

Editorial

The Backward Look

Faced with an immediate possibly bleak future of three or four days of final exams, we thought it sort of refreshing to look back on some of the highlights of the past year, especially since they seem to foreshadow a particularly interesting and exciting time next year.

Most evident, probably, has been the construction projects on all corners of campus furnishing noise to wake up by and noise to study by. In the background, of course, there's the dream that 20 years from now Caltech will have sprouted a whole north campus with several more buildings the size of Keck lining a new mall north from the library.

Three of the buildings to be in use next fall, the new Student Houses, have been, perhaps, the biggest topic of discussion this year. Because of them we are seeing some shifting in basic characteristics and philosophies in the present Houses and a lot of deep discussions and evaluations of purposes, customs, and forms of government among the people pioneering the new ones.

With the new Houses almost all of the student body will be living together in a one-square-block area, bringing in a lot of new faces with some fresh ideas, which has the possibility of making the entire campus much friendlier and more stimulating. Already we have seen a new spirit of cooperation among all seven Houses typified by the new IHC and its new social and athletic committees.

Next year will probably see a bigger party to replace the frosh tea dance, a new form of interhouse and homecoming, and a new form of interhouse sing complete with three new House coat colors.

This year we've seen our Glee Club on TV from Squaw Valley and heard a crusading Norman Cousins show us that scientists and engineers don't think like humanities majors. In the last week we've been encouraged to see about half of the homemade master key owners realize that the spirit of the Honor System, or at least common decency, urges that it's somewhat nicer to ask a person before you use his personal property.

Finally, don't forget the sweeping curriculum revisions and the supposedly accompanying much closer contact between students and their faculty advisers. This especially should make things more interesting and exciting.

—jt

Top Students Brooks' Paper Reap Awards Takes Second

The list of annual awards and prizes won by Tech students is now nearly completed with the announcement of the winner of the Conger Peace Prize.

Dave Jefferson won the annual Conger Peace Prize Oration, held last Thursday, May 26, in Culbertson Hall. His topic was "Economics and Peace." Carl Hamilton was second in the contest and Art Rubin placed third. Judges were Charles H. Wilts, J. Kent Clark, and Jack E. McKee.

Captain Monty Coffin has been awarded the Aeronautical Sciences Scholastic Award. Coffin is in the Air Force and is working toward his Ph.D.

Other awards, announced previously, are the McKinney Prize in English and the Shepherd Award. The McKinney prize was won by Les Hirst with Dave Edwards and Ray Barglow taking second and third, respectively.

The Shepherd Award went to Ben Burke and Gary Walls.

The Don Baxter Prizes in Chemistry and the David Joseph MacPherson Prize will be announced at Commencement. There will be no Sigma XI award this year.

Dave Barker was named Freshman of the Year last week by the members of Tau Beta Pi.

At the convention of the Southern California Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society held on May 7 at Loyola College, Los Angeles, Philip Brooks won second place for the paper he gave, entitled, "The Electrostatic Binding of Divalent Cations by Desoxyribosenucleic Acid." Don Voet won honorable mention for his paper on "The Calculation of Density Gradients in Binary Solutions at Equilibrium in Ultracentrifuge."

Leadership Training Program Sponsored by ASCIT, Alumni

Four Caltech students have been appointed to represent the school at a summer leadership training conference to be held in Bethel, Maine. Those appointed are John Lohman, John Todoroff, Gary Walla, and Bill Hogan.

The conference, sponsored by the National Training Laboratories, will take place in the latter part of August and will last for two weeks.

The purpose of the conference is to help student leaders translate relevant findings of the behavioral sciences into more effective leadership as it is exercised in campus activities. Fur-

Kahn Predicts Russian Edge In Post War Recuperation

Dr. Herman Kahn, physicist and spokesman for Santa Monica's gregarious RAND Corporation, gave three lectures in 201 Bridge last week end on "The Nature and Feasibility of War and Deterrence." His conclusion: Things look bad for our side.

In his first lecture, Kahn evaluated United States reactions to a hypothetical thermonuclear war. He pointed out that if the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. were each divided into an "A-country," comprising the hundred largest cities and a "B-country" comprising all the rest, then the Russians could probably do a much better job of rebuilding their A-country after an all-out war.

This and other similar considerations lead Kahn to believe that if the United States were subjected to an atomic war right now, it would have a relatively hard time recuperating.

On this comforting bases Kahn moved on to deter Russian attacks and provocations. He listed three different "deterrence reactions" and found the U.S. lacking on two.

Type I Deterrence, Kahn says, is reflex-like reaction against sudden attack. The United States has put all its chip on this, and is presumably competent to lash back.

