

VOLUME LXXX • NO. 41  
OCTOBER 15-22, 1999

## BRIEFS

POLICY ON CLOSING THE STATION  
DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Enclosed with this week's *Station News* is the policy that will be used when inclement weather forces the Station to be closed.

Radar has been installed to enhance our ability to foresee the strength of a storm approaching the Geneva area. Weather information will be provided to the Director or his designee in a timely manner.

As suggested, local Rochester and Syracuse TV stations were contacted and asked if they would announce the Station closing. They responded by stating that only local school closings would be announced.

Please direct questions to Charie Hibbard, Human Resources, at cah3.

NEW WEB SITE ON  
PESTICIDE SAFETY

EPA has created a new web site, <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety>, to provide farm workers, certified applicators, and health care providers with information on the Agency's pesticide safety programs. This web site, which can be accessed in English and Spanish, provides specific information on applicator certification and training requirements and EPA's Worker Protection Standard, including pesticide safety training, notification of pesticide applications, use of personal protective equipment and emergency medical assistance. The site also provides information on the Pesticides and

National Strategies for Health Care Providers, an EPA-led initiative aimed at helping health care providers become trained in diagnosing and pre-

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## New Telephone System Purchased

*"One ringy dingey, two ringy dingey—Hello!"*

That phrase is from an old television show called "Laugh-In." Lily Tomlin played the part of a switchboard operator, and her unique voice plus her facial expression regularly brought the house down during her part of the program.

For the last several years, it perhaps has felt as though the telephone system at the Station is as antiquated as the old-style switchboard operator. In some ways it is. For the past 21 years, the Station's telephone needs have been served by a Rolm switch, which is located on the ground floor of the Food Research Laboratory. Although a telephone can be found on almost every desk and many ancillary areas, each with its own number or extension, there are actually only 10 lines from Bell Atlantic that bring the thousands of calls the Station has each day to the close to 300 instruments that are on campus. You may not know it, but many times people will try to reach you from the outside and will get a busy signal, even though you are not on your telephone. This is because all 10 incoming lines are in use and no more calls can get through to anyone.

When the Rolm switch was installed in 1978, it was state of the art. It has been extraordinarily reliable through the years, causing very few interruptions in telephone service on campus. It has many features that are available to users, most of which have never been used to their full extent, such as conferencing calling, call forwarding, Do Not Disturb, and various call-back possibilities. Through the years, the Rolm switch has been updated, with the last time being in the late 1980s.

However, it has finally reached its useful lifespan. There are no more ports available with which to connect new telephone numbers unless someone else gives up a telephone number. It is not Y2K compliant, and it is analog technology rather than the new, sophisticated, highly versatile digital technology.

Consequently, five years ago, at the request of Director Jim Hunter, a subcommittee of the Station's computer committee began looking at what the Station needed in a telephone system to carry it well into the next century. The subcommittee was composed of Mark McLellan, Chair (Food Science and Technology); John Barnard (Computer Center); Ron Pool (Computer Center); Mark Casasanta (Buildings and Properties); Cheryl TenEyck (IPM); and Pat Krauss (Administration). This subcommittee met routinely over the years.

The members considered about every conceivable permutation it could in trying to decide what telephone service would be best for the Station's current and future needs. Eventually, a consulting firm was asked to conduct a survey of individual users on campus to see what people actually needed and wanted in a future telephone system. The results of this survey were used by the subcommittee to prepare a final Request For Proposal (RFP) for a new telephone system for the Station. This RFP was sent out for bid to numerous communications companies in July 1999.

Successful bidder for the new system was Williams Communication Solutions, which is a national company and which will serve us through its Syracuse office. The new system is a Northern Telecom Meridian 1 Option 61C PBX. Installation of the new system will occur before the first of the year. The new switch has all the features of the old Rolm 8000, plus it has the capacity to provide dial tones for up to 2,000 ports. Additionally, it has an advanced voice mail feature that will replace all the answering machines that are on cam-

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venting pesticide related illnesses.

## DEER HUNTING ON STATION PROPERTY

As in the past few years, the Station will be allowing current Station employees to deer hunt on Station property. The deer control program includes the use of electric fences, baiting the fences, use of repellents, nuisance permits, and hunting during the legal deer hunting season. The archery season is from October 15 thru November 21 and then again December 15 thru 19. Firearm season is from November 22 thru December 14. Then muzzleloader season runs December 15 thru 21.

The firearms hunters can be identified by an orange vest they will be wearing with NYSAES printed on it. They will also be wearing an orange hat. Project leaders and technicians are encouraged to wear light colored clothing in the field during this time. To check to see if a hunter is on a farm you can call Security (X215). Hunters are required to sign in. Also, you can report to Security that you will be in your plot and for hunters to stay out (include block code and time you will be in plot). You will need to sign up daily. If you do find a hunter in your plot, inform them that you will be working and that they will have to move elsewhere.

