The Interaction Point
Events and Happenings in the SLAC Community
November 1991, Vol. 2, No. 11

POSSIBLE FUNDING PROBLEMS NEXT YEAR

by Bill Kirk

ON NOVEMBER 6, SLAC Director Burton Richter met with most of the members of the SLAC staff to discuss two different topics: (a) the results of the recent Tiger Team assessment of SLAC's activities in the areas of environment, safety and health; and (b) the news that the laboratory's funding for Fiscal Year 1993 might be reduced by 10% or more from the present FY 1992 level. We'll say no more for the time being about the Tiger Team visit, since public announcement of the results must wait until the DOE has had a chance to present the information to the Secretary of Energy, Admiral James Watkins, and to the Congress. But it may be useful to summarize here what Professor Richter said about the possible budget problems.

To begin with, the news of a possible funding reduction came as a surprise to the lab. As recently as last July the Deputy Secretary of Energy, Henson Moore, was quoted as saying that everything looked OK for the DOE's science programs, and that in fact a small increase in science funding within the department was being planned. But then in September the Secretary convened a Special Advisory Panel (the Townes Panel) to advise him on relative priorities and funding profiles for all of the research activities carried out under the Office of Energy Research (ER) of the DOE. These activities include high energy physics (HEP), nuclear physics (NP), basic energy sciences (BES), fusion research, and several other smaller initiatives. SLAC receives its funding from the HEP part of ER. As input to the Townes Panel, the DOE asked for recommendations based on the planning assumption that ER funding for FY 1993 would be the *same* as FY 1992 (no increase for inflation), and that ER funding would remain at that same level for the succeeding several years.

> **"It is important to recognize that this terrible scenario has not yet come to pass, and it may be that it will not happen."**

The Townes Panel then came up with certain recommendations: (a) cancel a large fusion research project; (b) defer indefinitely a large BES project; (c) put a "hold" on the previously approved main injector upgrade program at Fermilab; (d) ask the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel (HEPAP) to convene quickly to reconsider the HEP long-term program.

It thus happened that an extraordinary meeting of HEPAP was convened in October, on ten-day's notice. At this meeting the ground rules from the DOE had changed again. This time the planning assumption was that HEP funding for FY 1993 was to be 10% *below* that of FY 1992, and was to remain constant thereafter for several years. If we assume that inflation will be about 5% per year, then the projected planning assumption is equivalent to a budget reduction of 15% in FY 1993, and an additional reduction of about 5% per year thereafter. It could even be a bit worse than that for SLAC, depending on the details of how the reduction may turn out to be apportioned among the various labs. It was Richter's estimate that SLAC and Brookhaven might be cut by a little more than the nominal 10%, whereas Fermilab and the University user program might be cut by a little less. (It should be noted that the funding profile for the new SSC lab in Texas was declared by the DOE to be off limits and thus not a part of HEPAP's deliberations.)

(cont'd on pg. 2)

Gone, But Not Forgotten!

Hobey DeStaebler and Al Odian of SLAC, flank Tigers Bette and Edward Vallario, stand by the Tiger den.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, they're gone. Actually, the place seems much quieter minus 60+ inspectors and DOE officials, not to mention all our folks who were running around so crazily at all hours escorting and reacting. But you know, some pretty good things have already come of this happening. We discovered some issues that needed attention, we put some polish on areas that required it, and we learned some things about our Lab and each other, all while doing a heck of a good job.

Of course there is a whole lot more to do: review the draft Tiger report for accuracy, receive and distribute the final report to the staff, write corrective action plans to DOE and obtain plan approvals, then do all the stuff we proposed. That last thing we learned, the one about each other, will come in quite handy in dealing with these aftermath issues, and a whole lot more. We saw some talents we may not have known were there. Whether we wanted to know these things about each other or not, the knowledge has drawn us closer, and that's not so bad, either.

—Hugh Steckol

(cont'd from pg. 1)

In his talk to the SLAC staff Richter characterized these proposed funding reductions as "Too fast, too much, too soon." Some simple and painful arithmetic shows that a 15% to 17% cut in funding from SLAC's present level, with a staff of about 1450, would result in the loss of perhaps 200–250 positions.

