FOCUS

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TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

by University President Jared Cohon

Carnegie Mellon is world renowned for its strengths in the arts, and artists and performers make a very valuable contribution to our collective life. It is appropriate that our campus environment should reflect the practice and presentation of the arts at the highest levels.

Placing of art in public spaces is as old as art itself. From cave paintings to religious artifacts to commemorative monuments, works of art have a central role in expressing and commenting on the human condition and community identity. Having such work is very important at any university where the arts play as powerful a role in our shared intellectual life as they do here. Many of our peer institutions have histories of displaying public art on their campuses. While this practice is newer to us, I am pleased that the new Public Art Policy and the newly formed Public Art Committee will allow us to enrich our campus in this way. Works of art in public spaces showcase our historic and current strength in the arts and demonstrate our commitment to supporting serious work by faculty, students, and alumni.

Over the last few months, Carnegie Mellon has created a new Public Art Committee, with wonderful input from a variety of constituencies. This committee will review and recommend works of public art for our campus. I am very pleased that Hillary Robinson, dean of the College of Fine Arts, and herself an esteemed sculptor, has agreed to chair this committee. The task of the Public Art Committee will be to support acquisitions of such works, to reach out to the campus to encourage awareness and discussion about them, and to integrate concerns of academic freedom and consultative governance with the university’s commitment to cultural leadership.

Dean Robinson points out that in no discipline is the process of advancing knowledge easy or without controversy, and the arts are no exception. We can see this clearly throughout the history of art, with public sculptures by artists like Donatello or paintings by artists like Van Gogh, which were avant garde and controversial in their time, yet are now much loved.

Particular questions have been raised about current plans for the siting of a work entitled “Walking to the Sky,” by Jonathan Borofsky, a CFA graduate and internationally renowned sculptor, whose work is in major cities and public collections all over the world. I first saw “Walking to the Sky” in 2004 at Rockefeller Center in New York City; it is a phenomenally striking work. When a generous donor offered to provide for the purchase of a version of this piece, I was excited about the possibility of bringing it to our campus.

In accordance with the new Public Art Policy, a public meeting was held on March 8 to discuss the new proposed site for “Walking to the Sky.” This meeting and others like it in the future provide an opportunity for members of the campus community to comment on public art works proposed for our campus.

I would like to thank the many people in the community who have made thoughtful contributions to this discussion and to the development of the public art policy. You have helped us make an important improvement to this process, and I am grateful.

Thank you.

Jared L. Cohon, president

THE DEAN’S COLUMN

OUR SILICON VALLEY STORY AND THE NEED FOR BRANCH CAMPUSES

By Jim Morris, dean, west coast campus

Why should Carnegie Mellon have branch campuses?

Although Carnegie Mellon is a great university whose future is even greater, too few people know of us or understand what we are. I first started to think about these issues when I was dean of the School of Computer Science in 1999 and asked myself how we could further strengthen ourselves and our image. Here is a picture of my simple theory of how universities grow strong.

- Talent
- Achievements
- Reputation

However you measure the strength of a university—talent, achievements, or reputation—the three (measures) (factors) reinforce each other. A university depends greatly on the talent of its faculty and students, and they are drawn to the university by its reputation. The university’s achievements in research and education contribute to its reputation. In fact, the talent and fame of people can directly influence reputation even if those people don’t achieve much—unless sports teams where winning is essential.

Many of us, especially Pittsburghers, discount reputation and public relations and think that all we must do is achieve things and the rest will follow. As a result, Carnegie Mellon’s reputation lags behind its achievements as the relative size of the circles in my picture suggests.

In looking for a strategy, I consulted Regis McKenna, a native of Pittsburgh who became a marketing guru in Silicon Valley. Instead of suggesting marketing or PR, he told me that public sentiment is essential for an organization to survive. With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed.

Abraham Lincoln

In the last few months our campus has exercised its public muscle and expressed sentiments on several issues pertinent to university life. Our architectural archivist, Martin Aurand, shared his thoughts with us on the Best Art on Campus.

