

2-1983

NEWS AND NOTES 1983, VOL.14, NO.3

The Rockefeller University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1983

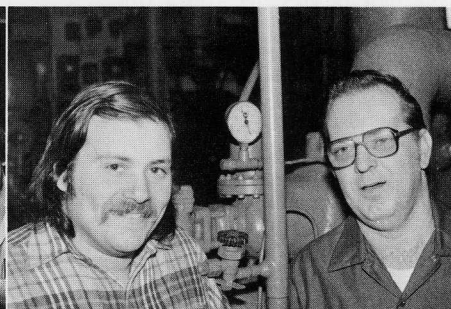
Recommended Citation

The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1983, VOL.14, NO.3" (1983). *News and Notes 1983*. Book 5.
http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1983/5

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Rockefeller University News and Notes at Digital Commons @ RU. It has been accepted for inclusion in News and Notes 1983 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RU. For more information, please contact mcsweej@mail.rockefeller.edu.

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY *news and notes*

Catastrophe Averted in Welch Hall



On the evening of December 21st, Security Guard Vivian Jones, Lieutenant Harold Taitt, Watch Engineers Frank Bockowski and Eric Wiberg, Boiler House Maintenance Mechanics Nicholas Bianchi and Edilberte Palustre, Assistant Custodial Supervisor Luis Matos, and Porters Luis Colon, Gilberto Farfan, David Gonzalez, Jose Peña, Nicolas Rosado, and Wardell Scott reported for work as usual. Some of them didn't get home until four the next morning. Some, not at all. No, they weren't toasting the holiday season. They spent the night fighting a flood in Welch Hall.

Around 8:45, Mr. Jones, on his rounds, spotted a leak on the top basement level of the Library. He alerted the men on duty. Rushing to the scene, they found water

pouring into the lower basement and clouds of steam rising from wetted pipes. Within minutes, the steam was vented, the water turned off, and the pumps started. Under the supervision of University Librarian Sonya Mirsky, whom Mr. Jones had had the foresight to call at home, they formed a human chain to rush the removal of scores of boxes of irreplaceable archives sitting in three inches of water.

"They had the area cleared in 20 minutes," says Mrs. Mirsky. "Then the clean-up job began. No one coming in the next morning would have noticed anything amiss."

With the help and advice of Edward L. Gershey, director of laboratory safety, and the kind loan of freezer space from Jeremiah Barry, director of food services,

Heroes of the flood. Far left photo: Harold Taitt, left, and Vivian Jones. Middle photo: bottom row, from left, Nicolas Rosado, Luis Colon, Gilberto Farfan, David Gonzalez; top row, from left: Wardell Scott, Jose Pena, and Luis Matos. Far right photo: Nicholas Bianchi, left, and Frank Bockowski; not shown, Edilberte Palustre and Eric Wiberg.

the soaked material has been frozen to prevent damage from fungus and mold. Later, it will be carefully thawed and dried.

A grateful Mrs. Mirsky reports that "the quick thinking and teamwork of all the men averted what could have been a catastrophe." □

Cinderella Smith

"It's a Cinderella story," cooed one wide-eyed visitor. Smith Hall Annex, once dowdy and deserted, has become a beauty, transformed by the magic wand of architectural imagination. The shabby but solidly built pre-World War II structure, mostly empty since the animals it used to house moved to LARC in 1975, is now a sleek, modern office building.

The reconversion has freed substantial space in the Tower for wet labs. The cost, even with triple-glazed windows and heavy carpeting to counter the traffic noise on the FDR Drive, was half of what new office space would have been and a third of the price of new lab construction, reports Vice President David J. Lyons.

The \$4 million-plus expense has been financed largely through the generosity of the Pew Memorial Trust.

The design was conceived by the architectural firm of Abramovitz, Harris, Kingsland, under the direction of Max Abramovitz, who has worked on the University's buildings for more than 20 years. The atrium, spanned by walkways, was landscaped by the firm of Engel/GGP.



The atrium, Smith Hall Annex.

The garden, measuring 72 feet by 26 feet, is built on several layers, and some of the original granite bedrock has been left ex-

posed (encouraging wags to refer to it as "a piece of The Rock"). The tricky business of temperature control was managed by the engineering group of Meyer, Strong & Jones. According to Thomas Mikell, an associate of the firm: "The atrium's visual impact is stunning, but it's possible only because of an unusual air-treatment system. On the bottom floor of the annex, a large fan gently blows 42,000 cubic feet of air into the atrium each minute. At the same time, air already circulating in the large, open space is taken up for reconditioning through hidden ducts."

