

Physics by Press Conference

How discoveries are announced

Phillip F. Schewe, KITP January 2016

Science is important

Kids are curious

Taxpayers deserve explanations

But scientists *speak Latin*

...we need interlocutors





news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY (APS) MEETING IN CRYSTAL CITY, VA APRIL 20-23, 1987

APS Directed Energy Weapons Study Released

The major conclusions of the APS Study Group on Directed Energy Weapons (DEW) were discussed at a session held on April 22. Regarding the scientific and technical feasibility of directed energy weapons, weapons which would employ laser light, x rays, or particle beams for use in ballistic missile defense (BMD) systems, the Study Group found that "the discrepancy between the present state of the art of DEW and the ultimate requirements is so large that major gaps in technical understanding must be closed before engineering technology verification could become productive."

Noting also that the deployment of complex technological systems follows by many years the demonstration of pertinent scientific issues, the Study Group further concluded that "because of the extensive development needed in many technological areas important to the systems, we judge that the deployment of a substantial DEW component in a BMD system cannot be foreseen before the year 2000."

At the April 22 session, Kumar Patel of AT&T Bell Laboratories, co-chairman of the Study Group and other panel members reviewed the

Physics News Update

PHYSICS NEWS UPDATE

The American Institute of Physics Bulletin of Physics News
Number 416 February 26, 1999 by Phillip F. Schewe and Ben Stein

WIRE-GUIDED ATOMS. The development of "atom optics" is part of the effort to store, guide, focus, reflect, and perform calculations with atoms in analogy with the ways electrons are used in electronics and photons in photonics. In a new innovation cold lithium atoms from a magneto-optic trap (MOT) were nudged in the direction of a thin current-carrying wire. Although the atoms are neutral, they still feel the magnetic force field which can be used to send the atoms in two types of trajectory. In one case the atoms spiral in "Kepler" like orbits around and along the wire. In the second case the use of an extra field helps to create a "potential tube" parallel to the wire in which the atoms are guided along the side of the wire. This second guide is especially interesting since the wires can be mounted on a surface, allowing for easy miniaturization of these guides and traps. Physicists at the University of Innsbruck (Joerg Schmiedmayer, joerg.schmiedmayer@uibk.ac.at, 011-43-512-507-6306) expect that this will allow them to design guides and traps for cold atoms with a variety of different geometries. These can be used to manipulate atoms from Bose-Einstein condensates, or serve as beam splitters or interferometers for guided atoms. Even more complicated integrated atom optics devices and networks, similar to integrated circuits for electrons, can be devised. Some mesoscopic experiments which now use electrons in solids might, with this new atom optics tool, be able to use guided atoms moving above a surface. (Denschlag et al., Physical Review Letters, 8 March 1999; see also www.aip.org/physnews/graphics and Physical Review Focus for 28 July 1998.)

HOLOGRAMS OF TRANSISTOR INTERIORS can provide maps of electrostatic potentials in that crucial zone beneath the transistor's gate, where the passage of electrons from emitter to drain can be made difficult or easy, just as a water tap can switch a faucet on and off. Why are such maps necessary? "Within a decade, integrated circuits will consist of transistors 150 atoms long and 50 atoms deep," according to researchers at the Institute for Semiconductor Physics in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, and knowledge of the precise whereabouts of dopant atoms will be vital. To this end, the Frankfurt scientists (Wolf-Dieter Rau, rau@ihp-ffo.de, 011-49-335-562-5432) can now produce a subsurface sectional map of the transistor. Electron waves from a transmission electron microscope (in which the quantum wavelike properties of electrons are more important than their particle properties) pass through the thin transistor, where they scatter slightly. These waves are recombined with some unscattered electron waves to form a holographic signal which encodes information about local conditions throughout the section. The electron data can be processed into 2-dimensional images with 10-nm resolution and high sensitivity. (Rau et al., Phys Rev Lett, tent. 8 Mar; see www.aip.org/physnews/graphics.)

29 Mar

PHYSICS TODAY

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Physics Update

Physics Today's editors identify and summarize newly published papers of broad interest in physics and its related sciences.

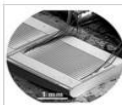
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A quantum cascade laser gets a geometric makeover

December 28, 2015 4:36 PM

A change in the areal cross section and orientation of the laser's optical cavity collimates an otherwise divergent light beam.



A sharper view of our galaxy's black hole

December 21, 2015 11:35 AM

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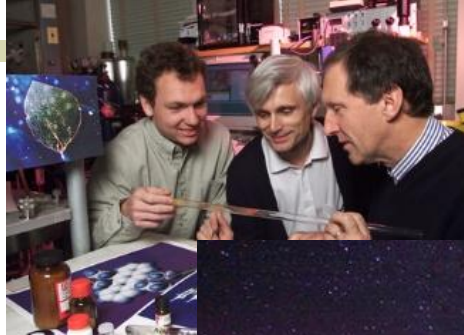


CERN

Reduce
printings

Selling Toothpaste?

Jan Hendrik Schon
superconducting
semiconductor (2001)



BICEP2 detector: cosmic
polarization? (2014)



LIGO: gravity wave? (2016)

Associated Press just called

A screenshot of a Nature journal article page. The page features the Nature logo at the top, a search bar, and navigation links. The main article is titled "Has giant LIGO experiment seen gravitational waves?" by Davide Castelvecchi, dated 30 September 2015. The article text mentions a rumour about a discovery. There is also a sidebar with a section titled "Synchronized systems" and a social media sharing bar at the bottom.

Outline

Eight and a half press conferences

High T superconductivity

Quasicrystals

Directed energy weapons

Cold fusion

Microwave background

Stopped light

neutrino oscillation

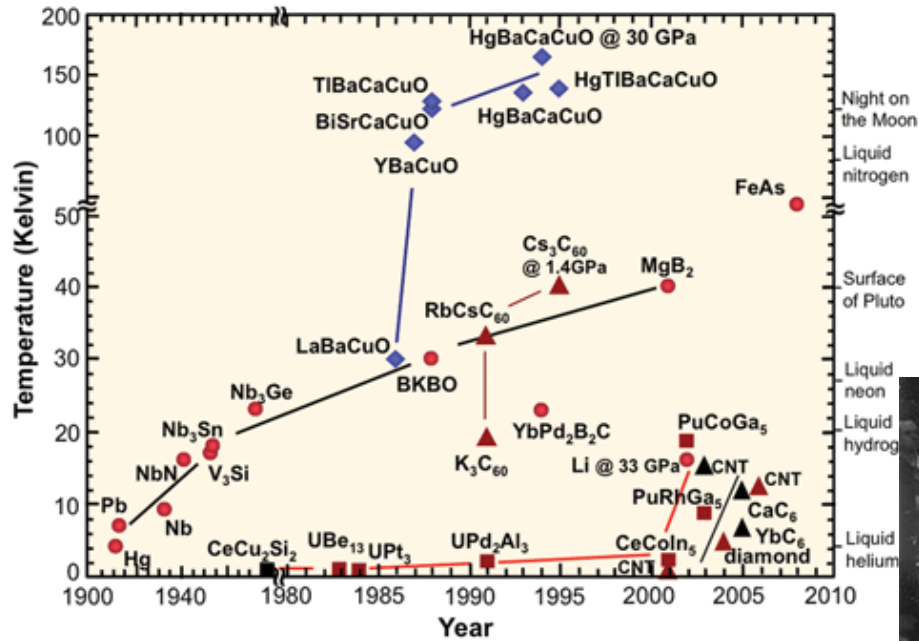
Quark gluon plasma

Solvay: the movie



High T superconductivity

March 1987



The Woodstock of physics

- 50 speakers, Session goes until 3 am
- Two press conferences
- Bednorz and Miller get Nobel later that same year





