

THE MUDDRAKER

WHAT’S COOKING
AT THE
HOCH?

Behind the scenes: who makes the Hoch go ‘round



“Stay positive, test negative!”

You may have heard **Miguel Ruvalcaba**, the General Manager of HMC Dining Services, say this to unsuspecting diners at the Hoch. For the past twelve years, Miguel (a self-proclaimed foodie) has been dedicated to feeding the Harvey Mudd community, centering his work on satisfying Mudd students.



Article by **Saya Kim-Suzuki** and **Avani Anne**.
Photo from Harvey Mudd College.



MENU

So how does the menu work at the Hoch? The meals are on a five-week cycle, with recipes being constantly updated to match the preferences of students, who are represented by food committee members that meet with Miguel every Tuesday. Have you ever requested a new spice, dish, or dessert, and seen it show up the next month (like the hot cheeto crumbs or vegan chocolate chip cookies...)? Miguel and his team pay close attention to the student feedback they receive through their weekly Thursday lunch office hours, as well as what food students tend to favor. Then, they update menus and portioning accordingly.

According to Kris Chang, a freshman on the food committee, Miguel works to identify issues like exactly when and where chicken becomes too dry or soup too salty. The goal is to satisfy as many students as possible, given our varying preferences (apparently, we have very opposing views on how we like our broccoli cooked). This includes meat-lovers, vegetarians, and people with other dietary restrictions.

EXHIBITION

Over the years, Miguel has been puzzled by the fact that Mudders consistently lean toward assembling their own dishes. We all love our made-to-order pho, mac and cheese, and risotto. One day, a student suggested that Mudders love custom-making their meals because we’re engineers and scientists at heart – we love creating and building! And we’re willing to wait 45 minutes for it.

CHALLENGES

The Hoch staff work with multiple local and national vendors to ensure that Mudders get high-quality food. Predicting how much inventory to order can be a challenge — **the Hoch needs to have enough food for everyone, while ensuring that there won’t be too much food wasted.** They also need to foresee which stations will be most popular each night — for example, will Mudders favor Exhibition’s pasta bar or the Grill’s Korean BBQ tacos? Will 300 portions in each of the popular stations be enough for all 800 students at Mudd? Finding that balance is not an easy task.

COVID

The Hoch also needs to work within constraints such as its budget (even if we all want more berries in our fruit salad), staffing shortages, and COVID-19 safety precautions. Ever since the pandemic began, supply chains have been disrupted, often causing the Hoch staff to have to modify their menus last-minute. Sometimes, the Hoch is short up to 50 items, a significant increase from pre-pandemic levels, where they would be short only four to five items. At the start of the semester, around 40% of the staff positions were unoccupied. The Hoch had to pivot and maintain self-serve and one-employee stations, especially when Hoch staff had to stay home to quarantine.

COVID
CONTINUED

However, in the typical Miguel fashion, there was a silver lining to all this – the pandemic meant that the Hoch served Mudd students exclusively for a time (Fall 2021 and part of Spring 2022), making them the absolute priority. Miguel is also optimistic for what’s to come – new cooks and staff are starting at the Hoch, Jay’s Place, and the Café. Let’s be sure to make them feel welcome!

EQUIPMENT

Over the past ten years, the Hoch has seen an upgrade. The Hoch staff have changed their equipment to QuickConnect, which allows each piece of equipment to be easily plugged and unplugged, maximizing the different kinds of foods that can be offered at each station. Additionally, the Hoch installed the first allergy-free station at the 5Cs and added Creations and the Bakery.

HOLIDAYS

Miguel and his staff also go the extra mile during the holidays to make Mudders feel at home. Staff begin prepping a week in advance to cook food for festive meals like Hochsgiving and Hochsmas. Every year, there are traditional holiday dishes such as turkey or mac and cheese, along with special treats such as a chocolate fountain and baked brie.

CONCLUSION

Miguel has worked on numerous college campuses, but proclaims **“Harvey Mudd students are the best!”** He knows that Mudders have a lot on their plate and wants to ensure that students don’t have to stress about food on top of everything else. From cooking us individual personalized entrées to staying late for Noisy Minutes, it’s obvious that Miguel and his incredible team work tirelessly to bring us the best dining experience possible. **Thank you, Miguel, and the entire Hoch team, for your dedication to the Mudd community!**



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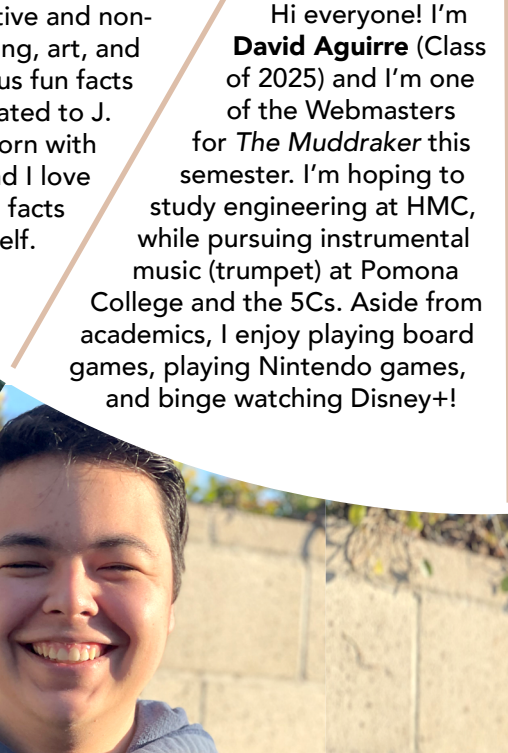
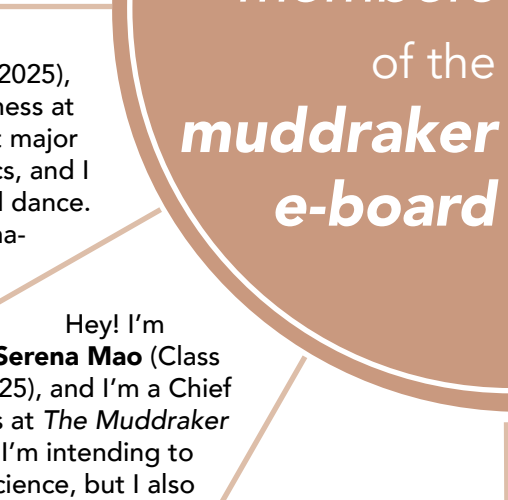
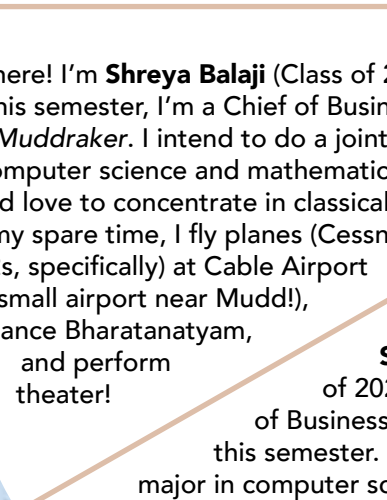
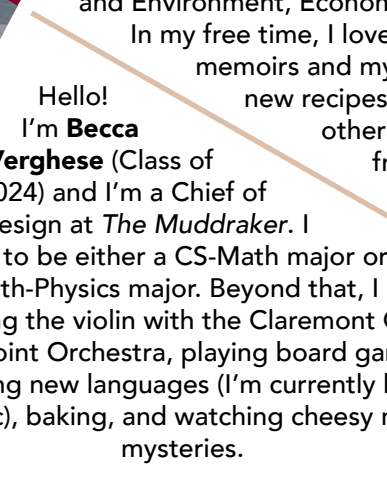
letter from the editors:

We hope that you — like us and our staff here at *The Muddraker* — are enjoying your first full spring semester on campus in three years. On our end, we welcomed six new members to our Editorial Board in January. They've already done some incredible work for our newspaper, and we're so excited to have them on board.

But without further ado, we invite you to flip through this issue's pages to read about Dean Marco, Mudd's new permanent VP of Student Affairs (pg. 4); how to make the perfect grilled cheese at the Hoch (pg. 6); this school year's biggest pranks (pg. 8-9); and some of Mudd's amazing women profs (pg. 12-13).

And if today's Wordle just doesn't cut it for you, take a crack at our Inside Information crossword (pg. 14) by Nathan Hasegawa, who has had a crossword featured in *The New York Times* — a publication that no doubt pales in comparison to *The Muddraker*. While you're at it, Elizabeth Lucas-Foley's Slitherlink logic puzzle and Kishore Rajesh's Marching Band crossword are also great exercises for the brain (pg. 15).

Happy reading!
Michelle & William



Hi! I'm **Avani Anne** (Class of 2025), and I'm one of the Managing Editors for *The Muddraker*. I am currently undecided, but I'm really enjoying my math, CS, and physics classes. Outside of academics, I really love reading, listening to music, playing intramurals (volleyball, basketball, inner tube water polo), telling anti-jokes, and watching horrible movies with my friends.

Hello!
I'm **Shivani Manivasagan** (Class of 2025), and I'm a Managing Editor for *The Muddraker*. I'm passionate about sustainability, and I'm intending a double major in Computer Science and Environment, Economics, & Politics. In my free time, I love reading (mostly memoirs and mysteries), cooking new recipes, playing chess and other board games with friends, and watching K-dramas!

Hello!
I'm **Becca Verghese** (Class of 2024) and I'm a Chief of Design at *The Muddraker*. I plan to be either a CS-Math major or a Math-Physics major. Beyond that, I love playing the violin with the Claremont Colleges' Joint Orchestra, playing board games, learning new languages (I'm currently learning Arabic), baking, and watching cheesy murder mysteries.

Hi there! I'm **Shreya Balaji** (Class of 2025), and this semester, I'm a Chief of Business at *The Muddraker*. I intend to do a joint major in computer science and mathematics, and I would love to concentrate in classical dance. In my spare time, I fly planes (Cessna-172s, specifically) at Cable Airport (a small airport near Mudd!), dance Bharatanatyam, and perform theater!

Hey! I'm **Serena Mao** (Class of 2025), and I'm a Chief of Business at *The Muddraker* this semester. I'm intending to major in computer science, but I also love exploring my creative and non-STEM side through writing, art, and argument. Miscellaneous fun facts about myself: I'm related to J. L. Atwood, I was born with eleven fingers, and I love making up fun facts about myself.

Hi everyone! I'm **David Aguirre** (Class of 2025) and I'm one of the Webmasters for *The Muddraker* this semester. I'm hoping to study engineering at HMC, while pursuing instrumental music (trumpet) at Pomona College and the 5Cs. Aside from academics, I enjoy playing board games, playing Nintendo games, and binge watching Disney+!

meet
the new
members
of the
muddraker
e-board

Waverly Wang:

Studies of Women Exhibition at Sprague Gallery

by Waverly Wang
Photos by Waverly Wang and Michelle Lum



Hi everyone, my name is Waverly Wang. I'm a junior at Mudd majoring in Computer Science and Media Studies. I recently showcased my art in a solo exhibition at Sprague Gallery in Shan! I'm going to answer some questions I thought people might have.

HOW DID I GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE MY ART IN SPRAGUE GALLERY?