But it is important to recognize that this terrible scenario has not yet come to pass, and it may be that it won't actually happen. Richter described a number of actions that SLAC, the other HEP labs, and other members of the American science community are taking, and planning to take, to try to affect the outcome. These will involve interacting with the Administration, and perhaps later the Congress, to try to influence the course of events.

The specific funding proposed for FY 1993 will first become public when the President's budget is submitted to the Congress in late January 1992. If things look bad at that time, we will intensify the contingency planning that has already started here at SLAC, and we will continue to work on the problem in Washington in an effort to alleviate the situation. It is uncertain (it is always uncertain) just when the final FY 1993 budget will emerge from the Congress.

In concluding Richter stated that he thought our chances of significantly changing the prospect for FY 1993 were "fair." This is an assessment that everyone at SLAC will have to try to calibrate for themselves. There may be very difficult times ahead. We will keep everyone up to date as the situation evolves.

BENEFITS OFFICE NEWS

Premium Savings Plan

THE PREMIUM SAVINGS PLAN (PSP) allows you to pay your portion of medical premiums on a pre-tax basis. Depending on the amount of your premium, this plan may save you a substantial amount each year in taxes.

Enrollment requirements for PSP have changed. Effective January 1, 1992, if you are currently enrolled, you need not complete another PSP Agreement. Even if you are changing carriers or the number of dependents covered, you need not complete a new PSP Agreement. If you are not currently enrolled, you must complete a PSP Agreement in order to have your premium payments taken out of your pay check on a before tax basis. Otherwise, your premium payments will be paid on an after tax basis. Since fulltime employees are now required to pay a portion of premiums, these employees will need to sign a PSP Agreement if they want to have the tax advantages available through PSP.

Participation in this Plan may affect your Maximum Exclusion Allowance or other limits on contributions into the retirement plan.

If you do not want your premium payments made on a pre-tax basis, you may revoke your PSP Agreement during Open Enrollment.

Open Enrollment Deadline

The deadline for submitting forms for Open Enrollment is Wednesday, November 27. Please bring them to the Benefits Office, or send them to M/S 11.

—Marie Arnold

INTERCHANGE FORUM APPROACHES FIRST YEAR

THE WOMEN'S INTERCHANGE at SLAC (WIS), was formed in January to address issues of interest and concern to women, and to provide an open, informal platform for sharing information among all departments, cultures, and job classifications, whether men or women. Common themes of the meetings are events around us and how decisions being made affect our lives directly or indirectly.

The definition of WIS is evolving, with no set charter, officers, dues, or obligations. Anyone may participate in the open forum of WIS. Especially needed are volunteers with ideas, people to take minutes, organize, coordinate, and write articles about WIS for the *Interaction Point.*, If you would like to volunteer, please contact Janet Dixon at ext. 2688, or send e-mail to DIXON@SLACVM.

The first WIS meetings reviewed the history of the SLAC Women's Association, which was started in 1976 and disbanded in 1980. Subsequent meetings covered such topics as:

- A question and answer session with Lee Lyon, SLAC Personnel Director,
- The history and purpose of the SLAC Emergency Relief Association (SERA) with Ben Smith, SERA spokesperson,
- "What can you do with an educated woman? Coeducation at Stanford University, 1891–1899," a presentation by Roxanne Nilan, SLAC Archivist,
- "The Age Wave," a video on aging by renowned gerontologist Dr. Ken Dykwald,
- "Documenting High Energy Physics at SLAC," by Robin Chandler, SLAC Archivist,
- "SLAC Physics, Politics, & Morale," by Bill Kirk, SLAC's Head of Information Services,
- and "Science, Education & SLAC," by Helen Quinn, SLAC Science Education Officer and Theoretical Physicist.

In early 1992 some of the women in Accelerator Operations who play key roles in the running of the Linac will be featured in a panel discussion.

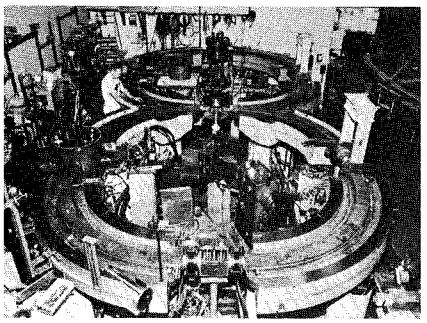
Future presentations are slated to include anthropologist Sharon Traweek, author of "Beamtimes and Lifetimes," and a panel discussion on sexual harrassment with Dr. Frances Conley, Stanford neurosurgeon; Terry Karl, Associate Professor of Political Science; Susan Hoerger, Stanford Legal counsel; and Sharon Levin, Stanford Help Center Counselor. Pat Burchat, Experimental Particle Physicist, has been asked to give a presentation on the Standard Model.

