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Dear Francis

Have you seen the mating helix MS by Gunther Stent and Jerry Donahue. I would guess that you have been sent one. I think it is a complete disgrace and I'm in the mood to write a short note pointing out the ambiguities in their model. They both fail to (1) give coordinates and (2) to give the ~~necessary~~ deviations in bond angles around the glycosidic bond. Do you agree with my mood. It is another Schachman-Dekker like paper. I assume it will come out in the PNAS. I am writing Gunther to indicate my feelings. I don't think it should be published in any case but if Gunther really desires, he should give coordinates. The Berkeley rat-race is disgusting

Taylor at Brookhaven has repeated Mazia's chromosome expt with the opposite result. Two main differences in his expt. (1) he uses Vicia - not Crepis. (2) his thymidine is labelled with Tritium - not C^{14}. Its β tracks are much shorter than those from C^{14} and so he can localize the track to its host chromosome. His results following several generations of tritium labelling are then into the cold medium

1st division - both chromosomes radioactive
2nd " one hot - one cold.

So chromosome is divided into two parts. Whether this is 2 fold polytemy and two stranded DNA is undecided. Nevertheless a very elegant result.

(over)

At the phage meeting in CSH, Meuntial presented a new scheme for crossing over in phage λ involves (1) switching of templates, and (2) making of second (−) new strand, not on parent strand but on newly formed (+) strand. Topologically nice – Because of other things I have had almost no time to think about it. I would guess that he is on the right track – it is the first time that it "smells" correct.

I have been quite busy setting up a phage lab, but now things are beginning to work and we have both plaques and much to keep us busy. We are working on the very small phage φ10 – about 10x smaller than T2. Unfortunately classes start tomorrow and I must spend much time preparing lectures and a lab. We are also starting to grow TMV in preparation for work on solution properties.

My little ex-girl friend has eloped with a German non intellectual engineer. Altogether a very sad story as it culminated a six month anti intellectual binge. Her parents are very very unhappy as there seems to be nothing good about the marriage. He is apparently warm hearted, but lacks any interest in books, music, or art in addition to being penniless. So it is hard to imagine it lasting but by then it will be too late for her to come back to the life she intended to live. She was much too young to be left on her own. It is a most unfortunate reaction against the intellectual life he was brought up in. It has been a very cutting blow to her parents as they had always placed great faith in her common sense. Fortunately, I was prepared by her mood at last winter. So I am not in a depressed mood – just saddened by what might have been

with best regards to Odile

Jim

PP/CRI/D/2/45