Baxter Art Closes

by Frederic Wong

Baxter Art Gallery was due to close in December 1986. In a letter last June, President Goldberg informed the Pasadena Art Alliance, the gallery's principal donor, of the closing.

At the time, the decision was unknown to those intimately involved in the gallery. There had not been any discussion with the faculty.

David Greer, Chairman of the Humanities and Social Science department, received only a carbon copy of the letter to the Art Alliance. The gallery's director, Jay Belloli, and its Board of Governors only heard about the closing through hearsay.

Caltech will, however, honor all its commitments to exhibitions that have already been scheduled for the gallery.

The closing, according to Goldberg, reflects “a reallocation of internal resources.” According to the gallery’s proposed budget for next year, Caltech contributes about $34,000 or 13% of the gallery’s $254,000. Since the gallery is situated on campus, however, Caltech has the final word on its status.

The Art Alliance, which raises most of the remaining funds for the gallery, has done its best to reassure that the gallery will remain. Now that Baxter is to end, it may lose much more support.

Even though Goldberg’s statement has been the only official reason given for the closing, many faculty, students and community members dismiss a purely financial motive.

“We are within reach,” according to a verbatim report of the Board of Governors, “of supplying that money ($34,000).”

To the many questions being raised about the closing, such as why Caltech is insensitive to the good will and dedication of so many faculty members, artists, donors and friends that have gone to build and support the gallery and to keep the gallery’s reputation as an example for the fine arts.

The prevailing opinion in the community is that Caltech is doing it by disfavoring the "opening exhibition space for contemporary art” in this area. One member of the Board of Governors wonders why Caltech is shutting down a faculty of “undeniable public relations value.” Another question raised is whether the gallery could be interfering with fund raising at Caltech. This seems unlikely, however, since earlier this year the Board of Governors had cleared with every potential donor on further development of the gallery, including a possible new campus building to house the gallery.

The L.A. Weekly suggests that ‘the closure could be a natural backlash against the remarkable strides the arts and humanities have made at Caltech in the last years.”

Bruce Cain, Assistant Professor of political science, observes that “the area and the ratio does go in cycles here. I wonder if their action is an unconvincing explanation but also by the apparent perusal of the gallery in which the decision was made and communicated.”

In July, Diana Fox, a concerned student, organized a discussion hoping to clear up the confusion surrounding the closing. Goldberg had promised a representative from the administration would attend. Only one said he felt no obligation to justify his position to others.

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A How-To Guide to Rotation

by Brian Treco

What follows is a brief description of what incoming Caltech undergraduates can expect during their first week or so here at Caltech, specifically as to the rotation process.

Rotation, the method for assigning students to one quickly for their stay at Caltech, officially begins on Saturday, September 23. Students are assigned a particular house to sleep in during the first week and are also assigned houses to visit each day of rotation week.

These assignments are explained in this issue of The California Tech.

For the next six days, students on board contract (and all new students) will be served two meals a day. New students are encouraged to stick around after the meals to talk with and are also assigned houses to visit each day of rotation week.

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continued on page 3
Notes from here

by Mike Chwe

Food and Freedom

A "friend of a friend" story:
A friend once told me that the only reason one of his friends went to MIT instead of Caltech was that Caltech had a physical education requirement.

I must admit that when I applied to Caltech, I thought that the P.E. requirement was a good idea, at least for me. I still do. I need as much motivation as I can get when it comes to exercise.

However, this story made me think about why Caltech has a P.E. requirement. The situation is not at all like the board contract situation, in which it is becoming more difficult for on-campus students to be exempted completely from board contract—presumably to support the current food service financially. No, I think there's plenty of support for Caltech athletics and physical education.

Well, why does Caltech have any requirements? That's easy. As an Institution of Higher Education, Caltech wants its diplomas to be worth something. But why P.E.? Would it ruin Caltech's reputation if P.E. were not required, and students were trusted to look after their own physical selves?

