

To Chris & Dorcen,

Something to remember you

RA's by: J. Schmitt & Cheryl Schmitt

and J. Schmitt

! Namu
Party

Lynn Salmar
H. Sal

Pat Walker
Keri T. Hulen
Buddie Mullin
Bill & Lynn Healey



TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

© Christopher Earls Brennan

FRANCE 1986

Thurs. Aug.14, 1986

Fly TWA 760 from LAX to LHR

SEP, Vernon, France, August 1986. Lecture Societe Europeenne de Propulsion (SEP), Vernon, France, 1986-88. Consultation on design of new rocket engine for Ariane V vehicle.

Sun. Aug.24, 1986

Fly TWA 761 from LHR to LAX



Chartres Cathedral and Palace of Versailles



Palace of Versailles



Versailles



Versailles



Inn in Vernon and Giverney Gardens



Monet's garden at Giverney



Picnic lunch



Vendome



Chenonceaux



Chenonceaux



Leonardo da Vinci home, Chateau du Clos Luce



Leonardo da Vinci home, Chateau du Clos Luce



Chambord



Chambord



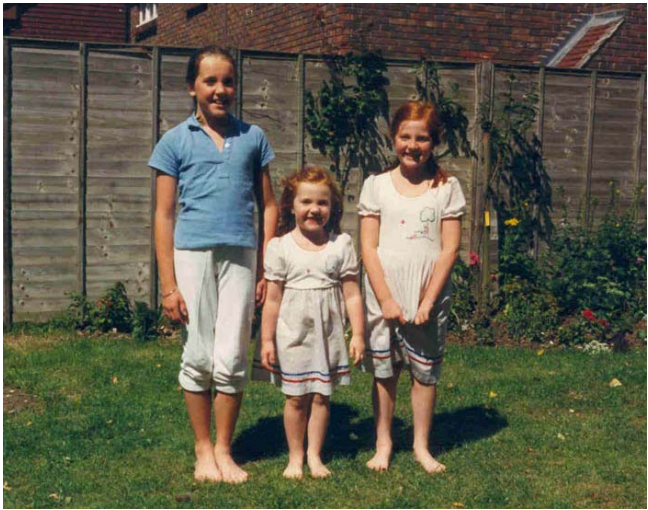
Tours



Tours and the Brenne river



At Windsor Castle



At Windsor Castle; the Mills daughters



At ??? and Balliol College, Oxford



Balliol College, Oxford



Bear Inn, Woodstock



Anderson home in Welford-upon-Avon, the Kerr sisters and mum

Sun. Aug.24, 1986

Fly TWA 761 from LHR to LAX

[Back to table of contents](#)

Last updated 7/30/99.

Christopher E. Brennen

211 Wood Street
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada Y1A 2E4
19 June 1986

Dear Dr. Brennen,

I have been meaning to write since I was in LA in March and ought to have simply left you a note then. What a disappointment to have missed seeing you then! I especially hoped to have you meet Charles, but I hope he got good reviews from Mrs Brennen! I missed seeing Props Acosta and Sabersky too, but at least saw Sue.

I trust your trip home was pleasant. Do you ever stop in at Balliol during your visits to the UK? Balliol changes on the surface from year to year, but I imagine it is, and will always be, fundamentally the same as it has been for centuries. The traditions that are an intrinsic part of Oxford do seem annoying at first, to a North American, but I grew to appreciate them very much during my two years there. I miss England very much, too, and am anxious to return. I will always feel a part of my heart is in Oxford and England, as will Charles.

I ~~will~~ have now been away from England almost a year and in many ways it still feels like yesterday since I left, perhaps because a little of Oxford lives on in Charles and me, and rarely a day passes when we aren't reminded of something there. We met many very fine people there, and have managed to stay in close touch with several of them despite the unsettled nature of our lives this past year.

This past year... it's been marvellous! We feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel so extensively. In a nutshell, we visited China, Hong Kong, Bali, Australia and New Zealand, and Charles also travelled with three other Balliol men through the USSR and Mongolia (all independantly.) Through Oxford, we knew someone in Hong Kong and several people in Australia, so we had many people to fall back on for advice and/or accomodation. We travelled through much of Australia in 5½ months: Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Brisbane, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, and Tasmania. We spent 4 weeks in NZ and hiked the Milford Track (where we experienced 14" of rainfall in three days! Exciting!) and saw a fair bit of the South Island and less of the North Island.

