

associated press
datelines

DNA research cleared

Washington—Government scientists soon will begin long-awaited tests to assess potential risks of recombinant DNA research, a controversial form of genetic manipulation that could revolutionize biology.

But even before these first tests begin, probably in April, critics are saying the experiments into possible hazards should have been done before scientists made their commitment to gene splitting—possible benefits notwithstanding.

National Institute of Health scientists will do the risk assessment at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md., and at renovated facilities in the Army's old germ warfare laboratory at Fort Detrick, Md.

Learning if organisms altered by recombinant DNA methods can infect animals and survive outside special laboratory conditions has been talked about for more than a year. Experiments were supposed to have begun last November.

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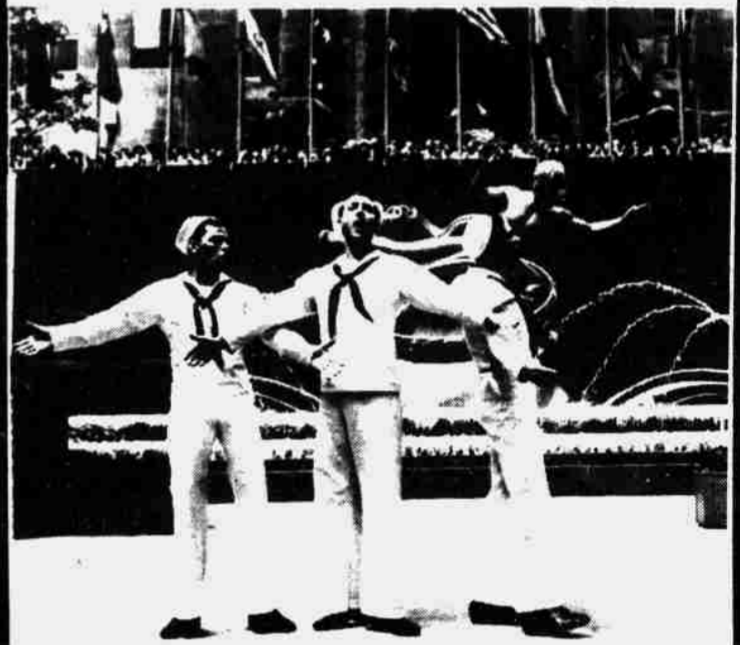
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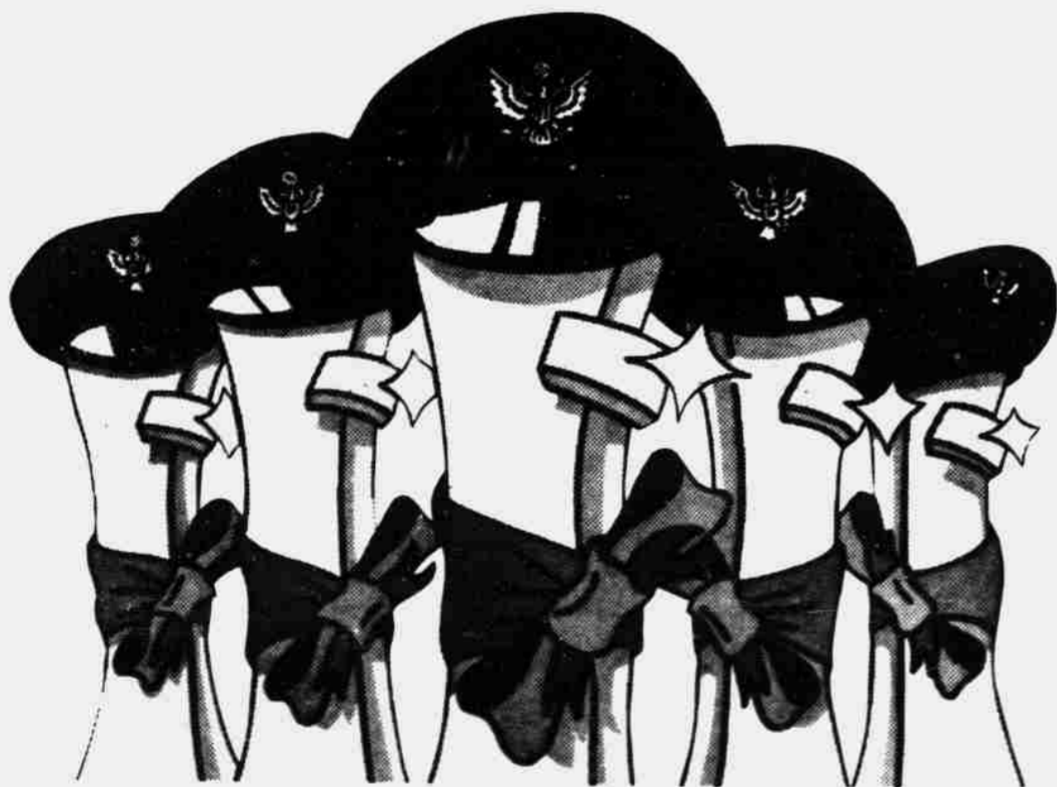
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