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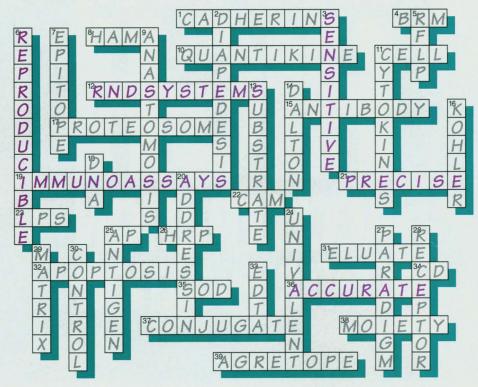
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measurement of cytokines

tional unit of all organisms

- 21 Successively reproducible
- within close specified limits 22 Abbrev. for cell-selective protein that promotes
- 4 Abbrev. for biological response modifiers
 protein that proma adhesion of cells

 8 Abbrev. for human anti 23 Abbrev. for gram
 - 23 Abbrev. for gram negative endotoxin
 - 25 Site on DNA lacking either purines or pyrimidines26 Abbrev. for a detection
 - enzyme 31 Obtained from an affinity
 - column 32 "The Ice Man Cometh" for
 - cells 34 Abbrev. for cluster of
 - differentiation
 - 35 Abbrev. for superoxide dismutase
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 38 Discrete portion of a molecule
 39 Region of an antigen that combines with an MHC class II molecule

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- 14 The weight of a single hydrogen atom or a member of an outlaw gang
- 16 Winner who shared 1984 Nobel prize with Milstein18 Major component of
- Dawkins' selfish entity 20 A molecule that serves as a
- homing device 24 Having a single binding site
- 25 A substance with which an antibody molecule or T cell receptor may bind
 27 A defining example
- 28 Complementary binding site
- 29 "M" of ECM
 30 A specimen of known content used together with an unknown in order that the two may be compared
- 33 Abbrev. for an anticoagulant that binds divalent cations

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NEWS & COMMENT



How the Ancient Egyptians

Brewed Beer

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432



426 Predicting three-dimensional protein structures









472 **High-power** pulses

France, Germany Drop Out of ITER Race422422Pests Overwhelm Bt Cotton Crop423423Russian Scientists Gain Legal Rights424424 But Foundation Funds Hit a Snag424424India Struggles to Handle an Embarrassment of Riches425425RESEARCH NEWS426426Years Tackle Protein Prediction426426'Hot Jupiters' Leave Theorists in the Cold429429'New Methods for Expanding the Chromosomal Paint Kit430430	Flood of New Isotopes Offers Keys 433 Food of New Isotopes Offers Keys 433 constellar Evolution 445 POLICY FORUM 445 The Changing Frontiers of Science 445 and Technology 445 P. H. Abelson 448 PERSPECTIVES 448 W. S. Fyfe 449 Hormone Mimicry 449 J. A. Wells 441 Spinal Cord Regeneration 451 W. Young 451 Comparative Earth History and Late 452 Permian Mass Extinction A. H. Knoll, R. K. Bambach, D. E. Canfield, J. P. Grotzinger
DEPARTM	MENTS
THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE 405 S	SCIENCESCOPE 419

419 405 SCIENCESCOPE 411 RANDOM SAMPLES 435 Turtle Project Scores a Success • Tay-Sachs Protein Modeled • Jigsaw Puzzle Gene • NSF Awards Program Goes Electronic 413 Varmus at Harvard: J. Kamens; S. C. Harrison • **BOOK REVIEWS** 442 Finding Hamiltonian Cycles: E. L. Altschuler, M. Lades, R. Stong • HIV Quasispecies and Resampling: The Demon-Haunted World, reviewed by F. J. Ayala • The Equity Equation, Y. Xie • Vignettes • Books S.-L. Liu, A. G. Rodrigo, R. Shankarappa, G. H. Learn, Received L. Hsu, O. Davidov, L. P. Zhao, J. I. Mullins; B. F. AAAS NEWS & NOTES 517 Haynes, G. Pantaleo, A. S. Fauci . Gene Therapy Chronology: M. During • Death in Athens: R. Ellis **PRODUCTS & MATERIALS** 519

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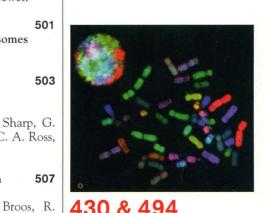
402