We returned to LA in March, as you know, and Charles headed directly to Boston (I followed a week later, and went to Montreal for a few days to see my mother.) He was very successful in his job search and will be beginning in September ^{in Boston} at the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) as an associate consultant. He has been offered an excellent salary, good benefits and an exciting position. It will require lots of work and travel, but he is anxious to get a taste of the business world. He felt the best way to accomplish this would be to work in the management consulting field, in order to gain exposure to a variety of businesses and industries. He hasn't ruled out doing further graduate studies, either an MBA or a PhD. He did a second BA at Balliol, in PPE, and earned a First!

I intend to wait until we're back in Boston to begin my job search in earnest. I will have at least a two-month wait to obtain my green card. I have a few contacts lined up to speak with when we return, and as ~~not~~ we plan to settle in Cambridge, I'll have a good choice of businesses to look at in the immediate area. I haven't ruled out more school, but do feel I need some time in the real world before I attempt to continue my studies. I feel very uncertain as to what I would like to do, but would like to combine my scientific background with something that is also "people oriented". I'm certain there's lots out there I'm not even aware of, and plan to speak with many people in a variety of fields to get a better feeling for what's available. One thing I know will help: I'm extremely enthusiastic about finding work and I believe this attitude will help greatly.

We were delighted that Charles' job was only to begin in September as we had hoped to travel north for the summer. We bought a used car in Denver (where we went to visit Charles' grandmother) and drove through Yellowstone, Montana, Idaho and Washington. My grandmother lives on one of the San Juan Islands and we spent some time with her, then went to Vancouver. There we saw more relatives and friends, and Expo. We then spent five days driving up to Whitehorse - my first time over land. The roads and campgrounds were still quite empty and the wildlife was in sight everywhere. It was such a lovely trip and it's wonderful to be back in this beautiful land. I was last here in 1982.

I am working for my Dad for a few weeks, transferring his business accounting onto a new personal computer accounting software package. It was tricky at first, sorting out the accounting terminology (developped, I'm certain, to confuse the masses and therefore make accountants necessary!) but now it's all going well. This has been something Dad has wanted to do for ages but has never had the time to get around to. He is doing well in various publishing areas (eg. the Yukon Legislature Debates & Proceedings (Hansard), the Yukon Gov't Gazette, the Yukon telephone book) and would like to sell off the newspaper in order to concentrate his efforts on these other projects. All he needs is a buyer...

My brother Stephen has been living here four years and is now ready to go to university. He hopes to go to McGill in January. I'm pleased to be able to spend so much time with him this summer. I've really grown close to him since I left home and it will be great to have him nearby next year (at least, "near" compared with the past 8 years!)

Charles and I are driving south in mid-August, stopping in Ontario to see both his and my grandparents, and then in Montreal to see Mom and attend a wedding (two more Balliol people, the woman being Wanda Taylor, whose father, ^{Charles,} is also a Balliol man!)

Once I get a wedding photo from Stephen to enclose with this, I'll send it off. All my best to you and Mrs Brennan. I hope we see each other soon (perhaps in Boston? I'll send an address when we have one.)

Sincerely,

Bev



Harvey Mudd fires challenge at Caltech

Pasadena Star News
March 31, 1986

By KATHY BRAIDHILL
Staff Writer

The mission, as they chose to accept it, was to smuggle a 3-ton cannon from the Caltech campus.

In 10 years, no one had succeeded.

On Friday: mission accomplished.

Harvey Mudd College students swilled beer to celebrate the capture of the cannon — transplanted to the Claremont campus — and threw down the gauntlet to Caltech students:

Try to steal it back.

"I hope they accept the challenge," said Jeffrey Hong, a

Mudd engineering junior who helped mastermind the prank.

"We'll try to get it back right away," said a Caltech student at Fleming House, where the cannon once graced the lawn. "We're having a meeting about it (today)."

