We May Have A Budget

As you know, SLAC’s budget comes out of the Water and Energy bill set by Congress each year. As we go to press, the budget bills proposed by the House and Senate differ. So now the bill is in “conference,” a committee composed of senior members from each house (usually 3-9 people from each) who work out a compromise. If each house agrees to the compromise, then the bill goes to the President for signing. There’s some optimism that an agreement will be reached before the September 30 deadline.

Library Remodel

Things are moving along in the remodel of the SLAC library. A major change is the addition of six carrels with Internet hookups for those who wish to plug in laptops. With offices getting more crowded, it’s important that staff and users have a quiet place for work.

Use Alpine Gate on Sunday!

The SandHill Challenge will be using Sand Hill Road from Addison Wesley to just past the SLAC entrance on Sunday, so it will not be possible to get into SLAC through the Main Gate. The Alpine Gate will be open from 3 am to 3 pm. If you are going to the Derby, the high school heats start at 8:30 am and the corporate teams at 9:30 am. The race has to finish by noon in order to clean up and reopen the road by 3 pm.

Party Planners Needed

You thought it was budget news that was important? Maybe, but close behind were two other hot news items: the holiday closing and the holiday luncheon. The closing is from midnight on Dec 23 to midnight on January 2. The holiday luncheon is set for Thursday, December 16. Volunteers are needed to help with the program, menu, door prizes, and decorations. We need your help so contact Barbara Johnson x2354 to sign up.

Shampoos and Soaps

Thanks to all you frequent travelers our summer drive for those small packets of shampoos and soaps was a great success. The charity this year was the Boys and Girls Club of Menlo Park. Program directors there said that they used the items in classes on personal hygiene and also during a weekend camping trip for the kids. We’ll have the soap drive again next year, so save your goodies and plan to donate again next summer.

SLAC Exhibit Available for Loan
We have two tabletop posters about SLAC science, which are available for loan to your child’s school, local library, or professional organization. Help spread the word about what we do here! Handouts to accompany the exhibit include a brochure, tour information and post cards. If you know of a school or non-profit where the exhibit might be welcome, contact P.A. Moore at x2605.

**US High School Physics High**

Good news: the percentage of US high-school students taking physics has risen by 8% in the last decade, reaching an all-time high of 28% since the end of World War II. In the late 1990s, girls represent almost half (47%) of students taking high school physics (as opposed to 39% in 1987). However, African-American and Hispanic students remain underrepresented in physics classes; the same holds true for women and non-white physics teachers. These statistics come from a new AIP report entitled "Maintaining Momentum: High School Physics For A New Millennium." ([www.aip.org/statistics/trends/reports/hsreport.pdf](http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/reports/hsreport.pdf))

**FleaMarket**

You can post your classified ad using the SLAC FleaMarket Submission form. You can get to the current ads from the Announcements section on the SLAC Home Page. These pages can be viewed from computers within the SLAC domain.

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