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## NEWS AND NOTES 1992, VOL.2, NO.18

The Rockefeller University

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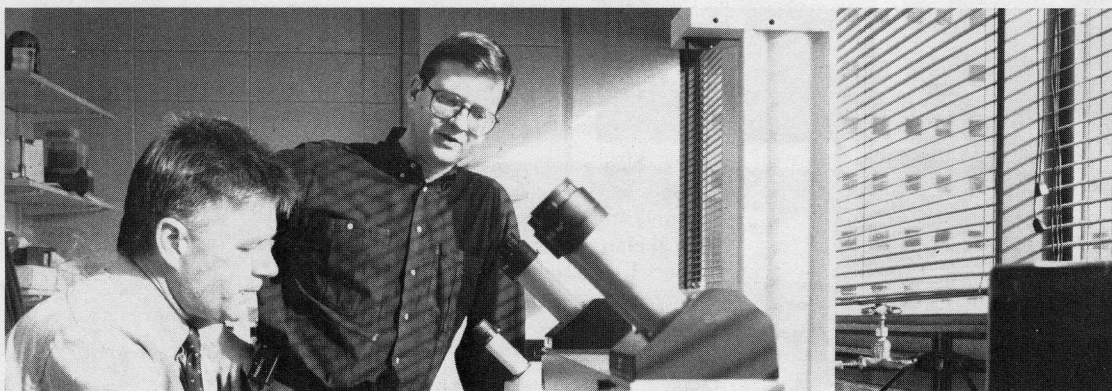
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# news & notes

January 24, 1992 Volume 2, Number 18

The Rockefeller University

Robert Reichert



Michael Hayre (right), director of Rockefeller's Laboratory Animal Research Center, speaks with Thomas Martin, visiting professor, about the upcoming site visit of the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.

## Rockefeller seeks renewal of its 'gold standard'

By Susan Blum

Within the next few months, members of the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) will visit the campus to renew Rockefeller's accreditation, which it has held since 1981. Re-accreditation visits take place every three years.

"AAALAC accreditation is the 'gold standard' for all institutions that conduct animal-based research, because it demonstrates that they have achieved standards beyond the minimums required by law," said Michael Hayre, director of Rockefeller's Laboratory Animal Research Center (LARC). Through its participation in the program, he added, Rockefeller "manifests its commitment to maintaining the highest possible standards of humane and ethical animal care and use."

Moreover, Hayre added, accreditation enhances Rockefeller's standing not only within the research community, but outside it, as well. "When you're AAALAC-accredited, you have much more credibility with the public in dealing with their

concerns about animal-based research," he said.

More than 30 scientific, educational, and professional organizations are represented on AAALAC's board of trustees, including The American Association for the Advancement of Science, The American Hospital Association, The American Medical Association, and the American Veterinary Medical Association. The 25-year-old accreditation program is completely voluntary and maintained by peer review. As such, says Hayre, it demonstrates to society and to legislators that the scientific community is willing and able to monitor itself and to regulate animal care and use.

Over 540 organizations in the United States, Canada, and Europe are accredited by AAALAC, including universities, medical and veterinary schools, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and government agencies. Most of the leading research centers in the United States are accredited, as are more than 80 percent of the top 100 recipients of awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH regards AAALAC accreditation as evidence of program excellence and compliance with all animal care policies and regulations. In addition, many private funding organizations strongly recommend that their grantees have AAALAC accreditation.

Humane treatment of laboratory animals, protection of personnel from hazards associated with the use of animals, and control of variables that could adversely affect animal research are all among the principal objectives of the accreditation program. "A lot of people think the accreditation is for LARC only, but

in fact the entire university is accredited," Hayre said. Thus, in addition to surveying LARC's facilities, the site visit team will look in on labs that conduct animal research, assess Rockefeller's lab safety and occupational health policies, review the training program given to all personnel who work with animals (including its ethics component), and even survey the university's organizational structure.

