

ON THE COVER

Our guts are swarming with trillions of bacteria. Some of those bugs may be important in keeping us healthy, by acting as crucial parts of the immune system. These bacteria influence the behavior of certain immune cells, and in this cross-sectional image of a mouse colon, those cells have been stained to glow green. Read the story on page 35.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It is with profoundly mixed emotions that I write this.

Excitement, on the one hand, as *Engineering & Science* is finally going to get a proper website, one that will take advantage of all that the Web 2.0 has to offer and that will include a searchable archive going all the way back to Volume One, Number One, published in June, 1937. (The *Caltech News* site, too, will get a massive upgrade.) Before we get too deeply into the design, we want to hear from you about this. What features will be most useful to you? What do you want *E&S*'s online presence to be like? How do you foresee yourself using the site?

Which brings me to the other hand. Caltech is not immune to the economic pressures of the outside world. As a consequence, *E&S* and *Caltech News* will suspend print publication at the end of fiscal 2009. Again, we want to know what you, the person holding this magazine, think of this prospect. Are you glad that we will no longer be using 500-year-old technology to bring you news from the future? Or do you see added value in continuing to have a printed publication you can keep on your coffee table? Some readers have asked us why we are still killing trees in this day and age; others have told us that they treasure the sensory experience of reading a physical thing, and won't be reading us any more if we go online only.

Where do you stand?

It's not an either-or proposition—the websites will get an extreme makeover regardless. But whether the paper versions continue is in your hands, and most likely in your checkbooks.

We want to hear from you.

Sincerely,



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