

Who Ya' Gonna Call?



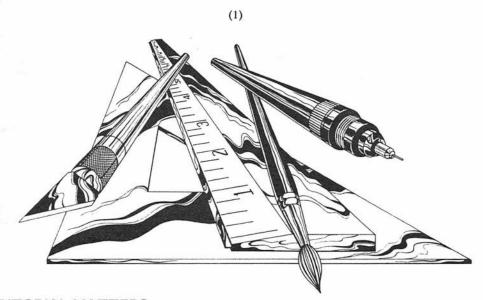
ALCOR Deathbusters!

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CRYONICS is the newsletter of the Alcor Life Extension Foundation, Inc. Mike Darwin (Federowicz) and Hugh Hixon, Editors. Published monthly. Individual subscriptions: \$25 per year in the US; \$35 per year in Canada and Mexico; \$40 per year all others. Back issues are \$2.50 each in the US, Canada, and Mexico; \$3.50 each all others.

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EDITORIAL MATTERS

Hopefully you've noticed: we're trying to catch up with *Cryonics*. If we can just manage to get the October issue to the printer's by the 15th of September we'll be back on track. With increased staffing at the facility it should be easier for us to maintain a more regular production schedule -- barring any suspensions! (And maybe even if we do have a suspension or two).

For those who were eagerly anticipating the survey in the August issue and who were disappointed to find it not there -- our apologies. We decided to do a little last-minute statistical work on it, and that delayed it another month. It's finally ready and we think it was worth the wait.

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DORA KENT CASE: PROGRESS REPORT

Yes, it's been awhile since you've seen anything on the Dora Kent case in the pages of *Cryonics*. We can't say we're sorry things have been so quiet. With all the other things occupying our attention lately it has been a welcome relief.

Use Immunity

So, what's been happening? Is it over yet? The answer to the latter question is simple: "No." To the former, the answer is a bit more complex. Reproduced below is an article from the Riverside *Press Enterprise* about the latest steps in the legal *danse macabre*. The Dora Kent case has now turned into a potentially precedent-setting case regarding immunity laws in California. As the article below details, the first round in this case has been argued. But what the article doesn't tell you, is that District Attorney Hinman's performance in court was far from impressive and we are hopeful that we will have won Round One on this issue. [As we went to press, we were informed, on August 25 that Hinman's appeal had been denied.]

Riverside

The Press Enterprise

- Saturday, July 15, 1989

SECTION

State immunity law challenged in cryonics case

By RONNIE D. SMITH The Press-Enterprise

The bizarre case of the freezing of the head of Dora Kent of Riverside has taken a turn into the appellate court because three people present when her head was cut off have refused to testify before a county grand jury.

In the midst of a criminal investigation of Kent's death on Dec. 11, 1987, prosecutors appealed a Riverside judge's ruling last March to the 4th District Court of Appeal in San Bernardino. The court will hear the case next month.

Although proceedings of the Riverside County grand jury are secret, court documents filed in San Bernardino and interviews reveal:

• The investigation into the death could hit a roadblock unless prosecutors can get a court order forcing three members of Alcor Life Extension Foundation of Riverside to testify under a grant of limited immunity before the grand jury. In March, Riverside Superior Court Judgs Victor Miceli refused to issue such an order.

• The case, likely to end up before the state Supreme Court, may establish new California law involving types of immunity given people for their testimony in criminal cases. The case would bring California in line with federal immunity laws, like the ones used by investigators in the case against Oliver North in the Iran-Contra affair:

The case of 83-year-old Dora Kent grabbed national attention $1\frac{1}{2}$ years ago when her son, Saul Kent of Woodcrest, said he took his ailing mother to Alcor's Riverside laboratory, where cryonics technicians removed her head and froze it at 320 degrees below zero. Alcor officials said the woman was dead when they cut off her head.

Devotees of cryonics, founded in Michigan in the 1960s, prefer freezing to funerals. They say they freeze bodies with the idea that once science finds a cure for whatever killed those people, they can be revived through cell re-generation procedures yet to be pioneered. Alcor officials say new bodies will be made for the heads. Most scientists dismiss cryonics as science fiction.

