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NEWS AND NOTES 1991, DECEMBER 13

The Rockefeller University

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news & notes

December 13, 1991 Volume 2, Number 14

The Rockefeller University

Robert Reichert



Pedro Torres (left) and Philemon Downer are two of the men from Security who tracked down a mugging suspect Tuesday.

Culprit caught in campus chase

Rockefeller security guards helped the metropolitan police capture an alleged mugger, accused of stealing the purse of a 67-year-old woman on York Ave. and 68th St., Tuesday.

At around 6:00 p.m., Security Guard Wilwyn Clarke spotted a man jumping onto the Rockefeller University campus from the fence behind The New York Hospital's Payne Whitney Clinic. The man was wearing blue jeans and a dirty, light brown overcoat. Clarke immediately alerted his supervisor to the situation and pursued the suspect. His supervisor contacted

New York City police and then joined the chase.

"I always keep an eye out," said Clarke. "It's my job to keep the campus secure."

Lieutenant Pedro Torres, Sergeant William Roldan, and Security Guard Philemon Downer assisted Clarke and the police, who arrived soon after, in pursuing the suspect. They found him perched on a ledge between President's House and Smith Hall.

"The security team knows the property thoroughly," said Clarke. "But he didn't. We found him trapped, hanging on to a railing."

The suspect was arrested by Officer Gough of the 19th Precinct and charged with robbery, criminal possession of stolen property, and resisting arrest. The stolen purse was recovered.

Joseph Nekola, Director of Security, said: "The Security team did good work. If a Rockefeller guard hadn't seen the suspect jumping the fence, he probably would have escaped and the woman would never have recovered her property."

Director retires after two decades at Children's School

Barbara Adams, director of the Rockefeller University Children's School for 18 years, announced last week that she will retire at the end of this academic year.

"I have loved my job as director of the Children's School," said Adams. "One of the greatest scientific projects of this university is the education of its children. As director I tried to anticipate the changing needs of the Rockefeller community in order to better serve our children and their families. Now I am ready for a less hectic pace of life."

Under Adams's leadership, the school responded to the growing needs of parents on campus: it began to offer a summer program, longer hours, and an after-school program.

"It provides a tremendous peace of mind to Rockefeller parents to know that their children are nearby, in a high-quality program," Adams said. "There is a sense that the family is connected and that parents can be there for their children."

The parent-child program is

among Adams's innovative projects. The program, which began in 1985, prepares families for the school years ahead. The children, six to thirty-two months old, learn a degree of independence, while parents have the opportunity to discuss a myriad of child-raising issues.

Adams began teaching at the school in 1967, one year after the school opened. "I came to fill in for two weeks, and I ended up staying three years," she said. In 1970, she left to become director of another

program. In 1974, she came back to the Rockefeller Children's School as director.

Looking back at her two decades at the Rockefeller Children's School, Adams said: "I would like to thank so many people in the Rockefeller community—the far-sighted donors such as Marianne Gerschel, president of the Spunk Fund, Inc., whose generous contributions have helped the

See *Director*, page 2

Check for wage supplements Tuesday

Rockefeller faculty and staff affected by the wage freeze will receive their wage supplements next Tues., Dec. 17. The wage supplement—which equals two percent of annual base salary, minus withholding—was announced by President David Baltimore at the State of the University address Oct. 28.

"Checks can be picked up at the payroll window in the controller's

office, after 10 a.m.," said John Harrigan, controller and associate treasurer. "Just follow the same procedure as for picking up regular payroll checks."

According to Harrigan, about 90 percent of the faculty and staff will receive a supplement. Questions about individual eligibility should be directed to Personnel, x8300.

Robert Reichert



Recreational therapist Elizabeth Gorman (left) decorates the hospital's Christmas tree with Susan Ahn, patient and volunteer. The Founder's Hall trees were more difficult to install (see page 2).

2 Workers begin cable installation

3 Torsten Wiesel: A conversation with long-time colleague Charles Gilbert

Safety tip: beware of strangers

Everyone on campus should watch out for a con artist who recently targeted a member of the RU community, cautions Joseph Nekola, director of Security.

The ruse proceeds as follows. The con artist approaches an individual, sometimes calling him or her by name. He identifies himself as the relative of a fellow Rockefeller employee—whom he also may refer to by name. He then asks for money, explaining that he has run out of gas or his car has broken down and promising that his relative will pay the money back.

