

4-1973

## NEWS AND NOTES 1973, VOL.4, NO.7

The Rockefeller University

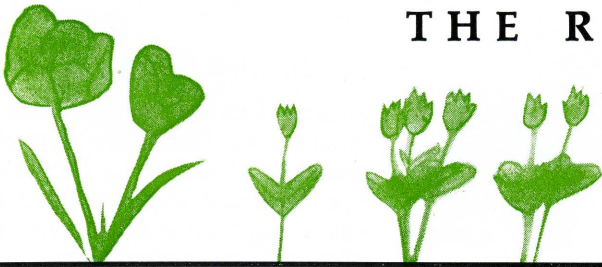
Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news\\_and\\_notes\\_1973](http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1973)

---

### Recommended Citation

The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1973, VOL.4, NO.7" (1973). *News and Notes 1973*. Book 4.  
[http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news\\_and\\_notes\\_1973/4](http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1973/4)

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 1973 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RU. For more information, please contact [mcsweej@mail.rockefeller.edu](mailto:mcsweej@mail.rockefeller.edu).



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

## news and notes

### Development Program Tops \$30 Million

The University has passed the \$30 million mark in its development program to raise a total of \$118 million.

The figure was announced by Robert G. Stone, Jr., chairman of the Trustee Development Committee, as the program completed its second year. President Seitz joined Mr. Stone in expressing deepest appreciation for the recent commitment of \$2 million by Andre Meyer, senior partner of Lazard Freres & Co., through The Andre and Bella Meyer Foundation; and for a grant of \$1 million from the Richard King Mellon Foundation. Both gifts have been made to an endowment in support of new University fellowships.

Other pledges received recently include \$250,000 from The Chase Manhattan Bank, \$250,000 from the Booth Ferris Foundation toward the construction of a new animal care and research center, and \$200,000 from Exxon Corporation to assist clinical investigations. The Grant Foundation has made two grants: \$150,000 toward the construction of a behavioral laboratory for on-campus studies of young children, and \$100,000 to assist the work being carried on in the physio-

### AIR RIGHTS APPROVED

On April 2, the New York City Board of Estimate approved the granting of air rights over the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive to the University, The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, and the Hospital for Special Surgery.

logical psychology laboratory of Professor Neal E. Miller.

Mr. Stone reported that total commitments now include \$24,127,800 from 26 foundations, \$5,351,200 from 38 individuals, \$550,000 from three corporations, and \$40,386 from two bequests.

Speaking on behalf of the University trustees, President Seitz paid special tribute to "the many members of the faculty who work so closely with us in meeting with prospective donors." He added: "The success of the program to date is largely due to the enthusiastic participation of our scientists in acquainting new friends with the remarkable work of the University and in preparing proposals that will elicit support in substantial dimensions."

### Payroll Change

The Payroll Office announces that the University's semimonthly and weekly payrolls will change to a biweekly system following the close of the fiscal year. The final semimonthly and weekly checks will be issued on Friday, June 29. (The end of June also marks the end of a calendar quarter, for purposes of tax payments and records.) From that point on, paychecks will be issued regularly every two weeks on the same day of the week—Monday—commencing July 16.

The new system is being instituted in response to the results of a poll of University employees on the semimonthly payroll.

### BLOOD BANK DAY—MAY 16

May 16 is the University's date this year for the annual blood bank drive, conducted through the Blood Center,

### Lancefield to Receive Medical Academy Medal

On April 12 The New York Academy of Medicine will present its medal to Professor Rebecca C. Lancefield in tribute to her pioneering work in the study of streptococcal disease. Professor Maclyn McCarty will make the presentation at a dinner marking the occasion.

Dr. Lancefield has been the recipient of numerous awards. She was the first woman to receive the T. Duckett Jones Medal of the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation, in 1960, "for her long and continuing studies which are so largely responsible for the present knowledge of the biology of hemolytic streptococci." In 1964 she was presented the American Heart Association Achievement Award. In 1970 she was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences. The following year, she was honored with an award for distinguished achievement by *Modern Medicine* magazine and a 1972 Wellesley Achievement Award presented by the alumnae association of her alma mater, Wellesley College.

