

2002

~~Jan 13 Bee Canyon ✓~~

~~March - Hawk in garden all day~~

~~March - to Navajo village~~

~~Apr. Dinner at Santa Anita~~

~~Apr. → Chicago + then Philly~~

~~May 25 Allison Gulch ✓~~

~~June. Lake Powell~~

~~July. With Fark to Yosemite~~

~~Aug. Italy~~

~~Nov. 8 Courthouse Rock (breastedun) ✓~~

~~Nov. 24 Climbing at Tahquamenon w. Mark ✓~~

~~Dec → Chicago + Starved Rock Park  
+ climbing in state~~

✓✓

March 2002

In March 2002, I joined a group of Caltech students associated with the Caltech Y on a trip to the Navaho Indian Reservation near Bluff, New Mexico. The purpose was to give the Navaho houses in the village a new coat of paint. I also visited several of the local historic sites.

I drove my own vehicle there and stayed in a nearby motel.



## TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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### NAVAHO INDIAN RESERVATION 2002

March 2002



*Hovenweep National Monument*

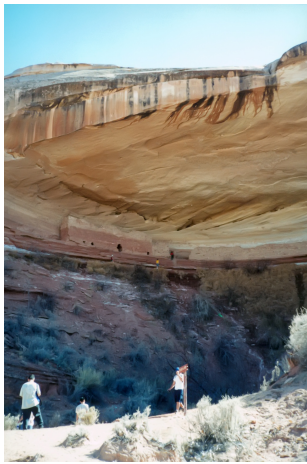


*Hovenweep National Monument*



*Hovenweep National Monument*





*Navaho National Monument*



*Navaho National Monument*



*Navaho National Monument and Navaho Indian Reservation*





*Navaho Indian Reservation*



*Navaho Indian Reservation*



*Navaho Indian Reservation*

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*Last updated 7/30/99.  
Christopher E. Brennen*

May 27, 2002: Flew UA120 from LAX to Chicago

Lecture Tour of Midwestern Universities including University of Michigan , Michigan State University, Notre Dame, Purdue, University of Minnesota, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, etc.

May ??, 2002: Flew UA5824 from Bloomington, Illinois to Chicago  
and UA815 from Chicago to LAX

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### LAKE POWELL 2002

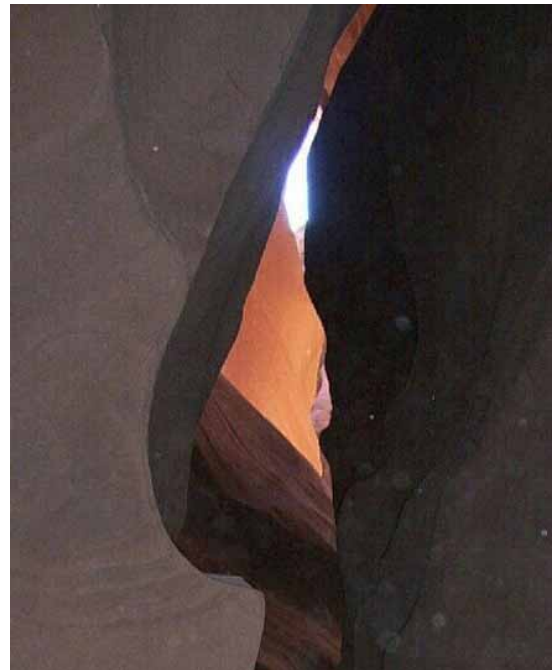
In June 2002, the family rented a houseboat on Lake Powell and ate, slept and swam on the boat for about 5 days. The family consisted of Dana and her children, Quinn and Gavin, Kathy and her children Troy and Payton as well as Doreen and myself. We also rented a small motorboat with which we explored various narrow canyons and a natural bridge. On the drive to Lake Powell, Doreen and I visited Zion National Park and Antelope Canyon. After the voyage, we stopped briefly at the Grand Canyon and stayed for a few days in a hotel in Phoenix, Arizona.



*Zion National Park*



*Antelope Canyon*







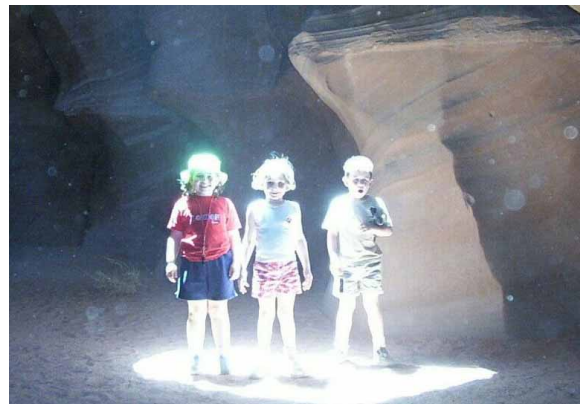
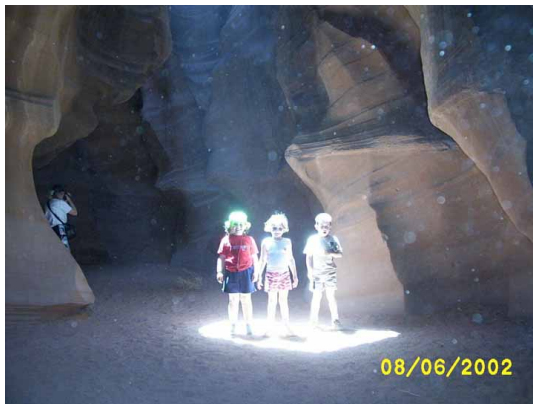
*Antelope Canyon*



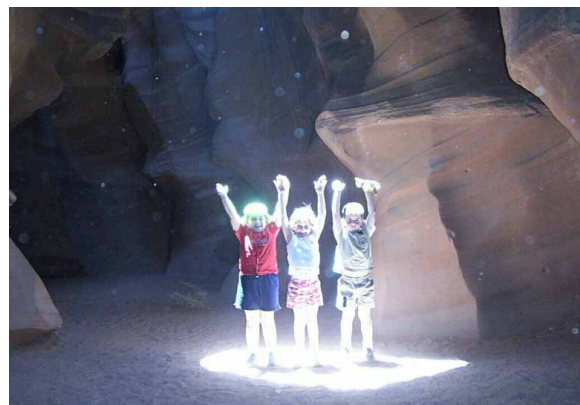
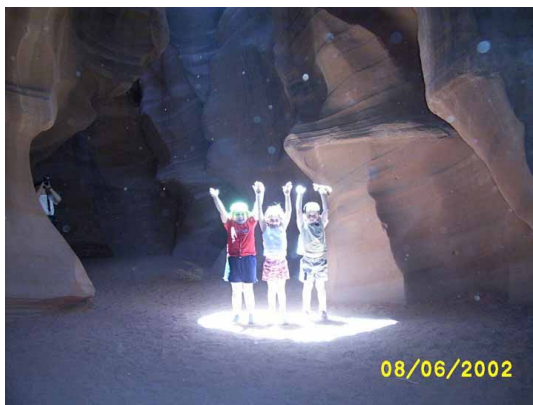
*Antelope Canyon*



*Antelope Canyon*



*Antelope Canyon*



*Antelope Canyon*





*Antelope Canyon*



*Antelope Canyon and Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*





*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*





*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*





*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*

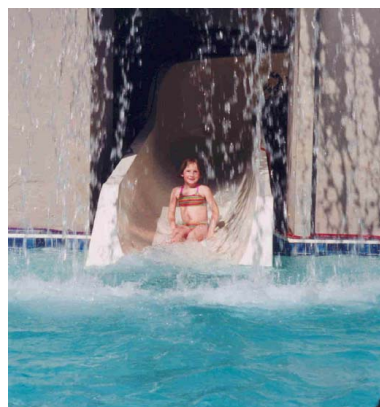


*Lake Powell*





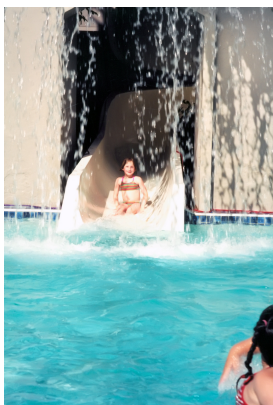
*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*



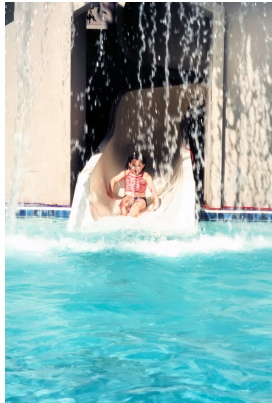
*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*



*Lake Powell*

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## TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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### YOSEMITE

In July 2002, we took John and Angela Earls with us to visit Yosemite National Park. We drove north on 395 and entered the Park from the east over the Tioga Pass.



