

In This Issue



The President Becomes a Secretary

President-elect Jimmy Carter officially announced his selection of Harold Brown as Secretary of Defense on December 21 — just two weeks after the *unofficial* announcement of the same news was made by the Caltech undergraduates. The student prediction came in the form of an 8-x-10-foot airbrushed poster (involving something like 30 hours of steady work), which appeared overnight on the grillwork facade of the passageway between Firestone and Guggenheim laboratories. We feature it on our cover not only to share the news of our president's imminent departure, but also to point up — once again — the remarkable prescience of our student body.



Inside Story

A humanist who is both amusing and informative about the role of the humanities in the life of 20th-century man is rare indeed. Fortunately, Caltech has such an example of temperance, wisdom, and good humor in the person of W. T. Jones, professor of philosophy. Also

fortunately, in "What's the Use of the Humanities? A Primer for the Perplexed" on page 4, *E&S* is able to present a thought-provoking sample of the perceptive professor at work.

Will Jones has been at Caltech only since 1970, when he began a two-year stint as a visiting professor. He was appointed Andrew W. Mellon Professor for the year 1972-73, and then became professor. Before coming to the Institute he had been on the faculty of Pomona College since 1938, taking time out only for service in World War II. And again and again during those years, his grateful students voted him their favorite professor. While he no longer teaches at Pomona, the school hasn't let him go entirely. In 1972 the Board of Trustees elected him to membership.



Prophetic Biologist

"In the Footprints of Future Man" on page 9 is adapted from a Watson Lecture given on October 6 by James Bonner, professor of biology. On the occasion of that talk Bonner was introduced by his long-time friend and colleague in biology Norman Horowitz, who said in part:

"I won't even attempt to enumerate all James Bonner's achievements, but one statistic sticks in my mind — that he has published over 400 scientific papers plus several books.

"The subjects of his work group themselves into three major themes. The first, which occupied his graduate years and from then until about 15 years ago, centers on plant biochemistry and

physiology. The second and more recent theme is concerned with the chemistry and organization of chromosomes, not only those of plants but also of animals. And the third theme, which is interwoven among the first two and nourished by them, has to do with his long-term interest in population problems and the world's resources.

"The subject to be discussed here is from this third general area, and his approach is characteristically bold and unconventional. He long ago discovered the importance of keeping the public informed on vital scientific issues as they impinge on man's existence, and his talents in this arena qualify him as one of our foremost seers and prophets."



Grist from Gray

The high visibility on Caltech's campus of Harry Gray, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor and professor of chemistry, is due to several factors. One is the excellent rapport he establishes with all segments of the Institute community. Another is the respect he has earned for significant work in chemical research. Both made it a pleasure to work with him to adapt his Watson Lecture of May 24 to article format. "Chemistry in Action" on page 16 is an example of one area of chemistry explained with precision and simplicity — plus, of course, a touch of Gray's well-known sense of humor.

For another example of *that*, take a look at the photographs in "The Big Copper Caper" on pages 22 and 23.

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