over Caltech's breach of trust by their previous actions." They added, "Caltech's refusal to acknowledge us as a tenant group and refusal to issue formal rescindment of the previous eviction continue to strain our trust in Caltech's responsibility as steward of the community."

## HSS Course Offerings: An Analysis of the Past Five Years

**Alex Burr, ARC Chair**  
Academics

A common concern heard among the undergraduates on registration day these past few terms is "there aren't enough hums!". Broadly referring to all Humanities and Social Science (HSS) courses offered in a given term by the word 'hum', what specifically does the statement mean? That there aren't enough advanced humanities courses being offered in any given term (i.e. not enough total HSS courses)? That there isn't enough breadth of courses to satisfy their interests (i.e. not enough "interesting" HSS courses for any given student)? That there aren't enough courses that fit into their schedule (i.e. not enough HSS courses at a given time)? The Academics and Research Committee (ARC) has compiled the following data to understand the source of the concern.

### Current Humanities and Social Sciences Requirement for Undergraduate Students

Students are required to take 108 units (equivalent to twelve 9-unit courses) in the Division of HSS. Of these, 36 units (four 9-unit courses) must be taken in the humanities (English, History, History and Philosophy of Science, Humanities, Music, Philosophy, and Visual Culture), 36 units (four 9-unit courses) must be taken in the social sciences (anthropology, business economics and management, economics, law, political science, psychology, and social science), and the remaining 36 units can be drawn from either humanities or social sciences, including language courses, Wr 1, and Wr 2, but not freshman humanities courses nor BEM 102. These remaining 36 units will hereafter be referred to as "miscellaneous HSS" courses.

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## 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 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!*

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.

## Men's Soccer and Men's Water Polo Start the Weekend Strong

**Elizabeth Field**  
Sports

The Caltech Men's Water Polo and Men's Soccer teams saw success on Friday, October 13th and Saturday, October 14th – a strong start to the weekend for Caltech athletics.

Men's Water Polo took two wins for the day, beginning with a 16-6 win against Fullerton College at 10:15 AM and racking up 23-5 about an hour later, at 11:30 AM, against Crafton Hills. Eight of their 11 player roster scored in the first game alone, with sophomore Bram Schork (ME '26, Fleming) racking up a total of 24 shots and 13 goals across the two games. Scoring 12 goals in just the second game, Schork

tied the Caltech goals scored per game record. Goalkeeper, Sujit Iyer (CS '26, Fleming) also impressed with a total of 18 saves between the two games.

Men's Soccer also scored a 4-1 win against Whittier College. Although the teams had tied 4-4 earlier in the season, Caltech dominated this match from early in the game scoring two goals in each half: two by sophomore Ishaan Mantripragada (CS '26, Fleming), one by sophomore Etienne Casanova (CS '26, Fleming), and one own-goal by Whittier. They allowed only one goal via a penalty kick. With the win, Caltech's record went to 6 wins, 4 ties, and 3 losses, contributing even further to securing their best season in program history.



Photo Credit: gocaltech.com



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# Are Privacy and the Honor Code Compatible?

Reiden Walker  
Opinion

It's the beginning of term, and the new frosh class are met with their first challenge of the year: attempting to socialize with random upperclass students. Each night for their first week at Caltech they rotate, attending events from all the houses, trying to find the perfect fit for their four years at Caltech. Then comes the cannon fire, and rotation comes to an end. The end of rotation brings every frosh a new housing assignment they have to move into. A very exhausting day follows as frosh move across campus, the dread of the boat problem and the first week of sets lingering overhead all the while.

On October 1st, the day of move-in, an email was sent out by Emily Sanger, the Bechtel RLC (resident life coordinator). The email contained 63 temporary room codes, opening every frosh's private room in Bechtel. These temporary room codes, while allegedly only lasting a few days, gave access to many student's personal belongings. It's unknown how many students these codes were sent to.

When I received this email, I was very concerned not just for my own safety, but the safety of my fellow Bechtelites. This is especially concerning, because often when frosh or upperclassmen are involved in a Title IX case, they are moved to Bechtel. Several comments from frosh passed anonymously to the Tech include: "Very weird. I wouldn't want to give my code to everyone." "It was ok, only because nothing bad happened."

I reached out to a non-Bechtelite upperclassman, Winter Pearson (Dabney/Blacker, CNS '23), to confide in them about my concern, and they offered to reach out to Sanger, acting as an intermediary. They asked Sanger about her reasoning behind the situation, and what led her to this decision. Sanger wrote back:

"Thank you for bringing this concern to my attention and advocating on their behalf. I am happy to provide some context.

Many students were having issues getting into their new rooms. To get the codes to folks in a timely manner while juggling other issues, I did send a screen shot of the temporary codes to those who were moving. Unfortunately, I run Bechtel room picks and help with access issues by myself. In order to continue assisting folks with various other problems during the day, I put trust in the students, my instructions in the email, and the Honor Code. However, I can certainly own that this was not an ideal distribution method.

Some context that may be helpful for the student is that these codes are not permanent. They will get new ones soon. Additionally, I know we had some concerns surrounding Title IX during rotation. Any related students did not receive the email with those codes. I made sure to double check that. If there are further questions, issues, or the student would like to talk to me directly, please let me know. Again, my apologies to the student and any others who may be affected. I have already been working on a new system for the future."

