

Random Walk

Watson Lecture Schedule

THE EARNEST C. WATSON lecture series for fall-winter 1986 will include: Richard P. Feynman, Nobel Laureate and the Richard Chace Tolman Professor of Theoretical Physics, on "My Experiences on the Challenger Commission" — October 15; Bruce C. Murray, professor of planetary science, on "Man's Future on Mars" — October 29; Jean-Paul Revel, the Albert Billings Ruddock Professor of Biology, on "Heart Attack! Tactics for Sick Tictocs" — November 12; Peter Goldreich, the DuBridge Professor of Astrophysics and Planetary Physics, on "Planetary Rings" — December 3; and John J. Hopfield, the Roscoe G. Dickinson Professor of Chemistry and Biology, on "Brain-like Decisions by New Computing Circuits" — January 14.

The lectures will be held at 8:00 p.m. in Beckman Auditorium and are open to the public without charge.

Faculty Awards

OVER THE SUMMER, Caltech faculty members have harvested a large crop of awards. John D. Roberts, Institute Professor of Chemistry, has been named the recipient of the 1987 Priestley Medal by the American Chemical Society. The Priestley Medal is the nation's highest honor in chemistry.

Charles A. Barnes, professor of physics, has received the Medal of Astrophysics of the Paris Institute of Astrophysics. (See "Tracking Stellar Reactions" on page 25 for a description of Barnes's current research.) Barnes and Wolfgang Knauss, professor of aeronautics and applied mechanics, have both won Senior U.S. Scientist Awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in West Germany.

The German Society for Clinical Chemistry has named Leroy Hood co-recipient of its Biochemical Analysis Prize. Hood is the Ethel Wilson Bowles and Robert Bowles Professor of Biology and chairman of the Division

of Biology. Heinz Lowenstam, professor of paleoecology, emeritus, has won the 1986 Medal of The Paleontological Society. And Hans W. Liepmann, the Theodore von Kármán Professor of Aeronautics, Emeritus, who earlier this year earned a 1986 National Medal of Science, has been awarded the 1986 Daniel Guggenheim Medal by the United Engineering Trustees.

Record Research

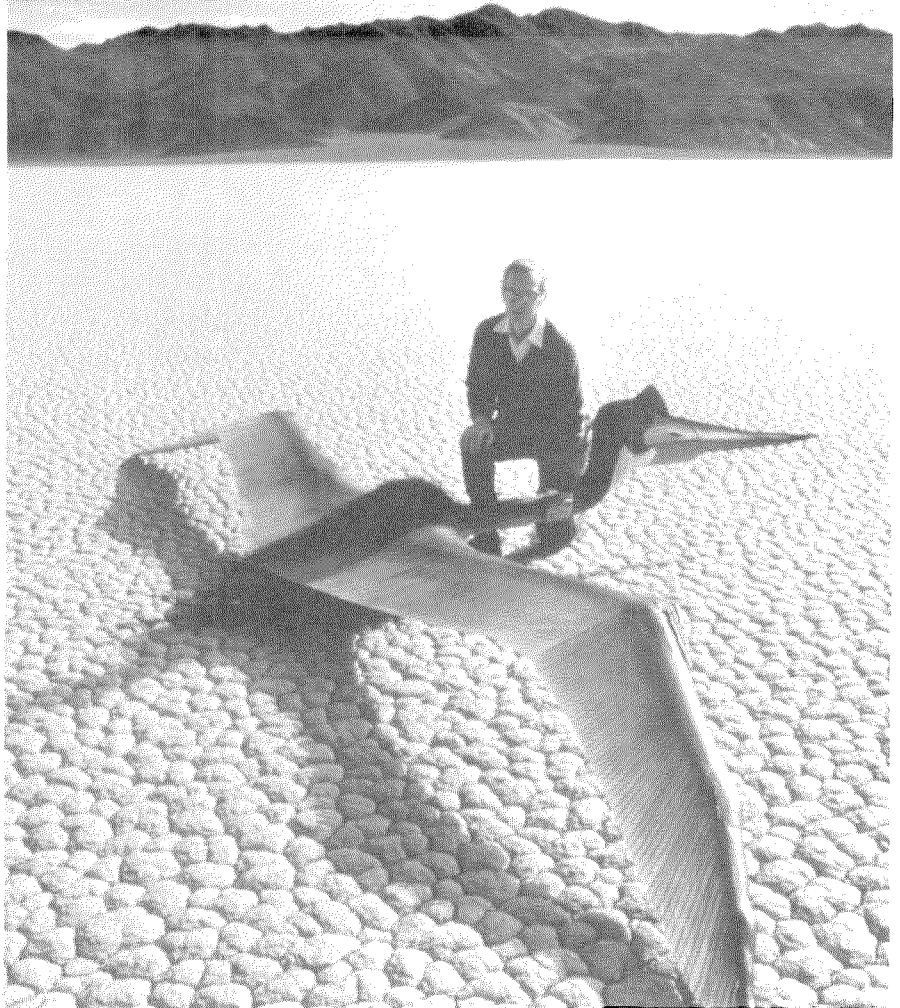
NINE PERCENT of the Caltech undergraduate student body — a national record — became associate members last spring of Sigma Xi, the national honorary research society. The 71 students qualified for the honor by completing an independent research project — an opportunity that has been extended to a large number of undergraduates by the Institute's SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) program.

Return of Pterodactyl

AFTER CRASHING on its first public flight, Paul MacCready's wing-flapping replica of the prehistoric pterodactyl *Quetzalcoatlus northropi* (QN) has been repaired and is hanging with other famous aircraft in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Interference from other radio signals at Andrews Air Force Base last spring released QN's parachute prematurely, sending the model to earth amid great publicity.

QN had, however, flown about 20 times previously, most notably for the film, "On the Wing," which is now opening at IMAX theaters around the country (including Los Angeles and San Diego). A non-flying replica of the pterodactyl with a 36-foot wingspan is accompanying the film on tour.

MacCready, who described QN's creation in the November 1985 *E&S*, is now at work on a version of the flying reptile capable of ascent.



Paul MacCready poses with QN last January at Death Valley, where the creature really did fly for the film "On the Wing."