County coroner officials have concluded that Kent died from a lethal dose of barbiturates that were pumped into her body to prepare her for freezing. Alcor officials insist she was dead when they gave her the drugs to slow cell loss. In the hands of the Riverside County district attorney, the investigation has tried to



(2)

Cryonics . . .

(From Page B-1) find out who gave the woman the drugs and when and has focused on a dozen Alcor members, including former Alcor president Michael Federowicz and Jerry D. Leaf, who worked in the division of thoracic surgery at UCLA and surgically removed the head.

The investigation stalled Dec. 13, court records say, because Alcor members Hugh Hixon, R. Michael Perry and Scott Green, allpresent when the head was removed, invoked their right against self-incrimination and refused to testify before the Riverside County grand jury. Prosecutors had agreed to give them limited immunity from prosecution for their testimony. In March, prosecutors asked Judge Miceli to order the three to testify. Miceli refused, saying that unless they were given total immunity, as proscribed by state law, they could not be ordered to testify.

Prosecutors then appealed the immunity issue to the appeals court in San Bernardino.

Prosecutors acknowledged that without testimony from a participant at the head removal, their investigation is frozen in its tracks and criminal responsibility for the death of Kent may never be known.

"We couldn't prosecute anybody," said Curtis R. Hinman, the Riverside County deputy district attorney assigned to the case. Without the testimony, he said in court papers, "further information regarding Alcor Life Extension Foundation and the death of Dora Kent cannot'be obtained."

The legal sticking point gets into the fine print of the law. The

issue is over two forms of immunity. Traditionally, prosecutors decide when a person should be given immunity for testifying about crimes he has knowledge of and without fear of being prosecuted.

Federal law has established what is called "use" immunity. Col. North was granted this immunity when he testified before Congress in the Iran-Contra case. The limited immunity meant that anything he said could not be used as evidence against him later in a court proceeding. However, the grant of immunity did not stop investigators from developing evidence independent of North's Congressional testimony for use against him later. North later was prosecuted and convicted on evidence obtained independent of his testimony before Congress.

California law has not formally recognized the federál-type limited immunity in criminal prosecutions. State law provides what is called "transactional" immunity. or total protection from prosecution for people who testify about crimes they might be involved in. This means that under a transactional immunity-grant a person who admits he killed someone cannot be prosecuted for it.

Giving the three Alcor members total immunity presents a double-edged sword for prosecutors. The Alcor members could shed light on the case that could lead to charges against others. But on the other hand, the three members could testify that they themselves gave the drugs to Kent. Under total immunity, they could not be prosecuted for it.

In a court brief for the appellate justices, Hinman wrote that prosecutors, "having no idea as to who may have injected barbiturates into Dora Kent or how it may have happened, cannot grant (total immunity) to a potential murderer."

Hinman said an Alcor member might be willing to stand up and say he did it, if he knows he can't be prosecuted. "Someone might be willing to be a martyr because Alcor is in some respects like a religion," said Hinman. "They offer life after death."

To avoid the prosecutorial nightmare of one of the Alcor witnesses taking the rap, Hinman wants the appeals court to recognize the federal-type limited immunity for the witnesses so that evidence learned independently of their testimony can be used against them.

Hinman has acknowledged that the Alcor members have never agreed to testify under total immunity.

A San Francisco lawyer who represents the Alcor members said Riverside prosecutors are using the Kent case to push state law into new legal territory.

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"If the real significance is to know the information they are seeking they could know that by granting the transactional immunity," said Ephraim Margolin, of San Francisco, a well-known advocate of defendant's rights.

Margolin said prosecutors who once criticized the Supreme Court of Rose Bird for making law instead of interpreting it are now asking the conservative Supreme Court of Malcolm Lucas to make law advantageous to prosecutors. He said immunity laws were established by the Legislature.