The typical site visit team consists of a senior scientist from a recognized research institution and a lab animal veterinarian who is a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (a specialty board in veterinary medicine). The inspectors are usually on campus for two to three days. Notification of their impending visit comes just two or three weeks before the visitors arrive.

When they do, "they set the agenda; we don't," Hayre said.

See LARC, page 2

## Wiesel to serve three years as RU president

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees has asked Torsten Wiesel to serve as president of The Rockefeller University for a term of three years beginning Jan. 1, 1992. Wiesel has indicated his willingness to accept this proposal.

"We are happy to say that Dr. Wiesel fully supports, and will work to build upon, the programs developed during the Baltimore administration," Board Chairman Richard Furlaud and Executive Committee Chairman David Rockefeller said in a memorandum to the Board. "This being the case, we believe that a three-year term will provide the university community with the sense of continuity needed to consolidate and enhance the university's position as a world leader in biomedical research and education."

"As a member of the campus community since 1983, and a former chairman of the Academic Senate, Dr. Wiesel has a firm grasp of the academic priorities related to faculty and student programs."

"It is our belief that Dr. Wiesel has won the broad support of our faculty and as a world-renowned neurobiologist and Nobel laureate, he is ideally positioned to help recruit the senior and junior scientists who will augment the ranks of our preeminent faculty. We are confident that Dr. Wiesel will provide the university with the leadership it needs, and we all look forward to working with him in the years ahead."

## Citibank offers new mortgage package

A meeting between the Rockefeller University's Controller's Office and representatives from Citibank Thurs., Jan. 16, resulted in a competitive, new package for Rockefeller faculty and staff interested in buying or refinancing a home.

Citibank is now offering Rockefeller employees low down payments, reduced closing costs, and priority processing on applications. University employees are also guaranteed Citibank's current

lowest interest rates for fixed or variable rate mortgages. Individuals taking advantage of Citibank's offer before Feb. 28, 1992, will receive an additional \$250.00 back at the time of closing.

The new package is part of Citibank's Mortgage Power Program, which Rockefeller had previously joined.

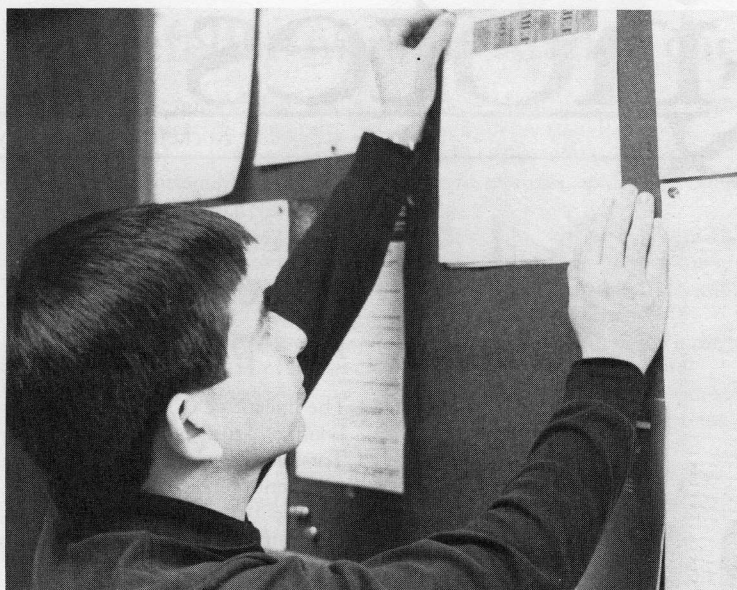
Citibank Mortgage Consultant Peter J. Rogers, (212) 682-2409, can provide further details about rates, closing costs, and other services.

2 Lottery sends students to The Met

3 Sculptures reflect modern art history

4 Nurses balance research, caretaking





Adrian Ferre-D'Amare, student in the Burley lab, tacks up a sign-up sheet for the student ticket program.

