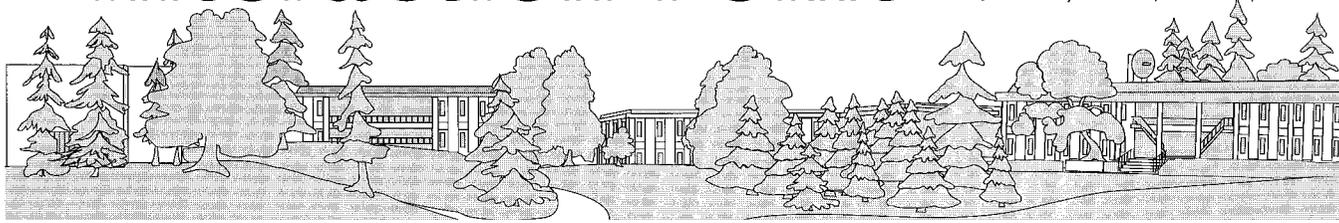


The Interaction Point

Events and Happenings
in the SLAC Community
January 1994, Vol. 5, No. 1



B-Factory Inauguration Lures Dignitaries



John Beach

Department of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and SLAC's chief rigger Elaine Hubbard lift a car-sized magnet from the old PEP storage ring at the B-Factory dedication ceremony on January 11. Chief vacuum engineer Julia Weiler (left) and her two-month-old daughter Rachel, Jonathan Dorfan, California Representative Norman Mineta, US Senator Dianne Feinstein, and California Representative Anna Eshoo look on.

by Sarah Morisseau

THE B FACTORY means something different to everyone at SLAC. For some, it means research and, hopefully, an explanation for our very existence. For others, it means job security. But for everyone, the B Factory means a future—for SLAC, for science in general, and as Department of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary pointed out, for our children.

"What is a clear message we can send to our fellow citizens

regarding this project and its importance?" O'Leary asked the crowd of about 700 employees and dignitaries who attended the B-Factory dedication in Interaction Region 2 on January 11.

The answer to O'Leary's question was not "science for science's sake" or jobs, but Rachel, the two-month-old daughter of chief vacuum engineer Julia Weiler. "What this project means is a future for Rachel. That is what this is all about," she said.

At the end of her speech, the Secretary symbolically began construction of the B Factory. With the help of chief rigger Elaine Hubbard, O'Leary used a remote-control crane to lift a 20,000-pound quadrupole magnet from the old PEP storage ring. The Secretary's visit to SLAC also included a tour of the facility.

SLAC Director Burton Richter, Stanford University Provost Condoleezza Rice, US Senator

Continued on page 6

Cooling Tower Meets Budget, Deadline

THE OLD COOLING TOWER located near the Main Control Center was torn down and a new cooling tower erected in its place. The million-dollar project was completed in just six weeks. On Labor Day weekend, SLAC's Plant Engineering Department shut down the old tower and set up temporary cooling for critical computer services. The new tower was back in operation one day ahead of schedule.

Designated CT1701, this is the largest of SLAC's five cooling towers. This tower circulates 10,000 gallons of cooling water each minute to the Beam Switchyard, the Research Area, the Stanford Linear Collider, and the Positron Electron Project.

The project was two years in the planning stage. Plant Engineering's Burl Skaggs and Harry Shin made the case to the DOE and the SLAC Directorate that the 25-year-old tower had outlived its

usefulness and that the replacement tower should be constructed of fiberglass rather than wood. "Fiberglass construction gives the lowest life cycle cost and eliminates the need for a fire protection system that is required with conventional wood construction," says Shin.

Design improvements increased the cooling capacity 60%. This additional capacity is needed because the old tower could barely keep up with cooling loads on very hot days. The reserve capacity will also be needed by the B Factory, which will be installed in the old Positron Electron Project tunnels.

Project Manager Jim Ogg has high praise for all the project participants. "Everyone worked together on this one." The subcontractor, Psychrometric Systems of Lakewood, Colorado, met schedule milestones to the hour. This was not easy to do because the old



James Ogg

Certified hazardous waste workers remove the asbestos cement panels before demolition of the cooling tower.

tower was constructed of asbestos cement panels. The tower had to be taken down piec-by-piec by certified hazardous waste workers wearing protective suits and respirators. The demolition team worked 10 to 12 hours a day for 10 days straight to meet the schedule. SLAC's ES&H division worked closely with the subcontractor to assure all safety requirements were met and that the asbestos was properly disposed of in an approved site. The construction crew also worked long hours and into the weekends to maintain the schedule.

While all this was going on, Plant Engineering's Frank Brenkus installed new electrical service and controls to the motors driving the tower's four 20-foot diameter fans. Fan motor sizes were increased from 60 to 125 horsepower.

The project was completed within budget. "The key to the success of this job was detailed planning before the job started," says Ogg.

