

County Sues Ampex for \$4.2 Million

A \$4,250,000 damage suit was filed by Los Angeles County Wednesday against Ampex Corp., charging the company did not live up to its \$8.1 million contract to provide a sheriff's video-file system.

The Superior Court civil suit was authorized by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, although the amount of damages to be sought was uncertain at that time.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn proposed last week that the county demand \$4 million for delays in providing an effective system and another \$4 million in potential county costs.

The suit prepared by Dep. County Counsel Philip S. Miller claimed the company breached its 1971 lease agreement in three ways:

- The system as delivered by Ampex is incapable of performing as the company promised, either in the volume of work to be handled or in the time expected;

- No acceptable documentation has been produced on how the system is to be used;

- And no proper acceptance test procedure has been provided by Ampex.

The program canceled by the supervisors was known as ORACLE (Optimum Records Automation for Courts and Law Enforcement).

Editor. (Apr. 19, 1973). LA County Sues Ampex (ORACLE) for \$4.2 Million. The Los Angeles Times.

County Sues Ampex for \$4.2 Million - A \$4,250,000 damage suit was filed by Los Angeles County Wednesday against Ampex Corp., charging the company did not live up to its \$8.1 million contract to provide a sheriff's video-file system. The Superior Court civil suit was authorized by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, although the amount of damages to be sought was uncertain at that time. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn proposed last week that the county demand \$4 million for delays in providing an effective system and another \$4 million in potential county costs. The suit prepared by Dep. County Counsel Philip S. Miller claimed the company breached its 1971 lease agreement in three ways: , The system as delivered by Ampex is incapable of performing as the company promised, either in the volume of work to be handled or in the time expected; No acceptable documentation has been produced on how the system is to be used; . And no proper acceptance test procedure has been provided by Ampex. The program canceled by the supervisors was known as ORACLE .(Optimum Records Automation for Courts and Law Enforcement).



ART SEIDENBAUM Moment on Molehills

The obvious antidote to future shock is a small dose of foolishness, taken soon after arising.

One day I tried Henry Frazier's proposal for a new active verb, to dolder. Doldering is what we do when sitting in front of a television set without really watching or listening. Doldering is driving by instinct, making the proper moves without thinking about where one is going or where one has been.

Dolder, writes Frazier, derives from being in the doldrums. It is a valuable activity, says the man from Redondo Beach, because it provides necessary relief from the nagging aches of every day.

Another day I studied George Christy's list of the most boring things in town, as recorded in Los Angeles Magazine. Friend Christy, the restaurant critic, claimed to have asked a wide range of acquaintances what bothered them most while being here.

The answers included Gucci buckle loafers, Vuitton shopping bags and Mercedes-Benches, leading me to wonder whether George's wide range doesn't begin in Brentwood and end at the eastern border of Beverly Hills.

Plain Bored

Among the supposedly boring creatures were "lovely punctual people." And I wasted a few minutes doldering—almost doldering—on how human being can possibly be every punctual. If one is punctual, one is on time, no more, no less. If one is early or late, one cannot be punctual at all.

The fascination with boredom as a subject supposedly started with Truman Capote, who announced on the Johnny Carson show that New Yorkers were spending whole evenings trying to decide on lists of the least interesting people on earth. Least interesting people compose lists.

Such a negative parlor game could only catch on in a town where people are afraid to leave their parlors and human contact comes in a tube, often courtesy of Carson. Capote, who used to throw monstrous parties for beautiful people, is reduced to explaining games for shut-ins.

The third morning's molehill was a clipping from Colorado, describing the sixth annual Trivia Bowl held this month at the state university in Boulder. Nearly 50 teams of students competed for the honor of knowing most about least.

Youth Recalled

And there were special events for the less scholarly: a 1950s dance contest, an Ozzie and Harriet film festival, a bubble-gum blowing competition and a yo-yo battle. The live guest star this year was singer Del Shannon, following in the footsteps of such previous immortals as Freddie Cannon and Pinky Lee.

