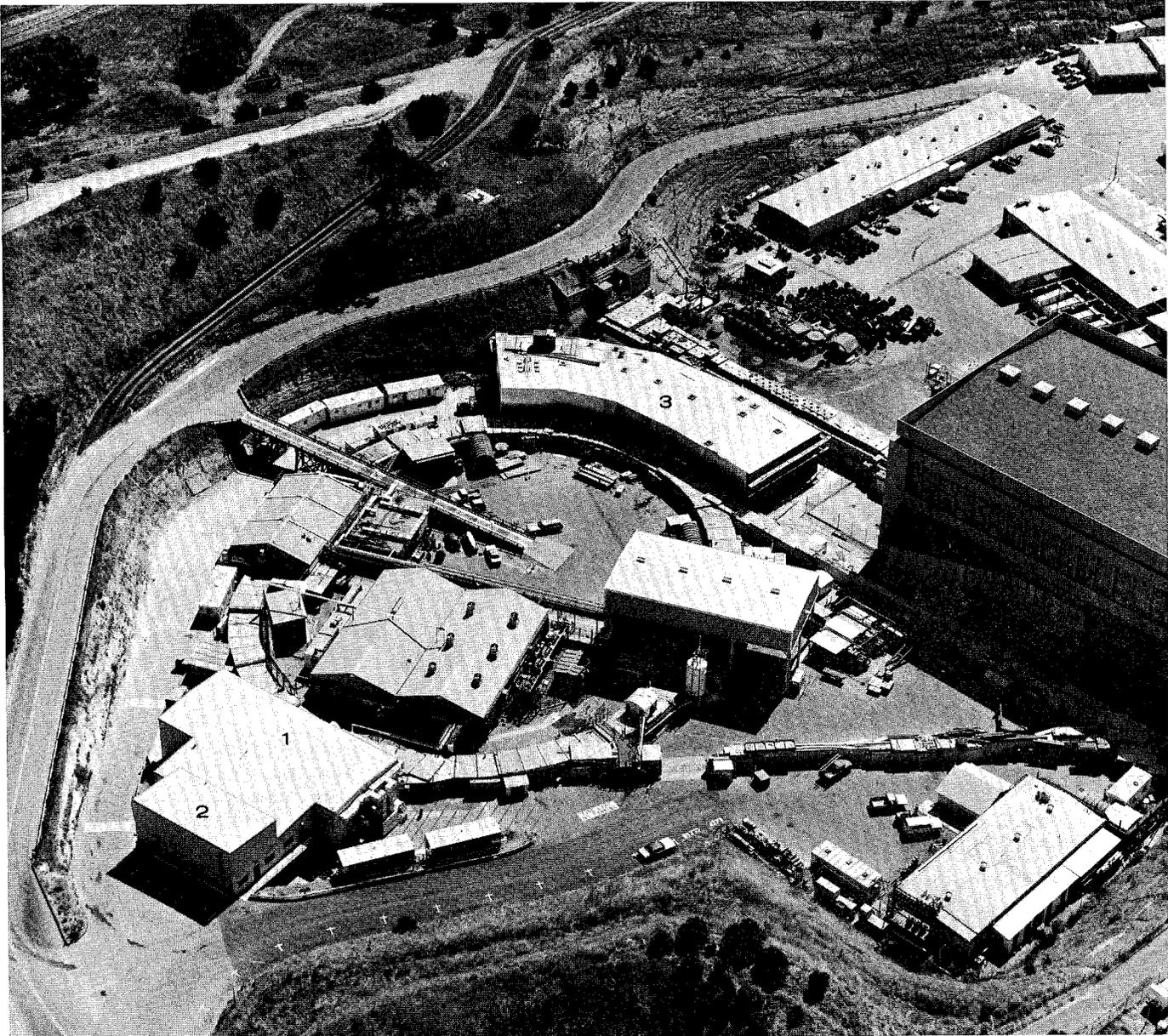


SLAC BEAM LINE

There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion.—Francis Bacon

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SSRL OPEN HOUSE

The Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory (SSRL) will hold an open house on Wednesday, January 24, starting at 3:00 PM in Building 131. This month's cover photo, by Joe Faust, shows some of the new SSRL facilities that have been in construction at SSRL during recent months. See page 2 for a description of these facilities.

