



Natural Selections

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

CHANGING FORTUNES OF THE LIBRARY

Interview with Jerry Latter, Associate Vice President and CIO

VASANT MURALIDHARAN

The library is one of the most central areas in any university. It not only acts as a repository for books, but also as an environment that encourages research and study. The library world is currently trying to adapt to the information age. The Rockefeller Library has had a long and fine tradition of more than 73 years. It currently houses almost 54,000 books and 51,000 bound journals. The mission statement of the library states: "Drawing on its own extensive collection in the life sciences, which supports the research interests of the university, and a wide array of information resources beyond the university, the library is able to link faculty, students and staff with the information they need to advance their research goals."

Our library is undergoing some major changes. The University Librarian Patricia E. Mackey recently retired after 23 years of service. Jerry Latter, Associate Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO), is currently overseeing the library operations in the interim, while the search is going on for a new librarian. *Natural Selections* recently sat down with Jerry to have a conversation about the library and the changes that are currently happening.

Patricia E. Mackey recently retired and you are looking for a new librarian. How is the search coming along?

We started the search about eight or nine months before Pat retired. The search has been tough—as we knew it would be. Rockefeller is a very unique institution, and the library is no different. It's not like other libraries—even other research libraries. We have special research needs here. And on top of that, the library world (or the world of information science) has started to overlap with the world of information technology and so many people in the library field have moved to the technology side of information science. Although we've had a couple of strong candidates, we haven't quite found a suitable replacement. But I'm optimistic right now.

Does the university collect any data on the usage of the library?

Yes, we do. Basically, we have the card-reader system and using that we maintain counts of the people going in and out of the library. There were around 21,000 visits to the

library in the last academic year according to the card-reader system. That number only includes people who swiped themselves in. If you consider those who've been buzzed in by a security guard, or when groups of people walk in right behind each other before the door closes, the library patronage is actually higher than that. We also have the self check-out system. In fact, this is the first university in the country to have that system. We also try to keep statistics on resource usage and

“ The library once had a staff of 25 people and it now has 12...before my time, there were two full-time people just dusting the collection. ”

that's done through re-shelving. That's why we ask people not to re-shelve the books.

Have you seen any kind of decline or any changes in the usage?

That would require a detailed analysis. People come into the library for different reasons so there may be changes in usage over time. My sense is that there's not been anything dramatic either way, although we've seen people taking advantage of the wireless access since it was deployed two years ago.

Are there any changes being planned for the library in the future?

So as you know, we have a new president and we have to see where he wants to take it. You can see the text of the first town hall meeting. He did mention it a few times. So we'll see. Paul also mentions Welch Hall and the library in the publicly available draft of the strategic plan. He has expressed some interest in renovations.

There has been a new call center for IT built in the library, is that a temporary measure?

Why is that being built in the library?

What you are referring to is the IT help desk. The idea was to turn the first floor of the library into one centralized point of help. Pat was very enthusiastic about the idea. The reference librarian is on that floor and we thought it would be a good idea to locate the help desk centrally to the campus as well. We've got so many researchers in the south end of campus. Right now the help desk is at the north end of campus in Smith Hall. It is kind of an experiment. In addition to making research and technical support more accessible, we hope to increase usage of the building and get more information to the campus. We also put up a computer training room in the library. Right now there's no place on campus where someone can give a video-conferencing lecture or where IT—or anyone—can easily provide computer-based training. So we felt we needed a full-time computer training room with audio/visual capabilities, including videoconferencing. That was all possible through funding that came through the Sakmar administration with support from the IT advisory committee. Planning and Construction and Plant Operations did a great job on the room. There's a computer training room on many campuses now and they are becoming more integrated with the library. We've already begun using the room on a trial basis to test our setup. We expect to go live in July.

How has the Monday Lecture Series affected the functioning of the library? We have heard complaints about the furniture not being moved after the lectures, the reference section being blocked by stacked up chairs.

I think it has gotten a lot better now that we've been able to establish a bit of a rhythm. It's been a very long time since the library has been used in this way—as a common gathering place for information exchange between researchers. In a way, Paul Nurse is expanding (or you could say restoring) the function of the library. We met with Alex Kogan (Associate Vice President, Plant Operations) and are working with Plant Operations to iron out the remaining kinks. For instance, they plan on only using the Southeast alcove to

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'Interview with Jerry Latter' from previous page

store chairs. There are books there, but we hope to shift the books out of that area. The situation has improved.

They have been good about clearing the central area. However, there are still chairs stacked in the reference section blocking access. Is there any particular reason the Monday lectures are being held there?

Let me just tell you that Paul Nurse decided to do that. I think it's a wonderful thing. It has brought the library back to life. I went to the first one to see how it would come off and the turnout was amazing. It is bringing the building back to life. I think that in the long-term it is going to bode well and I'm optimistic. It has really brought people back to the library and I think that's a really great thing. I think it's the right place for those lectures, even though some issues need to be worked out in regards to the collection.

