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In Thermostable Enzyme Research

- The Commitment to Discovery -

Stratagene is committed to thermostable enzyme research. We literally go to the ends of the earth looking for novel microorganisms which may contain useful thermostable enzymes. Our goal is to make recombinant DNA methodologies more efficient and less time-consuming by exploiting these newly discovered enzymes that excel at elevated temperatures.

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Scientists at Stratagene have recently cloned *Pfu* DNA ligase*2,3, which remains active following one hour incubation at 95°C and functions superbly in the ligase chain reaction (LCR)^{4,5}. Cloned *Pfu* DNA polymerase* exhibits 12-fold higher fidelity than Tag polymerase^{6,7}. The exonuclease-deficient mutant of Pfu DNA polymerase can be used to directly sequence PCR** products with 35S-dATP8.

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Exo-minus *Pfu* DNA polymerase mutant of *Pfu* polymerase The genetically engineered

possesses no detectable exonuclease activity. Ideal for cycle sequencing PCR products with 35S nucleotide analogs and for other high-temperature primer extension reactions that do not require high-fidelity DNA synthesis. Cat# 600163

Cyclist[™] Exo-minus *Pfu* DNA sequencing kit

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sequencing with Tag polymerase. Designed for direct sequencing of PCR products, plasmids from colonies or phage from plagues, using ³²P- or ³³P-dATP. Cat# 200325

1. Fiala, G. and Stetter, K. (1986) Arch. Microbiol. 145:56-61.

2. Marsh, E., et al. (1992) Stratagies 5:73-76.

- 4. Barany, F. (1991) PCR Methods and Applications 1:5-16. 7. Mathur, E., et al. (1991) Nucleic Acids Res. 19:6952.
- 5. Barany, F. (1991) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88:189-193. 6. Lundberg, K., et al. (1991) Gene 108: 1-6.



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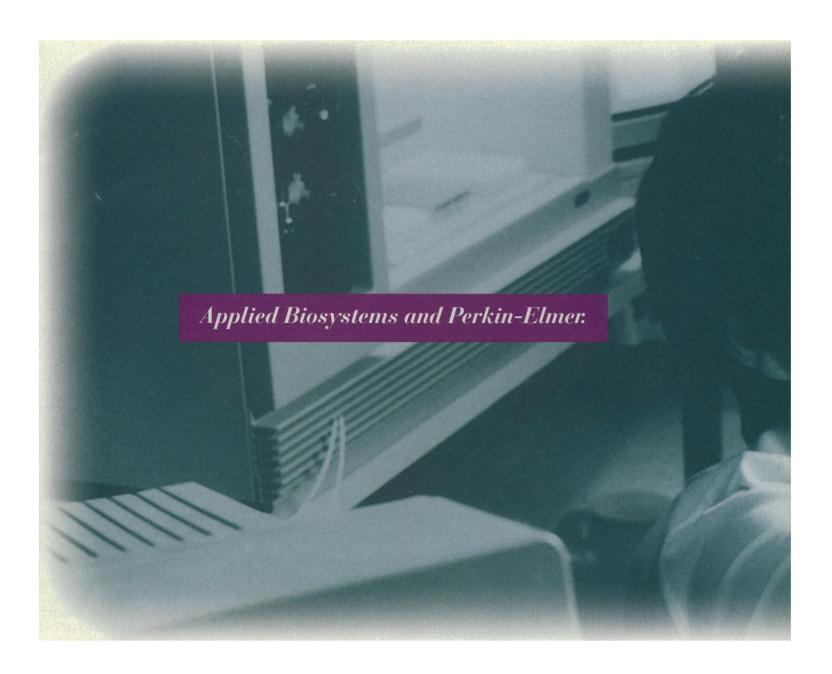
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^{3.} Mathur, E., et al. (1992) The San Diego Conference on Nucleic Acids Abstract #10.

