

Northeast Today



NMSU

MONDAY, July 26, 1982

HAPPENINGS

WEDNESDAY, July 28

- 11 a.m. Bloodmobile, Act. Rm., SUB
- 7 p.m. Magician John Fabjance, Georgian Rm., SUB

THURSDAY, July 29

Last day to drop classes with a code

A **BLOOD DRIVE** sponsored by the faculty wives and American Food Management will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Activities Room of the Student Union Building.

MAGICIAN JOHN FABJANCE will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Georgian Room of the Student Union Building. His performance is an SAB special event. Admission is free.

THE LAST DAY TO DROP classes with a code is Thursday.

SUMMER RECREATION softball and volleyball schedules for this week are listed below. Volleyball games are played in the Pershing Building.

Monday:

5:30 p.m.
7 p.m.

Friday:

5:30 p.m.
7 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Stein Club vs. Sluggers
AKL vs. A.G.P.A.T.T.

The Hawks vs. Stein Club
A.G.P.A.T.T. vs. Sluggers

VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday:

5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.

Thursday:

5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.

Mass Confusion vs. A.G.P.A.T.T.
Roof's Woofs vs. Witte's Wonders
Individuals vs. The Nets
Jammers vs. Uno Setters

Mass Confusion vs. Uno Setters
Roof's Woofs vs. Jammers
A.G.P.A.T.T. vs. Individuals
Witte's Wonders vs. The Nets

NORTHEAST NOTES

"The American Book of the Dead," a book of poetry by **Jim Barnes**, Language and Literature, was favorably reviewed in the July 4 issue of The Chicago Sun-Times.

Dr. Charlotte Revelle, Home Economics, will appear on the WGEM Contempo program at 12:45 p.m. Sunday. Her topic of discussion will be energy efficient dwellings.

Dr. Robert Peter Cornell, Science, attended a Gordon Research Conference July 5-9 in Tilton, New Hampshire. The conference topic was "Fibronectin," a glycoprotein being studied in connection with diabetes. Cornell and research scientists from around the world were invited to the conference to promote the free exchange of ideas and to bring them up to date on the latest developments concerning fibronectin research.

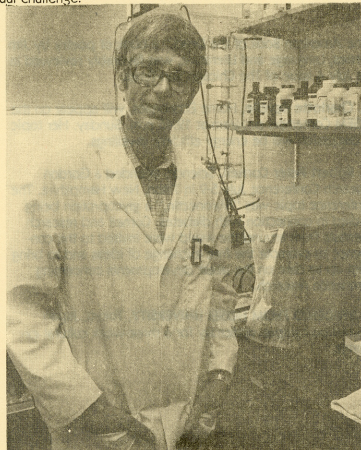
16 STUDENTS FROM HOSEI UNIVERSITY, Tokyo, Japan arrived on campus yesterday for a three-week cultural exchange.

Cornell receives \$20,930 grant to continue diabetes research

by Joni Spencer, P.R. staff assistant

After returning from a three-week, 4,000 mile "vacation" to attend a scientific conference in New Hampshire with his wife and three children, Dr. Robert Peter Cornell, associate professor of physiology, looked inside his mailbox and saw a letter from the American Diabetes Association. The letter said: "I am pleased to inform you that your \$20,930 grant application entitled Pancreatic Hormones and Macrophage Phagocytosis in Diabetics... has been approved for funding." It is undoubtedly one of the best welcome home presents Cornell has ever received.

"Happy" is the word Cornell uses to describe his reaction to the grant which will enable him to continue his research into the cause of a unique kidney disease and accelerated heart disease found in diabetics. "I'm anxious to do this work. This grant allows me to do what I'm trained to do—to make a contribution and feel good about it," Cornell says. "I enjoy the teaching, but the research is an intellectual challenge."



Dr. Robert Peter Cornell

In the past four years, Cornell has received several grants from the National Institute of Health and the American Diabetes Association—totalling about \$75,000. These grants enabled him to do research into the mysteries of diabetes and liver regeneration. His findings, including four papers in 1981 alone, have been published in several scientific journals. He now has two more papers in the final stages of preparation.

The money from Cornell's latest grant will pay for research help (graduate and undergraduate students), supplies, equipment and animal care—the care and feeding of the laboratory rats he uses in his experiments. Cornell raises his own laboratory rats to save money.

Under his new grant, Cornell plans to conduct his experiments "in vitro." In other words, he will take cells from live rats with experimental diabetes and isolate the cells to find out more about the macrophage function. In layman's terms, the macrophages are "big eaters of bacteria," Cornell explains. In previous research with diabetics he found there is a disturbance in the activities of macrophages which include mesangial cells in the kidneys and foam cells in the arteries.

What Cornell hopes to find is a link between that disturbance of cell function and another disturbance that is unique to diabetes—a disruption in the concentrations of pancreatic hormones. In diabetics, the insulin level is usually down, while the levels of two other pancreatic hormones, glucagon and somatostatin, are increased.

Cornell says he will try to show that the disturbance of these hormones causes a disruption of the macrophage function. That, in turn, may cause two of the major health problems found in diabetics: a kidney disease called diabetic nephropathy, and a heart disease which diabetics tend to get at a younger age, called atherosclerosis—a forerunner to coronary artery disease.

If his research proves a link between these physical disturbances in diabetics, Cornell says "it will only be a few more steps till you could tell exactly what causes nephropathy and accelerated atherosclerosis." In the meantime, he says the best preventative medicine for diabetics is to stay in "good control;" that is, to maintain the proper amount of insulin.

Yet, maybe one day, even that won't be necessary if some dedicated research scientist comes up with a cure for diabetes. Chances are a cure won't happen by accident—it will take time and money. This is all clear to Cornell, who realizes his vacation is over, and although he has come a long way, his work has only just begun.