



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5, 1989

# STATION NOTES



## HALLOWE'EN HIJINKS

Take your best guesses at identifying the masked revelers, then check the photo captions at the bottom of the page for the correct IDs.



The photos include, from top to bottom (left) Yong Hang chatting with punk rocker Gil Stoewsand; Reg Walter and Liz Baroddy visiting with a well-known former president; crone Don Downing backing up Director Bob Plane; Jordan Hall denizens Kathy DeRosa and Bruce Moore; (at top right) Judy Anderson, Bob Butts (who was celebrating a birthday), the former president again, alias Erik Olsen; Elaine Gottham and Nancy Long; the trio of Sandy Aninelli, Elaine Gottham and Matt Lewis (as another former president), and Ed Lavin, Harry Leichwets and Olga Padilla.

## PLANT PATH CHAIRMAN SAYS SOVIET AGRICULTURE SUFFERING

Herb Aldwinckle, who recently returned from a trip to the Soviet Union to gather samples of plant species from behind the Iron Curtain, also gathered some economic impressions of the U.S.S.R. agricultural scene.

"I'm not an economist, but it's easy to see that the Soviet Union lags far behind the United States and other countries in agricultural production and technology," Aldwinckle said. He was a host to a Soviet scientific delegation that visited the Station last year and one of three scientists invited to the U.S.S.R. for a return visit as part of an overall improvement in east-west relations.

"There is an enormous difference in food stores there. Markets are small by our standards and both fresh and processed foods are limited in quality, supply and appeal," Aldwinckle said.

### OPEN ENROLLMENT PERMITS CHANGES IN LIFE INSURANCE

November has been designated an open enrollment period for supplemental group life insurance offered through the university. A new rate structure eliminates the previous structure that reflected large premium increases at certain age plateaus. Employees may, if they wish, increase their coverage to up to five times the amount of their annual salary. No proof of health is required during this enrollment. An informational packet is to be mailed from Cornell/Ithaca, however the mailing date is not currently known.

Aldwinckle stressed the cooperative attitude of the people he and his colleagues, Beth Dixon, an apple taxonomist from Cornell, and Dr. Calvin Sperling of the USDA in Beltsville, Md., met during their travels, encountering "sincere friendliness" everywhere. They spent most of their time in the southeastern section of the Soviet Union near the Afganistan border, 100 miles from the People's Republic of China and 2,000 miles from Moscow.

The primary purpose of the trip was to upgrade collections of wild apple and other species of plants including apricots, wild grapes, lentils, onions and some nuts, mostly in the form of seeds. The seeds will be cultivated, analyzed, and made available to growers and breeders through Germplasm Resources. Some 200 samples were obtained by the trio, including 6,000 apple seeds, for possible future use in improving plant varieties in the U.S.

Aldwinckle theorizes that the Soviet Union's meager supply of fruit and vegetable products for its people is attributable to two major factors... one the socio-economic system and the other the fault of misguided leadership.

"Under the Stalin and Kruschev regimes beginning with the late 30s and into the 60s, a scientist named Trofim Lysenko was in charge of the state's agricultural research programs," he said.

"Lysenko firmly believed that plants would eventually adapt to stressful conditions brought about by pests, weather and other factors. He was convinced that plants could be 'trained' to survive and produce. This, of course, is not the case.

"Thus, for nearly two

generations, no selective breeding programs were undertaken," Aldwinckle said. He is of the opinion that this scientific misconception on Lysenko's part, coupled with the existing "state farm" economic system, has severely damaged the U.S.S.R.'s position in the world's agricultural marketplace. "When farmers, processors, distributors and retailers know their paycheck is coming from the state, irrespective of how hard they work, or whether or not their goods are good, there simply is no incentive to improve food quality," he said. "Free enterprise just doesn't seem to exist."

In other reflections of his four-week trip, Aldwinckle said:

- Lines of customers purchasing food and many other items are common and long, but the cost of living is not particularly high.
- The Soviet Union's climate is ideal for the production of many crops. However almost all citrus crops must be imported.
- At one point in recent history, the Soviet government destroyed many vineyards to cut down on alcoholic beverage production nationally. Production of vodka was similarly reduced by mandate. It was convinced that its population was collectively developing a drinking problem. Now, only imported wine is available in many restaurants.
- Scientists are knowledgeable and anxious to improve their country's food supply, but they are hampered by poor, rudimentary technological research facilities.
- With no "family farmers" for more than a half-century, the Soviet people have virtually lost their ties to the land.