Is that being worked out? Or is it because the lecture series is new?

It is new and it is not clear yet what's going to happen long-term. The draft of Paul Nurse's strategic plan which is publicly available does mention this. ["To promote better communication there is a need for an intermediate-sized lecture room and meeting facility. One of the two large library rooms located in Welch Hall will be modernized to serve as such a lecture room and also as a Board room. Improvements are also required to the Library and IT facilities and these will form part of the renovation of Flexner, Welch and Founder's Halls. The Library area contains some of the finest rooms in the University but has been neglected in recent years, reducing the usefulness and quality of the space and the effectiveness of the Library. Relatively modest investment could much enhance this space and help provide an 'information commons' for the campus." RU strategic plan, p 17]

Are the gardens next to the library going to be open during the summer? Are there any plans on using that space?

The gardens are not closed, though not a lot is being spent on their maintenance. There are no immediate plans for increasing the maintenance. Historically, the gardens were quite beautiful and I think that because of tough economic times we had to reduce the maintenance. I'm sure the economic decisions took into consideration the reduced usage, perhaps due to FDR noise. I've heard that they were quite expensive to maintain. The same holds true for the collection. You can go downstairs to certain areas and find dust on the books. The library once had a staff of 25 people and it now has 12. This was again, before my time, but I heard that there were two full-time people just dusting the collection.

That was the next question, actually, the

basement levels are so dirty and dusty. The windows facing the desks are almost black. And sometimes when the library gets crowded on the upper levels, all that space in the basement goes to waste because no one wants to use the desks there. Is there any possibility of getting Plant Operations or someone to clean those areas once a week or so?

Basically, these are tough economic times right now and there have been tough times for the library for a long time. As things stand right now, even something as seemingly simple as deciding to dust books once a week could in the long term mean sacrificing journal subscriptions (we will look into having the tables wiped down on a weekly basis). I ran into a grad student in the library who showed me a dusty book. Sometimes it's not clear how much it's really used by the students. Would you say 50% of grad students use the library, while the other 50% say: "It's all online, why do I need to go over there?"

You always get a mix, you have students who go the library when there's an absolute need, like when there's a reference not available online. But some go to the library to write their grant proposals/papers/thesis and just for the environment in the library.

I think that basically, this is really important for the entire campus to understand. The statistics will never tell us everything about who is using the library and how they're using it. I would want the future librarian to work with focus groups of postdocs, grad students, and faculty to start understanding what they really want.

Even for the gardens, it shouldn't be hard to just put out a couple of chairs or some garden furniture.

There are usually four tables and chairs put out in the gardens in late spring, this will not change. Budget constraints aside, when I go out there, the FDR noise is really bad. That wasn't an issue years ago when the building was constructed, but it's an issue now. I have heard that there is a lunch group that uses the gardens as well, but I would guess that usage was a lot higher before the FDR was built. Do you think people would still use that space heavily with the noise?

People might, I can't say they would, but I definitely would use the garden, especially with the clutter in the journal room and with the copiers being in the corridor (one of them has actually been out of order forever).

The library space is in transition. We'll have a new head librarian with his or her own ideas about the layout of the library and Paul seems interested in the space, as can be seen in his draft of the strategic plan. Right now we're looking into replacing the second black and white copier with a color copier

Natural Selections

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and getting a fast turnaround service contract. But for now, the copiers will probably remain where they are until we have a clear sense what changes will be happening there over the long term. Right now it has not been a super struggle having only one B&W. Do you think that's been a serious issue?

No, the problem is the other one, which is not working, it's just blocking space.

I see what you are saying, but we will replace it with the color copier. Journals have color more often now and we think that a color copier is needed.

Is there any space in the library where the copiers could be moved? It is just a little claustrophobic leaving very little space to move around.

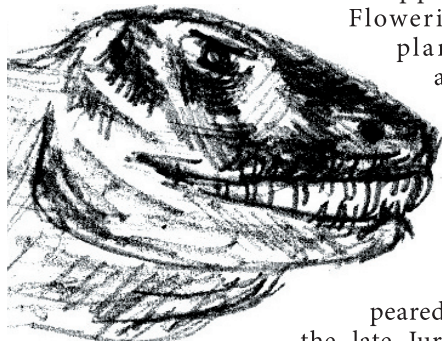
In order to make room for the IT help desk area, the photocopiers needed to be relocated. It's not an ideal location but they need to be in a convenient and accessible area for the staff to monitor and answer questions to help people. Why don't we go to the library and take a look around?