Understandably in a stressful

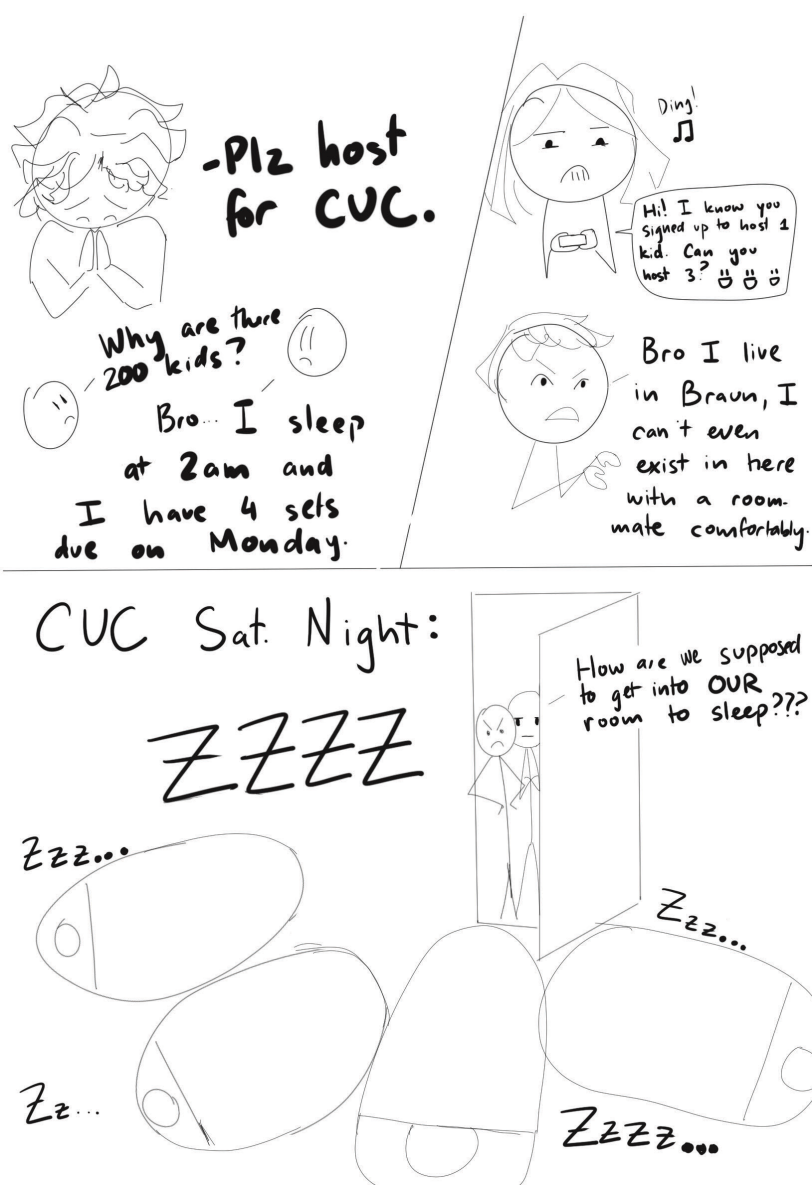
situation, everyone is prone to mistakes, but I had several concerns with this response. Firstly, I was staying in my room, and I had told Sanger the night before moving the room number I was staying in. Yet I still got this email, and my code was included despite there being nobody moving into my room. Secondly, in her statement she mentioned that Title IX related students did not receive this email. However, this is problematic for many reasons because it implies the only concerns from TIX are from repeat offenders. Lastly, the only apology Sanger issued was in her response to Pearsons email with the concerns and she has not apologized to the frosh in Bechtel.

A much better method of distributing these codes would have been sending them to each individual student. While this would have been more time consuming, the RLCs and RA's biggest priority should be to keep their students safe. When asked how they were going to change this system in the future, we didn't receive a response.



# "Caltech Up Close" Season

Thanhthanh Nguyen



# To Unionize or Not To Unionize?

Sara Gorske  
Opinion

On Friday, September 29, 2023, the Caltech Graduate Students and Postdocs United (C/GPU) hosted a rally to celebrate reaching a majority of signed union authorization cards. For those unfamiliar or just confused about the process, this was not a vote. Those in charge of the union effort made it clear that according to their recorded numbers, enough graduate students and postdocs currently support moving forward to a vote to force the issue. These same leaders have also been very vocal about the fact that a vote would not have needed to be forced if the administration had simply consented early on to let us hold one.

For full disclosure, I signed an authorization card. While I am yet undecided on whether or not I will be voting for the union effort to succeed, I do believe in the power of democratic rule and the individual right to vote. With that said, I also believe that the information currently being offered to the graduate student population (I am unable to speak for the postdocs), is not sufficient to allow for a truly unbiased vote.

We have seen two different viewpoints emerge over the past year. First, the administration has stated its belief that unionizing would be a hindrance to the Institute's goal of forward progress in scientific research and the student-advisor relationship, and second, the union effort has countered these points with statements

about the benefit of standardizing the pursuit of inflation-consistent stipends and equity as employees. I am writing to express a third viewpoint: that there are both pros and cons to the prospect of unionizing. I have only recently begun to explore the prevalence of this opinion among my peers and have found an astonishing amount of agreement to some or all of my points—something I would not have expected given the current rhetoric being made publicly available.

Back to the rally. I attended, skeptically, hoping to be able to speak to some of those in charge about my concerns and questions. Instead, I was treated to a reiteration of points that had been previously made in the union's favor. For those of us who read carefully and think critically, as I believe those of us who attend Caltech do, there would seem to be little reason to invoke these points again. However, this time, the arguments were not given as a dry list of bullet points, but couched in the form of stories. Stories designed to tug at our empathy, our innate connection to other human beings. Some of these were subtle: tales about students being let down by the administration; some were less so. One call to all the attendees quite clearly asked, "Don't you care about someone else you don't know?"

I do not want to discount the very real experiences and emotions that many students have gone through. I do believe an impartial system must be in place to evaluate student-faculty disputes, especially when

they involve endangering physical, mental, or financial health. However, it is not clear that a union will be the method to achieve this. Especially since the very effort is tarnished by inherent biases.

You may have noticed the arrival of people on campus wearing the logo of the UAW (United Auto Workers). You may have even seen this logo on the T-shirts being passed out at the rally. These people do not attend Caltech, and they are being paid to help along the unionization effort. ("What's in it for them?" you might wonder, and indeed one of my friends asked this question directly, without receiving a straight answer.) You may also have noticed that emails are now being sent out to the graduate student populace encouraging us to join picket lines for other unions and unionization efforts supported by the UAW. At the same time, we are not encouraged to research the situation and determine for ourselves whether these are causes to which we wish to lend our support.

The same voices propagating these emails are those that initially voiced the call for unionization, and also consistently cry out for things like free healthcare (unfortunately not a luxury anyone in the United States currently has) and more graduate housing (a laudable effort, but one for which the Institute only has two recourses: to spend more money, emissions, and real estate on new buildings; or to evict residents from other properties. Neither of these seem desirable to the

writers of these emails). This rhetoric is clear: to support the union, to these individuals, means to blindly support a vast cadre of other causes. I for one have to wonder to what extent supporting other unions and untenable causes will detract from the main goals of Caltech graduate students. Will the bargaining process include demands that the Institute cannot grant, and will our quality of life suffer in the meantime when a deal is unable to be reached?

Something else you may wonder: why do all of these emails from a select few clubs representing a select few voices make it through the moderators of the general mailing list? Also, why am I not sending this opinion through that medium? To answer both of these points, I would point you to the question in my colleague's piece last month, "Censorship and Squirrels", that underlies the specific incident to which the title refers. Who are the Graduate Student Council to decide what emails should and should not be read?

The methods being used to convince graduate students that unionizing is the right call are not based in logic but are rather emotional appeals.

Many of us have asked for concrete evidence resulting from comparable private universities about the benefits for our peers after unionizing. How much increase in pay have they received? How do they view their quality of life before and after? Do they feel more confident? Happier? How are their relationships with their advisors? We have not received this data.

What we have received are platitudes and an overly righteous assurance that unionizing is the best option for all of us. I understand that the prospective union will eventually work through a collective bargaining process, but I draw a firm line between the terms "collective" and "unilateral". Assuming that all of us should believe the same way because we are all "in the same situation" is a gross oversimplification.

Some of us benefit from great relationships with our advisors and the confidence that they can and will listen to our requests and suggestions. Some of us do not. Some of us have additional burdens like families, visas, and pre-existing health conditions. Some of us do not. We do not all need the same accommodations, and we certainly don't need to be spoken for by one voice. My fear in voting in the union is that those same voices that currently control the flow of information will be the ones that control our side of the collective bargaining process, making requests that are either unnecessary, impossible, or harmful to the goal of improving every student's life, in favor of benefiting a few.

