

# THE

# INSIDER

The Insider is (usually) published February, April, June, August, October, and December--the same months we are now meeting. Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each publishing month, 1:30 PM, at various places (changes will be published). Full voting membership and a year's subscription to this newsletter is \$7. Club officers are: President Michelle Zellich [[is mzellich@calvin.army.mil OR zellich@i1.net]], Vice President Sean Sendlein [[jacara@i1.net]], Treasurer Richard Zellich [[zellich@i1.net OR zellich@bosco.army.mil]], Art Director Mary Wonderful [[MBrought@www2.alpeng.com]], Web Page Editor Randy Davis [[sffen@stfnet.com OR rd@schweiss.com]], and Secretary AND Hard Copy Editor Kay Goode [[cagey@i1.net - that's @ letter eye, number one.net]], plus our Minneapolis Ambassador Jeannie Yaffe.

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NEED TO RENEW: Look for the GREEN mark on your newsletter!

EXPIRED: Look for the RED mark!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and Salutations -

WE HAVE A "PERMANENT" PLACE TO MEET!!!! Starting with the next meeting (16 August 1998), we will be meeting on a regular basis at "Stacks, the Restaraunt" at Library, Ltd. We will be upstairs (out of the way) and will have a section RESERVED for us by the restaraunt manager (somebody named Kingston Zellich) so let's ALL make an effort to come out to the meeting this month. I'll even try to get our Vice President to come up with some programming.

We (Rich and I) will just be back from Baltimore, so I'm sure we'll each have some Worldcon reports on the various things that went right, wrong, or sideways, plus Hugo winners, and the winner of the 2001 Worldcon (Philidelphia or Orlando). Also, we're planning to see the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio; a ballgame at Camden Yard (Baltimore Oriols vs Detroit Tigers); the B&O Railroad Museum; and to take a "short" run down to Washington DC to (if nothing else) see the Air and Space Museum, so we'll

have a lot to talk about (we promise not to bore you).

I'd also like anyone who went to Hope Con to make a short presentation on it (don't everyone fight to be first), so if you go there, be sure to make [mental] notes.

I want to wish Vic & Jennifer Milan a happy 1st anniversary. There were those who said it wouldn't last. Also happy birthday to everyone with a birthday between now and the next meeting and happy anniversary to Mr. & Mrs Wonderful, Charlotte & Dave Phelps, Rick & Robin Hubbard, Sean & Lorie Ross, Joan & Jim Knappenberger, and Cindi Gille-Rowley & Mark Rowley.

And - Rich will be having his annual birthday party on ~~September~~, everyone is welcome as usual. **26 SEPTEMBER**

Hope to see you at the meeting. Buy food in the restaraunt (menu enclosed).

- Michelle

Stacks Menu (as of 11 July 1998)

starters - Bruschetta, Spinach Aritichoke Dip, Chicken Quesadillas, Focaccia Bread, cheese & fruit plate  
salads - Boconccini (little balls of soft mozzarella cheese), Pasadena Greens, Caesar, House  
soups - Chilled Minted Melon, Gazpacho, soup of the day  
pasta - Blackened Chicken, Pasta Romano, Farfalle Vegetale, Farfalle con Pollo, Chicken Pesto  
pizza - Quattro Formaggio (4 cheese), Barbecued Chicken (spicy!!), Italian Veggie, Quattro Stagione (4 seasons)  
sandwiches - The Mardi Gras, Grilled cheese with Pesto, Roast Beef & Cheese, Chcken Salad, Spicy Tuna Salad stuffed focaccia - Pollo, Vegetale  
plus - deserts (cheesecake, cookies, etc), specialty coffees, teas, wine, etc.

## YEARLY CALENDAR:

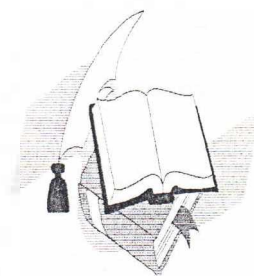
February = Election of Club Officers  
 April = Kite Fly  
 June = Zoo & Picnic  
 August = Baseball Game  
 October = Grant's Farm & Wine Trip  
 December = Nominations for Club Officers &  
 Christmas Party

