

4-26-1991

NEWS AND NOTES 1991, APRIL 26

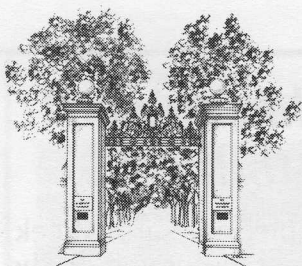
The Rockefeller University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1991

Recommended Citation

The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1991, APRIL 26" (1991). *News and Notes 1991*. Book 12.
http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1991/12

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 1991 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RU. For more information, please contact mcsweej@mail.rockefeller.edu.



News & Notes

Grebb's music for the mind

When it comes to helping the mentally ill, Jack Grebb pulls out all the stops.

Literally.

Grebb is an accomplished organist who has been concertizing since the age of twelve. For many years, every concert he's given has been a benefit for a worthy cause. Tonight he'll be playing his second concert in support of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of New York State (AMI-NYS).

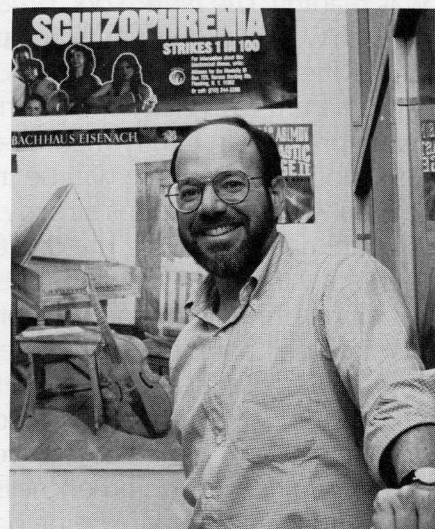
Grebb's day job also benefits people with mental disorders. As a guest investigator in the Greengard lab, Grebb, a psychiatrist, is studying the neurochemical basis of schizophrenia.

Although schizophrenia is fairly common, affecting about one person out of a hundred, it's a "closeted" disease because those who suffer from it, as well

as their families, often feel ashamed, Grebb says. AMI, a self-help organization, offers understanding and hope for family members and friends of people with schizophrenia and other types of psychiatric illness, such as depression. AMI also lobbies to promote scientific research, improve the quality of life for mentally ill people and expand the opportunities for rehabilitation and recovery.

Since the introduction of anti-psychotic drugs in the mid-1950s, many of the most devastating symptoms of schizophrenia have been brought under control, Grebb says, but medications currently available simply treat the symptoms rather than cure the disease. Moreover, most of these drugs are associated with serious side effects that can worsen with time.

See Grebb on page 4



Jack Grebb

RU adds holiday, floats another

Since the July 4 holiday falls on a Thursday this year, the university is also making July 5 a holiday, giving everyone a four-day weekend July 4-7.

In addition, under new rules, the Election Day holiday in November will become a "floating" instead of a fixed holiday. This means employees now have the option of taking that day off, as they have in past years, or they can work that day and take a day off at another time during the academic year. In essence, employees now have two floating and 12 fixed holidays. The university will be open Election Day for those who choose to work that day and schedule another day off.

A 'day' for employees in the fall

Long and dedicated service is the hallmark of Rockefeller University employees, and now a day has been set aside in the fall to honor all those who have served for long periods of time, as well as those recently retired.

The day combines two traditional events, the Anniversary/Retirement Dinner and the Employee Service Recognition Program. The former focused on retirees and those with more than 25 years of service, while the latter was only for non-faculty employees with 10 or 20 years of service.

The reason for bringing the two events together is so that all employees of long service can be honored and thanked for their dedication to the university community.

The "Employees Day," which has been scheduled for November, will include a ceremony, awarding of gifts and a reception. →→

Alumnus requests help to save others

Michael Ruttenberg, a 1965 graduate of Rockefeller, flew to Turkey Saturday on a very special personal mission. He is taking 3-4 weeks off from his busy medical practice in Berkeley, California, to aid Kurdish refugees who have gathered in camps at the Turkey/Iraq border following the Gulf War.

"I've been reading about the plight of these people for several weeks," Ruttenberg told *News and Notes* via the telephone. "Then Sunday when I was reading *The New York Times* I decided I had to go."

