

welcome to caltech!



ROTATION HQ:

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The California Tech

Photo Credit: Tatiana Solovieva, Caltech Turtle Club

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What Journalism Means Here

Damian R. Wilson
Letter from the Editor

Hi, friends!

When public voices—whether late-night hosts or national reporters—find themselves censored or silenced for speaking plainly about those in power, the role of independent student journalism becomes all the more vital. A campus newspaper is not a frivolous exercise in layout and deadlines: it is one of the final spaces where young writers can question authority, challenge orthodoxy, and tell the truth without corporate approval or political clearance.

At Caltech, where scientific rigor and intellectual freedom are our hallmarks, we ought to safeguard the same spirit in our journalism. The California Tech is more than just a chronicle of student life; it is a forum where ideas circulate freely, where the community holds itself accountable, and where the act of writing itself sharpens our collective critical faculties.

As media voices elsewhere are shut down for daring to call the government what it is, we should recall that a student newspaper is not only a training ground for future journalists, but also a living record of Caltech's conscience. Its value lies precisely in its independence, its clarity, and its willingness to speak when others cannot. That is to say, when talk show hosts get yanked off the air over statements of fact, we must remember that free voices don't survive on goodwill alone. They need space, and they need support.

Good thing the *Tech* is privately funded—by you, dear reader! Every article, every issue, every opinion that might not fit elsewhere exists because students here decided it was worth the ink. That's the value of student journalism: it's not beholden to ratings, sponsors, or political donors. It's beholden to Caltech. To you. To the idea that on a campus built on equations and experiments, the freedom to speak, critique, and discourse comes hand in hand with the freedom to calculate.

So, upon picking up a copy of our humble newspaper, bear in mind—you're holding something rare: journalism that answers only to its community. And in times like these, independence is no small thing.

With hope, gratitude, and solidarity,

Damian R. Wilson
Editor-in-Chief

Read the *little t*!

Camilla Fezzi
Letter to the Community

I stayed awake at 2 a.m. during my first week at Caltech, sitting on my bed surrounded by half-unpacked boxes. On one side was a physics problem set that I didn't understand, and on the other was this small book everyone whispered about—the *little t*. I initially thought it was some campus oddity, like an inside-jokes dictionary I hadn't learned yet. But curiosity eventually got the better of me. I opened it.

The first word I encountered was "Frosh." Easy enough, since I was one. But shortly after, I read "Flick," which was defined as "the process of taking the longest possible time to do the smallest possible amount of work." I burst out laughing. Then came "Extension: Not as hard to get as you might think. See Flame." Suddenly, this book was not just entertaining—it was resonating with the frustration and confusion I was experiencing. However, not all words are useless; in fact, some are essential because they form your everyday vocabulary, so memorizing them is wise. There is also crucial information that guides you in emergencies or needs, which, in my view, can really be a lifesaver. Caltech isn't a large campus, but with so many things to handle, each location holds significance, making it very challenging to find the right place at the right time.

What surprised me was how much comfort I found in reading those tiny entries. Each definition reminded me: you're not the only one who freaks out under a deadline, burns out, procrastinates, or has no idea what "ExComm" is. Students before us had experienced it all, and they left us this book—part serious, part snarky, but always honest.

I even remember going over the "Extension" entry one more time before my first real Frosh problem set. It sounds foolish, but realizing it was okay to request extra time—and that students for generations had been doing so—made me feel included. It took the shame out of struggling.

As the weeks went on, the *little t* became a kind of survival buddy. When friends and I gathered late at night, someone would read aloud a definition, and we'd laugh and joke about how accurate it was. We knew it wasn't just a guide—it was part of the group's freshman experience, a little rite of passage.

Looking back, I can honestly say that the *little t* made Caltech feel a bit less intimidating. It gave me words, humor, and history to help me understand this place I was desperately trying to get into. Most importantly, it reminded me that I wasn't the only one struggling—this was a place where everyone fought and learned together.

So if you have your copy in your hand right now, don't just put it on your shelf. Read it when you're stressed, bring it out when you feel lost, share it with friends. It's not just a dictionary—it's a reminder that you're part of something much bigger. And someday, you'll smile watching a new frosh reading the same glossary, maybe at 2 a.m., on the night of their first deadline.

