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EDITOR'S NOTE



Michelle Vergheze



Elena Slobodyanyuk

Glitch. Though this word is resonant in our era of modern technology, its usage traces back to the 1940s, when it was used to describe on-air mistakes by radio broadcasters. In the 1960s, the US space program would use the word *glitch* to describe undetected electrical faults in spacecraft hardware. Since then, *glitch* has entered the common vernacular as a blanket term for both minor technological hiccups and system-wide disturbances. Together, these uses are united by the recurring need to address unanticipated phenomena that are often poorly understood. Perhaps most striking is that glitches are inherent to any system, be it man-made or natural. How might this fit into the discipline of science?

This semester, writers in the *Berkeley Scientific Journal* have explored the ways in which glitches manifest in our world. Rather than being an impediment to progress, glitches might instead offer fresh insights and point to new directions for scientific discovery. Take, for example, an unintended virtual pandemic that plagued the online role-playing game *World of Warcraft*, which emerged as a promising medium to model human behavior in large-scale epidemiological studies. Alternatively, consider dark matter, an elusive yet fundamental astrophysical principle that seems to defy all observational measurements and has lately commanded greater investigation into the nature of our universe. Finally, our writers discuss the consequences of genetic glitches—DNA mutations—for driving evolutionary dynamics between insects and plants, and present a quantum mechanical view into the mechanisms of mutations themselves.

In addition to embracing critical scientific discourse through written pieces and interviews, BSJ has enjoyed learning about the value of science communication from several prominent speakers: Dr. Caroline Kane, Professor Emerita and BSJ faculty advisor; Erika C. Hayden, director of the UCSC Science Communication Program; and Dr. Randy W. Schekman, Nobel Laureate and former Editor-in-Chief of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *eLife*. Furthermore, BSJ has continued its engagement with the Bay Area Science Festival, where our editors presented a hands-on science activity that captured the attention of children and parents alike.

Together, these experiences have provided BSJ with a refreshed vitality to communicate meaning about the world around us, glitches and all. We are excited to present another vibrant issue of the *Berkeley Scientific Journal*.

Elena Slobodyanyuk
Managing Editor