Whatever happens at the appellate court, both sides suggest, the case is expected to be appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Records/Property Return

The second new development is that almost all of our property was returned. On Thursday, August 16th, Mike Darwin picked up more of this "confiscated" property. The return of this property, long overdue, is nevertheless a godsend. Included in the returned items were 89 floppy diskettes which contained much of the core administration work of Alcor prior to 1988. True, we have "regenerated" much of that. But there are some things we have not replaced such as re-entering our *Signing Up Made Simple* manual on diskette. And of course, years worth of correspondence, financial logs, and other irreplaceable records of historical and archival importance were contained on those diskettes.

The returned property includes one bit of missing patient records: the videotape of patient A-1068's suspension. Also still in custody are Dora Kent's original file (we got a copy of this last year), pharmaceuticals, some medical disposables, and some other odds and ends. Some items of personal property went missing about the time of the raid, and we may eventually file a stolen property report against the police and the coroner.

The return of these vital records has helped to at least scab over an aching wound and address some deep anxieties. True healing will take longer.

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COULDN'T HAPPEN TO A NICER GUY(S) OR HE WHO LAUGHS LAST

by Mike Darwin

Who are John Baust and Arthur Rowe? This is an article for those who don't know.

Arthur Rowe and John Baust have a number of things in common: both have Ph.D.s, both are cryobiologists, both are former Presidents of the *Society for Cryobiology* and, most relevant to this article, both are rabidly anticryonics. Rowe is perhaps best remembered for his mindless repetition of the "hamburger into cow argument" first articulated (if that's the word to describe it) by cryobiologist Peter Mazur ("Cryonics has about as much chance of working as reconstituting a cow from hamburger.").

I have met John Baust on several occasions and I have had dinner as a guest in his home. We have, in the past, extensively discussed cryonics and it is my belief that he understands the mechanics of cryonics very well. However, this has never stopped him from going on national television (such as he recently did on *Good Morning America*) making statements to the effect that what cryonicists are attempting to do is to find a single viable cell in a frozen body or head and then clone the person. Of course, if we did that, as Baust then invariably *correctly* goes on to note "it wouldn't be the same person."

My personal opinion of John Baust is that he is intellectually dishonest, and a poor scientist. For years his reputation inside the Society for Cryobiology has been scarcely any better. He has been respected for his ability to court industry (and obtain expensive apparatus at minimal or no cost) and for his ruthless and, in the opinion of some, unprincipled political maneuvering.

As president of the Society, Baust was in large part responsible for blocking the publication of the Alcor and Cryovita dog perfusion study and he spearheaded the inclusion of paragraph 2.04 in the Society's Bylaws, banning cryonicists from participation in the Society. Baust's public attacks on cryonics have been, in my opinion, intellectually dishonest and grossly unjust.

Until recently, Baust headed the Institute of Low Temperature Biology at the University of Houston, with the title of Luyet Distinguished Professor in Cryobiology (a position he created), where he conducted work into the cryobiology of arctic and antarctic

NEWS

How Not To Succeed Despite Trying Very Hard:

SUNY-Binghamton biologists pick up the pieces after a failed attempt to break into the "big leagues" of science

BY ERIC ANDERSON

BINGHAMTON, N.Y.—A few years ago, the State University of New York at Binghamton wanted to put its biology department on the fast track for research. So it went out and hired John Baust, a 44-year-old cryobiologist from the University of Houston, to take it there.

Baust arrived at the upstate New York school in January 1987 and quickly announced his goals: a doubling of the number of graduate students; a fourfold increase in outside funding, from less than \$1 million to \$4 million annually; and recognition by his peers that the department had climbed into the nation's elite of academic research programs. He had a personal mission as well: to direct a new Center for Cryobiological Research, a lab created to advance his own work on how organisms adapt to subfreezing temperatures.

Two years later, that ambitious effort has come crashing down around him. In October 1988 Baust resigned as department chair after receiving a vote of "no confidence" by a majority of the 29-member biology faculty. That action spawned a faculty investigation into aspects of his conduct during the hiring process and once he arrived at the school. And this past March, Baust suffered another heavy blow: The university pulled the plug on Baust's cryobiol-



EMBATTLED BIOLOGIST: John Baust is still a tenured professor, but his dreams to upgrade SUNY-Binghamton's biology department have been shattered.

ogy center, ending more than \$70,000 in annual support. Its reason? The center had failed to attract a single dollar of outside funding.