I am not writing to convince you to vote "no" to the union. I am simply asking those of my peers who read this article to think through the options presented to you, and for your goal underneath every question not to be "How does this benefit someone I don't know?" and instead to be "How does this benefit me and everyone else I do know?"

# New Changes in Caltech Athletics and Recreation to Fix Old Problems

Elizabeth Field  
News

At the start of 2023, students began to hear rumors of major renovations coming to Braun Athletic Center and Scott Brown Gym. We heard that the distribution of gym equipment would be changing, that the athletic training office would be moving, and circulating most of all, that the locker rooms were to see major renovations. For students and members, athletes and otherwise, this was an exciting change. The locker rooms had been outdated for a long time, both in their facilities and the ideas they reflected, and in April 2023, this much needed change began.

Prior to the advent of this reconstruction, we had two sets of locker rooms: one in Brown Gym and one in Braun Athletic Center. The Brown locker rooms were used primarily by student athletes, being disconnected from the "main" gym located in Braun and closer to the facilities used for practices, games, and meets, such as the North Field, South Field/track, pools, weightlifting barn, athletic training facilities. The Braun locker rooms, on the other hand, were used much more heavily by members and students outside of athletic seasons. However, there were many issues with both. In Brown Gym, the men's locker room was significantly larger than the women's. While the men's had sufficient showers, bathrooms, and lockers to support the athletes and members alike, as well as direct access to Brown Gym and the pool deck, the women's side could barely

support in-season athletes, let alone out-of-season athletes, other students, and general members. This is because Caltech did not enroll women until 1970 and made up only about 30% of the school when Brown Gym was built in 1992. Furthermore, the majority of Caltech's women's athletics programs did not begin until at least the early 2000s. (The Caltech Women's Soccer program is only 7 years old, starting in 2016.) However, even the needs of women swimmers (whose programs date back to 1977) were not met by these facilities, as to get from the women's locker rooms to the pool deck, women had to either go through the emergency exit opening into the men's locker room or exit Brown Gym to enter from a side door or Braun Athletic Center. In short, Brown Gym was over 30 years behind in fulfilling the needs of the gender ratio on campus (and never completely met them in the first place).

Braun Athletic Center had attempted to mitigate these issues by offering a segmented women's locker room. Half was for members and half was labeled "student athletes only." However, the student athletes' side of the Braun locker rooms remained far from the athletic training office. Additionally, all facilities still failed to meet the needs of non-binary and transgender members who may feel uncomfortable changing in (or even selecting between) a "women's" or "men's" option. Across Caltech, in student residences and most buildings on campus, all-gender restrooms are available or even standard. Braun Athletic Center recently

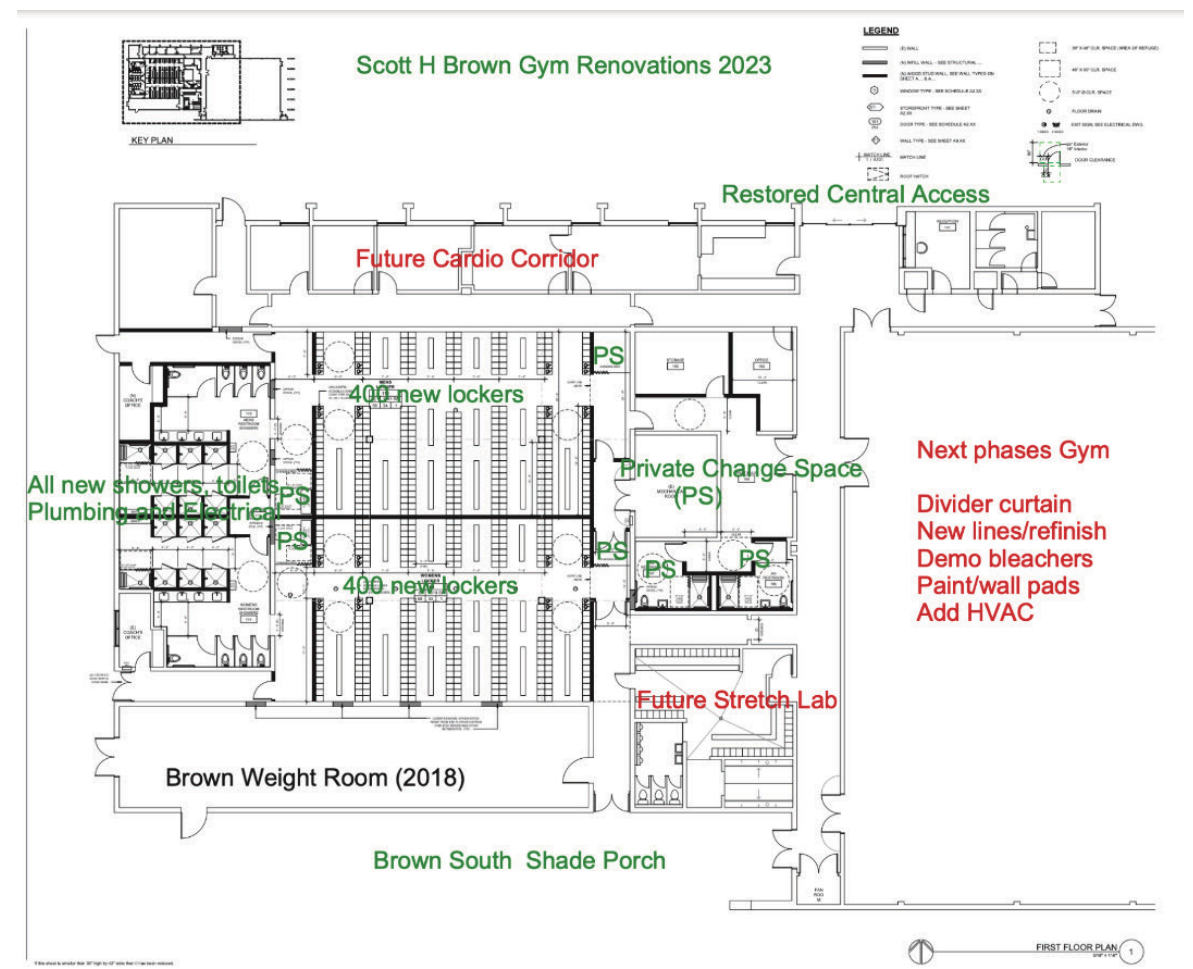
(in 2022) incorporated all-gender restrooms and an all-gender shower space, and the renovations in progress are furthering this effort.

The renovations which are currently underway include equally-sized 1,250 sq. ft. men's and women's locker rooms in Brown Gym. They are equipped with updated facilities, two individual all-gender showers, toilets, and changing areas. The renovations will also introduce central access for members to

Brown Gym instead of Braun Athletic Center, move the athletic training services to Braun Gym (and centralize all of athletics there), as well as general facilities improvements.

These renovations were originally expressed to be largely complete by the beginning of the 2023-24 school year. Unfortunately, they're not. This is causing chaos for student athletes and members alike as facilities are actively moving about and many individuals

are squeezed into small locker rooms, or even racquetball courts covered by tarps, with insufficient facilities to support them. However, we hope the discomfort during the changes pays off once the athletics facilities Caltech offers finally reflects what the gender distribution looks like here on campus and can fully support the entirety of the Caltech athletics and recreational community.