Back in 2020, I saw an email from Sprague Gallery about an open call for musical art; it had been sent by arts director Julia Hong of the HMC Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts who curates exhibitions for the gallery. I responded with some art pieces I did for my AP Art concentration, which was about visualizing music. I was selected but sadly, right before I was going to meet with Julia, we were sent home because of COVID. One of my music-art paintings, *The Lark*, was showcased in the *So They Sang* virtual exhibition (Dec 2020 - Feb 2021) curated by Julia and hosted online. This August, I submitted some paintings I did over the pandemic when there was another open call, and Julia asked if I would like to do a solo exhibition. I was honored and gladly accepted!

WHAT WAS THE EXHIBITION PROCESS LIKE?

In November, Julia and I met in person to discuss my works and decide on a theme. Typically, an artist's work coheres into some major theme, but my work is all over the place. I'm constantly trying new styles. Julia actually liked how my style was not always consistent. She found this challenging but in a fun way. I was interested in what Julia found fascinating about my work and what narrative she saw in it. Julia seemed very fascinated by my sketches and my process drawings, especially the *Sherlock* ones. We briefly considered showing my music-art paintings, but ultimately, Julia suggested "Women" could be a theme, and I liked how I could showcase all my different styles with it. Julia requested to see all my pieces featuring women, so I compiled work on my art blog, and she selected from these works for the exhibition. I was surprised how hands-on the process was. For example, I installed the exhibition with Julia. Overall, this gallery process was exciting because I really love collaborating with people and seeing their vision. It was great to talk to someone who specializes in art and has professional insight.

WHY DO I DO ART?

I've just always loved drawing. I was maybe two or three years old when I started. I drew a lot of butterflies inspired by my stuffed animal butterfly. And I've never really stopped drawing! I think I heard someone describe the urge to draw like a demon that needs to be exorcized from you. Yeah, that's apt.

A lot of my work tends to be derived from other creative work. TV shows, movies, books, and music inspire me the most. I make lots of fanart, and even art about fanfiction. Recently, I've been obsessed with the book *Six of Crows*, *Shadow and Bone*, and *Arcane*. You can see lots of my *Sherlock* (BBC) fanart in the gallery. Recently, I've tried to make more original art like *My Sisters at a Night at the Zoo* (2022) which was based on a trip we took to the Oklahoma Zoo this winter break. In that piece, I experimented with capturing camera blur.

WHY DIDN'T I MAJOR IN ART?

I have this crisis everyday at Mudd! I thought about going to art school and applied to one after high school, but I was so burnt out by AP Art that I thought I wouldn't want to be graded for my art. I put so much heart into my art, and it can be painful to be so emotionally invested in every creative decision. At the time, I wasn't making much art for fun. Also, I thought studying Computer Science would be more practical.

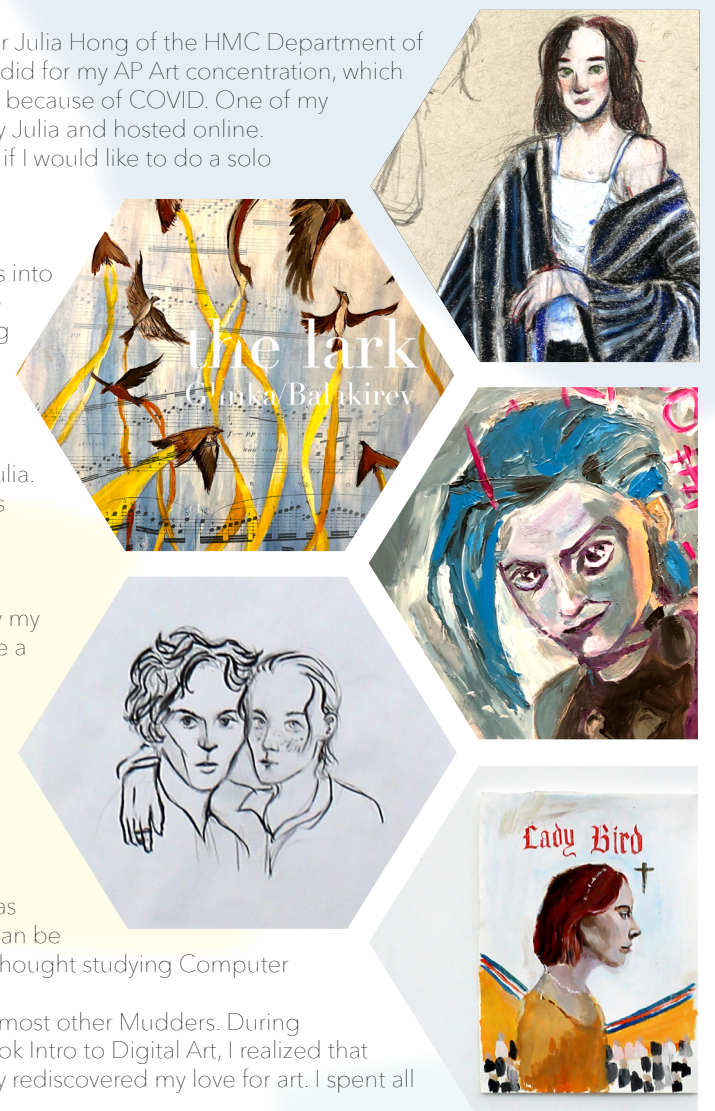
When I got to Mudd, I sometimes felt like a square peg in a round hole because I felt much more arts-focused than most other Mudders. During sophomore fall, I got very burnt out by Core, so I decided to take a lighter semester in sophomore spring. When I took Intro to Digital Art, I realized that taking art classes wasn't as stressful as it had been for me in high school. It was actually really fun. Last summer, I really rediscovered my love for art. I spent all summer painting with my younger sister in our make-shift art studio and it was the best time ever.

I also came to peace with not feeling very "STEM-my". Weirdly, once I accepted that, I started enjoying learning in my STEM courses. I used to think coming to Mudd meant I had "given up" art. But now I see, I'll always find a way to make time to draw. I'm thinking of studying more art in the future since I haven't been able to fit in as many art classes as I would have liked. Whether it's for school or not, I will always want to create something or make stories.

ANY LAST THOUGHTS ABOUT SHOWCASING AT SPRAGUE GALLERY?

I still can't believe it's real! I'm ecstatic because this is the biggest audience I've ever had. Julia told me that a class visited my gallery, which is insane to think about. I'm most honored by how I'm being treated like a real artist, how Julia's curating and exhibition design created the possibility for serious consideration of my work, and how she critically analyzed the work in the press release that accompanied my exhibition. It's a dream come true.

The exhibition ran from Feb. 7 to 25 at Harvey Mudd College's Sprague Gallery (located at the bottom of the Shan steps). If you like my art, you can check out my art Instagram account (@watsonwaddles) and my art website (waverlywang.wordpress.com).



Read more about Waverly's Exhibition!

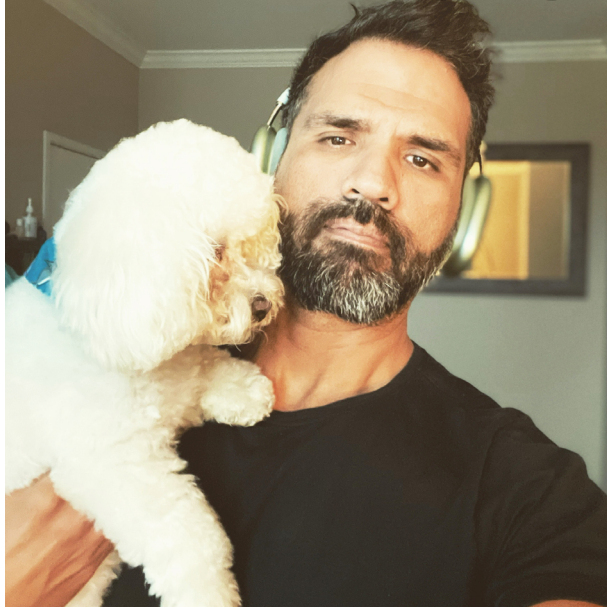


Read Julia Hong's press
release on the exhibition



Read the rest of Waverly's
Q&A

Meet Dean MARCO



By Shreya Balaji & Shivani Manivasagan
Photos courtesy of Dean Marco

As of February 1, 2022, Dr. Marco Antonio Valenzuela is now the permanent Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Harvey Mudd College. Read our interview with Dean Marco to learn more about his role on campus and some fun facts about him!

Q: As Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, what does your role entail?

I oversee the Division of Student Affairs, which includes Career Services, the Office of Institutional Diversity, Housing and Residential Life, the Office of Campus Life, the Office of Community Engagement, the Office of Health and Wellness, the International Students and Scholars Office, and the Office of Academic Resources and Student Success. I provide guidance and direction for our division as a whole. I also look out for students; at weekly Cabinet meetings, when there's a decision to be made, my first question is how students would respond or be impacted. Also, I work closely with the Honor Board and the Student COVID-19 Advisory Board (SCAB). Every week, I meet with the ASHMC President and Senate Chair and ask them for their perspective to get a good pulse for what students want.

Q: How did you get into this line of work?

I went to a large public university, but I was very involved in organizations. In particular, I was an RA (equivalent to a proctor) and an orientation leader. When I graduated, my RA supervisor told me that I could do this for a living and recommended that I apply for a job where I would supervise RAs at the University of LaVerne. And so I applied, ended up getting it, and fell in love with the profession. I eventually went to get my master's and then my doctorate in educational leadership. When I was in college, I remember our Dean of Students was fantastic, and I wanted to be like her someday; I want to make sure I have really great relationships with students while also holding folks accountable.

Q: Having gone to a large school yourself, why did you choose to work at Mudd, which is a very small school?

I went to UC Irvine, which had around 20,000 students when I was there, and now I'm here at Mudd, which has fewer than 1,000. I think Mudd's size is fantastic — it's also a residential college, where 99% of students live on campus. That makes it easier to see students and know what's going on with them. At a big school, students can be just a number, and it's a lot harder to make sure that everyone's getting the support they need. I really want to make sure that students know that they can come and talk to me if there's anything going on or if they want to share their suggestions with me. Mudders have great ideas; there's a lot of things that I'd love to hear folks' opinions on. I think Mudd's size is perfect in terms of getting to know students better and being able to support them as much as possible.

Q: Do you wish that you worked even more closely with students?

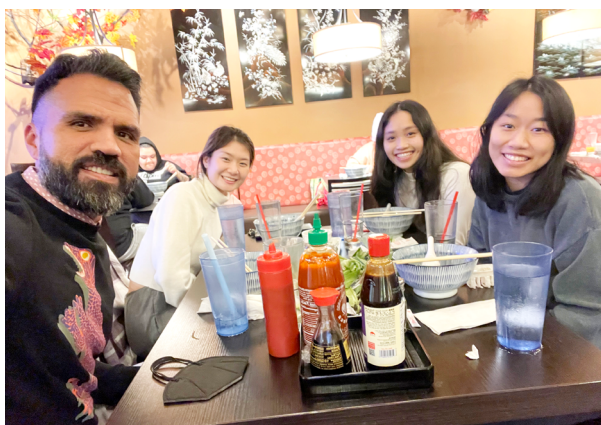
I love working with and talking to students. I've wanted to start events like Dine with the Dean, where I go to lunch or dinner with students to get to know them better. Also, I'd love to hold events similar to DSA's Boba Day but in dorm courtyards, where students can drop in and say hi to me. I want to meet with the dorm presidents more often to form relationships with them, and meet with every club and organization on campus. It's just been difficult with COVID, trying to gauge what students' comfort levels are, and it takes a lot of time to coordinate these events.

Q: How do you collaborate with the other colleges in the Claremont Consortium?

