

Concessions may be last hope for union

By The Associated Press

McKEESPORT, Pa. — Union leader Dick Grace has long resisted giving U.S. Steel Corp. contract concessions, but he says it may be time to accept company-proposed changes at the National Plant.

"We've held off to the last," Grace, president of United Steelworkers Local 1408, said yesterday. "But when you have a sister plant making the same thing, it's local against local."

Grace has called a meeting of his 4,200 members on Sept. 14 to discuss concessions similar to those other local unions have been granting steelmakers this year — mostly job combinations and eliminations and reductions in crew sizes.

"I want to get a sense from them, explain how we look businesswise, and say, 'What do you people want?'" The older guys say sit it out, but they get a pension," Grace said.

Grace said he has always refused requests to cut labor costs at the McKeesport pipe and tubing mill, where only 100 people are working and more than 4,000 are furloughed.

But until now, he said, he had a "gentleman's agreement" with the local president at U.S. Steel's Lorain, Ohio, plant "to stand fast and resist all proposed changes."

But Martin Bartos has retired as Lorain president, and his successor, Andy DeAngelis, agreed with the company last month to revise work rules. DeAngelis said he knew nothing about an agreement with Grace.

"I'm trying to save this mill and the two of us, we still have," DeAngelis said.

"We have to look at what happened there," Grace said. "I have no animosity for them."

The USW's contract with seven major steelmakers allows the companies to bargain with union locals for wage and benefit concessions beyond those the union granted March 1. The union estimates these cuts will save the industry \$3 billion in three years.

A USW spokesman said there are no records of how many locals have voted to grant additional concessions.

Jim McGeehan, president of USW District 7 in eastern Pennsylvania, said most of his locals have been spared additional givebacks.

But he said the union may have to consider concessions to keep open the Fairless Works outside Philadelphia.

U.S. Steel Corp. wants to import semi-finished slab steel from Great Britain for finishing at Fairless.

Last week, workers at Bethlehem Steel Corp. in Johnstown voted overwhelmingly to accept concessions after the company threatened to close its plant without them.

West Germans, Americans protest

Anti-nuclear demonstration to block U.S. Army base tomorrow

By DAVID MINTHORN
Associated Press Writer

MUTLANGEN, West Germany — Anti-nuclear demonstrators plan to blockade a U.S. Army base tomorrow to launch a "hot autumn" of protests against the deployment of new American missiles in West Germany in December.

Authors Heinrich Boell and Guenter Grass, Daniel Ellsberg and Daniel Berrigan from the United States, and prominent left-wing West German politicians are to join the 72-hour blockade in this south German town, the organizers said.

At least 1,000 people are expected to take part in the first of a three-month series of sit-ins, sit-ins and other acts of civil disobedience throughout West Germany. They will sit down on the 200-yard-long black-topped road into the Mutlangen base to prevent vehicles from entering or leaving. Mutlangen is one of several bases in West Germany that will get the new missiles.

According to public opinion polls, up to 75 percent of West Germans oppose the stationing of the Pershing 2 and Tomahawk cruise missiles. But the Bonn government plans to go ahead with the deployment if there is no progress in U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Mutlangen demonstrators, many of them students in their 20s living at a "peace camp" near the base, have been rehearsing the blockade twice a day at the base's front gate for three weeks.

American soldiers and German police watch every morning and evening as two dozen people sit in a circle beneath a sign reading, "We Pray For Peace. Don't Disturb Us."

After an hour of silence, they sing German hymns or the U.S. civil rights song, "We Shall Overcome." Then they walk back to their camp a mile away for strategy discussions and instruction in passive resistance.

U.S. Army officials refuse to comment on the blockade, saying it is a German affair and the German police will handle it.

The Mutlangen base, which is surrounded by concertina wire, sits atop a hill in the rolling farmland of Swabia.

Soldiers behind the wire repair the trucks that would transport mobile Pershing 1 missiles — which have been in place for years and would be replaced by the longer-range Pershing 2 — to locations in the field.

No missiles have been visible on the trucks for the past month.

A sign at the gate bans unauthorized entry to the base and forbids photographs or sketches of the installation. Army sentinels patrol the perimeter, and white-and-green German police vans patrol the area.

'These young people are right. I support them. They can have an effect.'

