On the morning of May 18, 2004 prolific chemist-inventor-entrepreneur-philanthropist-Caltech professor Arnold Orville Beckman died in his sleep at Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla, California at the age of 104. He is survived by son Arnold Stone (Arnie) Beckman and daughter Glorita Patricia (Pat) Beckman, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He will be buried in his birthplace of Culver, Illinois with his wife Mabel, who died in 1989. A public memorial service, hosted by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, will be held on the 11th of June at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace, 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, California 92886.

Beckman's multifaceted scientific and technological achievements ushered in the instrumentation revolution. His legacy lives on through his instruments, the firms that he founded, the achievements of his students and the institutes that he and Mabel so generously endowed. Arnold and Mabel were an extremely devoted couple — devoted to each other, to their work, to their community and to the advancement of humanity.

On April 7-8, 2000 the 10th anniversary of the Beckman Institute on campus was celebrated with a two-day, four-session symposium dubbed the “Beckmanfest,” featuring a dozen speakers, including Nobel laureate Thomas R. Cech, discussing cutting-edge research and developments at the point where chemistry and biology interact. Each session featured two well-known researchers, whose presentations were separated by that of a Beckman Young Investigator (since its founding in 1991, the Beckman Young Investigator program has supported the work of over 200 assistant professors).

A gala dinner was held on the 10th of April to celebrate Arnold's 100th birthday whose gifts to Caltech have shaped the campus in profound ways. His centennial birthday also was commemorated by the publication of Arnold O. Beckman: One Hundred Years of Excellence, a profusely illustrated, luxurious volume that documents the life and achievements of a man who literally became a legend in his own time.

Arnold Beckman was born on April 10, 1900 in the small farming community of California 92886.
Fireside Ember: Dedication, Tenacity Drive Improvement

By TOM FLETCHER

I do not feel comfortable talking at length about the past year. Our memories should function well enough and if not, ASCIT and the IHC’s online archives stretch back long enough to fill in the gaps. Just as there is no use continuing to obsess over old arguments, like housing in Avery or fire in courtyards, we should turn our attention to a hopeful future.

I adhere to the belief that improving communication is the most worthwhile focus of our energies. The simple truth is that students on this campus have only the power the faculty and administration are willing to grant them. This amounts to only a voice and the opportunity to use it in meetings. Getting people to listen to our voice requires a few commitments. Showing up at opportunities to articulate ourselves is of the paramount importance.

The work the IHC did this last term with regard to the housing situation was admirably conducted. They made coherent arguments before the faculty committee, they spoke often to administrators and they never resorted to extremism. By exhibiting a willingness to discuss and compromise, the student body has demonstrated a remarkable maturity.

Progress toward making our life on campus better will never be fast. No one student or administration will be able to make overhauling changes in just a year (see previous failure to overhaul faculty committee reporting). Tenacity and commitment are the only ways for us to make substantial progress. This boils down to a repeated game, one in which both sides have an infinite horizon and every incentive to cooperate.

We should therefore aspire to civility, innovation and vigilance. By being trustworthy partners, we can be treated as equals in the decision-making process. By using our wellspring of talent and creativity, we can help shape new programs and proposals to best help the students. And lastly, by passing on our institutional memory to each successive generation of Techers and being watchful, we can enforce the tit-for-tat trigger strategy that forces the administration and the faculty to give us the best possible college experience.

The fireside is down to embers. It is time for me to move on to new challenges. My only hope is that this message resonates; that all of you, freshmen, sophomores and juniors will feel inspired to contribute where you can in a dignified manner. Never settle for the status quo. Always look for ways to make things better for the entire Caltech community. Goodbye Caltech, it’s my time to leave.

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In this issue we have a special section on dorm room decorating. I put my best interior decorators to the test when I gave one of them the mission of stuffing as much crap into a room as possible, and the other, finding ways to minimize.

Here at Martha Stewart Living we are constantly saying cliche things like “sowing seeds, and planting ideas.” We also spend our days laughing at the thousands of people absurd enough to pay five dollars an issue for articles on “quiches” and “topiary gardens.” As Gustavo Olm said when he walked into Tammy’s room and saw the June issue sitting on her desk, “You subscribe to this shit?” Honestly, people would be much better off just reading The California Tech.