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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE AMERICAN
PHYSICAL SOCIETY MEETING IN NEW YORK CITY,
MARCH 16-20, 1987

High-Temperature Superconductivity

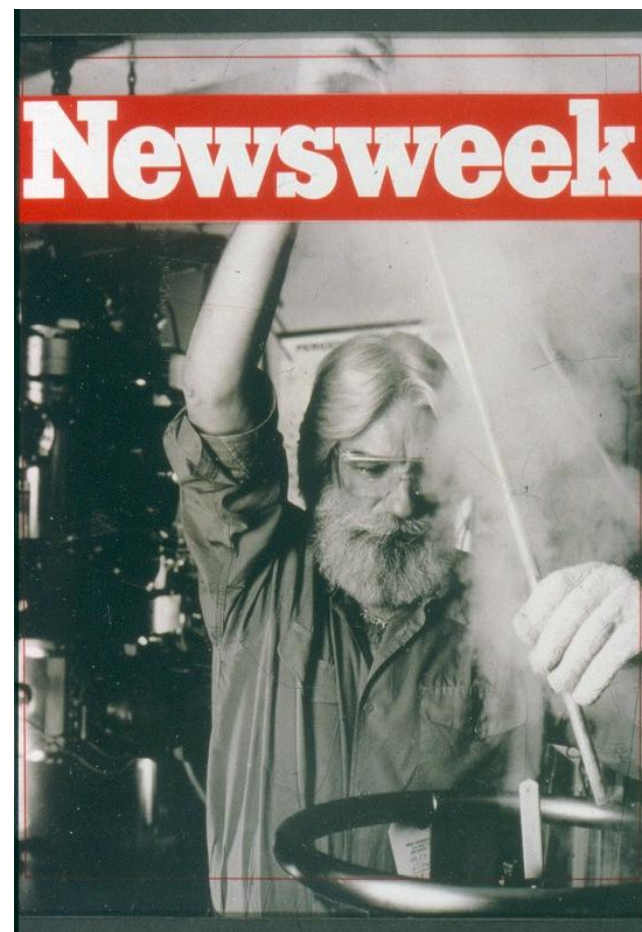
Amid great fanfare and excitement, several groups from around the world announced their discoveries of newly-formulated materials that can achieve superconductivity at dramatically higher temperatures than ever before. Superconductivity is a quantum phenomenon in which the electrical resistance of a material sample vanishes when the material is cooled to low temperatures, usually to within a few degrees of absolute zero. The new discoveries may make possible the economic use of superconductivity for super-efficient computers, mass transit, and possibly power transmission since the new materials would exhibit their superconducting properties at far higher, and therefore far more practical, temperatures.

In a single marathon session beginning Wednesday evening, March 18 and lasting until 3:15 AM the next morning a roster of 51 speakers reported on the dramatically improved superconducting properties of a family of ceramic materials. The materials become superconducting at a temperature above 90 K, a temperature that is still quite cold but warmer than that of liquid nitrogen (77 K). Some scientists at the session described how the new superconductors had already been fashioned into thin films, tapes, and Josephson junctions, some of the basic components in many common electronic devices.

In normal conductors, such as metals, one or more electrons from each atom constituting the lattice structure of the material are free to roam through the solid. When a voltage is applied these electrons, now flowing as electricity, scatter from the lattice sites, thereby dissipating energy. By contrast, in a superconductor no such electrical resistance occurs. According to the BCS theory, named for John Bardeen, Leon Cooper, and Robert Schrieffer, superconductivity arises in some materials when, at very low temperatures, a negatively charged electron slightly distorts the lattice of atoms in the material, drawing toward it a small excess of positive charge, an excess which attracts a second electron. This pair of electrons, a "Cooper pair," can move through the lattice without scattering from the lattice atoms. Hence electrical resistance becomes zero, allowing currents to persist indefinitely as supercurrents.

The superconducting state of a material can be ended by raising the temperature until the thermal agitation of the lattice atoms is large enough to break up the fragile bonds between the members of the Cooper pairs.

Was the subject hyped?

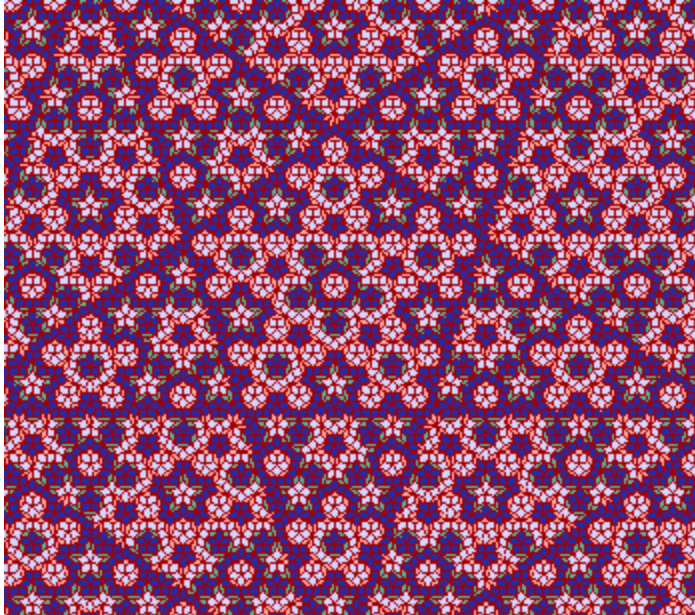


Quasicrystals

March 1987

(at the same Woodstock meeting)

Materials with fivefold symmetry. Dan Shechtman (chem Nobel in 2011)



Linus Pauling drama



Directed Energy Weapons

April 1987

- 1983, President Reagan announces Strategic Defensive Initiative, “Star Wars”
- Physicists play a role: APS appoints a committee to investigate efficacy
- Evening Session; Press conference next day
- Embargo time messed up





- Missile defense didn't die, but the space-based version did.

The New York Times
 NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1987
 \$1.00 PER COPY (Including Sales Tax)

PHYSICISTS EXPRESS 'STAR WARS' DOUBT; LONG DELAYS SEEN
TECHNICAL HURDLES
 Feasibility of Futuristic Weapons Questioned in Experts' Study

Bonds in Slump As Dollar Stirs Fear of Inflation

6 Black Workers Reported Slain As Pretoria Moves to Crush Strike

COURT, 5-4, REJECTS RACIAL CHALLENGE TO DEATH PENALTY
New Rules Seek To Cut Asbestos In U.S. Schools
DOES' HOPES DASHED
 Tactics Are Not Swayed by Study Citing Role of Victim's Color

Striking rail workers in Durban, South Africa, awaiting transport to prison after government victory over their 1 1/2 year strike.

6 Black Workers Reported Slain As Pretoria Moves to Crush Strike

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Neighbors Now More Likely To Oppose Jails and Shelters

In Savile Row, Anguish Over a Zoning Plan

A NEW FRANCHISES AWARDED BY N.B.A.
 Memphis, Miami, Orlando And Charlotte Are Chosen

Neighbors Now More Likely To Oppose Jails and Shelters

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A NEW FRANCHISES AWARDED BY N.B.A.
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Ballistic missile defense systems under scrutiny

Near the end of a televised speech on 23 March 1985 describing his arms budget, President Reagan called on the nation's scientists—in particular "those who gave us nuclear weapons"—to devise a ballistic-missile defense that could eliminate the threat of nuclear attack on populations of the US and its European allies by the turn of the century. Since then, studies of the technical, military and political aspects of the President's Strategic Defense Initiative, usually called "Star Wars" by both friends and foes of the concept, have proliferated. Two days after his Star Wars speech, Reagan initiated the first studies by signing National Security Study Directive 6-83. Under it, the Pentagon formed a Defensive Technologies Study Team led by James C. Fletcher, who headed NASA during most of the 1970s and now is back to teaching at the University of Pittsburgh, and a parallel effort called the Future Security Strategy Study headed by Fred S. Hoffman of Pan Heuristics in Marina del Rey, California. In Congress, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Armed Services Committee directed the Office of Technology Assessment to examine the feasibility, effectiveness and probable cost of a comprehensive space defense system using directed-energy devices and the likely

implications for arms control and the future of the Western alliance.