Bill Myers, Operation's superintendent of Plant Engineering commented, "The new tower is easier to access, and the fans run much smoother than the old ones."

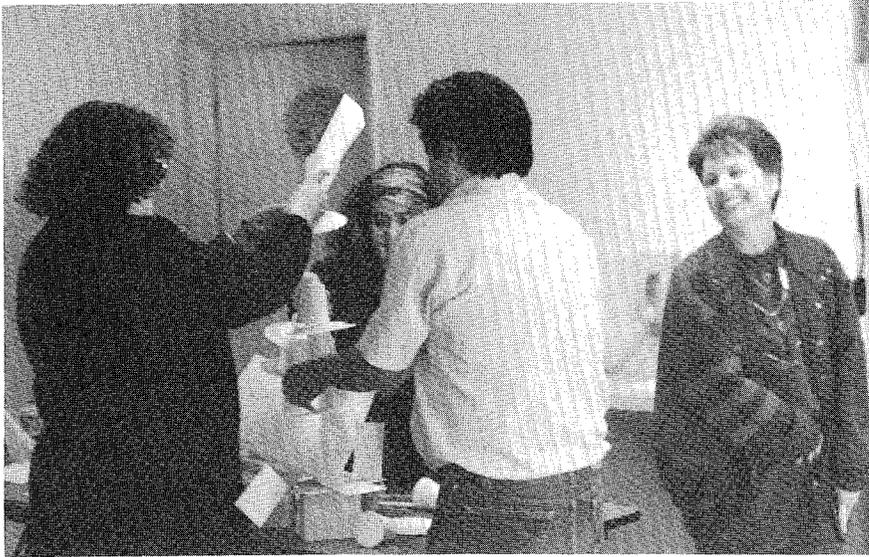
—James Ogg



James Ogg

Before removal from the old cooling tower, the asbestos cement panels are sprayed with water to reduce the dust. Next, they are carefully double-wrapped in plastic and placed in a closed metal container. The triple-contained panels are then removed from SLAC and taken to a hazardous waste dump.

SLAC pilots distance learning for teachers



P.A. Moore

During tutor training, teachers work together to construct a tower with varying degrees of success. Shown left to right are Linda Falk, Arturo Comacho, and Christine Lowrey.



P.A. Moore

SERA crew member videotapes Helen Quinn as she demonstrates science activities to teachers Sharon Gray, left, and Cora Salumbides, center.

BURTON RICHTER, Director of SLAC, and James Gibbons, Dean of the School of Engineering at Stanford, were having one of those “oh, by the way” parking lot conversations about a year ago. Gibbons was describing a method of distance learning using videos that had been used in the Engineering School. Called tutored video instruction, the idea was that a content expert is videotaped and tutors are trained to use the videotape in different locations. In this way, the content is disseminated to a larger, more remote audience, and the content expert does not have to travel to various sites.

Richter was immediately interested in the idea. He realized that the method would apply to teachers as well as it does to engineers, so SLAC applied for—and received—a grant from the state’s Eisenhower Grant Program to test the model.

As part of the grant, Helen Quinn, SLAC physicist, has conducted workshops on energy forms and transformations for middle school teachers. One of these workshops was videotaped and edited to form a pilot for tutored video instruction.

Nine teachers were trained in the tutored video method. They are now conducting local workshops in their districts in Fresno and Imperial Counties. Once the results are analyzed, the project partners will submit a new proposal to the state to implement tutored video instruction in a wider area, using other physics topics.

SLAC staff wishing more information about tutored video or other SLAC education activities may contact Helen Quinn at ext. 2713 or P.A. Moore at ext. 3826.

—P.A. Moore

Mothers and Daughters of Invention subject of talk

THE 18TH CENTURY French philosopher Voltaire wrote that “there have been very learned women, as there have been women writers, but there have never been women inventors.”

Autumn Stanley, a local author, says that “this stereotype that women do not invent is still alive and well in the Silicon Valley.” Her new book, *Mothers and Daughters of Invention*, which lists and profiles hundreds of women inventors, contains ample ammunition for killing the stereotype.

Stanley was the featured speaker at a recent Women’s Interchange at SLAC presentation. In her talk,



she concentrated on the achievements of several American inventors of the 19th century.

A large number of women’s inventions from that era were safety mechanisms: the gravity-safety elevator, that prevented people from falling down the elevator shaft; the first crib attachment for bedsteads; an improved fire escape; and an anti-derailment device for railroads.

Many of the women that Stanley mentioned focused their creativity to make their work easier—for example, Helen Augusta Blanchard, one of the “most prolific inventors of the century,” held at least 28 patents, including 10 for sewing machines. Other women also held patents for improved sewing machines and needles.

Other notable inventions by 19th century women were the first successful street-sweeping machine used in New York City; the first



Cherrill Spencer

Autumn Stanley, author of *Mothers and Daughters of Invention*.

machine to make square-bottomed paper bags; a page-turning device for musicians; and a device for numbering houses.

