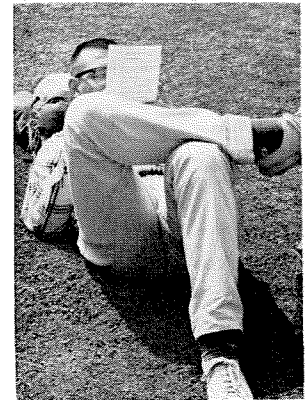


'64 MOVES IN
Freshmen collect name tags and sleeping bags and settle down to wait for the bus to take them to Freshman Camp.



The Class of '64

Caltech's class of '64 came with sleeping bag in hand, went off to camp, returned to campus, and started classes in one of the least exciting debuts in Caltech history. That old familiar saw, "Freshmen Are Better Than Ever," doesn't seem to have the old appeal — partly because it may not be true, and partly because there was no rotation this year to provide the upperclassmen with the incentive to meet and greet the freshmen.

This is unfortunate, for the new freshmen are a very worthwhile group, and an excellent monument to the increasingly spectacular job being done by the Admissions Committee.

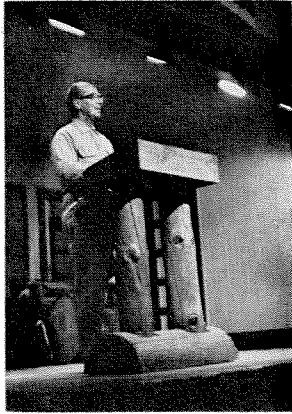
As has been the trend in the last few years, the freshmen come from all around the globe. Only 78 of the 202 who registered are from California — about half of those from the Los Angeles area. The class has a strong foreign flavor, with students from England, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, and Turkey.

Aside from this similarity, Caltech's newest class is different from its predecessors. Even on a Caltech scale it is not very athletic, contrary to advance notices. While there are a few experienced athletes

in the class, including an All-Conference basketball player from California's Desert League, the over-all athletic ability of the group as displayed at camp was not particularly notable. And no other class has ever been beaten *quite* so decisively by the faculty in a softball game.

Likewise, this class represents a break with the recent trend at Caltech to admit increasingly brilliant freshmen every year. The final averages of the new class's College Entrance Examination Board test scores have not yet been computed, but Dean of Freshmen Foster Strong believes that when the results are tabulated the Class of '64's scores will be about the same as those of last year's freshmen. Assistant Dean of Admissions Peter Miller thinks the scores may be even lower. Undoubtedly the class is still by far the most intelligent freshman class in the world, but this year the freshmen don't seem to be as sharp as their immediate predecessors, or to possess as high a degree of quick-wittedness as has been common in the past.

But this admittedly small difference in brilliance, which could prove to be no more than a difference in

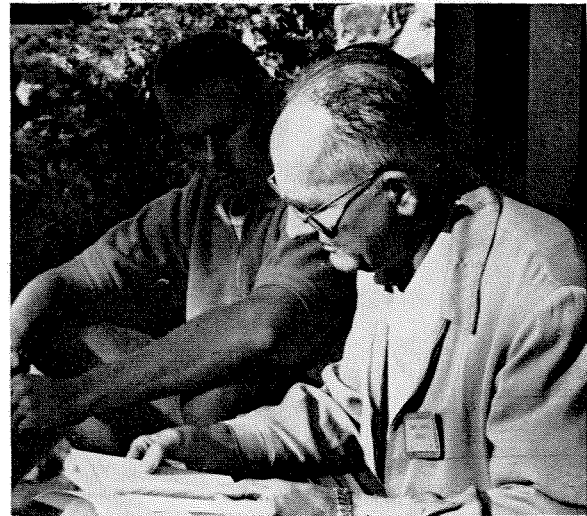


interest and application, is not the distinguishing feature of the class. This year's class is full of gregarious people who enjoy company and have a genuineness all too rare on a college campus — especially this one. In the sense that the freshmen find it very easy to get along with other people, this is one of the most socially adept classes Caltech has had. They seem to know the difference between being friendly and being obnoxious, between enthusiasm and naive effervescence. The class is full of the strong, silent type — the freshman who is always there when you want him, but never there when you don't.

The reason behind this rather important change from precedent is a change in the admissions procedure. Dr. Miller tells us that, while College Board scores and recommendations used to be about the only criteria for entrance, the Admissions Committee decided last spring to place a greater emphasis on class standings, high school grades, and extra-curricular activities. The Class of '64 has many members whose College Board scores were not remarkable, but who displayed an active and serious interest in studies and activities in high school.

This approach to evaluating prospective freshmen recognizes two glaring weaknesses in admitting students solely on the basis of their College Board scores. First, the people whom Caltech seriously considers for admission have uniformly high scores — high enough so that the difference between the best and the worst is within the statistical error of the test.

