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Blizzard buries campus, reveals dedication



Spirits high, Custodial Services and Grounds staff cleared the campus.

January's record blizzard, which forced New York's intrepid taxis to cower in their garages, compelled the legendary Knickerbockers to cancel a basketball match, and kept postal carriers from their appointed rounds, did not stop Louis Kabatanik, head porter in Custodial Services, from traveling to campus.

In the storm's early hours Sun., Jan. 7, Kabatanik drove in from Whitestone, Queens to plow RU's driveways. A trip of usually 40 minutes stretched to two hours. Many other university employees also struggled to campus Sunday and Monday, braving the two-day storm that dumped 20 inches on Manhattan.

"The university continued to function well throughout the storm and in coping with it. The President and I appreciate everyone who helped in this effort," said Fred Bohen, executive vice president. "The snow clearance effort was a crackerjack performance, which started Sunday afternoon and continued for 48 hours until the job

was complete. The staff of Custodial Services and Grounds, supervised by Tom Mineo, was outstanding throughout this period."

University policy requires essential workers to come in during most emergencies, such as the snow closing on Monday. Essential workers encompass maintenance and lab workers, hospital and security staff, and others necessary to the university's round-the-clock operations.

"All nurses and dietary staff on our schedule managed to get here. Most live in Manhattan, but it wasn't easy," said Tara Cortes,

director of patient care services, who walked to campus early Monday. One nursing assistant, Vita Lebechi, volunteered overtime: Beginning on Sunday at 3:00 P.M., she worked 32 of the next 40 hours, finally going home on Tuesday morning.

Also on Sunday, Bill Kusterer, a mechanic in Maintenance, drove in from Queens and slept in his shop for the next two nights, to be on hand should the storm damage anyone's refrigeration system. And in the power plant, at least three men worked extra shifts. Five security guards worked double shifts.

Seven staff members at the Laboratory Animal Research Center (LARC) braved the storm to feed and care for their charges, said Michael Hayre, LARC director, who wrote thank you notes to each. "I got snowed under in Hoboken, but I knew that the staff here were doing a great job," he said. Andres Ascencio, a LARC cagewash supervisor, waited two hours for a subway at the Fordham Road stop in the Bronx and when he finally arrived, he gave the ani-

How do lymphocytes differentiate?

Frederick W. Alt, Charles A. Janeway Professor of Genetics and Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, discusses "Mutational Analysis of VDJ Recombination and Lymphocyte Differentiation" at the Friday Lecture today (Jan. 19).

Alt studies the molecular mechanisms involved with the differentiation of lymphocytes, the cells responsible for developing immunological responses against foreign antigens (B lymphocytes) or cells (T lymphocytes).

During the early stages of lymphocyte development, stem cells generate a multitude of B or T lymphocyte clones, which express novel receptors on their surfaces that recognize specific sets of antigens. Unlike most genes, which are inherited intact, antigen receptor genes are assembled from gene segments, known as germ line variable (V), diversity (D), and joining (J), through a mechanism called VDJ recombination.

See *Members*, page 2

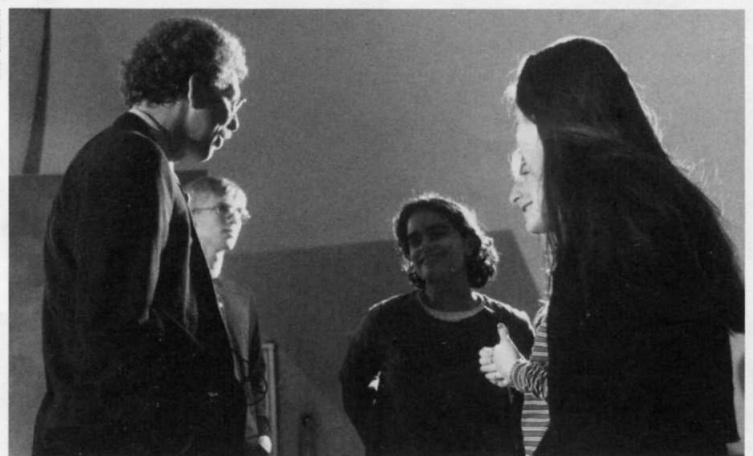
See *Alt*, page 2

Mirsky lectures attract full house over winter recess

Caspari Auditorium overflowed with some 500 high school students attending the 36th annual Alfred E. Mirsky Christmas Lectures on Science, given this year by Professor Jeffrey Friedman Dec. 26 and 27. They sat on chairs, perched on steps, and stood in the back of the hall to hear his four-lecture series on "Genes, the Genome Project and the Regulation of Body Weight."