Such work is a long way from Ruttenberg's protein chemistry research in T.P. King's lab in the early 1960s. Since leaving Rockefeller, he earned his M.D. from University of California, San Diego, in 1974 and went into private practice in family medicine soon after.

Although Ruttenberg will be traveling to Turkey alone, he plans to meet up with relief groups already working in the area. A similar trip—to Guatemala following the 1976 earthquake—gave him on-the-job emergency training that will prove invaluable now.

"I'll be bringing a mountain of supplies with me," Ruttenberg said. This includes antibiotics, vaccines, bandages, instruments and other supplies to combat the immediate health problems of the refugees: dehydration, infectious diseases, cholera and typhoid. Many of these items have been donated. However, some of the most needed and expensive pieces of equipment he is bringing—including portable water-purification systems—are being paid for from his own pocket. Each of these units costs approximately \$700.

Although Ruttenberg is paying his own expenses for this endeavor, he has requested donations from anyone interested in supporting his work. Checks should be made payable to Michael Ruttenberg, MD—Kurdish Medical Relief, and mailed to 1408 Oxford St., Berkeley, CA, 94709. Any money left over after expenses are covered will be forwarded to relief organizations.

Ruttenberg encourages anyone interested in going to the area to assist in the relief effort to contact Physicians for Human Rights (Somerville, MA), Doctors Without Borders (here in New York) or any of the other groups providing aid. A list of these organizations was published in the *The New York Times* on April 14. →→

Greengard receives NAS award

The 1991 National Academy of Sciences Award in the Neurosciences will be awarded to Professor Paul Greengard at a ceremony in Washington, DC, on April 29. The prize, a gold medal and \$15,000, is for Greengard's "discovery of the central role played by neuronal phosphoproteins in normal brain function and in neuropsychiatric and related disorders." Established in 1988 by the Fidia Research Foundation, the award is presented every three years in recognition of extraordinary contributions to progress in the field of neuroscience. →→

'Earthkeeping' talks today

Prompted by Earth Week, an informal discussion on the role the Rockefeller community can play in maintaining a sustainable environment will be held today in Caspary 1A and 1B from 5:00 to 6:00. Organizers invite everyone to attend the discussion and help plan activities on campus. For information, contact Anshu Vashishtha, x8167.

Hospitalization costs won't change in coming year

Last year was a healthy one for members of the Rockefeller community covered by the Blue Cross Hospitalization Plan. So healthy, in fact, that there will be no rate increase this year, according to the terms of a contract between the university and Blue Cross that was signed on April 1.

"This is great news," commented Director of Personnel Virginia Huffman, "especially when you consider the fact that health insurance costs citywide are projected to increase significantly this year."

The money saved does not affect employee contributions to the hospitalization plan, though it does affect what the university pays to provide employees with their current level of coverage. Presently, the university contributes about 97% to the plan, while employees contribute around 3%. →→

Two promoted to sergeant



Anthony Drummond (left) and Frank Hoyt were both promoted to the rank of sergeant on April 1. Drummond came to Rockefeller in 1988 after serving with the U.S. Marine Corps in Lebanon. Hoyt, who immigrated to the U.S. from Barbados in 1963, has been with the university since 1971. The two join a team of six sergeants that oversee the university's security guards.

"The sergeant, as the first-line supervisor, is the key person in maintaining high levels of performance," said Director of Security Joe Nekola in promoting the two men. "I felt strongly that the two sergeants who retired in January had to be replaced, and Hoyt and Drummond have the extensive experience to fill their positions."

Hall of Science display assisted by Rockefeller scientists

The nation's largest collection of the smallest creatures on earth will be unveiled tomorrow at a new exhibit at the New York Hall of Science. "Hidden Kingdoms—The World of Microbes" is an exhibition focusing on microorganisms in the world around us. It was created with support from the museum's Science Biology Advisory Committee, which includes Rockefeller scientists Christian de Duve, Vincent Fischetti and Peter Model.

"The museum wanted the exhibit to be very accessible to children," comments Fischetti. "This is a good way for them to learn about the millions of microorganisms around us and how they affect our health and environment."

The exhibition consists of eight separate sections, including sections featuring "Easy-View" microscopes and computer modules. This is the first permanent exhibition to open at the museum since 1988. The Hall of Science is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00-5:00, and is located at 47-01 111th Street in Corona, NY. ➔➔

Computer alert! Computer alert!