"Needless to say, you will never see this person again and the co-worker will have no idea who he was," Nekola says. "Don't be taken in by the fact that someone knows your name or the name of someone on campus. Con artists can learn them from delivery persons or campus directories."



Contractors from AT&T have begun installing miles of cable throughout campus.

Workers begin cable installation

Workers began installing copper and fiberoptic cable in Tower and Smith Hall Annex this week. When the new telecommunications system is in place, the cables will dramatically improve and enhance transmission throughout campus.

"We're trying our best to work around each lab's schedule," said Daniel Gearon, Telecommunication's project manager for cable and construction. "We know the installation can be disruptive. Just let me know if there are any

Grinch almost steals Christmas trees

A pair of seven-foot Christmas trees finally went up in front of Founder's Hall last Friday—although for a while it looked like the Grinch would steal the trees' Christmas. For the last 10 years the trees have been placed in four foot wells in the asphalt on either side of the main entranceway. Last month Maintenance Electrician Frank Colosi, who installs the trees, noticed that the caps had been covered when the circle was recently re-paved.

Colosi called James Sullivan, Grounds supervisor, and Eugene Keveny, the Carpenter Shop's Maintenance Mechanic, to the rescue. After three or four hours of drilling holes in the pavement, looking for the caps by trial and error, they finally hit pay dirt. "It was an adventure," said Sullivan.

"Once we found the first cap, though, the second was easy to locate."

Colosi and his colleague Hazeem Kahn were then able to secure the Canadian Douglas firs in their place of honor. They later decorated them with small, white lights.

"Everyone loves the Founder's Hall trees," said Katharine Cameron, Furniture and Interiors Manager. "You can see them light up when you leave at night."

Cameron added that there are many other Christmas trees on campus. A seven-foot Blue Spruce was delivered to the President's House and a Douglas fir was taken to the paintshop where it was

fireproofed before being delivered to the third floor of the hospital.

Eight-foot artificial trees will grace both the 17th-floor Tower dining hall and the cafeteria. In addition, poinsettias will generate holiday cheer in Rockefeller's public areas.

Elizabeth Gorman, recreational therapist at the hospital, has made decorating the hospital's tree a tradition. Gorman and the patients she works with will endeavor to make as many new ornaments as they can to supplement the supply from previous years. According to Gorman, this year the tree will feature "really adorable" macaroni angels and will look especially festive with the lounge's new carpet.

Teenagers learn about biological clocks

A select group of 250 local high school students will come to Rockefeller on Dec. 26 and 27 to hear Professor Michael W. Young give four lectures on "Biological Clocks," this year's Alfred E. Mirsky Christmas Lectures on Science.

Young will speak on:

- The evidence for innate biological pacemakers (Dec. 26, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.);
- The anatomy of timekeeping: locating biological clocks within the organism and the genes that control them (Dec. 26, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.);

• Cells and molecules required for biological timekeeping (Dec. 27, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.);

• Human health and biological timekeeping (Dec. 27, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.).

The Mirsky Christmas lecture series began at Rockefeller in 1959. Professor Alfred E. Mirsky and President Detlev Bronk borrowed the idea of scientific lectures delivered at Christmastime from the Royal Institution of Great Britain, where the famous chemist Michael Faraday began a similar series in 1826. For more information, contact Sandra Walsh, x8072.

Director of Children's School retires

Continued from page 1

school maintain quality programs and facilities, the families who devoted endless hours to fund-raising, the staff who always came right away to change a light bulb or fix a problem with the heating system. The support I have received is phenomenal.

"I would also like to thank all the international families who shared their cultures with us," she continued. "That exchange enriched both the staff and the children. I am happy that we had the opportunity to help them integrate into life in New York."

Adams was director while the children of many Rockefeller students, faculty, and staff attended the school—including those of Rockefeller investigators Bruce Cunningham, Joshua Lederberg, David Mauzerall, and Shigeru Sassa. One former student of the school, Jonathan Dworkin, is now a graduate student in the Zinder-Model lab. Dworkin recalls his years at the school fondly: "It was a wonderful place. They took

problems."

At the peak of the installation up to 35 AT&T contractors will work on three sites on campus simultaneously. Workers recently completed the bulk of the cable installation in the new lab building. Next week they will begin work in Smith Hall. Cable installation is scheduled to continue until March.

When the new telecommunications system is up and running next April, it will provide the university with faster, clearer, and more extensive service.