The new computer training room is almost complete in room 108 in the Library. It will be announced soon by IT and open to the campus. There are five Macs and ten PCs for general use. There is a video-conferencing and presentation set-up. There are a few bugs that remain to be worked out, like air conditioner noise. The new IT help center is almost complete as well and will be opening soon. Regarding the copiers, they probably will remain in the space they are currently in. In the next few months, we will be following up on the changes happening in the library and reporting on them. ☺

Our Jurassic Times!

MURIEL LAINÉ

The first dinosaur appeared 220 million years ago in the late Triassic, at a time when even the continents were very different from now. Pangaea, hard to imagine! How the animal kingdom and the vegetation were at the time is almost unthinkable. Various kinds of marine reptiles, the first crocodiles, turtles and the earliest true mammals first appeared, to be extinct soon after. During the Jurassic era, 152 million years ago, the dinosaurs came back, small in size, 1 to 4 m, they kept on growing until they finally reached 12 m or more. There were two main types of dinosaurs, named from the configuration of their pelvic bones: bird-hipped and lizard-hipped.



Flowering plants appeared in the late Jurassic period, and in the early Cretaceous period the first flowers appeared, as well as the first flying dinosaur Archaeopteryx and theropods that are now defined as bird-like dinosaurs. The most famous of the theropods is the Tyrannosaurus and, believe it or not, even though they had teeth longer than some-

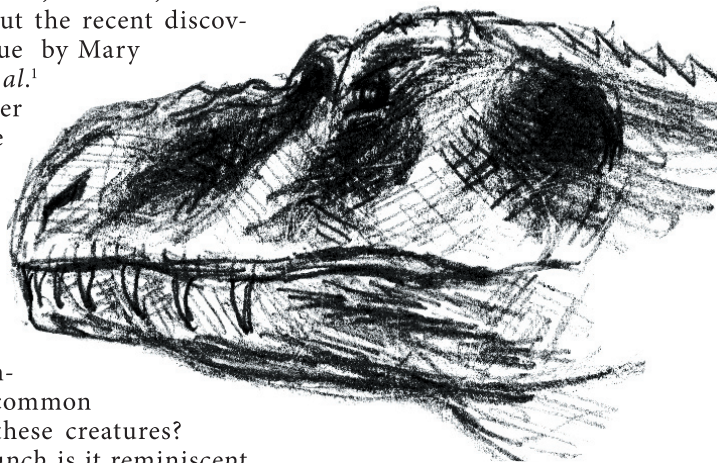
one's hand, they were not able to chew and had to gulp their food.

Are we going to ever know why these animals are now extinct? Many theories are proposed: meteor, volcano, bacteria, disease, etc. But the recent discovery of the soft tissue by Mary H. Schweitzer *et al.*¹ will help us answer a question that we may not have ever thought about. I can't stop thinking that if 10% of our genome is in common with a banana, and 99% with the chimpanzee, how much in common do we have with these creatures?

When I gulp my lunch is it reminiscent of the way a T-rex ate his food? Can we know what made the crocodiles survive and not other dinosaurs?

Besides these silly questions, this discovery will give us new information to develop new concepts and theories. Were dinosaurs cold or warm-blooded and which gene(s) do they have in common with birds in that regard? Which one was bird-like or reptile-like? The vessels found were very well preserved, and structures similar to ostrich osteocytes were found in the authors' preparations. From these micro-structures, it might be possible to extract intact proteins or some DNA. For many decades

paleontologists obtained a tremendous amount of information by studying fossils. Now a door has opened and much more information is to come.



illustrations by Muriel Lainé

These eras seem barbarous to us now and impossible to live in, but take a look at your PI and you will find many common points with the animals of the Jurassic era. To learn more about the dinosaurs, or just for fun, you can go to the American Museum of Natural History starting May 14 and see a major new exhibition about them. ☉

References

1. Schweitzer MH, Wittmeyer JL, Horner JR, Toporski JK. Soft-tissue vessels and cellular preservation in *Tyrannosaurus rex*. *Science*. 2005; 307, 1952-1955.

PDA News: Sponsorship for Summer BBQs

Summer is here and grilling at the Faculty club is back. Use the grilling facility at the Faculty club to organize social events with family, acquaintances, and other postdocs. The PDA will sponsor \$120 for BBQ events organized jointly by two or more labs. The sponsorship is part of a continuing effort by the PDA to foster social interactions between members of the Rockefeller community. Postdocs should send requests for sponsorship to the PDA (pda@mail.rockefeller.edu; mention 'BBQ Sponsorship' in subject line) ahead of the planned event.

Reminder Afternoon Tea: Tea and coffee, Tuesday to Thursday from 3 pm to 4 pm in the Faculty Club. ☉

The earliest evidence of maternal instinct...

cartoon by Sean Taverna



Another juvenile, with what appears to be clean underwear!

