Protein finding lifts MDA research

Researches supported by the Mus-cular Dystrophy Association late last year identified the critical muscle protein whose absence, resulting from a gene defect, causes Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, the most com-mon and most deadly form of the crippling disease.

mon and most deadly form of the crippling disease.

The landmark achievement was made possible only because MDA investigators discovered the gene detective in the disorder in 1986, said MDA southeastern Michigan chapter president Joseph Aubrey.

"Through their generocity, the-American people have made possible a terrific gift of hope for 'my kids,' "MDA national chalrman Jerry Lewis said.

THE DISCOVERY does not mean a treatment has been found, Lewis

a treatment has been found, Lewis said.
"Today, we're a giant step closer to my dream of a cure. But I'm asking for America's continued, increased support to take the next, crucial steps to making that dream a reality," he said.
The discovery was made by an MDA-supported investigative team



MDA volunteer Denise Lis goes through promotional mer-chandise at the Farmington-Novi Pledge Center Monday.

-He also headed the research group that in 1986 announced discovery of the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy gene. The team reported the new finding in separate articles in the Dec, 23 issues of the scientific jour-nals Cell and Nature.

PROTEINS, THE bullding blocks of cells, are manufactured by the cells according to blueprints carried by the genes. When a gene is defective, its protein is made improperly or not at all.

The cell article describes the identification.

tification of the protein whose blue-prints are normally carried by the

Change at the reasoning to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Children's Hospital, Boston.

The also headed the research group that in 1986 announced discovery of individuals with Duchenne Muscular

individuals with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

The nature paper reports that in healthy muscle, the protein is a key component of a complex network of protein within the muscle cell that triggers muscle contraction, producing force. The absence of this component, Dystrophin, set off a chain of events in the muscle cell that eventually leads to the destruction of the cell.

The Associated Press contribut-ed to this story.



MD patient Tom Neff chats with friends at the Farming-ton-Novi Pledge Center Monday.



MD patient Tony Losceno watches the telethon from the Pledge Center.

Telethon unites victims, families in quest for cure

Continued from Page 1
telethon because it shows "people
who want to help other people."
Happy, well adjusted and a good
student, Tony likes math and music
in school and playing video games at
mome. A diehard University of Michigan fan, he was dressed in maire
and blue Monday.

A mainstreamed sophomore at
Harrison High in Farmington Hills,
Tom Neff has one sister, Dawn, 15, a
Harrison freahman. Studious, his favorite subject is aclence. At bome, he
likes dabbling with his personal computer. He thinks it's "great" that
people care enough about MiD patients to spend their Labor Day
doing the telebriny, Tom and Tony
enjoy MDA summer camp— bowlling, bostling, playing baseball, borsehear rining and meeting other kids
just like them.

JON GREENE has been an MDA volunteer for 17 years, the last seven at the Farmington-Novi Pledge Cen-

ter.
"We always take from life. At some point, we have to put some-thing back in," says the Farmington

Hills computer programmer and an-alyst. "This is my way of doing that."

This year, Greene, 36, was a phone room supervisor. He also assisted David Otis, a Southfield accountant, in coordinating the center's 150 vol-unteers.

David Oils, a Southfield accountant, in coordinating the center's 150 volunteers.

Through the years, Greene has campaigned door-to-door, sponsored fund-raisers and produced benefit concerts for MDA.

Once you volunteer, "it just sucks you in," Greene said, "The more you get involved in what a terrible disease MD is, the more you get caught up with MDA."

Volunteer Denise Lis of Farming-ton Hills, 22 agrees. "Id ow hat I can to help, There's a cure out there and we're going to find it."

An automotive stamping plant production control coordinator, Lis was joined at the plredge center Monay by sisters, Debble, 20, and Dawn, 16, and their parents, Diane and Denny.

"We do it all," Denise said. "We do

"We do it all," Denise said. "We do whatever needs to be done — answering the phone, tabulating pledges, picking up donated food, sorting pledge cards."