## BIRTHDAYS:

August 4 - Michael Henry  
 August 4 - Karla Medley  
 August 5 - Neil Armstrong  
 August 7 - Ed Kraemer  
 August 7 - David Duchovny  
 August 10 - Justin Cook  
 August 13 - Alfred Hitchcock  
 August 25 - Sean Connery  
 August 26 - Mary Stadter  
 August 28 - Jeanne Norris  
 August 30 - Jeff Bergeran  
 August 30 - Carol Cook  
 August 30 - Jeff Bergeran  
 August 31 - Melissa Knappenberger

September 2 - Sherry Mitchell  
 September 4 - Jenny Overkamp  
 September 9 - Ben Overkamp  
 September 11 - Bob Mattingly  
 September 11 - Dan Patterson  
 September 18 - Jim Belknap  
 September 20 - Mark Rowley  
 September 20 - Rich Zellich  
 September 21 - Stephen King  
 September 21 - H. G. Wells  
 September 23 - Trish Overkamp  
 September 25 - Mark Hamel  
 September 25 - Christopher Reeve  
 September 30 - Jake Overkamp

October 1 - Elaine Schultz  
 October 4 - Jackie Moore  
 October 5 - Ben Moore  
 October 8 - Sigourney Weaver



October 9 - Scott Bakula  
 October 11 - Colleen Joerger  
 October 12 - Dan Stratmann  
 October 12 - Mary Sies  
 October 12 - Mark Teidemann  
 October 16 - Patty Hildebrand  
 October 18 - Florence Achenbach  
 October 18 - Michelle Zellich  
 October 21 - Sean Sendlein  
 October 26 - Lina Zang  
 October 29 - John Donigan  
 October 30 - Marella Sands

November 1 - John Mitchell  
 November 8 - Daryl Phillips  
 November 9 - Carl Sagan  
 November 13 - Cheryl Medley  
 November 18 - Alan Shepard  
 November 23 - Bob Tucker  
 November 25 - Genie Yaffe

December 2 - Rick Stooker  
 December 14 - Rett MacPherson  
 December 16 - Dan McGee  
 December 18 - Steven Spielberg  
 December 21 - C. J. Niehoff  
 December 21 - Jeff Finuzzo  
 December 21 - John Brooks  
 December 23 - Michael Cook  
 December 26 - Bob Stoltman  
 December 28 - Kate Graf

*THEY CAME IN THE MAIL*

*Here is this month's listing of what came in the mail. All publications are kept on file and are available for reading. The ones listed below will be available at the next club meeting, or just let Kay know which ones you are interested in and she will make arrangements to get them to you.*

Barry R. Levin, Science Fiction & Fantasy Literature Catalog, Vol. 11, #1, 2265 Westwood Blvd., #xxx, Los Angeles, CA 90064; catalog of science fiction & fantasy rarities - books, posters, letters, art, manuscripts, etc.

Emissions from Flotilla 13, Vol. 10, #3, %Alice Yount, P.O. Box 31715, Saint Louis, MO 63131-0715, published

bimonthly & is a multimedia writer's & artists not for profit group. A large, enthusiastic, well written fan newsletter with good art work and fun to read (not all about Blake's 7). Contains poetry, art, short stories and reviews.

File 770:123, Mike Glycer, P.O. Box 1056, Sierra Madre, CA 91025; email: MGlycer@compuserve.com: irregularly published, but full of very interesting articles with excellent art work.

IKV Purple Haze, March 1998; IKV Purple Haze, %Jenny Overkamp, 9859 Big Bend, Saint Louis, MO 63122; Klignon Assault Group zine put out by three KAG groups.

Instant Message #622-625, NESFA Inc., P.O. Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0203; published twice monthly by the New England Science Fiction Association.

SFSFS Shuttle #132 & 133, South Florida Science Fiction Society, P.O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143; <http://scifi.maid.com>; newsletter of the South Florida Science Fiction Society.

Time Lord Times, Vol. 14, #5 & 6, CIA, P.O. Box 733, Saint Louis, MO 63188; bimonthly newsletter of The Saint Louis Celestial Intervention Agency, Inc., a Dr. Who club.

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### *EMOCs (E-Mails of Comment)*

<<My email address is cagey@i1.net (that's @ letter eye, number one.net). I would LIKE to have anything you would care to send me about 3 days before the end of the month just before I need to publish the newsletter (Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct. & Dec.)>>

From: Randy Davis <rd@ns1.think-net.com>

Wednesday July 22 11:07 AM EDT Former astronaut Alan Shepard dies at 74

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Alan Shepard, a former Navy pilot who became the first American in space, has died in California, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said Wednesday. He was 74. "We have been advised that Alan Shepard passed away in his sleep last night in Monterey, California," NASA said. Shepard was one of 12 U.S. astronauts to have walked on the surface of the moon. President Clinton called Shepard "one of our greatest astronauts". "I would like to express the gratitude of our nation," Clinton said in tribute on hearing of Shepard's death.

