



Reddit co-founder makes a visit to Caltech

PARUL PUBBI
Contributing Writer

Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian gave a talk at Hameetman Auditorium on Thursday, organized by ASCIT and the Caltech Y, inspiring our generation in a call to action. “We’re all hacking it,” Ohanian explained as he released balloons by cutting a string in a Caltech-worthy welcome. Ohanian went on to talk about how he fell in love with the internet— from his first blog and early web design ventures to the formation of his partnership with roommate Steve Huffman. “Reddit had 100,000,000 unique visitors last month, but we had no delusions when we started,” claimed Ohanian. “You just need to launch, to try and make the lives of a few people a little happier.”

About 100 students attended the event, many of whom confessed to spending many an hour surfing the “front page of the internet.” Ohanian then spoke regarding working with Paul Graham on the Y Combinator, the creation of the alien mascot that Reddit is known for, and setbacks he’d faced along the way. An anecdote told regarding a Yahoo executive, who called the Reddit co-founders “a rounding error,” was what Ohanian cited as one of his biggest sources of motivation.

“I think Alexis was a very easygoing but passionate speaker. I think it was a great talk for Caltech students, who often have great



Michelle Tang, ASCIT Social Director, accepts a flag from Alexis Ohanian to the Caltech student body. The Reddit co-founder visited Caltech as part of a 150-stop tour and was joined on stage by Caltech alum Greg Tanaka. Shortly before arriving on campus, Ohanian posted a video on his Youtube account to encourage students to attend his upcoming talk.

-Parul Pubbi

ideas but get too caught up in their everyday sets to spend time working towards big picture goals,” expressed Laura Santoso, one of the organizers of the event. In an attempt to relate to Techers, alumnus Greg Tanaka, CEO and Founder of Bay Sensors (a retail analytics company), sat

down with Ohanian and discussed his experiences in startups and entrepreneurship. Tanaka, now on his third startup, gave tips specific to Caltech students with ambitions of starting something of their own. “It’s important not to neglect the business side of things,” expressed Tanaka. The alum also advised Techers to make an effort to learn more about each other, as “the

people sitting next to you are going to go on to do amazing things.”

After the presentation, Techers also had the opportunity to buy Ohanian’s book, *Without Their Permission: How the 21st Century Will Be Made, Not Managed*, and to get each copy personally signed. The book, now a Wall Street Journal bestseller, was the primary reason for the event (as well as Ohanian’s

150-stop tour). A photo booth was set up, and Techers had the opportunity to write to their future selves in the form of postcards, which Ohanian promised to mail in April.

“I think the biggest take-away from the talk was that ideas are worthless without action,” said Jake Harmon, a freshman who attended the event. “Do stuff that matters.”

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Helping readers burst out of the Caltech bubble

Need to know

< **100** words about the world this week – topics sorted from good to bad

by *The Tech Eds*

Peace deal finalized	4th , final part of peace deal agreed to by Philippines, Muslim rebels [BBC]
Syria peace talks begin	1st personal meeting held between 2 sides, after 3 years of civil war [CNN]
Tablet gives new info.	4,000 -year-old clay tablet says Noah’s Ark was round, not pointed [ABC]
Buffett offers reward	\$1BN prize offered to person who submits perfect NCAA bracket [CNN]
Airstrikes alarm civilians	6,000 families in Pakistan displaced by airstrikes targeting Taliban [ABC]
Lightning causes blast	20 people killed in explosion at arms depot in Mbuji-Mayi, DR Congo [BBC]
Clashes erupt in Egypt	29 killed in violence on 3rd anniversary of overthrowing of Mubarak [CNN]

Food with Mannion!

*Do you like eating food?
How about free food at nice restaurants?
Ever want to tell the world exactly what you think of said food?
The Tech will be beginning a new column to chronicle the foodie experiences of new writers every other week... The Catch: They'll be going head-to-head with Tom Mannion who will be reviewing the same restaurant. If you have ever thought you were more of a gourmand than our resident master chef, now's your chance to prove it!
Email us for a spot on the list at tech@caltech.edu*

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ASCIT Minutes

ASCIT Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes for January 25, 2013. Taken by Catherine Jamshidi

Officers Present: Zach Rivkin, Connor Coley, Malvika Verma, Connie Hsueh, Monica Enlow, Michelle Tang, Catherine Jamshidi

Guests: Connor Rosen, Adam Jermyn, Margaret Lee

Call to Order: 10:00pm

President's Report (Zach):

- Counseling Center evening hours are offered MW 7-10pm in CSS.
- The provost and interim president has approved upgrades for the 9th floor of Millikan, which will be used as a student lounge.
- The Faculty Board Ad Hoc Committee on Undergraduate Self-Governance has begun meeting. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni are encouraged to contact the student reps (Connor Coley, Rachel Deghuee, Catherine Jamshidi, and me) at pres@donut.caltech.edu. Town halls will occur down the road.

Officer's Reports:

- **V.P. of Academic Affairs (ARC Chair: Malvika):**
 - Survey about TQFRs to go out this week.
 - Ombuds training and student-faculty lunch went well.
 - If you're an ombuds this term, email your house and let them know!
 - All-nighter Initiative Project: Why do you pull all-nighters for academic reasons? Let your ARC rep know! The ARC has several recommendations:
 - Due dates for sets to be pushed to 5 PM or midnight/2 AM
 - Discourage the use of collaboration policies (T0) that encourage starting sets late
 - Schedule TA office hours that are not just the night before the set is due
- **V.P. of Non-Academic Affairs (IHC Chair: Connor):**
 - Congratulations to Justin Koch, new President of Blacker and newest member of the HC!
 - The RA Hiring process is quickly ramping up so convince your favorite grad students to apply! Applications are due on February 3rd. It's still unclear exactly how many RAs will be hired for each house.
 - New house ExComm's will have mandatory 4-hour training session to go over institute policies and various responsibilities. Details are still being discussed.
 - The IHC and ASCIT sent a letter to President-elect Rosenbaum last week. The full letter should be somewhere in this newspaper..
- **Director of Operations (Connie):**
 - Remember the days when you were a lost prefresh? Want to help the Class of 2018 find their way around Tech? You should join the Little t team! Talk to me for more details. Applications for the 2014 Editor/Manager will be out soon.
- **Treasurer (Monica):**
 - Reimbursements will be delayed because I was very sick to start the term. Sorry for the inconvenience.
- **Social Director (Michelle):**
 - Past Thursday: Reddit event
 - Past Friday: The Ice House comedy show
 - Upcoming: Biweekly trivia nights, Rathskeller, Winter Olympics Carnival, Avery Interhouse, Dabney Interhouse, Ruddock Interhouse, Be a Kid Again
 - Many "yes" votes for Spring Formal, will likely happen
- **Secretary (Cat):**
 - Student Experience Town Hall Discussion Schedule:

Lloyd	Jan. 25	1:00 pm	Lloyd Dining Hall
Fleming	Jan. 25	3:00 pm	Fleming Dining Hall
Dabney	Feb. 1	2:00 pm	Dabney Dining Hall
Avery	Feb. 8	2:00 pm	Avery Dining Hall
Page	Feb. 22	2:00 pm	Page Dining Hall
Blacker	Mar. 1	1:00 pm	Blacker Dining Hall
Ruddock	Mar. 1	3:00 pm	Ruddock Dining Hall
Ricketts	Mar. 8	2:00 pm	Ricketts Dining Hall

If anyone has any questions or concerns about a section of the minutes please email the appropriate officer. We are happy to answer any questions.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:53 pm

Caltech Y Column: Look out for new events

**PHOEBE ANN
LAURA SANTOSO**
Contributing Writers

Hi everyone! This is the Caltech Y Column, designed to inform you about the Y and the opportunities we provide for you to inspire your passions, whether by participating in our programs or leading your own!

Upcoming events:

1. Yosemite Winter Camping Trip

Saturday through Monday | February 15th to 17th | Cost \$125 per person

Sign up beginning Thursday, January 23rd at the Caltech Y (business hours are 9 -5, payment is due at signup)

Join us in Yosemite National Park this President's Day weekend!

Yosemite National Park is known for its beautiful landscape and impressive waterfalls, and the Caltech Y has organized a special trip to experience the park. The timing of this trip is extra special, since we will be in Yosemite for a once-a-year astronomical and geological event: Horsetail Fall at sunset. Once a year for a week in mid-February, the setting sun lines up perfectly with Horsetail Fall in Yosemite Valley to turn the waterfall bright orange and pink at sunset, while the surrounding rock is dark.

Be advised this is a winter trip (average temperatures in Yosemite for February are much colder than here – highs in the 40's and 50's, lows in the 20's and 30's) and we will be camping – we can help you choose appropriate clothing and gear to bring.

Our trip will depart campus early Saturday morning and return on Monday in the early evening. Transportation, equipment, and most meals are included. If you have any questions, you can contact Jeremy Sandler at jsandler@caltech.edu.

2. Costa Rica Alternative Spring Break Trip

Thursday, March 20th through Saturday, March 29th (10 days) | Cost is \$950

Applications are available starting Thursday, January 23rd at www.caltechY.org | Due Friday, January 31st

The Costa Rica trip will include a week of working and staying in the local community as well as a multi-day tourist excursion to explore some of Costa Rica's great sites and culture. It will also be a great chance to expand your

Spanish language through practical exposure.

Applications and information on trip fees and project details will be available starting Thursday, January 23rd at www.caltechY.org. Trips fees include transportation, lodging, and most food. The Costa Rica Alternative Spring Break trip has been made possible thanks to generous funding from the Frank and Elsie Stefanko Fund, the George Housner Fund, Caltech Student Affairs, and the Caltech Y.

In the past few years spaces have filled quickly, so don't miss out. Visit www.caltechY.org for applications and more information. For further questions, contact Phoebe Ann at pann@caltech.edu.

3. San Gabriel Peak Day Hike

Sunday | February 9th | 8:30 am

Do you need a break for a quick local hike? Then you're in luck!

The Caltech Y Outdoor Adventure group is leading a hike in the San Gabriel Mountains just above campus.

We will be hiking to the summits of San Gabriel Peak and Mt. Disappointment. This moderate hike is around 4.5 miles long with 1500-2000 feet of elevation gain. We will have great views of the entire Los Angeles area, and we might even be able to see the ocean if the atmosphere is clear.

We could use drivers to help get us to the trailhead, so if you have a car and would like to come, please consider driving. Email Jeremy Sandler with questions: jsandler@caltech.edu

Go to <http://caltechy.org/lists/> to self-subscribe to announcement lists for upcoming events and sign-up information.

ASCIT BOD writes to new president on Bechtel House

**INTERHOUSE
COMMITTEE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

Last Tuesday, the IHC and ASCIT sent a letter to President-elect Rosenbaum regarding the status of the Bechtel residence. The remainder of this article is the full text of that letter:

There is a decision to be made in the near future that will have an enormous impact on undergraduate student life. For this reason, we feel it is necessary to provide you with our perspective.

In January 2012, the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation announced a generous gift of around \$25 million, donated over the course of multiple years, to Caltech. As has been explained to student leaders, the purpose of this donation is twofold: to improve our outreach in the Pasadena community, and to aid in the construction of an undergraduate residence so that a greater number of students can live closer to campus.

To consider the latter purpose, Professor and Vice President of Student Affairs Anneila Sargent assembled a committee of

undergraduates, staff, and faculty. Although the culminating report was not made public, there are a few elements that are now known. The committee recommended that the residence be comprised of suites clustered into alleys. The committee did not reach a consensus on how to populate the residence, but discussed first-year (where all freshmen live together their first year) and mixed-upperclassmen (in the style of Marks and Braun House) options.

The undergraduate representatives held town-hall meetings to collect feedback from other students; overwhelmingly, we were and are against first-year housing. Introducing such a residence would be unquestionably detrimental to the student body and student life.

In its current form, the house system provides a critical support network and growth opportunities for new students.

Each house elects an executive committee to run the day-to-day operations of the house and operate in the best interests of its members. Social directors ensure that there is a rich social environment, and

the athletics directors encourage members to participate in interhouse sports. Houses also hold family-style dinners every weeknight, providing a needed break from studying and academics so that the house can come together in an informal setting. Freshmen within the houses are exposed to a number of leadership opportunities, which prepare them for life as upperclassmen. Most student leaders, both campus-wide and within their house, began participating in house leadership during or soon-after their first year.