What the human inhabitants of the annex may not know is that some tree frogs and lizards that had been living in the plants in their natural environments came along for the ride to Rockefeller. "They may still be in the garden," says landscapist David Engel. "If they're not, well..."

The garden has been named in honor of Mrs. Lita Annenberg Hazen, a trustee and benefactor of the Neurosciences Research Foundation. The Foundation sponsors The Neurosciences Institute and the

Neurosciences Research Program, which have a new home on the B floor. (See *news and notes*, April-May 1982.)

Professor Joel E. Cohen and his populations group, Mathematicians Morris Shreiber and Peter Sellers, Logician Hao Wang, Dr. William Lowrance and his Life Sciences and Public Policy Program, and some members of the neurophysiology laboratory of Professor Victor J. Wilson, occupy A floor, which also includes a large new conference room for general use.

The staff of the development and public affairs office and public information (including *news and notes*) is located on C floor. The D floor, where once ambulances and other vehicles (including Director Herbert Gasser's car) entered from the FDR Drive and got spun around on a turntable, is awaiting assignment. □



New York Hospital through the atrium's barrel-vaulted skylight.



Gardener John Considine, foreground, and groundsmen Eugene Tarasco (extreme left, partially hidden), and James Sullivan, discuss care of the atrium's plant life with landscapers.

Lab Report: Leprosy

A team of investigators from the University's laboratory of cellular physiology and immunology, headed by Professor Zanolli A. Cohn, reported significant new findings about leprosy in a paper published in the December 23 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

The Rockefeller group, collaborating with scientists at The University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, found striking differences in the immune response of patients with the three principal forms of leprosy. Such differences may serve as a model for the immune system's response "to almost all parasitic and microbial infections," according to Dr. Cohn.

Researchers have long been puzzled by leprosy's various forms: the lepromatous form, which is the most virulent, and so-called intermediate and tuberculoid forms, which are less severe, yet potentially devastating if not treated.

"Clinically, the problem has always been to explain the spectrum of leprosy — how a single 'bug' causes these different reactions," says Professor Ralph M. Steinman, a co-author of the paper and thesis advisor to Biomedical Fellow Wesley C. Van Voorhis, the paper's principal author.

To answer the question, the team examined skin samples from the lesions of 21 leprosy patients in the United States and Brazil. This marked a new approach to the diagnosis of leprosy, which formerly had been based on bloodstream analysis.

In samples of virulent lepromatous lesions, they noted the presence of one type of immune cell almost to the exclusion of others: "suppressor" cells, which are believed to inhibit the action of the immune system's bacteria-killing macrophages. "The overabundance of these cells in some way interferes with the defense mechanism that could kill the organism," Dr. Steinman explains.

In the least severe, or tuberculoid, lesions, however, suppressor cells are rarely seen. Instead there is a preponderance of "helper" cells, which appears to make the immune response more efficient. By observing the types of immune cells in lesions, therefore, it is likely that physicians will be able to diagnose the disease with greater accuracy and monitor the effectiveness of various methods of treatment, according to the authors.

The work, still in a preliminary stage, may have even broader implications. "In most animal tumor models," notes Dr. Cohn, "you see a suppression of cell-mediated immunity. There may be many mechanisms involved, but this is certainly one of them." □

Thanks from Captain Davis

Robert Davis, former captain of security, has asked *news and notes* to convey his and his family's "deep appreciation for the wonderful party," held in September in honor of his retirement. □

Counseling Service In Its Second Year

Not everyone who needs advice is able to obtain it. Rockefeller employees, who have access to a free and confidential counseling and referral service, are in an enviable position.

The personnel office, working with four neighboring institutions — Cornell University Medical College, The Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and The New York Hospital — launched the Employee Assistance Program Consortium in 1980. The program is considered a basic benefit of working at the University.

Dr. Robert B. Millman of Cornell University Medical College, the medical director of EAPC, traces the program's roots "to a recognition by the Rockefeller community and the personnel office that job satisfaction, productivity, and the general well-being of employees might be enhanced by the availability of counseling and referral services."

EAPC's counselors, who hold graduate degrees in social work and nursing, are available to discuss work-related problems, as well as a range of personal ones, involving marriage, family finance, care of children and the elderly, and alcohol and drug abuse.

