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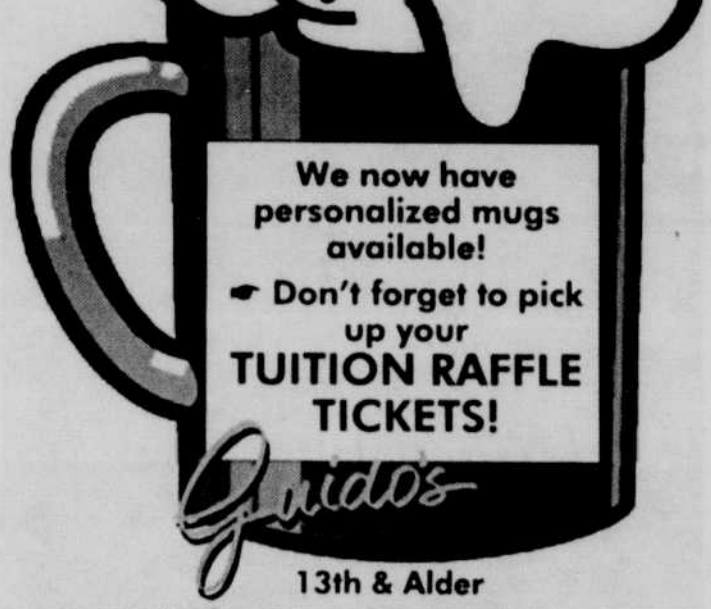
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THE TRADITION CONTINUES...



Nobel science prizes awarded



STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — An American and a Canadian, who developed a method for studying the building blocks of matter, won the Nobel physics prize Wednesday, and an American whose research

He said he was going to "donate" his prize money to his wife. "She's overwhelmed, too," he said. Olah, who was born in Hungary, has 85 patents from seven countries, including four for the transformation of natural gas into the type of hydrocarbons used in gasoline.

Brockhouse, 76, and Shull, 79, carried out their research in the years following World War II at some of the first nuclear reactors.

A Swedish professor and member of the Academy of Sciences, Karl Erik Larsson, said the nuclear power debate kept the Nobel committee from honoring the physicists until now.

"Politics should not affect us, but we are only humans," Larsson said.

Ironically, Brockhouse and Shull were never interested in nuclear power. They merely used the primitive research reactors to study how neutrons are scattered when bouncing against atoms.

The ground breaking research led several governments and institutions to pour billions of dollars into special facilities for neutron scattering.

Scientists at some of the facilities even won Nobel prizes before Brockhouse and Shull. Georg Bednorz and Alexander Muller, at the IBM Research Laboratory in Switzerland, won in 1987. Pierres-Gilles de Gennes at the College de France won in 1991.

Recently, researchers have started to use neutron scattering to study virus and DNA-molecules. Larsson said the method has proved useful in the detailed study of metal fatigue, crucial to aviation and bridge building.

Brockhouse was only the second Canadian to win a physics award, following Richard E. Taylor in 1990. Shull added to the dominance of U.S. citizens in physics, bringing the number to 59 out of 146.

Olah was the 41st American, out of 123 winners overall, to win a chemistry prize.

led to more efficient and cleaner fuel won the chemistry prize.

The physics prize will be shared by Clifford G. Shull of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Bertram N. Brockhouse of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Both researchers, pioneers in the field of neutron scattering, developed neutron spectroscopy, a method of studying atoms, the elements that make up matter.

The sole winner of the \$930,000 award for chemistry was George A. Olah, 67, of the University of California in Los Angeles.

Olah revolutionized the study of hydrocarbons, the ingredients of oil and natural gas, and uncovered new ways to use them.

In the early 1960s, he and his colleagues discovered that extremely strong acids, called superacids, could be used to modify hydrocarbons so they were easier to study.

"His work ... has a prominent position in all modern textbooks," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement announcing the award.

It has allowed improvements in combustion engines by raising the octane of fuel without adding to pollution, the academy said.

It also has enabled scientists to make plastics and other petroleum-based products with less damage to the environment.

"Hydrocarbons are the ingredients of oil and natural gas," Olah said. "When you fill up your car in the morning, it is composed of hydrocarbons."

Cult death mystery begins to unravel

GENEVA (AP) — New clues emerged Wednesday on the deaths last week of 53 members of a doomsday cult, apparently caught in a split between two branches and infighting between cult leaders.

A Montreal newspaper, *La Presse*, reported that Canadian police suspected Joel Egger and Dominique Bellaton were the killers of a three-member family, the Dutoits, found stabbed to death in a luxury apartment near Montreal. Swiss police confirmed that Egger, a 35-year-old Swiss, was among the charred bodies found in a Swiss Alpine chalet. Bellaton, a Canadian woman, hasn't been identified among the bodies.

There was reportedly a split between Canadian and Swiss branches of the Order of the Solar Temple, as well as infighting between the cult's leaders, who were believed to be involved in a money laundering and arms racket.

The Swiss weekly *L'Hebdo* said, \$93 million in cult money had been transferred to an Australian account held by the sec-

retary of the cult's mastermind, Joseph di Mambro, and that Swiss authorities had asked the Australians to freeze the accounts.

Di Mambro, a 70-year-old French-Canadian, was one of the bodies in the chalets in Granges-Sur-Salvan.

Swiss police have said that many of the 48 victims in Switzerland were murdered. Of the five deaths in Canada, two were thought to be suicides.

The cult's apocalyptic Belgian guru, 46-year-old Luc Jouret, is wanted under an international arrest warrant on suspicion of murder and premeditated arson. It is unclear if he is alive or dead.

The fate of another key figure, Jean-Pierre Vinet, a Quebec businessman reportedly close to Jouret, also remains a puzzle. He was arrested last year when he tried to buy three semi-automatic pistols.

On Tuesday, Swiss police said the cult's treasurer and one of its main funders, Camille Pilet, was among 23 bodies found in a farmhouse in Cheiry.

Pilet, a 68-year-old former

sales director of a luxury Swiss watch company, was closely linked to Jouret. This prompted Swiss media to speculate that Jouret was more likely among the dead than on the run.

But that theory does not explain who posted doomsday documents to news organizations in Switzerland and France — including *The Associated Press* — a few hours after the bodies were discovered. French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua also received a copy.

Swiss television reported — without naming sources — that the son of a famous French sportsman had posted the letters, which were given to him by Jouret shortly before the Oct. 4 fires.

Identification may take weeks because some of the bodies are burned beyond recognition. None of the corpses in the chalet showed signs of being shot.

However, police confirmed Tuesday that a .22-caliber pistol found in the chalet had been used in the Cheiry farmhouse shootings.

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