Stanley’s book, which is presently an index to women’s inventions, may soon be simplified into a children’s version. “We need to show young girls what women have done,” she says.

—Sarah Morrisseau

Parents Group to address childcare issues

HAVE YOU EVER been stuck looking for a local babysitter? Have you ever wondered how your co-workers juggle family needs and work needs? Would you like to see a childcare facility here at SLAC? These are some of the questions that the SLAC Parents Group hopes to help answer.

The group grew out of a childcare-needs survey and a series of “Childcare in the Workplace” panels conducted earlier this year. Both were initiated by the Women’s Interchange at SLAC. Most of the founding members wanted to work towards a childcare facility on site, but after meeting other parents here we found that we have other common interests.

Helping to make the childcare center a reality is still one of the

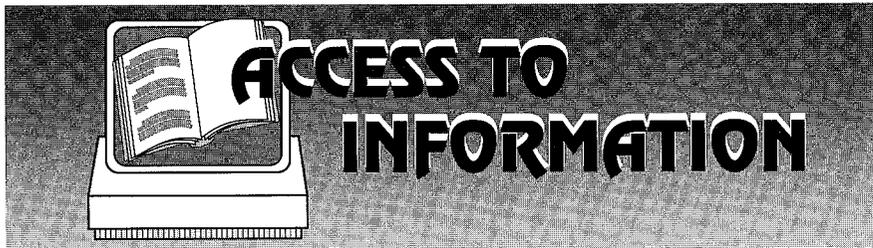
priorities of the group. Several of the Parents Group members are now on the Childcare Task Force and other Parents Group members continue to collect information and provide a broader base to help establish priorities. The proposed center needs a name. The Parents Group is asking the SLAC community to send suggested names to Kathy O’Shaughnessy (see below).

The Parents Group has also expanded into other activities. James Hammer (Central Lab Machine Shop) organized a toy and clothes drive for the children at Webb Ranch at the start of the school year. We hope to be a clearing house for items for loan or sale. And we are compiling a listing of SLAC parents sorted by zip code. (You could discover that a

fellow employee lives just blocks away from you.) To participate in the listing, send internal mail to Neal Adams at MS 97, e-mail to neal@slac or call Neal at ext. 2821.

More information about the Parents Group is available on the netnews group slac.soc.parents, or you can call Kathy O’Shaughnessy at ext. 3439 (kathyo@slac) or Lilian Vassilian at ext. 2710 (lileb@slac). Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at noon in the Group C conference room in the Central Lab Annex. Our next meeting is February 14. We hope to see some of you there.

—Kathy O’Shaughnessy



Generic e-mail addresses for VM

HAVE YOU EVER SENT E-MAIL to a VM user with a generic address of the form *userid@slac.stanford.edu* and had it returned to you as undeliverable? If you have, and wondered why even though the userid was valid and the address correctly spelled, it's probably because that userid was not in the Mail Router's database. The Mail Router database must have an entry before mail addressed with a generic SLAC address can be delivered. (The Mail Router and how to get more information about it was described in the article "Simplifying SLAC E-Mail Addresses" in the June 1993 *Interaction Point*.)

When SLAC changed to generic e-mail addresses, the primary account for VM account holders was automatically entered into the Mail Router's database. However, many VM account holders have more than one VM userid. For example, BINLIST lists these accounts for Janet Dixon: TCDB, PACTEL, PHONE, DIXON, and WIS-L. To send mail successfully to any of these userids with a generic address requires a Mail Router database entry for each one.

You can add additional account IDs into the database using the **MAILROUTER** command or ask the SCS Service Desk to do it for you. You can only create or change entries for accounts belonging to you. But, you can use the **MAILROUTER** command to find out whether a particular userid has an entry: at the command line, type **query all screens** (PF24), followed by **enter query** (PF5), then type the userid you want to check, and finally type **execute query** (PF4).

—I. Vinson

Making collect calls to SLAC

YOU'RE ON A BUSINESS TRIP for SLAC and would like to make a collect call to a colleague at the office. What should you do? DON'T call your colleague directly at SLAC. DO call the telephone attendants at (415) 926-3300. They are authorized to accept your collect call and connect you to the desired SLAC extension.

—I. Vinson

UNIX at SLAC: Getting Started, Revised

UNIX AT SLAC: Getting Started, Revision 1, a guide for beginning UNIX users at SLAC, is now available at the SCS Help Desk in the Computer Building Lobby. This revision consists of corrections and minor clarifications and additions.

On UNIX, you can also view the guide online with a PostScript browser like Ghostview and print it yourself by accessing the PostScript file */usr/local/doc/intro/unix.ps*. Should you print it yourself, keep in mind that it is about 55 pages.

