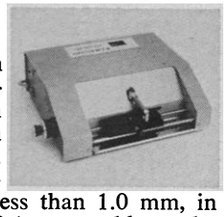
The Brinkmann Gel Column

Slicing It Pretty Thin

It's a safe bet you won't find one in every household. Or in every laboratory. But if you're moving in the sort of specialized area of electrophoretic analysis of RNA, for example, and you have to serve up slices of polyacrylamide gels, a lot of laboratory types think the MICKLE GEL SLICER is the best thing since delicatessens.



It figures.

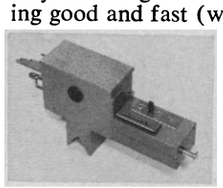
How else can you cut a frozen gel column up to 10 cm long and 1 cm thick into flawless slices of less than 1.0 mm, in increments of 0.1 mm, and leave the rest of the column undisturbed?

Cutting force and blade angle are adjustable for hard-frozen dilute gels, or softer, concentrated cylinders. Slices are easily collected for processing and scintillation counting.

Twenty cuts per minute. Foot switch leaves hands free. Electromagnetic counter keeps score on slices. Write for complete details.

How To Look Good, Fast.

Costs being what they are today, the guy (or gal) who can save a few dollars gets the hero medal. Here's a way to look good while you're looking good and fast (while you're rapidly scanning polyacrylamide gel columns optically, that is).



Be the first to recommend purchase of the VICON LINEAR GEL SCANNER —the attachment that fits right into your Zeiss PMQ II Spec. cell compartment without modification (and avoids costly instrument duplication).

It scans at 6 mm/min—even faster (25 mm/min) for coarser separations —in either direction. Resolution? Slit aperture is 100 u thin to catch those narrow bands. Columns to 10 x 100 mm can be handled. Wavelength is variable from 200 to 750 mu. And there are a host of options available to meet your specific needs. Want to scan fast? Want to look good? Get the details. Write:

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picketing of individual scientists at their homes.

Through the UCS publications on MIRV, ABM, CBW, and environmental issues, we have expressed our belief that a strengthening of the democratic process would lead to a more humane exploitation of scientific and technical knowledge, and to a reduction of the very real threats to the survival of mankind. UCS has become the Boston chapter of the Federation of American Scientists. We are bending our own energies toward that revitalized organization in its concerted and continuing effort to influence public policy in areas where our scientific knowledge and skill can play a significant role. We hope that SESPA would eschew tactics so alien to civil libertarians, and join us in this cause.

LEE GRODZINS

Union of Concerned Scientists, Room 26–413, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 02139

Political Discussions at Gordon Conference: Suggestions

It is natural that members of the scientific community are deeply concerned with the social structure of our nation. One would expect them therefore to participate actively in political dialogues and to contribute their individual thoughts on what changes are desirable to improve the lot of the individual and that of mankind. As scientists, one would expect that their contributions would be unbiased, if not impartial, and based on a thorough analysis of all controversial subjects. However, one would be reluctant to accept their choice of scientific meetings as a sounding board for their political beliefs.

Two members from Harvard's and M.I.T.'s departments of bacteriology and biology describe three political sessions they organized at last year's Gordon Conference on Biological Regulatory Mechanisms where the following topics were presented: trip of one of the signers of the letter to Hanoi, Saigon, and Vientiane; films on the People's Park at Berkeley and on the Black Panther Party; discussion of political repression and of the newly formed Scientific and Medical Workers Committee to Support the Panthers; discussion of destructive aspects of competition, and the exploitation of graduate students. To top it off, one of the signers showed slides of a 1964 trip to the People's Republic of China. The authors express the "hope that discussions of these and related issues will be organized regularly at scientific conferences and elsewhere."

Undoubtedly, in future sessions topics such as "Should Policemen be Referred to as Fascist Pigs or merely as Pigs," and "Revolution for the Hell of It" will be discussed. Should the organizers of the political sessions run out of topics involving the "Rottenness of the Establishment" the following subjects could be suggested to insure lively meetings: "Why the Russians Liberated Czechoslovakia in 1969," "Why Comrade Mao's People's Guard Knocked off Several Million Right-Wingers during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution," "How to Organize Political Sessions in Moscow or Peking at Meetings of Biologists and Bacteriologists," and a companion subject: "The Happy Life of Dissenting Russian Biologists and Bacteriologists in a Siberian Detention Camp." Finally a nonpolitical pastoral subject: "How to Grow Daisies on the Berlin Wall."

SILVE KALLMANN

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UN Conference in Stockholm

As an occasional participant in the work of the World Health Organization, I have become concerned with the role and responsibility of the scientific community of the United States in matters affecting the human environment. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, set for Stockholm in 1972, will serve as a focal point for primarily political decisions. What these decisions will be depends largely on the scientific community. In this country the mechanisms for active and constructive participation by the scientific community do not seem to be well developed.

The UN Secretary-General has identified the main problems for the Conference as problems of human settlements, territorial problems, and global problems (*1*). The first group concerns urbanization, its technology, its organization, the challenges of industrialization, and the attendant threats of air and water pollution. Territorial problems include requirements for long-term conservation and rational use of the human environment. Territorial problems differ in the different climatologi-