

# Innovations used for STAR WARS

TORONTO (CUP) — A University of Toronto professor has won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, for his pioneering research on molecular reactions.

John Polanyi shared the award with two American professors. He becomes the third Canadian to be distinguished with the award.

Ironically, Polanyi's research has been used for laser technology that will likely be used for the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, to which the quiet, modest Polanyi is vehemently opposed.

"Yes, it is ironic," Polanyi told an Oct. 15 news conference held at U of T just two hours after he received notice of the award. "And I don't blanch if you say that there seems to be a contradiction. But basic research has always been used for many, applications, some good, some ill."

Polanyi explained that he and his researchers had explored the ways in which molecules vibrate and collide and found a certain reaction

which created "highly vibration-excited molecules." His discoveries led directly to the development of the first vibrational laser in 1964, and the first chemical laser in 1965.

The vibrational laser has been used to produce the first instrument proposed in the development of SDI.

Polanyi called Star Wars "a harebrained application" of his research, but maintains that for every such application, there are twenty beneficial ones.

"Just the morning I got a call from a young woman whose eye-sight has been restored through an operation with a laser," said Polanyi. "She was calling to thank me."

Other beneficial uses for the vibrational laser include micro-circuitry (making marks on microchips), repairing leaking blood vessels, freeing up clogged arteries, and stapling detached retinas. The laser has also been used by tailors for cutting cloth, and in the auto industry for welding.

Polanyi feels we should avoid the "obsessive fear of the

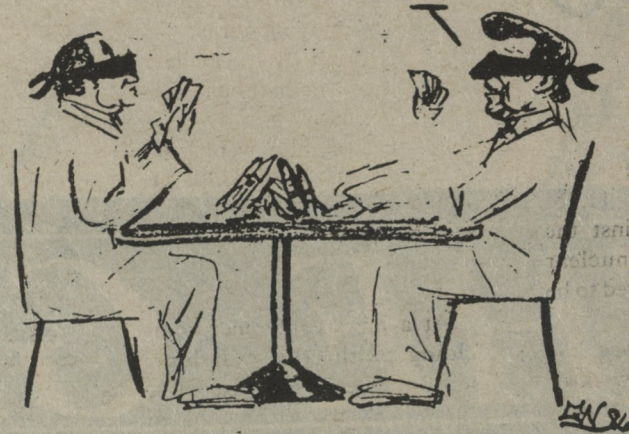
by-products of technology", and that the nuclear threat can be removed through politics,

not science.

"SDI is a gadget, and gadgets will not save us. Only

negotiation and a new attitude toward the settlement of differences will."

I'LL SEE YOUR NEW MISSILE SITES... AND I'LL RAISE YOU ONE STAR WARS AND A PAIR OF DIPLOMAT/SPIES.



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strators were upset because they believed the paper was making an international statement by soliciting the ad.

"I talked to the president and he felt there might have been an element of malcontent held by the editors," said Trainor, who

claims McKinnon changed his mind when told the ad was sent by Campus Plus, a national advertising representative.

It's ironic that it is the student union who is backing us up," said Johnson. Two years ago, councillors stripped a similar ad from the paper's

paste-up flats before it went to press.

The ad was part of a national campaign by Julius Schmid of Canada Ltd. The only paper to boycott the ad was The Mike, the student newspaper at St. Michael's College in Toronto, also a Catholic school.



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