

# THE N I H R E C O R D

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Mail Manager Hunt Honored as Best in Government

By Rich McManus

There is plenty of justification in the 5 pages of single-spaced typewritten information that comprises the nomination of John R. Hunt, Jr., as Best Mail Manager of the Year, but two things make the honor seem most deserved: first, it was done behind his back—he had no idea that anyone was pitching him for an award (but he was curious about why all of the framed certificates that line his office wall kept temporarily disappearing); and second, while anthrax in the mail and the need to X-ray and detoxify mail arrived with all the other bad news of fall 2001, Hunt and his colleagues reacted not with anger or despair, but with rededication to the job of getting everyone at NIH their mail.

To meet Hunt is to wonder whether

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## Scientific Misconduct Discussed At Seminar for Interns

By Cynthia Delgado

"How many of you know someone who has plagiarized?" asked Dr. Howard Young to students attending the NCI-Frederick



Dr. Howard Young

too often in his talks with area students. He thinks it highlights the need for making students, teachers and all sectors of the

SEE MISCONDUCT, PAGE 5

Summer Seminar Series at Ft. Detrick. An astounding 75-85 percent of the audience raised their hands. This alarming response is one Young observes all

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NIH Hams Join in Emergency Drill



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## Perimeter Fence To Have Adaptable Features, Project Starts in Fall

By Rich McManus

Anyone who has ever wondered what it's like to work at the White House will soon realize at least a portion of that dream: NIH is due to get an ornamental metal fence of the kind that surrounds the executive mansion, complete with surveillance cameras and other monitoring features that will enhance security on campus.

The fence, a protection measure that was actually recommended for NIH by the Office of the HHS Inspector General a month before the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks, is currently in the design phase, with construction due to begin in the fall and completion expected next spring, said Stella Serras-Fiotes, director of the Office of Facilities Planning, Office of Research Services.

The barrier, once considered hurtful to the collegial nature of the campus, is but one part of a larger security scheme that will eventually include a new Visitor Center to welcome and screen guests, and a delivery inspection center to monitor vendor and truck traffic at NIH. All three elements were proposed by the IG office, and became critical for NIH when HHS directed, on Jan. 30, 2002, that all department facilities hew to security requirements (based on a "Vulnerability Assessment of Federal Facili-

SEE PERIMETER FENCE, PAGE 4

## Genetic Explanations for Human Behavior Eyed

The use of genetic factors to explain human characteristics such as intelligence is associated, in certain population subgroups, with particular political and social ideologies, according to a study directed by Dr. Toby Jayaratne of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan and guest speaker on June 20 at the Human Genome Lecture Series. Her lecture, "White and Black Americans' Genetic Explanations for Perceived Gender, Class and Race Differences: The Psychology of Genetic Beliefs," concluded NHGRI's 2001-2002 series.

The media play a role in making genetic attributions salient to the public, Jayaratne noted. "We know that due to recent breakthroughs in genetic research—particularly work on the Human Genome Project—there has been increasing media cover-



Dr. Toby Jayaratne

SEE GENETIC EXPLANATIONS, PAGE 6



## MAIL MANAGER. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

patriotic Americans should add, to their collection of FDNY and NYPD ballcaps, a cap whose initials honor mail carriers, a group of workers that has gone largely unheralded since the days of "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night..."—the unofficial postal motto, adopted from Herodotus, that first appeared in 1914 atop the New York City General Post Office.

"They did a lot of legwork behind my back," Hunt said of his coworkers at the North Stonestreet mail facility, where he is chief of the Mail and Courier Services Branch, Division of Support Services, ORS. "I had no clue that I had been nominated. They

took the certificates off my wall, and they must have called my wife, too. I didn't know they were capable of doing such a sneaky thing."

Hunt had a long career in the military before joining NIH in 1993 for what is really his third career. He was born in Roxboro, N.C., and graduated from high school there.

Two years later, in 1963, he joined the Army infantry, then moved to the adjutant general career field, specializing first in personnel then in mail services. As the Army bounced him around from post to post, he picked up an associate's degree at El Paso Community College in Texas, but is still 20 hours short of a bachelor's degree. "I spent so much time moving that I never finished

[college]. One of the things I want to do is complete my degree," he said.

