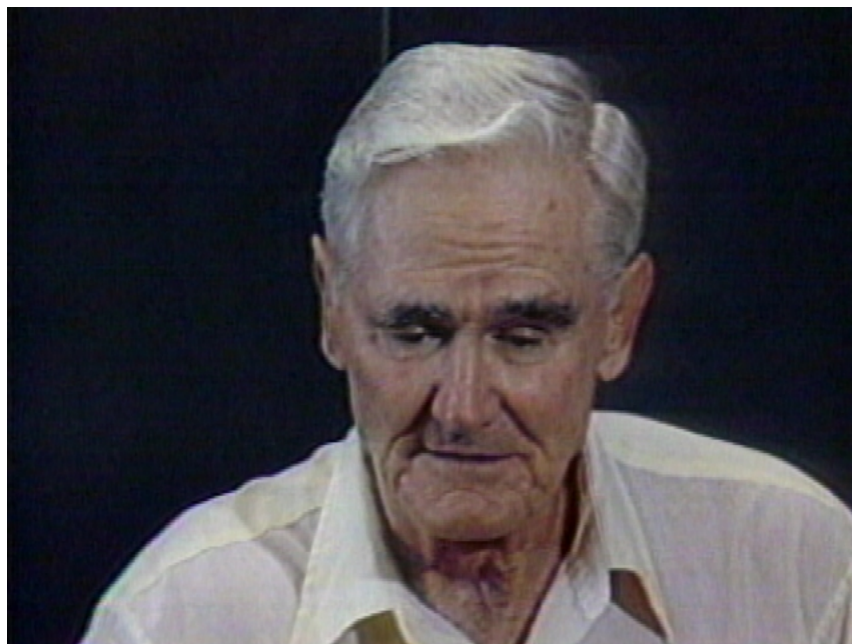


You Won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry! Oops--Wrong Donald Cram

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General Information

Source:	NBC Nightly News	Resource Type:	Video News Report
Creator:	Tom Brokaw	Copyright:	NBCUniversal Media, LLC.
Event Date:	10/14/1987	Copyright Date:	1987
Air/Publish Date:	10/14/1987	Clip Length	00:01:03

Description

The Nobel Prize committee mistakenly notifies Donald O. Cram, a California carpet cleaner, that he is the recipient of the 1987 Nobel Prize in Chemistry; the prize was given to Dr. Donald J. Cram of UCLA.

Keywords

Nobel Prize, Chemistry, Awarded, Notification, Mistaken Identity, Dr. Donald J. Cram, Donald O. Cram, Carpet Cleaner, Nobel Laureate, Nobel Prize Committee, University of California at Los Angeles, UCLA, Professor, MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dentist, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Sweden

Transcript

You Won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry! Oops--Wrong Donald Cram

TOM BROKAW, anchor:

A West German and a Swiss Scientist won the Nobel Prize in physics today while two Americans and a

Frenchman won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. For a brief moment today, the chemistry prize almost went to a carpet cleaner in California. The committee mistakenly notified someone with the same name as one of the winners, Donald J. Cram of UCLA. The professor explained what happened.

DONALD J. CRAM (Nobel Laureate): I don't believe it. Somebody in Sweden, press people, had called a Donald O. Cram in Altadena, had woken him and told him he got the Nobel Prize.

BROKAW: And this was the reaction of Donald O. Cram.

DONALD O. CRAM (Carpet Cleaner): I said "but you tell me, for which of my work did I receive this Nobel Prize?" Because I'm a service master carpet cleaner. I do very good carpet cleaning.

BROKAW: This wasn't the first time that there'd been a mix-up in notifying the winners. The committee once tried to call a professor at MIT and got a dentist in Cambridge.