Of the 29 medals presented by The New York Academy of Medicine since the inception of the award in 1930, eight have gone to Rockefeller scientists. Last year it was presented to Professor James A. Shannon. Other Rockefeller recipients have been Donald D. Van Slyke, 1967; Richard E. Shope, 1965; Eugene L. Opie, 1960; Peyton Rous, 1959; Rufus Cole, 1953; and Oswald T. Avery, 1944.

310 East 67th Street, between First and Second Avenues. This important program makes emergency blood supplies available to donors and members of their immediate families. All are urged to participate by signing up in the Personnel Office, Founder's Hall, Room 103. A specific appointment will be assigned on the designated day. Those who sign up but are later found to be medically ineligible to donate blood will still be entitled to draw upon the blood bank, if necessary.



Creativity of Children's School artists blossoms (results at top of page).





SWEET



BITTER

## Pfaffmann Reports on Taste Research

At the Sixth Annual Winter Conference on Brain Research, Professor Carl Pfaffmann, Physiological Psychology, reported on Taste Conditioning, citing specifically significant work by two members of his laboratory, Christiana M. Leonard and Ralph E. Norgren. Until recently, the exact anatomy of the taste pathways in the brain have been poorly understood. Three years ago, Dr. Leonard and Dr. Norgren began experiments with rats which led to the location and identification of a previously unsuspected pathway in the lower brain where messages of taste discrimination are relayed, even when the higher brain, the cerebrum, has

been inactivated. In reviewing related researches in the field, Dr. Pfaffmann described observations made of human subjects by Dr. Jacob E. Steiner of Hebrew University in Israel. His findings show that newborn infants, with no previous experience of taste, make obvious discriminations, indicating that taste stimuli have innate hedonic (i.e., pleasure/displeasure) value. (See photos.)

The conference is held in mid January in Vail, Colorado. Others from Rockefeller who participated this year were Professors Edward Reich, Bruce S. McEwen, James D. Jamieson, and Frederick A. Dodge, Jr.

## Philip McMaster Dies

Philip Duryee McMaster, a physiologist and pathologist who made important contributions in the field of immunological research during more than half a century of association with this institution, died March 20 at the age of 81.

Dr. McMaster joined The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in 1919 as a fellow in the laboratory of Peyton Rous where he studied liver disease, the physiology of the gall bladder, and the flow and formation of bile. Later, in his own laboratory, in collaboration with Robert Elman, he succeeded in establishing the origin and source of clinically and diagnostically important bile pigments. His studies of the physiology of the lymphatic system, over the following decade, revealed that every scratch and puncture of the skin admits foreign substances directly into the lymph stream. Bacteria or other infectious materials, once present in lymph, are carried directly to draining lymph nodes before they are distributed throughout the body. With Stephen Hudack, Dr. McMaster next demonstrated that antibodies to both bacteria and viruses are first formed in the lymph nodes, an observation which opened the way to his important studies on the formation of

antibodies. Although he officially retired in 1962, Dr. McMaster remained active at the University until a year ago. At the time of her husband's death, Mrs. McMaster cited his deep conviction of the importance of fundamental investigation and requested that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to assist in establishing the Philip D. McMaster Basic Research Fund at the University. President Seitz paid tribute to Dr. McMaster as "a scientist whose pioneering work dramatized the need for fundamental research in the development of new clinical approaches to combating disease." Friends and colleagues wishing to participate in forming the fund may send gifts to Dr. Seitz's attention.

## A.C.S. GRANT TO ALUMNUS

David Baltimore, '64, has received a grant of \$1,159,000 from the American Cancer Society for a lifetime study of viruses and cancer. He thus becomes the 25th scientist to be appointed to a lifetime A.C.S. professorship. The grant is renewable every five years. He will maintain his virus laboratory in the biology department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and will also head the tumor virology group at MIT's new Center for Cancer Research.

