

Stachel exposes misconceptions of Einstein's intelligence

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

The misconception that Albert Einstein was the world's greatest mathematician is just one of many myths which surround the legend, said John Stachel, a professor of physics at Boston University.

Stachel, editor of the "The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein," spoke to a crowd of about 125 at the Sheldon Theater Wednesday night.

He said Einstein never had it easy with mathematics, especially as a young man.

"Indeed when he did need assistance in his work, it was usually the mathematicians (he collaborated with)," said Stachel. "That was the area in which he felt the most need for help, he could take care of the physics," he said.

Another myth about Einstein is the perception that he was an purely abstract thinker. That is the opposite of the real case, Stachel said. "Einstein grasped the world primarily in concrete images," Stachel said. "His problem was to translate these images afterwards into words and equations that he could share with other people," he said.

Stachel said amazingly Einstein didn't start out with an academic job, but got his first job in

a Swiss patent office.

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—Stachel

Although one might think that it must have been tough for a genius like Einstein to lower

himself to the drudgery of patent office routine, Stachel said Einstein called it a "true blessing" for himself.

"By the time he left (the patent office job), he had published over two dozen research papers, at least four of which were of the most profound significance," Stachel said.

Einstein retained an interest in practical inventions throughout his life as a result of working in the patent office, Stachel said.

Stachel also said as a student, Einstein cut many classes and studied on his own because he felt he learned more by "direct observation of facts."

GM's solar-powered 'raycer' called efficient but impractical

By Debra Witt
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students caught a glimpse of technology Wednesday in a solar-powered car that won the World Solar Challenge race in November.

The Sunraycer outdistanced its closest competitor in the 1,950-mile race by 650 miles, said Howard Wilson, vice president of Hughes Aircraft in charge of GM projects.

The race in Australia was the first international race across a continent for solar-powered cars, Wilson said. The race brought 25 cars from the United States, Australia, Pakistan, Denmark, Japan and Switzerland. The Sunraycer was built specifically to run in the race, Wilson said.

Wilson said he foresees no practical use for a completely solar-powered car in the present form. He said the Sunraycer is impractical because the car runs only on sun power and only achieves two horsepower to

reach an average speed of about 41 mph.

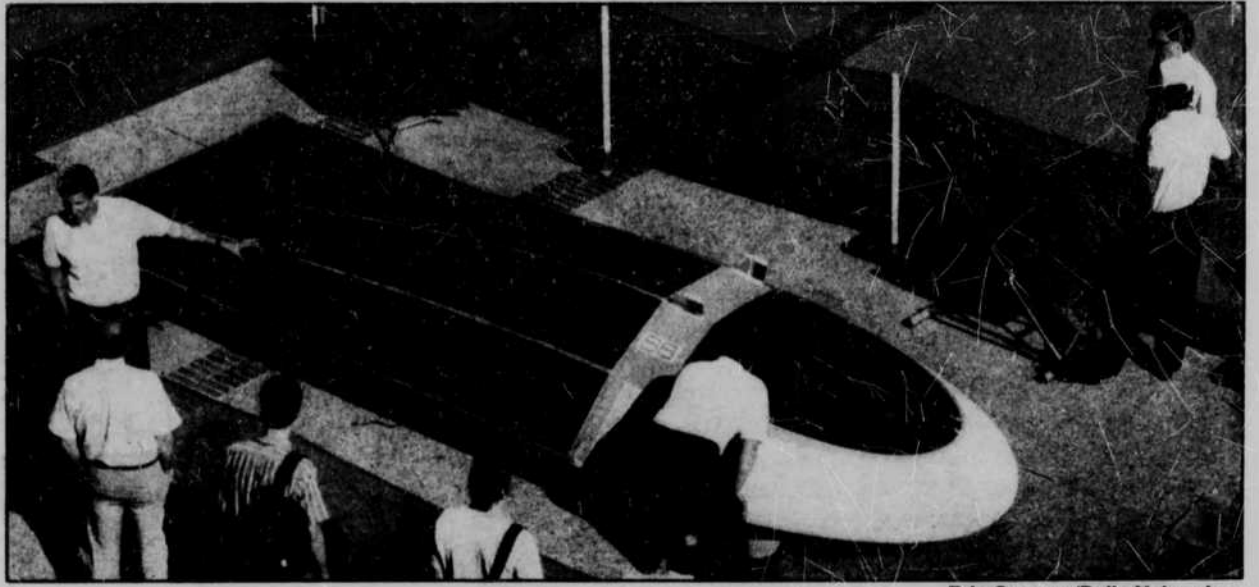
The only type of solar-powered car that might be practical soon would be a commuter car that would go only 10 or 15 miles and then sit all day in the sun to recharge for the trip back, Wilson said.

But, he said, it is more likely that an electrical battery will be designed to perform with less energy.

While completely solar-powered cars will not be seen soon, Wilson said, car makers can apply what was learned from making the Sunraycer to building more efficient cars.

Some of the design technologies used in building the Sunraycer already are being used, said Alfred H. Witte, assistant dean of the UNL College of Engineering and Technology.

Solar cells used in the car are used in satellites, Witte said. The same technology seen in the Sunraycer's batteries are found in some batteries now, he said.



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

General Motors representatives show off their company's solar-powered Sunraycer.

Witt said a car now can be partially powered from a solar panel placed in the back window.

During the race, the 360-pound Sunraycer averaged 41.6 mph and a top speed of 70 mph. The car is 19.7 feet long, 6.6 feet wide and 3.3 feet high. Its solar panel is 12 feet long and

6 feet wide.

The car and its racing-team drivers will appear on the Broyhill Plaza from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today. Friday the Sunraycer will be displayed during the same times at the Walter Scott Engineering Center. Wilson said GM engineers and the drivers will be

available to answer questions about the car and race.

Witte said the Sunraycer's appearance will coincide with the College of Engineering and Technology's Annual awards program in which five awards will be given to outstanding alumni and corporations.

Reunion open today

From Staff Reports

The Reunion will open today at about 9 or 10 a.m., said David Hunter, president of Hardy Building Corp.

Earlier this week, Hunter said the Reunion would open Wednesday at noon or early that evening. But final inspections and cleanup took longer than anticipated, he said.

The food businesses located in the Reunion also needed more time to prepare for the opening, Hunter said.

Willie Nelson to aid Kerrey's campaign

By Lee Rood
Senior Reporter

Officials at Bob Kerrey's U.S. Senate campaign headquarters announced Tuesday that country-music star Willie Nelson will help the former governor campaign May 9 in Nebraska communities.

Nelson, a longtime activist for distressed farmers, will join Kerrey in Hastings, Omaha and Lincoln and possibly other communities, a Kerrey spokesman said.

Steve Jarding, Kerrey's press secretary, said Kerrey is pleased Nelson is joining his campaign. Jarding said Kerrey and Nelson's relationship dates back to Lincoln's FarmAid III concert in September.

Jarding said Kerrey and Nelson share similar "moral and fundamental beliefs about society."

"Kerrey welcomes any type of support from individuals with compassion about this devastated segment of the country," Jarding said, referring to struggling Nebraska farmers.

Jarding said if both have time, Kerrey and Nelson will campaign together in other Nebraska communities, including North Platte and South Sioux City.

Jarding said this is not the first time Nelson has campaigned for a Democratic candidate.

Kerrey was in Washington, D.C., Wednesday and unavailable for comment. In his press release, Kerrey said, "In 1984, Willie Nelson understood and was moved by the devastation faced by thousands of Nebraskan farmers and our rural communities. When we needed a boost he was there. He did something about it. I welcome his return home to Nebraska."

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