

At mall, it's all a matter of chemistry

You don't have to go to school to learn more about chemistry. This weekend, the chemistry class will come to you.

University of Wisconsin-Madison chemistry professor Bassam Shakhashiri will carry his campaign to make chemistry fun to Westgate Mall with free demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday.

"We are trying to reach people of all ages and tell them about the benefits and hazards of chemicals," says Shakhashiri, who has accepted a post with the National Science Foundation

in Washington D.C. "We will have literature available, and after the 20-minute demonstration, I'll try to answer questions."

Madison middle school students are acquainted with Shakhashiri's "Chemistry Can Be Fun" program. His dramatic demonstrations have reached more than 8,000 children since 1981, with liquids that change color and controlled explosions.

"All of the experiments this weekend will be safe to do in this setting," Shakhashiri assures. "I will emphasize the safe handling of chemicals;

especially disposal of chemicals."

"We are going to explore the properties of plastics and polymers like dacron and orlon," he says. "We will make some polyurethane foam and some nylon.

"We will look at a source of cold light, with a light stick which is a mix-

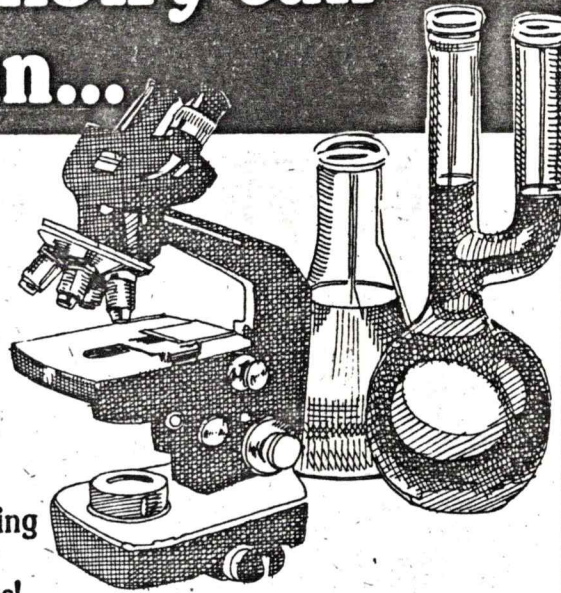
ture of chemicals that can be activated by bending the plastic tube. And we'll look at chemical reactions inside balloons filled with gasses."

The program is an outreach activity of the Institute for Chemical Education, a national center aimed at revitalizing chemical science teaching at all levels.

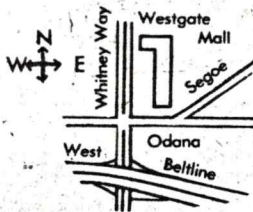
Chemistry can be fun...

Saturday,
May 19th.
11:00 A.M.
& 3:00 P.M.
Sunday,
May 20th.
3:00 P.M.

An exciting learning experience for people of all ages!



Professor Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, the Director of Chemistry at the Univ. of Wis. will present chemistry demonstrations in the Center Mall.



Westgate mall

271-4606

Whitney Way at Odana (Just off W. Beltline)