## Lottery sends students to The Met

A discreet sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Deans' Office is one of the only visible clues that Rockefeller has a program enabling students to attend music performances without charge.

"The ticket program introduces students from out of town to the cultural amenities of New York City," said Adrian Ferre-D'Amare, a second-year student in the Burley lab who oversees the program. "It serves a valuable function in addition to being a lot of fun."

About 30 pairs of tickets are given away each year. This year concerts include those by flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal, pianist Andras Schiff, and the London Symphony Orchestra. Metropolitan Opera performances include *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Der Fliegende Holländer*, and *Tannhäuser*. Judging by the list of names on the sign-up sheet, opera is extremely popular.

Due to the high demand, tickets are distributed by lottery (or, more accurately, a computer random-number generator). Students who have not won before are favored in the draw, virtually assuring every interested first-year student tickets sometime during the year. Previous winners can win again, but only if

there are no nonwinners interested in the show.

Ferre-D'Amare began to run the ticket program a year ago last September, taking over the job from Constance Scharff, a graduating student. "Buying tickets is something I do all the time, so it's not much trouble to purchase extra ones," he said. "The question I'm asked the most is whether the program is *really* only for students. It is."

Ferre-D'Amare emphasized that donations are greatly appreciated. He needs to know if the tickets are available at least a week before the performance to be able to distribute them through the lottery system.

The ticket program began almost four years ago, when an enterprising student, Genevieve Laforet, brought the idea before the Student Representative Committee (SRC). With the blessing of the Deans' Office, the SRC allocated a portion of its budget from the Detlev Bronk Fund—an endowed fund dedicated to improving the quality of student life, both academic and nonacademic—to the ticket program. It has continued to support the program ever since.

## RU seeks renewal of 'gold standard'

*Continued from page 1*

"They will pop in wherever they choose, completely unannounced." Hayre added that in the labs they may speak with anyone from the lab head to the technicians. ("They especially like to talk to lab techs to get a good idea of day-to-day operations," he reported.)

Hayre said the visit will probably take place sometime in March, but

could occur as early as February. He will soon be sending memos to lab heads regarding the upcoming visit. In addition, he will be glad to drop by in person to any lab to discuss the accreditation process and its importance. To arrange for an informal in-lab session, or to ask Hayre any questions, call him at x8535.

## Myth vs. reality

### Manager explains benefits plans

Darryl Williams, Rockefeller University's benefits manager, spoke with News&Notes regarding some of the common myths about employee benefits. For further information, contact Williams, x8297.

**Myth:** There is no deadline to enroll in the health plans.

**Reality:** New employees have 30 days from when they start work at the university to return their medical plan enrollment forms to Personnel. If recently married, employees have 30 days to add their spouses.

**Myth:** Employees do not have dental coverage if their health plan is with a health maintenance organization (HMO).

**Reality:** Employees covered under any medical plan (Prudential, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, or an HMO) have dental coverage through Prudential. Claim forms are located in the Personnel Office.

**Myth:** If a Rockefeller employee has a new child, the child will automatically be covered by the employee's health insurance plan.

**Reality:** This is only true for the Blue Cross and Prudential plans. HMOs require written notification to add a new family member.

**Myth:** Health insurance will automatically continue for an employee's dependent after the dependent's 19th birthday.

**Reality:** Health insurance can be extended without charge past age 19 only if the dependent is a full time college student. To extend coverage, the employee must contact the insurer and the Personnel Office. The extended coverage remains in effect until December of the dependent's last year in college or the end of the year of the dependent's 24th birthday, whichever comes first.

**Myth:** No special action is required when employees are about to reach age 65.

**Reality:** Three months prior to their 65th birthday, employees should contact the Social Security Office at (800) 772-1213 to register for Medicare coverage regardless of their retirement plans. When employees reach age 65, Part A Medicare coverage will provide them with additional hospital insurance at no charge. Employees should also notify the Personnel Office. Social Security and Medicare information is available.

