



NATURAL SELECTIONS

A Newsletter of The Rockefeller University Community

Issue 4, May 2004

Exercising Power

By Mary Abraham

MD-PhD students belonging to the Tri-institutional Program (Rockefeller, Cornell and Sloan Kettering); but not researching in Rockefeller labs, have been denied access to Rockefeller University's Founder's Hall gym since autumn 2003. The issue of gym access for these students was discussed at a recent meeting between the Student Representative Committee and the President. A request has been made for the affected individuals to have their gym access returned, and a decision is expected shortly.

The MD-PhD students who had their access to the gym suddenly revoked were not consulted before or officially informed of the change. This meant that the first inkling many students had that a problem had arisen, was when they were stranded outside the gym because their swipe card no longer functioned. This left some MD-PhDs feeling "embarrassed and like a second class citizen." The security guards rigorously enforced the ban and non RU MD-PhDs - who entered the gym when someone exited, thinking that the problem was due to an ID card glitch - were asked to leave by security. One student evicted from the gym, who has high regard for the "kind and professional" manner of RU security staff, lamented the fact that the University abdicated responsibility for informing students and left the security guards to deal with the matter instead. Subsequent to the decision being enacted, it was difficult for the MD-PhD student representative to find the person responsible for the decision who could provide relevant

information to convey to students

In recent times, all MD-PhD students entering the Tri-institutional program had been given an RU ID card which enabled access the Founder's Hall gym, considered to be far superior to the one available to them at Cornell. In the fourth year of the MD-PhD program, all students - regardless of whether their laboratory is located in Rockefeller, Cornell or Sloan Kettering - move from student housing at Cornell to student housing at Rockefeller, where they remain until completion of their MD-PhD. Loss of gym access is a particular annoyance to affected MD-PhD students living in GSR or Sophie Fricke (the two dormitories containing the majority of RU student housing), since the online student housing guide lists the Founder's Hall exercise facility as an amenity of these campus housing locations.

Why was gym access suddenly denied? Liability insurance appears to have been the initial trigger for the change in gym access. When a policy was being drawn up, which gave eligibility of access to RU employees, the definition of employees did not extend to include the MD-PhD students not working in a RU lab. If

there was a financial constraint at the heart of this matter, the relevant figures have not been made public yet. Of course, providing benefits to students in the Tri-institutional Program may cause financial burdens which need to be shared fairly between the institutions, so problems may arise not from a lack of institutional goodwill, but instead be driven by financial undercurrents.

However, if money is not the root of this problem, the gym access issue may instead represent a larger question of how the Tri-institutions decide who will take on the responsibility for providing resources and their willingness to share these resources. Thus, this relatively minor dispute, represents a broader dilemma of providing parity of benefits to MD-PhD students working at different institutions of the Tri-institutional Program. For example, MD-PhD students working in RU labs can avail of Cornell facilities such as a free interlibrary loan service, gym or basketball court access. Therefore, some complain that Rockefeller depriving non RU MD-PhD students of gym use is not in keeping with a spirit of reciprocity of access.

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Parent-to-Parent: Shackles of Guilt

By Dr. Mom

Hi, I'm back. Hope you all survived April, with all the rain, cold, and warm weather...what a nightmare, dressing the kids for school! As for me, I have been good. Although infinitely better than "bad," this basically translates to: tired, nowhere near the bottom of my to-do list, and still with all that literature to catch up on.