With regards to academics, upperclassmen offer scheduling advice on which classes to take, encourage freshmen to not overwork themselves, reassure them that it is perfectly normal to find work challenging, help them narrow down on a major by third term, help freshmen find research advisors, and reinforce our responsibilities, in addition to our privileges, under the Honor Code. Most houses have upperclassmen who are Teaching Assistants for core classes, tutor those classes, or have done well in advanced work in the same department. Seniors

and recent alumni provide career and networking advice; these connections exist on an Institute level, but are not nearly as strong as when students know each other personally.

This support is manifested in a formal system as well. Houses elect representatives to the Academic and Research Committee, Board of Control, and Conduct Review Committee. They have at least one Upperclass Counselor in every alley and a number of trained Health Advocates and Information Management Systems & Services Representatives. These students make themselves available for consultation, day and night.

The resources that these upperclassmen provide are especially valuable when you live next to them, have dinner with them, and know them in an informal context. Welcoming freshmen into Caltech by welcoming them into a close-knit house creates lasting relationships with a diverse group of people, not just members of their own class.

The introduction of a first-year residence will be detrimental to the current house system and will

undermine the undergraduate community of Caltech. Separation of students based on class, especially for first-year students, will eliminate the strong sense of camaraderie and peer support that pervade the house system.

It is our firm belief that the donation from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation should be used to construct a residence for upperclassmen who are not living in one of the eight houses. The current options for these students are Marks House, Braun House, various off-campus alleys that maintain affiliation with one of the eight on-campus houses, and nearby "off-off-campus" (non-Caltech owned) apartments. Marks and Braun Houses have amenities that cannot compete with Pasadena apartments, do not have a strong sense of community, and are relatively unpopular choices among students. Renovating, supplementing, or reconstructing these "on-off-campus" housing options would be of much greater service to the community than introducing first-year housing.

Sincerely,

The Interhouse Committee

ARC provides suggestions for avoiding all-nighters

JONATHAN LIU
ARC Representative-at-Large

Being a student at Caltech entails a few certainties, one of which is the sacrifice of sleep time as a consequence of a grueling course load. This isn't surprising – STEM majors worldwide have a reputation for piling on time-consuming coursework beyond that of other disciplines.

At Caltech, expected that the vast majority of students will be working more often than not, even resorting to the dreaded all-nighter when necessary. On the surface, the issue may seem simple: STEM majors, especially at a rigorous institution like Caltech, have a lot of work to do. In addition, college students are notorious

for procrastinating until the last minute. Forced all-nighters, viewed in this light, emerge naturally. Yet, are there specific facets of some Caltech courses that may encourage, or even force, students to pull all-nighters? And if so, are these issues preventable?

One example of a seemingly innocuous course policy that implicitly encourages procrastination is the so-called t0 collaboration policy. The name reflects the principle behind the idea: under the t0 policy, students are free to collaborate with their classmates as much as they want. However, the moment they begin writing up their solution to a problem set, they are not allowed to collaborate anymore. If they do, they must toss out their partially finished solution and start over

from scratch, with no collaboration allowed after that moment. As a result, many students maximize their collaboration time and only begin writing up their solutions the night before they are due, often resulting in a frenzied rush to complete the set before dawn.

Another concern is the scheduling of office hours and due dates. Sometimes a course schedules its office hours such that they only take place during the night before a homework assignment is due, or even on the day of.

As student Tom Parton recalls, "I was in a class where the homework sets were due around 5pm. Unfortunately, the only office hours were scheduled for 2pm on the same day, meaning that if I didn't know how to do the

set, I would have to go to office hours, frantically scribble down everything talked about, and rush to start and finish a set in the few hours before the deadline." While this is somewhat of an extreme situation, even having office hours happen only the night before a deadline creates a similar situation. The specific deadline for problem sets has an impact on work habits as well. For example, some courses assign sets to be due at 10AM. According to Lillian Tong, a current junior, "The 10AM deadline sometimes forced me to pull an all-nighter to finish the set, because there wasn't time for me to take a break to sleep and finish it the next day. Unlike other classes with afternoon deadlines, I couldn't call it a night and finish the set the next afternoon." Many students agree

that a 5PM deadline is much more convenient. Classes with electronic submission sometimes even have a midnight or 2AM deadline, allowing students to both sleep after the deadline and not miss class the next day.

It is important to note that office hours and due dates are often chosen based on TA and professor convenience. Still, it seems appropriate that course policies should balance both instructor and student convenience.

Of course, all-nighters in general will never vanish. However, the ARC is interested in doing whatever it can to streamline course efficiency and reduce unnecessary all-nighters. We submit the aforementioned suggestions as things to keep in mind when planning courses.

Brad/Chad: The Interview Series Part 2, The Interview

BRAD CHATTERGOON
Staff Writer

Hey Ladies and Gents. It's already week 4.

I didn't even notice the time pass by, probably because I'm having way too much fun with Markov Chains in ACM 216... except, not really.

Also, does anyone know when the next interhouse is? Feels like it's been forever. Anyways, onto this

or at the minimum, business casual, as described last week. An interviewer for a job as a coder will probably be a bit looser and expect business casual on the more formal side while still accepting the classic shirt and jeans combination.

Also consider the size and tenure of the company.

A large well-established company such as Microsoft might assume a bit of a stricter dress code whereas startups are probably

outfit are not right, the entire outfit is going to look out of place. Footwear mistakes include: athletic wear, dirty shoes, and in some cases, no socks.

- When in doubt, dress a bit more formal than you think is acceptable.

It is far better to be overdressed than it is to be underdressed. As the old adage goes,

“dress for the job you want, not the job you have”.

Since our current job is student, this means drop the sweatpant chic.

- Avoid questionable patterns and/or colors.

The last thing that you want is for your interviewer

“If you are applying for a business field then be prepared to wear business formal, that's a suit for both guys and gals, or at the minimum, business casual, as described last week.”

week's article! This is the second in my two-part feature on dressing for success. Without further ado, let's begin.

Part of your choice of attire should be determined by the industry/position that you are applying for.

If you are applying for a business field then be prepared to wear business formal, that's a suit for both guys and gals,

going to prefer you to show up in semi-casual attire.