COVER

A peptide dimer (orange) that mimics erythropoietin hormone (EPO) binds two equivalent EPO receptor extracellular domains (blue) and produces the signal necessary to stimulate production of red blood cells. The crystal structure of the complex identifies one functional mode of receptor

dimerization. The peptide interaction with a functional epitope on each receptor is a basis for the design of smallmolecule EPO mimetics. See page 464 and the related Research Article (page 458) and Perspective (page 449). [Image: M. Pique, O. Livnah, and I. A. Wilson]

RESEARCH ARTICLES Small Peptides as Potent Mimetics of 458 the Protein Hormone Erythropoietin N. C. Wrighton, F. X. Farrell, R. Chang, A. K.	Volatiles from the 1994 Eruptions of 490 Rabaul: Understanding Large Caldera Systems K. Roggensack, S. N. Williams, S. J. Schaefer, R. A. Parnell Jr.
 K. C. whightoh, F. A. Farrell, K. Chang, A. K. Kashyap, F. P. Barbone, L. S. Mulcahy, D. L. Johnson, R. W. Barrett, L. K. Jolliffe, W. J. Dower Functional Mimicry of a Protein 464 Hormone by a Peptide Agonist: The EPO Receptor Complex at 2.8 Å O. Livnah, E. A. Stura, D. L. Johnson, S. A. Middleton, L. S. Mulcahy, N. C. Wrighton, W. J. Dower, L. K. Jolliffe, I. A. Wilson REPORTS 	 Multicolor Spectral Karyotyping of 494 Human Chromosomes E. Schröck, S. du Manoir, T. Veldman, B. Schoell, J. Wienberg, M. A. Ferguson-Smith, Y. Ning, D. H. Ledbetter, I. Bar-Am, D. Soenksen, Y. Garini, T. Ried Control Strategies for Tuberculosis 497 Epidemics: New Models for Old Problems S. M. Blower, P. M. Small, P. C. Hopewell
Nonlinear Optics in Relativistic472Plasmas and Laser Wake FieldAcceleration of Electrons	A Receptor for the Selective Uptake 501 and Degradation of Proteins by Lysosomes A. M. Cuervo and J. F. Dice
D. Umstadter, SY. Chen, A. Maksimchuk, G. Mourou, R. Wagner Rates of DNA-Mediated Electron 475 Transfer Between Metallointercalators M. R. Arkin, E. D. A. Stemp, R. E. Holmlin, J. K. Barton, A. Hörmann, E. J. C. Olson, P. F. Barbara Low-Frequency Raman Scattering 480 and the Fast Relaxation Process in Glycerol T. Uchino and T. Yoko	Lymphocyte Apoptosis: Mediation503by Increased Type 3 Inositol1,4,5-Trisphosphate ReceptorA. A. Khan, M. J. Soloski, A. H. Sharp, G.Schilling, D. M. Sabatini, SH. Li, C. A. Ross,S. H. SnyderThe POU Factor Oct-6 and Schwann507Cell DifferentiationM. Jaegle, W. Mandemakers, L. Broos, R.Zwart, A. Karis, P. Visser, F. Grosveld, D. Meijer
Crystalline Ropes of Metallic 483 Carbon Nanotubes A. Thess, R. Lee, P. Nikolaev, H. Dai, P. Petit, J. Robert, C. Xu, Y. H. Lee, S. G. Kim, A. G. Rinzler, D. T. Colbert, G. E. Scuseria, D. Tománek, J. E. Fischer, R. E. Smalley	Spinal Cord Repair in AdultImage: 510Paraplegic Rats: Partial Restorationof Hind Limb Functionof Hind Limb FunctionH. Cheng, Y. Cao, L. OlsonPersistent Site-Specific Remodeling513of a Nucleosome Array by Transient513
Investigation of Ancient Egyptian Baking and Brewing Methods by Correlative Microscopy D. Samuel	Action of the SWI/SNF Complex T. Owen-Hughes, R. T. Utley, J. Côté, C. L. Peterson, J. L. Workman
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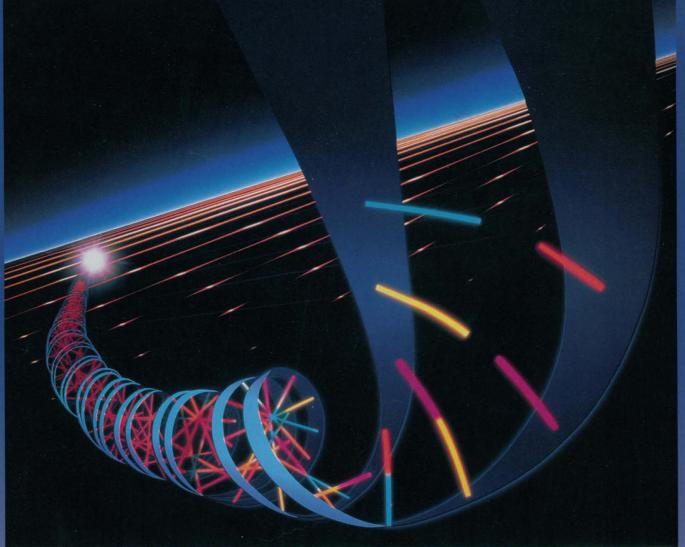
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This Week in Science