Musicalpolitik

MARY ABRAHAM

In Europe, on the evening of Saturday May 21, over 150 million people will wallow in the annual Eurovision Song Contest, as nation competes against nation for the tinsel crown of best original pop song performance. It is a symphony in the key of Spring; tumultuous, vivid, ferocious and tender. Eurovision is dressed (or rather semi-dressed) in a cloth embroidered with sequins, and so few dare to admit to watching it....but everyone is compelled to.

In 1956, an idea was born that the ephemeral magic of pop music could help repair European stability. That first Eurovision, in which only seven countries competed, was not the most auspicious start, the Belgian entry was *Messieurs les Noyés de la Seine* (The Drowned Men of the River Seine), and the overall winner from Switzerland couldn't remember all the words of her song. Nonetheless Eurovision swiftly gained in popularity, and the event has launched the careers of some big stars: Abba winning for Sweden with the song *Waterloo* in 1974, and Céline Dion a winner for Switzerland in 1988. In 2005 a total of 39 countries are competing for one of the 24 spaces in the final, which is shown live across Europe on network television. The borders for enrollment in Eurovision stretch geographically well beyond the twenty-five member countries of the European Union, to include places such as Iceland, Israel, Turkey, the Balkans, and former members of the Soviet block. In recent years the musical momentum seems to be swinging towards 'new Europe' with winners from Estonia (2001), Latvia (2002), Turkey (2003), and Ukraine (2004). The television commentator Terry Wogan has noted that the West won the Cold War, but lost Eurovision.

The vast majority of the songs are love songs, sung in either the contestant's native language, or in the international language of europop—dismembered English. Some intellectuals recently decided not to be constrained by linguistic conventions at all, and in 2003 the Belgian entry *Sanomi* was in an imaginary language. It was the runner up that year. When trying to reach a common chord across language barriers, some sort of catchy zaniness often works, for example Sweden's winning entry in 1984 titled *Diggi-loy Diggi-loy* or Monaco's *Boum Badaboum* in 1967. Simplicity is another approach to make an impact, such as Spain's winning entry in 1968 *La La La* or France's 1959 song, *Oui, Oui, Oui, Oui*.

The verbal gymnastics are accompanied by suggestive dance routines, and the performers wear outrageous costumes that look as though they came complete with an evil spell. The visual spectacle is perfected by the ultrachic multi-million dollar stage design, which usually looks

charm as well as a slightly sinister aura. As the votes whisper through, "Hello Copenhagen, from an underground bunker, this is Reykjavik calling with the votes of the Icelandic jury..." there are irresistible echoes of covert messages sent in old black and white spy movies. However, when



like a temple to modernity created by NASA in the year 3050. The lighting and stage design evolve for each song, to create different and appropriate backdrops. The 2005 Eurovision website defines the visual epiphany of this year's stage set thus: "The stage will be a universe where mankind and nature merge. Tomorrow will replace yesterday. You, your surroundings and the world as a whole will combine. New perspectives will let you approach life with understanding and emotion." I'm sure you have never had that kind of transcendence observing the set of American Idol.

After the final note of the final song has collapsed into silence, the long ritual of tallying the votes is often the most entertaining part of Eurovision. One by one, each of the competing nations are contacted to deliver their scores, which range from zero to a maximum of twelve points. Naturally enough, nations cannot vote for themselves. The voting process has an air of secrecy, which gives it both romantic

pondering the identity of these mysterious juries, entrusted with the task of being exquisitely in tune with a nation's musical tastes, images of anonymous Orwellian bureaucrats lurk in the shadows. In recent years though, with democracy much in vogue, the process is losing its mystique with jury panels being replaced by national telephone voting.

There is often method to be discerned in the voting. Although the majority of the scores appear to reflect obvious musical hits or misses, with careful observation some subtle patterns emerge. Some countries form mutual appreciation pacts and, regardless of the musical merits of their songs, invariably give each other the maximum twelve points. The most noted offenders in this category are Greece and Cyprus, followed by the less blatant, but still obvious Baltic voting cartel. A poet said that, "History is history, and it is not a story that ends in love," and some countries are equally dependable in their diffi-

culties in forgiving past grievances such as trade disputes, sovereignty infringements, massacres, and bitter soccer defeats. A website exists with detailed statistical analysis of how decades of Eurovision voting patterns reveals each country's friends and foes. Once in a while, a country will endure the ignominy of not receiving a single vote for its song—the dreaded “nul points.” In the afflicted country the fallout of such a disaster is a period of headline news, national mourning, soul-searching and much recrimination. Politicians are hauled up for questioning to determine if foreign policy could be to blame. Neighboring countries often indulge in some schadenfreude. In 2003, a German newspaper taunted, “England, motherland of pop, in last place.”

