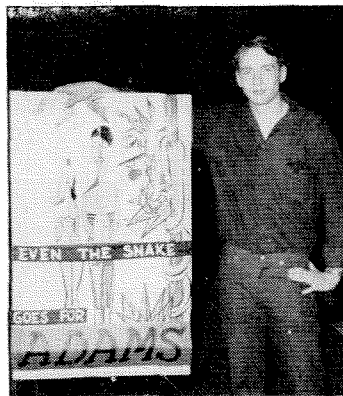


Billboard Lane

SOME NOTES ON STUDENT LIFE



President Adams



Successful candidate

SPRING CAME EARLY to southern California this year—right in the middle of February. But the true spirit of spring didn't really come along with the unseasonable weather. A few students reluctantly broke away from their books to bask in the sun at the beach, but most couldn't even find the energy to get a good water fight going around the houses.

The glad hand of the politician

February was the big month for all aspiring politicians. As usual, there was plenty of glad-handing from beaming individuals before the ASCIT nominations assembly, and as usual, at the assembly itself, there were more people on the stage than in the audience. The candidates were duly nominated and, amazingly enough, they accepted. Someday maybe some non-conformist will decline. As it was, the only surprise on this year's program was a scintillating speech putting a sage senior in nomination for the office of God. The nominee modestly refused to run unopposed.

Campaign managers and devoted supporters then took

the forefront along with the candidates, plagiarizing Pogo, Dennis the Menace and other cartoon characters to extol the virtues and qualifications of their men along Billboard Lane, alias the Olive Walk. Politicians made speeches to sway the rabble, entertained the troops and then sat back to await the word of the voters.

Jim Adams, past publicity manager of the ASCIT, was elected president, while Vince Marinkovitch took over as vice-president.

Bentknapped

February was also the month for autographs as Tau Bate pledges went scurrying around for signatures. The pledges only had to procure a measly 40 signatures instead of the 140 required in past years, but they com-

—including campus politics, a bent-knapping, and a historic sports victory



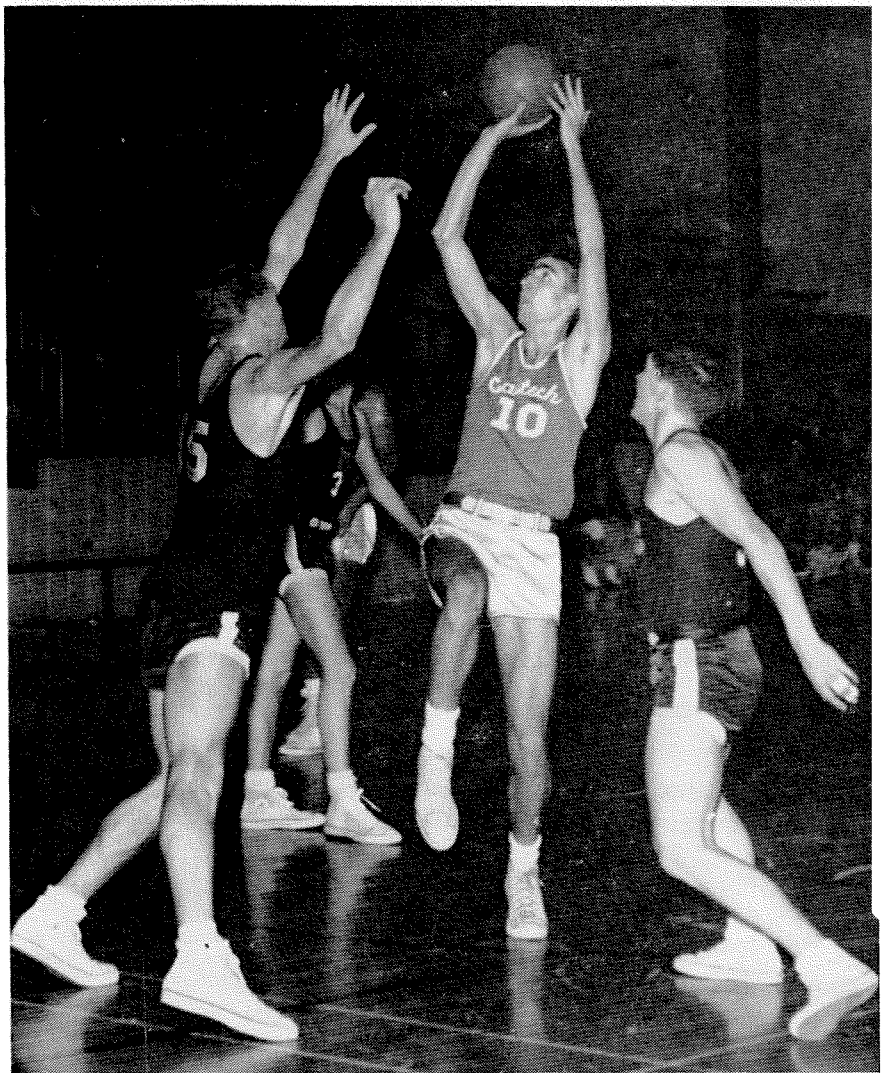
Traffic stopper

plained bitterly of their duties, as usual. They also failed to keep the big wooden Bent, sacred symbol of the society, from being "bentknapped" off the front steps of Throop in broad daylight.

The captors have already led the rightful owners on a scavenger hunt around the campus and presently are teasing the best heads in the school with an impossible cryptogram that ostensibly holds the key to the Bent's hiding place.

Aglow with victory

February turned out to be much more exciting than first appearances indicated. Before the month was up Caltech won the SCIC basketball championship, for the first time in history. It was Tech's first major sport



Captain Fred Anson of the SCIC championship basketball team

victory in twelve years, so the troops really had something to crow about. Actually, if the Occidental Tigers had not wiped out the other two first-place contenders, Whittier and Redlands, Tech would probably not have won an undisputed first.

Despite such technicalities however, the troops turned out to celebrate with a big bonfire in the middle of the intersection of the campus. Although a passing patrolman had warned the boys not to start a conflagration, they soon had a cozy fire going. Passing motorists skirted the blaze with some difficulty, particularly while freshman Mike Bleicher was leading a series of victory yells out in the middle of the street.

Inevitably, a miffed motorist turned in the fire alarm which brought a big pump wagon. The firemen were somewhat annoyed because they had to break away from a hot cribbage game, but they mellowed as Bleicher led the mob in fifteen rahs for the courageous fire-fighters. Then everybody pitched in to help clean up the mess.

—Jim Crosby '54