But Binghamton's abortive attempt to break into the big-time illustrates more than the inability of one scientist to beef up a single research program. It demonstrates the overwhelming importance of outside funding, the need for consensus and gradual change, and the role that outside factors can play in any institution's attempt to move up the academic ladder.

Baust, who remains a tenured professor of biology at the university, admits to feeling "embarrassed" by the entire affair. And he's not the only one who's been hurt by his failure to raise the status of the biology department at SUNY-Binghamton, a university with 12,000 students located an hour's drive south of Syracuse, N.Y. The episode has also left a bad taste in the mouths of most faculty members, who say that they just want to get on with their science and don't care if they never move up into the ranks of a Berkeley or MIT.

"I've never seen people so angry," says veteran biology professor Arthur Frankel about Baust's effect on a somewhat stodgy department. Baust annoyed people with his brusque manner, his claim to a choice parking space, and his ostentatious remodeling of his office. But in the end, Frankel says, the conflict between Baust and his colleagues came down to substance as well as style. "He would have got by

(Complete text of article available from Alcor)

insects. In 1987 Baust left the University of Houston to chair the biology Department at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Binghampton, New York. Baust was hired as a "star" to rejuvenate the biology department and put it on the map as a "big-time" science operation by bringing in big-time grants. This is an easy task for someone who is outstanding at both science and grantsmanship.

Baust apparently sold or allowed himself to be sold as someone who was capable of doing both. This wasn't the case; neither Baust nor the cryobiology center he established has received a single major grant since his arrival. In fact, the only thing Baust appears to have brought to the university is hatred, dissension, and loss of face. As one prominent cryobiologist put it: "It was a disaster from the start, Baust is a lousy scientist at best who'd be even worse off if it weren't for a few bright graduate students he's had in the past." As a recent article in *The Scientist*, a weekly newsmagazine for American scientists, points out, Baust's presence at SUNY-Binghampton was a virtual disaster for the biology department both academically and financially. We have reprinted part of the *The Scientist* article on the previous page.

For those outside of academic circles it is perhaps worth pausing here to explain *exactly what has happened to John Baust.* On the surface, his position may not seem so bad. True, his Department of Cryobiology has vanished, along with the \$70K a year in support the University had offered. But he is, after all, still employed and will remain so, since he is tenured. But it is widely acknowledged in the academic and cryobiological community that his *career* is (barring a miracle) over. While he does have a job, it is at an institution at which he is held in contempt. His job options elsewhere, after such a public debacle, are nil. It is not inappropriate to say that his career is ruined.

Arthur Rowe's record is scarcely any better. The principal difference between Rowe and Baust is that Rowe at least has had little pretense to being a serious scientist. With only a few published papers, he was employed for many years by the New York Blood Center. According to one critic his principal contribution to the Blood Center was to edit the Society's journal, *Cryobiology*, attend social functions, and give interviews to the media.

Much like Baust (and other cryobiologists) Rowe never lost an opportunity to go before the media and tell people that cryonics absolutely positively won't work and that we are awful frauds.

To many of our readers neither Baust nor Rowe's name or stories will be new. They have, in my opinion, for nearly a decade been the two most outspoken, vocal, and intellectually dishonest critics of cryonics.

It would be foolish of me to say that I haven't wished Baust and Rowe ill (foolish because no one would believe me). It is hard, maybe even impossible for most of us to remain unmoved when attacked successfully by people whom we perceive to have little or no integrity and even less intellectual capability. It is incredibly painful to have such people bar publication of good scientific work that you have done (such as our dog hypothermic blood substitution work). It is even worse to see the rest of the world dote on the every word of such unworthy critics. We have had no recourse but to sit and watch as both men collected fat salaries richly subsidized by *our* tax dollars. Such a situation is a recipe for the creation of seething hatred.