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NEW SSRL FACILITIES

The numbers on this month's cover photo indicate the following SSRL facilities: (1) The original SSRL building, which contains two beam channels and 9 experimental stations. (2) The new SSRL office building. (3) The new south arc experimental hall, which will be equipped over the next 2½ years with five beam channels and 12-14 experimental stations.



Photo by Joe Faust

PEGGY GOUDAS LEAVES SLAC

Peggy Goudas left SLAC last August after more than eleven years of loyal and dedicated service. We held off reporting Peggy's departure until she had completed the probationary period in her new job on the east coast, hoping that she might have a change of heart and return to SLAC. Unfortunately, it looks as though that won't happen now.

Peggy started at SLAC as a secretary in the Plant Engineering Department's Drafting Group. She handled all of her secretarial duties very competently and still managed to find the time to learn the fundamentals of drafting. Soon after she joined us she advanced to general drafting and technical illustration assignments, and as her reputation for completing her work quickly and accurately grew, more and more cus-

tomers requested her services.

After some years of experience in the P.E. D. Drafting Group, Peggy was transferred to the Accelerator Physics Department. Her three years with this group were spent in work that was quite similar to what she had been doing with us. Fortunately, P.E.D. had an opening for a Graphics Technician who could also handle some secretarial chores about a year ago, and Peggy was persuaded to return to her original department. Her arrival back home came just in time to rescue a badly neglected filing system and to tackle a bunch of drafting and illustrating assignments that wouldn't quit.

Those of us who were associated with Peggy were well aware of her intelligence and resourcefulness. These were manifested in her ability to carry her SLAC work load while also maintaining a home, earning an Associate Degree, and successfully completing several courses in wood-working, interior design and technical illustration.

Peggy's new position back east was an opportunity she couldn't resist, because it gave her a chance to live near her family and to make use of the skills she had acquired in interior design and technical illustration. From the reports we've had, we understand that she is very happy with this new position and with her life back east.

Peggy always had a pleasant and friendly attitude even under the most difficult of circumstances while she was here at SLAC. We will all miss her, and we wish her the best of luck and the good fortune she richly deserves.

--Joe Fish

When people think that something is too technical, it is just as likely that the writing is at fault. Yet some writers seem to think they impress people when they use long words. Their studied avoidance of short words is not likely to impress, and it is very likely to annoy, confuse (or amuse). This anonymous version of a well-known nursery rhyme pokes fun at grandiloquence:

*Scintillate, scintillate, globule aurific,
Fain would I fathom thy nature specific,
Loftily poised in the ether capacious,
Strongly resembling a gem carbonaceous.*

Some writers seem to think that scholarly writing must be hard reading, and that a pompous style is necessary to demonstrate to the world that they are educated. The professorial use of pompous language is copied by coterie of like-winded students....

From *Scientists Must Write*
By Robert Barrass

SLAC ANNUAL RACES

The SLAC Annual Races were held on November 30, 1978. There were three events: a 3.8-mile run, a 1.9-mile run, and a 100-yard dash. Over 60 runners competed in the three events (not all from SLAC).

3.8-mile run: This race was won by Alan Homna of SLAC in a time of 20 minutes and 32 seconds (20:32). The second SLAC finisher was Jasper Kirkby in a time of 22:17. The first of the women finishers from SLAC was Carrie McMillan (in 32:08). Jan Burlingame and Pam Roque both finished in 35:05.

1.9-mile run: The first two finishers in this event were Melvin Brazil of SLAC (10:31) and Joe Quesada of SCIP/SLAC (11:11)

100-yard dash: This event was won by Neal Adams in a time of 11.1 seconds. Cherrill Spencer led the women in a time of 13.5 seconds.

The race committee would like to thank all those who helped out on race day. The photos of the races were taken by Joe Faust and Charlie McCabe.

--Kenneth Moore



Adele Panofsky and Ken Moore congratulate Cherrill Spencer, winner of the 100-yard dash.



John Beach extends the winning ticket to Alan Homna, who finished first in the 3.8-mile run. It was Alan's second victory in this event.



*Bob Adamson,
Steve Blair and
Cynthia McGuinn*



Matt Allen finishes the 1.9-mile run.