Barbara Adams

incredibly good care of me."

Now Adams is looking forward to her retirement. "While leaving is very sad for me, I am excited by the prospect of entering a new phase of my life, one that will offer me more relaxed time with my family," she said.

She is married to Bert Adams, a painter and print maker who was an artist in the Works Progress Administration arts program. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Mail chute falls down on job

The mail chute in Tower should be used with caution, advises James Z. Metalios, Director of Physical Facilities.

The chute has become blocked several times recently, usually near the third floor where there is a protrusion within the chute. Plant Operations and the Mail Room will monitor the full length of the chute in order to promptly discover any blockages. After a few months, an assessment will be made whether to keep the mail chute active or to discontinue its use.

The mail deposited into the Tower chute finds its way into the U.S. Postal Mailbox located on the first floor. This mail is picked up on weekdays at 2:00 p.m. and on Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

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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.

RU card sends season's greetings

Cards featuring a sketch of The Rockefeller University front gate by artist Chen-Ju Sun are available in Media Resources, Bronx 114. "They make wonderful Christmas cards," said Marie Kotschedoff, customer service representative. "They're selling quite briskly." A set of 15 cards, plus envelopes, costs \$7.00.



Torsten Wiesel: A conversation with colleague Charles Gilbert

Following last week's announcement naming Torsten Wiesel as RU's president-elect, News&Notes set out to learn more about him. Wiesel was in Sweden at the Nobel Jubilee, so Doron Weber spoke for News&Notes with Charles Gilbert, a long-time collaborator who is a professor at Rockefeller. Gilbert was Wiesel's student 20 years ago at Harvard and moved here with Wiesel in 1983.

Weber: When did you first meet Dr. Wiesel?

Gilbert: I met Torsten in 1971. I was an M.D.-Ph.D. student at Harvard Medical School and I was doing my graduate work in the Department of Neurobiology under Torsten and David Hubel. To my mind this was the best lab at the time for research in neural systems. After I finished the program, I stayed at Harvard because of the opportunities for collaborating with Torsten and other people in the department. I eventually received a faculty appointment there and then moved with Torsten to Rockefeller in 1983.

Weber: What can you tell us about Dr. Wiesel's scientific background?

Gilbert: He received his medical training in Sweden and began to do some research there but didn't really begin in earnest until he came to work with Steve Kuffler at Johns Hopkins in 1958. Steve was a very powerful influence on Torsten and other people in his group. He helped create an environment where virtue was equated with innovation and clear thinking, the best kind of environment for doing science. Torsten very much shared this fundamental interest in science and in ideas. He collaborated with David Hubel for about 20 years, most of that time at the neurobiology department at Harvard which Steve Kuffler founded. It was a very fertile environment in which their work flourished. Torsten and David did their pivotal work there for which they received the Nobel Prize in 1981.

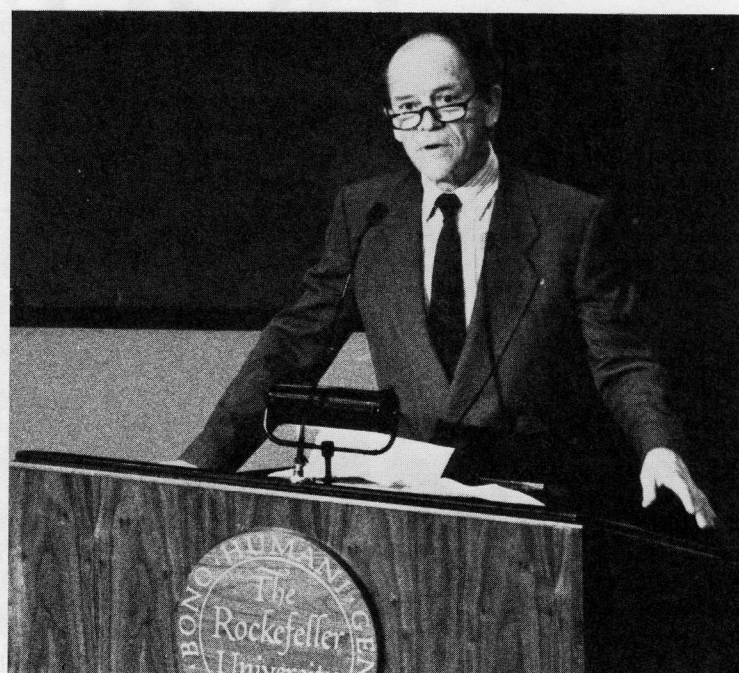
Weber: How did Dr. Wiesel react to winning the Nobel Prize?