*Yosemite National Park*



*Yosemite National Park*





*Yosemite National Park*



*Yosemite National Park*



*Yosemite National Park*

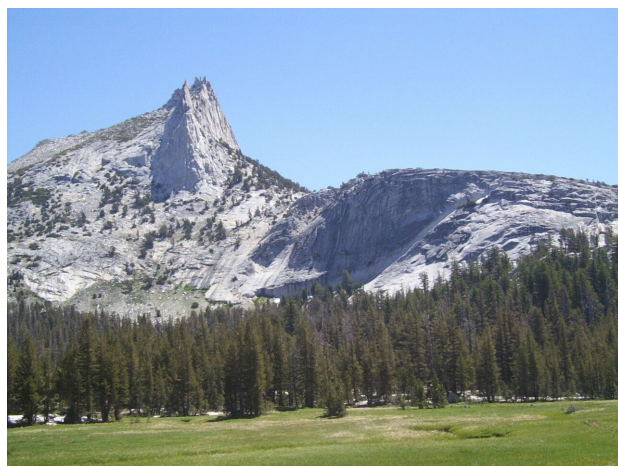




*Yosemite National Park*



*Yosemite National Park*



*Yosemite National Park*



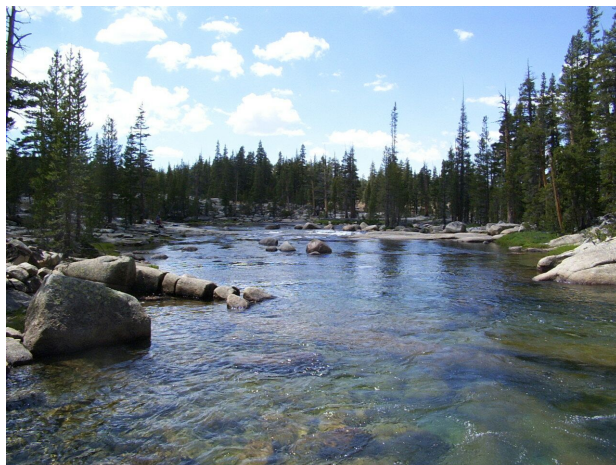




*Yosemite National Park*



*Yosemite National Park*



*Yosemite National Park*





*Yosemite National Park*



*Yosemite National Park*

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Christopher E. Brennen*

Europe, Aug./Sep. 2002. C.E.Brennen

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Thurs. Aug.22	LAX-LHR UA934 LAX 4.10pm - LHR 10.25am
Fri. Aug.23	Arrive LHR 10.25am. Depart BA728 LHR 12.45pm - Geneva 3.30pm Rent car. Stay Novotel Geneva Airport
Sat. Aug.24	Drive towards Barga though Switzerland, North Italy Stay along route
Sun. Aug.25	Evening: Conference Start. Stay Barga
Mon. Aug.26	Conference. Stay Barga
Tues.Aug.27	Conference. Stay Barga
Wed. Aug.28	Conference. Stay Barga
Thurs.Aug.29	Conference. Stay Barga
Fri. Aug.30	Drive Barga - Geneva. 7.00am - 2.00pm D: Geneva BA729 4.20pm - 5.00pm LHR. BM92 7.35pmLHR - 8.50pmBHD C: Geneva 3.18pm - 6.43pm Zermatt. Stay Zermatt.
Sat. Aug.31	C. in Zermatt. Meet Doug at Zermatt station
Sun. Sep.1	Hike to Hornli Hut. Stay Hornli Hut
Mon. Sep.2	3.00am: Start climb. Return to Hornli Hut. Stay there
Tues. Sep.3	Descend to Zermatt. Train to Geneva Airport.
Wed. Sep.4	C: Geneva BA743 2.35pm - LHR 3.25pm. BM78 LHR 6.15pm - 7.35pm BFS
Thurs. Sep.5	Northern Ireland. Stay with Mike and Jaqui Mills. Phones: Mills: 011-44-2892-629854 Michael Brennen: 011-44-2825-898575 Colin Brennen: 011-44-2870-833029
Fri. Sep.6	N.I.
Sat. Sep.7	N.I.
Sun. Sep.8	N.I.

Mon. Sep.9 N.I.

Tue. Sep.10 BFS BM71 BFS 7.00am - LHR 8.30am  
LHR 10.00am - LAX 1.15pm

TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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ITALY 2002

Europe, Aug., Sep. 2002.

Thurs. Aug.22	LAX-LHR UA934 LAX 4.10pm - LHR 10.25am (D. on wait) Check at 1-800- <del>824-6200</del> 225 - 8900
Fri. Aug.23	Arrive LHR 10.25am. Depart BA728 LHR 12.45pm - Geneva 3.30pm Rent car. Stay Novotel Geneva Airport. Conf.No.:0422CHM502 Ds backup: UA18 LAX 10.15pm - NY - LHR 9.15pm on Sat.
Sat. Aug.24	Drive to Barga. 5hr drive.
Sun. Aug.25	Evening: Conference reception at 7pm. Stay Barga
Mon. Aug.26	Conference. Free: noon-4.30pm. Stay Barga.
Tues.Aug.27	Conference. Free: noon-5pm. Stay Barga
Wed. Aug.28	Conference trip - 4pm (free to 8pm). Stay Barga
Thurs.Aug.29	Conference. Free: 12.30-3.30p. Talk at 4pm. Stay Barga
Fri. Aug.30	Drive Barga - Geneva. 7.00am - 2.00pm D: Geneva BA729 4.20pm - 5.00pm LHR. BM92 7.35pm LHR - 8.50pm BHD C: Geneva 3.18pm - 6.43pm Zermatt. Stay Zermatt Youth Hostel
Sat. Aug.31	Doug: AF337 Boston-Paris. AF1642 Paris-Geneva Arr:9.10am Train to Zermatt
Sun. Sep.1	Hike to Hornli Hut. Stay Hornli Hut
Mon. Sep.2	3.00am: Start climb. Return to Hornli Hut.
Tues. Sep.3	Descend to Zermatt. Train to Geneva Airport.
Wed. Sep.4	Geneva BA743 2.35pm-LHR3.25pm. BM78 LHR6.15pm-7.35pm BFS Doug: AF2043 Geneva 2.00pm - Paris
Thurs. Sep.5	N.I.
Fri. Sep.6	N.I.
Sat. Sep.7	N.I.
Sun. Sep.8	N.I.
Mon. Sep.9	N.I.
Tue. Sep.10	BFS BM71 BFS 7.00am - LHR 8.30am LHR 10.00am - LAX 1.15pm





*Dancing in Barga mountain hut*



*In Italy*



*In Italy*





*Pisa*



*Pisa*



???





???



*Chateau de Chillon*



*Matterhorn and the Berghaus*





*Start of the Matterhorn ascent*

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## TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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### ERRIGAL

Falcarragh. The name of this desolate little village in the extreme northwest corner of Ireland conjures up a host of haunting memories for me, memories of a bleak rainstreaked landscape, of ancient Celtic tragedies and of a strange and impoverished people. When I was young my father and mother, always adventurous people, would arrange to rent a cottage on the edge of one of the deep inlets along this convoluted coast. We would load up one of our two cars with every possible kitchen and bedroom need and set off west from our home in Derry for the wilds of County Donegal. In those days there were many formalities to follow at the international border just west of the city of Derry. Thereafter, as the landscape bleakened and the roads became rough and narrow, we would travel beyond the reach of English hegemony into sparsely populated Donegal, "Dun na nGall" or the "Fort of the Foreigners" (the name derives from the fact that the Vikings founded the town of Donegal).

But, of course, there was a substantial intermediate zone in which English rule held some sway and the market towns relied for their prosperity on the economic giant to the east. Because of those commercial pressures, English had long ago supplanted Gaelic as the mother tongue. Only the extreme northwest corner of Donegal, the area around Falcarragh, Gweedore, Gortahork and including Tory Island, was isolated enough to avoid those pressures. There to this day, Gaelic is still the native language of about 30,000 inhabitants. The region is known as the "Gaeltacht" and its boundary represents a distinct border within Ireland. If you drive from Dunfanaghy to Falcarragh, you will pass a road sign, "An Gaeltacht", marking the boundary of this area.

None of the holiday cottages were in the Gaeltacht for that would have been too strange, too foreign. The closest we came was a very rustic cottage near Dunfanaghy, a town remembered for its workhouse, one of those terrible places that were the only refuge for the starving and destitute created by the Great Famine in the 1840s. Indeed the famine hit the Gaeltacht particularly hard because the poverty of that region left little margin between subsistence and destitution. So at the height of the famine 600 starving and dying people were packed into the small workhouse buildings. Today the workhouse is a tourist attraction that tells the wrenching story of "Wee" Hannah Herrity. Born in Falcarragh about 1835, Hannah had to deal with an abusive stepmother after her mother died in childbirth during the famine. Escaping from that torment, Hannah wandered from place to place in northwest Donegal. Without any home she found temporary employment and shelter on several farms before illness gave her no alternative but the confines of the workhouse. Somehow she survived and spent many years roaming the roads as a beggar. Finally, late in life, her plight came to the attention of a Mrs. Law, wife of the local MP, who had a small cottage built for Hannah. The entire community rallied round to equip the one-room cottage with the essentials and provide Hannah with a moment of real joy. Hannah died in her cottage at the age of 90. The story presented in the tourist tableau is in Hannah's own words, and it reaffirms one's conviction that though the policy of the English Government toward the famine may have been understandable, it was unforgivable.

When we holidayed there it was a sparsely populated region and one of great natural beauty. Most of the population lived in a narrow coastal strip. The hinterland consisted of windswept heaths, lakes and dramatic rocky uplands. Towering over the Gaeltacht is the highest mountain in Donegal, a steep-sided quartzite cone called Errigal whose scree slopes rise dramatically above the heather-coated uplands just inland from Falcarragh. My father loved to explore this rugged landscape though I can recall the apprehension with which he crossed into the Gaeltacht. Once in Falcarragh he would find the little dirt road that led inland to skirt the slopes of Errigal. He would follow that a few miles to the tiny hamlet of Dunlewy on the shores of a lovely tree-lined lake. The valley beyond Dunlewy Lake presented a delightful panorama known as the Poisoned Glen, always a place of mystery, in part because of the name and in part because no road penetrated it. Many years later when I tried to find the origin of the name, I was not surprised to uncover a multitude of explanations. Perhaps the least attractive was the claim that the Glen was once home to a toxic plant, Irish Spurge Moss or "Euphorbia", that exuded a poisonous sap and polluted the water of the glen. As evidence these reports point to the absence of birds and the resulting profusion of insect life during the summer months. A much more likely explanation is that the Irish word for poison, "neimhe", is only one letter different from the word for heaven, "neamh". It is said that the glen used to be called the "Heavenly Glen" by the local people and that the mapmaker (English of course!) screwed up. But the explanation favored by most people, tells the story of Balor, a king on Tory Island, and his beautiful daughter. So beautiful in fact that Balor felt compelled to imprison her in a tower so that she would not come within sight of men. But the fame of her looks spread and men came from far and wide to attempt to see and woo the beautiful princess. Eventually, one gallant succeeded in capturing and spiriting her back to the mainland, up into the mountain fastness around Errigal. Balor followed the pair across the sea and up the valley into the Poisoned Glen. There he killed the captor with a giant stone that now stands at the entrance to the Glen. That stone is said to be the evil, or "poisoned" eye of Balor. And hence the Poisoned Glen.



*Clouds shroud the peak of Errigal*



*Ruined church overlooking Dunlewy Lake*

At the end of the road at the entrance to the Poisoned Glen and just past Dunlewy village stand the mute ruins of a church. The walls of this haunting edifice are still complete. Indeed the white marble of which it was built was quarried just a few hundred yards away; the marble glows in the soft Irish light. Adding to the mystery, the adjacent graveyard contains a single gravestone. Unlike the Glen one can find few willing to offer explanations for the demise of this church. At one time it served as the local parish church and was thus part of the English establishment. Some may suggest that

it was abandoned for the want of a congregation. Others will point to the new church built further down the valley after the old church became a ruin. Few will venture near the old church for it is said to be haunted. If it was burnt down in a fit of anger by a crazed survivor of the workhouse, many would know but none would tell. But it's mute and haunting testimony is inescapable.

Perhaps it is not surprising that these hosts of memories keep drawing me back to this enchanted place. In previous years I had splashed my way up into the Poisoned Glen, hiking to its glacier-sculpted head. In the year 2002, I returned, this time for a symbolic pilgrimage to the summit of Errigal. I drove through Falcarragh early one Sunday morning when not a soul was stirring and found the now-paved road that leads up to Dunlewy. Errigal loomed on the left and Dunlewy Lake slipped by on the right as I approached the Poisoned Glen. The road now continues to climb past Dunlewy (the village is down a narrow side road) and past the entrance to the Glen, headed for a saddle that lies to the south of Errigal. I stopped short of the saddle at a small trailhead parking area (elevation 776ft) on the left side of the road about 4m from the N58/R251 intersection.