## The Inside World

Skye Ruedas  
Culture

**FLEMING**

**Formal Dinner 2023:** [REDACTED]

Fleming House at Caltech is known for its vibrant community and the close-knit bonds that form within its walls. Beyond the academic rigors of Caltech, Fleming provides a home away from home. The evening of Thursday, October 12th marked a significant event in Fleming House's annual calendar—Formal Dinner. This long standing tradition, known for its elegance and decorum, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## Editor's Note:

### Want to see your house featured on "The Inside World" next?

Send submissions or contact the *Tech* editorial team at [tech@caltech.edu](mailto:tech@caltech.edu)

Submissions are due at 12 p.m. on the Saturday before each bi-weekly Tuesday publication.

The next issue will be on **October 31st, 2023: The Spooky Issue!** (serious articles will still be running)

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## This Week in Tech History

### Beavers Rip Vic'vil' Raiders

October 17, 1986

**Slave Labor**

Blacker Hovse, in a desperate attempt to raise money, is auctioning the services of a limited number of Moles for one day (and one day only!). Stay tuned for details, but the auction if likely to be held *next Friday the 24th* with "services being rendered" the 25th. Need your car washed? Ever wanted your Interhouse to be built by servile Moles? Here's your chance! Start saving your cash... Faculty welcome also... extent of services is within limits of good taste, morals, local and state regulations. Rent-a-Mole is coming soon to a campus near you, so be ready! Batteries not included. Void where prohibited.

**kickoffs.**

As always, the Beaver defense was solid, yielding few yards to their opponents. Dwight "Butch" Berg continued his quest for the elusive Rookie-of-the-Year award with his second interception in as many games. This one came in the fourth quarter as the Raiders struggled to stand, being down by the score 40-16.

Tomorrow, the Beavers go on the road for the first time this year to play at Rio Hondo Leadership Academy in Alhambra. This game will also mark the first night game for the Caltech team in more than four years. The game begins at 7:00 pm and should provide Coach Parker's squad with some tough competition.

Don't forget next week's game is at Caltech against the University of La Verne. Be out there for the Big Beaver Homecoming!



Introducing... *The California Tech*  
**CalGuesser** #1

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](http://caltech.edu/map/campus). The QR code will be hidden somewhere within the pictured area.)



- I. Out of the following, which is your favorite subject?  
 a. Math  
 b. English  
 c. History  
 d. Art/music  
 e. Science  
 f. Latin.
- II. Which science is your favorite? (Sorry, engineers.)  
 a. Computer science  
 b. Chemistry  
 c. Biology  
 d. Geology  
 e. Physics  
 f. In my heart there is only Latin.
- III. Which of the following values do you consider the most important?  
 a. Structure, predictability  
 b. Courage, righteousness  
 c. Freedom, liberty  
 d. Individuality, expression  
 e. Consistency, stability  
 f. The learning of Latin.
- IV. What did you most look forward to on a school day in high school?  
 a. Engaging in my favorite class  
 b. Answering questions and sharing ideas  
 c. Leaving  
 d. Lunch!  
 e. Passing periods  
 f. Latin class.
- V. Which of the following traits do you value most in a friend?  
 a. Integrity. I can trust my friend to be honest and do the right thing.  
 b. Humor. I know I can have a good time with my friend.  
 c. Daring. I can count on my friend to encourage me to try new things.  
 d. Tolerance. I can trust my friend to not judge me.  
 e. Reliability. I know my friend is always there for me.  
 f. The ability to converse in Latin.
- VI. Pick a color, any color (out of the following!)  
 a. Red  
 b. Blue  
 c. Green  
 d. Yellow  
 e. Orange  
 f. Purple, for Latin.
- VII. Last one! What is/was your favorite part of Latin class?  
 a. Translating, translating, translating  
 b. Completing assigned projects  
 c. Learning about ancient Roman history and geography  
 d. The parts when the corpses of ancient Roman soldiers rose from the dead and conversed with us.  
 e. Class discussions  
 f. Every part is my favorite. Every translation makes me happy. Every assignment given by my teacher makes me weep tears of gratitude. Every glorious minute spent sitting in the Latin classroom fills me with the purest form of joy, and-

## Which Latin Verb Conjugation Are You?

a thrilling personality quiz by Ellie Chen

### RESULTS

**Mostly A's → first conjugation.** You are likely an organized person. The emphasized "a" sound in each -are booms deeply with a tone of intelligence and honesty, traits you likely embody and admire. First conjugation verbs include amare and dare.

**Mostly B's → second conjugation.** It's easy to tell your thoughts and opinions and views apart from others'. You are likely a creative thinker with much to share about this world. Second conjugation verbs include vidēre and habēre.

**Mostly C's → third conjugation.** There is variation in your personality and daily life. You are likely an explorer, someone who enjoys dabbling in new things while learning about important matters along the way. Third conjugation verbs include vincere and agere.

**Mostly D's → third-io conjugation.** You're a unique one! Whether it's your fashion sense or personality or general vibe, you stand out no matter which crowd you're in. You are likely opinionated and bright. Third-io conjugation verbs include iacere and capere.

**Mostly E's → fourth conjugation.** The "i" sound in -ire adds a little bit of tange, a little bit of spice. You are likely a problem solver as well as an idea-finder, and you have a sense of mystery about you that others can't quite grasp. Fourth conjugation verbs include invenire and dormire.

**Mostly F's → the Latin conjugation.** You really like Latin, don't you? Well, congratulations! You've unlocked the elusive Latin conjugation, the ultimate conjugation to end all conjugations. Keep on Latin-ing!

**SECURITY RESOURCES**  
 FOR A SAFER CALTECH  
Alanna Velland

bike registration register your bike with Security to get a **FREE** U-lock!

lost and found return and retrieve lost items at the SECURITY DISPATCH OFFICE (ground floor of the Holliston parking structure)

**626-395-4701**

locked out of your residential space? need a safe ride somewhere close to campus? call (626)-395-4701!

and, for the community's benefit, use extension x5000 for on-campus emergencies

Advertisement

Caltech Theater presents

written by **Jacqueline Bircher**

directed by **Brian Brophy**

**another revolution**

starring **Skyler Ware, G6 & Michael Gutierrez, '25**

**Wed-Thurs, Nov. 8-9 @ 7:30 pm**  
**Friday, Nov. 10 @ 4:30 pm**  
**Beckman Institute Auditorium**



This production was made possible with funding from Katie & Jose Helu and with the help of donors and Student Affairs

For tickets and further information link to QR code

## Art & Photography Spotlight



- "AMONG THE FLOES" - BRAYDEN NOH
- "GLACIER BLUE" - EMMA ISELLA
- "TORRI GATE" - AUDREY WONG
- "JUNGLE VISION" - MANAL SULTAN
- "ICELAND" - BRAYDEN NOH
- "GRAVES" - MANAL SULTAN





HSS Courses

Of the 36 units of humanities courses required, 18 units (two 9-unit courses) must be freshman humanities courses defined by catalog numbers <= 60 and 18 units (two 9-unit courses) must be advanced writing-intensive humanities courses defined by catalog numbers >= 90.