Everyone on the President's Cabinet has counterparts at the other colleges. The Student Deans meet at least every two weeks, and we touch base about what's happening on our campuses: 5C events, 5C parties, or anything that's connected. My staff, the Campus Life folks, also have their counterparts, and we all work together. We discuss each of our campus's policies (regarding COVID, 5C events, etc.) — sometimes we all adopt the same position, and other times we decide to have different systems on each campus. There's a lot of communication at different levels, making sure we prioritize our school's goals while also supporting the mission of the Consortium.

Q: What would you say distinguishes Mudd from the other Claremont Colleges?

The Honor Code, as well as the self-governance that happens with the Honor Board, is very unique. We



had an honor code when I worked for Semester at Sea (which was tied to the University of Virginia), but it wasn't to the level we have here. I feel that Mudd students are caring — they want to see their peers, faculty, and staff succeed. Also, the students here are logical and understanding of necessary policies, as long as we explain why. In general I think Mudders are very involved on campus, and as a result have a close connection with the school and their peers even after they graduate, something that I haven't seen as much at other schools.

Q: How are your responsibilities different now in your new position?

I was interim Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students last semester. Before that, I was overseeing Housing and Wellness. Now, my position is to essentially represent my division everywhere I go, which is much more responsibility. It's exciting — it's a lot of work, but I do enjoy it very much. There's a lot of decision-making involved, in which I make sure I talk to students about what they want to make sure that they have a good experience here.

Q: Now that we've heard about your work, we'd love to learn more about you as a person! What is a fun fact about you?

I was in two bands in college. I played bass and I did backup vocals — I can't sing, but it was a pop punk band and you don't really have to sing for that. So I've written songs before, pop punk music.

Q: Do you have any pets?

I have a dog! His name is Tank. I rescued him in December of 2020 from Priceless Pets, right across the street. I would bring him to campus more often, but he gets very protective of me and growls at people if I'm there.

Q: What is your favorite meal at the Hoch?

I like Pho Wednesdays, they're so great! The vegan chocolate chip cookies are very good too. Miguel, the Dining Services advisor, does an amazing job with the food there.

Q: What do you like to do for fun?

I try to go to the gym in the mornings because it's my destresser. I also like to travel — some weekends, I go to Palm Springs or San Diego. My family and friends are close by so I go see them during the weekends, and I enjoy getting dinner with some friends who live locally. I love going to different restaurants and shopping, and I'm trying to get into reading again! Mostly, I spend time with my dog, family, and friends. ■

There's More to a Major Than Declaring

Rites of Passage for Mudd Majors

by Inci Anali and Natalie Couch

Officially, your major starts when you click “submit” on the major declaration Google Form. (Well, more like when you see your major appear on the portal.) But is that *really* when you become your major? Here's what some of the upperclassmen we interviewed had to say.



“I began to feel like an engineering major when I first got to go into the machine shop after passing by it so many times and dreaming of making the famous E4 hammer,” said Yoselin Prado, a junior engineering major. The class Yoselin is referring to is Engineering 004: Introduction to Engineering Design and Manufacturing — commonly known as E4 — which is taken by every engineering major in their first or second year at Mudd. Students in the class learn their way around the machine shop and make an assortment of projects, including a hammer.

“Being in the machine shop for the first time made me feel like I was close to becoming a real engineer, since building the E4 hammer is something every engineering major at Harvey Mudd does and is almost a rite of passage for us,” Yoselin said.



Senior chemistry major Jason Misleh identified collaboration in introductory major classes as time that cemented his experience in the chemistry major. That's the time, he said, “when you're in the thick of it with all the other potential chemistry majors... doing homework together, [meeting] your fellow chemistry students who are going to work with you a lot in the coming years.”

Another important development for Jason in becoming a chemist was in his junior year, when he was given more freedom in the lab. “What really makes me feel like a chemist is when I'm in control of my own lab space, running my own experiments,” he said. “When I came here, I initially wanted to be an engineer, because I liked working with my hands. But really, chemistry was the subject where I got to go in and touch things and smell chemicals — like smell the flowers, smell the acetone. I'm an insanely hands-on worker, and chemistry is the field that I feel best meets that need.”



Senior molecular biology major Becca Blyn also mentioned introductory classes and lab work as central to her experience in her major.

“I think I first started to feel like a true bio major in my sophomore spring. During that semester, every sophomore who is planning on declaring a major in some flavor of biology (pure bio, mathematical and computational bio (MCB), or joint bio-chem) takes Biostatistics and Experimental Biology Lab,” Becca said.

“That was the first time that I got to see who else in my year was joining me in the biology department, and I had the chance to form closer friendships and bonds with other bio students.”

In terms of lab work, Becca said, “I started to really feel like I was engaged in the biology community when I started hanging out in the physical department more, to do research during the summer before my senior year, and currently for my senior thesis work.”



Maya Abo Dominguez, a senior CS major, had similar sentiments regarding her major.

“Being a grutor really helped [make me feel like part of the CS department]. I've grutored since spring of my freshman year,” she said. “[Grutoring] has really helped me feel like a part of the [CS community here at Mudd] — in terms of both asking for help at grutoring myself really often, and also being able to help other people feel welcome in the CS department.”

Maya also mentioned that things started to click into place when she found herself excited about her work on the subject.

“When I was excited to work on my homework — that's really when I felt like a CS major,” she said.

For Maya, CS homework was much more exciting than core math or physics problem sets.

As Maya searches for jobs, she finds that she's still excited to learn more CS after college. “I'm really excited about the technical work I will get to do, and about being able to learn more about computer science. That really makes me feel that I chose the right major.”

Maya also mentioned that some of the moments when she felt the most like a true CS major were the small ones, such as when she switched her laptop theme to a dark theme. “It was really small,” Maya says, “but that's when I thought, ‘Okay, [me being a CS major is] real.’”



Senior math major Mason Acevedo started feeling like a math major when he noticed the contrast between his abstract algebra class and the classes his engineering friends were taking.

Abstract algebra “felt like pure math in a way that I hadn't seen before” because it “pushed the level of abstraction up a notch,” Mason said. It was also “a huge jump in vocabulary and notation — we were suddenly talking about abelian groups, homomorphisms, and Euclidean Domains, [and the] alien symbols [that] represent all of them.”

This diverged from Mason's engineering friends' work. “My homework problems involved proving theorems about abstract mathematical constructions with no connection to the real world, whereas my friends were learning about how the real world worked so they could better make machines and systems for solving real-world problems,” Mason said. “I would talk to my friends about the work they were doing, and seeing how different their

work was made me feel more like a math major.”



When junior MCB major Shoshana Novik began Mudd, she wasn't exactly sure which field she wanted to go into. “I thought MCB sounded like a cool major even before I applied, but I thought I would probably major in bio or bio chem because bio is what I'm most interested in, and I wasn't confident at all in my CS abilities, and also math abilities to some degree. But then I really liked Math 19 and CS 5 Green seemed super useful, so I started feeling more like an MCB major!” she said.

The thread that holds Shoshana's interests together is a feeling of “something finally [making] a lot of sense” which “happened to [her] quite a few times in both math and bio core classes [and] also in CS, “when she would “finally figure out where a bug is, [and her] code would start working.”

In addition, Shoshana is “interested in neuroscience-trying to understand how we learn, form memories, lose memories. [She's] doing research in a lab that studies Alzheimer's disease this summer, which [she is really] excited for [as] it [is] a very important and meaningful topic” for her.



Alicia Lu, a junior CS-Math and Physics double major, had different paths to each one of her majors.

“I was very confident that I was going to major in CS-Math when I applied to Mudd, but my enthusiasm in physics [just grew,] like a gradual crush on someone you see daily,” Alicia said.

“When I was an undeclared frosh and soph, I had a hard time choosing between the joint CS-Math major and the Physics major. Interestingly, I had never considered Physics as a potential path prior to our Spec Rel class, which I thought was mind-blowing and highly intriguing.” Alicia mentioned, however, that Spec Rel was not what made her declare Physics as one of her majors. “I have always felt welcomed in the department, even though I frequently doubt my fitness for the subject, as I never thought myself as particularly gifted, so likely won't contribute much in the field. The physics faculty and my physics cohort are all super supportive. It is what people in this place have achieved that's been giving me courage to achieve whatever goals of mine” she added. Today, Alicia feels strongly connected to all three disciplines, and to interdisciplinary thinking. “I share the same view with Ralph Waldo Emerson that *the height of the pinnacle is determined by the breadth of the base.*”

To conclude, Harvey Mudd has some really cool majors. Overlaps between the majors include similarities like collaboration and engaging coursework. Differences include abstractness vs. tangibility. But the heart of the matter is that whatever field(s) a Mudder chooses as their major, they will always have a home in this wartastic place.



Photos by Mikayla Mann, Michelle Lum, and Harvey Mudd College.

Hoch Hacks

By Ruby Foxall

Photos by Ruby Foxall, Shivani Manivasagan, and Shreya Balaji



Dirty Horchata (vegetarian, lactose-free)

Ingredients:

- Ice
- Espresso
- Horchata (rice milk & cinnamon drink)

Steps:

1. Get a Hoch cup (or takeout cup) and fill it about halfway with ice.
2. Go to the coffee machine and add one shot of espresso (it will melt the ice, hence why you need a lot of ice).
3. Walk yourself over to the little-used and underrated aguas frescas machine behind the swipe-in table. Fill the rest of the cup with horchata.
4. Enjoy a nice caffeinated drink!

Ingredients:

- Lucky Charms cereal
- Chocolate milk

Steps:

1. Do it the right way. Put the cereal in the bowl first.
2. THEN, chocolate milk. Grab two of the chocolate soy milk cartons if you're boxing out.



Sugar Bomb (vegetarian)



IN-N-OUT Animal-Style Fries (vegetarian)

Ingredients:

- French fries
- Caramelized onions
- Special sauce
- Spices

Steps:

1. Get a nice plateful of whatever fries are at the Grill. Add some caramelized onions from the burger area at the Grill.
2. In the condiments area of the Grill, locate the fry sauce or special sauce or aioli or whatever you want to call ketchup and mayo mixed together. Drizzle it over your fries and onions.
3. Bonus: Check out the spice rack and add something fun! Cayenne and seasoning salt are classics, or try adding zaatar for a Middle Eastern flavor.

The Ultimate Grilled Cheese (vegetarian)

Ingredients:

- Bread (sourdough recommended)
- Cheese (Swiss and/or mozzarella recommended)
- Pesto
- Tomatoes
- Mayo (optional)

Steps:

1. Check out the panini press at the salad bar!
2. Grab two slices of bread (sourdough is a good option), one or two slices of cheese, and a tomato slice (or two, or three, or...). Spread pesto on one side of each bread slice, then put cheese on top. Layer the tomato slice(s) in between the cheese slice(s).
3. Optional step: put a light layer of mayo on the outside of the bread to get a yummy buttery crust on the outside. If not using mayo, make sure to use the non-stick spray so your panini doesn't get stuck.
4. Press your panini! It takes a few minutes to get a golden outside and gooey cheesy inside.
5. Bonus: dip your awesome grilled cheese in tomato basil soup from the other end of the salad bar!