The country that wins must host the event the following year. Like hosting the Olympics it is a source of national pride and a chance to boost tourism—between each song, a short clip is shown of contestants larking about at a scenic tourist attraction. But you should be careful what you wish for. In the mid 1990s Ireland went on a record breaking winning spree top-

ping the poll four times in five years. The huge costs of staging the event (it is \$7 million dollars this year) progressively decimated the budget of the Irish national TV broadcaster and there were a lot of reruns in that era. This also led to dark speculation that until the danger of bankruptcy had passed, behind the scenes manipulation would ensure that Ireland's entry had no chance of winning. These conspiracy theories inspired a famous comedy episode in which *My Lovely Horse* is deliberately chosen so it will receive “nul points” with the lyrics, “I want to shower you with sugar lumps, and ride you over fences, polish your hooves every single day, and take you to the horse dentist.” But would such a dire song be guaranteed to lose? The whole delight of Eurovision is the unpredictability, and sometimes even the most unlikely and impossible song can win. I suppose that is the great European dream. ☉

Official website: <http://www.eurovision.tv/english/index.htm>

For statistics on voting patterns: <http://www.kolumbus.fi/jarpen/>

For translated lyrics: <http://diggiloo.frac.dk/>

The French Vote for the European Constitution

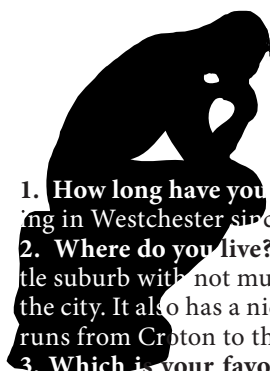
MURIEL LAINÉ

Saturday May 28 2005 is the date chosen by the French government for the referendum on the European Constitution. French citizens can vote here at the consulate or via a procuration. To vote via procuration you have to be registered in France and file the paper work at the consulate. But don't forget this will take 15 days. If you are registered here at the consulate, you need your *carte d'immatriculation* and your passport to vote. The consulate is located at 934 Fifth Avenue (between 74th and 75th St.) and will be open from 8 am to 8 pm Saturday May 28. If you need more information call (212) 606-3600. Listed below are the consulate website, that you probably already know, and websites regarding the European Constitution. ☉

www.consulfrance-newyork.org/fr/vieany/formalites/etatcivil.htm

www.europe.gouv.fr

www.constitution-europeenne.fr



This month, Natural Selections features Eric Davis, Senior Network Technician, Information Technology
Country of Origin: USA

New York State of Mind

1. How long have you been living in New York? I have been living in Westchester since July 2004.

2. Where do you live? Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. Nice quiet little suburb with not much to do except wonder what's going on in the city. It also has a nice walking trail behind my apartment that runs from Croton to the Bronx.

3. Which is your favorite neighborhood? I love Union Square. Huge melting pot of everyday people. From skaters to punk rockers to club kids to yuppies.

4. What do you think is the most overrated thing in the city? And underrated? Those Damn Yankees. Way overrated. If I owned the team with the most money and talent, I would expect to win every year too. It gets boring, watching the same team win over and over, I love underdogs. A nice stroll along the river... underrated...goes from Battery Park all the way to the George Washington Bridge. On a hot summer day, the river provides a nice cool breeze and the many faces that pass you by are fantastic to watch.

5. What do you miss most when you are out of town? The restaurants. You simply cannot find the variety of restaurants you get in NYC anywhere in the US. And why should you? The restaurants only reflect the fact that this city has so many different kinds of people.

6. If you could change one thing about NYC, what would that be? Wall Street....get rid of it. It makes for such a contrast between the haves and the have-nots. Rich fat cats wheeling and dealing stocks

and pension funds, while the homeless are begging for their lives.

7. Describe a perfect weekend in NYC. A trip to the Strand on 12th and Broadway...read some books while sitting on the Union Square Park steps. See a Broadway play (dying to see *Avenue Q*) and have dinner at a nice Indian restaurant.

8. What is the most memorable experience you have had in NYC? Piece of cake...9/11. Will never forget it....no need to expand since this has been overdone.

9. If you could live anywhere else, where would that be? San Francisco area or maybe somewhere in Colorado. I love to hike and the Rockies are bigger than any mountains we have in the East.

10. Do you think of yourself as a New Yorker? Why? Sorta. I was born in Brooklyn, but grew up in Jersey City. I came into NYC so much that I know it as though I lived in it. ☉



photo by Martin Ligr

Studying Infectious Disease in a Developing Country: Reports from Cambodia

KATIE HISERT

Having finished my PhD at Rockefeller, I returned to Cornell Medical College in April of 2004 to complete my medical training. Missing the intensity of the bench, I left New York Hospital in January to begin 7 months of an international elective. I was very fortunate to have been invited by Anne Goldfeld of the Center for Blood Research Institute at Harvard to travel to Cambodia and work on a project initiated by members of her laboratory. Now in Cambodia, I report back on life in Phnom Penh. This installment will be merely to set the scene.