And yet, that is not really the message of this piece. I am older, a bit slower, a bit more philosophical, a lot more experienced. I am more reflective these days about who

is deserving of seething hatred. Perhaps this is because I'm wiser, or maybe because I've run up against other more richly deserving characters, or maybe its because I just don't have the energy of youth which seethes so easily.

But whatever the reason, this piece is not about hatred, or even about joy in others' misfortune (although I confess to partaking of a little). Rather it is about the *consequences* of intellectual dishonesty and laziness. It is about two small situations where the universe was just in something approaching real time.

Art Rowe was discharged from the New York Blood Center (NYBC) (in less polite circles they call it being fired) and John Baust has been the architect of an academic debacle that has attracted national attention and badly compromised his career. Not only was Rowe sacked by the NYBC some 15 months ago, he has, according to sources inside the Society for Cryobiology, been unable to find work *anywhere*. It appears that his reputation precedes him wherever he goes.

The point of all this isn't to bring the joy of revenge to cryonicists' cold hearts, but rather to point out that actions have consequences. Immoral and intellectually dishonest behavior is unlikely to remain compartmentalized in an individual's life since maintaining such behavior in the face of reality will require more and more effort, energy, and distortion of reality. If such behavior is rewarded (as in the short term it so often is) it is likely to spill over into other areas of a person's life. This certainly seems to have been the case for Baust and Rowe. I think in both cases it's fair to say that it took 20 years for the consequences of such behavior to become apparent. But the point is that it did.

There are other cryobiologists who are better scientists than Baust and Rowe. They are men who have published good papers and have carried out the meticulous science required to contribute to the store of human knowledge. And yet, most of them are unwilling to apply the same standards of rationality, fair play, and restraint to their evaluation of, or public pronouncements about, cryonics.

I believe that for this moral and intellectual failure they will also pay dearly. To the extent that they do good science the effects of this behavior will be diluted or delayed. But if they live long enough there will be a day of reckoning. And the nice thing about it is that we cryonicists won't have do anything to bring it about except to keep on doing exactly the kinds of productive, *positive* things we've been doing all along. History and the fundamental justness of the universe will take care of the rest.

This means that we don't really need to spend time thinking about how to get even. If these guys live long enough their day of reckoning will come.

And you know the really nice thing? Even if they don't live long enough their day of reckoning will come. All we have to worry about is living long enough to appreciate it. Working hard on improving cryonics is the best way to achieve that end. It is *noble* work worthy of the best within us.

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MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Alcor now has 134 Suspension Members, 254 Associate Members, and 12 members in suspension.

BSE AND YOU

by Mike Darwin

It started when I was in Britain. To understand it, you have to understand the British Press. To understand the British Press you have only to think back to grade school about how and why dirty little scandals and rumors propagate through a schoolyard full of children. (I should point out that this kind of thing happens in the U.S.; it even happened to Alcor with the Dora Kent case, but it just isn't the same as in the U.K. There it has been been raised to a high art and major national pastime).

The scandal of the moment was the problem with the eggs. It seems one Member of Parliament by the name of Edwina Curry (promptly rechristened *Eggwina* by the British Press) alleged in public that British eggs were contaminated with *Salmonella* and that all of Britain was in danger of death by dysentery. The egg scandal grabbed national attention. Unfortunately, it was more hype than help. However, concurrent with the egg scandal, another little food-related problem began to be discussed. This one was more serious.

Mad Cow Disease

It seems cows all over the U.K. were going mad. Dreadfully, horribly mad, as their brains were literally turned into a mass of spongy debris. The cause of this catastrophe was not unknown: it was Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE), which is like Creuzfeld-Jacob disease (CJD), and kuru (the so-called cannibal disease), and the infection called scrapie in sheep. We don't know much about these diseases, but what we know isn't good. They are slow viruses, so named because the time from infection to the the time of onset of the disease can be a decade or even two. Even calling these diseases viruses may be wrong since every attempt to isolate nucleic acid (RNA or DNA) molecules, the normal basis of heredity that contains programming instructions. for making cell (and virus) structures, has failed.

