Workers in less-developed countries will sometimes complain about a different form of interference which they consider political - a discrimination in favour of "advanced" science and technology in the international media. So far as we are concerned there is an element of truth, plus a good deal of distortion, in that view.

As communicators of an advancing subject we discriminate in favour of advances, and it is a fact of life that most of those advances will come from the deployment of the best resources and from the places where those resources are most deployed. Inevitably, too, they will come in the more fashionable high-tech areas of the moment. However the converse of this is simply that we try to discriminate against "me-too" publications - wherever they come from. This does not mean that the corresponding research is necessarily wrong or inferior; let it be said once and for all, in a less developed country, "me too" can of itself mean a major contribution to the human condition and something we should do our best to help. However it only devalues such very praiseworthy efforts to present them in a false light.

Sometimes the "me-too" reports actually document something which may be well-known to those "skilled in the art" but which - perhaps for the commercial reasons noted earlier - remains poorly represented in the public record. Equally, biotechnology being what it is, not all the problems to which it is addressable necessarily call for high-tech solutions (though they do call for first-rate science) and by no means all the advances will arise from the most trendy programmes. We shall continue to record these matters as and when they are offered to us, and to wish their authors well.

We are not very much in favour, therefore, of science or technology journals specifically dedicated to contributors from the less-developed countries. This seems to us a sort of self-castration. To have journals dedicated to the specific problems of those regions might be another matter, but even there many workers - not only in the developed world - would correctly resent the implication that such problems somehow lack general or international importance.

jdb

ERRATA

This time, our mistake.

In laying-out the contents page for our last issue (April 1986) we inadvertently omitted an author's name from one of the papers. The correct citation is:

Volume 8 No 4 April 1986

D-Xylose fermentation to ethanol by Scizosaccaromyces pombe cloned with xylose isomerase gene.

E. Cheng Chan, P. P. Ueng and L. Chen

Our unreserved apologies, particularly to P. P. Ueng.

At least, the authors will be able to tell from the reprint requests whether the requesters looked at the paper, or just at the cover !

Courses at the Catholic University of America

The Center for Advanced Training in Cell and Molecular Biology again offers their course series May/Auygust 1986, as follows: monoclonal antibody production, May 19-23; foreign DNA expression in eukaryote cells, June 2-6; oncogenes, June 9-13; separation techniques, July 14-18; yeast molecular genetics, July 14-18; site-directed mutagenesis, July 21-25. Fees for the individual courses are \$650-725 and the contact address is Lucille A. Ouellette, Center for Advanced Training in Cell & Molecular Biology, Catholic University of America, Washington DC 20064, USA.