*The field takes off at the beginning
of one of the long-distance events.*

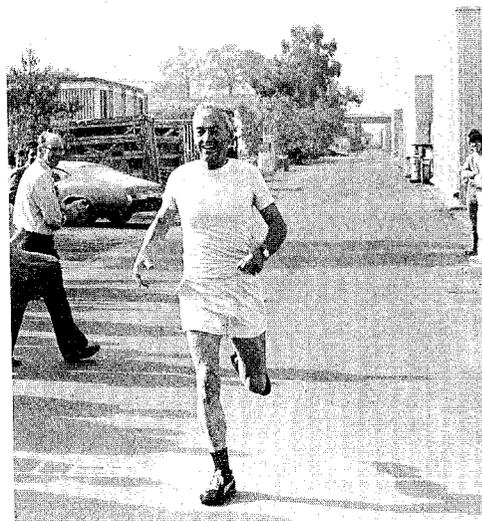


This picture contains one runner and eight-three assistant runners.



Herm Winick of SSRL comes roaring home in the 1.9-mile event.

Beam Line photographer Joe Faust tries the other side of the camera.

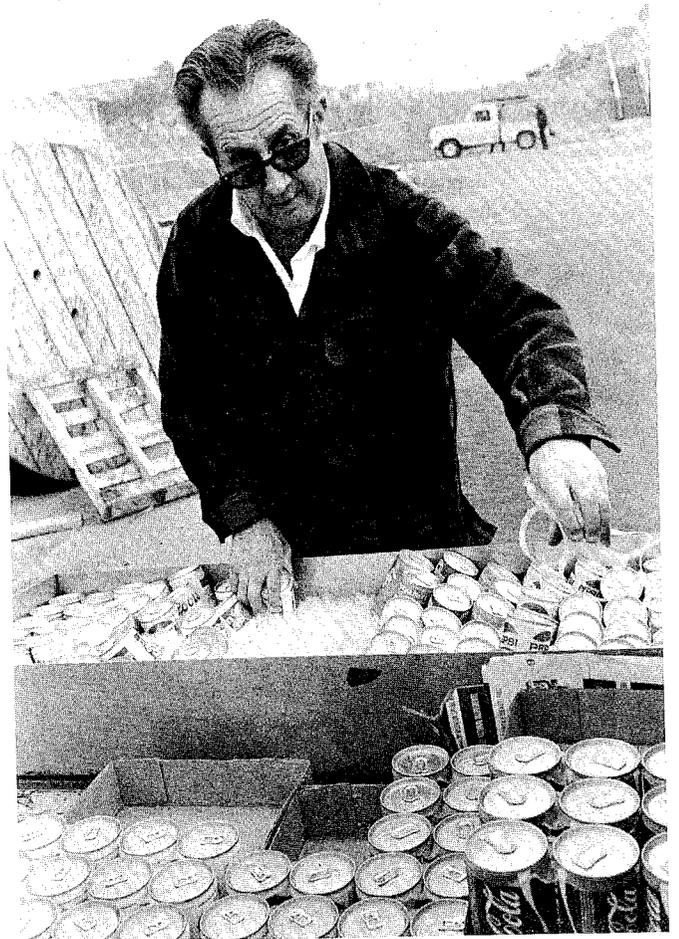
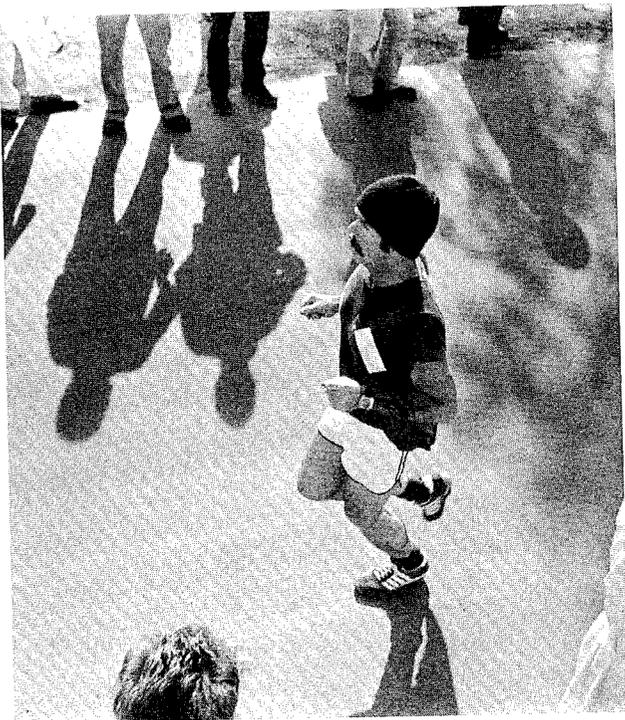