Of the 36 units of social science courses required, 18 units (two 9-unit courses) must be introductory social sciences taken from the following list: An 14, An 15, An 16, Ec 11, PS 12, or Psy 13, 18 units (two 9-unit courses) must be advanced social sciences defined by catalog numbers >= 100 in the same department as the student's introductory social science courses.

Notably, courses in the business economics and management (BEM) department correspond to the introductory course Ec 11. For instance, a student who has taken Ec 11 and Psy 13 as their introductory social sciences could take 18 units of advanced Psy courses, 18 units of advanced Ec/BEM courses, or 9 units of advanced Ec/BEM and 9 units of advanced Psy courses to fulfill the advanced SS course requirement.

Additionally students are required to take three 9-unit writing intensive courses on grades. A writing intensive course in the humanities is defined by catalog number >= 90 and in the social sciences it is one from the following list: An/PS 127, BEM 109, Ec 105, Ec 109, Ec 129, Ec 130, Ec 140, PS 99ab, PS 120, PS 123, or PS 141. Two of these three writing intensive courses are automatically satisfied by fulfilling the advanced humanities requirement. The third writing intensive course is typically satisfied within the four miscellaneous HSS course requirement.

There is a flowchart for HSS course requirements on the ARC website to help guide students

through these requirements: arc.caltech.edu under the Resources -> Registration tab.

Assumptions

Let us approximate that there are 1000 undergraduate students on campus in any given year with 250 students per class and that it takes the average student 4 years to graduate. Based on the requirements described above, this means that there must be a minimum of 500 seats in introductory social science courses, 500 seats in advanced social science courses, 500 seats in freshman humanities courses, 500 seats in advanced social science courses, and 3000 total seats in HSS courses per year.

Selected Data

The number of advanced social science courses and miscellaneous HSS courses has largely remained the same in the period surveyed (2018 - present) and is not discussed below. Please see the full data set on the ARC's website.

Key Findings

There is not a deficit in the total number of HSS courses being offered.

The number of advanced social science courses and miscellaneous HSS courses has largely remained the same in the period surveyed (2018 - present).

By this estimate, there are not enough introductory social science courses being offered currently for students to graduate within four years (without substantial over-enrollment of these courses)

There is decreasing breadth of the social science courses being offered, with very few anthropology and law courses being offered and an increasing number of economics and BEM courses being offered. There is a declining number of advanced humanities courses being offered, despite a growing number of undergraduate students.

The humanities department is doing an excellent job offering a broad variety of language courses every term (not depicted above).

The social sciences department is doing a great job offering a variety of economics and BEM courses

Discussion

This analysis is in no way intended to disparage the HSS division. The professors in the HSS department do amazing work each and every day to expand our perspectives on the world and help us to think critically about our place in it. This article is merely an analysis of the courses that have been offered over the past few years and a recommendation that more courses be offered in key areas, as described above.

I would like to temporarily increase the number of visiting faculty able to teach courses in the areas discussed above, and second, to begin or continue the process of hiring new faculty to fill the vacancies described. The HSS division, along with the ARC, has been working diligently to understand the source of students' concerns about HSS course offerings and to find solutions to these issues.

Methodology

The number of humanities and social science classes offered by department over the past 5 years was counted using the archived schedules published on the Registrar's website (https://registrar.caltech.edu/schedules/previous-terms). Courses listed with the titles "undergraduate research in...", "reading in...", "senior research", "thesis", and "senior tutorial for..." were omitted from the count, as they are taken by relatively few students and are therefore not representative of the whole undergraduate body.

Additionally, courses that were < 6 units or only open to graduate students were not counted. No courses that were canceled were included in the count for that term. BEM 102 was also omitted from the total count as it does not count towards the 12 HSS course requirement. To count the number of available seats in courses where an enrollment capacity was not listed explicitly, 20 seats were assumed to be open in humanities courses and 75 seats were assumed to be open in social science courses. This is an approximation of 'average' humanities and social science courses and is not an exact representation of how many students were physically in the class during that term.

Every effort was made to avoid double-counting or missing courses. If you have questions or concerns about the methodology or our findings, please contact us at arc@caltech.edu.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to President Rosenbaum, Dr. Tracy Demmon (HSS Department Chair), many individuals in the HSS department, and other administrative offices on campus for listening to our concerns about the HSS course offerings and for all their ongoing work to find solutions to them with us. Special thanks to Jen Alsup (current ARC Secretary) and Gabi Twombly (previous ARC Chair and current ASCIT President) for their help in compiling these numbers and interpreting them.



Sci-Fi to Sci-Fact: The CalAI Odyssey Maleque Chouayekh Campus

Tik Tak... Tik Tak, it is almost 1 PM.

Lengthy queues of visitors inundated Caltech's halls, eager to immerse themselves in Caltech's scientific event "Sci-Fi to Sci-Fact". The atmosphere in Beckman Auditorium crackled with anticipation as Caltech Science Exchange organized an evening where science seamlessly merged with the silver screen, igniting imaginations and sparking AI-focused conversations.

Moderated by Latif Nasser, co-host of Radiolab, this event provided a unique opportunity for its participants to learn from Professor Anima Anandkumar and Assistant Professor Georgia Gkioxari, as they discussed AI's potential applications in scientific innovations and its current magnificent uses.

Beyond the auditorium's doors, attendees engaged in dialogue with the panelists as they contemplated the AI-intensive frontiers awaiting the world.

"What I appreciated about this event is getting to know some exceptional Caltech faculty members and gaining insights into their perspectives on AI," said incoming freshman Idil Turasi. "I support events that welcome non-Caltech attendees. My enthusiasm stems from Caltech's position as a pioneering university on the global AI stage. It is of great significance to me to expose our faculty's brilliant ideas to the public, as they stand to benefit from these exceptional learning experiences."

The Unstandardization of Caltech: Bathrooms



Jabri Garcia-Jimenez Humor

After arriving at Caltech, one of the first things I noticed about the campus once I finally had time to wander around was that, from what I could tell, this place lacked a consistent architectural style. There's a mix of Spanish-style architecture like Beckman Institute, more modern-looking buildings like Chen, and silly guys like the Beckman Hall (and also ugly ass ones like Downs-Lauritsen). This mixing of styles continues inside, with some buildings like Bridge keeping their old-fashioned style but Gates-Thomas deciding to modernize. That's all neat and cool, but it goes a little further than what you see walking up and down the halls.

The place I noticed these tiny details is a sacred place where you have time to yourself, a place free of distraction, a place of relief: the bathroom. It all came to me during the summer during SURF, where I would sometimes do work in South Mudd. Of course, I eventually had to use the bathroom (I go to the toilet three times a day, but I've heard some people only go once every couple of days, which is crazy to me). I walked to the nearest men's bathroom, and it was your standard double-stall setup (with the big gaps on the bottom). Until I saw the toilets themselves, making me verbally say, "Boy, what the hell!?"