Susan Timares, Program Coordinator, emphasizes a practical approach. "Some people need to see a counselor only once, or several times, and feel greatly relieved. Others need longer-term or more specific assistance. We work with these people to find a resource that is of appropriate cost."

Working with Ms. Timares, who was formerly associated with the Adolescent Development Program of the Cornell University Medical College Department of Health, and Mount Sinai Hospital, are Counselors Jeffrey E. Diaz and Jayne Eliach, a new staff member, and Secretary Kim Colichio.

EAPC offices are at 449 East 68 Street, in a building set apart from the institutions participating in the program. Appointments, which are always confidential, can be made by calling 472-4946. □

Aerobic Dance Classes

Amy Ginsburg is teaching aerobic dance on Mondays and Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 and Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:15. Classes are held in the Community Room of Faculty House and on the 17th floor of the Tower. Anyone may join any time for as many classes a week as desired; a series of 10 is \$30.

Ms. Ginsburg, who is a secretary at the University, holds a master's degree in dance from the University of Illinois, where she has taught, and has a background in fitness training. Those interested in the aerobic classes can call her on extension 8052 or Donna Hankins on 8300. □

Space Sickness: an Exotic Application for Biofeedback

Although they have been sending men and women into space for more than two decades, neither American nor Soviet space scientists are able to predict whether an astronaut or cosmonaut will suffer from space sickness, nor have they been able to devise reliable methods of preventing it or treating the 40 percent who are affected.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, proceeding with plans to put more people into earth orbit on the space shuttle, recently asked Professor Neal E. Miller, Physiological Psychology, and other scientists, to serve on a space motion-sickness steering committee. Professor Victor J. Wilson, Neurophysiology, also advises NASA on motion sickness and other medical problems of space flight, as a member of the agency's Life Sciences Advisory Committee.

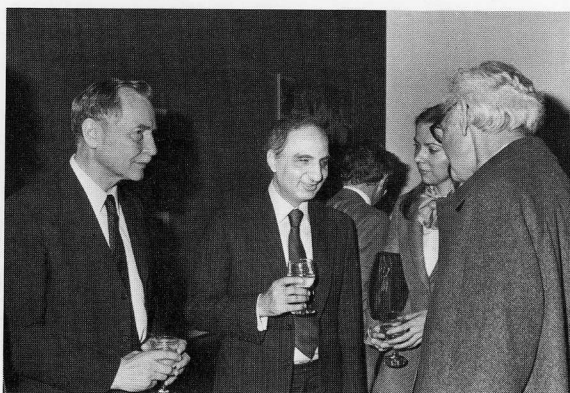
Two of Dr. Miller's former associates have been looking for answers — one in the U.S., the other in the U.S.S.R. At the Ames Research Center in California, Dr. Patricia Cowings, a former member of the Miller laboratory, has developed a method of training people to counteract the symptoms of motion sickness that is used by the Air Force in the treatment of persistent air sickness. In Moscow, Dr. Inessa Koslovskaya, who also worked in the Miller laboratory, has focused on the neurophysiological mechanisms of space sickness.

Dr. Miller reports that NASA is proceeding on both fronts. Dr. Cowings' behavioral approach, based on biofeedback techniques, will soon be tested in space, while other scientists examine the mechanisms of motion disorders.

Particularly important is the function of reflexes elicited by the inner ear, which are modified in a weightless environment. The space agency also hopes to find a way of dealing with orientation problems sometimes suffered by astronauts after their return to normal gravity.

The realm of outer space may be the most exotic setting for biofeedback therapy, which was pioneered by Dr. Miller, but it continues to be applied in certain illnesses here on earth, including heart disease. Dr. Miller recently headed an American delegation representing the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, in an exchange program with the Ministry of Health of the U.S.S.R., which met in Moscow, Leningrad, and Riga last October.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in both countries. According to Dr. Miller, the Soviets have used biofeedback and autogenic training widely in the treatment of hypertension. "We were impressed by the degree to which Soviet scientists whom we met were convinced that personality and psychosocial factors that produce stress contribute to hypertension. While animal experiments show that this can occur, we are some-

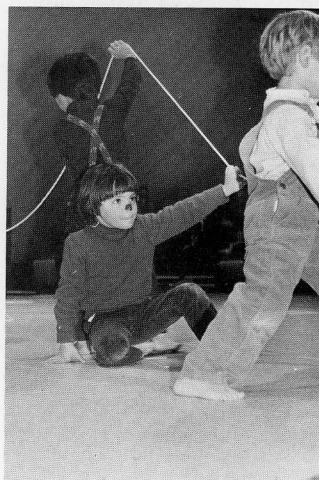


Indian-born writer Ved Mehta, center, at a reception following a lecture he presented at the University on December 16 under the sponsorship of the RU-NYU Joint Program in the Humanities. Left, Professor Floyd Ratliff, RU chairman of the program committee. The next evening event in the series will be a talk and film showing by French film director Louis Malle on March 3. For reservations call 598-2809.