Meanwhile, the Union of Concerned Scientists has completed a fairly comprehensive study of the subject. Other assessments have appeared in publications of the Federation of American Scientists, and a group of military analysts working under the auspices of the Brookings Institution and MIT produced a collection of papers bearing the title *Ballistic Missile Defense* (Brookings, 1984). More recently, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has agreed to review the military and political policy issues of SDI with Soviet scientists and scholars.

APS study. Now, possibly the deepest inquiry far into the science and technology of directed-energy weapons is being undertaken by the American Physical Society. Although the study was authorized by the APS Council on 20 November 1983, it was unveiled at the Society's spring meeting in Washington, D.C., 23-27 April. In the interim, the focus of the study was fixed on the scientific, technical and systems aspects of SDI. While APS intends to issue an unclassified report by the fall of 1985, it is intent on heading off criticism that the study group did not know about classified R&D for directed-energy weapons by gaining wide access for the committee to Defense Department laboratories and documents. Supporting this is a letter dated 12 December to L. Charles Hebel of Xerox (then vice-chairman of the APS Panel on Public Affairs) from Richard D. DeLauer, Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, offering "full cooperation." DeLauer also stated: "I believe that an independent and impartial study conducted by a prestigious professional organization such as The American Physical Society could be highly beneficial in coalescing scientific opinion and creating informed public opinion in fulfillment of the President's aims."

Encouragement for the study also has come from NSF Director Edward A. Knapp. Leaders of the OTA examination of "Star Wars" for Congress have indicated they will rely heavily on the

findings of the APS study. That's not surprising, considering the group that APS is assembling for the job. Its co-chairmen are Nicolaas Bloembergen of Harvard and Kumar Patel of AT&T Bell Laboratories. When fully formed, the study committee will have at least 15 members. It will operate on a budget estimated at \$600 000, which is being sought from both government and foundation sources to avoid the accusation "He who pays the piper calls the tune."

Bloembergen and Arthur Schawlow shared half the 1981 Nobel prize in physics "for their contribution to the development of laser spectroscopy." Bloembergen's research has been in nuclear and electron paramagnetic resonance, solid-state masses and nonlinear optics. He received a BA in 1941 and an MA in physics from the University of Utrecht. In 1946 he went to Harvard, where he wrote his thesis with Edward Purcell. His PhD was awarded in 1948 by the University of Leiden. From 1949 to 1951 he was a junior fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard, where he has been ever since, except for visiting professorships. In 1957 he was appointed Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics and since 1980 he has been Gerhard Gade University Professor.

Patel's research has been on gas



BLOEMBERGEN



PATEL

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PHYSICS TODAY / JUNE 1984 53

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WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1986

SDI/SCIENTISTS/GRAMA

WASHINGTON POST

15 OCTOBER 1986

Pg. C-1

In Growing Protest, Scientists Vow to Shun SDI Research Funds

By Barbara Carlin
Washington Post Staff Writer

David Roper, 51, a physics professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, describes himself as a Democrat who occasionally votes Republican and as a person who belatedly came to oppose the Vietnam War. He views President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative as a technical impossibility.

Roper is one of thousands of scientists nationwide who have declared their "strong opposition" by pledging not to accept or solicit research funds for so-called Star Wars projects. "We don't need a huge, multimillion-dollar weapons system," said Roper. "We need more of what they were trying to do at Reykjavik."

Although the protest has slowly been

Roper's institution, 45 percent of the 38 full-time members of the physics faculty have signed the pledge.

Those protesting represent an admittedly small percentage of the scientists who could do SDI work, and the government has had no trouble placing SDI research contracts. Further, many businesses, including some in the Washington area, are competing vigorously to attract SDI funds.

At the University of Maryland, 57 percent of the physics department members and 58 percent of the meteorology department members have signed. Although Patrick Rapp, a physics research assistant, said there has been no overt reaction to the Iceland summit, he said one physics blackboard contains the scrawled message: "Paralyze the SDI Headquarters."

"It does seem like a terrible tragedy that

old biochemist at the University of Virginia, where more than 40 percent of the 64 full-time chemistry, mathematics and chemical engineering professors have signed the pledge. The pledge has circulated at George Mason University in Fairfax, and 58 percent of the physics department faculty members have signed. Pledge organizers said they have not had much contact with Georgetown University, George Washington University or Catholic University.

Signatures are still being sought at the College of William and Mary, and 40 percent of the physics faculty members have signed, the organizers said.

Nationwide, nearly 7,000 scientists, including 57 percent of the combined faculties of 20 of the nation's highest-rated university physics departments, have declared their "strong opposition" to Star Wars by

Some physicists speak out in favor of Star Wars research

The physicists who wrote and are circulating petitions opposing Star Wars have sometimes made the claim that it is hard to find any physicist willing to defend the general concept of a leakproof missile-defense system. While the claim sounds implausible, the anti-SDI petitioners are not alone in advancing it. Physicist and science writer Jeremy Bernstein, reviewing William J. Broad's book *Star Warriors* in the *New York Times Book Review* recently claimed that Broad was "not able to find a single scientist" who would say that a leakproof nuclear umbrella could be built.

At another extreme, Lieutenant General James A. Abrahamson, the chief of the SDI program, has claimed that opposition to Star Wars among scientists is confined to "a few diehards." Roughly 2500 members of science faculties had signed petitions



BUCHSBAUM

and is chairman of the White House

"this is the wrong question." By compartmentalizing crucial functions and by building redundancy into the system, one could design a system that would be like the telecommunications network—much more reliable than its components, Buchsbaum said.

Danny Cohen, a computer scientist who headed a 1985 panel that evaluated potential software for SDI, said at the same hearings: "There are those who claim they cannot produce adequate software. We agree that they cannot. There are experts who claim they can. We agree with them." Cohen argued that an adequate system could be designed by relying on autonomous redundant subsystems with different program codes.

Charles Seitz, a computer scientist who also served on the SDI software panel, told PHYSICS TODAY that he considers most scientific objections to Star

APS and Academy members polled on SDI; physicists mobilize

Physicists, as people who prize intellectual prowess, tend to be suspicious of mass public-opinion polls. Despite that or maybe because of it, they continue to sign petitions for or against the SDI program in great numbers, and when polled on the subject, they show a willingness to express their opinions at considerable length.

The Cornell-Illinois anti-SDI petition continues to gather signatures on university campuses (see PHYSICS TODAY, November, page 95). As of 13 May, when a press conference was held in Washington to publicize the latest results, 3700 faculty members and 2800 graduate students had pledged not to engage in SDI research. Majorities in 59 physics "research departments," as defined by petition organizers, had taken the pledge, according to David Wright of the University of Pennsylvania.

Signatories of the Cornell-Illinois petition include a large number of prominent physicists, ranging from Philip W. Anderson and Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar to Carlo Rubbia and Steven Weinberg.

