

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

STATION NEWS

GENEVA
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JUNE 30-JULY 7

BRIEFS

New Phone System

The switch to the new four-digit access codes for phone calls took place on June 21. There has been some concern expressed over the need to enter the new codes when making local calls. As in the past there is no charge to the employee for local calls, nor will these calls be monitored. There is a cost to the Station for local calls and, as in the past, that cost will continue to be billed back to the Department or Unit from which the call was made. AT&T provides software that allows for the creation of a bill to charge calls back to the Department or Unit. However, in order for this system to function, an access code is required on all calls.

The combination of the software provided by AT&T and a few seconds to enter an access code saves many man hours required under the old system to get the calls charged to the correct Department or Unit. We appreciate the employees' understanding.

GMO Watch

Carol Gonsalves, Linda McCandless, and Tony Shelton, participated in the 6th Annual Josephine L. Hopkins Foundation Workshop for Journalists, June 22-24, on the Ithaca campus. The topic for this year's workshop was "Genetically Modified Organisms—Promises and Perils."

The program included talks on biotechnology from Susan McCouch, associate professor of plant breeding; Steve Kresovich, director of the Institute for Ge-

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100 Years of New York Weather

The weather database at the Experiment Station indicates heavy rain in central New York this spring, but the 4.52 inches that fell in 16 days in May can't compare to the 2.27 inches of rain that fell in May of 1912, or to May of 1989 when it rained for 21 days.

Researchers at the Experiment Station have been logging daily maximum and minimum temperatures and precipitation since January 1, 1900. Now, devices also measure wind speed, evaporation, water temperature, soil temperature from two to 12 inches deep, soil moisture, solar radiation, surface wetness, relative humidity, and ultraviolet B radiation. All of the measurements are recorded daily, hourly, or every 15 minutes, then logged and

stored in a database. Daily summary data is compiled and entered into the database by Patty Gibbs, in the Computer Center, and provided to the public over the Internet, along with over 100 years of archives at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/weather/> Patty isn't the first member of her family to help with the weather station. She has been entering the data for over 20 years. Her father, Jerry Gibbs, recorded data from the Station from 1962 until he retired in 1990.

"The data is used mostly by the research community, but it also serves as a climate record for the region," said Bob Seem, the faculty member in charge of the weather station. "Researchers use weather records so they know the conditions under which their experiments were conducted." Temperature and precipitation are important factors in the growth patterns of crops and the development and life cycles of pests. Surface wetness is an important measure for studying the conditions under which diseases flourish.

The Experiment Station's weather station sits in a small fenced area atop a hill on the Fruit and Vegetable Research Farm. Each morning, Steve Gordner or Lee Hibbard, from the Station's Field Research Unit, visits the weather station to record precipitation, evapo-

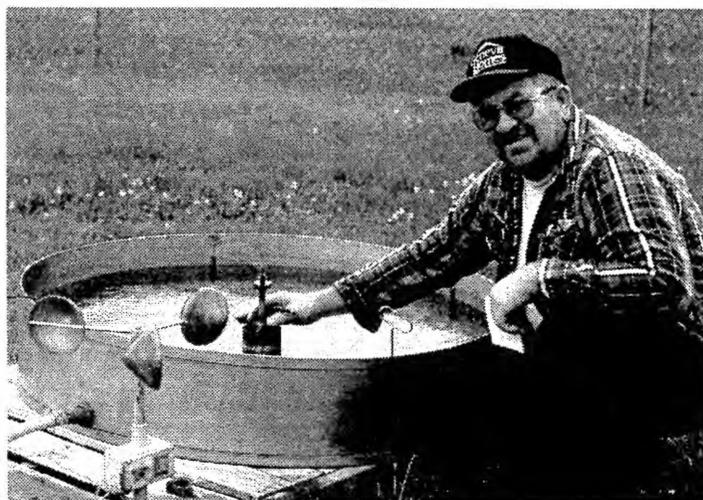
(Continued on page 2)

PHOTO BY K. STEVENS

Steve Gordner takes a measurement from the evaporation pan, one of the last readings still taken manually at the weather station at the Fruit and Vegetable Farm.