Posthumous Awards

On September 29, Jean Dubos, widow of Professor René J. Dubos, accepted a posthumously awarded Leadership Medal from the United Nations Environment Programme, which honors those who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of the environment.

In December, at the University's memorial service in his honor, Dr. Dubos was named the first recipient of the AMS Foundation Humanitarian Award. The announcement was made by Arthur M. Sackler, honorary chairman of the foundation and a member of The Rockefeller University Council. Dr. Dubos had been informed of the award in February, shortly before his death. It was presented to Mrs. Dubos by Dr. Sackler's wife, Gillian, president of the foundation. □



Children's School holiday festivities: A program of song and dance delighted loved ones and guests of the Mary Manning War Home who gathered in Caspary Auditorium. There were lots of happy faces at the reception, held after the performance in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall.

PROMOTIONS

Richard K. Carlin and Margaret E. Perkins, Cell Biology, to assistant professor, effective December 1.

Ann H. Erickson, Cell Biology, to assistant professor, effective January 1.

Christopher W. Clark, Animal Behavior, to assistant professor, effective March 1.

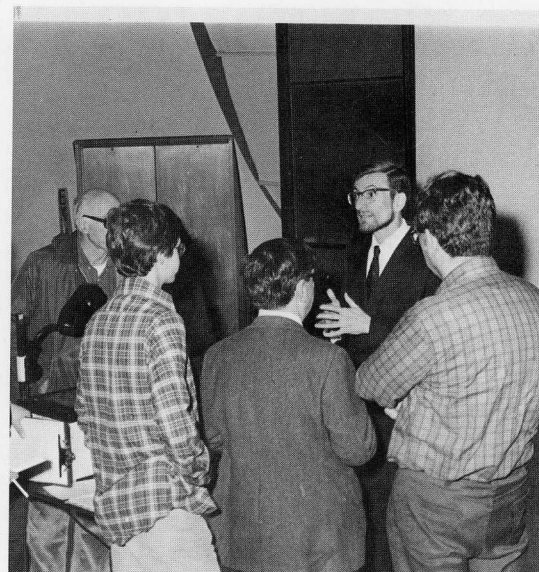
APPOINTMENTS

Robert G. Roeder, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, as Professor, effective December 1.

Nathaniel Heintz, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, as assistant professor, effective December 1.

what less convinced of the major role of such factors."

A study has been planned to standardize results; American biofeedback methods will be tested by Soviet therapists, while the Americans will try Soviet techniques. Further behavioral studies will be discussed at a series of meetings to be held in the U.S. later this year. □



Professor Joel Cohen at the 1982 Alfred E. Mirsky Christmas Lectures.

HONORS & AWARDS

Professor **Zanvil A. Cohn**, Cellular Physiology and Immunology, received the Noble Foundation Research Recognition Award, presented on October 6 on the occasion of a seminar sponsored by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc., in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He was honored for studies which have advanced understanding of macrophages, cells that are part of the immune defense system.

Trustee **J. Richardson Dilworth** has been honored by Yale University with the establishment of a new professorship in British history named for him. Mr. Dilworth is a senior fellow of the Yale Corporation, the university's governing board, and received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale.

Professor **Hao Wang**, Logic, was awarded the first biennial Milestone Prize for Automatic Theorem Proving at the joint annual meeting of the American Mathematical Society and the Association for Symbolic Logic, held January 4-9 in Denver. The prize was awarded by the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence for Dr. Wang's "fundamental contributions to the founding of the field." At the meeting he gave an award lecture, Computer Theorem Proving and Artificial Intelligence, and another invited lecture, Gödel's and Some Other Examples of Problem Transmutation.

PERSONALS

DEATH

Albert Paul Krueger, 80, former chairman of the bacteriology department of the University of California at Berkeley and a prominent researcher on air ion effects on living organisms, who worked at the University from 1929 to 1931, on December 8.

IN PRINT

Professor **Leonard B. Spector**, Enzymic Catalysis, has written a new book, *Covalent Catalysis by Enzymes*, which has been published by Springer-Verlag. In it Dr. Spector presents his controversial thesis of a single basic mechanism of enzymic catalysis.

