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The Rockefeller University

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# news & notes

October 16, 1992 Volume 3, Number 6

The Rockefeller University

## Lecture to address ethical issues in science

Is misconduct in science rampant? Should scientists police themselves? The Chairman of the Panel on Scientific Responsibility and the Conduct of Research, Edward E. David, will speak on these and other issues at The Rockefeller University next Wednesday as part of the second annual Tri-Institutional Ethics in Research Course.

David will speak about the panel's recent report, *Responsible Science: Ensuring the Integrity of the Research Process*. In the report, the panel—initiated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine in 1989—recommends measures that scientists, institutions, and sponsors can take to preserve and strengthen the research process.

"Concerns about integrity in the conduct of research and misconduct in science raise complex issues," David writes in the preface. "Scientists rely on an honor system based on tradition, and on the operation of self-regulating checks and balances to foster responsible research practices. But following a series of highly publicized cases of misconduct in science in the 1980s, the federal government set into motion policies and procedures that now affect every scientist and research institution seeking funding from the Public Health Service and the National Science Foundation. The problems associated with cases of misconduct in science have not yet been resolved. In addition, new concerns have emerged about the methods that are appropriate to ensure integrity in a dynamic, highly decentralized,

and diverse research enterprise."

David is president of EED, Inc., consultants to industry and government on technology and research management. His previous positions include: science advisor to the president of the United States; president, Exxon Research and Engineering Company; executive director, Bell Telephone Laboratories; and executive vice president, Gould, Inc. He is the recipient of 12 honorary degrees and has received numerous awards. David is currently a member of the National Academies of Science and Engineering, the White House Science Council, the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology, the Corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is the U.S. delegate to the NATO Science Commission.

The Tri-Institutional Ethics in

Research Course enables students and postdocs funded by National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Research Service Award Institutional Training Grants to fulfill the requirement that they receive formal instruction in the principles of scientific integrity. All new Rockefeller students as well as students and postdocs newly appointed to NIH training grants are required to attend.

The next two sessions of the course are workshops on ethical issues in science. Participants, who must pre-register, will meet Oct. 28 and Nov. 4. A final lecture, "Ethical Consideration in the Use of Animal and Human Subjects in Research," will be held in Cornell University Medical Center's Uris Auditorium, 1300 York Ave. at 69th St., at 4:00 P.M., Nov. 11. For further information, contact the Deans' Office, x8086.

## Authors of *Cool* reveal (some of) their secrets

*Cool*, a satire of the journal *Cell*, made its one and only appearance in July 1990. Despite its brief life, *Cool* achieved a degree of fame unknown to many scientific publications, spreading rapidly from the United States to laboratories around the world. *News&Notes* discovered the authors and publishers of *Cool* at The Rockefeller University. Mika Ono, editor of *News&Notes*, spoke with graduate students Jonathan and David, who requested partial anonymity, about their publication.

*News&Notes*: Tell me the story of *Cool*. How did it start?

Jonathan: When we came here we

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## American Skin Association hosts event at Rockefeller

The American Skin Association (ASA) sponsored a program of activities at The Rockefeller University Tuesday, featuring lectures by Professor and Senior Physician D. Martin Carter and landscape architect Elizabeth Banks.

Carter, the secretary of the ASA, spoke on the hazards gardening poses for the skin. He opened his talk by underlining the importance of the skin, the largest organ in the body. The skin plays a role in sensation, temperature control, wound healing, and synthesis of vitamins. It is also an important element in the body's immune system and its first line of defense against infection and injury.

Gardeners are exposed to several hazards, Carter said, among them insect bites, Lyme disease, contact dermatitis, and microbacterial or fungal infections. The most serious danger is the skin cancer, melanoma, which is promoted by overexposure to the ultraviolet rays of the sun. He emphasized that anyone who notices a mole which changes color or size should seek medical advice immediately. Melanoma, which is metastatic by nature and potentially fatal, can be cured if detected early. Carter noted that the Japanese are so con-

cerned about sunburn that they have developed a device that monitors ultraviolet radiation to warn an individual when he or she has reached the limit of safe exposure.

Next, Banks gave her presentation, illustrated with colorful slides, on the development of English palace and castle gardens from the 1600s to the present. The gardens changed from formal patterns based on geometric relationships to more

informal arrangements. A reception and dinner followed.