A Holiday Potluck Lunch on December 17 will replace the regular business meeting and presentation in December. The location for the potluck is still to be decided.

Joan Winters and Valerie Phillips collaborated on the winning WIS logo design. Thanks to them and to Sylvia MacBride of the Publications Department for doing the artwork.

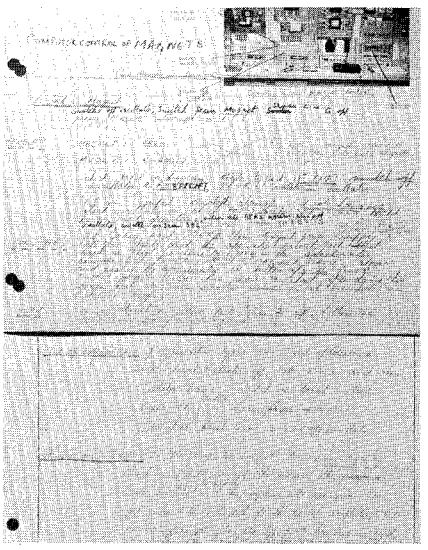
Minutes from WIS presentations and business meetings are posted under SLAC.SOC.WOMEN in Netnews. Some video and audio tapes of our presentations are available from the SLAC Library. A bibliography of books relating to women in the work world was developed by Joan Winters, and is also posted on Netnews.

Robin Chandler included the following photos as part of her presentation on "Documenting High Energy Physics at SLAC."



(Above) In 1958 a 500 MeV storage ring for electrons was built on the Stanford campus as a joint Stanford-Princeton University project. This was the first colliding beam storage ring to produce experimental results, and the only one ever to use two electron beams. Physics knowledge gained from the Stanford-Princeton machine ultimately resulted in SPEAR, a storage ring

(Below) A page from the Computer Operator logbook maintained by Les Cottrell for the 1967–1973 inelastic scattering experiments resulting in the quark discovery. The logbook reveals some of the considerations and experiences in the design, selection and use of the on-line computer system for the SLAC End Station A Spectrometer facility. to collide electrons and positrons.



WIS has set a goal to facilitate an understanding of the changes in the world, from our immediate surroundings at SLAC to the greater events in the world at large, and how these changes and events affect us, our families, and our futures.

—Janet Dixon

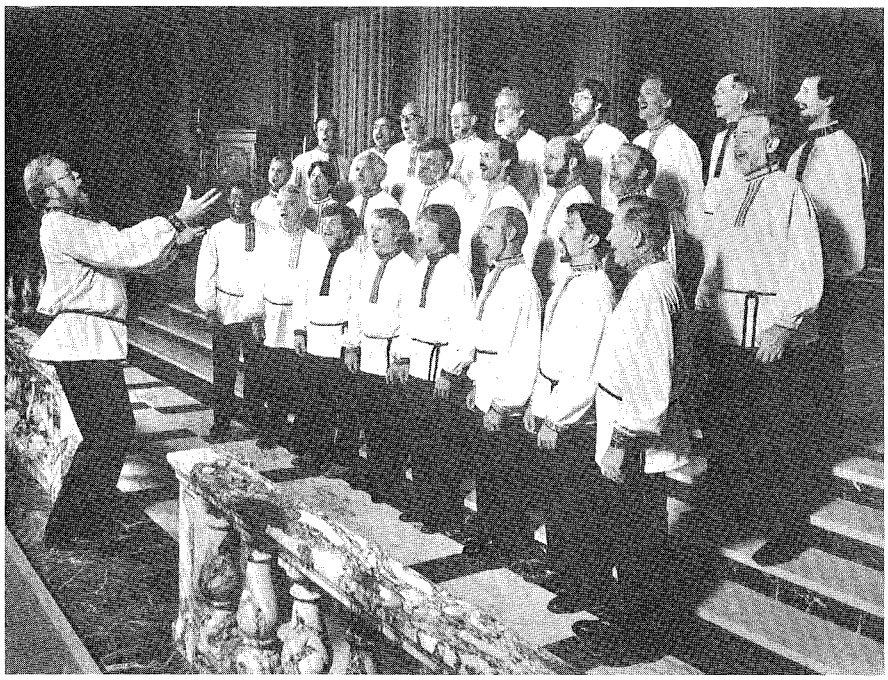
Physicist Practices Perestroika Through Song

DAVID FRYBERGER, of Experimental Facilities, sings regularly with Slavyanka, an all-male chorus which performs traditional Russian liturgical and folk songs. David sang in kindergarten and church groups as a child, but the first organized singing he was involved in was the Apollo Glee Club at Yale as an undergraduate.

