

conditions in the several countries. The most important seems to be misguided idealism combined with complete ignorance of the actual Russian life. The idealist becomes dissatisfied with the conditions in his own country, because of cases of injustice and discrimination which he sometimes sees, and taking the Soviet protestations of freedom, democracy, and equal opportunities among the Russians at their face value, he thinks they may have worked out a better order of things.

THE BEAVER

Pendulum

SHORTLY BEFORE the end of the first term a new magazine joined the family of Institute publications. The first issue of the undergraduate literary magazine, *Pendulum*, weighed in at slightly less than forty pages. *Pendulum* was conceived and edited by a small group of enterprising undergraduates, and was published with the blessings and money of the Division of the Humanities. It included nine short stories and prose sketches, eight poems, and two artistic sketches, culled from the selected works of eight undergraduates and two 1951 graduates.

"The reasons for publishing a literary magazine at Caltech, a center of technical interest, are manifold," said Editors Vickman and Wilson. "First, we know that one of Caltech's aims is to broaden the outlook of students beyond specialized technical pursuits. Second, there is a promising amount of interest here in doing creative literary and artistic work."

A total of 750 copies were printed for distribution to the undergraduates and faculty members of the Institute. Since *Pendulum* was copyrighted, two copies were sent to the Library of Congress. The editors hope to make *Pendulum* a triannual magazine, by giving one issue per term to the Institute and posterity. They are not worried about a lack of quality and quantity of contributions for future issues; they recognize that the greatest hurdle is financing the magazine. The Division of the Humanities was gracious enough to finance the first issue in the hope that thereafter *Pendulum* could somehow finance itself on the basis of its artistic merit.

SCIAC

This year the SCIAC (Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) has eliminated the separate division in the conference for freshmen. Instead of the former division into freshmen and varsity teams, all the athletes are divided into a varsity and a junior-varsity squad for each sport. The differentiation is based solely upon ability and experience. Under this

The obvious way of counteracting such illusions is to spread factual information about the sordid Russian realities and to show up the Soviets as the police and slave state they are. For this purpose the conference recommended, among other things, the preparation of a series of pamphlets, each directed at a special branch of a profession—chemists, musicians, biologists, etc.—and listing the persecutions and annoyances which the members of that branch had to undergo in Russia. This recommendation is now being implemented.

The next international conference of the Congress is scheduled for next month.

Some Notes on Student Life

new system, upperclassmen may play on the junior-varsity teams, and freshmen may play on the varsity.

The advantage of the junior-varsity system is that it enables greater numbers to participate. Outstanding freshmen have the opportunity to play varsity ball, and less talented upperclassmen may get a chance to play in junior-varsity games when they would only help fill the bench for the varsity.

This year our basketball prospects are especially enhanced by having freshmen eligible for the varsity squad. Among our first-string five in varsity basketball are no less than three freshmen. Coach Carl Shy should have high hopes for future years, since these three freshmen are accompanied by a sophomore; only one senior rounds out the team.

First Term

In accordance with the time-honored custom, and contrary to the desires of many, finals came on schedule. Their coming, though perhaps momentous, made no one philosophical, except perhaps in the broadest human terms. The last of finals died an inglorious death at the hands of the freshmen. It seemed they had not yet learned that talking about examinations after they were over was not conducive to whatever mental health they had managed to salvage.

In the student houses, informality was the rule after finals, and impromptu celebrations were hastily arranged to release the pressure that had accumulated all week. Soon afterwards, most of the students had departed for home or other points of greater interest. Many others worked on campus, and a few stalwart snakes spent their time in unorganized study and in preparation for next term's courses.

Looking back on the first term, it seemed the undergraduates were a little happier with their lot in life than at the same time last year. Less worry about the draft, and a large and unusually spirited freshman class helped. The student houses seemed more lively, and the food tasted better . . . Maybe it was the weather.

—Al Haber '53