If you are like me, "Catch-Up Literature" is probably the most prominent and comforting item in your bag or briefcase. It gives you that reassuring feeling that you're one up on your arch enemy, "Time." If ever there was a greater falsehood. It's that "Mr. Guilt" playing tricks on you again. How often have you tried to take your precious collection to the park with your kids? On a lucky day, you'll probably get to memorize the title by glancing at it over and over again in each 10 second period of sanity so graciously afforded you by your now transformed monkeys. On a good day, you'll really get a handle on the abstract. On a great day, you may get to read the article. That great day will come once a year, in the summer, when the Gods finally take pity on you, and the kids fall asleep in the stroller AT THE SAME TIME. Unfortunately, the rest of science is usually moving at a slightly faster pace than this, so you find some solutions to make do. Here are some things that I have tried (not always successfully though!). Try going home for lunch, for a short time, say at least a couple of days a week. After all, you have the luxury of close residence, so use it! Take your timer with you if you must. Sit on the couch where you get some awesome sun and go through a handful of must-reads. I personally have discovered that the unusual silence of my otherwise insane home has a

calming effect on me and I can do some power reading in a short time. The secret is to NOT look around you too much or your gut instinct to clean up the mess will get the better of you. Incidentally, if you are feeling exceptionally motivated, make your trip across the bridge even more fruitful by dumping the laundry in the washer (again, a great convenience) on your way back to the lab (and dump it in the dryer on your way home with the kids)...but isn't it always nicer to leave that for your spouse? Grin. Even with this, you may feel you are still not exactly 100% with science.



If you are around for the weekend, see if you can steal a little bit of time at some odd hour on either or both days and sneak off to the lab. Tie up loose ends, plan your week, while perhaps doing some not-so-involved experiment. Overall, it will give you the feeling of getting a little more scientifically organized and ready for that most painful Monday morning.

The last option is late night reading, after the kids have gone to sleep. For those of you who are able to utilize this option well, my hat, gloves and scarf off to you! What with the next day's lunch to prepare, an often necessary dash back to the lab, and a moral obligation to shower, nothing could be more soporific for me than sitting down with scientific literature. Gone are the days of grad school and undergrad; boy, I am GETTING OLD. Sigh. (Anyone have a clue how I can move beyond 'guest' status at the gym in the midst of this insanity?)

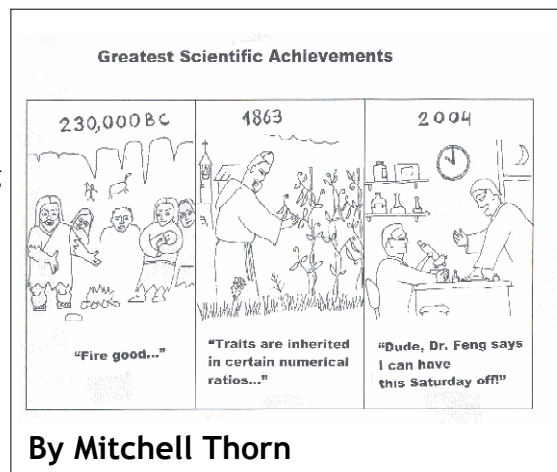
All in all, it is not always easy to squeeze out "science" time from your

"non-science" quotas. This, for obvious time management reasons, but also, if you are like me, because of that gnawing guilt that you have abandoned your kids on what my older child likes to call "family time." What a leech, eh, that nasty Mr. Guilt. I think weekend lab-time guilt for the scientist-parent often derives from feelings of not doing enough with the kids, enough constructive, developmental things during the time that we do spend with them. If you think about it, there is simply no escape from the feeling of not doing enough, is there? So, I've finally decided to stop thinking. I honestly believe I am doing the absolute best that I can. The Museum of Natural History can wait while I chill with the kids in the play room because I'm not in the mood to get dressed for outside. Although, if I do decide to go to the museum, my laundry will have to wait, my western will have to go overnight in the cold room and my to-do list will have to be re-made for the following week. Heck, if I must be tired, I'm going to custom-tailor it to my liking for the day!

Cheers!

By the way, ATTENTION DADS! Mother's day is May 9. Remember, gifts don't have to be tangible. My favorite is "Mom's time-out for a date with herself..."

Contributions to the Parent-to-Parent column should be sent to naturalselections@rockefeller.edu.