Jim Morris tells us just how many of our peer institutions have histories of displaying public art on their campuses. While this practice is newer to us, I am pleased that we have created a new Public Art Committee, with wonderful input from a variety of constituencies. This committee will review and recommend works of public art for our campus. I am very pleased that Hillary Robinson, dean of the College of Fine Arts, and herself an esteemed sculptor, has agreed to chair this committee. The task of the Public Art Committee will be to support acquisitions of such works, to reach out to the campus to encourage awareness and discussion about them, and to integrate concerns of academic freedom and consultative governance with the university’s commitment to cultural leadership.

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John C. – Campus

Lindie Droulia and Genie

By Jan Hardy,
library specialist, university libraries

Staff Council Accomplishment of the Month
Lindie Droulia and Genie Beckom report the total of our “Beads for Tulane” Hurricane Katrina relief effort came to (drum roll, please) $2,000! That’s a lot of gift cards from The Home Depot, Target and Wal-Mart going to our sister university down south. If you gave to this effort, many thanks! And if you stopped by the raucous, festively bearded, feather-mask-decorated table in the UC, you saw how Lindie, Genie and all the other volunteers put the “fun” in “fundraising.”

Crackdown on Speeding – Campus Police Chief Craig Doyle visited Staff Council to warn us that this spring, Carnegie Mellon University Police will be enforcing all moving violations on city streets running through and along the Oakland campus. This comes as a result of several incidents involving students struck by cars, trucks and buses in the immediate area. So obey speed limits, stop at stop signs and yield right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. And spread the word to your lead-footed colleagues.

Space, the Final Frontier – On March 15, our Communications Committee invited four campus experts to an Open Forum on Facilities/Space Management. Speakers included Russell O’Lare, director of University Planning; Ralph Horgan, associate vice provost, Campus Design and Facility Development; Martin Altschul, FMS engineer; and Donald Coffelt, director of Facilities Operations.

Ralph Horgan began by describing the Gates Building, a $20 million, 200,000 square foot space that will house Planetary Robotics and the School of Computer Science, with a parking garage underneath. Scott Scoggin, firm Elam Architects, an Atlanta firm specializing in “boutique” or creative architecture, has been selected. Their plans would emphasize connecting the Cut through the Gates building to a new West Campus quad. There will actually be two buildings connected by a bridge; one is currently called “the X building” until a donor/namesake is found. (And of course these offices would contain “the X files.” I couldn’t resist.)

Some attendees raised concerns about Purnell, Doherty, Wean and other buildings in that area that have “backyards” and loading docks facing the future Gates building. Ralph Horgan related that an Open Forum will be held in late March especially for tenants in those buildings to share information and to discuss problems of dust, debris, noise, etc. during construction. Plans for design of the Gates Building are not totally finished, and factors such as parking, water lines, rock barriers and traffic flow will have to be considered as the work progresses.

Horgan stated that “We plan to maintain and add locust trees to thicken up what is there on the Cut,” indicating perhaps that the protest involving naked baby dolls tied to trees between Purnell and Wean was a success. Horgan denied the rumor that there would be no fire truck access to the Gates Building, saying sensibly that construction wouldn’t be permitted if this were true. Marty Altschul stated that some buildings might have to think about changing their loading dock procedures since their “backyard” would now be more of a “front yard” to the new quad.

One question addressed the “domino effect” of CS and technical staff moving “off campus” to Craig Street. Our panel of experts said that Carnegie Mellon’s expansion into the Craig Street corridor has been extensive enough that we should consider Craig Street an integral part of the campus. In this same vein, the University Police office’s move to Craig Street should not detract from campus security and the effectiveness of patrols.

According to our panel’s answers to other staff questions, the tearing down of Warner Hall is “not imminent”: The fraternity quad and dorms will not be relocated any time soon, and the plan to make Morewood Lot a green field site and build an underground parking lot has proved to be too expensive. Someone asked whether there were any plans to install a walkway across Forbes from the parking garage to the Doherty Lot. Since I park in Doherty, my ears perked up at this – obviously I’ve been living with dogs too long. However, Don Coffelt felt replied that instead of building a walkway, it would be cheaper to move the bus stop to a safer place. Well, I kind of enjoy dodging Forbes Avenue traffic anyway. And maybe with University Police targeting speed demons, I’ll be safer.

