

1-25-1991

## NEWS AND NOTES 1991, JANUARY 25

The Rockefeller University

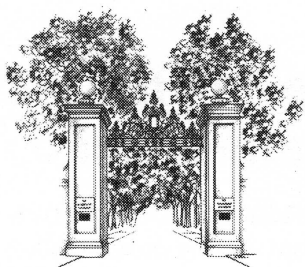
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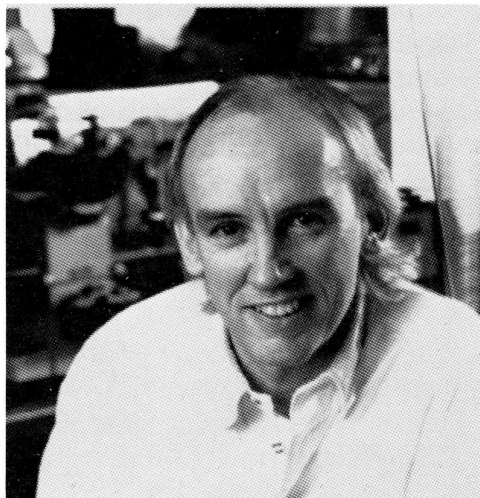
The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1991, JANUARY 25" (1991). *News and Notes 1991*. Book 3.  
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# News & Notes

## David Gadsby promoted to professor



Professor David C. Gadsby

David C. Gadsby, a membrane biophysicist specializing in the study of the proteins governing the movement of ions across cell membranes, has been named Professor.

Gadsby's studies of ion-transporting proteins have important implications for understanding the activity of the heart and the nervous system, as well as a variety of clinical disorders.

In the past few years, for example, his investigations of the sodium/potassium pump and the sodium/calcium exchanger, and the novel techniques he has devised to conduct them, have begun to shed light on how these pumps work—a question that had previously remained unanswered despite more than 30

Bob Reichert

years of research. In addition, this work is providing new information about various drugs used to treat heart disease, such as Digitalis.

Gadsby has also discovered an ion channel that lets currents of chloride ions flow across the membranes of heart cells—a finding that may help explain a defect in the opening of a similar channel in the cells that line the airways of the lungs in people with cystic fibrosis.

Gadsby received a B.A. in 1969 and an M.A. in 1973 in Natural Sciences from Trinity College, Cambridge, and a Ph.D. in Physiology in 1978 from University College, London. He has been affiliated with Rockefeller in the Cranefield lab since 1975, as Research Associate (1975-78), Assistant Professor (1978-84), and Associate Professor (1984-present).

Gadsby is the recipient of many awards, including an Irma T. Hirsch Career Scientist Award. He is Associate Editor of *The Journal of General Physiology* and chairman-elect of the membrane biophysics subgroup of the Biophysical Society.

Congratulating Gadsby on his promotion, University President Baltimore said, "It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity

to promote someone who has devoted himself so effectively to the area of cellular physiology. I look forward to the opportunity for closer collaboration between cellular physiologists and molecular biologists to elucidate the detailed processes that underlie cellular behavior and communication." ➔

### ***RU science cited most often***

A recent survey by the Philadelphia-based Institute for Scientific Information has found that Rockefeller University led the nation in papers cited in journals published between 1987 and 1990.

The figures were determined by the average number of citations individual papers received. The top five universities in the survey and the average number of citations received by each published paper in the biological sciences are listed below.

- |                |      |
|----------------|------|
| 1. Rockefeller | 7.96 |
| 2. Caltech     | 7.71 |
| 3. MIT         | 7.04 |
| 4. Stanford    | 6.19 |
| 5. Princeton   | 6.07 |

## Opinion

*To The Rockefeller University community:*

Was it only a few weeks ago that we gloried in anticipation of a world, finally, at peace? The Soviets were laying down their arms, and we, ours. Eastern Europe was painfully recovering its ability to wrestle with its problems. The American economy was nothing to brag about, but we were confidently sketching the outlines of an American common market.

That has all changed now—with wrenching suddenness. Our television screens are filled with the sights and sounds of bombs, missiles and, soon, breaking bodies.

Across this diverse community, there must have been a range of viewpoints about the appropriate reaction to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, from hold fast and give sanctions a chance to work to bomb Saddam Hussein's Iraq and recover Kuwait by force. The United States government has chosen the latter course. Like it or not, that is our country's policy. It seems to me that it is time to draw together in support of this policy, even if it would not have been our personal choice. If Bush cannot find a way out in a reasonable time, however, that perspective may change.

This war, at its root cause, is about the arrogance of power. In

the intellectual and caring environment that is The Rockefeller University, we must continually remind ourselves that our watchword needs to be tolerance, acceptance of a diversity of opinions. We must maintain an environment safe for the widest possible range of ideas.

The euphoria of a world moving towards peace in 1990 has been shattered in the few days of 1991 by the war in the Persian Gulf, the crackdown in the Soviet Union and the trials in China. Perhaps this is only an interlude on the way to establishing a new and peaceful world order, but to me it seems that the arrogance of power is infectious.

—by David Baltimore, President

## Tri-Institutional Recital draws largest crowd ever

It was standing room only last Friday in Caspary Auditorium when the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble performed at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital. With their heartfelt and authentic renditions of 15 American Negro spirituals, the 8-member group captivated the largest crowd ever assembled for the noon event.

The concert, in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, was part of a continuing attempt by the ensemble's founders, François Clemmons and Louis E. Smart, to keep alive an art form that has declined since the days of the civil rights movement.

The group gave new life to traditional songs like *Balm in Gilead*, *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* and *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round*. The result: hand-clapping, foot-stomping, energetic responses by many members of the audience, clearly indicating just how much the music was enjoyed by all.



