

2001

Jan 29 Mike Mills visit / Mack - Scottsdale  
May Scottsdale (Salome Jug)  
~~June 9 Big Falls hike ✓~~  
Jul 27 Zion hiking  
Aug Dana, Jason + Kids → Bahamas  
~~Aug 19 Mt Baldy hike ✓~~  
Aug 30 to Sedona ————— Grand Teton  
Sep. Japan  
~~Apr~~ Oct. Mike Mills / Baldy ✓

~~Oct 20 Sheep Canyon ✓~~

Oct. Palm Springs

~~Dec. Sand Canyon ✓~~

Dec. Kathy + Sam drive to Chicago

Other 2001

~~Jan 21, Upper Lucas~~

~~Feb 4, Fox Creek + Gorge~~

~~Feb 10, railroad hike~~

~~Feb 18, Wolfstill falls~~

~~Mar 24, Canyon Canyon?~~

Apr. Visit of Dana + Kids. Apr. 14 E took Q, T + G → river  
Apr. 11 All to Eaton Canyon.  
Apr. 15 Pool + Slip + Slide

May 11 Drove to Scottsdale (Salome Jug)

~~May 28 Gila Creek Falls~~

~~July 28 Adventure hike with Garrett, Simone, Clancy, D. Walker~~

# TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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## GRAND TETON 2001

In the 1920's George Leigh Mallory was part of the British team that first tried to climb Everest and his death during the third attempt in 1924 created one of the most enduring legends of mountaineering. In 1999, a group of searchers found Mallory's body and revived the debate over whether or not Mallory and/or his young companion, Sandy Irvine, had made it to the summit. Let me hasten to say that this story is not a parallel to those dramatic events. Rather, I have always been intrigued by Mallory's insightful comment on the journey of the spirit that every mountain adventure creates. I am not sure that I understand why this observation is so true, but it is. One could argue that a mountain ascent is just another form of recreational exercise - like a game of tennis. But I cannot imagine that even the most imaginative tennis player comes anywhere close to the quasi-religious experience that Mallory identified. Perhaps it derives from a combination of a single lofty goal, spectacular scenery and hallucinations brought on by exhaustion. It is easier to describe by example.

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*Grand Teton from Jackson Hole*

The Teton mountains are spectacular jewels of rock and ice that soar into the heavens above the flat plain of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in northwestern United States. I remember driving westwards through Wyoming in 1970 and, upon cresting the Togwotee Pass, seeing the magnificent Teton range for the first time. Piercing the western horizon, they were the most magnificent mountains I had ever seen, rugged pinnacles rising precipitously into the sky. Native Indians called them the "Hoary Headed Fathers", but when the French trappers of the Hudson Bay Company came this way they called them "Les Trois Teton" or the "Three Tits", a name which stuck and by which the South, Middle and Grand Teton are now known. In 1970, preoccupied with my family vacation, I little thought that someday I would return and attempt to climb the highest of those pinnacles, the 13770ft Grand Teton. This story is about a time in the year 2001 when I did return knowing full well that I would experience my own spiritual saga on the awesome Grand Teton.

The beauty of the Teton mountain range and the area surrounding it was recognized early in the modern era when the Grand Teton National Park was established in 1929. The mountains, glaciers, lakes and abundant wildlife made it a national treasure and, today, a particularly popular destination for hikers and climbers. But the mountain was climbed long before it was claimed by government bureaucrats. The



Grand was first conquered by William Owen, Frank Spalding, Frank Peterson and John Shive who reached the summit on Aug. 11, 1898, using a route that is known today as the Owen-Spalding route. Though most of this route is a matter of finding your way up steep talus slopes, the last 600ft ascent of the summit block requires technical rock climbing know-how and technique, as well as the ability to handle exposure that can be several thousands of feet in places. The climbing skills required depend very much on the weather and the time of year. When the cracks, chimneys and crevices of the summit block are lined with ice or filled with snow they present a formidable climbing challenge. But in the late summer when the route is usually (but not always) free of ice most of the climbing challenges (only a few moves above 5.4) would be modest if they were at the level of the valley below. On the other hand the weather, route finding and massive exposure add considerably to the challenge. But the awards are spectacular views of these magnificent mountains from a truly remarkable vantage point.

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Somehow I knew from the outset that the days we had planned in the Tetons, though spectacular and exhilarating, would also be tinged with sadness for they marked beginnings and endings. Some of these I foresaw, others I did not. The canvas was the mountain itself, magnificent and awesome, the greatest challenge I had ever faced. Throughout those days Mallory's words kept me wondering about the beginnings and endings.

Perhaps the first beginning had been many years before in 1992 when Doug Hart and I had set out on a great mountain adventure, the first of our several efforts to climb El Picacho del Diablo (see "Mountain of the Devil"). Doug's strength (as well as his sore feet!) were with me then, as they were now. It was very good to be adventuring with him again after such a long time. Doug and another former student, Sheldon Green, had been mountain climbing in British Columbia and had driven from Vancouver to meet us in the shadows of the Tetons. Two other veterans of past adventures, Garrett Reisman and Simone Francis, had come to our rendezvous from the opposite direction, from Houston, Texas. After teaching me the rudiments of climbing, Garrett had gone on to other missions as a NASA astronaut. It was marvellous to see Garrett and Simone again.

But, most of all these were watershed days for one of the central figures in our canyoneering adventures, Clancy Rowley. At the end of his years as a graduate student in California, Clancy had decided to drive to New Jersey where he was to take up a faculty position at Princeton - and he decided to detour via the Tetons. Clancy had been my trusted companion and fellow adventurer for an era of spectacular adventures. Together we had pioneered more than a dozen technical canyoneering routes in the San Gabriels; we had conquered Cathedral Peak in Yosemite, Weaver's Needle in the Superstitions and Picacho Peak in the California desert. We had traversed the wildness of the Wonderland of Rocks in Joshua Tree National Park and had explored the haunted Tenaya Canyon in Yosemite. In Utah we ventured into the deepest slot canyons of Zion National Park including the Zion Narrows, the Subway, Mystery Canyon, and Pine Creek. He had saved me by a fingertip in the wilds of the Sespe Wilderness and willed me the strength to climb out of the Grand Canyon. With my 60th birthday looming ahead, it was hard for me to envisage embarking on future adventures without Clancy. I would miss not only his strength, agility and climbing skills (for he had always led) but also his compassion, his understanding and his kindness. Though separated in age by more than 30 years, Clancy had become a boon companion. And so it seemed that the Grand Teton would also be a watershed moment for me.

Clancy had driven from Pasadena to the Grand Tetons and met me when I stepped off the plane at the small Jackson, Wyoming, airport. We headed into Jackson to get some lunch and there I experienced a series of incidents that reminded me of my own beginnings and shook me to my core. We were seated in a booth in a hamburger joint perusing some of the maps and guides to the Grand Tetons that I had brought with me. After a few minutes I became aware of the family of three seated in the adjacent booth. I think my subconscious registered first but it was several minutes before I became aware of a feeling that was simultaneously strange and yet also very familiar. It was not that I had ever seen these people before. Nor were they in any way remarkable. Rather I became aware that their accents could only mean one thing, namely that they came from within 10 miles of the rural backwater of Northern Ireland where I grew up. To most Americans it seems incredible that accents could change so rapidly with distance that people's homelands can be located with such accuracy. But there was no doubt in my mind. And so, at an appropriate pause in their conversation I intruded and enquired about where they lived. And, yes indeed,

they hailed from the village of Draperstown, only about five miles from my home village of Magherafelt and six thousand miles from where we were seated. We chatted about common acquaintances and it transpired that they had known my father when he was the surgeon in the local district hospital. Though they did not recognize my much altered accent, they were as astonished as I was by such a remarkable coincidence. And Clancy was speechless with amazement. For me the coincidence was also disequilibrating; it seemed a portent of other beginnings or endings yet to come.