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COVER

On 13 September 1848, an explosion sent an iron rod rocketing through the head of Phineas Gage. He died in 1861 without being autopsied. Skull measurements were used to reconstruct a three-dimensional image of his brain and the trajectory of the rod. Pinpointing the lesion completes the historical record and restores Gage

as a foundation for our contemporary understanding of the prefrontal cortices and their role in emotion, reason, and social behavior. See page 1102. [Digital image: Hanna Damasio, Department of Neurology and Image Analysis, University of Iowa College of Medicine]



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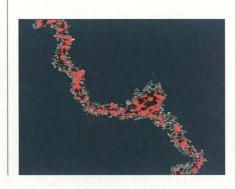
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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

[3]

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Galilean Moon

During its tortuous journey to Jupiter, the space probe Galileo has now made two close passes by the moon, both times making high-resolution multispectral observations at optical and near-infrared wavelengths. Belton et al. (p. 1112) describe images from Galileo's second lunar encounter. The spectral ratios of the images are used to reveal variations in the titanium oxide composition of the moon's surface, which diagnoses the regional history of lava flows. The northern light plains, resembling maria but with albedos representative of highlands material, are more probably the result of impacts rather than volcanic structures.

Aqueous lithium battery

Lithium batteries, which are lightweight and have a high energy density, now power many consumer products. Adapting these batteries to bigger things, such as electric vehicles, could prove expensive, especially in that they make use of nonaqueous electrolytes. One additional difficulty is that the use of metallic lithium in rechargeable batteries is hazardous; thus the electrodes are usually lithium salts or lithium intercalated into carbon or metal oxide or chalcogenides (such as sulfides). Li et al. (p. 1115; see news story by Glanz, p. 1084) have developed a rechargeable lithium battery with an aqueous electrolyte containing a lithium salt. The electrodes are LiMn₂O₄ and lithium intercalated into VO₂. The authors suggest that the potential economic and environmental advantages of this lithium ion battery put it in the running as a candidate for the electric vehicle battery.

Gathering the light harvest

In photosynthesis, porphyrin complexes play key roles in adsorbing light energy over a wide spectrum and converting that energy into the highly directional transfer of electrons. Chemists are interested in adapting nature's approach in order to mimic photosynthesis as well as explore applications such as opto-electronic devices. Lin *et al.* (p. 1105) use recently developed synthetic methods to make chains of porphyrin centers linked by acetylenic bridges. Their room-temperature photophysics, optical spectra, and electrochemical properties suggest that these compounds recreate many of the features of biological light-harvesting structures.

Into the maze

Zeolites, which are aluminosilicates with three-dimensional microporous structures, have many uses in the petrochemical industry, one of which is the activation of normally unreactive long chain alkane molecules. The details of how the alkanes enter and move about in zeolites are still unclear; it is difficult to observe the exact siting of the alkane molecules in the zeolite host. Smit and Siepmann (p. 1118) have used a novel Monte Carlo method to investigate the intermolecular attraction between alkanes and a zeolite. They observed an unexpected dependence of the heat of adsorption on chain length, which they rationalize through a simple model.

Ocean eddies

Eddies in the ocean are relatively small structures that can be difficult to observe at depth and that also present a challenge to modelers, yet their effects on circulation and the transport of heat and salt can be critical. Two reports contribute to a clearer picture of how eddies contribute to mixing. Toole *et al.* (p. 1120) present measurements that allow the determination of eddy diffusivity, an indicator of the mixing efficiency, to depths of

4000 meters locally in the northeastern Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Overall, calculated eddy diffusivities were much lower than predicted from large-scale models except along sloping margins of basins. Accounting for eddies in ocean circulation models has been problematic because resolving such effects would normally require a smaller grid size in these numerical models, which translates into impractical computation times. Danabasoglu et al. (p. 1123; see the Perspective by Neelin and Marotzke, p. 1099) were able to add eddy effects to a widely used ocean model by adding a term to the main equation that represents the way eddies mix water parcels at constant density. This model improved the description of ocean features such as poleward and surface heat fluxes and the location of regions of deep-water formation.

Around the bend

Transcription factors of the basic region leucine zipper (bZIP) family have similar DNA binding regions yet show specificity in binding even to related targets. Paolella *et al.* (p. 1130) have investigated the ability of various bZIP proteins to discriminate between two targets that differ only in half-site spacing. They find that one target is

intrinsically bent, and that some bZIP proteins can compensate for this curvature.

IJ

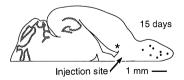
Genetic basis for psoriasis

Family studies have suggested that psoriasis, a chronic skin inflammation, may have a genetic basis, but genetic heterogeneity and other confounding factors have made analysis difficult. Tomfohrde et al. (p. 1141) performed genetic linkage analyses of eight different families and found that susceptibility to psoriasis could be linked in some families to markers on the distal region of chromosome 17q. None of the families which had this linkage had any association with the human lymphocyte antigen HLA-Cw6 allele, which has previously been shown to predispose other individuals to psoriasis. Mapping of a genetic locus for psoriasis susceptibility may help in the isolation of the gene involved and provide further clues to pathogenesis.