Miscellaneous Tips:

- Add spices to everything! Try new spices! Fries are a good medium for checking out the flavor profile of a spice combo. The spice rack is located against the wall between Simple Servings and the plate return area.
- If you got stir fry from Exhibition but want more sauce, add soy sauce or sriracha — you can find sauces at the little table between Veggie Valley and the salad bar! Conversely, if you've got too much sauce (or not enough rice), you can get white or brown rice at Veggie Valley to mix into your bowl.
- That said, rice isn't your only option when it comes to soaking up stir-fry juices or stews. Try another carb, like mashed potatoes or bread, to play with textures!
- Eat more fruit! Try adding fruit to plain or strawberry yogurt from the salad bar or on top of a slice of cake or other dessert.
- Use your flex (or an extra meal swipe) on Hoch breakfast! No lines, custom smoothies, crepes and omelets... an early bird's paradise.

HIDDEN GEMS IN THE CLAREMONT VILLAGE

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY SHIVANI MANIVASAGAN AND SHREYA BALAJI

If you're looking for nearby off-campus adventures, the Claremont Village is most Mudders' go-to. While the Village is well-known to Mudders for its açai and sweet treats, it has so many more niche places. Read on to find out about the Village's hidden gems, and we hope you try out some of these places next time you visit!

FOOD

Need an escape from the Hoch? The Village has you covered with practically any cuisine you're craving.

RESTAURANTS

If you're looking for Mexican-Latin food, Petiscos is a hidden hole-in-the-wall in a beautiful location! They have an outdoor seating area with wooden picnic tables, lots of plants, and colorful Mexican flags and lights criss-crossing above. We loved their cactus burritos, street corn, and horchata (definitely an upgrade from the Hoch's horchata machine).



Also check out:

Menkoi Ya Ramen (known for its delicious ramen bowls), Bua Thai (a popular choice for rice and noodles), Viva Madrid (a women-owned Spanish restaurant), Cafe X2O (for Mediterranean cuisine), Espiau's (a Mexican restaurant with big portions), and Uno Tre Otto (a fancier option for Italian food — bring your parents here!)

DESSERTS & BIRTHDAY SWEETS

Do you also spend too much time planning birthday parties for your friends? These places will help you organize parties with the best treats! Bert & Rocky's has many unique ice cream flavors — Maple Walnut, Chocolate n' Orange, Debbie's Double Devil's Food Delight, and more. You can also mix and match half scoops for a great price. Some Crust Bakery has cupcakes, cakes, and enormous cookies. And at A Kline Chocolatier, you can customize a box of chocolates for any dessert-lover in your life.

Also check out:

21 Choices, Crème Bakery, I Like Pie Bakeshop

CAFÉS & REFRESHMENTS

Upgrade your bagel experience by going to 42nd Street Bagel Café! This business is probably the supplier of the Mudd Café's bagels, but it has many more options as well as interesting flavors of cream cheese — including garlic herb, pumpkin (offered from Sept. to Dec.), and our favorite, honey nut raisin. The cafe's walls are covered in Broadway musical posters that provide that authentic New York City experience!



Also check out:

Cheese Cave (to get cheese platters), Norema Café (for refreshing fruit teas), The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (known for its iced coffee selections), Ubatuba Açai (our personal favorite place in the Village to get açai bowls), and T&JOY (to satisfy that boba craving!)

ACTIVITIES

CLAREMONT PACKING HOUSE

The Packing House truly is a hidden gem in the heart of the Village. It has fancy restaurants (that are actually open past 6 p.m., unlike the rest of the Village) perfect for a night out, vintage thrift stores, and locally-sourced arts and crafts shops.

Some highlights of the Packing House include The Giving (a boutique that donates to people in need), The Claremont Forum (a nonprofit bookstore and art gallery in the Prison Library), and Claremont Chef's Academy (a culinary school that offers cooking classes and themed birthday parties). There is also an embroidery and yarn shop called Phebie's NeedleArt, handmade soap and candle stores, sustainable jewelry for sale, and the Node Plant House.

Every Friday from 6-9 p.m. the Packing House hosts an art gallery featuring local artists. All are welcome to attend — and if you're lucky, you might also hear a harpist playing music as you walk past the stores, as we did!



FARMERS MARKET

The Claremont Farmers & Artisans Market is open every Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check out beautiful pottery, embroidery, and art displays while listening to live music. They also sell succulents — we got a vibrant pink cactus! Their fruit baskets, produce, bread, and fresh jam are also delicious additions to your pantry.



OUTDOORS

Want to spend a nice sunny day outside? Take a stroll down to the Village Plaza and sit by the fountains, and then go on over to Shelton Park to enjoy your açai from Pepo Melo! Across from Ubatuba Açai, you can sit at a table adjacent to a large mural.



MOVIES

Laemmle Claremont 5 Theater is the perfect spot to go when ASHMC CAP provides movie ticket subsidies! We love a movie theater that really knows its audience here in Claremont — they've streamed Adventures of a Mathematician!

WHEELS

We Mudders love our wheels, and though these places may be a bit more pricey than your local bike shop at home, it's fun to window shop for skateboards and look at different styles. These places can also repair your vehicles upon request.

MUSIC

If you're looking for a place to vibe, you can browse the shelves of Rhino Records while enjoying the music. You can also pop into Folk Music Center and J. Brown Violin Maker to marvel at the craftsmanship and instruments!

PRANK CULTURE REVIVED

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THIS YEAR'S BIGGEST PRANKS

by Michelle Lum

From oddly artistic mayonnaise sightings to enigmatic Hoch fortunes, it's safe to say that pranks have been rampant across the 5Cs this year. To the consternation of some and the relief of others, prank culture has come back in full force, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Muddraker* sat down with a few of the Mudders behind this year's pranks to get the inside scoop about how they were executed. *Photos courtesy of the respective pranksters.*



THE MAYO MYSTERY

THE PRANKSTERS: THOSE WHO SHALL NOT BE NAMED

Unsuspecting visitors to CMC's Cube on the night of Jan. 29 would have been greeted with hundreds of jars of mayonnaise, arranged in a geometric pattern in the waters surrounding the Cube.

To explain that bizarre sight, we must turn the dial back to December, when a fateful Craigslist post offering free mayo was sent to the West dorm mailing list during Hochmas. Atwood — which was having its annual Hochmas dorm dinner in the Aviation room — picked up on the email, and immediately knew they had to get some of the mayo for themselves.

"[The free mayo] just seemed so odd and ridiculous to us. We knew we had to do it," one prankster said. "We knew that mayonnaise is a pretty polarizing condiment, so if we did something with mayo, a lot of people would dislike it. That's the chaos we were going for."

When North decided to join in on the fun, securing the mayo became a cross-dorm collaboration. To pick up the mayo, Atwood and North dorm residents rented a U-Haul and drove to a warehouse in Riverside.

One prankster kindly recounted the scene upon arrival to *The Muddraker*: "The warehouse is full of random stuff. Couches, flat-screen TVs everywhere. But not any brands that you've heard of, either. The [warehouse manager] tells us that we can have all the mayo we want, if we can get to it. We spend an hour clearing a path through old sofas and broken TVs to the mayo, and eventually, we're able to forklift the pallets of mayo out. There was so much mayo. It was pallets and pallets and pallets. We took maybe 5% of the mayo that was there. And we already took a lot."

Curious about why there was \$10,000 worth of expired mayo in the warehouse, the Mudders asked the warehouse manager where it came from. They learned that the warehouse had been paid to store the mayo, which was never picked up by its rightful owner.

The Mudders also learned that they were the first ones to answer the call of the Craigslist mayo.

"The warehouse manager told us that we were the first ones to get there," one prankster said. "Who would want pallets of free mayo? Only Mudders, legitimately only Mudders."

With six pallets of mayo loaded into their U-Haul, the pranksters returned to Mudd, triumphant. But upon arriving back on campus, they discovered that, over the course of the half-hour drive, the mayo had spilled all over the back of the U-Haul.

So, the pranksters cleaned up the U-Haul and recruited some North frosh to help them bring the mayo, jar by jar, down to North dorm storage, where a thousand jars of mayo remained over winter break. In the meantime, Atwood and North brainstormed ideas on what to do with the mayo. Throwing a mayo party called Cinco de Mayo was one vetoed idea.

Then, at the beginning of second semester, Facilities and Maintenance (F&M) informed North that they had to get the mayo out of dorm storage, or F&M would throw it out. So, Atwood and North decided that it was only proper to gather about 30 dorm residents, load shopping carts full of mayo, and send subteams out around the colleges. The night culminated in a "glorious" congregation at the Cube, as one prankster described it.

"Eventually, everyone came to the Cube. It wasn't planned. And that's why it was beautiful," one prankster said. "Everyone had the same idea of mayo-ing the Cube."

That's when Campus Security caught them in the act, and managed to stop two of the Mudders.

"Camp Sec was extremely confused," one prankster said, based on the reports of the pair that was caught.

"They were extremely curious as to how we got the shopping carts and the mayo, and what we were doing with the mayo."

The rest of the Mudders, acting on natural instinct, abandoned their shopping carts and ran.

One prankster remarked, "It was either ditch the carts or get caught. So, we ditched the carts."

"We didn't even think for a second — we just took off. Didn't leave our names, our numbers, or anything like that," another prankster said. "And the funny thing is, I heard that [Camp Sec] wasn't even mad, and that they actually thought the pattern was kind of pretty. So, I think we overreacted there, and we could have handled it better."

Camp Sec officers weren't the only ones who fell victim to the mayo. After the pranksters spread a rumor on Yik Yak that one jar of mayo contained \$1,000, a gullible CMCer reportedly ended up sticking their hand into one too many mayo jars. And at an Atwood bar opening in first semester, a poor soul consumed a shot of expired mayo. *The Muddraker* sends sincere condolences to all.

"We had a bar opening the day we got the mayo. So, we decided to serve mayo shots, not expecting anyone to actually take one," one prankster said. "But someone did take a mayo shot, and it was nasty. It was just mayo and vodka. I don't recommend that drink."

And although the mischievous mayo-ers could have dealt with the Camp Sec situation better, at least no Cubes were harmed in the process. The most damage done was probably to the perpetrators' perception of mayo.

"The smell was just horrendous. It took a lot of nasal willpower to open that many jars of mayo and put them all around the other campuses," one prankster said. "Mayo smells so bad now."

Mudd's mayo supply has been pretty much depleted by now, dashing the hopes of anyone who had their fingers crossed for future 5C mayo sightings outside the dining halls. But you never know — there may still be a few jars of mayo in hiding.

THE POMONA BANNER

THE PRANKSTERS: ATWOOD DORM

This school year, the 5Cs have seen unprecedented levels of sign-stealing. Perhaps the most conspicuous of these thefts was that of a large blue banner from Pomona's Bridges Auditorium in early October, when the banner was carried off by a group of enterprising Mudders participating in Atwood's annual dorm scavenger hunt.

"When we were frosh, our upperclassmen would take us around the 5Cs with tools, and we'd just go around and pick signs up," Atwood dorm president John Hearn '23 said. "We were walking by Big Bridges one day, and we noticed the big banner. And I thought, 'Hm, what if we took that?'"

His inspiration sparked, John decided to add "steal Pomona's Big Bridges banner" to Atwood's scavenger hunt list, and gave it the highest value of any item on the list — 500 points — not expecting anyone to actually follow through with it.

Yet as things tend to go, John's scavenger hunt team decided to go for the banner themselves.

"My group was eyeing it, and we decided we could at least go down and try, because we were on that route anyway," John said.