And then something happened that truly disquieted me. Clancy had not taken part in the conversation but the woman looked at him and asked "And is this your son?". I was stunned as if by a gunshot. Ever since the terrible death of my 23-year-old son Patrick in a 1997 automobile accident, I have dreaded small-talk questions like "How many children do you have?". Somehow, I have learned to struggle through them. But this one truly stunned me since it was so unexpected. I mumbled something about Clancy being a student and then struggled with parting pleasantries so that I could breath the air outside. I would have been delighted to answer her question in the affirmative and would have done just that but for the shock of the moment and the embarrassment it would have caused Clancy. My mind raced with emotions and I was glad of the moments in the parking lot in which to recover some equilibrium.

In the subdued aftermath, we drove north past the airport and a few miles further into Grand Teton National Park. At the end of a dirt turnoff about *4m* north of the park entrance on Teton Park Road, we located the Climber's Ranch where we found bunkhouse accommodations for the night at the remarkably cheap rate of \$6 a head. The ranch was built specially for climbers and consists of a group of cabins with a central dining shelter as well as washing and bathroom facilities. The place has great atmosphere and camaraderie; others more knowledgeable about the Tetons are happy to give help and advice. In the early evening Garrett and Simone arrived with abundant pizza and beer and it was late before we began sorting out the technical equipment we would need to carry with us the next morning. Doug and Sheldon were already high on the mountain. Having obtained the necessary camping permit the preceding day, they could not resist taking off into these beautiful mountains. We had arranged to meet them at the Moraine campground the next evening.

Early the next morning the four of us drove a short way to the Lupine Meadows trailhead (elevation *6732ft*) with its large parking area and started off along the gentle trail that gave no hint of the enormous challenges ahead. The route proceeded south along the wooded edge of the meadow and then began a *1700ft* switchbacking ascent of a steep pine-forested slope. As we climbed our view of the Jackson Hole flatland broadened and soon the lovely, deep blue Bradley and Taggart lakes lay below us. As the trail turned west and began contouring into Garnet Canyon an even more spectacular scene opened up. Garnet is a delightful high country canyon with crystal cascades and small mossy meadows amongst massive boulders. And higher up we were treated to the first close-up view of the Middle Teton, looming over the head of the canyon and sliced through by a striking linear dyke. Continuing to climb, the trail eventually met with Garnet Creek at a place where there is a camping area known as The Platforms (elevation *8960ft*). This marked the end of the developed trail, and we stopped here to have lunch beside the sparkling stream.

Beyond the trails-end we clambered over and around a group of large boulders before reaching more level ground. The use-trail then followed Garnet Creek for about *0.5m* to a high alpine meadow with a popular campground known as The Meadows (elevation *9400ft*). Here, at the head of Garnet Canyon, we were close to the treeline with mostly glacier and rock all around. Two steep valleys, the North and South Forks of Garnet Canyon, descend into The Meadows. Our route through the North Fork switchbacked up a steep and partially wooded slope above the Meadows and climbed around to the right of a lovely waterfall known as Spalding Falls. These are fed by water from the Middle Teton Glacier still out of sight and high above us in the North Fork. Beyond Spalding Falls the trail crossed the stream at a camping area known as the Petzoldt Caves, a name that refers to campsites dug out under huge boulders. Here we passed the last trees at an elevation of about *10000ft* and began to ascend a steep, barren talus slope that eventually crested at the top of a great moraine. Created by the Middle Teton Glacier that deposited a massive rough platform of rocks, this moraine formed a mile-long horizontal perch in this otherwise vertical terrain high on the side of the Teton peaks. As the glacier retreated it left this perch bounded on the right and at the head by rock walls and on the left by the remnants of the ice. A series of

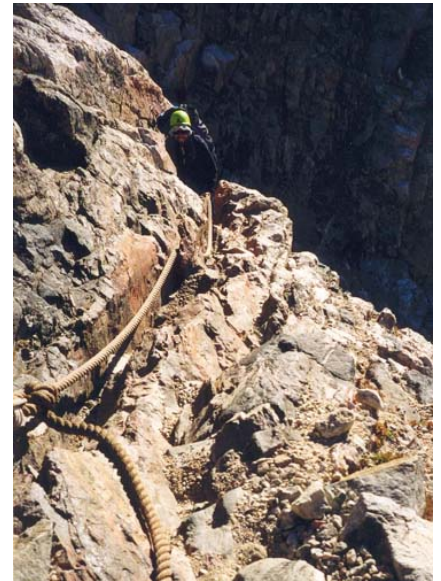
small tent-sized clearings sprinkled over the wide boulder field constituted the Moraine camping area. Each site was protected by camper-built rock walls that provide some shelter from the frequent winds.

We reached the bottom end of the Moraine camping area (elevation *10750ft*) about *6hr* and *6.2m* from the morning start. Here we expected to find Doug and Sheldon but they were nowhere to be seen. We made our way up the braided trails that led through this much-dispersed camping area, looking for them at every site. Reaching the bottom of the steep talus slope at the head of the canyon where the last sites were located we had to conclude that Doug and Sheldon had not yet arrived. We set up camp at this highest group of sites (elevation *11000ft*) and, fortunately, Doug and Sheldon arrived up shortly thereafter. They had detoured en route in order to summit the Middle Teton which they did successfully. Over dinner, we talked of plans for the next day and finally settled down for the night.

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*Lower Saddle from the Moraine*



*Ascending the fixed rope*

We slept longer than we had planned and, after breakfast, began hiking about *7.30am*. At the top of the steep talus slope in the head of the canyon, was the first technical obstacle of the day, a *40ft* climb up an easy cliff using a very thick, fixed rope and many good footholds. From the top of rope climb, the trail switchbacked up about *200ft* to the broad Lower Saddle (*11650ft*) that lies between the Grand and Middle Tetons and is readily seen from the valley far below. Here we took advantage of the last available water on the ascent to pump several bottles from a trickle of glacial melt. Two Exum Guide huts and a number of windswept campsites (protected by stone walls) also occupy the Lower Saddle.

From the Lower Saddle we were treated to the first views west into Idaho. Below lay the broad South Fork of Cascade Canyon, another popular hiking route with a developed trail. The view to the south was dominated by the bulk of the Middle Teton, clearly a very difficult technical climb from this starting point. Looking north the trail proceeds northeastwards up the crest of a broad ridge toward the mass of the Grand Teton. Straight ahead we could clearly discern the broad horizontal band of black rock known as the Black Dyke running across the bottom of the mountain. When the trail steepened, we followed the use-trail straight up through the Black Dyke, directly toward a large cliff that blocks the route straight ahead. At the cliff, we turned left and followed a well-worn trail around the foot of the cliff and into a talus-filled gully. Just about *50ft* up this gully, after just one switchback, we encountered the trickiest navigational challenge on the ascent to the Upper Saddle. Called the "Eye of the Needle" in the guidebooks, we found the available diagrams and descriptions of dubious value. Only after several errors did we recognize the correct (and quite simple) route. After the trail arrives in the talus-filled gully and makes one switchback across it, you should look to the right and find a steep rock ledge that begins broad but narrows as it rounds a promontory. Like many folks we proceed up this ledge (it had a cairn on it) and then found serious technical challenges around the corner. Though we finally found our way past those challenges, we later recognized that we should not have ascended the broad ledge with the cairn.



Rather, we should have proceeded about another *20ft* up the talus-filled gully to a much less obvious ledge trail that proceeds right under an overhang to a bench. Known as the "Eye of the Needle" that bench is directly above the start of the broad ledge. On the way back down the mountain we chose to rappel down about *90ft* from the "Eye of the Needle" bench to the talus-filled gully.