With blue T-shirts, a heavy-duty forklift and the brazen gall of cross-county rivals, a dozen Harvey Mudd students stole the cannon from Caltech in broad daylight.

After a baseball game last semester with Caltech, Harvey

Please see CANNON,
Page A-5

Cannon: Students get a bang out of prank

Continued from Page A-1

Mudd students said the theft of the cannon was intended to heat up the rivalry, Hong said.

"We thought about using a trailer, but (the cannon) popped the tires of a trailer when we tried to take it one year," Hong said.

The crew of mostly student government officials decided to go about their task boldly instead of snatching it in the middle of the night.

Posing as construction workers — HM Salvage Inc. — the students drove the rented forklift onto the grassy lawn of the Pasadena campus and seized the cannon in a two-hour operation.

"Three of us were playing ball on the lawn so other people

would just ignore us," Hong said.

One of the students took pictures as the prank was carried out.

Another student, a 27-year-old man with a bald spot, posed as the foreman of the job.

From 6:30 to 8:30 a.m., the students wrestled with the cannon, which became mired in the mud at one point.

The troupe fended off Caltech campus security officers with a story about needing to remove the cannon to refurbish it.

"It was funny because one of the officers said they had to be very careful because a lot of people try to steal the cannon," said Michele Mathys, the Student Body Judiciary Board Chairman at Harvey Mudd.

She said it is doubtful there will be administrative action taken against the students, but added that "I'm sure we'll hear about it (today)."

Mathys did not participate in the prank, but she related this story from one of the students who did.

As their photographer was working from a dormitory window, he woke up a Caltech student who became suspicious about the activity on the lawn, Mathys said. The Harvey Mudd student tried to reassure him and said the construction crew looked busy. Unsatisfied, the student called campus security and was told everything was all right.

Still unsatisfied, the student went down to where they were

working and a Mudd student told him a water main broke under the cannon, which had to be moved so they could work on it, Mathys said.

Thus reassured, the student returned to the dorm, only to brag to the Harvey Mudd student that Caltech had stole it from a military school years before.

"He was talking about how proud they were of stealing it from the school while we were stealing it from them," Mathys said.

CIT Gets Into the "Used Cannon" Business

This is the story of how 100 men and ladies from Fleming House borrowed something from Southwestern Academy in San Marino. The story was told so well in the November 1972 edition of the *Caltech News* that it seems appropriate to quote most of that article here. Our thanks to editor Winifred Veronda for this account.

Inter-house rivalry has taken on a new dimension as inhabitants of Page House stare down the 12-foot barrel of a 1.7-ton cannon guarding Fleming House across the way.

Flems are freeing the brake and elevation mechanisms and clearing the breech blocks on the 96-year-old, paint-encrusted, Franco-Prussian War-vintage cannon and are warning all would-be marauders that they expect to find new ways of getting a bang out of the old firing piece.

With "Mission Impossible" precision, almost 100 Flems—including freshmen residents who learned that a Tech initiation poses novel challenges—"liberated" the cannon about three o'clock one dark and ominous Sunday morning in October from its concrete moorings on the front lawn at Southwestern Academy in San Marino where it had been guarding the city's northern borders since 1925.

Southwestern Academy reportedly had been trying to find a way to get the cannon off its lawn because it gave the school a military image and attracted vandals, but had been told problems of moving it were almost insurmountable.

Rumors hint that Kenneth Veronda, the director of the boys' boarding school, was in on the deal, but no confirmation is available.

An advance guard prepared the cannon for moving a few days before "Operation Liberation" by removing its weathered and broken wheels and repairing them in a secret hideaway known only to campus security guards and a few unspecified persons in Aero.

As the hour of liberation approached, 12 students—ten men and two women—readied the cannon for transport by reinstalling the reconditioned wheels and placing a third wheel at the rear, breaking the cannon loose from the

creaking wooden wheels.

After parking their booty in front of Fleming and breakfasting in the lounge on beer and macadamia nuts, the victors began chipping paint off the antique weapon, uncovering at least 35 coats in the process. They encountered an adversary in campus security, who immediately dispensed a ticket for illegally parking a cannon on the Olive Walk.

