CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

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Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua,

Thanks for your MGB note. We do not expect a regular issue until Fall, mainly because I am too busy now to take the time to get one out.

I was most amused by your decal technique, mainly because Nick Visconti, who is back with us now, has been working out the very same procedure. About 7 or 8 months ago, he dropped an EMB plate butter side down, and was very impressed by the neat imprint of colonies on the floor. This started him off on the decal idea, and he did some work with it in a casual way, but never got it working quite perfectly, apparently because he was trying filter paper instead of velvet. With paper, the whole colony is occasionally pulled off the plate, and the imprint is not always perfect. So you see, I wouldn't think of knocking the idea -- we are very glad to hear about velvet.

Have you thought of one use of this technique that seems quite promising to us? That is to spot colonies sectored for characters that are not visible, i.e., phage sensitive and resistant. Plate irradiated xxxxxx cells, make imprints of the grown colonies, spray some with phage. If a colony with a missing sector turns up, find the corresponding colony on the original plate, and fish to see if a sector of phage-sensitve cells can be demonstrated. The same principle could be used, as you can imagine, with other types of mutational characters, and might be useful in the study of phenotypic lag.

We are about to start a run on the local velvet supply.

Regards to all -- see you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn

Evelyn M. Witkin