

## Spotlight on NSLS Research

### X-Ray Microscopy

Doctors and dentists routinely use x-rays to examine their living patients. And it has been known for some time that x-rays would be equally useful for looking at smaller samples of biological materials, such as cells. But while technology has produced x-ray machines and radiographs, x-ray microscopes that could produce images with adequate clarity have been another story.

In theory, the x-ray microscope should have a resolution many times better than the optical microscope for examining natural biological specimens. Helping the technology catch up to the theory is the goal of a team from SUNY Stony Brook, now work-

um is critical. "In an electron microscope the sample must be put in a bit of a vacuum," Kenney said. "This entails drying the sample, slicing it very thin so electrons can pass through it, then staining it. What you are really looking at in an electron microscope is the stain. But for x-ray microscopy, we can just put the sample in the beam. It must be thin, but not ultra-thin. And it can be alive and wet, living in its natural fluid environment."

Soft x-rays are not very penetrating and are easily stopped. The denser the material in their path, the less they will penetrate. Thus, the soft x-rays coming from the beamline are absorbed, in varying degrees, by the different elements in the sample. The sample is mechanically scanned through a submicron beam spot. A detector, located directly behind the sample, transmits intensity information to a computer.

The computer can translate the information into different kinds of images. One is a conventional image showing the density of absorbing material in the sample. A color image processor allows the experimenters to assign different colors to different densities. The resulting image, while not in true color, gives an easily readable interpretation of densities throughout the sample. With this, said Kenney, "You can clearly start to see that x-rays bring out the internal structure in the specimen."

The second type of image is a cross-section of the sample depicting x-ray counts as a function of position along one scan line. Still under development is a process which involves making two scans at slightly different wavelengths above and below an x-ray absorption edge, which would produce an image locating a particular element in a biological cell.

All the information that goes into these images is stored digitally in the computer's memory and can be recalled at any time.

The key to the resolution obtained in these images is a type of x-ray lens called a Fresnel zone plate built by IBM specifically for this research. Zone plate fabrication requires state-of-the-art technology similar to that used in the fabrication of the finest integrated circuits. By using diffraction, rather than refraction like ordinary lenses, the zone plate will ultimately be able to provide resolution

(Continued on page 3)



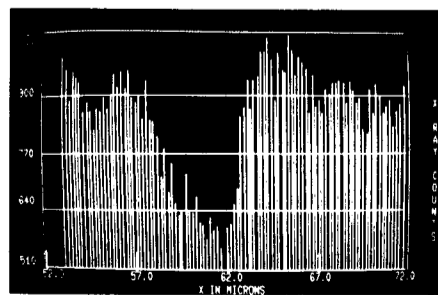
The teardrop-shaped image shown above is a single-celled diatom, a type of alga similar to that found in a swimming pool. This image was produced on a color image processor, on which the various shades of white, black and gray shown here appear as different colors to show densities throughout the sample. Here, the lightest areas are the least dense and represent the fluid surrounding the diatom. The darker spots show the density of the absorbing material in the diatom and suggest its internal structure.

ing at the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS). Led by physicist Janos Kirz, the team, which includes graduate students John Kenney and Harvey Rarback, as well as scientists from IBM and the NSLS, is developing an x-ray microscope capable of achieving this resolution.