A new anti-SDI petition circulating at industrial and national laboratories is sponsored by about a dozen scientists



SHURCLIFF



HOFFERT

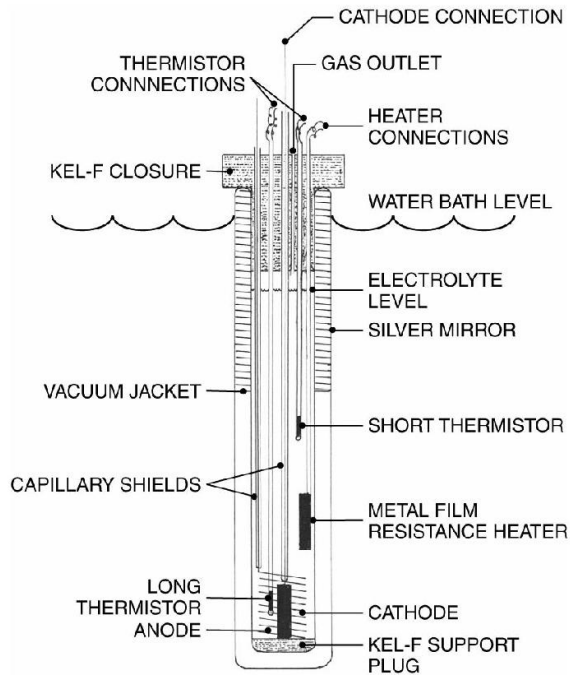
tude.... The stated goal of the SDI is developing the means to render nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete." We believe that realization of this dream is not feasible in the foreseeable future. The more limited goal of developing partial defenses against ballistic missiles does not fundamentally...

over where their money comes from and in some cases taking a pledge might be tantamount to promising to resign.

Hohenberg says that "the letter is an attempt to redress the view propounded by some SDI officials that opposition to SDI are not in the mainstream of the scientific community" (see PHYSICS T



Feb: chemistry meeting
April: physics meeting



Scientists Cheer Fusion-in-Jar Experimenter

By I. W. BROWNE

New York Times
 2 — A Utah scientist
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act, that the fusion
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 n between chemists
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 resolve. Nuclear fu-
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 ges that occur in the
 chemists investigate

the electronic interactions of entire atoms and molecules.

Dr. Pons and his collaborator, Dr. Martin Fleischmann, an electrochemist at the University of Southampton in England, startled scientists with their initial public report, which was made at a news conference at the University of Utah, where Dr. Pons heads the chemistry department. They said they had obtained a large excess of energy from a simple electrolytic cell, in which an electrical current passed through heavy water (water in which hydrogen is replaced by its heavy isotope, deuterium) set off hydrogen fusion in a palladium cathode.

Unlike fission, in which atoms are split to release energy, fusion is the joining together of the nuclei of hydrogen atoms to produce helium and enormous amounts of energy. Fusion normally occurs only at temperatures and pressures rivaling those of the sun. If means could be found to harness any

form of hydrogen fusion as a commercial source of power, some scientists believe that energy shortages that seem likely to occur in the next few centuries could be forestalled.

The symposium today at the American Chemical Society was unprecedented, both in size and in the haste in which it was prepared, according to Dr. Clayton F. Callis, president of the organization.

Long applause followed the expression of satisfaction by scientists rather than scientists of other disciplines were what might be a mystery.

But one of the five speakers at the discussion, Dr. Pons, told scientists at the symposium that he is ready to accept Dr. Callis's criticism of his experiment.

Dr. Furth, who heads the University Plasma Laboratory, said that two approaches to hydrogen fusion seemed on the verge of success. One, in which Princeton University physicist, aims at achieving fusion in a powerful magnetic field of electrically charged gas. The other method is the use of a small capsule of deuterium, which has been likened to the tip of a tiny hydrogen bomb.

Asked by a scientist here whether he believed the experiment had achieved fusion, Dr. Furth replied that he was not in a position to try to lead scientists. What he would like to see was more experiments.

He added: "One of the things I would like to see would be the use of this one, but using deuterium instead of heavy water. The fusion would be obtained, he said, then the experiment would survive."

Theory on Why

If results were confirmed, it would be responsible for the fusion of deuterium. Dr. Pons theorized that deuterium sorbed into a crystal lattice of palladium and forced to close together that repulsion is overcome, releasing neutrons.

Standard theories of fusion suggest that more neutrons should be created than were observed in the Utah experi-

'Fusion' Patents Sought

By WILLIAM J. BROAD

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Investigators'

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 explanation for 'cold
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the phenomenon can be produced on an industrial scale, cold fusion could have revolutionary importance as a new source of energy. Fusion, in which atoms are joined to produce energy, usually occurs only at enormous temperatures and pressures.

Dr. Hagelstein is a 34-year-old associate professor in M.I.T.'s department of electrical engineering and computer science. A decade ago, as a graduate student at the university, he pioneered what eventually became the world's first X-ray laser while working at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. The laser became a pivotal part of the proposed "Star Wars" antimissile defense system.

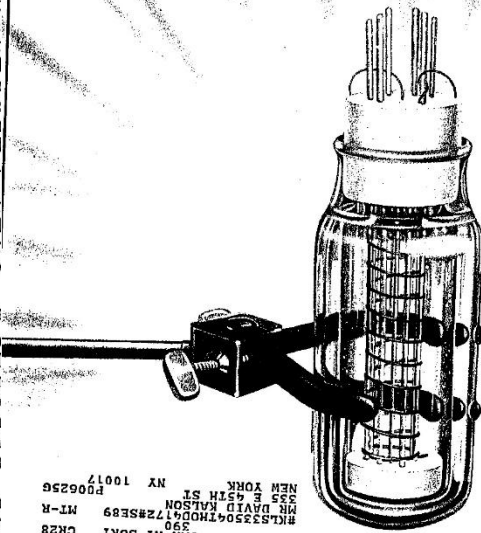
Eugene F. Mallove, a spokesman for M.I.T., said yesterday that it appeared that at least some of the papers had been submitted to Physical Review, a physics journal of the American Physical Society.

An official in the journal's office had no comment on whether the papers were there.

A statement by the university quoted Dr. Hagelstein as saying his papers described "a speculative theory on the new cold fusion" that had been sub-

Newsweek

The Race for Fusion



The Scientific Debate Why the Stakes Are So High

CHINA'S DEFIANT STUDENTS
 On the March for 'Freedom'

AN AMERICAN COMPLETE? A REPORT ON ENERGY FACTORS

► JAPAN AFTER TAKESHITA ► THE VANISHING S&Ls

BusinessWeek

MAY 8, 1989 A MCGRAW-HILL PUBLICATION \$2.00

MIRACLE OR MISTAKE?

FUSION IN A BOTTLE

A SCIENTIFIC DETECTIVE STORY PAGE 100

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APS meeting marathon session

“Should the people of Utah be embarrassed? Absolutely.” Steven Koonin

“I can accept one miracle occurring, but not two miracles.” Nate Lewis

“They should have their scientific epaulettes ripped off.” Leon Lederman



The three Caltech scientists who challenged Pons and Fleischmann's (left to right): Nathan Lewis, Steven Koonin, Charles Barnes, 1994.

“All the News
That's Fit to Print”

The New

VOL. CXXXVIII . . . No. 47,859 Copyright © 1989 The New York Times

NEW YORK

‘Fusion’ Claim Is Greeted With Scorn by Physicists

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE
Special to The New York Times

BALTIMORE, May 2 — Hopes that a new kind of nuclear fusion might give the world an unlimited source of cheap energy appear to have been dealt a devastating blow by scientific evidence presented here.

In two days of meetings lasting until midnight, members of the American Physical Society heard fresh experimental evidence from many researchers that nuclear fusion in a jar of water does not exist.

Physicists seemed generally persuaded as the sessions ended that assertions of “cold fusion” were based on nothing more than experimental errors by Utah scientists.

Furor on Initial Claim

Dr. B. Stanley Pons, professor of chemistry at the University of Utah, and his colleague, Dr. Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton in England, touched off a furor by asserting on March 23 in Salt Lake City that they had achieved nuclear fusion in a jar of water at room temperature.

At a news conference today, nine of the leading speakers were asked how many would now rule the Utah claim as dead. Eight said yes, and only one, Dr. Johann Rafelski of the University of Arizona, withheld judgment.

