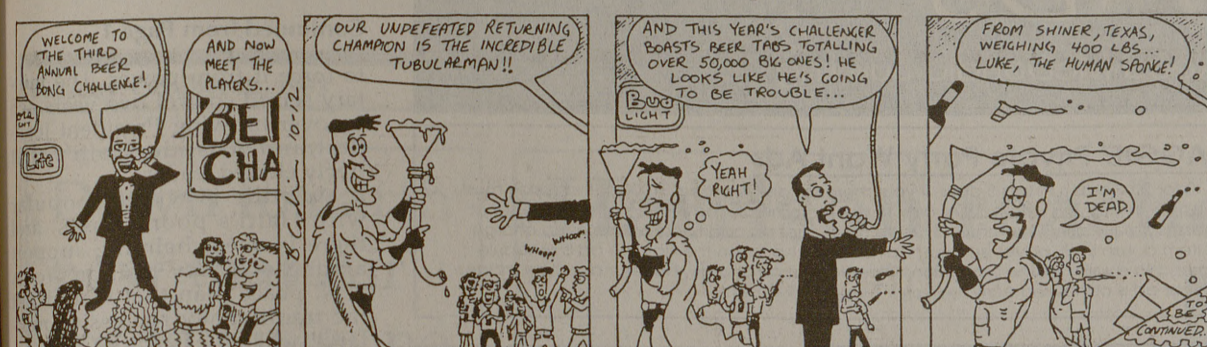


### Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



### Fritch

By Critch



### Columbia Encyclopedia updates entries

The Associated Press

BOSTON — With the world map in flux, the editors of the Columbia Encyclopedia's latest edition found themselves trying to pin down history as it happened.

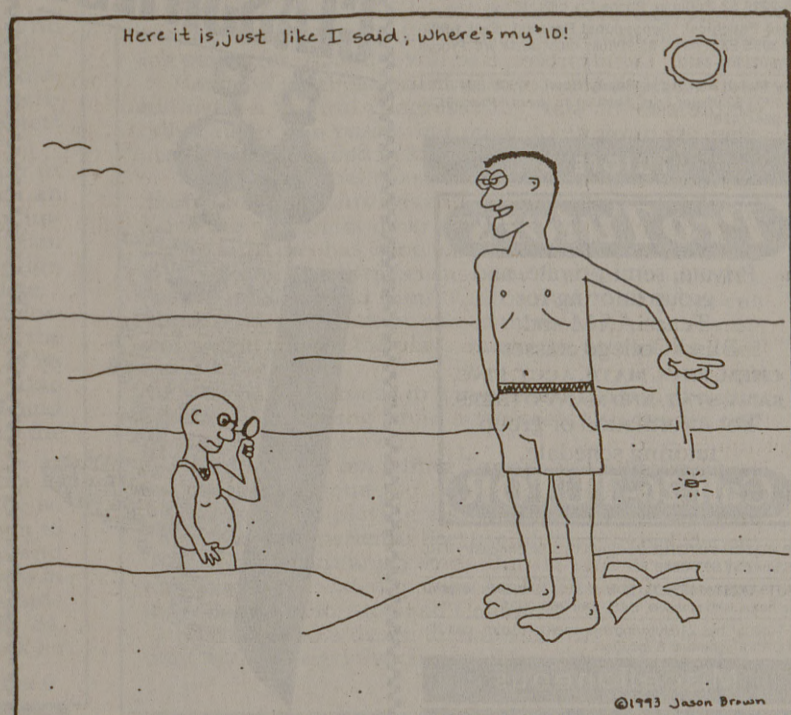
Their entry on the USSR begins, "It was established on Dec. 30, 1922, and dissolved on Dec. 31, 1991."

The single-volume encyclopedia, now weighing in at 11 pounds and 3,072 pages, has been the first reference and reality check for millions since its debut in 1935.

Using what editors Barbara Chernow and George Vallasi call "guerrilla research" — fax transmissions, telephone interviews and computer-aided cross-referencing — the couple rewrote 60 percent of the entries from the fourth edition, published in 1975.

In the midst of their four-year task, they watched much of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union undergo deconstruction.

### JUST THE BEGINNING



By Jason Brown

### Cold researchers win Nobel Prize

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — In 1977, two scientists separately studying the virus that causes the common cold discovered an unknown structure for genes that revolutionized genetics and helped other researchers earn a Nobel Prize.

On Monday, Phillip A. Sharp and Richard J. Roberts won their own.

The Massachusetts-based scientists were named co-recipients of the Nobel Prize in medicine and will share an \$825,000 prize.

"It felt good this morning, folks," Sharp said at a news conference hours after his wake-up call from the Nobel committee in Stockholm, Sweden.

"Everybody doing science wants to feel they are going to make a discovery that everybody will look up to," Roberts said at a separate news conference.

"But I think there's a different kind of satisfaction that comes when you realize that all of your colleagues also think it was a great discovery."

Sharp, 49, a native of Falmouth, Ky., heads the biology department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Roberts, 50, a native of Derby, England, works at New England Biolabs in Beverly, Mass.

Their work changed scientists' understanding about DNA makeup and helped launch the field of biotechnology.

Genes had been thought to be unbroken segments along strands of DNA. Roberts and Sharp discovered

that individual genes can also be discontinuous.

"Everybody thought that genes were laid out in exactly the same way, and so it came as a tremendous surprise at the time," Roberts said in an interview.

The Nobel Assembly of the Karolinska Institute said Sharp and Roberts' research "has been of fundamental importance for today's basic research in biology, as well as for more medically oriented research concerning the development of cancer and other diseases."

Scientists found that in humans and other higher organisms, DNA includes separated gene segments that contain information to build proteins along with "nonsense DNA," or introns, that has no protein message.

To construct working proteins from such gene segments, cells have to assemble correctly the information from them. When this process goes awry, the result can be cancer or other diseases.

Some scientists believe that the physical rearrangement of gene segments may speed the evolution of man and other higher animals.

Roberts said he "stumbled" upon the discovery.

"We were looking for something completely different and things didn't quite work out the way we expected, so we followed through to find out," he said.

Sharp said he was "fortunate to be in the right place at the right time doing the right experiment."

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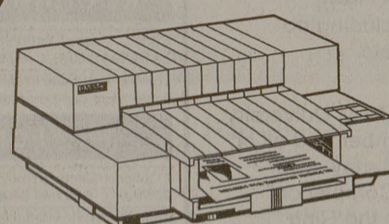
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