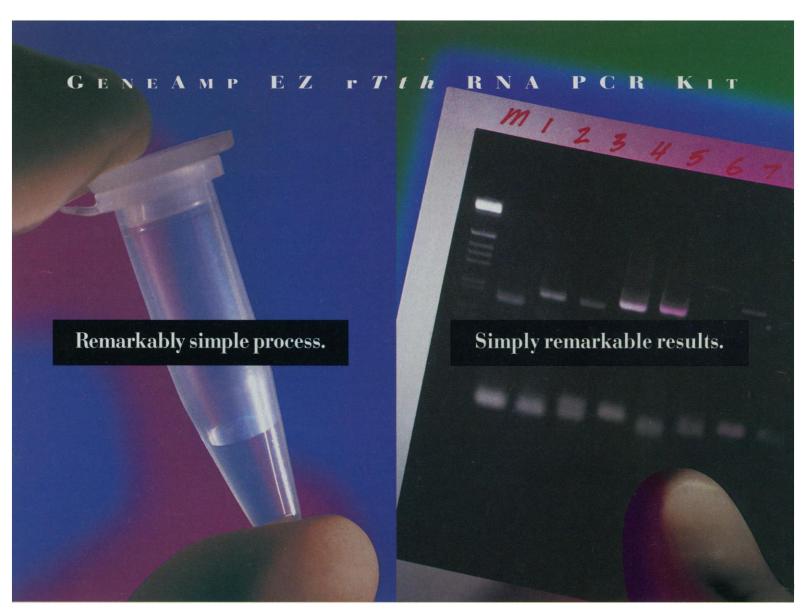
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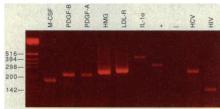
Still going

Neuronal precursors in the developing mammalian brain migrate from the ventricular zone and the subventricular zones (SVZ) and develop into neurons. Lois and Alvarez-Buylla



(p. 1145) show that this process continues even in the brain of adult mice. Both grafted and endogenous SVZ cells migrated long distances (up to 5 millimeters) and differentiated into neurons in the olfactory bulb.