## Bonnie LoBue Named Radiation Safety Officer

Bonnie Ann LoBue, supervisor of the Media and Glassware Service, has been named radiation safety officer for the University. In this added capacity, she is responsible for the supervision of all radioactive materials used in individual laboratories, in the Hospital, and in the specially designated areas which include the isotope counting laboratory in Founder's Hall, the "hot" rooms in Smith Hall, and the waste disposal facilities. She is also responsible for the safety maintenance of X-ray equipment and electron microscopes at the University. These duties include frequent inspections, training of personnel, advising on purchase and disposal procedures, and the complex inventory keeping required by stringent state regulations.

Aiding Miss LoBue are Owen Carter who takes charge of disposal procedures, and Hasmig Nishanian, her secretary. Miss LoBue and her staff work closely with the Faculty Isotope Committee, chaired by Dr. Reginald M. Archibald.

## IN PRINT

Professor **Peter R. Marler**, Animal Behavior, served as editorial consultant for *The Marvels of Animal Behavior*, a new volume in the Natural Science Library series published by the National Geographic Society. The book presents an introduction to ethology for the general reader, with more than 400 illustrations, mostly full-color photographs. Dr. Marler contributed a chapter titled, "The Drive to Survive." Also included are Professor **Jack W. Bradbury** writing on "The Silent Symphony: Tuning in on the Bat," Professor **Roger S. Payne** on "The Song of the Whale," and Professor **George B. Schaller** on "The Sociable Kingdom," concerning his work with lions.

*The Serengeti Lion, A Study of Predator-Prey Relations* by **George B. Schaller** has been published by the University of Chicago Press as part of its Wildlife Behavior and Ecology Series. Dr. Schaller is an adjunct assistant professor at Rockefeller and a research associate of the New York Zoological Society. The new 480-page volume is the report of his three years (1966-69) of observations of the lions in the Serengeti wildlife reserve in East Africa.

## Human Obesity: A Complex Problem

What is obesity? Are its causes metabolic, genetic, psychological, or a combination of these? Is it a single phenomenon or are there different kinds of obesity? Is it preventable or reversible? How do obese people view themselves? What happens when they lose weight? Why do they almost always regain it?

These are some of the questions that Jules Hirsch, senior physician at the Rockefeller Hospital and professor of cellular physiology and immunology, has been exploring for at least half of



Dr. Jules Hirsch in the lab.

his nearly 20 years of association with this institution. Collaborating with him and his laboratory colleagues have been some 100 patients who, over the years, have volunteered for treatment and study at the Hospital. On the evening of February 21, a large number of present and former patients, with their families, responded to an invitation from Dr. Hirsch to attend a coffee hour at the University, to report on their progress and to receive a report, in turn, on the progress of research in the laboratory. The laboratory members plan to make the coffee hour a yearly event.

A great deal has been learned in recent years about the chemistry, physiology, and psychology of obesity. A great deal remains to be learned before obesity can be consistently and successfully treated. The reasons are complex. As Dr. Hirsch explains, obesity is a true psychosomatic disorder, that is, a disorder in which both physiological and behavioral elements are involved. An important research breakthrough in the study of its physiology has been the discovery of the difference between adult-onset obesity and juvenile-onset obesity.

Human fat is stored in cells called adipocytes. All obese individuals have

much larger adipocytes than individuals of normal weight. This condition is called hypertrophy. Some obese people also have a significantly greater *number* of fat cells as well. This is called hyperplasia. In the process of weight reduction, fat cells shrink in size. The number of fat cells apparently does not diminish. In individuals with hyperplasia, weight reduction leaves them still with far too many fat cells, all shrunken to starvation size. These patients do suffer classical starvation symptoms, i.e., abnormalities in time and size perception, fatigue, anxiety, depression to the point of grieving behavior, and a distorted self-image. "Normal" weight for these people is an *abnormal* physiological and psychological state which is virtually impossible for them to sustain. Almost invariably, they return to their former condition.