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Wednesday July 22 1:06 PM EDT

First American in space, Alan Shepard, dies

MONTEREY, Calif. (Reuters) - Alan Shepard, the first American in space and one of only a dozen men to walk on the moon, has died at the age of 74, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said Wednesday. Shepard, a former Navy pilot, died in his sleep on Tuesday night in his home town of Monterey, a NASA statement said. Shepard was in hospital when he died but the statement gave no cause of death. Shepard made history on May 5, 1961 when he blasted off from Cape Canaveral in Florida for a 15-minute sub-orbital flight, five minutes of which were spent in actual space. His craft reached an altitude of 115 miles (185 kms) before returning to a splash-down in the Atlantic Ocean. It was a small beginning but Shepard's pioneering flight brought America into the space race with the Soviet Union, 23 days after Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space. "(It was) just the first baby step, aiming for bigger and better things," Shepard said. His words were echoed eight years later by Neil Armstrong, who declared, "One small step for man, one giant step for mankind," as he stepped onto the lunar surface to become the first man on the moon. After being sidelined by an inner ear ailment that required an operation and kept him out of space for a decade, Shepard made history again as commander of Jan. 31, 1971, Apollo 14 flight, becoming only the fifth man to walk on the moon. He distinguished himself during his 33 hours on the moon when he became the first man to play golf on the moon's surface, sending a ball hurtling through the thin lunar atmosphere with a six-iron, hundreds of yards (meters) further than it would have gone on Earth. Shepard was one of the original seven Mercury astronauts, known as "the Magnificent Seven," named by NASA in 1959 to take America into space. His death leaves only four still alive: John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper and Walter Schirra. Glenn is set to make history by becoming the oldest man in space when he climbs aboard the space shuttle later this year. Asked in a recent interview if he would like to return to space himself, Shepard said: "I think I'm through... I think I'm finished." President Bill Clinton called Shepard "one of our greatest astronauts." "Those of use who are old enough to remember the first space flights will always remember what an impression he made on us and on the world. I would like to express the gratitude of our nation and to say that our thoughts and prayers are with his family," Clinton said. While grounded Shepard served as Chief of the Astronaut Office, a position he returned to in 1971 after his lunar flight and in which he served until he retired in 1974 with the rank of rear admiral. A banker's son, he was born in East Derry, N.H., on Nov. 18, 1923. He received a degree from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1944 and later served aboard the destroyer Cogswell in the Pacific during World War II. He entered flight training and received his wings in 1947. After retirement, Shepard became chairman of Marathon Construction Company in Houston, Texas. He is survived by his wife Louise and two children, Laura Snyder and Julie Coleman Jenkins.

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## STATEMENT OF NASA ADMINISTRATOR DANIEL S. GOLDIN ON THE DEATH OF ALAN SHEPARD

The entire NASA family is deeply saddened by the passing of Alan Shepard. NASA has lost one of its greatest pioneers; America has lost a shining star. Alan Shepard will be remembered, always, for his accomplishments of the past: being one of the original seven Mercury astronauts, for being the first American to fly in space, and for being one of only 12 Americans ever to step on the Moon. He should also be remembered as someone who, even in his final days, never lost sight of the future. On behalf of the space program Alan Shepard helped launch, and all those that space program has and will inspire, we send our deepest condolences to his wife Louise, their children, and the rest of the Shepard family. Alan Shepard lived to explore the heavens. On this his final journey, we wish him Godspeed.



From: "Randy C. Davis" <rd@ns1.think-net.com>

There was a segment on CNN Headlines about science knowledge. Over 61% of the people interviewed (2000 total) thought that science and research were very important. However, when asked the question "Did humans live at the same time as dinosaurs?", only 51% said "no". When asked "How long does it take for the Earth to make one trip around the Sun?", only 48% gave the correct answer, "One Year".

Geez. Either I know a lot of people that are smarter than that, or else science education has really hit a low.



From: Rich Zellich <zellich@st-17lssc.amy.mil>

Well, the correct 51% and 48% answers are probably about right.

