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NEWS AND NOTES 1991, MARCH 1

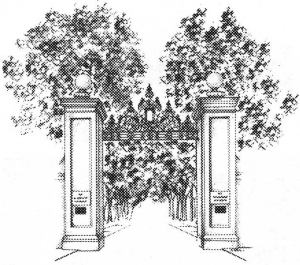
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News & Notes

From the lab to the battlefield

Blood preservation techniques began in Rockefeller labs

Blood transfusions are saving the lives of wounded soldiers embroiled in the Gulf War. The research that made the first transfusions on the battlefield possible was conducted here at Rockefeller by Peyton Rous, Joseph Turner and Oswald Robertson in 1916. While most students of science know of Rous's famous sarcoma virus, which changed the direction of cancer research, few are familiar with his wartime research.

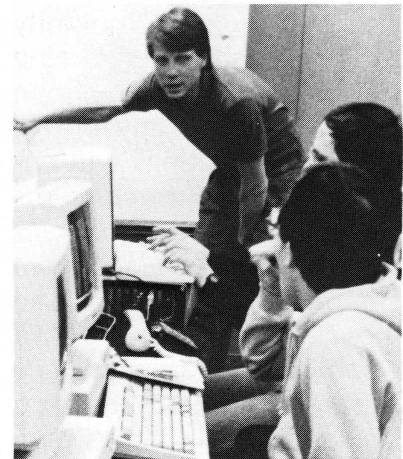
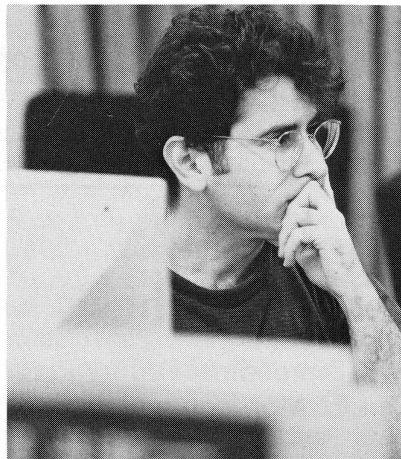
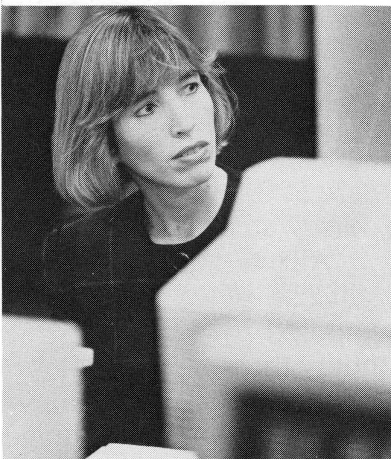
With the outbreak of World War I, Rous, Turner and Robertson began a search for fluid substitutes for blood that might be used at casualty stations. However, they could not find any successful substitutes for red blood corpuscles.

Consequently, the group turned to researching ways to preserve red blood cells outside the body for emergency infusion into the wounded. This was a fanciful idea. At that time, trans-

fusions involved a complex surgical procedure from donor to patient, something inappropriate to battlefield conditions.

Rous and Turner soon found a way to take blood directly into a citrate-sugar solution that would both protect it and prevent clotting. Shortly afterward, Robertson joined the U.S. Army. Rous remembered that Robertson "somehow obtained a place as a medical officer in the Third

