CORNELL ATTENDS MEETING
Dr. John Cornell, CSB/SJU Biology Dept. attended the annual meeting of the American Society of Zoologists in New Orleans during the Christmas Break. Dr Cornell had the opportunity to meet with colleagues, attend papers and listen to some hot jazz.

HENRY ATTENDS LEPTOSPIROSIS MEETING
Dr. Ron Henry, SJU/CSB Biology Department attended the 30th annual American Leptospirosis Research Conference in Chicago. He was honored by being re-elected the Secretary/Treasurer of the 1988 Conference.

IN BRIEF: BIOLOGY THEATRICS
In December, Dr. Wurdak's Cell Biology class treated us to a performance of "Photophosphorylation: A Three Act Play". Each student in the class was assigned to play one of the components in the photophosphorylation assembly in the chloroplast. The thespians demonstrated the processes of cyclic and noncyclic photophosphorylation and how ATP is synthesized.

RODELL RETURNS FROM SABBATICAL
Dr. Charles Rodell has returned from his sabbatical at the University of Oregon, Eugene. He reports that it was a tremendous experience and was very productive because he was able to prepare four manuscripts and two book reviews for publication. He and his family also had the opportunity to travel throughout the Pacific Northwest. One of their highlights was whale watching. Welcome back Dr. Rodell.

FEBRUARY 1988

HHMI GRANT
The Biology department, in association with the Chemistry department, recently submitted a grant proposal to the Howard Hughes Medical Institutes (HHMI) for 1.4 million dollars. The grant requested funds to purchase transmission and scanning electron microscopes, equip a molecular biology laboratory, and bring distinguished research professors to the department. St. John's was one of only 94 schools nationwide that were invited to apply for approximately $64 million dollars. We should know by late spring if our proposal will be funded. Let's say a few prayers until then.

BIOLOGY CURRICULUM NOTE
Beginning Fall 1988, biology majors will be required to take a one mod course called Biological Literature. This course will replace the current Journal Club or Biological Research requirement. Students are encouraged to take it during their sophomore year.

BIOLOGY OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
The Biology Department will offer a 4-credit field course entitled, "Biology of the Pacific Northwest" during the summer of 1988. This course gives students a chance to study a variety of ecosystems including alpine, cold desert, temperate rain forest and marine tidal pools. There will be informational meetings on Feb. 24, SC 325 at 5:00 P.M. and Feb. 25, HAB 117 at 7:00 P.M. or contact Dr. Poff, SC 306).
POPP IN ENGLAND

Dr. James Poff spent his fall semester in London as the Director of the British Studies Abroad Program. Dr. Poff taught a course about the Natural History of Britain from a historical point of view. He and his students studied the contributions of famous English naturalists. The group also had a chance to visit Ireland and such places as Charles Darwin's home.

In addition to Dr. Poff's course, the 25 students who participated in this program took four other courses which concentrated on different aspects of British history. The students and Poff had a nice time, and the trip was a learning experience for everyone.

We welcome Dr. Poff back to the department. Dr. Poff said he is willing to discuss biological points of interest for anyone planning a trip to Great Britain. He would also be happy to go along as a guide (if you are willing to pay all his expenses).

IMMUNOLOGY LECTURE

Stephen Fling from the Department of Microbiology at the University of Minnesota gave a lecture entitled "Autoimmunity-Mapping Antibody and T-cell Epitopes of A Self Antigen." During the February 4th lecture, he explained that autoimmunity was an immune reaction to self-components or compounds found within the human body. He said that sometimes the immune system breaks down and does not discriminate between the dangerous antigen and molecules already found in the body.

The lecture, which was sponsored by the BioClub, was interesting, and about thirty students and faculty attended. Fling is a 1982 graduate of St. John's and a graduate student in Microbiology and Immunology at the U of M.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...the gill nets used by commercial fishing fleets to catch foodfishes such as salmon, squid, cod, redfish, speckled trout, bluefish and swordfish also trap and kill large numbers of non-commercial fish, birds and mammals including porpoises, blue sharks, mantas and sea lions? (a grim thought for your next seafood supper)

...the gene for the enzyme luciferase, which is responsible for firefly luminescence, has been transferred to tobacco plants? Plants watered with luciferin, the substrate for the enzyme, emit an easily detectable glow.

BIOCLUB EVENTS

There will be a Biology Club meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd to discuss a spring camping trip and/or picnic. A group photo will also be taken for the 1988 Saints yearbook. Other upcoming events include the BioClub/ChemClub volleyball and football games. Watch for further details.