Once again, someone asked about expanding the Cyert Center; Russell O’Lare answered that this has been considered and rejected as too costly. Another staffer asked whether the second-floor auditorium in the Penn Avenue facility would be used; Mr. O’Lare said that the space requires a lot of work and that student use would require transportation to Penn Avenue, so interest in the site was very low. (Hmm, let’s think outside the box. Could this be a Cyert Center extension? A project for the Architecture Department? Habitat for Humanity? Grad student apartments?)

Barbara Kviz, Environmental coordinator, said the Green Practices Committee was working to make the Gates Building green as possible. Jarrin Nevel, Staff Council vice chair, asked when construction would begin; the answer was that hazardous material abatement (certainly crucial to Green Practices) is scheduled to begin March 27.

For more complete notes from the Open Forum, please see the Staff Council web site (www.cmu.edu/staff-council) where all this will be posted soon.

Letters and Comments

Walking to the Sky

In the lead article of the February 2006 issue of FOCUS, Robert P. Strauss questions the motivations of an alumnus and trustee who has made a generous donation to the university, insinuating that she may have done it as a means for reducing taxes. I have to wonder why Professor Strauss’ personal dislike for “Walking to the Sky” justifies questioning the motivations of the donor? Is it because she is of a woman, or a taste in public art, I have no reason whatever to think the donation is anything other than a gift motivated by generosity toward the university. If I were she, I would find his article to be remarkably offensive. I hope she will recognize that faculty members generally value the good will of alumni and do not attribute ill motives to them when they contribute to the university. I personally thank her.

At the February meeting, the Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve a public art policy that includes broad representation beyond the College of Fine Arts and a public forum prior to decisions regarding specific works. That policy will be used in choosing a site for “Walking to the Sky.” As far as I can see, despite the various concerns that Professor Strauss voiced at the meeting, the university administration and faculty are in agreement as to how the process should work.

Jim Hoburg, chair of the faculty senate and professor of electrical and computer engineering

Gates Building Information Sessions Being Held

The university community is invited to attend the first open information meeting on the construction of the Gates building on Thursday, April 20, 4:30 to 6PM at Doherty Hall, Auditorium Room 2315. Both sessions are being hosted by the Design Review Committee and are open to the campus community.

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place for four years and spending $100,000 requirements to have a deeper connection to a university. Publicity—paid or free—was far less important than direct, person-to-person experience.

Sharing all one cares about is the amount of talent flowing to Pittsburgh, fighting for an international reputation is essential; the best way to do this is by establishing an active presence in the places where your target audience can learn about you.

Why choose Silicon Valley rather than, say, New York, Washington or Los Angeles?

Silicon Valley is the capital of the computer business, and Carnegie Mellon’s brand is wrapped up with computers. It seemed like a good place to start, especially for the School of Computer Science.

I called Jerry Cohon, who had already been missing about a business office there, and suggested we create a Carnegie Mel- lon club that was like the clubs Ivy League colleges have in New York. He suggested I find someone to head it. My next visit was to Carnegie Mel- lon alumn Vinod Khosla, founder of Sun Microsystems and a former trustee. I asked him if he was interested in launching a hotel, but he had grander ideas. As a venture capitalist, he was sensitive to the need for a constant stream of talent in Silicon Valley and knew that Carnegie Mel- lon was ready to help him in some way. He suggested creating a campus.

At the height of the Internet bubble, there seemed to be no limit on the potential and funding possibilities, so we decided to go for it. Raj Reddy had already been approached by the NASA Ames Research Center, which was starting a research park on its 200 acre property in the heart of Silicon Valley. We began discussions with them and, by 2001, discussed, then-vice provost for re- search, had negotiated a long-term lease on a building and helped secure a $23 million research contract from NASA. Bill Scherlis was the managing principal investigator for the contract and formed a nationwide team to help NASA create dependable software. Several SCS researchers contributed.

