

IMMORTALITY

Living Forever With Aid Of Instant Learning

Man will begin to live forever, perhaps within the next 100 years, predicts a National Research Council scientist.

Dr. Graham Schuler believes he will achieve immortality by discovering how to free his mind from his body.

His brain will communicate with thinking computers while his body will become an expendable vehicle.

Dr. Schuler, research associate in NRC's radio and electrical engineering division, expounded his mind-boggling theories during an interview in the instrument-cluttered lab-office.

The young scientist, and only medical doctor employed by NRC admits it sounds like science fiction but points out that most of man's revolutionary advances would have seemed equally incredible at one time.

'Supposing you had said 50 years ago that it was possible to see people on little boxes that have no connection with anything? It would have been considered impossible, yet today we take television for granted'.

Dr. Schuler theorizes that the human brain works at high frequencies and one day a machine will be developed that will be sensitive to these frequencies.

Man will learn to 'play' the machine so that he can feed information and experiences into it and get back out all the knowledge and experiences stored there.

At the age of five or six--or whenever it is that a person reaches his peak brain power--he will be fully educated, instantly and effortlessly, from the machine.

In an instant he will be able to acquire the total experience of a surgeon, an artist, an astronaut, or anything and everything he wants to be.

'It's going to be a very strange world, with banks and banks of machines', says Schuler.

Man will use his body as a 'mobile platform' to do things his brain can't do by itself.

Submarine

His body will be a vehicle in much the same way as a submarine is a vehicle that takes man to places he couldn't go otherwise. It doesn't matter if you break up the submarine after you've used it. Nor will it matter if your body dies--your brain will live forever in a machine.

'Then it doesn't become very important who you are--or who your body is'.

Someday someone might come up with 'chemical X' to stop the body from growing old but Dr. Schuler is neither enthusiastic nor concerned about this possibility.

'Once man has the ability to put his thoughts in a machine, then he will live forever'.

Man has the technology right now to develop such a machine he says, but it may be five years or so before there is interest or money enough to attempt it.

And it might take a century or two to learn to communicate with it in much the same way as man has learned to communi-

cate with musical instruments. **Immortals**

'Two thousand years ago, if you had shoved a piano in front of a person it might have taken him two or three generations to learn what to do with it'.

Dr. Schuler has no scientific evidence on which to base his theories. He is just unwilling to grow old, though he says he won't be among the future immortals.

'I would like to see people get more outraged by their frail bodies and learn to get along without them'.

Man's life is like a person standing between railroad tracks, not greatly concerned about the train that will come along and wipe him out. What he ought to be doing, says Dr. Schuler, is trying to step outside of those tracks.

Communication between mind and machine will accelerate progress at an ever-increasing rate. A cure for cancer would be the simplest of achievements.

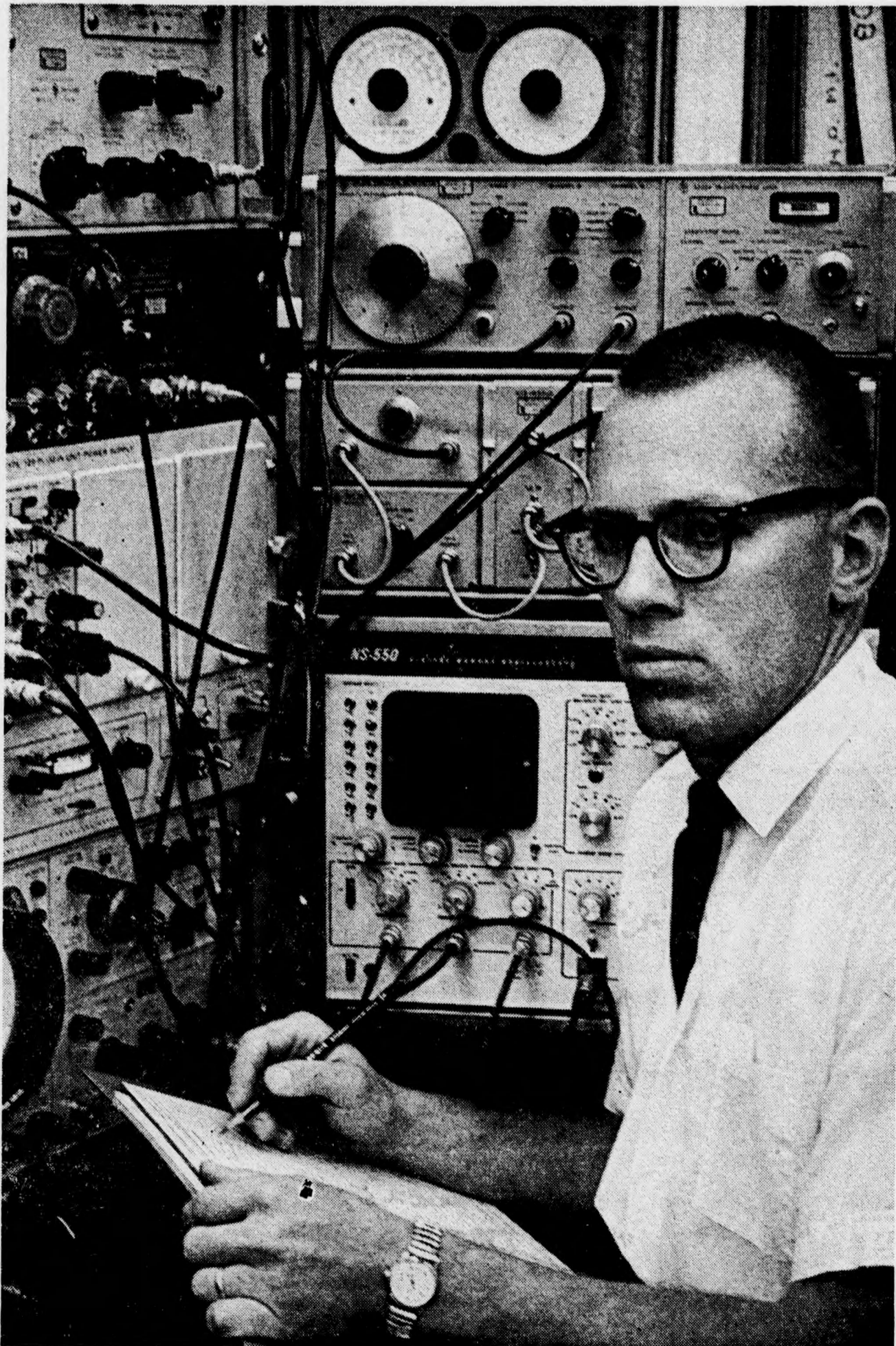
'It's probably been discovered already and is sitting around in fragments, in bits and pieces all over the place'.

Feed all existing knowledge into a thinking computer and the answer would be there.

Eventually, everything might be discovered and men will live 'in an extra-corporeal existence of thought, adventure and productivity'.

If the whole idea upsets you, or horrifies you, never mind. Since our advancing technology will place us among the last human beings to die, says Dr. Schuler, our concern is unimportant and will be of only passing interest to tomorrow's immortal beings.

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DR. SCHULER PONDERES IMMORTALITY IN HIS NRC LAB