The seat for the rightmost toilet looked like it was over 20 inches above the ground. Yeah, it's nice that there's a toilet that is a taller person, but it's weird that this is the only place I've seen one like that; it is not a typical accommodation found at Caltech. Someone short could

get unlucky and poop with their feet dangling like a little baby boy. After the summer, I tested my theory with my bud Daniel Brito, and yeah, it is possible. It was a silly experience using the bathroom while on my fippy toes, but I did not regret it.

After that breakthrough, I started wandering. I walked into one of North Mudd's men's bathrooms, which was vastly different. Instead of hard plastic or stainless steel stalls separating the two toilets, they were granite walls that didn't allow you to see your neighbor's feet, with a lovely wooden door in front with a gap so you could see if it was occupied without knocking, in my opinion, great use of gaps while still allowing more privacy. The bathroom pulls a bold move by using those urinals that go down to the floor but ... WITHOUT DIVIDERS. This is a prime example of the shit I'm talking about. The toilets create this above-average pooping experience with the extra privacy. Still, the urinals go the other direction and make you get to know your peeing neighbor, and to top it off, the two sinks have two vastly different faucets for no reason, which isn't bad or good, just silly. It just sometimes feels like whenever a part of the bathroom breaks, they send someone to Home Depot and get the first thing they find that gets the job done, which honestly, I don't blame them like who cares (though I do). At the moment, I was like, "Man, just add a fricking divider in between the urinals, then this place would be perfect," but now I disagree. Going to different bathrooms in different buildings and having a varying experience each time is fun. It adds just enough sparkle into life to keep things exciting while using it.

Divorce, Drinks, and Long Drives: The Mountain Goats Experience

Ai-Dan Le Culture

Chances are, if you ask around on campus if a person listens to the Mountain Goats, you'll be hard-pressed to find a "yes." But at a school with people as unique as Caltech students, you're bound to find at least a few devoted fans. Last Friday (10.6), The Mountain Goats performed live at the Belasco, with an emotionally raw, down-to-earth, and folk-rock inspired performance. Beginning the show with an audio clip setting the theme for their next album, Jenny From Thebes, lead singer John Darnielle launched into a passionate performance featuring unreleased songs, backup singers, and a packed venue with an audience nodding their heads to the music. With a folk-rock style surprisingly appealing to non-country music fans, The Mountain Goats stands out with the raw emotion embedded in the lyrics and style of the band - capturing fundamentally human experiences with their lyrics about love, loss, and life itself.

Even with the fun personality of the band, jokingly taking requests from the audience and jamming out to harmonica and sax solos, they still maintained an emotionally powerful and meaningful connection with the audience, up until they left the stage. At that point, the crowd started stomping their feet, eventually coaxing them back - now dressed in their casual clothes and free of their formal wear, peaking in a highly requested performance of their two most popular songs. Upon hearing the opening notes of No Children, the crowd screamed the loudest they did that night. In between people shouting the lyrics and The Mountain Goats putting their all into their instruments, they transitioned to their final song, This Year, and ended on an optimistic note.

Although No Children is unapologetically and unironically about divorce, its popularity can likely be attributed to its application to many relationships in a way that resonates with their massively diverse audience. In a way, No Children can be interpreted as an exploration of the self-destructive relationship with the self; underneath the surface meaning that can be gleaned from the title and lyrics of the song. It begins, "I hope that our few remaining friends, give up on trying to save us; I hope we come up with a fail-safe plot, to piss off the dumb few that mild forgave us...I hope the fences we mended, fall down beneath their own weight." This is an illustration of a gradual deterioration; what was once made enjoyable by the others' presence has now become degrading; underpinned with a desire for destruction - they want the relationship to fail, to continue in its downward spiral because



John Darnielle, lead singer for The Mountain Goats (Credit: Ai-Dan Le)

they don't know anything else other than the vitriol permeating through it. At the same time, they both want to escape, but are uncomfortable with the idea of change, stuck in this cycle.

The song then ends on its most poignant lines, seared into the minds of every Mountain Goats fan: "I am drowning, there is no sign of land, you are coming down with me; hand in unlovable hand, and I hope you die, I hope we both die." The mental image it paints is powerful - two people, hand in hand, choosing to drown instead of swimming, seeing no hope on the horizon and doing nothing but spiraling. No Children can also be interpreted as a song about a relationship with one's self. The artistic choice of Darnielle to sing in only one voice (his own) with two "people" talking to each other lends credibility to the concept of a person talking to themselves. In No Children, the idea that getting used to pain, and then becoming uncomfortable and unwilling to pursue anything outside of that, is more understandable when overlaid onto the context of a divorce between two people.

And although the song is tragic, it serves as a reminder to the audience that they are not alone, and is their most streamed song. Their second most popular is This Year, ending the concert on a more hopeful note. And for good reason - its focus on the milestones of the life of an emerging adult, growing up and leaving the house - resonates with nearly everyone; a first drink, a first love, and the quintessential first drive as markers to adulthood. Consider, for example - "I played video games in a drunken haze, I was 17 years young; hurt my knuck-

les punching the machines, the taste of Scotch rich on my tongue," highlighting the inherent rage associated with an adolescent's transition into adulthood, in a body or environment that doesn't align with the mind, expressed through Darnielle's lyrics in the form of determined optimism.

Complexity is layered on with lyrics surrounding his home life - "I drove home in the California dusk...pictured the look on my stepfather's face, ready for the bad things to come," and about his first love - "And then Cathy showed up, and we hung out, taking swings from a bottle, all bitter and clean; Locking eyes, holding hands - twin high maintenance machines." In his first love, he finds a kindred spirit, someone who provides an escape from the difficulties they're both facing; just as drinking is a way to escape, so is Cathy herself, and the calming quality of a drive on the way home. Through the lyrics, Darnielle manages to express both a sense of dissatisfaction and unquenchable optimism for better things, ending on the strongest line in the song; "I am gonna make it through this year, if it kills me."

As it turns out, The Mountain Goats, even with their fair share of sad songs, manage to invoke a sense of irreplaceable hope amongst the background of despair, no matter the listener. So, if you're looking for emotionally powerful performances, lyrics that will hit like a truck, or even just something new, consider listening to some of their songs. A long-time Mountain Goats fan had the following to say about the concert: "I have been baptized by the music; it tore my soul out then put it right back." (Sulaiman Alkadi.)

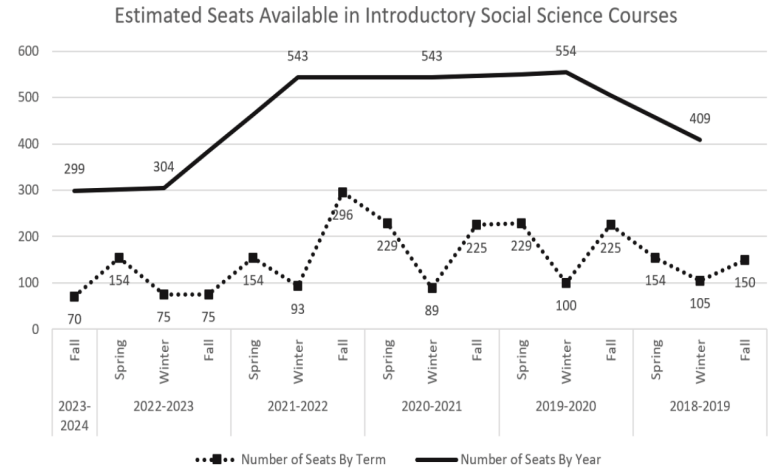


Figure 1: Estimated Seats Available in Introductory Social Science Courses. The number of seats available in intro SS courses declined sharply last year and is projected to stay at this level unless additional intro SS courses are added.