The nonprofit ASA, established in 1987 with the aid of a \$2.15 million start-up grant from the Carl J. Herzog Foundation, promotes and supports research on the understanding, prevention, treatment, and cure of skin diseases. The Rockefeller University has received grants of over \$150,000 from the ASA to support clinical research.



The American Skin Association hosted an event at the university Tuesday. From left to right: Barbara Gallup co-chair of the evening (with Ann Calder), Peter Bentley, president of the Carl J. Herzog Foundation, landscape architect Elizabeth Banks, and Rockefeller Professor and Senior Physician D. Martin Carter. The topiary cow jumping over the moon was created by Gallup.

2 How to respond to an emergency

3 Excerpts from *Cool*

4 Stamp may feature RU scientist



## Better safe than sorry

# How to respond to a fire or smoke emergency on campus

In early October 1991, a smoker in Bronk Laboratory carried a full waste basket to the stairwell of the third floor, and used it as an ash-tray, leaving behind a smoldering cigarette. Soon after, researchers on the ninth floor smelled smoke which was rising through the building, and promptly called the university's Office of Laboratory Safety.

Unable to find the source of the smoke, the director of Laboratory Safety asked Security to evacuate all of Bronk, interrupting numerous experiments. Meanwhile, the safety officer for the Blobel laboratory located the flaming waste basket on the third floor, and successfully extinguished the fire with a nearby fire extinguisher.

Though numerous persons were inconvenienced, and some experiments were lost during last year's fire emergency, they were spared a repeat of the devastating Bronk fire of 1982 by the early smoke report from the ninth floor.

"Calling when they first smelled the smoke was definitely the right thing to do, because any attempt to locate the source of the fire before calling might have wasted valuable time," said Amy Wilkerson, assistant to the laboratory safety director. "If, on the other hand, they had seen the smoke, not smelled it, the proper response would have been to pull the nearest fire alarm, evacuate the area, close windows and doors on the way out, and then dial x1111 to reach the university's 24-hour emergency response system." This system is in place for all medical, security, building, and fire emergencies.

"There should be no hesitancy in pulling a fire alarm," continued

Wilkerson. "People tend to hesitate before contacting an emergency crew, not realizing that emergency crews would rather respond to a false alarm than to a full-blown fire."

University policy prohibits smoking, eating, and drinking, except in designated areas, because of hazards already present in laboratory buildings. These chemical, biological, and radioactive materials can contaminate food and drink. Moreover, the university license for use of radioactive materials can be revoked by the City if any individual is found eating, drinking, or storing food in a laboratory. Such an incident would threaten all research on campus involving radioactive materials.

Wilkerson attributes the low number of serious emergencies at the university to a high level of education. In Wilkerson's opinion, education means knowing when and who to call, and includes paying attention to things that look suspicious. "A light that does not come on," Wilkerson warns, "may indicate a more serious problem such as a short or power loss which could result in a serious condition in the laboratory. In any unusual situation, it's always best to call x1111, Security, or Laboratory Safety."

The Rockefeller University's Office of Laboratory Safety offers specialized seminars on any safety topic, in addition to its monthly training sessions. For information concerning safety, prevention, and emergency procedures, or specialized seminars, contact the Office of Laboratory Safety at x8324.



A swift emergency response can prevent fires like this one that devastated a laboratory in Bronk in 1982.

## Bulletin board displays press coverage

Those who pass through the Tower building have probably noticed a new bulletin board in the lobby. The bulletin board, maintained by the Public Affairs Office, displays recent newspaper clippings about the university, announcements, and a list of the recent publications by Rockefeller University investigators.

The newspaper clippings currently displayed include an article that ran in *The New York Times* Oct. 7. about the university's dedication of the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and David Rockefeller Research Building as well as a photo of the dinner in David Rockefeller's

honor that ran in the *New York Times* Style Section Sept. 27.

The list of publications by Rockefeller University investigators, a service called Research Alert compiled by the Institute for Scientific Information, is updated weekly. Each entry includes the name of the paper, the authors, and the journal in which the paper appeared.

For further information, contact the Public Affairs Office, x8967.



Jennifer Horne King

## New assistant editor joins *News&Notes*

Jennifer Horne King, formerly an assistant for research in the Kreek laboratory, joined the staff of the university's Office of Public Affairs last week. She will write for *News&Notes* and the new publication *The Rockefeller University Today* as well as being involved with press and community relations.

