From Washington

Congress is already at its work in passing authorization legislation and the all-important appropriations bills. This is going to be a short legislative session, with adjournment scheduled for October 9, as those up for re-election head home to campaign.

March 9 Colloquium

You're invited to hear Robert Semper, Executive Associate Director from The Exploratorium speak on "The Role of the Exploratorium in Science Education."

This will be the first of several colloquia on science education and colloquia organizers encourage you to attend. SLAC Auditorium, Monday, March 9, 3:45 refreshments, 4:15 presentation, finish about 5:15 pm.

Thrice Eclipsed

SLAC magnet physicist Cherrill Spencer was in Java in 1983, in Hawaii in 1991, and in the Caribbean in last week. How do eclipses compare? "Java was the longest total eclipse in 20 years, but it and Hawaii both had some clouds. Eclipse viewing is much nicer from a cruise ship since we could move out from the cloud cover." The Caribbean event lasted 3 minutes and 15 seconds. The cruise lasted a week. Take a look at Cherrill's photos.

Environmental Cleanup Report

DOE's Environmental Management Office recently released a draft strategy to accelerate the cleanup and closure of 353 projects at 53 geographic sites in the US. "Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure" is a tool for management of the technical activities, budgets, worker safety and risk reduction at the sites. Cleanup cost estimates are approximately $147 billion between 1997 and 2070. The public comment period ends May 1, 1998.

Richter Speaks on Science and Society

Burton Richter, Director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and past president of The American Physical Society (1994), recently addressed a Senate Forum on "Research as an Investment." His remarks highlighted the contributions that physics research have made to society, and the importance of federal support for science. His remarks were entitled "Long-Term Research and Its Impact on Society."

Math-Science Education Slump

In math and science, US students are above average at the 4th grade level, about average in the 8th grade, and by 12th grade, they drop to nearly last, according to an international survey of over
half-million students. The good news is that "the US was one of three countries that did not
demonstrate a significant gender gap in general math" according to the AIP summary. The bad
news as stated by Neal Lane, outgoing Director of the NSF: "These studies suggest that students
appear to disengage from learning critical mathematics and science content as they progress
through the school system." --From the "Third International Mathematics and Science Study
(TIMSS)"

QuickNews Available via E-mail

If you wish to receive the e-mail version of Quick News in the future, send a message to
majordomo@slac.stanford.edu with the message in the body

    subscribe quicknews-l

About Quick News

The Quick News site designed by the Technical Publications Department
Last updated by jmasek on 3/9/98.