## GET CREDIT UNION ITEMS AT PERSONNEL OFFICE

Appointment calendars for the coming year, suitable for desktop or wall use, together with some other items such as auto litter bags, pens, etc., may still be picked up free at the Personnel Office, Jordan Hall.

STATION  
PEOPLE HAVE  
NOW WORKED

**52**

DAYS  
WITHOUT A  
LOST TIME ACCIDENT

*A  
great  
chance  
to pick up  
holiday gifts  
for your family,  
neighbors and friends!*

*Christmas*

**CRAFT SHOW  
and  
BOOK SALE**

*coming*

**Saturday,  
November 11**

*Jordan Hall Auditorium  
Hours 10 am-3 pm.*

*Food and beverages  
available in the Jordan  
Hall third floor area.*

*Many hard-to-find craft items..*

*Book sale proceeds to benefit  
Station Library.*

## SEMINARS

### HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

**Date:** Thursday, November 9  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Food Science Conference Room  
**Speaker:** Dr. Bob Linderman  
USDA Plant Pathologist  
Oregon State Univ., Corvallis  
**Topic:** Rhizosphere dynamics in relation to crop production.

### APPLES AVAILABLE

Several bins of apples will be in the courtyard of Hedrick Hall beginning at 3:00 pm on Friday, November 3, for Station employees.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The following books and journals are missing from the Library and are urgently needed. Please check your office and laboratory shelves and return to the Library, Jordan Hall:

581.87 P69j	Plant Molecular Biology vol. 5-6, 1985-1986
634.9 Sa7	Sylva of North America by C. Sargent 14 volumes
634.9 H81	The American Woods by Hough and Beck. 6 volumes
581.1 C86	Critical Reviews in Plant Science Vol. 3-4, 1985-1986
574.805 J82	Journal of Cell Biology Vol. 107, No. 6, Pt. 3, 1988

## TENNIS LADDER

No matches played.

325	Ken Bell	206	Curt Petzoldt
209	Joe Kovach	393	Jim McFerson
240	Ed Lavin	338	Pim Lersson
361	Wendell Roelofs	239	Bruce Reisch
265	Ed Woodams	345	Chris Hoffman
352	Tony Shelton	312	Tom Burr
325	Donna Gray	399	Alan Lakso
[233	Jim Cummins]	345	Tim Dennehy
364	Jim Ottea	392	Martin Goffinet



## POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PEOPLE

### Who's new?

Richard Thompson is a new technician working with Roxanne Broadway in Entomology.

### Retiree to be honored:

A dinner honoring Harold Hebding, who retired October 12 after more than 30 years of service with the Department of Entomology, will be held Sunday, November 19, at the Geneva Country Club. Anyone interested in attending the dinner or contributing towards a gift for Harold should contact Janice Allen, Entomology, ext. 323.

### Station Club calendars available:

1990 Station Club linen calendars are now available. The price is \$4.00 each and they are available in the B&P office. Hats (\$6.00) and T-shirts (\$7.00) are also available. These make great Christmas gifts for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, November 8, 4:00 p.m.,  
director's office, *Geneva department chairs' meeting*

## CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** 1980 Mazda GLC. 5 speed winter rat. \$400 or best offer. Call Helene at x376 or 253-5001 (pm).

**FREE:** Wooden exterior door, 32" x 84". Good condition. Call Joe Shail at x225 or 526-5497.

**FOR RENT:** Furnished house. Approx. Jan. 15 to July 15 only. Large backyard, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 baths, lots of room, 1 mile from Station. Contact Bruce Reisch at x239 or 789-7104.

**FOR SALE:** 4-bedroom home on Lyceum Street, Geneva. Large city lot, 1-1/2 baths, gumwood trim throughout, built-in china cabinet in dining room, wall-to-wall carpet, new front porch and black-top driveway. Many other features too numerous to list. \$69,900. Contact Dick Schading at x249 or 789-2022.