Hunt eventually rose to the rank of command sergeant major before retiring from the Army in October 1989. But his next job was a civilian posting to an Army base in Heidelberg, Germany, where he helped establish procedures to provide mail support to troops deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm. In May 1993, he joined NIH as mail operations manager, and rose to his current position in August 1994.

Today he is in charge of 25 federal employees and 38 contractors, and oversees not just the North Stonestreet facility, but also satellite offices in Bldgs. 1, 10, 31, 45, Rockledge and the Neuroscience Research Center in Rockville. He manages an operating budget of \$4 million and an NIH postal account budget of \$4.5 million. Twenty-two thousand workers in some 113 buildings, leased facilities and trailers (totaling 1,100 mail stops) get their mail from Hunt's team twice a day.

According to his nomination, Hunt "has made extensive and resourceful improvements to the mail service and operations that have had a significant

and positive impact on the NIH community...His acknowledged management acumen, resourcefulness and foresight, and unique interpersonal skills have resulted in immeasurably enhanced mail services to NIH." On his watch, new mail tracking systems, improved customer service, a new accounting system and cheaper delivery of parcels has been achieved, not to mention purchase of two Heimann Hi-Scan X-ray Inspection Systems, to screen incoming mail and packages.

"After 9/11 and the anthrax situation, it kind of reenergizes you to dig down and be all you can be," he said, acknowledging that the terrorist events have resulted in far more work for his group. The NIH mail workers "absolutely" feel more appreciated these days, he noted. "My people were really more concerned about the safety of others, who were receiving the mail, than they were about themselves," he observed.

Hunt received a certificate of excellence "for outstanding achievement in the mailing industry" and a small statue on June 26 as the General Services Administration's "Federal Mail Manager of the Year," but that was not his only recent honor. At MAILCOM, a meeting of all East Coast mail managers from both the private and public sectors, held this year in Atlantic City, two Hunt products—the NIH Mail Security Process/Procedures, and the Mail Services Guide—were cited as examples of "best practices."

Hunt, who now lives in Springfield, Va., and likes to golf down at Ft. Belvoir (a perk of his military retirement—he has a 16 handicap), expects to lead the NIH mail service for another 3 or 4 years at least. "Right now, I'm still enjoying it," he said. ■



John R. Hunt, Jr., was recently named Best Mail Manager of the Year. (Photo by Earl Simmons)

## NIH RECORD

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## CIT Responds Quickly to Fiber Cut

Hundreds of federal workers at off-campus NIH and HHS sites dodged a major work interruption thanks to prompt action by CIT's Division of Network Systems and Telecommunications' (DNST) emergency strike teams following a fiber cut by road construction workers on the afternoon of June 25.

A road construction crew working in the vicinity of Route I-495 and Old Georgetown Rd. severed a fiber optic cable, interrupting direct network connectivity to federal workers at Executive Blvd., 6707 Democracy Blvd., and the Parklawn Bldg. The disruption also affected customers at the Office of the Secretary, HHS, in the Humphrey Bldg. in downtown Washington, D.C.

Within minutes of the break, DNST's Network Operating Center (NOC) and the Division of Customer Service staff were communicating with each other, and with their NIH and HHS customers, to make sure everyone was apprised of the problem and appropriate actions were being taken.

During such emergencies, NOC operates as CIT's network command center, monitoring the NIH network, providing updates and coordinating communications between engineers, customers and the Technical Assistance and Support Center.

A quick assessment of the problem showed not only that the cable was cut, but also that Verizon's back-up hardware had failed as soon as the primary system tried to "seamlessly" switch to that equipment.

The Network Engineering Branch immediately established three teams and dispatched them to the trouble areas to restore connectivity.

The first team oversaw fiber repair and compelled the vendor, Fibergate, to repair the break quickly, which they did, 7 hours faster than they had estimated.

The second team sought alternatives to the damaged fiber routes. They succeeded not only in engineering a new connection, but also in establishing a new back-up system that can provide faster service restoration in the future.

Thanks to nimble engineering, more than half of the affected customers (primarily those working at Executive Blvd.) were able to connect to the network via a temporary path nearly an hour before the fiber was repaired.

Finally, a third team was dispatched to work with Verizon to repair their failed back-up system. Ironically, CIT was already working with Verizon to help them upgrade their hardware when the failure occurred. The recent cable cut accelerated these efforts, solidifying Verizon's agreement to proceed with upgrades identified by CIT.

