

laboratory with 20 associates, students, and employees.

There was not only DuMond the physicist, but also DuMond the humanist and man of letters. He owed this enthusiasm to his great teacher Clinton Judy, who was for many years chairman of the division of the humanities at Caltech. He delighted his friends and associates with his vast knowledge of French and English literature, reciting poems by Victor Hugo or quoting from Shakespeare. His unpublished autobiography is a literary

masterpiece full of subtle reflections on mankind and written with a Proustian sensitivity.

DuMond had strong convictions and an intense feeling for intellectual integrity and justice. He abhorred the spirit of the "establishment" and of the power seeker. "Physics had become big business and with it had come a new type of personality, the man who 'makes history' even though at the same time because of his grossly inflated prestige may also be making colossal mistakes," he wrote, describing

the developments after World War II. He was critical of our materialistic society, reflecting in his autobiography, "It is human, though illogical, to evaluate all acquisitions, goods, and services on the basis of what they cost, rather than what they may truly be worth."

He leaves his wife, Louise, and his daughters Adele Panofsky and Désirée Wilson.

Felix Boehm is professor of physics at Caltech.

J. Niles Puckett Jr.

1943-1976

A Tribute
by Martha Chivens

I HAVE READ tributes in *E&S* to people who have made contributions to Caltech throughout their distinguished careers. I wonder if you would consider honoring a Caltech graduate who made contributions to Caltech as a student and would have continued to make them if he were alive today.

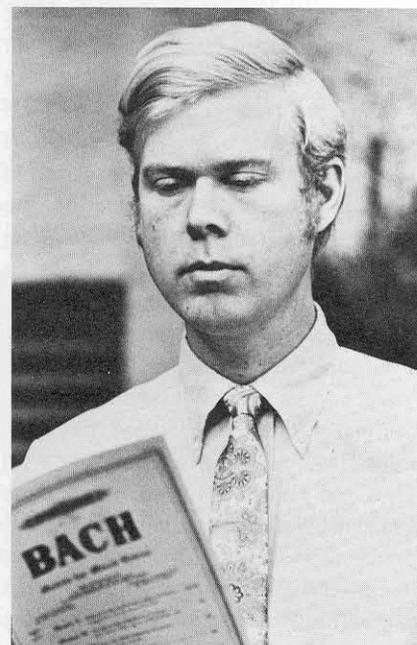
J. Niles Puckett Jr. died on May 13, 1976, after a three-year struggle with cancer. He was 33. In 1961 he was a freshman at Caltech from West High School in Phoenix. Although his field was electrical engineering, he was active in the Glee Club and Madrigal group, and in Cinematech. He was interested in photography and languages, and he cultivated numerous Caltech friends. In 1975 at the class's ten-year reunion, Ricketts House had a large representation because Niles had made a few phone calls. No one seemed to notice that at 32 he walked carefully with a cane.

His three Caltech degrees were in electrical engineering — in 1965, 1966, and 1971. The names Hardy Martel, Carver Mead, Tom McGill,

Cary Lu, and Steve Kurtin came out in conversations with him during those last five school years. Another special person was named Anna Maria Heneis, from Austria. She became Mrs. Puckett in April of 1970.

Dr. Stephen Kurtin wrote the following tribute about Niles's career: "By education, Dr. Puckett's expertise lay in the fields of circuit theory and electron statistics in semiconductor devices. Upon joining Lexitron, at its formation in 1970, Dr. Puckett was a major contributor to the invention and development of Videotype equipment. In this pioneering development, Dr. Puckett's primary responsibility was the display subsystem, but his influence was felt throughout. The display hardware which Dr. Puckett developed and patented in 1970 and 1971 is still today unequalled in capability and cost-effectiveness. Subsequently, Dr. Puckett designed complex text-processing hardware and led the development of other state-of-the-art advances."

While Niles was working at Lexitron, Dr. Hardy Martel worked hard to encourage him to join the faculty at Caltech. It was an opportunity that Niles wanted to take advantage of, an opportunity that would have realized his potential, but he had work to finish at Lexitron and time was too short. Like a detached scientist watching a rat in an experiment, he watched himself, never complaining.



Niles had a gift for seeing the best in people and saying the right thing. When he died, his friends created a perpetual fund at Caltech to support special Madrigal and small choral ensemble projects, which Niles had helped to start while he was at school. The J. Niles Puckett Jr. Memorial Fund will help the song to be heard that his friends and family sing in their hearts for him.

Martha Chivens is married to Don Chivens, friend and fellow student with Niles. Her father, C. K. Parks, worked in Caltech's accounting department for over 25 years.