

Cell Bank for Mental Illnesses

The National Institute of Mental Health is putting \$5.7 million into the establishment of a cell bank, billed as the only one of its kind in the world, for the study of major mental disorders. The bank will be housed at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research in Camden, New Jersey, an independent research center located at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

The National Cell Repository is the first nationally coordinated initiative to aid researchers in defining the genetic bases for Alzheimer's disease, manic depression, and schizophrenia. NIMH and ten regional medical centers will collect more than 6000 cell lines, representing samples of blood and skin cells from patients as well as family members, for storage at the center.

Richard Mulivor, who developed a prenatal test for cystic fibrosis, will be director of the repository, which is expected to add cell lines from other mental illnesses in future years. The Coriell Institute already has two NIH cell banks, supported by

	% OF WOMEN AMONG NEW CASES	% OF WOMEN IN CLINICAL TRIALS, 1989
LUNG	35	33
COLORECTAL	51	44
BREAST	99	100
BLADDER	27	16
LYMPHOMA	47	38
HEAD/NECK	33	24
PANCREAS	52	37
LEUKEMIAS	44	42
MELANOMA	46	34
KIDNEY	38	32
STOMACH	40	30
BRAIN/CNS	46	40

*Published in the 2 January *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Women in NIH research (cont). *Inspired by reports that women have gotten short shrift in National Cancer Institute clinical trials (Science, 29 June 1990, p. 1601), two NCI researchers, Richard S. Ungerleider and Michael A. Friedman, went and counted them.* Their conclusion: "Women are not underrepresented" in NCI's clinical trials.* Women might see the numbers differently, though.*

the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the National Institute of Aging, that are used in family gene linkage studies on cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, primary affective disorder, and a form of Alzheimer's.

Endangered Languages

The current rapid rate of species extinction applies not only to flora and fauna but also to languages: Almost half of the world's 6000 languages are doomed to die out in the next 75 to 100 years, according to re-

ports presented last week in Chicago at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. That's because no children now speak those languages.

What's more, of the 3000 languages that are expected to survive, at least 45% also are threatened to go extinct. That means that only 5% of extant tongues—300 languages—really are safe, according to statistics discussed at a symposium chaired by Massachusetts Institute of Technology linguist Ken Hale.

This mass extinction for languages is caused by the disappearance or homogenization of indigenous groups. The association says that the situation is

even worse than the related extinctions of animals—7.4% of the 4400 species of mammals are endangered or threatened, and 2.7% of the 8600 species of birds are on endangered lists.

The language statistics set tongues wagging at the annual meeting of the LSA, where five linguists and anthropologists discussed methods for rescuing threatened languages—particularly among Native American, Alaskan, and Soviet populations. Those are among groups losing their languages fastest, according to Michael Krauss, a linguist at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. One solution to language endangerment: establish language centers where children are taught and encouraged to use the threatened tongues.

Second Chance for "Earth Art"

In November, John Frohnmayer, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, put the kibosh on a project involving the use of plants for "bioremediation" of toxic waste sites (*Science*, 14 December 1990, p. 1515). But last month, after discussions with the artist and the NEA advisory council, as well as considerable publicity over the veto, Frohnmayer decided that "the proposal has significant artistic merit and potential for widespread public understanding and appreciation," according to the *Washington Post*.

An NEA spokesman says endowment officials agreed that the proposal, by New York artist Mel Chin, "didn't adequately convey certain aspects of the project." Chin has been asked to resubmit the design.

Correction

In the briefing "Now even mummies go digital" (*Science*, 7 December 1990, p. 1334), the reconstruction of the mummy's head should have been attributed to Raymond Evenhouse of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

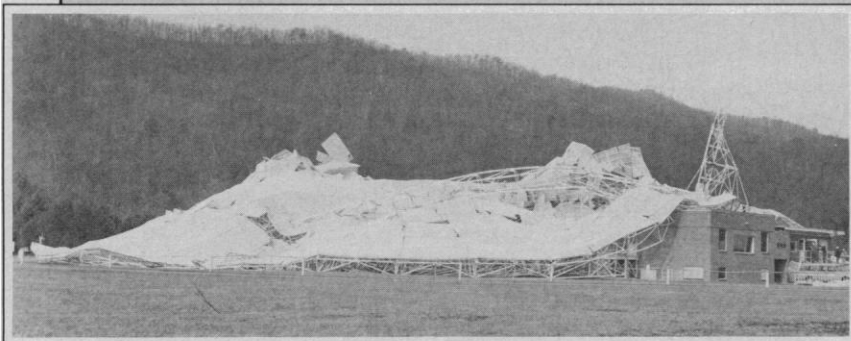
What Went Down Is Going Up

In 4 years, if everything goes according to plan, Green Bank, West Virginia, will once again be a focus of the radio astronomy world. Last month the National Science Foundation announced the award of a \$55 million contract to Radiation Systems, Inc., of Sterling, Virginia, to design, build, and test a new, fully steerable radio tele-

scope. It will be constructed, starting next spring, on the site of the old telescope, which collapsed from metal fatigue in 1988 (*Science*, 25 November 1988, p. 1120).

According to Robert D. Hall, project manager for the telescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Charlottesville, Virginia, the new

telescope will be the most accurate antenna of its size in the world. The 100-meter dish will have a surface area of 2.3 acres, with a tolerance of five-thousandths of an inch, permitting astronomers to make observations at shorter wavelengths than the old telescope.



Green Bank scope after its 1988 collapse.