—neighbor of Mutlangen missile base

"Our immediate goal is to prevent the missiles from going in. A long-range aim is to demonstrate that non-violent civil disobedience is effective against military occupation," said Wolfgang Schlupp, a 25-year-old social worker from Mannheim.

The action is not without danger. Organizers said two days after the camp opened on Aug. 6, the anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, several protesters were nearly run over when a U.S. military car sped through the gate and scattered a silent circle on the road.

After that, the demonstrators left the road at the approach of military vehicles.

Virus used to correct birth defect

By PAUL RAEBURN
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — A genetic defect responsible for a severe human brain disorder has been corrected in the laboratory by infecting defective human cells with a virus that inserts a new gene into them, thereby restoring normal function, researchers said Tuesday.

It is the first time viruses have been used in human cells to correct a genetic defect responsible for a human disease, they said.

The researchers estimated that it will be four or five years before the technique moves out of the laboratory and into trials with patients.

The disease, known as Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, is a brain disorder that results in mental retardation and strange behavior patterns, including a tendency toward self-mutilation and compulsive aggressive behavior, according to Richard Leavitt, a spokesman for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. It strikes males almost exclusively, occurring once in every 50,000 male births.

The new technique, developed by Inder Verma of the Salk Institute in San Diego and Dr. Theodore Friedmann of the University of California at San Diego, was reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

It could lead to treatment for a wide variety of human genetic diseases, said Friedmann. "I tend

to think this kind of manipulation will find its place in therapy," Friedmann said in a telephone interview. But he added that "it won't cure everything."

Blood disorders and immune deficiency diseases are likely candidates for this type of treatment, he said.

Howard Temin, a Nobel laureate at the University of Wisconsin, said the research was "a very important development," that "potentially opens the way" to the use of viruses in human gene therapy.

Similar research has been done by Richard Mulligan at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, according to several scientists interviewed. But Mulligan's work has not been published, and efforts to reach him in Paris, where he is visiting a colleague, were unsuccessful.

Lesch-Nyhan syndrome is due to a defect in a single gene, which triggers the production of an enzyme known as HPRT, Friedmann said. When that gene is defective, HPRT is not produced, and cells in certain parts of the brain begin to malfunction, occurring once in every 50,000 male births.

A variety of researchers have shown that viruses can be used to insert selected genes into the cells they infect, Friedmann said. He and his collaborator, Inder Verma of the Salk Institute in San Diego, thought they might be able to use a virus to insert a normal HPRT gene into defective human cells.

If that gene would function properly and produce

HPRT, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome could be eliminated.

Friedmann and Verma used genetic engineering techniques to insert the normal human HPRT gene into a mouse leukemia virus, one of a class of viruses called retroviruses. The virus was also modified in such a way that it would not cause cancer.

The researchers then exposed human cells with a defective HPRT gene to the virus. The virus entered the cells, and the cells did indeed begin to produce HPRT.

In a further complication, the researchers found that the altered virus had lost the ability to reproduce itself. So they infected it, in turn, with another virus that nested inside it and allowed it to reproduce.

In more recent research that has not yet been published, the researchers found that mouse bone marrow cells infected with the virus and injected into the marrow of living mice will produce HPRT.

That is presumably the strategy that will one day be used with humans. The bone marrow cells of a patient with Lesch-Nyhan syndrome will be removed, infected with the virus, and returned with the newly acquired ability to produce the crucial HPRT enzyme.

Verma said retroviruses are by far the most efficient tool for inserting genes into cells. "If you eventually want to do human therapy, this is the only viable way," he said in a telephone interview.

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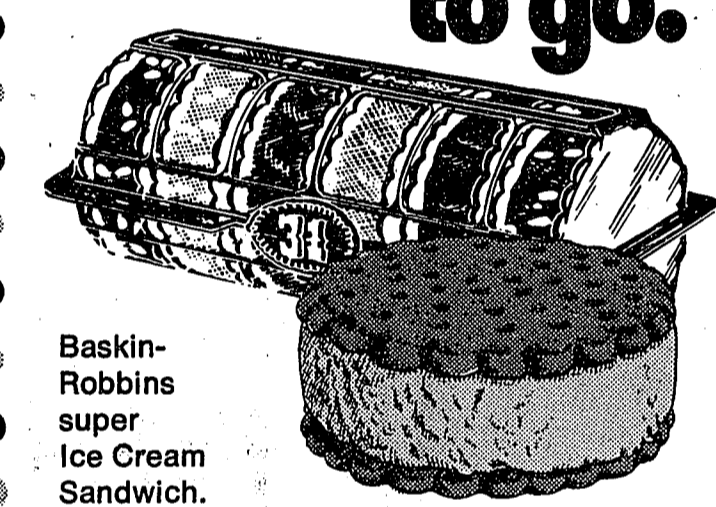
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AN OPEN INVITATION

