

11-2-1990

## NEWS AND NOTES 1990, NOVEMBER 2

The Rockefeller University

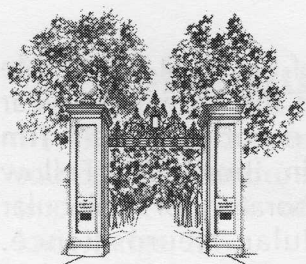
Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news\\_and\\_notes\\_1990](http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1990)

---

### Recommended Citation

The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1990, NOVEMBER 2" (1990). *News and Notes 1990*. Book 16.  
[http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news\\_and\\_notes\\_1990/16](http://digitalcommons.rockefeller.edu/news_and_notes_1990/16)

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 1990 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RU. For more information, please contact [mcsweej@mail.rockefeller.edu](mailto:mcsweej@mail.rockefeller.edu).



# News & Notes

## Marathon madness lures Rockefeller runners



When the New York City Marathon is run Sunday, at least a dozen athletes from the university will be among the crowd of 25,000 runners competing in the event.

The race begins on Staten Island at 10:50 a.m. and winds over 26 miles through all five boroughs before ending at Tavern on the Green in Central Park.

Two Rockefeller labs, the Laboratory of Microbiology (headed by Professor Alexander Tomasz) and the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience (headed by Professor Paul Greengard), contributed six of the participants from the university this year.

Listed below are the runners known to be entering the race from Rockefeller. Many have trained throughout the summer for this event. When they pass E. 66th Street on First Avenue, they will have approximately 10 miles left to go. Watch for them!

**Boudewijn de Jonge**, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Laboratory of Microbiology, came to Rockefeller in September 1989 from Holland. He has been training over three months for this, his first, New York City Marathon. De Jonge's number is 13149, and he may be wearing red shorts and a white shirt.

This will be the eleventh consecutive New York City Marathon for Professor **Dino Goulian**, who heads the Laboratory of Experimental High-Energy Physics. Goulian is hoping for a time of under four hours; his best time in past races was 3:16. He will be number 5212 and will wear fluorescent green gloves if the weather is cold.

**Ed Heuvel** of the Paint Shop joined the Rockefeller a year ago this week. He ran his last marathon on Long Island in 1986, and he has been training hard for this race. Heuvel will be wearing a neon green hat and shorts, a multi-colored shirt and the number 6782.

Postdoctoral Fellow **Armin Klein** of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, came to the university from Switzerland in July 1989. This will be his first marathon ever; his number will be X1476.

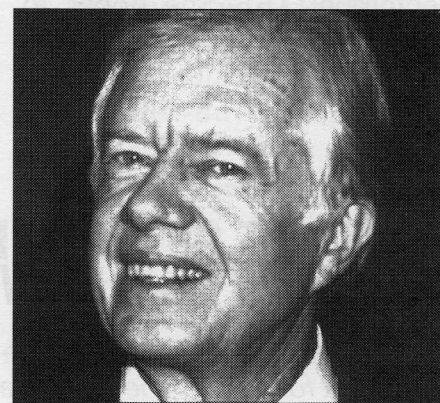
This will be the third marathon for the Acting Director of the Rockefeller Press, **Martha Kellar**. Kellar, who will be number F2586, has been training for

Sunday's event for four months and is shooting for a time of under four hours. Weather permitting, she will be wearing a turquoise Rockefeller University T-shirt in the race.

**Harri Laitinen** is a Guest Investigator from Finland in the

see **Runners** on page 2

## Carter visits RU



John Sholtis

Former President Jimmy Carter visited the university on Tuesday to attend the first meeting of the Task Force on Development Organizations, a group coordinated by the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology and Government. The Task Force, chaired by Carter and vice-chaired by former Rockefeller Executive Vice President Rod Nichols, addressed ways of strengthening the scientific and technical capabilities of aid organizations and improving the organizational base for strategic thinking about science and technology in developing countries.

## Runners (continued from page 1)

Laboratory of Microbiology. Last year was his first New York City Marathon, and he often participates in short races sponsored by the New York Road Runners Club. For this race he will be number 12129, will wear a light green T-shirt and "maybe a Finnish flag somewhere."

**Peter Matthews**, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Laboratory of Microbiology, came to the Rockefeller from his native Australia 20 months ago. He has been training for this, his first, marathon since June, with a goal of completing the race in 3:30. His number is 14387.

Development Associate **Martha Murphrey** is a strong runner whose last race was the Philadelphia Half Marathon on September 16. She hopes to finish the New York Marathon in

3:10. Murphrey will be wearing an orange and white tank top and the number 6496.

