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news & notes

October 2, 1992 Volume 3, Number 4

The Rockefeller University

Events pay tribute to long-time faculty and staff at university

As part of last week's celebration of the new research building, two annual events—the Anniversary and Retirement Dinner and the Employee Recognition Program—honored individuals retiring after 10 or more years of service and those who had reached their 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, or 60th anniversaries.

"I want to thank the people in this room for the years of dedicated service that made The Rockefeller University what it is today," said Chairman of the Board Richard Furlaud at the Anniversary and Retirement Dinner last Thursday. "I hope many of you here today will continue to contribute to this great institution in the exciting years which lie ahead."

President Torsten Wiesel presented the gifts at the dinner, congratulating the honorees warmly for their achievements. He found a personal word or anecdote for each person who came up to the podium.

Associate Professor Emeritus Maria Rudzinska, who was celebrating her 40th anniversary at the university, was among those honored who chose to say a few words. She said she received two surprises when she came here 40 years ago: that the university would not accept her NIH grant (she had to persuade the agency to give the grant to her personally), and that while she came to work on aging in protozoa, she ended up involved in pioneering work on the electron microscope.

"Rockefeller allowed me to live my life as an artist, pursuing my interests," Rudzinska said. "Work became my driving passion. Forty years slipped away without my

noticing the passage of time at this most unique community."

Professors Emeritus Reginald Archibald and Maclyn McCarty were also at the dinner to accept their awards for 50 years of service at the university. "I have treasured every one of the last 50 years here at Rockefeller," McCarty said. Professor and Senior Physician Emeritus Vincent Dole, who also celebrates his 50th anniversary this year, was in Europe on his honeymoon. Wiesel also presented awards to Professor Emeritus Bruce Merrifield, who retired this year, (see article, page 3), and Professor Emeritus Merrill Chase, who is celebrating his 60th anniversary (see article, this page). Professor Igor Tamm, who became emeritus this year, could not attend (see page 3).

Held in the unfinished space on the ninth floor of the new John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and David Rockefeller Research Building, the candlelit dinner and award ceremony was attended by 100 members of the community who had been at the university 25 years or more and their guests. For many, the dinner provided the first opportunity to go inside the new building, admire its spectacular view of the East River, and look at the exhibits in honor of the building's dedication.

Wiesel reinstated the tradition of holding the Anniversary and Retirement Dinner separately from



President Torsten Wiesel presents a gift to Maria Rudzinska, who is celebrating her 40th anniversary at the university, at the Anniversary and Retirement Dinner last week.

the Employee Recognition Award Program this year, in response to popular demand. The Employee Recognition Award Program, honoring those with 10 and 20 years of service, was held Friday as part of University Day. Both events were managed by Virginia Huffman, director of Personnel, and coordinated by Hemalee Patel also of the Personnel Office.

Gifts awarded at the two ceremonies were as follows: 10th anniversary, a sterling silver key chain from Tiffany & Co; 20th anniversary, a crystal bowl; 25th anniversary, a mantle clock from Tiffany & Co.; 40th anniversary, a decanter, a crystal bowl, or a copy of George Corner's "A History of The Rockefeller Institute, 1901-1953; 50th anniversary, a brass lamp; 60th anniversary, a camera which Chase selected himself; and retirees, a Tiffany & Co. watch.

Professor reflects on 60 years at RU

Professor Emeritus Merrill W. Chase joins a very select group at The Rockefeller University this year—those who have reached their 60th anniversary at the institution. Only Peyton Rous, an investigator best known for his experiments illuminating the nature of cancer, and Rebecca Lancefield, an immunologist who was the second woman to receive tenure at the university, previously achieved this distinction.

"When I look back on my career I am thankful that I had the opportunity to chart my own course," Chase said in an interview with *News&Notes* shortly before he was honored at the Anniversary and Retirement Dinner last Thursday. "The topic I was working on, mechanisms in hypersensitivity, was broad enough to allow me to work on it my whole career, but specific enough that I didn't have to justify what I was doing from year to year."

Chase began to work at Rockefeller in 1932 as a young man of 27. He worked first as an assistant to Karl Landsteiner, and later with René Dubos. Since those days, Chase notes, vast changes have occurred at Rockefeller and in the biological sciences.

