

2-22-1991

NEWS AND NOTES 1991, FEBRUARY 22

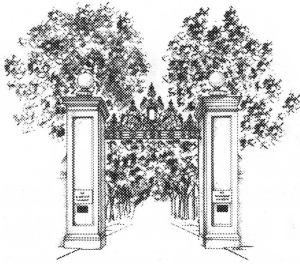
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The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1991, FEBRUARY 22" (1991). *News and Notes 1991*. Book 1.
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News & Notes

New telephone system prepares RU for future



Work has just begun to replace the university's entire telephone system.

Over the next year and a half, Rockefeller will replace its present analog telephone system with a digital system that will result in increased efficiency and savings to the university.

There are a number of reasons for replacing the present phone system, which the university has been leasing since 1981. During the past decade, our analog system has become obsolete to the point where it is no longer supported by the manufacturer, and parts for repairs are only available from secondary vendors who recycle used parts.

Also, the technology that supported the system in 1981 is incapable of supporting the more advanced features requested on campus today. It also limits the university's ability to subscribe to new cost-effective networks from outside vendors. Finally, the present phone system simply does not have the capacity to support the growing number of answering machines, faxes and modems on campus. This problem will worsen with the completion of the new lab building.

When asked about the cost of the new system, David Lyons, Vice President for Business and Finance, stated, "The financing of the new telephone system will span a period of years, with total financing and operating costs not to exceed current telephone system operating costs." He also noted that this is a suitable time to replace the old

system since its 10-year lease expires in November.

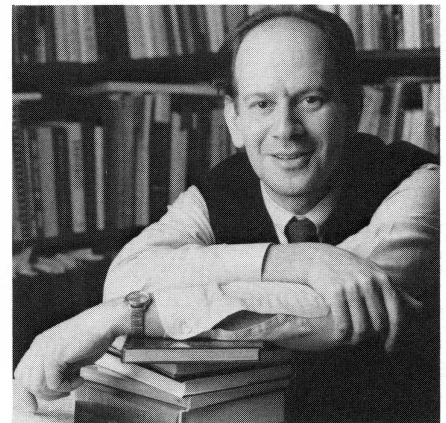
During the next few weeks, Telecommunications will begin the first phase of the project: locating and mapping the nearly 2,500 telephones, modems, fax, data and unused jacks on campus. The Telecommunications

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Chernobyl: "life after nuclear war"

In April 1986, Block 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear plant exploded, and for weeks the world's attention focused on the catastrophe. Then, gradually, other headlines started clamoring more loudly, and today, almost five years later, for most people the small town in the Ukraine is just another icon of modern life.

But anyone who visits the site, as did Jesse Ausubel, must immediately be struck anew by the reality of the accident and its consequences. "It is an overwhelming experience," said Ausubel, a fellow in science and public policy at Rockefeller and director of studies at the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology and Government. The commission, housed partly on the Rockefeller campus, aims to improve the use of scientific and technological knowledge by government at all levels.



Bob Reichert

Jesse Ausubel

"The huge concrete sarcophagus amidst the beet fields and mud and marshes of the Ukraine... the evacuated towns reverting to nature and looking like the towns in the film *On the Beach*... It really is life after nuclear war," Ausubel said.

In the wake of the accident, some 125,000 residents were evacuated from an area about

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twenty miles in circumference around the plant. Today, only a thousand or so have returned—mostly elderly people who insisted on coming home despite the unknown risks and the certain hardships. "Life in the area is terribly difficult. There are no services at all," said Ausubel.

Ausubel visited Chernobyl at the invitation of Soviet scientists with whom he had worked on problems of ecological modeling and environmental management. "The invitation was direct from Kiev," said Ausubel, contrasting this with the old, pre-glasnost days when all invitations—scientific or otherwise—came only from Moscow.

Now, he said, "it's a very open situation." An example of this new openness is the eagerness of Soviet officials managing the site to turn it into an international laboratory for research on the health and environmental consequences of the accident. "They're eager to have scientists from around the world come in and do studies," Ausubel said.

These studies would add to the impressive work that has already been done by Soviet scientists themselves. One ex-

ample, Ausubel reported, is the "first class" computer modeling of regional ecosystems, and of hydrology in particular. To study the flow of strontium and cesium released in the accident into the Dnieper basin, from which tens of millions of people obtain their drinking water, the scientists had to adapt existing—but insufficient—models.

