



WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 1990

STATION NOTES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 pm

Sawdust Cafe

English as a Second Language

Wednesday, December 12, 10:30 am

Staff Room, Jordan Hall

1991-92 Biotechnology Grant Program Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 4:00 pm

Food Science Conference Room

Department Chairs' and Unit Leaders' Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 7:00 pm

Sawdust Cafe

Finger Lakes Stamp Club Meeting

Thursday, December 13, 1:30 pm

Room 401, Warren Hall, Ithaca

CALS Administrative Managers' Meeting

Thursday, December 13, 6:30 pm

Sawdust Cafe

English as a Second Language

Friday, December 14, 11:00 am

Lounge, Jordan Hall

Geneva Administrative Managers' Meeting

Saturday, December 15, 2:00 pm

Auditorium, Jordan Hall

Station Club Christmas Party



'NEWSPAPERS AS GOOD A SOURCE AS ANY RIGHT NOW—' DIRECTOR HUNTER COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

"If you have been reading the newspapers and listening to television like I have," said Director James E. Hunter, "you probably have as much correct information about the current state budget situation as Cornell does."

Speaking to an auditorium packed with Experiment Station employees, Director Hunter talked about what is known concerning the present fiscal affairs of the state and how it could affect operations of the Geneva Station. There are two fiscal years that are involved. For the year ending March 31, 1991, the Governor is predicting a \$1 billion shortfall. For the next fiscal year, state government officials are talking about the possibility of a \$3 to \$4 billion deficit.

"So, what we have are short- and long-term situations facing us. Unfortunately, we are dealing almost totally on speculation and 'what if' situations at the moment. Until the Legislature, which is now back in session, and the Governor can come to some kind of agreement, which we expect later this month, we won't know how much money the Station will have to return to the state for either the remainder of this fiscal year or to help make up the projected deficit for next year," said the Director.

He went on to say that there are 240,000 state employees. "To make up \$1 billion between now and March 31, the state is going to have to do it with more than just furloughs, layoffs, retirements, and normal attrition" commented the Director. Seventy per cent of the budget is in such things as aid to localities and subject to control by the Legislature. Funds that support state agencies, including the State University of New York, are under the

direct control of the Governor and are in the remaining percentage of the state's budget.

"Again, I must repeat that we really know nothing other than what you have read in the printed media or seen on television, including the article in last week's *Cornell Chronicle*. I will tell you, though, that the Station has looked at ways of dealing with various scenarios involving short- and long-term shortfalls. One exercise that the

Dean has assigned the Station involves answering how we would handle a 5 per cent cut in state funding beginning April 1 of the next fiscal year." For the Station, a 5 per cent cut equals \$525,000. So far this fiscal year, the Station has absorbed a \$430,000 cut in state funding, much of this through reductions that have not involved layoffs..

"We are looking at every avenue to save dollars. For example,"



said the Director, "we think it will be possible to save up to \$150,000 in energy costs this next year through a number of energy-saving measures. I feel these savings will help save some jobs, so if you're a little cool in your office this winter, please dress appropriately."

It was indicated by the Director that the Governor has said there exists the possibility of up to a five-day furlough for all state employees. Director Hunter said if this does occur, it could affect all employees at the Station regardless of source of funding. "One possibility, providing the

Legislature makes a decision by the holiday break, is to extend the period of the break beyond New Years by five days." Employees were assured by Mary Slaght, benefits manager for the statutory colleges, that employees would not lose any benefits. It also was emphasized that the loss in pay may be spread out over pay periods through the end of March 1991, according to a recent article in the *New York Times*, and not deducted all at once. This same article indicated that the state employees' largest union is resisting the idea of furloughing employees.

"In the long run," said the Director, "there is no question in my mind but what we are going to have to downsize our operation. Some of this will come about through retirements and attrition, but if the rumors are anywhere near accurate, it will also mean some layoffs. You should be aware that we have already reduced the number of employees funded by state money over a number of years. In 1975, the Station funded 268 employees on state money. Today, that number stands at 200. You also need to know that we receive about \$10.5 million from the state annually. This amounts to only 60 per cent of our total budget at this time. The other 40 per cent comes from other sources, including major grants, contracts, and gifts obtained by our faculty."

The Director went on to say that if layoffs became necessary, the faculty would be exempt, unless a policy change were made at a high level. "But, let me add that our faculty has already taken significant cuts. Just 10 years ago, we had 69 members of the faculty at the Station. Today, there are 59. We also must recognize that it is the faculty that is largely responsible for generating the 40 per cent of our revenue necessary to supplement what is given to us by the state. And, of course, it is also the faculty that has responsibility for planning our research and extension efforts that serve New York's fruit and vegetable industry. This is the main justification for the existence of the Station."