Top physicists directed angry attacks at Dr. Pons and Dr. Fleischmann, calling them in-

competent, reciting sarcastic verses about their claims and complaining that they had refused to provide details needed for follow-up experiments. A West European expert said that “essentially all” West European attempts to duplicate cold fusion had failed.

Response at Utah University

In a telephone interview, Dr. James Brophy, director of research at the University of Utah, responded, “It is difficult to believe that after five years of experiments Dr. Pons and Dr. Fleischmann could have made some of the errors I've heard have been alleged at the American Physical Society meeting.”

The criticism at the regular spring meeting of the society came just before Dr. Pons was scheduled to meet with representatives of President Bush and just after the University of Utah asked Congress to provide \$25 million to pursue Dr. Pons's research. A university spokesman said Dr. Pons was in Washington and could not be reached to answer questions.

Cold fusion, Dr. Pons and Dr. Fleischmann said, can be initiated in a cell containing heavy water, in whose molecules the heavy form of hydrogen called deuterium is substituted for ordinary hydrogen. When current is

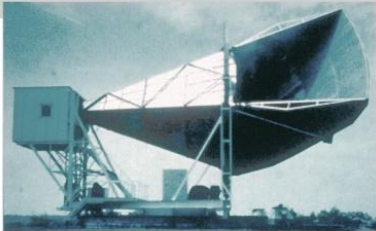
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Cosmic Microwave background

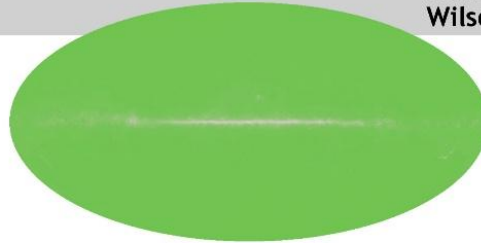
April 1992

Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE). LBL (Smoot) and Goddard (Mather)

1965



Penzias and Wilson



1992

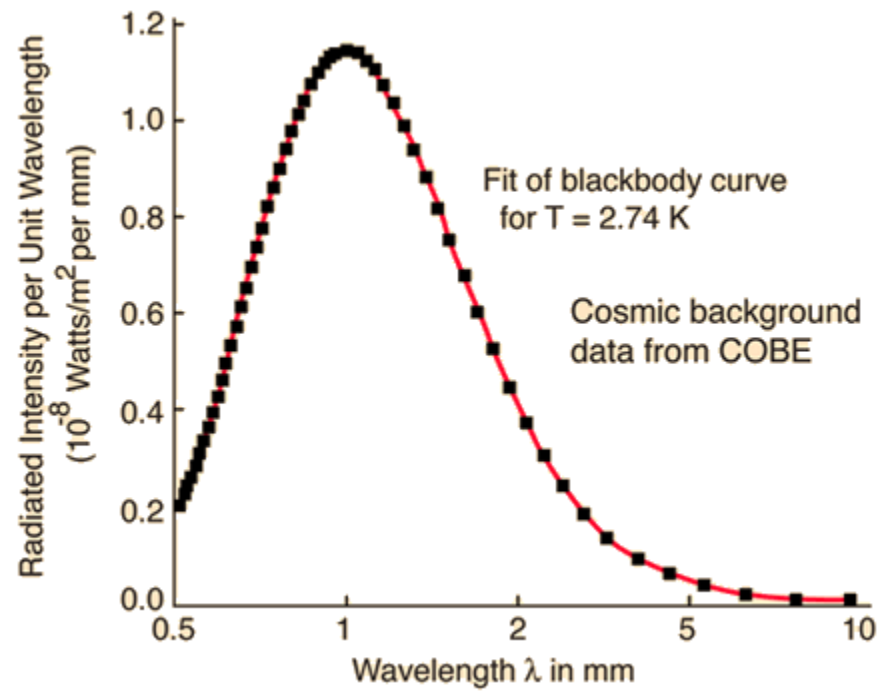


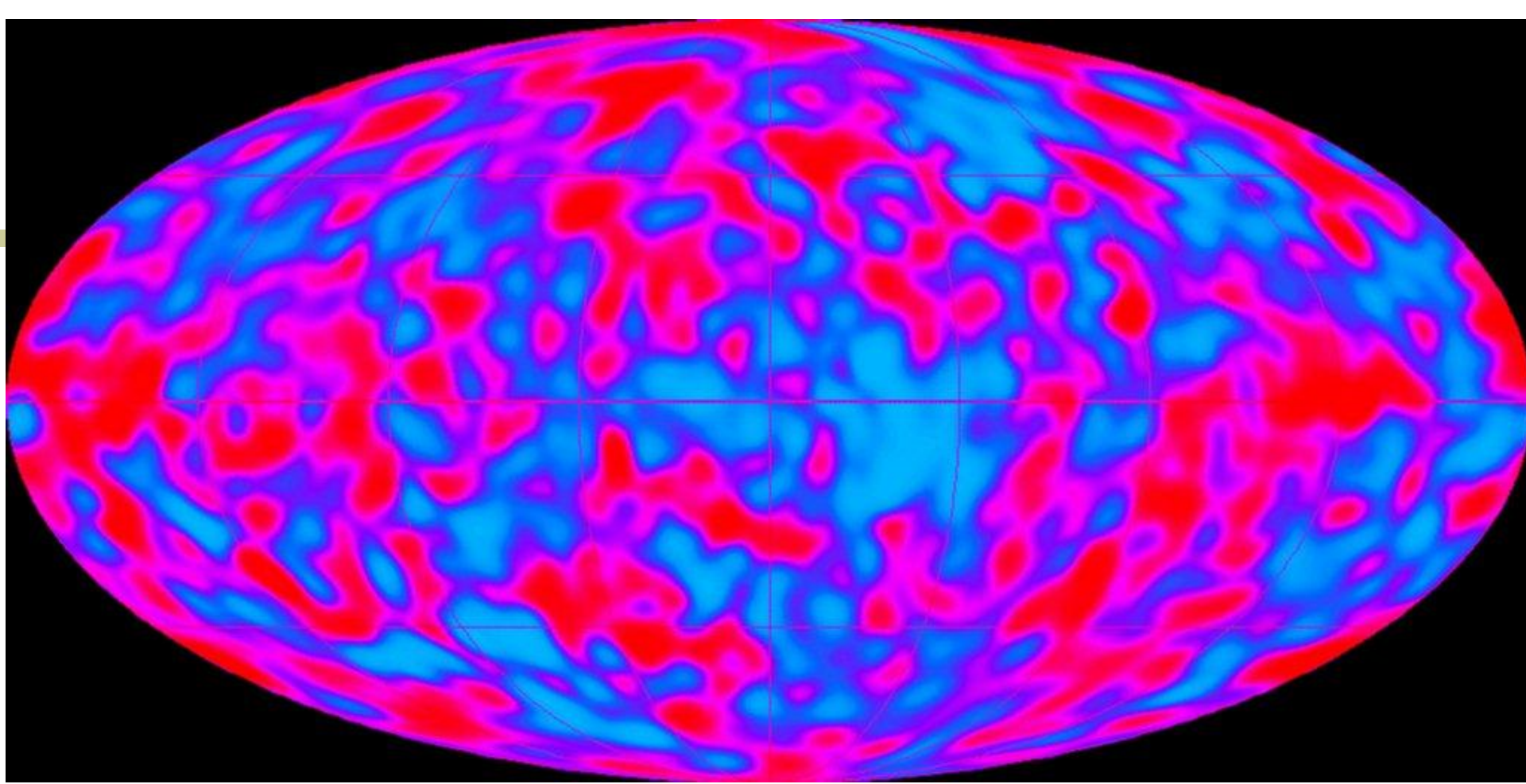
COBE



Where to announce big results? Astronomy meeting in Jan. Physics meeting in April

G A S P !





