



## Camping In

THE process of acquiring a higher education is punctuated with rites of passage — the getting from one status in life to another. For Caltech's freshmen the journey begins with registration, followed by getting away from it all for two and a half days of orientation to Institute people and traditions at Camp Fox on Catalina Island. That step begins with boarding a bus on Hill Avenue next to the Athenaeum at 7 a.m. on a Thursday morning in late September. Once at camp, everybody gets a chance to carry his or her luggage to an assigned sleeping space, as Chris Wood, assistant dean of students, demonstrates. For the next 48 hours there's lots of listening to speeches, including the always popular descriptions of the geology of the island and of California. One of those speeches was given by Tom Ahrens, professor of geophysics.

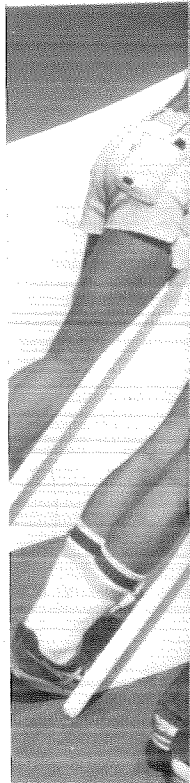




THE program isn't all speeches by any means. There's a chance to sun yourself on the sandy — er, rocky — beach, and having a hands-on experience with live marine specimens caught and brought to camp by Wheeler North, professor of environmental engineering science.



YOU can take a man- or woman-powered boat ride, do some one-on-one getting acquainted, or participate in the talent show.





THERE'S also tossing a frisbee, the interested presence of David Wales, dean of students, and finally, taking the ferry back to the mainland — a trip on which you can watch the world go by or rest up before getting into it for the next four years at Caltech.