In conclusion, the Director reiterated that some hard decisions are going to have to be made both in the short and long runs. However, at this time, there is no way to know exactly what effect it will have on the total program of the Station.

Following the Director's comments, Mary Slaght discussed aspects of various benefit programs with employees and answered any questions they had.

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, December 10
Time: 11:00 am
Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Speaker: Dr. Bruce I. Reisch, Assoc. Professor
 Horticultural Sciences, Geneva
Topic: Characterization of Defense-Related cDNA Clones from Tomato

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, December 11
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Room A-133, Barton Lab
Speaker: A. Caudwell, INRA
 Dijon, France
Topic: Studies on Flavescence Doree, a Mycoplasma Disease of Grapevines

Date: Wednesday, December 12
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Room 133, Barton Lab
Speaker: Rita Rodriguez
 Plant Pathology, Geneva
Topic: Studies on the Transmission of Cucumber Mosaic Virus

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Thursday, December 13
Time: 10:30 am
Place: FST Conference Room, Second Floor
Speaker: Dr. Geza Hrazdina, Professor Food Science & Technology, Geneva
Topic: Color Problems with Foods: The Current Situation with Reds

BIOTECHNOLOGY MEETING WEDNESDAY

The meeting with Dr. Milton Zaitlin, Director of Cornell's Biotechnology Program, will be on Wednesday, December 12 rather than Friday, December 14 as previously scheduled. This meeting will be held in the Staff Room of Jordan Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m. and lasting for approximately an hour. Dr. Zaitlin will describe the Biotechnology Program's granting process for 1991-1992, the financial outlook, and the program's new initiatives with industries. Dr. Richard Holsten, Director of Research, and possibly Dr. Maureen Hanson, Director of the Plant Science Center, will accompany him to Geneva.

NOTICE OF GEC ELECTIONS

The Nominations and Elections Committee of the GEC is seeking nominations for six council seats to be filled in 1991. We must fill seats for employees in the following categories: five in the non-academic exempt (CP) category, and one in the academic (Professor, CA, Graduate Assistant) category. More information will be carried in the December 16 issue of *Station Notes*. Call Steve Spangler (x341) or Dale Frankish (789-3689 or x296) for details.

SWEATSHIRTS/T-SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE

With heating costs up and the thermostat down, it's time to bundle up for the winter months ahead. The most fashionable way to do this is in a Station Sweatshirt (and how about a Station T-shirt under it for added insulation). Stop by the Bulletin Room in Jordan Hall and pick yours up today (they make great holiday gifts too).

SWEATSHIRTS

Adults M, L, - \$13.00
Childrens M (10-12),
L(14-16) - \$11.00

T-SHIRTS

Adults S, M, L, XL - \$7.00
Childrens M (10-12),
L(14-16) - \$6.00



Signs of Spring... in December???

Photographer, Dick Schading, took this picture of a blossoming forsythia cutting during last Monday's snow storm. It seems that Muriel Stobie (entomology) has a forsythia bush in her yard with a backward life cycle. The bush has been known to blossom each spring, and again whenever there is a warm spell in the late fall.

DON'T FORGET
The Station Club
CHRISTMAS PARTY

in Jordan Hall

RACQUETBALL LADDER

No matches played 11/29-12/5.

Jim McFerson	PGRU	390
Chris Hayes	HS	246
Curt Petzoldt	IPM	206
Phil Forsline	PGRU	390
Tom Burr	PP	315
Joe Kovach	IPM	209
Gary Harman	HS	246
Ed Woodams	FST	265
Matt Lewis	CS	251
Walter Wolf	ENT	362

If interested in joining the ladder or to report game results, call Matt Lewis at x251.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1982 Ford Escort. \$700. x366 or 781-0583

FOR RENT: Two-bedroom apartment, completely furnished. Linens, dishes, cookware, silverware, and color television provided. Excellent location and within walking distance to Station. Off-street parking, no pets. Reasonable. x366 or 781-0583.

FOR SALE: IBM correcting selectric II typewriter with extra typing elements. \$150.00 Call John at x275.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: The first Christmas party at the Ontario County animal shelter on County Road 46 will be on Sunday, December 9, from 1:00-4:00 pm. Refreshments and tours will be offered. A present under the tree for the animals would be greatly appreciated. For more information call Loraine at x280 or (716)396-4590.

STATION PEOPLE HAVE NOW WORKED
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DAYS WITHOUT A LOST TIME ACCIDENT