The Gutenberg experiment

1972: Bubonic plague seizes University

By HARRY HOPE
Columnist

USC, Feb. 20, 1972—The epidemic of bubonic plague, which has been raging at this small, southern campus shows no signs of abating. University officials claim that the plague began in the tenements, along the historic Horseshoe, and spread from there to McKissick library where 47 students who had been lost in the library, some up to three weeks, were infected.

The administration building, adjacent to this area, was closed for a few days and six students were lined up against the north wall and shot. A spokesman for the administration stated that these students brought the plague into the treasurer's office where they broke in demanding medical treatment.

Doctors at the University inquired firmly whether the plague was "a communist conspiracy." They reported that nurses were roused awake about 3:15 Tuesday afternoon by four students who claimed they had 106.7 temperature and demanded treatment.

"We don't take emergencies until 5 p.m.," commented Head Nurse Nellie Bell Grits.

"Naturally, we had to shoot them to put them out of their misery," she said.

Meanwhile, as students and faculty lay dying in the streets, interested alumni quickly raised $7,000,000 to erect an all-light glass dome around the Roost, the athletic dormitory. "

"Athletes will be safe from infection," commented one spokesman from the athletic department. "This is the finest group of Christian alumni I've ever worked with."

Two divisions of the South Carolina national guard were ordered to Carolina Stadium to protect the newly installed carpet. According to Major General Almond C. Potts, their orders are to shoot on sight any mice, rats or infected students who attempted to contaminate the carpeting.

"We will use M-16's and light infantry artillery as well as rocket-firing helicopters on any of those commie pervers who try to destroy that carpet." Maj. Gen. Potts commented.

Wednesday, the Board of Trustees of the University ordered the arrest of the entire membership of the Student Mobilization Committee "for inciting to riot, possession of marijuana, starting the epidemic, listening to Grand Funk Railroad and on general principle."

The members were found guilty by the Board and will be shot tomorrow.

At last reports, 8,077 students had died of the plague. University officials released a statement saying that "the University will carry on business and usual."

The university chapter of the Young Americans for Freedom plans an "Anti-Epidemic Rally" tomorrow to oppose the plague. Guest speakers will include representatives from the Ku Klux Klan, the John Birch Society, the American Legion, and the Bomb the Books Club.

Our man Hoppe

Moses minds business

By ARTHUR HOPE

A good many Americans feel strongly that priests, ministers and rabbis should never engage in political issues—particularly when they're on the other side.

The attitude that men of God should mind their own business stems, of course, from the lessons of the Bible: One of the earliest is the story of Moses.

It was Moses' constant refusal to stick his nose into the worldly affairs of his congregation that set the pattern followed by all religious leaders in biblical times. One need only quote a few chapters from the all-too-familiar "Gospel According to St. Pontius" to convince interfering clerics they should stay out of public affairs and tend to their knitting. Excerpts follow.

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Weep no more - O weep no more! Young buds sleep in the root's white core.

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