*The route to the summit*



*View from the summit*

The route up the southeast ridge of Errigal is clearly evident from the trailhead and begins with a hike up through the boggy heather on the left side of a small stream. The going here is very wet and mushy. After about half a mile, you veer left and follow braided trails through the heather heading for the obvious rocky trail on the slope ahead. Once there, you transition to a steep rocky trail that follows the southeast ridge of the mountain. Views open up of Croloughan Lake across the other side of the valley saddle and of the Poisoned Glen off to the south among the Derryveagh mountains. Beyond the Derryveagh range is Glenveagh National Park, previously the domain of the English landlord John Adair who, in 1861, evicted 244 tenants and cleared the land so as not to mar the views on his estate.

As you move onto the apex of the southeast ridge, the landscape to the east and north also comes into view with Altan Lake far below between Errigal and the summit of Aghla More (1916ft). Muckish Mountain (2197ft), the site of an annual barefoot pilgrimage on St. Patrick's Day, is a little further away beyond Aghla More. As you near the summit of Errigal, you surmount a shoulder where there is a large rock shelter and a cairn. From there it is a short way up a narrowing ridge to the 2466ft summit of Errigal. In fact there are two sharp peaks on a narrow ridge 25yds apart, the trail between them being known as "One Man's Path". Provided you do not find yourself in the clouds (often the case), the panorama from the top is spectacular in all directions. Off to the north and northwest you will now see the Atlantic Coast and fabled Tory Island. It takes only about 1hr 15min to reach the summit of Errigal and less than 1hr to descend again.

If only it were that easy to right those centuries of wrong, or even to put them behind us. Like that 1690ft hike to the top of Errigal, it seems like a simple thing to do, to start afresh and build a vibrant economic future. To any experienced hiker 1690ft is almost trivial. And yet when I climbed Errigal a fierce cold wind was howling out of the east. I was barely able to put one foot in front of the other without losing my balance. And the rain hammered into my clothes and face so fiercely, I could only with difficulty look up to see where I was going. I asked myself why in the name of God was I continuing in the face of this maelstrom. And yet when I came to that summit ridge, the wind was miraculously gone and the beauty of the world around me vindicated all my efforts. I could not help wondering whether Hannah felt that way about her cottage. As she said: "Deed aye, it's the heart that matters".

*Last updated 8/20/02.  
Christopher E. Brennen*

# TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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## JAPAN 2002

**Fri. Mar.1**

Fly UA897 from Los Angeles to Narita, Tokyo.

**Thu. Mar.7**

Fly UA890 from Narita, Tokyo, to Los Angeles.

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**Mon. Sep.23**

Fly UA897 from Los Angeles to Narita, Tokyo.



*Valley just above Kamikochi??*



*Hostel at ??*



A wide-angle aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a steep, rocky slope descends from the right, showing signs of erosion and sparse vegetation. A narrow, light-colored path or road winds through the lower part of this slope. The middle ground is dominated by a large, rugged mountain with a prominent, sharp peak. The mountain's surface is a mix of dark grey rock and lighter, possibly scree-covered areas. To the left of the main peak, another smaller peak is visible. In the background, a series of rolling mountain ranges stretch across the horizon under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of vastness and natural beauty.

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*With Matsumoto on Hotaka summit.*



*View of descent trail.*



*The descent valley from Kamikochi.*

**Mon. Sep.30**  
Fly UA890 from Narita, Tokyo, to Los Angeles.

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*Christopher E. Brennen*

# TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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## ICEBOX 2002

One of the pleasures that remains long after an epic physical ordeal has passed is the sense of comradeship of a challenge jointly met and safely conquered. There is something in the rawness of the experience that strips away pretensions leaving a compassion that is revealed, shared and deeply valued. It is as though the trust necessary for joint survival generates lasting momentum that, once created, endures into lifelong friendship. So it was in Icebox, in the dark, in the cold, in the deep wet pools that sucked out the last ounces of our strength and our bodyheat, one dark December night in 2002.

That December morning had dawned crisp and beautiful, not a cloud in the sky. The red and ochre cliffs and canyons of the Red Rock National Conservation Area glinted in the rising sun, their deep rifts holding promise of awesome vertical adventures yet to come. Just 20 miles west of Las Vegas, Nevada, and within sight of that neon fantasia, the Red Rocks are a spectacular and convoluted maze of interlocking canyons and sandstone bluffs, a wonderland that is surprisingly little known outside of a group of local hikers and climbers.

We were three strangers. Myself an aging warrior of many outdoor adventures, trying hard to experience all I could in the few active years remaining to me. Dick Shear, a former Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff and company executive striving to find a larger place in his life for adventure and the outdoors. And Randi Poer, mother of three, finding a few moments of solitude away from all that responsibility, moments to enjoy the wilderness and rekindle the spirit. Somehow, circumstances had brought these three strangers together on this December morning.

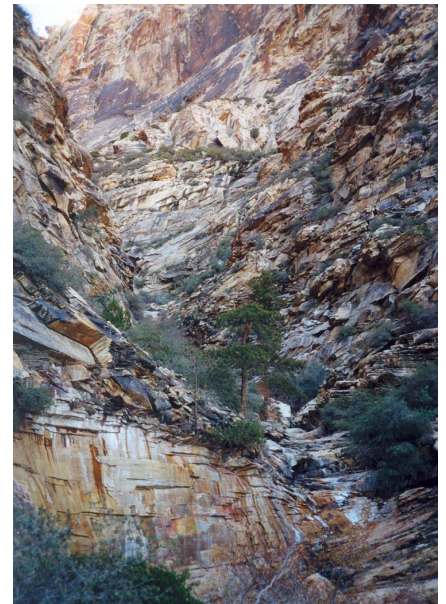
We were part of a much larger group that had gathered for a weekend of exploring in the Red Rocks area. Several hikes had been planned for both days. After two moderate adventures on the Saturday, the evening discussion around the campfire focused on whether or not anyone wanted to face the much greater challenges of Icebox Canyon and the huge wet rappel descent near the bottom that involved at least one swim. Icebox had been listed in the agenda but the stories of a previous descent in which Dick Shear participated had frightened off almost all the other hikers present. Ominously, a professional guide from Utah who had originally considered going, backed out with the comment that swimming in December was not his idea of fun. Only Randi and I spoke up when a head count was taken. As always, I was spurred on by the stories, driven by the thought that I might never have the chance again, that every opportunity had to be grasped and relished whether or not the circumstances were ideal. Randi seemed driven by the same ghost though she would have many more years than I to return to the Red Rocks. As one of the organizers, I think Dick felt some obligation to accommodate our wishes, though I sensed a little reluctance on his part. Perhaps, in the back of his mind, he suspected that he was setting in motion the wheels of an epic adventure.

We were very fortunate that my friend Troy Sette had volunteered to drive us to the trailhead early the next morning, a considerable undertaking for the rough 4WD road from the Scenic Loop in the Red Rocks National Conservation Area to Red Rock Summit involved five miles of rock-rutted driving and more than 2000ft of elevation gain. Once there, we paused at Red Rock Summit (elevation 6450ft) for a last equipment check and the statutory photograph. It shows three strangers each standing a respectful distance from one another, each hunched up against the morning chill. And then we were off, puffing up the trail toward the high ridge above us, loaded down with huge lengths of rope. So loaded that it took us almost an hour to climb the 670ft through sparse juniper forest to the ridge-top. The crest (elevation 7120ft) arrived abruptly and we found ourselves

standing on the edge of a great escarpment. Below us the sandstone was sliced through by a spectacular maze of dramatic red and white canyons, a vertical world of stark and sheer slickrock with huge drop-offs in every direction. Rising above these, its white rock striking in the morning sun, was the great block of Bridge Mountain, another marvellous hike in this wonderland of rock.



*View down into Icebox Bowl*



*Upper Icebox Canyon*

Veering north along the ridge for about a quarter of a mile, we came to a promontory with a spectacular overlook of the great slickrock bowl at the head of Icebox Canyon. Beginning about *400ft* below us, the Icebox bowl funnelled down into a deep canyon leading, eventually, to the desert about a mile and a half away. Our spirits lifted by this awesome prospect and warmed by the sun reflecting off the slickrock, we descended an easy earth slope through small juniper trees heading directly for the bare slickrock on the right side of the bowl. In a few minutes we were standing on the edge looking down into the great bowl, plotting the course of our descent down to where it funnelled into the canyon far below us. We would have to choose our course carefully to ensure there were tree anchors where we needed them and, as far as possible, avoid the sheets of ice that coated the bowl in places. Then we edged over the rim, downclimbing the steep cliff over broken rock and ledges, heading for patches of trees and then descending by two rappels of *100ft* and *130ft* to a broad ledge with an awesome view down into the upper part of Icebox Canyon. Contouring left we reached the streamcourse and the base of the bowl, some *500ft* below the rim, after *3hr 45min* of hiking.

This short traverse brought us to the start of a section of downclimbing in which several detours into the brush on the left of the gully were necessary. Then we climbed down into a bedrock channel where, at an elevation of *6300ft*, there were two rappels in the streambed, a *60ft* drop from a boulder anchor on the right side and then a short *20ft* descent from a webbing anchor under a large chockstone in the center of the channel. More downclimbing in a steep canyon stream course followed, before we came to the first of two class 4 downclimbs, a tricky *30ft* descent on the left side of the canyon followed shortly thereafter by a similar *35ft* downclimb also on the left. This is where Randi showed her climbing ability; together she and I manhandled the heavy rope-filled backpacks down these steep downclimbs. And just a little later at an elevation of *5590ft* we arrived at a *50ft* drop into a large round pool about knee-deep. Anchored by a large tree on a shelf to the right, we rappelled down onto a ledge about *2ft* above the water. From there Randi found a way to avoid wading in the water by climbing along small ledges on the right side of the pool.

This is a beautiful section of the canyon where the stream wanders down lovely sculpted and scoured sandstone bedrock. Though still huge and vertical, scattered pine trees prospering in cracks



in the slickrock soften the landscape and provide shade and shelter. But the canyon continues to narrow, and, after more downclimbing, we arrived *5400ft* and *7hr 40min* from the start at a *20ft* rappel around a large canyon blocking chockstone with much overhang.