Hyperplasia—too many fat cells—appears to become established at certain fixed points early in life: prenatally, in early childhood, or in early adolescence. Whether juvenile onset obesity is genetic and heritable is still not known. Since it is, at this point, apparently irreversible, is it preventable? Young laboratory animals have been manipulated, through feeding, to develop or to escape hyperplasia. Whether these results are applicable to human beings has not been proven conclusively; but common sense would seem to dictate that the old adage, "a fat baby is a healthy baby," needs rethinking. Dr. Hirsch and his co-workers strongly urge parents not to allow their youngsters to overeat. "A fat baby," says Dr. Hirsch, "is, far more likely, a fat adult."

Obesity patients at the Hospital usually number between half a dozen and a dozen at any time. They have ranged in age from 12 to over 60, although the mean age is about 30. They stay for periods of a few weeks to a few months, followed by visits to the outpatient clinic. There is no miracle cure. They are put on a restricted-calorie diet and are offered the therapeutic services of Dr. Harry K. Panjwani, a consulting psychiatrist, and Professor Joel Grinker, a psychologist, who conducts eating behavior modification sessions. Nutritional counseling is the province of Research Associate Judith S. Stern, and overall clinical supervision is the responsibility of Resident Associate Physician Bruce R. Batchelor. In return, the patients cooperate in tests and research procedures, none of which are onerous.



Dr. Joel Grinker and volunteer subject.

Dr. Grinker does many of the behavioral studies. Recently, for example, she has been studying taste similarities and differences in normal-weight and obese subjects. "It is a common belief," Dr. Grinker notes, "that overweight people have a 'sweet tooth' and that in fact they are overweight because of their excessive consumption of sweets. In a laboratory setting, we examined the sucrose preference of overweight and normal weight individuals and found that normal weight individuals prefer moderately sweet solutions. It was very surprising that obese subjects did not like any of the sweet solutions presented. In fact, the more sweet the solutions, the more negative the preference. Additional studies, using flavored solutions of varying degrees of sweetness, essentially confirm these results."

Dr. Stern's lab studies are yielding interesting information about the relationship between obesity and diabetes. Professor Cal K. Cohn, a physician with a major interest in neurochemistry, studies brain functioning in obese and nonobese subjects. Adjunct Associate Professor Patricia R. Johnson of Vassar acts as consultant in comparative studies using congenitally obese laboratory animals. Graduate Fellow Mary Rita Greenwood is currently at work on the mechanisms of cell replication in adipocytes.

Thus, a program of many-sided research on a complex condition may someday help to control a disorder which affects the health and happiness of millions. It may also unveil other mysteries of cell biology and human behavior.





On the occasion of the Gustav Stern Lecture in Honor of Peyton Rous, on March 1, left to right: Mrs. Gustav Stern, President Seitz, Dr. Wallace P. Rowe of the National Institutes of Health, the invited lecturer, Mrs. Peyton Rous, and Professor Igor Tamm, who introduced Dr. Rowe.

## Foreign Scholars Visit

On March 7 some 40 Senior Fulbright-Hays Visiting Scholars were guests of the University at a luncheon given in their honor. Dr. Detlev W. Bronk welcomed them with a talk outlining the history of the University. This was followed by two informal lectures given by Professor Stanford Moore on the Chemistry of Proteins, and by Professor Carl Pfaffmann on the Brain and Behavior. Arrangements were made by Professor Walther F. Goebel, a member of the Advisory Committee which plans appropriate programs for the 50 Senior Fulbright-Hays Visiting Scholars in the metropolitan area, representing some 25 countries throughout the world, and 10 Margaret Sanger Research Fellows, foreign physicians spending a year of study in New York in the field of fertility and birth control.

## PERSONAL MENTION

Born, February 21, to Graduate Fellow **Dennis W. Stacey** and his wife, Delta Lyn, a daughter, Marika Lyn, their second child.