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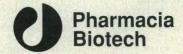
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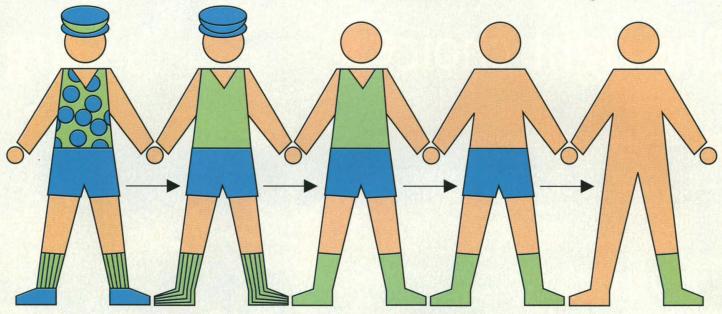
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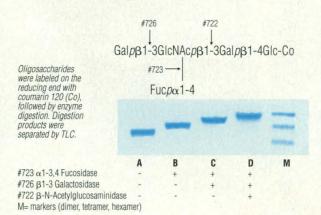
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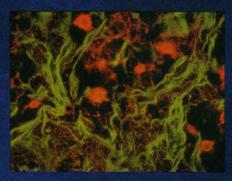
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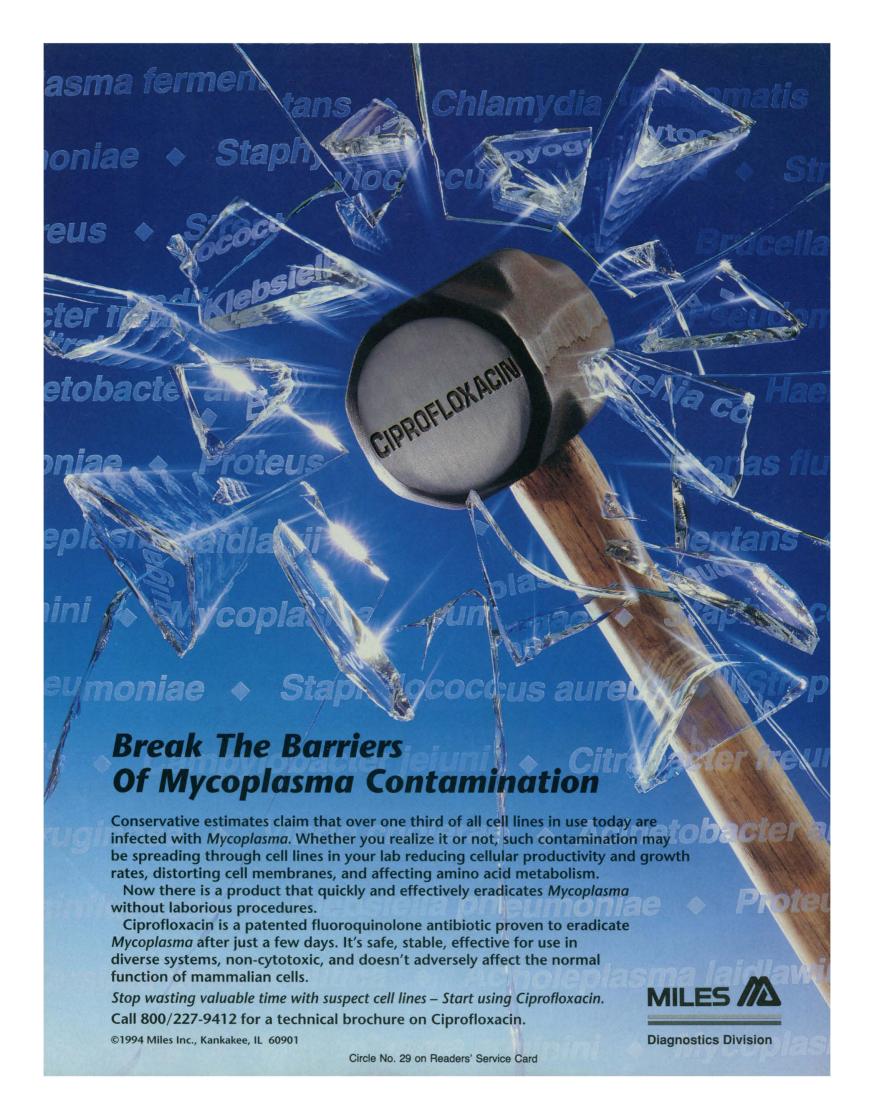
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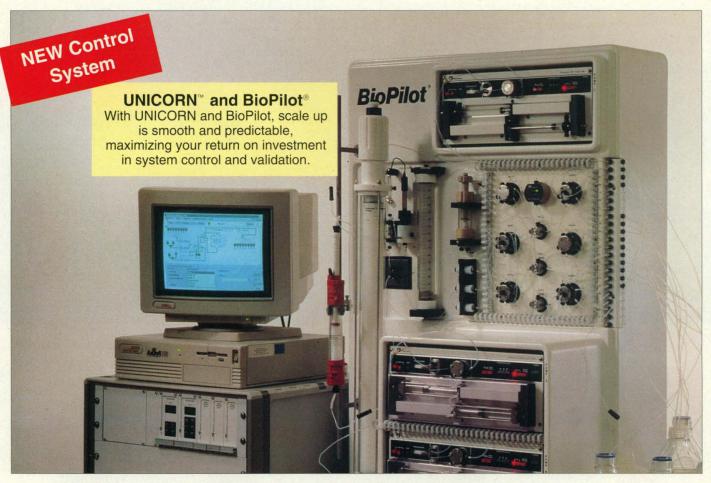