This will be the sixth consecutive New York City Marathon for Associate Professor **Angus Nairn** of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience. Nairn, who joined the university in 1983, is a frequent participant in races sponsored by the New York Road Runners Club.

Australian **Anita O'Connell**, Postdoctoral Associate in the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics and Metabolism, will be running to raise money for Clearwater, an organization working to clean the Hudson River. (O'Connell is still taking pledges; call her today at x7703.) She will be number F5766 in this, her second, New York City Marathon, wearing a blue T-shirt with an Australian flag.

One of the most noticeable runners in the crowd this year will be number 6045, **Jim Rubenstein**, Biomedical Fellow in the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience. Rubenstein has participated in the last two marathons and this year, "in the Halloween spirit," he will be sporting a Bart Simpson mask.

This will be the first marathon for Assistant Professor **Barbara Sorkin** of the Laboratory of Developmental and Molecular Biology. She has been with the Rockefeller since 1978 and often runs with the university team in local races. Wearing number F2385 and a red and white T-shirt, Sorkin will be aiming for a time of under five hours.

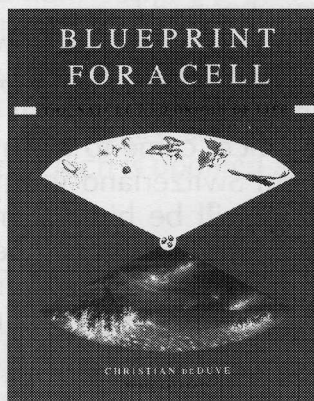
Here's wishing a successful and safe race to all participants from the university! →→

## Professor de Duve provides *Blueprint for a Cell*

Professor Christian de Duve has just published a new book, *Blueprint for a Cell, The Nature and Origin of Life*. In this 300-page work he draws on his knowledge of biochemistry and cell and molecular biology to discuss theories, insights and speculations on the beginning of life on earth.

Dr. de Duve, who heads the Laboratory of Biochemical Cytology, defines the basic characteristics, or "blueprint," of life early in his text. He then tracks the evolutionary stages of the development of cells and the chemical and environmental processes that led to the creation of the first cell.

The clothbound book costs \$19.95 and is available from Neil Patterson Publishers in Burlington, NC. →→



## Fall Film Series presents Fassbinder classic

The Werner Fassbinder film *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* will be shown on Sunday, November 4 in Caspary Auditorium. This 1974 movie is a love story about a dumpy middle-aged cleaning lady and a graceful young Moroccan. While the couple must first confront animosity and racism, their relationship is truly tested once they are accepted by society. The film begins at 7:30 and is free to members of the Rockefeller, MSKCC and Cornell communities. →→



## Songbird studies yield notable results

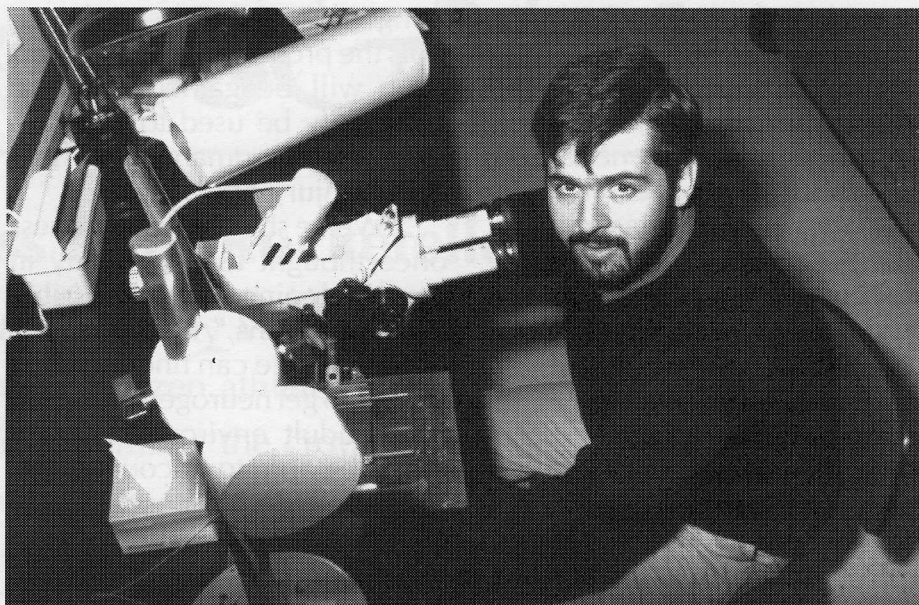
The canary's song, always a source of pleasure, is now an important source of scientific knowledge, too.