I can think of three reasons to require three terms of P.E. here at Caltech. (1) Physical education is good for everyone, and should be encouraged (required.) (2) Physical education is something most undergraduates don't appreciate but will prove valuable in later life. (3) Having physically fit people is good for society, and Caltech has an obligation to society which overrides, in this case, any consideration of individual free choice.

I don't think anyone believes (3), or at least believes (3) is adequate justification. As for (1) and (2), all I have to say is "we're not in high school anymore." It sure seems ridiculous to have a P.E. requirement for graduate students (especially since their endurance is well proven.) After all, Caltech doesn't require its undergraduates to brush their teeth and eat three meals a day. Caltech doesn't require that we spend ninety hours of our lives learning about something possibly more relevant and immediate to physical well-being, such as learning how to cook and eat balanced meals (survival skills in which Techers are more deficient.) It also initially seems ridiculous to require ninety hours of classes concerned with substance abuse and personal problems. The hand which guides the spinach to a Techers mouth is, and should be, his own.

I guess it still comes down to: "P.E. is good for you." Some would say that the whole discussion is silly, since it's easy enough for even the least spirited Techers to get by, and it doesn't make any difference to those who are interested in their own physical condition.

OK, maybe so. But I bring up the P.E. controversy to think about rules and laws, which include certain requirements at Caltech, which can be called paternalistic.

The best example of a paternalistic law that I know of is a law in Britain that requires that all motorcycle riders at all times must wear their helmets, or face certain penalties. Not wearing a helmet when riding my Harley doesn't make me a less safe or less careful driver. The key phrase behind paternalistic laws is "for your own good." The law requiring helmet wearing is simply for my own good, whether I like it or not. You might not care about the issue (riding helmetless is legal in California,) and I don't lose much sleep over it either, but enough British bikers cared enough about their personal freedom to parade peacefully through the streets of London on their motorcycles, hair happily blowing in the wind.

So, what do you think? Is it right for laws or rules to protect fully mature adults from dangers they are aware of, "for their own good," regardless of our much-applauded individual freedom?

A "friend of a friend" story:
A friend once told me that several years ago, student dissatisfaction with the food service was so pronounced that a memorial fund be

In Memory of Marrie Casey

Marrie F. Casey, Secretary for Undergraduate Records in the Office of the Registrar, passed away suddenly on Thursday, July 12. She served the students and faculty of Caltech with great dedication and devotion for almost twenty-five years. Her colleagues in Student Affairs, many generations of undergraduate students, and the faculty members whose grade reports she so relentlessly yet cheerfully pursued over the years will all be saddened at the news of her passing. They will recall that she always had a good word for her students, and that she carried out her demanding work with real humor and with good humor, always.

Her family has suggested that a memorial fund be made to the Marrie Casey Memorial Fund, Caltech.
New Grad Housing

by Michael Chwe

The housing space for single students doubled this year with the opening of the new Graduate Houses on Catalina street. The new complex can house 155 occupants and one manager, Cliff Frieler, in 39 identical four-person units. Each fully furnished unit is air conditioned and centrally heated, and has a kitchenette, two bathrooms, four bedrooms with walk-in closets, and electric water heater, and a small but cozy living area.

The opening of the new houses has greatly eased the housing situation for single graduate students. The previous two-year limit on occupancy in the Holliston grad houses has been lifted. No occupancy limit has been set for the Catalina houses.

The Catalina houses are currently filled. All but twenty of the occupants are first-year graduate students, and there are many foreign student occupants. There are twelve women and 143 men living there now. Currently the policy is for each unit to be single-sex, but this may change. The houses are for single students only.

The complex includes a lounge, which will be furnished according to the students’ preferences with anything from pool tables to a big screen TV. The atmosphere of the complex is cheery and warm. Especially pleasant are the landscaping and structural use of wood.

The complex cost $3.5 million to build and furnish. The rent is $220 a month, plus utilities, which are split up four ways in each unit. Currently there are about ten people on the waiting list, and applications are still being accepted.

Rotation

After meeting these residents, the new students have hopefully gotten to know each of the seven houses and are now expected to submit a form listing the houses in which they would prefer to live. The students have until 3:00 pm on Saturday to submit their preferences.