—I. Vinson, SCS

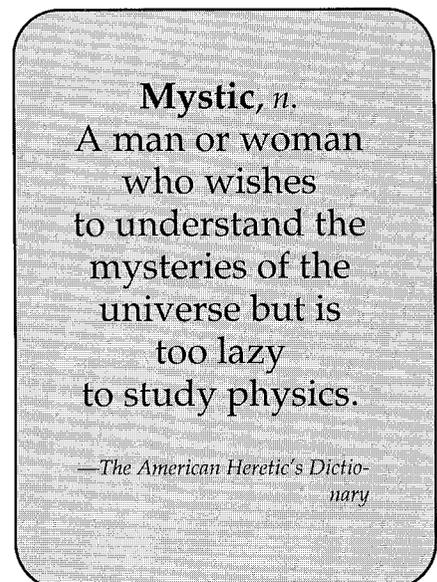
New procedure for reporting directory changes

IN THE PAST many of you who wanted changes made to the office location, telephone number, or pager number in the online directory database (BINLIST) called in or e-mailed to Telecommunications. Telecommunications would then make the change in the online directory database.

To give you better service, Telecommunications has implemented a VM full-screen system for submitting directory change requests. This system is intended to be used by people, such as ATOMS or group secretaries, who request telephone directory changes on behalf of others. If you want to have a change made to your own entry, please request your ATOM or group secretary to submit the change for you rather than contacting Telecommunications directly.

After February 1, 1994, all change requests *must* be submitted through this system. To access the instructions for using this system and to get authorization type the VM command **xedit DIRECTOR CHANGES ***.

—I. Vinson



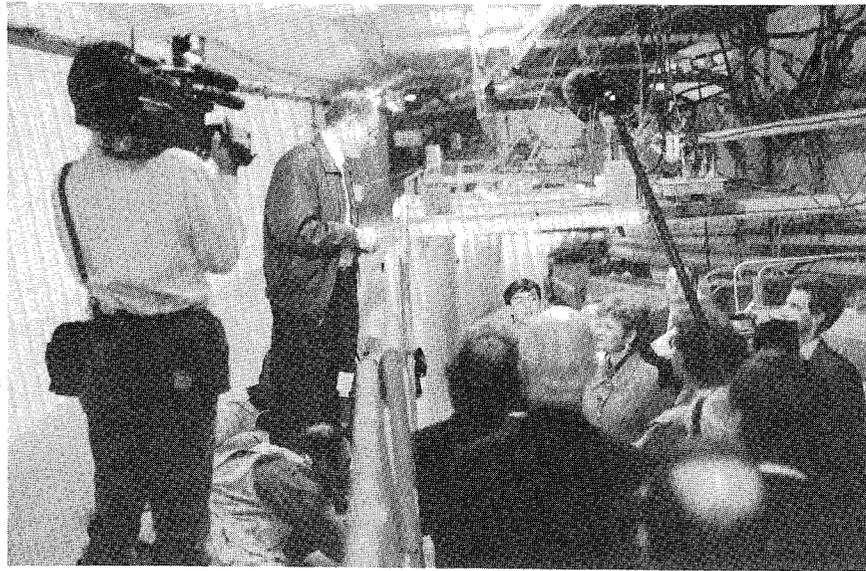
Continued from page 1

Dianne Feinstein, and California Representatives Norman Mineta and Anna Eshoo also spoke at the inauguration ceremony. Rice praised the "federal government's long-standing support of basic research, which has helped us to understand ourselves and the world in which we live."

The importance of scientific research was a theme echoed by each of the politicians, who hailed the B Factory's location as a major victory for California and the Bay Area in particular.

"Science and technology is a long suit for the state of California," Feinstein said, noting (as did Mineta and Eshoo) that the B Factory translates into jobs and a stronger economy.

The speakers also praised the employees of SLAC and its affiliated scientists for their continuous hard work. "The strength of SLAC is in its people," Mineta said.



Photos courtesy of John Beach, Rene Donaldson, and Joe Faust.



THE INAUGURAL WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH due in large part to the enormous efforts of the dedicated group of organizers and their staff. It is not possible to list all those who helped, but we would be remiss if we did not call out the central organizing committee.

On behalf of SLAC, it is my pleasure to acknowledge: Nina Adelman-Stolar and her staff who covered all bases and in particular the catering for the dignitaries' lunch and the post-ceremony refreshments, the transportation, the program, and the buttons; Cindy Bedont and Brad Cohen (from campus) who were invaluable in handling all the protocols for the high-level guests; Michael Riordan who handled invitations and the press; Tom Taylor, Al Mixon, their staff, and the EFD staff who did an outstanding job of preparing IR2 and IR8; Greg Loew for invaluable stewardship, especially in his role as "General" for the eventful inauguration day; Michael Zisman (LBL) and Karl Van Bibber (LLNL) who were the liaison for their laboratories and the UC system, for their help in meeting, greeting, and shepherding the dignitaries; Doug Dupen and Bernie Lighthouse for greeting and directing those arriving for the event, and for the logistics of the transportation of the attendees and the dignitaries; Rick Yaeger and his staff for security, and Pearl Mokski for administrative and other support. To these people and everyone else who contributed to the success of the B-Factory Inaugural, a big Thank You.