Remember that, by definition, half the people fall on the left side of the bell curve... :-)



From: Sean Sendlein <Jacara@i1.net>

Actor Gary Cole, who most SF fans will remember as the ominous sheriff Lucas Buck from American Gothic, has been cast as the lead character in the upcoming Babylon 5 spinoff TV series Crusade, his agent said. Although details are scarce, Cole will reportedly play a character named Matthew Gideon, the captain of the Interstellar Alliance starship Excalibur.

J. Michael Straczynski, the creator of both Babylon 5 and Crusade, said, "We're very excited about having Gary Cole on the show, because of the terrific range he brings to his work." Straczynski added that actor Peter Woodward had been cast in the role of Galen, a technomage who will be

a recurring character in the series, while actress Camie Dobro will play a character named Dureena.

In Crusade, the starship Excalibur is on a mission to save Earth from a bio-engineered plague that will wipe out humanity within five years if it's not stopped. The ship's crew, made up of Minbari-trained Rangers, will journey to the ancient places of the galaxy searching for a cure. Crusade will debut on TNT in January 1999.



From: Sean Sendlein <Jacara@i1.net>

DeBoer Confirmed As New Dax

Nicole deBoer, the actress who was most recently seen in the Sci-Fi Channel original series Mission Genesis, will be joining the cast of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine next season, Sci-Fi Wire has confirmed. DeBoer will reportedly play a character named Ezri Dax, who succeeds Jadzia—formerly played by Terry Farrell—as host to the Trill symbiont Dax.

In an interesting plot twist, Ezri will supposedly be one of the few unwilling Trill hosts, agreeing to join with Dax only to save Dax's life. SF fans might also recognize deBoer from her appearances on Psi Factor, Poltergeist: The Legacy, The Outer Limits and Forever Knight.



From: Randy Davis <rd@ns1.think-net.com>

Dilbert Animated TV Show

We're in full production for the January 1999 release of the Dilbert animated series. It'll be on UPN, in primetime. I'll give you the details as we get closer.

Several shows have been written and voice-recorded already. There's an eight month process of storyboarding and animating in Korea. That means that sometime in August we'll be juggling 13 separate episodes all in different stages of production. This will not be the summer I get the tan I always wanted.

The scariest part of the process was casting for the voices. We needed to find people who had not only the acting and comedic skills, but the voices that fit the characters. Any one of those filters will empty a room pretty quickly. Finding all three seemed impossible. I'm delighted to say that after a LONG search, we found actors with all of those qualities and more.

Dilbert: Daniel Stern

Dogbert: Chris Elliot

Boss: Larry Miller

Alice: Kathy Griffin

Wally: Gordon Hunt (yes, Helen Hunt's dad)



### ITEMS SHAMELESSLY STOLEN FROM THE INTERNET

<<These are items that I found or that someone was kind(?) enough to send me that might be of interest to members of the club.>>



From: Sean Sendlein <Jacara@i1.net>

True news.....

DEADLY ACCIDENT: An Imax camera operator killed in a light aircraft crash during a location shoot in the Galapagos Islands.



From: "Powell, Brooks - x3722" <brooksp@mohela.com>

Duck Food

A duck walked into a drug store. "Do you have any duck food?" He asked the druggist. "No!" Replied the druggist. The duck left. The next day the same duck walked into the same drug store. Again, he asked the druggist if he had any duck food. Once again the druggist told him he didn't and added, "Don't come in here again asking for duck food or I'll nail your little webbed feet to the floor!"

The next day the same duck walked into the same drug store. "Do you have any nails?" The duck asked. "No!" Replied the druggist.

"Oh good," said the duck, "Do you have any duck food?"



From: Dorothy Kollmeyer <scoop@i1.net>

All babies start out with the same number of raw cells which, over nine months, develop into a complete female baby. The problem occurs when cells are instructed by the little chromosomes to make a male baby instead. Because there are only so many cells to go around, the cells necessary to develop a male's reproductive organs have to come from cells already assigned elsewhere in the female. Recent tests have shown that these cells are removed from the communications center of the brain, migrate lower in the body and develop into male sexual organs.

