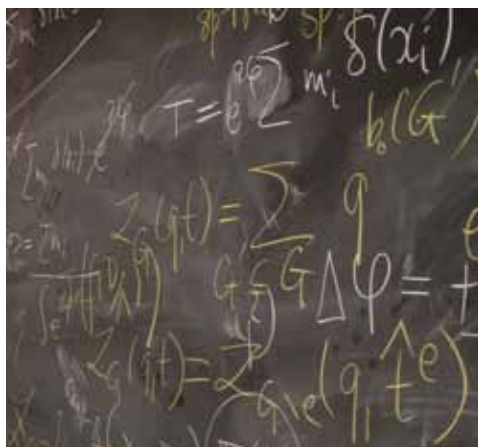


# Meeting Einstein.



*Linus Pauling's Chem 1 lecture where he held a chunk of sodium over what he led us to believe was a bucket of water. Students in the front row were especially fearful.*



It was a quantum mechanics class and the previous professor had left all the blackboards full. Dr. Leighton [BS '41, MS '44, PhD '47] walked in and spent a minute or two absorbing this mass of chalk, which was physical chemistry (quantum mechanics for chemists). He then announced that we were going to make a "few" changes of notation, and proceeded to give the hour lecture using the other guy's boards, finishing, on time, at the last equation. I discovered that it was just as unclear in P-chem notation as physics. I flunked the course.

I was one of six students enrolled in Richard Feynman's Quantum Electrodynamics course. The final exam was simultaneously frightful and delightful: a solo oral examination standing at Feynman's office blackboard. He convinced me that I understood far more than I realized.

*I was neck and neck with Les Ingber [BS '62] regarding breakage in Chem I lab. However, when he dropped a balance, I gave up.*



Friday afternoon seminar in which von Kármán and Hsue-Shen Tsien [PhD '39] would argue about rocketry theory.

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