This huge modeling job was made even more challenging by the fact that a lot of the work had to be done on the personal computers people had in their offices, rather than on larger machines dedicated to such applications. "There is a healthy competition to see who can do the most with a PC," Ausubel said.

Given the catastrophic state of the Soviet economy, scientists working in the Ukraine are concerned about funding for their research, and hope to garner international support for their studies. The need for such support is clear. For, as Ausubel said, "It's ironic, but Chernobyl is now as much a part of the world ecological heritage as Yellowstone Park or the Himalayas."

—by Susan Blum

Thesis presentations next week

There will be three thesis presentations next week. All will be held at 3:45 in Caspary Auditorium, with a tea preceding the event at 3:15 in the Abby Dining Room.

On Monday, Graduate Fellow Arturo Zychlinsky will speak on "Cell Death in the Immune System: Murder or Suicide?"

Tuesday, Graduate Fellow Jessica Treisman will present her thesis, entitled, "Specificity of Transcriptional Control in the *Drosophila* Developmental Gene Network."

Wednesday's thesis presentation will be by Biomedical Fellow Blair Simpson. The title: "Exploring the Neural Substrate for Learned Vocalizations: How a Bird Makes a Long (Distance) Call." →→

Grant news for researchers

The Public Health Service has announced a requirement for both NIH competing applications (Form PHS 398) and NIH non-competing continuation applications (Form PHS 2590). The *Other Support* page must indicate whether program income is or is not anticipated during the period for which grant support is requested. Copies of this *Important Notice* are available in the Office of Sponsored Programs.

In another development, the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) has announced a new policy on the maximum amount of direct costs for applications for program projects and clinical research centers. Effective for the June 1, 1991 deadline, first-year direct costs cannot exceed \$750,000. Visit Sponsored Programs for further details if you anticipate applying for these programs. →→

Child care survey goal: perspective

The Children's School Board will be asking RU students and employees to fill out a questionnaire designed to assess the community's need for child care and early childhood education. The information will be used to help the board plan the profile of current programs and will form the basis of a report to the administration on the future needs of the growing number of young families on campus. Surveys will be mailed next week; responses are requested by March 15. →→

Deaths

Dr. John G. Kidd, an associate member of the Rockefeller from 1934 to 1944 and then pathologist-in-chief at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center until 1974, died January 28 in Texas. He was 82 years old.

Dr. Kidd joined Rockefeller at a turning point in Peyton Rous's work on cancer viruses. Using the Shope papilloma virus as a new tool, the two men worked on factors influencing the course of virus-induced tumors in mammals, from chemical carcinogens like tar to natural antibodies that suppress tumor growth. This latter work led to Kidd's finding at New York-Cornell of the enzyme asparaginase as an active agent against cancer.

Rous described the heady atmosphere of research in the 1930s as "an assemblage of Aladdins met to discuss the best method to evoke genii by the rubbing of lamps The old scholastic disputations about the cause of cancer are no longer heard. Facts hold men's thought." In a tribute to Peyton Rous in 1971, Kidd recalled Rous's emphasis on precise observations: "Whatever you say or report, stay as close to nature as you can."

Dr. Kidd received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and his M.D. from Johns Hopkins in 1932, and he was the recipient of numerous awards in pathology and medicine during his career. He is survived by his wife of sixty years, Maudine, two sons and two daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Kidd in 1935

The Rockefeller University Archives

RU cookbook to be published

Favorite recipes of the Rockefeller community will be converted to books and xylophones when the Women's Association publishes the first-ever Rockefeller University cookbook in December. Proceeds from sales of the cookbook will purchase educational materials and toys for the Childrens' School.

Faculty, students and staff are being asked to contribute their favorite recipes for publication. Some proposed recipe categories for the book are Microwave Cooking, Budget Gourmet, Jerry Barry's favorites, Famous Lab Parties, International Flavors, Child's Play and the Family Tree. Children from the school will illustrate the book.