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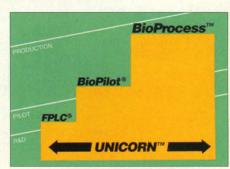
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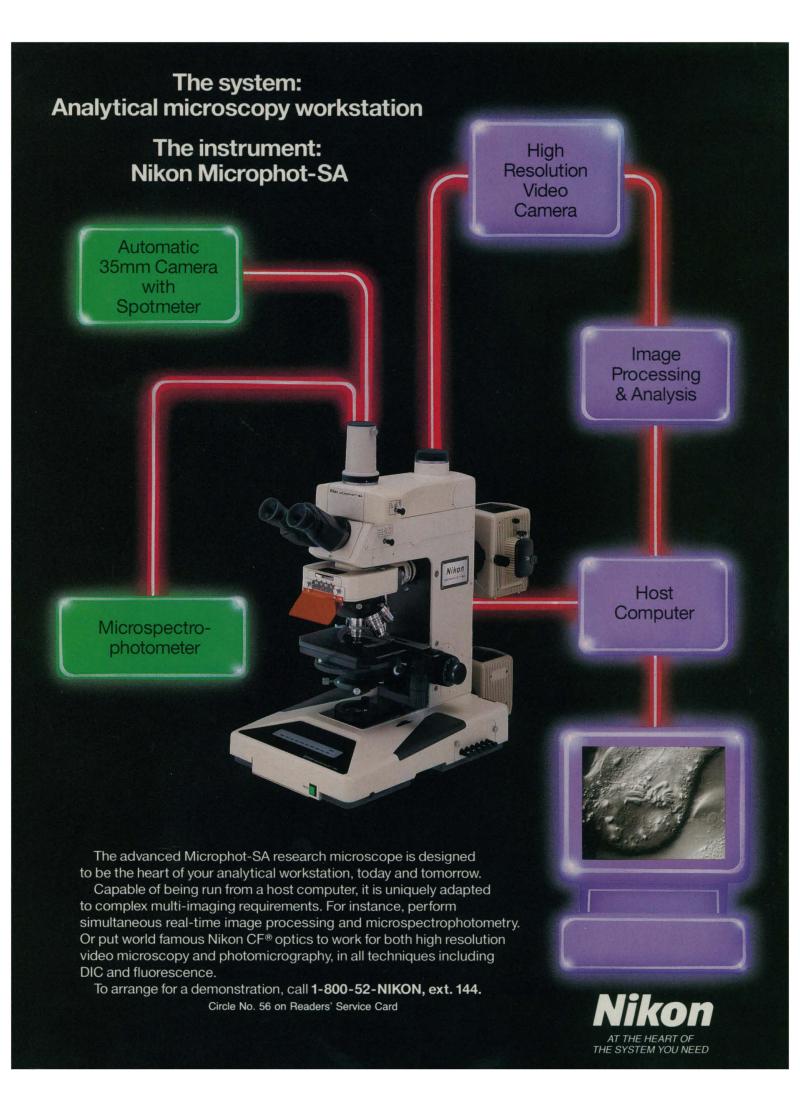
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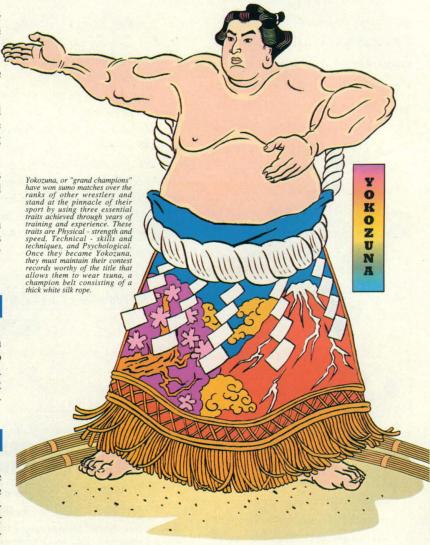
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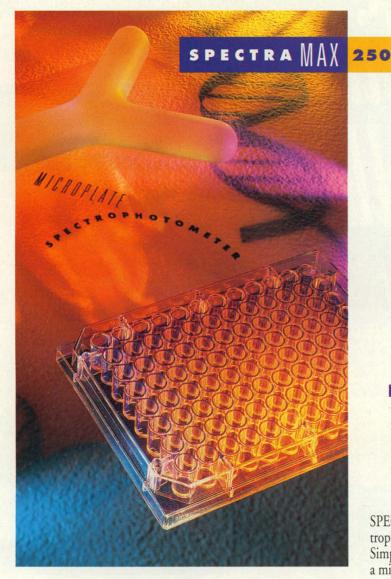
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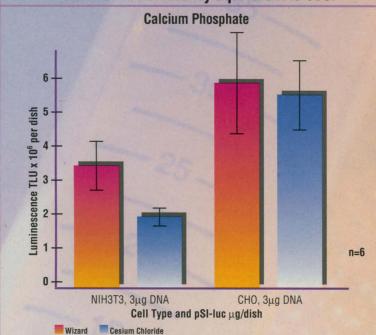




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> Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E.F. and Maniatis, T. (1989) Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor.

