

Christmas 1982

Dear Friends,

This has been the year of the nuclear freeze! Since Lindsay and I returned from our travels abroad last year we have been deeply involved in the movement. Lindsay helped organize the local freeze group in Branford and I have helped in New Haven. We got a thousand people to the June 12 rally of a million in New York, and then worked on this fall's successful referendum in New Haven, part of a tremendous nationwide success. The League of Women Voters has said that this is the closest thing to a national referendum in American history. Locally, we have also been involved in election campaigns that stress the issue, and we have become President and Vice-President of the Connecticut Association for American-Soviet Friendship which is establishing direct links between American and Soviet peace movements. The mass media, which by-and-large opposes the freeze and American-Soviet detente has not told you that tens of millions of people marched in peace demonstrations in the Soviet Union during the year, and that last week the Soviet Union voted for the freeze proposal at the UN General Assembly (which passed overwhelmingly) while the US delegation voted against it. There is still much to be done!

My own writing, research, and teaching reflects this increased political involvement. I have sent a paper "Why There Are So Few Women Warriors" to Science in hopes that it will be published there. Also I delivered a paper in October in the Soviet Union at a conference on motivation entitled "There Is No Instinct for War." An interview with me about this work will appear in the next issue of the journal Science and Nature. Next year I will offer a course at Wesleyan on the Psychology of War and Peace. This year Hope Weissman and I taught the core course in Women's Studies at Wesleyan and had all of the students involved in community action projects to learn the relationship between theory and practice. One of the groups was an anti-war project. Others worked with the Secretarial Union and Health Care Workers Union, the Rape Crisis Center, and the Battered Women's Shelter. In the future, I hope to do research on the development of consciousness and use it for a book on the topic Psychology for Revolutionaries.

The new directions are complementary, not contradictory, to the scientific work that I do. The research in which you have all been involved goes on. In fact, this year I am adding to the students who receive this Christmas newsletter, the students of David's Collective No. 1 and David's Collective No. 2 at the Institute of Physiology and the Dept of Physiology, respectively, in Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia. They are doing single neuron analysis of sleep and looking at the mechanisms of tunnel-digging behavior. At Wesleyan, Sunhi Lee and Harry Sinnamon and I are collaborating on a lesion study of the forebrain pathways of locomotion. Last spring the lab course did a replication of the 1980 study on wheel-running and patrol/marking behavior and results were substantially the same. Judy Mitchell directed the replication of the study that Sunhi originally directed. Sunhi and I are writing it up for publication. Next spring the lab course will do a lesion study of this behavior. Ken Gordon, who will be TA for the course, and Carlton Barnswell and I just completed a little study showing that offense does not contain a motor patterning mechanism for undirected locomotion.

More and more I am trying to make the courses that I teach cumulative in their impact. Each year more and more student papers, based on literature searches, are added to the primary list. For example, this year's reading lists include papers by Mink, Chao, Barth, Furstenberg, Leven, Rosenblatt, Robinson, Morrison, Kanki, Sasner, Edwards, Pelzman, Orshefsky, Gendler, Lehman, Zook, and Blumenshine. Also, this year's class transformed the brain drawings of previous years into a permanent display in a glass case on the Fourth Floor of Judd Hall. Similarly the research in the lab course is cumulative with the preliminary projects of one year leading to the final projects of the next year.

This year's letter is a bit earlier than usual since I will be sending it to my Soviet students and would like it to arrive on time. Also, perhaps this year it will stimulate more of you to write and tell me what you are doing. It seems like I haven't heard much from you this year. My most active correspondence has been with Jon Mink and Rob Blumenschine as we begin to think about the next step in our analysis of vertebrate brain size. John is now writing his preliminary thesis proposal at Washington University and Rob just returned to Berkeley when their field trip in Ethiopia ran into political problems. Rob was married this July to Melinda Peabody, so he can be home as a family man this winter. As I mentioned above, Sunhi Lee is back in school this year. Susan Chao and Bitsy Robinson have just applied to optometry and veterinary schools, respectively. Tom Gryzbowski writes that he is now a graduate student in forestry at the University of Michigan. Zane Bailey is doing marketing for Bell Telephone in Pennsylvania. Bob Russo is working as a technician in the laboratory of Klaus Miczek at Tufts University, a lab with which I have close historical ties. Bill ("Smitty") Smith and Nancy and their daughter Aida are living and working on her family's Indian reservation in South Dakota, doing community organizing. Itg is the Sissitowan and Wahpetowan Sioux. By the way, I haven't heard from Stanley Benally in years? Have any of you? One of the best publications of our ex-students was the Journal of Comparative Neurology paper by Michael Lehman last year. I heard this year for the first time in years from Cathy Galland Rondeau who is living in Florida and is applying to psychology graduate school.

I realize that it is a bit early to plan for it, but I surely will be at Neurosciences this coming November in Boston, and would love to see as many as possible of you there. In the meantime, drop me a line about what you are doing, and if you are near Wesleyan, come by to see us!

Peace, David