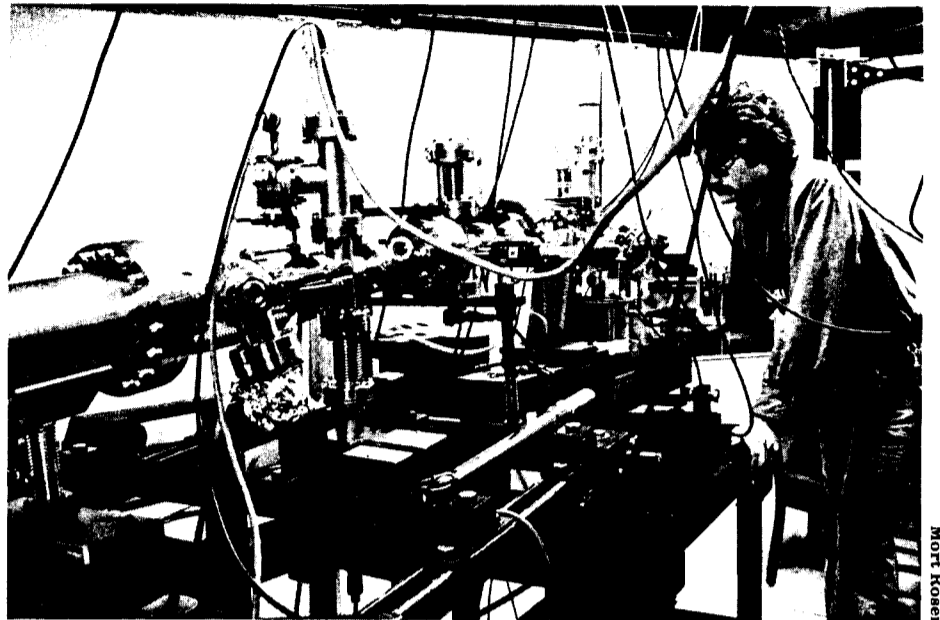
Although this is a team of physicists, their efforts are directed towards creating a tool for biologists. "We are trying to make this a convenient instrument for others to use," explained Rarback. "We think this instrument will be very useful for research at the NSLS."

The instrument is located at port U15 of the vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) ring, which emits a broad spectrum of radiation. To examine a specimen, the x-ray microscope uses only one wavelength, in the 15 to 45 angstrom soft x-ray range. This wavelength is selected by a monochromator designed by NSLS physicist Malcolm Howells. With admiration, Kenney called it, "the world's simplest monochromator."

The selected radiation is transported within a vacuum-sealed beamline to the experimental apparatus inside the team's hutch. Waiting for the soft x-ray beam is a thin sample of biological material positioned at the end of its path, but out of the harsh vacuum environment. The lack of vac-



This histogram represents a cross-section of the image of the diatom. The graph depicts x-ray counts along one scan line and indicates how well the soft x-rays were able to penetrate the material along that line. Longer bars indicate more penetration. Since the scan line represented here is approximately midway through the image, the longer bars show the fluid surrounding the diatom. When the soft x-rays hit the diatom, they are absorbed in varying degrees, producing the shorter bars. The computer can produce histograms of any chosen line throughout the image.



At port U15 of the NSLS, John Kenney positions a sample in the x-ray microscope at the end of the beamline. The microscope is being developed by a SUNY Stony Brook team in collaboration with IBM and the NSLS.

Mort Rosen

### Stainless Steel Corrodes Faster Than You Think

For the past six weeks, twelve graduate students from MIT have been working long hours on projects suggested by BNL scientists. They are participating in a unique internship program called the School of Chemical Engineering Practice.

The Practice School places students at various host laboratories or industrial sites, where they gain experience in applying fundamentals learned in the classroom. Here at BNL, one student team, with support from DOE's Office of Basic Energy Sciences, is studying corrosion in stainless steel.

While stainless steel can easily stand up to ordinary household use and is commonplace in corrosive environments, it can deteriorate. The corrosion rate depends on how harsh the environment and on how long the exposure.

Stainless steel is an alloy made of iron, chromium and nickel. It is resistant to uniform attack, but in a chloride environment (salt is sodium chloride), it will pit. And the pits can grow rapidly, wearing through a thin metal sheet in as little as a few days.

MIT students Gregory Gaudet, Thomas Mo and Jean Tilly have centered their project around a simple, but revealing experiment. They use a stainless steel wire embedded in epoxy to form an artificial pit. The wire is connected to a source of electrical current and put in a beaker of salt water. Left alone, the wire will corrode uniformly very slowly. With the application of voltage, the wire surface is activated and the corrosion rate speeds up.

