

Dear Friends,

This might well be called the Year of the Summit. Having been meeting for many years with my Soviet counterparts with very fruitful results, I am pleased that we of the peace movement convinced Ronald Reagan that he, too, should make the trip. The press hasn't given it adequate attention, "but there were some very significant agreements made.

For the first time this year, Lindsay made more trips to the Soviet Union than I did. We both went last Christmas and New Years, and had a wonderful visit with Collective Number 2 at their new laboratory in the new Tbilisi State University. I found out that the Collective won the All-union award for the best student research lab in the USSR! And since then, lab head Zura Zhvania has been awarded the Medal of the Georgian Academy of Sciences. Too bad we don't have such awards here! Then Lindsay returned in May in a Trade Union Delegation hosted by the Soviet trade unions and representing, along with seven others, the new clerical workers union at Yale. By all accounts it was a landmark event, and we are trying to continue the process with a return visit.

As for the laboratory at Wesleyan, it too is humming away although without such recognition. The hypothesis that was put forth by the students over a year ago, and which I reported in last Christmas' letter, has been confirmed by further experiments. It appears that the offense motivational mechanism is located in the ventral tegmentum at the border of the midbrain and pons. A series of lesions were placed by Gloria Herrera, Bill Goldman and Gary Edwards in the spring, all of which totally abolished offense. I showed the results to other scientists this summer and realized that we needed more controls. Therefore, I ran another series of animals this fall, replicating their results and adding a set of very important controls, all of the animals continued to kill mice (predatory aggression) and show shock-induced fighting (submission / defense). Now it must remain to write up the results for publication this spring.

In the lab course this spring, Janice Robinson will be the teaching apprentice and we will follow up on the results from this last year. Instead of isolation-induced fighting of males, we will evaluate the effect of the lesions on competitive fighting of females. And, of course, this discovery opens many other questions as well which could be explored in preliminary experiments.

On sabbatical this fall I started work on a book that is long overdue: The Aggression Systems: Evolution, Brain Mechanisms, and Dynamics. However, I got distracted by my work on three other books that seem even more needed in today's world: 1) The American Peace Movements: History, Root Causes, and Future; 2) The Development of Consciousness in Peace Activists; and 3) The History of the War/Peace Dialectic. The first is now finished and being submitted for publication (I will send any of you who wish a preliminary copy). The other two exist in rough draft and need to be finished - hopefully within the next few months. And then I can get back to work and finish the aggression book, which is nearly done as well.

The other books reflect my determination to make a science of peace study that is no less rigorous than the science that we bring to bear upon brain mechanisms of social motivation. A major breakthrough came for me when I made a revision of the methodology of reductionism and went to a methodology that I call "circular reasoning." Like reductionism, it uses the relations between adjacent levels of analysis. Unlike reductionism, it does not move in linear fashion from one level to another in descending fashion. Instead, it circles around the problem; for example, the three levels for peace analysis are 1) social groups - lifetime; 2) individual - lifetime? and 3)

social groups - world historic time. You will notice that these are the three levels addressed in the books I am writing.

Lab graduates continue to make their mark at Neurosciences. Next year I hope to join you in Washington. Mike Edwards has made great progress in his quest for the factors that guide developing axons. Mike Lehman is using hi-tech methods to investigate LHRH neurons. John Zook reports the discovery of a potentially new centrifugal auditory pathway. Jane Witten is looking at neuro-transmitters in locust neurons. Danny Simons has gone from extracellular to intracellular recording now from cortical neurons. Jon Mink is doing painstaking and revolutionary recording from pallidal neurons in monkeys. It's quite a list of papers that they presented in Dallas!

On a personal level, I am always happy to get news from so many of you. A high point of the year was the wedding of Janet Cranshaw and Jon Mink, complete with volleyball, softball, and dancing. I was pleased to receive a birth announcement for Grier Ave, born April 17, 1985, to Rob and Melinda Blumenschine. I learned indirectly that Rob is now on the faculty of anthropology at Rutgers. Maribeth Champoux writes that she is getting her Ph.D. with her work on development of infant monkeys with respect to stress. I received a long and thoughtful letter from Ted Crandall who is in the Navy and hoping to become a chaplain. Bill Smith writes from the University of Iowa where he is back in school studying Urban and Regional Planning. He and Nancy just had their second child, a boy named Cheo Hepan. After years of political work on Indian reservations, they continue their activities and when they wrote were about to host Jesse Jackson for an anti-apartheid rally! Susan Chao is enjoying optometry school at the University of Pennsylvania. Julia Arnsten is teaching science in a private school and taking the MCATS - being accused of being "controversial" she says is a compliment. Carlton Barnswell is getting a degree from the Yale Public Health School in addition to the Medical School as he puts it, "to take an active role in improving the availability of health services in the areas where they are most needed." Gloria Herrera is on her way to Spain for a year abroad from Wesleyan.

Next year promises to be an exciting one. In addition to teaching the lab course this spring, I will be teaching the Psychology of War and Peace - using my new books as part of it - a course that has now become my favorite, as you can well imagine. I am sure there will be international travel as well, especially in connection with the drafting of a Statement on Violence for UNESCO - to be done in Spain in May - and the preparations for a peace movement summit, perhaps to coincide with the next Reagan-Gorbachev although the plans are still preliminary.

I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible. And I hope that some of you in addition to Mike Lehman will be able to come by our little house on the beach and get to know Lindsay and bring me up to date on what is happening. I think of each of you and wish you all,

Peace, David