

LAB LETTER

CHRISTMAS, 1984

Dear Friends,

A number of you shared the high point of the year with me on June 2 at the United Church on the Green in New Haven. Yes, Lindsay and I got married, and it was a wonderful occasion with lots of speeches, music, and festivity. Jon Mink and Janet Cranshaw came all the way from St. Louis, Sunhi from Philadelphia, and Suzie Chao from Boston. Carlton and his friend Debby Alper did not have so far to come since he is at Yale Medical School and Debby still at Wesleyan. Afterwards Lindsay and I went to a Greek honeymoon. If there is less production from the lab than in a normal year, I am sure you will understand.

Actually, it has been a fruitful year in the lab as we search for the elusive "offensive motivational mechanism." We managed to disprove two hypotheses: a) that it is located in the midbrain median raphe; and b) that it is located in the pontine raphe. The first hypothesis was based on a published paper claiming that lesions there abolish fighting. Well, we did find that very large lesions abolished fighting, but are now working on another hypothesis: c) that the midbrain reticular formation just lateral to the midbrain median raphe is the critical area. So far we have positive data, but they are not yet enough to be certain. The project has been carried out in relay fashion. It was begun by Bill Goldman and Peter Stein last fall, carried further by Mickey Borrero, Sue Wesolowski, Michelle Anderson, and Tracey Cole in the spring. And this fall it was continued by a new generation of students, Gary Edwards, Ra-Chel Frazier, Janice Robinson, and Gloria Herrera, with Bill Goldman as the TA. The prize for the best hands in surgery goes to Gloria. Gary, who plans to become a surgeon in medical school, is also good, but we worry that he might not operate on the correct patient all the time.

Harry's lab is busier than ever, it seems, and for evidence of that I recommend the series of articles in *Physiology and Behavior* this spring which include, among other things, the definitive mapping of the pathways of locomotion in the brain. They are truly a classic set of papers! Sunhi and I are proud to be among the co-authors on one of them. Also published this year was the patrol/marketing paper that so many of you labored on with Sunhi and Judy Mitchell. Unfortunately, patrol/marketing is not the big rage this year, so we will have to wait to get our just recognition (?).

The work on estrus and fighting done last year under Tracey Cole's direction, along with the work from a number of years ago done under Jeanette Talavera's direction, was presented at the meetings of the International Society for Research on Aggression in Finland where I went during the summer. On the same trip I went to the Pavlov meetings in Moscow and presented a "reproductive postponement" theory on the evolutionary origins of mental illness (depression at least). It received quite an excited response over there. I will be happy to send a copy to any of you requesting it. Still another paper that might interest you is one that I gave at the International Congress of Psychology in Acapulco (unfortunately, I was only there for a day and couldn't take advantage of the beach very much!) The paper was on "The Role of Anger in War and Peace," and argued that while anger is not the critical motivation for warfare, it is critical for the consciousness development of anti-war activists.

I am going to do something this year that I've never done before, which is to enclose a reprint of a new paper. The paper which is called "There Is No Instinct for War" was published in the major psychology journal of the Soviet Union this spring, and I have submitted it to the *American Psychologist* as well (but haven't heard from them after six months" now)/ I feel especially good about the paper this week, because I just got a paper from the foremost investigators of cross-

cultural research on warfare, Mel and Carol Ember, in which they failed to corroborate claims that personal aggressiveness correlates with warfare when looked at in cross-cultural perspective.

Continuing a trend of recent years, I have devoted an increasing share of attention to the questions of war and peace, both in research and teaching. The course entitled Psychology of War and Peace is now becoming a mainstay of my teaching and was a truly exciting experience this fall.

In addition to those of you I saw at the wedding, I was pleased to see or hear from many of you with whom I have worked at Wesleyan. Maribeth Champoux writes from University of Wisconsin that she is "plugging away" on her doctoral dissertation looking at "controllable environments as therapy for 'wierd' infants" or how "controllability of the environment interacts with infant temperament." Grace Simonson is now at Tufts Veterinary School, and Jill Bogdan has applied there, although I haven't heard if she was accepted. Meanwhile, Bitsy Robinson is at UPenn veterinary school where she is involved in the Wildlife Clinic there. This is quite a change from the old days when vet schools refused to take women and Jane Witten stormed their walls without success. Sarah Partan visited Maribeth in Wisconsin between trips to South Dakota where she has been studying black-tailed prairie dogs. Sarah wrote (in April) that "breeding season is over now and the dogs are dropping their litters. . .it seems that prairie dog females commonly kill the pups of related females; females in their home coterie...the killing is done underground, so you have to be patient and observe carefully for signs of females leaving their own territory, going down a strange burrow and coming out again with blood on their face...." Remember when we had the tank in Room 408 filled with dirt and burrowing rats and how you were trying to see what was happening underground. Ken Gordon, who is in medical school at New Jersey Med, received a prestigious and well-deserved Global Ministries Scholarship. And it was good to see Michael Lehman who is not far away in New York, trying to combine post-doctoral research with some serious singing and guitar-playing. He brought up a tape of his new group's rock-and-roll music and, amateur though I am, I was impressed.' I have lost touch with a few people and would like any word you have of them: Stanley Benally, Jeanette Talavera, Mark Loomis, and Andy Eichenfield.

I recently received a very exciting letter from David's Collective #2 in Tbilisi,, headed by Zura Zhvania, who says that they are developing a general theory of mammalian social behavior based not on dominance/submission but on division of labor. The basic data comes from their observation of tunnel-building and food storage by various kinds of rodents in which the group's individuals specialize in one or another task rather than all doing the same thing. It is a theory which can be applied especially well to primates as well as rodents - and, by extension, to the origins of our own species. Rob Blumenschine, take note. In fact, Rob will be pleased to know that just as he took his cue for this theoretical direction from the behavior of carnivores, so, too, the most powerful influence on the Tbilisi collective is that of Jason Badridze, my Georgian colleague who has worked primarily with wolves in the wild. I look forward to seeing them-all in a few weeks when Lindsay and I are planning a trip to Moscow, Leningrad, and Tbilisi.

Please write or come to see us at Wesleyan. I look forward to hearing from you.

Peace, David