We were now approaching the major physical challenge in Icebox Canyon, a huge vertical rappel preceded by a pool that had to be swum. Before that, at *4990ft* and *8.5hrs* into the hike, we came to a *40ft* two stage waterfall, a small but deep hanging pool about *10ft* below the lip followed by a *30ft* drop into a waist-deep pool. The short winter daylight was now fading quickly and we decided to pause and take time to prepare ourselves as best as possible for the challenges ahead. Dick had a drysuit; Randi and I had wetsuits though mine was only a "shortie" and I supplemented it with raingear that I duct-taped to my ankles, wrists and waist. Dick had also loaned me a pair of neoprene gloves. Thus attired and helmeted with headlamps attached we descended the two-stage waterfall using a tree high on the left as the rappel anchor. I was the first to get wet in the waist-deep pool at the bottom and my feet were already beginning to get very cold before we resumed our hike down the canyon. It was just a short step to the first place where swimming was necessary; a *10ft* slot that we chimneyed before a *10yd* swim.



*The big rappel*



*Below the big rappel*

Just below this we finally arrived (at *4920ft*, *9hrs* and *2.3m* from the morning start) at the top of the grand challenge, first recognized by the large dead tree propped up against the right-hand wall of the canyon about *30ft* from the top of the descent. This tree provided a solid anchor for the rappel; to an existing webbing wrap that stretched to a quicklink at the edge of the drop, we added a backup length of webbing. From Dick's previous descent we knew that at least *200ft* of rope would be needed to reach the bottom. We had two ropes, a huge *340ft* length and a *240ft* piece; we set up a single strand rappel with the longer rope and deployed the shorter one as a recovery line. I had volunteered to go first; Dick would go down last, his duty being to manage any emergencies that might arise. Without further delay (for I was getting colder by the minute), I rappelled down a steep *15ft* slot into the deep pool and, still on rappel, vigorously swam *10yds* across the pool to the smooth lip at the far end. The lip was broad enough to allow me to stand safely and I quickly fed the main and recovery ropes over the edge and down into the abyss. Below I could see nothing but a pitch-black emptiness. I slipped over the edge (using my famous slide entry to a rappel) and began the vertical descent. There is always a moment of apprehension at the top of a rappel before you get into a comfortable rhythm of descent. Fortunately this came quickly, and after about *30ft* I began the long free rappel down across the face of a huge cave (the "Icebox") where the sandstone is massively undercut. It was an out-of-body experience, floating in the air surrounded by pitch-black darkness, my headlamp only dimly capable of detecting the great sandstone walls far beyond my

reach while the trickling water of the stream drenched me from above. It seemed ages before I came to land on some steep and wet rock steps just above a large deep pool. Here I had assumed I would come to the end of the rappel. But in the darkness and cold, I could see no way to bypass the pool, no alternative but to swim yet again. With some consternation I thrashed my way across the *10yd* pool only to peer down another *10ft* drop into yet another pool. At this point the cold had begun to seriously affect my strength and agility but there was only one way to go. I half-waded, half-swam the second pool only to find myself at the top of yet another *50ft* drop that ended in a third pool. On rappel again and at the end of my strength, I slid my way down the *50ft* drop and waded across the pool to a beach. Only 5 extra feet of rappel rope trailed in the last pool; there was no sign of the recovery rope.

I knew that I had to get the wet clothing off as soon as possible. I had to find some way to warm up before hypothermia set in; my feet were particularly painful and I regreted not making an effort to borrow a pair of neoprene booties. Even though the gloves had kept my hands quite functional, it was particularly difficult to find and grasp the ends of the duct-tape, so as to remove the rain gear. Eventually and with much trembling I managed to undress, to don a dry tee shirt, a pair of long johns and a fleece jacket and to begin to warm my core. Now, I turned my attention to communications; a long whistle blast signaled the top for Randi to begin her descent. Then I forced myself to put my shoes back on for I knew that was the only way my feet would warm. Stomping around also helped.

I confess, I was so intent on my own predicament, that I was only dimly aware of the spot of light high overhead as it slowly descended. I think I yelled directions and encouragement at Randi, but I am not sure. Soon she was down and we both communicated with Dick over the radio. Randi also hastened to change into warm clothes but both of us were in no fit state to mount any rescue should Dick need help. We decided to light a small fire. Randi found some kindling and small logs and I soon had a very welcome fire burning. Overhead Dick's light seemed very dim as he rappelled through space. When he reached the bottom of the free-rappel, he tried heroically to adjust the ropes so as to allow rope recovery when he got to the bottom. But the total rope length was inadequate and it took some time before we realized that there was no alternative but for Dick to descend without any hope of rope recovery. We would have to leave them behind and hope to recover them at a later date. Then, as Dick began his transit through the lower pools his light died completely. Struggling mightily in the wet and cold, it took an age for him to remove the batteries from his radio and, using only feel, to install them in his light. I still do not know how he managed it. Finally, we all breathed a great sigh of relief as he made it down safely and we could begin preparations for the hike out. By this time, warmed by the fire, Randi and I had recovered substantially and we were able to help Dick get changed and packed.

As we started on our way down the canyon, it was a great relief to finally be moving again. Almost immediately, however, we were unexpectedly faced with a small steep slot and a deep pool; fortunately, Randi found a way around this by way of a high shelf on the right. Though some further route finding was needed to negotiate other pools and boulders in the canyon, the trail gradually became easier to follow and the trek to the trailhead became uneventful. It was now approaching *10.00pm*, our travails at the big rappel having consumed several hours. Our minds naturally turned to the next challenge, the reception we would receive from all those who would be waiting anxiously, perhaps fearfully, for some news of our circumstances. We finally reached the Icebox Trailhead (elevation *4300ft*) after *14hrs* on the trail; in that time we had covered but *3.6m* of this wild land.

It was the next weekend before Dick and I hiked back up Icebox Canyon from the trailhead, carrying additional rope with which to complete the rope recovery. In daylight it was clear that there was a downclimbing route that bypassed the pools below the free-rappel but it would have been almost impossible to find it in the dark unless one were familiar with the territory. We had little

difficulty with the rope recovery and were able, while we were there, to clear up the remains of the fire that had been so important to us the previous weekend.

Despite the pain of the cold, it had been a wondrous adventure in a spectacular place. I shall always remember descending into that pitch-dark abyss with my headlamp bouncing patches of dim light off distant slickrock. But, most of all, I will remember the quiet competence of my two companions and the teamwork that allowed us to overcome very adverse physical conditions without risk or trauma. In the cold, in the wet and in the darkness, a special bond was formed between three strangers, a bond created by the shared ordeal and cemented by the trust that we now felt in each other's strengths. At the end we hugged and parted, each for the moment intent on pleading forgiveness from those who had waited anxiously for our appearance. But we knew we would come together again as treasured friends and, each time we did, we would talk of that fantastic adventure in the "Icebox".

---

*Last updated 12/23/02.*

*Christopher E. Brennan*



# Course Evaluation Form

## Division of Engineering & Applied Science

Instructor: Chris Brennan

Course: ME 19c

Year/Term: 2001/2002

3rd Term

You are a: ☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☒ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Graduate Student

Please use as many forms as necessary to rate each instructor and each TA with whom you have had interacted. Do not fill in sections C & D more than once. Return to: Kathryn Shaw, 104-44, 102 Thomas

### A. The Instructor - rate on a scale of 1-5 or N/A with 1 being lowest and 5 being highest

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
1. Command of subject. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Presentation of material, usefulness of class notes. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Preparedness and organization. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Responsiveness to class (e.g. welcoming questions, reasonable pace) ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Made requirements and course grading criteria clear. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Enthusiasm for material and teaching. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Rapport with students. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Availability outside of class. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Usefulness of homework. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. How highly would you recommend this lecturer? ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### B. The Teaching Assistant - rate on a scale of 1-5 or N/A with 1 being lowest and 5 being highest

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
1. TA Name: <u>SAM</u>						
2. Were accessible at reasonable times. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Graded homeworks/exams fairly. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Command of course material. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Preparedness and organization. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Responsiveness to class (e.g. welcoming questions, reasonable pace) ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Enthusiasm for material and teaching. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Rapport with students. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Returned homeworks/exams within a reasonable time period. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. How highly would you recommend this TA? ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### C. For lab courses or field trips - rate on a scale of 1-5 or N/A with 1 being lowest and 5 being highest

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
1. Experiments were useful and informative. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Necessary lab materials/equipment were readily available. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Equipment was in good repair. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### D. Miscellaneous items - rate on a scale of 1-5 or N/A with 1 being lowest and 5 being highest

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
1. How much did you learn? ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. How challenging was this course? ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. How useful was the textbook? ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Was the material interesting? ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Instructor(s) returned homeworks/exams within a reasonable time period? ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. How highly would you recommend this course to other students? ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MEANING - JUST PERFECT

### E. Space for individual comments or suggestions:

BRENNAN IS THE BEST PROF I'VE HAD SO FAR AT CALTECH. ME19C WAS AN EXCELLENT CLASS. HE SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY COMMENDED FOR MAKING THE MATERIAL CHALLENGING BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE - THAT BALANCE IS RARE AT CALTECH.

### E. Space for individual comments or suggestions:

ALTHOUGH PROF BRENNAN has not taught undergrads in awhile, it doesn't show. HE was a very interesting lecturer and often went into interesting asides to show the depth of the field. He WAS always prepared with

# THE GSC NEWSLETTER

January 2002

[gscbod@caltech.edu](mailto:gscbod@caltech.edu)

Volume XVI, Number 4

[www.its.caltech.edu/~gsc](http://www.its.caltech.edu/~gsc)



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## To all graduate students:

It is with deep regret that I must tell you that as a result of some health and other personal problems, I have resigned as Vice-President for Student Affairs, effective January 31, 2002. I will be returning full time to teaching and research as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering.



Having served the Institute and the students for over 12 years, first as Master of Student Houses, then as Dean of Students, and most recently as Vice-President for Student Affairs, it is not easy to withdraw from student affairs, but I can assure you that I have no alternative.

Those 12 years have been an immensely rewarding experience, one that will bring me remembered pleasure for the rest of my life principally because of my interactions with a truly remarkable collection of young people, graduate students and undergraduate students. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those graduate students with whom I have interacted over the past four years for the thoughtful and constructive nature of those interactions. I would particularly like to thank those graduate students who have given so selflessly of their time and energy to the Graduate Student Council, for that organization plays a key role in identifying issues and programs that impact the quality of life at Caltech for graduate students. I applaud their important efforts and encourage other graduate students to become involved.

Christopher Earls Brennen

## Thank you Vice President Brennen

*Jose Mumburu, GSC chair*

On behalf of the Graduate Student Council, I would like to express to Professor Brennen our gratitude for his years of service as Vice President for Student Affairs and all the excellent work that he has done on issues that are of extreme relevance to students.

Those on the Board of the GSC that have had the opportunity to interact with him can say that he has always been very sensitive to students' concerns and very supportive of the

student body. He has definitely understood the importance of the word student in Student Affairs, and we in the GSC realize that it will not be an easy task to find the person that will occupy his position after the high standards set by Vice President Brennen.