Here are some general guidelines to follow regardless of what type of position you are applying for:

- Shoes do get noticed. Showing up for an interview with a perfect suit and a great matching shirt and tie are great but if the shoes accompanying said winning

to decide that they don't want to hire you as soon as they see you.

Not everyone will share your flare for red hair or your pants with bunnies on them so it's better to be safe than sorry.

I hope that some of these guidelines help with the job search. Tune in next week where I'll have an interview with a Techer that maintains a fashion blog.



Freshman roomies Alison Lui and Christina Meyer smile in their professional attire. We wouldn't want to compete against these two for jobs. —Stanford Schor

Techer reflects on motivation of Tumblr users

SHANNON WANG
Staff Writer

I quit Tumblr exactly five days ago when I realized that I had a lot to say to Tumblr — and I really didn't want to hear what it had to say back. This — copied and pasted from the Tumblr Argument Generator — seems to be all I ever see on Tumblr now: “SCREW YOU, YOU ENTITLED MIDDLE-CLASS-PRIVILEGED SCUM!”

This is one of the least offensive insults I've found there so far — and indeed, the actual ones on Tumblr are far more vicious and vulgar and invite you to do unspeakable things to yourself with a cactus. For more examples, check the website <http://lokaltog.github.io/tumblr-argument-generator/>; it has been upgraded to produce parodies of Tumblr blogs. While I hesitate to applaud this website for its ingenuity because I'm not entirely sure that it was conceived without malice, I grudgingly admit that its portrayals are accurate. Yes, the insult above doesn't make sense, but how many posts on Tumblr actually do?

Tumblr is now filled with nauseatingly self-righteous activists who take offense at every small thing. Posting is akin to walking through a field rigged with land mines. Take one wrong step —

actually, just breathe the wrong way — and you will find your account hacked, your inbox filled with anonymous hate, and your blog preserved forever in the internet's archives as an infamous example of modern intolerance and bigotry. Even though all you meant to say was that you didn't appreciate the melodramatic postings of how the (insert minority) community has been dealt a devastating blow because you disagreed with one of their members.

I like social justice; I support social justice. But there's a fine line between social justice and harassment, and while there are boundaries in real life, people on social media have no qualms ramming their beliefs down your throat. They take offense at the slightest things and the reasons they offer for their displeasure are so contrived that you may wonder if they're just clutching their pearls for the sake of being outraged. After all, being wronged and outraged garners you a lot of attention on the internet, and the endgame of playing the victim is just that.

Many of the posts are narcissism masked as self-loathing so to attract attention and sympathy. Put succinctly, Tumblr has been taken over by a maelstrom of teenage angst; the words “you can't POSSIBLY understand how I feel”

echo throughout the blogs as the battle cry of militant Neverland dwellers.

Much of Tumblr is now inspired by what I like to call it the Mary-Sue effect. For those unfamiliar with fanfiction, it means self-insertion and fantasy fulfillment through the woobification of a main character. Many Tumblr users subscribe to the culture of hurt/comfort. But since hurt/comfort implies that there must be hurt before there can be comfort, the users then vigorously seek sources of “hurt” under the misguided belief that they must be wrong before they can get the recognition and affection they want. What better source than the multitudes of unsuspecting bloggers? Thus we get flame wars starting over inane and trivial details, prolific users siccing their followers on unwitting bloggers, and hate posts morphing into public shaming blogs.

Tumblr is not the place for sane discourse. It's a place where a TV show taking an unpredicted turn will send millions into actual tears and countless others into destructive rage. And that makes it a very toxic place to be. I would like to browse my favorite character's tag on Tumblr without feeling the constant urge to defend his actions. I want to be able to watch a guy flirt harmlessly without having

everyone on Tumblr scream rape — I shouldn't have to point out that screaming rape trivializes the experiences of the real victims of rape.

More than anything, I'd like to actually watch a TV show without angry activists bullying a network's executive into deleting his Twitter account because they feel that he supports the erasure and oppression of their community when all he ever did was say that he didn't see romance between two lead characters. I'd like to see mature apologies on Tumblr for once, rather than the seething posts of bullies claiming that they are the ones in tears because their feelings have been hurt.

I understand the need for validation. I understand the desire to be accepted for who we are, especially when we're different. And it's true that everyone is different. It's even truer that there will be people we can't understand and people who can't understand us; those posts in Tumblr declaring that no one understands aren't necessarily hyperbole.

But subscribing to the liberal version of Ayn Rand's philosophy won't fix anything. Falling into an “us vs. them” mentality and playing find-the-villain also won't help boost self-esteem. Forcing other people to understand and

vilifying them when they can't don't work either. Understand that while Tumblr encourages you to do what's “best” for you and tells you that it's more than okay to lay into that idiot who doesn't understand you, it also encourages others to do the same to you.

And others will.

The truth is, Tumblr is full of people wanting to be admired and told how brilliant they are — but it's also full of people who aren't always admirable. And since none of us get off our high horses, Tumblr is also full of defensive and angry users who feel the need to prove themselves.

This is why I finally made up my mind to leave Tumblr. I have no idea how I come off online — I've never ripped anyone a new one on the internet, but I've criticized, complained, preached and lectured. I might be just as abrasive as the personalities I find so annoying; I might be just as whiny. But I wouldn't know, because I think that what I fight for is right.

Hence, I'm taking a step back to examine myself. So, Tumblr users in the Caltech community — let's have a moment of self-reflection. It's a bit late for a New Year's resolution, but I think we can all resolve to make Tumblr and other social media more pleasant place, can't we?

French duo Alcest mixes genres in *Shelter*

NAILEN MATSCHKE
Staff Writer

In a week with several solid new albums from bands like Against Me! and Mogwai, it was tough to pick one to review. In the end, I decided to go with French duo Alcest's fourth album, *Shelter*, because it's really, really good. The first few years of this decade have been trying for fans of the more unique metal acts of the 2000s, as many of them have undergone significant changes to their sounds. Alcest is one such group, formed in 2000 by multi-instrumentalist Stéphane Paut AKA Nieve ("snow" in French) out of his desire to create intense black metal, and has been moving closer and closer to shoegaze ever since.

