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### Penetrating eye is cast on Marmot family by University of Montana professor; two year research grant is increased

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# NEWS

FROM

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

INFORMATION SERVICES

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FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

PENETRATING EYE IS CAST ON  
MARMOT FAMILY BY UM PROF

9/20/66

Over-grown ground squirrels of the marmot family are having their skeletons rattled as a result of studies being conducted by a University of Montana zoology professor.

Effective this month, Dr. Robert S. Hoffmann's studies will be augmented by a two-year National Science Foundation grant of \$17,300.

His research, entitled "Systematics and Evolutionary History of the Marmots," was begun when Dr. Hoffmann studied in the Soviet Union on a year's leave from the University of Montana recently.

Dr. Hoffmann will compile information regarding kinds, numbers and relationships of the members of the marmot family. He said in some areas of the United States woodchucks and other members of the marmot family are agriculture pests, while in Asia other members of the same family are bubonic plague carriers.

Dr. Hoffmann's discoveries will provide the basic scientific knowledge about marmots so other researchers will have a base from which to conduct their search for control of the pests.

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TWO YEAR RESEARCH  
GRANT IS INCREASED

The National Science Foundation also has augmented by \$4,200 a two-year old, \$31,600 grant to two University of Montana professors studying the "Synthesis of Androgens and Estrogens by the Gonads of Wilson's Phalaropes."

The research is under the direction of Dr. H. R. Fevold, assistant professor of chemistry, and Dr. E. W. Pfeiffer, associate professor of zoology at the University of Montana.

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