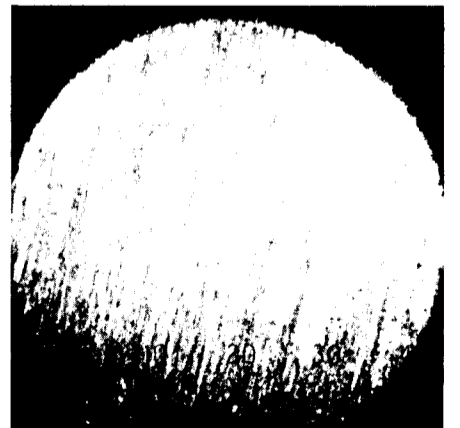
That's not surprising. What is, however, is that if the voltage is suddenly lowered by about 400 to 500 millivolts, a drastic change takes place. Two distinct regions are observed on the wire surface — one continuing to corrode rapidly and the other corroding very slowly (passivated).

Seeking to explain how two different corrosion rates could occur under the same conditions, the students have repeated the experiment hundreds of times, at different pit depths, different applied voltages, and for different types of stainless steel. Here is their theory: When the wire corrodes, metal ions are produced at the wire surface. These ions then diffuse out of the pit and into the solution. Both the corro-

sion rate and the diffusion rate depend on the concentration of metal ions at the wire surface, and a stable system occurs only when the two rates are equal. A sudden drop in voltage triggers a difference between the rates of corrosion and diffusion, leading to the observed difference in corrosion rates.

For this project, the team has guidance from BNL scientists Hugh Isaacs and Roger Newman. The two had done previous work which suggested this peculiarity in the corrosion mechanisms of stainless steel.

The MIT students are adding to what is already known about corrosion in stainless steel. As a final goal of their BNL project, they are making a computer model of diffusion phenomena in pitting corrosion, using results of their experiments to refine the model so it predicts the corrosion rate more accurately.



Stainless steel wire, one millimeter in diameter, before the experiment.



After dropping voltage, stainless steel wire shows active and passive regions. The lighter upper section is corroding at a slow rate, and the darker lower section is corroding rapidly.

## The Barrys of Beach Plum

The house would not have appealed to everyone. But the old gunning shack on the Fire Island shore of the Great South Bay had been a landmark for John (Jeb) Barry when he camped out on the barrier beach as a boy. As an adult, Barry saw the unused house just west of Old Inlet as a way to recapture the charms of those carefree days. So he and his wife Suzy looked into renting the place.

The owners of the house also turned out to be the owners of a small sailboat that Barry had found floating adrift on the bay a few years before and turned over to the police. Apologizing for their tardiness, the owners thanked the good Samaritan and offered a belated reward. Not only did the Barrys receive permission to use the house, they also summered there rent-free for a few years.

When they did start paying "rent," it was in the form of maintaining and improving the house and property and providing the owners with a winter's supply of firewood.

Not everyone would consider that a bargain. Though "The Beach Plum" sits on the water's edge, surrounded

by those lovely fruit bushes, it lacks a few of the conventional amenities: electricity, plumbing, telephone, television. But "getting away from the telephone" is one of the things Barry likes most about this summer retreat. And with the next cluster of houses about three miles away, the Barrys can also entertain friends without worrying about the neighbors. "We enjoy seeing everyone come over here and have a good time," Barry says.

To show their appreciation, the Barrys' friends bring ice — a commodity that is hard to produce with a gas-powered refrigerator. Gas also runs the stove and the lights. Running water comes from a plastic line Barry has rigged from the house to the hand pump, located about half-way between the bay and the ocean. And there's an outhouse behind the main house.

The inconveniences don't bother Barry, who says, "If you don't have it, you just do without it." The Barrys have been doing without, and enjoying it immensely, for ten summers now. They live in the cabin from mid-June through Labor Day weekend,

often renting their Brookhaven home out for the summer. Still, it's not all a vacation. Both Barrys work — he's a technician in DAS' Combustion Studies Group; she's a secretary for a local firm — and they try to use their vacation days to take long summer weekends. On their workdays, they commute — by boat.