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Last gasps

The mass extinction at the end of the Permian (about 250 million years ago) was the largest in the last 600 million years; more than half of the marine families disappeared along with many plants. Knoll et al. (p. 452) point out that many aspects of Late Permian geology-including the condition of the oceans-were similar to those in the last part of the Proterozoic (about 800 to 550 million years ago). They suggest that the extinction was caused by rapid overturn of deep anoxic oceans, which would have released toxic amounts of CO_2 into the atmosphere.

Electrons through DNA

Electron transfer through DNA can occur if the electron donors and acceptors are intercalated into the DNA helix. Arkin et al. (p. 475) measured the rates of forward and back electron transfer by using ultrafast emission and absorption spectroscopy and observed extremely rapid electron transfer rates with only a very shallow dependence on distance between the metal centers. These results suggest that the mechanism for electron transfer between these complexes intercalated into DNA differs from that seen in proteins.



Dueling volcanoes

In 1994, two volcanic vents on opposite sides of the partially seawater-filled Rabaul Volcano caldera in Papua New Guinea erupted almost simultaneously with different eruptive styles. Roggensack *et al.* (p. 490) sampled the volatile gases in the plumes above the

Uniform ropes of carbon nanotubes

One goal in the synthesis of carbon nanotubes is to create long, defect-free structures. Thess *et al.* (p. 483) have optimized the laser vaporization of graphite (in the presence of a cobalt-nickel catalyst) to produce bundles of hundreds of single-wall carbon nanotubes in high yield (>70%). These "ropes," which can be several hundred micrometers in length, exhibit high metallic conductivity. The rapid movement of catalytic metal atoms is proposed to explain the uniformity of these structures.

vents and the volatiles found in silicic and mafic inclusions from the erupted lavas in order to trace the magma dynamics below the surface. Seawater interactions were likely signifi-



cant at one vent, while the volatiles found in the mafic inclusions from the other vent indicate that the eruption was initiated by the emplacement of a mafic dike intrusion below the shallow magma reservoir.

Ancient recipes

Insight into food preparation is vital for understanding ancient cultures. However, because of natural decay, ancient food remains are rare except in dry climates; current understanding is often based largely on artistic evidence and written sources. Samuel (p. 488; see the news story by Williams, p. 432) studied Egyptian beer and bread remains dated from 2000 to 1200 B.C. by optical and scanning electron microscopy. Their preparation was surprisingly complex and not always in agreement with current beliefs.

Glassy ordering

Low-frequency vibrations and fast relaxation processes are important signatures of supercooled liquids, but the former cannot be explained by standard theoretical models. It has been suggested that the medium-range order in the materials is the source of these vibrations. Uchino and Yoko (p. 480) performed ab initio calculations on glycerol trimers to show that localized collective motions of the hydrogen-bonded molecules can lead to such low-frequency modes and that translational motions of the molecules within the trimer may be the origin of such fast relaxation processes.

Path to destruction

Lysosomes degrade misfolded, damaged, or unneeded proteins within the cell, and both bulk and selective pathways operate for protein uptake. The selective pathway, which is especially active in certain cell types that have been starved or deprived of growth factors, resembles pathways for the transport of precursor proteins across cell membranes. Cuervo and Dice (p. 501) identified a lysosomal membrane glycoprotein, LGP96, that binds substrates for this pathway. Overexpression of LGP96 in Chinese hamster ovary cells increased the activity of the selective pathway, suggesting that this receptor may be one of the rate-limiting components for this pathway.