Ralph Albi, a Denver columnist and bowl co-chairman, explained that the Trivia Bowl is a serious effort at recalling the warmth of childhood. But such delights are never as good the second time around, albeit Albi, or as Peter De Vries once wrote, nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

I'm already bored with the revival of the 50s. George Christy please note, and I'm frankly terrified by people young enough to consider the 60s as the "old days."

Maybe the better antidote to future shock is a large gulp of yesterday, to be gargled and spit out.

PART II INDEX

TIMES EDITORIAL, Page 6.
LETTERS TO THE TIMES, Page 6.
CONRAD, Page 8.
INTERLAND, Page 7.
DAVID S. BRODER, Page 7.
JOSEPH ALDO, Page 7.
VITALA, WEATHER, Pages 4, 5.



ADDED SUPPORT—Violinist Jascha Heifetz prepares to drop parcel containing bridge, peg and string from his violin into foundation for Virginia

Romo Hall of Music of USC. Beside him is Mrs. Simon Romo, who donated building named after her. Heifetz will have a studio in the structure. Times photo by John Maltin

VIOLIN PARTS GO INTO CONCRETE Jascha Heifetz Adds a Bit of 'Luck' to New USC Building

BY DOROTHY TOWNSEND

Violinist Jascha Heifetz dropped the bridge, a tuning peg and a string from his prized Guarneri violin into the foundation of a new music building at USC Wednesday.

"That is to keep it in tune," he said as he let the items fall into the newly poured concrete.

The famed virtuoso also said the gesture was both "symbolic" and "for luck."

Heifetz, who has taught master classes at the university since 1962, will have a studio in the structure, named the Virginia Romo Hall of Music in honor of its donor, the wife of Simon Romo. It is due to be completed next fall.

Before parting with the valued items, Heifetz, 72, showed them lovingly to Mrs. Ramo and basked with reporters and photographers who asked him, among other things, to "rent" to three "before" he dropped the small parcel into the wet concrete.

In answer to a reporter's question, he identified the coiled violin string as "the G-string, and no remarks please."

He pointed out to Mrs. Ramo that the tuning peg was hand carved, adding, "You can't get them anymore."

"Isn't it a shame," Mrs. Ramo said, "to put it in there?"

Then, flanked by Mrs. Ramo and the music school's dean, Grant Bejarian, he placed them in a small wooden box and tied a pink handkerchief around it.

After numerous rehearsals for the photographers, he let the parcel drop into the hole. There were no speeches and the symbolic gesture was ended.

The site is that of the first unit of a planned multimillion dollar complex for USC's school of performing arts. Heifetz lingered by the hole for awhile and watched the workmen fill it with concrete.

Good Friday Rites Slated at Churches Around Southland

BY DAN L. THIRAPPE

The three hours of agony Jesus spent upon the cross will be commemorated in many ways by Southland Christians Friday.

Numerous union services from noon to 3 p.m. will be held throughout the area. Breakfast, individual services, dramatic presentations and music will be featured at various other churches.

Public offices and businesses generally will remain open this year as in former years. Federal and Los Angeles city offices will not close, and mail will be delivered.

State and county offices will close from noon until 3 p.m. Many banks will close at noon for the day. Some of the banks normally open until 5 or 6 p.m. will reopen at 2.

Therese F. Bradshaw, president of the Atlantic Richfield Oil Co., will speak at the 15th annual YMCA-sponsored Good Friday breakfast at

Please Turn to Page 34, Col. 1

STUDY FINDS START OF VIRUS CHAIN

Mirror Cell Phenomenon Gives Cancer Clues

BY GEORGE ALEXANDER
Times Science Writer

A Caltech scientist has reported puzzling for the first time the exact site on a DNA chain where a virus starts reproducing itself. Since viruses are suspected of causing some cancers, the discovery could advance science's understanding of how malignant tumors get started—and perhaps how they might be stopped.

Dr. Paul Johnson, a Caltech biochemist, described the finding earlier this week at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Atlantic City, N. J.

