

Physicist who won Nobel Prize dies

Warped

by Scott McCullar

United Press International

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Paul Adrian Maurice Dirac, a physicist who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1933 and worked alongside Albert Einstein and Robert Oppenheimer, died Saturday at home after a long illness. He was age 82.

The English-born physicist achieved international fame for developing Dirac's Equation, which explained the mechanics of the atom, and set him off on a 50-year quest to explain the relationship between infinite numbers of electrons working together as a single system.

Dirac, who studied and later taught at Cambridge before coming to Florida State University in 1971, shared the Nobel Prize with Erwin Schrodinger, the physicist whose quantum-wave theory he completed.

Dirac said in a rare interview in 1975 that the insight leading to his breakthrough came during a solitary walk in the fields near Cambridge.

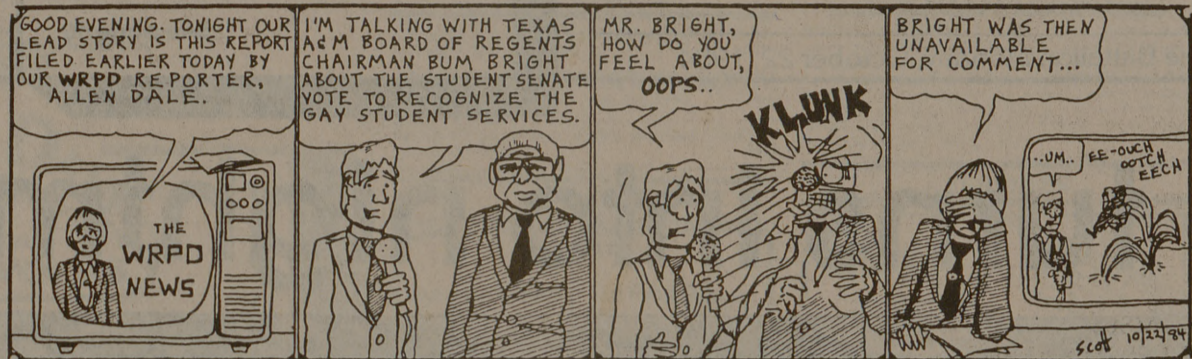
"The death of Dr. Paul Dirac is a loss not just to Florida State but to the whole world. His contributions to the advancement of science are legend. However, we at the university will miss him greatly as a friend, too. He was a warm and caring human being and a person that we have been immensely proud to call one of our own," FSU President Bernie Sliger said Sunday.

His colleagues included Einstein, Oppenheimer, who later coordinated the American atomic bomb program, and Peter Kapitza, a Russian who refused Josef Stalin's demand to develop a Russian bomb and later pioneered low-temperature superconductors, which make high-speed computers possible.

For the most part, however, Dirac worked alone.

Dirac was born Aug. 8, 1902, in Bristol, England. His father was a Swiss-born French teacher at a private school, and his mother was English. He was still a British citizen when he died and was a member of the prestigious Order of Merit of Great Britain and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dirac will be buried in Tallahassee rather than at Westminster Abbey, as members of the Order of Merit traditionally are, but other funeral arrangements were incomplete Sunday.



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Alabama's FSU home in Aggieland

By ROBIN BLACK
Senior Staff Writer

The four boys from Ft. Payne did it again. For the third autumn in a row, country/western group Alabama cruised into town, strolled onstage in G. Rollie White Coliseum and proceeded to charm the socks off an enthusiastic Aggie audience.

"You want to play someplace where the audience appreciates your being there," publicity Director Greg Fowler said earlier Sunday in a press conference.

The appreciation was easy to gauge. The band started the show without the help of a warm-up act. They didn't need a warm-up act.

When the house lights went down and smoke began to rise from Mark Herndon's drum set, the screaming, stomping, clapping and whooping

began and continued through almost the entire concert.

Lead guitarist/keyboard player/fiddle player Jeff Cook came onstage wearing an A&M t-shirt, and lead singer Randy Owen left the stage for a moment in the middle of the show and returned wearing a white jersey with a big ATM insignia, all the more to the delight of the crowd.

Alabama opened the show with "The Closer You Get," the title song and theme for last year's tour.

