

Time Bomb (con't)

have gone ahead in the application of genetics to the management of insect pests, offering benefits to agricultural and public health care. Their colleagues at Sussex University in Britain have developed new strains of nitrogen producing bacteria that could cut down on the need for fertilizer.

Industry is attracted by the prospects of new processes for the synthetic production of drugs, such as insulin.

Yet if some of the fast-producing deadly organisms were to escape from the laboratory in the course of experiments they could produce plagues that would make the Black Death of Medieval Europe look trite, for there would be little hope for control.

And dangerous materials

have been known to escape from laboratories. Only recently, smallpox escaped from Porton Down, Britain's top security laboratory concerned with micro-biological research.

Although the problems are comparable to those associated with nuclear fallout, in that it effects everyone, John Kendrew, deputy director of the British Medical Research Laboratory of Molecular Biology, thinks it's worse.

"... in my opinion our present problem is even more difficult. For early nuclear research was contained within a governmental military framework while gene

transfer can be done by any competent in any lab at any place. And for some of the work to be carried out be-

hind a cloak of military or commercial secrecy would be doubly dangerous."

Scientific progress has always been erratic. It seems it has been impossible for us to protect ourselves from the changes. The different developments are uncontrolled -- there is no master plan guiding the research. It is as if science has been waging guerilla warfare against society - small teams of men, each working on its own biological bomb.

Now many scientists would like to see the establishment, through the forthcoming conference on genetic engineering, early next year, of an authoritative international body to advise specialists on aspects of research in the field that should be avoided.

Perhaps scientists have finally stopped regarding their subject as a curiosity and started it as the most potent force of our world. With some luck we may even be better prepared for the coming of the "biological age" than we were for the "nuclear age."

Gail Mitchell



R. MacDonald

and yet, another

Henderson & Cudmore moral

Senate Creates Council On University Life

When you've got something to hide and nowhere to hide it....



HIDE-IT WITH LEVI'S

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During the afternoon of freshman and sophomore registration, there was a well attended meeting of senate held in the faculty lounge.

The motion of major importance was the introduction and establishment of a council on university life. This council is to provide a more expedient method of handling problems occurring in university life hence bypassing the Student Union, or Senate.

The reason for the development of this council is the conflict between Student Services and Student Union.

The council is to be constructed from a group containing 3 faculty members, 3 resident and 3 day students.

Some problems feared are possible red tape of a new large body; co-ordination of problems between S.U. and S.S. and possible amendments by the S.U. and S.S. to provide actions for settlement of problems arising in University Life

With this new large body it seems much red tape and many questions on it's feasibility will arise. Your own opinions on this topic would willingly be published. Why not send us yours?