

## Where I Was

Since the early 1980s I had thought there was a realistic possibility that I'd get the Nobel Prize. Our work was clearly very important for physics, and by then accurate experiments had confirmed it. So each October, around the announcement time, I had a very difficult time sleeping. 2004 was no exception, and I really didn't sleep at all on the night of October 4.

I thought that the phone call, if it came, would not be earlier than 6 AM Eastern time, since that was the announced time for the public announcement, and I thought the phone call could not come before that. So when I saw on the clock that it was 5 AM, I gave up on tossing and turning in bed, and started to take a shower, just in case.

At 5:12 I was in the middle of my intended shower, when my wife Betsy Devine came in with our telephone in hand. I hadn't heard any ringing, because of noise of the water. She said "There's a woman with a beautiful voice calling from Sweden for you." I got out of the stall, naked and dripping wet, to take the call. It was the Nobel Prize.

Another thing I hadn't anticipated is that the phone call was not just a simple "You've won, congratulations, goodbye." Far from it. I didn't count, and it's somewhat of a blur to me now, but I think that about a dozen officials of the Nobel Foundation, the Swedish Academy of Sciences, and physics friends took up the conversation, one after another.

It was wonderful. I had never enjoyed being dazed, naked, and wet all at the same time quite so much, and I don't suppose that I will again.