If you are interested in hunting with either gun or bow on Station lands, please contact Mark L. Scott. There is one more meeting date for people interested in hunting on Station property: November 16.

If you have any questions or comments, please address them to Mark L. Scott, 789-3689.

## Save The Date

### 1999 Station Club Banquet

November 5, 1999 - Club 86

Hors d'oeuvres: 6-7 PM

Dinner • Meeting

Music provided by Mike Walsh of  
American DJ Company from 9-12 PM

See your department rep. for details.

# Pumpkins Could Be the New Power Crop in New York



Pumpkins have become an increasingly important crop across the country, and New York now ranks #2 in pumpkin production. Not only that, but Halloween is now second only to Christmas in the amount of money consumers spend on a holiday.

According to horticultural scientist, Steve Reiners, about 7,000 acres of pumpkins are grown in New York, from small half-acre plots up to 100 acres.

"Although the NYS Department of Ag and Markets does not track their value, pumpkins are probably worth about \$20 to \$25 million in New York State," says Reiners. "It's estimated that 99% of the crop is used for holiday decorations only and never consumed." Whereas people bought one pumpkin in the past, they now decorate their yards with four or five.

The crop seems to do very well in New York. "Although we were dry this summer, we did not experience the extreme drought conditions that the Mid-Atlantic states saw. Yields there were slashed 75% to 90%," says Reiners. What crop growers did manage to get through the drought turned to mush when a tropical storm dropped 10 to 15 inches of rain in 24 hours.

Reiners has had calls from colleagues in Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania wanting to know if pumpkins are available up here this year. He has seen several New York growers ship their pumpkins down to the Mid-Atlantic states for a pretty good wholesale price.

Pumpkins do well in seasons where there is ample heat and moisture. "What we have going for us is that we normally don't see day after day of temperatures above 95°F that is common south of here," he says. At those temperatures, pumpkin flowers don't pollinate and no fruit is set. New York soils tend to hold more moisture than the sandy soils along the coast—another benefit in a dry year.

Although the crop is becoming more and more important, there were some very basic questions that needed to be answered. Reiners has worked with researchers in Ithaca and

Extension Educators around the state to put together a research program to answer those questions.

"We've tried to determine how to grow the crop most productively and had several studies that examine optimum plant populations, soil fertility management, irrigation practices, growth regulators, and variety screenings," says Reiners. He has had several papers published based on these studies and presented the data at grower meetings in several states.

This year, Reiners specifi-



cally looked at whether yield could be improved by varying the timing of nitrogen application. Although he has only looked briefly at the data, it doesn't seem that application timing had any effect on yield.

Station employees were the beneficiaries of the research on Friday, October 8, when Steve Reiners and Jim Ballerstein opened up the pumpkin fields in Research North and invited the Station family to help themselves.

"It only took about 45 minutes before the fields were cleaned out,"

noted Reiners. "Next year we may have to limit it."

Thanks, Steve and Jim.  
And happy Halloween to all.



*Telephone System, continued from page 1*

pus currently. This voice mail system has considerable flexibility and is very convenient. Some of its many features include unified messaging, speech activated messaging, integrated voice and fax messaging, and networking over our existing local area network (LAN).

How people reach us from the outside world and how we send information out will also change. Rather than being served by the 10 copper direct inward dialing (DID) lines as we are currently, we will now be fed by a Primary Rate ISDN Line (PRI) provided by Bell Atlantic. This PRI line is capable of handling up to 23 digital channels.

It means that we have the potential to have 23 simultaneous inbound or outbound voice connections instead of our current 10. Another change will occur that will affect those calling in to the Station. If you have ever called the Station from the outside you know that you hear a rather loud and annoying hum when it rings. This hum will disappear once the new system is operational.

Other changes will also occur as part of this project. In the past, our voice connections back to the switch room in the Food Research Laboratory have traveled on copper cable. Some buildings on campus have 100 and even 300 pair copper cable connecting them back to the switch. The new system will distribute voice over fiber optic cable to Barton Laboratory and Sturtevant Hall. This means 75 percent of voice traffic on campus will be distributed by the main switch over just two pairs of fiber optic cable. Also Category 5 copper cable will feed the majority of the workstation phones. After the switch is installed and operational, telephone wiring that has been installed throughout the campus over the past 20 years will be removed.