The nature of its origin might not even be apparent to listeners of Alcest's four studio albums, since the first, *Souvenirs d'un autre monde*, wasn't released until 2007, by which point the goal of the group had progressed quite a bit. The album relied on black metal-style instrumentation, with frequent tremolo picking and blast beats. Acoustic sections that could easily be mistaken for early Opeth were also present, along with the occasional black metal-style scream. This stood in contrast to remarkably bright music and clean vocals, creating what was then a relatively unique sound.

Écailles de Lune of 2010 improved on this, with greater progression and variety, while its 2012 follow-up, *Les Voyages de l'Âme*, moved away from black metal, incorporating drums more in line with post-rock and guitar work that was a mix between black metal, post-rock, folk, and shoegaze. With *Shelter*, which

released on January 21, Alcest sheds every bit of the harshness in their sound, creating an album with plenty of depth that's still easy on the ears.

After the chorus of voices in opener "Wings," "Opale" takes no time to jump into the meat of the album's material, with a clean guitar pattern played over a warm, rich ensemble of every instrument, including the chorus of voices. This quickly fades into a quiet section with subdued drums and singing, only to explode back into the first bit with some extra percussion, a xylophone, and a lead vocal pattern. The next time we return back to the quiet bit, it latches onto some tremolo guitars which build and build for over a minute until they reach a climax and return back to the "theme" we were

initially introduced to. This near flawless flow between loud and soft and everything in between is one of the great strengths of this album, and really, I don't think I can do it justice in words.

The next song, "La nuit marche avec moi," showcases another of *Shelter's* strong points: the sheer sonic range that makes up each track. This track and most others

utilize a driving bass, both meaty and tremolo-picked distorted guitars, clean electrics, acoustic guitars, and other effects such as western-style guitar slides and extra sound effects like percussion and vocals. While they draw their

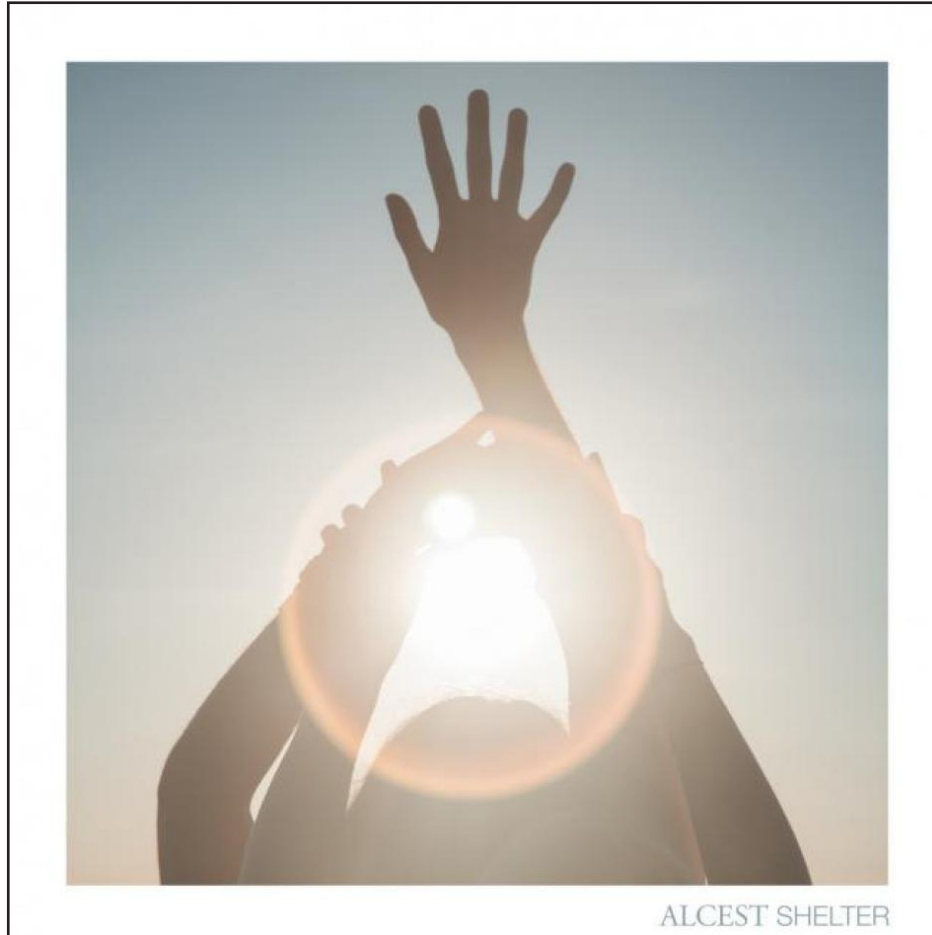
waves. This stands in stark contrast to track five, "Léveil des Muses," which starts off with distant, haunting guitars and percussion over a low bass hum and transitions to dark tremolo guitars backed by an unsettling, march-like beat.

far as I can tell the only English-language song on the entire album. One of the quieter songs on the album, "Away" is also one of the most emotional, being a little more nuanced, nostalgic, longing, and conflicted than the other tracks. Maybe I'm biased by the fact that I can actually understand the lyrics to it, but any song with this many cello and acoustic guitar parts is bound to be designed to evoke a deep emotional response.

The final track, "Délivrance," is the perfect capstone to this album: it starts off with ethereal guitars and gradually layers them along with vocals and strings until distorted tremolos are added and the music swells to a plateau, and then it gradually deconstructs and fades until it ends on a single sustained cello note.

As should be pretty clear by this point, I really enjoyed Alcest's *Shelter*. It's an album that mixes and matches the best of post-rock and shoegaze, maintaining the emotional range of both as well as some of the darkness of black metal. Some of the aesthetics of folk music are discernible in the mix as well, especially in Alcest's willingness to use a variety of instrumentation.

It's an album without killer riffs or catchy songs, but putting my headphones on and listening through the entire thing was an amazing experience. Fans of atmospheric post-rock like Sigur Rós and Russian Circles should definitely check *Shelter* out, as should those who prefer lower-key shoegaze à la Slowdive. While this record lacks the black metal intensity of previous releases, anyone into Alcest's previous work or similar bands like Deafheaven or Agalloch will also likely find something to enjoy.



-<http://itunes.apple.com/>

inspiration from genres that often can wind up being monotonous, Alcest does everything in their power to avoid this.