Everyone comments about the heat. You can't get away from it here in Phnom Penh. April is the hottest month of the year, before the rains begin. In the morning it's not so bad, but by noon the heat is oppressive, and the heavy, scalded air persists well after sundown until late in the evening. You become too familiar with sweat, and you comment about the heat in most conversations right after, hello, how are you? After the cold New York winter, I really don't mind. It's nice to feel the (intensely hot) sun on my bare skin. Of course, the laboratories and offices here at Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) are air-conditioned. One of the bonuses of doing research is that most experiments need to be carried out at specific temperatures, thus requiring laboratories to be climatized. The immunology lab is actually so well cooled (in order to protect the laser in the FACS machine) that I tend to wear a sweater whenever I'm acquiring or analyzing samples.

The comfortable work environment is one of many ways in which my experiences working here in Cambodia are different from many of the other ex-pats in town. My other main luxury is my apartment within the Pasteur's compound that is both air-conditioned and supplied with chilled, fresh water; two amenities that are not guaranteed in many apartments and guest-houses throughout town.

There is also the issue of language: despite having been a French colony, Cambodia has become much less of a francophone country over the last 30 years. We have just reached 30 years to the day since the Khmer Rouge began their reign of terror: April 17, 1975. French culture was virtually eradicated here, as the intellectual and foreign nature of French culture was seen as a threat to Pol Pot's regime. Cambodians were killed if they revealed that they could speak French. Thus, although there is continued evidence of the previous French colonial influence in Phnom

Penh, especially in the architecture, the French presence here is much dissipated. French citizens still represent one of the largest groups of foreign nationals in Phnom Penh, but English-speaking Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and aid groups are rapidly taking root here. Moreover, because English is becoming the international language of travelers, more and more people in Cambodia are

in a Francophone country, I am delighted by this chance to live in a French microcosm here in Phnom Penh and have this opportunity to improve my language skills.

Inside the laboratories of the IPC, I feel right at home: this is a satellite facility of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and therefore it is thoroughly outfitted with modern research equipment and tools. The language of the laboratory is a universal language: a



photo by Katie Hisert

learning English rather than French, and most of conversations between tourists or ex-pats and Khmers take place in English.

Life at the IPC, though, is French. In fact, the entire neighborhood surrounding the IPC is saturated with French influence. The building next door to the north is Calmette Hospital, initially heavily funded by the French, and the building next to that is the French Embassy. Not surprisingly, the favorite local restaurant caters to French clientele. The owners are a Khmer couple who are fluent in French, and the menu includes both Khmer specialties as well as French favorites. (The specials are always written *en français*.) Thus my life takes place almost entirely in French. Fortunately, I learned French during grade school and high school, and I am thus able to keep up with conversations, although I realized immediately that my high school French classes neglected to teach words like "antibody," "cell," and "experiment." (I discovered that my vocabulary is totally devoid of words for discussing things like the Terri Schiavo case; how do you say, "persistent vegetative state" in French?) Having never had the chance before to live

pipette is a pipette in any lab in the world, and everyone uses machines sold by BD Biosciences for flow cytometric analysis involving basic science investigation. Because it is one of the most technologically advanced laboratories in the country, a portion of the research done here is performed in collaboration with the Cambodian Ministry of Health. Additionally, the IPC provides services to local doctors and patients; specifically HIV related tests, as well as rabies vaccinations. Basic science research also takes place here, although much of it is patient-related. My project focuses on the cellular mechanisms of immunity to tuberculosis, but it is based on differences in immune responses in a specific patient population, and thus can be performed only here in Cambodia. It's a great combination: a stimulating research project in a well-equipped lab, coupled with the wonderful challenge of being transplanted into a completely foreign culture.

Next installment: descriptions of Phnom Penh and Khmer culture. ☺

Contact Katie at kbhisert@yahoo.com

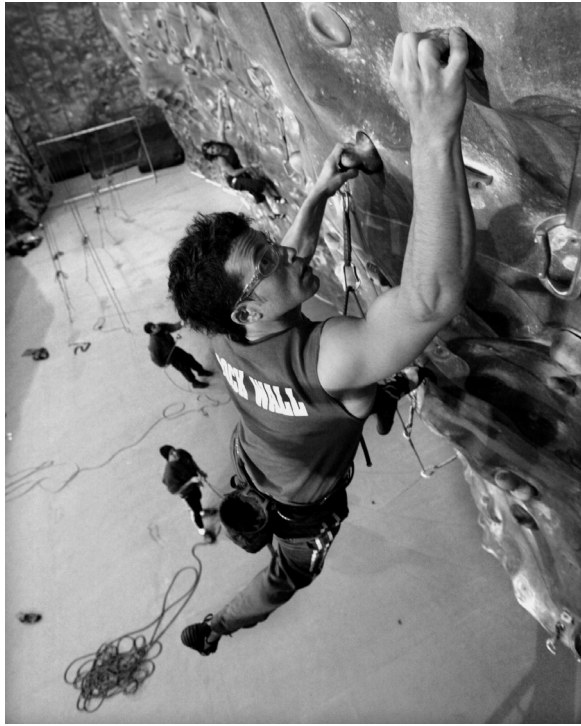


photo by Beбето Matthews, courtesy of Chelsea Piers

KELLY-ANNE WILSON

New York is a hustling, shoving, shouting, ranting, raving, whistling, honking, cursing rat race. So is it really any surprise that a large number of New Yorkers are willing to haul themselves up a cliff for a moment of quiet contemplation?

