

Christmas 1975

Dear Friends,

The "lab letter" seems to have become a ritual,, During the year I gather up bits and pieces of gossip and news and save them for this occasion. I hope you have all had a good year in 1975 and that in 1976 I will have a chance to see or hear from you.

As I write this letter I am in the midst of last minute preparations for my sabbatical which will be spent at the Anokhin Institute of Physiology in Moscow (Ulitsa Gertsena 6, Moscow 103009) from January until June and the Georgian Institute of Physiology in Tbilisi (Voeno-Gruzinskaya Doroga 62 Tbilis) June to July. Nina is now an RN training as a nurse practitioner at Yale, She will come over to join me for the summer.

Last year a number of you sent letters for ray tenure case at Wesleyaru I am sure that your letters were a help to me, but, unfortunately, the decision on the case has .delayed twice and will probably not ba acted on until next year.

Perhaps the high point of the year for the lab was our get together at the Neuroscience meetings in New York in November. Danny Simons was there presenting a paper from St. Louis. John Zook was up from Duke and Mike Edwards from Miami University in Florida,, Mike Lehman was in from Michigan, Fred Pond, Harry Sinnamon and I presented a pa per, while Harry and Mike Edwards presented another,. One evening most of us went out to an Oriental restaurant for a celebration feast befitting the reunion

Let me try to gather together some gossip for you, Stanley Benally is working as a coordinator of the social service administration of the Navajo tribe for the New Mexico region, and wants to go on to school as a physician's assistant. His address is Box 283, Waterflow, New Mexico, 87421. Mike Edwards &nd Pain Johnson are married and living now in Florida, where Mike is in grad school and Pam is working on her creative writing. Their address is 1251 Dickinson Drive, Apt. 1251 Coral Gables,, Florida,, 33146. Al Petrocelli is a rotating interne at Highland General Hospital In Oakland (address: 189 VernoR: Terrace &i4s Oakland 94610. Rich Ladd is working for the Chase Manhattan Bank in Syracuse (address: 7300 Cedarpost Road, Bldg. E Apt. 32 ,, Liverpool, N.Y. 13088). Jane Witten Surgeon is working for a neurochemist in Chicago, and is j oint; author on a number of papers. She is looking forward to graduate school (address: 5107 South Blackstone #601, Chicago 60615). Andy EiclieRfield is in his first year in medical school in Chicago (address: 427 S, Elmwood Ave, Oak Park, 60302. I hope you had time to use your symphony series, Andy! Mike Lehman is beginning research with Sara Winans and Brad Powers at the University of Michigan Neurosciences program on vomeronasal involvement in the isolation induced fighting of hamsters.

Danny Simons is finishing up his thesis at Washington University in St.Louis and planning research on single unit recording with Tom Woolsey for a postdoc. He and his wife, Susan, a native of St. Louis, live at 7246 Tulane Ave., University City, Mo. 63130. Blake Chaffee is in clinical psychology at the American University in Washington (P.O. Box 981 Callaudet College, Washington, 20002), Wait and Kate Severini are now living in Tuckahoe, N.Y. (74 Main St., Apt. 2} where Kate is going to school in dance at Sarah Lawrence, Walter is finishing up work on his Masters at Wesleyan.

The lab was a hub. of activity this year. Fred, Harry, and I are just this week putting the finishing touches on a publication - to be submitted to Brain Research - which reports on cells in and near the

midbra in central gray which seem related to the boxing behavior of rats in the shock box. Both Walter and Ann Qdmark are working on their Masters Theses. Walter is tracing the brain pathways of visual and vibrissal information used by the rat during boxing. Ann is now getting ready to test the fourth generation backcross animals in the genetic study of competitive and isolation-induced fighting. We are still looking at the possibility of single gene effects in these behaviors. Carol Lynch of the Bio Dept. is a joint advisor on Ann's thesis. During the year one paper came out (Zook and Adams in the January JCPP) and another is due soon (Adams, Behaviour, end of 1975 or beginning of 1976: The Relation of Scent-Marking, Olfactory Investigation and Specific Postures in the Isolation-Induced Fighting of Rats). Mike Lehman and I have submitted another paper following up on that one, entitled, A Statistical and Motivational Analysis of the Social Behavior of the Male Laboratory Rat. This latter paper includes a new general theory of the brain mechanisms of motivation. The grant from NIMH runs out June 1, and Fred and I have put in for a three-year renewal. We won't hear about that until late spring.

As you know several years ago Cathy Spitz and Alice Gold and I did a study of the effects of oral contraceptives on college student sexual behavior. It was published last year in the Archives of Sexual Behavior, and we received an NIH grant to follow it up with married women. Andy Burt and Alice and I have completed that study and obtained positive results: oral contraceptives do abolish a mid-cycle increase in sexual initiation by the female which corresponds to estrus in most mammals. We are submitting a preliminary report to Science.

I will be back to Wesleyan at the end of the summer and would like very much to hear from you and to see you if you are in this part of the country. Our house in New Haven has an extra guest room, and you could plan to stay with me and Nina. And if not in New Haven, perhaps at Neuroscience Society again. What kind of restaurant shall we go to next year?

Peace, David