The *little t* is an undergraduate handbook for helping frosh get acquainted with Caltech, its traditions, policy, and unwritten rules. Like the *Tech*, it is an ASCIT publication! It that serves as a general collection of useful information for all Caltech undergraduates.

Find one delivered straight to your dorm room, or pick one up at the ASCIT Board of Directors panel tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11am in Ramo Auditorium.

Rotation Rules 2025

Interhouse Committee (IHC)

Rotation is an opt-in process where incoming students choose which residences they like best. The IHC asks those who participate in Rotation to follow these guidelines to ensure adherence to the law, the honor code, the code of conduct, and the spirit of Rotation.

Guidelines

First Year Students:

- First year students may speak freely about their experiences in the residences with others. We recommend prefrosh do not share their rankings with other prefrosh, as the decision on where they feel they fit in best is a personal one.
- As per institute policy, first year students may not drink alcohol or take illicit drugs during Rotation.
- First year students should not feel pressure to rank any Residence a certain way, remain in a given environment, or interact with other people who make them uncomfortable. If this occurs, they are encouraged to reach out to a member of

the IHC, the OSE, an RA, an RLC, or the Deans.

Upperclass students:

- Upperclass students may speak freely about direct, personal experiences within the residential system at Caltech. To encourage fairness and accuracy, we ask students to focus on their own experiences in the residences rather than rely on rumors or other potentially false information.
- If you have multiple affiliations, you may only chose one house to participate in rotation events with as an advocate. Discussing your personal experiences you've had in other houses is allowed, but you can only rotate with one.
- Upperclass students should not tell first year students how to rank houses but rather give first year students useful information to help them get a clear and accurate picture of campus. First year students should be encouraged to make their own decisions.
- Upperclass students may not give first year students alcohol or other psychoactive substances or give first year students extraordinary gifts to encourage them to join a specific house (i.e. taking them off campus for >4 hours, excluding pre-season athletes on trips with their sports team). Each of

these activities constitutes an honor code or policy violation.

- Along with the normal event registration process, IHC must approve any large events, prop sheets, videos, and advertisements.

All Rotation Rules are guidelines to follow that will facilitate the Rotation process. If a serious violation of the Code of Conduct or the Honor Code occurs during Rotation, you may be asked to meet with the Deans, RAs, or RLCs.

More info on the IHC website:



Report a violation here:



Rotation Schedule

Times listed below are the beginning of the reception. The meal will begin 30 minutes later.

Date		Avery	Blacker	Dabney	Fleming	Lloyd	Page	Ricketts	Venerable
Wed 9/24	Dinner A	6:15PM	5:30PM	5:45PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	6:15PM
Thu 9/25	Dinner B	6:15PM	5:30PM	5:45PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	6:15PM
Fri 9/26	Dinner C	6:15PM	5:30PM	5:45PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	6:15PM
Sat 9/27	Lunch D	12:45PM	12:00PM	12:15PM	1:00PM	1:15PM	1:00PM	12:45PM	12:45PM
^	Dinner E	6:15PM	5:30PM	5:45PM	6:30PM	5:45PM	6:15PM	6:00PM	6:00PM
Sun 9/28	Lunch F	12:45PM	12:00PM	12:15PM	1:00PM	1:15PM	1:00PM	12:45PM	12:45PM
^	Dinner G	6:15PM	5:30PM	5:45PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	6:15PM	6:00PM	5:45PM
Mon 9/29	Dinner H	6:15PM	5:30PM	5:45PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	5:45PM	6:00PM	6:15PM
Tue 9/30	Free Dinner	6:15PM	5:30PM	5:45PM	6:30PM	6:00PM	5:45PM	6:00PM	6:15PM
Wed 10/1	Free Dinner	5:15PM	4:30PM	4:45PM	5:30PM	5:00PM	4:45PM	5:00PM	5:15PM

Date	Wed 9/24	Thur 9/25	Fri 9/26	Sat 9/27	Sun 9/28	Mon 9/29	Tue 9/30	Wed 10/1
Lunch	--	--	--	House D	House F	--	--	--
Dinner	House A	House B	House C	House E	House G	House H	Free	Free