In his experiments, Johnson used a virus known to biologists as Phi X 174. As viruses go, Phi X 174 is a poor relation—it has only eight genes making up its single, ring-shaped strand of DNA. Larger viruses have anywhere from several dozen to more than 100 genes in their double-stranded nucleic acid chains.

It was Phi X 174's small size and simplicity that led Johnson to select it for experiments in E. coli, a cell type found in human intestinal linings.

Johnson infected E. coli cells with Phi X 174 viruses. Once inside the cell and rid of their protein coats, the viruses immediately set themselves to the task at hand—which, for a virus, is replication.

Typically, a virus immediately builds a complementary DNA strand using materials taken from the host

cell. This complementary, or mirror image, chain was wrapped around the original viral chain; together, they looked like a ring enclosing a ring.

The complementary form, like a template, then produced upwards of 50 normal viral forms, just like the original.

But the Caltech researchers noticed that, in the late stages of replication, a copied virus assembled its string of eight genes it failed to tie the two ends together and thus make a ring like the original virus. This left a gap (or, in some cases, only a nick) in the new structure—as if someone fashioning a circle with paper clips omitted one or two.

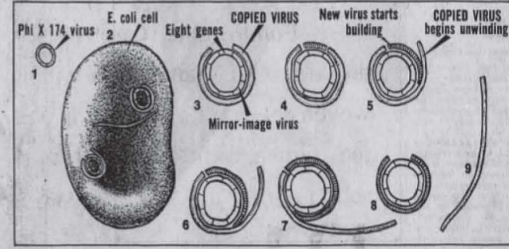
Moreover, this gap always showed up in the same spot on the new virus's structure, opposite a certain gene on the template virus. The Caltech researchers concluded that this gap is the site where replication begins.

In fact, the gap appears to be both front door and back door for replicating viral forms. No sooner has one eight-gene strand been formed than it starts to unwind off the template virus at the gap—and, concurrently, a new strand begins forming in the gap and following right behind its predecessor.

In about 30 minutes, a single Phi X 174 manufactured several hundred progeny within one E. coli cell. The cell then burst and the viruses

fanned out, looking for new cells to invade.

"What causes cancer is DNA replication when it shouldn't be replicating," said Mrs. Amy Lee, a graduate student who worked on the experiments. "In cancerous or abnormal cells, replication continues and proliferates until, finally, the organism dies. If cancer is caused by viruses, as some people think, then this study should help us understand the problem of unwanted replication."



GROWTH PROCESS—Artist's drawing shows what occurs when Phi X 174 virus (1) infects E. coli cell.

(2) Steps three through nine depict the development of new viruses in the infected E. coli cell. Times drawing by Russell Aronson

Study Shows U.S. War Crimes, Ellsberg Says

Defendant Suggests Actions Should Be Given Court Test

BY GENE BLAKE

Daniel Ellsberg concluded his testimony in the Pentagon Papers trial Wednesday by charging that 1,000 pages of the Vietnam study contained evidence of U.S. war crimes.

Under cross-examination, Ellsberg said that at the time he copied the top-secret documents he was "certainly not" under the belief that he was violating the Espionage Act.

Justice Department attorney David R. Nissen was blocked from questioning Ellsberg about statements he made in 1971 that he believed he had "violated the law."

U.S. District Judge Matt Byrne sustained defense objections to the question in that form.

However, Ellsberg was permitted to answer at length when queried about his public statements that the study contained evidence of U.S. war crimes.

"I'm not a lawyer," he said, "but there were illegal actions of many sorts, some of which I participated in. I regret to say . . ."

Proposes Court Test

"I think it would be good for these legalities to be tested in court," Ellsberg said he was not talking about war crimes on the battlefield, such as at My Lai—very little of which appears in the Pentagon Papers.

Rather, he testified, he was referring to "high-level Washington planning." Evidence of that kind, he said, was held in the Nuremberg trials following World War II to be a crime against peace.