But the task in front of them was far from simple. "But how? How do we steal [the banner]?" John's conspirator Justin Jiang '23 said, in describing the challenges the banner posed. "It's elevated, it's a huge banner, and it's on Pomona's campus. How do we get it back to Mudd without getting caught?"

Fortunately, they had the advantage of height on their side: by hoisting a teammate up, the team was able to unhook the lower two carabiners securing the banner to Big Bridges. Then, they pulled until the banner fell completely loose, rolled the banner up, and ran with it back to Mudd.

Thanks to the 500-point banner in their possession, John and Justin's team ended up winning the scavenger hunt. The word is that they were even egged on by



They say that once a prankster, always a prankster. The idea for Prank Club's first prank of the school year came not from a current Prank Club member, but actually from former Prank Club president and HMC Class of 2021 graduate Aely Aronoff.

On Feb. 3, Mudders who braved the Hoch's Exhibition line at lunch were rewarded with some surprisingly Mudd-specific fortune cookies. A few spelled impending doom and déjà vu (e.g., "Spring break may be longer than you expected."), while others were more benign (e.g., "Give a man a popart, feed him for a day. Introduce a man to Dodds, feed him for life.").

You can blame Prank Club for not getting that spring break prediction right. After Aely pitched the idea for a fortune cookie prank, Prank Club members — led by presidents Howard Deshong '22, Marcos Acosta '23, Anshul Kamath '23, and Jonathan Lo '23 — put their heads together to come up with 15 snarky fortune cookie messages that would get a laugh out of a

some Pomona students who spotted them taking down the banner.

It wasn't all fun and games, however. Those involved ended up self-reporting. And Pomona was, understandably, upset at them for stealing the banner.

Consequences aside, Atwood's scavenger hunt is an important tradition when it comes to dorm culture.

"During my frosh year, [the scavenger hunt] was really hyped up. There was a lot of talk about what happened in previous years, and the dorm presidents just did a really good job of making it something we all looked forward to," John said. "I wanted to make it the same thing for the dorm this year."

Typically, Atwood's scavenger hunt list consists of items such as "steal a Pitzer chicken," "set sail on pHake Lake," "steal a shopping cart," and "steal the inflatable hamburger from the top of the Carl's Jr. on Foothill Blvd." With the need to be COVID-safe, and the disappearance of the restaurant's inflatable hamburger, the dorm had to be creative with this year's scavenger hunt list.

"We had to change the objectives to adhere to safety guidelines. There were a bunch that used to be along the lines of 'make out with a stranger' or 'hold a stranger's hand,'" John said.

On the flip side, the pandemic also afforded Atwood residents with new scavenger hunt opportunities. For instance, one of the items this year was "move a Scripps classroom." That was achieved by a team who successfully resettled one of Scripps' outdoor classrooms, which were set up to provide safe learning environments during the pandemic.

And so — if Atwood's scavenger hunt is anything to go by — it seems that despite our year and a half away from Mudd, neither dorm culture nor prank culture will be going away anytime soon.



THE FORTUNE COOKIES

THE PRANKSTERS: PRANK CLUB

and see people with their fortune cookies," Marcos said. "Thanks to my favorite fortune, I've gotten multiple calls, voicemails, and texts either giving hints to or very strongly alluding to the answers to question three on the frosh chem homework." (One fortune included Marcos' phone number and a request for help with frosh chem.)

The best part of it all? Even the Prank Club presidents didn't know exactly when to expect the fortunes at the Hoch. They had arranged it with the Hoch so that the fortune cookies would be a surprise for everyone, including themselves.

"The day the fortune cookies came out, Marcos and I had class late. We went to the Hoch, and everyone was talking about the fortune cookies, so we rushed to the Exhibition line. And they were all gone," Anshul said. "At first, we were worried that we had come too late. But it turned out that the Hoch was just portioning the fortune cookies out throughout lunch."

Anshul and Marcos are new to the Prank Club presidency this year, and seem to be enjoying their new gig. "[Being in Prank Club] makes you see things in a slightly different way," Marcos said. "You look at something and you think, 'Okay, but how do I prank it?' It's a slightly different frame of mind."

When asked about pranks in the planning, the Prank Club presidents were pretty tight-lipped, but offered hints that future pranks, like the fortune cookie prank, may continue to be more focused on the 5Cs, rather than Caltech, Mudd's favorite rival.

"In the past, there have been a lot of Caltech pranks, but we're hoping to also bring some of the focus back to Mudd and the 5Cs and keep things local for a little bit — before exacting revenge for no reason," Marcos said.

Because as Howard put it, when it comes to Caltech, at this point, "it's just venge."

If you're interested in joining Prank Club in their future pranking adventures, email prank-l+subscribe@g.hmc.edu to join their mailing list!



maximal number of Mudders.

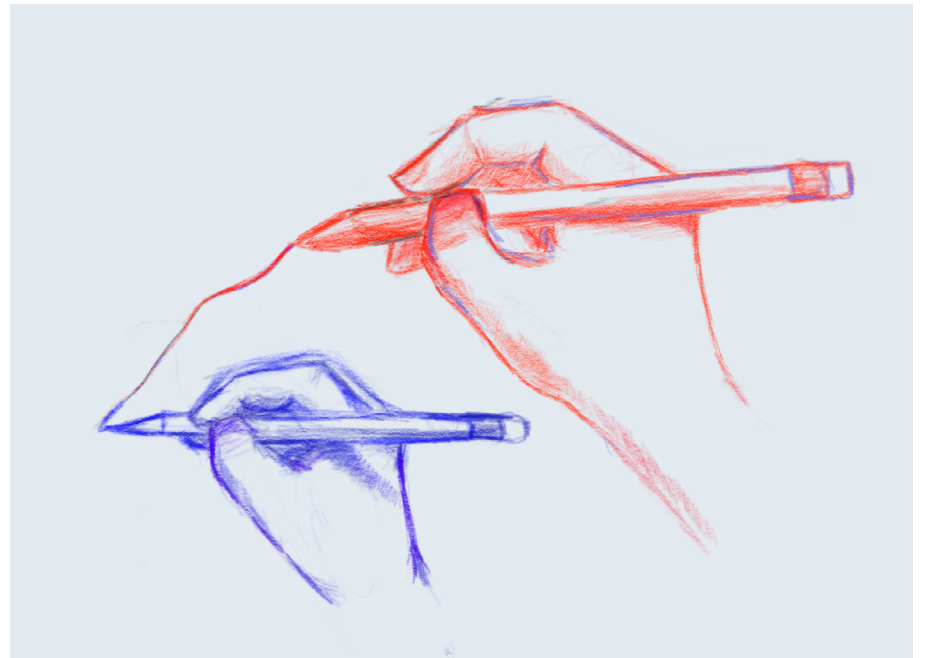
Given the numerous parties involved with the fortune cookies, as well as the ongoing pandemic, Prank Club has faced its fair share of challenges when it comes to executing pranks this school year. The club had originally hoped to unleash their all-telling fortunes on the school in the fall. But between running the fortune cookie messages by the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) and coordinating a food-safe distribution method with the Hoch, their timeline was pushed back to the spring.

Navigating pandemic-era pranking hasn't been easy either. "In the past, a lot of the stuff we rallied behind involved hitting Caltech, which we haven't been able to do this year, due to COVID," Howard said. "So, we've had to be more creative, and be willing to do smaller-scale things."

Nevertheless, it's probably safe to say that Prank Club would call the fortune cookies a success.

"It was fun to look across the tables [at the Hoch]

Opinion: Please Learn to Write a Good Op-ed by Ruby Foxall



Graphic by Waverly Wang

You may have seen some salty jokes about The Student Life floating around: for example, on Yik Yak, 5C students have anonymously posted things like “Leaked TSL Opinion: Racism bad” or “tsl be like OPINION: 5C Sophomores Do Not Need To Be Nobel Prize Winners.” In general, students across the 5Cs have started to notice that the opinions published in TSL are repetitive and hardly opinionated.

Part of the problem lies in TSL editorial staff’s expectations for opinion columnists. By asking students to write a new opinion piece every week or two, TSL tells writers to prioritize quantity over quality. This focus on quantity often skews the balance of articles in TSL away from thoughtful discussions of campus policies and toward repetitive and overly general opinion pieces. And, by imposing such a short turnaround, writers aren’t able to come up with interesting and nuanced topics.

However, the onus for thoughtless opinion articles does not solely lie with TSL’s writing staff. Since the editorial board changes every semester, TSL leadership lacks the institutional memory necessary to make significant changes to the structure of the organization that could result in stronger editing of the direction of opinion articles. This issue is also reflected in the repetition of opinions every few years — for example, an opinion piece about equally valuing humanities and STEM was published by TSL in 2021, 2019, and 2017, with few significant differences between each article. One might assume that an editorial staff member present in 2019 and 2021 might have noticed a similarity between the two articles and steered the writer in a unique direction — but unfortunately that doesn’t seem to happen, and this kind of repetition is far too common for a campus newspaper with a storied history and 12 years of articles available on their website.

One remedy for the institutional memory problem is a longer-term archivist position — a member of the editorial board who seeks out older articles to reference and has a deep knowledge of past opinion topics. At *The Muddraker*, the webmaster position fills part of that gap. As the webmaster for *The Muddraker*, I’ve read through archived issues of our newspaper and am deeply familiar with our historical content. Thankfully, *The Muddraker* doesn’t often publish opinions, but when we do, we can easily go back and find older articles using the tags and search functions on the site or scroll through PDFs of past issues.

So, if thoughtless and repetitive op-eds are the problem, what does a thoughtful op-ed look like? Let’s go through some do’s and don’ts when writing opinion articles.

DO think about your audience; **DON’T** preach to the choir.

When writing an opinion article, consider who you’re trying to persuade — is this piece aimed at students at your particular college, at the 5Cs in general, or at a group that isn’t made up of current students at all (like campus administration or alumni)?

Opinions like “we should value humanities as much as STEM” are likely to be well-received at a consortium of colleges where 3 of 5 colleges offer little to no STEM degrees and the majority of students are studying humanities, social sciences, and/or the arts. Try not to “preach to the choir” — instead, offer a nuanced opinion that your audience may not have considered before or a new solution to an old problem.

DO write a unique argument; **DON’T** write an argument that isn’t an argument.

What makes an op-ed special is its writer. What do you bring to the table with your specific perspective? Why should *you* write about this rather than someone else? By establishing yourself as someone worth listening to on your topic of choice, your opinion piece will become more unique.

Not every opinion is really an opinion. Make sure you’re discussing a point of view, not a list of facts. We can certainly all agree that racism is bad, or that 5C sophomores shouldn’t be expected to be Nobel Prize winners. You don’t need to make up a bogeyman counterargument just to make your point stand out.

And, last of all, make sure to do your research, distinguish yourself from other voices on the topic, and ask your editors for advice on how others have approached the topic before (if at all) so that you can put a fresh spin on the subject. If you feel like your voice needs to be heard on a certain topic, first ask yourself “why me?”. Then, if your answer is more than just “why not”, start fleshing out your argument.

Hopefully these tips help you, dear reader, think more critically both about how op-eds are published and how to clarify your own opinions, so that there isn’t an article published after I graduate titled “Why Can’t Anyone Write Good Op-Eds?!”.

NOT JUST A POWER OUTAGE

Short Story by Serena Mao

Photos by Kishore Rajesh, Kaitlynn Gray, and Michelle Lum

“After five relaxing days of procrastination, it was finally Friday, and the physics p-set was due concerningly soon. But even after settling comfortably into my favorite outdoor study spot beside Galileo, it seemed my brain still wasn’t being terribly cooperative. Sighing, I closed my eyes, shifting my attention to the calming drip-drops of the koi pond. Drip, drop. Drip, drop. Driiiiip. Drop.