"The students asked good questions after the lectures, and lots of them," said Professor Bruce McEwen, who helped organize the annual event, a university tradition established in 1959 to ignite teens' interest in science. "Jeff moved from genes to medical physiology to behavior and the major social problem of obesity. The quality of the students' questions was a real tribute to their attention and enthusiasm."

Another bellwether of interest was full attendance on the two days: In previous years, many students came only on the first day,



Professor Jeff Friedman (left) chatted with high school students after giving the Mirsky lectures in December.

but this year the auditorium was packed for the first and second halves of the program.

High school science teachers and science program coordinators from 85 schools in the tri-state area sent students to the lectures.

"I discussed the basics of genetics

and the Human Genome Project as a prelude to our work on the genetics of obesity. Preparing the lectures was more work than I anticipated but giving them was a lot of fun," said Friedman, who is an associate investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

2 Manning moves to Boston

3 University celebrates season

4 Club opens for Super Bowl

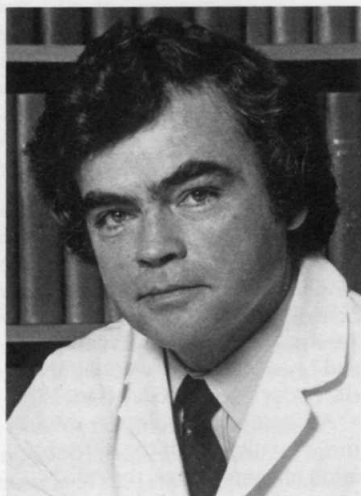
Biochemist moves home to Boston

James M. Manning, head of the Laboratory of Protein Biochemistry, has accepted an appointment as professor in the Department

of Biology of Northeastern University. In December, he began moving his laboratory to Boston, which is also his hometown, but he will remain at Rockefeller part-time through June 1996.

Manning joined RU in 1967 as a research associate in the lab of Stanford Moore and William H. Stein, who shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1972 with Christian B. Anfinsen for work on the enzyme pancreatic ribonuclease. Manning's research focuses on hemoglobin and bacterial enzymes. In announcing the appointment, Northeastern University described him as an internationally recognized protein biochemist.

"I know I speak for many faculty members when I say how pleased we are to congratulate Jim Manning on his new affiliation," said President Torsten Wiesel. "We all wish him well and will miss his quiet presence on campus."



James M. Manning joined Rockefeller in 1967.

Members of campus community face storm to clear campus, continue work

(continued from page 1)

mals fresh water and clean cages.

But Custodial Services was the advance unit of RU's troopers, starting soon after the storm began to shovel, blow, plow, and haul the snow off the walkways and parking lots across RU's 14 acres. They also cleared city sidewalks adjacent to campus.

"Our priority is to make the campus safe and passable, as

quickly as possible. We have a dedicated, diligent team in Custodial Services," said Mineo, who mobilized his staff with phone calls to their homes Sunday morning.

"By 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, five men were removing snow. Several worked until midnight," added Luis Matos, assistant supervisor in Custodial Services. "Tom had arranged for rooms in Scholar's Residence overnight for those who couldn't travel home. They knew they might have to stay until Tuesday or however long it took to get the job done."

Monday morning at 5:00 A.M., custodial staff members and five more from the grounds service renewed the assault on the thick blanket of snow.

Monday morning also revealed that the wind had undone some of Sunday's labors: Three men worked for three hours Sunday evening, bracing themselves against gusts of nearly 50 miles per hour, to clear the plaza in front of Weiss Building, but overnight the wind blew back the powdery stuff. As a rough measure of the snowdrifts, Luigi Chiechi, assistant supervisor in Custodial

Alt lecture

(continued from page 1)

Today Alt will discuss use of gene-targeting mutation technology to study the types of signals that lead lymphocytes through their differentiation and activation pathways.

"Fred has made essential contributions to our understanding of VDJ recombination and the regulation of lymphocyte development," said Associate Professor Michel Nussenzweig, who introduces Alt today.