Alright, let’s cut to the chase. I have no idea how this magazine is still in production while I’m “on vacation,” and how a letter from me still appears in every issue. I thought my plan to take over the universe had been thwarted, but apparently you still can’t get rid of me.

Either way, enjoy this special issue, and don’t blame me if you have no idea what my writers are babbling about...I don’t either.

Martha Stewart
Guide to an Organized Living Space

Many students are concerned with having a dorm room in college that is both stylish and functional. Many also want a pleasant scent and an organization to their furniture that allows a comfortable living space. Many college students are also looking for a date. I can't help with the last one, but I can give you the Caltech Guide to an Organized Living Space.

The key to an organized room is presentation. The people who see your room, friends who come to visit, people walking by in the hall, and stalkers peering though your window at night while you sleep, should be impressed by the subtle yet tasteful arrangement of your various belongings.

As an example I'm going to give a walk through a room I recently helped design and decorate, Fleming 19. As you approach the room you immediately notice that its exterior decorating scheme stands out from other rooms in the Alley, due mostly to its stylish wall hangings. Both art and literature adorn the walls outside, including advertisements for Rock Paper and/or Scissors, a short play that seems to involve 50,000 chickens and eight goats, and various other entertaining decorative touches.

As one enters the door you must move though a series of hanging strings that function both as a clever decoration at the entrance, and a way to keep extremely large insects from flying into the room, assuming those insects are allergic to string. You might also notice that the walls are not the traditional blank that many dorm rooms choose, but instead are covered with literary works. Also on the walls are several posters, which tend to give the room a dignified aura.

Once inside the room you notice the efficient work station. Situated in a corner for space conservation, the desk is well used. While many "new age" decorators recommend an empty, barren style of desk, I prefer to make full use of this most essential piece of furniture. In addition to a computer, I've chosen this desk as a storage space for some peanut butter, several books and papers, kool-aid, and some blank CD's. This lends a homely and edible feeling to the working area, which tends to make it a more comfortable atmosphere for the student who will be using the area for their studies, and still shows that the decorator knows about modern standards of beauty.

A stylish addition to the desk area is an African drum, used not only to show the owner is cultured, both in their view of different cultures and music, but can also hold a powerful hand held computing machine, in the form of a sleek Ti-89, to show the room's resident is also tech-savvy.

To the east of the study there is an area used primarily for storage. If one peers behind the rope ladder, arranged to both allow access to the lofted sleeping area(1) and keep the less well-decorated storage areas hidden. One visitor who toured the room commented "It's key to have the rope ladder for the second floor of your room, cause only then can you get a better view of the pages and pages of wall stuff." Even though the storage area is used primarily in a utilitarian fashion, storing things like winter clothes, a box of "Strawberry Corn Flakes," a pile of old papers, and a box of unsorted socks, among other things, it is still well decorated. The wall contains a decorative "antique" GSC flag-football schedule from seven months ago, and much of the storage is contained in stylish dressers, or the more modernist "pile of cardboard boxes."

Across the room from the study and storage area is a set of shelves, used to hold important supplies, such as old papers, a broken alarm clock, some dirty laundry, some clean laundry, and some icing that's been sitting around for several months. One might assume that this is an area that needs no additional decoration to achieve a style all its own, I have decided to throw caution to the wind by hanging a large flag for an Irish County (Kerry) over some of the storage, a pair of goggles next to this, and as the piece de resistance, several brightly colored bandanas. This completes a look of Mediterranean style with an exotic twist.

The final important area of the room is the sink area, or "kitchenette." Here there should be a mirror, because housing put it there, but I would recommend adding toothpaste, some old napkins and even a cat to the area in order to encourage people to enjoy their time in this kitchenette while brushing teeth, hair, or even getting a cool refreshing glass of water.

Speaking of a cat, this is one decorative touch I would add to any room. Not only does it allow you to add features like a cat litter box and a cat dish to your room, the cat in itself is like a throw rug, easily placed in different places to accent a certain part of the living space. (2) "That dog of yours makes most of the mess. I mean, style" said one visitor, referring to the cat. Another said "You're a communist," perhaps also in reference to the cat, but possibly referring to political beliefs advocating government control of economics. All in all, a cat can add the extra tinge of fashion to any room, from the very plain to the vaguely well decorated.