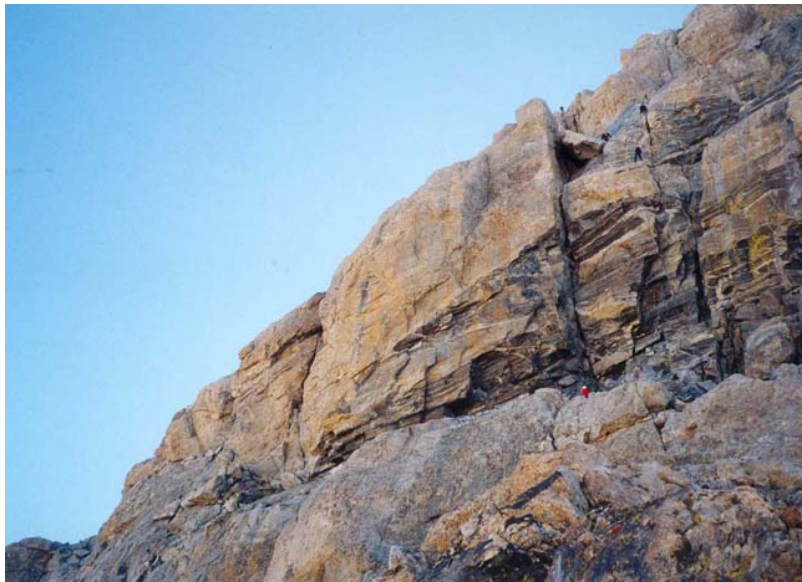
*Looking up from Lower Saddle*



*View south from Upper Saddle*

From the "Eye of the Needle" bench, the route up to the Upper Saddle (elevation *13100ft*) proceeded straight up a broad gully. Staying to the right at first and then crossing over toward the left, we relocated a well-worn trail in the talus slope that switchbacked up to the Upper Saddle. There we were treated to awesome views both to the south and, newly revealed, in the northern direction. To the south we could now see all the Teton peaks at the southern end of the range and, in the distance, the city of Jackson. To the north *12928ft* Mount Owen was half hidden behind the mass of the Grand and, below, an almost vertical *5000ft* drop into Cascade Canyon. Its waters fill Jenny Lake which, in turn, flows into Jackson Lake, visible to the northeast. And in between the awesome drop-offs to the north and south, was the massive cliff to the east, the vertical side of the summit block of the Grand Teton. Standing at the Upper Saddle, it was hard to see how there could be any way to surmount that huge summit block towering above us. Cliffs of over *100ft* rise vertically overhead as far as one could see on both sides. And the drop-offs to both the left and the right are huge.

However, from the Upper Saddle a use-trail climbs up a short talus-covered ridge running up to the base of the cliff around the summit block and thence to a rocky platform at the bottom of rappel descent of the cliff. We reached this waypoint (elevation about *13200ft*) about *3.5hr* after the morning start. Here we encountered other groups descending from the summit block by way of the two, side-by-side rappel routes about which more later. From here our chosen route was obvious for off to the left there was a narrow and narrowing ledge, the beginning of the Owen-Spalding route. About *30ft* from the bottom of the *120ft* rappel and just past a chimney called the Wittich Crack, we encountered the first technical and constitutionally challenging part of the route, a series of very exposed obstacles on a narrow, horizontal ledge. The first of these obstacles, known as the Bellyroll, is formed by a large slab that has detached from the rock face. Here we donned our harnesses and prepared for the technical part of the ascent.



*Summit block from Upper Saddle*

Roped up and belayed we made our way around this slab by hanging onto its top edge and using the modest footholds on its steep outer face. The length of this manoeuvre is only about *10ft* and it would have been easy were it not for the vertical drop of several thousand feet directly underneath! Beyond the Bellyroll, we accessed a small but comfortable shelf that quickly narrowed to a horizontal tube-like ledge known as The Crawl. I wiggled through The Crawl though others, on a belay, transitioned around in the same way that they did the Bellyroll. Again the exposure was enormous. As the tube of The Crawl widened again, there was another, detached slab similar to the Bellyroll. Just beyond that was the deep and easy Double Chimney (*5.5* at most). Entering the recess of that chimney meant some relief from the enormous exposure and allowed a little relaxation. About *20ft* of easy climbing lead to the top of the Double Chimney. There we emerged onto a recessed platform and paused to recover our equilibrium.

Sitting there in the sun, enjoying the panoramic view, we reviewed our next challenge. Other passing climbers reminded us that there are two ways to get from this platform to a long, broad and comfortable ledge that runs horizontally across the summit block about *50ft* above where we were perched. The first is the obvious Owen Chimney that runs up from the back of the platform. The second and quicker route is a series of angled ledges known as The Catwalk that proceeds around to the south. However, the Catwalk is very exposed, especially the first *20ft* around a promontory. We opted for the Catwalk. So I casually asked Clancy whether he wanted to proceed around the promontory with a belay line and was somewhat startled by the firmness of the negative response. Same response from Garrett. And so I suddenly realized that we had reached a crux in our adventure. If we were going to reach the top I would have to lead us there. And so we set up a belay line, I made my way to the apex of the promontory, climbed about *6ft* up the arete to another ledge and anchored myself to a convenient hole in the rock. Having converted the belay line to a handline, the others then made their way up to the anchor point and proceeded onwards along the Catwalk to its end at the broad ledge. Back at the anchor point Clancy and Garrett were the last to surmount the promontory hurdle. Their murmurs of admiration exhilarated me. Somehow, I felt a new beginning. I had for so long relied on these two to undertake the more dangerous tasks. Now, suddenly and unexpectedly, despite my age, I had joined them as an equal in leading our group. Quiet satisfaction suffused me. I would lead this group to the top of the Grand Teton.

The three of us continued for about *150ft* up the angled Catwalk to the broad ledge at the point where the top of the *120ft* rappel is located. Some of the others had dispersed along the ledge looking for the next chimney, but we soon regrouped and set off on the final leg of our ascent. A short distance north along the broad ledge I located the obviously climbable crack know as Sargent's Chimney. To be certain that I had identified the right chimney I went a little further north along the ledge to where it ended in the much larger Great West Chimney and then I backtracked. In the absence of ice, Sargent's Chimney was a lovely (and fairly easy) free climb of about *120ft*. The exhilaration was still with me as I flew up it, leaving an extended line of my companions behind me. This was not just bravado; we had very limited



time left and I had to ascertain the correct route to avoid any further delays. At a bolted rappel point I exited chimney left onto another broad ledge, above which it was clear that the slopes would allow an easy scramble to the summit. Proceeding northeast I found a use-trail that bypassed a *25ft* slab and then a short final *20ft* chimney. Suddenly, I was on the *13770ft* summit of the Grand Teton. It was a moment of supreme accomplishment. Not only had I made it to the summit of this majestic mountain, but I had found in myself a strength and resolve that I did not know I had. And I had deployed both the strength and my leadership to bring all of our party to the top. It was indeed a special beginning for me.



*On the summit of the Grand Teton*



*The 120ft rappel descent*

But there was one serious problem. We had hoped to reach the summit by *1.00pm* in order to leave time for a comfortable, daylight descent. It was now *5.00pm*! I would seriously fail my friends if they were to be trapped on the mountain for the night. Therefore speed was of the essence. I could only enjoy the summit for a few minutes before starting down. Indeed, only Doug arrived while I was there. I regret that I did not share that special moment with Garrett, Simone, Clancy and Sheldon. All made it to the summit but only after I passed them on my way down.