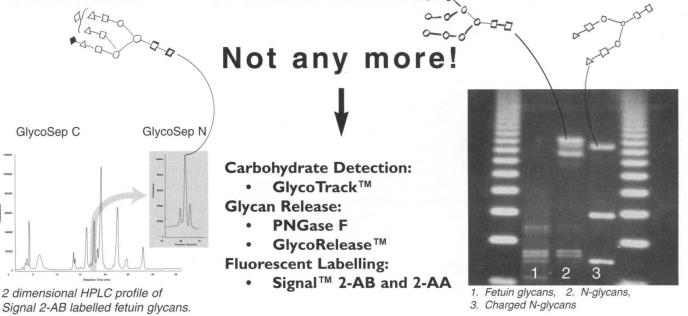
Getting on the nerve

Schwann cells, a type of glial cell, differentiate to form the protective myelin sheath that surrounds the nerve axon and promotes long-distance propagation of the action potential. It has been thought that the POU domain transcription factor Oct-6 acted to repress myelin genes in Schwann cells until differentiation was complete. Jaegle et al. (p. 507) studied Oct-6 knockout mice and show that Oct-6 is in fact needed for promyelin cells to progress to the myelinating stage. However, after that point Oct-6 is no longer needed for myelin expression.

Hooking up the nerve

Spinal cord injuries can lead to tragic consequences, and the search for successful medical treatment is being vigorously pursued. Cheng and Olson (p. 510; see the Perspective by Young, p. 451) demonstrate a partial repair strategy. Multiple fine nerves were used to form bridges across the gap of completely transected spinal cords in adult rats. A treatment that combined these nerve bridges with growth factor and mechanical stabilization allowed a certain limited recovery of hind limb function.

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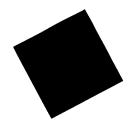
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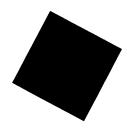
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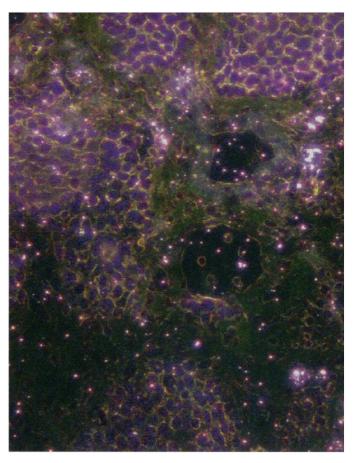
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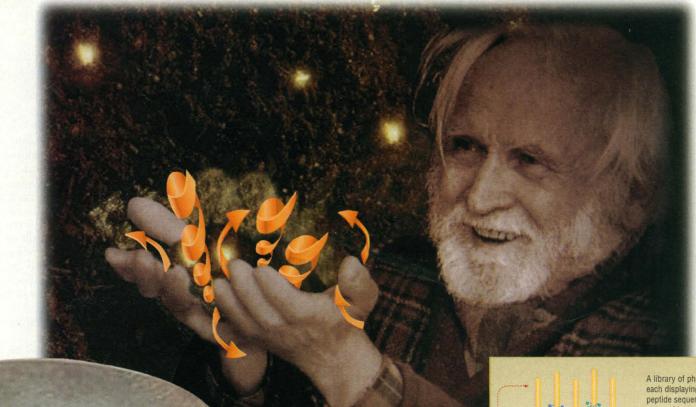
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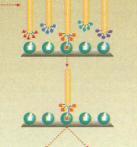
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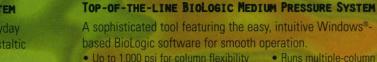
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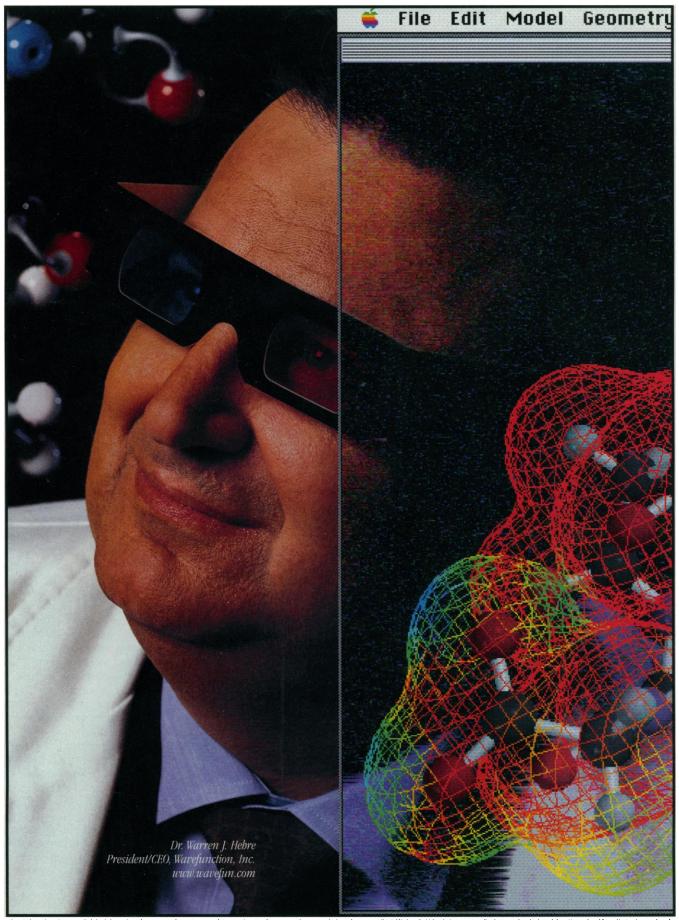
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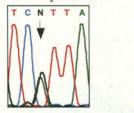
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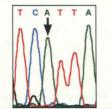
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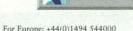