While this room is an excellent example of what should be done to make a dorm room both stylish and functional, the rules are not concrete. For example, while having kool-aid on a desk is clearly necessary, the flavoring can be cherry, watermelon or even fruit punch. You should remember to follow these suggestions when decorating a room, but also add a personal touch. Yours won't be as good as one designed by me, but you can try to come close.

(1) Note: This ladder is not recommended for climbing on, and if you ever come to my room and try to climb on it, it will break. So don't even think about it.

(2) Of course the cat won't stay there, and may scratch you while you move it, but this is the price of fashion.

TEXT BY HAMILTONY FALK
PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAMILTONY FALK
Making a North House Double Cool

South House residents often forget that the North House is not only the most modern, but also the most fun place to live. The North House is a double, meaning that two people share the same room. Despite the statist pressures of Knoepfle, the North House doubles normally have their sizes constrained by the need to accommodate both a loft and a room for living. This is where the North Houses for their unique blend of architecture, expressing your inner decorator and rebellious spirit is possible. The North House doubles normally have night/day and work/play separation, allowing light to stream into the room when needed, and keeping the room an expression of your individual personalities. You should come up with your own, to make your room an extension of your own personality.

With only a sofa bed, a futon, a stool and a desk to a typical room, the claustrophobia is manifest. This is where Dan and Alex enlisted the aid of neighbor Aero to help them come up with ideas for improving the inhabitants' moods. Once you add a bed, a couch, pillows, and a desk to a typical room, the clunky housing desks and nerve-shattering fluorescent lighting. The harsh light makes studying difficult and removes your bunk beds.

Dan and Alex chose a number of simple accoutrements to express their personal tastes. They also covered the walls with blue paint. The blue paint also has the feature of hiding some of the room's flaws. It makes them look bigger. The blue paint makes the room an expression of your individual personalities. You should come up with your own, to make your room an extension of your own personality.

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Do not live in a room that could be used in place of guitars to hide unsightly outlets. A quiet ceiling fan provides the obvious point that there is a lot of space above you. A quiet ceiling fan would need to be installed on the ceiling. The appearance of the North House double is the foundation from which all of the good vibes come. If you need to gut a room that could be used in place of guitars to hide unsightly outlets, a quiet ceiling fan would be needed. The appearance of the North House double is the foundation from which all of the good vibes come.

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Spectrometer, Oxygen Meter Beckman Ideas

Continued from Page 1, Column 2

Cullom, Illinois, the son of blacksmith George W. Beckman and Elizabeth Ellen Beckman (née Jewkes). His mother inculcated in him the importance of disciplined effort in achieving success, a trait that became a characteristic of his life and career and shaped a large part of his home life. At age nine Arnold found a copy of Joel Dorman Steele’s Fourteen Weeks in Chemistry and he became hooked on “the central science.” For his tenth birthday, behind the house his father built him a small “shop” for his chemistry experiments. At age 12 Arnold became a grocery clerk and “resident chemist” in a general store, where he was “official cream tester.”

In 1912 Arnold’s mother died and two years later his father moved the family to Normal, Illinois, where Arnold attended University High School and earned money as a consulting analytical chemist, movie house pianist for silent films and dance band leader. In 1918 he graduated high school as valedictorian.

The United States had entered World War I and in August 1918 Arnold joined the U.S. Marines and spent three months in boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina before reporting to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a major embarkation point for troops headed for Europe. His train arrived late and another contingent had sailed in place of his unit and the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

After eating a Thanksgiving Day-dinner, his unit was ordered to attend a second dinner arranged by the Red Cross to honor mothers returning from France, but because of the high casualty rate not enough had returned to fill the tables. Here he met 17-year-old Mabel S. Meinzer of Brooklyn, who was helping her mother serve food.

As Beckman later said, “Luck has played a big role in my life — finding a chemistry textbook and meeting my wife through lucky circumstance.” Arnold and Mabel corresponded frequently but did not marry until 1925, when Beckman had established himself financially.

