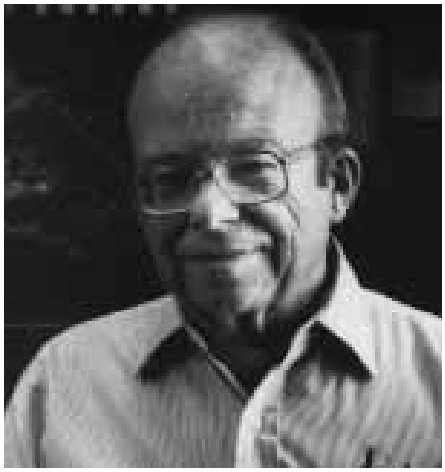
E. Heitowit

MICHAEL RIORDAN has spent much of his last twenty years writing and editing general books on science, technology, and their impact on our lives. They include *The Solar Home Book* (1977), *The Day After Midnight* (1981), *The Hunting of the Quark* (Simon & Schuster, 1987), *The Shadows of Creation* (W. H. Freeman, 1991) and the forthcoming *Crystal Fire: The Birth of the Information Age* (W. W. Norton, 1997)—from which his article in this issue has been adapted.

He currently divides his working time between SLAC, where he serves as Assistant to the Director and Contributing Editor of the *Beam Line*, and the Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, where he is researching a scholarly history of the Superconducting Super Collider. For recreation he can often be found paddling his kayak on the waters of Monterey Bay or hiking near his home in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



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Born in Berlin in 1919, Pief earned his Ph.D. in 1942 from Caltech. After the war, he joined the University of California at Berkeley, then came to Stanford as Professor of Physics in 1951. He served as Director of its High Energy Physics Laboratory from 1953 to 1961 and was the founding Director of SLAC, continuing in that position until his "retirement" in 1984. Among his many awards are the National Medal of Science and the Fermi and Lawrence Awards of the Department of Energy.

"The Universe at Large" appears this issue largely thanks to the author's husband, Dr. Joseph Weber (on her left), who took her out to dinner every evening for a week to free up some time for writing it. They continue to oscillate between the University of Maryland and the University of California at 31.7 nHz, partly because of the interestingly different sets of restaurants on the two coasts. The chap in front is Yakov B. Zeldovich, with whom they had a very memorable dinner in Jena in 1982. He was among the pioneers in the USSR in looking at the interface between particle physics and cosmology.