Date	Time	House	Event
Wed 9/24	9:00pm-11:00pm	Lloyd	Lloyd Hot Ones
^	9:30pm-10:30pm	Dabney	Dabney Boat Tours (Caltech Pond)
Thu 9/25	8:30pm-10:30pm	Blacker	Blacker Bitterness Day
^	9:30pm-10:30pm	Dabney	Dabney Boat Tours (Caltech Pond)
^	10:30pm-12:00am	Page	Chill at Page
Fri 9/26	8:00pm-11:59pm	Ricketts	Ricketts Open Mic Night
Sat 9/27	10:00pm-12:00am	Fleming	Fleming Dirty Dodgeball
^	11:59pm-2:00am	Lloyd	Lloyd Capture the Flag + Milkshakes
Sun 9/28	3:00pm-5:00pm	Bechtel	Bechtel
^	8:00pm-10:00pm	Venerable	Venerable Greens
^	10:00pm-12:00am	Avery	Avery Tea and Karaoke
Mon 9/29	8:30pm-10:00pm	Fleming	Fleming Fleptathalon
^	9:30pm-10:30pm	Dabney	Dabney Boat Tours (Caltech Pond)
Tue 9/30	9:30pm-10:30pm	Page	Page Trivia
^	9:30pm-10:30pm	Dabney	Dabney Boat Tours (Caltech Pond)
Wed 10/1	8:30pm-10:00pm	Fleming	Fleming Spikeball Tournament



We love our House Presidents
-The Editors of the California Tech

FCC Group Name	Wed 9/24 Dinner	Thu 9/25 Dinner	Fri 9/26 Dinner	Sat 9/27 Linner	Sat 9/27 Dinner	Sun 9/28 Linner	Sun 9/28 Dinner	Mon 9/29 Dinner
Hydrogen	Avery	Lloyd	Dabney	Page	Blacker	Ricketts	Venerable	Fleming
Helium	Page	Venerable	Fleming	Blacker	Dabney	Avery	Ricketts	Lloyd
Lithium	Avery	Lloyd	Fleming	Blacker	Ricketts	Page	Dabney	Venerable
Beryllium	Venerable	Avery	Ricketts	Page	Lloyd	Blacker	Dabney	Fleming
Boron	Ricketts	Blacker	Page	Lloyd	Venerable	Avery	Fleming	Dabney
Carbon	Fleming	Blacker	Ricketts	Avery	Dabney	Lloyd	Venerable	Page
Nitrogen	Venerable	Dabney	Blacker	Fleming	Lloyd	Ricketts	Page	Avery
Oxygen	Fleming	Dabney	Avery	Venerable	Page	Ricketts	Blacker	Lloyd
Fluorine	Dabney	Avery	Ricketts	Blacker	Lloyd	Fleming	Venerable	Page
Neon	Avery	Blacker	Lloyd	Venerable	Fleming	Page	Dabney	Ricketts
Sodium	Blacker	Lloyd	Page	Fleming	Dabney	Venerable	Avery	Ricketts
Magnesium	Page	Ricketts	Avery	Dabney	Lloyd	Venerable	Blacker	Fleming
Aluminum	Fleming	Ricketts	Blacker	Page	Dabney	Venerable	Lloyd	Avery
Silicon	Lloyd	Venerable	Ricketts	Dabney	Page	Fleming	Avery	Blacker
Phosphorus	Blacker	Page	Dabney	Venerable	Fleming	Lloyd	Avery	Ricketts
Chromium	Ricketts	Page	Venerable	Dabney	Blacker	Fleming	Lloyd	Avery
Chlorine	Avery	Venerable	Lloyd	Ricketts	Page	Dabney	Blacker	Fleming
Argon	Ricketts	Fleming	Blacker	Lloyd	Page	Dabney	Venerable	Avery
Potassium	Venerable	Blacker	Page	Avery	Ricketts	Dabney	Fleming	Lloyd
Calcium	Page	Fleming	Avery	Lloyd	Venerable	Blacker	Ricketts	Dabney
Iron	Blacker	Fleming	Venerable	Avery	Ricketts	Lloyd	Dabney	Page
Titanium	Lloyd	Fleming	Venerable	Blacker	Ricketts	Avery	Page	Dabney
Cobalt	Lloyd	Page	Dabney	Ricketts	Avery	Blacker	Fleming	Venerable
Manganese	Page	Avery	Lloyd	Dabney	Fleming	Venerable	Ricketts	Blacker
Nickel	Ricketts	Dabney	Lloyd	Page	Venerable	Avery	Fleming	Blacker
Copper	Lloyd	Venerable	Page	Fleming	Avery	Blacker	Ricketts	Dabney
Barium	Blacker	Ricketts	Dabney	Fleming	Avery	Lloyd	Page	Venerable
Mercury	Dabney	Avery	Venerable	Ricketts	Blacker	Fleming	Lloyd	Page
Radium	Dabney	Ricketts	Fleming	Venerable	Avery	Page	Lloyd	Blacker
Iodine	Dabney	Lloyd	Fleming	Avery	Blacker	Ricketts	Page	Venerable