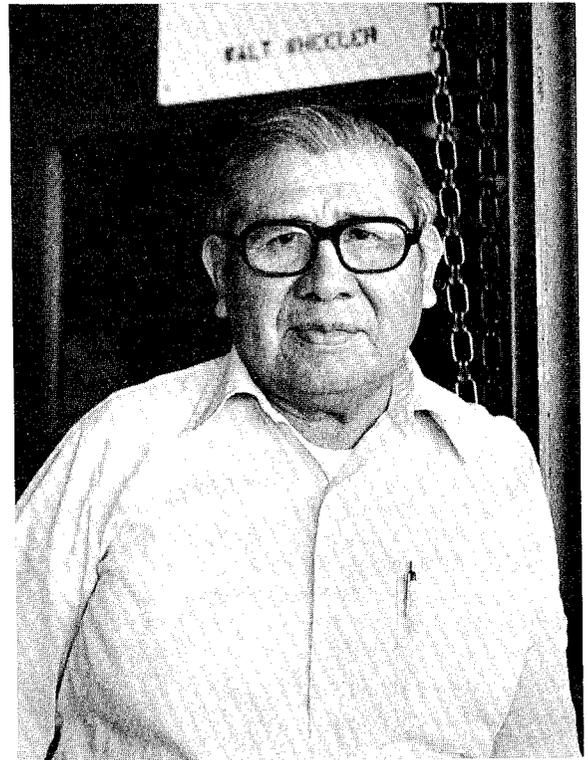


Jan Burlingame and Steve Blair stretch those long muscles.

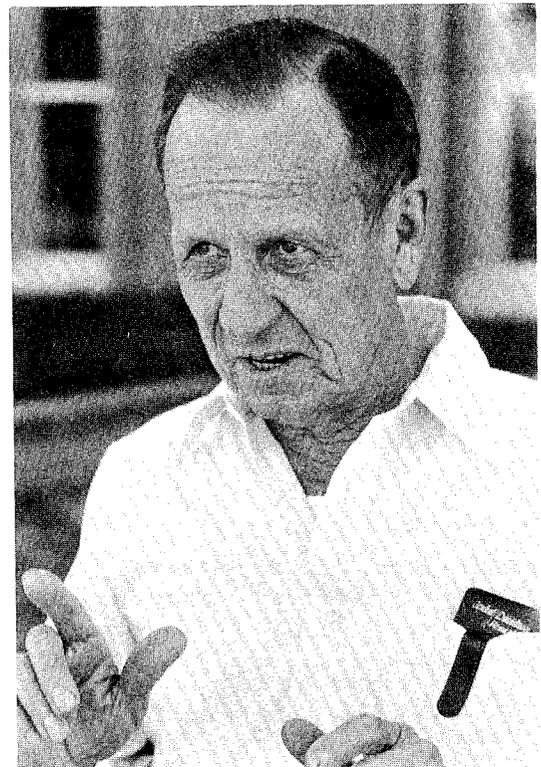
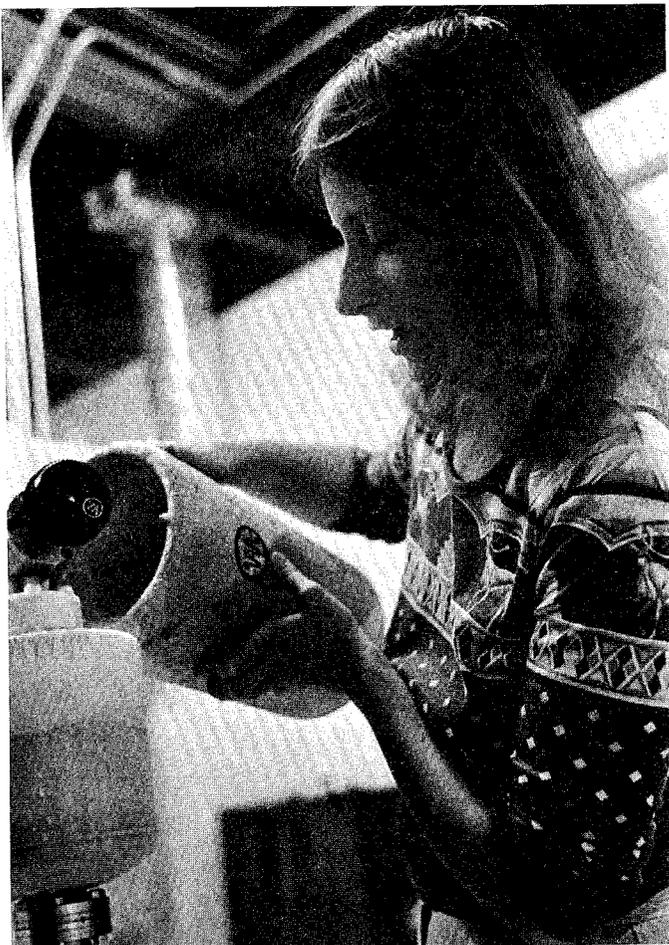
Bill Walsh readies the liquid refreshments.