By Mitchell Thorn

"Exercising Power" Continued from page 1

The administration was sent a petition concerning this issue, signed by three quarters of the MD-PhD students, which stated: "We write to you because The Rockefeller University has revoked gym access for MD-PhD students not currently enrolled in Rockefeller thesis labs.□We are surprised and dismayed by this change in policy, as we entered the Program with the implicit assurance that, as students in the Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program, we have access to the resources of the three participating Institutions.□In previous years, in fact, any MD-PhD student has had the option to exercise and to socialize with colleagues in this gym.□It is therefore a great disappointment to us that Rockefeller has now chosen to exclude some of the students in our program.□While this issue might seem trivial at first glance, the policy has created a sense of imbalance within a program that has grown in national stature because of its recognized focus on fostering not only academic excellence but also fairness and inclusion. As evidenced by the signatures below, both Rockefeller and non-Rockefeller students are united in their wish to reinstate our Tri-Institutional privileges by providing all MD-PhD students to access to the Rockefeller gym. Thank you for your understanding."

When a decision is made about this matter, hopefully the dispute will be resolved in a fair manner.

Thanks to those who provided helpful discussions on this topic.

Overnight Culture

In May and June, the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center presents a festival celebrating the work of the visionary choreographer George Balanchine. Subject to availability, \$10 student rush tickets may be purchased online on the day of the performance.

See www.nycballet.com for more information.

Pugwash: Science for the Benefit of Humankind

By Lauria Giarratani, Cameron Bess and Omar Ahmad

"We have to learn to think in a new way. We have to learn to ask ourselves, not what steps can be taken to give military victory to whatever group we prefer, for there no longer are such steps; the question we have to ask ourselves is: What steps can be taken to prevent a military contest of which the issue must be disastrous to all parties?" from the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, 1955.

In 1957, facing the spectre of the hydrogen bomb, 22 eminent scientists from ten nations on both sides of the Iron Curtain met in Pugwash, Nova Scotia to discuss the growing threat of nuclear war between the Soviet Union and the United States. From this conference emerged an organization dedicated to fostering solidarity among scientists of all nations and ideologies in a global effort to prevent humankind from bringing about its own extinction.

Over the past 47 years, the Pugwash

Conferences have expanded their scope to include such topics as environmental degradation, resource scarcity, economic deprivation, and other areas where scientific and technological innovation presents itself as a double-edged sword, holding the potential to both jeopardize and benefit humankind.

Student Pugwash is the youth affiliate of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. It aims to unite young people who share a common interest in examining the relationships between science and society and the common goal of ensuring that scientific research benefits humanity. At Rockefeller, our Student Pugwash chapter provides a forum for academic discussion and seeks to encourage interdisciplinary inquiry at the interface of social policy and scientific research.

As scientists in training, we must learn to decide which problems most demand our skills and resources. Our hope is that by informing scientific inquiry with an awareness of social issues, we can help the scientific community better serve the interests of the rest of humanity.

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Wrap Artist

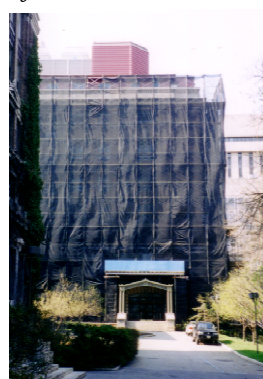
By Mary Abraham

Christo, the renowned installation artist, has just completed a long awaited project to envelope the RU hospital in a black chiffon gauze. Our hospital was chosen because of its historical significance as the nation's first hospital solely devoted to experimental medicine. This intimate artwork is a bewitching reminder of the quest of medical research to understand the mysterious, tender fragility of the human body.