REPORTERS & COLUMNISTS WANTED

Calling ALL members of the Caltech community – not just undergrads.
The California Tech is the voice of the people, and we need you to speak!

Visit tech.caltech.edu/write (or QR Code)
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and effective
manner

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.
In contrast, Opinion articles (including Letters to the Editor) may be written and submitted by anyone on any topic; while the Tech will edit all published Opinions to ensure no wrong or misleading information, we do not otherwise interfere. Again, the role of the Tech here is to help the whole campus communicate their ideas and share their stories, not promote specific ones. Content published as Opinions do not necessarily represent the values of the Tech or our staff.
An exception to this is Editorials, which are written by Tech staff and represent official opinions of the Tech. Any information and sources in Editorials shall be held to the same standard as News reports, but there is no promise or expectation of impartial coverage.

Fair Reporting
All facts of major significance and relevance to an article shall be sought 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.

Quotes 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 — opinions. 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 hold 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 — clarify what question was being answered.
We always ask that a source speak with us on the record for the sake of journalistic integrity. We want our audience to receive information that is credible and useful to them. Named sources are more trustworthy than unnamed sources because, by definition, unnamed sources will not publicly stand by their statements.
That being said, we realize that some sources are unwilling to reveal their identities publicly when it could jeopardize their safety or livelihood. Even in those cases, it is essential that the Tech Editor-in-Chief knows the identity of the source in question. Otherwise, there can be no certainty about whether the source and their quotes were falsified. This also applies for Letters to the Editor and Opinion submissions to the Tech. If the author requests that their piece is published anonymously, they must provide a reason, and we shall consider it in appropriate circumstances. No truly anonymous submissions shall be published. Conversely, no submissions shall be published with the author's name without their consent.
When we choose not to identify a source by their full name, the article shall explain to readers why.

Corrections Policy
We strive for promptness in correcting all errors in all published content. We shall tell readers, as clearly and quickly as possible, what was wrong and what is correct.
Corrections to articles will be immediately updated on the online version of the Tech at tech.caltech.edu. If appropriate, corrections will also be published in the following Tech print issue.

Honor Code Applies
In any remaining absence of clarity, the Honor Code is the guiding principle.

The California Tech

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The California Tech aims to publish biweekly except during vacation and examination periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and advertisers. Letters and submissions are welcome; email submissions to tech@caltech.edu, or submit them on our Discord server (<https://discord.gg/Zaah8749s2>). The editors reserve the right to edit and abridge all submissions for any reason. All written work remains property of its author. The advertising deadline is 12 PM on Friday; all advertising should be submitted electronically or as camera ready art, but *The Tech* can also do simple typesetting and arrangement. All advertising inquiries should be directed to the business manager at tech@caltech.edu.

The California Tech #26

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 **maybe win a fabulous prize???**

“On campus” is defined as the convex hull of the buildings shown on caltech.edu/map/campus.
The QR code will be hidden somewhere within the pictured area.

TECH EDITOR’S CORNER

A lovely little poem not remotely relevant to any current events. From your favorite *Tech* editors <3

At the California Institute of Technology

By RICHARD BRAUTIGAN

I don't care how God-damn smart
these guys are: I'm bored.

It's been raining like hell all day long
and there's nothing to do.

Notes:
Written January 24, 1967 while poet-in-residence at the California Institute of Technology.

Source: The Pill Versus the Springhill Mine Disaster (1968)

Damian Wilson
And then "there's nothing to do" could be underlined or somethin...

EVER HEARD OF STUDENT JOURNALISM?

Investigate the mysteries...

2:47 PM