By early evening, Fibergate technicians completed the fiber splice and all service was restored. ■



*The Medical Center Metro station, located at the Rockville Pike entrance to NIH's campus, is among three stations chosen under a pilot program to have canopies erected over outdoor escalator banks. The purpose of the canopies is to protect customers and escalator equipment from inclement weather. The cost of constructing the canopies is approximately \$300,000 per location, and the total cost of the program is not to exceed \$27 million. The pilot will allow for comments from Metro's board of directors, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission regarding design and construction of the canopies to be addressed before full implementation of the program. Metro selected the design created by Lourie, Chenoweth & Houghton, winners of the WMATA Canopy Design Competition, as its choice for the canopies, which will be placed over 46 of the 53 exposed escalator entrances. Stations at L'Enfant Plaza and Crystal City will also participate in the pilot. Metro expects construction to begin soon, with completion of the pilot canopies by the end of the year.*

## Course on Clinical Pharmacology Planned

The Principles of Clinical Pharmacology course, sponsored by the Clinical Center, will begin in Lipsett Amphitheater on Sept. 5. It will be held Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. and will run through Apr. 24, 2003.

The course covers such topics as pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism and transport, assessment of drug effects, drug therapy in special populations, and drug discovery and development. The faculty includes Dr. Carl Peck of Georgetown University's Center for Drug Development Science, Dr. Jerry Collins of FDA, and the Clinical Center's Dr. Arthur J. Atkinson, Jr. who is also course director. The faculty has also prepared a textbook, *Principles of Clinical Pharmacology*, that follows the sequence of the course lectures and is available in the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Inc. bookstore located in Bldg. 10.

Registration is open to all interested persons free of charge. Certificates will be awarded at the end of the course to students who attend 75 percent of the lectures. More information, including online registration, is available at <http://www.cc.nih.gov/cc/principles/>. ■

## Course on Beethoven's Quartets

The FAES Graduate School at NIH is offering a Beethoven string quartet performance-lecture course this fall. All 16 quartets will be performed live, with lectures outlining each quartet. The class will be held Mondays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The course is for all NIH music lovers, even those who can't read music. For information about registration (which must be completed by the end of August), call 496-7976 or visit [www.faes.org](http://www.faes.org).



## PERIMETER FENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ties") developed by the Department of Justice in June 1995, and to National Security Alert Guidelines issued by the General Services Administration.

Though constructed of black metal pickets almost 9 feet tall, and buttressed near roadways by boulders and stone walls designed to thwart vehicles, the

perimeter fence will be flexible enough to respond to a range of threat conditions set by the Office of Homeland Security. According to guidelines developed by ORS's Division of Public Safety, at the lowest, or "green" level of security, the gates could be open and unstaffed, said Serras-Fiotes. At the "red" or highest level, the gates might be locked to everyone, with entry

permitted only through specific, staffed gates. As the *Record* went to press, security was at level 3 (code yellow), meaning that NIH'ers would use their ID badges as cardkeys to enter the various gates in the metal fence, but visitors would be channeled only through specific entrances. The gates can function either electronically, or with staffing, or both, Serras-Fiotes noted, and designers are including features to foil the practice of anyone dashing in at the same time as NIH'ers, a behavior known as "tailgating."

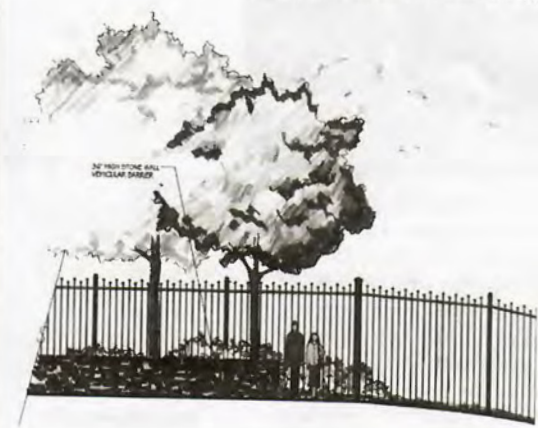
While obviously a physical barrier, the fence also buys time for police in the event of an aggressive intrusion from without. It is the outermost ring in a series of concentric layers of protection that includes restricted entry at some buildings, and then areas within buildings that may be off-limits, Serras-Fiotes explained.

