

good photos in the world's newspapers—have failed to dissuade Hollywood writers from giving the struggling Hubble Space Telescope a very public kick in its ... shall we say, lens?

In the 21 March episode of NBC's well-watched "L.A. Law," a defendant was standing trial for refusing to pay his taxes. How to explain such behavior to a jury of taxpayers? The defendant argued that too much of his money was being consumed in wasteful government spending. Take those familiar \$600 toilet seats. Take those less familiar expensive studies on the effect of cow belches on global warming. Now came the punch line to the jury, delivered by the defendant's attorney: "When [my client] stood up and said 'I won't be soaked for more useless Hubble Telescopes and rockets that explode,' [he] was being a true patriot."

How does NASA feel about this peculiar brand of patriotism? "We've been assaulted by almost every comic around," says Michael Braukus, a public affairs officer at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. "This sort of thing just rolls off our shoulders." Especially so since, in the end, the screenwriters seemed to have regained

their senses: The jury found the defendant guilty.

## Apples for Eternity

Will people still eat golden delicious apples centuries from now? The answer may depend on how well their buds survive at  $-150^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Space at the National Germplasm Repository in Geneva, New York—which preserves more than 3000 types of apple trees—is running short, and curator Philip Forsline thinks he has found an alternative: freezing apple buds in liquid nitrogen to save space on trees.

Unlike most garden vegetables, specific varieties of apples and other fruits cannot be preserved by storing seeds since individual seeds vary genetically; thus the Department of Agriculture has had to preserve them in orchards. Buds, however, *do* contain the exact genetic makeup of their parent trees, a fact that prompted Forsline and several Colorado State University horticulturists to embark on a 25-year cryogenic project to see if buds will grow after being frozen for many years—something no one has tried on such a large scale before. Using tech-

niques they developed themselves, the horticulturists dehydrate buds as much as possible, then place them in the vapor directly above a container of liquid nitrogen. Each spring they rehydrate the buds and see if they grow.

Preliminary results—this is the project's third year—look promising: fruits native to northern regions, like the Siberian crabapple, have had nearly 100% survival rates. Rates for others range from 10% to 100%. If all goes well, the freezing program will not only save money and space, it will provide a backup in case trees die from disease or disasters.

## NIH Finds Misconduct at Georgetown

Scientists accused of misconduct are taking a battering at the hands of NIH's Office of Scientific Integrity these days. Shortly after a toughly worded OSI draft report on the Baltimore case was leaked to the press (*Science*, 29 March, p. 1552), another draft report was obtained by *Science* that accuses Margit Hamosh, a pediatrics professor at Georgetown University, of having made false statements and submitted false data in grant applications to NIH and the Department of Agriculture.

One finding concerns an NIH grant application in which Hamosh allegedly stated she was using a model for total parental nutrition based on newborn rabbit studies. Under questioning, Hamosh reportedly admitted that no such model had ever been in use. OSI also found that Hamosh had supplied data from "initial experiments" on the gastric emptying times of different dogs in a USDA grant application, later determined by OSI to be "worthless and [apparently] fabricated or falsified."

The report, which was first described in *The Washington Post*, also faults Georgetown's initial investigation of accusations made against Hamosh by Lois Freed, a former research assistant in her laboratory. It

## Was John Sununu Joking?

Scientists who sleep easier at night knowing physicist D. Allan Bromley is in the White House may wake up sweating over a recent remark by the other technologist in residence, former mechanical engineer John Sununu, now White House chief of staff. In a *Scientific American* profile (April issue), Sununu is asked for his reaction to the recent highly publicized alarms over basic research funding raised by Nobel laureate Leon Lederman. Sununu's response: "I don't know who Leon Lederman is."

points out several instances in which the university not only failed to interview obvious witnesses but repeatedly took questionable statements at face value. Like the Baltimore report, this document is not official: Hamosh and Georgetown have 30 days to comment on its findings.

## Chronicle Online

*The Chronicle of Higher Education* is being used as a stalking horse for future scholarly publications that will be as close as your computer terminal (*Science*, 1 March, p. 1021). Starting next fall, the full text of the newspaper will be made available on the campus-wide computer network at the University of Southern California (USC). The service is part of an 18-month pilot project to explore the demand for and use of online information.

The experiment will include separate databases on university-related statistics and on job openings, as well as access to the paper's contents by a variety of means, including word combinations. USC plans to incorporate the research into a larger project already under way on how people use electronic resources.

## Japan Prize confers \$750,000



John J. Wild

The Japan Prize, Nippon's answer to the Nobel, has been awarded to an American and a Frenchman. John Julian Wild, 76, director of the Medico-Technological Research Institute of Minneapolis, is being honored for pioneering contributions to medical imaging technology. Jacques-Louis Lions, 62, chairman of analysis and systems control at the Collège de France and president of CNES, the French NASA, is cited for his work in applied mathematics.

Each prize carries with it 50 million yen, equivalent to \$375,000, which will be bestowed at a 25 April ceremony in Tokyo. Of the 19 winners since the award was established in 1985, 12 have been American and one Japanese. The Japan Prize is administered by the Science and Technology Foundation of Japan.