In fall 1919 Arnold entered the University of Illinois, from which he received a B.S. in chemical engineering (1922) and M.S. in physical chemistry (1923). He began graduate studies at Caltech but in 1924 moved to New York to find a well-paying job and to be near Mabel. He became the first technical employee of Walter A. Shewhart, the father of statistical quality control in Bell Lab’s Inspection Engineering Department, where he spent two years (1924-1926) learning about electronic technology, the vacuum tube and statistical quality control in manufacturing and the structure of research and development. Less than a decade later he would use this knowledge to make the marriage of chemistry and electronics a reality.” In his words: “I’d never gone to Bell Labs, I might not have developed any interest in electronics.”

In the fall of 1926 Arnold returned to Caltech and in 1928 he received a Ph.D. in physical chemistry for research on the photochemical reactions of two nitrogen containing compounds, hydrazine and hydrazodic acid, under the direction of professor Roscoe Gilkey Dickinson.

On September 18, 1928 he received his first patent for a “signaling device” that could be attached to a car’s spectrophotometer that would buzz when a preset speed had been reached. (In later years he became famous for his “speed-of-on-the-road” driving technique, so he must have had a penchant for electronics that “speed buzzer” would be needed.

Appointed instructor at Caltech, he rose through the ranks, becoming known as an experimental apparatus and instrumentation and a technical consultant.

Arnold’s new invention changed the course of his life and revolutionized chemistry. Glen Joseph, a fellow Caltech colleague and a chemist at the California Fruit Growers Exchange laboratory, asked him for help in getting consistent measurements of the acidity of lemon juice as part of his research on by-product processes. The sulfur dioxide used as a preservative bleached limon paper and “poisoned” the hydrogen electrode and the sensitive galvanometer used to measure the potential produced by the glass electrode often failed.

Arnold substituted a rigid vacuum tube for the galvanometer to amplify the current so that a standard glass electrode could be used. He had again illustrated his dictum, “When you’re faced with the necessity to do something that’s a stimulus to invention.” In his words, “If Dr. Joseph hadn’t come in with his lemon juice problem, chances are I never in the world would have thought about making a pH meter.”

The Beckman “acidimeter,” later called the pH meter, was revolutionary in two ways: the highly sensitive amplifier was an electronic innovation and his idea of building an integrated chemist’s instrument was also new. For the first time a scientist could buy a portable, precise instrument that would have the same accuracy as he could possibly build.

Beckman were extremely lucky to have Arnold Beckman in the Caltech family for over eighty years. His incredible discipline and drive, together with his natural talent, his loyalty to colleagues and his integrity, enabled him to become a world leader in science and engineering. His name is remembered as the Beckman professor who started the instrumentation revolution that changed the course of chemistry and biology in the 20th century and as the thoughtful philanthropist who generously supported fundamental science and education in the United States and in the world. He was a true giant in science and his love of his science.
THE CALIFORNIA TECH FEATURES JUNE 10, 2004

Crying Blood
An Uplifting Comic for the Average Tech

By JACK LEE and HAMILTON FALK
Edited By CAT CHOU

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—Ray Kurzweil, inventor and author of The Age of Spiritual Machines

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Dues Increase, Course Changes, Renovations

Continued from Page 1, Column 4

his wonderful-ness and Jean-
Paul’s going and returning to Tim
Dowmes’ (Athletic Director and
Acting Assistant Vice-President)
leaving, it’s been a very tumultu-
ous year or two in the big white
and beige building north of the
houses.

While our stalwarts have done
an impressive job of holding
down the fort (from David Levy
doing an amazing job of playing
both Registrar and Fin Aid to Bar-
bara pulling double duty as dean
and associate dean, simultane-
ously taking on responsibilities
for the grad students), I imagine
it has been an unenviable amount
of work this year.

Margo by now is fully incor-
porated into the structure as VP
for Student Affairs and at the end
of her second seems to be doing

a bang-up job. Perhaps her most
recent accomplishment (and one
of the largest from a student) is in
helping guarantee a sizable pile of
money (something like $40,000 a
year from here on out) for student
retreats. Hopefully we’ll have a
bit more calm in years to come.

On a similar front, we had a
chance to honor both excep-
tional staff members and some
custodians who do a really great
job in their service to students. It
seems reasonable to mention their
names once again: Alice from the
Tech Express, Clara from Chan-
die, Maria from Housing, John
from the Mech Shi, Gilbert from
the North Kitchens and last (but
certainly not least) Suzette
from the Dean’s and now Vice
President’s office. The custodians
were: Alvaro from Rucklock Anna
Rosa from Blacker, Carlos from
Blacker and Ricketts, Miguel
from Dabney, Rosie from Lloyd,
Anna Rosa from Avery, Salvador from
Page, Zenda from Ricketts and
formerly of Fleming. Thank you
to all of you guys for your hard
work.