The Russian singing tradition of Slavyanka actually started at Yale after David graduated. The Yale Russian Chorus was formed, and that group made several trips to Europe and what used to be called the Soviet Union. In 1979 Paul Andrews, the previous director of Slavyanka, was living in the Bay Area. The visiting Yale Russian Chorus gave a concert, attended by a number of the "alumni" of the Yale Chorus. The music was so well-liked, they decided to form a similar group, with Paul as director. That was the beginning of Slavyanka. Since then Slavyanka has performed in over two hundred concerts, in the movie soundtrack for the Lee Grant film "Tell Me A Riddle," and has toured the Soviet Union twice.

About three years ago, when David was singing in the Baroque Choral Group, Slavyanka decided to do a large piece, the Rachmaninoff Vespers, to commemorate a thousand years of Christianity in the Soviet Union. Because the piece required so many voices, the chorus, a 25-member male group, had to import all the women and actually get some more men. Interested singers were invited from all the singing groups around, including the Baroque Choral Guild. David has been singing with Slavyanka ever since.

The music performed by Slavyanka is a mixture of Russian church and folk music. No knowledge of Russian is needed in order to sing with the group, as they memorize or use a phonetic alphabet to learn the words. David has learned only a little Russian, but there are one or two people in the group who are reasonably fluent in Russian and can actually translate for the group.



Slavyanka promotional photo

Alexei Shipovalnikov directs Slavyanka, the all-male Russian music chorus. David Fryberger is in the second row, third from the left. Slavyanka is a Russian word given by early nineteenth century explorers to what we know as the Russian River.

Likewise, it is not necessary to be able to read music, although it helps. David reports that perhaps one person in the chorus has perfect pitch, and that he is sometimes bothered when the group goes flat.

The Russian custom is to precede each song with an announcement which traditionally includes the name of the song, the composer, a few words about the origin and type of the song, and perhaps some personal anecdote about the song's meaning to the group.

Two days after the earthquake in 1989, Slavyanka left for a two-and-a-half week tour of the Soviet Union, where they were received very enthusiastically. They were interested in seeing an American group singing their music, and doing a reasonably good job of it.

While they were in Moscow, a Russian group decided to have a benefit concert for the victims of the earthquake in San Francisco. About a year before, after the big Armenian earthquake, the US was quite generous with aid, which moved the Russian group to do something for us. CBS was there, and parts of the concert were actually aired on US television.

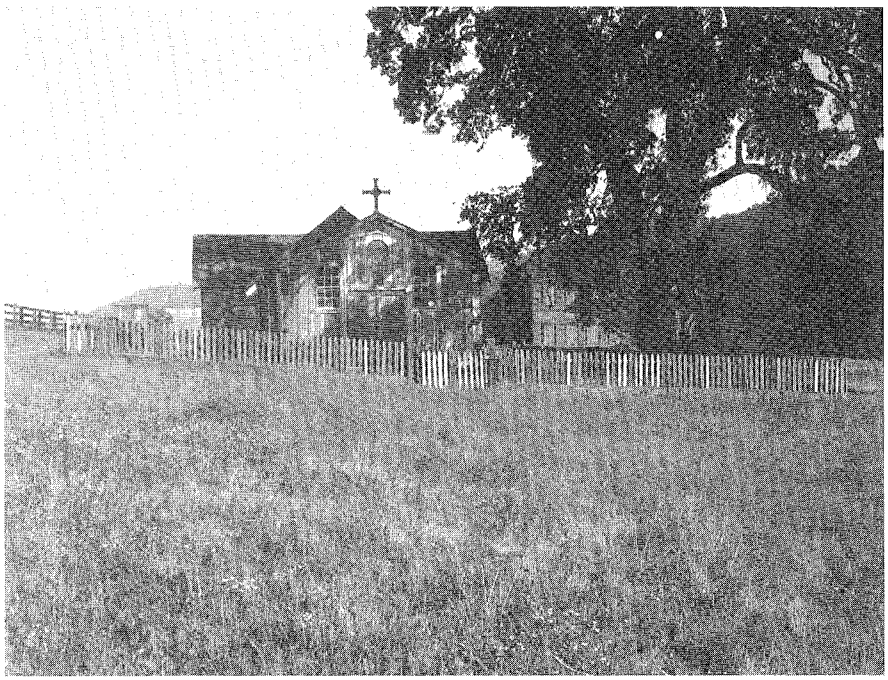
Some joint concerts were also performed with choruses there, with each group singing from their own repertoire.

