

low clouds. Silver iodide and dry ice proved to be more effective than water in high cumulus clouds, where freezing occurs. In the low clouds, the effect of the sprayed water was to introduce droplets larger than those already suspended in the cloud. The small drops of water attach themselves to the larger ones, which soon become so heavy that they drop to the earth.

The Australians don't plan to go into large-scale rain-making operations until they're positive it is a safe procedure—which means about two more years of basic research.

In all, Dr. Bowen delivered five lectures at the Institute last month. Though two of these were devoted to natural and artificial rain, the others were on "Radio Frequency Radiation from the Sun," "Radio Frequency Radiation from the Galaxy," and "Moon Echoes and Moon Radiation."

Reporting on Australian studies of the radio waves produced by the moon and received continuously on

earth, Dr. Bowen revealed that these have given us accurate estimates of the temperatures on the moon. The range is from a high of 158° F. to 145.4° F. below zero, with a mean temperature of 86° below zero.

These temperatures are in line with those obtained in a different way by Dr. Seth B. Nicholson and other researchers at the Mt. Wilson Observatory. These were obtained optically by studying infrared light from the moon.

Australian scientists have also launched a project to bombard the moon with radar waves. In less than a year the researchers hit the moon and received echoes about 25 times. Signals took 2.5 seconds to make the 480,000-mile round trip, which means they went at about the speed of light.

The experiment leaves some doubt as to the possibility of using the moon to reflect messages being sent, say, from Australia to the United States. The echoes received from the moon, in nearly all cases, were extremely blurred. But the technique of bouncing radar waves off of celestial objects might provide an accurate check on our measurements of distance from many of these.

THE BEAVER

THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 29 to November 2 was filled with more than the usual bustle around the student houses. It was mid-term week, and there was no football game the following weekend. All signs unmistakably pointed toward the coming of the annual Interhouse Dance—even including the traditional rumors about the photographers of *Life Magazine* showing up.

The Interhouse Dance is really five simultaneous dances, one in each of the four houses and one in Throp Club. Every year each house plans its share of the Interhouse Dance around some particular theme or motif. Each has its own decoration, orchestra, dance floor, and refreshments. Couples move around from one house to another, impartially sampling the music and refreshments at each. After this the young lady agrees that the decorations of her escort's house are by far the most original.

A couple beginning at the spot which less than a week before marked the Dabney House courtyard would have found a spectacle rivaling the Grand Canyon in concentrated grandeur and Disney's "Fantasia" in color.

The moonless night hid almost everything but the green luminescent fountain, continuously disgorging itself fifteen feet into the air. A luminescent river without beginning or end flowed along one side of the court, which was filled with pine wood carefully arranged and especially imported for the occasion. The inside of the lounge was peopled with surrealistic creatures peering

A Midautumn Night's Dream

at the dancers who, in turn, were peering back at them. The mood was heightened by a miniature waterfall on one wall. Intrepid explorers found, by reaching far enough, that the water was real.

Upon leaving the "Black Magic" theme of Dabney, the couple might go to neighboring Blacker House for "A Night in Old Albion." An old English castle was suggested by a moat, drawbridge, and battlement. The court also included "Ye Olde Boar's Head Tavern" (indicating that the boys take their third-year English literature course seriously), and "Ye Olde Kissing Well" (indicating that the boys take their dances seriously). In the lounge, a life-size king in full regalia looked down from his balcony, with the aid of special torch lighting, upon a hall of tapestries and knights in armor.