If you visualize a normal brain to be similar to a full deck of cards, this means that males are born a few cards short, so to speak. And some of their cards are in their shorts. This difference between the male and female brain manifests itself in various ways. Little girls will tend to play things like house or learn to read. Little boys, however, will tend to do things like placing a bucket over their heads and running into walls. Little girls will think about doing things before taking any action. Little boys will just punch or kick something and will look surprised if someone asks them why they just punched their little brother who was half asleep and looking the other way. This basic cognitive difference continues to grow

until puberty, when the hormones kick into action and the trouble really begins. After puberty, not only the size of the male and female brains differ, but the center of thought also differs. Women think with their heads. Male thoughts often originate lower in their bodies where their ex-brain cells reside. Of course, the size of this problem varies from man to man. In some men only a small number of brain cells migrate and they are left with nearly full mental capacity but they tend to be rather dull, sexually speaking. Such men are known in medical terms as "Republicans." Other men suffer larger brain cell relocation. These men are medically referred to as "Democrats." A small number of men suffer massive brain cell migration to their groins. These men are usually referred to as . . . "Mr. President."



From: Michael R Meyer <tetaboo@madisontelco.com>

A Blonde Kidnapper

A Blonde was down on her luck. In order to raise some money, she decided to kidnap a kid and hold him for ransom. She went to the playground, grabbed a kid, took him behind a tree, and told him, "I've kidnapped you." She then wrote a note saying, "I've kidnapped your kid. Tomorrow morning, put \$10,000 in a paper bag and put it under the pecan tree next to the slide on the north side of the playground. Signed, A Blonde".

The Blonde then pinned the note to the kid's shirt and sent him home to show it to his parents. The next morning the Blonde checked, and sure enough, a paper bag was sitting beneath the pecan tree. The Blonde opened up the bag and found the \$10,000 with a note that said, "How could you do this to a fellow Blonde?"



From: Earthmother <earthmth@swbell.net>

BILL OF NO RIGHTS

We, the sensible people of the United States, in an attempt to help everyone get along, restore some semblance of justice, avoid any more riots, keep our nation safe, promote positive behavior and secure the blessings of debt-free liberty to ourselves and our great-great-great grandchildren, hereby try one more time to ordain and establish some common sense guidelines for the terminally whiney.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that a whole lot of people were confused by the Bill of Rights and are so dim that they require a Bill of No Rights.

ARTICLE I: You do not have the right to a new car, big screen TV or any other form of wealth. More power to you if you can legally acquire them, but no one is guaranteeing anything.

ARTICLE II: You do not have the right to never be offended. This country is based on freedom, and that means freedom for everyone, not just you! You may leave the room, turn the channel, express a different opinion, etc., but the world is full of idiots and probably always will be.

ARTICLE III: You do not have the right to be free from harm. If you stick a screwdriver in your eye, learn to be more careful, do not expect the tool manufacturer to make you and all your relatives independently wealthy.

ARTICLE IV: You do not have the right to free food and housing. Americans are the most charitable people to be found, and will gladly help anyone in need, but we are quickly growing weary of subsidizing generation after generation of professional couch potatoes who achieve nothing more than the creation of another generation of professional couch potatoes.

ARTICLE V: You do not have the right to free health care. That would be nice, but from the looks of public housing, we're just not interested in health care.

ARTICLE VI: You do not have the right to physically harm other people. If you kidnap, rape, intentionally maim, or kill someone don't be surprised if the rest of us want to see you fry in the electric chair.

ARTICLE VII: You do not have the right to the possessions of others. If you rob, cheat, or coerce away the goods or services of other citizens, don't be surprised if the rest of us get together and lock you away in a place where you still won't have the right to a full-screen color TV or a life of leisure.

ARTICLE VIII: You don't have the right to demand that our children risk their lives in foreign wars to soothe your aching conscience. We hate oppressive governments and won't lift a finger to stop you from going to fight if you'd like. However, we do not enjoy parenting the entire world and do not want to spend so much of our time battling each and every little tyrant with a military uniform and a funny hat.

ARTICLE IX: You don't have the right to a job. All of us sure want all of you to have one, and will gladly help you along in hard times, but we expect you to take advantage of the opportunities of education and vocational training laid before you to make yourself useful.

ARTICLE X: You do not have the right to happiness. Being an American means that you have the right to pursue happiness - which by the way, is a lot easier if you are unencumbered by an overabundance of idiotic laws created by those who were confused by the Bill of Rights.

The following was written by State Representative Mitchell Kaye from Cobb County, GA.

IF YOU AGREE WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO FORWARD THIS TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN. NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO AND NOTHING TRAGIC WILL BEFALL YOU SHOULD YOU NOT FORWARD IT. WE JUST THINK IT IS ABOUT TIME COMMON SENSE IS ALLOWED TO FLOURISH - CALL IT THE AGE OF REASON REVISITED. THANK YOU.