(BRIEFS, continued from page 1)

nomic Diversity; Charles Arntzen, president of the Boyce Thompson Institute; Milt Zaitlin, professor emeritus of plant pathology; Carl Batt, professor of food science; Margaret Smith, associate professor of plant breeding; Joe Hotchkiss, professor of food science; Joe Regenstein, professor of food science; and John Losey, assistant professor of entomology. Topics addressed included whether or not biotech food was edible, production of oral vaccines, nanobiotechnology, hands-on DNA sequencing and tissue culture, and public concerns. Members of Cornell's Department of Communications, Dietram Scheufele, Cliff Scherer, and Bruce Lewenstein, addressed public opinion on biotechnology, the amplification of risk perception, and media coverage of biotechnology.

Gonsalves was the only researcher to provide data on the sociological implications of a genetically improved crop. Her study was called, "Fulfilling the Promise: A Case Study of Hawaii's Rainbow Papayas."

Freelancers, as well as journalists from the *Ithaca Journal*, NOVA, Front Line, *Gourmet*, *Scientific American*, Lee Publishing, *Farm Journal* and the Spanish wire service were in attendance.

Grad Student Wins Prize

Han-Bin "Ken" Chen, a masters graduate student in Terry Acree's lab, recently won second prize in the student competition at the IFT meetings in Dallas, Texas. Ken's presentation was entitled "N-1 Omission Testing of Synthetic Gewurtztraminer Wines." Chen's work utilized human subjects in a unique way to characterize the individual sensory attributes of compounds found in Gewurtztraminer wines. His research effort has included writing new software to utilize the new network of computers recently acquired by the food science department. Panelists in studies at the sensory lab will now be recording their responses to a bank of iMac laptop computers, thus automating data collection and compilation. The computer bank is networked wirelessly via an Airbus base station making data available to any computer in the department for analysis.

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ration, and daily high and low temperatures. "We hope to eventually have these last measurements automated, too, but we're having some trouble with the calibration," said Hibbard. After taking the readings, he calls a computer run by the National Weather Service (NWS) to dial in the previous day's information. "The data goes to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell, and to the National Weather Service," Hibbard explained.

Weather data from the Geneva weather station is added to the National Climate Data Center's national database. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has installed soil monitoring equipment at the Geneva site. Soil readings, along with the Station's data, are integrated into their Soil Climate Analysis Network and made available for the scientific community at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/scan/>

"The data have a wide variety of users... agriculture, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, engineering, researchers, and global climate change to name a few," said Garry Schaefer, a hydrologist in Portland, Oregon, who leads the Hydromet Data Acquisition and Technology team of the National Water and Climate Center.

The Geneva site is also used by scientists at the USDA UV-B Radiation Monitoring Program operated by the National Resource Ecology Laboratory at Colorado State University. Geneva is part of a network of 26 sites in the U.S. and two in Canada where Colorado State has installed a monitoring station for ultraviolet B, the mid-level energy form of UV radiation, 320-290 nm. Geneva's UV-B equipment is connected to a phone line that transmits data to the headquarters in Fort Collins, Colorado each night.

"The Department of Agriculture wants to have a ground-based set of data for ultraviolet radiation. NASA satellites measure the ozone and predict ultraviolet radiation; we are a ground truth test for those measurements," said Bill Durham, manager of the UV-B Monitoring Network who installed the equipment at the initial sites, including Geneva, in 1994.

Ultraviolet B, which is expected to increase as a result of the depletion of the ozone, affects the metabolism, photosynthesis and gene activity of plants. There hasn't been enough research to put the data into immediate use for growers, but the UV-B program is trying to create a basis for such work. "We're in the beginning stages of research. The information we gather can be used in conjunction with experiments to test UV-B's effects on plants. It's new research and we feel the data is of high quality," said James Slusser, director of the

UV-B monitoring program. All of the radiation data is available for free, broken down by site, at <http://uvb.nrel.colostate.edu>

The data collected and stored in the Geneva database is available for public inquiry as a service to the community, said Seem. "We get requests from lawyers, insurance companies, state police, and the attorney general's office." When sudden, heavy winds knocked over steel girders during the 1998 construction of the Guardian Glass factory, a worker was killed. At the trial, the court requested wind speed records which the Experiment Station was able to provide from its database.

At the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, weather isn't just small talk.

