

After reading the wonderful tribute to the late Professor Robert B. Leighton ("Other Octaves," *E&S*, Vol. LXI, No. 4, 1998), I did not know whether I should proclaim:

Mozart, thou art redeemèd!

or

Leighton, thou art redeemèd! (The reason for the vacillation, viz.: the quotation: "Imagine the piano keys stand for the electromagnetic spectrum. We have one octave if we confine ourselves to the visual. You can imagine how dull Mozart would be if he had to stay in one octave." Bob referred not to Bach, nor Beethoven, nor Gluck, nor Rossini, nor Gershwin, but to MOZART!)

The background: During my last year at Caltech (1941–42), Bob, Mrs. Wouk, and I were guests at a dinner-musical at the home of another graduate student. The musicale started with a Bach organ piece played on 78-rpm discs, with vacuum tube amplifiers (emphasis on the word "amplifiers").

When the host asked for requests, I said, "How about some Mozart?"

Bob then remarked, "How can you like Mozart? It's just tra-la-la, tra-la-la," as he hummed a melody from the opening of *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*.

Does anyone know when Bob had his change of heart and came to the opinion that (to paraphrase "Abou Ben Adhem"): "And lo! Mozart's name led all the rest"?

Victor Wouk
PhD '42

Faculty File

HONORS AND AWARDS

Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science *Yaser Abu-Mostafa* has received the Kuwait State Award in Applied Science, for his pioneering work "on neural networks, learning from hints, and computational finance." The November 29 award ceremony was televised live in a number of countries, and a reception by the emir of Kuwait followed at the royal palace. Abu-Mostafa is the youngest person to have received this award since its establishment in 1979.

Caltech president and Nobel Laureate *David Baltimore*, who is also a professor of biology, and Crafoord Laureate *Seymour Benzer*, the Boswell Professor of Neuroscience, Emeritus, have received honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL), which has just celebrated "its 109-year history of science education." The degrees were awarded on November 5 at the inaugural convocation of the CSHL Watson School of Biological Sciences. A private, nonprofit basic research and educational institution with programs focusing on cancer, neurobiology, and plant biology, as well as molecular and cellular biology, genetics, structural

biology, and bioinformatics, CSHL is located in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. Baltimore and Benzer, both of whom are members of the National Academy of Sciences, were recognized for "their long associations with educational activities at the Laboratory."

Colin Camerer, the Axline Professor of Business Economics, has been elected a fellow of the Econometric Society, an international organization for "the advancement of economic theory in its relation to statistics and mathematics."

Professor of Geochemistry *Ken Farley* has been selected to receive the 2000 National Academy of Sciences Award for Initiatives in Research, which "recognizes innovative young scientists and encourages research likely to lead to new capabilities for human benefit." The award will be presented at a ceremony on May 1 in Washington, D.C.

William Goddard, the Ferkel Professor of Chemistry and Applied Physics, and his team of *Tabir Cagin*, staff member in chemistry, and *Yue Qi*, graduate student in materials science, have received the Foresight Institute's 1999 Feynman Prize for Theoretical Molecular Nanotechnology, "for their

work in modeling the operation of molecular machine designs." The Feynman Prizes—one for theoretical work and one for experimental work—are awarded to "researchers whose recent work has most advanced the development of molecular nanotechnology." Goddard and his group operate out of Caltech's Materials and Process Simulation Center.

Robert Grubbs, the Atkins Professor of Chemistry, has been awarded the Franklin Institute's Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry, for his "discovery of a method to significantly improve" the chemical reaction olefin metathesis. His work, the institute adds, has led to a broad range of new drugs, and improved materials for laboratory and commercial applications.

Professor of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics *Paul Jennings* has had his paper "Enduring Lessons and Opportunities Lost from the San Fernando Earthquake of February 9, 1971" selected by the board of directors of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) as the 1997 Outstanding *Earthquake Spectra* Paper. *Earthquake Spectra* is published by EERI, and the paper appeared in the February

HONORS AND AWARDS CONTINUED

1997 (Vol. 13, No. 1) issue. Formal recognition took place at EERI's 1999 annual meeting, which took place February 3–6 in San Diego. The EERI board "considers recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of earthquake engineering to be one of its most important responsibilities."

For his "outstanding innovative research in the area of computational chemistry," Professor of Chemical Physics *Aron Kuppermann* has been selected by the Royal Society of Chemistry to be the S F Boys–A Rahman Lecturer.

Assistant Professor of Physics *Hideo Mabuchi* has been selected by MIT's *Technology Review* as one of the TR100, "100 young innovators who exemplify the spirit of innovation in science, technology, business and the arts." The list appeared in the magazine's November/December issue.

Professor of Astronomy *Anneila Sargent*, director of the Owens Valley Radio Observatory; *Edward Stone*, the Morrisroe Professor of Physics, vice president, and director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory; and *Kip Thorne*, the Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics, have been selected as Centennial Lecturers for the American Astronomical Society. Beginning in the year 2000 and continuing for two to three years, each lecturer will give

two or three lectures in various locations around the country, with the goal of bringing exciting new developments in astronomy to the community at large.

Alexander Varshavsky, the Smits Professor of Cell Biology, and Avram Hershko, of the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology, are corecipients of the 1999 Gairdner Foundation International Award for "the discovery of the ubiquitin system of intracellular protein degradation and the crucial functions of this system in cellular regulation." The award ceremony took place in Toronto last October. Varshavsky has also been selected by the University of Chicago to receive the 2000 Shubitz Cancer Research Prize, and by the German Biochemical Society to receive the 2000 Hoppe-Seyler Award. □

BOOK PRIZES

Four books written by faculty members in the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences have recently received awards.

Associate Professor of Philosophy *Fiona Cowie* has been selected to receive the 1999 Gustave O. Arlt Award in the Humanities, for her book *What's Within? Nativism Reconsidered*. The award is given each year to "a young scholar who has written a book that represents an outstanding contribution to scholarship in the humanities."

Daniel Kevles, the Koepfli Professor of the Humanities, has been awarded the History of Science Society's 1999 Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize for his book *The Baltimore Case*. The prize is awarded annually "for an outstanding book that promotes public understanding of the history of science."

Professor of History and Social Science *Morgan Kousser* has received the 1999 Lillian Smith Book Award for his book *Colorblind Injustice: Minority Voting Rights and the Undoing of the Second Reconstruction*. Presented each year "to recognize and encourage outstanding writing about the American South," the Lillian Smith Book Award is "the region's oldest and best-known" book award.

Associate Professor of History *Alison Winter* has won the North American Council on British Studies' 1999 British Council Prize for her book *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain*. The award is presented each year "for the best book published anywhere by a North American scholar in any aspect of British studies dealing with the nineteenth and twentieth centuries." □