From: CMedley302@aol.com

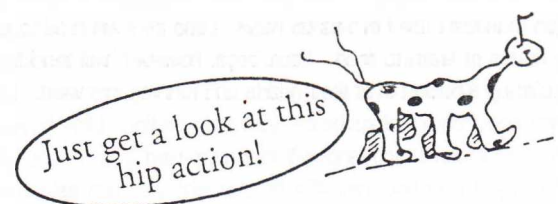
Many people are at a loss for a response when someone says, "You don't know Jack Schitt." Now, you can handle the situation. Jack Schitt is the only son of Awe Schitt and Oh Schitt. Awe Schitt, the fertilizer magnate, married Oh Schitt, the owner of Knee Deep Schitt, Inc. In turn, Jack Schitt married Noe Schitt and the deeply religious couple produced 6 children: Holie Schitt, the twins Deep Schitt and Dip Schitt, Fulla Schitt, Giva Schitt and Bull Schitt. Against his parents' objections, Deep Schitt married Dumb Schitt; a high school dropout. After being married 15 years, Jack and Noe Schitt divorced. Noe later married Mr. Sherlock, and because her kids were living with them, she wanted to keep her previous name. She was known as Noe Schitt-Sherlock. Dip Schitt married Loada Schitt and they produced a mongoloid son, Chicken Schitt. Fulla Schitt and Giva Schitt were inseparable throughout childhood, and consequently, married the Happens brothers in a dual ceremony. The Schitt-Happens children are Dawg, Byrd, and Hoarse. Bull Schitt, the prodigal son, left home to tour the world. He recently returned with his new bride, Pisa Schitt. Now, when someone says you don't know Jack Schitt, you can correct them.



From: "Mary Stadter" <MBrought@www2.alpeng.com>

#### Extreme Bumper Stickers

Who lit the fuse on your tampon?; Support Cannibalism-EAT ME!; God is my co-pilot, but the Devil is my bombardier.; I don't have a license to kill. I have a learner's permit.; Keep honking while I reload.; Taxation WITH representation isn't so hot, either!; Who were the beta testers for Preparations A through G?; Madness takes its toll. Please have exact change.; 5 days a week my body is a temple. The other two, it's an amusement park.; EARTH FIRST! We'll stripmine the other planets later.; Your child may be an honor student but you're still an idiot.; If you drink, don't park. Accidents cause people.; If you can read this, I can hit my brakes and sue you.; Save the whales! Trade them for valuable prizes.; Whitewater is over when the First Lady sings.; Jack Kevorkian for White House physician.; My wife keeps complaining I never listen to her ...or something like that.; Sure you can trust the government! Just ask an Indian!; Alcohol and calculus don't mix. Never drink and derive.; If we are what we eat; I'm cheap, fast, and easy.; Stop repeat offenders. Don't re-elect them!





From: Rich Zellich <zellich@stl-17lssc.army.mil>

CONGRESS PASSES AMERICANS WITH NO ABILITIES ACT WASHINGTON, DC

On Tuesday, Congress approved the Americans With No Abilities Act, sweeping new legislation that provides benefits and protection for more than 135 million talentless Americans.

The act, signed into law by President Clinton shortly after its passage, is being hailed as a major victory for the millions upon millions of U.S. citizens who lack any real skills or uses.

"Roughly 50 percent of Americans - through no fault of their own - do not possess the talent necessary to carve out a meaningful role for themselves in society," said Clinton, a longtime ANA supporter. "Their lives are futile hamster-wheel existence's of unrewarding, dead-end busywork Xeroxing documents written by others, fulfilling mail-in rebates for Black & Decker toaster ovens, and processing bureaucratic forms that nobody will ever see. Sadly, for these millions of nonabled Americans, the American dream of working hard and moving up through the ranks is simply not a reality."

Under the Americans With No Abilities Act, more than 25 million important-sounding "middle man" positions will be created in the white-collar sector for nonabled persons, providing them with an illusory sense of purpose and ability. Mandatory, non-performance-based raises and promotions will also be offered to create a sense of upward mobility for even the most unremarkable, utterly replaceable employees. The legislation also provides corporations with incentives to hire nonabled workers, including tax breaks for those who hire one non-germane worker for every two talented hirees.

Finally, the Americans With No Abilities Act also contains tough new measures to prevent discrimination against the nonabled by banning prospective employers from asking such job-interview questions as, "What can you bring to this organization?" and "Do you have any special skills that would make you an asset to this company?"