Fortunately, we were skilled at setting up rappels and so the *100ft* rappel descent of Sargent's Chimney and then the spectacular *120ft* Owen-Spalding free rappel from the horizontal ledge down to the Upper Saddle area were carried out very efficiently. As we sat awaiting our turn at the top of the Owen-Spalding an elegant white glider circled us like a great mute gull acknowledging our accomplishment. We then hastened down the use-trail past the Upper Saddle and down the talus slope to the "Eye of the Needle" bench. Another efficient rappel took us into a talus-filled gully, from which a well-worn trail proceeded left around the cliff-base to the top of the Black Dyke. Though the light was fading as we climbed down through the Black Dyke and hiked down the ridge toward the Lower Saddle, our anxiety had eased for we were now quite certain that we could get back to camp from here in the dark. It was *8.00pm* and we had but a few minutes of twilight left as we passed tomorrow's hikers huddled around the Exum huts and made our way down to the fixed rope descent below the Lower Saddle. Here, with the end of the days exertions now palpably in sight, I began to feel very weary. But it was only a matter of minutes before we finally arrived back at our campground. I could only managed a cup of broth before I had to climb into my sleeping bag.

The third day dawned bright and beautiful and the exhilaration of the preceding day returned as we breakfasted and packed for the descent to the valley below. This was the easy part and we were all buoyed by the achievements of the day before. As any party is likely to do on a carefree descent we tended to spread out so it happened that I spent some time alone on the trail with each of my good friends. Doug seemed elated despite his sore feet and talked of times ahead. Simone and Garrett were already planning yet another extemporaneous detour on their way back to Houston. And Clancy and I



talked of the very different challenges he would face as a young faculty member at Princeton. We also talked of future adventures, they with the confidence of youth, me with an unspoken uncertainty born of my age and declining abilities.

It was Clancy who drove me to the airport that evening for my flight back to California. We said a quick goodbye for my emotions would not allow me otherwise. Everything that needed to be said had already been said and experienced high on the Grand Teton and on a kaleidoscope of other adventures over the past five years. A magnificent journey was spiritually complete. The beginnings and endings were now sharply in focus. George had it right.

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*Last updated 1/15/02.*

*Christopher E. Brennen*

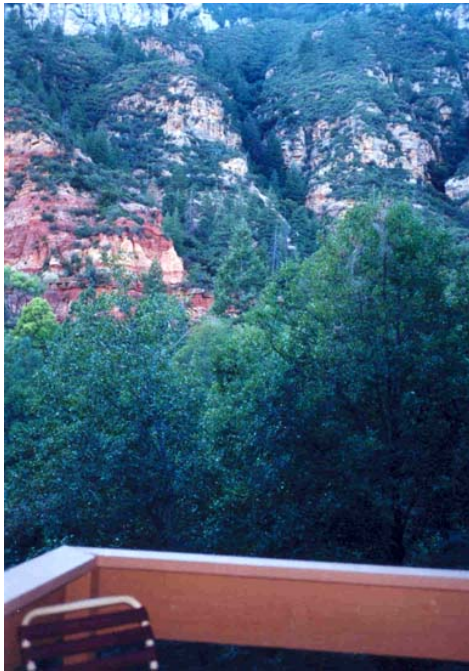
## TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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### SEDONA 2001

On Aug.30, 2001, Doreen and I drove to Scottsdale, Arizona, where we met up with Kathy and her children and Dana and her kids (who had flown in from Philadelphia). We all drove to Sedona where we stayed in a hotel in the canyon for a few days.

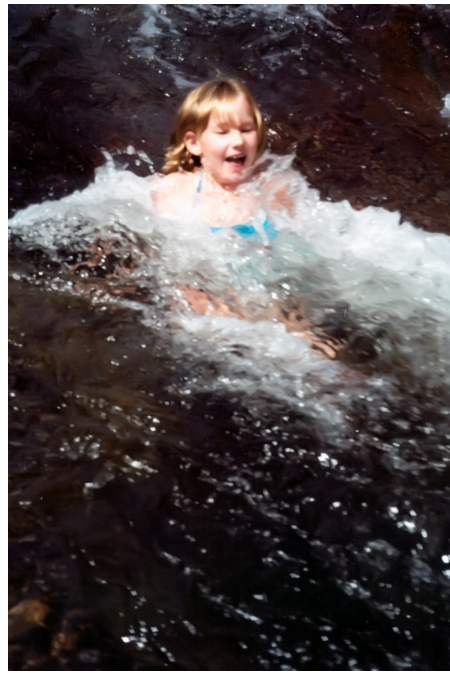


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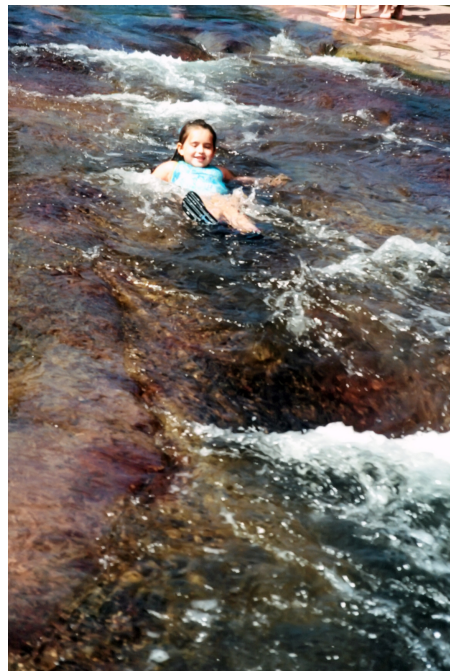


*Sedona*





*Sedona*

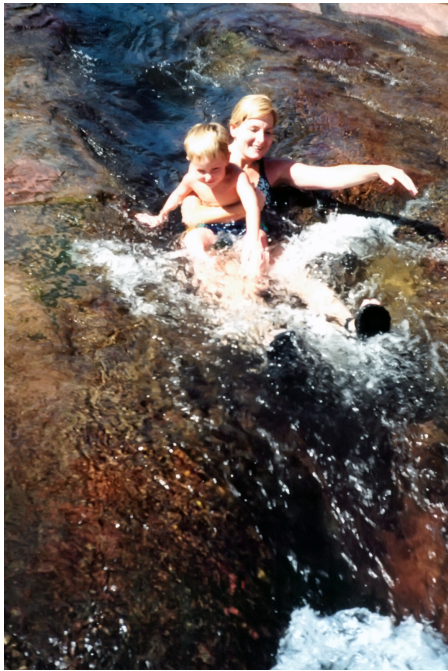


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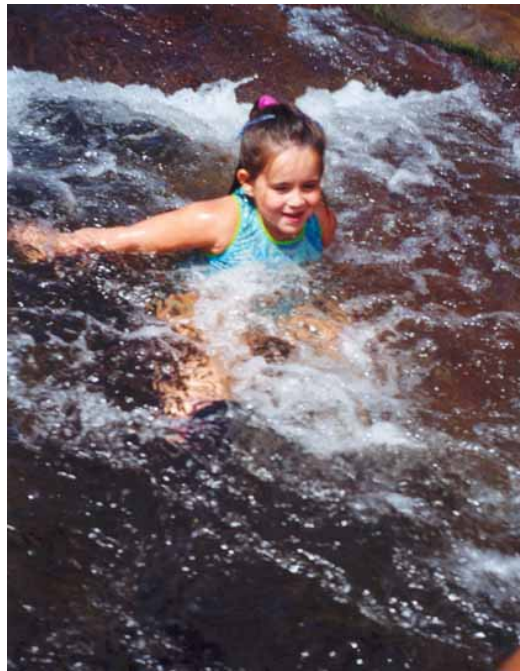
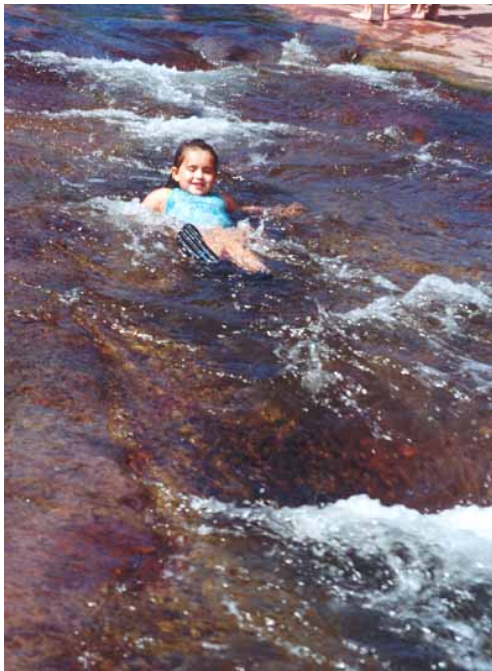