In the 1930s, the university—then The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research—was divided into groups run by full members. If one of these members died, the entire group would be let go. The heads of the groups and the researchers with Ph.D.s were always called "doctor"; the technicians

See *Chase*, page 2

University plays ball



Volleyball games were among the activities on University Day Friday, part of the celebration of the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and David Rockefeller Research Building. For photos of University Day, and of Community Day which followed, see page 4.

2 Exhibits display much preparation

3 Merrifield, Tamm become emeritus

4 New biomedical forum to begin

Exhibits display months of research and design

The new research building took eight years to complete. While the exhibits displayed during last week's celebration were prepared in a shorter time frame, they also demanded great time and effort in the making.

Working with a team of Rockefeller University staff who conceived the themes of the exhibits, Shauna Mosseri, a freelance architect and designer who mounted the exhibits, started designing the displays last summer.

"I spent a lot of time researching and selecting the photos in various archives, because I wanted the exhibits to be primarily visual, not written," Mosseri said. "After we had the photos, the biggest challenge was to figure out how to display small objects in the big, open space on the ninth floor."

Mosseri overcame this difficulty by adding a curved wall on one side "to give the space a center," and painting the stairwell and exhibit

walls bright colors—yellow, purple, and red—to focus viewers' attention. The exhibits on the ninth floor included one on creating the new building, one highlighting the involvement of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and David Rockefeller in the university, and photos by Robert Reichert.

The exhibit in the atrium was written by science writer Geoff Montgomery. Consisting of eight stations, it traced the history of the buildings on campus and the science that went on within.

"The exhibit shows how the focus of science at RU changed from infectious disease to the molecular foundations not only of disease but of all life," Montgomery said. "Because the history of the university is so rich, we had to be selective. We focused on certain individuals to give viewers a taste of the great science done here."

Another exhibit, "Infection and Immunity," written by science

writer Susan Blum, explored one area of research at the university.

"I wanted to make the exhibit accessible to everyone," said Blum. "We used equipment on loan from the New York Hall of Science—two Easy-View® microscopes to show some of the microorganisms under study, and interactive computer programs. Members of George Cross's and Miklós Müller's labs were also on hand to explain their work."

Blum also coordinated the exhibit on the university's Science Outreach Program. Eleven simple, colorful posters presented some of the projects high school students, high school teachers, and their mentors worked on in Rockefeller labs over the summer.

Thanks are extended to The Rockefeller Archive Center, the construction management firm

Omissions, corrections in dedication program

Page 11: Colin MacLeod's first name was misspelled.
Page 11: The Cowburn laboratory was omitted from the list of collaborators who revealed the crystal structure of SH2 domains.
Page 14: Founder's Hall opened in 1906, not 1904.
Page 21: Archivists Renee Mastrocco and Melissa Smith, Gene Roth and the Carpenter Shop staff, and Computing Services were omitted from the acknowledgments.

Morse Diesel, the university's Media Resource Service Center, the mentors in the Science Outreach Program, and Director of Planning and Construction George Candler for their invaluable help.

Anniversary and retirement awards

Anniversary awards

60 years

Merrill W. Chase

50 Years

Reginald M.

Archibald

Vincent P. Dole

Maclyn McCarty

40 Years

Maria Rudzinska,

Barbara Sutphin

Norton D. Zinder

25 Years

Katie E. Bell

Günter Blobel

Wilbur Brunson

Paul F. Crane

Jean Clement

Isaias Coats

Frank Colosi

Anna Danner

Fannie Freeman

James M. Manning

Herbert Negron

Donald W. Pfaff

Peter H. Sellers

Maurice Stevens

Manuel Vargas

Lee-Ming Kow

Ernesto Lopez, Jr.