Before;



After;



New Zealand

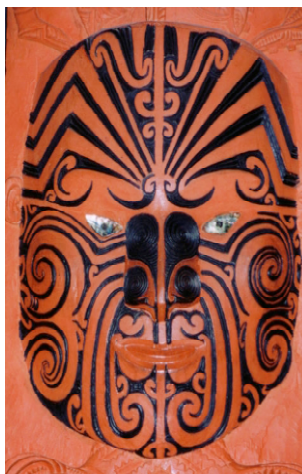
By Kelly-Anne Wilson

New Zealand is not a land of hobbits and orcs. I suspect a majority of New Zealanders do not like the *Lord of the Rings* movies because they're...well, silly. And New Zealanders are not silly. There is more than one stereotypical New Zealander (or Kiwi); the older stereotype is epitomized as the sheep farmer able to solve any problem with a good dog and a piece of number eight wire; the fresher face is a town-dwelling, boot-wearing feminist (male or female) also able to solve any problem with a good dog and a piece of number eight wire. The biggest differences between the old and the new is that the younger generations consider international travel, tertiary education and quality espresso to be more of a priority than the fecundity of this year's ewes.

New Zealanders like to consider themselves to be politically astute; it was the first country to enfranchise both women and indigenous people out of a sense of fair play. Our government successfully established a unique nuclear free zone in our corner of the Pacific despite huge international pressure. Countries within the zone forbid nuclear power plants and weapons and bar port entrance to any vessels with nuclear capacity. This zone continues to be a barrier to international free trade agreements with the nuclear super-power, America. New Zealand is not anti-military, with troops currently or recently involved in Afghanistan, East Timor, The Solomons, and Bougainville, and during WWII, 1 in every 4 men were enlisted. New Zealand's largest internal political storm was during the 1980's when half the country opposed having any sporting contact with South Africa, and the other half wanted to play rugby as usual. This cause mobilized thousands of New Zealanders in an unprecedented and unrepeated level of protest. Eventually, those against prevailed and all ties with South Africa were severed until the fall of the apartheid regime. Current political issues that have pushed people to the streets in

protest are the war on Iraq (the government did not support the war, but did send army engineers to help with the rebuilding) and anti-Genetic Engineering. New Zealanders consider a 2-3 year overseas experience (the big O.E.) as an important part of gaining an education and tend to both praise and critique NZ with an outside perspective. Despite all of this political awareness, there is still a positive correlation between the All Blacks winning the Rugby World Cup and the incumbent political party being re-elected.

New Zealand is a country where the feminists have pretty much won. Women were given the right to vote in 1893 – about 15 years before American women. This was almost unsurprising as men and women had been given equal education and worked together to develop the colony. Our current Prime Minister is a woman, Helen Clark, and she is now nearing the end of her second term (three years each) with positive indicators she will win the next election. In her first term, she was joined by women in all the top official roles; the Governor General, the Chief of Justice, and the leader of the opposition party. Many of the high schools are single sex and girls outperform boys in all areas of academia. Nevertheless, men's sports still get far more attention and sponsorship than any women's sports, and women are just beginning to rise to the rank of CEOs in private enterprise.



New Zealand is also a country where the indigenous people, the Maori, may not have won, but they did not lose either. New Zealanders are proud of race relations within the country, although Maori are still overrepresented in crime and poverty statistics. Colonization of New Zealand was a unique process, whereby the major arrivals of Europeans occurred after Maori had been equipped with rifles, had learned effective modern warfare in intertribal battles, and had successfully invented and used trench warfare against British soldiers. The British Crown signed a treaty with Maori chiefs to bring peace to the colony and to establish a claim before the French could make a similar move. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 when the Maori had the upper-hand militarily, had sent representatives to London to meet the Queen, had begun to convert to Christianity and adopt other aspects of European culture, and believed they were gaining the rights of British subjects while retaining sovereignty over their own lands and people. Of course, this isn't quite what the British Crown intended and, with misunderstandings exacerbated by the signing of two non-identical treaties, one Maori and one English, settlements to meet the Treaty obligations continue.