The cruise to Squassux Landing in Brookhaven usually takes about 15 minutes in their 18-foot motorboat. On occasion, however, there is the weather to contend with. "Electric storms are the worst," Barry says. "I usually sit them out. And the fog in the morning can be terrible too, but I just use the compass and go." He has little choice. "I ride in a carpool most of the time, so I've got to be on time," he says.

The morning routine varies, depending on the children's plans. Sometimes Walter, 11, and Heather, 8, ride with Mom and Dad to spend the day with their grandmother in Brookhaven; other days, their grandmother joins them on Fire Island. The Barrys own a second 18-foot boat, a Boston whaler, which the children can operate in an emergency. And the grandmother can use the family's 4-wheel drive Jeep.

Generally, "the Jeep just sits there," says Barry, who has no wish to disturb the National Seashore on which the house sits. When the Federal government took over the area in 1964, the property was leased to the owners from whom the Barrys rent it. The owners' lease will expire in 1992, when the house will be razed and the area will be allowed to return to its natural state. Until then, the Barrys plan to continue enjoying the cottage, at least "until the kids get tired of it," Barry says. "So far they have really enjoyed it. Every week we bring one of their friends over. And we try to keep them motivated by planning lots of activities like water skiing, hiking and fishing." Also on the list is crabbing, in their 10-foot crabbing boat, and sailing, in the Barrys' Snark sailboat.

Their fleet comes in handy when the Barrys are coming or going for the summer — with their two dogs and about 60 Bantam chickens. "A red fox has gotten a couple of the hens this year," said Barry. "I saw him sitting on the dock, licking his chops." Other local inhabitants are "quite a few deer, lots of mosquitoes and plenty of poison ivy."

"You learn to live without some things and to live with others," said Barry. One of the things the family has learned to live with is the weather. "We've had some bad electrical storms here," said Barry. "Probably the worst was Hurricane Belle a few years ago. We left for the mainland and when we got back, everything was brown from the salt that blew over from the ocean. Even a 'normal' electrical storm can be scary. Some of the winds shake the house. It's just sitting on poles."

Soon the Barrys will leave the house to resume their winter schedule. But they'll head back for weekends



John Barry commutes to his summer retreat.



A well-worn path marks the 800 feet from "The Beach Plum" to Fire Island's Atlantic Ocean shore where the kids enjoy a romp with Raven.



Visitors to "The Beach Plum" come by boat and tie up at the Barry's dock. Here to greet them are (front to back) Heather, Walter, Raven, Suzy, Heather's friend Melissa Kinsella and Jeb Barry.



John Barry, at the other end of his commute - Bldg. 527.

throughout the year. And if the bay freezes over they'll want to check for damage by vandals, so they'll drive across the ice and park the car on the dock.

How does Barry account for this devotion to a house they don't own, a house without electricity, a house that will be no more in less than ten years? "We really love it," he says, "you have to — the running back and forth, repairing the boats, carting the food — we never thought we'd stick it out for ten years. It's a lot of work, but it's well worth it." — Anita Cohen

—photos by Humphrey

## In Memoriam S.L. Commerford

Spencer Lewis Commerford, a Scientist in the Medical Research Center, died on August 28, at the age of 53.

A biochemist, Commerford's research centered on nucleic acid biochemistry. He came to the Lab in 1959 on an NIH postdoctoral fellowship, and joined the staff of the Medical Department in 1962. In 1982 he went to Germany on a year's sabbatical to work on studies of DNA damage and repair mechanisms at the Institute for Medicine, Kernforschungsanlage, Julich. In addition to his research, Commerford taught molecular biology and physiology to undergraduates in the Brookhaven Semester Program from 1968-81. He held a B.S. and M.S. in biochemistry from MIT and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Harvard.

Commerford was a member of Sigma Xi, American Society of Biological Chemists, the Biophysical Society, the Harvey Society, and the American Society for the Advancement of Science.

He is survived by his wife, Alina, a son, Peter, and a daughter, Janine. He was a resident of Shirley.