Human Development Students and IFS Majors are invited to attend the Individual and Family Studies - Undergrad Student Organization's first general meeting of the fall semester.

Don Peters, professor in charge of the IFS-Undergraduate Program, will lead an open discussion. Also Lee Carter of Big Brothers and Sisters will speak on volunteerism in the professional world.

Students who would like to get a bit of an edge are urged to attend on September 1st at 7:00 PM in the H - Dev. Living Center.

We hope to see you there.
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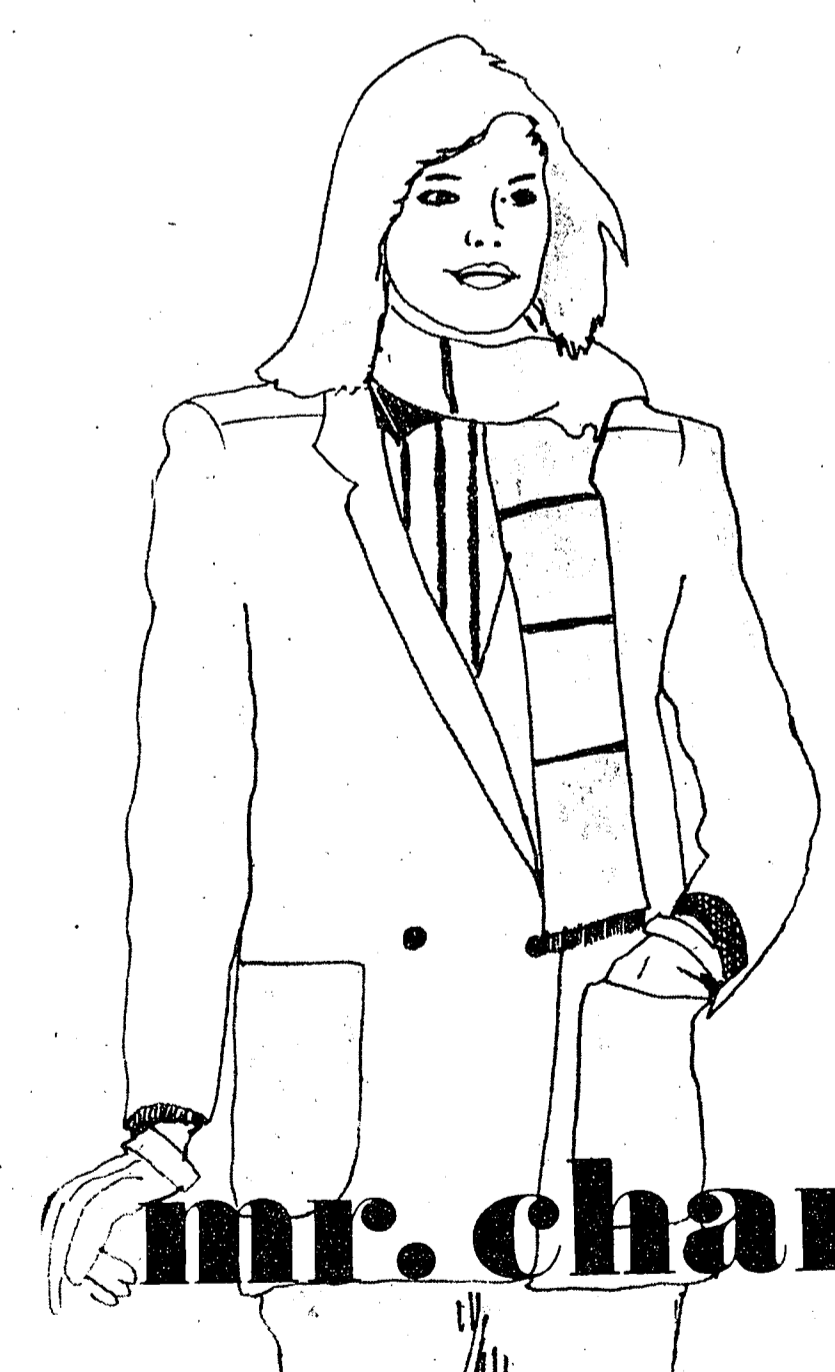