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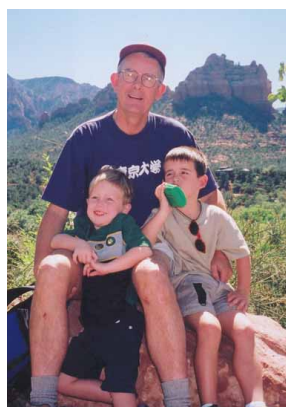
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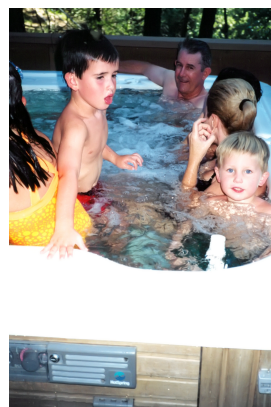




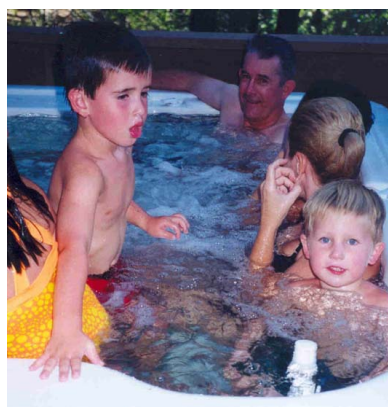
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*Sedona*



*Sedona*

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Christopher E. Brennen



## TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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### IRELAND 2001

Doreen and Chris visit Ireland, England and Wales

**Jul.4**

Fly UA936 from Los Angeles to London, Heathrow.

**Jul.5**

Fly BD82 from London, Heathrow, to Belfast.



*Cushendall*



*Carrickfergus Castle*





*Carrickfergus Castle*



*Antrim Coast*



*Antrim Coast*





*Dunluce Castle*



*Waterskiing*



*Victoria Mills*



*Victoria Mills*



*Dungannon Hospital where Dana was born*

**Jul.10**

Fly JY407 from Belfast to Birmingham



*Chipping Camden village market*



*Stratford and Broadway Tower*





*Cotswolds*



*Edward and Christine's car*



*Mount Snowdon railway*





*Mount Snowdon railway*



*On Mount Snowdon*



*Old slate quarry*





*Caernaryfon Castle*



*Caernaryfon Castle*

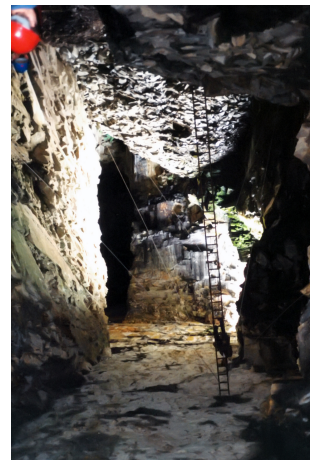


*FFestiniog Railway*





*FFestiniog Railway*



*FFestiniog Railway and slate mine*



*??? Castle and narrow gauge railway*

**Jul.16**

Fly UA933 from London, Heathrow, to Los Angeles

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## JAPAN 2001

### Mar. 2001

Fly UA897 from Los Angeles to Narita, Tokyo.

### Mar. 2001

Fly UA890 from Narita, Tokyo, to Los Angeles.

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### Sat., Sep.29

Fly UA897 from Los Angeles to Narita, Tokyo.



*Todaiji, Noda*



*Todaiji, Noda*





*Zao Mets with the Kamijos.*



*Mount Zao*



*Conference friends at Zao Mets dinner.*

**Fri., Oct.7**

Fly UA890 from Narita, Tokyo, to Los Angeles.

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*Last updated 7/30/99.*

*Christopher E. Brennen*

*Welcome to  
The Caltech Playreaders  
50th Anniversary Party*

**June 2, 2001**

**Avery House**

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**PARTY COMMITTEE:**

Chair: Shirley Cohen

Invitations: Emily Adelsohn and Rudd Brown

Mailing: Janice Morris

Stage Manager: Kerry Etheridge

M.C.: Chris Brennen

Reception Table: Jane Valentine and Vicki Davis

Playbill: Christine Frederickson

General Committee: Doug Smith,  
Diana St. James, Alice Stone, and Anne Vaughan

**WITH GRATITUDE TO:**

Tom Mannion, Director, Campus Auxiliary & Business Services  
Caltech Catering Service, Andre Mallie, Executive Chef

**PLAYREADERS FOUNDERS:**

Naomi Greenstein

Connie Wood



CHRISTOPHER BRENNEN MC AND COMPANY  
PRESENT 3 ORIGINAL SKITS AND SONGS

1. *PLAYREADERS BLOOPERS, BLUNDERS  
AND PRACTICAL JOKES*

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY KERRY ETHERIDGE

WITH

Emily Adelsohn	Rob Stirbl
Fred Culick	Marshall Cohen
Shona Stirbl	Carolyn Patterson
	Paul Patterson

2. *THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE CALTECH  
PLAYREADERS (ABRIDGED) OR  
369 PLAYS IN 27½ MINUTES*

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DIANA ST. JAMES

WITH

John & Greta Davidson  
John Dawdy and Janet Stone

*SONGS FROM THE CALTECH STOCK COMPANY*

ACCOMPANIED BY FRITZIE CULICK

DIRECTED BY NOEL CORNGOLD

(SONGS FROM *THE CALTECH STOCK COMPANY*, BY KENT CLARK  
AND ELLIOTT DAVIS; PERMISSION OF KENT CLARK, CD AVAILABLE  
AT THE CALTECH BOOKSTORE)

3. *THE PLAYREADER'S NIGHTMARE*

OR

*DON JUAN GOES ALL TO HELL*

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ALICE STONE

(WITH APOLOGIES TO *THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE*

BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG)

<i>Ana</i>	Margaret Brucato
<i>Statue</i>	Rob Stirbl
<i>The Devil</i>	Art Vaughan
<i>Don Juan</i>	Robert Brucato
<i>Elwood P. Dowd</i>	Paul Winter
<i>Male Voice</i>	Ted Sweetser

(from *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Importance of Being Earnest*,  
*Gone with the Wind*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*)

*Female Voice* Shona Stirbl

(from *Private Lives*, *Romeo and Juliet*,  
and *Arsenic and Old Lace*)

*FINALE*

---

PLAYREADERS PERFORMANCES IN THE ATHENAEUM DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR ARE  
JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE CALTECH WOMEN'S CLUB AND THE ATHENAEUM.  
ALL MEMBERS OF THE CALTECH/JPL COMMUNITY ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

April 6, 2001

Morrison Lucas  
212 Brookridge Ct.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
mrlucas@umich.edu

Dr. Brennen  
Mail Code 104-44  
Department of Mechanical Engineering,  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, CA 91125

Dr. Brennen

I have three things for you, I think all leftovers from the Alumni Association training session in the beginning of February.

