

Bullet' aimed at blood clots

DALLAS — Genetic engineers say they have discovered elusive "intelligent bullet," that enzyme capable of finding and destroying blood clots.

The enzyme, called a plasminogen activator, energizes blood cells to dissolve the clotting material fibrin. Such clotting, if excessive or prolonged, could lead to paralysis or death.

"It is this appears to be an intelligent bullet enzyme," Kenneth Mann, a Mayo Clinic blood specialist at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions said.

He called the discovery "a major breakthrough."

The enzyme was unveiled Wednesday by Belgium biologist and genetic engineer Desiree Colen. It surpasses the ability of naturally occurring clot-fighting agents which are bacterial in origin but cannot precisely locate clots.

"With this newest enzyme we can be more precise," Colen said. "The enzyme locates itself where a physical clot has formed."

In the past 20 years, pharmaceuticals have been designed to reduce the thrombosis (clot-

ting in blood vessels). Now it comes an enzyme that can get directly at the fibrin."

In a related matter, scientists have artificially cloned genes and placed them in bacterial settings to create a clotting byproduct. The new agent would be used in treating such traditional bleeder diseases as hemophilia.

"We are trying to create in the laboratory ways to help the hemophilia sufferer," Earl Davie, a University of Washington biochemist said.

These developments were enhanced by research into the use of a substance called protein-C, which helps the body's natural ability to wash clots from the bloodstream.

"We find that protein-C has been a very effective supplement" to other forms of anti-clotting therapy, Charles Esmon, an Oklahoma medical research protein specialist said.

"Most of our applications are strictly theoretical at this point, but as we move into the realm of diagnoses, we should be able to identify patients with recurrent thrombosis and note the level of protein-C in their system," he added.

Wood trial witness talks time

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Slaying suspect Charles Harrelson could have been back in Dallas shortly after 10 a.m. by taking a plane flight out of San Antonio the morning Federal Judge John H. Wood Jr. was killed in 1979, testimony Wednesday indicated.

Wood was shot outside his apartment at 8:40 a.m. on May 29. A Southwest Airlines flight left San Antonio at 9:08 a.m. that day and arrived in Dallas at 10:02 a.m. But apparently the FBI never proved that Harrelson or any other suspect in Wood's death was on the flight.

"I was interested in all flights leaving San Antonio after the judge's death," FBI agent Patrick McCormick testified Wednesday. "We determined the origin and destination of any

flights that day."

The FBI checked the passenger list and interviewed airline employees to try to determine who was on the flight, McCormick said.

But objections stopped McCormick from answering further questions.

The prosecution did not mention in its five-week presentation how Harrelson returned to Dallas. Witnesses for the defense have said they saw Harrelson in Dallas as early as 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Harrelson has always maintained he was asleep in his Dallas apartment when Wood was killed 275 miles away.

A convicted murderer Tuesday testified Harrelson was not one of two men he saw standing near the apartment of Wood the

night before Wood was killed but later hedged under cross-examination on his testimony.

Harrelson, one of three suspects on trial in the Wood slaying, is accused of shooting the judge for a \$250,000 payoff from Las Vegas gambler Jimmy Chagra who had a narcotics smuggling trial pending before Wood.

In a surprise appearance, Charles Foster, 31, first testified neither of the two men he saw standing beside a taxi stand in the driveway of Chateaux Dijon Townhomes was Harrelson.

But later under cross-examination by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ray Jahn, Foster admitted he could not remember the men's faces and was not sure whether one of them was Harrelson.


"You can't say whether he was or he wasn't (there), can you?" asked Assistant U.S. Attorney

Ray Jahn. "No, so I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt," Foster said.