**Myth:** Employees can change their

health insurer at any time during the year.

**Reality:** Employees have the opportunity to change health insurers during "open enrollment" every April 1. Look for a memo on this topic from the Personnel Office in March.

**Myth:** Employees must participate in Rockefeller University's retirement plan to be eligible to contribute to a Supplemental Retirement Annuity (SRA) account, which increases savings for retirement and decreases taxes.

**Reality:** Anyone on the Rockefeller payroll is eligible to contribute to an SRA.

**Myth:** Employees can change their monthly contribution to an SRA at any time during the year.

**Reality:** Due to tax law, the only time that employees can adjust their ongoing contributions to an SRA is at the beginning of each year. Employees may still enroll in or discontinue the SRA plan mid-year.

**Myth:** Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF) does not make information available about its retirement plans.

**Reality:** TIAA-CREF has published a number of booklets on retirement savings and planning. Topics include: estimating retirement income, options for investing retirement accounts, social security, and health coverage after retirement. The booklets are available through the Personnel Office, x8300, or TIAA-CREF, (800) 842-2733, x5509.

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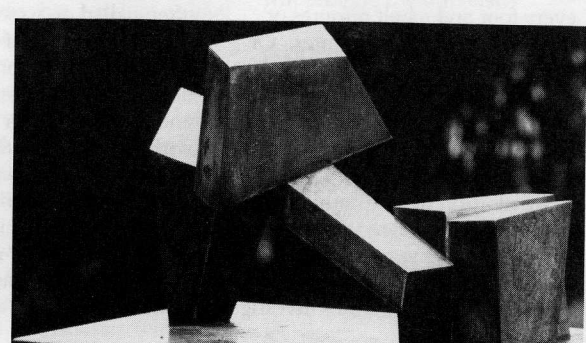
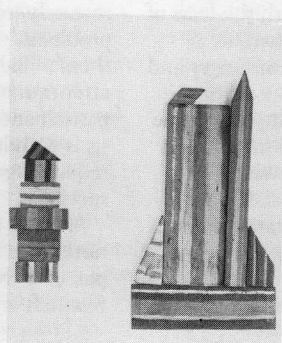
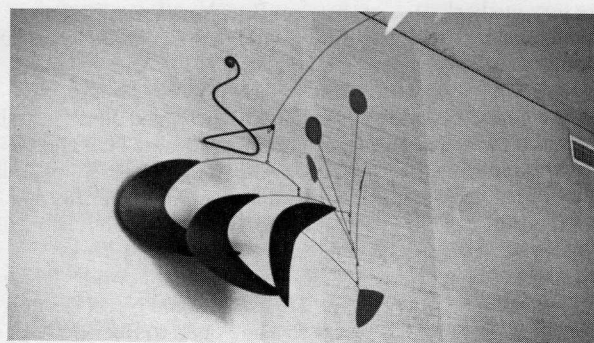
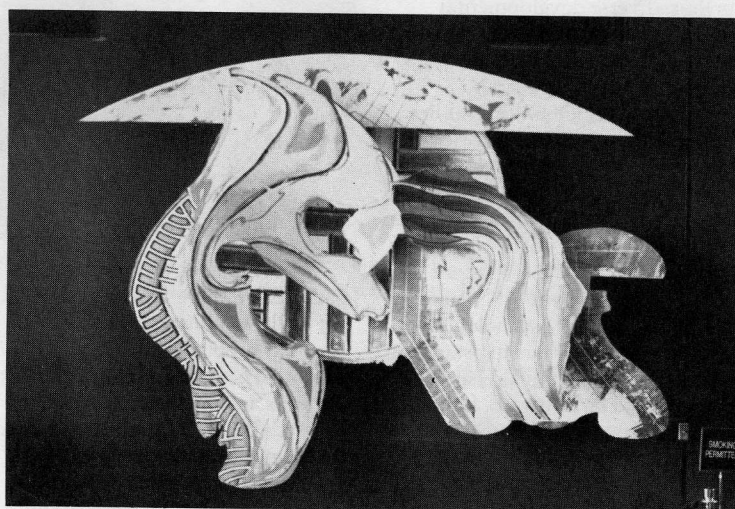
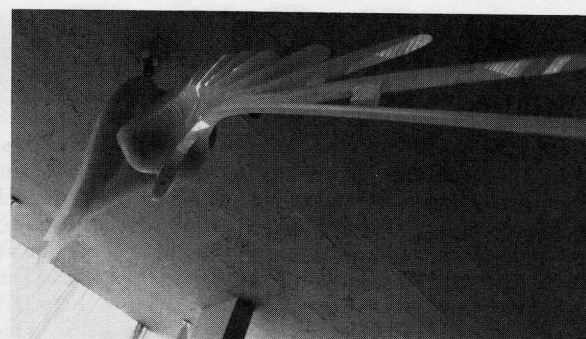
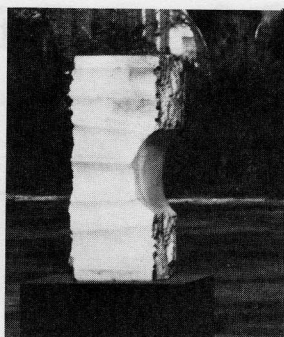
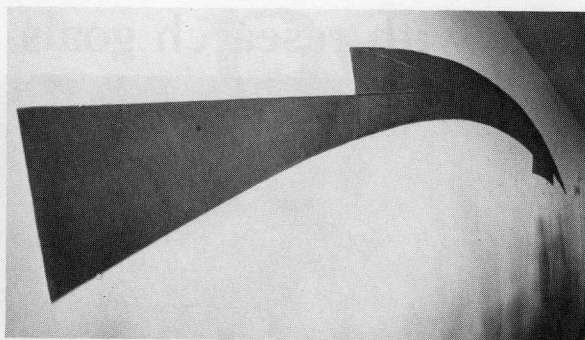
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Ideas and submissions can be sent interoffice (Box 68), by electronic mail (newsno), or by fax (212-570-7876).