For non-New Zealanders, encounters with Maori culture have probably been few; traditional Maori war dances (haka) are performed before every rugby game and most tourists depart from NZ with a Maori carving or two. I personally get a kick out of seeing Maori actors showing up in Hollywood movies depicting Arab terrorists and loved seeing Temuera Morrison as Jango Fett in the latest *Star Wars* movie. Despite political battles over Maori rights, many New Zealanders embrace the multi-culturalism of NZ and there is a growing acceptance of the Maori term, Pakeha, as a catch-all phrase

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"New Zealand" Continued from page 4

for non-Maori New Zealanders and some drive to renaming the country Aotearoa. This is probably as likely as New Zealand becoming a republic and replacing the flag currently dominated by the Union Jack.

The other non-white faces in New Zealand belong to a mix of old and new immigrants; there are increasing numbers of Asians, Polynesians and a few Africans. New Zealand has a protectorate relationship with a few of the island nations in the Pacific; the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, which are self-governing but have automatic New Zealand citizenship. The opportunities available in New Zealand have led to dramatic numbers of Polynesians immigrating, such that Niue now has a population of about 600 whereas 20,000 Niue people live in Auckland, the largest city in NZ and the largest Polynesian city in the world.

New Zealanders' relationship with Americans isn't so much love-hate as much as enchanted-indifferent. We tend to deny how much influence America has, but mainstream New Zealand is wearing Levis, eating McDonalds and listening to Eminem. Of course, there are varying degrees of adaptation and many New Zealanders choose to boycott iconic American goods and celebrate kiwiana instead. Particularly in recent years, there has been an upsurge of national pride manifested in increased support for New Zealand products and talent. We know the outside world views us as a bunch of sheep farmers, and on one hand we are proud of that industry and boast about having a hundred sheep per capita, but on the

other hand we know we are a country of talented, innovative people able to create unique works of art, fashion and technology and compete internationally in sports. There is a phrase in New Zealand that sums up our national pride in a context of defiance at international disregard for what we have to offer: "World famous in New Zealand".

But most of us think NZ is a paradise worthy of world fame. For outdoors enthusiasts, New Zealand offers almost everything found throughout the world in a more compact space; some tourists snowboard on the side of a quietly active volcano in the morning and then surf in the afternoon. Queenstown, a town situated in the Southern Alps, is a world epicenter for extreme sports including white water rafting, skiing, paraponting and bungee-jumping (New Zealander AJ Hackett invented the modern bungee jump). New Zealand also has an extensive array of National Parks and reserves where you could hike for days without seeing a single other soul. And lest I downplay the sophisticated side of the New Zealand experience, there are a wide range of superb eateries throughout the country stocked with delicious cosmopolitan delights. Also, New Zealanders are just beginning to gain confidence in their own directions of fashion and design and it is still possible to buy unique well crafted clothing at pretty reasonable prices. There are also tamer sights like museums and zoos, but I personally think people should either go to NZ to enjoy nature, or go somewhere else. We're not famous for our art exhibits, architecture or our museums.

New Zealand in New York? Well... outside of the movies you won't see

much New Zealand culture in New York. There is currently an enlightening/hilarious art exhibition on at the Asia Society highlighting the difficulties of building a New Zealand identity, and there is a yearly short film festival organized by the New Zealand trade board. Apart from that, there are three students here from NZ – I don't know if the other two would agree with everything in this article, but I am pretty sure any of us would wax lyrical about homeland over a beer if you ever want to know any more before you fork out the \$1,200 - 2,500 airfare to go see for yourself.

For more information on the current *Paradise Now?* exhibit (running until May 9) at the Asia Society (Park Avenue at 70th Street) go to: http://www.asiasociety.org/arts/paradise_now/index.html.

For more information on NZ go to: <http://nzedge.com>.

"Pugwash.." Continued from page 3

Our next sponsored event is the New York Regional Conference: "Addressing the Global Burden of Infectious Disease" to be held May 21-22, 2004. Infectious diseases are a critical issue for a significant portion of the world's population. Combating disease requires collaboration between research scientists, public health and medical professionals, international organizations, and local institutions. This conference will highlight the interdisciplinary nature of such efforts. Experts will stimulate discussion and present diverse perspectives on the initiatives necessary to effectively address the global burden of infectious disease.