The Vice Presidency for Student Affairs is of critical importance to students; the GSC has communicated to President Baltimore our disposition to be of assistance and to collaborate with other Caltech groups and administrative bodies in the upcoming search process.

## GSC News

*Jose Mumburu, GSC chair*

### Technique Editor

The Technique is a guide for graduate students that provides useful information about Caltech and life in the LA area. It is published annually by the GSC and the Graduate Office at the end of the summer. We are presently looking for an editor for the 2002-2003 Technique. His or her job will be to update and extend the information both in the paper version of the Technique and on the web, in collaboration with the GSC.

Any graduate student can apply to be the editor. **The Technique editor will receive a compensation of \$5000;** this amount can be shared with co-editors.

You can pick up a copy of the 2001-2002 Technique from the Grad Office or view it online at [technique.caltech.edu](http://technique.caltech.edu). If you are interested or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us at [gsc@caltech.edu](mailto:gsc@caltech.edu).

### Student/Faculty Conference

The Student/Faculty Conference is coming! Although initially scheduled on February 1, it has been moved to **Monday, April 15**. Classes will be canceled that day, so excuses like "I could not go because I had to turn in the Ph125 homework" are not valid.

The purpose of the Conference, sponsored by ASCIT and the GSC, is to bring together students and members of the faculty and staff to brainstorm on different aspects of student life, identify problems, and find possible solutions to them. The discussion has already started and you can be part of it. Visit the Student/Faculty Conference web page at [sfc.caltech.edu](http://sfc.caltech.edu) and join any of the discussion forums.

Ronald K. Linde

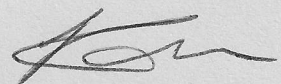
10 January 2002

Dear Chris,

There was no opportunity to speak with you at Tuesday's board meeting; so I am writing first of all to express Marine and my fervent wishes for your full and rapid recovery.

I also want to express to you my personal thanks for all you have done to benefit Caltech and its students. Your voice on the Alumni Relations Committee has been a highly important influence that will be greatly missed. Your eloquent comments at the board meeting were yet another example of the sensitivity, incisiveness and dedication that have enabled you to have such a large impact on Caltech's students and the way Caltech views its students.

Warmest good wishes and thanks,





the genre of "introductions"  
into an entirely new  
and dynamic category.  
It was unmatched!

I know I'll be  
back in Pasadena one  
of these soon, and  
I'll look forward to  
seeing you.

With warm wishes,  
Liz Shannon

Dear Chris,  
I heard about your  
illness from Bob and  
was terribly distressed,  
but he tells me now that  
you are making a fast  
recovery. Please get well,  
and stay well!

I wanted to tell  
you again how wonderful  
and exhilarating your  
introduction of John  
Hume was. It put

PETER W. MULLIN

1/28/02

DEAR GRIS -

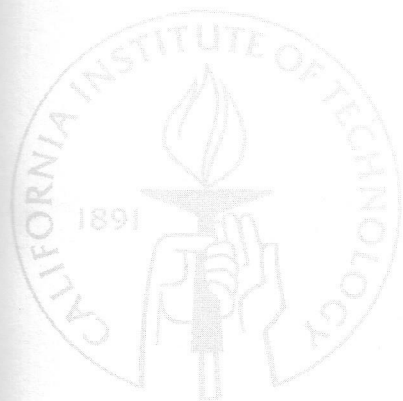
JUST LEARNED FROM ROBERT  
(HIMSELF) OF YOUR RECENT  
HEALTH SETBACK — CAN'T TELL  
YOU HOW HAPPY I WAS TO HEAR  
THAT ALL LOOKS WELL AND YOU'LL  
BE BACK DRINKIN' & FIGHTIN' SOON -

MERLE & I SEND OUR BEST WISHES  
FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY & A GREAT

2002 —

PERSONAL REGARDS

- PETER



CHRIS:

IT IS WITH MIXED EMOTIONS THAT I WRITE THIS LETTER, I AM SO PLEASED THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN FULL-TIME TO YOUR ACADEMIC PURSUITS BUT OBVIOUSLY WISH THAT IT HADN'T BEEN AS A RESULT OF YOUR HEALTH

A STRONG HEART AND PASSION FOR LIFE ARE TWO CHRIS BRENNEN TRADEMARKS THAT YOU HAVE CERTAINLY IMPRESSED ON ME. I ALSO MUST THANK YOU FOR THE DIFFERENCE THAT YOU HAVE MADE IN MY LIFE. YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PROVIDED ME WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A DIRECTOR AND YOU HAVE ALLOWED OUR FAMILY TO PURSUE AND FULFILL OUR DREAMS

YOU HAVE HAD A PROFOUND AND LASTING IMPACT ON THE CALTECH COMMUNITY AND WHILE I KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE MISSED IN STUDENT AFFAIRS YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF THE STUDENT'S AFFAIRS.

MY BEST TO YOUR FAMILY AND REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE FREE LIFETIME SEASONTICKETS TO ALL CALTECH ATHLETIC EVENTS (UNTIL WE START CHARGING ADMISSION!) SEE YOU SOON - Tim



# Dean's Corner

## All about torches

by Jean-Paul Revel



On the way in, last Wednesday morning, coming to work via Wilson Ave, I suddenly became aware of a stationary helicopter hovering in what, from where I was, seemed to be the vicinity of campus. I thought this odd, but I did not get alarmed until I got nearer, and realized there was not just one, but two machines, suspended over Campus. My first heart shrinking was that they were checking on some catastrophic event in the student houses. But no, the machines were really a bit West of Wilson. That was reassuring! That probably also indicated that they were not concerned with something on the Broad Center construction site, which, when I came up to it, was in fact abandoned in the rain. As I went on I saw that the clattering craft were not waiting vultures attracted by goings on in one of the Wilson garages, or in the Catalina housing units. The closer I got the less signs suggested a calamity. There were no police cars, no

taken up by Gary Lorden, Chris Brennen's immediate predecessor in the job, who has agreed to come out of administrative retirement to pinch hit even though it meant canceling other, long made, plans. And lucky for us he is done with Ma 2!.

With the news of Chris' hanging up one of his several hats, it would seem appropriate to recall some of the things he has done up to now. You know of course of his distinguished record in support of the students, first as Master of Houses, then as Dean of Students and since 1998, as Vice President. In last week's edition of "The Tech", Jon Foster quotes house president, Tory Sturgeon, to the effect that "Chris is incredibly kind and receptive and very understanding. Just an incredibly sweet guy." Indeed. Yet most students, although aware of him as willing to be dunked wearing his usual very proper suit and tie, most students probably don't know much about his life as a Prof. Why should they know that he is an internationally recognized

My concern that rainy morning on seeing those helicopters poised over Campus was exacerbated by recent events in several of the Student Houses. Particularly bothersome in this regard is the decision by some students that it would be fun to burn some old Christmas trees in their courtyards. Now we all understand the atavistic pleasure of having a fire. It sure is a lot of fun but, I hardly should have to say that it can also

be incredibly dangerous to surrounding things and people. Whenever there are exciting, fun things to do, be they climbing mountains or making fires, one always needs to weigh the "fun" against the possible consequences. In the age of the Neanderthals of course, the balance was on the side of having a fire. They only had to worry to place the fire near the entrance to their cave, to avoid being smoked out and discourage wild beasts in search of an easy and (I have read) tasty dinner. So for them no caveats (ugh-). But Caltech houses are not caves, nor do we need to keep wild animals at bay. So for

us the balance is against having fires in the entrance way or anywhere else (except a reasonable fire in the fireplace). It should be unnecessary to point out that pyromaniacal activities put others in danger. And it does not require a great leap of imagination to contend that putting others in danger, is truly taking advantage of other Techers. Don't torch the place, don't!

A bientot!

*Jean Paul Revel*

Jean-Paul Revel  
Dean of Students

### CRIPPLING DEPRESSION



### GOES TO THE FUTURE

[www.CripplingDepression.com](http://www.CripplingDepression.com)

By Ben Lee, Tim Wan and Mike Yeh

All characters are fictional. Any resemblance to anybody is purely coincidental. Comics represent the views of the authors and not the tech staff. Contact [feedback@cripplingdepression.com](mailto:feedback@cripplingdepression.com)

FIVE YEARS IN THE FUTURE-  
BEN, TIM AND MIKE DRIVE ONTO  
CAMPUS

Lot A  
Nobel Prize  
Winners Only

WOW, THEY BUILT NEW  
PARKING LOTS.



Lot B  
Limousines Only



Lot C  
Movie Film Crew  
Parking



ACHTUNG! WARNING! YAMETE!

