

Editor's Note

The following items may be of interest to readers of the Axolotl Newsletter:

- (1) The I.U. Axolotl Colony telephone number has been changed to (812) 335 - 8260

- (2) From time to time the Axolotl Colony receives more requests for adult animals than can be accommodated. We would like to ask persons who have surplus adult animals to notify the Axolotl Colony. We will pass that information on to interested persons.

- (3) After being associated with the I.U. Axolotl Colony - in one capacity or another - for several years, Nathan Montoya (curator) and Anne Vestuto (records keeper) will soon be departing. Both began working in the colony as axolotl feeders while undergraduate students. Nathan will soon complete work on his Master's degree in modern dance. Together, they plan to develop careers in the field of modern dance, and in order to do so will move to New York City. We wish them good fortune in their new endeavor!

- (4) Prof. M. Fischberg of the University of Geneva is planning to retire in approximately 6 years. He would like to begin to develop a program which will insure that his large Xenopus colony will be cared for after his retirement. Accordingly, he has requested that I call to the attention of interested persons the possibility of eventually transferring his colony to a new laboratory. The following aspects of the operation should be kept in mind:
 - (1) The colony presently contains approximately 12,000 frogs. 35 mutant genes are represented, together with 20 different taxons.
 - (2) Most of the animals are maintained in aquaria, with circulating water. A considerable amount of space is required to house the operation.
 - (3) Additions to the colony continually occur, since field trips to Africa are made from time to time.

- (4) It is expected that a professional scientist and 2 technical assistants will be required to maintain the operation. A budget of approximately \$100,000 will be required, therefore, to maintain the operation at its present size and scope.

At the present time two formal possibilities exist:

- (a) The colony could continue in its present format, at the University of Geneva. A new director (to replace Prof. Fischberg) would be required, and a guarantee for future financial support would have to be forthcoming from either the University of Geneva or the Swiss federal government. Considering general constraints on research funding at the present time it is unclear whether this possibility is realistic.
- (b) The colony could be transferred to another laboratory. The host laboratory would be required to assume full financial responsibility for the maintenance of the colony.

Interested persons should either contact Prof. Fischberg directly, or discuss the matter with G. M. M. (who has knowledge of the nature of Prof. Fischberg's colony.)