As it snakes its way for almost 2 miles around the perimeter of campus, resulting in the demise of only a handful of trees, the fence adapts to some specific needs. It has been routed to avoid four "archaeologically sensitive areas" (one on each of the campus' four sides) and attempts to honor the perimeter buffer zone from surrounding neighborhoods, and maintain a 100-foot "pedestrian standoff" from NIH buildings (the distance at which a bomb-wielding walker could do minimal damage) and a 250-foot "vehicular standoff," representing a distance at which the explosives packed in a car or truck could do the least damage to structures. Other special features include 3-foot-tall stone-wall vehicular barriers near driveway entrances; a special "residential fence" around the on-campus homes ("the Quarters") that will both enable residents to come and go more freely than employees, and be

capable of turning the enclave into a gated community in the event of a threat; and routing to avoid protected "view sheds"—those vistas offered from historic properties such as Bldg. 1 and the Stone House.

The perimeter fence will itself be encircled by a bikepath/sidewalk to connect with the county's system and to accommodate neighbors who are accustomed to traversing the campus to reach Metro. And in a boon for dog-walkers and neighbors, the chain-link fence that has for decades defined the south boundary of campus will remain with its current openings; the new perimeter fence will be set back from the chain-link one, leaving a greensward for common use.

Though he was not here when planning for the fence began last October, NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni endorses the decision to proceed with its construction. In a letter to Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.) dated June 14, he said, "I am committed to protecting our employees, patients, visitors and



An artist's drawing of the fence shows portion featuring 3-foot-high stone wall vehicular barrier.



A boulder barrier will also buttress the fence in places.

neighbors; securing our facilities; and safeguarding the reputation and mission of the NIH." The letter further notes that NIH has been evaluating its security needs since 1995; that "significant shortcomings in NIH's security profile" have been identified; and that nationally recognized experts in security planning and design have offered their counsel to NIH in this process.

Planning for the fence has also involved the surrounding neighborhoods, via the NIH Community Liaison Council, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission, which gets the plan in August and might have input on aspects of design or siting. "NCPC's role is advisory for federal facilities outside the District of Columbia," said Serras-Fiotes. NCPC will submit the plan to the Montgomery County Planning Board, which will likely discuss it at an open hearing in September. The board will report back to NCPC later in the fall,



and NCPC will issue its nonbinding recommendations.

Once the fence is built, plans will proceed for a new freestanding Visitor Center (the current Visitor Information Center recently migrated from the basement of the Clinical Center to a site on the first floor of the Natcher Bldg.) near the Medical Center Metro station, and a delivery inspection center at the northeast side of the campus. The two must be kept separate for optimum traffic flow and security, Serras-Fiotes emphasized.

Visitor Center construction will require reconfiguration of the current Metro drop-off and bus depot, to allow better access and circulation. Traffic studies of current and anticipated conditions have concluded that no changes need be made to the roadways surrounding NIH.

Eventually, some of the vehicle inspection "tents" on campus will come down, but there will probably be a continued need for them outside underground parking garages, noted Serras-Fiotes.

"[Security planning is] a really challenging job," she said, "because the campus was not originally designed to be a secure place. Retrofitting [for security needs] is tough to apply uniformly and appropriately, particularly after we've had more than 60 years of being essentially an open campus."

Lou Green is in charge of the perimeter fence project and Nancy Boyd is in charge of the Visitor Center construction project; both work in the Design, Construction and Alteration Branch, Division of Engineering Services, ORS. **R**

#### Public Meeting on New Pond

There will be a public meeting to discuss the proposed Stoney Creek stormwater management facility—to be located on the southeast lawn of the National Library of Medicine—on Thursday, Aug. 15 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane. The meeting will present preliminary plans to capture and treat runoff from downtown Bethesda and a portion of the NIH campus. Residents will have an opportunity to review the project and provide comments. For information, contact Craig Carson, (240) 777-7713 or email [craig@askdep.com](mailto:craig@askdep.com).

#### Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks healthy female volunteers ages 40-50 to participate in longitudinal studies of the perimenopause. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles and be medication-free. Periodic hormonal evaluations, symptom rating completion and occasional interviews will be performed. Subjects will be paid. Call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. **R**

#### MISCONDUCT. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

scientific community aware of ethical concerns in the conduct of science.