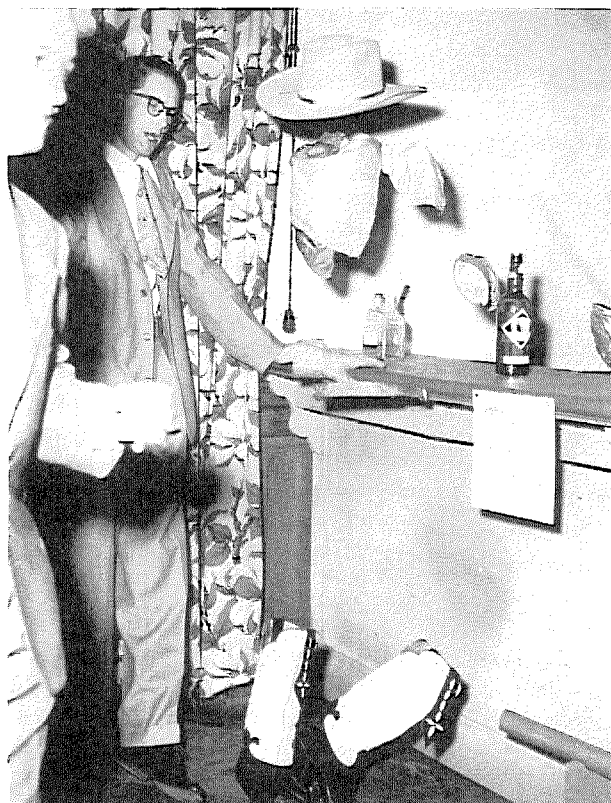
Ricketts under water

Ricketts House was "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea." Ricketts court, very often dry in real life, became a part of the ocean floor. A large bathysphere sat in the center of the court, along with a dummy clothed in a diving suit. The effect was embellished, as in all the other courts, by expert lighting. The inside of the lounge was covered with extravagantly colored murals depicting imaginative undersea scenes.

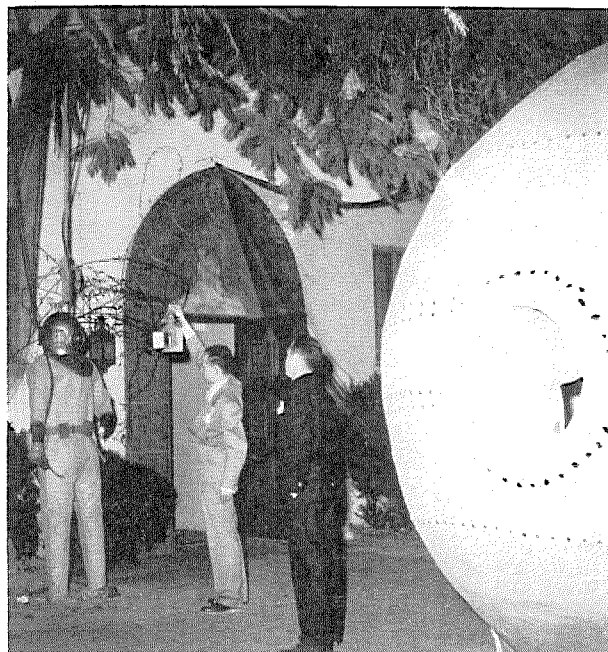
By now the wandering couple must have been almost overwhelmed by grandeur, just as this writer is running

out of Hollywood-type descriptions. Their next stop, Fleming House and its environs, was an accurate reconstruction of "The Old West." The way to the lounge was a typical main street in the old West. The mood here turned to humor, as the shops on either side of the street were aptly named for appropriate faculty members. The lounge itself was a typical western dance hall, according to students who claim to have been in such places at the turn of the century. At any rate, the impression was unmistakably successful. The refreshments in the dining room were served at a real bar, behind which an enormous painting of a nude (painted by local talent and specially commissioned for the event) graced the saloon. Outside, a real stage coach, a body hanging from a tree by the neck, and a humorous cemetery added a mixed atmosphere.

The theme for Throop Club's decorations was a fitting epithet for the entire dance to many of those in all the houses who put in so much work: "The Lost Weekend." The sophisticated motif used theatrical expressionism in depicting a bar as a drunk would see it. This gave one the opportunity to appreciate the D. T.'s without drinking. As in all the other houses, the drinks were non-alcoholic, despite the fact that they were served from what may have been bars. Master stroke of the decorations in Throop was the huge champagne glass with live but proper girls inside.



Phantom cowboy at the Old West bar in Fleming House



Twenty thousand leagues under the sea in Ricketts House

Amid these varied backgrounds boy-girl relationships were understandably mellowed, student-faculty relations were advanced through the many faculty members and their wives who were present, and alumni acquaintances were renewed by the reappearance of many who had worked on the Interhouse Dances of more than a few years back.

The entire dance cost an estimated \$1000. This is only \$200 per house, including the fee for a high quality orchestra, which can easily run about \$150. This averages about \$2 per man, which nowadays is indeed inexpensive for a date.

Football Season

Caltech officials rested easily while throughout the country football coaches and college presidents walked the tightrope between pressure for winning football on the one hand, and embarrassing questions, on the other hand, from many sources, even including Congress, concerning overemphasis of football. Meanwhile the Beavers finished their most successful football season in recent years:

	Opponents	Caltech
La Verne	26	0
Arizona State	14	28
Redlands	13	27
Pomona	27	25
Whittier	20	13
Occidental	27	13
Cal Poly	42	7

The win over Redlands was our first conference victory in football since 1946. Also, the Arizona State-Redlands two-game winning streak was the first such streak Tech has had in a long time. Few people can remember how long.