Public input asked in DNA research

By Mark James

The public must be allowed to have a greater voice in decision-making on scientific research, said speakers at a teach-in on gene implantation held Wednesday.

Although the meeting was specifically addressed to recombinant DNA research, many of the panel members spoke more generally about the hazards of scientific research which is conducted without public discussion and approval.

The teach-in was co-sponsored by the Social Action Coordinating Committee (SACC) and Science for the People, an organization that has supported the Cambridge moratorium on the more hazardous types of recombinant DNA research.

Robert Park, a member of Science for the People who spoke on the politics of this DNA research, said, "We believe that ordinary working people can make scientific judgments."

He said that people should look at the "past record of promises of new technology" if they want to form a basis for free and informed consent. He said that the time has "come to rely less on experts."

The panel discussion will receive a H.O.T. Car Campus Patrol Headquarters, at the desks of dormitories, the 65 per cent of students living in dormitories, the 85 per cent of engineering problems and is emphasizing administrative and Technology and Culture.

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moratorium must still be for-
nated to ensure the health of the "human intestine. E. Coli is the "chief cause of urinary tract infec-
tions in human beings," so that newly-created strains could pose "great hazards," Youndjian claimed.

Professor of Psychology Steven Chorover said that there was failure to consider possible but unintentional consequences of this research among the scientific decision-makers.

He said that decisions on research are often made by a "cult of experts" made up of specialists involved in this work — a group that may lack objectivity.

Professor of Biology David Houssian, a researcher who has been prevented from doing recombinant research by the Cambridge ban, was allowed to discuss his experiences. "I am told that there is more to the motivation of this research than personal gain. Many of the scientists are concerned directly with the care of patients and do research for the good of these patients, according to Houssian.

Dr. Edward C. stone a technician at the Harvard Biological Laboratories, said that "many technicians don't have a clear position" on whether recombi-

nent research should take place, but that they did have a common concern: protecting their safety.

He said that the research decisions were being made by an "anarchistic process" which did not involve technical people who had a "direct interest" in the possible hazards.

Early finals topic at GA meeting

By Peter Coffee 

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ministration.

Louis Totton ’77, Chairman of the Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), outlined two alternatives to the present 10-week Tuesday-through-Wednesday finals week, which begins on a Friday — day after classes end — and ends on a Wednesday. The suggested rearrangements involve the change of a trade-off between the possibility of conflicts and the possibility of as many as three finals a day.

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