While seminar students had lunch, Young, who is head of the cellular and molecular immunology

section, Laboratory of Experimental Immunology, NCI, reviewed the federal definition of scientific misconduct—"fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research, or in reporting research results."

Next he gave an explanation of why misconduct might occur. "In science, you are judged by how productive you are," he said. He noted the expectation that all postdocs face at the outset of their careers—becoming first authors on at least one paper in a major scientific journal. With so much pressure, some individuals "will succumb to fabrication of data," he added.

Students also got a heads-up on major ethical issues that could arise in a research career. Young divided these into six areas: data management, publication practices, collaborations, peer review and privileged information, financial conflicts of interest and human subjects research. Providing examples in each area, he offered a realistic view and a deeper understanding of scientific misconduct matters. For example, Young used an autoradiographic film from his own research to demonstrate how easily data could be manipulated by simply changing the sample labels. He reminded students that research results must be repeatable and pass the scrutiny of peer review by fellow scientists.

Young concluded the seminar by leading a discussion about real-life dilemmas in the conduct of science. Participants role-played different scenarios and discovered the contrasting viewpoints and difficult decisions that may arise.

By making students aware of ethical issues in research, Young hopes we can better prepare future scientists for the challenges they may face, and subsequently safeguard our nation's health.

Young is a member of the NIH Speakers Bureau and talks frequently to students, schools and other community groups about science ethics and other topics. He is also a member of the NIH committee on scientific conduct and ethics.

Review the NIH policy on research ethics at <http://www.nih.gov/sigs/bioethics/researchethics.html>. **R**

#### Stuttering, Speech Articulation Study

NIH seeks children ages 5-12 for a study to better understand stuttering and speech articulation disorders. There is no charge for those who take part. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). **R**



*A shocking proportion of the lecture audience owns up to being aware of contemporaries who are plagiarists.*





*The General Electric Elfun Society and NIH R&W recently sponsored the Mark Moseley Golf Tournament to raise funds for the Friends of the Clinical Center and Special Love/Camp Fantastic. Pictured are Mark Moseley, former All-Pro Redskin placekicker and NFL MVP of the Year, along with Therese Clemens, executive director of the FOCC. The tournament includes many former Redskins, and local media personalities. The event raised more than \$40,000 which is split by FOCC, Special Love/Camp Fantastic and the Recreation and Welfare Association (to assist patients for area events while undergoing treatment).*

#### GENETIC EXPLANATIONS. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

age of genetic research, often reported in a dramatic way," she said, describing the effect on public perception. "There has been increasing acceptance of genetic research in the fields of psychiatry and psychology. Research in these fields is often what gets reported in the popular media."

Showing slides of newspaper articles—"Biology May Be Destiny" (linking sexual orientation and genes); "Study: Genes Determine IQ" (hinting at genetic determinants for IQ, personality and behavior); and "Born To Be Bad: Why Do Some Kids Kill?" (suggesting innate, irreversible tendencies for violence)—Jayaratne said the popular media often spectacularizes the science it reports. Even professional articles can be guilty of hyperbole, she said, citing an article in the monthly magazine of the American Psychological Association that suggested that happiness is inherited.

"Despite the fact that no clear genetic mechanisms have been directly linked to specific, complex human behaviors," she pointed out, "the public is clearly being exposed to media coverage that can fairly be described as supporting a genetic deterministic view of human behavior." Jayaratne also briefly recalled eugenics and instances in history when genetic explanations were used to legitimize the social hierarchy.

"Given these controversies it is critical to understand what the public believes about genetic causes for human behaviors and how such explanations might support particular social and political ideologies," she explained. There can be tremendous social significance, Jayaratne said, because such beliefs "represent our view of human nature, reflect the way we see ourselves and others, and shape our self-perceptions and influence how we treat others."

When people perceive that certain actions are caused by a person's genes, she explained, there is the implication that "the behavior is stable, enduring and not volitional, and that the behavior originates primarily within the individual and not the environment."

In addition, she noted, attributing behavior to genetics can be used to imply enduring superiority or inferiority, particularly by individuals who are socially advantaged. They can "legitimize their status either by implying that those who are inferior can never move up the social hierarchy or by implying that they themselves will never move down."

Genetics can also be used to absolve people from responsibility for bad behavior, she pointed out, since the implication is that people are subject to their genes and do not have the freedom to choose right from wrong. "Genetic explanations have important social and political meaning and are not always statements about objective scientific facts," Jayaratne emphasized.