Although a branch was started by SCS people, it serves as Carnegie Mellon as a platform for education, research and outreach.

What kind of education do we offer there?

Our main offering is a Masters of Science in Software Engineering, based on the programs taught in Pittsburgh by SCS. It is a part-time, two-year program. There are three tracks: software technology, development and project management. Each requires industry experience. In the past three years, more than 100 students have graduated from the program, and we now have 50 enrolled. Many students report significant improvements in their skills and career progress. We hope to grow the program, eventually reaching 80.

Most students are employed by Silicon Val- ley companies like Google, IBM, Lockheed, eBay and Intuit. The admissions standards require intellectual capability coupled with at least two years of experience. Many students have much more experience.

We have taken Carnegie Mellon’s learning by-doing philosophy to the extreme. Virtually every course in the Software Engineering curriculum is based on a project that takes a team of several people about eight weeks to complete. Rather than hearing lectures, each team meets with a faculty coach and several consultants. The team produces deliverables equivalent to what they would produce in real jobs. The curriculum usually ends with a real project carried out for a local client like SAP or NASA.

Another Carnegie Mellon tradition is the cul- tivation of team players. We explicitly teach the best practices of Silicon Valley. All applicants are interviewed to assess their experience and willingness to work on teams.

The Tepper School teaches its Flexmode MBA program, televised from Pittsburgh. The National Software Industry Association (NSIA) has a similar executive education pro- gram in which Carnegie Mellon faculty and others teach short, multi-day courses.

What are you trying to do?

Today our two general goals are to:

• Impact Silicon Valley by producing successful graduates in software and business and providing leadership through research.

• Influence Carnegie Mellon by innovating customer-oriented teaching methods and communicating important industry trends.

What about the competition?

With Stanford and Berkeley in the San Fran- cisco Bay Area, one might suggest there is too much competition. However, our strategy is to increase awareness of Carnegie Mellon, not simply increase business. While low-cost producers like Wal-Mart™ seek underserved locations, innovation leaders like Apple™, Google™, Microsoft™ and Dragon Systems, a pioneer in dictation software, teach short, multi-day courses on specific topics.

We are starting an executive education pro- gram, which will be located in Silicon Valley, and teach short, multi-day courses on specific topics. We have twenty faculty members, all of whom have worked in Silicon Valley. Several have Ph.D., but the main criterion for faculty is successful industry experience coupled with the ability to teach. Jim Morris is the dean. Martin Griss, who directed research labs at Hewlett-Packard for many years, is the as- sociate dean. A complete list can be found at west.cmu.edu.

So what have you done for Carnegie Mellon’s reputation?

The first thing one notices here is that the person on the street has probably not heard of Carnegie Mellon. Those that have heard of us generally have a very favorable impression. So our primary task is simply increasing awareness.

In 2004, we surveyed hundreds of poten- tial students for our programs and found that only 17 percent were aware that we offered such programs. In 2005, that number was up to about 25 percent. We have advertised, but we find that word of mouth from alumni and students are the main drivers of interest in our programs.

The president reports that his inter- action with alumni here has improved signifi- cantly. If you look up “Silicon Valley” on Wiki- pedia and go to the university’s section, you find Carnegie Mellon listed first!

carnegie mellon University

We provide strong sup- port to the Bay Area alumni, hosting a web site for them, helping generate a weekly newsletter and many events at the campus. The dean publishes a weekly report in Pittsburgh campus out- lets about technical and business trends in Silicon Valley. We coordinate closely with the software engineering fac- ulty in Pittsburgh, reflecting new practices and the reaction to our existing offerings.

Where is the campus?

The campus is located on Moffett Field in the heart of Silicon Valley in the NASA Research Park. We currently occupy a 20,000-square foot building and have an option on another. The University of California and other institu- tions plan to join in the park. Google recently announced a plan to move in, too. Who are the local faculty?

We have twenty faculty members, all of whom have worked in Silicon Valley. Several have Ph.D., but the main criterion for faculty is successful industry experience coupled with the ability to teach. Jim Morris is the dean. Martin Griss, who directed research labs at Hewlett-Packard for many years, is the as- sociate dean. A complete list can be found at west.cmu.edu.

