

# Random Walk

National Science Foundation. Each will receive NSF support of \$25,000 annually for five years and can receive up to \$100,000 through a combination of federal and matching funds.

Mark Davis, professor of chemical engineering, has received the National Science Foundation's Alan T. Waterman Award of \$500,000 in research support. He's the first engineer to win the award.

Harry Gray, the Beckman Professor of Chemistry and director of the Beckman Institute, was announced as recipient of the Waterford Award, established by the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic "to recognize individuals making seminal biomedical advances."

## Honors and Awards

Three faculty members are recipients of MacArthur Fellowships, established by the MacArthur Foundation to recognize talented and creative individuals. Jacqueline Barton, professor of chemistry, will receive \$250,000; James Blinn, associate director of MATHEMATICS!, member of the professional staff in physics, and lecturer in computer science, was awarded \$265,000; and James Westphal, professor of planetary science, receives \$365,000.

Jacqueline Barton was also one of nine new members elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The other new AAAS fellows are John Bercaw, professor of chemistry; Lance Davis, the Harkness Professor of Social Science; George Housner, the Braun Professor of Engineering, Emeritus; Steven Koonin, professor of theoretical physics; Carver Mead, the Moore Professor of Computer Science; Elliot Meyerowitz, professor of biology; John Seinfeld, the Nohl Professor and professor of chemical engineering (and chairman of the Division of Engineering and Applied Science); and Edward Stolper, the Leonhard Professor of Geology.

Joel Burdick, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; George Djorgovski, associate professor of astronomy; G. Ravichandran, assistant professor of aeronautics; Yu-Chong Tai, assistant professor of electrical engineering; and Stephen Taylor, assistant professor of computer science, have been named Presidential Young Investigators by the

## Scientists on the Barricades

After the Armenia earthquake in 1989 the USSR Academy of Sciences and the US Academy of Sciences organized a cooperative program on earthquake engineering research and applications. A Soviet delegation visited the United States in 1990, and a return visit by the National Research Council's Committee on Earthquake Engineering (whose chairman is George Housner, the Carl F Braun Professor of Engineering, Emeritus) was scheduled for September 8–15 in Moscow. At the time of the August 19 coup, a cable was sent to the Soviet Academy of Sciences inquiring about the feasibility of the visit. The following reply was contributed to *E&S* by Housner before he left for Moscow:

From: pandora!aosussr Fri Aug 23 01:03:38 1991

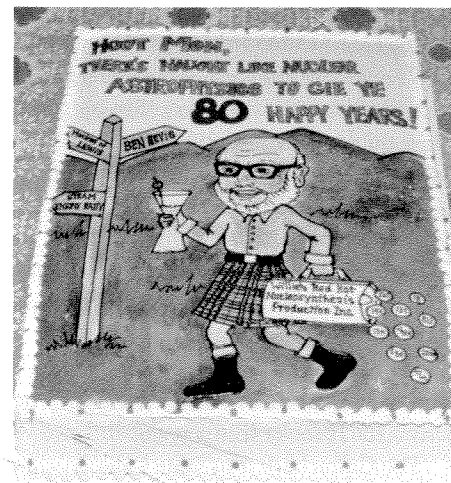
To: irex, nsf, nas

Subject: victory

SORRY FOR SILENCE DURING 19–22 AUGUST 1991. WE FOUGHT ON BARRICADES ROUND THE WHITE HOUSE OF RUSSIA, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY, GLASNOST, PERESTROIKA. WE WON, HAPPY, AND READY TO CONTINUE OUR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

BEST REGARDS, THE STAFF OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

**The cake commemorating Willy Fowler's 80th birthday refers to his Scottish origins, his favorite hobbies, and his Nobel prizewinning work in nuclear astrophysics.**



## Centennial Willyfest

Caltech is 100 and William A. Fowler is 20 years younger. This convergence of birthdays was celebrated last month with a Centennial Year Nuclear Astrophysics Symposium, a k a Willyfest. Fowler, Institute Professor of Physics, Emeritus, has spent most of his 80 years at Caltech, arriving as a graduate student in 1933 and remaining as a faculty member since 1939. He won the Nobel Prize in 1983 for his work on the origin of chemical elements in stellar nuclear reactions.

About 70 scientists attended the symposium on August 12–14, which included sessions on the early universe, laboratory nuclear astrophysics, stellar evolution and supernovae, neutrino astrophysics, heavy element nucleosynthesis and galactic chemical evolution, and nucleosynthesis, isotopic anomalies, and gamma rays. Amidst all the heavy stuff, a festive birthday dinner was held at the Athenaeum (featuring a cake designed by Fowler's colleagues in Kellogg), and a good time was had by all.