Later in the afternoon, the house residents meet again, just as they did from Sunday until Friday, to discuss the students they have met on that particular day. Then, in the evening, the upperclassmen meet again to talk over the students assigned them for that day. On Saturday, however, the procedure changes slightly. The new students stay in the house in which they have been living for the past week and have lunch there. The students are again encouraged, but not required, to eat and later talk with the residents of that house.

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Commentary

Welcome...

by Charles Hershey

Freshmen and transfers, welcome to Caltech!

Caltech is a neat place and it has a lot of neat things to offer. You (as an undergraduate) can sit around at breakfast, say at frosh camp, with faculty members who are known internationally in their fields and talk with them as if they are just your next-door neighbors. When you are an undergraduate, you can work for a research group doing real honest-to-goodness work (this is strongly recommended).

You will have the opportunity of completely getting away in a course that other universities wouldn't dare teach to undergraduates! You will see this in your first days here. You are surrounded by a lot of brilliant people with many varied and amazing talents, and believe it or not, you are one of them.

People here will usually trust you, which feels really strange at first, but you get used to it. It also feels pretty good. I can remember from my first days on campus a time when I needed change. I went into the room of the treasurer of one of the houses. I told him what I wanted. He pointed me to a box of change trusting me to make the exchange myself even though I'd never seen him before and I assume he did not know who I was.

But just because a lot of new things happen here and the place is loaded with intelligent and talented people, don't assume that all is roses or the best that it can be. Don't even assume that things must be as they are, because the don't have to be.

There is a lot of room for change and improvement at Caltech and that is the only way that the abilities of the people here will make any difference: if we use these abilities to change and improve at Caltech the best that they can be.

You are now a part of the Caltech community, and it is a very small community (particularly the undergraduate body). What you do and how you conduct yourself can have a profound effect on the rest of the community.

In the coming week you will be involved in a process called rotation. During that time you will go from house to house where you will meet members of the houses. After a few hours of socialization, the house members will meet in private (separately of course) to rank the new students.

At the end of the week, the different houses will again meet in private (separately of course) to rank the new students. This process of ranking and ranking has been described as anything, from "necessary to protect the per­sonalities of the houses" to ugly, disgusting and a "meat market".

If the idea of this process doesn't bother you...well, what can I say? But if it does, you are allowed to get completely away from your eyes just to fill in.

The suggested method for going through rotation is to close your eyes to what's going on and enjoy it. In other words, if it bothers you, ignore this fact and by the time it's all over, your feelings about the process will be effectively buried and you will think, "Hey, maybe rotation isn't so bad after all." I strongly disagree with this suggestion because it has the effect of teaching people to accept something, by discounting their feelings, that they might otherwise object to and decide to change. This is the reason I can even bothering to mention this in detail.

Rotation and the house system as well as many other aspects of undergraduate life are not dictated to us from above (the administration), but were created of, by, and for the undergraduates, and we can change them.

In addition, when it comes to things that are not directly under the student's control, the administration and faculty can be very receptive to student input. But the students still have to have action and make decisions to get things done. If you don't like the way something is here, you can probably change it. Don't close your eyes. Open them, even during your first few days here.

Let yourself know what you like and don't like. You're probably not the only one to feel as you do. And, of course, Get Involved!

Folk Facts

Caltech may not be known as a local cultural center, but it does have the best series of folk music concerts of any college campus in Southern California. The Caltech Folk Music Society organizes concerts on campus about once a month, representing a wide range of musical styles. The organization receives little funding, other than some funds for subsidized student tickets, and is run by Caltech students and some off-campus volunteers. The next three concerts are:

• Friday, September 28, 8pm in Dabney Hall featuring Thom Moore and Jane Cribbs, from the local Irish group, Train to Sligo, and Boston-based singer/songwriter/guitarist Geoff Barlcy, in his first L.A. concert.
• Friday, October 19, 8pm in the Winnett Auditorium will be a return performance of Carla Scliaky, who performs music from the British Isles, Europe, and America and also writes wonderfully. She accompanies herself on the guitar, psaltery, and fiddle. Appearing with Carla will be Celtic harper, Kim Robertson.
• Saturday, November 17, 7:30 pm in Dabney Hall will be "Songwriters' Night" with three world-class musicians, Don Lange, Dick Pinney, and Bob Franke, who will each have a turn to present their own material.