The Shawanagunks cliff range, about a 90 minute drive from

New York, is one of the premiere climbing locations in the country. The cliff top views of the Hudson Valley are gorgeously rewarding and there is a huge range of climbing routes from gentle inclines to life-defying overhangs. The routes are a mix of single and multi-pitch climbs; that is, they are either a single rope length or multiple rope lengths from top to bottom. In the Shawanagunks, a single pitch climb will take you to about 100 feet, whereas a multi-pitch climb can take you as high as 300 feet. Elsewhere big wall climbs extend for thousands of meters and multiple days.

Outdoor climbing is where it's at. But very few people grab a rope and head to the cliffs without picking up some pointers and confidence by climbing inside first. Most people will have noticed Extra-Vertical near Lincoln Square, and too many people get suckered into a terrible introduction to climbing on these poorly maintained routes. The most impressive indoor climbing wall in the city is the famed Chelsea Piers. The wall measures a majestic 46 feet by 100 feet and is blessed by a decent stereo system, laid back instructors, and the opportunity to watch good climbers show how it's done. Unfortunately, a day pass costs a hefty \$35 as a guest of a member, or a horrific \$50 if you rock up uninvited.

There are more wallet-friendly indoor spots which allow you to play around for an afternoon or allow serious aficionados a regular place to practice technique and build endurance. Manhattan Plaza Health club offers a reasonably sized wall complete with chimneys. This is a great place for learners and children because it's away from traffic, less populated, and has a decent number of easier routes. For those with transport I'd suggest heading to the New Jersey Rock Gym, which is the kind of spacious facility not possible with New York property prices. For those without transport I'd suggest Sports Club LA which doesn't have a fantastic wall, but is just around the corner and is the perfect place to meet those Upper East Siders who can afford a car so you can get to the cliffs in style instead of hoofing it on the train. ☺

The Rockefeller University Strategic Plan

Selected Quotes

- 1) "Many of the remaining worldwide scourges of humankind can be expected to yield to scientific progress in the coming decades" (p 1)
- 2) "Interconnections among floors and buildings at the Institute to produce a sense of a single scientific neighborhood" (p 3)
- 3) "Some laboratories have become rather isolated while others have formed lobby groups promoting particular agendas" (p 5)
- 4) "'Lone Wolf' scientists, as long as they are truly exceptional, will not be overlooked" (p 7)
- 5) "Construction of a 'bridging' building between Smith and Flexner that will create several floors of large, open, flexible horizontal space that will make possible an evolving re-organization of key aspects of the University's laboratory accommodation" (p 11)
- 6) "Cluster of tenure-track laboratories will serve as a kind of 'nursery' where the researchers can learn their 'trade'" (p 12)
- 7) "The cell is the basic unit of life" (p 13)
- 8) "We assume there will be some move to Emeritus status in the ranks of the eleven HOL [Head of Laboratory] faculty

who will reach, or have already reached, age 70 between now and FY[financial year] 2010" (p 19)

- 9) "A working knowledge of science is essential to being a well-rounded, broad-gauged member of society" (p 24)
- 10) "A seven-year [fund raising] campaign with a goal of \$500 million" (p 26)
- 11) "The University has one of the most outstanding graduate programs in the world, which could be named in perpetuity for a donor who makes a leadership gift in the \$30 to \$50 million range" (p 26)
- 12) "Endowment may be the tortoise, and not the hare, but 'what is hare today is gone tomorrow'" (p 28)
- 13) "As his recent appearance on *The Charlie Rose Show* attests, the University has a great asset in its current President" (p 31)
- 14) "New faculty will have more chances to communicate with tenured faculty, perhaps inspiring in the senior scientists a greater desire for regular conversation" (p 32)

The full text of the plan is available online at www.rockefeller.edu/strategicplan

To comment on the University's Strategic Plan, please attend the meeting with Paul Nurse on Wednesday May 4 at 3 pm in Caspary Auditorium.

