HIRDL dedicated facility at Brookhaven

The High Intensity Radiation Development Laboratory (HIRDL), a facility designed to advance the Atomic Energy Commission's program for process radiation development, was dedicated on November 22 at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, Long Island, New York.

The HIRDL is designed to: 1) obtain engineering data on a variety of gamma radiation sources in the million-curie range; 2) provide radiation sources for handling large-scale radiation treatments in the million-curie range; and 3) develop more efficient techniques for handling large-scale radiation sources and emanate to chemists and engineers in the uses of such radiation sources for research purposes, and ultimately for industrial applications. This information is essential for the design of future irradiation facilities which would be useful in a wide variety of applications of radiation energy. Those currently under development include the proliferation of drugs and medical supplies, and preservation of perishable foods. Most of the sources to be employed in this laboratory are cobalt-60 and cesium-137; the total level of radiation will be approximately two million curies. The major design features of the HIRDL are two unique cells, developed by engineers and scientists of the Nuclear Engineering Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory. One is an irradiation cell, for the experimental work with radiation sources; the other is a work preparation cell, where various types of sources will be prepared for experimental use. A shielded area is provided for radiation sources not being used.

The cost of the HIRDL, including equipment, is $1,800,000. The total area of the building is approximately 15,000 square feet. HIRDL is part of the AEC's Radiation Development Center, which will not only serve Brookhaven's various research programs, but will also be available on a limited basis to visiting scientists interested in the various applications of radiation technology.

On the other side of the world

Indian frosh 'ragged' extensively

A couple of years ago, at Lockhaven University, the student government led an all-out strike against the University for a full two months. The reason was an examination that was too difficult.

Many and varied were the ways in which student governments function around the world, yet few would expect such a bizarre waste of time as this. Although this particular exam may not have been a degree for the matriculants, recast to a student strike of this proportion would be considered ridiculous almost anywhere else but in India.

"Froshes" in India, having graduated from an eleven-year secondary school, and being free for the first time in their lives from family supervision, are younger and less experienced than their American counterparts. Hence their first introduction to college life is a period of hazing, pranks and demagoguery that the upperclassmen feel free to show-off upon them.

Their first introduction to college life is a period of hazing, called "roogling" in India, that makes Frosh Week here seem like child's play. It is especially vicious as it represents the first break in the students heretofore sheltered lives.

At the Indian Institute of Technology, several students were ragged so severely just before I arrived that the administration was compelled to consider the expulsion of the offending upperclassmen, in the face of protest from the Froshers' parents.

"What is ragging like in America?" was the first question on every student's lips at IIT, even before questions on integration and on inflation.

The lack of maturity evidenced in ragging unfortunately carries over to the activities of some of the student governments in India as well, especially at Lockhaven. There, students standing for elections to office can buy for $200 a student campaign poster. More often than not, the poster comes from National political parties, which extend their influence right into the campus. Student elections are preceded by a month of wild campaigning, totally unsupervisable at MIT. Candidates tint up rallies, and supporters everything from local paradises of followers around the buildings on campus, and exhorted them with such chants as: "Vote for Krishna, He's our brother;" or "Vote for Nandita, She's Indian." Mais,同学!...