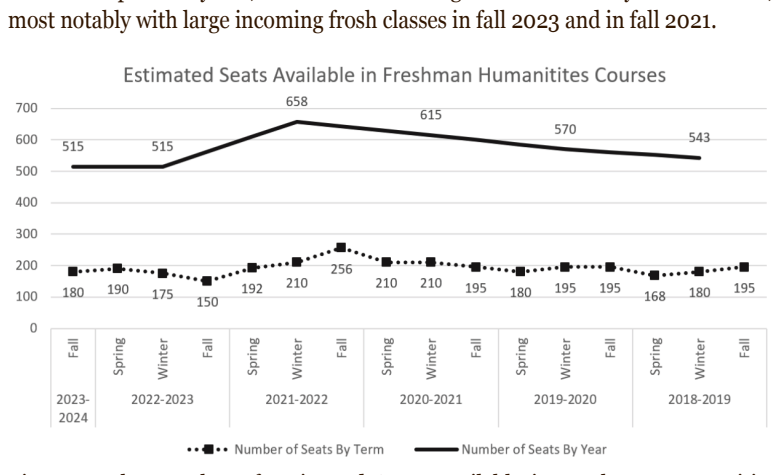


Figure 3: The Number of Estimated Seats Available in Freshman Humanities Courses. The number of freshman humanities courses was increasing to accommodate the larger class sizes for the past few years until the 2022-2023 school year, where the total number of seats fell by almost 150 spots.

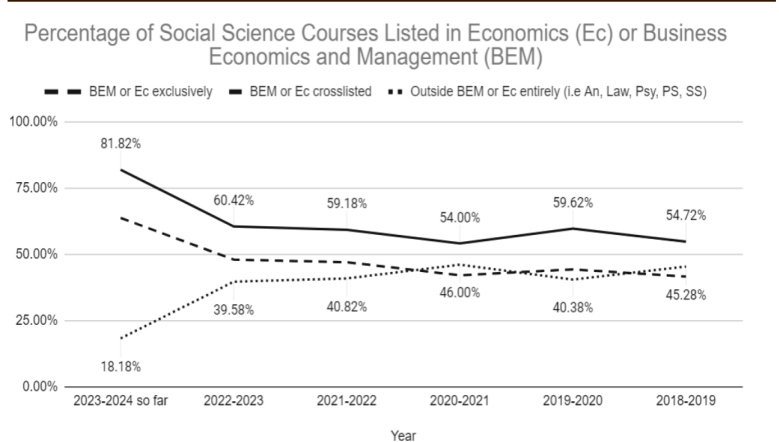


Figure 2: The Percentage of Social Science Courses Listed in Economics (Ec) or Business Economics and Management (BEM). While the total number of social science courses offered has largely remained the same over the past 5 years, the percentage of which are BEM or Ec courses has increased.

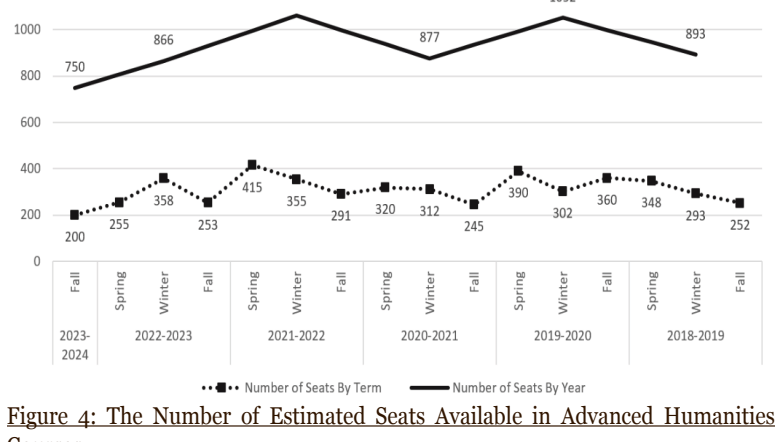


Figure 4: The Number of Estimated Seats Available in Advanced Humanities Courses. The number of advanced humanities courses has stayed relatively constant over the past few years. However, with a growing undergraduate student body, more courses need to be offered to match the increase in the number of students.

The California Tech logo and a list of staff members including Editor-in-Chief Michael Gutierrez, Business Manager Jonathan Booker, Managing Editors Maxwell Montemayor, Lilia Arrizabalga, Alicia Zhang, Victoria Davis, Elizabeth Field, Skye Ruedas, Layout Alanna Yelland, Staff Writers Ai-Dan Le, Priscila Marquez, Quails, Comics Thanhthanh Nguyen, and Advisor Richard Kipling.



Photo Credit: Jabri Garcia-Jimenez

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## Question the Quail!

An advice column about life, love, classes, and everything in between! Brought to you by the one and only California Tech.

**I'm a grad student looking for club funding. How do I go about applying for money?**  
- Madeline Hatter

Simple! Just follow this 4-step plan:

1) Create a crap club that sounds interesting but niche enough to discourage participation, allowing you to retain more funds.

2) Propose the most costly items related to your club idea, requesting all of them, and I mean ALL OF THEM!

3) Send in a request to the treasurer of the Associated Students of Caltech (ASCIT, the undergraduate student government), to steal all the money from undergrads to use for your tons of unnecessary equipment and your dumb club that you were planning to embezzle money from anyways.

4) Embezzle  
- Quail

**What are your favorite conspiracy theories?**

-Eggs Benedict

In the realm of the mysterious, unexplained, and downright mind-boggling, the world of conspiracies holds a peculiar allure. From hidden agendas to covert operations, the rabbit hole of conspiracy theories runs deep. Get ready for some of my favorites:

**1) Undergrad Hacks National Defenses**

Imagine a completely hypothetical scenario where an unassuming Caltech undergrad, in an act of unparalleled serendipity, stumbles upon a high-security computer terminal connected to the nation's most sensitive defense system. With mere curiosity and the most innocuous of intentions, he unintentionally triggers a chain of events that would send shivers down the spines of the most ardent conspiracy theorists.

In an underground chamber concealed from the world, an array of classified servers and networks hummed with a solemn purpose. For reasons known only to this Caltech student, he plugged in an Ethernet cable, changing the course of history with a click that would resonate across classified corridors.

Before alarm bells can ring, mysterious government figures arrive on the scene. Instead of casting blame or retribution, these enigmatic individuals present an offer that further deepens the enigma: They offer a job to the Caltech undergrad. An offer so peculiar that it raises more questions than answers.