Our Silicon Valley Story... continued from Page 1

Staff Council continued from Page 2

Who’s My Rep?

Who’s My Rep? Who’s My Rep? If you don’t already know, ask yourself, “Who are the representa- tives,” and find the name of someone in your department. If you don’t have a rep in your department, find a rep in an area or department nearby. Ask him or her what’s going on in Staff Council. You’ll doubtless hear a lot more than I could tell you in this column, and you’ll get a different slant on it than I can give.

Who’s In Charge?

Staff Council has elected our officers for next year. Jar- rin Nevel will move from vice chair to chair; Cassandra Stanley and Nicole Martin have been re-elected to serve as secretary and treasurer, respectively; and Wayne Handy was elected our new vice chair. Congratulations and thanks to all our new officers! And thanks to Jar- rin Nevel and the Elections Committee for conducting this important election.

What’s Our Mission?

What’s Our Mission? Our new, suc- cession mission statement voted by in Staff- Council, here in print for your enjoy- ment: “Staff Council serves as the voice for staff at Carnegie Mellon University through a process of advocacy, representation, involvement, providing a system that en- ables staff to realize their full potential and impact their quality of life.”

Our Next Event: Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work will happen April 27. This day will feature events based on Disney for lunchtime entertainment! Watch for news on the Staff Council web site and register your kids. Registration begins April 3 and runs for only two days. Don’t delay registration; there are only 200 openings this year—these programs fill up fast.

Thorny Thought For This Issue: As I continue my term in Staff Council, I’m more and more impressed by the vari- eties of what I’ll call work culture at Carnegie Mellon. From my department, I’ve learned a certain frame of reference for my work and my co-workers. Being human, I took for granted that the entire university functions this way, and it’s been fascinating to see the differences in style, degree of formality/informality, level of identification with students/pro- fessors/administration and demands of time commitment. Anyone who’s involved in a campuswide group might know what I mean, it’s strange and valu- able to see Carnegie Mellon from some- one else’s cubicle for a change.

Beads for Tulane table in UC.
I’ll admit right off that I have been prejudiced in favor of Carnegie Mellon’s main stage presentation of G. E. Lessing’s late eighteenth-century Nathan Der Weise. It is a bold decision for a number of reasons. For one, German enlightenment theatre is not often seen in this country—as historical drama it has proved less popular than, say, that of the English Renaissance, or of seventeenth-century France. For another, Nathan is debate-like, built around ideas, even more fully than G.B. Shaw’s plays (although in Edward Kemp’s direction a good deal of the talkiness has been trimmed for theatrical effectiveness). For still another, its humanist, anti-fundamentalist ideas, although they have been in circulation since the Middle Ages, are under particular pressure all over the world right now. This is, therefore, the rare phenomenon of a play that belongs to at least three over-heated social moments: that of its production, that of its banning during Hitler’s regime, and right now. The proposition that results from the action of Nathan the Wise is that people divided by their religious commitments to one of the three major monotheisms can none the less create a social space (city) characterized by mutual respect and generosity.

The storyline is set in Jerusalem under the Twelfth-century Sultan Saladin, who allowed both Christians (whose crusades were largely finished) and Jews (who had done so in Acre shortly before the action of the play) and Jews (persecuted and ghettoized in Christian Europe) to live in and visit the city unmolested. Nathan, the Jew, is not only wise; he is rich, so rich as to be in a position to lead to the over-committed Sultan. In Lessing’s tale, the Christian Prince expresses unrelenting hatred born of his certainty that God’s will is known to his dispensation (once more we see the theme of the three-headed and ill-judging as he is sometimes, ultimately identities with the Sultan and the Jew, casting his lot and aligning his sympathies with their intellectual clarity and personal warmth. The plot alludes to many melodramatic turns of situation, but its emotional center is the deeply felt kinship between Nathan and the Templar in each other’s rationality. It is an un- ashamed utopian fable, not based on any historical event, but the perspective of a turning point is the three rings story from Boccaccio’s Decameron (1351). In generic terms, it is neither a tragedy nor a comedy, but a “dramatic poem” (the German text is in iambic pentameter). And it is not a “toleration” that magnanimously declares freedom of religious conscience to a humane extent that overtrusts seculars yet inures certain drastic changes. This play will not pack houses in Kansas. 