Further Suggestions

HUGH CARYOT

- 1) Conversion of the top ten floors of Scholars' Residence into commercial luxury condos.
- 2) Adoption of a university cat (Schrödinger) to build community spirit.
- 3) Graduate students and postdocs to be phased out by December 2009, see *Nature* (2004) Vol 427, 247-252.
- 4) iPod given to first author of every *Cell/Nature/Science* paper in the next six years. 15% increase in pipetting and cloning efficiencies during the next financial year.
- 5) Four year cost saving drive. Professors allowed either an appetizer or a dessert (but not both) with their entree when dining on expense accounts at *Per Se*. Cookie rationing (each scientist is given a voucher for one free seminar cookie per month).
- 6) Two more Nobel prizes within the next ten years (B**—it can't be long now).
- 7) Public outreach by the release in Summer 2005 of the album *Baby, I Wanna Be Your Positive Control* by *Biological Noise* (a group of scientist musicians affiliated with the Centre for Physics and Biology). ☺

Rockefeller University Film Series

LUKASZ KOWALIK

May is the last month of the RU Film Series until we start again in October. Enjoy it while you can!

The first movie, another Polanski's feature after *The Pianist*, is *Rosemary's Baby*. It's set in The Dakota at 72nd St and Central Park West, a massive, fortress-like apartment building with rich gothic detail, providing a great backdrop to the dark story.

Rosemary (famously played by Mia Farrow), who has just moved into the new apartment with her husband (John Cassavetes), starts to have suspicions that slowly lead her to believe that her pregnancy is part of a demonic scheme...The greatest horror movie for some, more of a dark fairytale to others—come and judge for yourself. A great opportunity to see this classic on a big screen.

Two weeks later, to finish off on a different note, we are showing Takeshi Kitano's *Zatoichi*, for a Japanese alternative to Kurosawa or *Ringu*. It's a story of Zatoichi, a blind masseur and a master swordsman—the legendary hero of Kan Shimozawa's novels—who alone stands up to the Ginzo gang controlling the town he wandered into. It is an action film, "a masterpiece of wry violence and stylized mayhem" (Michael Wilmington of the *Chicago Tribune*), and a musical at that—watch out for the line-dancing samurai.

The film series has been a success, thanks to your attendance. Please continue to send in your suggestions to kowalik@rockefeller.edu, as the schedule for next year is being worked out.

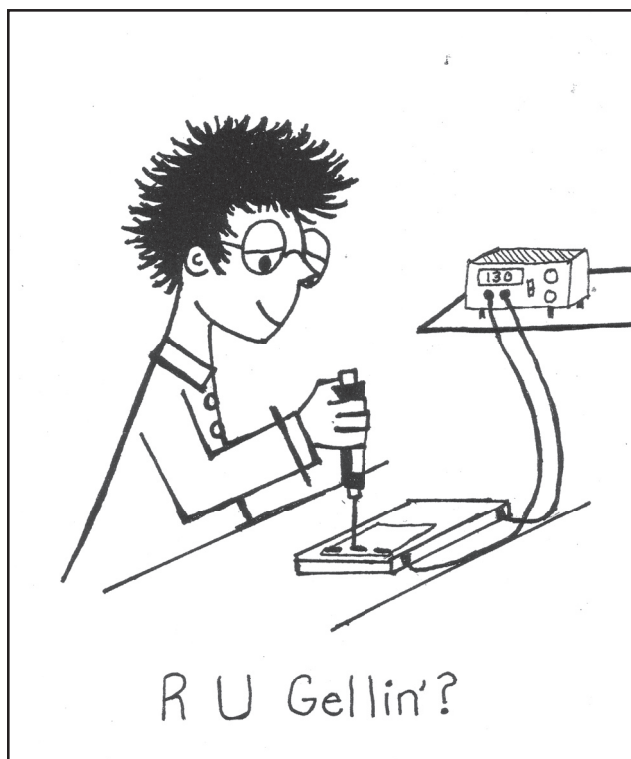
*all films are in Caspary Auditorium at 8 pm

ROSEMARY'S BABY (1968) — 16 MM

by Roman Polanski
Monday May 2

THE BLIND SWORDSMAN:
ZATOICHI (2003) — DVD

by Takeshi Kitano
Monday May 16



cartoon by Xander Arguello and Cristi Frazier



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box 24

EINSTEIN FEST

2005 marks the centenary of Einstein's *Annus Mirabilis*, when he published a series of astonishing papers on quantum theory, Brownian Motion, and relativity. Rockefeller University will be hosting a special event to celebrate Einstein's achievements.

Tuesday May 10
1-6 pm Caspary Auditorium

Speakers:

John Rigden
"Einstein 1905: The Standard of Greatness"

Daniel Greenberger
"Appreciating Einstein's Contributions to Quantum Theory"

Albert Libchaber
"Brownian Motion Einstein, Perrin, and Molecular Motors"

William Carithers
"A Voyage Through Dark Energy"

Paul Steinhardt
"Einstein, Time and the Future of the Universe"