Something was horribly wrong. The typical 0.4 seconds in between drips had been temporarily disrupted. Springing to my feet, I rushed over to the stone fountain, frantically making sure my favorite koi fish hadn’t dropped dead.

He wasn’t. At least not yet — the water level was steadily dropping, shortening Wally’s lifespan by the second. Scanning the walls of the fountain, I gasped as I noticed a hose emerging from the tank, sucking precious fluid from Wally’s slimy home.

I heaved the tube out of the water, and my eyes began searching for its source: which I couldn’t find, because the hose led through the door to Galileo, begging me to follow. I love a (non-physics) challenge, so I yanked the door open and carefully traced the hose’s path. Vaguely remembering that the Libra Complex should be closed for Omicron-related reasons, I brushed the thought aside as I rounded the corner of the Makerspace.

What met my eyes wasn’t your “typical alien,” if such a concept even exists: it resembled a gooey, amorphous mass (think Ditto, from Pokémon). Hand-like appendages appeared to extend from and retreat into its viscous body at will, and without noticeable feet, it oozed around like a slug.

‘Can you stop staring?’

I almost fell backwards. ‘S-s-sorry,’ I stammered. ‘I didn’t realize I was looking at your... uh... face.’

‘What’s a *face*?’ The creature furrowed its “brows.” ‘You know us Blobs aren’t good with human vocab. Whatever. I already told you proctors not to mess with the hose.’

‘Right, I’m a proctor.’ As a frosh, and definitely not a proctor, I hoped lying to these Blob-aliens didn’t violate the Honor Code. ‘So, what’s the hose for again?’

‘I already explained this. Water for our spaceships is like gas for human cars. We need full tanks for tonight. And there’s no way that stupid fountain is going to be enough.’

I shivered as thoughts of a dried-up Wally crept into my head. ‘Can’t you use some other non-fountain water? Like just redirect the entire dorm water supply and have some mercy on the koi.’ I quietly hoped the aliens had a sense of humor.

‘Genius.’ I heard a gurgling sound that I assumed was alien throat-clearing. The Blob raised its voice, addressing the dozens of other Blobs that I suddenly noticed were also sliming around the Makerspace. ‘Guys, we’re gonna take the water from the kids. Get one of the proctors to arrange the emails.’

‘How are you gonna do that?’ Before I could burst out laughing, an email notification interrupted my thoughts:

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION - NO WATER ON RESIDENTIAL SIDE OF CAMPUS - FRIDAY, JANUARY 21ST

They actually took my suggestion. Not gonna lie, I was pretty flattered at first. But then, my phone started buzzing like crazy, informing me that my roommate had lost water mid-shower. ‘Hey guys? Maybe using Res-End water for fuel wasn’t the best idea.’

‘Shut up. You proctors know it’s important,’ the Blob retorted. I was confused, but mostly annoyed. This didn’t seem like the most ethical solution to their questionably urgent problem. But wait a second — this whole stupid thing was my idea, anyway. After contemplating the idea for around thirty seconds, I reluctantly concluded that I should probably self report for causing this whole mess.

Stepping out the Makerspace though, I suddenly realized I needed to pee. Taking a detour into the bathroom, I immediately stopped in my tracks. Slumped on the ground, a

medium-sized Blob was shivering in a teary puddle, emitting a feeble, whimpering sound.

‘Is everything okay?’ As an empath, I naturally felt compassion for the Blob. Stepping closer, I noticed a small square cardstock nestled within the folds in the Blob’s body. It appeared to be an alien Polaroid of the Blob posing next to... a smaller Blob?

‘That’s my Blob-ter. Blob-daughter,’ it whined fondly. ‘And she’s not gonna survive another week if we fail. No Blob will.’

‘What? Why?’

‘I already explained this to you proctors... whatever. Before humans colonized Earth and drove us Blobs out to Blob-earth, we hid a few emergency Blob-tree-seedlings under the trees here at Mudd. Now, we’re here to take them back. Growing them is our only hope to recapture car-Blob dioxide and slow Blob-climate change.’

I hadn’t been as confused since doing that week’s physics solo problems. ‘Why didn’t you just put the seedlings in some Public Storage?’

The Blob appeared frustrated. ‘Don’t you remember? Humans *drove* us out. They wanted all of Earth to themselves, and to never see Blobs again. The only people that pitied us were a few Harvey Mudd proctors, and they’ve passed that sentiment down through generations of proctors. No one else can know we’re here right now. But with our huge spaceships and blobbiness, there’s no way others won’t notice.’ It began choking up. ‘We’re destined to fail.’

Suddenly, the need to pee had vanished. ‘I have an idea.’

Once the water tanks were full, my idea had once again become the new plan. At 10 p.m. sharp, the head proctor flipped a few switches — sending the entirety of campus into pitch-black darkness. Checking my phone, the campus-wide notification flashed across the screen:

***EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION- CAMPUS WIDE POWER OUTAGE - FRIDAY 1/21/2022**

Perfectly on cue, emails from each dorm’s proctor began blowing up my phone, each urging Mudders to “PLEASE STAY INSIDE.” With no light in sight, and all the Mudders gathered indoors, the blobs could do their thing and go perfectly unnoticed.

‘Alright, it’s go time.’ Simultaneously, all the blobs scattered to hop in their water-fueled spaceships, taking flight somewhere above. Even after stepping outside, I could barely make out the metallic outlines of the ships — but I could feel the strong winds they created as they swished through the air. Every minute or so, I’d hear a huge CRA-A-ACK: and I’d smile, knowing another tree had been uprooted, and another Blob-tree-seedling had been collected.

By the time they left the next day, all of Claremont was ravaged with destruction. Blobs aren’t exactly the most experienced or inconspicuous thieves, as evidenced by the toppled outdoor classrooms, damaged power lines, and disproportionately high number of downed trees. Luckily, the administration and students simply went on with their busy lives, chalking it up to the Santa Ana winds.”

I wrapped my storytime up with a satisfied sigh. “So that’s basically why I didn’t finish my miniquestions. Pretty sick, right?”

For some reason, my physics professor looked incredulous. I braced myself.

After a silent minute, he shook his head as if deeply disappointed. “I’ll give you an extension after you self-report for lying to those aliens.”

Disclaimer: Though I badly wish Blobs were real, this story is pure fiction.



Women Making Waves

Article and photos by Avani Anne, August McIntosh-Lombardo, and Lea Twicken.

There are lots of accomplished women at Mudd making substantial advances as professors and experts in a variety of fields, from computer science to physics to chemistry. We sat down with a few of these profs and asked them about their areas of expertise and their experiences at Mudd.

The quotes in this article have been edited for length and clarity.

Prof Xanda

Assistant Professor of Computer Science
B.S. Harvey Mudd College | Ph.D. Cornell University



A Mudd alumna, Prof. Xanda now teaches both CS 5 and Natural Language Processing (NLP) here at Mudd. Over the years, she has done research in several areas including text analysis workflows, machine learning models of topics in text, and privacy. Prof. Xanda's research currently focuses on helping text collection experts begin use of text mining tools. Since beginning her teaching career at Mudd, she has also helped organize Widening Natural Language Processing (WiNLP), a workshop that focuses on uniting underrepresented groups in the NLP research community. We asked Prof. Xanda about her experience being a professor.

Q: How has Mudd helped further your research?

A: Mudd has been a great place for research for two reasons. First, I get to work with brilliant undergraduate students who often have better intuitions than me about what is clear or what is useful about our work, because they haven't been embedded in it so long that they forget what it was like to first learn this stuff. Mudd helps provide funding for summer research students as well, which has helped my group work on some multi-year projects that took extra time to really do right.

I also love being at the Claremont Colleges because I get to collaborate with a bunch of students and professors working on cool and unique projects. For example, I've helped start a lab with economics professors Prof. Manisha Goel and Prof. Michelle Zemel at Pomona, where we've gotten to work on text analysis projects to understand economic disruptions and trends with the support of a bunch of Pomona and HMC students. I've found these projects to be both really interesting and uplifting as we work to build a community of practice around text analysis with some really awesome students and faculty.

Q: Why did you decide to return to Mudd?

A: The number one reason that I wanted to come back to Mudd is that I care deeply about

teaching and I care about the direction that the world is going. My sense from having been a Mudd student was that some of the people that I met at Mudd were going to be people who were affecting where we are going to be in 20, 30, 40 years. The idea of coming back to a place like that and being able to help shape that seemed really important.

Q: What advice would you give to current students at Mudd?

A: I remember this when I first came here, and I see it in a lot of the students I have: there's a lot of discomfort with moving from a place where we were the one who knew the most to a place where that's not true anymore, where things get really challenging and overwhelming. I want my students to know that that's just fine. It's actually just fine to be overwhelmed. We're all here to not know stuff together and to figure that out. I do research that's all about me not knowing stuff for many years at a time, sometimes focusing on the things that I don't know. And that's a joyful thing.

And second, get enough sleep, seriously. One of the things that I believed during my time at Mudd — more from my peers than from my instructors — was that the work was the most important thing, and that my needs could wait until the work was done. It is really important to know that even when work is important, you can still be more important.



Prof Xanda assists a student at CS5 grutoring.



Prof. Hawkins' students love to share her advice: "If you don't know the answer, it is probably latent heat." Prof. Hawkins' passion for chemistry and the climate led her to earn her Ph.D. in climate chemistry, and now, she's been a prof at Mudd for eleven years. Prof. Hawkins teaches several climate courses, including atmospheric chemistry as well as Core's recent addition: STEM and Social Impact. In September 2021, Prof. Hawkins was named the first ever Hixon Professor of Climate Studies. In her new role, Prof. Hawkins' responsibilities include helping expand Mudd's Hixon Center for Climate and the Environment (reopened in 2021) by designing new climate-centered classes for students and getting more students involved in climate science.

Q: How has your passion for the field of atmospheric chemistry and climate evolved during your time at Mudd?

Prof Lynn

Chair of Physics Department,
Professor of Physics
B.S. Harvard University | Ph.D. Caltech

Prof. Lynn had an early interest in STEM, but really became passionate about physics in high school. Now, Prof. Lynn's expertise lies in quantum information science, with her research emphasis being in quantum communication protocols and entanglement. She also teaches several courses, including quantum information, mechanics, and electromagnetic theory & optics. Prof. Lynn became Department Chair five years ago, so her responsibilities also include ensuring that all members of the physics department have a smooth experience and working with Dean of the Faculty Lisa Sullivan and other department chairs to coordinate the academic program at HMC. Through her time at Mudd, Prof. Lynn hopes to show students new ways of thinking. Here are some responses from our Q&A with her.

Prof Hawkins

Associate Professor of Chemistry,
Hixon Professor of Climate Studies
B.S. UC San Diego |
P.h.D. Scripps Institution of Oceanography

A: The job ad that I answered for Harvey Mudd was for analytical chemistry. I came in to teach Core chemistry, analytical chemistry, and then maybe occasionally something in my home area. That's very different from what I'm doing now, which is teaching in climate. On my sabbatical, I was asked to teach a first-year elective on climate. It wasn't until I developed that course and taught it that I remembered that I was actually a climate scientist. I remembered that I have this other skill set, this other area of expertise, that I had just kind of set aside and forgotten about. And students really wanted to learn about it.

