

Science, sex and the future...

The 1981 New Year's science scene ranges from the sexually insecure sado-masochistic physics professor to the existentialism of science and technology.

At the Royal York and Sheraton hotels Toronto had the honour this week to open its doors to well-known international scientists by hosting the 147th national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

This year's theme is "Directing

Science Towards Peace".

Attending the conference was like stepping into a science fiction movie. There is no doubt that we're now into a new age: the electromagnetic eighties are upon us.

The conference opened with a Youth Symposium, directing effort to motivating young people towards scientific advancement. CBC science commentator David Suzuki and Jearl Walker (*Quirks and Quarks*) typify the new army of popular scientists pioneering in an age unparalleled in history.

Walker is an unusual teacher, who explains that his grandiose teaching methods are due to a feeling of sexual inadequacy he gets when his students forget the physics he teaches in class.

To prevent this frustration he repeatedly jeopardizes his life

Leidenfrost phenomenon.

For example, if a drop of water is placed on a moderately hot pan, it will spread, sizzle and burn away in a few seconds. However, if the pan is very hot the same drop of water will bounce around for many minutes due to a rapidly formed layer that protects the drop from the heat.

The same is true for walking over hot coals; sweat from your feet will be evaporated and protect the flesh from burning. To prove the point Dr. Walker actually walks over red hot coals.

David Suzuki, the famous Canadian scientist from British Columbia was also on hand to promote science and make its importance clear to the general public.

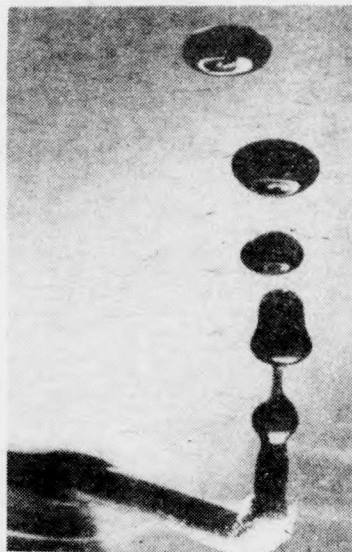
The future, he feels, will be astounding. Dr. Suzuki described developments of silicon chip technology. The computer (man's modern baby) is rapidly growing and gaining in intelligence at a rate of which we can only be proud, if not fearful.

At this moment a computer created by Dr. Weisenbaum called Elisah is being a psychologist and friend to a group of Harvard students who resent Dr. Weisenbaum's interference with their "friend".

"The reaction of people to machines is highly personal and they rapidly become dependent," stated Suzuki.

The common belief that "machines are stupid" and "we can always pull out the plug if they (computers) get out of control" is now absurd.

Artificial intelligence is serious



Dyed oil globules rising through a column of water, taking the shape with the least surface area per unit volume. The slight flattening of the spheres is an optical illusion due to the shape of the water cylinder.

Suzuki himself states "I'm looking forward to growing a finger out of my top lip so I can pick my nose without using my hands..."

Canada's only Nobel Prize winner Gerhard Herzberg was also there to talk about modern experimental methods in science. He spoke about atomic identification and new molecules which only exist as excited states.

York's Dr. Stan Jeffers contributed to the philosophy of science in his talk "Dialectics and Astrophysics" on Tuesday night while Dr. Harold Schiff from York's Science Faculty spoke today about the influence of supersonic transports (SST) on the ozone layer. Ten years ago the United States SST program was cancelled because it was thought that emissions would destroy the ozone layer which would lead to skin cancers and numerous other disorders.

Experience has now taught however that that prediction was wrong and it is now believed that an SST fleet in the lower stratosphere may actually enhance the ozone layer.

Dangerous advances in technology are rapidly coming about and the proliferation of nuclear weapons was also a topic of much debate.

A new problem are "Suitcase bombs". Toronto was singled as a prime target for a terrorist demanding ransom.

There is no question that our world is teetering on a precarious precipice. The longing for science's benefits also includes the fear of its consequences. To be absent, is to be wrong!

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Prof. firewalker

during his lectures. To prove his point on the distribution of energy he placed himself between two boards of nails with a cinder block on top. The correct impact of a sledge hammer, brought about by an assistant, cracks the blocks and distributes the shock evenly through the board, nails, and Walker's body, so that he can walk away without a scratch.

The incredible feat of walking over hot coals was lucidly explained by Walker using the insulating effects of vapour barriers called The Boerhaave-

JSF

JEWISH STUDENT FEDERATION

Events

JSU
IMAGES Staff Meeting
JSU House, Thurs. Jan. 8
5 p.m.

JSF
UJA meeting
Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.
75 Dell Park
All welcome

Steering Committee
Meeting at JSU house
Mon. Jan 12, 5:30 p.m.

JSF
Israeli Dancing begins
McLaughlin JCR
Wed. Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.
\$1.00

JSF
Advanced Hebrew Begins
Tues. Jan. 13, 4 p.m.
Ross 701

"The Women's Room"
First meeting of women's
group with Rabbi Joan
Friedman at 4 p.m. at
JSU house

Symposium
"Prosecution of Nazis in
Canada"
Moot Court
Osgoode Hall, York U.
3 p.m.

Thinking About Summer Vacation?

Well, what are you waiting for?

Announcing: The 6th Annual JSF Israel Trip—
This Time with 2 options:

- A—4 weeks on Kibbutz, 2 1/2 weeks touring—\$1,849
- B—4 weeks on an archaeological dig, 2 1/2 weeks touring
(price not yet confirmed)

Both include:
all transportation, and add on from Toronto
3 meals a day
tour guides
all entrance fees
and more!!

**Trips leave in May. For more information call Randy
Robinson, 4700 Keele St., Downsview M6C 1J3. 667-3647.**

JSF
"Uniqueness of Judaism"
Rabbi Immanuel Schochet
Wed. Jan. 14, 3 p.m.

JSF
"Let's Talk About It"
Wed. Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
With Bryna Hyman
McLaughlin Senior Common
Room

JSF
Beginner Hebrew Begins
Thurs. Jan. 15, 4:30 p.m.
Rm S737 Ross

For Women Only
A group forming to discuss
our relationship to food; body

image; our role as provider,
comforter, the men in and out
of our lives, our parents and
Jewish lifestyle—is it healthy?
Limited enrollment. For more
info, call Randy 667-3647.
Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m., Rm. 777
South Ross, York U. Free.

Holocaust Discussion Group
Every Sunday night from 7:30
to 9:30, starting January 11,
there will be a Children of the
Holocaust Survivors discus-
sion group at the BBYO house
at 15 hove. The cost is \$20 for 4
sessions, and student
subsidies are available. For
details, call JSF at 667-3647.

CAN IT BE DONE?

**Apprehension, prosecution,
extradition of
Nazis in Canada**

A Panel of Experts:
Allan Sheffman, B'nai Brith League for
Human Rights
Ken Narvey, Researcher
Donald Carr, Q.C.
Judge Rosalie Abella

and more.

January 13, 8 p.m.
Moot Court
Osgoode Hall Law School

Sponsored by Students Against Nazis, Jewish
Students' Federation, B'nai Brith League of Human Rights

For registration call Eva Saperia, 789-4990. there will be a Hebrew
Calligraphy Class at the
Every Tuesday night from 7:30 Temple Sinai Conference
to 9:00, starting January 13, Room, 210 Wilson Avenue.
The cost is \$32 for 10 sessions.