hoversign  
WARNING:  
UNDERGRADS  
WILL BE SHOT  
ON PREMISES  
DAMN IT

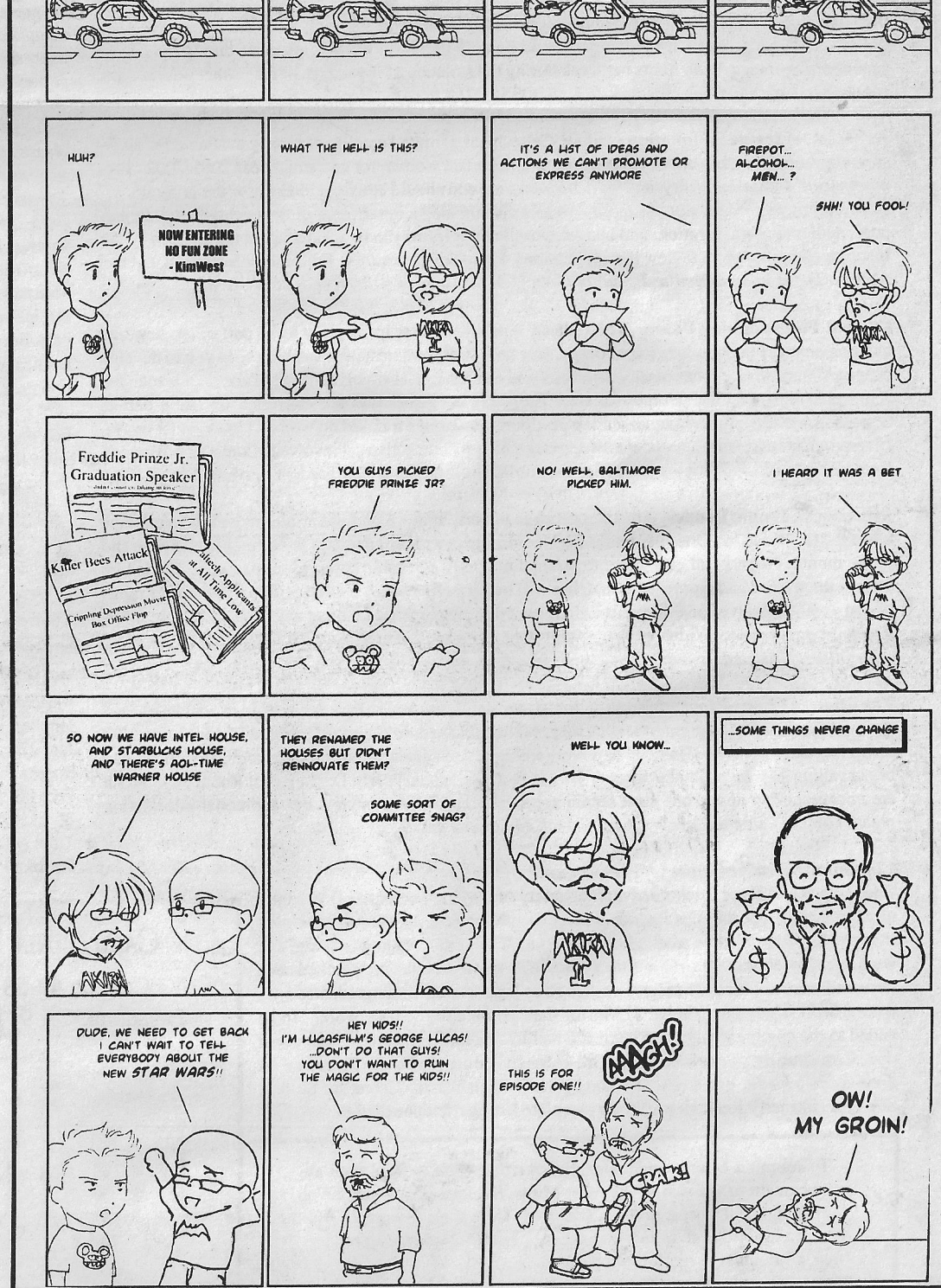




ing units. The closer I got the less signs suggested a calamity. There were no police cars, no fire engines, no flashing lights around anywhere, no traffic jammed up, no flares glistening in the rain, no indications of anything awry, in fact no other traffic, no pedestrians huddling under their umbrellas on the sidewalks. Now that I was right on Campus I could tell that the ships were not even police helicopters, the familiar small red painted ones, but larger vessels. The mystery was solved only after a I got to my office. I was relieved to find no flashing message lights, no evidence of anything amiss. Before calling security I turned on the news and luckily just caught the picture of a torch bearer "just now" on Lake Avenue in Pasadena, the Olympic Torch being carried through town on its way to Salt Lake City. How could I have missed knowing of this! What a relief to find that my fears had been for nothing! I really should listen to the news in my car instead of Boccherini.

My misplaced anxiety at the sight of hovering helicopters has its roots in things that are taking place on Campus. Because of all the concerns it is unfortunate that Prof. Chris Brennen has had to decide, for compelling personal reasons, that he must retire from the helm of Student Affairs at the end of the month. A search for a new VP is, I understand, being organized. In the meantime the VP torch is being

know much about his life as a Prof. Why should they know that he is an internationally recognized leader in mechanical engineering through his research on cavitation? Or that, even while VP, he maintained a very active laboratory? Of the 210 papers that he has authored or co-authored in his career, 31 were submitted or published since he took the job as Vice President. To put this in perspective, getting the data and producing 2-4 papers a year is considered a rather substantial output, even for a Prof without administrative duties. Clearly Brennen is on the high side of the curve. In addition to his scientific contributions, he is an excellent watercolorist, and an avid outdoorsman. He has found the time and the energy to publish extensive and very detailed mountaineering notes based on his own climbs, entitled "Adventure hikes and canyoneering in the San Gabriels" and ".in the Southwest". He also wrote "The far side of the sky" a narrative of significant climbs, including a moving account of his ascent of the Grand Teton (see [www.dankat.com/history/front.htm](http://www.dankat.com/history/front.htm)). The spirit of the man comes through in two photos you can see on the web, one of him at the top of that peak last year ([www.dankat.com/swhikes/photos/phtet.jpg](http://www.dankat.com/swhikes/photos/phtet.jpg)) and another of him wading in a stream at the bottom of a steep rock canyon ([www.dankat.com/swhikes/author.htm](http://www.dankat.com/swhikes/author.htm)). Thanks, Chris, for your wise counsel and dedicated concern about the students' welfare.





## Letters to the Editor

## Student concerns on search for new VP

The news that Vice President for Student Affairs Chris Brennen will be stepping down from his administrative position at the end of January for personal reasons, announced by President Baltimore in a campus-wide email memo January 8, came as a shock to the undergraduate student body.

While our first concern is of course with Prof. Brennen and his family and we wish him good luck in his return to teaching and research the challenge that his departure leaves comes at an especially critical time for the Caltech community in general, and undergraduate students in particular. While we have every confidence that Gary Lorden will do a fine job as temporary Vice President, the selection of Prof. Brennen's permanent replacement is an issue of paramount importance for the undergraduates.

The Vice President for Student Affairs is one of the only direct advocates that students have in the upper administration, mak-

ing the job key to ensuring a continued high quality of student life. Prof. Brennen was able to perform effectively due in large part to frequent communication with students and the trust built up over more than four years in office, not to mention previous terms as Dean and MOSH.

His rapport with undergraduates is such that more than one student I spoke with believed (erroneously) that he must be an alumnus, he understands our concerns so well! Clearly a person of similarly exceptional caliber and dedication is needed to fill this position, and I suggest that this individual note well Chris Brennen's example.

Prof. Brennen did not need to rely on committee reports or vaguely worded surveys to find out what undergraduates think about the issues he took the initiative in scheduling regular meetings with ASCIT, the IHC, and other students to hear it directly from the source. Spending time with the general student

population is a priority for him. President Baltimore scheduled one meeting with undergraduate student leaders last spring, at which not a hint of the coming significant changes in health care, parking, tuition, and the housing system was heard. Prof. Brennen, by contrast, has always been forthcoming and supportive.

We call on President Baltimore to ensure that students are well represented in the process of picking a new Vice President for Student Affairs. At a time when student-administration relations have been plagued by an uncharacteristically closed communication process (put plainly: we're kept in the dark as long as possible about things like the parking issue), this is a unique opportunity for him and other administrators to demonstrate anew their concern for the welfare of Caltech undergraduates, and rebuild some of the trust so recently eroded.

Joe Jewell  
ASCIT FDAL

JAN. 2002

## Brennen stepping down as VP for student affairs

After four years as vice president for student affairs, Christopher Brennen will step down at the end of this month and return to teaching and research in mechanical engineering.

Throughout his 33 years at Caltech, Brennen has been involved in improving the quality of student life, not only as dean of students and master of student houses, but by serving on many committees during his time as associate professor and full professor. In 1992, grateful students thanked him with a bench situated between Ricketts and Fleming houses.

Student Affairs includes a wide range of offices and programs, from athletics, admissions and financial aid to the registrar's office and residence life. The office of the vice

*see Brennen, page 6*

### **Brennen, from page 1**

president for student affairs oversees the undergraduate and graduate deans, the counseling and health centers, minority student affairs, and other offices that provide services for undergraduate and graduate students.

Brennen's immediate predecessor was Professor Gary Lorden, who held that position for eight years. President David Baltimore has asked Lorden to assume an interim role while the Institute searches for Brennen's successor.

Lorden said that the position is one with which he's quite familiar.

"I really enjoyed the eight years as vice president, but—no understatement—I was thrilled to return to the life of a math professor at Caltech," he said.

Although he had made arrangements for a spring term sabbatical and an April trip to Paris with his wife, Lorden gave up those plans and agreed to tackle this demanding job. He noted with pleasure the prospect of working again with Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Sharyn Slavin Miller, who has responsibility for a large part of the organization.

"I expect to spend the next half year working with Dr. Miller and my other colleagues in the administration to help Caltech get through an important transition period," Lorden said. "I will help in any way that I can to make sure that we keep finding effective ways to address issues.

"There's a lot going on at Caltech, and I want to contribute what I can, but obviously it will be up to Chris's successor to lead Student Affairs in establishing long-term plans."

Lorden had nothing but praise for Brennen. "I greatly admire what my friend Chris Brennen brought to the job and what he has accomplished in four years, not to mention the personal sacrifices he has made to serve Caltech and our students."



Certainly, deserve it  
after all of your  
hard work.

Take care,

Shaun

Dear Chris,

Thank you for all  
you've done for students  
and student affairs!

It has been a joy and an  
honor to work with you  
these four years! you  
are a true student  
advocate and I know  
how much the students  
love and respect you.

I hope we can do a  
good job in carrying on  
your legacy of students  
first!

I hope you and Doreen  
enjoy a nice, relaxing  
dinner at Shaah. Love

## Resignation Notes Jan.2002

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you David. As some of you may have heard, on Christmas Day I suffered a heart attack while visiting my daughter in Philadelphia. For this and other personal reasons, I regret very much that I have no option but to tender my resignation as Vice-President for Student Affairs, effective the end of this month.

As I leave I would like if I may to make two brief remarks. The first is to say again what you have often heard me say in the past. Namely that the students of this institution are one of the things which make the Institution truly unique. And so, in the midst of budget cuts and belt tightening, I would like to voice my continuing conviction that the very best investment this institution can make is in its students. In continuing to recruit, nurture and graduate the very best young people in the land indeed in the world. You only have to calculate the rate of return on Gordon's education - or Ben's - or Bill's - to recognize the extraordinary wisdom of those investments. But the returns are not just dollars - they are also in fundamental knowledge for have not the students of this institution won more Nobel prizes than the faculty? Students, graduate and undergraduate, are the fundamental engine of research at this Institution and their nurture is essential to the future of Caltech.s

And now before I return to my own teaching and research in the Mechanical Engineering Department, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the President David Baltimore and to the Board of Trustees for allowing me the privelege of serving this Institute and its students for more than 12 years, first as Master of Student Houses, then as Dean of Students and most recently as Vice-President for Student Affairs (I am the only person to have served in all three positions). It has been an immensely rewarding experience, one that will bring me remembered pleasure for the rest of

my life. Thank you all. And now I hope you will excuse me for I must meet with my staff.



## STUDENT AFFAIRS STAFF

It is with deep regret, that I must tell you that I have just this afternoon informed the Board of Trustees of my resignation as Vice-President for Student Affairs, effective the end of this month. In doing so, I recognize that I may cause you all some difficulties, and that I deeply regret. If there were any other course open to me I would take it, but I must tell you that I have no other choice.


It is my understanding that the President will shortly announce his choice of an interim Vice-President who will serve during a selection process that the President hopes will be completed by the end of the summer. However, these matters are out of my hands. In the interim during the next couple of weeks most of the decisions will be in Sharyn's capable hands.

I do not want to prolong this difficult meeting any longer than necessary but it would be quite wrong of me not to express to all of you my sincerest gratitude for all the help you have given me during the past four years. It has been truly my pleasure to have served with such a talented - and often underappreciated staff. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Know that I will always be a strong supporter of Student Affairs and a fan of all that you accomplish at this special institution. Thank you. And now it is time for me to go home.