Patricia E. Mackey

Harold Mattsson

Aleksander

Milutinovic

Laura Nunez

Oneida Ortiz

Jessica Pash

Gloria Rapley-Davis

Martha I. Schiffner

Helen Shio

Audley White

Nyna Wilson

Susan Wong

Mary Jane

Zimmerman

10 years

Alan Aderem

Ruth P. Alpers

Franklin Aubert

Arleen D. Auerbach

Andrea D. Branch

Carol Calmer

Kaare Christian

Luis A. Colon

George A. M. Cross

Thomas M. Donnelly

Gilberto Farfan

Oliver Farley

Alvin Gadpaille

Portia Goodman

Alice Bendix Gottlieb

Paul Greengard

Leslie Grundfest

Fay Guatelli

Bjorn Gullaksen

Wilfredo Garcia

John Harrigan

Shirla Heywood

Lisa Cooper Hudgins

Wilma Leona Jacobs

Joseph Samuel Kahn

Gilla Kaplan

Angela Larkin-

Matthews

Rita LoGiudice

Marva Mannette-

Grannum

Barbara E. Manogue

Thomasina Matthew

Michael McNamara

Thomas Mineo

Clifford Newland

Emily-Jane Oakhill

Barbara E. Peart

Inna B. Perlin

Elizabeth Phillips

Harriet Seidler

Leila Semple

Anna Steiner-Cudrak

Robert B. Suter

Miguel Torres

Elaine Tuomanen

Bi Yu Tseng

Iris Vallecilla

Juan Vasquez

Luis Velilla

Antoinette Weil

Retirement awards

Barbara Adams

Dorothy Belton

Nina Casciano

Juan Cruz

Gilberto Farfan

Fannie Freeman

Wintworth L.

Johnson

Virginia Kozler

Maria Lipski

Bruce Merrifield

Miriam Phifer

Maurice Stevens

Igor Tamm

Eugene Tarasco

Krikor Tomoian

(Continued from page 1)

were called "boys." According to Chase, the institution is much less hierarchical today.

Chase believes that the recognition of DNA—a discovery made by Rockefeller investigators Oswald Avery, Colin MacLeod, and Maclyn McCarty (who celebrates his 50th anniversary here this year)—was the key discovery in the biological sciences in his lifetime.

"The recognition of DNA and RNA opened up a completely new world that no one knew before," Chase said. "It changed the kinds of experiments biologists did. It was a tremendous advance in our understanding of living things."

Not all the changes over the last 60 years have been good, according to Chase. He believes that waste, such as using and discarding plastic test tubes and pipettes after one use, has crept into laboratory techniques. Attitudes have also changed. "Today, with the illusion of easy profits through patents, scientists are too often more concerned with gaining personal recog-

nition than working on hard problems," he said.

Chase was the first to demonstrate that contact-type allergies can be transferred from sensitized individuals to normal animals by means of lymphocytes, and to discover that animals, by feeding of allergenic chemicals, can be made tolerant to sensitization. Chase received many honors for his groundbreaking research, being elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

Since his retirement in 1979, Chase has concentrated his energies on writing a history of The Rockefeller University. The book, entitled "A Medical Gamble: Developing The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research," chronicles the history of the institution which he knows so well.

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Merrill W. Chase

Merrifield becomes emeritus after revolutionizing field

Editor's note: Bruce Merrifield, who became professor emeritus this year, was honored along with Igor Tamm (see below) and others at the Anniversary and Retirement Dinner last week. In this article, excerpted from Search magazine, Bonnie Kaiser of the Science Outreach Program reflects on Merrifield and his career.

By Bonnie Kaiser

My first impression of Bruce Merrifield dates from a ceremony honoring him in 1970. Presenting the award was Tom Bruice, a chemist at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Tom recalled first meeting Merrifield in the late 1950s and being deeply impressed with the scientist, yet highly skeptical that a novel idea of Merrifield's, growing out of his research, would work. The gathering of scientists laughed knowingly in appreciation of Merrifield's triumph. These scientists, who picked future Nobel laureates the way others picked thoroughbred horses, predicted that although Merrifield himself never would have thought it, someday the world would also recognize his triumph.

Recognition did come to Merrifield in the form of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1984 for his

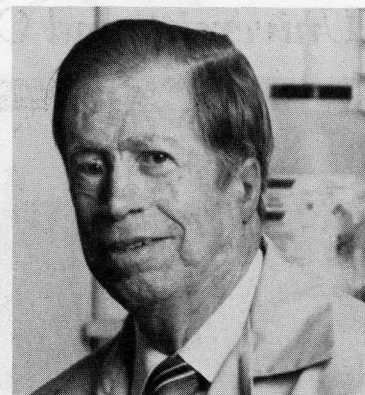
novel idea, the development of a simple and ingenious method for synthesizing peptides and proteins, a technology that helps researchers precisely penetrate and manipulate biological molecules. The Nobel-granting body, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said of his work that it created "completely new possibilities in the field of peptide and protein chemistry, as well as in the field of nucleic acid chemistry where other researchers have applied Merrifield's ideas."