With that backdrop, she and her colleagues conducted research funded by NHGRI's Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications Research Program. The 3-year study included a 40-minute telephone interview with 1,200 black and white women and men. From responses to questions on genetic understanding, the researchers know that this sample of Americans had little sophistication about basic genetic science.

Seeking answers to two questions—What does the public believe about genetic causes for human behaviors? and Are these genetic explanations used by the socially advantaged to imply inferiority of socially disadvantaged groups?—the study examined

**"Biological explanations for race differences are an integral part of traditional racism."**

people's belief that genes explain various human behaviors and abilities, including athleticism, math performance, drive to succeed, tendency toward violence, intelligence and sexual orientation.

According to preliminary study results, a majority of respondents indicated that each of the characteristics, except drive to succeed and sexual orientation, is explained, at least in part, by genetic factors. In addition, blacks and whites in the study were found to hold very different views about genetic influence, with whites significantly more likely than blacks to report genetic attributions for all characteristics.

The researchers also investigated the belief that genes explain perceived differences in behavior and ability between men and women, between the rich and the poor and between blacks and whites. Across all categories and among all explanations for differences, a sizable portion of the study population believes genes play some role in perceived gender, class and race differences, according to the data. "Given the fact that no clear genetic mechanisms have been directly linked to any of these specific behaviors or abilities," Jayaratne noted, "this is reason for concern."

The study also examined the association between genetic attributions and various attitudes toward women, the poor and blacks among those who are advantaged by their gender, class or race. "So, is there a link between genetic explanations and prejudice toward disadvantaged gender, class and race groups, as some have cautioned, or are we needlessly concerned?" Jayaratne asked.

Results varied, she reported. For example, among black men, but not white men, there was a significant effect of genetic explanations for perceived gender differences on resentment toward women. Among whites with a college degree, but not blacks with a similar education, genetic attributions for perceived social class differences predicted resent-





ment toward the poor. Finally, among white men, genetic explanations for perceived race differences predicted both traditional and more current, nuanced forms of racism. This association was less consistent among white women.

"Biological explanations for race differences are an integral part of traditional racism," Jayaratne said. "Many have argued, at least theoretically, that biological explanations do not play a part in modern racist attitudes, but our data shows otherwise, at least among white men."

These findings appear to show that genetic attributions are associated with intolerance among some who are advantaged by their gender, social class or race.

However, Jayaratne also examined the connection between genetic explanations for sexual orientation and attitudes toward gays and lesbians. In contrast to the previous results, she found that these genetic explanations are associated with less prejudice toward gays and lesbians. Jayaratne suggested that because genetic explanations imply that a behavior is not volitional, they can be used to "remove a behavior from the moral domain to advocate for increased tolerance toward those who are marginalized by their behavior."

Assessing the results, she concluded that "many individuals use genetic explanations to justify or support their social and political ideologies, whatever they may be."

The results of the study have implications for those in the field of genetic science, she noted, pointing out that geneticists should be aware of how their research results are perceived. "It is important to be conservative in reporting research results to the public and to be cautious about how the media interprets research, so that the public is not misinformed," she advised.

Jayaratne also concluded that there is a critical need to educate the public about genetic science—particularly since policy decisions to remedy social inequalities may be influenced by public opinion on genetic issues. ■



*Patrick (l) and Eric Coy, sons of NIDCR's George Coy, enjoy the company of the Orioles Bird at the R&W annual Bull Pen Party at Orioles Park at Camden Yards. This year, the Orioles played the Oakland A's.*

*The Orioles Bird visited the bull pen and cavorted with NIH'ers and their families.*

### HRDD Class Offerings

The Human Resource Development Division supports the development of NIH human resources through consultation and provides training, career development programs and other services designed to enhance organizational performance. For more information call 496-6211 or visit <http://LearningSource.od.nih.gov>.