It once was believed that new neurons (brain cells) are never born in the brains of adult animals. But in the past decade, work conducted in Rockefeller's Laboratory of Animal Behavior has shown that new neurons are constantly being added to a song-control area in the brain of adult male and female canaries called the HVC, or higher vocal center.

"Initially we didn't know what kind of neurons they were," said Assistant Professor Arturo Alvarez-Buylla. Recently, however, he and colleagues John Kirn, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Fernando Nottebohm, Professor, were able to report that many of these new neurons are projection neurons, cells that link the HVC with the RA, another song-control region.

The scientists studied the brains of male canaries, who learn to sing a new song each fall, and male zebra finches, who learn — and sing — one song throughout life. They found that canaries produced more total new HVC neurons in the fall than in the spring. Regardless of the season, more than half the new neurons were projection neurons. In contrast, zebra finches produced about as many new HVC neurons as canaries did in the spring, but only about 20 percent of these new cells were projection neurons.

The researchers think that the peak growth of projection neurons in male canaries in the fall probably reflects the fact that



Arturo Alvarez-Buylla

they are learning new songs at this time. When no song learning is taking place (in canaries in the spring and in zebra finches year-round), they say the function of the nerve growth is still unknown. But they speculate it may have to do with song perception rather than song production, or with other vocalizations such as calls.

The scientists know from other experiments that while new cells in the canary HVC are being born, others are dying. "We don't know which ones are dying or what their functions may be," said Alvarez-Buylla. Nor do they know exactly what function this cycle of birth and death may serve.

"Birds are relatively long-lived and have a limited brain size. So if the size of the brain sets a limit to how much information you can store, a system of replaceable components can generate new brain space all the

time — at the expense of old brain space and old memories," Nottebohm said. He also cautioned, "Every bit of what I just said is speculative."

Alvarez-Buylla said another explanation is also possible.

➡ See **Birds** on page 4

## Another merchant offers discount

In the October 12 issue of *News and Notes* we listed area businesses that offer discounts to university employees. Since then, Jay Han, who works part-time in Public Affairs, has reported that the bookstore Hudson News at 265 E. 66th Street can also be added to the list. Hudson News offers those holding Rockefeller ID cards a 15% discount on everything in the store except newspapers and magazines. ➡➡

## Birds (continued from page 3)

"Birds have very little cortex," he said, referring to the brain area in mammals that coordinates input and controls higher brain functions. "The birth of new neurons (neurogenesis) and the death of older ones may provide the needed plasticity to modify circuits in animals that don't have access to the numerous interactions provided by the cortex."

All these questions remain to be answered, as does the question of what relevance neurogenesis may have for the brains of adult mammals, where the phenomenon is much rarer and

much more limited in scope.

But the hope is that in discovering what mobilizes and controls the process in birds, knowledge will be gained that can eventually be used to treat destruction of human brain cells due to injury or disease.

"We've shown that a process once thought to occur only in the developing brain is possible in adult brains," said Alvarez-Buylla. "If we can find out what it takes to get neurogenesis going in an adult environment, we might be able to encourage the process when it is desirable."

—by Susan Blum

## Nervous about new computer viruses?



Disinfectant 2.3, a new version of one of the best Macintosh virus detector/remover utilities, has just been released and is being distributed free of charge by Computing Services. It incorporates changes needed to counter a virus recently discovered in Ithaca, NY. This new virus was apparently intended to be harmless, but it carries a defect that causes system crashes.

Computing Services attempts to stay current on computer viruses and makes free Macintosh anti-viral utilities available to the campus community. In addition

to Disinfectant 2.3, they presently offer Gatekeeper 1.1.1, Gatekeeper-aid 1.0.2 and Virus-Detective 4.0.3.

To update or pick up any of these programs, go to the User Area (Smith Hall, Room B7) and copy them from the User Area MacPlus Virus Archive Folder, or download from the UNIX directory

`/mac+pc/mac/PublicFiles/  
Virus Checkers`

In addition, some PC anti-virus utilities are available in

`/mac+pc/pc/PublicFiles/VirusProtect`

including the SCAN series of shareware, which is updated almost weekly.

*Let's try this again. . .*

## Coming holidays

Last week's issue of *News and Notes* mistakenly reported that the university would be closed for only two days at Christmas, not three. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Below is a corrected list of days the university is officially closed through New Year's.

### Election Day

Tuesday, November 6

### Thanksgiving

Thursday and Friday,  
November 22, 23

### Christmas

Monday, Tuesday, and  
Wednesday,  
December 24, 25, 26

### New Year's

Tuesday, January 1

## Birth

**Vincent R. Prezioso**, Graduate Fellow in the Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology, and his wife, **Robin**, had a daughter on October 19. **Kristin Grace** weighed just over 5 lb. when she was born in New York Hospital.



*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.