See **Blood** on page 2

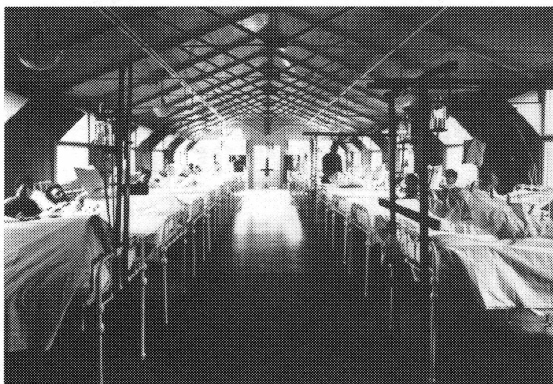


Computer classes draw record attendance

February's 35 computer workshops had the best attendance ever, according to Rachael Kolb, Assistant Director of Computing Services. In the photos above, Martha Kellar (left) and Steve Baeck, both of The Rockefeller University Press, listen intently as Programmer Stephen Grenholm (right, standing) teaches a class on Kermit, a communications program that allows the campus to use PCs and Macs to communicate with the central computers. Those interested in attending future classes are invited to contact Computing Services, x8925. (Photos by Bob Reichert)

Blood (Continued from page 1)

British Army in World War I, and proved not only that stored cells work as well as fresh ones, but described an apparatus to keep them and transfuse them."



The Rockefeller University Archives

The university's War Demonstration Hospital in 1918.

Behind the lines in Belgium and France, in a makeshift refrigeration unit made of packing cases, Robertson created the

world's first blood bank from blood donated by army personnel. (Nearly twenty years would pass before the first hospital blood bank was established in this country.)

Even during World War II, blood was kept in solutions based on the original Rous-Turner formula. Robertson recalled that during the London Blitz, "more than a half million units of blood were shipped overseas from the United States to our armed forces, much of it by air."

Today, blood transfusion has become a major form of medical therapy, and long-term blood storage or banking is achieved by freezing.

—by Carol Moberg

Cancer support group formed

A support group for women in the Rockefeller community who have breast cancer is being expanded to include anyone in the community with any form of cancer. The meetings will enable attendees to share concerns and questions about such topics as medical resources, treatment and family involvement. The Employee Health Service will help publicize and arrange space for the meetings, but the group will organize itself and its own agenda.

The first meeting for 1991 will be held in hospital conference room 128 at noon on Wednesday, March 13, and thereafter on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. Coffee and tea will be

available at the meetings, and those attending are encouraged to bring a bag lunch. For more information, call the Employee Health Office, x8414. ➔➔

Morrison presents thesis

Biomedical Fellow Robert G. Morrison will present his thesis at 3:45 on Monday, March 4, in Caspary Auditorium. A tea will precede the presentation at 3:15. The title of the thesis is *Neural Correlates of Sensitive Periods for Song Learning in Birds*.

Switchboard to close weekends and holidays



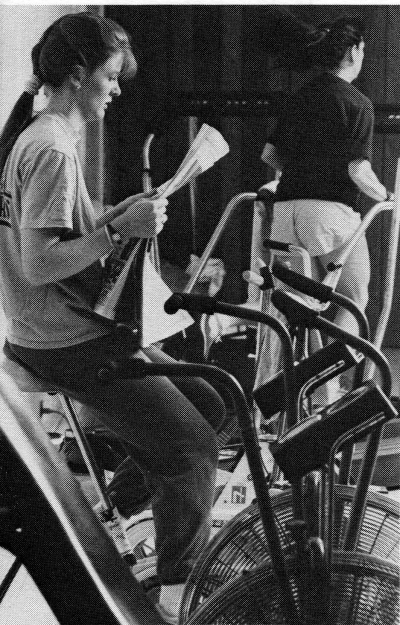
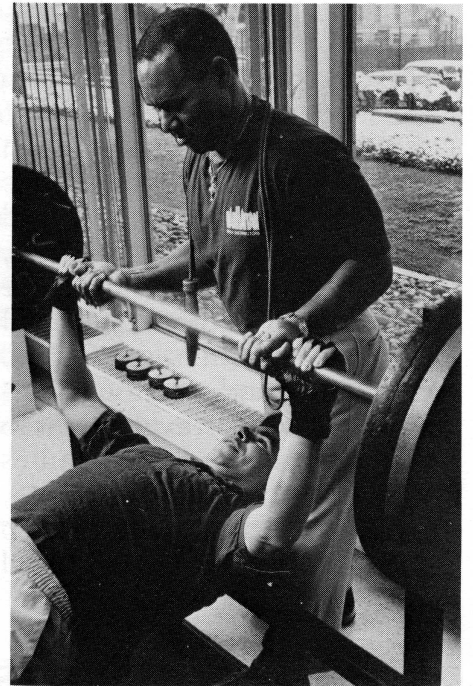
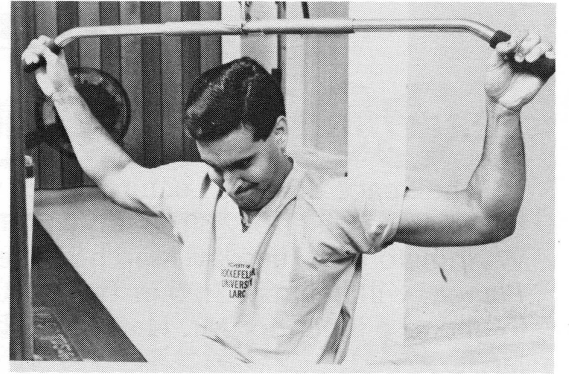
Beginning April 1, there will be a significant change in the hours for the university's switchboard. An operator will be on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. only, Monday through Friday. In addition, switchboard and fax services will be closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