There is still more. Most users on campus have asked for a new telephone that is modern in design and enables all the features that will be available in the new system to be easily accessed and used. Eventually, the Fruit and Vegetable Research Farm, where the Field Research Unit, the Pesticide Facilities, and the Weather Station are housed, will also be tied in to the new system. There is one final feature on the new system that

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**CALENDAR of EVENTS**  
**OCTOBER 15-22, 1999**

**MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, October 19, 3:30 pm**  
 Geneva Faculty meeting  
 Staff Room, Jordan Hall Staff Room

**SEMINARS**

**HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES**

**Date:** Monday, October 18  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Staff Room, Jordan Hall  
**Speaker:** Michael White, Visiting Fellow  
 Department of Horticultural Sciences from  
 HortResearch, New Zealand  
**Title:** New Zealand and Other Things

**PLANT PATHOLOGY**

**Date:** Monday, October 18  
**Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Laboratory  
**Speaker:** Merrilee Anderson, Candidate  
 for the Tree Fruit and Berry Crop position  
 in the Department of Plant Pathology  
**Title:** Differential Susceptibility of  
*Agaricus bisporus* Spawn Types to *Tricho-*  
*derma* Green Mold

**PLANT PATHOLOGY**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 19  
**Time:** 3:30 pm  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Laboratory  
**Speaker:** Nicole Donofrio, Cornell Uni-  
 versity  
**Title:** Molecular genetic analyses of in-  
 duced resistance and interactions between  
*Arabidopsis* and *Peronospora para sitica*

**PLANT PATHOLOGY**

**Date:** Thursday, October 21  
**Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Laboratory  
**Speaker:** David Gadoury, candidate for  
 the Tree Fruit and Berry Crop position in  
 the Department of Plant Pathology  
**Title:** Recent Discoveries in Research on  
 Grape Powdery Mildew

**LTC**

**HTML Part I**

**October 19, 9:00-11:00 am**  
 Basic tags • Colors • Links • Images

(LTC, continued in next column)

*Telephone System, continued from page 3*

could prove to be extremely valuable. This new PBX will have a battery power back-up that will enable it to continue to serve all telephone needs for a period of up to four hours in the event of a power outage. The current system has no power alternative. If the power goes off, there is no telephone service. Now, it will be business as usual.

Purchase cost of the new PBX was approximately \$212,000. As with the Rolm system, Station personnel will do most of the maintenance and all of the moves and changes concerning individual telephones. Even the billing system will change since the new system has a built-in billing program that will give a detailed accounting for each line or extension on campus. Just this feature alone should save considerable amounts of time for people in the Computer Center and the Station's Business Office.

Finally, as the time nears when the new PBX will actually become operational, training sessions for all employees will be held to brief them on how to use the many new features of the system, including voice mail. The new PBX was ordered recently, and installation could start within the next six weeks or so. There will be a brief period when both the Rolm and Meridian systems will be on-line. This is to assure you that the change from one system to another will occur with as little interruption as possible in telephone service. There will be notices sent to employees about training sessions and also if any interruptions in service might be necessary.

*R. E. Krauss, Mark Casasanta*

**Font • Lists • Page formatting • Other useful tags • Resources**

There will be time allotted for hands-on learning. Jane Irwin, Instructor.

**Introduction to Spreadsheets with Excel  
 October 20, 2:00-4:00 pm.**

This is an introductory course for anyone who has never used spreadsheets and needs to know the very basics. Some of the topics covered will be:

- Cells • Types of data • Rows and columns
- Formatting your spreadsheets • Setting up a spreadsheet • Saving your spreadsheets

There will be time allotted for hands-on learning. Jane Irwin, Instructor

**Cornell Library Gateway  
 October 21, 2:00-3:30 pm**

This workshop will give an indepth overview of the Cornell University Library Gateway. All electronic library resources available to the Cornell community are now accessed via this web site (<http://campusgw.library.cornell.edu/gateway.html>). In this workshop you will learn what's available, how the resources are configured, which search strategies work best and how to tailor your browser for maximum efficiency. Marty Schlabach, Instructor

**1999 OUTSTANDING  
 EMPLOYEE AWARD  
 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Each year the Station Club solicits nominations for an Outstanding Employee. The Outstanding Employee will be announced and presented with gifts at the November 5<sup>th</sup> Station Club Banquet.

Nominators should solicit letters of support for a selected individual and submit all supporting materials to Lorraine Barry, Selection Committee Chair. These packets will be evaluated by a volunteer panel of department/unit representatives. All nominations will be confidential. The panel will convene and select the awardee based on criteria such as:

- high degree of excellence in job performance
- super interpersonal skills that promote team work
- a willingness to extend them selves to help others.

Other considerations of the Selection Committee will include:

- quality (content) of letters – not quantity
- who wrote the letters (supervisors, co-workers, campus-wide)
- outside (community involvement) should not be a strong determining factor

Nomination packages will be accepted through Monday, October 11, 1999. Please send your letter(s) to Lorraine Barry, Hedrick Hall.