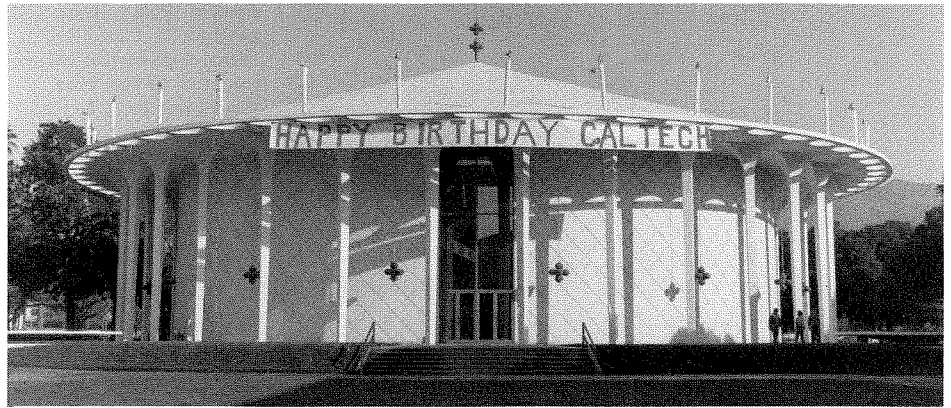


# Random Walk



## Best in the World

*Newsweek* magazine has named Caltech one of the ten best schools in the world. Its December 2 cover story on education described “pockets of excellence across the globe” in various levels and disciplines, noting that “Americans have the most successful system of higher education, especially postgraduate programs; the California Institute of Technology represents the best of that tradition.”

Although *Newsweek* claims that Japan is tops in science education at the elementary- and secondary-school level, the article credits U.S. success in science and engineering graduate education to the establishment of centers of research in the universities after World War II, with the result of “unparalleled educational opportunities for students fortunate enough to attend those centers—such as the California Institute of Technology.” The article goes on to praise Caltech’s size, the creativity resulting from its lack of academic boundaries, and its focus on fields in which it can excel.

“Caltech has come to epitomize excellence in higher education,” the article concludes. An editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* called *Newsweek*’s accolade “the last birthday present of [Caltech’s] centennial year.”

## LIGO Funded

The National Science Foundation’s 1992 budget, as approved by Congress

and signed by the president in October, includes first-year funding for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO). A joint project of Caltech and MIT, it will cost an estimated \$211 million over the next five years. LIGO will consist of two detectors, built at least 1,500 miles apart; each is L-shaped with arms 2.5 miles long. The two detectors will operate as a single observatory, which will attempt to register and measure gravity waves—ripples in space-time predicted by Einstein’s theory of general relativity. LIGO was featured in the cover story of the Summer 1991 *E&S*.

## Honors and Awards

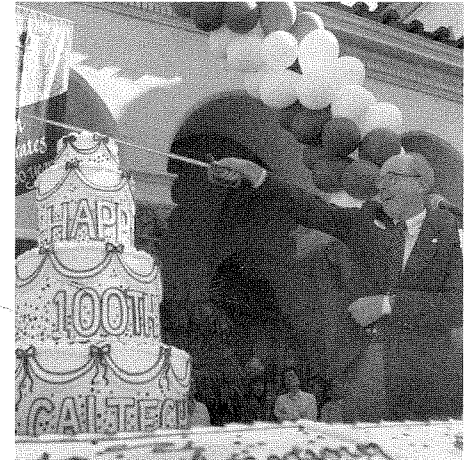
John Hopfield, the Roscoe G. Dickinson Professor of Chemistry and Biology, was chosen the 1991 California Scientist of the Year by the California Museum of Science and Industry.

Hans Hornung, the Johnson Professor of Aeronautics and director of GALCIT, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences.

Edward Lewis, the Thomas Hunt Morgan Professor of Biology, Emeritus, has won the 1991 Albert Lasker Basic Research Award, for his pioneering genetic work with *Drosophila*.

Edward Stone was among 20 U.S. scientists to receive the National Medal of Science in September. Stone is professor of physics and director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, as well as Caltech vice president.

Yu-Chong Tai, assistant professor



**As November 1, 1991, dawned, Beckman Auditorium was revealed as a giant birthday cake, a gift from some anonymous students. Later in the day, President Everhart used a sword to cut the real centennial birthday cake during a party for members of the Caltech community, who showed up in thousands for the occasion. This marked the finale of Caltech’s celebrations of it’s 100th year.**

of electrical engineering, was named one of 20 outstanding young researchers to receive a David and Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowship in Science and Engineering. The fellowship carries a research stipend of \$500,000 over five years.

Kip Thorne has been named the Richard P. Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics. The chair was established by a \$1.5 million gift from Michael Scott, BS ’65.