Merrifield said, however, with characteristic modesty, "Some are dubious when I say I did not ever expect such a thing—but it is surely true. And I still do not know how it happened, but I am grateful. I am also grateful that my wife, Libby, was with me when the news came and could share the whole thing, including the trip to Sweden and the award ceremony."

Reading Merrifield's biography along with recent reprints helped me realize that he invented solid phase synthesis in order to do what he really wanted to do: study the chemistry and biochemistry of peptides and proteins. For that he needed a reliable method for synthesizing peptides quickly, in high yield, and of high optical and chemical purity.

To help understand Merrifield's interest in the synthesis of peptides and proteins, it is instructive to back up to 1943 and Bruce Merrifield's first job. Fresh out of college, he worked as a technician, cleaning cages and feeding rats and chickens. Serendipitously, this led to his participation in a significant experiment designed to show the importance of essential amino acids in protein biosynthesis. Proteins, and their shorter counterparts, peptides, are molecules made up of individual units called amino acids. These amino acids are not stored in the body; they are synthesized as needed. However, the "essential" amino acids cannot be synthesized and must come from the diet. The mechanism of protein biosynthesis was not known at that time. This experiment lent some support to the idea that cells might make proteins using amino acids as the starting material, and, most importantly, showed for the first time that all essential amino acids must be present at the same time for protein synthesis and growth to occur.

After completing graduate work at UCLA where he worked on nucleic acid research with M. S. Dunn, Merrifield was invited by Rockefeller scientist D. W. Woolley to join his laboratory and work on



Bruce Merrifield

finding and characterizing peptide growth factors for bacteria. The work relied on an effective yet time-consuming and difficult chemical synthesis.

Merrifield realized that synthesizing the many peptides required for his study would be easier and faster if there were a new method of synthesis, so he developed one—chemical synthesis on a solid matrix, a totally novel technology.

As Merrifield becomes professor emeritus this year, culminating a career at Rockefeller that spans 43 years, he is looking ahead, not back. Retirement, as most people think of it, is not in the picture. As he states in his autobiography, "...now it is time to return to reality and resume my research because so many things remain to be done."

Tamm retires after pioneering work on viruses

By Geoff Montgomery

Igor Tamm, Abby Rockefeller Mauze Professor and senior physician of The Rockefeller University Hospital, retires this year to become emeritus. His career as member and then head of the university's virology laboratory spans 43 years—nearly a half-century during which viruses lost their status as some of the most mysterious entities known to biologists and became instead some of the best-understood life-forms on earth. Distinguished alumni of his lab include Nobel laureate David Baltimore, a Rockefeller professor and former president of the university, and Purnell Choppin, director of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Tamm was born in Tapa, Estonia in 1922. After studying at several European Universities, including the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, he came to the United States in 1945 to attend the Yale University School of Medicine. There he began work on the influenza virus—a microbe which was to become the subject of two of his greatest discoveries—while on the staff of Francis G. Blake, who had studied pneumonia at The Rockefeller Hospital in the 1920s.

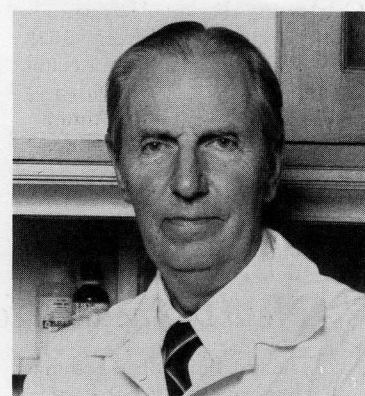
"At Yale," says Tamm, "I had made a deliberate decision to start investigating viruses, on the grounds that they represented the simplest forms of life and that therefore they should be the best material for the investigation of interactions between living matter and physical and chemical forces." Given Tamm's interest in investigating this zone between the living and non-living, Blake advised him to seek a position at a place where virology had a long and preeminent history—The Rockefeller Institute, where such renowned researchers as Thomas M. Rivers and Frank L. Horsfall worked.