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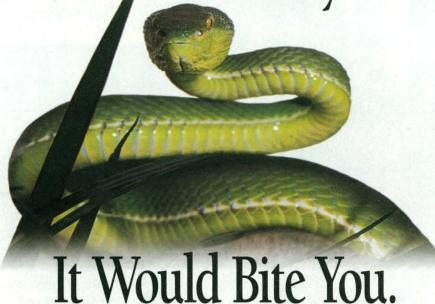
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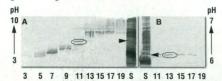
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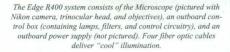
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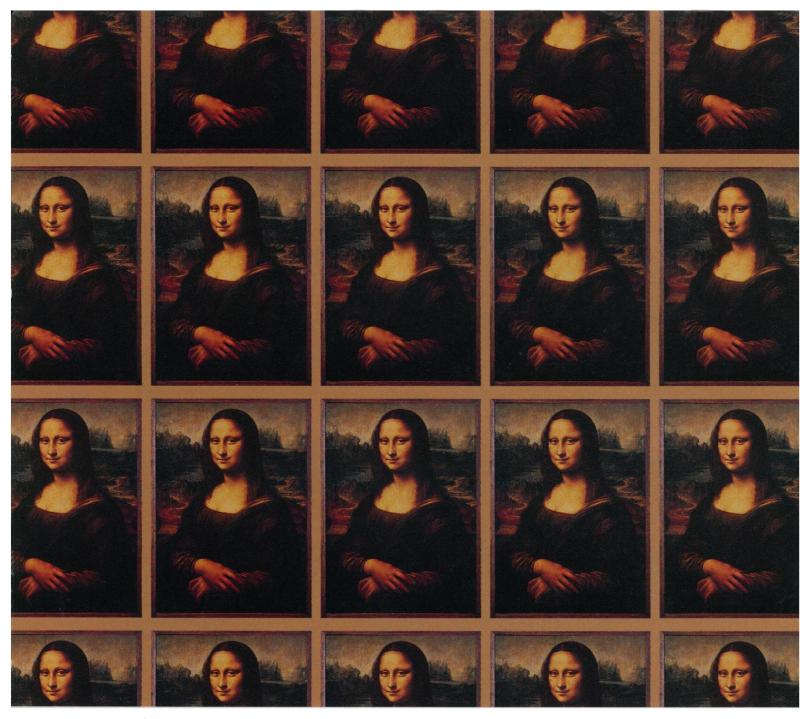
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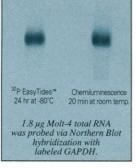
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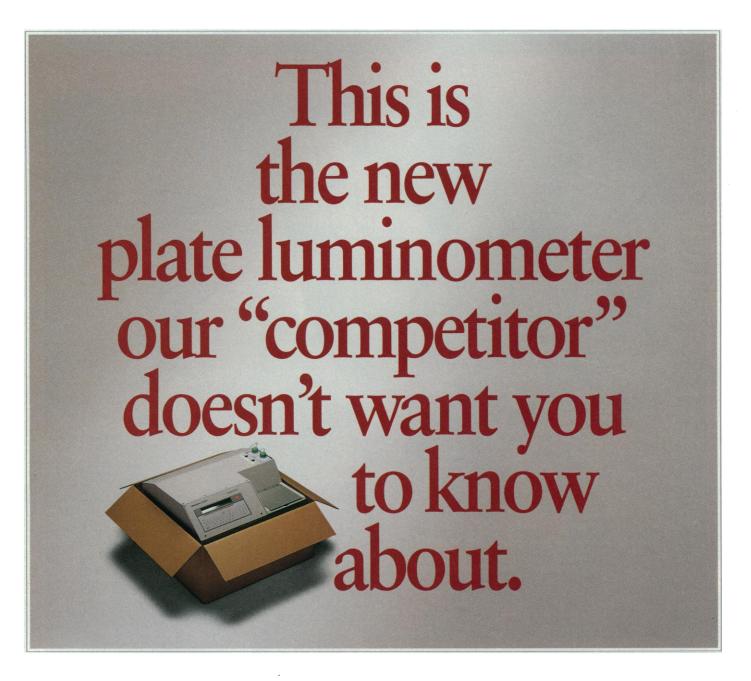
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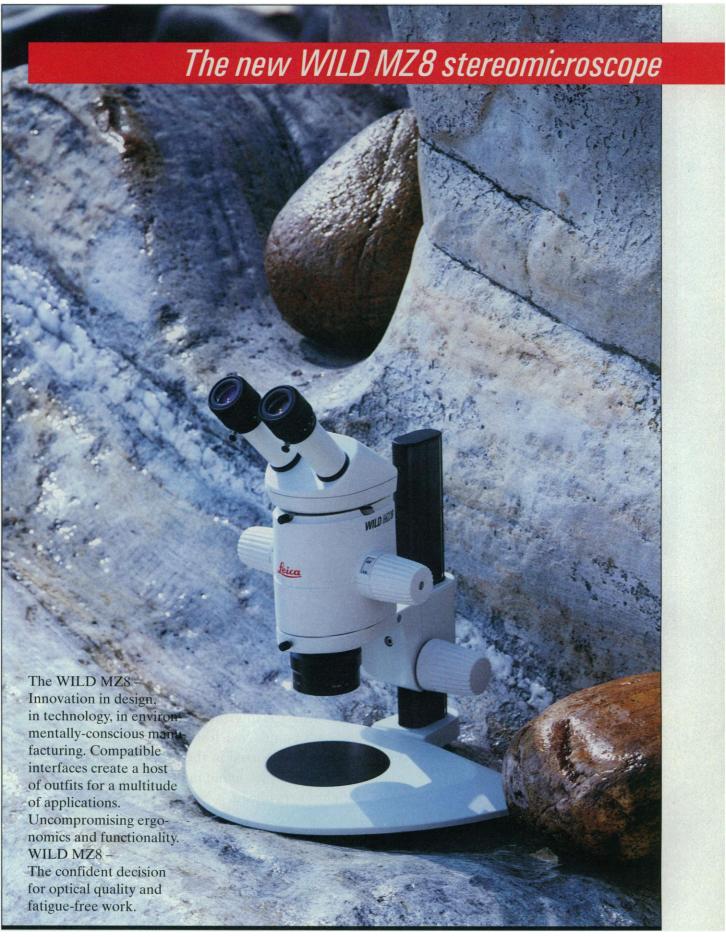