## Memo to Retirees

If they have not already done so, retired employees and their spouses who are nearing, or have reached, age 65, are reminded to apply for Medicare A & B coverage. The Laboratory's group medical insurance plan will not pay for any medical expenses which are payable under Medicare. Employees who are retired, or who are going to retire at age 65, should apply for coverage three months before their 65th birthday at the nearest Social Security office. District Social Security offices are located at 75 Oak St., Patchogue, and 518 E. Main St., Riverhead. When applying, take along proof of date of birth. For further information, call BNL Personnel Services at 282-2877.

## Instrumentation Conference

The Third National Conference on Synchrotron Radiation Instrumentation will be held September 12-14 in Berkner Hall. For registration and program information, contact Judy Ferrero, Ext. 2145, or William Thomlinson, Ext. 3937.



Heather, Raven and Walter share a few quiet moments inside "The Beach Plum."

# BROOKHAVEN BULLETIN

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## NSLS

(Cont'd)

down to 500 angstroms — many times better than any optical microscope.

The experimenters have been at their job for about a year now, tuning and refining their equipment. While they have already achieved resolutions better than 3000 angstroms, they are still in the process of testing their microscope and learning how to use it best. "It's something that's going to take a long time before it can realize its full potential," said Kirz.

—Anita Cohen

## Arrivals & Departures

### Arrivals

Sujit Banerjee ..... S.&E.P.  
Kathryn A. Hope ..... Nuclear Energy  
Eugene A. Rosa ..... Nuclear Energy  
Jay R. Winkler ..... Chemistry

### Departures

This list includes all employees who have terminated from the Laboratory, including retirees:

Ad T. Aerts ..... Physics  
Herbert J. Bernstein ..... Chemistry  
Maureen Bohning ..... Mgt. Info. Sys.  
Zvy Dubinsky ..... Energy & Env.  
Franklin L. Leon ..... S.&E.P.  
George R. Reisert ..... Plant Eng.

## Low Fat Cheeses

Even if a package of cheese is labeled "skim milk," it may not be a low fat product, says the Cooperative Extension Association of Suffolk County. Cheese processors are free to add cream to skim, or part skim, milk products. Though the Federal Government sets guidelines as to the amount of fat and water that goes into each of 75 cheese varieties, Jarlsberg, farmer and pot cheeses are not legally defined in the government's regulations.

## Aerobic Dance

Activity seems to be synonymous with summer, but for many people, it's the antonym for winter. If you want to change all that and continue your summertime level of exercise throughout the winter, the Aerobic Dance Club may have just the thing — a regular program of Aerobic Dance and/or Stretchercise.

All classes in the ten-week fall session begin in the North Room of the Brookhaven Center and run from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Registration will precede the first classes, which will be taught by Linda Sandberg. Full payment for each session is due at registration.

Aerobic Dance classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning September 20. The fee for the 20-session session is \$60. The ten-class Stretchercise session will meet on Wednesdays and will cost \$30. The first class is scheduled for September 21.

Participation in the activities of the Aerobic Dance Club is open to any eligible BERA member age 18 or over. For more information call president Lizzy Soenarjati, 878-9520; secretary/treasurer Bonnie Wesolowski, Ext. 4301; or Linda Sandberg, 689-8740.

## Sickle Cell Tests

September is National Sickle Cell Month. Lectures on sickle cell will be presented at Berkner Hall, Room B, on Wednesday, September 7, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Thursday, September 8, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The lecture takes about 30 minutes and will be repeated as groups form. Rosetta Greene, community health educator from the Long Island Sickle Cell Project, will be the speaker.

Free testing will also be available to interested persons. According to the Long Island Sickle Cell Project, sickle cell anemia is not detected in routine blood testing, and the disease is no longer limited to the black population.

For more information on screening, genetic counseling and other services, contact the Long Island Sickle Cell Project at 420-5026/5028, or 732-0400 Ext. 438/441.

## Scholarship Alert

Up to ten 1984 AUI Trustee Scholarships will be awarded to children of regular employees of Brookhaven National Laboratory. Awarded competitively, the scholarships are renewable for up to four years of study toward an academic degree. In addition, up to three scholarships may be awarded to minority group children of employees of BNL and NRAO, who are Black, Hispanic, or Native American. Eligibility will be determined by applicable federal criteria.