Tickets for these concerts are $3 for Tech students and $5 to $6 to the public. Tickets are available from the Caltech Ticket Office, behind Beckman (356-4652).

If this sort of thing sounds interesting to you, perhaps you might like to get involved in the running and planning of concerts. Interested people should contact Brian Toby at 356-4181.

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All in all, if we made the TI-66 programmable calculator any easier to use, it would deserve its own degree.
This is The Polemic (po lem ik)

Miss America and Penthouse

There was great deal of flap over the announcement by Penthouse publisher Bob Guccione that he would publish photos taken of Ms. Vanessa Williams, crowned Miss America last year, in which she appears nude in sexually explicit photos with another woman. The "family" oriented media took their usual sanctimonious holier-than-thou attitude and condemned her "shameful" conduct, and despicably went for the publisher's throat, calling him many nasty names in the process. The newspapers all tiptook over how she failed to tell everyone in the pageant, disqualify herself, and not corrupt the morals of youth, etc. Former Misses America denounced what she had done, saying that they didn't have to sell their bodies to get where they are (at least not in Penthouse, anyway.)

The reaction of the directors of the Pageant was swift and predictable. The Pageant insisted she return her crown on the grounds that her behavior was not in keeping with the "morals" espoused by the Miss America Pageant. One of them stated that he couldn't show the photographs to his wife, they were so disgusting. I wonder, was it the exposure of her lovely body? Was it the implied lesbian behavior? Was it that they were published in Penthouse? Was it all of these? Was it because they were in black and white?

The fact that the Miss America Pageant takes beautiful young women, slides them into tight "bathing suits" for the "swimsuit competition" and displays them on national television for the entire country to see, doesn't seem to enter into any of this. Any hypocrisy in the swimsuit competition and displays them on national television for the entire country to see, doesn't seem to enter into any of this. Any

A Dismal Shame

After viewing the PBS series on the Vietnam War, one could hardly resist the temptation to wonder how different this country would have been had not Kennedy and Johnson made the decisions they did to enter the United States into the Vietnam War and further escalate U.S. involvement in it thereafter, and thus cause the deep polarization of our society that existed in the late sixties and early seventies. One can understand perhaps how the youth who were obligated to provide the real sacrifice of policies dictated by the "older generation" might disagree with such policies.

Steve Pitts

Such policies. Interestingly enough, we have today another agent that has caused a definite degree of polarization, our current President, Ronald Reagan. This is perhaps most clearly evidenced by the upcoming election. In fact, just ask somebody who claims to support Mondale why they do so, and he'll give the things about Reagan that they perceive not to like and barely anything about Mondale that they do like. The presidential election is one huge "yea" or "nay" on Reagan. But the 64 dollar question is, "why?"
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That the division occurs in both domestic and foreign affairs is clearly evident and for the purpose of this brief article, only the former shall be discussed here, leaving the latter topic the subject for the next opinion article (since it is intrinsically a much more difficult topic to grapple with.)

Few would try to contend with the fact that the economy has improved. By this time, the days of woe, wonder boy, Jimmy Carter. Inflation has come down from over 20% to 4% (if it hadn't, prices would have doubled by now,) interest rates have fallen significantly, and over seven million new jobs have been added to the economy so that now we enjoy the highest percentage of per capita employment ever in a peacetime economy. So why haven't conservatives and liberals alike embraced this amazing success story?

No, it appears that this division is not founded upon actual measurable results but rather upon deep ideological differences. What really irks the "liberal establishment" is that Reagan's success is founded on a very simple principle and they fear that the American people will learn something by this in the process. That simple principle? People respond to incentives. If you reward people for the efforts they exert and the risks they take, then they will indeed do so. If, on the other hand, you promise everybody the same reward no matter what efforts they would exert, then nobody has an incentive to do very much and much less to take a risk and so you will surely begin to suffer from a spirit of "national malaise." To initiate this policy of providing people with incentives, you need less government, not more. People are beginning to understand that real prosperity comes from the private sector, and not from government promises of prosperity through social expenditure programs which can only be financed by reducing the rewards for success in the private sector and thus crippling it.

