

# THE BEAVER

## Some Notes on Student Life

### Straw Vote

**S**HORTLY BEFORE THEIR final exams, Caltech seniors taking History 5—the required senior course in public affairs—were presented with sample ballots to discover their preferences among the present presidential hopefuls. The results were as follows:

Eisenhower .....	49
Warren .....	17
Stevenson .....	4
Harriman .....	4
Kefauver .....	2
Taft .....	2
McMahon .....	0
Russell .....	0
Stassen .....	0
Douglas .....	2 (write-ins)

As for the candidate preferred as the Republican nominee—with the voting restricted to a Taft-Eisenhower choice, the results were conclusive:

Eisenhower .....	68
Taft .....	4

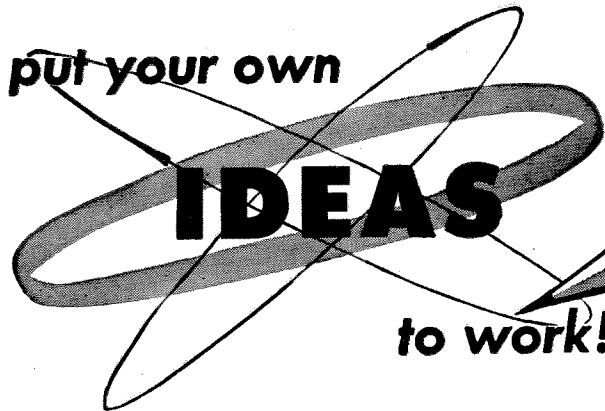
Possible pairs of November opponents received the following votes:

Republican		Democrat	
Eisenhower .....	66	vs. Kefauver .....	14
Warren .....	65	Kefauver .....	15
Taft .....	22	Kefauver .....	55
Warren .....	63	Stevenson .....	15
Taft .....	20	Stevenson .....	59

The eighty men who voted constitute about one-half the senior class. If we assume they are representative of the other half, and if we further assume that their four years here have been as enlightening as the Division of Humanities has, on other occasions, claimed—then we can be certain that Ike's the man. At any rate, these results illustrate the maxim that elections often consist more of voting against someone than for anyone.

### Awards Assembly

The annual spring Awards Assembly this year held no surprises. Top scholastic honors among the student houses went to Dabney, which won the Goldsworthy



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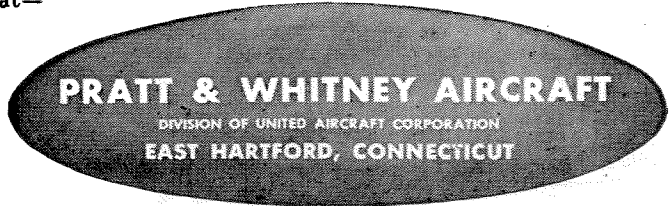
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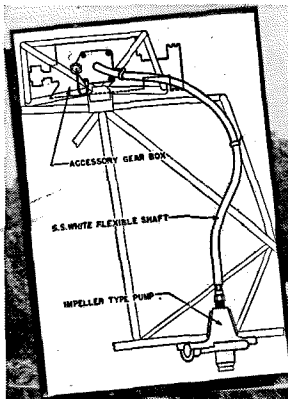
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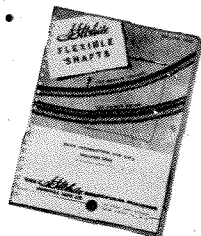
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## THE BEAVER . . . CONTINUED

Scholarship Trophy. Throop Club was second, followed by Blacker, Fleming, and Ricketts, in that order. This is the fourth consecutive year that Dabney has topped the other houses scholastically, having won the trophy every year since it was first awarded in 1949.

### Athletic Trophies

As predicted in this column exactly one year ago, the two athletic trophies went to Fleming House. The Inter-house Trophy, awarded for supremacy in intramural competition for the year, returned to Fleming after a one-year leave of absence to Throop Club. The closeness of the race is indicated by the fact that no one of the five houses won more than two of the nine intramural sports. Final standings were as follows:

Fleming	120
Blacker	114
Dabney	107
Throop	105½
Ricketts	84½

Details of the riot incited by the members of Fleming House to celebrate their cinching the trophy after defeating Ricketts in football found their way into a number of newspapers in the Los Angeles area, and will long be treasured in the memories of Fleming men, even those who should know better.

The competition for the Varsity Rating Trophy, awarded on the basis of numbers of men participating on intercollegiate teams, was anything but close. For the tenth consecutive year, Fleming won the trophy, having 53.5% of its members on intercollegiate teams this year. Final standings were as follows:

Fleming	232
Throop	120
Blacker	120
Ricketts	118
Dabney	108

Inasmuch as it is impossible to participate on an intercollegiate team and an interhouse team at the same time, and since lettermen in a given intercollegiate sport are ineligible to participate in that same sport on the intramural level, Fleming's winning both trophies is all the more remarkable.

### Sophomore Tests

Student readers of the Catalogue of the California Institute often feel that it is a great example of science-fiction writing. Many of its statements were upheld, however, by the recent 1952 National College Sophomore Testing Program. A series of examinations was given to 11,700 sophomores in various colleges. The tests were designed to measure objectively some of the men's abilities and interests in major areas of college study. The table below compares the average percentiles

of Tech sophomores with those of the male sophomores who took the tests.

ENGLISH	National percentile of all male students tested	Tech Percentile
A. Mechanics of Expression .....	45	75
B. Effectiveness of Expression .....	45	82
Vocabulary .....	50	85
Speed of Comprehension .....	55	82
Level of Comprehension .....	50	88
C. Total Reading Comprehension ....	55	88
Total English (A+B+C).....	50	82
<b>GENERAL CULTURE</b>		
History and Social Studies .....	50	88
Literature .....	55	65
Science .....	50	96
Fine Arts .....	55	85
Mathematics .....	55	97
Total .....	50	94
<b>CONTEMPORARY AFFAIRS</b>		
Public Affairs .....	50	82
Science and Medicine .....	50	92
Literature and Fine Arts .....	50	82
Total .....	50	88

Note that the Tech sophomores are significantly above the national average for male students in every area tested—especially (as would be expected), though not exclusively, in science and mathematics.

### Clean Sweep

Waheed Khan Ghauri, a senior civil engineering student who came to Tech four years ago from Lahore, Pakistan, is never at a loss for words—in at least two languages. At a student paper contest recently, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers' regional conference in San Diego, Waheed's speech on cloud seeding and artificial rainfall took first place among participants from about a dozen major colleges in this area. One week later, Waheed took first prize in the annual Mary A. Earle McKinney Prize contest in English at Tech, with his paper and speech on "What I Believe." A few weeks after *that*, he was named winner of the annual Conger Peace Prize contest for his oration, "Asia and World Peace." Waheed always has been a good man to have on your side in a bull session.

### Old Story

Readers of this column (and I hope there are some that are still with me) may be surprised to find no criticisms this month. You might think nothing bad had happened to Caltech. But it has. This June we lost a fine senior class. The traditional question all seniors ask before they leave has been asked many times this year: "What in the world's going to happen to this school when *we* leave?" The answer, of course, is still the same: nothing.

—Al Haber '53

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