Second, a person who does well on a College Board test does not necessarily have the emotional and intellectual maturity to successfully meet the challenge of a top-notch college. Regardless of his intelligence,

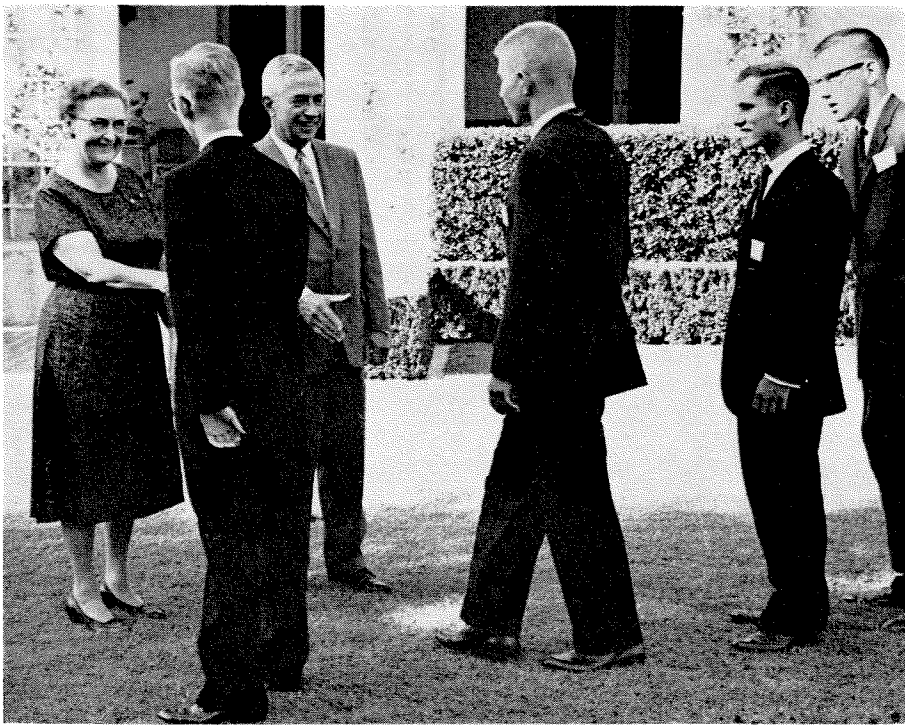


FRESHMAN CAMP

Freshmen meet the President and the faculty informally — Dean of Freshmen Foster Strong (left) President DuBridge (top), and Dean of the Faculty George W. Beadle (above).

a student who continually rebels against the academic atmosphere of a high school is a prime candidate to do the same things in college. On the other hand, a student who has taken his high school grades seriously, and who has taken an active part in high school activities, is most likely to do the same in college.

This switch in admissions procedure has tended to weed out those people who, in spite of a great intel-



FRESHMAN TEA
The Class of '64 makes its formal debut at tea on the President's lawn.



ligence, do not have the responsibility and maturity to get along in a highly competitive atmosphere. The new freshmen are better equipped to cope effectively with the problems of Caltech life from the beginning of their stay.

The class has managed to survive a rugged introduction to Caltech. First, the lack of rotation has meant a letdown on the part of the upperclassmen from their usual procedure of meeting as many freshmen as possible. At student camp, the upperclassmen were generally very helpful when asked by the freshmen for advice and comments, but were prone to pay little attention to the freshmen unless forced to.

The second major change was in the tone of camp itself, which this year managed to scare the freshmen more than usual. The freshmen were told by speakers that there was a good chance they would not enjoy their undergraduate years for, although being a scientist is fun, *learning* to be one is not. They were reminded several times that many among them would not make the grade, and that many more would become so discouraged they would leave. This point is true enough, and should not be overlooked at camp, but the degree to which it was reiterated even unnerved the councilors. This all helped to produce a more somber and serious camp than usual.

The friendliness of the faculty during the informal recreation periods at camp did much to overcome the shock treatment of the speeches. One freshman said that there must have been a contest between faculty members to see who could be the neatest guy. Even though one speaker warned the freshmen that Caltech professors were not as accessible as the upperclassmen might tell them (a truly unprecedented statement for a student camp speech) this thought was quickly dispelled by the friendliness of the faculty, who did the best camp job they have ever done.

The freshmen saw the good and the bad, and acted accordingly. They have, since camp, been quiet but friendly (the best approach to snap the upperclassmen out of their lethargy). They seem to have settled down to work, and have successfully put fun and studies in proper perspective. They are interested in Caltech, and they are interested in their fellow students. They only wonder why their fellow students seem not to be interested in them.

— Roger Noll '62