To give you a clear example of this, consider the case of the "industrial policy" that was so popular in the early eighties among several prominent liberal politicians and remains so. The case in point is that since the middle nineteen seventies the heavy "smokestack" industries in the United States and Western Europe have been in decline due to other competition and a general fall in demand. To curb this trend both Britain and France initiated huge government aid programs for the past several years to help these floundering industries in their own countries. The industries are still worse off and the revenue that these governments had to extract from the rest of their economies to support this aid further depressed their economies. The net result of these government programs to save jobs resulted in actual loss of jobs (about two million). The Reagan Administration, on the other hand, stopped the spiral of ever-increasing taxes by simply holding them level and added some tax cuts and so provided the right environment for the growth in new sectors of the economy resulting in the addition of over seven million new jobs to our economy. The socialist Prime Minister of France, Francois Mitterand, was so impressed by this American economic success that he has now begun to attempt to move his country in the same direction. It is a shame members of our liberal establishment could not be persuaded by the economic miracle that we have witnessed, but this is unfortunately not the case. The former Democratic contender, Gary Hart, had as one of his new ideas the following: every industry would be delegated as a sunset or sunrise industry. Those in the sunrise category would be taxed much more extremely to provide aid for the sunset industries. The sunset is a beautiful thing but not when it sets across the entire American economy. Gary Hart's plan would have assuredly turned those blooming sunrise industries into defunct dinosaurs, for who would want to undertake a very risky research project at enormous cost knowing that any potential reward would be quickly snatched away for dying industries who, by the way, would continue their downfall anyhow. The lesson has been learned the hard way in Europe, and few of the intellectual left here have taken note of it.

Reagan was an actor, not an economist, nor a sophisticated intellectual, but a person who understood basic human nature. His liberal opponents who refuse to learn from fact, slander him in every way possible, trying to paint him as a simple minded, reactionary individual - yet, you must be having every high school education with "high noble ideas" if one can't learn from reality. A wiser person would take note of the vast store of evidence readily available to us and heed its message well. It is unfortunate that many would rather react from their gut, cling to their failed liberal philosophy that was so valiently spearheaded by Jimmy Carter, and refuse to accept the real hardcore evidence that these last eight years have brought us (the four by Jimmy Carter and the latter four by Ronald Reagan).

Imagine if Ronald Reagan is elected for a second term and those policies which he initiated are continued. The resulting prosperity will no doubt be well appreciated. The liberal establishment fears nothing more. For then the American people will take heart and never listen to promises from liberal politicians on how the government is going to help them and that they know what's best for us. The American people won't buy it and so the liberal establishment will have little place in the American political arena trying to control other people's lives, and will have to worry about their own. What a dismal shame. Steve Pitts is an undergraduate in economics.

### Whose Country is it, Anyway?

Get involved! Between now and November 6, do something important—put some energy into improving our country. I have heard people complain in previous years that they did not want to vote for either presidential candidate. But that certainly should not be the case this year. On November 6, we can elect the Mondale/Ferraro team, two outspoken people, who respect the wishes of the majority of our country. (Even the majority of our liberal establishment fears nothing more. For then the American people will take heart and never listen to promises from liberal politicians on how the government is going to help them and that they know what's best for us. The American people won't buy it and so the liberal establishment will have little place in the American political arena trying to control other people's lives, and will have to worry about their own. What a dismal shame. Steve Pitts is an undergraduate in economics).

Brian Toby is a graduate student in Chemistry.

Put some energy into improving our country
Prospects for Northern Ireland

The human tragedy of Northern Ireland is sufficiently large for most people to ignore. Children grow up knowing only violence and decay. Every day, they see the streets patrolled by the British Army—those streets, that is, that they’re allowed to see. There are no jobs for them, of course, for they are condemned by the Free Market. The safe shore of the Mainland is a better place in which to invest.