King graduated in 1990 from Cornell University. She came to The Rockefeller University as part of her preparation for medical school, and worked on projects concerning the neurobiology of cocaine addiction.

"Gradually, my feelings changed about becoming a physician," King said. "I came to miss the arts, particularly creative writing. I enjoy developing a story, and seeing it through the final stages. Someday, I hope to become an editor. What better way to make this sort of transition than to become involved with the university's publications?"

*News&Notes* Editor Mika Ono will be on vacation from Mon., Oct. 19 to Fri., Nov. 6. During her absence, questions pertaining to *News&Notes* may be addressed to King, box 68 or x8967.

*News&Notes* is published each Friday throughout the academic year by The Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021. Phone: 212-327-8967.

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Ideas and submissions can be sent interoffice (Box 68), by electronic mail (newsno), or by fax (212-327-7876).

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# RU students reveal story of Cool

(continued from page 1)

were budding young molecular biologists. The first thing you do here is start reading journals. *Cell* was the hot molecular biology journal. Reading it became ridiculous because it is so trendy. You see the same kind of articles again and again, just with different authors. So *Cool* was a parody on that, and on the style of the journal.

David: They use these Macintosh font styles to produce this California cool jazz feeling.

News&Notes: Did you work together on *Cool*?

David: Not really. Jonathan did all the work and I took all the credit.

Jonathan: But it was David's idea. We had this running gag when we were roommates. David started getting *Cell*. He would walk into my room and say, "What's in *Cool*?" Every time we'd pick up an issue there would be four articles on exactly the same topic. The titles were just a little different. Then one morning I sat down and wrote *Cool*. It wasn't for publication. We faxed it to a couple of friends. Then we gave it to a Rockefeller investigator who we refer to as Jacques Cousteau.

David: That was the big turning point.

Jonathan: Jacques C. knows everyone, all around the world. At first, it was slow going. And then about two weeks later it exploded. I talked to someone at a meeting in September and he said at the end of August, he got six copies of *Cool* over the fax machine in one day. It was everywhere all of a sudden.

David: I have gone to meetings with scientists from all over the world and there is not a single person who hasn't looked at it. Even in Michigan.

Jonathan: Friends of mine that have gone to Europe to do research say "we've heard about it, but we haven't actually seen it."

David: People have seen these versions that have been faxed 20 times, so they can't even read them anymore.

Jonathan: But, it's just the idea of getting it.

News&Notes: Does everyone know that you did it?

Jonathan: On the masthead, it says "people who really run *Cool*". We thought it was kind of obvious, because here are all these totally ridiculous things—Daffy Duck, Homer Simpson, Dan Quayle—and then Jonathan and David, which it seems that people could figure out. There were other hints about our last names as well. But the only people who figured it out were people who knew us.

David: It is better that people don't really know who did it because the editor of *Cell* didn't appreciate it at all. So we've been hanging out with Salmon Rushdie.

News&Notes: I understand *Cool* got publicity from other science publications.

Jonathan: At the time *Cool* came about, there was a lot of nastiness between *Cell*, *Science*, and *Nature*. They were competing. So *Science* found *Cool* quite funny. It ran a piece in the news briefing section about this journal that they said was anonymous. So we ignored it and coasted on anonymity.

Then we wrote a personal letter to the editor of *Science*, not intending it to be a real "letter to the editor." But we thanked him for giving us the publicity. *Science* had run an article on the rush to publish, how people wanted to get articles out the next day. In our letter we said that we were disappointed that he hadn't talked about *Cool*'s editorial policy, the time reversal policy, where you publish your paper before you do the experiments. We did this as a private joke for him,



The authors and publishers of *Cool*, a satire of the scientific journal *Cell*, have requested partial anonymity although they admit to being graduate students at The Rockefeller University.

because we heard he had really liked *Cool*. Three weeks later *Science* published it.

The *Journal of NIH Research* also started bothering us about a year ago. They wanted us to write a humor issue. We basically said "forget it." Most science humor is really bad. About six months later, they called us again and wanted us to do another issue of *Cool*, for a hefty sum, which would run in a summer issue. They also wanted us to do a regular column on "*Cool Science*." But, it is hard to parody something that was doing an increasingly clever job at parodying itself.