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.







## RU sculptures reflect trends in modern art

By Cynthia Bronson Altman,  
Rockefeller University Art Curator

From the whimsy of Alexander Calder's classical *Three Black Moons* (1957) floating in the upper reaches of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Lounge to the exuberance of Frank Stella's *The Tail* (1988) in the Abby Dining Room, the modern sculpture at The Rockefeller University provides a glimpse of the currents of Post-War American sculpture.

The collections were assembled with the guidance of consultant Dorothy Miller. Miller put together the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall collection from 1958 through 1964 and the Tower collection in the early 1970s. Miller's highly acclaimed "Americans" exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art (six group shows from 1942 to 1963) were instrumental in giving exposure to a number of artists who would become major forces in the era. Her selections for The Rockefeller University demonstrate why she became an enduring influence on this period of American art.

Center: The most recent addition to The Rockefeller University's collection of modern art is Frank Stella's *The Tail* (1988), from his *Moby Dick* series. In this work, Stella continues his exploration of form, color, and abstraction in space.

Clockwise from upper left hand corner:

James Reineking's *Untitled (Two cuts, Two Folds)* (1972) is a wall relief of steel. His folding and cutting of steel as if it were paper denies the material's physical properties, forcing the viewer to contemplate the construction process.

The work of stone carver Minoru Niizuma, *Mouth of the River* (1966), graces the entrance to Caspary Hall. Niizuma's work is known internationally.

William Reimann's *Dispersal Four* (1970), a double-winged ceiling suspension indebted to the tradition of Constructivism, was commissioned for Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall in 1970, during the tenure of President Frederick Seitz. The translucent layered planes form geometric configurations developing in space according to natural laws of harmonics and proportion.