“...like seeing the face of God”

The New York Times

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1992

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Newsday THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1992 • NASSAU / HEMPSTEAD WEST

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Political Memo

Why Perot Could Pose a Threat With \$100 Million: It's His Own

By R. W. APPLE JR.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 23 — If he runs for President this fall, which seems more likely with each passing day, Ross Perot says he would be willing to spend up to \$100 million of his own money on the effort — much more than the major-party nominees could spend on their own account. He would be free to do so, whereas the major-party candidates would not, because he would not accept any Federal campaign money, and they would, in its decision in Buckley v. Valeo in 1976, the Supreme Court ruled that candidates could spend as much as they liked as long as they took no money from the Government.

at one time, there were outcries in the press and from the opposition about rich candidates trying to get off to the start. The Rockefeller and Kennedy families. But in the age of public opinion polls and "pollsters" money, voters may prefer rich candidates who pay their own way to poorer ones who have to make contributions to lobbying groups or other special interests to stimulate the contributions they need.

Hert Kohl of Wisconsin capitalized on that sentiment in his 1988 Senate campaign. Formerly the head of a family supermarket chain, he used

Continued on Page A26, Column 2

Late Edition
New York: Today, cooler, var cloudy, rain arriving High 62 night min. Low 52. Tomorrow, damp raw winds High 56. Yester high 78, low 53. Details, page 2.

SCIENTISTS REPORT PROFOUND INSIGHT ON HOW TIME BEGAN

'BIG BANG' THEORY BACK

Discovery of Wrinkles in Space Yields Clue to Development of Gravity and Cosmos

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 23 — In a 1980s discovery supporting the "Big Bang" theory for the birth of the universe, astronomers looking back toward the beginning of time have traced broad wrinkles in the fabric of space. Their discovery, reported today, reveals how an initial smooth cosmos evolved into today's patchwork of stars, galaxies and gigantic clusters of galaxies.

The scientists detected faint temperature fluctuations in microwave radiation echoing from the supposed state of creation. Though the temperature fluctuates by no more than a hundred-thousandth of a degree, they are real, general variations in the universe's topography, a mere 300,000 years after its explosive birth.

The variations in topography were large enough, scientists said, to create the gravity needed to attract more and more matter into increasingly massive clumps. These variations had been predicted by theorists but were never observed until now.

The discovery, made by scientists analyzing satellite data, is being hailed as one of the most exciting and important developments in cosmology in 100 years.

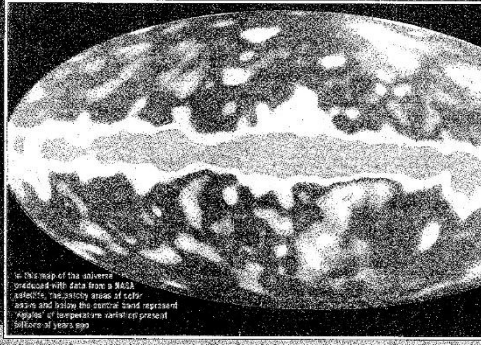
"What we have found is evidence of the birth of the universe and its evolution," said Dr. George Smoot, an astrophysicist at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and the University of California at Berkeley, who led the research. "This is really a breakthrough, a revolution in our understanding of the early universe," said Dr. Smoot, announcing the findings at a meeting of the American Physical Society here today.

Cataclysmic Explosion
The nature of the matter creating the density "ripples" has not been determined. But the ripples themselves were created immediately by the original Big Bang. There would not have been time, the scientists said, for the features to have changed under normal physical processes.

The Big Bang theory holds that the universe began in a single cataclysmic explosion and has been expanding ever since. The concept was first proposed to explain the discovery in 1929 that distant galaxies are receding from us at enormous speeds, as if they started moving away from the same location a long time ago.

The theory gained its strongest pro-

Backing Up THE Big Bang



BASKING IN THE COSMIC GLOW

Astrophysicist George Smoot and colleagues find the ripples of creation

For astrophysicist George Smoot, these were heady if bewildering times. Ted Koppe and Bryant Grambet were wrestling with his ideas on TV, and when he got back from Washington, D.C., he found his colleagues at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in Berkeley, Calif., had taped a sign on his office door reading HOME OF THE BOLD GEAR. Inside, Smoot's computer had been temporarily dis-

abled when a shower of confetti jammed the keyboard. Across the hall, graduate students had posted a copy of Smoot's widely reproduced cosmic map and titled the heading BOLDHEAD THE FACE OF GOD. On the weekend, when Smoot ventured outside to mow the lawn, a photographer from Paris Match, no less, appeared to snap his picture. What had this obscure and abstracted man of



Smoot is suddenly a major rebel at Berkeley.

Pennsylvania Governor Criticizes Process That's Turning to Clinton

By MICHAEL DELOURCY HINDS
Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, April 23 — With Pennsylvania's primary only days away, the state's Democratic Governor today criticized his party's presidential primary process — and its likely nominee, Bill Clinton — saying the process had produced a front-runner who could not win. He urged the party's uncommitted delegates to remain neutral so that a stronger nominee could be selected at the convention this summer.

"We have to recognize reality," Gov. Robert P. Casey said in an interview today. "The primary process is not producing someone who has a good track at winning in November." Pennsylvania Democrats hold their primary next Tuesday.

Referring to low turnout in earlier primaries, Governor Casey said, "We've got a very, very low turnout for Bill Clinton, and he's winning every race without generating any sparks, any momentum, any momentum."

Mr. Casey spoke highly of the Arkansas Governor's realness. "I'm confident, but added, "People have a lot of respect about him. He's got a tiny, fly speak of support."

Continued on Page A21, Column 3



trying to rescue the injured lying under a car that went out of control.

Ark, Killing 4 and Injuring Many



A man comforted a woman yesterday after she was injured in the accident in Greenwich Village. As many as two dozen were hurt.

Abortion Rights Strategy: All or Nothing

By LINDA GREENHOUSE
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 23 — The Supreme Court is expected to decide tonight on the abortion-rights case which has every appearance of a 5-4 stakes gamble.

Addressing a Court on which support for Roe v. Wade has dwindled to the vanishing point, Kathryn Kolbert, the lawyer for a group of abortion-clinic challengers, urged the Court to uphold Roe v. Wade.

It is broad enough to invalidate every restriction in the Pennsylvania law. The Bush Administration asked the Court to overturn Roe v. Wade and to declare that states have a "compelling interest" in protecting fetuses from the moment of conception. This would free states to prohibit abortion, as Louisiana, Utah and the Territory of Guam have already done in the expectation that the Court would soon repudiate Roe v. Wade.

Carefully Developed Strategy
White House Justice Sandra Day

victory for her clients; a narrow decision sinking down at least a part of the Pennsylvania law while leaving the ultimate battle over the core right to abortion for another day. In risking everything, it seemed, the living issue of

surprising. As it seemed in a court where lawyers typically arrive determined to win their cases on any possible ground, this strategy was a result of a careful calculation within the abortion rights leadership of where the risks in the fight to preserve the right

