

OCTOBER

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. What day is today? Monday? Sunday? Does it make a difference what day it is? Well, I hope you know what day it is. And does it make a difference? You bet. Just ask Eviatar Zerubavel. Dr. Zerubavel is a professor sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and his new book, called "The Seven Day Circle," answers every question you may have ever had about days of the week. Indeed, I found the book fascinating, couldn't put it down, read it in one sitting and found answers to hundreds of questions that had never occurred to me.

Dr. Zerubavel, your research pretty much makes clear that there is nothing especially magic about our having seven days in a week, rather than eight, or 10, or five.

INTERVIEW DR. ZERUBAVEL:

- Religious roots of seven-day week
- "The week unit is a social convention...The invention of the week was a major breakthrough in the history of civilization."
- Relationship to moon, sun
- Any physiological or psychological reasons for "rest day"
- Review experiments with calendar reform:
  - \* 1790s French 'decade'
  - \* 1929-40 Soviets' 5-day continuous workweek
  - \* Baha'i 19s - days/week, weeks/year, mystical number
- Cards: 52 in deck (weeks in year); plus joker = 365
- The case for a perpetual calendar

14:00

We'll take a break, then return with Eviatar Zerubavel to talk some more about days and weeks and a subject Dr. Zerubavel calls "experiencing time."

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

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BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle. I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Eviatar Zerubavel, author of the new book, "The Seven Day Circle." Dr. Zerubavel is a sociologist at the University at Stony Brook. Are you using the book as a text?

INTERVIEW DR. ZERUBAVEL:

- 'Experiencing' time:
  - \* Lent's 40 days
  - \* Day after mid-week holiday "feels" like Monday
  - \* Thanksgiving and Friday "feel" like Saturday-Sunday
  - \* Blue Monday
- Review days of week and experiences associated with each
- Note stories about his daughter: Thursday; allowance day
- Discuss 'rhythm' and 'beat' of time and their importance:
  - \* Payday
  - \* Work days
  - \* Importance in regulating our lives
- Significance of his research and book
- What's next?

29:00

OUTRO

Friday  
11:15-12:45

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6-3425

36 book  
Sociology of time  
There are patterns that have  
nothing to do w/ nature