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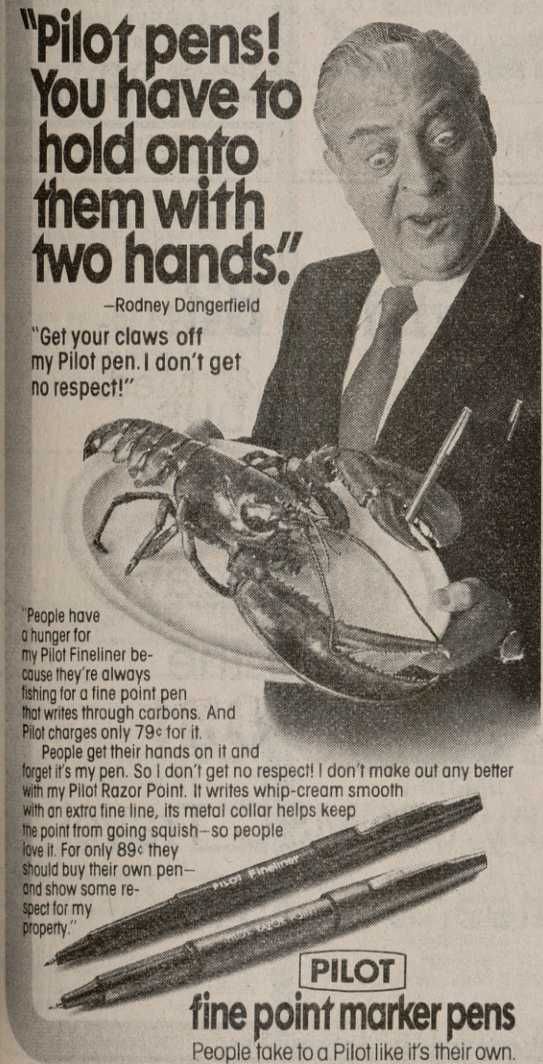


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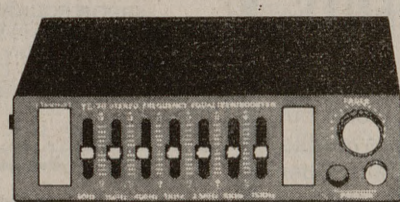
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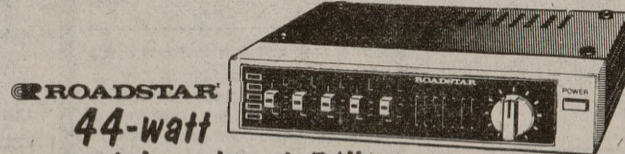
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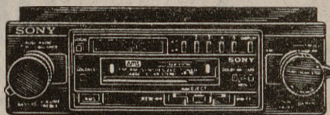
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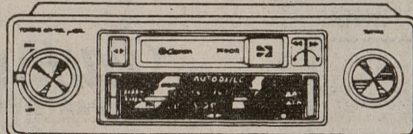


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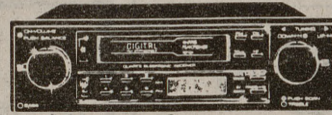
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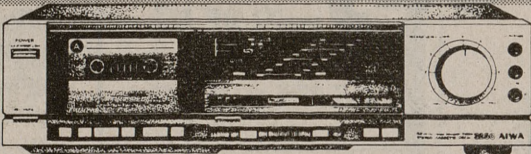
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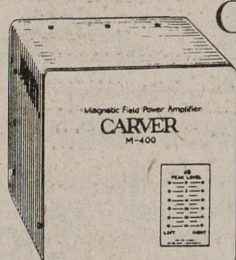
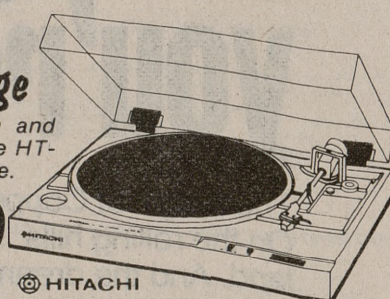


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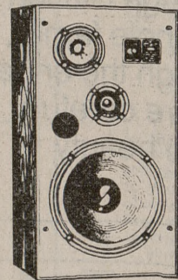
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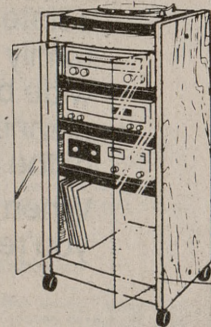


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