More recently, the Flems have begun mixing research on the operation of 1876-vintage French cannons with laboratory assignments for Physics 5 and Chemistry 3. The master of student houses'

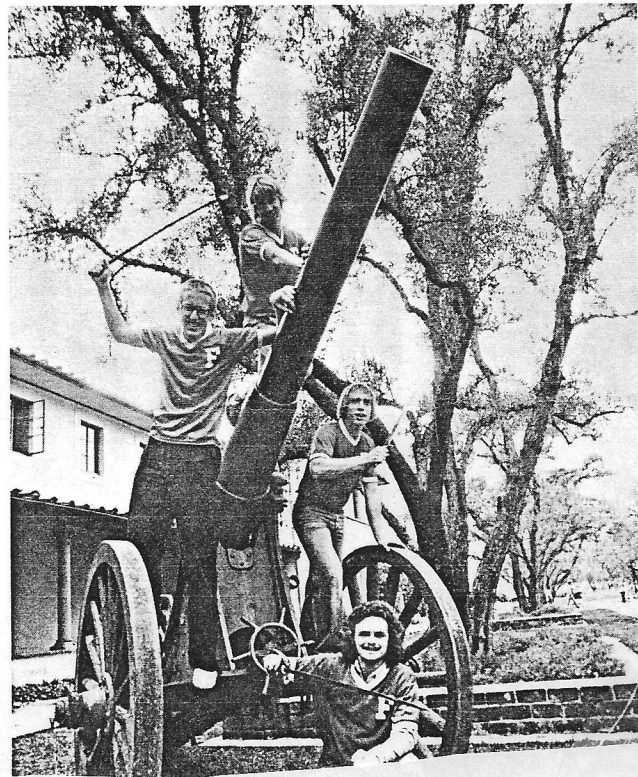
concrete, and misleading inquisitive San Marino police as to the projected time of lift-off.

Meanwhile, about 70 Flems met at widely separated pickup points, totally confusing attempts of spies from other houses to determine their destination, and massed at 2 a.m., dressed in black, on Southwestern's athletic field.

After receiving their assignments, they moved in units to the front lawn to man ropes the advance guard had attached to the cannon. With 50 students pulling and 25 acting as a brake, they gently persuaded the gun onto planks, across the lawn, over the curb and into the street, an operation requiring almost total silence. Then they executed a run for the Pasadena border, three blocks away.

Signaling with flashlights, they dragged the ancient cannon up Oak Knoll Hill in a strange procession to muted sounds of shuffling feet and

The current "final" resting place of the traveling cannon—in front of Fleming House



included on the list of forbidden projectiles.

The question now is: how long it will take ingenious Flems to conceive of an interesting projectile that hasn't been listed?

According to Winifred, the cannon was indeed cleaned, repaired, and fired ceremoniously to celebrate finals week, commencement, etc. (Surely the cannon is an improvement over "The Ride of the Valkyries.") Unfortunately, the cannon's concussion tended to bust windows. So it was eventually returned to Southwestern Academy. A

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE MASTER OF STUDENT HOUSES 0-54

December 10, 1986

Dr. Marvin Goldberger
President
California Institute of Technology

Dear Dr. Goldberger,

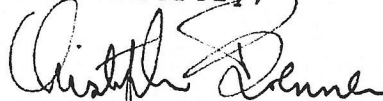
In June 1987, I will have served as Master of Student Houses for a period of four years, and I believe that it is appropriate that I step down at that time. You may recall that my predecessor, Sunney Chan, was Master for three years and that it was agreed in conversations with you and Dr. Morgan that three years was an appropriate minimum period for the appointment.

Despite its demands and frustrations, I have derived considerable personal satisfaction from the opportunity to serve the students and the Institute as Master of Student Houses. I would therefore like to thank you, personally, for that opportunity.

It is however a task which takes its toll on one's professional and personal life and for that reason I believe that a term of three or four years is the maximum that could be expected of a faculty member. Above and beyond that, I believe it is time for a new face and a fresh approach.

Finally, let me add that I have a great affection for our undergraduates. I continue to believe that they are an outstanding group of young people and look forward to being involved with them for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,


Christopher Brennen

xc:
R. Vogt
J. J. Morgan
G. Cass