Perhaps equally as impressive is the following track, "Voix Sereines," which literally spends its entire nearly-seven-minute running time building up to a loud, triumphant summit of sound that seems to wash over the listener in

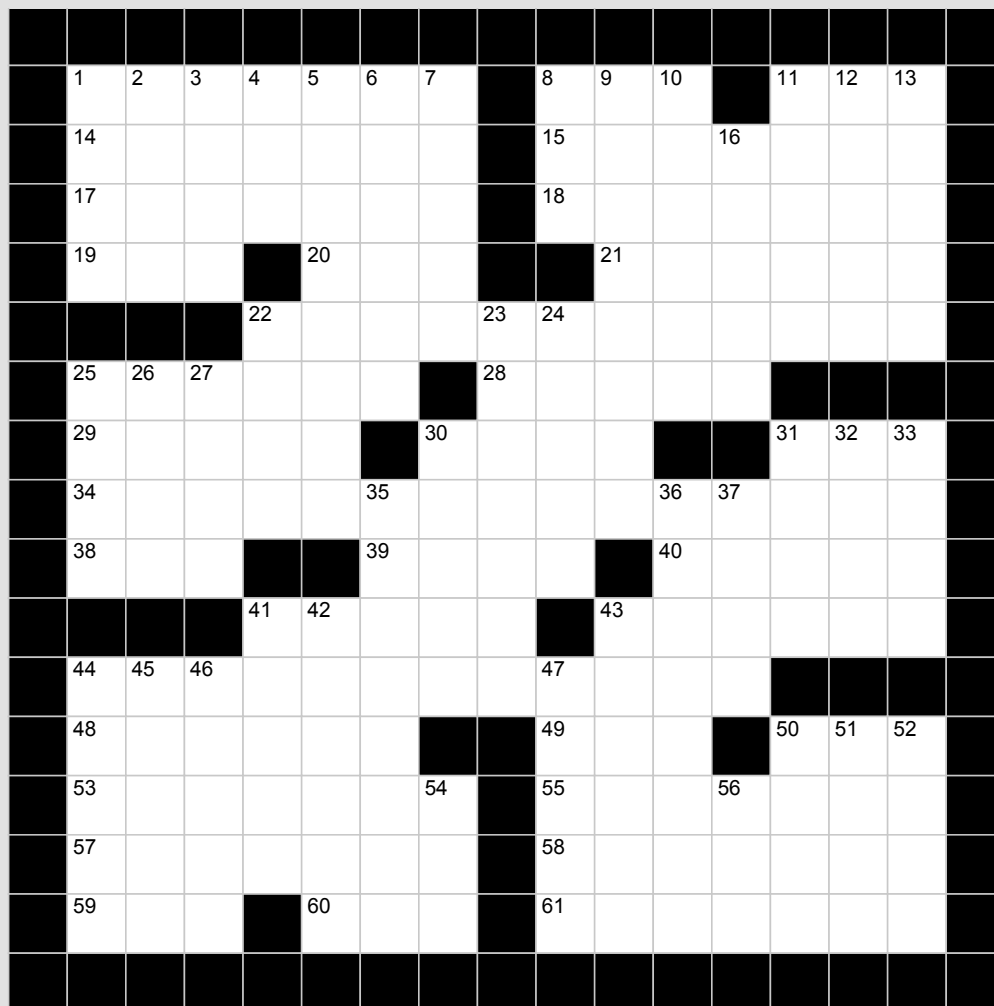
"Shelter," somewhat ironically, is likely the weakest track on the album, simply because it doesn't really present us with anything we haven't already heard. Everything in it is well-executed, as one might imagine, but it unfortunately doesn't have anything particularly memorable about it, though it's not a bad song by any means. Following it is "Away," which is as

THE CALTECH COUNSELING CENTER IS LAUNCHING A NEW PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS:

There will now be evening drop-in hours for consultation on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-10pm. The slots will be divided in 30 minute segments and can either be signed up for in advance, or students can come and block off the time that they want by marking an "X" on the white board next to the time that works for them. They will be held on the 2nd floor of the CSS building in the health educator's office. Access will be through the stairwell on the south side of the building.

