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but Love will find a way

Monkey shortage

by Nancy Ross

To replenish the supply of rhesus monkeys in Canada a Primate Center may be developed in Halifax.

This center would be one part of a national business dependent on government funding. The predicted cost of the Primate Center would be 12 million dollars. This money would come from the Health and Welfare Department.

As director of animal care at Dalhousie University, Dr. James Love has been tapped by the federal government to oversee development of the monkey-breeding center for Nova Scotia.

Locating a site and planning the facility is now of primary interest. Even with the planning starting within a month or two the monkeys will probably not be placed in the center until June or July of next year because they will live outside. Love said that "it is not just a case of throwing the monkeys in a cage and letting them breed." An artificial habitat where their social hierarchy will be the same as in their natural state must be created. "The whole success of the colony will depend on the young animals being able to reproduce" said Love. A colony of 57 small monkeys now being kept by an Ottawa Health Protection Branch will be used to start the center. Because of the experiments conducted by Harlow and other psychologists it is now known that the environment of the monkeys can effect their reproducing capacities. Therefore Love's planning of their environment is crucial.

For the next few years the monkeys will be used to build up the reserve of monkeys in Canada. This species of monkey, the most valuable research primate, is now purchased for \$1,060.00 and there are few monkeys for sale—only 100 to Canada this year. Not very many considering Canada has an annual need of approximatey 5000.

In the more distant future the monkeys will be used to produce and test poliomyelitis (or polio) vaccine to see if it is safe to give to people.

The Alternatives to Animals

in Research (ATAR) Association are protesting the use of animals in experimentation.

Love said "that if this were the case animals would not be used because they are so expensive." But, primates must be used because the brain and spinal cord have to be tested. If in the future, tissue cultures can be used for testing and producing this vaccine, then certainly this alternative will be implemented. It is likely that there may be a viable alternative in the not too distant future. A National Centre for Alternative Research in the USA believe they may come with an alternative within the next decade. Until

They have suggested that the vaccine could be made and

tested on human diploid cells as a less expensive and more humane alternative to the use of rhesus monkeys.

that time, monkeys must be killed in the testing of the effects of the poliomyletis vac-

Students Review Science in Society

OTTAWA-Creation of a new national student organization dedicated to examining the responsibilities of scientists in society is the goal of one Ottawa student.

Fraser Homer-Dixson hopes to create an organization of young social and natural scientists who would look at the ethical issues and moral responsibilities relevant to their work.

Homer-Dixson says he got the idea last June when he was the only Canadian delegate to the first ever Student Pugwash Conference on Science and Ethical Responsibility, held in San Diego. The Pugwash Movement, from which the conference stemmed, was begun after Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell issued a manifesto in 1955 calling upon scientists of the world to meet at a conference and discuss the threat of nuclear weapons. The first conference was heid in Pugwash, Nova Scotia in

Since then the informal movement has grown considerably and examines the sources of international conflict and scientific responsibilities.

The organization is necessary because, "scientists have a monopoly of knowledge and are respected by society for that monopoly," says Homer-Dixson, and therefore they must ensure that the power is not misused.

"Work that might pose ethical problems for the scientist ranges from recombinant DNA research to designing nuclear missile guidancy systems, from the development of new pesticides to drafting intelligence tests," according to Homer-Dixson.

The Canadian Student Pugwash, as Homer-Dixson calls it, will take some time to organize. He hopes to hold a founding conference in 1981.

Homer-Dixson, a political science student at Carleton University, is aiming his appeal for help in starting the organization at both students and professors. He says faculty interest is necessary in order to ensure some continuity and stability in the organization and to recruit new students each year.

DSA Contract Talks Resume

by Tom Regan

Negotiations between the Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) and the administration that broke off about a month and a half ago have resumed. The two sides are trying to reach agreement on a new contract for the DSA, who has been negotiating with the university since June 1979.

Blanche Potter, president of the DSA said she could not really go into detail about the negotiations.

"We are still in conciliation," said Potter. "We have only had four meetings so far with the fifth one on the 17th. I can't tell you too much about the meetings but we should have some word before too long.'

The 650 member union has not been able to come to terms with the university over several issues, including wages, seniority, overtime, layoff and recall and management rights.