—Jonathan Dorfan



**UNITED STANFORD WORKERS
LOCAL 680 (SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC)
WELCOMES ENERGY SECRETARY O'LEARY**



SSRL starts six-month experimental run

ON JANUARY 31, SSRL will start a six-and-a-half month experimental cycle. During this time approximately 600 researchers from 100 institutions will come to SLAC to use the 23 different experimental stations at the SSRL laboratory which is adjacent to the

SPEAR storage ring. The types of experiments done at SSRL cover a wide range this year. The experiments include further work on waste remediation problems, continuing studies of the development of osteoporosis in rats, refinement of techniques to analyze the

amount of trace impurities in materials used to manufacture silicon chips, as well as a great deal of basic research into the molecular structure of biological and physical materials.

—Katherine Cantwell

Welcome guests and new employees

Yunhai Cai, Theory & Special Projects; Alexander Chao, Accelerator Theory; Stefan Choroba, Klystron; Giovannicicuta, Theory; James Davis, Mechanical Fabrication; Mourad Daoudi, Experimental Group A; Martin Dohlus, Klystron; Klaus Floettmann, Experimental Group I; Albert Guidi, Experimental Facilities; Joanne Hewett, Theory; Clea Carreen Jensen, SSRL; David MacFarlane, Experimental Group C; Joseph Morgenstern, Experimental Group A; Stephen S. Pinsky, Theory; Thomas Rizzo, Experimental Group B; Ivan A. Schmidt, Theory; Manfred Schuster, SSRL; Brett VanDeSande, Theory; Yiton Yan, Accelerator Theory.

Castleers serenade holiday party



Twenty-five enthusiastic young members of the Castleers, an a cappella vocal ensemble from Oakland's Castlemont High School, sang at SLAC's holiday luncheon. Directed by Ms. Rachelle Bland, the group treated listeners to classical, spiritual, gospel, popular, and jazz music. The Castleers placed first in their division at the national competition, Music in the Parks, at Atlanta, Georgia.

1994 University Holiday Schedule

DATES FOR THE OBSERVANCE of the remaining 1994 designated University holidays are as follows:

President's Day	Monday	February 21
Memorial Day	Monday	May 30
Independence Day	Monday	July 4
Labor Day	Monday	September 5
Thanksgiving	Thursday/Friday	November 24/25
Christmas	Monday/Tuesday after	December 26/27

New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday this year.

All meetings are held in the Orange Room, unless another location is listed. Larger meetings and conferences have a contact listed. Please notify the Public Affairs Office of any additions or changes by calling ext. 2204 or sending e-mail to nina@slac.

February 7

SLD Collaboration Mtg.
M. Breidenbach/
B. Barrera
Chateau la Cresta

February 10-12

B-Factory
Collaboration Meeting
J. Dorfan/A. Pacheco

March 7-11

SLD Week
(TBA)

March 16-18

SU Alumni Assn. Course
Auditorium

March 22, 9 AM-3 PM

SUBB Mobile Blood Drive
Auditorium Lobby

EVENT CALENDAR: February-March 1994

IN MEMORIAM

Tony Benedetti

MOST PEOPLE approach retirement age as an opportunity to leave their job behind to pursue other interests. Not so for Tony Benedetti. He enjoyed his job in the Electronics Department so much that when he could consider retirement, he chose to stay. Tony passed away on January 5, at the age of 78. He was on his way to SLAC, and the job he loved

Tony's career at SLAC began in 1963 in the Heavy Electronics Department during the construction of SLAC. During the next four years he worked in the Klystron Test Stand Maintenance, the Klystron Group and the Electronics Department. Tony left SLAC in 1967 to work at Lockheed but returned in 1968 to the Electronics Department. He had a First Class

Commercial FCC license and assisted Carl Caldwell with SLAC's radio communication system. Tony repaired and calibrated SLAC's commercial test instruments and video systems until he passed away.

Tony was a very social person. He always had a little story or a joke to brighten someone's day. He had a great interest in audio systems and video production. He has set up his audio equipment at many retirement and department parties to provide entertainment. His polkas, Big Band music, and chicken dances are well remembered. Tony had a part-time business called Studio A Productions. He videotaped many functions with his elaborate equipment. He received a certificate from the City



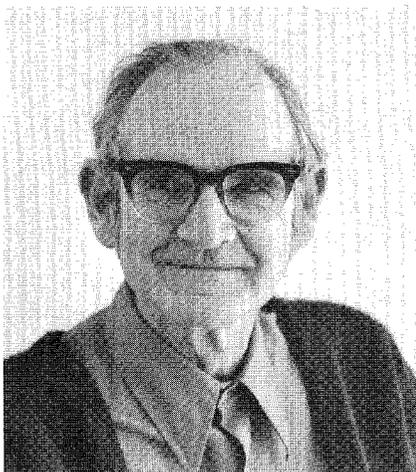
Photo courtesy Dave Hamilton.

