My first dog, Captain Planet, is the dog pictured. I had some rather technical and
good, if I do say so myself, ideas for the
modification of this I-Cybie based Feral Dog.
I developed a 4-wheel steering mechanism
which runs off of one servo. It consisted of
two axles connected to the servo arm, the
front axle is connected by 2 straight rods at
90 degree angles to the servo arm and the
axle, while the rear axle is connected by 2
straight rods that connect to the end of the
axle arm which they are connected to (in
essence making an X with 45 degree angles
at the servo-rod and axle-rod joints). I know
this sounds confusing, and if I can get a
picture and figure out how to upload I will.
Anyway, this mechanism meant that if the
servo rotated 15 degrees, then the dog
would be turning at 30. It would have
allowed for tremendous manuverability.
Unfortunately, I lacked the time and attention
span to get it attached to the dog in a way
such that it would feasibly operate. I also
was attempting to use whegs, but again ran
into another problem. Because of the
dimensions of the I-Cybie, the axles would
have needed to be rather long (i.e., 12" in
the rear and 14" in the front) to allow enough
turning without the whegs catching the body
of the dog, unless I were to use rather small
whegs, and that would eliminate the purpose
of using them (to "walk" over obstacles) to
begin with. So, I decided to take the
approach that most everyone else seemed
to be taking: basically turn the dog into a
quadriplegic attached to a homemade
remote-control car.

Then, I realized that unlike the Goddard,
which looks like a brick with a head and 4
legs, the I-Cybie is actually rather sleek and
rounded, and that means that it is difficult to
attach wheels to the body, at if you want
them to still be aligned. At this point I thought
about creating a new body casing for the
I-Cybie, but it was getting late in the semester,
and I decided to try something else. Jeff told me
that he was having luck with simply reprogramming his I-
Cybie. So, I decided to give it a shot, but I
still wanted to mechanically alter a dog. So, I
talked to Natalie and got a new dog to
mechanically alter in case the
reprogramming of the I-Cybie did not work.
So, now I have the "to be programmed"
Captain Planet, and the Cyborg looking No
Me Gustan Las Toxinas (for the non-spanish
people that means: I don't like the toxins...).
No Me Gusta is a simple feral. The dog base
used is basically an empty shell (kind of like
a Harvard grad...). The only thing that is kept
from the original design is the two LEDs that
act as the eyes and the body casing, minus
the legs. There is a plexy-glass battery-shelf off the butt of the
dog with a servo mounted on the
end. That servo is connected to a rear differential with
two free turning wheels on separate axels
(the separate axels are to allow for easier
turning, since the outside wheel will need to
turn faster than the inside). And that is where
Ferals come from.
The End...at least for now