"After arriving in Dr. Horsfall's laboratory at Rockefeller," Tamm says, "I became intrigued by the interaction of the influenza virus and receptors on the cell surface, and the ability of certain body fluids, such as the allantoic fluid of the chicken embryo, to block the attachment of these virus particles." Tamm soon found that human urine also contained a substance capable of inhibiting influenza virus attachment: a glycoprotein that became known as Tamm-Horsfall protein. Research into the properties of this protein, which is anchored to the cell membrane via a special linkage, contin-

ues in many laboratories today.

Tamm's second line of attack on influenza virus replication stemmed from his reading about another Rockefeller venture, the discovery by Oswald Avery, Colin MacLeod, and Maclyn McCarty that genes are made of DNA. Tamm says, "In the early fifties, I had the idea that it should be possible to inhibit the synthesis of a nucleic acid selectively," thus interrupting viral replication at its most crucial point—the stage when genes are copied. In a pathbreaking collaboration with researchers at Merck, Tamm found that DRB, a benzimidazole derivative, inhibited influenza virus replication, but this was because the virus required a host cell enzyme, RNA Polymerase II, for its replication. DRB has proved essential in elucidating fundamental processes by which genetic information is read and regulated. In a second line of studies, Tamm and his colleagues discovered a second benzimidazole derivative that selectively inhibits the synthesis of the RNA of another class of viruses, the enteroviruses.

The discovery in Tamm's laboratory that certain viruses (reoviruses in animals and wound tumor viruses in plants) possess double-stranded RNA, a novel form of genetic

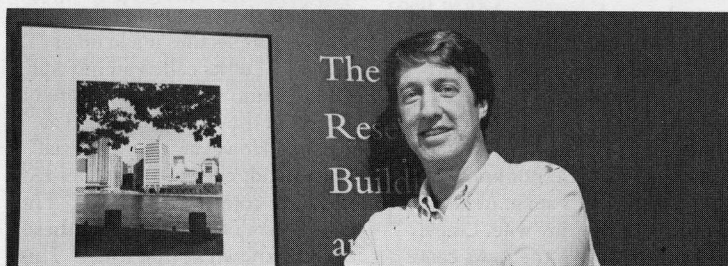
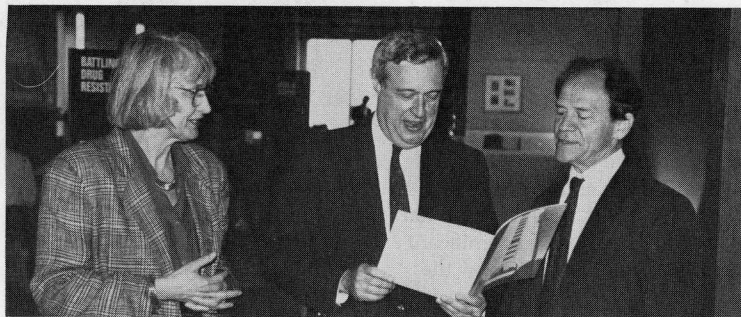


Igor Tamm

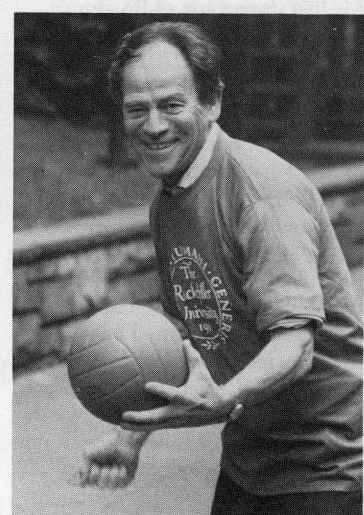
material, was followed by the demonstration at Merck that double-stranded viral or synthetic RNA is the most potent inducer of β -interferon in cells.