Slavyanka now has three tapes available, which can be purchased from David Fryberger at ext. 2768.

If you enjoy singing and would like to audition for Slavyanka, rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings, 7:30 to 10 PM at St. Ignatius Church in San Francisco. Or call Director Alexei Shipovalnikov at (415) 386-0590.

—*Evelyn Eldridge-Diaz*

From Schoolhouse to Church to Laboratory



From "The History of Jasper Ridge," by Dorothy F. Regnery

St. Dennis Church, the first Catholic church between Mission Dolores and Mission Santa Clara. "Here after service was over the lumbermen used to have horse races, judged by a jolly, kindly priest." From "The History of Jasper Ridge," by Dorothy F. Regnery.

WHEN THE ACCELERATOR was built in the early 1960s, a limestone and bronze marker had to be moved from the otherwise open land. The marker, which is now located just south of Sand Hill Road, commemorates the first church built in San Mateo County and its founding father, Dennis Martin.

In 1850 Dennis Martin bought 1500 acres, consisting of large portions of what is now SLAC, as well as parts of Webb Ranch and Jasper Ridge. At the time the nearest missions were in San Francisco and Santa Clara, and it was not until 1853, when Martin converted a wooden school house into the St. Dennis Catholic Church, that a church existed in San Mateo County.

Martin came to the United States as a young Irish immigrant. In 1844 he, his father, and brother-in-law joined a group of Irish pioneers to cross the country by wagon train to California. After venturing into the gold fields of the Stanislaus and Mokelumne Rivers, and working as a lumberman, Martin had made enough money to purchase property here. He decided to set up his own lumber business, and as there were few, if any, redwoods on his property, he purchased additional wooded slopes. Martin also built the first grist mill and some of the first big saw mills in the area, and shipped the redwood on his personal schooner to San Francisco.

Dennis Martin was not only an energetic entrepreneur, but in many ways a community leader. From the start he invested his money in socially-oriented projects as well as in business. He built bunk houses for his workers, and a school house which he operated at his own expense for about a year. In 1853 he converted the school building into a church. Archbishop Josef S. Alemany dedicated the church, naming it St. Dennis in honor of the patron saint of Dennis Martin.

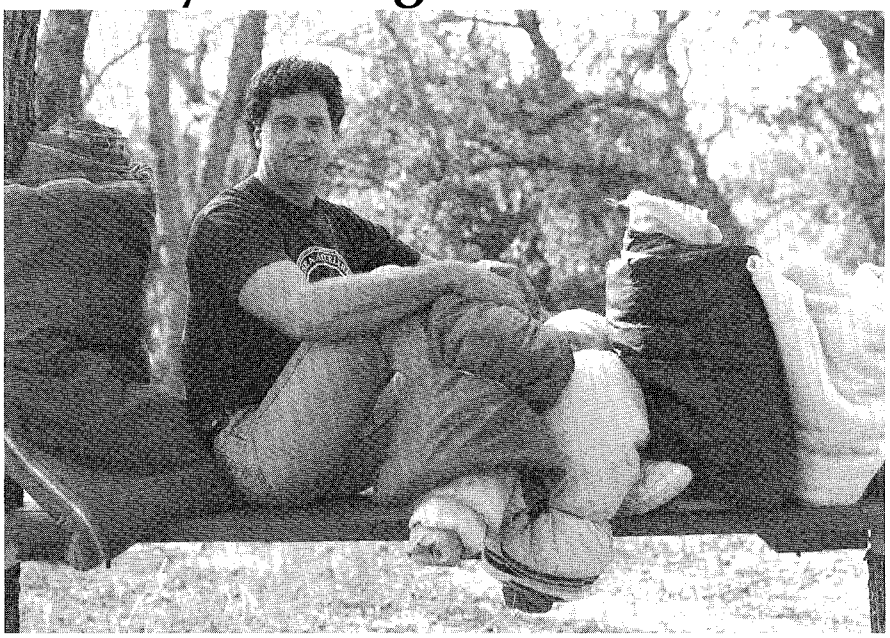
Shortly after the founding of the church, Martin established a cemetery within its vicinity. The church was intended for his family, neighbors and employees, and many people walked from as far away as Redwood City to attend service on Sunday. With 50 families attending regularly, the church was a focal point of community activity. Both Protestants and Catholics attended services. On feast days people often camped nearby for several days.