Ellsberg's remark that he believed the Pentagon Papers should be examined by international lawyers was ordered stricken by Byrne.

However, it appeared that the jury trying Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo will be treated to such an examination today. The defense delayed resting its case to call one more witness—Richard A. Falk, professor of international law at Princeton University, who has long contended that the Vietnam war was illegal.

Nissen's cross-examination, Ellsberg also was asked if he had made statements that the Pentagon Papers revealed a conspiracy to secretly plan and wage an aggressive war against North Vietnam.

Ellsberg said he may have, Ellsberg said he did mean a conspiracy.

Please Turn to Page 34, Col. 1

County Sues Ampex for \$4.2 Million

A \$4,250,000 damage suit was filed by Los Angeles County Wednesday against Ampex Corp., charging the company did not live up to its \$8.1 million contract to provide a sheriff's video-tape system.

The Superior Court civil suit was authorized by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, although the amount of damages to be sought was uncertain at that time.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn proposed last week that the county demand \$4 million for delays in providing an effective system and another \$4 million in potential county costs.

The suit prepared by Dep. County Counsel Philip S. Miller claimed the company breached its 1971 lease agreement in three ways.

—The system as delivered by Ampex is incapable of performing as the company promised, either in the volume of work to be handled or in the time expected;

—No acceptable documentation has been produced on how the system is to be used;

—And no proper acceptance test procedure has been provided by Ampex.

The program canceled by the supervisors was known as ORACLE (Optimum Records Automation for Courts and Law Enforcement).

FUND CUT IN JOBS PROGRAM TO BRING LAYOFFS—YORTY

Federal funds to continue city operation of the Public Employment Program (PEP) until its conclusion June 30, 1974, will be cut \$4.4 million, necessitating some layoffs before then, Mayor Sam Yorty said Wednesday.

Yorty told his weekly news conference the city will receive only \$38.9 million for PEP from last March 16 to June, 1974, and that the city will have only about \$12 million after allocating a portion to other agencies participating in the program.

These include the Los Angeles City Unified School and Community College districts, City Housing Authority, Community Redevelopment Agency and the Greater Los Angeles Area Community Action Agency.

About 1,400 PEP employees are now on the city payroll, but all must be moved out of federally funded jobs by mid-1974, when the Emergency Employment Act gives way.

Please Turn to Page 34, Col. 1

\$693 Million Yorty Budget Allots Half to Police, Firemen

BY ERWIN BAKER
Times City Bureau Chief

Police and fire department costs constitute half of Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty's proposed record \$693.2 million 1973-74 budget, it was disclosed Wednesday.

And the proposed total police appropriation itself—\$241.7 million—is only \$14 million shy of the first Yorty-proposed total \$255.7 million city budget adopted by the City Council in 1962.

Figures became available with the distribution of three budget documents totaling 1,058 pages.

One document—the 236-page budget itself—includes a 16-page message from the mayor which was sent to the council April 5.

Yorty said the proposed spending program—\$705 million or 11.3% more than the current budget—is balanced, with a \$55.7 million deficit from federal revenue-sharing funds.

But it also carries an estimated 5-cent property tax increase, primarily because of an 8-cent jump in the noncontrollable fire and police pension rate which was partially offset by a reduction in the bond redemption and interest rate.

Tax Decrease Expected

However, because of the increase in the homeowner's property tax exemption from \$750 to \$1,750, the municipal tax bill for the average homeowner next year is expected to be lower than this year's payment.

Public hearings on the budget proposal are scheduled to begin before the Finance Committee Monday.

As recommended by Yorty, the proposed expenditures for the police and fire departments are \$153.4 million and \$46.1 million, respectively.

For the Police Department, that's approximately 22% of the budget, and an increase of \$10 million, or 7% over this year's allocation.

But the total direct cost of the police operation, which includes costs in other budget appropriations for police pensions and retirement, health insurance, workmen's compensation, water and electricity, communications, transportation and data processing services, office equipment and building maintenance and repairs and operations.

Please Turn to Page 34, Col. 1