Nathan’s staging was excellent. The imposing, color filled set, designed by Hallie Stern became an active part of the production, with its three elaborately symbolic niches, one for each of the three “households,” and a bare, spotlighted center stage for their encounters. That center seemed to me the space of reasoned discourse, an enlightenment version of the “enclosed-garden-encircled-by-the-world” in many medieval paintings. Everyone in the cast was very good, but Ruth Ramosian as Nathan anchored the play with his dignified presence and commanding voice. The role is harder than it might seem, because Nathan’s character is a kind of hub both of the suffering of medieval Jews and the rational will to subdue the desire for vengeance. As both a disturbed man and a figure for an idea, he must simultaneously convey both humility and command. Mladen Kiselov’s direction kept all the others constantly moving, sometimes flitting, around this man and this idea. Those others provided the theatrical action—the world of events, reversals, and rumors that makes up this play. Everyone seemed to agree with that.

Like all utopias, Nathan and the Wise raises this question: what do these implausibly good people and remarkable coincidences have to do with the big issues they dramatize; isn’t this really naïve? Johnston (and I answer): Lessing knew he had a world at his disposal. He could have set the play in the “enclosed garden,” but a world without sectarian hatred cannot be achieved until it has been imagined and theater can help us imagine it. The Department of Drama in cooperation with Indira Nair, took a major role this year in bringing the “CME” experience “to our new campus through challenging and controversial art.

Would you like anything to read?

Gilead, a novel; Grawemeyer, the prize and getting around a maze

Marlene Behrmann, professor, psychology and center for the neural basis of cognition

I enjoyed this finely written book. I suspect, however, that for those uninitiated in the New Testament, as I am, some of the material flies over the head. This may be one of the reasons why I do not feel overwhelmed by the religious content! The book is actually an easy read, and one that walks away from it feeling just a bit more thoughtful than before, a good thing in my mind. It is also the kind of book that when your coffee spills all over it, you rush to get it up before the coffee soaks through. I recommend it highly!

Now the topic of the Grawemeyer in Psychology in 2006 is much more familiar to me than Gilead. I feel overwhelmed by the religious content! Like all utopic fables, Nathan the Wise, although it is not the Nobel prize, the Grawemeyer Award is probably the analogue of the Nobel prize in the liberal arts and as prestigious in fields such as education, improving world order, music, psychology and religion. The Grawemeyer (as it is affectionately known for short) is an annual award established through the generosity of the late H. Charles Grawemeyer. An annual award established through the generosity of the late H. Charles Grawemeyer.

The subject of religion, Christ, the after-life of the war in the world of events, reversals, and rumors that makes up this play. Everyone seemed to agree with that.

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I wrote this article playing two roles: an administrator who strives for constructive diplomacy and an artist who is anything but dispassionate about her discipline. Both are members of Art, a member of the Public Art Committee, a painter of nearly three decades and one who attended the entrance to Carnegie Mellon could use such a Board of Trustees for Carnegie Mellon, attended those meetings, but there were many twists and turns, Carnegie Mellon finally came to control its own destiny, for better or for worse. In the decades that followed, the strength that had propelled success in early years was magnified by this new freedom. With the support of alumni who were increasingly in a position to help, the administration managed to make progress in a fast track against all odds. The ascension of Carnegie Mellon in the ranks of academia relative to comparable universities with far greater financial resources is an indication that people are even more important than money. Given the symbolic resonance of this sculpture with Carnegie Mellon and the wider arts and architecture community, it was interesting to read Professor Max Freyd’s rendering of the “everyman” and “everywoman” moving toward the magical eloquently alludes to that phenomenon. He shows us the metaphorical valley, but leaves us to imagine our own epiphanies.
The College of Fine Arts Celebrates 100 years

Officially founded in 1905, the College of Fine Arts (CFA) was one of the first comprehensive arts learning institutions in the United States. Many events have been held to mark the centennial year including an alumni art exhibition, a Carnegie Mellon Night at the Symphony and the famed Beaux Arts Ball. A peek at the ball below...