-it's clearly time for a break. And I know that you'll continue to be involved in student life in whatever capacity you can.

But I wish you good health, continued academic success, and peace in your now (hopefully) less stressful life. Maybe now's the time to publish another hiking book or at least do more hiking...?

Take care,

Eric  [Eric Tuttle]

P.S. - if you're ever in London you'll have to look me up: [eric@gatsby.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:eric@gatsby.ucl.ac.uk)


Dear Dr. Brennen,

4 Feb, 2002

I'm sorry that this card is a bit late, but after hearing of your decision to retire as VP and the circumstances surrounding it I wanted to write some little thing to thank you for all you've done.

First, thank you for all the kindness you've shown to me and other students. I appreciate your enthusiasm and helpfulness in various projects - my Marshall/Rhodes application, the Big T photos, my move to London (I use that street guide all the time, though it's probably time to get a new one since it's starting to fall apart). It was a pleasure working with you in ASCIT and on the task force.

I'm sure everyone has already said this, but the students are losing their greatest advocate and you will be missed. I've witnessed you in faculty meetings and know that your reputation of truly caring about the students is well-deserved. Look, you've given everything to us - even your health!

This is not to say that I don't understand your decision 



Chris,  
I think that the  
only sure thing in  
a persons life is  
that nothing ever  
stays the same.  
Change is often  
necessary in order  
to move through  
life. You will  
be missed here but  
thankfully, you  
will still be around!  
Best Wishes,  
-Janie

Chris, very  
you are to the  
special to the  
students! to us! I'll  
miss working  
with you, but please  
come back and visit.  
Take care of keep  
yourself and those  
climbing those  
mountains!  
Best wishes,  
I hope  
for you

Chris,  
It was great  
knowing you &  
hearing lots of  
good stories. We'll  
miss you in  
Student Affairs but  
hope you visit often.  
Best Wishes,  
Sandra

Agape  
Kris  
King

Dear Chris,  
As I hope you  
know, I have  
enjoyed working  
with you throughout  
the years. I'll miss  
you and hope  
you'll visit often.  
Thanks for your  
support & friendship -  
Tara Kane  
Baker

Chris - At  
has been an honor  
to work for you.  
for you count on my friendship always  
-Don

1-31-02  
Dear Chris,  
I am so grateful  
I had the opportunity to  
work with you as Dean  
and in your role as the V.P.  
You are a very special  
person to me.  
Please take good care of  
yourself.  
Most sincerely,  
Juzette

Dear Chris  
As a Prof., over 20 years, I followed  
your career in "Student Affairs"; well,  
if not exactly followed, I certainly was  
well aware of this fellow prof who managed  
not only his group, but could also  
simultaneously ad seemingly covitation  
free, hadl responsibilities as Prosh,  
as Dean, and Pro as VP.  
Having now had the chance to work  
with/under you, I have even greater  
admiration - 'You managed this large  
ship ad all your lieutenants with a sure  
hand, You did this while also keeping the  
respect of those we all work for, the students.  
Thanks for all the help, the support ad the  
wise counsel. It has been a pleasure ad  
an honor to work with you.  
Ave a few best wishes  
Sean Paul

Student Affairs invites you to attend a

Reception to honor

**CHRISTOPHER BRENNEN**

Vice President for Student Affairs January 1, 1998 - January 31, 2002

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Olive Walk

Refreshments will be served



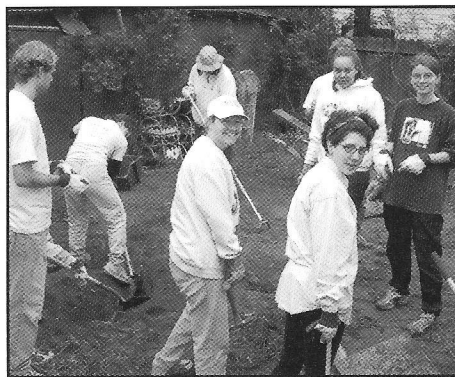
**By Abel Bourbois, Senior in Applied Math, ExComm VP  
& Niki Zacharias, Graduate Student in Chemistry**

In 2001-02, great strides were made at the Caltech Y towards stimulating interest in community service within the Caltech community. For the first time, incoming students were given the opportunity to explore service during orientation week. Instead of taking a tour of LA or visiting amusement parks, a small group of energetic students came out to serve the community with Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together, Pasadena.

We also saw the emergence of the Community Service Committee, a group of grads and undergrads, working to coordinate and organize regular events and outreach year round. During the year, Caltech students showed their compassion by volunteering their time at Union Station, Reading to Kids, and Rebuilding Together, Pasadena.

In addition to these on-going programs, Fall term efforts included a Community Service Fair. Fifteen organizations came to Caltech and provided information about their services in hopes of promoting volunteerism and community service. During winter term, Caltech Y students volunteered to tutor at the Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena to do science projects with the kids once a month. The Y also welcomed a group of ambitious students from the Brooklyn Boys and Girls Club to Caltech during the Spring.

Once again, a number of Caltech Y students chose to make a difference while having fun during the annual Alternative Spring Break which featured two different trips. The first group of 15 returned to Tecolote, Mexico to work at the community center. The second group of over 20 participants, traveled to the Navajo Nation in Bluff, Utah. Jerry Houser, the Director of the Career Development Center, joined us as one of the trip leaders. Professor Chris



*Make-A-Difference Day*



*Navajo Team*

Brennen, and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Sharyn Slavin-Miller, also traveled to Utah to participate. The groups tiled floors, painted houses, played games and did crafts with kids in the community.

## Lucy Guernsey Service Award

Niki Zacharias, Chair of the Community Service Committee for ExComm, has been awarded the Lucy L. Guernsey Service Award for 2001-2002. This award is presented annually to a member of the Y ExComm for outstanding volunteerism.

Niki, a Texas native who did her undergraduate work at Texas A&M, is a graduate student in her final year in the Chemistry department. Niki has been actively involved in numerous service projects while at Caltech, and she feels especially drawn to projects where she can see results and make personal connections. She likes meeting and being involved with the people she is helping through projects such as Rebuilding Together, Pasadena or Union Station. She also likes the regular involvement she finds by working on a weekly basis with children through the Boys and Girls Club.



*Niki Zacharias*

Niki's desire to get others more involved in community service led her to the Y where she has remained active because she enjoys meeting people with interests similar to her own. "There are a significant number of people who have to deal with poverty, hard home lives, loneliness, or sickness. To be part of humanity, you must try to alleviate some of their burdens," says Niki. "Community service makes you realize that you are connected not just to your immediate family and friends, but to a much larger community."



*Make-A-Difference Day*

The Caltech Y's day-long volunteer marathon, Make-A-Difference Day, was a huge success, bringing together some 114 students, staff, faculty, and Caltech Y Board Members to work on 8 service projects in the Pasadena area. The events were diverse and gave volunteers the opportunity to connect with the community through service.

With the successes of the past year, we can only hope that the upcoming year yields greater participation for the Caltech Y as we seek to serve the community. The Caltech Y thanks all the organizations that worked with us this year. We also thank all the coordinators of the above mentioned events.

TRIBUNAL DE POLICE  
DE BONNEVILLE

Quai du Parquet  
B.P. 136  
74130 BONNEVILLE  
N° du parquet : 02/01034  
N° du greffe : 6602/01042

Notification d'une ordonnance pénale  
1ERE A 4EME CLASSE

Lettre recommandée avec demande  
d'avis de réception

M. BRENNEN Christopher  
360, OLIVE TREE IANE  
99999 SIERRA MADRE - CALIFORNIE  
(USA)

Né le 03/12/1941 à KINGDOM (ETRANGER)  
prévenu d'avoir à CHAMONIX (74)/TUNNEL DU MT BLC  
à bord d'un véhicule immatriculé FR 351132  
le 30/08/2002 commis l'infraction suivante:  
001 X CONDUITE D'UN VEHICULE SANS LAISSER UNE DISTANCE DE SECURITE  
AVEC LE VEHICULE QUI PRECEDE (NAT.INF.:006096)  
ART.R.412-12 I, II C.ROUTE.  
ART.R.412-12 V C.ROUTE.

ORDONNANCE PENALE

Vu les réquisitions du Ministère Public en date du 07/11/2002,  
CONDAMNONS l'intéressé à :  
une amende de CENT TREIZE EUROS (113,00 Euros).  
La présente décision est assujettie à un droit fixe de procédure de  
22,00 Euros

Au Tribunal de Police, le 21 Novembre 2002 Pour copie certifiée conforme  
Le Président Le Greffier en Chef,  
ALLAIS Jean-Michel Stéphanie REBUFFAT

Talon à joindre au paiement  
ou en cas d'opposition

TP BONNEVILLE  
N° OP 6602/01042  
AMDE 6620110756  
DU 21/11/2002

DETAIL DES CONDAMNATIONS:

Amende : 113,00 E.  
Droit fixe : 22,00 E.

Nom et adresse du comptable du Trésor  
seul habilité à recevoir votre paiement

RECETTE PERCEPTION  
07, rue Gabriel de Mortillet  
BP 2400







October 17, 2002

Dear Chris,

Yoichiro transmitted your surprise gift to me. The book describes the status of science of Japan around 1920's and I found a lot of names that are so famous and prominent here in Japan but all in histories. I am very proud of being the forth owner of this book, following Martel, Housner and Brennen, all star engineers of CalTech with world fame. Thank you very much for your thoughts and kindness sent with the book together!

I am sorry to have missed the ceremony when you were conferred with JSME Fluids Engineering Award. I returned from Rio de Janeiro on September 29 and suffered 2 weeks long jet lag, the worst jet lag I ever experienced. Brazil was too far for me. Yoichiro told me that you enjoyed to be on the summit of Hotaka. Congratulations for your power, energy and willingness!

My term as the president of Kogakuin University expires by the end of the next March. I refused to be on the slate of the next candidate, and my release from the duty is already fixed. I dream that a new world welcomes me from the next April.

Sending my warmest greetings and wishes,

Your

STANLEY R. RAWN, JR.

53 FOREST AVENUE  
OLD GREENWICH, CT 06870

TEL (203) 698-9515  
FAX (203) 698-9519  
rawnsr@aol.com

May 22, 2002

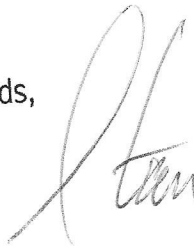
Mr. Christopher E. Brennen  
V.P. Student Affairs  
California Institute of Technology  
108 Parsons-Gates, Mail Code 104-44  
Pasadena, CA 91125

Dear Chris:

I want to thank you again for your help in sending me the statistics related to the current freshman class. I thought you might be interested in seeing a copy of my remarks at our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion last week.