Alt received a Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1977, where he worked with Robert Schimke. From 1977 to 1979 he was a post-doctoral fellow in David Baltimore's lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, then a Special Fellow of the Leukemia Society of America, and research associate at the Whitehead Institute. He joined Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons as assistant professor in 1982, becoming professor in 1985. He joined Harvard Medical School in 1991 as professor and was named Charles



Frederick Alt is an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

A. Janeway Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics in 1993.

Alt, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, received the Irma T. Hirsch Career Scientist Award, the Searle Scholars Award, and the Mallinckrodt Scholar Award.

The lecture will be held at 3:45 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium and preceded by tea at 3:15 P.M. All are welcome.



The deepest drift buried the stage entrance to Caspary Auditorium.

Services, waded into a mound. The stuff reached his waist before he began to wield his shovel.

Undone handiwork and new snow dogged the removal team Monday, but by 11:00 P.M., the team had cleared and salted all campus pathways. In a decision that proved prescient, Mineo and Plant Operations Director Bob Francis had purchased a plow and three snowblowers last year, which aided the timely completion.

Patrick Griffin, manager of the Faculty and Students Club, traveled two and a half hours from the Bronx (twice the normal time) to open the club Monday. About half as many people as usual stopped in. Griffin told grateful patrons, "University policy requires essential people to show up, so I came."



Snow erased the sidewalk east of Caspary Hall.

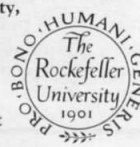
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Rockefeller seasoned holiday weeks with music, fun, and peace

In December, holiday moments abounded on campus. *Top row:* Denizens of the Children's School sported with balls and hoops as they sang at the annual Winter Concert. *Second and third rows:* Entertainers added to the festivities at the university's holiday celebration in Weiss Café, attended by Mr. and Ms. Santa Claus (aka Isaiah Curry and Martha Shiffner). *Bottom row, left and center:* A moderate December snowfall added to the holiday decor. *Bottom, right:* The Faculty and Students Club hosted a New Year's Eve party.



Potpourri

In memoriam

The university community mourns the passing of Reynard Biemiller, former assistant director of the RU Press, who died last month. Biemiller, who retired in 1975, received awards for his designs of the 1970-1971 university catalogue, *News&Notes*, and the 1974 and 1975 editions of *The Rockefeller University Report from the President*.

Conservation society lecture

John Terborgh, director of the Center for Tropical Conservation at Duke University, will discuss "Forest Fragmentation—The Quiet Crisis" at the Centennial Lecture Series of the Wildlife Conservation Society Tues., Jan. 23 at 6:00 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium. A limited number of complementary tickets is available to the university community. For information and reservations, contact the Office of Public Affairs, x8967.

Choral Symphony Society

The Choral Symphony Society rehearses Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Handel's *Acis and Galatea* Tuesdays from 7:20 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. beginning Jan. 23 in the Caspary music room. To audition, contact David Labovitz at 864-7541.

Clinical Research Seminar

Seth Orlow, associate professor of dermatology at New York University School of Medicine, discusses "Subcellular Basis of Albinism" at the Clinical Research Seminar Wed., Jan. 24 at noon in Nurses Residence 110B.

President's House exhibit

Nineteenth and twentieth century Chinese paintings from the Mirsky collection and early views of the Peking Medical College are on display in the President's House Wed., Jan. 24 from 12:30 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. Members of the university community who wish to visit the exhibit may sign up at the Security desk in Founder's Hall between noon and 4:00 P.M. Group size is limited due to the small display area.

Super Bowl

The Faculty and Students Club will be open Sun., Jan. 28 at 5:00 p.m. for the Super Bowl.

Children's School applications

The RU Children's School and Infant-Toddler Center are accepting applications for the academic year beginning September 1996 for children from 3 months to 5 years old. Priority for members of the university community ends Wed., Jan. 31. For further information contact Marjorie Goldsmith, x8580.



Sonia Chan, piano, performs at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (Jan. 19). The concert, to be held in Caspary Auditorium at noon, is free. All are welcome.

MassMutual

MassMutual's Life & Health Benefits Management division was recently acquired by WellPoint Health Networks, Inc. Despite the change in ownership, plan and claims procedures will remain the same. MassMutual assures that Rockefeller employees and their dependents will not be inconvenienced. Please call the Personnel Office, x8300, with any questions.

EAPC workshop

The Employee Assistance Program Consortium offers a free eight-week workshop on coping with divorce Thursdays at noon in Room 229, 411 East 69th Street. Call 746-5890 for space availability.