For more information on Student Pugwash, check out www.spusa.org. For more information about the NY Regional Conference, see http://www.spusa.org/events/regional/04_ny_regional/04nyreg-con_agenda.html.

SRC News

By Mark Schroeder

The SRC had a couple of interesting meetings the week of April the 5th. The first was with the housing department, represented by Alex Kogan and Dorian Johnson, and the second with the University's new President, Sir Paul Nurse. Our main focus for both meetings was increased transparency in current policy and improving notification when decisions affecting the student body are under discussion. In both cases, the respective parties were quite receptive and reasonable.

One of the main reasons communication was a theme is that the small size of Rockefeller is such that policy has traditionally enabled the handling of policy issues on a case by case basis. However, there are circumstances where the appearance of unequal treatment can result. Greater clarity in policy and keeping people informed of changes will help them negotiate fair treatment or minimally allow for informed decisions. I am only going to touch on a few main topics, but I encourage students to contact their representa-

tive if they want additional information. I am happy to answer anyone's questions from any class or outside the student body.

The housing department recently set up a website that contains basic information about student housing: <http://tinyurl.com/3dkj2> (shorter url that will redirect you). There is money set aside and a project planned to add kitchenettes to all Sophie Fricke studios, the rate limiting step being turnover. The building planned for the 60th St. lot will not be ready for at least 3 years, and plans are still under review. Currently, it is intended to have ~92 student apartments including studios, alcove studios, and one bedrooms - the accommodations currently in highest demand. Despite the fact that many of us will never take advantage of these new facilities, our involvement is critical for ensuring that such facilities are well targeted to student needs.

In the meeting with the president, the MD-PhD housing policy was the main item he felt bore his direct involvement as it was Tri-institutional. Facts regarding this issue are going to be gathered and reviewed by the Dean's office with input from the stu-

dent body. The President's general outlook was well represented by his address to the University of the same week (<http://tinyurl.com/2j8sw>). Over the next year as concrete plans are put in place, he is interested in getting student feedback on them. To this purpose, the SRC is going to meet with him once to twice a year from now on to mediate such feedback.

Rockefeller is in a period of change primarily marked by a recent growth in size that has resulted in infrastructure shortages. The main problem with such a situation is that contention over available resources can be divisive. We hope to avoid any situations where the student body is subdivided or at odds with other groups at Rockefeller, as breaking the greater whole into its lesser parts is not good for anyone. A focus on communication and fair compromise is critical for reaching agreeable solutions to problems that arise.

Ernesto Munoz, 6th year	munoze@rockefeller.edu
Oliver Dreesen, 5th year	dreeseo@rockefeller.edu
Lucia Chemes, 4th year	chemesl@rockefeller.edu
*Mark Schroeder, 3rd year	schroem@rockefeller.edu
Chad Euler, 2nd year	eulerc@rockefeller.edu
Nicholai Siegel, 1st year	siegeln@rockefeller.edu
*Mike Hahn, MD-PhD	hahnm@rockefeller.edu
* new representatives	

PDA News

This column provides reminders and updates of PDA activities and services.

NEW PDA REPRESENTATIVES

Due to the fact that only four postdocs have declared themselves as candidates for the five available positions on the PDA Representative Committee, there is no requirement for a formal election. As such, the PDA is pleased to announce that, along with continuing PDA Rep **Asifa Haider** (Krueger Lab), **Tirtha Das** (Gaul Lab), **Andreas Keller** (Vosshall Lab), and **José Morales** (Auerbach Lab) will be the PDA Representatives for 2004-2005. Allan Coop (Reeke Lab), Kevin O'Donovan (R. Darnell Lab), and André Ragnauth (Pfaff Lab) are stepping down after representing the postdocs for two years.

The PDA would like to express thanks to Joe Glavy (Blobel Lab) for serving postdocs on the Faculty and Students Club Board for the past two years. Joe has agreed to step down to allow postdocs Brett Lindenbach (Rice Lab) and Pallavi Sachdev (Sakmar Lab) to become the two new postdoc representatives on the Faculty and Students Club Board.

The Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC) is a free, confidential, short-term counseling and referral service available to The Rockefeller University employees and their dependents. They are located at 455 East 68th St. To contact them, you can phone (212) 746-5890 or email EAPC@mail.med.cornell.edu. For more details, visit the PDA website at www.rockefeller.edu/pda/PDANews.html.

The PDA provides financial support for Clubs and Societies. Visit www.rockefeller.edu/pda/PDAStructure.html (Section G) for more information.

Plan now! The Summer BBQ Policy covers interlab social functions held at the Faculty and Student Club throughout the year. To find out how to get funding for your next social event, visit and scroll down www.rockefeller.edu/pda/PDANews.html.

Allan Coop x7646;	coopa@rockefeller.edu
Asifa Haider x7409;	haidera@rockefeller.edu
Kevin O'Donovan x7471;	odonovk@rockefeller.edu
André Ragnauth x8669;	ragnaua@rockefeller.edu

Postdoctoral Association
The Rockefeller University
Flexner Hall, Room 220
Phone: (212) 327-8260
Fax: (212) 327-8261
email: pda@rockefeller.edu
web: www.rockefeller.edu/pda



New York State of Mind

How long have you been living in New York City? It will be four years in June since I moved here from Spain, but I have been in and out for work during that time.

Where do you live? Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Just near the bridge.

Which is your favorite neighborhood? I like the East Village because it is the perfect combination of everything I love about New York, and I can find everything I want there.

What do you think is the most over-rated thing in the city? And underrated? Overrated: Rockefeller Center at Christmas time. The ice-skating rink is small and expensive. A warm place and a warm drink are impossible to find under eight dollars. There is nothing special about that. Underrated: New



Laura Garcia
Research Assistant
Stoffel Lab
Country of Origin:
Spain

York Water Taxis - maybe because they are new. Also, parks other than Central Park, like Prospect Park in Brooklyn.

What do you miss most when you are out of town? My friends and the people. The people who live in NYC are a very important part of the city, and these different types of people aren't easily found anywhere else.

If you could change one thing about NYC, what would that be? The subway. It is filthy and overcrowded. I'd rather be stranded above ground.

Describe a perfect weekend in NYC.

Sunny and not very cold. I would have breakfast and then go to a sauna for a few hours. Next, after shopping with friends, I would have dinner somewhere

in the Lower East Side and go out to pubs in the area until I was tired. The next day, I would ride my bike to brunch at a diner and then go grocery shopping in an open market. In the evening, I would cook something and invite some friends over.

What is the most memorable experience you have had in NYC? Watching the Twin Towers burn from a taxi on my way to the airport (I was supposed to go on a work trip to a Pacific Island for a few months) and the days that followed.

If you could live anywhere else, where would that be? Barcelona, Spain. I would say my hometown of Bilbao, if only it were a little bit bigger.

Do you think of yourself as a New Yorker? Why? Yes, because the city is made up of people like me - people who have come here with an idea and ultimately ended up changing the make-up of things.

村上春樹 ノルウェイの森

Book Review: *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami

By Heather King

I chose this author because I saw his name on the bookshelf of my most literary friend, with all the Melville and Proust and Pynchon and Mann that those who read have read. Haruki Murakami sounded so beautiful and strange to me. You may wonder how one who presumes to write a book review could not know Murakami (or vice versa), but I am ready to confess I would be lost in today's literary world without the above mentioned friend and Terry Gross.