The late 1980s saw the arrival of two bronze sculptures by Carmen Teixidor that reflect a return to the figurative tradition. This one is entitled *Bird I* (1986).

James Rosati's untitled bronze maquette (1966) in the garden behind Caspary Hall was given to the university by the Class of 1966 in honor of President Detlev Bronk. It draws on the tradition of Cubism.

*Ambition* and *Look at Me* (both 1972) in Tower are two vibrantly painted wood sculptures by Betty Parsons, the legendary art dealer who supported the American avant-garde during the 1940s and 1950s. The pieces are part of a series made from found wood brightly painted with circles and stripes.

Alexander Calder, who was influenced by Miro and Mondrian, is best known for his invention of the mobile. His titles often refer to celestial bodies, as in *Three Black Moons* (1957).

*Bird II* (1986) is displayed separately from *Bird I*, as the artist intended.



# Rockefeller nurses balance care of patients with research goals

Members of the nursing staff at The Rockefeller University Hospital have two jobs in one. Not only do they care for patients, they also facilitate the Hospital's research.

"Nurses in ordinary hospitals get burned out caring for patients," said Richard Galbraith, medical director and associate professor. "Nurses here do everything that nurses elsewhere do, but in addition they perform the demanding tasks required by the Hospital's mission—medical research."

The 28 nursing staff members (who include 14 registered nurses, 1 licensed practical nurse, 12 nursing assistants, and 2 unit clerks) carry out the complex protocols required to collect data for the studies at the Hospital—taking blood, weighing patients, checking vital signs, making appointments, centrifuging blood, and giving formula diets with an exacting concern for accuracy and timeliness.

"They may be asked to check blood pressure every five minutes for an hour," Galbraith said, "and that means every five minutes—not every four and a half minutes or every five and a half minutes. Or they may be asked to take blood every hour for three days. Because of the number and variety of protocols, the staff needs to be extraordinarily flexible."

In addition to facilitating research, the nursing staff are devoted to giving patients the highest quality care. The broad interests of the Hospital's investiga-

tors draw patients with many severe or chronic diseases. Examples include: tuberculosis, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, epidermolysis bullosa (EB, a rare inherited disorder characterized by abnormal fragility of the skin and mucous membranes), and Fanconi anemia (a disorder characterized by problems with the blood-forming organs, diverse developmental abnormalities, and a predisposition to malignancy). The research also draws healthy volunteers to participate in metabolism studies.

"We see more diverse patients than the nursing staff of most research centers," said Marie LoGuercio, nursing director. "This means a constant challenge for the staff here because each patient group has a different set of needs—both medical and psychological."

In a single day, nursing staff can spend hours applying dressings on a six-year-old girl with EB, help move a young woman with multiple sclerosis, and administer medication to a sixty-year-old man with tuberculosis. In addition, they are often called on to soothe the fears of families from out of town, to sympathize with patients angry and depressed about their condition, and to set limits for patients (some with a history of substance abuse) who are being disruptive.

While the nursing staff's two roles—research facilitator and caretaker—usually coexist peacefully, they sometimes require a delicate balancing act.



Nurse Elizabeth Burns (right) is responsible for carrying out rigorous research protocols as well as caring for patients. Here she takes the blood pressure of a patient, Charles F. McNeill.

"In a regular hospital all the patients are there for one reason: to get well," Galbraith said. "In a research hospital like Rockefeller's the situation is more complicated. Patients are here primarily for research purposes, but their medical problems are also attended to."

While it is rare that patients are pulled out of a study because the research creates new medical problems, patients can bring with them ailments that require attention elsewhere; for example, a participant in a study on tuberculosis is withdrawn because his diabetes requires aggressive treatment by a specialist.

"Nurses are responsible for notifying the physician if they perceive that participation in the research is compromising the

patient's health in any way," Galbraith said. "Nurses are on the front lines of balancing the needs of individual patients with the needs of our research."

