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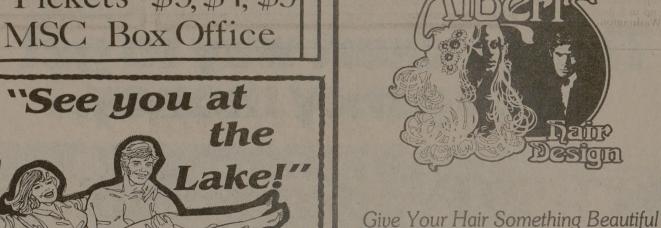
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## Weekend sailor wants privateering license

United Press International
KEY WEST, Fla. — Randy
Ludacer, a bearded weekend
sailor with a few hard-eyed men behind him, wants to resurrect the days of Jean Laffite to aid in

the war on drug smugglers.

Ludacer, an attorney, has petitioned Congress to grant him the first "Letter of Marque and Reprisal," a commission given to a private ship by a government to make reprisals on ships of other states. If issued, it will be the first since the War of 1812.

Thus he and his men, commissioned privateers, would patrol the Caribbean — where centuries ago the Jolly Roger flew at the maintops of Blackbeard's or Morgan's corsairs — in search of drug-

laden smugglers' sailing vessels. He says such a force would be more effective than overburdened Coast Guard and Drug Enforce-

ment Agency patrols.

"We could do it more efficiently for less money," he said Monday.

"Don't you think the war on drugs would be more efficient if it were motivated by profits rather than

"Sometimes the obvious solu-tions are overlooked because they haven't been used for a long time.

It (privateering) seemed to be a viable alternative when the Constitution was written."

The Korean War veteran and handgun hobbyist said he doesn't envision himself at the helm of a

"I don't propose to be running around with a .45 and a cutlass," he said. "But I could put the components together.

Ludacer, 51, indicated he has the nucleus of his privateer force — a buddy who participated in the 1960's Congo liberation movement, a few French Foreign Legion veterans, a former Green Beret and other "cloak-and dagger types, intelligence experts - people who rather enjoy risk-taking.

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power "to declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal and make rules concerning captures on land and water.'

Among the last privateers com-missioned by Congress was Laf-fite, who plundered British merchant vessels during the War of

Ludacer hasn't yet heard from Congress, he said.

boats equipped with electron devices. He said he would of

informers "a few more dollar than the government pays a have them plant tiny transponde in bales of marijuana to enable privateers to pick out a drug-la boat from a fleet of other fish

"There are three 'choke point in the Caribbean that could be off rather easily," he said. "In are the Yucatan Straits, the Win ward Passage between Cubana Haiti and the Mona Passage tween the Dominican Repub

and Puerto Rico.
"Those could be path
rather efficiently at small cost Ludacer said a large pro with his scheme, which wou quire more action from Cong than the granting of a letter of que: The booty his privat would seize would not be doubloons. He couldn't sell his treasure without bec

a drug smuggler himself. He's convinced, however, government can be persua that rewarding a privateer forming drugs would be money we

## Major breakthrough with gene transfers

United Press International ATHENS, Ohio — Ohio University researchers Tuesday announced the successful transfer of genes from rabbits to mice to their offspring. This was a historymaking first that may soon result in better livestock and someday help man help man.

The five-member research team had transferred genes from rabbits to mice, which were in turn passed to two generations of mice, Dr. Thomas E. Wagner, a

molecular geneticist, said.

The technique, he said, could be used either to transfer a desired trait within the same animal species or to transfer a gene from a different species to create genetically unique animals.

The research could have major implications for the agriculture animal industry in the next decade, Wagner said. "Application of this technique to animal breeding could dramatically shorten the time necessary to selectively breed species of animals with improved food-producing character-

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Denver already holds a license agreement with the university for commercial use of the patent on material in eggs they had recommended. such research.

The Washington Post Tuesday reported the university and Genetic Engineering are already working to produce what Wagner calls "three-parent cattle." These would be cattle with genes from an otherwise unrelated bull or cow to confer some valued quality, such as faster growth or better milk production.

The new method may someday help humans by allowing the transfer of genes to prevent a disease or correct a genetic defect, Wagner said.

During their research, scientists said they "micro-injected" 20,000 copies of a rabbit-blood protein gene into the male pronuclei of one-celled, fertilized

mouse eggs.

(Pronuclei are sperm cells that Academy of Science.

fertilized.) Rabbit genes were also inject into the 312 mice embryos into

way, and the mice embryos w cultured in test tubes in the lab atory. Of those, 211 survived were transferred to female m the scientists said. These mothers produced

offspring, including five mice to contained the rabbit hemogold protein in their red blood cel

These offspring were also mand their offspring contained rabbit protein, suggesting the ficially introduced rabbit gene been inherited by the mice, searchers said. The findings of the resear

funded by Ohio University, be published in the Octoberis of the Proceedings of the Nation

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HEALTH

Nervous?

By Dr. Stephenson

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