"As a nonabled person, I frequently find myself unable to keep up with co-workers who have something going for them," said Mary Lou Gertz, who lost her position as an unessential filing clerk at a Minneapolis tile wholesaler last month because of her lack of notable skills. "This new law should really help people like me."

With the passage of the Americans With No Abilities Act, Gertz and millions of other untalented, unessential citizens can finally see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Said Clinton "It is our duty, both as lawmakers and as human beings, to provide each and every American citizen, regardless of his or her lack of value to society, some sort of space, to take up in this great nation."



From: Michael R Meyer <tetaboo@madisontelco.com>

A young man bought the fastest motorcycle that money could buy: a Yamaondason 2000 SP 8.2. It was the most expensive bike in the world and cost him \$32,150.99. The first day he bought the new bike he took it for a spin. While doing so he stopped at a red light at the city limits.

An old man pulled up next to him on a moped. The old man looked over at the bright, red, shiny, sleek new motorcycle and asked, "What kind of scooter ya got there, sonny?" The young man replied, "It's a Yamaondason 2000 SP 8.2. It costs \$32,150.99 out the door." "That's a lot of money," said the old man, shocked. "Why does it cost so much?" "Because this bike can go 200 mph!" exclaimed the young man. The old fella asked, "Can I take a closer look at it?" "Sure," replied the new owner. From his moped the old man leaned over and took a good look at the very fast-looking machine. Just then the light changed, so the young man decided to show the old guy what his new motorcycle could really do. He gave it full throttle and within 30 seconds the speedometer read 199 mph. Suddenly, he noticed a dot in his rear-view mirror. It seemed to be getting closer! He slowed a little to see what it could be and suddenly, WHHHOOOSSSHHH! Something whipped passed him going much faster. "What could be faster than my 2000 SP 8.2?" the young man thought to himself. Then just ahead of him, he saw the dot coming back at him. WHHHOOOSSSHHH! It went flying by him again going in the opposite direction! It almost looked like the old man on the moped! How could that be, thought the young man. Again he saw the dot in his mirror! WHHHOOOSSSHHH! KABBBLAMMM! The moped slammed into the rear of the shiny new 2000 SP 8.2, demolishing the read end of the young rider's pride and joy. The young man jumped off and saw it was the old timer. Of course the moped was crushed and the old man was lying on the ground pretty beat up. The young man ran over to him and asked, "Are you hurt? Is there anything I can do for you? The old man groaned and replied, "Yes, could you unhook my suspenders from your side-view mirror?"



From: "Mary Stacter" <MBrought@www2.alpeng.com>

Here are a few Darwin award wanna-be's to amuse you:

GUTHRIE, OK In October, Jason Heck tried to kill a millipede with a shot from his .22 caliber rifle, but the bullet ricocketed off a rock near the hole and hit pal Antonio Martinez in the head, fracturing his skull.

ELYRIA, OH In October, Martyn Eskins, attempting to clean out cobwebs in his basement, declined to use a broom in favor of a propane torch and caused a fire that burned the first and second floors of his house.

ANDOVER TOWNSHIP, NJ Paul Stiller, 47, was hospitalized in Sept., and his wife Bonnie was also injured, by a quarter stick of dynamite that blew up in their car. While driving around at 2 a.m., the bored couple lit the dynamite and tried to toss it out the window to see what would happen, they apparently failed to notice that the window was closed.





From: Jim Garrison <czarjim@wdpro.com>

I was sitting here watching my hard drive defrag when it dawned on me. You know that are Anal Retentive when you sit and watch Norton's defrag your hard drive, just to know that everything is in order.

God I need help.



From: Michael R Meyer <tetaboo@madisonelco.com>

This elderly couple is sitting on a park bench if from a large pond. Across the other side of the pond are vendors sell all types of food stuff. The wife turns to the husband and says, "I could really go for an ice cream cone." Husband replies, "Well, I'll go get you one." Wife says, "But you'll forget, you better write it down." Husband replies, "No I won't; what do you want?" Wife says "Get me a Strawberry cone with chocolate sprinkles." Husband replies, "Okay, strawberry cone with chocolate sprinkles. See, I'll remember." Several hours pass and, finally, the husband returns. The wife asks him, "What took you so long, did you get lost?" The husband replies, "No, and I got what you wanted." The wife opens up the bag to discover a cheeseburger and fries?! Wife says, "I knew you should have written the order down." Husband says, "what do you mean-everything is there?!" To which the wife replies, "No, it's not...look, you forgot the pickles."