1) Comics

When I was talking to your wife at dinner, and bragging about my recent exploits on Ebay, she told me that you used to enjoy the comic Beano. Well, I need to feed my Ebay addiction somehow, so I did some searching. These comics were a pretty good deal. I was hoping to find a few from the mid 1950's, but that just wasn't meant to be. My research has indicated that the early 1960's should have the same style and characters. I hope that you enjoy them. Please tell Doreen that I couldn't find any Girl comics. If there are any, I couldn't get a search for "Girl" to leave out "Marvel Girl", "Spider Girl", "Ultra Girl", "Super Girl" and the like.

2) Picture

There is also a picture of you, me and Seth from the dinner. It came out fairly well.

3) Homework

You gave the group homework during your talk. If my notes are correct (and the PalmPilot never lies) you wanted to hear about "other's impression of Caltech" and "my impression of Caltech". I forget why you wanted to know, or what project you were working on, but hopefully this isn't too late. (I've been told that Caltech alumni are always granted extensions as needed.)

*Others' Impression of Caltech*

*(or really, my impression of others' impression of Caltech):*

The people I meet have a very wide set of impressions about Caltech. Some have really never heard of it, or think that they have heard of "Cal..Poly...Tech". The same people sometimes ask is it is a vocational school, like Michigan Tech. There are others who have heard of us, know us, and know that we are a good school. These people ask how hard it is, "is it really competitive like med school?", "is it really that much better than the University of Michigan?". I believe that most of these people have heard the reputation,



but have no personal experience. Finally, there are those who know the school well, are very loyal, and are sure that there is no better school on earth. At a college fair once a father dragged his daughter across the room to make sure she talked to us, because he knew with certainty that Caltech would be the best place for her. This is at the same time I was explaining to three girls that even though we are in California we don't teach acting, and are not affiliated with Hollywood.

*My Impression of Caltech:*

Caltech is a utopia. It is a utopia designed by and for scientists. All the members (even the undergraduates) are treated as members of the community. The classes teach things that the faculty feels are important, not merely to meet the accreditation guidelines. The administration (with the possible exception of Kim West) is generally fair, and treats the students with respect. The work is so hard that after a while you don't even feel it. The students that you work with are generally out to help you succeed; there was often a feeling that "The professor cannot give us a problem that we, collectively, cannot solve." I cannot think of a better place to spend my time, (except maybe Caltech with more girls). That is my impression of Caltech.

Incidentally, the "Caltech as utopia" thought was actually created by a friend of the Seth Lacy family. He is a sociologist and historian, and it fits many of the "theoretical" definitions of a utopia.

That's all I have to say for now. I hope that you are doing well, and I'll see you next time I am in town.

Mory



# CALTECH STUDENTS CUT LOOSE

MAY 2001



Staff photos by WALT MANCINI

Marcus Williams, 20, a mechanical engineering major at Caltech, reassembles the contents of senior student

Dev Kumar's dorm room in the middle of Millikan Pond on campus Thursday as part of Ditch Day.



# Ditch Day offers ingenious pranks, clever challenges to underclassmen

By Usha Sutliff

STAFF WRITER

**P**ASADENA — Caltech's annual Ditch Day started with the sound of cannon fire Thursday morning as seniors left campus and underclassmen worked through a series of intricate puzzles, scavenger hunts and pranks left behind for them.

The tradition dates back to 1921, when seniors with spring fever would skip their classes, leaving "stacks" of books and furniture outside their doors to discourage mischievous underclassmen from entering and trashing their rooms.

Seniors now spend weeks devising ingenious, elaborate locks for their doors. They also come up with diabolical puzzles for undergraduates to solve before they can enter the seniors' rooms and claim the "bribe," which can range from junk food to a catered, gourmet meal or a trip to Magic Mountain.

Ditch Day "demonstrates the ingenuity and the ability of Caltech students to create things," said Chris Brennen, vice president of Caltech student affairs. "Students just love it. The fun they get out of it and the learning at the same time is really a crucial combination."

The stacks of old have been replaced with a series of tasks that, "stacked" up, lead eventually to the final clue and the way into the

## 'Students just love it.'

*Chris Brennen, vice president,  
Caltech student affairs*

seniors' rooms or somewhere else on campus.

Students roamed the campus in groups, many wearing T-shirts or costumes made especially for the day.

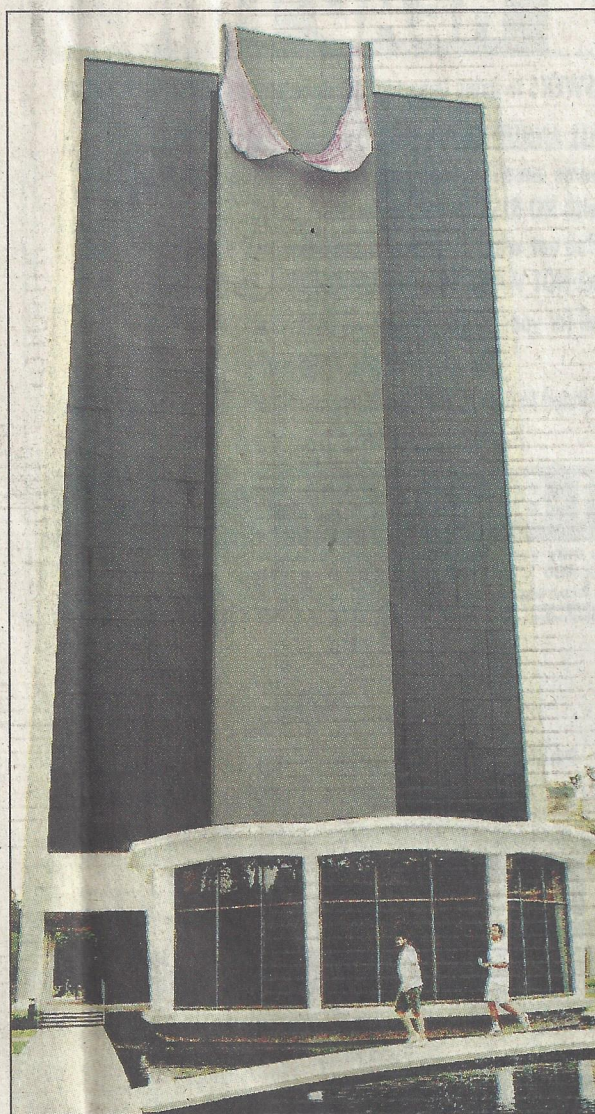
The Harry Potter stack treated students to a day at the Hogwarts Institute of Technology, where they took classes in potions and spells, made primordial goo and attempted levitation. Other stacks included The Unusual Suspects and Scooby Doo themes.

The stacks themselves ranged from those that challenged students' brains (the finesse stack) to those that tested their brawn (the brute force stack).

But even war has rules. Seniors caught on campus after 8 a.m. are summarily duct-taped to a tree, and undergraduates who aren't happy with their bribes can devise a counterstack — essentially barring the senior from his or her own room.

In one clever counterstack, underclassmen reconstructed a senior's room — bed and all — in the middle of Millikan Pond.

The team of underclassmen tackling the Rainbow Six stack — modeled after Tom Clancy's novel



**A GIANT BRA** hangs down from the top of Millikan Library at Caltech on Thursday in the tradition of clever and spirited pranks on Ditch Day.

Please turn to CALTECH / A5



FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2001

FROM PAGE 1



Staff photo by WALT MANCINI

**JIM REBESCO**, 18, a physics student at Caltech, uses a sledgehammer to break open cement blocks while searching for a clue Thursday during Ditch Day.