Photos by James Soracco.
In 1965, the university established one of the first academic departments in the nation dedicated to the study of computer science. Initial funding for the department came from a SSM Richard K. Mellon Foundation grant. The first “annual report” from the Computer Science Department (CSD) reflected the breadth of computer science applications across the campus:

“Within the Department of Computer Science and the Computer Center there is work on graphics, on proving that programs do what they purport to do, and on systems programming. Moving outward, information processing models on human behavior are a major concern of the psychology department; management information systems is an area of active research in the Graduate School of Industrial Administration; and the development of problems oriented programming languages is going on in several engineering departments.”

Ten years later, CSD faculty and researchers had developed the first shared memory multiprocessor constructed of commodity processors. Called C.mmp, it connected 16 processors with over two million bytes of shared memory along with over two million instructions per second. C.mmp was comparable to standard industry computers of the mid-1970s and led the way in constructing large systems from smaller commodity components that could track the tremendous economies of scale to come.

CSD Professor Allen Newell saw computers as “the technology of enchantment.” At the Inaugural Party for the establishment of the U.A and Helen Whitaker Professorship in 1976, he said, “On any given date, the expected painful tradeoffs do hold, just as we learned in elementary economics. It costs more to buy faster circuits or larger memories. But come back next year and everything is better: smaller, cheaper, faster, more reliable, less energy. Thus computer technology differs from all other technology. This technology is providing the capability for an enchanted world:”

“For little boxes that make out your income tax for you. For brakes that know how to stop on wet pavements. For instruments that can converse with their users. For bridges that watch out for the safety of those who cross them. For streetlights that care about those who stand under them—who know the way, so not one gets lost.

In short, computer technology offers the possibility of incorporating intelligent behavior in all the nooks and crannies of our world.”

Many of today’s computer innovations that are part of everyday life were inspired by long hours of research in the backrooms of Carnegie Mellon: computers that play chess (and win), software that lets your computer take dictation, robotic vehicles that can drive themselves, plus search engines for the Web and even the Macintosh OS X operating system. Carnegie Mellon also operates the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) and the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT).

SCS will host CS50: Fifty Years of Computer Science on April 20-22. Key events will include a history track on Thursday, a technical seminar on Friday, and the public unveiling of the building plans for the new Gates Center for Computer Science.

Visit www.CS50.cs.cmu.edu for details.
The Food and Wine Collective Cultural

 Goes for Bust, on the level

A small thing perhaps, but we noticed something interesting as we were having dinner at Matt's Be Nimble on Route 22. We had been on a road trip into deepest

Estou County to pick up a specialty from a local deli. We ended up at Scalese Millworks. Paul Scalese had put together for us a beautifully black walnut

table and upon suppling the legs and other timbers we would ultimately be finished up to provide a dining table of suitable size for the available space—a nice ex-

ample of carefully designing something to its final dimension. We announced this loudly to each other, and so to the assem-

bly of group members.

"Look at these people; they know what they're doing."

Turning to the woman behind us, "Help us out. What are you buying? What's good?"

Turning to the woman's little girl, "What do you like here? What do you think I should pick?" which led to a lot of general amusement, and some acceptable if not great choices of donut.

In Clem's. We knew what to pick well enough. One order of ribs, and two orders of the pulled pork sandwich (to be clear: one each for the three of us). Clem's is a great place to stop if you're tomarrow (or on your way to Scalese Millworks, or Al-

toona, or Lion Country Supply (near College Drive), or any other College Drive eateries). We didn't get there out enough so often, so whenever we heard of a friend going through Indiana County, we'd mention it. We have a somewhat similar report of the collective cannot be held account-

able else why one would go there is hard to define. Everything is good, and the sauce is just about right—not too sweet, not too sour. Debbie's Diner, Greenfield. In Greenfield this case means that it is on Murray Avenue op-

posite the Giant Eagle—NOT the Eagle part for heaven's sake. Not a bad Giant

Eagle, and just a few doors down from Debbie's. In Greenfield in this case the Giant Eagle.