It’s not clear whether even the relevant Governments, those of Britain and Eire, actually care. No agreements of any substance have been made since the outbreak of trouble in 1968. In Britain, indeed, we now have a Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, who appoints a cabinet minister to the post of Secretary for Northern Ireland as a punishment worse than sacking.

A major problem is that emotions run deep and memories long when it comes to the “Irish Question.” Totally pointless who appoints a cabinet minister to the post of Secretary for Northern Ireland as a punishment worse than sacking.

That was the problem one hundred years ago, and it remains the problem today. Apart from the vain efforts of W. E. Gladstone, British imperialism, and has a huge population descended from the Great Potato Famine around 1820. Millions fled from starvation to, of all places, England. There they were savagely and cruelly suppressed. Occasionally, life for our heroes got even worse, as in the Great Potato Famine around 1820. Millions fled from starvation to, of all places, England. There they were savagely and cruelly suppressed again, but after all so were “most English people.” Others fled to America and got a similar reception.

The story so far has absolutely no “meaning” for today, which is precisely why I mention it. In particular, it does not imply that British troops should now be withdrawn from Ulster, nor that Ireland should now be united. For what should happen today should be entirely dictated by today’s standards, and they dictate simply that people now have a right to live happily and peacefully. Whether or not people lived happily and peacefully in the past is academic.

The first historical event of any relevance was the Industrial Revolution, for it was this which shaped Ireland into two. Industry flourished in the North, making Belfast a major port. The mainly Protestant “Anglo-Irish” improved their living standards and wanted to remain friendly with mainland Britain, which was the entire source of trade. The South, meanwhile, stagnated. The old-fashioned agrarian economy refused to change, and suffered as a result. Jealousy crept in.

It was in this environment that the Campaign for Home Rule began in the South. The campaign wanted Home Rule for all of Ireland, but the North wished to remain loyal to the Crown. That was the problem one hundred years ago, and it remains the problem today.

Basically, people in the North feared then that an all-Ireland government would cause a financial drain and ruin trade. Also, there was the religion: they would be going from a majority position to a minority position.

Apart from the vain efforts of W. E. Gladstone, British Governments preferred to ignore the Irish Question, and let it fester on until the outbreaks of violence in 1916. The makeshift solution, settled by an Act of Parliament in 1920, was to partition Ireland into Ulster and the South, each with its own Parliament, and both beneath Westminster in matters of budget and defense. The Southern Parliament fought for and won these extra powers, and in 1948 Eire came into existence as a fully independent country. It still retained, however, its desire for a united independent Ireland, and enshrined that goal indeed in its constitution.

The reader should object that even this more recent history is still academic. Well, almost true.

The 1948 Eire Constitution, I point out, survives today, and is still a major stumbling block. It is not a document, I’m afraid, of the same exalted calibre of the U. S. Constitution. Rather, it prescribes a religion for the State and is intolerant of others. A recent addition to it fully underlined the gravity of this, making abortion unconstitutional. This is sufficient ground in itself for the North to shy away from unity.

In the 1960s the Belfast Parliament provoked the 1968 outburst. The Catholic minority were heavily discriminated against and faced violent threats from extreme Protestants. They wanted to fight back, and found their allies in the Provisional Irish Republican Army. After four years of bloody terrorism from both religious camps, Westminster decided that the best plan for peace was to send in the British Army and segregate the population. The Northern Ireland Assembly was disestablished.

That was twelve years ago. The Army is still there. The violence, it’s true, has reduced somewhat, but its task is a thankless one. It would be a major breakthrough if the Army could be withdrawn, so we must examine how this is to happen.

Firstly, the minority Catholics must feel happy and safe or we’ll return to 1972. This requires a new non-sectarian political structure. In turn, this requires the Protestants to behave responsibly. I hope the last sixteen years of misery has taught them that.

