Gene find could bring MS cure closer

SAN FRANCISCO — Biologists we isolated a gene vital to the ner-ous system and found that it is defecwe in mice with a nervous disorder discovery that could provide new ools for investigating multiple scler-sis, a major crippler of young people. In a report to appear today in Cell, he world's leading molecular biology urnal, scientists from the California issitute of Technology and the Unirsity of California, San Francisco,

said they isolated the gene that codes for the major protein of myelin. human muscle-weakening diseases as multiple sclerosis or Guillain-Barre's

Myelin is a covering or insulation around nerve cells which aids the

travel of impulses along nerves. The scientists found the gene is defective in a mutant strain of mice which exhibits a nervous disorder. This is the first time a neurological disorder in a mammal has been traced

to a specific gene defect, they said.

The findings could prove significant in the treatment and cure of such

"For years people have been trying to find the cause of multiple sclerosis. the major crippling illness of young adults, but everybody has drawn a said Dr. Stanley Prusiner, UCSF associateeee professor of neurology

'We wanted to isolate the gene that codes for myelin protein. Then we could take the isolated gene and do

genetic maps on peple with MS to see if something in the genetic background is responsible for the development of that disease," he said.

"We've isolated that gene, a very important step which each all and the said."

important step which can allow us to apply modern biological tools to study people with MS," Prusiner said.

The researchers isolated and

Since the rat gene for myelin basic protein is almost identical in structure to the human gene, the researchers expect to be able to use it to isolate the human gene in normal and diseased humans for comparison.

"(Multiple sclerosis) may represent die. cloned the gene for myelin basic protein (MBP) from rat DNA.

Scientists think some human diseases are caused by defects in the said. "If so, we should be able to iden-

and abnormal genes.'

The scientists studied the nature of the gene in shiverer mice, which appear normal at birth, begin shivering two weeks later, develop paralysis and seizures and, 50 to 100 days later,

The scientists found large portions of the myelin gene were missing from the mice's DNA.

RANGO apar ALLBILLS staff photo by John Makely

A rainbow of colors...

Suzan Bruce a senior history major from Beaumont is painting pipes in Room 211 of the Old State Chemistry Building. Suzan and a group of friends decided that the room looked boring so they did something about it. The colors are green, yellow and lavender.

City official resigns ter sex incident

PRINGFIELD, Ohio ingfield city manager who ended a policewoman for 1ern losing nude in Playboy maga-ine resigned Tuesday after ing questioned by police ab-lipicking up a prostitute. Tom Bay, 51, was unavailable SS1PP

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comment Wednesday. Police Juplaid Bay told them he had fered the woman \$50 for her vices. A police spokesman lit was not immediately clear EANS-R Bay was not arrested in the

ioma 10 b Bay suspended Barin seclusion bara Schantz for 37 since, being days last summer afhe announter she posed nude urn to plat for an eight-page picn Mississipp torial, entitled "Beau-hool in the badge," in the badge," in rn. I'm just the May 1982

ow." sophomore Playboy.

nan Trophic the season and sort sick. ave and refused to comment ould not to Bay's resignation.

Her attorney, James Doughsaid she will not talk about the

Doughty, a well-known cri-

"Bay is a very controversial figure in Springfield. I think he was emotionally premature in the action he took. Nobody had legally established (that) he solicited her or she soli-

have been premature.
"Bay is a very controversial figure in Springfield," Doughty said. "I think he was emotionally premature in the action he took. Nobody had legally established (that) he solicited her or she soli-

The suspension of Mrs. Buffington was the subject of a televison movie, "Policewoman Centerfold," aired this week.

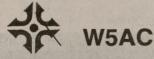
Mrs. Buffington said she thought the movie was "fairly rsity of solicident.

Ind begins Bay suspended Barbara rning, and chantz for 37 days last summer vedned for 37 days last summer vedned for she posed nude for an interpretation of 10 department regulation on in 10 department regulation in me in Philip of the interpretation of the interp good" and accurately dealt with

AMATEUR RADIO COMMITTEE

A tour of the TAMU Wind Tunnel

Thursday October 20 7:30 PM Room 140 MSC



Ships may burn wastes at sea

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency has given a hazardous waste disposal company preliminary approval to burn more than 80 million gallons of toxic wastes at

The action, taken despite protests of environmental groups and many Gulf Coast residents, means the EPA has decided to grant individual permits for incineration ships. However, the EPA has yet to adopt broad regulations for burning chemical-laden wastes

on ocean-going vessels. Rebeccah Hanmer, acting assistant EPA administrator for water, approved the draft of three three-year permits Mon-day for incineration of wastes aboard the ships Vulcanus I and Vulcanus II, owned by Chemical Waste Management Inc. of Oak-

If the permits are approved, the ships will burn a wide range of wastes. Some of these wastes contain cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, and up to two parts per million of dioxin, considered the most toxic chemical made.

The two ships will be allowed to burn up to about 80 million gallons of wastes over 80 to 85

The third permit, a six-month research permit, will allow Vulcanus II, the newer of the two ships, to incinerate up to 264,000 gallons of li.uid DDT

Last week more than 20 organizations, including the newly formed Gulf Coast Coalition for Public Health, filed a petition asking that the EPA set criteria for evaluating permit requests before issuing any permits.

Environmentalists also assert the EPA has failed to consider the catastrophic consequences

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October 22

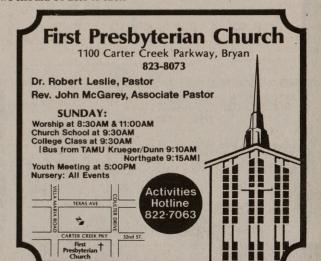
Alan Rubin, chief of the EPA's water quality criterion section, said the EPA's office of general counsel has concluded that under the agency's current ocean dumping regulations, it can issue permits for ocean incineration ships if environmental studies have been conducted and it has information on the wastes to be burned, the method of incineration, and the equipment and vessels to be used.

He said those conditions have been met, and stressed that the permits will require destruction of 99.99 percent of wastes, while international treaties set a less stringent standard of 99.9 per-cent efficiency.

Rubin also noted that the draft permits will require the company to monitor the incinerators, and to pay for independent, on-board observers to watch the process round-the-

He said public hearings on the permits are now scheduled for Nov. 21 in Brownsville and Nov. 22 and 23 in Mobile, Ala.

The two cities were chosen be cause Brownsville is considered the closest city to the burn site far in the Gulf of Mexico, and Mobile is near a Chicksaw, Ala., port where the company hopes to load the ships.



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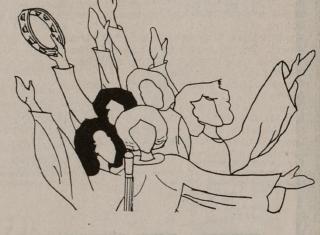
College Station, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1983 3:00-7:00pm

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