Gilbert: It was characteristic of Torsten to want to play down this kind of honor. On the morning when he was informed of receiving the prize, he had a previously scheduled tennis game with a colleague. So, while everyone was standing around waiting to heap him with honors, he was playing tennis.

Weber: What kind of president do you think he'll make?

Gilbert: Well, I think one thing that typifies his dealings is that he's an extremely judicious person. He has an acute sense of fairness and is very straightforward. He is valued by the people he advises for being very direct and quite frank while still being supportive wherever possible. With Torsten there is a real sense that you're not dealing with a politician, that there are no internal agendas. People around the country are constantly calling upon him to help in the operations of departments and institutes, advising private foundations and government agencies. He has always had a strong sense of civic responsibility and has tended to give more of himself to these kinds of duties than most people. And that was probably what governed his participation in the recent events at Rockefeller. Rather than having a particular ambition to the president, he was willing to step into the situation to ensure the well-being of the university.

Also, Torsten has considerable breadth in science and is interested



According to Professor Charles Gilbert, Torsten Wiesel is "an extremely judicious person" who has "an acute sense of fairness."

in developing a number of different areas of scientific research. He has, to my mind, a very sharp judgment about what constitutes good science, what are areas of research or experiments that really are of consequence and lead to a fundamental understanding of things as opposed to work that is more derivative or phenomenological. I think this will be very helpful in terms of identifying and recruiting new investigators who will enrich the scientific environment.

Weber: Recruiting is one of the acknowledged needs here: we need to lure younger, talented faculty who will be in the front ranks of science for years to come. Do you feel Dr. Wiesel will be aggressive about recruiting?

Gilbert: Yes. I think that he will definitely follow through with the program of recruitment that was put in place by David Baltimore's efforts. Torsten is committed to ensuring continuity in this program of bringing new blood to the university and providing support for an academic structure that encourages younger, more independent investigators to run their own laboratories. Also, there is an acknowledged need to step up the fund-raising activities, to help put the university on a firmer financial footing. I don't think Torsten would have taken on the job without realizing the need to be active in raising money for the university.

Weber: What kind of tone do you think he will set as president?

Gilbert: He wants to be in more direct touch with the investigators, and not just at the senior level—but

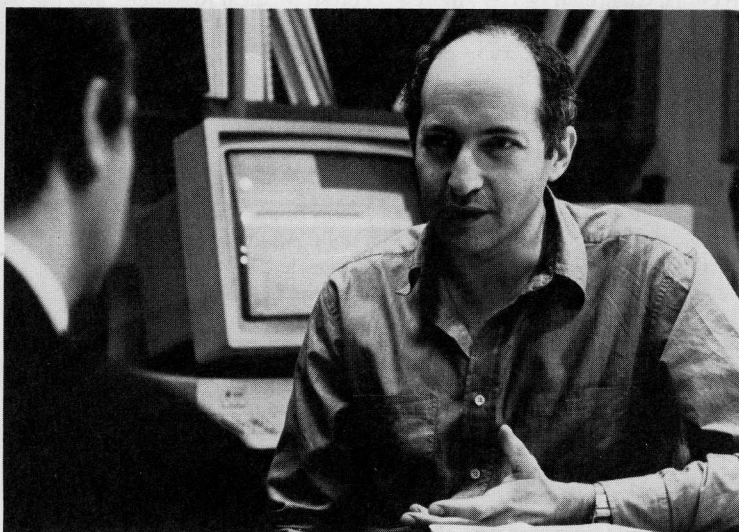
to engage the entire community in a dialogue and to forge as many links as possible between the administration and the faculty. I think Torsten remembers the days of Bronk when Bronk used to walk around and turn out the lights in the various labs using that time as an opportunity to communicate with the people who were working here. I think he wants to return a bit to that sort of family atmosphere at the university. People who are working late in their labs shouldn't be surprised to see the president show up at their doorstep and chat about their experiments.

Weber: Has Rockefeller been a good place for him?

Gilbert: Yes. I think both in terms of the Rockefeller environment and the greater New York environment. He's had a long-standing love affair with New York. Even when he first came to this country from Sweden he passed through New York on the way to Maryland and right away he felt a romantic attraction to the city. He's very much interested in art, music, and literature, and the cultural richness of New York has been one of his greatest joys. He's very much involved in it.

