

Ex-Refusnik Dies

David Goldfarb, 70, a prominent Soviet biologist and one of the more visible refusniks of the last decade, died of heart failure on 24 February in Washington, D.C. He had been a visiting scholar at the National Institutes of Health, where he had been assessing Soviet biomedical research.

Goldfarb lost a chance to emigrate from the Soviet Union in 1984 when he refused to participate in a frame-up of journalist Nicholas Daniloff, who was later arrested by Soviet authorities and detained on espionage charges.

Goldfarb and his wife eventually got out in 1986, arriving in New York where he was promptly hospitalized for complications from diabetes. Goldfarb owed his escape to the United States in part to the tireless efforts of his son, Alex, who teaches microbiology at Columbia University.

False Alarm from Vet Slaying?

Sad sign of tense times in animal research: After Hiram Kitchen, dean of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, was gunned down in an ambush slaying as he emerged from his home the morning of 8 February, some people feared there might be a connection with animal activists.

Rumors began to fly on 21 February, when the Knox County sheriff's office warned law enforcement agencies of reports that militant animal-rights activists were planning to kill a dean of a veterinary school every month for a year.

But no animal rights group has claimed any knowledge about the killing, and an official in the sheriff's office subsequently said that although it was only "second-, third-, and fourth-hand information," they figured they ought to share it. "We didn't want to sit on any-

Rank	Name	Papers	Citations	Citation Impact
1	HARVARD UNIVERSITY	58,804	1,448,387	24.63
2	YALE UNIVERSITY	26,381	558,748	21.18
3	PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	10,808	221,938	20.53
4	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	22,843	421,892	18.47
5	UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA	27,661	475,067	17.17
6	DARTMOUTH COLLEGE	4,380	74,566	17.02
7	CORNELL UNIVERSITY	31,701	623,878	16.63
8	BROWN UNIVERSITY	7,861	106,617	13.55

Who Leads the (Ivy) League in "Citation Impact"? The answer: Harvard—not only in the number of scientific papers produced between 1973 and 1988, but in citations per paper (24.63), according to the Institute for Scientific Information, in Philadelphia. Data from ISI's Science Indicators Database shows that Harvard's papers were cited almost twice as often as those from the lowest impact paper producer, Brown. As a whole, the Ivy League carries disproportionate clout: the mean citation rate for all papers in the database during the 15-year period was 11.01, about 60% of the Ivy League rate.

thing," he explained.

But once the news leaked to the press, a lot of people got worried. Some schools, such as Texas A&M University college of veterinary medicine, even tightened their security procedures.

Now, Franklin Loew, dean of veterinary medicine at Tufts University, says he thinks he's discovered the source of the rumors. Two days after the killing, Frederick A. King, director of the Yerkes Regional Primate Center at Emory University, telephoned the Knox County sheriff's office asking if animal rights activists were involved. "Bingo, the rumors start," says Loew. "There is absolutely no evidence for any of it."

Indeed, little noticed in the flurry of newspaper articles on the case was the fact that Kitchen's is the third recent murder of a University of Tennessee employee. In November, a male nurse and a physician at the university medical center were stabbed to death on two successive days. Veterinarian Loew thinks that's the lead worth pursuing.

No More "Babies as Usual"

For most of the past decade, demographers and others—including global warming modelers—have operated on the assumption that the world population is likely to double by the end of the next century, leveling off at about 10.2 billion.

But updated figures produced last year by the United Nations now put the ultimate population number at closer to 14.2 billion.

According to the Population Crisis Committee (PCC), the U.N.'s earlier "low" projection of 8 billion, estimated in 1981, is now inconceivable because of the slow expansion of family planning programs. But, says the PCC, if contraceptive use is extended to 75% of the world's fertile couples by 2000, world population could stabilize at 9.3 billion late in the 21st century.

To achieve this goal, the PCC last month unveiled what it says is the first systematic plan for world population stabilization. The plan calls for an increase in annual global expenditures from the current level of \$3.2 billion to \$10.5 billion. That would include a sevenfold increase in contributions from industrialized countries—from \$534 million to \$4 billion—as well as increased spending by multilateral development banks, from \$85 million to \$1 billion. Developing countries would have to double their investments to \$4 billion a year.

"We and most of our colleagues feel the 1990s is the single most critical decade" for altering current trends, said PCC vice president Sharon Camp. If we have another decade of "business as usual," she said, "there is probably nothing we can do in the next century to prevent a tripling of the world population before it stabilizes."

Designing for Aging

Human factors research is big in the military and in certain civilian sectors. But it has not contributed much toward the creation of safer and more manageable physical environments for elderly people, whose numbers are growing rapidly.

So says a National Research Council report, "Human Factors Research Needs for an Aging Population." Improving home environments, transportation, and everyday technologies is important not just to reduce accidents, but to enable old people—more and more of whom are living alone—to maintain independent existences. But, says the report, "current knowledge about the elderly has not generally been translated into better policy or better design."

Better design of stairs and floor coverings, for example, might reduce the falls that are by far the biggest cause of accidents among the elderly. Improvements in lighting, product packaging, and utensils would make life more manageable. Better highway lighting, signs, and dashboards might reduce auto accidents: by the time drivers reach 75, they rival teenagers in accident rates per mile.

In addition to more research, the report recommends the development of a handbook on human factors and aging that could serve as a reference for architects and designers.