Jim Wahl comes through the home stretch toward the finish line.





*Some Faces Seen At SLAC
Photos by Joe Faust*



In science one must search for ideas. If there are no ideas then there is no science. A knowledge of facts is only valuable in so far as facts conceal ideas: facts without ideas clutter up the mind and memory.

--Vissarion Grigorievich Belinskii

UNIVERSE VERY OLD

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11—Nuclear physicists at Long Island's largest atom smasher—the 220-volt Ronkonkotron—announced yesterday that they had conclusively established the age of the universe, a problem that until now challenged, puzzled and pained scientists the world over.

Dr. Li Chu, professor of High Energy Collisions at Stony Brook University, summed up the recent achievement this way: "The universe knows how old it is. But it isn't telling, and you can hardly blame it. The trick is to ask the right question while seeming to be interested in something else entirely, such as the weather, or the nature of black holes in Andromeda."

Among the "tricks" devised by Dr. Chu's 27-person research team is a beam of relativistic electrons that are spun around the doughnut-shaped Ronkonkotron at velocities far exceeding the local speed limit (45 m.p.h.) and then hurled out into space. By measuring the time it takes for this beam to reach the orbit of Jupiter, multiplying by Planck's constant h , dividing by the last three digits of the total receipts at Belmont Park on July 23, 1978, the Long Island scientists managed to win enough money in the state lottery to compensate for the loss of their last government grant—which was terminated pending an investigation of apparent irregularities in Dr. Chu's expense budget.

By one of those fortuitous accidents that loom so large in the history of science, this same figure turned out to be the exact age of the universe. According to current theory, the universe began as a tiny ball of lint, no larger than a pygmy's belly button. Through some still

SLAC CHRISTMAS PARTY RAFFLE WINNERS

Again this year party goers were able to enjoy a \$1.75 Christmas dinner for \$0.75 and were also treated to homemade cookies and internationally famous SLAC Christmas punch. The cookies were, as usual, of the highest quality and flavor. All the tender loving care supplied by the SLAC'ers who made the cookies was appreciated by the attendees and the party committee.

As usual, there was a raffle for ten "beam trees" and eleven \$10 grocery coupons. The winners were the following:

Beam Trees

Charles Young
James Harm
Edward Kuzniar
Alex Tseng
Shiro Suzuki
Allen Larsen
Henning Petersen
George Irwin
Hendrik Fisher
Laurence Abbott

Grocery Coupons

Helen Perigo
Mary Beth Jensen
Al Lisin
Henry Ruff
Eberhard Von Goeler
David Hamilton
Knut Skarpaas
Michael Daly
Howard Rogers
Calvin Williams
Myrna Valdez

Congratulations to the winners!

--Charlie Kruse

unknown process (probably involving a quirk in the production of quarks), a quantum jump of this proto-lint led to a Big Bang, or as Dr. Chu and his colleagues prefer to call it, a "primal sneeze." The universe has been expanding ever since. Not even nuclear physicists know whether the expansion will continue forever with a never-ending rise in long-distance telephone rates or whether the expansion will give way to an equally powerful retrenchment, or *gesundheit*, phase.

Dr. Chu's discovery should help resolve this question. Expressed in scientific terminology, the age of the universe is now computed to be exactly 12,137 psi units.

—The Harvard Lampoon

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