Tony Benedetti

of Santa Clara for a production he made of a city function.

Tony was a member of the Elk's Lodge in Palo Alto. He was an avid radio amateur and a member of the SLAC Amateur Radio Club. Tony will be missed by his many friends.

—Dave Hamilton



Carl D. Caldwell

CARL D. CALDWELL, a tall, angular gentleman, is remembered by coworkers and friends for his dedication to his craft and his

unfailing bonhomie.

Carl worked in the Electronics Department at SLAC from 1966 until his retirement in 1986. His primary responsibility was to assure access to SLAC's air waves. Carl tuned and otherwise maintained every piece of communications equipment on the site. Whether it was portable, mobile, or fixed, whether it transmitted or received, whether it beeped, squawked, or talked, Carl knew it and maintained it.

Carl's was an interesting and varied career. He began as a radio operator on a merchant ship, dodged U-boats in the Caribbean,

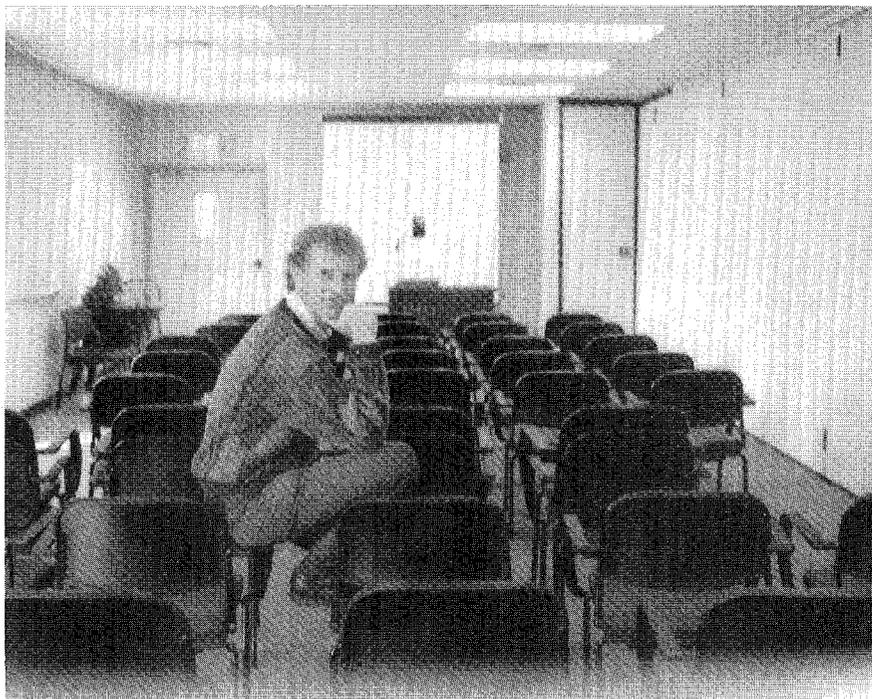
Carl Caldwell

and operated communications equipment aboard Pan Am flights over the jungles of South America. After WWII, Carl migrated to Washington State University where he assumed responsibility for their broadcast facilities. Eventually he and his family settled in Silicon Valley. Carl passed away in December; he was 76. The service Carl provided to SLAC was excellent and will not be forgotten. "73," Carl, wherever you are.

—John Ashton

["73" is a radio call that means "good luck." —Editor]

A clean, well-lighted place



Building Manager and ES&H Division training specialist Rod Heimstra contemplates the interior of the new Training and Conference Center. Rod devoted many hours to overseeing the design and construction of the new facility.

SLAC'S WORKSHOPS, classes, and conferences have a new place to call home. The Training and Conference Center (TCC), located east of the cafeteria and just across Ring Road, was launched into service in October when SLAC hosted an international conference, the Next Linear Collider Conference. Later in the month, the center was the site of the Educated Choices meetings on employee benefits.

As many attendees noted, not only is the new TCC pleasant to look at, it is also very quiet — at least until the air conditioner clicks on. Since the TCC is located on a quiet, peaceful knoll, the background noise is practically nil and there is a sharp contrast between the normal quiet of the building's interior and the sound of the HVAC system. Attempts are

underway to put a muzzle on the HVAC noise problem.