Moving on, ASCIT is continu-
ously increasing its services to stu-
tdents: the “ASCIT” Copier down
where you turned in your Chem I
sets works again (after many years
of dysfunction). And the DVD
library is now open to graduate
students (who, word on the street,
suggests will be helping finance
the continued expansion of the li-
brary and hopefully a “lock box”
(here, it’s an election year, right?)
for returning DVDs.) We’re also
going to have (the day this paper
comes out) a vote for increasing
dues. They haven’t been up in
years to now, so 2004 I’d strongly
courage you to support the increase.

And, in the event that you NEV-
ER have read the Tech before,
housing renovations are coming
all along. We’ll be well through
for modular housing (trailer parks
represent) so keep your fingers
crossed. The South Houses will be
under renovation beginning of
summer 2005—end of summer
2006. And freshmen will be al-
lowed in Avery in fall of 2005, as
summing all plans pan out. And
the ITS lab is no more. It may mys-
teriously reappear at some point,
but so few students reported ever
using it, that it’s likely that we’ll
instead expand the other labs.

There are no changes coming to
the EAS option (you can now
focus in a given specialty) — so
make sure you save all your old
catalogs so you can graduate un-
er the old. We also now have an
“English” option as opposed to a
“Literature” option... though by
all accounts, the only difference
is exactly that: the name. Personally,
I think literature sounds classier.
Oh well. Changes to Core 1 also
are at last long hard to explain:
though by the underlying idea
is that they will now be run by
the divisions as opposed the dark,
mysterious “Core” office. No lon-
ger do we have academic classes
that aren’t any under particular
division. We all hope that this will
be a tortured and passion-
ate love affair between under-
graduates and science writing;
but whether or not this happens
shall be known only to posterity.

Those changes all take effect in
the fall.

I guess the last thing is to say
goodbye to the seniors. For me,
at least, it’s the first class to gradu-
ate that I really knew and it’s go-
ing to be weird to see them gone.

Best wishes to everyone heading
out into the “real world.” And a
special thank you to everyone
who has served on ASCIT dur-
ing their time here. While I’m
guaranteed to have forgotten at
least one of you, those that are
graduating this year, I believe, are:
Anna Szanztecka, Kathryn Hsu,
Jeremy Pitts, Neda Afsa-
manesh, Janet Zhou, Joe Jewell
and Tom Fletcher. Thank you
in putting all your countless
hours!

Galen

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Blacker and Ricketts, Miguel
from Dabney, Rosie from Lloyd,
Anna Rosa from Avery, Salvador from
Page, Zenda from Ricketts and
formerly of Fleming. Thank you
to all of you guys for your hard
work.

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focus in a given specialty) — so
make sure you save all your old
catalogs so you can graduate un-
er the old. We also now have an
“English” option as opposed to a
“Literature” option... though by
all accounts, the only difference
is exactly that: the name. Personally,
I think literature sounds classier.
Oh well. Changes to Core 1 also
are at last long hard to explain:
though by the underlying idea
is that they will now be run by
the divisions as opposed the dark,
mysterious “Core” office. No lon-
ger do we have academic classes
that aren’t any under particular
division. We all hope that this will
be a tortured and passion-
ate love affair between under-
graduates and science writing;
but whether or not this happens
shall be known only to posterity.

Those changes all take effect in
the fall.

I guess the last thing is to say
goodbye to the seniors. For me,
at least, it’s the first class to gradu-
ate that I really knew and it’s go-
ing to be weird to see them gone.

Best wishes to everyone heading
out into the “real world.” And a
special thank you to everyone
who has served on ASCIT dur-
ing their time here. While I’m
guaranteed to have forgotten at
least one of you, those that are
graduating this year, I believe, are:
Anna Szanztecka, Kathryn Hsu,
Jeremy Pitts, Neda Afsary-
manesh, Janet Zhou, Joe Jewell
and Tom Fletcher. Thank you
in putting all your countless
hours!

Galen

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