*Contact the Counseling Center if you have any questions.
(626) 395-8331*

Today's Puzzle: Crossword

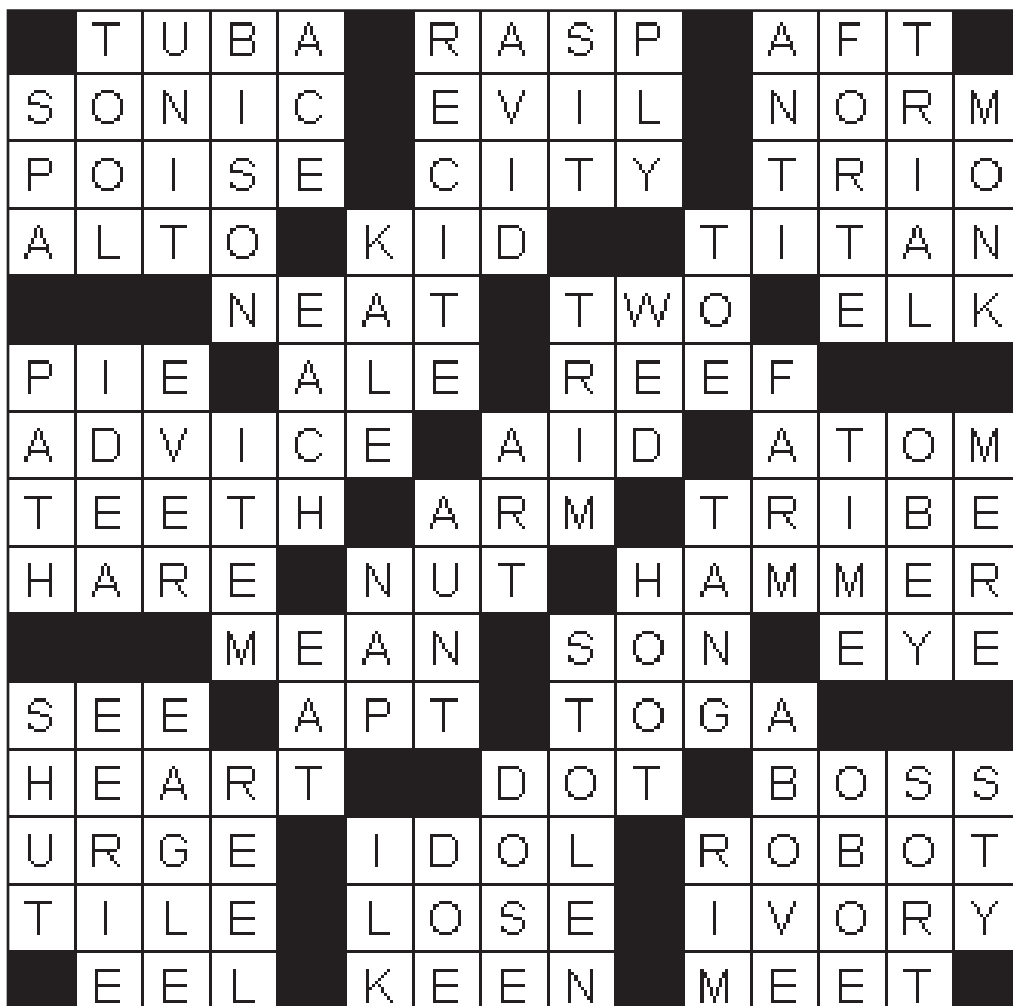


Puzzle created by Zach Rivkin

- Across**
- 1. University ranked #1 three years in a row by the Times Higher Education survey
 - 8. Stamp finisher?
 - 11. Father
 - 14. Descriptor for 17-Across
 - 15. Flip over, like the boat at the beginning of Frozen
 - 17. Labgoers' footwear no-no
 - 18. Make eggs?
 - 19. The dog fits into ___ house (mnemonic used to recall when not to use an apostrophe)
 - 20. Ndamukong ___, often-fined NFL player

- 21. One concerned about wrinkles?
 - 22. What Dr. Who travels through!
 - 25. Assist a trigonometer in getting a loan?
 - 28. They're filled before shooting?
 - 29. Deep fissure
 - 30. Shrek e.g.
 - 31. Before, before words
 - 34. Theme of this puzzle and 1-Across's president-elect
 - 38. Word on either side of "-a-"
 - 39. Ice cream holder
 - 40. Cardinal number for Chameau's 1-Across presidency
 - 41. This bonus puzzle's "bonus" anagram?
 - 43. Guys and girls on OKCupid who use Carbon-14?
 - 44. John Dalton thought this was -3000C
 - 48. Purple
 - 49. Top 5 mobile phone manufacturer
 - 50. I.R.S. employee
 - 53. Suburb near Pasadena
 - 55. Sets fire to, or what 58-Across may use to set fire
 - 57. Looking intently
 - 58. They are wanted?
 - 59. Letters on the back of some android phones
 - 60. Independent charitable gp.
 - 61. Position for 34-Across at UChicago
- Down**
- 1. Panera and Subway competitor
 - 2. Give ___ on the back
 - 3. Crucial telescope part
 - 4. Weekly Ricketts event (abbr.)
 - 5. Phi ___, freshman honor society with ~1 million lifetime members
 - 6. It can be ionic?
 - 7. Politically correct pronoun (written with a slash)
 - 8. Green, in a sense
 - 9. Chair of Trustee Selection Committee that nominated 34-Across
 - 10. Online wallet
 - 11. Princess killed in a car crash
 - 12. Quetzalcoatl worshiper
 - 13. Big name in tractors
 - 16. Feeds the pigs
 - 22. Disorder-ly suffix with "au-?"
 - 23. First science and engineering research national laboratory in the United States
 - 24. Race along side the Greeks and Egyptians in Age of Mythology
 - 25. Initials on many storefront security cameras
 - 26. "Hey, didn't see you there..."
 - 27. Paulo and Fransisco
 - 30. "Are you in ___?"
 - 31. 404: ___ not found
 - 32. River through Essen, Germany
 - 33. CPR providers and Health Ads, essentially
 - 35. Searching for someone or something
 - 36. Closer by
 - 37. ___-Honey (candy bar)
 - 41. Renewable energy type
 - 42. Ran, as dyed clothes in the laundry
 - 43. Annoying route around a ramp closure
 - 44. Sailor's "Stop!"
 - 45. ___ day, what 34-Across and this puzzle's creator share
 - 46. 53-Across locale, but not San Fran's
 - 47. Rock trio with notable beards
 - 50. Elaine ___, first female Asian-American US cabinet member
 - 51. Cathedral seats for prayer
 - 52. Type of prof. that doesn't have tenure
 - 54. "Fourscore and seven years ___"
 - 56. 155, in Roman numerals

Answers to last week's crossword puzzle from puzzlechoice.com



Caltech Public Events is now hiring student ushers. \$15 per hour to work concerts, performances, lectures, films and parties.

*No experience needed, no hard labor, flexible schedules. *Requirements: Caltech student, Positive attitude, Friendly personality*

To apply email Adam Jacobo (ajacobo@caltech.edu) or call (626) 395-5907

For info on Caltech Public Events visit: www.caltech.edu/content/public-events

Swimmers set new personal bests at tri-meet

GoCaltech

The Caltech swimming and diving team continued their SCIAC slate of events with a tri-meet on Saturday against ClaremontMuddScripps and Cal Lutheran.

During the course of the meet, Caltech set nine new personal best marks while a handful of swimmers placed well in new events.

Alexandra Ilic started this well for the women as the sophomore swam the 1000-yard freestyle event in a season best time of 12:45.84. Her time was good enough to get third place team points for Caltech. She also posted a personal best time in the 500-yard freestyle competition by touching the wall in 6:10.54.

Grace Lee also set two personal best season times on Saturday. She started her day by swimming the 100-yard backstroke in 1:30.11 and then posted a time of 1:19.93 in the 100-yard freestyle event.

Also during the 100-yard freestyle, Katie Knister touched the wall in 1:20.71 for her personal best season effort.

Tiffany Zhou also continued to get better during her sophomore year. Zhou competed in the 50-yard freestyle where she clocked a 38.29.

Swimming the 200-yard IM for the first time this season, Iris Lui scored third place team points by touching the wall in 2:54.52.

C.J. Culpepper recorded his best 1000-yard freestyle swim of the season as the junior took third place with a time of 11:19.32.

Kevin Yu recorded his best 200-yard breaststroke of the season with a time of 2:28.85. The sophomore placed third in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 55.63.