Weber: Will he continue to do his own research while serving as president?

Gilbert: Yes. I think he still wants to run his own laboratory. I doubt that he'll have much time to participate in the experiments, but I'm sure he'll continue to take an active interest in suggesting experiments and discussing results. I think people in his lab understand the importance of what he's doing for the university.



Professor Charles Gilbert has studied and collaborated with Rockefeller's president-elect for 20 years.

Potpourri

Bake sale

A bake sale in Tower lobby from 8:30 to 3:30 today (Dec. 13) will benefit the Children's School.

Toys for Tots

Media Resources is collecting new, unwrapped toys to be sent to needy children as part of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. Toys should be brought to Bronk 114 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Fridays).

Sunday film

Round Midnight (1986, Bertrand Tavernier) will be shown in Caspary Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Sun., Dec. 15. The film, a tribute to Dexter Gordon, contains live music by such greats as Gordon, Herbie Hancock, Freddie Hubbard, Bobby Hutcherson, Ron Carter, Billy Higgins, and Lonette McKee. Free.

Holiday Festivity

Everyone on campus is invited to the university's annual Holiday Festivity, hosted by David Baltimore and Alice Huang, Tues., Dec. 17, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., on the 17th Floor of Tower. Barbara Kazmierczak, biomedical fellow in the Zinder-Model lab, will play piano.

Children's School Concert

The Children's School Winter Concert will take place in Caspary Auditorium next Fri., Dec. 20, at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

RU professor wins award

The Joseph Augustin Le Prince Award of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, given every third year, was presented to Professor Emeritus William Trager at the annual meeting of the society in Boston, Dec. 1 to 5. Also attending the meeting were Rockefeller Research Associates G. S. Gill and J. H. Williams, coauthor with Trager of a paper given at a session on the biology of malaria parasites.

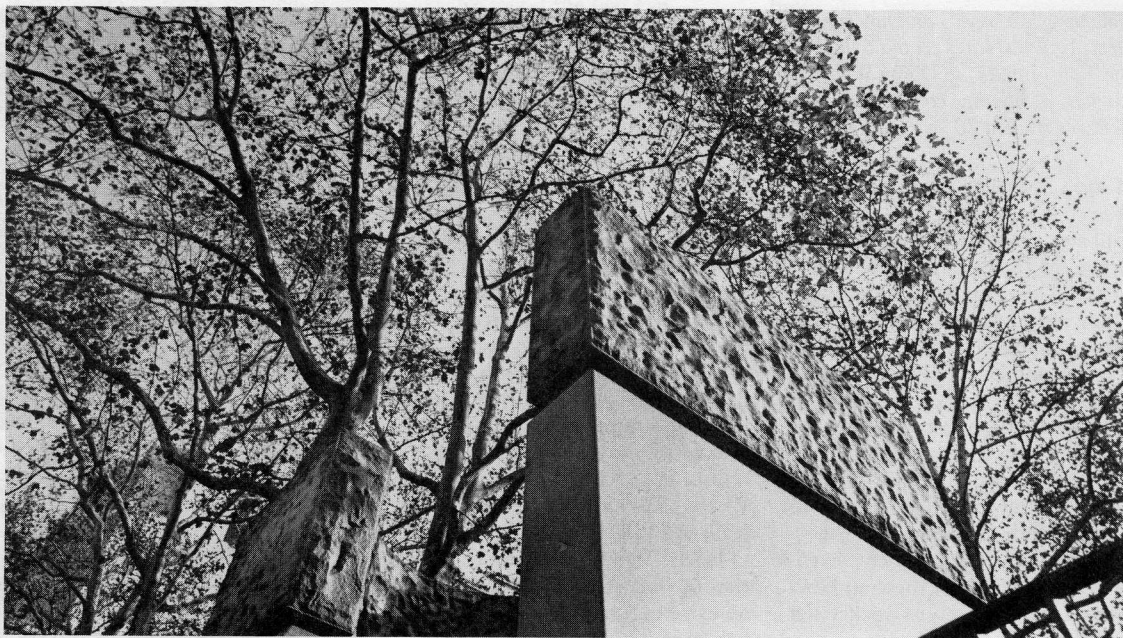
Birth

Elizabeth Gould, postdoc in the McEwen lab, and Mark Allan are the parents of a baby girl, Lindsey Shayne Allan, born on Nov. 15.