LIVONIA MALL'S WISH FOR THE MOON DAYS THURSDAY - SUNDAY, SEPT. 8 - 11

Register for a chance to win one of the IGISIER TOT A CHARLOS COMMISSION OF DETROIT MODILIGHT CRUISE (for 2) on the STAR OF DETROIT WORLD BOOK ATLAS WORLD BOOK DICTIONARY

WORLD BOOK DISTORANT
LOTTERY TICKETS
GENUINE GEMSTONES courtesy of MJ Diamonds
MOON OVER PARADOR soundtrack albums courtesy of
MCA RECORDS
T-SHIRTS & MOVIE POSTERS from the Universal film
COMPAGE PARADOR

MOON OVER PARADOR CITIZENS Moon Face Watch courtesy of GOLD ITALIA

RICHARD DREYFUSS RAULJULIA SONIA BRAGA MODN THE CONTRACT OF THE VIEW OF THE CONTRACT OF TH

Sept. 8-11

Home & Energy Show (Unique Blend of Exhibits for Better Living)

(Unique Blend of Exhibits for Botter Lawing)
Danes Spectrum – 2:00 PM.
Presented by Curtains Up Danes Co.
The Gallery of American Presidents
(Ordinal oil portraits of every President & First Lady)
Informal Modeling – 6:30 p.m.
AAUW Used Book Sale
National Hunting & Fishing Days Sept. 16-29

Sept. 21 Sept. 22-25 Sept. 23-24

LIVONIA MALL

MIDDLEBELT & 7 MILE ROADS 476-1166

Law changes check handling

Continued from Page 1

He said once banks educate cus-tomers, there shouldn't be any confu-

ONE AREA of confusion concerns new guidelines for check endorse-ments.

new guidelines for check endorse-ments.

The act says that only the first 1½ inches on the back of the check can be used by depositors to endorse their checks.

For retailers, this includes any stamp for the backs of checks with identification items store cierxs ob-tain from customers.

While officials say there are no civil penallies for failing to comply with endorsement procedures, some banks are warning that depositors may be held liable for lost money if an improper endorsement delays the quick return of a bounced check. Local banking officials say they are treading cautiously in this area and will handle problems on an indi-vidual basis.

Sponsored by U.S. Rep. Fernand St. Germain, D-Rhode Island, the law has been halled by consumer groups,

What Funds Act requires:

AP — In broad terms, the new Expedited Funds Availability Act requires:

• All local checks to be cleared by the bank within three business days. A "local check" is written on an institution in the same metropolitan area, or within the same Federal Reserve check processing region. There are 48 such regions in the country.

• Non-local checks to be cleared within seven business days.

• Funds deposited in the form

who charged that Americans were losing millions of dollars annually because banks were freezing funds for undue amounts of time.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group, which led the lobbying effort for the new law, charged that banks were making \$290 million annually

of cashiers checks, certified checks and government checks to be avail-able to depositors the next business

By Sept. 1, 1990, the maximum hold period will drop to two days for local checks and five days for non-local checks.

The legislation was passed by Congress in 1987 to establish a uniform policy for all financial institutions involved in check cashing and handling.

in interest on the money they were withholding from customers during the so-called "float period" Additionally, the group said banks were collecting another \$145 million a year in bounced-check fees because lunds were not released faster for depositors use.

Farmington **O**bserver

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, MI 48012. Second-class postage paid at, Birmingham, MI 48012. Address all mall (subscription, change of address, Form 3559) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151, Telephone 53-1.0500

SEMESTER



*20000 REBATE DELUXE FURNACE SALE

- 1. HIGH EFFICIENCY HEATING & C 2. LOW BOUND LEVEL
- MPACT BIZE
- 4. COMPACT SIZE

 5. EASY
 MAINTENANCE
 INSTALLED AND RUNN
 FOR AS
 LOW AS

 111 11195

TRU TEMP

Canton Twp. 981-5600

ANNETTE COMPANY

OVER 25 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT ANNETTE BERGASSE - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SCHOOL OF DANCE

TAP

JAZZ

CALL NOW

REGISTRATION

CLASSES PRIVATE

SEMI-PRIVATE

HAS BEGUN INSTRUCTION **BALLET**

SECURE YOUR PLACE IN CLASS

BEGINNER - ADVANCED

ADULTS - CHILDREN

TWO LOCATIONS

ANNETTE & COMPANY

ANNETTE & CO. WEST