To qualify for a scholarship, the applicant must be a son or daughter of a BNL employee who began regular full-time, or regular eligible part-time employment no later than November 1, 1983, and who is employed by BNL at the time the award is announced. Also eligible are the sons and daughters of retired employees or employees who died when in regular service at the Laboratory. In the case of stepchildren, eligibility will be established if the employee regularly claims the child as a dependent for income tax purposes.

Eligible applicants must be secondary school seniors who will graduate during the current academic year and enter college by the fall of 1984.

Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,700 per year and is paid directly to the college.

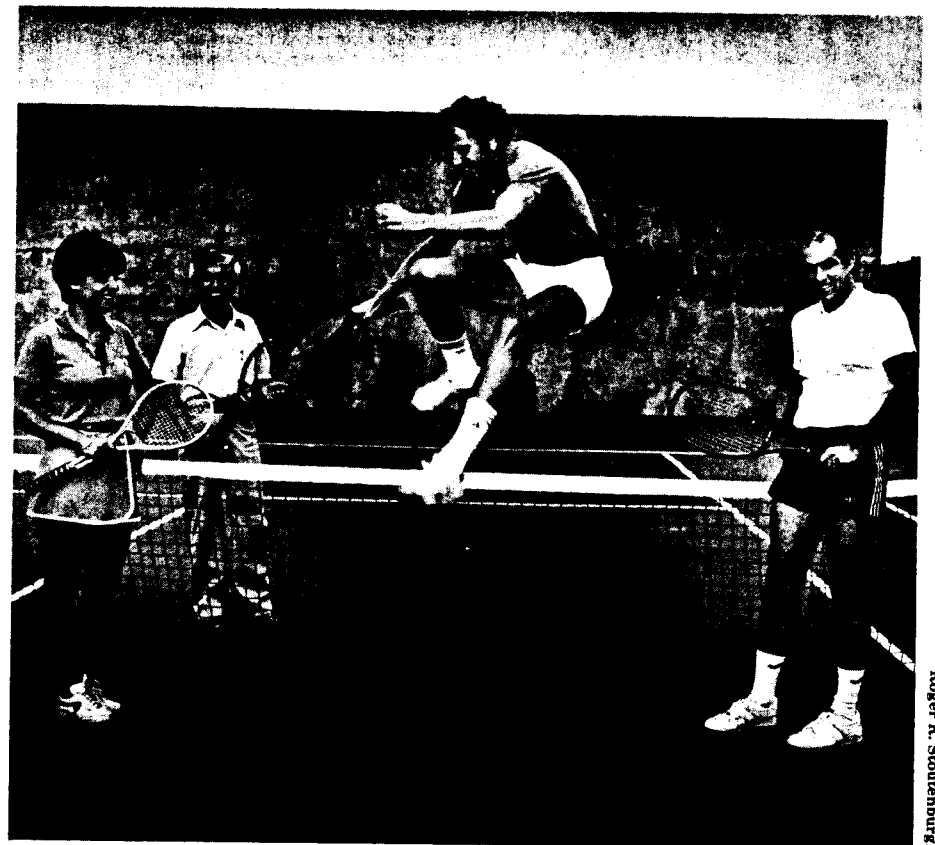
Applications are due November 1, 1983. For more information, application forms and critical date schedules, contact the Office of Scientific Personnel (OSP), 40 Brookhaven Ave., Ext. 3338.

OSP also has available a recent issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education. This publication carries a listing of tuition and fees payable in 1983-84 at more than 2600 post-secondary institutions (including additional tuition payable at state schools for out-of-state students).