Again, many thanks!

Best regards,



Enclosures

/lm



It's been said that "The best audience is intelligent, well educated, and a little drunk". Tonight, I am sure of the first two and hopeful of the third. It was almost 55 years ago when many of us met for the first time — at Freshman Camp up in the San Bernardino Mountains. And now, here we are — a group of "old people".

Our beloved Alma Mater is also about 55 years older than it was when we first came here. But, unlike us, its physical appearance has markedly improved over the years. Who could forget the much reviled, infamous, ubiquitous ice plant that covered our campus, or those ugly temporary wooden buildings - T1, T2, and T3, just east of the old Greasy Spoon? In contrast, you may be interested to know that a few years ago, Caltech was given an award for having the most beautiful college campus in America. There have been many positive changes over these last 50 years.

I am always a bit awe-struck when I hear some of the statistics of the entering freshman class each year. I think you'll find some of these numbers interesting — they are courtesy of Chris Brennan, Former Vice-President for Student Affairs. For those of us who might have felt that academic excellence peaked with the Class of '52, Chris would tell us otherwise. He would tell us that the classes get smarter every year — Chris would tell us that the current freshman class academically is the best class ever — Chris would tell us that the current freshman class at Caltech is the brightest class academically at any university — anywhere. The class consists of 210 students out of 3,365 applicants. The average combined SAT score is 1508 out of a perfect 1600 — the highest ever (though only a few points above the previous year). Of the 76 applicants with perfect 1600 scores, Caltech admitted only 45 — in other words, 41% of those applicants scoring a perfect 1600 did not make the cut. (Fortunately, in 1948, as we all remember, Caltech had its own custom-made entrance exams for us so we are spared any comparisons here.) About half of the current freshman class were high school valedictorians. Of course, one notable change is that 36% of the current freshman class are women.

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Not only does Caltech have the brightest students of any university anywhere, it can also claim to have on a per capita basis – the best science faculty. We are all familiar with the impressive number of Nobel Prize winners among Caltech's faculty over the years – and that no school has as high a percentage of its science faculty that has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. You may not know that Caltech's faculty individually is the most successful faculty of any university in terms of dollars raised from Federal research grants. Not only was the Caltech faculty out in front again last year, Caltech was 30% more successful than the second highest school - which happened to be MIT.

I was delighted when I heard that Professor Kent Clark was going to be here and speak to us tonight. I can say without hesitation that I enjoyed Kent Clark's class in freshman English more than any class I had during my years as an undergraduate. A few years ago, Barbara and I had the good fortune to have dinner with Kent and his wife, Carol – and to renew pleasant memories after so many years. Though it didn't come up that evening, I later recalled an incident that typifies the man. It seems that we had an English paper on "Arrowsmith" due following a long 3-day Spring weekend. I remember that I spent the 3-day weekend down at Balboa – with no thought of the English paper that was due on Monday, until late Sunday afternoon. Sitting on the beach, as the sun was rapidly sinking, I did the best job I could under the circumstances. And under those particular circumstances, it seemed to me that the paper definitely fell short. In desperation, I added a final paragraph: "Sun, sand, surf and beautiful women are not conducive to concentration upon less interesting subjects". The following week when I got the paper back, Kent Clark had written a brief comment next to my final sentence, "You win – A+". I still have that paper. Now how could you not be grateful to a Professor like that! I think it tells volumes about Kent Clark – his empathy with students and his ever-present sense of humor.



As we all know, Caltech is a unique institution. There is no other university anywhere with its combination of size and excellence. Dr. Baltimore aptly describes Caltech as a "National Treasure". All of this is not to say that our Alma Mater is not without some special challenges due to its uniqueness. Caltech's Endowment, at the end of last year, was \$1.2 Billion. Our peers — MIT, Stanford, Harvard, and Princeton, for example — the colleges that we compete against for students and compete against for faculty, have endowments that are more than 5 to 15 times larger than ours. Incidentally, last year those four schools lured a total of 143 of the applicants accepted by Caltech, in many cases due to aggressive financial aid packages. Dr. Baltimore has pointed out that Princeton, with an Endowment of \$8.2 Billion had an operating budget last year of \$485 M. Caltech with a \$1.2 Billion Endowment had an operating budget last year of \$452 M. In other words, because of the unique nature of education and research at Caltech, it costs us almost as much to operate each year as Princeton, but our endowment is only 15% as large. The challenges for our "National Treasure" are considerable — but its resources — consisting of its faculty, students, friends, associates, and alumni are also considerable. I think that individually each of us would agree that the course of our lives has been changed and profoundly influenced in a most positive way by Caltech. This is a very special place — an extraordinary place - and we can all feel fortunate to be a part of it.

# *Certification Of Appreciation*

*On Behalf of Aneth Community, We Hereby Express Our Sincere Appreciation To*

***Chris Brennen***

*David Armet  
Jay Bartoff  
Abel Bourbois  
Oscar Jay Carlton  
Aaron Davies  
Jenny Fisher*

*Lisa Fukui  
Michelle Giron  
Katie Homann  
Don Ly  
Emily Johnson*

*Helena Kauppila  
Gerald Palmrose  
Nick Tanushev  
Luke Voss  
Lisa Wang*

*Daniel Wu  
Phillip Wong  
Nathan Wozny  
Adriana Zeleska  
Janet Zhou*

*Chris Brennen  
Sharyn Slavin Miller  
Rebecca Houser*

*Athena Castro  
Greg Fletcher*

*Phillip Miller  
Jerry Houser*

*And the*

***Caltech California***

*For*

*Outstanding dedication and services for the Utah Dineh within San Juan County  
The Twenty-Fourth of March through the Twenty-Ninth of March Two Thousand Two*

*'abe' bee' Kwa' a' sin'  
(Thank you-Friends)*

*Nelson Rockwell*

Nelson Rockwell

*03-28-02*

Date

*Elsie Rockwell*

Elsie Rockwell

*3-28-02*

Date



Speech for Dr. Brennen's Celebration  
March 13, 2002  
Martha-Helene Stapleton

A few hours ago, I found myself thinking about the first time I met Prof. Chris Brennen, and you know I couldn't set my finger on any certain day or event. But it didn't trouble me, because of how easy it was to feel he had been a major presence in my life at Caltech from the beginning—as a student and a student leader.

When you think of Chris' career as VP of Student Affairs, you can't help but think of it in very personal, face to face terms and moments. How he always remembered my name, his tales of hiking and ticks, the firm handshake and smile, the enthusiastic stride to and from Parsons-Gates in a navy blue blazer. Chris emphasized the person in this role. And rare it was to find an administrator as busy as he was, also with research and family, still in touch with the everyday lives of undergraduates on the Olive Walk.

Chris' youth and energy inspire many of us who worked with him. Not one to be shy, even at Faculty Board meetings, Chris often presented student concerns when it might have been more difficult for a student to say, and I know that his role as an advocate for student issues will be missed by many. It is my hope that with the hiring of a new VP we will still find, at the forefront of the institute's priorities, the quality of undergraduate life and study.

And when I think of how I'll miss working with Chris, how we will miss him, it won't be as much for the position he held, nor for the brief moment I was able to enjoy a parking space as ASCIT president, which he fought for, but for who he is in our lives. Ready to sit in the ASCIT Carnival dunk tank, or lip syncing to the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction" with Dean Revel during Pre-Frosh weekend. That charming, down to earth nature, and the personal approach to his interaction with others, making us feel so cared for.

best wishes!  
Martha-Helene  
Stapleton



## CHRIS BRENNEN STEPS DOWN AS VP FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

After four years as vice president for student affairs, Christopher Brennen stepped down in January to return to teaching and research in mechanical engineering.

Throughout his 33 years at Caltech, Brennen has been involved in improving the quality of student life, not only as dean of students and master of student houses, but by serving on many committees during his time as associate professor and full professor. In 1992, grateful students honored him with a commemorative bench situated between Ricketts and Fleming houses.

Student Affairs includes a wide range of offices and programs, from athletics, admissions and financial aid to the registrar's office and residence life. The office of the vice president for student affairs oversees the undergraduate and graduate deans, the counseling and health centers, minority student affairs, and other offices that provide services for undergraduate and graduate students.

Brennen's immediate predecessor was Professor Gary Lorden '62, who held that position for eight years. President Baltimore has asked Lorden to assume an interim role while the Institute searches for Brennen's successor.

Lorden, who put plans for a spring sabbatical on hold to take the job, said he was looking forward to working again with Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Sharyn Slavin Miller, who has responsibility for a large part of the organization. He also praised Brennen's dedication and many contributions during his tenure.

"I greatly admire what my friend Chris Brennen brought to the job and what he has accomplished in four years, not to mention the personal sacrifices he has made to serve Caltech and our students."

A search committee chaired by vice provost David Goodstein, has been named to select Brennen's successor. Committee members are Carolyn Ash-Merkel, Kevin Austin, Roger Blandford, Kim Border, Melany Hunt, Paul Jennings, Henry Lester, Sharon Patterson, Kerry Sieh, Martha-Helene Stapleton, and Matthew Sumner. The committee will be staffed by Miriam Feldblum.

Professor Brennen, as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Graduate Student Council, and on behalf of all graduate students, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your years of service as Vice President for Student Affairs and for all the excellent work that you have done on issues that are extremely relevant to students.

I am sure that it is tremendously demanding to balance the job of vice president with the academic duties of teaching and managing a research group. With all of these competing demands, one could imagine the paradoxical situation in which the Vice President is so busy working for students and their welfare that he has no time left to talk and meet with those whom he represents. However, that was never the case with Chris, who always managed to make time for students. He has been most welcoming in meeting with student representatives, and he has always been one phone call away whenever we have needed him. Although the post is described as a half-time position, he has proven to all of us that it requires full-time dedication and commitment, as well as a full-time passion for students.

People on the board of the GSC who have had the opportunity to interact with Chris agree that he has always been receptive to students' concerns and very supportive of the student body. They have also been impressed by his ability to grasp the subtle, but important, differences between undergraduates and graduate students. Chris had already gained important insight into the undergraduate community through his previous service as Master of Student Houses and Dean of Students; as Vice President, he also demonstrated a great sensitivity to the needs of graduate students. He understood very well the specific problems and concerns that affect each student group and worked hard to represent the needs of both communities. Through his thoughtfulness and attention, Chris has dignified the importance of the word "student" in Student Affairs.

Being the chairman of the GSC involves a number of duties, some of which are gratifying, while others are merely necessary. It also has a few perks, and honestly, one of the most enjoyable ones has been the opportunity to meet and interact with Chris, either in the more formal setting of his office or through his informal dinner meetings.

All of us in the GSC realize that it will be difficult to find a new Vice President who can meet the very high standards that he has set.

Dear Chris, it has been a pleasure to work with you.

Thank you very much from all the graduate students.