The band played an assortment of songs from its five successful albums, from the most recent hit "Roll On," to the band's first hit, "My Home's in Alabama," which closed the concert.

During the song, the back section of stage lights was lowered to almost face the audience, and, while still

more smoke rolled off the stage, red, white and blue lights were turned on to form the confederate flag.

During at least three songs the audience was on its feet, clapping and singing along.

The band played consistently well, carrying off the same clean harmonies and smooth musical styles that have turned each of their five albums into platinum.

Cook was especially impressive, as usual, switching back and forth from guitar to keyboards to fiddle.

Owen said at the press conference that they worked harder at what they do than anybody.

"I figure you can stay around as long as you want to as long as you're true to your fans and as long as you do your job well," Owen said.

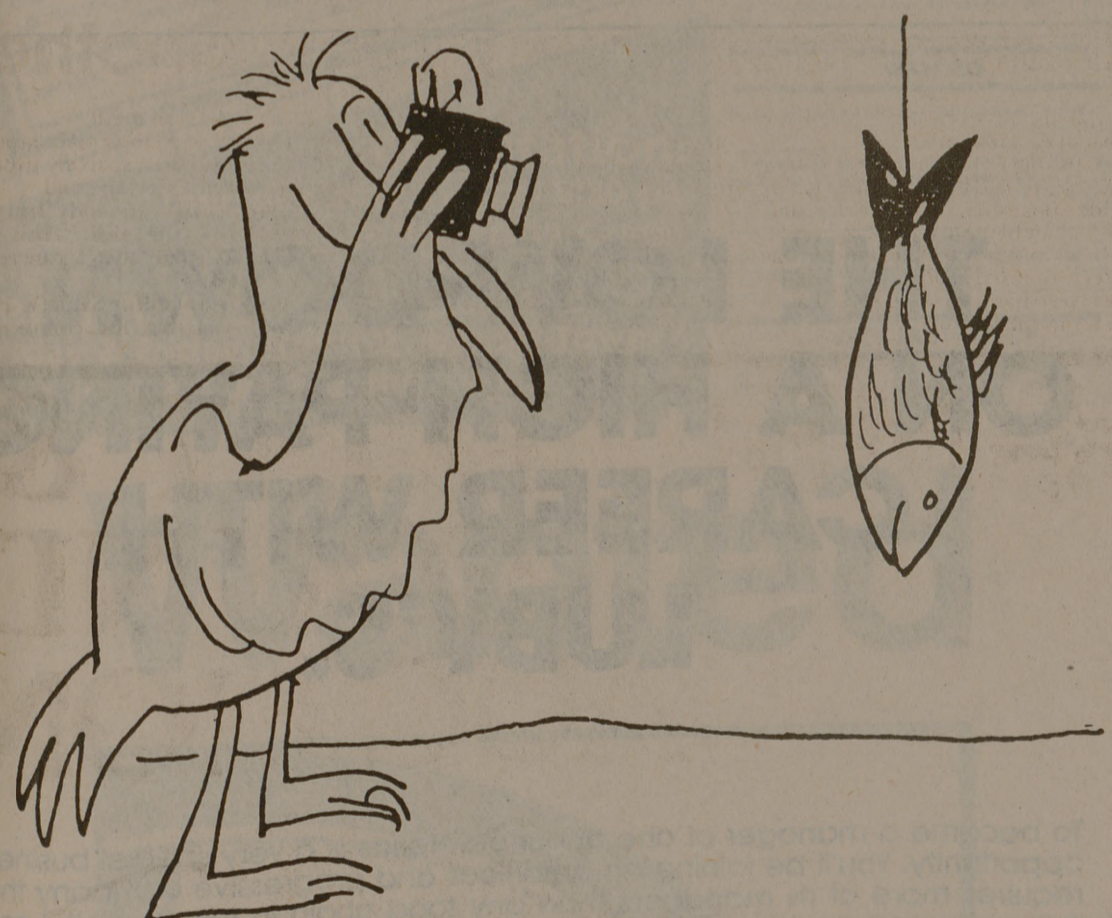
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The band gets its news from the Batt.



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