this visitor gained was that faculty had put considerable imagination into designing courses and were putting a lot of skill and energy into teaching them and that students were an intellectually lively and responsive lot. In a story of this dimension, it is impossible to describe courses in detail. But, to generalize, the Hampshire way is to stress interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches, give students direct experience of the processes of science, and relate work to the problems of society.

In Thoreau's Wake

It is difficult to find a typical course, but an interesting one is a workshop in ecology taught by biologist Raymond Coppinger and mathematician William Marsh. Many Hampshire faculty members are using the central New England region as a laboratory; the area around Amherst is a particularly fruitful one since it is a still-rural area being subjected to rapid urbanization and industrialization.

One activity of the ecology group was a retracing of Thoreau's trip recounted in his "Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers." The Hampshire group compared observations with those made by Thoreau nearly a century and a half ago and gathered a fair amount of harder data by taking water samples and temperature readings. Samples of organic and inorganic wastes were farmed out to other seminars for analysis, and an effort was started in cooperation with students interested in environmental law to determine what action on polluters was possible in the region. Not untypical of the reaction of students to this and other field projects was that of one student who, Coppinger says, "complained about doing a lab report (before the river trip) and now wants to write a book about it."

One unsettled issue raised by Hampshire's stress on education as a lifelong resource is, of course, that of the link between Hampshire and graduate and professional schools.

The faculty is looking ahead to the time when this will pose a practical problem, and a committee is corresponding with graduate schools on the matter. Dean Hafner points out that medical schools are themselves in the throes of reform and he and other faculty seem to feel that graduate schools will be increasingly receptive to students with backgrounds like those acquired at Hampshire.

Hafner points out that, although Hampshire won't offer a physics major, a student can "come to Hampshire and start with some classical things." Later if he needs courses in electromagnetic theory or quantum mechanics, for example, he can go to other consortium institutions for them, probably to the University of Massachusetts. Microbiol-

Biochemist Sues Ochoa and NYU

Albert J. Wahba, a biochemist now at Sherbrooke University, Quebec, is suing New York University and his former department chairman there, Nobel laureate Severo Ochoa, for $250,000. Wahba claims he was unjustly fired last year from his nontenured position as research associate professor in the department of biochemistry at NYU School of Medicine because he refused to include Ochoa's name on a paper that he had submitted for publication.

The paper in question has since been published without Ochoa's name in the *Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology* (Vol. 34, 1969). Immediately after Wahba had submitted the paper, Ochoa, who was principal investigator on the NIH grant supporting Wahba's work, demanded that the paper be withdrawn. According to court documents Ochoa claims that he made the demand because other work in the department contradicted Wahba's findings. Wahba, however, says he knows of no such work and that Ochoa simply wanted his name on the paper.

Wahba in his formal complaint contends that, on 2 September 1969, Ochoa prepared a letter for him to sign addressed to James D. Watson, director of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island), asking that the paper be withdrawn. According to Wahba, Ochoa told him that if he didn't sign the letter by 9 a.m. the following morning "he would have performed the last experiment of his life." Ochoa in his reply to the charges denies making the threat, claiming that he merely told Wahba that if he didn't sign the letter he could no longer continue as a member of the department of biochemistry. In any event, Wahba did not sign. Ochoa then telephoned Watson asking that the paper be withdrawn, but Watson refused and the paper was published. On 29 October 1969 NYU informed Wahba that his faculty appointment would not be renewed.

Wahba's status in the department before he was fired is another point of contention. Wahba's court papers describe him as an internationally recognized research investigator with his own laboratory and graduate students. But Ochoa's papers claim that Wahba performed research under Ochoa's direction and control and was "from time to time provided with laboratory facilities."

Attorneys are now taking depositions in the case, which will go on the calendar of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, early next year. The trial, if there is one, will not be held for at least 2 years because of the court's backlog of cases.

Wahba's suit was reported at length in the 17 August 1970 issue of *Chemical and Engineering News*; that article caused considerable concern among several of Ochoa's colleagues. A group of 29 researchers, led by David Nachmansohn of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Daniel E. Koshland, Jr., of the University of California, Berkeley, sent a letter to *Chemical and Engineering News* protesting the article. The letter, since withdrawn on the advice of Ochoa's attorneys, charged that the article was "a sensational account of slanderous and still unsubstantiated accusations." The scientists said that they were concerned "not only because of our affection and high regard for him [Ochoa], but also because such sensational charges against a leading scientist hurt the entire scientific community."

Ochoa, 65, received the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology along with Arthur Kornberg in 1959. Still active in his field, Ochoa publishes several papers each year.—ROBERT J. BAZELL