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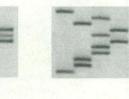
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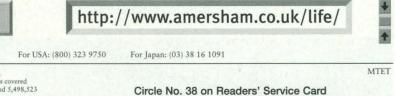


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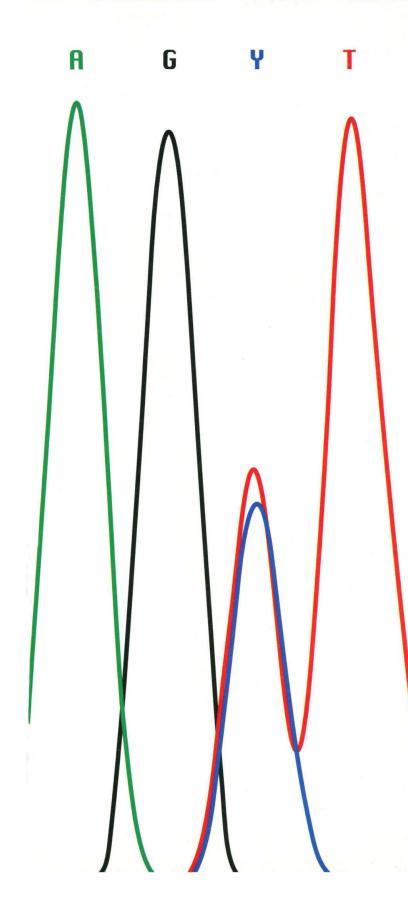
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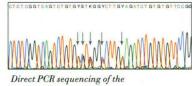
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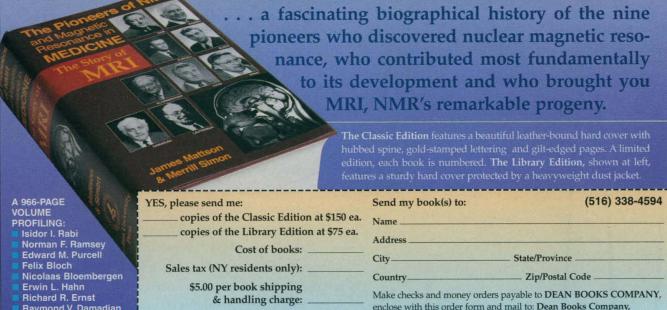
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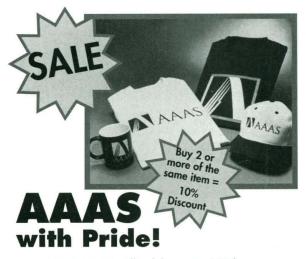


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