Within the week, everyone on campus will receive a request for recipes. Barbara Ashfield of Furnishings and Interiors, who chairs the Cookbook Committee, said, "We hope our cookbook will capture the broad cultural diversity we share here at Rockefeller." For information, contact Ms. Ashfield at x7802 or Box 127. ➡➡

European travelers needed

Are you planning a trip to Europe before April 1? The Ph.D. Admissions Committee is looking for faculty members interested in interviewing European and East European students who have applied to the Rockefeller graduate program. Those interested should contact Susanna in the Dean's Office, x8088. ➡➡

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staff will be visiting every lab to track this information on floor plans. Letters have been sent to all lab heads informing them of this process.

Service departments will be given floor plans on which they will be asked to indicate the locations of their present jacks. Once these surveys are completed, every lab and service department will be asked to decide whether existing jacks should be relocated and where new jacks should be placed.

Requests for proposals for the new system will be sent to vendors in early March. Rewiring the campus should begin in June, and the new system should be fully operational by the summer of 1992.

"We want to do everything possible to minimize the infringement on everyone's time and the disruption to work space," says Portia Goodman, Manager of Telecommunications. "Patience, cooperation and a little humor will help get us connected to the future even faster."

Updates on the progress of the installation will appear in *News & Notes*. In the meantime, Ms. Goodman (x7719) will be happy to answer any questions about the new telephone system. ➡➡

Announcements

Computer classes set attendance record

A high turnout for computing courses this month has resulted in Computing Services adding three classes to next week's schedule (see below). The classes, held in Caspary 1A, are free, but registration is required. Call x8925 for details.

Monday

10:00-12:00 Electronic mail
2:00-3:00 Kermit

Tuesday

10:00-1:00 Sequencing, Pt. I
1:00-4:00 Intro to Unix /e-mail

Wednesday

10:00-1:00 Sequencing, Pt. II
2:00-4:00 Intro to vi editor

Thursday

2:00-4:00 WordPerfect, Pt. II

Free tax workshop offered

A U.S. Income Tax Workshop for International Students, Scholars and Trainees will be held Saturday, March 9, at Hunter College, 68th Street at Lexington Avenue. Information and applications are available from Claire Mason, x8059; deadline for application is March 1.

Astronaut to address university

Astronaut Jeff Hoffman of the Johnson Space Center in Houston will address the campus on Tuesday, February 26, as part of the Space Science Lecture Series. The lecture, *Operational space science: the role of the physical scientist in space*, will begin at 2:00 in Tower 305. For more information, or to attend a lunch for Mr. Hoffman before the talk, contact Erich Jarvis, x7733.

Teppler, Baltimore address LAB dinner

Dr. Hedy Teppler (right) and President David Baltimore reported on new developments in AIDS research at a recent Law Accounting Banking (LAB) dinner held on campus. The audience included members and guests of the university's Committee on Trust and Estate Gift Plans, a group of leading bankers, lawyers and accountants who direct more than \$1 million in private gifts and grants to the university each year. Teppler and her colleagues are currently conducting clinical tests to determine if a synthetically produced version of the immune system protein interleukin-2 can enhance the immune responses of individuals infected by the virus that causes AIDS.



Bob Reichert

Support offered Gulf war families

Nationwide, various support groups have been established for families of men and women serving in the Gulf War. Here at Rockefeller, the Employee Assistance Program, located at 445 E. 68th Street (at York Avenue), offers individual counseling at no cost to employees. An appointment is necessary, and can be arranged by calling 746-5890.

In addition, the American Red Cross and affiliates in the New York area offer weekly support groups. For information regarding the Red Cross chapter or affiliate nearest you, contact the Personnel Office, x8300. ➔➔

Remember Archives for your publications

The Rockefeller University Archives is interested in the publications created by your office. These materials are essential to the preservation and documentation of all aspects of university history. When your department produces a pamphlet, booklet, announcement or any publication related to university activities, Archives asks that you send two copies to their campus office, Box 128. The archivist on campus, Renee Mastrocco (x8912), is also available to assist you in identifying materials of historical importance. ➔➔

Room for minority high school students?

Julia Richmond High School on East 67th Street has contacted the university asking if any RU labs can offer laboratory experience to a few selected minority students. Those wishing to learn more about this opportunity are asked to phone Bonnie Platt in the Dean's Office, x8086. ➔➔



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.