



# American Association of Physics Teachers

## AAPT Ontario Section

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. IX No. 3

#### MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now that Spring is upon us, the annual conference in Sudbury is only a few months away. Peter Levan, your vice president, has really impressed the executive with the proposed agenda. Not only are the formal activities interesting, but the social activities, including the boat cruise look spectacular! I hope that this will be our largest conference ever and that it will leave favourable and long lasting memories.

Many members had a very enjoyable evening with Dr. Robert Resnick in February. As President-elect of AAPT in the States, he was very interested in our section and its operation. He also wanted to become more aware of the Canadian perspective regarding physics and physics instruction. He noted that there are soon to be four Canadian AAPT sections and that the organization is developing a more international flavour to its membership. On the other hand he was concerned that in terms of much of its business, the organization has tended to focus mainly on problems in the American system. He would like to maintain a dialogue on the subject so that our ideas and concerns are always considered. There was some hope that he might be able to attend one of our conferences in the next year or so.

At this time of year we are always looking forward to next year and the potential location of our conference. Since the traditional function of the vice-president is to organize the conference, this decision also relates to the composition of our executive. In this context, the nominating committee of the executive will be nominating Stuart Quick from Scarborough College in Metro Toronto as incoming VP. Of course other nominations can be made by the membership. These can be made in the form of a letter to me (Ross Hallett), but should have the prior agreement of the candidate.

Another matter regarding the executive bears consideration by the membership. As you know Don Murphy has performed a monumental task at operating the Grade 11 Prize Examination for several years. Don has asked that he be relieved of this task next year. The nominating committee is, therefore, looking for one or more persons to take on the job. Perhaps the thing we should be doing is establishing a Prize Exam committee to run the examination and thereby share the load. This will be a matter for serious discussion at the June meeting, but any prior concerns or comments on the matter would be appreciated.

Ross Hallett



## NINTH ANNUAL - AAPT-Ontario - CONFERENCE

Sunday, June 21st - Tuesday, June 23rd

### Sudbury

The ninth annual American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) conference will be held from Sunday June 21st to Tuesday June 23rd at Laurentian University, Sudbury. To date the conference has been held in southern Ontario and so has not been accessible to many physics teachers of northern Ontario.

Here is a chance for physics teachers in mid-northern Ontario as well as southern Ontario to meet others in their field.

Conference highlights include:

- a "Path of Discovery" **bus tour** of the Sudbury Basin and Big Nickel mine
- a three day **pass to Science North**...our science center of the north
- **reception** at Science North and a **boat tour** on Lake Ramsey
- **informative speakers**
  - Doug Hallman - Doug Hallman, a physicist at Laurentian has participated extensively in the **proposed Sudbury neutrino observatory** that may be implemented near Sudbury in one of the deepest mine shafts of the world. He will be explaining and describing this exciting project.
  - Peter Hinrichsen - Dr. Hinrichsen, a physics instructor from Montreal, is a teacher with lots of sailing experience. He will be talking about various applications of **physics to sports**.
  - Brian Kaye - Brian Kaye is another professor at Laurentian University, well known for his research in the physics of fine particles. His talk at the conference will be "**A Random Walk Through Fractal Dimensions**". This could prove interesting to any who have wondered what fractals are and whether they have any role in science or physics.
  - Dave McKay - Dave McKay, head of science at M.M. Robinson H.S., Burlington, is currently seconded to TVO. He is helping TVO integrate its current and future programming to the new Ontario Science Guidelines. He will be talking on **how TVO can be used in our classrooms with the new physics curriculum**.
  - Tom Semadeni - Tom Semadeni is the Director of Science North. He will describe Science North's structure and function.



- George Vanderkuur - George Vanderkuur is the chief scientist with the Ontario Science Center. Recently he has spent time and thought on the applications of science in art. He will be talking on "**Physics in Art**".
- a special **banquet in the Science North cavern** with **Steve MacLean, a Canadian Astronaut** on our Space Team. Steve will be talking on the current state of space technology and research.
- **demonstrations and short talks** by physics teachers on topics they have found interesting and effective in their teaching
- an opportunity to **meet publishers and suppliers** of science equipment

In addition to these highlights here is your chance to see Science North, Laurentian University and its physics labs, and to meet with people who teach the same thing you do.

Please find enclosed the registration form as well as an abstract form, your invitation for you to contribute at the conference.