The Provisionals and the Extreme Loyalists, meanwhile, will undermine this new parliament as best they can. These terrorists must be eliminated. They deserve no one’s sympathy. Their “political acts” are based purely on old prejudice. They fight for “The Cause” but that cause is bankrupt. They have no interest in peoples’ happiness, and that is all that we’re interested in.

In terms of sheer numbers, the Provisional I.R.A. is the major enemy of peace. How can they be stopped?

The answer is surprisingly simple. The Chiefs live in the United States, raising money for arms. (Eire itself is too dangerous a place to stay since the Courts there have been increasingly efficient in stamping out gun-running.) The British and American intelligence services know exactly where these people are, and all that’s needed to bring them to trial in Ulster is an extradition treaty between the U.S. and Britain. The I.R.A. organization would be finished.

Essentially, the policy of the British Government is to wait for the treaty to be signed. But this is not good enough. It must convince the U.S. that it can set up a fair parliament in Belfast once violence has ended, and have those plans open and ready. It must convince the U.S. that it places no bars on Unity, and will let the people of Ulster decide their own future.

The end of the tragedy lies in the hands of America and it’s not an easy decision. American knows itself of British imperialism, and has a huge population descended from the beleaguered Irish of one hundred and fifty years ago. Centuries of moral evil are marked down on the British scorecard. Should it not support Unity, and those brave freedom fighters, the I.R.A.

No. The I.R.A. fights for no one’s freedom, and the scorecard doesn’t count. Only the future matters.

B. J. Warr is a graduate student in Theoretical Physics.
Let’s forget about Rotation. Let’s forget about Rotation, because Rotation is not the problem. In fact, were we to take a positive and respectful attitude toward the new students when we meet to “rank the frosh,” much of the negative element in Rotation would be removed. Our problem with Rotation has been our attitude toward it.

Similarly, to improve Caltech’s atmosphere, we don’t need to change the House system. What we need to change is our attitudes toward life at Caltech.

Last term, after a successful petition drive, the Interhouse Council voted to repeal a so-called “gag rule.” As old as the rule might have been, it stayed on the books for years. Like previous generations of Caltech students, we too had opted for accepting it as part of the Caltech that was presented to us when we came here.

Today, the main “problem” at Caltech is general student unhappiness with life here. However, in the same way that Rotation is a problem that we have inherited rather than created, this other problem is also a legacy of the past.

With publication of Robert Huttenback’s Confessions of a Genial Abbot last year, many of us came to realize for the first time how old the social problems we complain about are. Huttenback, who was Master of Student Houses from 1958 to 1968, captured in these memoirs the spirit of Caltech’s undergraduate life in that period. Yet, through the amusing stories of the ingenious pranks, hilarious RF’s, wonderful jargon, and interesting traditions, the pain and bitterness of students toward life here showed through. Similar sentiments are still evident here after twenty years.

We rationalize house traditions, silliness, and activities as providing “escapes” from high academic pressures and a repressive social atmosphere. In fact, however, traditions generally tend to perpetuate that atmosphere. When we urge the freshmen to participate in house activities under the subtle threat of showering or social inacceptance, we are passing along to them something more than the spirit of our house. When we were taught to be good Flems, good Rudds, and good Scurves, we also learned to put down Caltech, to feel that life here is bad, and to believe that we cannot change it in any significant way. Only recently have we started to challenge and question this system of attitudes.

There is no reason why life at Caltech should be bad. If anything about it is bad, we can change it. In the social areas, at least, the students enjoy virtually total freedom. Even in the academic areas, we have an enormous power to improve the situation, only if we would realize it.

To me, the way to take action is that of individual activism, rather than looking to the already existing bureaucracy, ASCIT, the MOSH office, the Dean’s office, IHC, or the BOC to “change things.” In any area where positive improvements are needed, students without any official capacity could get together, study the problem, solicit and suggest solutions, and work together to put those solutions into effect.

The important point, however, is that we, the continuing and incoming students, realize our individual and collective power to affect far-reaching, significant changes in this society.

Here, then, is the recipe for positive, constructive change at Caltech:

You.