Whatever it is, the infectious agents responsible for scrapie, kuru, and now BSE are tough customers; they can withstand standard autoclaving, freeze-drying, and filtration through 0.1 micron filters (normally 0.2 micron filters are used to sterilize pharmaceuticals such as IV fluids)! Consider this; CJD has been transmitted to a chimpanzee from the brain of a CJD victim which had been stored at room temperature in formaldehyde/alcohol solution for seven months (D.C. Gajdusek, et al, N. Engl. J. Med., 294, 553, (1976))!

The most serious problem about these diseases, however, is that they may have wide interspecies transmissibility. And they may even be the same disease with differences in presentation being related only to interspecies variability. Scrapie's clinical presentation closely resembles that of kuru and it has been suggested that they are in fact the same disease (W.J. Hadlow, *Lancet*, 1959 II, 289, (1959). Regardless of whether CJD, kuru, and scrapie are all really the same disease, it is clear that BSE and scrapie are the same thing. And that it is especially worrisome because scrapie has been transmitted to a wide variety of animals other than sheep: goats, mice, rats, and, most worrisome. five species of monkeys (C.J. Gibbs and D.C. Gajdusek, Nature 236, 73, (1972))! It passes to ewes from lambs, possibly as a result of transplacental infection (E.E. Manuelidis, Science, 190, 571, (1975)) and it can be transmitted to sheep simply by having them graze in pastures previously occupied by infected animals!

An Old Enemy

BSE, CJD, kuru and the other slow-virus neurological diseases are invariably fatal, killing by wholesale destruction of the cerebral cortex and related central nervous system structures. A cryonicist entering suspension secondary to kuru or CJD would likely need a lot of re-education on the reanimation end -- starting with the basics -- like who he was! In the case of kuru and scrapie the first symptoms seem to be cerebellar and cause motor abnormalities. In kuru, the first clinical signs are usually a shivering-like tremor that progresses to complete paralysis, dementia, and death in less than one year. In CJD the dementia comes first and the disease is

often mistaken for Alzheimer's. In all of these diseases there is never any remission or pause in progression of the disease, and they are *always* fatal.

In short, these are not diseases you want to get, cryonicist or not. So how did the cows of Britain get it and how can you avoid getting it? The former is easy to answer, the latter is not.

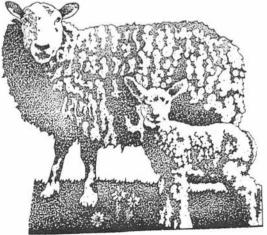
The cows got it by being fed sheep. Yes, that's right, sheep. In order to save money, some feed manufacturers began grinding up bone, connective tissue, and other organ meats which consumers consider undesirable and adding them to cattle feed (sheep's blood is also "recycled" in this way), pet food, pig feed, and chicken feed! People who raised concerns about spreading BSE to cows were told that their speculations were "remote and theoretical." This was unconscionable since over 20 years ago it had been established that mink encepalopathy was a result of feeding scrapie-infected sheep meat to mink! So much for armchair theorists. Right now according to the London Times (May 19, 1989), cows in more than 3000 herds have been afflicted with BSE and over 150 cows a week are being Neuropathologist Dr. Helen Grant of Charing Cross Hospital in London destroyed. (interviewed in The Times) says that the only logical approach in dealing with the disease is "to assume that every beef animal is incubating the disease".

No one knows for sure whether BSE will be transmissible to humans, but the indications are strongly that it will. It has been known for sometime that people who eat sheep's brains or eyes have a 30- to 40-fold greater incidence of CJD (D.C. Gajdusek,

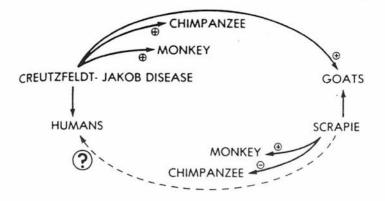
Science 197, 943, (1977)). The histological appearance of CJD, scrapie, and BSE are close: in other words, they cause very similar kinds of pathology in all three hosts. BSE has definitely resulted from feeding infected cattle scrapie-infected sheep tissue, scrapie is known to have been transmitted to a variety of primates by feeding infected brain tissue, and the resultant disease in these animals is indistinguishable from experimentally produced CJD in these species.