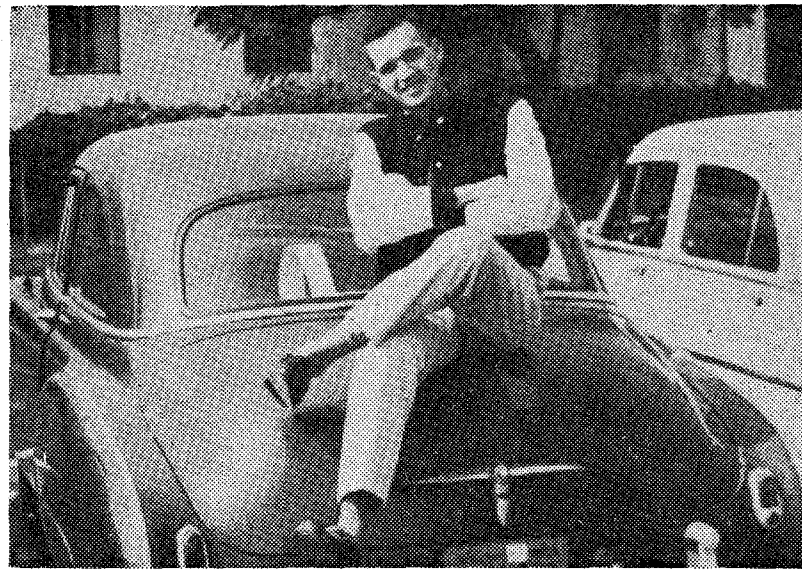
Types II and III deterrence involve reactions to various degrees of Soviet provocation, ranging from the Russians' evacuating all their cities and firing of a few rockets, to increased pressures on West Berlin. Kahn weighed various U.S. positions and pronouncements in recent years, and found us lacking, especially in relation to limited wars and Munich-like threats.

In view of U.S. failings, third lecture was devoted to analyzing eight real or hypothetical wars between 1914 and 1973, each on a technological revolution over its predecessor. The current one, No. 5, would supposedly involve United States-Soviet Union parity, with neither side having any preponderant advantage: When No. 6 becomes important in 1965, the So-

viet Union may have strategic superiority. No. 7 would (hopefully) involve some sort of "Finite Deterrence," and when a No. 8 type war becomes likely in 1973, there may be a chance for a "breathing space."

Kahn, however, doesn't consider any sort of breathing space likely as things are proceeding now. He ended up by speaking out strongly for arms control

and some sort of effort to develop mechanisms to respond to any conceivable sort of international crises. "It is just barely possible that with determined efforts by large numbers of responsible people we can achieve enough to make a significant difference," he said. "The survival of our civilization may depend on this effort's being made. Let us hope it can be."



Egad!

Egad!

Last Column

Memoirs?

BY BARD EFRON

Efron: I don't understand . . . I just don't understand . . .

Tech Editor: Now look, Brad, you know it's nothing personal.

Efron: I mean, after all, it IS my last week . . . I mean you could have waited . . .

Tech Ed: Well . . . (harumph, krumph) . . . you know how it is Brad—a lot of guys write to the paper, and they like you personally just fine, but . . . well your column . . .

Efron: "Tripe"? I know everything I write isn't hilarious—I don't pretend to be Max Schulman, but it can't all be "tripe."

Tech Ed: Now just a second, Brad. I never said it was ALL tripe. A lot of your stuff is definitely upper second rate and if it was up to me personally, well . . .

Efron: You could let me finish my memoirs. I mean I was just getting to the exciting part where a chance meeting with Tom Mboya changes the whole course of my philosophical development and then Dean Strong . . .

Tech Ed: Brad, let's have a serious talk about the world we live in and you.

Efron: Okey-dokey.

Tech Ed: You're a mathematician, right?

Efron: Yeah, but . . .

Tech Ed: You like being a mathematician, that's what you tell us every week.

Efron: Yeah, but I don't see what this has to do with . . .

Tech Ed: You don't have to be funny to be a mathematician, do you?

Efron: No, but I still don't see what . . .

Tech Ed: Stick with math, Brad, it'll keep you out of mischief . . . (harumph, krumph) . . . I'm afraid you're all through at the California Tech. (Editor, sensing historical importance of the moment, seizes Efron's California Tech pencil and smashes it into fragments . . . he does same with Efron's green California Tech eyeshade . . . carried away by symbolism he smashes Efron's typing finger.)

Efron: Someday the world will pay and pay dearly to read what your term "tripe." Until then, farewell (he stalks off into open filing cabinet. Exit ex-fifth columnist).

Tech Editor: (Turning big smile toward concealed TV camera) Folks, how would you like to get in on the most exciting contest of the half century? How would YOU like to be California Tech humor columnist? Simply complete the following little jingle:

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure dome decree,
Where Alph, the sacred river ran
through caverns measureless to man,

Da da da, da da da, da dee.
and place your entry in the J box of any House on or before Bastille Day, 1960. Entries must rhyme with "da da da, da da da, da dee" (for instance, "ra ra ra, ra ra ra, ra ree") and will be judged on good taste, savoir faire, and width of left margin.