"My heart is in the wok."

Murray Avenue is a regular whirl-

wind of activity these days. We noticed

the absence of the Indian Oven, a nice little buffet place we liked, not long after opening. Now the spot is occupied by a

restaurant called La Filipiniana/Sweet Basil, being a joint effort we suppose of those two places. The restaurant has roughly the same

ambience the Oven had, although there are some slightly different examples of "art" on the walls. Some of the serving dishes are ones we recall from the Oven days. Guess that's how it works. Anyway, the restaurant is fine, excellent food well presented. A special favorite: the Fresh Red Quinoa with fresh basil, mint leaves, cucumber, carrot, vermicelli noodles and tofu wrapped with rice paper. The night we were there everyone seemed to be or-

dering it, and we did so too. Maybe this is where the "balsam" comes from in the re-

staurnt name.

Not so, we thought, with the little place just down the street on Murray now called Pinto—a new or something in the place that used to be called Pino's or some-

thing. We find that there are some posi-
tive reviews of this place to be found on

the internet; we hadn’t read them and just wandered in because La Filipiniana was closed when we first tried it on a Monday. We wouldn’t make the same mistake again. We didn’t like it. The food seemed to be a bit of bread, a great big chunk of pita with a little bit of diced chicken wrapped up in a pita. Came close to being what some people used to call a jam sandwich (a Depres-
sion expression, we suspect: one piece of bread jammed between two others.

Also on Murray—and remember our task is to try to find somewhere decent around here (campus) to get a bite to eat and something to drink—is our new favourite

restaurant, at least in the Asian category. The Pacific Ring. Pan Asian Restaurant is right opposite the Giant Eagle where the Szechuan House used to be, next to where the West Coast Video used to be. The dé-
cor hasn’t changed a lot in there either, which is a bit of shame. There are some new and not bad pictures on the wall, but the lighting could use some work. But the food is fresh, service fine, and the presen-
tation wonderful. They have a great range of interesting cockey and such. Try the

$5 soups—wild mushroom for example—and see what we mean. They do a teriyaki

beef that is tender and tasty. Shrimp dis-

hs all good. The mixed seafood medley is a kind of soupy thing that some will find too bland. There is a grilled salmon dish that is a huge fillet of salmon, but it is so cheap it probably has to be farm-raised. They will give you a free glass of wine or sake with dinner because they don’t have a license yet, and of course they will open your bottle of wine if you bring it, and won’t charge corkage.

And finally a tribute to our glorious founder who, we like to believe, had a real taste for food and wine, especially for his exotic Asian dishes. How could it be otherwise growing up in a one-room shack in Dun-

fernline? Consider for example his ex-

traordinarily famous saying, and our very own motto: "My heart is in the wok."

And since there is no current move-

ment to have a giant sculpture of Andy in-

stalled near the entrance to our grounds, we sought out the bust of him located in the Hunt Library.

Andy very alarmed!

We found that Andy is alarmed, and imagine that is because people all want to touch him for some reason. And clearly, without arms he can’t really defend him-

self. To date we know of no attempt to cli-

m him, and of course once again he would be very vulnerable to that sort of affair. Hence we ourselves alarmed, dismayed but grateful for the alarming con-

dition of Andy’s bust.

(For the collective, Barb and Cletus Anderson, Otto Foghuz, Alan Kennedy, Mark Prosky, Jim Foster, F&W Rec.

The F&W column is compiled by Alan Kennedy, who takes comments from members of the Collective (an open and fluid community) on drinking and dining
cent and puts them into some kind of the collective cannot be held account-

able for elaborations of the sort that might, for example, involve extended and

perhaps extraneous reflections on Gore Vidal, Ali G, horizontal relationships, or whatever. Just for clarity we thought we’d mention it.)