P. Seem

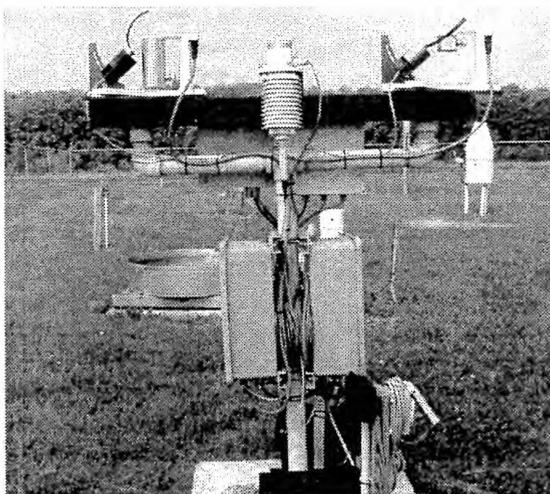


PHOTO BY P. SEEM

This UV-B monitoring station, installed at Geneva by Colorado State University, is one of 28 sites in North America that submits data to the UV-B network.

Of Bikers and Bagels

What do bagels and bananas, sweat and spokes, and pedals and prizes have in common? The annual "Bikers Breakfast" at the Station Pavilion behind Jordan Hall, that's what.

This is the fifth year the Station has participated in the event, and the fifth year "Station News" is reporting it, so, for a little something different, we're going to focus on a favorite topic: food.

Breakfast duties were spread among six employees, John VanderWeide, Sheri E. Day,



An assortment of breakfast goodies awaits the arrival of hungry bikers and walkers.

Jennifer Grant, Rixana Petzoldt, Pat Wallace, and Holly Wadsworth. The "backbone" of the meals for each day consisted of typical breakfast fare including bagels, muffins, cereals, and various fruits and juices.

Some of those responsible for breakfast on their respective days also prepared a favorite recipe to share with the group. The most unusual was a breakfast lasagna by John VanderWeide. Holly Wadsworth made a blueberry/apple bread and Sheri E. Day offered her ever-popular granola bars

For the most part, the breakfasts got a "thumbs-up" from the group. The coffee drinkers in the group, however, reacted to the two mornings without their favorite breakfast beverage with exaggerated manifestations of fatigue and sleepiness. One of the "no coffee breakfasts" was hosted by Sheri Day who said, "It just makes me feel good to eat the way I do. That includes no caffeine—it just doesn't feel right in my body. So I guess for the one day that I made breakfast for all the bikers and walkers I just couldn't be bothered messing with something I don't enjoy myself." She also pointed out that she somehow felt the need to impart, for at least a few hours, her philosophy that we don't need coffee to get moving. "Ride and walk every chance you get and your energy will come from within. Ask for it to find its way in and out of your body and the shine and the bounce in your step will offer you so much."

Each day the person responsible for the meal added his or her "special" touch to the table—on some mornings, tablecloth and flowers; on other mornings, a more Spartan look. Holly Wadsworth, whose table was one of the latter, remarked "There was just no way I could have carried that extra stuff on my bike." Holly rode nine miles (one way) each day.

After the breakfasts came the drawing for the door prizes. Dave Sharman of PGRU won his third prize (a tee shirt) in as many years. His second win—a bike helmet last year—turned out to be doubly lucky. Later that summer he took a dive and landed on his head after a vehicle cut him

(BAGELS, continued on page 4)

WRITE A BEST-SELLER

Send your classified for Station News to Donna Boyce at dmb62@nysaes.cornell.edu. Ads will be run for members of the Station family only. Renewal after three weeks available upon request.

I've learned....

that under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

Andy Rooney



The Sterling Renaissance Festival
Sterling, NY

Saturdays and Sundays Only
July 1 to August 13

OPEN RAIN OR SHINE
GET REDUCED COST TICKETS
FROM THE STATION CLUB

ADULT: \$12.50 • CHILDREN: \$5

Purchase your tickets through Station Club and also receive a coupon for \$5 off embroidered sweatshirts at the Renaissance Festival. Contact Cheryl TenEyck at x2379 or e-mail cnt1@nysaes.cornell.edu

FITNESS

AEROBICS

Date: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Time: 12:10 -1 p.m.
Place: Sawdust Cafe

TAEKARDIO

Date: Monday, July 10, 2000
Time: Noon
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

CLASSIFIED

PLEASE HELP US STAY CURRENT

If the item that you have placed in the CLASSIFIED section of Station News has sold, please notify Donna Boyce, x2492, so we can remove the ad.