# CALTECH

## Many 'stacks' follow clever themes

Continued from A1

— were put through their paces as part of their new status “among the toughest, fittest, most effective soldiers” the country had to offer.

“Let’s see if you lazy maggots can actually act like a team!” their drill instructor, senior B.J. Horn, barked as they did push-ups on Beckman Lawn.

“They’re welcome to try to duct-tape me to a tree, but I don’t think they’re going to try,” he said.

Elsewhere on campus, sophomore Jim Pugh had the “body” of Bruce Campbell, star of the horror film “Army of Darkness,” draped over his shoulder. He and his team were instructed to bury him in a coffin and look for the next clue.

“He was supposed to help us, but I guess not,” Pugh joked.

Even the Caltech staff did not have clemency from Ditch Day.

Jean-Paul Revel, dean of students, was tapped to play a dueling wizard in a short film prepared for the Harry Potter stack. He also found himself the object of a prank by students — they wrapped him in toilet paper in his chair — and an unwitting clue-giver.

“Those guys have been coming after me all morning,” he said, pointing to a group armed with water guns and dressed in black T-shirts with aliens on the back.

“They ‘brainwashed’ me with their water guns and I still was not able to furnish them with any information. So I made something up.”

*Usha Sutliff can be reached at (626) 578-6300, Ext. 4458 or by e-mail at [usha.sutliff@sgun.com](mailto:usha.sutliff@sgun.com).*



# USニューズ・シンキングで堂々1位 少数精鋭の工科名門大学

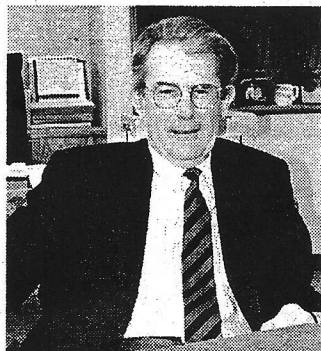
## California Institute of Technology

パサデナの閑静な住宅街にあるカリフォルニア工科大学。修士、博士号コースを合わせた全学生数が1900人余りというこの小さな小さな大学が、今大きな注目を集めている。同大学が、USニューズ&ワールドレポーター誌の「ベストカレッジ」ランキングで、ハーバードやプリンストンなどの世界的に知られる名門大学、工科系大学として有名なMITなどを抑え、堂々の1位にランクされたからだ。

教授陣、同窓生を合わせると、ノーベル賞受賞者はなんと26。昨年、化学賞を受賞した

アーメッド・ゼワイル教授をはじめ、ノーベル賞受賞歴を持つ現役教授は6人いる。しかも、教授1人あたりの学生数はわずか3人。第1級の学者から直接指導を受けることができるという恵まれた環境なのだ。

同大のメカニカルエンジニアリングの教授で学生部長のクリス・ブレナン教授に話を聞いた。「我が校の一番の特徴は、規模が小さいということでしょう。そのため、それぞれがより主体的に研究に取り組むことができます。授業は非常にハイレベルで勉強は大変ですが、85%の学生が卒業していることからも、1人1人に目が行き届いていることがわかんと思います」



「勉強は大変ですが、真剣に学ぼうとする学生にとっては最適な環境」とブレナン教授

学生のうち、州外からの入学者は全体の6割を超える。このことから、全米中の秀才が集まる名門大学であることが想像できる。しかし、学生の多くは勉強一筋

歴史を感じさせる建物が並び、落ち着いた雰囲気のカンパス



のガリ勉タイプではないとブレナン教授。また、小規模の私立大にありがちな、ガチガチの保守派でもないとも。「試験はほとんど、自宅に持ち帰ってする方式。学生の自主性に任せようというわけですね。また、組織が大きい分、学風通しがよく、学生1人1人の意見

### COLLEGE DATA

#### California Institute of Technology

1200 E. California Blvd., Pasadena (626)395-6341  
www.caltech.edu

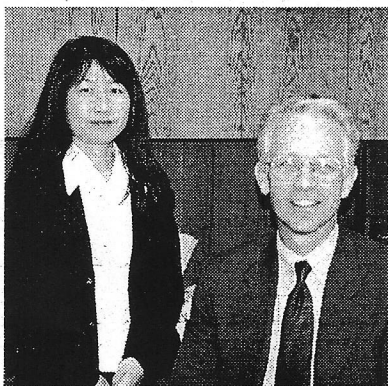
設立	1891年
取得できる学位	バチラー、マスター、ドクター
学生数	フルタイム901人 パートタイム0人
アジア系学生の割合	24%
留学生の割合	9%
学期	トリメスター制
入学難易度	難 (98-99年は2,944人が出願し、542人が合格)
TOEFLスコア	下限はないが、ほとんどの合格者が600以上
提出する進学適性テスト	SAT
学費(年間)	\$19,476

学士コースで9%、マスター、PhDコースになると35%と、留学生の割合は高い。また、教授の中にも外国人が多く、インターナショナルな雰囲気も特徴のひとつだ。

「素晴らしい学術村」と評しているという。入学難易度も極めて高く、卒業までの道のりも険しいが、最先端のテクノロジーを学びたいという人にとっては、チャレンジしてみる価値が十分ある大学と言えるのではないだろうか。

### キリスト教系の中規模大学 海外プログラムの充実が自慢

Pepperdine University



ドーソン教授とリーさん。リーさんは日本育ちで流暢な日本語を話す

最後に紹介するのは、マリブの海岸からほど近い丘の上にあるペパーダイン大学だ。キャンパスからは太平洋が一望できるといふ、まるでリゾートホテルのようなロケーション。下界から完全に遮断された静かなキャンパスは、UCLAの2倍以上の広さ。マスター、PhDコースを合わせた総学生数が8千人という中規模大学ということを見ると、ゆとりたっぷりの恵まれた環境だと

を入れていふということだろう。「宗教教育と学術教育、その両方に力を入れるというのが、

## AOI International

ホームステイしませんか?



☆全米一安全と言われるアーバイン・オレンジカウンティ地域

☆アメリカンファミリーと英語レッスン

## 英語学校



★優秀なアメリカ教師陣

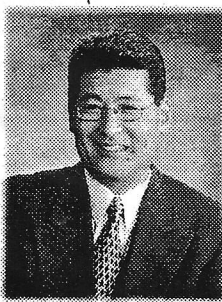
★ESL クラス

★TOEFL クラス

★レッスン時間：午前・午後・夜間

## 一・タル・ファイナンシャル プランのアドバイス

リタイアメントプラン IRA / ROTH IRA  
ビジネス用年金プラン  
SEP IRA / SIMPLE IRA / 401K  
個人用年金プラン  
FIXED / INDEXED / VARIABLE ANNUITY  
貯蓄型生命保険各種  
VARIABLE / UNIVERSAL LIFE  
投資信託・カレッジファンド  
MUTUAL FUND (最低\$50より)  
健康保険・歯科保険  
掛け捨て生命保険各種・介護保険  
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE  
海外旅行者用保険



私は、数々のファイナンシャルカンパニーと契約しておりますのでお客様のニーズに合



EUCHI

NICK ICHIMARU



# CALTECH

## Student: 'We want to start a dialogue'

Continued from A1

peace didn't appeal to everyone.

"The whole reason for having a military is to deal with cases like this," said junior Peter Seidel, a chemical engineering major. "When you come on American soil and kill American civilians, you have to have retaliation."

"Freedom must be defended," said senior Tim Raub, a geology major. "Unless direct, effective and violent action is taken against terrorists and the states that harbor them, more innocent American lives will be lost. You have to stand up and say 'I'm an American and I must defend America and American lives, or my life and way of life are worthless.'"