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From left, some members of the ensemble are Barbara Young, Ruth Elmore, François Clemmons, Eli Fountain and Louis E. Smart. Not pictured are Janet Jordan, Joy Hague and Raymond Frith.

—by Patricia Sadiq

## Security takes precautions as country enters war

As war rages in the Middle East, the university is taking security precautions to insure the safety of its employees, students and facilities.

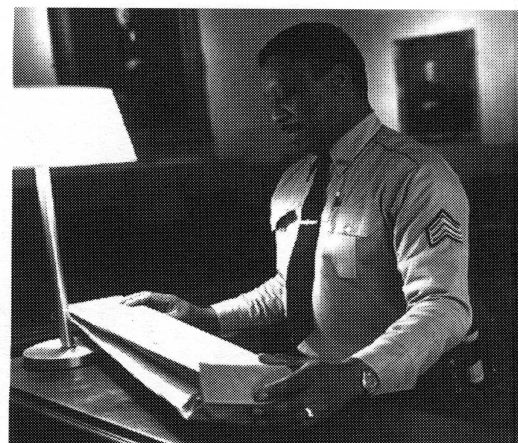
"It's not likely that a university like ours would attract trouble," said Director of Security Joe Nekola. "Still, security has been increased at several locations around the university."

The most visible effect of the war on Rockefeller's day-to-day operations is increased security at the gates. Nekola points out that guards at the gates are the university's "first and most effective defense against trouble coming onto the campus." Consequently, for the foreseeable future, guards will more rigorously spot-check those entering the gates, and they will be paying closer attention to packages that are carried in and cars parked in the lots.

Behind the scenes, the Security Office keeps in touch with the FBI, the New York Police Department and other universities nationwide regarding security matters. The FBI notifies those institutions that are likely targets for terrorism. "I'm happy to say we are not on that list at this point," Nekola said. →→



Bob Reichert



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Above, Sergeant Audley White inspects a package at the Founder's Hall desk. At left, Guard Alberto Coats talks with a messenger delivering a package.

## Fred Jones will present thesis

Graduate Fellow Frederick S. Jones will present his thesis at 3:45 on Tuesday, January 29 in Caspary Auditorium. The title:

*"The Extracellular Matrix Glycoprotein Cytotactin: Structure, Alternative Splicing and Characterization of the Promoter."*

A tea will precede the presentation at 3:15. →→

## Tenants' group nominations due

The deadline for nominations for officers of the Tenants' Association of Faculty House and Scholars' Residence is February 1. To make a nomination or obtain information, contact Lee Wetzler at box 276 or x8170. Nominations can also be put into the Tenants' Association mailbox in the lobby of Faculty House/Scholars' Residence. →→

### East River rescue update

## So how is she?

Last week's story on the rescue of a woman from the East River by Rockefeller employees prompted several phone calls to *News and Notes* from physicians and others on campus who wanted to know her condition. For those interested, the woman reports she is doing fine now, though still "a little bumped and bruised." Despite a low body temperature upon arrival at New York Hospital's emergency room, she was released only two hours later.





Bob Reichert

Teacher Betsy Cox works with students at the Children's School.

## Children's School deadline: Thursday

The deadline for applications to the Children's School is Thursday, January 31. Applications received after that date will be considered only if there are spaces available. Application forms may be obtained from the school; address inquiries to Barbara Adams at box 50 or x8580. ➡➡

## Computer classes near capacity

The Computing Services classes for February are filling up fast, and those considering taking courses should enroll soon. To register, call the main office at x8925 or send e-mail to *calmer* or *owens*. Workshops are free, but registration is required.

Below are the courses offered in February.

*Introduction to Unix and E-mail*  
*Introduction to the VI Editor*  
*Introduction to Sequencing Electronic Mail Only*  
*Kermit for PC and Macintosh*  
*Wordperfect*  
*Introduction to the Macintosh*  
*Introduction to Microsoft Word*

All sessions will be held in Caspary 1A. Full course descriptions are available from Computing Services. ➡➡

## Announcements

### Movie to benefit Children's School

Walt Disney's *Ducktails-The Movie* will be shown Saturday, January 26 at 4:00 in Caspary Auditorium. A \$2.50 donation will be collected to benefit the Children's School. All are welcome.

### Lunchtime Film Series is back!

On Thursday, January 31, the Lunchtime Film Series resumes with the 1982 movie *Aging: The Methuselah Syndrome*. The film, a report on research into the biological aspects of aging and different methods of caring for the aged, will be shown at noon and 1:00 in Caspary Auditorium.

### Tchaikovsky Chamber Orchestra performs today

Today's Tri-Institutional Noon Recital will feature the Tchaikovsky Chamber Orchestra, formerly the Soviet Emigré Orchestra, performing works of Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich and, of course, Tchaikovsky in Caspary Auditorium from 12:00 to 1:00. The 13-member orchestra, founded by Music Director Lazar Gosman in 1979, will tour the U.S. and Spain this spring. Their newest recording, released on compact disc by CBS Masterworks, features performances of "miniature" compositions by Borodin, Shostakovich, Barber, Haydn, Mozart, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. Gosman was director of the Leningrad Chamber Orchestra for 17 years, and the subject of the documentary *Musical Passage*, released in 1984.



**News&Notes** is published on Fridays throughout the academic year by the Public Affairs Office of Rockefeller University. Suggestions for articles are welcome and may be sent to Box 68, or call 570-8967. Articles may also be submitted via electronic mail to *newsnotes*. The deadline for each Friday's issue is the preceding Monday at 5:00 p.m. The Rockefeller University is an equal opportunity employer and has an affirmative action program to increase the employment of women and members of protected groups at all job levels. Editor: Robert Brown. Designer: Patricia Sadiq.