The book I chose, *Norwegian Wood*, is a modern-day classic in Japan. Its simple style and popular appeal make it the bane of Murakami's

hard-core fans and the darling of just about everyone else. I found the book thoughtful, tender, and sad. The story is told by Toru Watanabe, an older man remembering his college years in Tokyo in the late 1960s. The young Toru lives a normal college boy's life—drinking, studying, hanging out, and picking up girls. He does all of these things with a certain detachment, however, for he has learned from the recent suicide of his best friend that “Death exists, not as the opposite, but as a part of life.” This statement, which Toru makes at the beginning of the novel, presents the major theme. His dead friend, Kizuki, remains an important figure in the book. Kizuki's life-long sweetheart, Naoko, has also come to Tokyo to begin college and she struggles with Kizuki's suicide on her own. Toru's quiet affection for Naoko runs deep, and she is the one person he finds valid, honest, and worth pursuing. Naoko is not part of the quotidian existence Toru finds himself spiraling toward. She is part of the world that

died with Kizuki—or rather the world Kizuki held fast in by taking his own life. Outside that world, Toru finds the sensitive must learn to cope, like his brilliant, successful, and rabidly cynical friend Nagasawa, who Toru says “lived in his own special hell.” Toru himself copes by detaching from the world around him. This gives the story a slow cadence and an almost existentialist tone that make it feel slow and heavy. As a fan of Anna and Ada and Ahab, I did not warm up to this subdued passion and suffering right away. In end, however, I realized the calm resignation of the characters is much more sad for being so stoic. Toru and Naoko realize we all live alone except for the rarest encounter, and that the aloneness many fear in death exists in life as well. To survive, we incorporate into some social unit which brings mild comfort, but no true relief. *Norwegian Wood*, like the sad, strange song it is named for, has no answers for us but is beautiful and lonely and feels just right on certain days.

A Field Guide to GenBank and NCBI Molecular Biology Resources Course

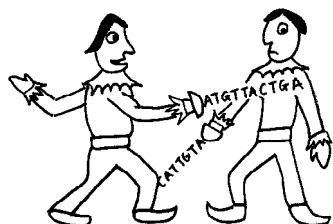
By Jackie Novatt

Information technology will be hosting a **free** course by NCBI here at Rockefeller on **June 15-16, 2004**. The course consists of a 3-hour morning lecture (June 15, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Caspary Auditorium), followed by a 2-hour instructor-led computer workshop. We will have multiple workshops (June 15 afternoon, June 16 all day) during which small groups of participants will get hands-on experience with the resources at the NCBI site and will learn how to apply these resources in their specific research area. The course provides practical information about **GenBank**, **RefSeq** and the **integrated genome resources**, as well as the other databases maintained at the NCBI. It also provides instruction on effective use of **Entrez** and **BLAST**, the two main database search tools.

More information about the course can be found on the NCBI website: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Class/FieldGuide/.

As the hands-on workshops must be scheduled in advance, **you must pre-register for this course**. An email will be sent out shortly from IT providing a link for online registration. As **space is very limited**, if you register, please make sure to come!! If you sign up and don't show up, your slot will be given to someone on the waiting list.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Jackie Novatt (novattj@mail.rockefeller.edu). Hope to see you all there!



"A hit, a very palpable hit"
Hamlet, Act V, Scene II



By Sean Taverna

State of the University

By Noah Zidall

Rockefeller University President Sir Paul Nurse led a "town meeting" style address in Caspary Auditorium on April 7 discussing the state of the university. Sir Paul attempted to avoid questions from the university community but was unsuccessful. The audience saw a "softer" side of him as he admitted he is afraid his head will be chopped off if he does not elicit the opinion of all members of the community on the strategic plan for the university. The auditorium broke out in a sinister laugh after learning that – if only he knew how true that was...

Probably the most important item discussed during the town meeting was the unfortunate disappearance of the afternoon teas. Dr. Nurse chuckled as he said that was the single thing brought to his attention by almost everyone he has spoken to on campus. While he agrees there is a need for a forum for more interactions across campus, we must find a less expensive way to bring people together. However, his suggestion to remove cookies from the afternoon teas sparked a grumble across the audience – after all, where else are starving students and postdocs to go for their proper nourishment? Bring back the tea (and cookies) or off with your head!



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RUPF Film Series

Breaking the Silence. Documentary about Bush's War on Terror. Wednesday, May 19 at 6 p.m. in Weiss 305.



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