In recent years, Tamm's work has focused on the action on cells of regulatory molecules that different cells produce under various circumstances. His laboratory has defined the role of growth factors in cell survival. Tamm and his group have done pioneering research on the effects of β -interferon on the proliferation and motility of normal cells. They have also studied the influence of other cytokines, especially interleukin-6, on the form and function of both normal and cancerous cells. These and related studies will continue in Tamm's emeritus tenure.

University and Community Days celebrate new building with style



Center: Photographer Robert Reichert stands with his exhibit on the ninth floor. **Top left:** Congressman Bill Green (**center**) gets a tour of the new building from President Torsten Wiesel and V.P. for Public Affairs and Corporate Secretary Ingrid Reed on Community Day. **Top center:** Reginald Archibald receives an award for 50 years of service. **Top right:** Maclyn McCarty accepts his 50-year award. **Right:** Wiesel practices his serve before the volleyball games. **Left:** Associate Professor Elaine Tuomanen gives a lecture to a packed room on Community Day.



Potpourri

Tri-Institutional Noon Recital

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and the Quint-Centennial, the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital begins its seventh season with a performance by El Grupo Antara del Barrio today (Oct. 2) at noon in Caspary Auditorium. The group won first prize at the 1992 Kingston (Ontario) Buskers Rendezvous. Its

music combines indigenous Andean music and Afro-Peruvian rhythms with contemporary salsa and jazz from South America. Admission is free and open to the Tri-Institutional community.

Sunday film

Big Trouble, directed by John Cassavetes, will be shown at 7:30

P.M., Sun., Oct. 4, in Caspary Auditorium. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Open House

Are you wondering what the inside of your Macintosh looks like? Looking for a "friendlier" way to use e-mail on your PC? Come to Computing Services's Open House, Mon., Oct. 5, from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. in Smith Hall A21, to get your questions answered.

The Open House will celebrate the official opening of Computing Services's new User Area and Classroom. A ribbon-cutting by President Torsten Wiesel (2:30 P.M.) will be followed by demonstrations of popular and new packages, and tours of the campus network and communications hub and machine room. Refreshments will be served.

Program demonstrations include:

- Molecular modeling;
- GCG (Wisconsin) package for sequencing;
- NuPop, a menu-based e-mail front end for PCs;
- Telnet "look-up" services;
- New features of Excel and Word;
- Kermit (on different platforms);
- Campus information—telephone book, library card catalog, bulletin boards and calendar;

- File translations between PCs and Macs and between different software;
- An open Macintosh and PC, with explanations.

Electronics Lab courses

The Electronics Laboratory is offering a course in analog and digital circuits. The first meeting for the course, Electronic Techniques, will be held Wed., Oct. 7, at 3:00 P.M. in Caspary 1B. The course will consist of weekly lectures and will be supplemented by six newly developed laboratory experiments. Lawrence Eisenberg, adjunct faculty, is teaching the course. He can be reached at x7896 or Box 297.

Nutrition workshop

The Rockefeller University Hospital Dietary Service is once again offering a six-week series of workshops focusing on weight management and lifestyle. The hour-and-a-half classes will begin Tues., Oct. 13, in Hospital 128. One participant in a previous class lost 12 pounds and lowered her cholesterol 20 points over a six-month period; another lost 38 pounds and lowered her blood pressure from an elevated to a normal range. Contact Employee Health, x8414, to set up a brief appointment to determine eligibility.

New biomedical forum begins

The first Biomedical Forum for physicians and scientists will be Wed., Oct. 14, at 5:00 P.M. in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Lounge. Professor Zanvil A. Cohn, vice president for medical affairs, created this forum to provide opportunities for researchers to meet and share their interests in medical and clinical research with New York City colleagues. The forum will begin with informal discussions and sherry and conclude with a short talk by a member on a topic related to experimental medicine.

At the first forum, Professor Emeritus Maclyn McCarty will speak on "The Early

History of Clinical Investigation at The Rockefeller Institute." McCarty—who worked on the 1944 discovery that DNA is the carrier of genetic information—was physician-in-chief of The Rockefeller University Hospital for 14 years.

Future meetings of the forum will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 P.M. Speakers and dates will be announced in The Rockefeller University Calendar. Call Grace Silvestri, x8103, to make a reservation. [Note: The first meeting will be held on a Wednesday, not a Tuesday as announced previously.]