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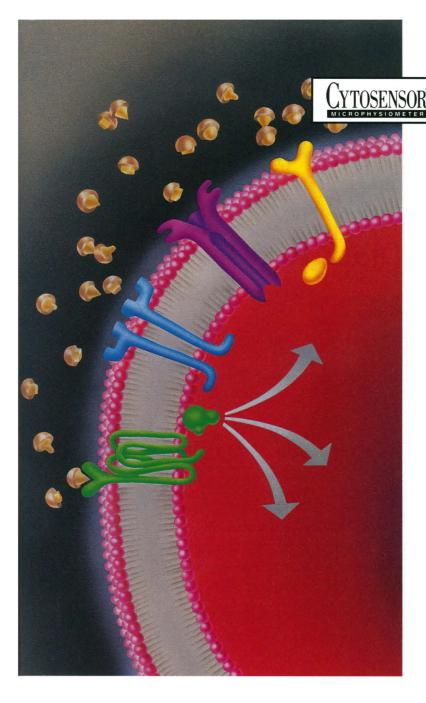
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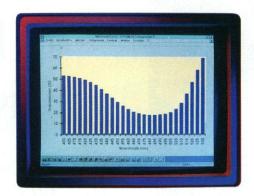
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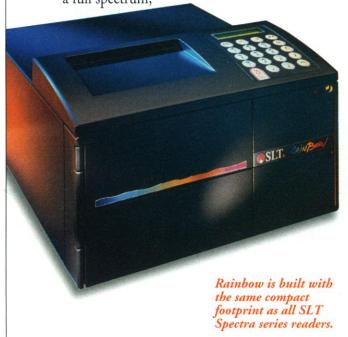




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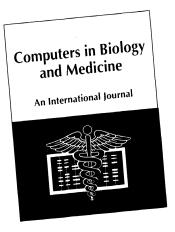
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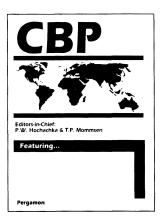
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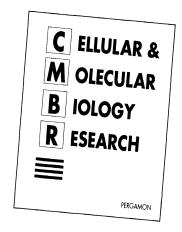
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