Ego-wise, two things are important to engineers:

- \* How smart they are.
- \* How many cool devices they own.

The fastest way to get an engineer to solve a problem is to declare that the problem is unsolvable. No engineer can walk away from an unsolvable problem until it's solved. No illness or distraction is sufficient to get the engineer off the case. These types of challenges quickly become personal – a battle between the engineer and the laws of nature.

Engineers will go without food and hygiene for days to solve a problem. (Other times just because they forgot.) And when they succeed in solving the problem they will experience an ego rush that is better than anything else.

Nothing is more threatening to the engineer than the suggestion that somebody has more technical skill. Normal people sometimes use that knowledge as a lever to extract more work from the engineer. When an engineer says that something can't be done (a code phrase that means it's not fun to do), some clever normal people have learned to glance at the engineer with a look of compassion and pity and say something along these lines: "I'll ask Bob to figure it out. He knows how to solve difficult technical problems."

At that point it is a good idea for the normal person to not stand between the engineer and the problem. The engineer will set upon the problem like a starved Chihuahua on a pork chop.

- As told by laughalot-owner@graceweb.org



From: "Scott Corwin" <scorwin@cpicorp.com>

These are actual excuse notes from parents (including original spelling) collected by Nisheeth Parekh, University Texas Medical Branch @ Galveston...

My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.; Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.; Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.; Please excuse Gloria from Jim today. She is administrating.; Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.; John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.; Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.; Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.; Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.; Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.; Please excuse Pedro from being absent yesterday. He had (diahre) (dyrea) (direathe) the shits. [words were crossed out in the ( )s]; Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.; Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.; Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.; I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wear.; Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.; Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.; My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent a weekend with the Marines.; Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.; Please excuse Mary for being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.; Gloria was absent yesterday as she was having a gangover.; Please excuse Burma, she has been sick and under the doctor.; Maryann was absent December 11-16, because she had a fever, sore throat, headache and upset stomach. Her sister was also sick, fever and sore throat, her brother had a low grade fever and ached all over. I wasn't the best either, sore throat and fever. There must be something going around, her father even got hot last night.



From: colleen joerger <cjoerger@swbell.net>

GM vs Micro\$oft

Bill Gates wanted to look good and impress everyone with his success. He decided to measure Microsoft accomplishments against General Motors. His comparison went like this: "If automotive technology had kept pace with computer technology over the past few decades, you would now be driving a V-32 instead of a V8, and it would have a top speed of



10,000 miles/hour (16,000km/hr). Or you could have an economy car that weighs 30 pounds (14 kilos) and gets a thousand miles to the gallon of gas. In either case, the sticker price of the new car would be less than \$50.00." In response to all this goading, GM responded: "Yes, but would you really want to drive a car that crashes 4 times a day?" GM continued by stating that if Microsoft built cars: 1. Every time they repainted the lines on the road, you'd have to buy a new car. 2. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you'd have to restart it. For some strange reason, you'd just accept this and drive on. 3. Occasionally, your car would stop and fail to restart, and you'd have to reinstall the engine. For some strange reason, you'd just accept this too. 4. You could only have one person in the car at a time, unless you bought a Car95 or a CarNT. But then you'd have to buy more seats. 5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was twice as fast, twice as easy to drive - but would only run on 5 percent of the roads. 6. The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make their cars run much slower. 7. The oil, engine, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car default" warning light. 8. New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt. 9. The airbag system would say, "Are you sure?" before going off. 10. If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Aug. 14 - ARCHON MEETING, 7 PM, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info.

Aug. 16 - SAINT LOUIS CLUB MEETING, 1:30 PM, WE HAVE A "PERMANENT" PLACE TO MEET!!!! We will be meeting on a regular basis at "*Stacks, the Restaraunt*" at *Library, Ltd.* We will be upstairs (out of the way) and will have a section **RESERVED** for us by the restaraunt manager (somebody named Kingston Zellich) so let's ALL make an effort to come out to the meeting this month. I'll even try to get our Vice President to come up with some programming; call Zellich at 349-0594 for more info.

Sept. 10 - ARCHON MEETING, 7 PM, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info.

Sept. <sup>26</sup> 19 - RICHARD ZELlich'S ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY, 8 PM, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info.

Sept. 25 - ARCHON MEETING, 7 PM, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info. (MAYBE)

Oct. 2-4 - ARCHON 22, Collinsville, IL.

Oct. 17 - MICHELLE ZELlich'S 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY, 7:00 PM, Chez Zellich, call 349-0594 for more info.

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