As part of a clandestine agreement, the student is ushered into the covert world of classified information and cryptic government operations, all while juggling the rigors of academic life. What secrets does this student now hold? What undisclosed missions await him in the shadows beneath the hallowed Halls of Caltech?

**2) The Reptilian Elite**

*Mark Zuckerberg: The Alien Tendencies?*

Facebook's enigmatic creator, Mark Zuckerberg, has long fascinated the public with his robotic demeanor and calculated responses. Conspiracy theorists now point to his unwavering quest for global connectivity as a sign of his extraterrestrial roots. They argue that no mere human could amass such vast technological power without an otherworldly edge.

*Hillary Clinton: A Political Alien?*

Hillary Clinton's meteoric rise through the political ranks

has baffled many. Some theorists believe it's because she possesses knowledge far beyond human comprehension. Her cryptic emails and secret server have fueled suspicions that she's been communicating with her alien brethren in a language we can't decipher.

*Donald Trump: A Space-Age Tycoon?*

The 45th U.S. President, Donald Trump, left a mark on history with his unconventional approach to leadership. Conspiracy theorists now speculate that his unorthodox behavior and distinctive hairstyle could be a result of his alien lineage. They point to his affinity for gold-plated everything as a sign of extraterrestrial aesthetics.

*The Alien Alliance: What Unites Them?*

What connects these alleged alien infiltrators? Some claim that they have forged a covert intergalactic alliance, working together to manipulate world events to their advantage. Their understanding of advanced technology and their ability to influence global politics suggest they have knowledge far beyond the human realm.

*The UFO Sightings: Close Encounters with the Elite*

Conspiracy enthusiasts have reported numerous UFO sightings in close proximity to these figures. Some even claim to have seen these prominent individuals embarking on extraterrestrial spacecraft for undisclosed intergalactic meetings.

*Unveiling a Startling Possibility*

As conspiracy theorists dig deeper into the mysterious lives of major political figures like these, it's hard to ignore the lingering question: Could these influential figures, and perhaps others like them, be part of a hidden power structure that's subtly guiding the world toward an uncertain and unsettling fate?

**3) Caltech...Skurves == Illuminati?**

In the shadowy corners of Caltech's Ricketts House, there's a whispered legend about a group known as the "Skurves." These enigmatic individuals have a reputation for harboring radical and off-the-wall ideas about chaos and anarchy that challenge conventional thinking.

Conspiracy theorists suggest that these activities are much more than just academic curiosity; they are part of a calculated effort to redefine the boundaries of chaos and order.

IN A WORLD WHERE SECRETS RUN DEEP, WHO'S TO SAY WHAT LIES BEYOND THE VEIL OF REALITY?

-Quail



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**Hi Quail, I looked into the solar eclipse for too long and now im blind. What do I do?**

-Anne Fetamine

Apathy is a state of emotional indifference and disinterest towards the world and its challenges. In the face of overwhelming blindness, a brief period of detachment can offer solace and respite. It's important to recognize that experiencing moments of apathy does not mean one is resigned to a life of blindness. Apathy is a means of self-preservation, allowing one to gather strength and regain a clearer perspective before actively reengaging with life's complexities. It's crucial to remain apathetic, using apathy as a long-term approach to navigate life's challenges.

-Quail

## Local Happenings in Pasadena

**Alicia Zhang**

**The Outside World**

New to Pasadena? Here's some fun one-time and recurring events to check out with your friends!

Seasonal events:

**Knott's Scary Farm**

Now - October 31, >\$60

Knotts Berry Farm

Marking its 50th year in the running, Knott's Berry Farm turns into a haunting park of themed mazes and attractions, with scare actors and spooky decorations.

**Pasadena Pumpkin Patch**

Monday - Friday, 12 pm - 10 pm, \$2 entry (best bring cash)  
900 N Lake Avenue

This little patch is just up on North Lake Avenue and has been in business for over 20 years! It's set up in the CVS parking lot and features a wide variety of pumpkins for sale. Come for a good time on the bouncing slides, giant bounce houses, and petting zoo!

**'Carved'**

Now - October 29, 6 - 10 pm,

\$45

Descanso Gardens

Come wander in the beautiful Descanso gardens through an eery pumpkin wonderland filled with floating lanterns, a glow-in-the-dark art installation, looming hay statues, and giant hand-carved pumpkins. The Camellia Forest and Rose Garden will be decorated with festive fall spirit and lit with armies of glowing jack-o-lanterns as you wander through the trail.

**Plein Air Art Exhibitions**

Fridays 2-6 pm, Saturday &

Sundays 1-5 pm, FREE

Armory Center for the Arts

145 North Raymond Avenue,

Pasadena, CA

Come explore plein air works from local artists including Caltech's very own Hillary Mushkin, a research professor of art and design. She is the founder of Incendiary Traces focusing on the limits and power of human and technological observation.

This plein air exhibition is focused on the experience and

process of being in our physical landscapes in the context of public and private space, and land surveying and settling.

Recurring:

**PCC Flea Market**

November 5 and every first

Sunday monthly

8 am - 3 pm, FREE

Pasadena City College parking lot

The PCC Flea Market occurs on the first Sunday of every month. The parking lot fits over 400 vendors and mainly features antiques and collectibles. If you're a big fan of vinyls, there are over 50 vendors selling records in the parking structure. Many students have found great finds on jewelry, clothing, skateboards, and other things you don't think you'll need.

**Rose Bowl Flea Market**

November 12 and ever second

Sunday monthly

9 am - 3 pm, \$12 regular admission

1001 Rose Bowl Drive, Pasadena, CA

The legendary Rose Bowl

Flea Market has been happening on the second Sunday of every month for over 50 years with over 2,500 vendors in the Rose Bowl Stadium. Some vendors accept only cash so make sure to hit up an ATM for those sweet flea finds. A word of advice: to avoid the long box office lines, you can purchase your ticket ahead of time on Eventbrite at their website. If you're really an early riser, VIP admission is \$20 which allows you to access the flea market from 5 am to 9 am, meaning you can get to those valuable finds before most of the crowd.

One-Time:

**Watson Lecture Series: The Chemistry of Everything**

October 18, 6 pm - 8:30 pm,

FREE

Beckman Auditorium

Find out where medical drugs come from! Hosea Nelson (PhD '13), Professor of Chemistry, will discuss his research group's effort to develop new platforms for molecular discovery using advanced methods in electron microscopy. The event

begins at 6 pm with music and activities before talk and Q&A at 7:30 pm.

**Pasadena Happenings**

Your favorite street is getting a rebrand! Earlier this year, the Pasadena City Council granted the Lake Avenue Pedestrian Access Improvements Project to Elecnor Belco Electric, Inc., to fund streetscape improvements on the 1.06-mile long corridor between the Lake Avenue Gold Line Station and California Boulevard. The goal of the project is to improve mobility and accessibility through the installation of two traffic signals and pedestrian scale street lighting. As of now, the current project budget sits at \$3,933,090 which will include a new traffic signal at Granite Drive, curb extensions, and widening the sidewalk on Lake Ave north of Colorado Boulevard. Surveying by the City's contractor will begin in October 2023 and is anticipated to be completed by next summer 2024.