"The quest for a training facility was not easy," reports Melinda Saltzberg, ES&H Program Manager. After overcoming the standard hurdles such as funding and obtaining approval for the site, unexpected obstacles seemed to show up daily. "The Training Trailer Crisis du Jour" became a common scenario. After months of working on the project, Rod Hiemstra, the training specialist who worked closely with Glenn Tenney and Vaughn Proctor to make this dream a reality, anxiously awaited the arrival of the new trailers. The truckers pulled in on time. The excitement rapidly faded as Rod realized that the units that were being unloaded were nothing like what had been ordered. It turned

out that when our new trailers rolled off of the assembly line, the manufacturer promptly shipped them to a customer in Clayton, California and shipped that customer's units to SLAC. After confronting so many obstacles, receiving the wrong merchandise seemed totally fitting—the ultimate crisis du jour. In short order, the truckers who were enroute to Clayton were re-routed to Menlo Park, and the wrong trailers were picked up and shipped to Clayton.

Now that most of the obstacles have been overcome and the TCC is operational, the majority of the ES&H training classes will be held there. However, a few will continue to be held in other locations, such as the ES&H Training Room (Bldg. 24, Rm. 231) and the Orange Room. So if you're registered for an ES&H training class, check the Training Notice confirmation form, which is sent out one week prior to the class, to verify the date, time, and location of your class.

The TCC was specifically designed for training classes but is also well suited for conferences and workshops. The facility is multi-functional and may be configured as one large room which accommodates 200 people, or it may be configured as two, three, or four smaller rooms. It is expected that the demand for space in the TCC will be great. Therefore, standing departmental meetings, will not be booked for the TCC. The ES&H Division is preparing guidelines which will explain policies, how to make reservations, and more. This publication will be distributed to all group secretaries as soon as it is available.

Dennice Barnes (ext. 2688) handles reservations for the TCC. Rod Hiemstra (ext. 3662) is the TCC Building Manager.

—Jack LaVelle and Melinda Saltzberg

Take Your Daughter to Work Day April 28

THE UNITED STATES AND South Korea are tied for last place in the percentage of women physicists who hold university faculty appointments, according to a recent survey conducted by the National Academy of Sciences. The survey found wide discrepancies among the 20 developed nations which were examined. While nearly half of the Hungarian physics faculty members were women, France and Italy reported that 23% of their physics faculty members were women. Only 3% of the United States physics faculty members are women.

There are many possible explanations for the lack of women on American physics faculties. One likely theory is that women in this country are simply not encouraged to study the sciences, especially physics. To help overcome this problem, the Women's Interchange at SLAC (WIS) is sponsoring a special event entitled "Take Your Daughter To Work." The event, slated for April 28, is modeled after the Ms. Foundation's Take Your Daughters To Work

program, which encourages companies across the nation to allow their employees to bring young women ages 9 to 15 to job sites to gain first-hand exposure to the American workplace.

Studies have shown that girls have a lower level of self-esteem than boys of the same age. Studies have also shown that some girls experience discrimination in school, which discourages them from setting long-term educational or career goals. The Take Your Daughters to Work Day is based on the belief that seeing adults—particularly women—in work situations will provide a positive experience and influence for the girls.

SLAC's Take Your Daughters to Work day is designed to:

- Help young women ages 9–15 build self-esteem.
- Introduce them to the SLAC work environment and cutting-edge science in action.
- Show that women can be recognized and valued as employees and employers in the work force of the future.

- Raise consciousness about women's contributions in the workplace.
- Encourage young women to look toward the 21st century with realism and optimism.

The day will begin with a continental breakfast in the Auditorium Breezeway. This will be followed by a welcome speech from SLAC Director Burton Richter and a keynote address from one of SLAC's outstanding women. Then, the girls will attend a presentation about SLAC and a tour of the site. The girls will have lunch with their hosts in the SLAC Cafe, and spend the afternoon together in the workplace. Later in the day, they will re-group in the auditorium for a closing discussion.

Mark your calendars now for this important event—April 28. If you don't have a daughter, age 9–15, consider bringing your granddaughter, niece, or your neighbor's daughter.

Registration forms will be mailed to all employees within the next month.