Information Server

The latest issue of *Information Server*, Computing Services' newsletter, can be requested from Amy Steingart, e-mail steinga.

Flu shots

Flu shots are available in the Employee Health Office, Hospital 118, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Contact Mary Brust or Aurea Tuason, x8414.

Woodstock Inn discount

The Woodstock Inn & Resort in Woodstock, Vermont offers a discount rate of \$95 (plus Vermont state tax) per room to university employees, now through Dec. 19, 1996. The rate, which does not include meals, applies to single or double occupancy rooms, and children under 14 stay for free if they occupy the same room as an adult. If you stay at the Inn any weeknight during ski season, equipment rentals, lift tickets, and lessons are free for Suicide Six (Alpine skiing) or the Woodstock Ski Touring

Center (cross-country skiing).

Send your request in writing, identifying yourself as a university employee and giving first and second choices of dates, to: Reservations, The Woodstock Inn & Resort, Fourteen the Green, Woodstock, VT 05091-1298. (Fax: 802-457-6699)

Reservations are accepted on the availability of space, and certain close-out dates apply.

Student networking

Residents of Graduate Students Residence and Sophie Fricke Hall are now able to link the computers in their apartments to the university system and the Internet through a new ethernet system extension installed by Computing Services. Contact the Consultant, x8940, for assistance.

Arrivals

Research Associates: Joanne Conover, Alvarez-Buylla lab; Stephen Oliver, Hirsch-Leibel lab. *Postdoctoral Associates:* Barry Kirschenbaum, Alvarez-Buylla lab; Minna Tamminen, Breslow lab; Satish Nair and Fong Shu, Burley lab; Claudio Bertuccioli, Desplan lab; Ella Ioffe and Connie Zhao, Friedman lab; YoungBae Park, Gadsby lab; Jonathan Bakin, Gilbert lab; Koichi Machigashira, Hall lab; Guillaume Perret and Andrew Zlobin, Kreek lab; Frank Sicheri, Kuriyan lab; Ofer Tchernichovski, Nottebohm lab; Gwendalyn Randolph, Steinman lab; Brian Kloss, Young lab. *Postdoctoral Fellows:* Neris Bonifaci, Blobel lab; Stefano Signorini, Breslow lab; Jennifer Kuzma and Jianru Zuo, Chua lab; Oleg Krichevsky, Libchaber lab; Gregory Edens, Mauzerall lab; Uwe

Hahmann, Nottebohm lab; Hailong Li, Roeder lab; Doris Peter, Simon lab.

Guest Investigators: Pius Spielhofer, Chua lab; Curtis Altmann, Hemmati-Brivanlou lab; John D. Lutton, Kappas lab; Xiao-min Wang, Kreek lab; Sonia Lupien and Chitose Orikasa, McEwen lab; Wei Chen, Steinman lab; Sigurdur Vilhelmsson and Paolo Villari, Tomasz lab; Toshiro Umezaki, Wilson lab.

Departures

Adjunct Faculty: David Levy, J. Darnell lab; Alvaro Martinez del Pozo, Manning lab; Jingwen Zhang, Mauzerall lab. *Visiting Professor:* Marina Siniai, Wilson lab. *Assistant Professor:* T. Peter Cox, Goulianos lab. *Research Associates:* Tomoyoshi Nozaki, G. Cross lab; Loucia Kochoumian, King lab. *Postdoctoral Associates:* Karina Yazdanbakhsh, Choi lab; Edgar da Cruz e Silva, Odete da Cruz e Silva, and Hsien-bin Huang, Greengard lab; Pamela Hoodless, J. Darnell lab; Nathalie Dostatni, Desplan lab; Pierre Gönczy, DiNardo lab; Nobutaka Eiraku, Hall lab; Vincenzo Nardi-Dei, Manning lab. *Postdoctoral Fellows:* Doris Kraemer, Blobel lab; Joseph Bisaha, Breslow lab; Jing-hong Mu, Chua lab; Douglas Strathdee, Gaul lab; Diana Cundell, Tuomanen lab; Yang Dan and Martin Usrey, Wiesel lab. *Guest Investigators:* Dora Raventos, Chua lab; Pradeep Patnaik, G. Cross lab; Seiichiro Morisaki, Krueger lab; Kenneth Zahn, Lederberg lab; Lenise Arneiro Teixeira, Tomasz lab; Keith Brennan, Young lab.