Winning Sounds

Professor Irving M. Faust will not be in his laboratory on the night of March 15. He'll be front row center at Carnegie Recital Hall as his wife, pianist Sara Faust, makes her New York debut as a 1982 Concert Artists Guild winner. It's a prestigious award, and if you like Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and Debussy, it promises to be a rewarding evening.

New Roles for Hamburg

Trustee David A. Hamburg became president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York in December and will become president-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on June 1. He is also this year's Mack Lipkin Man and Nature Lecturer at the American Museum of Natural History.

A major contributor to psychiatric research and education, Dr. Hamburg has a special interest in the biological and behavioral aspects of stress and aggression. His scientific interests are reflected in a recent book he co-edited, *Health and Behavior: Frontiers of Research in the Biobehavioral Sciences* (National Academy Press).

He is also an active worker in the area of public health policy. Before joining the Carnegie Corporation, a major foundation making grants primarily in education, he was director of the Division of Health Policy Research and Education at Harvard. From 1975 to 1980 he was president of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine. He has been a member of the Rockefeller board since 1979.

The three-part lecture series at the American Museum of Natural History is entitled *The World Transformed: Critical Issues in Contemporary Human Adaptation*. The first of Dr. Hamburg's talks, on January 19, was on the Evolutionary Background of Human Behavior. The second and third, on February 22 and March 22, are on Ancient Humans in the Twentieth Century — Problems Close to Home and Worldwide Problems. (For ticket information call the museum at 873-1327.) □

Pagels To Head N.Y. Academy

Adjunct Professor Heinz Pagels has been named executive director and chief executive officer of The New York Academy of Sciences. He will continue to do research in theoretical physics at the University, where he has been on the faculty since 1966. Dr. Pagels served as president of the academy in 1981. □

Award Named for Merrill Chase

Professor Merrill W. Chase attended the Fourth International Transfer Factor Workshop in Aspen, Colorado, in October, where he delivered a paper on The Immunological Enigma of Transfer Factor. He also presented the first Merrill Chase Award, won by K. Y. Tsang of the Medical University of South Carolina.

The award, which honors over half a century of Dr. Chase's contributions to immunological studies at Rockefeller, was underwritten by Centaur Genetics Corporation. □

BRIEFS

Professor **E.G.D. Cohen**, Theoretical Physics, gave an invited lecture, *Fluctuations in a Fluid Far from Equilibrium*, at the U.S.-Japan Workshop on Statistical Physics and Chaos in Fusion Plasmas, held December 13-17 in Austin, Texas. The workshop was organized under the joint auspices of the Center for Statistical Mechanics of the University of Texas and the Institute for Fusion Studies, both in Austin.

Professor **Donald R. Griffin**, Animal Behavior, spoke on the topic, *What Can Animal Behavior Tell Us about Human Aggression?* at a seminar for science writers, *Recent Studies Concerning Dominance, Aggression, and Violence*, held January 18 at Rockefeller, sponsored by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, of which Dr. Griffin is president.

Vice President **David Lyons** was the keynote speaker at a meeting of the Institutions of Higher Education, held in the Netherlands on November 17. His topic was *Financial Information in the 1980s*.

Executive Vice President **Rodney W. Nichols** gave an invited lecture, *Patrons, Partners, and Revolution: Elements of Industry-University Relationships in Research*, at the New York Academy of Sciences on December 1, as part of a series on Corporate Support at Research Universities.

Professor **Abraham Pais**, Theoretical Physics, addressed the Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm on Einstein and the Nobel Prizes, on December 6.

Professor **Carl Pfaffmann**, Physiological Psychology, gave the inaugural lecture at the dedication of the new Clinical Smell and Taste Research Center of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, held in Philadelphia on October 6. He spoke on *Historical Perspectives on Chemoreception and New Findings on an Old Problem*. He also spoke at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, in Minneapolis on November 4, at a dinner in memory of the pioneer Swedish sensory physiologist, Yngve Zotterman.

Professor **Philip Siekevitz**, Cell Biology, was a guest, in late October, of the Max Planck Institutes in Germany where he lectured on neurobiology at the Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen. He also lectured at the Friedrich-Miescher Institute in Basel, Switzerland, and at the Institute for Molecular Neurobiology in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Professor **Hao Wang**, Logic, gave a series of invited lectures on Western philosophy at Peking University in June.