The main entrance to the hospital will be locked when the switchboard is unattended. Access to the hospital during these hours will be via Founder's Hall and the third-floor bridge linking Founder's to the Nurses' Residence and the Hospital. During these hours, the main number for the university, 570-8000, will be answered by a recorded announcement informing callers of the switchboard's hours. If the call is an emergency, callers will be informed to call Security at 570-8295. If the call regards a patient, callers will be asked to call 570-8448, the third-floor nurses' station.

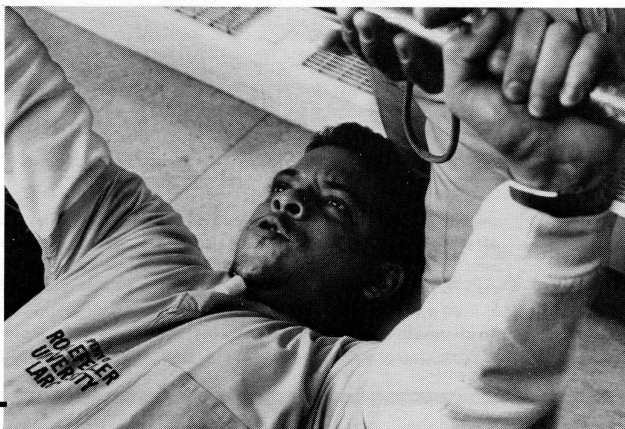
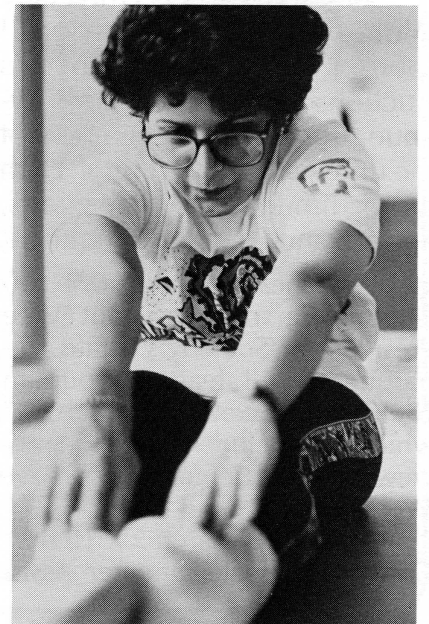
All internal emergencies will still use x1111, which will be handled by Security, who will notify the appropriate individuals. Members of the university community are encouraged to provide their direct phone numbers to those who may call them during hours the switchboard is closed.