Continued on Page A21, Column 3

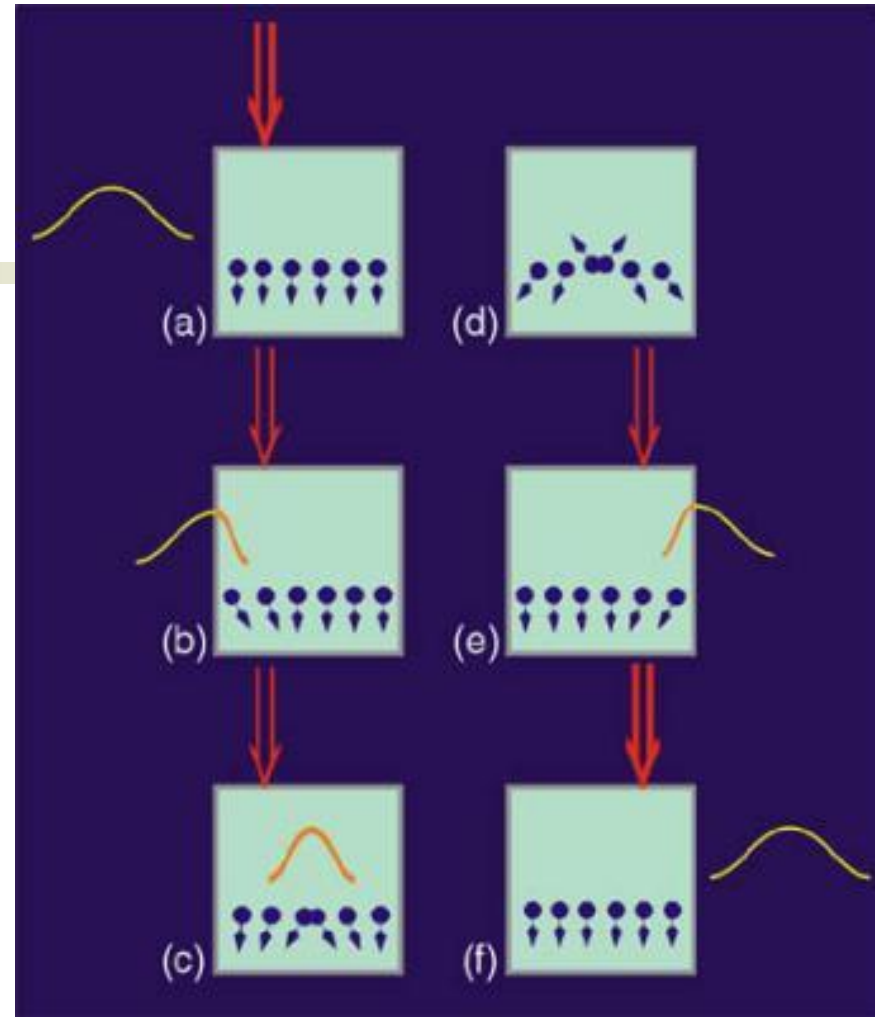
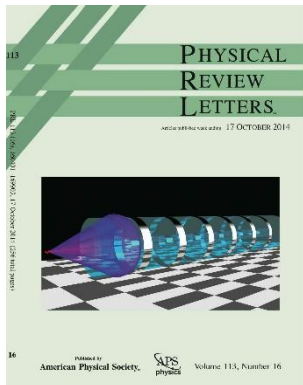
Continued on Page A16, Column 1

Stopped Light

Jan 2001

Embargoes: PRL
(Walsworth and Lukin)
vs Nature (Hau)

Exclusive scoop



...more taken by President-elect George W. Bush, calling on Congress to reduce the 2001 tax-exempt bonds that would expire the following January.

In his first public comments about Mr. Bush's selection last week, the Treasury Department said it would support the new administration's economic team. Mr. O'Neil supported the new team with words that were noticeably less glowing than Mr. Bush's. He said he learned his role because he did not see the future in knowing the tax benefits while the government had big problems.

But in a short-term conference hearing in front of the House Finance Committee, he did not appear to be the leader of tax cuts or any deal. The former Alaska governor said he would support the new team of Mr. Bush's administration but did not see the right solution to the current economic downturn.

He said the Federal Reserve, through its control of monetary policy, was the "first line of attack" to fight a downturn and suggested that more cuts in the expenditure Mr. Bush has proposed would likely harm the nation's economy.

"I'm not going to make a huge case that this is the government we need to make sure we don't go into a recession," Mr. O'Neil said. "But if we are going to do it anyway, then the team is better."

In a friendly but frank exchange of letters with the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, who has urged confidence and voting on the nomination, Mr. O'Neil discussed a cut in the capital gains tax, which Mr. Lott has favored, as likely to harm many non-union workers on today's sluggish economy.

Mr. O'Neil also praised the Clinton administration's record of fiscal discipline and economic stability as "wonderful." He said the Bush administration should aim to collect enough to fund its plan for government operations each year without going into debt — even when the

Continued on Page A12

Congo Says Leader Is Alive but Installs His Son in Top Role

By IAN FISHER AND RICHARD S. BRANSON

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan. 17 — Congolese officials declared today that



Mr. Midland Goes to Washington

President-elect George W. Bush, with his wife, Laura, went out of his way on his way to Washington for his inauguration to stay by Midland, Tex., to address a cheering crowd in his hometown. Page A16

Hints of Cooperation, Signs of Conflict

By ALISON WICKRELL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 — Even as the weary and painful questioning of John Ashcroft by the Senate inquiry was aimed at his long congressional confirmation, lawmakers were also playing out all across the Senate side of Capitol Hill.

There was Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York leading in her criticism of the Bush administration, the daughter of the Democratic presidential nominee, as a Republican colleague, Senator George V. Voinovich of Ohio, pressed the government for better work on children's issues. There was Sen. Ohio's Powell, Mr. Bush's closest for secretary of state, being asked by Democrats to withdraw his wife, again, in a round of applause.

The scenes captured all the conflicting impulses in the Senate's complex three days before George W. Bush's inauguration on the 20th president, the hopes that cooperation between parties have to pass legislation

on education, tax cuts and health care and the equally strong possibility of continued gridlock and sharp partisan conflict.

The struggle over Mr. Ashcroft to serve as attorney general is only the first of many battles to come in the course of the Senate's, down-the-middle political division in the coming six weeks party fights to gain the upper hand. "I don't know," Mr. Bush's spokesman for interior secretary, long affiliated with groups committed to opening more federal

Ashcroft on Abortion

John Ashcroft told the Senate Judiciary Committee that if confirmed as attorney general he would not seek only appointment to challenge the Supreme Court's ruling upholding abortion rights, which momentarily alarmed some of his supporters in the pro-abortion movement.

Article Page A16

lands in development, is also expected to make under fire at his hearing on Thursday.

What is at stake is not just Mr. Bush's ability to choose a cabinet of his own choosing of like, but just the Democratic efforts to ensure that laws they support are enacted, but the very definition and image of the competing political parties. With their weary questioning, Democrats were pushing back on the Bush administration's cultural issues that Mr. Bush successfully played down in the presidential campaign. The abortion, gun control and anti-gay issues were.

"This is really about George Bush more than about John Ashcroft," Geoffrey Garins, a Democratic strategist, said. "This is an opportunity that John Ashcroft George W. Bush as someone who chose not to pursue a moderate and constitutional course as he promised to do. He had the chance to try to make clear political divisions and instead he demonstrated a flexibility that just had right in the middle of

Continued on Page A12

Billions of dollars from leading the public in efforts to help finance infrastructure projects.

Most of the money has come from corporations with business growing in Washington, energy companies seeking favorable drilling policies, pharmaceutical companies concerned about a Medicare drug program, sports teams wanting to protect subsidies for sports arenas, and individual companies like American Airlines, American Cellular and Microsoft with specific issues before regulators.

That is just the tip of the financial iceberg.

Blue-chip companies like Ford and General Motors and several Washington law and lobbying firms are sponsoring Senate parties for various reasons more marked for them. General Motors is the first of a succession of the Kennedy-Carter families of the new White House chief of staff, for Drew H. Card Jr., who was a U.S. lobbyist.

The law firm Dech, Gump, Hertzog Rosen & Field, which has been known during the Clinton era as former Mr. Clinton's close friend Vernon R. Jordan Jr., takes both the form the Wall Street, in clearing all before Supreme Justice Bill Clinton of New York, its former Republican partner and Bush lawyer, at a party on the night of the

Continued on Page A12

Tampa Bay Assistant Chosen to Coach Jets

Brian Edwards, the assistant head coach for Tampa Bay, will be named to replace Al Groh as the Jets' head coach, the Buccaneers said last night.

