

Christmas 1983

Dear Friends,

At Neuroscience last month there was a reunion of many of the students who worked in our labs at Wesleyan. In addition to Harry and myself, there was Mike Edwards (at MIT), John Zook (Ohio Univ), Jane Witten (Univ of Chicago), Michael Lehman (Columbia Univ), Sunhi Lee (applying to med school), Judy Mitchell (Tufts), John Kanki (Univ of Cal at LaJolla), Jon Mink (Washington Univ), Danny Simons (Univ Pittsburgh), Terry Martin, Tim Barth (Texas), and Karen Stopford (Wesleyan). A majority were giving papers! One of the high points for me came when I was talking about this very difficult experiment that Sunhi and Heather Schroeder and I had attempted, trying to record LH and testosterone release during patrol/markings, and that we had failed. Whereupon, Mike Lehman said that he had done the same experiment last year, obtained positive results and was about to publish them. I guess that means I can relax now and let you do the experiments for a change!

At Wesleyan there is an increased interest in the peace movement, and part of it is due to the new course called The Psychology of War and Peace. Along with four teaching apprentices, Chino Ayala, Tori Holt, Julia Arnsten, and Nick Lahage, we have engaged over twenty students in study and action for peace this semester. At one point the students planned a nationally televised demonstration and a very successful teach-in to respond to the invasion of Grenada.. The local TV station was supposed to televise the class's response to The Day After, but they finked out at the last minute\*. I guess we are just too hot for them!

In as many ways as possible I try to link and inter-relate my work on aggression to the dangerous political situation we are living through. The paper on "Why There Are So Few Women Warriors" was judged by Science to be interesting for only a narrow audience (Which tells you something of Science!), so instead it is coming out in Behavior Science Research, which is the journal of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research. Meanwhile, I am working on a more general analysis of the relationship between changes in warfare and development of the peace movement, and a general analysis of the development of anti-war consciousness. As for aggressive behavior, I continue to work towards a UNESCO world-wide symposium to lay to rest the myth that war is caused by individual aggressiveness. I have a sabbatical - and perhaps a leave - in 1985, at which time I plan to finish work on these projects.

The lab course continues to work in the fine tradition. This year we returned to the theme of estrus and offense, continuing the work that was supervised by Jeanette Talavera. Jeanette's group had shown no effect of estrus on competitive fighting. This year we used isolation-induced fighting by females and showed an inhibition during estrus. The teaching apprentice this year was Tracey Cole. Since this year's results and those of Talavera differ, (i.e. isolation-induced offense is affected while competitive fighting isn't) we will have to plan some future experiments to resolve the issue.

We are already starting to plan for next year, and have some hot leads from a preliminary experiment in which offense is abolished by median raphe lesions of the midbrain. The search continues for the offense motivational mechanism!

The paper on patrol/markings that was executed by the course under the direction of Sunhi Lee and replicated the next year under Judy Mitchell is now accepted for publication and will be out next year in Physiology and Behavior. The tradition of joint work between my lab and Harry's, which was started by Fred Pond, later carried on by Jon Mink, was continued this year by Sunhi Lee and Karen Stopford who began tracking down the pathways of locomotion that can be

obtained by stimulating the hypothalamus.

I am looking forward to teaching The Evolution of Social Behavior this spring, with an increased emphasis upon human cultural development as the complement to biological evolution. We will spend more time than usual on the Reproductive Postponement State. The description of it was finally published this year in the volume Hormones and Aggressive Behavior by Bruce Svare, and I will present an update at the special Pavlov conference this coming July in Moscow.

Let me tell you the gossip that I have received since last year. First, from Neuroscience. Zook and Simons are now Assistant Professors. Soon I will be asked to write tenure letters for them! Edwards and Lehman are post-docs. The first Mike sends regards to all from Pam, while the second Mike is divorced and is a very eligible bachelor on the New York scene - he is in a new Rock group! Witten is finishing her PH.D., while Mink is in the middle of his and Kanki is just starting. Judy Mitchell is in medical school. Wayne Barber and Bob Russo come back to Wesleyan, Wayne as a trustee and Bob is now working for the Dean's Office. I also get to see Carlton Barnswell because he is at Yale Medical School. Letters came this year from Grace Simonson who is farming in Maine and applying to vet school at Tufts, from Maribeth Champoux who is a grad student doing primate research at the University of Wisconsin and is now a green belt in Karate, from Maria Mead who is living in Colombia, South America, and likes it so much she's planning to stay another semester, and from Susan Chao who is in optometry school. I hear of Janet Cranshaw from Jon Mink, as Janet is going to medical school with him. Are you getting married? Zane Bailey is applying to graduate school. Joe Wright has graduated from New Jersey Medical School and will be at Children's Hospital of the National Medical Center in Washington DC, Fred Pelzman is doing substitute teaching in the Washington DC area, Ron Comrie is in medical school in Buffalo and involved in the Physicians for Social Responsibility - a man after my own heart! Ken Gordon writes from New Jersey Medical School where he is following in the footsteps of Joe Wright. I like to encourage you alumni to help our students take advantage of the same programs that you have. And the letter from furthest away - Steve Lum has finally returned home to Hawaii, with an M.D., and a family (Gwyned and Trento, age 4, Megan, age 2, and a new baby in 1983).

I got to see the students from David's Collective # 2 in Tbilisi during trips to Soviet Georgia in January and again in July, and hope to see them again next spring. The first paper on tunnel construction by laboratory rats is in press (in Russian). Also we had a reunion of David's Collective # 1 in January at Gagra on the Black Sea Coast. I tried this fall to establish a correspondence between students in the two labs, but it didn't take hold. I guess when you are in college you haven't the time for correspondence. In addition to the Pavlov meetings in Moscow and a possible trip to Georgia in the spring, I plan to be at the International Congress of Psychology in Mexico in September on a panel on peace and disarmament, and, most important of all, Lindsay and I are making plans for a honeymoon trip to some exotic place.

Peace, David