Lindsey Shayne Allan

Corners



Trees crown the Avery Memorial Gate near Caspary Hall.

Appointments

Research Associate: Klaus Schneider, Chait lab.

Postdoctoral Associate: Isabelle Maisonneuve, Kreek lab.

Guest Investigators: Yasuyuki Katagiri, Chua lab; Jane Corty Spetzler, Merrifield lab.

Departures

Research Associate: John Aris, Blobel lab.

Postdoctoral Associate: Jozsef Gulyas, Merrifield lab.

Postdoctoral Fellow: Agnes Marie Sa Figueiredo, Tomasz lab.

Guest Investigator: Matthias Mack, Blobel lab

Adjunct Faculty: Chester Alper, Geliebter lab.

Nobel Jubilee

Rockefeller Professor Emeritus Christian de Dube attended the Nobel Jubilee recently in Scandinavia with fellow Rockefeller laureates David Baltimore, Gerald M. Edelman, Joshua Lederberg, R. Bruce Merrifield, and Torsten Wiesel.

Computer workshops

Workshops for personal computers and for the central computer (UNIX) will continue through Jan. 17. All workshops are open to everyone on campus and are free. Registration is required. To register, call x8925 or send electronic mail to Christa Owens (*owens*) or Carol Calmer (*calmer*). The workshops are held in Flexner extension room 363.

This is the schedule until Jan. 3. Word for Windows Part I: Dec. 16, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.; Dec. 16, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Dec. 19, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Word for Windows Part II: Dec. 17, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.; Dec. 17, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Dec. 19, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. WordPerfect Part I: Dec. 20, 9:00

a.m. - 11:00 a.m.; Dec. 20, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Jan. 2, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. WordPerfect Part II: Dec. 23, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.; Dec. 23, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Dec. 30, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Jan. 3, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Introduction to UNIX and Electronic Mail: Dec. 18, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Electronic Mail Only: Dec. 30, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Introduction to the Vi Editor: Dec. 18, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

UNIX, Vi, and Electronic Mail for Sequencers: Dec. 30, 9:00 a.m. - noon; Dec. 31, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Introduction to Sequencing Part I: Jan. 2, 9:00 a.m. - noon;

Introduction to Sequencing Part II: Jan. 3, 9:00 a.m. - noon.

RU trustee honored

Rockefeller trustee John C. Whitehead—Chairman of AEA Investors, Chairman of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, former Chairman of Goldman, Sachs & Co., and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State—was given the American Hungarian Foundation's George Washington Award Tues., Dec. 10, at the foundation's 30th annual dinner. The award honors persons who have made eminent contributions in the broad field of human knowledge, including the arts, commerce, industry, the sciences, and understanding among men and nations. The award was also presented to the actor Tony Curtis.

RU soprano sings *Amahl and the Night Visitors*

Doris Manville, secretary with the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology, and Government, is cast as Amahl's mother in the Dicapo Singers' new production of Gian-Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. The production was

designed especially for the newly renovated space in the Church of St. Jean Baptiste at 76th St. and Lexington Ave.; it includes cobblestone streets, shimmering stars, and live animals. Performances are scheduled Dec. 13 (7:00 p.m.), Dec. 14 (3:00 and 6:00 p.m.), and Dec. 15 (3:00 and 6:00 p.m.). Tickets are \$25. For further information, call 759-7652.

Singer performs *Messiah*

Jan Maier, administrative assistant with the Commonwealth Fund Book Program, sang with the Oratorio Society of New York in the society's traditional performance of *Messiah* at Carnegie Hall, Tues., Dec. 10.

Rainforest Symposium

The Rainforest Alliance is sponsoring a two-day symposium, "Tropical Forest, Medical Resources, and the Conservation of Biodiversity," to be held at RU Fri., Jan. 24 and Sat., Jan. 25. Registration information will be available in January through the Deans' Office.

RU soprano sings *Hayden*

Susan Blum, science writer in Public Affairs, sang with the Riverside Choral Society in a performance of Hayden's *Lord Nelson Mass* at Columbia University's Miller Theater yesterday (Dec. 12).

News&Notes goes on vacation

News&Notes will not be published on Dec. 20 or Dec. 27 due to the Christmas holidays. Publication will resume Jan. 3.

Classified

Eight Hartland rabbits available from the Aderem lab. For more information call x8705.