Edwards will be the sixth black head coach in NFL history. His appointment ends a 26-year period in which the Jets rarely have non-white head coaches.

SpecialThanks Page 16

on issues that make necessary drug offenders, requiring mandatory imprisonment with treatment in some cases, and giving judges greater discretion in sentencing.

For the first serious drug bill since Mr. Clinton's proposal, requiring the maximum, and 15 years to life, to a maximum of 20 years to life for more than one offense.

The plan would affect not only the law courts, but also most people who are already serving long prison terms under the most serious of the drug laws. The governor would order the drug laws, not all the roughly 800 serving sentences of 15 years to life or more, eligible for reduction of their sentences, because who had been sentenced or whose crime would not be eligible.

Mr. Parole said his plan "builds on the experience and reflects an understanding of the experience we've had since the Rockefeller laws were enacted a generation ago," including better insight into addiction and its treatment.

The package falls well short of what critics of the current system have called for, but it goes far beyond the Republican governor's only previous plan to reverse the drug laws. Advocates of changing the drug laws, in the Legislature and elsewhere, proclaimed it a promising start for legislators.

The bipartisan measure by Mr. Parole and the Assembly speaker also tackling the drug program, these efforts are to declare today that the chances of reversing the drug laws were better this year than at any time since the laws were enacted in the 1970s.

"The governor's coming forward with a proposal like this, even though it does not go as far as I would want to go, is a very, very positive step in beginning real progress toward a better way to deal with," said Assemblyman Jeffrey L. Sabat, a Queens Center vice and chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee, whose vote will be change the Rockefeller laws has addressed support in the Legislature. "I would say, as of today, the chances of doing something about it this year are

Continued on Page B1

Scientists Bring Light to Full Stop, Hold It, Then Send It on Its Way

By JAMES GLANTZ

Researchers say they have slowed light to a standstill, stored it and then released it as if it were an ordinary material particle.

which in the medium, and it can't get out until the experimenters say so," said Dr. Lene Hau, an associate professor of physics at MIT.

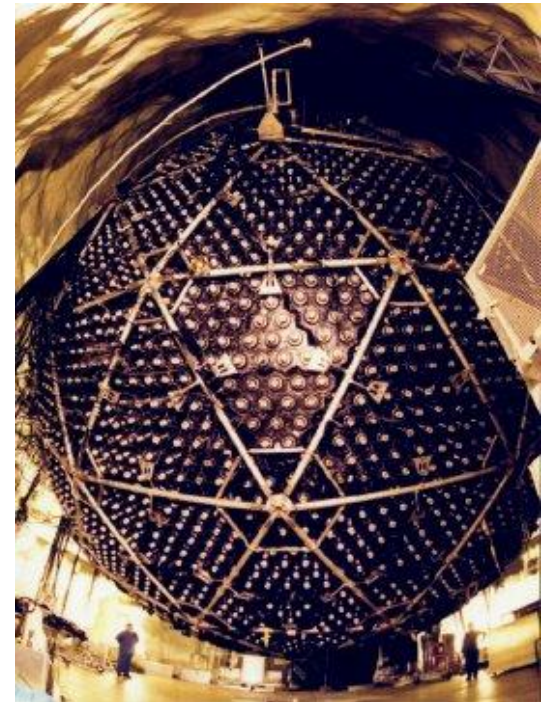
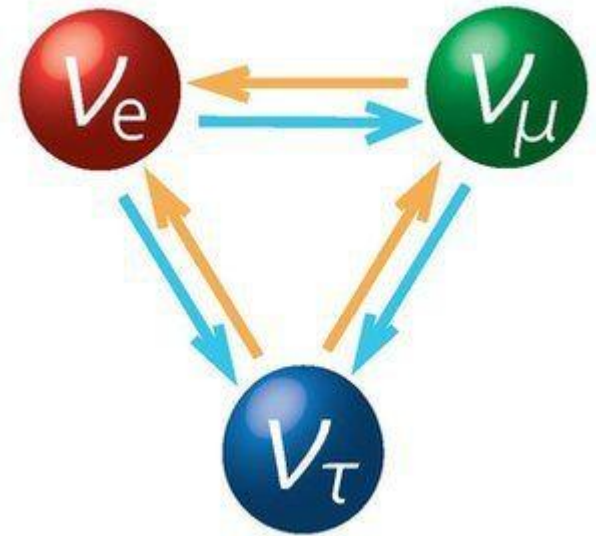


---Getting tenure at Harvard
---Explaining to other reporters

Neutrino oscillation

April 2005

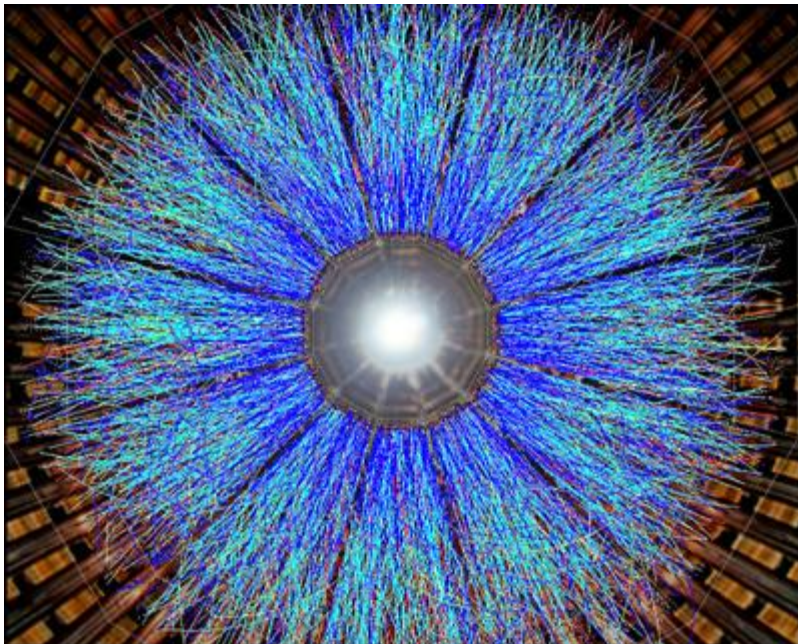
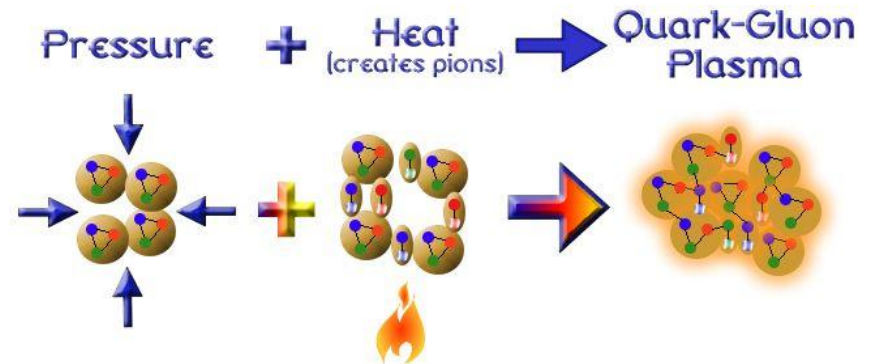
- 2015 Physics Nobel: Takaaki Kajita (Kamiokanda) and Arthur McDonald (Sudbury)
- Shortfall of electron neutrinos
- It's news if the New York Times says it's news.



Quark-gluon plasma

May 2006

- Melting protons: slam gold nuclei together
- 6 trillion degrees
- reverse alchemy



Too much information.

Conceptual difficulty: why hold back from announcing QGP?

Solvay: the Movie

Mar 2006

Quantum nay-sayers:
Einstein, Schrodinger,
deBroglie

Max Born biographer
debuts movie filmed by
Langmuir



www.FreeScienceLectures.com