

# CHRONICLE

**The first reported expression** of HTLV-III virus envelope protein was achieved by Centocor (Malvern, PA). Michael Wall, Centocor's chairman, says the protein is immunoreactive with antibodies in the blood of patients suffering from acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, so the company intends to develop it as a diagnostic.

**The Environmental Protection Agency** now requires that all tests of genetically engineered pesticides be registered with EPA at least 90 days prior to testing. The agency has the authority to prohibit trials it views as posing health risks.

**Japan's Science and Technology Agency** is starting a two-year study to develop guidelines for outdoor experiments involving genetically manipulated plants and microorganisms. Existing rules prohibit deliberate release.

**New collaborative efforts** in biotech include: a marketing agreement between Ribic Immunochem Research (Hamilton, MT) and Fort Dodge Laboratories (Fort Dodge, IA) for Ribic's veterinary anti-tumor agent, Ribigen®; a license agreement between Immunex Corp. (Seattle, WA) and Becton Dickinson (Paramus, NJ) for the sale of research and diagnostic products based on an Immunex-developed antibody that recognizes activated T-cells; a deal between Celltech (Berkshire, U.K.) and Sankyo (Tokyo) covering human tumor necrosis factor and human macrophage activating factor; and a joint venture called Vivotech between Damon Biotech (Needham Heights, MA) and Connaught Laboratories (Toronto) to work on encapsulated insulin-producing cells for diabetes treatment.

**The latest lawsuit** filed by Jeremy Rifkin (with, this time, the Humane Society of the United States) is against the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He wants a ban on certain experiments involving the transfer of human genes to animals.

**Excising intact genes** may soon be easier using a nuclease originally found in mung beans. Scientists at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases use the enzyme on double stranded DNA in the presence of the chemical formamide to remove genes from *Plasmodium*. The technology may be applicable to other organisms.

**Important patents have been granted** both to Columbia University (New York, NY) and to Collaborative Research (Lexington, MA). Columbia's patent, "Electrophoresis Using Alternating Electric Fields," is for a method that allows researchers to study large DNA molecules by separating them based on "stiffness" in addition to weight. Collaborative's patent is the first on a genetically engineered form

of rennin, an enzyme used in cheese production.

**An exclusive license** for commercializing mammalian cell culture technology developed at Monsanto (St. Louis, MO) has been granted to Invitron Corp. (Clayton, MO). Invitron was formed by the Alafi Capital Company, which is 80 percent-owned by Monsanto.

## How to avoid the 19 critical mistakes in buying fermentation equipment

Make one mistake and you can have problems that include inadequate process control, permanent operator inconvenience and costly downtime.

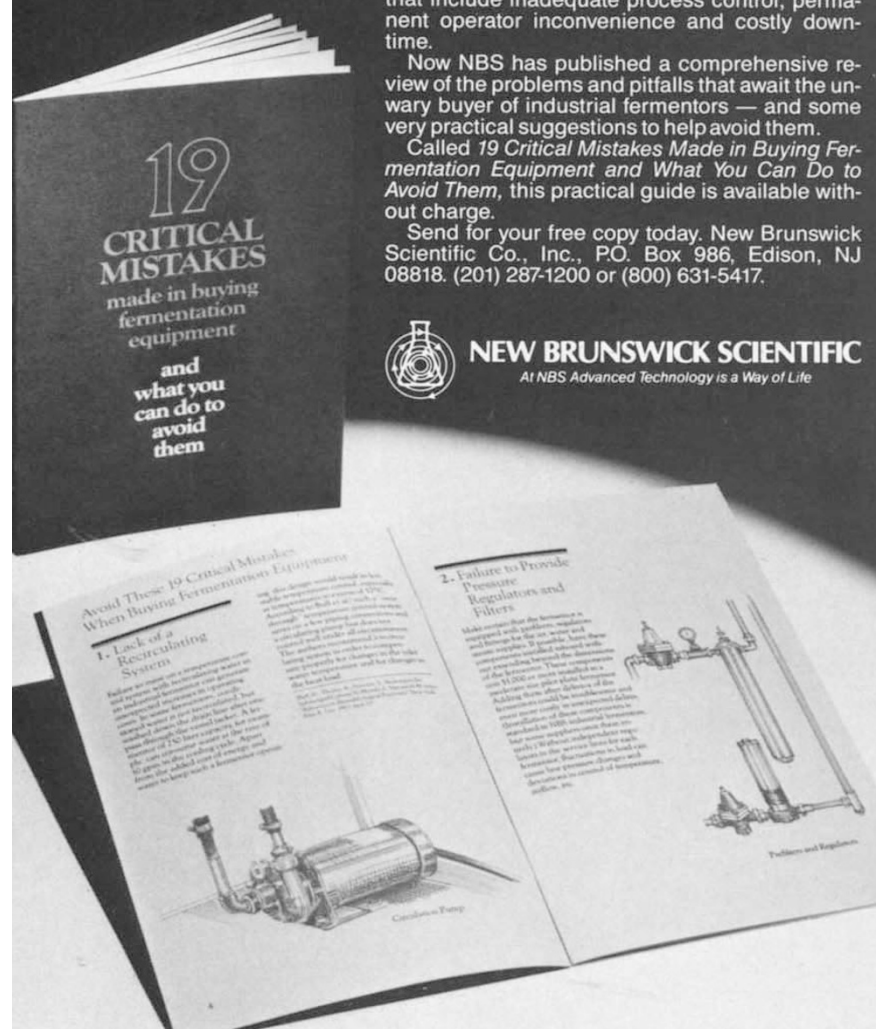
Now NBS has published a comprehensive review of the problems and pitfalls that await the unwary buyer of industrial fermentors — and some very practical suggestions to help avoid them.

Called *19 Critical Mistakes Made in Buying Fermentation Equipment and What You Can Do to Avoid Them*, this practical guide is available without charge.

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