

Researchers think enzyme turns growths into cancer

United Press International
BOSTON — A natural body substance that helps regulate cell growth appears to be the switch that transforms benign intestinal growths — such as President Reagan had — into cancer, Johns Hopkins researchers said Wednesday.

They are using the substance, an enzyme, to develop a test to determine who is at high risk for developing colon cancer. A drug to combat the enzyme's action and prevent the disease is in the first stages of human trials.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, reports the presence of higher than normal levels of the enzyme can be a good predictor of whether benign polyps in the intestines will become cancerous years later.

"We have found a chemical in these cells that precedes the formation of cancer," said Dr. Gordon D. Luk, an assistant professor of medicine and co-author of the study. "An

increase in this enzyme may be the same sign that starts cancer in any other cell.

"If we block this enzyme, we have found a cell cannot grow," Luk said. "It offers a promising avenue of further study."

Polyps, which are similar to moles, are common occurrences in the intestines. Their prevalence increases with age. The growths are not cancerous, but are believed to be precursors of cancer.

Reagan was found to have polyps in his intestine and part of one was removed without incident earlier this year.

Cancer of the colon and rectum is a major public health problem in the United States, with 130,000 cases expected to be diagnosed this year and 59,400 deaths expected to result.

Luk and Dr. Stephen B. Baylin found in their study of 29 patients that polyps in patients with high levels of the enzyme almost always turned into cancer, while the polyps of those with normal levels usually

remained benign.

The enzyme — ornithine decarboxylase — is believed important in the growth and development of cells. Enzymes are chemicals in the body that regulate chemical reactions.

The patients studied had a rare genetic condition called familial colonic polyposis. But experts say the test may be useful in testing people without the disease.

Luk said the next stage of his research will be to see how effective a test the enzyme proves to be and to test how well the blocking drug can be tolerated in humans without cancer.

The drug kills lung and colon cancer cells in the test tube and in mice.

Dr. Paul Sherock of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York said in an accompanying editorial a test for the enzyme is of "great interest." He said it has the potential to be able to test for high risk of colon cancer in all people, not just those with this rare genetic disease.

Texas Rangers arrest 'Animal'

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texas Rangers have arrested a 25-year-old ironworker who authorities say apparently was paid to make a bomb to kill a witness in another criminal case, court records showed Thursday.

Brian Lee "Animal" Groves of Austin was arrested Wednesday and charged with possession of components of an explosive weapon.

The arrest ended a two-week investigation by the Rangers and other state and federal agencies.

Assistant Travis County District Attorney Ben Florey said Groves intended to combine high explosives with blasting caps to make a bomb. Thirty-one ounces of explosives were seized after Groves was arrested.

Florey said the intended victim of

the bombing is a juvenile witness in a felony case, who was protected during the investigation. He said there was an exchange of money, but declined to discuss other details of the case.

Florey said he would ask a grand jury to indict Groves on a charge of attempted capital murder and possession of components of an explosive weapon.

City of Austin starts water rationing

United Press International
AUSTIN — City officials Thursday announced the initiation of mandatory water rationing to combat an overtaxed water system in Texas' hot, rain-thirsty capital.

Fines of up to \$200 will be levied beginning Monday against residents who violate restrictions on watering laws. The major water rationing provision will limit lawn-watering to once every five days and prohibit watering between noon and 8 p.m.

Other restrictions limit the days and hours to wash cars and prohibit residents from hosing off sidewalks, driveways or other paved areas. City officials said more stringent rules could be initiated if water supplies continue to dwindle.

"We don't want to risk fire protection and safety and we don't want to strain our treatment system any more than it already is," City Manager Jorge Carrasco said.

Austin's water system has been strained by weeks of 100-degree heat and a below-normal rainfall for the year. The 400,000 city residents since May 11 have been urged to follow a voluntary rationing program.

Carpenter leaves million descendants

Almost all Chadbournes are related

United Press International
SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — Exactly 350 years ago this week a middle-aged carpenter named William Chadbourne arrived from England to open one of the first saw mills in the New World.

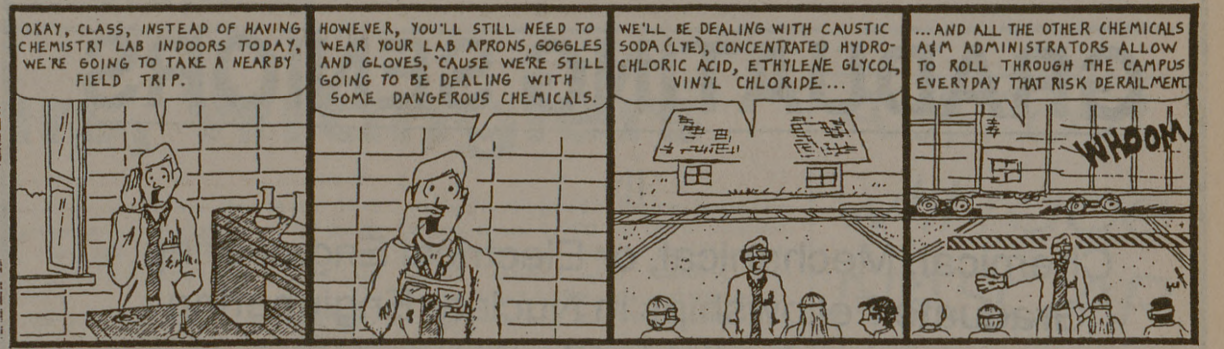
Today it is estimated he has left far more than a million descendants scattered across the nation and that 95 percent of Americans with the name Chadbourne trace their roots to him.

To mark the anniversary of his arrival on the shores of Maine on July 8, 1634, some 200 of his 20th century descendants — the 12th and 13th Chadbourne generation in America — are flocking to New England for a 350th anniversary family reunion this weekend.

The reunion will be held in South Berwick — where Chadbourne landed — and nearby Portsmouth and Durham, N.H. It will feature a massive family picnic, a banquet and receptions.

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Soviets protest lifting of ban on German bomb building

United Press International
MOSCOW — The Soviet Union Thursday protested a decision that lifted a 40-year ban on the West German production of long-range bombers and missiles. They also warned the city of Bonn of "negative consequences" if it builds strategic weapons.

its 1954 ban prohibiting West German production of conventional long-range missiles and bombers.

It came amid charges in the official Soviet media that West Germany was in the grips of a "revanchist" movement, seeking to regain territories lost during World War II.

"As everyone knows, whenever West Germany has had any restriction lifted, it has used it to build up its military potential, which has long exceeded the sensible defense needs of the Federal Republic of Germany," the Soviet note said.

"The Soviet side expects the Federal Republic to take this address most seriously and to weigh carefully all those negative consequences that

would inevitably arise" should it build the long-range offensive weapons," it said.

Vladimir Lomeiko, a spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, declined to comment on what the negative consequences would be.

The Soviet Union also accused the West Germans of violating the spirit and letter of the 1945 Potsdam agreement and the 1975 Helsinki Accords.

In Bonn, the West German State Secretary Juergen Ruffus told Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Seyenov his government had no intention to build strategic weapons despite the lifting of the ban.

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