

Christmas 1981

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Did you get a preliminary greeting card from Tbilisi, USSR, apologizing for the fact that this letter is late? If no, you know that rather than working in Moscow this fall, I ended up at the University of Tbilisi in Soviet Georgia for one semester. Now I have just returned to Wesleyan to teach this spring. The work in Tbilisi was both enjoyable and rewarding. The courses that you know, evolution of the brain, and evolution of social behavior, were so well received that they have been translated into Georgian and are now permanent parts of the physiology curriculum there. Also, in addition to David's Collective I at the Institute of Physiology which continues after five years to work on the brain mechanisms of sleep, there is now David's Collective II at the University which is working on the mechanisms of tunnel digging behavior. All of this was done through a most enjoyable network of friendships and personal interactions. I now feel like a dual citizen of Connecticut and Georgia.

The Tbilisi work (sponsored by the Fulbright program), as well as my summer's work in the Netherlands and the spring semester studying war at Wesleyan's Center for Humanities was part of the newly integrated nature of my work, as I try to combine teaching and research on mechanisms of aggressive behavior with the direct involvement in their application to the urgent social and political problems of our times, the anti-war movement and East-West detente. This involves a great deal of travel and disruption of my private life. During the past two years, the marriage with Nina came to a parting of the ways, my residence in New Haven has ended, and the beginnings of a new personal life is emerging. I am now shuttling back and forth between Middletown and Branford where I am living with a new friend, Lindsay Mathews, and her two teenage children from a marriage many years ago. Lindsay shares my travels (both Holland and Tbilisi) and political involvements and has a career in international public health.

Political involvement is not an individual matter, but one of organizational affiliations. One such affiliation is with the International Society for Research on Aggression. The symposium that I helped organize at the last Society meeting in Holland has now been published in the most recent issue of Aggressive Behavior, and a chapter on the use and misuse of aggression research has appeared in a new book by Paul Brain and David Benton published by Elsevier and entitled Multidisciplinary Approaches to Aggression Research. Through the Society I have also gotten involved in work at the United Nations. The next Society symposium is to take place in Mexico City this August and I will be involved in planning it. I also intend to be more active both at Wesleyan and on a statewide level in the peace movement. If any of you are interested in these matters, I will be happy to correspond with you in more detail.

A draft paper on the prehistory of human warfare, based on cross-cultural anthropology, was the product of my work last spring at the Center for Humanities. I hope to work it up into publishable form this year. The paper takes issue with sociobiology's claim that warfare is a biological phenomenon and tries to explain from an historical perspective, why warfare became a male monopoly in all cultures.

Work continues on the theory of motivational systems. The research in the Netherlands this summer was done with Jaap Koolhaas, who is not only a good friend, but also my most severe critic, as evidenced by his commentary on the paper in The Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Jaap and I designed and carried out some critical experiments to test the theory, and as we should have predicted, the results were mixed. Certain aspects of the theory were supported, including the independence of offense motivation from tactile, visual and auditory systems. Other aspects were challenged, including the idea that releasing and directing stimuli might be organized in terms of

individual sensory modalities (as I proposed with John Kanki). Instead, it would appear that such stimuli are more complex; we had rats leaping towards an "imaginary" foe when they had no adequate releasing stimuli from individual sensory modalities. In general, the theory is receiving considerable attention, as indicated by the many references to it in the volume by Brain and Benton mentioned above. I intend to continue laboratory work on it this year, including a continuation of the work with Jaap Koolhaas, a replication of last year's project on patrol/marking (last year supervised by Sunhi Lee, this year by Judy Mitchell), and perhaps some replications of earlier studies on shock-induced fighting. Work needs to be expanded to include the development of motivational systems rather than their static picture at any given time.

The biopsych program has been at low ebb this year and will be starting up again now. Having gotten tenure, Harry Sinnamon took the year off to devote himself entirely to research in the laboratory. Although some students are taking part in his research, it is on an unofficial basis. Now that I am back I am looking forward to picking up where we left off on our research collaboration. It will probably be in the area of the neural control of locomotion.

I will pass along the news that I have of you, although it is limited by the fact that I have been out of the country of the year. I see from the Neuroscience program that John Zook is at the University of California at San Francisco. Also in San Francisco is Al Petrocelli doing Emergency Room medicine and "traveling as much as I can" (his address is 7074 Marlborough Terrace in Berkeley) and Rob Blumenshine at the Berkeley Department of Anthropology. Rob, Jon Mink, and I just published our magnum opus in the American Journal of Physiology and the reprint requests are rolling in. Also at Neuroscience was Jon Mink, now at the MD-PhD program at Washington University in St Louis and Mike Edwards now at MIT with Jerry Schneider. Speaking of Washington University, I haven't heard from Dan Simons since he left there and went to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Maribeth Chapoux writes that she is in the animal behavior group at the University of Wisconsin's graduate psychology program, and that she is looking forward to doing primate research there. Kevin Smyley writes that he is now working for the law firm of Weil, Gotschal and Manges on Fifth Avenue in New York. Rich Ladd writes from Arizona that he has opened a branch of the Chase Manhattan Bank. Steve Lum and his family (Gwyned, Trenton, and Megan) are hoping to move to Hawaii in 1982 after he finishes his fellowship in Endocrinology in California. Although I didn't hear from Wayne Barber, I see from local news that he has been elected a Wesleyan trustee and therefore become my boss. If the tables must be turned, I can't think of anyone I'd rather see in that position. Wayne is a resident in otolaryngology at Harvard Med School. A nice note came from Mark Loomis and his family (Tina, Ricky, Jodi, Matt, and Lisa); he is working at Stonehaven treatment facility for chemical dependency across the river from Wesleyan in Portland and has finished his Masters in Social Work. Sunhi Lee, having taken the year off from Wesleyan, is working in Philadelphia and plans to return next year to school. She wrote me "Happy New Year" in Chinese in retaliation for my Georgian on the New Year's card! Also in the area is Fred Pond who sent me a card from his home in Milford. Fred is still working for a Department Store in Bridgeport. And Michael Rosse is working in Middletown where I see him occasionally at the health food store.

I hope that I have more of a chance to see you this year. If you won't be dropping by Wesleyan, please send me a note and say what is happening. I may see some of you at Neurosciences, although that depends upon an invitation to take part in a symposium on motivation that is planned for the same time in Moscow. If I get money for the trip, I may go to Moscow instead of Minneapolis. Most of the time you'll find me teaching or in the lab, however, and

Peace, David