

# Getting Along In the World

From the very first day that he passes through the golden portals, the Caltech undergraduate is faced with a strange contradiction. Although he is constantly being reminded that he is a superior individual, he is usually not at the top of his class; and even if he is at the top of the class, he is considerably lacking in other desirable virtues. The situation becomes stranger (or perhaps more normal) as the years pass: the Caltech undergraduate believes he is superior to anyone who doesn't go or hasn't gone to his alma mater. He no longer needs to be convinced. All around him he finds blatant evidence of the stupidity of the rest of mankind.

What is this rationalization for the rest of the Techman's failures based on? Obviously (to quote a phrase), on his unquestionably high IQ. Or, to use a less theoretical index, on his College Board scores. And anyway, everybody at Caltech knows how successful Techmen are after they graduate, or after they switch schools. The most lowly freshman can feel himself a king . . .

## *Caltech in action*

I bring the question of superiority to the fore merely as an introduction to a story of Caltech in action against other colleges. At the beginning of this month, as it has done for the last six years, ASCIT sent a delegation to the West Coast Model United Nations. Caltech represented Israel — and, almost by coincidence, Caltech's rival on the athletic field, Oxy, became Israel's rival, the United Arab Republic, at MUN. Out of this rivalry, played to the hilt by both parties, came most of the excitement at the meetings. And although Caltech walked away with many honors and many friends, perhaps the most important realization of the delegation was that there were an awful lot of bright people who didn't go to Caltech.

The group of Techmen who went to Berkeley for the meeting actually were not the ordinary undergraduates, and in many ways this left an unfair picture in the minds of hundreds of inferior students. These Techmen were willing to pay to meet other people of obviously lower intellect than themselves. They were willing to cut four days of precious classes and homework hours. They were willing to throw themselves into a new environment and a new group of students. Most of the delegation even became interested in parliamentary procedure and the problems

of Israel. All were willing to give up sleep to talk to a girl — an inferior individual . . .

It soon became evident that success at the MUN depended on how fast you could persuade people that your position on issues coincided with theirs. It became an immense Student House rotation. Naturally, it was sheer folly to deal with the Arab nations or the Soviet bloc; Israel found itself on the fence between the Western bloc and the East Asian bloc, with the South American nations a standby ally.

## *Gung-ho — with credit*

When the delegation arrived on Wednesday afternoon and began to talk to arbitrary people, we realized that, wherever we went, the Oxy delegation had been before. They were gung-ho. (It wasn't until later that we discovered they were getting college credit for the work they put in against us.)

The very first thing that U.A.R. tried to do was to kick Israel out of the Afro-Asian bloc caucus on Wednesday night. The caucus was so disorganized and so long drawn out, that somehow Israel retained the right to remain on a questionable second ballot. The next day, when there were individual committee caucuses, the confusion became more intensified; on some Afro-Asian caucuses, Israel was asked to leave; on others, the Arab bloc stalked out indignantly when Israel was voted to stay. Nobody was quite sure what bloc Israel was in, and thereby hung success. The rules that the delegation had to remember were very few in number: 1) never vote against France or the U.S.; 2) never vote with the U.A.R.; 3) Israel is a less-developed country.

The effectiveness of this relatively non-committal strategy showed itself in the results of the committees. The Social and Humanitarian Committee passed a British-sponsored, pro-Israel resolution in regard to Arab refugees. The Economic and Financial Committee defeated several Arab-sponsored proposals directed at Israel, and passed an Israeli resolution establishing a long term development loan fund. Israel helped lead the Trusteeship Committee to the passage of a Western power resolution on Southwest Africa. France's friendship was amply rewarded on the questions of nuclear testing in the Sahara and the Algerian problem. Israel was known by almost everyone at MUN, and that in itself can be regarded as proof

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of success. Unfortunately, this is not the same as saying that the Caltechmen were liked by everybody, for they were not.

Why opinion was divided on the Caltech delegation is a question which may never be answered. We rarely stressed our superiority (we felt it was quite evident — it's difficult to forget years of brainwashing at the hands of such experts as the deans) and College Board scores were only mentioned under the most profoundly intense questioning. Perhaps those who did not like us were simply jealous of our incredible intellects.

Whether they liked or disliked Caltech, everyone seemed more than willing to dispose of Israeli refreshments at the nightly parties thrown in room 420. The parties usually started at about 12 midnight, after the last caucus was over, and lasted until some poor Israeli fell exhausted to his bed. An effective way, it was found, to make people leave the premises, was to first cut short the supply of beverage, and then to lure the girls out of the room. There just wasn't anything left for the hangers-on to do.

Japan threw a wonderful affair on Friday night, and as a result got the MUN for 1962. The Arabs also had nightly parties, but except for occasional Techmen (who seemed to be everywhere), they only admitted Arabs. Israel had no such policy — everyone

was welcome, provided they were willing to donate something to the party besides their sparkling personalities.

There was realism and there was farce at the MUN. Some nations — such as U.A.R., Lebanon, the Union of South Africa, and France — did a great job of playing the role of their nation. On the other hand, the many Arabs who were representing other countries just couldn't seem to understand that they weren't Arabs anymore. In the Economic and Financial Committee, Norway somehow consistently voted with the Arab bloc. Another strange alliance was Peru's appearance at the Afro-Asian caucus (over half the delegates were from Moslem countries). This type of incident was one of the great imperfections in the MUN, and there is no way to alleviate it.

Friday night was International Ball night. The couples danced very well, but for the most part the couples dancing did not have American faces; dancing is fast becoming a lost art among college students. Nevertheless, the Israeli delegation appeared in force. The comment was overheard: "Gee, I never knew Caltech boys were like this. I always thought they looked real studious — you know, emaciated and with thick glasses. Gee, gosh, they're not like that at all . . ."

If only she knew.

— Martin Carnoy '60

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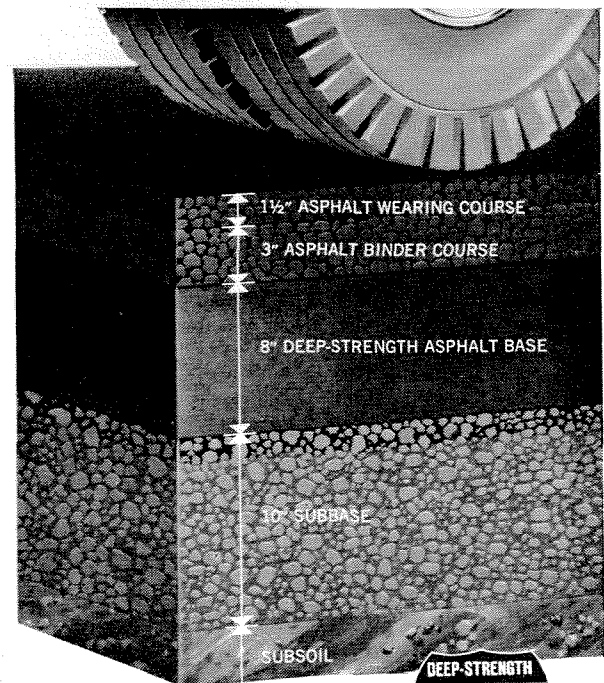
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