COMPUTERS FOR SALE - great condition, good lab/office power and performance, ideal for students/families looking for a inexpensive system:

- 1) 200 Mhz Pentium MMX, 32 Mb EDO RAM, 4.3 GB hard drive, 40x CD-ROM, 2 Mb video card, sound blaster sound card, 56k flex modem, & 15" monitor. \$300 or BO.
 - 2) 233 Mhz Pentium Celeron, 32 Mb SDRAM, 4.3 GB hard drive, 32x CD-ROM, 2 Mb video card, yamaha sound card, 56k flex modem, & 15" monitor. \$350 or BO.
- E-mail Frank at fpw1@cornell.edu, or call x2406.

FOR SALE: 1986 Nissan 300ZX, 2 door, steel blue, standard 5 peed, sun roof, several more options, 120K

(CLASSIFIED, continued)

miles, still runs like new! Asking \$3,000. Contact George at x2374 or gsa1@nysaes.cornell.edu.

FOR RENT: Large, 3 bedroom apartment above The Yarn Shop on Exchange St. in Geneva. \$500 includes all utilities and trash removal. Contact Nancy Long at x2288 or by e-mail at npl1@cornell.edu.

FOR SALE: Computer desk with paper shelves, pull-out for printer, keyboard tray, file drawer. Almost new condition. \$100 firm. Contact: Judy at 2273, 315-946-4953 or jla2

WANTED TO RENT: One bedroom furnished apartment for male graduate student. Needed August 20, 2000 for one year. Close proximity to NYSAES. Contact Sami El-Rakshy, sme22@cornell.edu

FOR SALE: 1990 Plymouth Acclaim, good condition, 3.0L V6, new trans & radiator. \$1500/BO. E-mail Pat at pgw2 or call x2221 before 2:30, 331-3941 evenings.

WANTED TO RENT: Post-Doc and PhD Student need a house to rent near the Station. Dawn and Torey will be moving here in July and anticipate living in Geneva or the surrounding area for 2 or 3 years. They have 2 large dogs and are looking for a nice, quiet home to rent. If you have any ideas, please call 607-539-3293.

WANTED TO BORROW: Area rugs or carpeting for Visiting Scientist now through mid-September. Contact Alan Taylor agt1@cornell.edu or x2243.

HOUSE FOR SALE: Close to the Station. 2 story, 3 bedroom home. Situated on a picture perfect lot with beautiful landscaping. Family room with fireplace, screened in porch, maintenance free exterior, newly painted trim, newer roof. Move-in condition! Have use of pavillion tennis courts, volleyball, basketball court. Great location. Call Bea Stoyla 315-789-3114.



SAVE THE DATE

**Red Cross Blood Drive
 August 28, 2000
 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Sawdust Cafe**

(BAGELS, continued from page 3)

off at the four corners of North and Castle streets. Wendell Roelofs drew his own name and after it was unanimously agreed that there was no "foul play," he was allowed to keep his prize—a shirt from Coca Cola.

Some of bikers came from as far away as Seneca Castle, Hall, Waterloo and Kashong. A few of the walkers who live in the triplex house on North Street were but a few steps away. Jan Nyrop, who lives on Lafayette Avenue in Geneva, biked 30-plus miles from his house to Jordan Hall on Friday, having decided to take a route through Canandaigua.

PGRU was the overall winner again this year with the most participants. Department rep Sheri Day says that they will celebrate with a pizza party, compliments of Station Club.

Jennifer Grant, who has been coordinating this event annually, summed up the week's activities saying, "I want to give a big thank you to the department reps and others who took care of breakfasts and made things run so smoothly. I want to also thank our sponsors. Station Club has been wonderful providing the funding for breakfasts and the five prizes (three shirts, one golf shirt and one sweatshirt). The Geneva Bicycle Center has also been generous, providing a prize for each day (gloves, lock, pump, seat bag, and rack). Tops, Walmart, and Finger Lakes Coca Cola also made contributions. Last, but not least, thanks to everyone for participating! Let's make biking and walking a daily event."

J. Ogrodnick

**Have
 A Safe,
 Fun-Filled
 4th!**