## House Open to Public September 11

Since its dedication on September 10, 1980, the Brookhaven House has been open to visitors at least once a year during the Lab's summer Sunday tour program. Over 7500 people have already taken this opportunity to inspect the energy-efficient solar home located on the corner of Upton Road and Mitchell Lane. And more will have the chance on Sunday, September 11, when free tours of the Brookhaven House will be offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A number of different energy-conserving concepts are utilized in the Brookhaven House, resulting in heating costs which are a fraction of those encountered in typical homes. Such features as south-facing windows, house siting and a heat storage



Roger R. Stoutenburgh

Urged on by fellow champs of the 1983 BNL tennis tournament, Tom Koetzle obliged the photographer with a jump over the net. Koetzle was the winner in men's singles. Other winners were: Chris Saitta (left) in women's singles, Saitta and Mary Lou Abata in women's doubles, Louise Herrera and Steve Shapiro (right) in mixed doubles, and Darrel Joel and Junichi Iwai (second from left) in men's doubles.

## Food Service

At the Cafeteria, the snack bar will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, September 3, 4 and 5.

The Tap Room at the Brookhaven Center Club will be closed on Saturday and Sunday, reopening at 5 p.m. on Monday, September 5.

The vended food service in Building 912 will be in operation throughout the Labor Day weekend.

## Att: Philatelists

The on-site Post Office has a few mint sets from 1978 and 1979 on sale at the original prices of \$4.50 and \$5.25. These stamps will only be on sale until September 30 after which time they will be destroyed.

## Hospitality News

The Hospitality Committee's next monthly morning get-together will be held Tuesday, September 6 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Brookhaven Center. Annette Meyer, the guest speaker, will demonstrate some of the various ways macrame can be used.

Wives of Laboratory employees, guests, and visitors are welcome. Coffee, tea and danish will be served. Please come and bring the children. Babysitting will be provided free of charge.

## Bowling

It's time to dust off the old bowling ball or purchase a new one. The 1983/84 bowling season will begin on Tuesday, September 13 for the leagues in Port Jefferson (6 p.m.) and Thursday, September 15 for the mixed leagues in Shirley (6:30 p.m.).

## Islanders Games

Tickets for the New York Islanders pre-season hockey games are now on sale at the BERA Sales Office in Berkner Hall. The Champs will be playing Buffalo on Tuesday, September 20; Philadelphia on Saturday, September 24; Boston on Tuesday, September 27; and the Rangers on Thursday, September 29.

BERA has eight tickets for each game and is offering to sell them to on-site employees at a two-for-one price of \$17.50.

The sale of regular season tickets will be announced in the Bulletin before October 1.

## Cafeteria Menu

### Week Ending September 9, 1983

Monday, September 5  
Snack Bar Service  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, September 6

Chicken and rice soup	(cup) .65
	(bowl) .75
Filet of sole doré & 1 veg.	1.90
Baked lasagna & 1 veg.	
w/garlic bread	1.95
Hot Deli: Texas jumbo chili & cheese dog	1.90

Wednesday, September 7

Old fashioned bean soup	(cup) .65
	(bowl) .75
Veal chasseur & 1 veg.	1.95
Spinach crepes w/cheese sauce & 1 veg.	1.85
Hot Deli: Swedish meatball hero	1.95

Thursday, September 8

Minestrone Soup	(cup) .65
	(bowl) .75
Baked meatloaf & 1 veg.	1.85
Tuna noodle casserole & 1 veg.	1.85
Hot Deli: Corned beef	(bread) 1.85
	(roll) 2.00

Friday, September 9

Manhattan clam chowder	(cup) .65
	(bowl) .75
Old fashioned beef stew on egg noodles	1.95
Macaroni & cheese w/1 veg.	1.80
Hot Deli: Top round of beef w/green peppers	(bread) 1.95
	(roll) 2.10

system contribute to this performance. The house can be heated throughout an average Long Island winter using only about 170 gallons of oil.

No complex technology was involved in the houses' construction and only readily available building materials were used. The construction of the house, from initial planning through completion, was documented in the award-winning film "Building the Brookhaven House," which will also be shown on September 11.

The Sunday tour program will continue until the end of September except on September 4. The tours include slide shows, a guided tour of the Lab site and a guided walking tour of the three-story Exhibit Center.

