

Christmas, 1979

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As always, it is a pleasure to hear from all of you and to discover that you are thriving. One of the high points, as usual, was the Neuroscience dinner which occurred this year in Atlanta. Harry and I went out to dinner with a number of our present and former students, including Michael Lehman, Walter Severini, Jon Mink, John Kanki, Danny Simons and his wife Susan, and several of Harry's new students. Kal Rogers, Will Rosenblatt, and Terry Martin, Mike Edwards was going to join us but missed the rendezvous. Michael Lehman was still celebrating his marriage; he and Cathy will be living at 1218 South University in Ann Arbor. I was sorry that I could not make it to the wedding and reception., He and Danny, having done well on their Ph.D's, are now on the job market and I wrote several letters for them in the last few months. Good luck! Waiter is now working for a drug company in New Jersey doing medical research. Mike Edwards is on one post-doc in Philadelphia and getting ready for another one with Schneider at MIT. I had hoped that he and Pam could come up for Thanksgiving, but it didn't work out. We missed you, Pam! There was also a paper at the conference with John Zook's name on it, but John sent me a card instead from the pyramids of Egypt where he is said to be looking for bats. Following another few months post-doc in Germany he plans to be in San Francisco for two years (address?).

At Wesleyan. the most important task is getting tenure for Harry. The process is going well, but slowly,, just as it did for me several years ago. The Department has voted unanimously for it, but the Advisory Committee docket will not be free for another month or so. In the meantime it is difficult to make plans for the future. As you know, I felt very hurt last year when Alice Gold did not get tenure. Although I am continuing some of the work that Alice and I did with a new graduate student; Leslie Kassman, it"s not really the same.

Here are notes from some of the mail that I've gotten. Ted Crandall is housepainting in Rhode Island (7 Knight St., Ashaway) and hoping to get into medical school,. I just wrote a letter for you, Ted; Good Luck! Rob Blumenschine recently visited here from his new home at the Anthropology Dept., Berkeley, California. He and Jon Mink are presenting a followup on our brain size paper to the AAAS meetings in San Francisco this month. Then Rob heads for India for field work on human origins! Exciting! Al Petrocelli is working as an Emergency Room Physician in California (home address. 7074 Marlborough Terraces, Berkeley) and traveling (last year to Thailand where he studied Thai). Andy Eichenfield is married to Lisa Compton who studied one year at Wesleyan and they live at 1249 Park Ave. #6A, Hew York. Andy is on an Internship in pediatrics at "the great Mt Sinai" as they "are want to call it." Bob Koss was hoping to get to medical school this fall. Did you make it? Jane Witten Surgeon and George have bought a condominium in Chicago, and plan to stay there for a while. [and a last minute note tells that she is now a student again in the neurobiology program at this University of Chicago. Congratulation!] Danny Simons had tried, to lure Jane down to St Louis for grad school, but George could .not get away from Chicago. The two-career dilemma; it is familiar to many of us by now! Mark Loomis wrote last winter that he was married to Tina, whom he met while working at Elmcrest Hospital, across the river from Wesleyan. Did you get into ths UConn Social Work program? Fred Pond has recently moved into a new condominium in Milford with his good friend Bill Candidus. Fred came to my 40th birthday party in May. He is pleased with his work in Bridgeport at a, Department Store. I received a Christmas card last year from Rich aid Paula Ladd who sound happy with Arizona.

The laboratory at Wesleyan was humming with activity all year. Jon Mink is doing a remarkable senior

thesis, recording .from neurons of the forebrain while the rat runs on a running wheel, to the right towards an estrous female, or to the left for a drink of waters Harry and I are his assistants in the research, since he has put the experiment together himself. Last summer he began the work and shared the lab with Tom Gryzbowski 5 a student from Trinity who is now doing a senior thesis there, also using the running wheel approach to social motivation. I plan to present Jon's data at the International Physiological Congress next year in Budapest. where I will see all my European and Soviet friends. Jon and I are also finishing up a study on why rats fight more in their homecages, and we have sent off the long version of our paper with Bob Blumenshine on vertebrate brain size as a function of metabolism., Meanwhile, we finally did the definitive study of the effect of estrus on competitive fighting, Jeanette Talavera and I ran the study in the experimental methods course this fall, and the students did a terrific job of collecting data and analysing it. To make a long story short, there is no effect. Surprise! I continue to putter along on the behavior genetics research, having presented the next round of data at the national Behavior Genetics Association meetings last year. Next June the meetings will be in Chicago, where I will be a co-chairperson of a panel on ethics of behavior genetics research. Should be interesting.

I published a major paper this year that reviews my work and theories on brain mechanisms of agonistic behavior. You may find it in *The Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 2. 201-241, 1979, or, if you'd like I'll send you a reprint. I suspect that it will eventually have a major impact on the field – well modesty was never my primary personality characteristic! Lots of other papers are wandering around in search of print. There is one on hormonal effects an motivational systems, one on statistical analysis of social behavior in stump-tail macaques, one on agonistic behavior of all muroid rodents, and the brain size paper with Jon and Rob.

In addition to my other concerns I have taken up another one, which is the ethical and political effects of scientific research. In addition to the symposium at the Behavior Genetics Association, I am involved in a similar one at the International Society for Research on Aggression next July in Groningen Holland. I am teaching a course this spring on "biopsychology and the mass media," writing a chapter for a book on the use and misuse of aggression, research, and supervising a senior honors thesis by Chris Logan at Wesleyan on mass media, treatment of research on aggression. If you have any ideas on any of these topics, please send them to me. I am very concerned. about the political use being made of genetic studies of IQ and the sociobiology of Wilson, etc.

Nina and I, as always, are happily living at 65 East Pearl St, and would enjoy a visit from any of you. Right now as I type this the sun is streaming into the living room and warming everything despite the time of year. And I am debating whether or not to wear shoes when I join my running buddies for a 10 mile run at noon (I did most of my running barefoot last year - well, we all have to cheat death somehow once we reach the age of 40!). While I sit home writing letters and running, Nina is down at the Yale Health Plan slaving away as a Clinical Nurse Practitioner and making money to support me. Seriously, though, she does enjoy the work and has become very proficient and humanistic in her health care.

I am happily receiving cor:respondence for next year's letter.

David