When Martin bought his land in 1850, California still belonged to Mexico, and no one was aware that American law would soon become relevant. Martin had purchased his property in good faith, but when California became part of the United States many of the Spanish land boundaries were no longer recognized because of differences in Spanish and Anglo-American property law. A land survey determined Martin's ranch to be much smaller in size, and he was dispossessed of all the land north of San Francisquito Creek. Martin not only lost the majority of his land, but also his house, mills, and the church. He and his family moved to the remaining 250 acres at El Corte Madera. This was the beginning of Martin's fading prosperity. The redwood forests began to dwindle, and in 1882 Martin moved to San Francisco to live and work.

St. Dennis' Church was still in use several years after Martin lost his property. However, when the Church of the Nativity was founded in Menlo Park in 1872, the small church was abandoned. A second life began for St. Dennis Church when the Archdiocese of San Francisco purchased some land in Sharon Heights and established a new church in 1961. At the time Stanford University planned to develop a subdivision of 1000 homes on the site where SLAC now stands. Even though the subdivision never materialized, St. Dennis Parish has grown, and its church is once again in the center of a community.

—Annette Cords

Dudley Do Right to the Rescue



Kris Dudley of SLD, with some of the blankets and sleeping bags he collected from fellow SLAC employees.

DARK BLACKENED SKIES AND THE SMELL OF SMOKE are not typical of Sunday afternoon 49ers games. For Kris Dudley it was hard to keep his mind on football as he sat with ashes floating down on the gentle Candlestick breeze. There was something more devastating than the Detroit Lions being in town; it was also the day of the Oakland-Berkeley Hills fire.

That evening when Kris got home from the game, he saw on the news some of the people who were left homeless, who had been put in temporary shelters, sleeping on wooden floors with very little for comfort. Many had no choice but to evacuate quickly, escaping the fire with only the clothes on their back. Saddened by what he saw, Kris recalled his own experiences with the Loma Prieta Quake of '89. It was then that Kris decided to take action.

The next day Kris passed the word to fellow workers that sleeping bags were needed. "The response was tremendous!" Kris recalls. "People were bringing me sleeping bags, blankets, even checks when they heard I was taking a collection for the fire victims." After many deliveries to the Oakland Community Civic Center, Kris would like to thank the people of SLAC for their warmth and understanding in time of crisis. I could just see the smiling faces at the Civic Center as Kris drove up with his big, white, 4 x 4 pick-up truck piled high with blankets and sleeping bags.

—Tom Nakashima

New Connecting Bus Schedule

Morning schedule to SLAC:	6:41 AM pickup at CalTrain Depot, Alma St. side
	7:45 AM (second run)
Evening schedule from SLAC:	3:30 PM departs from fire station
	4:45 PM departs from Central Lab
	4:50 PM departs from A&E Building

The last bus leaves in time for riders to catch the 5:06 PM southbound train which arrives in San Jose at 5:37 PM.

EVENTS: DECEMBER–JANUARY 1991–1992

All meetings are held in the Orange Room, unless another location is listed. Please notify the Public Affairs Office of any additions or changes by calling ext. 2204 or sending e-mail to NINA@SLACVM.