Leon Ding nearly posted a personal best time during the 100 yard backstroke. His time of 1:02.26 was third best among the seven competitors during the meet. The first-year did get a personal best

time during the 100-yard butterfly (58.66). Chris Bradley showed his

versatility by swimming the 500-yard freestyle for the first time

this season in Caltech best time of 5:22.11.



Beavers compete in Claremont, where many swimmers set new personal best records.

-gocaltech.com

Beavers achieve record assists in Pomona-Pitzer game

GoCaltech

Pomona-Pitzer fought off a late deficit as they handed Caltech a gut wrenching 68-62 setback on January 23.

For the third time this season the Beavers showed the progress it has made by coming within single digits of grabbing a league win for the first time in three-plus seasons. Earlier this year the Beavers fell by just five points to the Sagehens. In addition to nearly beating Pomona-Pitzer twice, Caltech dropped a three-point game to La Verne earlier this month.

After the two squads traded the first few points of the game, the Beavers took a lead they wouldn't relinquish the rest of the half. An Esther Du three-pointer with 12:25 left in the first half put Caltech in front 12-9.

The Beavers stretched that lead to eight points at 21-13 when Stephanie Wong connected on a shot from behind the arc less than four minutes later.

Holding a 27-19 edge with just over five minutes left in the frame, Caltech was in control. However, the Sagehens slowly closed the gap on their eight point deficit. The

home team closed the half on a 13-4 scoring spree as the Beavers took a 34-32 lead into the locker room.

Pomona-Pitzer briefly retook the lead on an Alaina Woo three-

point play a minute into the second half. The Beavers didn't panic as they responded by scoring 14 of the next 22 points to grab a 50-43 advantage with 14:08 left in the contest. Caltech eventually

took an eight-point lead at 60-52 on a Grace Leishman jump shot with just under seven minutes remaining.

Unfortunately the Beavers got stuck on 60 points for the next four-plus minutes as Pomona-Pitzer got back into the game. The Sagehens capped off a 10-0 scoring spurt on a Woo three-pointer with 3:17 left until the final buzzer.

Caltech's ensuing possession tied the score at 62-62 as Bridget Connor nailed a 10-foot jumper.

Both squads came up empty on each of their next two possessions. Jenn Okonkwo's field goal with 1:36 remaining gave the Sagehens the lead for good. It was the sixth lead change of the game.

Caltech had three opportunities to score on their next possession but couldn't find the bottom of the net.

Amelia Hummel's jumper with 59 ticks left stretched the home team's lead to 66-62.

The Beavers couldn't get a shot off on their next opportunity as they turned it over. The Sagehens took advantage by upping their lead to five points when Ruthie Shapiro made one of two foul shots.

Down five points, the Beavers had two possessions to cut into the deficit. But a missed jump shot by Connor with 29 seconds left then a turnover with less than 10 seconds remaining sealed the game in the home teams favor.

Wong nearly recorded the programs first triple-double. The sophomore scored 10 points, dished out 10 assists and grabbed eight rebounds in 39 minutes.

Connor led all Caltech scorers by recording her 10th double figure scoring game of the season with a 17-point evening. Du and Kate Lewis chipped in 11 and 10 points respectively.

As a team Caltech dished out 21 assists which represents the most against a SCIAC foe this season.

Okonkwo scored a game high 18 points to pace the Pomona-Pitzer offense.



Grace Leishman and Esther Du work to catch up against Pomona-Pitzer.

-gocaltech.com

Weekly Scoreboard

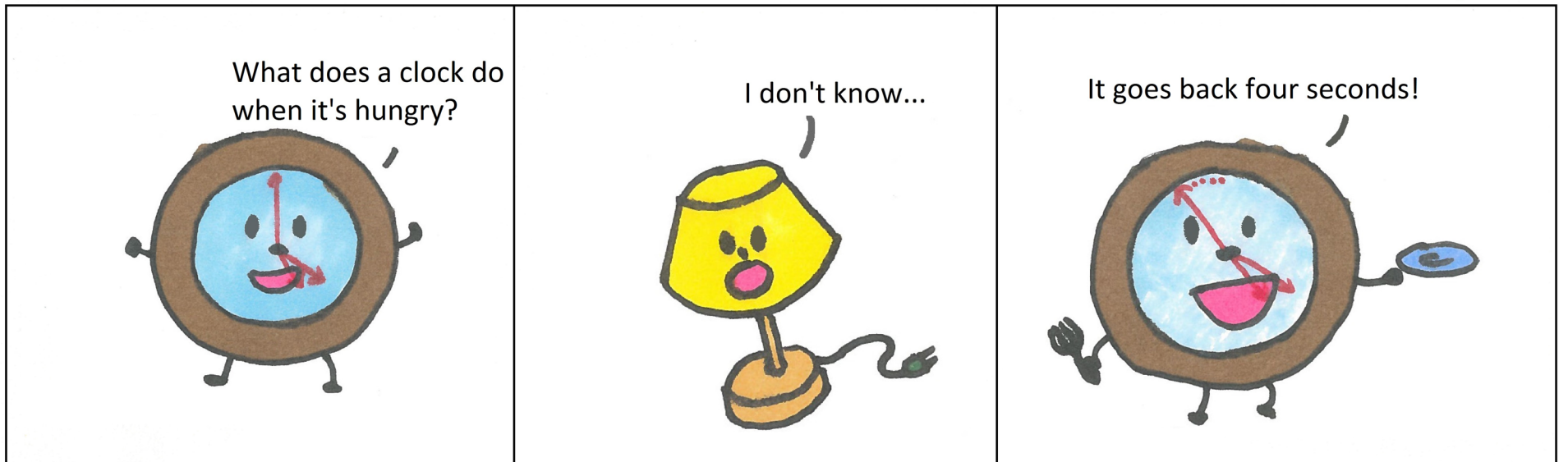
Men's Basketball
at Pomona-Pitzer
L, 84-63 Final

Men's Basketball
(Alumni event)
vs. Chapman
L, 36-32 Final

Women's Basketball
at Pomona-Pitzer
L, 68-62 Final

Unoriginal Jokes

Kerry Betz



Audrey Liu



For more photos, videos, and archives of previous issues, check out the Tech website!

tech.caltech.edu

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