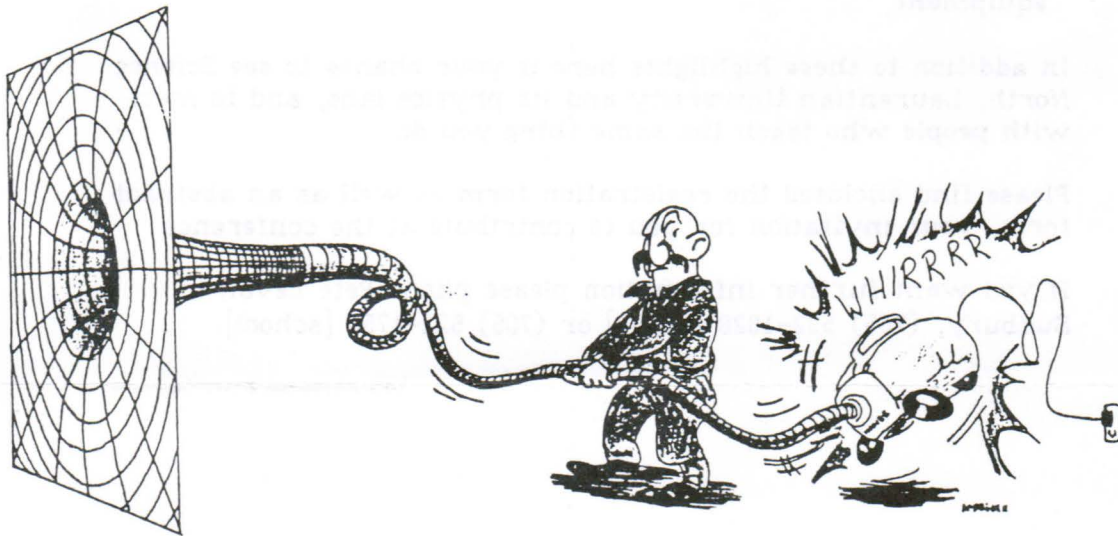
If you want further information please phone Pete Levan in Sudbury, (705) 522-1828 [home] or (705) 522-1750 [school].



## Relativity Workshop Update

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the registration form for the Relativity Workshop to be held at the University of Guelph from July 2nd to July 4th (the general nature of the workshop was described in the last newsletter issue).

As registration is limited to 24 persons, if you are interested in attending please return the form to Ross RIGHT AWAY! He is aware of the vagaries of Canada Post service to various parts of the province and will handle conflicts with the clinical impartiality that only a highly trained physicist can bring to bear on such a problem. But don't delay - register today! - David McKay



## Elementary Energy Saving

The University of Nebraska's energy extension service reports the following energy-saving suggestions proposed by elementary school children.

1. Find out if oil has another name besides petroleum and look for it under that name.
2. Lower people's body temperature to  $68^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
3. Dip everything that is made in stuff that glows in the dark.
4. Make it a rule that there has to be at least two people in every big bed that uses an electric blanket.
5. Put more hot sauce in the food.
6. Don't have so many days of school.
7. Don't stay in more than one room at a time.



### Abstract Form - AAPT (Ontario) Section - Sudbury June 21-22-23, 1987

We are eager to have you make a short presentation at the conference. Your presentation could take the form of a short talk with or without AV equipment or physics apparatus, on a topic of interest to you, or it could take the form of a demonstration that you use in teaching physics.

[PLEASE PRINT]

Name(Mr/Miss/Mrs/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname First Name

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
No Street City Postal Code

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution

No Street City Postal Code

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Session:

- Oral presentation [ ] (5 to 15 minutes)
- My Favourite Demonstration [ ] (2 to 5 minutes)

Title of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Short description or abstract:

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Required Equipment:

We can provide AV equipment. We may provide microcomputers or other support equipment such as VCRs. For demonstrations, some technical help will be available.

Please check or list your requirements.

- [ ] slide projector [ ] overhead [ ] 110 V(AC)
- [ ] other \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form by **May 22** to

Peter Levan,  
232 Walford Rd. E.,  
Sudbury, Ontario  
P3E 2G9



WORKSHOP ON RELATIVITY

July 2-4 1987

**UNIVERSITY  
of GUELPH**

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FEES

REGISTRATION FEE \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Registrants have the option of booking dormitory accommodations or staying at local motels. We can make dormitory booking on behalf of registrants, but those wishing motel rooms will have to make their own arrangements. Suggested motels are Holiday Inn, College Motor Inn and the Biltmore Inn all of which are near the campus. Meals can be purchased at University cafeterias.

Dormitory Room (meals not included)  
(single @ \$20.00/night)  
(double @ \$17.00/night per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Registration and Accommodation Fees submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make cheques payable to AAPT-Ontario)

Workshop address: Ross Hallett  
Department of Physics  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 2W1

Telephone 519 824-4120 Ext. 3989