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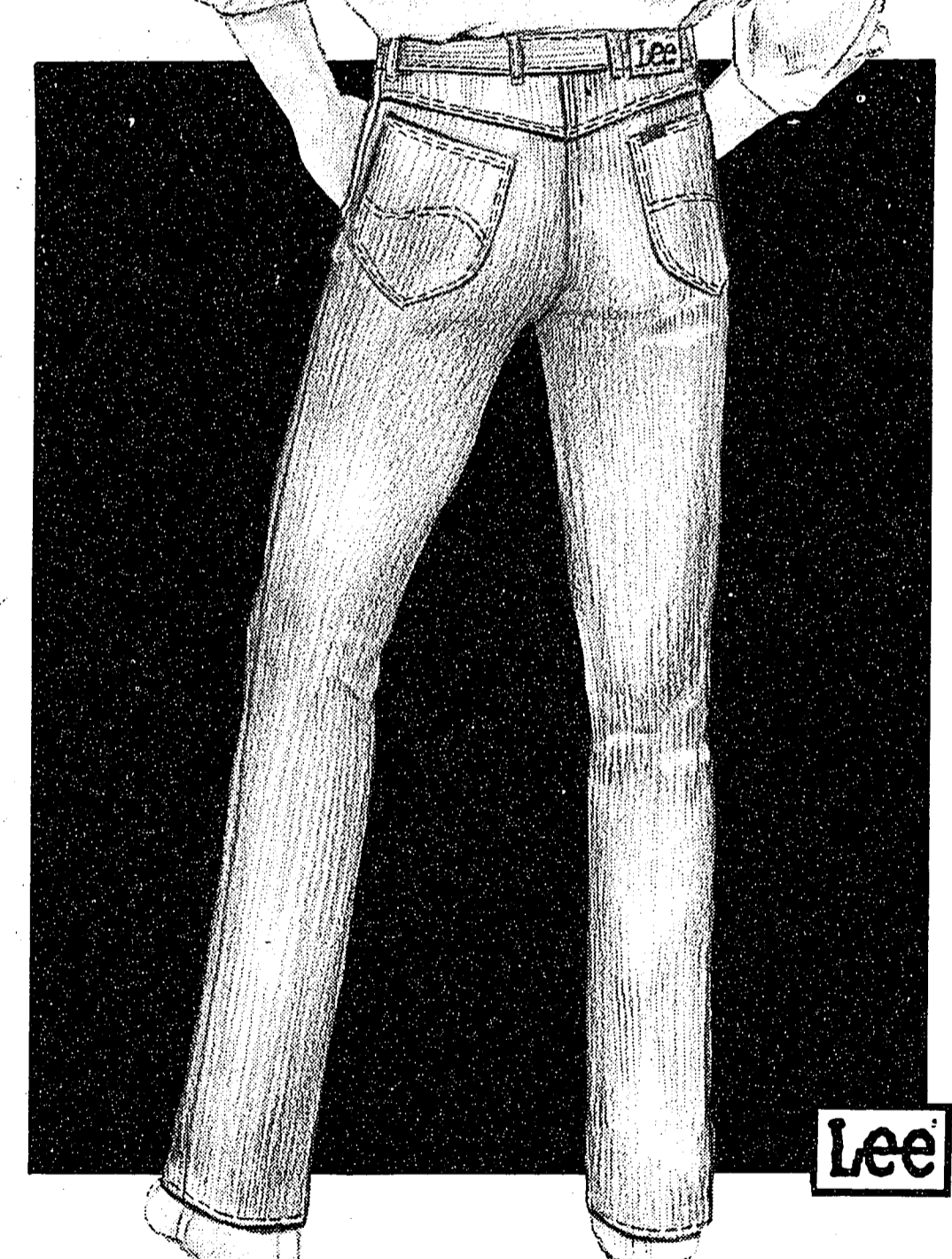
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