David: When people ask us to do another version of *Cool*, we say, "just read *Cell*." When we sat down to do another scoop, we found ourselves paralyzed by the basic reality, which was much more clever than we could ever hope to be.

News&Notes: Do you get more respect at conferences now?

Jonathan: Yeah.

David: It's much more attention than we'll ever get from any publication.

Jonathan: *Cool* has reached the vernacular in science now. At the Cold Spring Harbor meeting at the end of May, somebody introduced a whole set of speakers for a session by putting up the cover of *Cool* and drawing a cartoon that related to something they had done. So it has become an institution. It's in the lore. When I told some friends of mine that I had done it, they were just completely floored. Which is kind of strange, because you think, "who else do you think did it?" Some graduate student who is not doing any experiments is an obvious candidate.

## Excerpts from Cool

Volume 1 Number 1  
How Genes Should Work

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Minireviews  
*Cell-Cell-Cell-Cell-Cell Interactions In Development: An Astonishingly Clever Insight.* A molecular biologist.

### Book Reviews

*You call this a book?* Author's mother.  
*Finally, he's done with the damn book.* Author's family.

### Articles

*X-Arg-Lys-X: A Novel Motif Conserved in Evolution.* A lot of postdocs and a few big-wigs.

*Same.* Different authors.  
*Same.* Different authors.  
tushi: *A New Gene Expressed in Drosophila Posterior Segments.* Tubingen mafia.  
*An Ig Superfamily Member Not Involved in Neuronal Development.* Guess who's going to have trouble getting their next grant.

### Submission of Manuscripts

Try to find someone else who has written exactly the same paper (no overlapping authorship, preferably) and submit together. If this is not possible call up a Cool Dude and he or she will promptly submit an essentially identical paper.

**Organization of Manuscript**  
Should be very cool. Leave informative stuff for the small print at the end so that no one has to feel guilty not reading it ("it hurts my eyes").

**Models**  
All articles should contain a very cool model, whether or not the data support it.

**Cover**  
The cover shows a way cool picture, dude, of a chromosome stained with a very cool new dye that shows almost nothing so it's easy to pick out the really cool stuff. If you still can't see it now, then you're not cool enough for *Cool*.

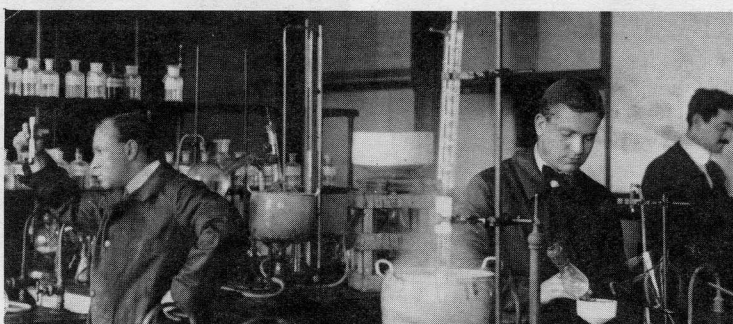


## Committee considers RU investigator for U.S. postage stamp

If the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee receives enough support for the idea, a Rockefeller University investigator, Donald Van Slyke (1883-1971), may be featured on a U.S. postage stamp. Van Slyke would receive this honor with Harvard University biochemist Otto Folin (1867-1934).

The Division on the History of Clinical Chemistry has recently submitted the stamp proposal in an effort to improve public awareness of American contributions in science. "I think that young children in this country need inspiration, especially in science," said Louis Rosenfeld, secretary of the division and associate professor of pathology at New York University. "That's why I support the proposal."

Rosenfeld said that Van Slyke and Folin were selected in particular because "their novel and accurate analytical chemical methods for blood and other biological fluids... set in motion a century of



Rockefeller investigator Donald Van Slyke (center), shown here working in the lab of P.A.T. Levene in 1908, has been nominated to be shown on a U.S. postage stamp.

tremendous growth in the applications of clinical chemistry procedures to the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of disease."

Van Slyke, who worked at The Rockefeller University Hospital for most of his career, brought a chemical approach to the study of such diseases as diabetes, pneumonia, and nephritis. He also carried out investigations of protein metabolism, kidney function, oxygen

transport, acid-base balance, respiratory physiology, and clearance of urea from the blood. His development of accurate analytical methods for measuring gas and electrolyte equilibria in blood and the transport of blood gases furthered the understanding of respiratory physiology. President Johnson awarded Van Slyke the National Medal of Honor in 1965.