The course was popular, so I was able to do it again, and then it kind of ballooned. It got more popular, more students wanted to take it, I got more passionate about wanting to educate students because I came here wanting to expose more students to climate. The excitement around the

course was nice because it helped me remember that I could do this job and I could teach students well and bring that climate expertise to the college.

Q: What has your experience with the Hixon Center been so far, and what do you hope students will get out of it?

A: The experience has been very, very positive. The conversation about pointing the Hixon Center directly at climate has been going on for a couple of years. There have been conversations about how we can provide more opportunities for students to learn about climate. It's been a very positive and long conversation, with lots of enthusiasm from students, staff, trustees, and faculty. So, really, the question was the exact mechanism, not whether or not we should try to find a way to create a climate center. With the Hixon Center's initiatives, I hope students will have a larger menu of courses to choose from. For instance, one of the hopes for the center is to bring in additional faculty that can teach at the interface of various disciplines and climate.

Q: How do you hope to influence students at Mudd?

A: I want students who have any desire to do something positive for our health and our environment to feel empowered. That whatever they're interested in, within the walls of Harvey Mudd and beyond, they can see the connection

between what they're most passionate about, and climate or the environment.

I want, number one, more students to become literate in climate science and know how it's changing and how serious the problem is. There are opportunities to work on climate in all disciplines, and I want to help students feel like they have a community of faculty and peers who want to help them figure out what their contribution to climate will be. So, I just try to direct as many students as possible towards the climate crisis because it's a really big problem, and we need all the good people we can get. And Mudd students are the best people.



Prof Hawkins and her lab team!



Q: When did you know you wanted to go into physics?

A: When I was little, I really liked math. And when I was in high school, two things happened. One, I had an amazingly good physics teacher who just fostered people's creativity. And I was doing a bunch of math contests with my high school math team, and I hated them. Obviously, the whole field of math cannot be judged by that kind of experience, but it deterred me somewhat from just wanting to do math. And physics became really compelling to me. It's really the inspiration of this teacher who used math so much and applied it to something else.

That wasn't quite the end of the story. I spent a whole year during college as a biology major,

before I went back to physics. But I would say the last couple of years of high school were the years in which I began to like physics.

Q: What is a positive aspect of being Department Chair?

A: Department chairs here are selected by departments (subject to the approval of the Dean of the Faculty and the president of the college), but a lot of the selection process is within departments. The process is different between departments, but I believe that in all departments, being selected means there's a sense that your department trusted you to get this work done. They trusted you to listen to the other members of the department thoughtfully. A department is a place where it is important to listen to what everybody wants to preserve and what everybody wants to change. The sense that I'm trusted to listen to those things and pay attention to them and to try to guide discussion in the department in productive directions, is a really good feeling.

Q: How has Mudd's core values influenced what you focus on in your teaching?

A: I really value the Core curriculum and Mudd, and in particular, I really believe in Mudd's mission to show every Mudd student an inside view of how every discipline thinks about

knowledge. I think that's really valuable for the highly interdisciplinary types of careers and problem-solving that [Mudders] are going to go out into the world and engage in and really have an impact with. So, I try to focus on ways of thinking about problems and ways of organizing problems and doing problem-solving, in addition to the collection of facts. A graduation speaker from a few years ago talked about ways in which we can carry a sense of curiosity and invention and bring fact-based decision making into all different aspects of the lives and the careers that we will have. And at some level, that's really the kind of impact that I hope a Mudd education has on every Mudd student.



Prof Lynn in action, teaching Physics 51.

ACROSS

1 Space race loser

5 Immediately

9 See 55-Down

12 Red light instruction

13 Popular Girl Scout cookie

15 Executed, as a program

16 One using good-smelling oils as alternative medicine

19 Kind of punch or check

20 Kind of “Shark Tank” offer

21 Starts of binary trees

22 Lucy’s landlady in “I Love Lucy”

24 Speaks hoarsely

26 Expensive camera type

27 “Honest” president

28 Website for film geeks

32 Business casual staple

35 Lambast

37 Legendary M.L.B. team, on scoreboards

38 Minimalistic programming language

40 Syncopated jazz style

41 Tennis after 1968

43 Has a tantrum

45 “Desperate Housewives” actress

46 Meditation sounds

48 Meditation sound

49 Urgent care worker, briefly

51 Football coach Urban

54 Analog computers?

57 Seaweed that often wraps sushi

59 ____-mo

60 Keystone of the Harvey Mudd education... or a hint to the circled squares?

63 Computer company with two Nobel laureates in Physics

64 Thus far

65 Zero

66 Its length changes throughout the year

67 Let go of

68 “Night at the Museum” actor Wilson

DOWN

1 Electric meter measurement

2 Compression-resistant brace

3 Prophet

4 Tachometer measurement: Abbr.

5 Regarding

6 World’s largest desert

7 Receptive to feedback

8 “¿____ que?”

9 The Jonas Brothers, e.g.

10 Oldest Harvey Mudd dorm

11 Ones following marching orders?

14 Grp. with senior editors?

17 Command in the court

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13				14		15	
16				17						18		
19				20					21			
22			23			24		25				
		26				27				28	29	30
32	33				34		35		36			
37				38		39				40		
41			42				43		44			
45					46		47		48			
			49	50					51		52	53
54	55	56				57		58		59		
60					61				62			
63				64					65			
66					67				68			

18 Postulate

23 Large deer relative

25 Ominous phrase to hear from a boss

29 Pessimistic postulate

30 “Aw, shucks!”

31 Pleads

32 Cub scout creation

33 Promote, with “up”

34 New England fish dish

36 Like a porcelain item

39 Sandwich often served with mustard

42 Brother’s daughter

44 Land with the world’s tallest building and the world’s deepest swimming pool: Abbr.

47 Wasn’t pointless?

50 Costa ____

52 Dodge

53 Like L and XL, but not

XXL

54 It might cover all the bases

55 With 9-Across, tapioca drink offered at many Harvey Mudd events

56 Normal force?

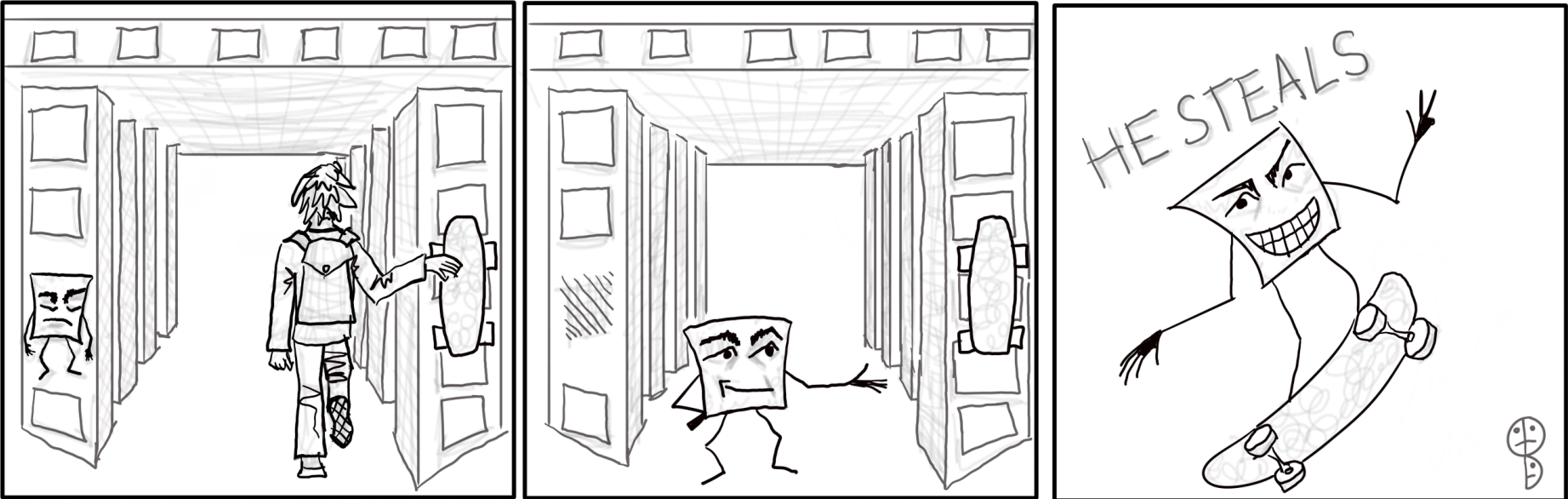
58 Bat mitzvah, e.g.

61 The Trojans of the N.C.A.A.

62 Wild card game?

Adventures of Wally the Wart “Skateboard Thief”

By Dry Sockets Bob

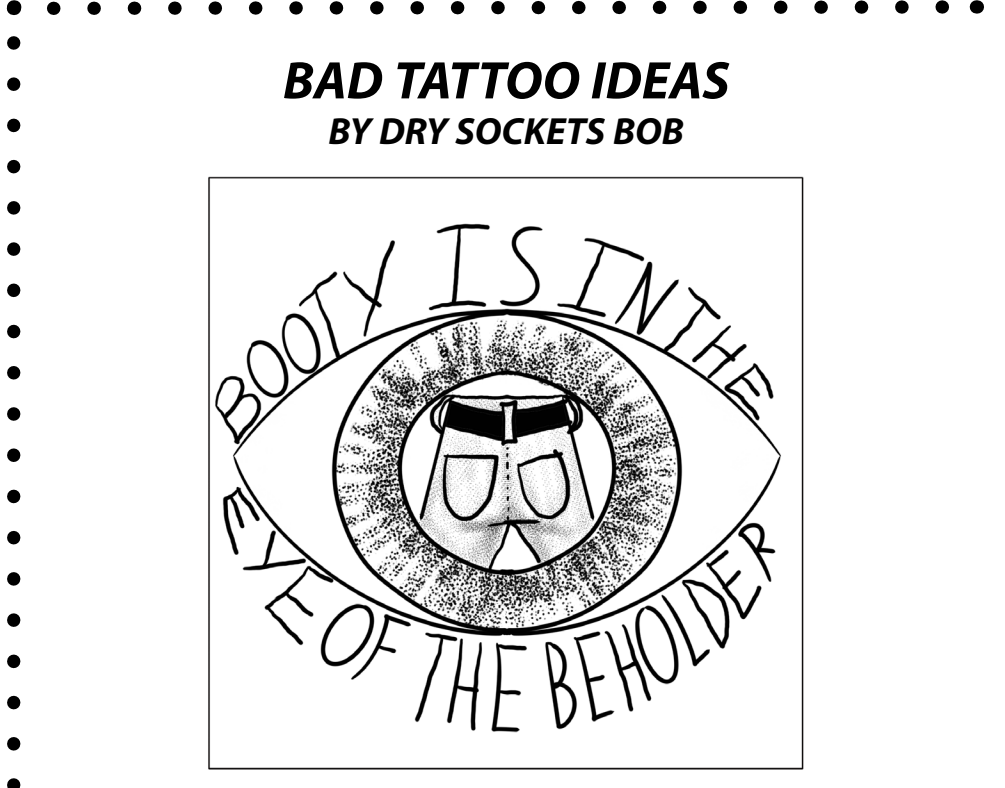
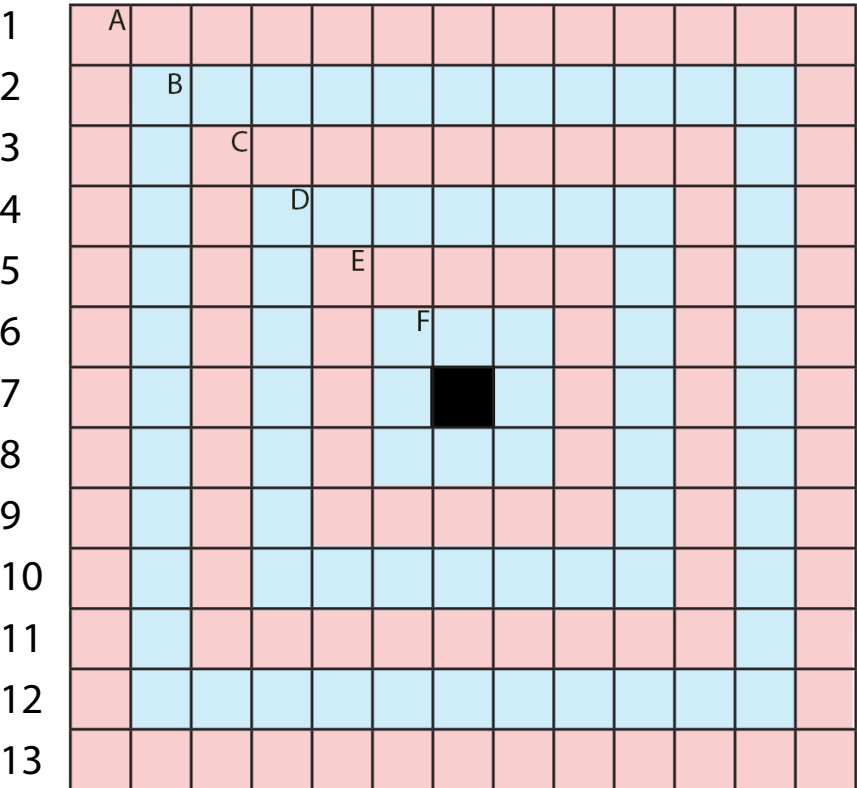