There have been several reports of a network scam involving the use of electronic mail to capture users' passwords and thus enter computer systems. Although Computing Services at Rockefeller has not been informed of anyone here receiving such mail, they caution computer users to be aware of the potential threat.

The scam uses e-mail that appears to come from the system administrators. It asks recipients to reset their passwords to ones specified in the message, or it asks them to run a specific program, which in turn requires the user to log in again. In both cases, the perpetrator is able to capture the password to use to get into the system later.

Anyone receiving such mail **SHOULD NOT** change their password. Instead, notify Computing Services immediately at x8940. This may be an attempt to gain access to the university computer system using your account. Computing Services would never use electronic mail to request that you change your password.

As a precaution, Computing Services is presently running a password-cracking program. Users whose passwords are easily broken will be notified—but not via electronic mail.

For protection, a password should be at least six characters long, should not be your name or a word easily identified with you, and should not be any word found in a dictionary. A good password uses a combination of letters and numbers. Those who need assistance changing their password should call x8940. ➔➔

Minority Open House attracts interest

The university's first "Minority Open House" on April 18 attracted several students in the life sciences from area colleges. The event, hosted by the Personnel Office, included a reception and tours of laboratories and the campus. The university is hoping to place qualified minority applicants as Research Assistants in the coming months. Among those who made the open house a success were Floresta Chapman, Connie Cheung, Erich Jarvis, Pat Mackey, Peter MacLeish, Sheenah Mische, Margaret Perkins, Adam Profit, Catherine Rozario, Stacey Simmons and John Taylor. Other recruitment programs are being planned by Personnel for the near future. ➔➔

Grebb (continued from page 1)

Researchers like Grebb want to gain a deeper understanding of the disease in order to develop better treatment strategies. As a part of his research, Grebb is studying neuronal phosphoproteins, substances in the brain that help regulate communication between nerve cells. Phosphoproteins are a major subject of study in the Greengard lab, and are proving to be important in understanding a wide range of disorders including schizophrenia, alcoholism and Alzheimer's Disease.

The fascination Grebb takes in describing the elaborate network of neural communication is echoed in his enthusiastic description of the workings of the organ he'll be playing tonight at the Church of St. John the Evangelist. The organ, which cost nearly half a million dollars when it was built in 1975, was made exactly the way organs were made in Bach's time.

"The connections between the keys and the valves on the pipes are completely mechanical, rather than electrical as they are in modern organs. This makes the instrument much more re-

sponsive to nuances of touch," Grebb says. In fact, he adds, several New York critics have called it the best instrument for playing baroque organ music in the city. Tonight's all-Bach concert will show off the instrument's capabilities, while allowing Grebb to share with his listeners some of what he calls "the greatest literature ever written for the organ."

Fortunate to have harmoniously melded his two loves—medicine and music—Grebb says, "From the earliest time, there was never any doubt that I would do both. The only thing was, to practice medicine, you needed a license."

The results of his practicing *without* a license can be heard tonight at 7:00 at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, First Avenue at 55th St. Tickets are available at the door for a tax-deductible contribution of \$15.

—by Susan Blum

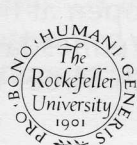
Announcements

YMCA offers student trip

The YMCA International Student Service is sponsoring a Memorial Weekend Homestay for International Students May 25-28 in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY. The tour leaves and returns from New York City; bus capacity is limited. The cost is \$155, which includes transportation, lodging and most meals. Deadline for application is May 6. Since this tour goes to Canada, a visa to enter that country may be required for some students. Please call the Canadian Embassy, 768-2400, for information. Other questions can be addressed by the YMCA ISS at 563-3299. Application forms are available in Casparly 3D.

Craft Show holds reception

There will be an opening reception of the Rockefeller University Craft Show on Wednesday, May 1, at 3:00 in Founder's Hall Lobby. Over 30 talented members of the university community will be exhibiting their handiwork at the Craft Show, May 1-10. This year's entries include quilting, weaving, pottery, jewelry, needlepoint, carpentry, crocheting and stained glass. Everyone is invited to attend the reception and meet the craftsmen. Refreshments will be served.



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.