

Judge Fines Animal Laboratory for Harassing APHIS Inspectors

In what may have been a first, a Maryland animal laboratory was fined \$2,500 for harassing two Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service inspectors during a US Department of Agriculture inspection in 1987.

The Department's chief administration law judge, Victor W. Palmer, also ordered Sema, Inc., a Rockville, MD, medical research laboratory, to "comply with every provision of the Animal Welfare Act" and not to interfere with federal inspectors.

Sema, which has been conducting simian AIDS and hepatitis research under a contract with the National Institutes of Health, has been a target of harassment by animal activists and in 1986 had four chimpanzees stolen in a break-in by a group called True Friends.

The inspectors claimed they were prevented by Sema employees from taking pictures of cages and were deterred in efforts to drive away from the laboratory at the end of the inspection. The inspectors reported that they had found sanitation "suggestive of violations" of the regulations, but concluded that Sema had not violated the Animal Welfare Act.

Sema officials said there was a concern that photographs taken by the inspectors could compromise an FBI investigation of the break-in.

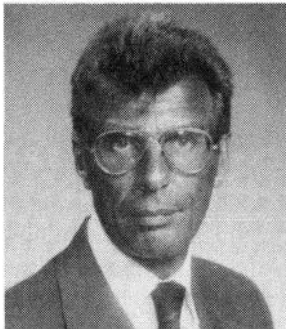
A spokesperson for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), which has been harassing the lab and charging it as having one of the highest animal mortality rates in the nation, said, "We're absolutely thrilled" at the judge's decision. PETA has publicized widely in this country and in Great Britain film supposedly taken by True Friends during the break-in. No one has been charged in connection with the break-in.

Symposium Honoring Robert E. Forster

The Department of Physiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and the Respiratory Physiology Group of that department are organizing an international symposium, "pH, Carbon Dioxide, Bicarbonate and Cellular Function," to be given at the University of Pennsylvania at the time of retirement of our chairman, Professor R. E. Forster. This one-day symposium will occur on March 31, 1990, just before the FASEB meeting in Washington, DC. It will feature recent advances in knowledge of membrane and molecular mechanisms that control intracellular pH and mechanisms involved by which pH alterations change function of various cells, including respiratory neurons. Participants include Britton Chance, H. F. Lodish, C. Deutsch, A. Riggs, J. Pouyssegur, P. S. Aronson, E. D. Crandall, L. E. Limbird, D. E. Millhorn, R. Tashian, S. Dodgeson, and G. Gross. *Information:* Dr. Ronald F. Coburn, B204 Richards Bldg., Univ. of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

**APS/FASEB Meeting
Washington, DC
Wednesday, April 4, 1990**

**Physiology in Perspective:
Walter B. Cannon Memorial Lecture
"The Heartbeat and Its Regulation
by G Proteins"**



Arthur M. Brown
Professor and Chairman
Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas
(Sponsored by The Grass Foundation)

Catch the Spirit

Enjoy a truly unique Washington experience, an early evening Potomac River cruise at cherry blossom time.

The American Physiological Society has chartered for its members and their guests the renowned Potomac River dinner cruise ship *Spirit of Washington*, for Sunday, April 1, 1990. The three-hour cruise gives a waterborne perspective of the city and its historical monuments and landmarks while you dine on selections of seafoods, beef, and chicken, an assortment of vegetables, salads, and desserts, and two beverages of your choice, including beer or wine.

Later you can enjoy the "Salute To Broadway" revue by the ship's singing waiters and waitresses, dance to a live band playing music from the '40s to the '80s, or just relax in the warm spring breezes on the open decks.

An evening Potomac River cruise is a truly memorable event you won't want to miss when you are in Washington for the FASEB 1990 Meeting. But space is limited to 350 persons. Don't wait to return your reservation along with \$36.00 per person. All reservations must be made before March 1, 1990.

Boarding time from Pier 4 begins at 7:00 PM. Sailing time is 7:30 **sharp!** Pier 4 is a brief taxi cab ride from the DC Convention Center.

For reservations, contact the APS *Spirit of Washington* Dinner Cruise, American Physiological Society, Attn: Cruise Desk, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone: (301) 530-7164.