MARCHING BAND CROSSWORD

by Kishore Rajesh

INSTRUCTIONS
Each row has two words next to each other. Clues in each row are shown in consecutive order and fill the entire row. Additionally, there are groups of words arranged in the “bands” around the grid. Clues in each band are shown in order and travel clockwise around the band with that letter.

- BANDS**
A. Location / Ark / Like Trojan Horse / Recent / Measure of income, demographics, experience (abbr) / One of the four corner states (abbr) / Bear home / Difficult and monotonous habit to break / Author of “Heart of Darkness” / Repeated cry / Gym results / Prejudice
B. 100 / Roman Demeter / Potential Energy / Woman Guardian / French Wolf / No difficulty / Germanic letter / Russian Ruler / Fading / Short Drink / Berries and Cream Little ____
C. Diary, for example / Canadian singer with the fourth most disliked youtube video / Author-created persona (sometimes in fanfiction) (abbr) / Hair-like organelles / Trig Function / Grassy ____ / NASA expedition (abbr)
D. Pen Brand / Pro Opposite / Delta Upsilon / Friction Coefficient / Calculator nspire / iOS Big ____ / Be swarming with / FIFA Company / Pixar short made by creator of Turning Red
E. Prefix meaning bad / Shortened form of biannual athletic contest / Heart section / ____ dew (abbr) / Minnesota supposedly has 10000 of them (abbr)
F. Residential End of Mudd or a popular Halsey song
- ROWS**
1. Medicine that doesn’t do anything but works / Machine with pulleys
2. S in STEM / A place to showcase internships and research
3. Formally end (a meeting) / Setting of the Fable video game series
4. Shakespeare’s Pentameter / Explicitly be against
5. A butcher’s knife post-usage / Property of salts with Group I metals, Nitrate ions, etc
6. Illegal Bar popular in the prohibition era / What a tabby might do to get attention
7. What Jack was when he went over the candlestick / Bull horoscope
8. Puerto Rico, Madagascar, or Nauru, for one / H-2 to H-1, for example
9. The little plastic bit at the end of a shoelace / Objects reduced in Math 73
10. Gnot a goblin / Relating to the predecessor to Rome
11. What Snowball or Porky might do / Red Scare worry
12. The result if one of Hercules’ enemies duplicated bodies and heads / A professor with a permanent post
13. Conifer mainly in the Mediterranean and Himalayas / Musical composition inspired by the night

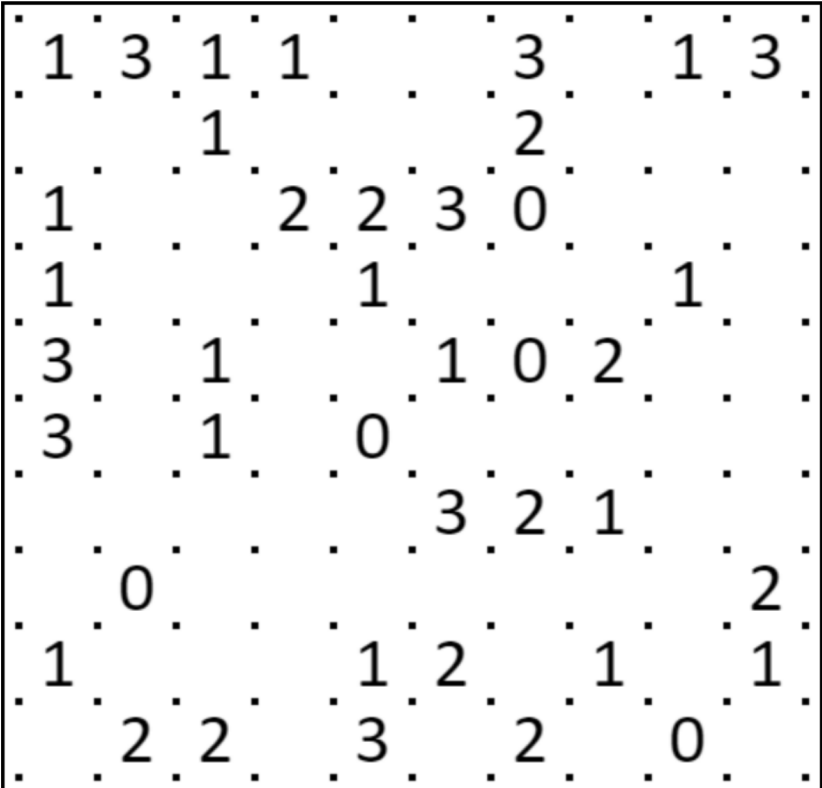
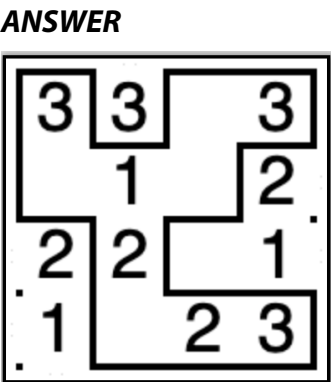
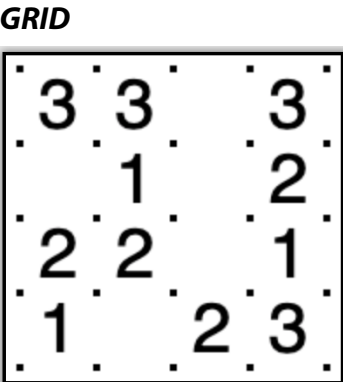


SLITHERLINK LOGIC PUZZLE

by Elizabeth Lucas-Foley

INSTRUCTIONS
Draw a single loop through the grid so that each given number matches the number of grid lines around that square.

SAMPLE
Try out this smaller grid before attempting the larger one to the right!



Mudd’s Coziest Nooks & Crannies

Article & Photos by Mikayla Mann

We’re all aware of the popular belief that Harvey Mudd College is one of the ugliest campuses in the nation. It did rank second on Travel and Leisure’s 2013 list of “America’s Ugliest College Campuses,” after all. But what isn’t there to be charmed by? Brutalist, utilitarian architecture made of cold bricks and rough concrete, warts sticking out of the walls... All right, maybe our campus aesthetics are an acquired taste. I won’t waste this article trying to convince you of how the immediately eye-grabbing architecture has its “own unique charm.” But there are lots of amazing parts of Mudd that aren’t immediately obvious from your first visit on campus. So while I’m reluctant to give up my insider info on beautiful spaces tucked away inside Mudd’s campus, I feel like it must be shared. Because where better to get away and work on that *particularly* difficult HSA reading than a scenic, aesthetically-pleasing hiding place?

1 | Hixon Court

First off, we have my favorite spot to go after my first class in the morning, with a chai tea latte in one hand and a breakfast sandwich from the Cafe in the other. Just head west and down the stairs into the Hixon Courtyard outside Galileo Hall. You’ll find a peacefully burbling fountain (surprise! with koi fish in it) and tables and chairs scattered around. It’s very green and filled with dappled sunlight if you can catch it at the right time in the morning, and I always feel like my productivity increases by about 500% when I’m working there. (Definitely not because I’m imagining myself in a day-in-the-life college vlog...)

2 | Shanahan Third Floor

Another beautiful environment at Mudd, if you have the leg strength and willpower to climb up three flights of stairs, is the patio outside the Skycube on third floor Shan. It has a rustic aesthetic, with outdoor string lights, wood tables, and comfortable benches. The futuristic, slightly transparent boards act as a perfect medium for solving problems or drawing on. The whole area is encompassed by plants on the outer edge — including trees with huge lemons hanging from the branches that you may or may not be allowed to pick.

3 | Outdoor Tables

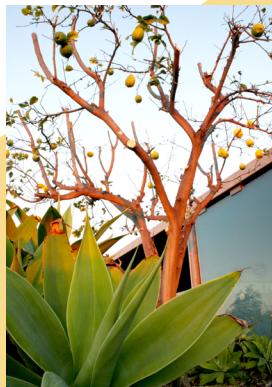
A recent addition to my favorite places around Mudd is the area between Atwood and Case. Its rows of tables are perfect for working outside, especially now that the balmy SoCal weather is making its return for springtime. I always feel happier and more productive when I sit outside to do homework with a speaker playing sunny tunes, and these tables are perfect for meeting your friends in the outer dorms! Beware of the umbrellas, though; they have a tendency to bend super easily. And make sure to bring a power bank!



1



2



2



3



2



4



3



4



5



4

4 | Orange Tree Grove

If you choose to venture behind Olin, you may just run into Mudd’s small orange tree grove. My orientation mentor introduced me to this spot during orientation, but not many people are aware of it. In the center is a rectangular, shallow pool of water that’s surrounded by benches. It’s the perfect little spot for getting away from the bustle and stress of Ac End, having a deep conversation, or just immersing yourself in nature.

5 | Green Room

The final tucked-away spot on Mudd campus is for all of my musically-inclined readers. In a room adjacent to Platt, just next to the bathrooms, you’ll find a grand, spacious room that almost feels like a ballroom. It’s perfect for waltzing around at all hours of the night (no, I’m *definitely* not speaking from experience). Nestled in the corner is a piano that’s open for use at all hours — just follow the melodies, and before you know it, you’ll be in the Green Room!

For those who are looking for a new study space, those hoping to uncover more of Mudd’s secrets, or those just dying to explore, I hope these “nooks and crannies” of Mudd will inspire you to love our campus even more than you already do. And even if they don’t, you know you can at least count on those steadfast, reliable warts.