Any questions about the new hours can be referred to Portia Goodman, Manager of Telecommunications, x7719. ➔➔

Working up a sweat



The Graduate Student Activity Room, also known as the Workout Room, can be a very busy place, as these photos taken during Tuesday's lunch hour attest. Pictured on this page (clockwise from top): Susan Lampert stands silhouetted as she lifts weights; Peter Singh builds his shoulder muscles; Aquiles Sosa (standing) coaches Lionel Party; Yolanda Alvarez does her sit-ups; George Cuevas works at the bench press; Kathleen Hunter does two things at once; and Martha Murphrey enjoys her workout. In the center photo, a few exercisers pose for a group shot: Standing (from left) are Dorothy Melia, Susan Lampert, Martha Murphrey, Aquiles Sosa, Mark Rodrigue, Cecelia Cordona, Yolanda Alvarez, Esmeralda Party and Juana Gilbert. Sitting are Lionel Party and Margaret Condé. The room is open to all employees. (Photos by Bob Reichert)



Announcements

Searching for Planets is Space Lecture

The Space Science Lecture Series will present a talk by Robert Harrington, Chief of Astronomy at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, on Tuesday, March 5. The lecture, entitled *Seaching for Planets*, will begin at 2:00 in Tower 305. For more information, or to attend a lunch for Mr. Harrington before the talk, contact Erich Jarvis, x7733.

Submitting a grant this year?

Volunteers are needed for an NIH-funded study of the effects of grant deadlines on diet and blood pressure. The research, coordinated by Dr. Yvette Schlusssel of Cornell Medical Center's Hypertension Center, offers \$100 and a thorough cardiovascular risk evaluation to participants. The study requires subjects to be aged 20 to 45, disease-free, and able to keep good records. Contact Schlusssel at 746-2193 for details.

Adopting the best recycling program

Tom Mineo, Supervisor of Custodial Services, has requested suggestions for ways to improve the collection and recycling of paper, glass and metal on campus. In the coming weeks, the university will initiate a new effort to handle these materials more efficiently, increase recycling and decrease waste. Comments and suggestions should be sent to Mineo at Box 70 by March 15.

RUWA offers tours of Sotheby's

The Rockefeller University Women's Association will sponsor two tours of Sotheby's Auction House, 1334 York Avenue, in March for members of the university community. Each tour is limited to twenty guests, and advance sign-up is required.

- Wednesday, March 6, 10:00 Chapin Carson, Assistant Vice President of Sotheby's Estate Department, will lead a group in "Behind the Scenes at Sotheby's," which will include an auction preview of *20th Century Decorative Works of Art*.

- Monday, March 25, 10:00 Christine Wheale, another Assis-

tant Vice President of Southby's Estate Department, will lead the group in a similar tour, this time including an auction preview of *Indian and Southeast Asian Art*.

Because of the limited number of people able to be accommodated on these tours, RUWA asks that participants sign up for only one tour. A university-wide mailing has been sent out announcing details.

Electronics course offered

The Electronics Laboratory is offering a ten-week course in computer-based instrumentation, experimental control, data acquisition and analysis. The course, *Computers in the Laboratory, Instrumentation and Applications*, is outlined in the Guide to Graduate Students.

The course will consist of ten weekly one-hour lectures, simple student exercises and examples using chromatography, spectroscopy and other instruments in biomedical research. The lecturer will be Adjunct Professor Gordon Silverman.

An orientation meeting for those interested in attending the course will be held on Monday, March 4, at 9:30 in Tower 305. To register, send name, phone extension and lab or department name to Box 297. Questions about the course can be directed to x8611.

Reminder: Tax workshop offered

A free workshop, *U.S. Income Tax Workshop for International Students, Scholars and Trainees*, will be held Saturday, March 9, at Hunter College. Contact Claire Mason, x8059, for information.



NewsNotes 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.