

Random Walk

Women's Suffrage?



NOT LONG AGO we received the photograph reproduced above from John Benton, professor of history at Caltech. The photograph was actually taken by Martha Ward, assistant professor of art history, whose particular interest is 19th-century French painting. She and Benton, whose specialty is medieval history, were both working in Paris last summer when she had a camera and he wanted a picture taken. Benton felt the situation deserved a picture and a comment.

"The recognition of women in science comes in small steps," he says. "The Parisian street which houses the Ecole nationale supérieure de chimie was named after Pierre Curie in 1909, three years after his death and six years after he and Marie had been jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics. Marie Curie was again awarded a Nobel Prize (for chemistry) in 1911, the first scientist to receive such an award twice, and she continued her distinguished work until her death in 1934. The street did not receive its present name of Rue Pierre et Marie Curie until 1967 — and the old sign naming Pierre Curie alone was still in place last summer when the photograph was taken."

Merit Increase



On a recent visit to Caltech, George Keyworth II (left), science advisor to President Reagan and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, met two Institute recipients of Presidential Young Investigator Awards, David Rutledge and Gregory Stephanopoulos. Bruce Abell (right) is assistant to Keyworth and a Caltech alumnus (BS'62).

WITH LIMITED means to compete, for several years universities have been losing more and more scientists and engineers to industry. This has meant a shortage of faculty to give students technical training, plus a shortage of graduates who decide to stay in academia. But some help seems to be forthcoming in the form of Presidential Young Investigator Awards. The names of the first 200 recipients were recently announced by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Eight Caltech faculty were included, putting the Institute behind only UC Berkeley's 12 and Stanford and Cornell's 11 each. The Caltech 8 are geologists Robert Clayton and Joseph Kirschvink, physicists Robert McKeown, John Preskill, and Thomas Prince, chemist Man-

fred Morari, electrical engineer David Rutledge, and chemical engineer Gregory Stephanopoulos.

This program, which will be administered by the National Science Foundation, provides for a grant to each researcher of \$25,000 annually, renewable for up to five years. In addition, each year NSF will match any portion of an additional \$37,500 that the Institute obtains from industrial sources, making the total possible support \$100,000. It is expected that 200 new investigators will be named each year, which means that at the end of five years 1000 young scientists and engineers should be finding it easier to set up long-term research programs in academic settings — and more certainly rewarding than it has been for a long time.

Better Late Than Never?

THE MAIL recently brought us a kind of research report — a copy of an E&S Reader Survey, completely filled out, but originally mailed from our office in 1967. This is one delay that can't be blamed on the Post Office though, because our correspondent has had it all those years. In response to our 1967 questions, he gave us answers as of 1984, telling us that he is married, over

65, has a PhD in education, owns his home and two cars, is retired, prefers to travel by plane, carries bank credit cards, has a pension and Social Security income of under \$20,000, and owns something under \$10,000 worth of securities and about the same amount of life insurance. One thing he didn't tell us — and we hadn't asked — was his name.