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Gold of the Desert Kings:	
Effort vs. Productivity	8/26

### CIT Computer Classes

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

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Blackberry Tips and Tricks	8/13
WIG - World Wide Web Interest Group	8/13
Programming with Java	8/13-15
EHRP/PeopleSoft Human Resources Training	8/13-14
PowerPoint Topics: Graphs, Links and More	8/14
NIH Data Warehouse End-of-Year Processing	8/15
Getting a New PC? - Understand	
the Technical Terms	8/20
Content Management Server at NIH	8/21
Introduction to NIH Information Resources	
on the Web	8/21
DSG - Desktop Support Group	8/21
Using Photoshop to Work w/ Scientific Images	8/22
Creating Presentations w/ PowerPoint for PC	8/27

### Have Difficulty Swallowing?

NIH is doing a research study to learn more about the relationship between reduced tongue strength and swallowing problems. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). ■

### Knowledge Associate Program

Sign up for the Knowledge Associate Program and shift your career at NIH into high gear. Offered by the Human Resources Development Division, the program enables support workers to update their skills in order to maintain a high level of productivity. The certificate program addresses changes brought on by the IT revolution, and offers the following certification tracks: PC basics and software applications; multimedia and desktop publishing; project management; web design and development; office leadership. For more details visit <http://learningsource.od.nih.gov>.



## NIH Hams Camp Out to Test Emergency Communications

On June 22-23, members of the NIH Radio Amateur Club (NIHRAC)—colloquially known as “hams”—participated in the annual North American Emergency Communications Exercise, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for radio amateurs. They were testing their capability to assist communications during a public emergency. This was the first time NIHRAC has participated since 1985.

The NIH hams set up and operated radio transmitters and receivers, for 24 hours, on the lawn in front of Bldg. 1. This was field station “K3YGG.” (NIHRAC was licensed by the Federal Communications Commission in 1963 and assigned the callsign K3YGG.)

The radio enthusiasts strung wire antennas between the large old oak trees from north-to-south and from east-to-west. They mounted another antenna atop a mast strapped to a parking sign. A fourth antenna was a long wire sloping down from the top of the flagpole. “We made use of what was there,” they said.

“We received wonderful cooperation from our NIH fire, police and other emergency management and grounds people,” the hams reported. The NIH Fire Department

provided its mobile mass decontamination unit to house the emergency radio field station, and a generator to provide electrical power. The NIH electricians operated a “bucket truck” to lift ham Peter Fuchs and his EZ-Hang slingshot/fishing-reel up 40 feet to shoot the wire antennas as high as possible into the trees. The hams toted picnic tables into the trailer, to serve as a makeshift office.

The hams also relocated transceivers from NIHRAC’s Emergency Communication Center in Bldg. 11, and some members brought equipment from home.

During the 24-hour period of

contest operation, the NIH’ers used voice and Morse code and several digital modes of communication and logged 650 radio contacts with other hams in 45 states and three foreign countries. Most of the contacts were made using Morse code. “It’s quick and reliable,” said Dr. Peter Alterman, whose personal “ham call” is W2CDO. He used the club’s call K3YGG as he operated the key sending Morse code reports to other stations. Jonathan Gottlieb, WA3WDK, and Dr. Chuck Sherman, N3WTO, made most of their contacts using a microphone. Other operators included John Muller, W3DQ, Peter Fuchs, DL5NC, and Marlene Skopec, N3YIQ. Additional members helped assemble and take down the station.

“We took a break in the middle of the night and turned off the generator for a few hours,” said Sherman. “It’s pretty quiet on the campus at 3 a.m. We slept under the stars.” He and Alterman awoke before dawn to get back “on the air.”

President Bush saluted amateur radio operators in a proclamation on June 18 for their “work on behalf of public safety and for communications that foster goodwill around the globe.”

The NIH Radio Amateur Club is sponsored by the Emergency Management Branch, ORS, and meets at noon on the first Thursday of each month in Bldg. 11, Rm. 308. NIH staff interested in more information may contact Dr. Chuck Sherman, 594-9685 or N3WTO@nih.gov.

Fuchs uses ORS bucket truck to cast antenna lines even higher into the trees.



Peter Fuchs stands on the gangway of the NIH Fire Department’s mass decontamination unit, which NIH hams converted into a radio shack during the recent exercise.

PHOTOS: CHUCK SHERMAN

Arms of the ham radio antenna crisscross in front of the emblem atop Bldg. 1.



Dr. Peter Alterman (l) and Dr. Bill Hookman radio shack.



Fuchs uses a slingshot to hang antenna wire in trees.



Field day chair Dr. Chuck Sherman relaxes on his rolled-up sleeping bag.