—Melinda Saltzberg

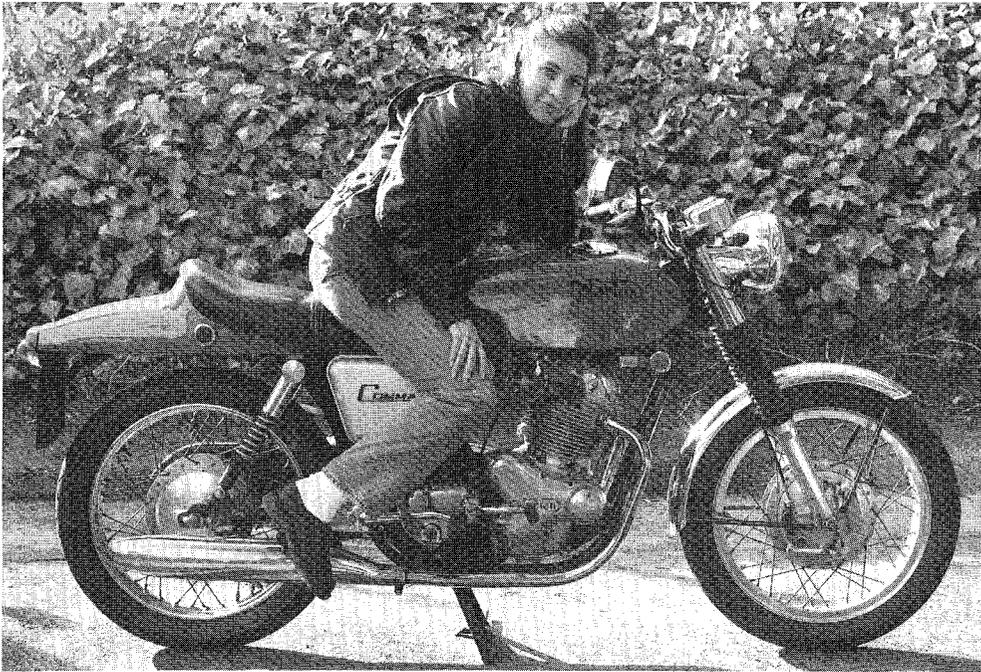


Employees give generously

THESE OVERFLOWING FOOD DONATION BARRELS ARE shown outside of the A&E Building lobby right after the annual holiday party. The Second Harvest Food Bank reported that they received and processed over a third of a ton of food donations from the generous SLAC community. The Red Cross Holiday Toy Giveaway also reported overflowing donation containers of gifts for children. The Holiday Party Planning Committee coordinated the annual food and toy collection drives. Members include Robbin Nixon, Patricia Wurster, and Patricia Jones from Mechanical Systems; Mary Parish and Patricia Bradley from Controls; Roger Gearhart from EFD; Pauline Wethington and Herb McIntye from Public Affairs; and Sharon Burns from Power Conversion. Thanks for all your efforts.

—Bernie Lighthouse

Cindy and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance



Tom Nakashima

CINDY GRANT doesn't have pictures of her family on the bulletin board in her office in the Technical Division. Instead, she has pictures of her cars and motorcycles: the red 1970 MGB convertible, the '61 black-and-white Nash Metropolitan, the '68 Mustang, the red 1970 Norton Commando Fastback, and the '63 Triumph in its stock colors of purple and silver. This "nice little collection," as she modestly calls it, started innocently enough four years ago with a '74 maroon MG Midget convertible.

"I always liked MGs, so when I got out of school, I just went out and bought one," she says. She bought it from her younger brother, and like most British sports cars, it had a few problems. So she started poking around under the hood—and got hooked.

"It's fun," Cindy says. "It's really interesting to take it apart and see what's in there and how it all fits together. Of course, I tend to take too many things apart, things that should have been left together," she laughs.

Collecting older vehicles—British machines in particular—has become a full-time pastime since the days of that first MG. Cindy sold that car to buy the Nash and then added the Triumph to her collection. The Triumph is what she calls a "ground-up restoration project"; she bought it—well, 75 percent of it—in boxes for \$250. It has taken her three years, and more than ten times the amount that she originally paid, to restore the motorcycle to its original street bike condition. "It's been a real challenge to get the parts," she says, but one worth the effort. "It's so rewarding to take something old and actually get it running, to bring it back to life."

The time Cindy has spent on the other vehicles pales in comparison to the resurrection of the Triumph, but that doesn't mean that they don't also require work. On the contrary, "something is always needing attention. There's never a point where I don't need to do any work," she says.

That is not surprising when you

consider that she tends to get something new once a year. "People come to me and say, 'Gee, I have this car I want to get rid of and thought you might be interested...'" she says. "I can never say no!"

The Norton is a prime example. Cindy bought it just recently from a friend and, unfortunately, had to sell the Nash to pay for it. That, of course, is natural—this is an expensive hobby, after all. But there is one thing which she will never sell: the Mustang, which was her grandmother's car.

Many of the cars, like the Mustang, have sentimental value for her. Each has a character, a personality—some of them even have names. The fact that they are old makes them interesting, Cindy says. "When I think about buying a new car, I'm so bored with the idea!"

Consequently, these so-called "collectors items" go to the grocery store, to work, even on long road trips—"you just take a lot of tools," she says. "If I have something, I want to use it. A car shouldn't be a museum piece."

So then, which one does she drive to SLAC?

"I drive whichever one suits my mood for the day!" She laughs. "Actually, it depends on what's insured," she admits. She usually has two autos and a motorcycle insured at a time—and that isn't cheap.

"My insurance company loves me!"

—Sarah Morisseau

This newsletter is printed using soy-based ink, and is recyclable.