Folin, a professor at Harvard

University, devised and improved analytical methods which could be applied to the study of urine and blood. His introduction of new or improved chemical methods that greatly reduced the fluid volume required for analysis established the modern approach to the quantitative analysis of biological fluids. Folin pioneered the use of clinical chemistry in hospitals, clinics, and life insurance laboratories, and established a center for the graduate training of clinically oriented biochemists at Harvard Medical School.

To sign a petition in support of having Van Slyke and Folin on a stamp, drop by the Public Affairs Office, on the second floor of Nurses Residence. Individual letters on this subject should be sent to: Norma Arroyo, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Market Development Branch, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260-6700.

## Potpourri

### Campus security presentation

A campus security presentation featuring a talk by Director of Security Joe Nekola will be held in Nurses Residence 110B at 10:30 A.M. today (Oct. 16). A video on sexual assault prevention will also be shown.

### Tri-Institutional Noon Recital

Recorder player Matthias Maute, winner of the 1990 Bruges International Recorder Competition, will play with the Ensemble Rebel of Amsterdam at Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (Oct. 16). The Ensemble

Rebel is the Ensemble-in-Residence for the Aemstelrande Concerten Series in Amsterdam, and in 1991 was awarded first prize at the International Competition for Ensembles in Early Music in Utrecht. The program will include baroque works of Leclair, Mancini, Vivaldi, Rebel, and Telemann. The recital, to be held in Caspary Auditorium at noon, is free and open to the Tri-Institutional community.

### Sunday film

In honor of the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964, Stanley Kubrick) will be shown in Caspary Auditorium, Sun., Oct. 18, at 7:30 P.M. Admission is free; all are welcome.

### Physics meeting

The Experimental Physics Group at Rockefeller will host a meeting to discuss the design of a sub-system for one of the large experiments planned for the superconducting supercollider. On Mon., Oct. 19 and Tues., Oct. 20, 30 to 40 scientists and engineers will discuss the progress and plans of the Shower Maximum Detector for the Solenoid Detector Collaboration, an international collaboration of more than 700 scientists to design and build one of the two major detectors that will take data at the superconducting supercollider.

The Rockefeller University group, led by Professor R. Rusack, is collaborating with a French group from CERN Saclay as well as groups from Northeastern University, UCLA, and Yale to build a small but essential part of the 35,000-ton detector. For more information, call x8819.

### Talk

Professor Charles Gilbert will speak on "Dynamic Properties of Adult Visual Cortex," at the Fifth Conference on the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, which will be held Thurs., Oct. 22 to Sat., Oct. 24 in Irvine, California.

### Music award

Cellist Alexis Pia Gerlach, daughter of John Gerlach member of the laboratory of neuroendocrinology, received the Third Annual Melini Award yesterday (Oct. 15) at a gala dinner sponsored by Frederick Wildman and Sons, Ltd. After Rockefeller investigator Bruce McEwen introduced her, Alexis performed a short recital with the 1648 Nicolò Amati cello on loan to her by The Julliard School of Music. The award includes a full scholarship to The Julliard School of Music, concerts in Italy, and a studio recording. Also attending the celebration were Trust and Estate Committee member Jim Davies, Hannelore Gerlach, Director of Development Maren Imhoff, and Nancy McEwen.

## Elizabeth Marshall Seitz (1911-1992)

Elizabeth Marshall Seitz, wife of Rockefeller University President Emeritus Frederick Seitz and herself a former college teacher of mathematics and physics, died Oct. 14 after a long illness.

She was born in Canton, China in 1911 of missionary parents. She attended the Shanghai American Secondary School, followed by four years at Wilson College in Pennsylvania, during which she majored in physics. This was followed by graduate work first at Cornell University and then at Bryn Mawr where she met her future husband—then a graduate student at Princeton. During World War II, she taught math and physics at what is now Chatham College in Pittsburgh. Although an able professional in her own right, she preferred to work in close



Elizabeth Marshall Seitz

association with her husband.

She was an accomplished pianist and took part in a chamber group linked to the University of Illinois. She was also active as a trustee of the China Institute in America.

It is anticipated that a memorial concert will be held at the university this winter. Contributions in her name can be sent to Treasurer David Lyons, box 219.