Relief worker David Eastman, whose girlfriend attends Caltech, said he left Afghanistan a week ago.

Afghans, he said, have been at constant war since "Mork and Mindy" was a prime time sitcom and the country is now in ruins.

Residents need gas generators to produce electricity, he said, adding that people in western Afghanistan "know as much about (terrorist suspect) Osama bin Laden as we do."

"The idea of bin Laden organizing an international terrorist effort that would bring down the World Trade Center and the Pentagon is, to them, a little outlandish," Eastman said.

But Afghans believe America will attack their country and are frightened.

"A friend of mine was driving through Kabul two or three days ago. He didn't see any Taliban in Kabul. He didn't see any black turbans. He didn't see any pickups driving in but saw a lot of them driving out. So they're running for the hills. They're not there now. So the idea of bombing Kabul is silly because they won't be hitting the right target," Eastman said.

Chemistry graduate student Tehshik Yoon, who helped write the peace petition, said

**'When you come on American soil and kill American civilians, you have to have retaliation.'**

*Peter Seidel, Caltech junior*

alternatives to warfare should be studied.

"We want to start a dialogue about what we can do other than bomb helpless nations," he said.

Americans can no longer feel protected by their distance from Europe and Asia, American history professor Bill Deverell said.

"The country's faith in the size of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and their ability to shield us, is outdated," Deverell said. "Those oceans are small and are no longer obstacles. They haven't been big in a long time."

*Emanuel Parker can be reached at (626) 578-6300, Ext. 4475, or by e-mail at*



Staff photo by WALT MANCINI

**STUDENTS AT CALTECH** sign a petition opposing military action by the United States in response to last week's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

# Students, faculty speak out against military response

By Emanuel Parker  
STAFF WRITER

**PASADENA** — A rally opposing military responses to last week's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., drew about 100 students and faculty members to the Caltech campus Thursday.

"Random violence begets more random violence and more innocent victims," said Christopher Brennen, vice president of student affairs and a mechanical engineering professor.

Brennen said he was raised amid the violence of Belfast in Northern Ireland and his best friend in high school was killed by an IRA bomb. His youngest daughter is married to an Arab American, he said, and his son-in-law's family is scared.

Rally organizers asked the audience to sign a petition opposing military action by the United States. Similar rallies were held Thursday at 140 campuses across the nation, including UC Berke-

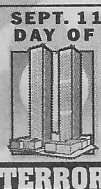
## INSIDE

### ■ NEW OFFICE:

Bush names Penn. Gov. Tom Ridge to direct the Office of Homeland Security, a new Cabinet-level position to fight terrorism / **A5**

■ **STUDIO ALERT:** An FBI warning prompts Hollywood studios to halt tours, increase security / **A12**

■ **AFGHANISTAN:** Islamic clerics urge Osama bin Laden to leave the country / **B1**



ley, Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Jennifer Caron, a member of the Peaceful Justice Coalition that organized the rally, said the nation's response to the attacks should be reasoned and rational.

"The acts committed last week should be treated as criminal acts rather than as acts of war," she said.

But the rally's message, of  
**Please turn to CALTECH / A6**



30<sup>th</sup> January, 2001

800 Park Lane  
Grosse Pointe PK  
MI 48230

Dear Christopher,

I know you have an interest in Aunt Irene's collection of Earle's family photographs. Your mother mentioned that interest to me last May, at the time of Aunt Irene's death.

I wondered if you might like this photo of A.I. with her collection of pictures. It was taken at Easter in 1998. I thought it might be of documentary interest (rather than aesthetic)

It would be nice if I possessed the expertise to E-send them in the Hi-Tech way, that people use these days.

What a surprise that all those electronic people in California are now running short of electricity!

All the Best to you and your family for the New Millennium. I often think about all those Earle's, and only yesterday, I was thinking of your Dad's Jaguar saloon parked outside the railway station, in Newcastle, Co. Down.

Yours

John.

Monrovia, California  
September 21st, 2001

RECEIVED  
SEP 25 2001  
VICE PRESIDENT  
STUDENT AFFAIRS

Christopher Brennen  
Vice-President for Student Affairs  
Cal Tech  
Pasadena, California

Mr. Brennen:

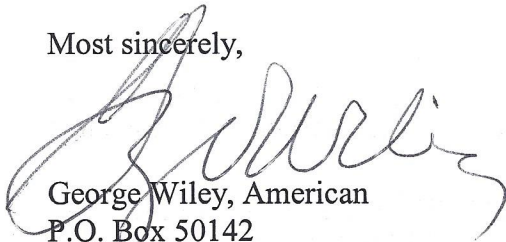
It is with grief and great disgust that I read in Friday's *Pasadena Star News* that you and your associates, particularly one Jennifer Caron, would have the United States military refrain from doing its job.

The events of September 11th were no random act of violence. They were cold, calculated acts of war, perpetrated for the first time against Americans on American soil. To the citizens of this great nation, they bear no resemblance to events in Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, Soviet Russia, or any other place plagued by long-standing civil disturbances. How you can sit by and ask that the military and political forces of this great nation not take immediate action is unconscionable.

I do not ask that you adopt, or even try to understand, more rational and intelligent opinions, as those held by Cal Tech student Tim Raub, who understands that "Freedom must be defended". And, having read and subscribed to the tenets of our constitution, I will defend your right to your opinion. I would ask, though, at this time of crisis unparalleled in United States and world history, that you and your fellow toe-tag liberals go stand quietly in the corner and wet your pants while true patriots, in the form of the United States military establishment, defend our domestic territory and the citizens who populate it.

With apologies to Benjamin Franklin (you remember, one of the founders), "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety". It is apparently lost on you that your very freedom to attend the school of your choice, to live your life as you see fit, to worship (or not) as you choose, and to disseminate outlandish, irresponsible ideas in a public forum are now at stake as they never before have been.

Most sincerely,



George Wiley, American  
P.O. Box 50142  
Pasadena, CA 91115



COPY

# ***Brennen Associates***

## **CHARTERED CIVIL ENGINEERS**

C.J. BRENNEN B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.H.T.

B.J. CAREY B.Eng(Hons), C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.E.I.

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

6A New Row

Coleraine

BT52 1AF

Tel: 028 7035 6665

Fax: 028 7035 5689

Email: brenneng@btclick.com

19th November 2001

Nan Stuart  
16 Hazeldene Avenue  
Magherafelt

Dear Nan

Now that the family's immediate crisis has somewhat settled, I wish to record our appreciation and gratitude for your help and support since Friday 9th, in accepting Paula into your care at such short notice (4 hours, as I recall)!

It is already clear to all of us that, despite the unexpected upheaval, Paula seems to have settled into her new routine. We hope you're not spoiling her!

We are, of course, aware that we have not had an opportunity to complete the necessary financial support you will receive from us, but I would assure you we hope, in the very near future, to rectify this matter. We are still trying to grasp the complexities of the benefit support Paula will continue to receive and to determine how best to deal with same, notwithstanding the additional family resources available.

The matter is further complicated by the uncertainty concerning Mum's future and whether or not there is any realistic prospect of her returning to her bungalow. In the meantime I hope you understand that it may be two or three weeks before determining the best way forward. Realistically, it is becoming more and more likely that Paula will remain in your care.

I believe that Marsha (Begley), Paula's Social Worker, has been in touch with you. We will, of course, continue to liaise with her.

There are many practical issues which we want to keep fluid at the moment, primarily to avoid either Mum or Paula becoming upset. Again we will try to keep you fully informed.

Finally, should you feel the need to speak to either myself or any family member, I enclose relevant telephone numbers.

Diane and I will see you soon.

Yours sincerely



cc Michael & Lesley  
Chris & Doreen