No More Art

The promised representative never showed, disappointing the audience of over fifty people and leaving many questions about the closure still in the air. Goldberger has declined since then to be interviewed. Recently, the institute also decided to eliminate the tenure track in the art history program. Several Caltech and Pasadena community members are wondering if this warns of an end to the visual arts on campus. Goldberger has made assurances, however, that neither this nor the closure of Baxter reduces "our dedication to art education."
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Weekly Sports Calendar

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<td>Sat.</td>
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<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Westmont/Christ Coll.</td>
<td>Caltech</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
<td>9-22</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Alumni</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
<td>9-22</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Cal Poly Pomona</td>
<td>Caltech</td>
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<td>Wed.</td>
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<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Water Polo</td>
<td>Redlands</td>
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<td>Wed.</td>
<td>9-26</td>
<td>4:15 pm</td>
<td>All Day Water Polo</td>
<td>Pasadena City College</td>
<td>Caltech</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
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<td>Cross Country (MW)</td>
<td>Caltech</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
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<td>Football</td>
<td>Occidental/La Verne</td>
<td>Caltech</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
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<td>Women's Volleyball</td>
<td>Claremont-Mudd</td>
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Olive Walk Barbecue

Saturday September 22
(Starts around 6:30 PM)

MONKS PIZZA
FREE DELIVERY
304-9234

LUNCH SPECIAL
2 FREE PEPSI WITH ANY MONKS PIZZA

$2 OFF ANY MONKS SPECIAL

$1 OFF ANY MONKS PIZZA

$2 OFF ANY LG. 2 ITEM PIZZA

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NY STYLE
HOURS
Sun-Thr 11:00-1:00 AM
Fri-Sat 11:00-2:00 AM

THE CALIFORNIA TECH
Volume 86 Number 1
Published weekly except during examination and vacation periods by the Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology, Inc. The opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors.

Welcome Freshmen
Dean's Office
102 Parsons-Gates
WRITE FOR THE TECH

SWE

It means "Society of Women Engineers"—but it’s not just for engineers or just for women. The Caltech SWE is an organization that makes available information to all undergraduates to aid them in their decisions before and after graduation. Events this year include a high school outreach program, and the annual "Dinner with Industry" which is an informal opportunity for students to meet with company representatives. The Caltech student SWE was also invited to participate in a resume book with UCLA, USC, Cal State L.A., and Cal State Northridge. Any undergraduate or graduate woman seeking to become a member may submit a resume before October 14. Interested? SWE is holding an informal session and an opportunity to become a member on October 4, from 4:30-5:30 pm in the Y Lounge upstairs in Winnett Center. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Liu at 578-9373 or Janice Sakai at 578-9346.

Be a Cheerleader!

The Caltech cheer and yell leaders are looking for enthusiastic men and women to expand their squad. Absolutely no experience is necessary; all you need are two hands, two feet, a loud voice, and a little spirit. If you were a cheerleader in high school, or if you want to be, call to pick up uniforms. Mr. Gillespie will speak at Caltech’s Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30 pm, and the program is open to the public. His talk is presented by the World Affairs Forum at Caltech and by the Caltech Y.

Caltech Grenada

Former U.S. Ambassador to Grenada Charles A. Gillespie Jr. will explain the foreign policy objectives of the United States in Central America and the Caribbean during a talk at Caltech on Monday, Sept 24. Mr. Gillespie will speak at Caltech’s Baxter Lecture Hall at 7:30 pm, and the program is open to the public. His talk is presented by the World Affairs Forum at Caltech and by the Caltech Y.

Change in Time

H 161 - The Norman Conquest of England taught by Eleanor Searle will be taught on Mondays 2-5:00 instead of Tuesdays, as originally scheduled.

Tech Staff Meets Mondays at 12:15 pm in 127 Baxter. All are welcome.

New Course

H 161. A Social History of California: Ethnicity on "Gold Mountain". This course covers the periods from 1776 to the present — from pioneers to cowboys to surfboards. Advanced Humanities credit. Instructor: J. Raftery, MW 10-11:30.

Catalog Error

The word "philosophy" has been deleted on page 84, paragraph 4, line 2.

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