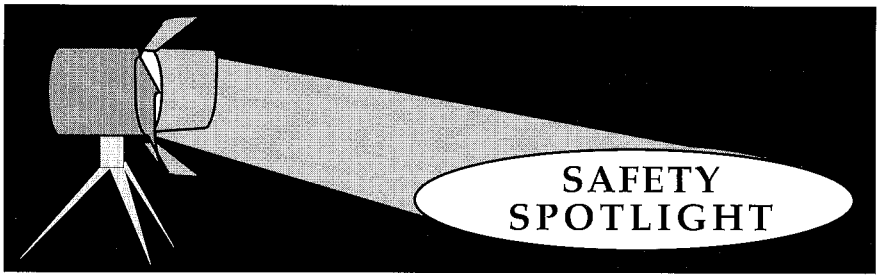
November 27
Forms Deadline for Benefits Open Enrollment
November 28–29
Thanksgiving University Holiday
December 7
Physics Teachers Workshop
December 10, 9–4
SUBB Mobile Blood Drive Auditorium Lobby
December 20
Experimental Program Advisory Committee Meeting; D. Fryberger
December 24–25
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
University Holidays
January 1, 1992
New Year's Day
University Holiday

Yoga Time Change

THE TIME FOR THE YOGA classes has been changed from 4:30 to 5:00 PM, Monday and Thursday, to better accommodate work schedules. Classes are held upstairs in building 661 (PEP, IR6). No special equipment or training is required, but loose, comfortable clothing is advised, and an exercise mat may make you more comfortable.

Anyone interested in improving their general health is invited to attend. Yoga is a gentle, noncompetitive way to bring about greater strength, flexibility and balance to the body, and it creates feelings of well-being. Students often report an increase in ability to concentrate and a reduction of stress-related problems.

—Evelyn Eldridge-Diaz



HOT LINE ISSUES

THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & HEALTH HOT LINE fielded more than 200 calls in the last few months. Some questions seem to be common concerns, so a review is presented here as a matter of general interest.

Q: Who is the SLAC Safety Coordinator?

A: There is no one person responsible for safety at SLAC. While each of us is responsible for safe operations, safety procedures are a function of line management; safety coordinators are appointed at the group/department level.

Q: What is the procedure for dealing with safety problems?

A: 1. If the problem is an unsafe working condition or facility, contact the person/department responsible for that operation. If you don't know who is responsible, call the Hot Line at ext. 4641.

A safety issue can be the responsibility of a line supervisor, a Building Manager, or be related to group/department operations, e.g., Facilities, Operation Health Physics, Power Conversion, etc.

2. If you are the individual responsible for correction of a safety problem and you need assistance, consult the ES&H Resources List. Again, the Hot Line is available if you are unsure how to proceed.

Q: What do I do with used toner, batteries, and lead?

A: 1. Toner: The Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWM) is working on a pilot program for recycling toner cartridges. Until the program is approved for site-wide use, store the used cartridges. Specific toner recycling information will be distributed within the next few weeks.

2. Batteries: AAA-D size batteries are hazardous waste. Your group should collect them in a central area until you have a dozen or more. Submit a Hazardous Waste Pickup Request form to Bin 77. (Forms were distributed with ES&H Bulletin 14A; additional copies are available by phoning ext. 3861.)

NOTE: Consider converting your operations over to rechargeable batteries. Hazardous waste disposal is expensive to the laboratory.

3. Lead: If you think the lead could be radioactive, call ext. 4041 to have it surveyed. If you know the lead is not radioactive, send it directly to Salvage.

NOTE: There is no need to purchase lead at SLAC; you can get all the unfabricated lead you need by calling the Operational Health Physics Department (OHP) at ext. 4041.

—Judith B. Nowag

The Interaction Point is published by Information Services of Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. Editors: Evelyn Eldridge-Diaz and Bill Kirk. Photographer: Tom Nakashima. Deadline for articles is the first of every month. Submissions may be sent electronically to TIP@SLACVM or by SLAC mail to TIP, MS 68. Phone 926-4128.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES AND GUESTS

Peter Arnold, Theory; **Ralph Becker-Szendy,** Group C; **Oscar Coiro,** Accelerator; **Andrea Ghigo,** Accelerator; **Yoji Hasegawa,** Group B; **Albert Hoffman,** SSRL; **Cheryl Holtquist,** Accelerator Operations; **Thomas Hyer,** Theory; **Yoshihito Iwasaki,** Group B; **Craig Jordan,** Mechanical Fabrication; **Pierre Lecante,** SSRL; **Ronald Mackenzie,** Controls; **Alanda McCarley,** Controls; **Michiko Minty,** Theory & Special Projects; **David Mitchell,** ES&H **Gary Niemi,** Group E; **Matthias Neubert,** Theory; **Robert Phillips,** Klystron; **Norman Queral,** Property Control; **Mario Serio,** Accelerator; **Ritva Serima,** SSRL; **Henry Tran,** ES&H; **Vaclav Vylet,** ES & H.