Born, March 4, in Geneva, Switzerland, to Research Associate **Lawrence Litt** and his wife, Barbara, a daughter, Natalya Elena, their first child.

## DEATHS

February 6, **Joseph A. Tekverk**, 72. Mr. Tekverk was with the University for 50 years. At his retirement, in 1966, he held the position of foreman of the Cabinetmaker's Shop.

## Columbia Honors Stein

Professor William H. Stein, who shared the 1972 Nobel Prize in chemistry, is being doubly honored by Columbia University. On March 20 he received an honorary doctor of science degree. On April 7, he will be one of three recipients of a Graduate Faculty Alumni Award for Excellence, along with William Tindall, literary scholar and critic, and former U.S. Senator Paul H. Douglas. Dr. Stein earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry at Columbia in 1938.

## Recycling Center to Hold Spring Fair

The People's Environmental Program, a nonprofit recycling center on 61st Street between First and Second Avenues (under the 59th Street Bridge), is holding its second annual spring fair and tree planting ceremony on Saturday, May 19 from noon to 6 P.M. (rain date: May 20). A number of University people who work with the center urge their campus colleagues to come to the fair (everyone is invited), enjoy the fun and free refreshments, and to join in the group's civic-minded efforts by regularly bringing materials for recycling and by volunteering their time to help staff the center. (For information, call Susan Torre-Bueno, extension 1577, or 734-0406 after 5 P.M.) At the fair, 10 trees will be planted and two new benches installed outside the center. These, plus the 10 trees planted last year, were purchased with the money earned from the sale of the recyclable materials.

The P.E.P. center arranges for the processing of glass, cans, and newspapers. (It hopes to begin recycling plastics in the fall.) Glass should be separated into clear, green, and brown, with metal rings and caps removed. Cans must be all steel or all aluminum, not mixed metals, crushed flat after paper labels have been removed. Newspapers must be tied securely in bundles no higher than 10 inches. Deliveries should be made only during hours when staff members are on duty: Wednesdays, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.; Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.; Saturdays, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

*news and notes* is published monthly from October to July. This is Volume 4, Number 7. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to *news and notes*, Box 194 or phone ext. 1166. Photographs: page 1 and page 3 upper right Hendrik Boudakian; page 2 Jacob E. Steiner; page 3 left column Ingbet; page 4 Missak Serrafian. © 1973 The Rockefeller University Press, New York 10021. Printed in the United States of America.

## BRIEFS

**William O. Baker**, vice president of the board of trustees, was appointed president of Bell Laboratories on January 17.

Professor **Robert Bruce Merrifield** was awarded the William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, on March 30, for his research on the biological function, structure, and synthesis of peptides.

Professor **Maria A. Rudzinska** has been appointed as associate in the University Seminar on the Problem of Peace, at Columbia University.

Professor **William Trager**, Parasitology, presented a paper at a symposium on Trypanosomiasis and Leishmaniasis with Special Reference to Chagas' Disease, sponsored by the CIBA Foundation and the Venezuelan Academy of Sciences, held February 11-18 in Caracas.

Professor **René J. Dubos** was invited to deliver the Joseph W. Wunsch Lecture at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology on March 28 in Haifa. His topic was Does Nature Really Know Best.

## Library Expanding

Work on the expansion of the Library's facilities in Welch Hall began last month. The conversion is expected to take about 16 weeks. It is proceeding from the three basement levels up through the former dining areas on the first floor to the present library quarters on the second and third floors. Work schedules are being arranged to cause as little disruption of service as possible to library users.

The new home for the Mathematics, Physics, and Philosophy Library, on the 16th floor of the Tower, should be completed soon. Librarian C. R. LeSueur is hoping for an opening date early next month.

## BACH CONCERT: MAY 13

As a special addition to the University's series of free Sunday afternoon concerts, Bach's *Goldberg Variations* will be performed by harpsichordist Joel Spiegelman on May 13 at 2:30 in Caspary Auditorium. No tickets are required.