Master Key Stand Questioned

Editors, California Tech:

The Institute's current (and, I gather, perennial) administrative agonies regarding the student possession of master keys is exemplary of an administrative policy hardly compatible with the general maturity manifest in the Institute's dealings with the student population.

The administration is being somewhat less than realistic in assuming that students in possession of master keys will obediently turn them in as requested: the keys are far too handy

BOC Philosophy Reversed Again

Editor, California Tech:

I find myself unable to understand the stand now being taken by the BOC on master keys. While I sympathize with their feelings on the practical difficulties involved in a more liberal position, they have offered no new convincing arguments that will rationalize their new stand with the philosophy of the "Honor Spirit."

By saying that after June 3 the possession of an unauthorized master key will be considered a violation of the Honor Spirit they are essentially disregarding all philosophical arguments, and pretending that the long debates which I know took place about the subject, never happened.

Presumably the decision was made because of the continual prodding of the faculty and deans. Have these groups considered any replacement? As long as Dabney is kept locked week ends and no building or library is open on Memorial Day (with finals this close and study space at a premium) then I would be most hesitant about turning in my key.

Larry Nordell

for that.

And any individuals sufficiently dishonest as to resort to petty theft are certainly not likely to be the first to relinquish their keys. (Good God, gentlemen, this is like loyalty oaths!)

I'm inclined to feel that a more rational approach on the part of the administration would be to concede that the master key is here to stay, and, in view of this fact, request that the keys be used in accordance with the honor system, defining such acceptable uses as, perhaps, the perfectly legitimate entry into libraries after closing hours, etc.

The administration would further do well to provide local locksmiths with high-quality originals from which subsequent duplicates might be made. So long as master keys are with

us, they may as well be of such quality as not to damage existent locks.

Certain local locksmiths, at least, are amenable to this idea, and it is probable that the Institute has really very little to lose by it. It might be stated parenthetically that this policy would save the Institute the expense of making its own semi-master keys for selected distribution among the students.

A host of advantages attendant upon the student possession of master keys might be cited; as a single instance: as a T. A., I may leave a book on my desk for a student to borrow and return in my absence. His having a master key allows me to lock my office as a general precaution against non-Caltechians (who, obviously, are not to be trusted!).

I might point out that despite—or, perhaps, because of—my high esteem for the honor system, I have absolutely no intention of giving up my master key, although I certainly intend to be scrupulously honest in using it.

Essentially all this is simply a plea for rationality: Gentlemen of the Administration, please be realistic, and act accordingly in a fashion most beneficial to all.

A Grad Student

Final Election

SENIORS

Don Forrest will head next year's senior class, with Roger Bland, vice-president; Tom Keil, secretary; Chuck Ray, treasurer; Bob Ruby, athletic manager; Ben Burke and Doug Stewart, Board of Control.

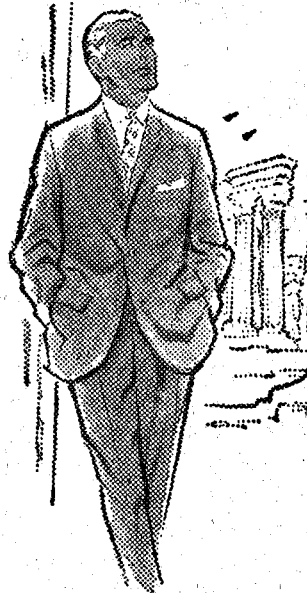
JUNIORS

President of next year's junior class will be Dick Chang. Other junior officers will be Gary Turner, vice-president; Art McGarr, secretary; John Curtis, treasurer; Bob Hearn, athletic manager; Dean Gerber and Gary Mitchell, Board of Control.

SOPHOMORES

Art Robinson will be sophomore president next year. Other sophomore officers will be Ken Manley, vice-president; Henry Abarbanel, secretary; Jim Sagawa, treasurer; Pete Fischer, athletic manager; Tom Bopp and Larry Rabinowitz, Board of Control.

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Published weekly during the school year by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Incorporated.

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The California Tech, 1201 East California Blvd., Pasadena, California.

Member of The Associated Collegiate Press

Second Class postage paid at Pasadena, California

Printed by Bickley Printing Co.

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 per term, \$2.50 per year. Write: Circulation Manager,

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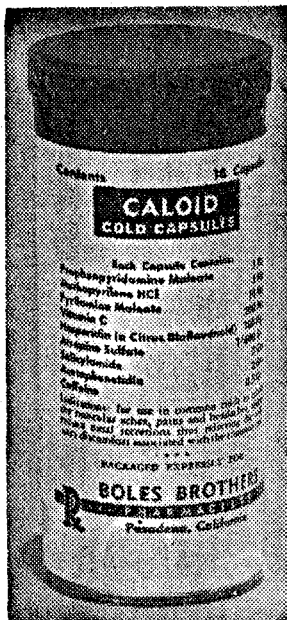
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