Random Walk

New PMA Head

EDWARD STONE, professor of physics, has been appointed chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy. He replaces Rochus Vogt, who has taken over as vice president and provost. Stone is noted for his cosmic ray studies; he has also been principal investigator on six NASA spacecraft and co-investigator on four others. Since 1972, he has been project scientist for the Voyager missions.

Getting a Move On

March 15 was moving day for Caltech's 45-year-old, 20-inch telescope—a one-tenth scale model of the 200-inch Hale Telescope at Palomar Observatory. With the aid of a 70-foot hydraulic boom, a clear-headed and sure-footed guide, and lots of advice, the instrument was lifted from its resting place in the dome on top of Robinson Laboratory, swung out past the parapets, and gently lowered into a specially built wooden cradle. Then it was shipped to the museum at the Corning Glass Center in New York. Corning is underwriting a 14-inch Celestron telescope as a campus replacement.

Commencement Speaker

JAMES A. MICHERNER will address the commencement audience on June 10 this year, speaking on "Your Revolution." The author was selected largely because of his recent interest in science and his perspective on the space effort, which are manifested in his most recent novel, Space. Michener has published 30 books since he began a writing career at the age of 40 with his Pulitzer Prize-winning Tales of the South Pacific. Nevertheless, he has still found time for public service, including membership since 1979 on the NASA Advisory Council.

Seminar Day

THE ANNUAL Alumni Seminar Day is a little later than usual this year—May 21—but it includes the customary star-studded cast, headed by the new director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Lew Allen Jr., as speaker for the General Session. Other sessions will feature the 16 speakers listed below.

Ellen Rothenberg, "Basic Training in the Immune System"
David Van Essen, "Monkeying with Vision"
John Baldeschwieler, "New Approaches to Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment"
Dennis Dougherty, "Exotic Organic Molecules"
Robert McEliece, "Computer Memories and Error Correcting Codes"
Amnon Yariv, "Solid State Optical Fiber Systems"
Thomas Ahrens, "Death of Dinosaurs"
Peter Goldreich, "Planetary Rings"
Bruce Cain, "Gerrymandering and Elections"
Philip Hoffman, "The Historian as Detective"
David Goodstein, "Creating the Mechanical Universe"
John LoSecco, "The Search for Proton Decay"
William McLaughlin, "Infrared Astronomical Satellite"
Sterling Huntley, a special session for high school students

Finally, Stefanos Polyzoides, first project architect for the current renovation of Gates Laboratory into Parsons-Gates Hall of Administration, and Jay Belloli, director of Baxter Art Gallery, will discuss "The Original Caltech Campus." On view during Seminar Day will be the related exhibition at Baxter entitled "Caltech 1910-1950: An Urban Architecture for Southern California."