

Alumni Speak Out... IV

In the more than 5,000 Alumni Survey questionnaires that have been returned to the Institute to date, responses to the back-page invitation for "comments" have been gratifyingly numerous. Although there is no such thing as a typical comment, these are some representative ones.

Students entering C.I.T. are presumably selected not only for high intelligence but for superior accomplishment in competition with others. No doubt this process selects people capable of very high technical and scientific achievement. But do you also have in this group the future professor who is unavailable to his students, the department head or group leader who pushes his assistants around without regard for their personal needs, and the highway engineer who can design a superb freeway but is unresponsive to suggestions that it violates scenic values or displaces too many people? Broadly speaking, are we selecting future leaders who will lead us into a "Progress-at-any-Price" type of society?

I worked so hard to keep from getting "booted out" of graduate school at Caltech that when I have a "night-mare," I dream I am back at work in Gates.

I, and most of the alumni I currently know as friends or business associates, are disappointed and alarmed at the "liberal" leanings of the present student body. At worst, this is due to "pinks" in the humanities staff; at best, Caltech is doing an inadequate job of teaching the merits of free enterprise, incentive systems, and individual freedoms versus the proven inadequacy of Communism, Socialist bureaucracies, and other State Monopoly systems. (Why is this pro-slavery, anti-freedom movement called "liberal"?)

Present entrance requirements make it extremely doubtful if such as I will ever again qualify for your school. You will be the loser, I think.

My own psychological maturity had not developed enough for me to be as effective as might have been possible years later. Maybe this could have been helped by some really skillful direction from a psychologist-counselor related to CIT. The

competitive pressures combined with the school's always-excessive demands allow only the super-geniuses and super-grinds to survive.

In spite of Cal Tech's past success, or perhaps because of it, the time for a more radical educational plan is probably here.

The quality of the education I received at Cal. Tech. was very poor. This is because the faculty is or was chosen mainly for their research ability rather than their teaching ability. This means that the students who graduate from Cal. Tech. not only have learned the subject material but, due to the inadequacies of the instruction, have been forced to learn how to study on their own.

When I first graduated from Cal. Tech., I was dissatisfied and disappointed in the quality of the teaching. Now, by comparison with the education of colleagues from different universities, the Cal. Tech. education seems very good.

Contrary to the prevailing attitude in undergraduate Caltech, Caltech is not the technical center of the world. A substantial effort should be expended in showing the students that, after graduation, they do not always have to be right (and others wrong).

This is the finest school of its kind in the country.

I have never been as happy before or since I was at Caltech. The attitudes of the teachers (faculty) and administration are unique and correct.

Caltech helped to mold my personality and make me a better person, aware of my responsibility to my fellow man.

I only wish that my basic nationalism which led me to join the service for about 3 years had not prevented me from attending graduate school—for I was fortunate and accepted. It was foolish of me not to attend.

CIT's honor system is one of its greatest attributes.

I hope someday that I can repay in some manner what I feel Caltech gave to me.

I think that this is a fine survey and your continued interest is to be commended.

Would you want your daughter to marry one?