## Potpourri

### Recital

Tri-Institutional Noon Recital features British violinist Aaron Stolorow and pianist Sandra Rivers at Sloan House (1233 York Avenue) today (Jan. 24). Stolorow recently gave highly acclaimed debut recital at London's Wigmore Hall and New York's Alice Tully Hall. Rivers will perform in the Great Performers Series at Avery Fisher Hall Feb. 16; she will make her New York orchestral debut at Town Hall Mar. 7. Tri-Institutional Noon Recitals are free and open to Rockefeller, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, and New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center communities.

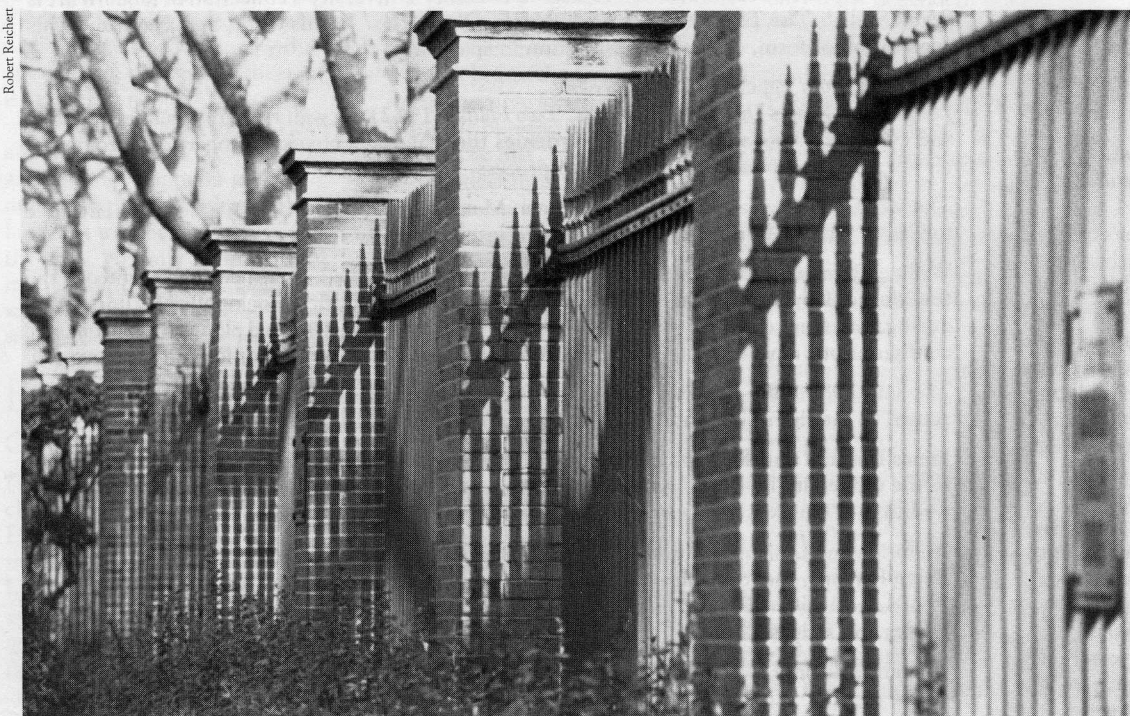
### Sunday film

*Heathers* (1989, Michael Lehmann) will be shown in Caspary Auditorium at 7:30 P.M., Sun., Jan. 26. The film, which stars Christian Slater and Winona Rider, is about a pair of rebellious teenagers who put an end to the "in" crowd's domination of social life at Westerberg High School. Admission is free and open to Rockefeller, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, and Animal Medical Center communities.

### Lunchtime film

The PBS documentary, *Cajun Country: Don't Drop the Potato*, which was not shown in its entirety at the December showing due to technical difficulties, will be shown Thurs., Jan. 30, at noon, in Tower 305. Folklorist Alan Lomax will trace the history of French-speaking Louisianians. Admission is free.

## Corners



Light and shadows dance across the fence in front of The Rockefeller University.