IN MEMORIAM

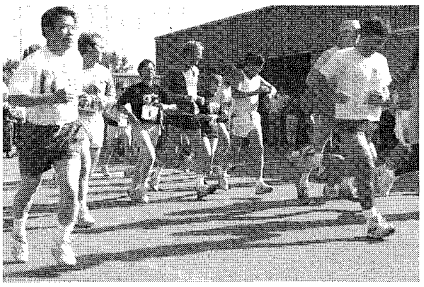
DOUBLE TRAGEDY struck the Mechanical Operations Section of Plant Maintenance Services last month with the deaths within one week of Lionel Barnett and Allen Shelton.

Although Lionel was a thirteen-year employee and Shelton had been here less than two years, they shared some uncommon assets. They were fun, gregarious people, and a pleasure to be around. They will be sorely missed by those they worked with and those they provided services to.

Their absence will make SLAC a less pleasant place to work. Save a place for us, Allen and Lionel, where there are no Tiger Teams, and no RIFs.

—Bob Glenn

20th Annual SLAC Run—A Watcher's Perspective



Top photo: some of the runners showing their form. Bottom photo, a large group showed up on crutches. 46 walkers participated and finished the run.

The winners and their categories, front row, left to right: Karen Fant, 30/39 Female; Patricia Rice, under 30 Female; Helen Quinn, 40/49 Female; Sharon White, 1st Female; Dick Phelps, 40/49 M; rear, left to right: Bill Pierce, 60+ M; Ken Witthaus (finished 18 of 20 runs); Gabor Bartha, 1st Male; Jim Clendenin, 50/59 M; Michael Disalvo, 30/39 M.

IT'S JUST ABOUT LUNCH TIME, but today the big stream of people going to the Cafeteria is missing. Even the clothing is different, and shorts seem to be popular again although it is already November. The sun is high, the temperature even higher. It is Thursday and many people have started gathering along the world-famous two-mile accelerator, that mysterious object unknown by most except those at SLAC. It's The Run, The Big Run which takes place every year—the race everybody has been training for all year long, to reach out for their goals, to demonstrate to people that the world is not only made out of roads but also of runners, walkers, and watchers. The numbers attached to the numerous colored T-shirts are growing as the crowd grows. The number is already over one hundred and people are still coming. Hopes are high.

Some people come from the past to tell us stories about previous exciting experiences. One woman is there to watch, but she is not going to run this year. She participated in the last few years, but not this one, because of laziness, a bad illness probably caused by too much computer work.

Runners start running, joggers start jogging and watchers start watching, but The Run has not begun yet; this is warming up time. Muscles need to be adjusted to be ready, tuned to give their best. A white line is being drawn on the asphalt to mark the beginning as well as the end, probably remembering that dust will actually turn into dust. Everybody is now ready, light shoes support heavy bodies, a fat-free nutrition plan is hiding inside the winner.

Festor is there, leaning against the accelerator walls dreaming of the race and of the possibility of winning his beloved first trophy in this race. Unfortunately he could not participate last year because he fell asleep and never woke up to be there on time. He is a little bit sleepy today.

But now it is almost time to start. The runners begin lining up. A few more seconds and a loud bang explodes in the air, giving everybody the impression that something has changed. It is time to run. For us, the lazy people sitting near that white line, it means that the world is coming back in about twenty minutes. We are almost right and after twenty-one minutes and some seconds, here he comes, the winner, Festor's friend. Many others arrive and with them is Sharon White, another winner.

How many winners do we have? At least all of those who participated in the run. Many familiar faces finally cross the white line in an ecstatic run, giving their maximum to erase even one second from their final time. Some leave the lady taking the lead in a very noble gesture; some don't even see the finish line and keep running into the crowd; some miss the end and are distracted by a misprint on the ground; some get to the end with their roller skates, some with their crutches, some just with their minds.

But now that The Run is over, the turkey becomes the next attraction in sight, and a big dinner is not a bad idea, after all that suffering.

—Michele Gallinaro