Neurosurgery

As an aside, it is probably worth mentioning that there is another apparently significant risk of CJD: neurosurgery. A disturbingly large number of people who







have had neurosurgical procedures go on to develop CJD (W.B. Mathews, J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry, 38, 210, (1975)) suggesting that the cause of CJD in these cases was not the underlying neurological disease, but rather contamination with CJD during the procedure! One particularly sad and well documented case was the development of CJD in two young patients who were recipients of implanted electrodes sterilized with formalin/alcohol after they had been used on a patient with CJD.

What It Means

Where does all this leave British, and for that matter, American cryonicists? Well as an ovo-lacto-vegetarian I can say "I told you so." But I would have to sheepishly(?) add that no one knows for sure that CJD cannot be transmitted by *dairy products*. I do not know what cattle feeding practices are like in the United States, but a call to the Ralston Purina service center yielded the information that Purina "does not now and has never used meat or animal by products in their cattle feed". The spokeswoman was also kind enough to read me a complete list of ingredients in their cow chow (all safely vegetarian).

Of course, some of the beef that enters the U.S. food chain is from the U.K., as are some processed products. But this probably constitutes only a small fraction of beef consumed by Americans. In England the situation is downright scary. Britishers (and Americans) unfortunately do end up eating a lot more cow *brains and eyes* than they think. Those little white, gelatinous flecks in your **breakfast sausage** are very likely what remains of the brains of some cow. And brains aren't used just in sausages, they are also used in hot dogs and some luncheon meats!

Avoiding meat products and perhaps dairy products from herds that have been fed contaminated feed would be one way to eliminate the risk of infection (if you're not, in fact, already infected). In Britain, this may be a difficult thing to do (short of becoming a vegetarian).

There is some speculation that Alzheimer's disease may be caused by a similar slow "virus" (although repeated attempts at achieving transmission to animal hosts have failed) and that life-long vegetarians do not get the disease! It is well established that vegetarians live approximately seven years longer than meat eaters with comparable "other risk" profiles (such as smoking and alcohol intake) and that they suffer dramatically less autoimmune and degenerative diseases such as lupus, autoimmune kidney disease, and arthritis. This alone should give meat eaters pause for thought.

Perhaps the most disturbing thing about CJD, BSE, and scrapie is not just that we know so little about them, but that we've known so little for so long and despite the expenditure of a great deal and of time and money using the best tools of modern molecular biology. If BSE turns out to be the AIDS of England, then a disaster of unbelievable proportions is about to unfold in the next decade or two.

Unfortunately, there is, given our current level of understanding, only one way to find out: wait 10 or 20 years and see what happens.

In the meantime, the best recommendations we can give to avoid BSE/CJD/Scrapie are:

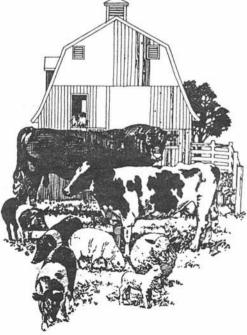
1) Do not eat any brain or CNS system tissue from any animal in any form, including sausages, luncheon meats, or "hot dogs".

2) Avoid skin, mucous membrane or wound contact with brain or CNS material from any animal.

3) For an increased margin of safety do not eat meat at all.

4) If you are having a neurosurgical procedure, inquire as to how the instrumentation will be sterilized. Normal formalin/alcohol sterilization is ineffective against CJD and steam sterilization must be at 120°C for 45 minutes at 20 psi.

5) Leave explicit instructions in your durable power of attorney for medical care



r durable power of attorney for medical care that you do not want feeding if the disease develops.

If you develop any symptoms of CNS disease that you think may result from a spongiform encephalopathy, contact Alcor *immediately* for advice an help. And don't worry, we'll still suspend you!

For readers wishing more detailed information about the spongiform encephalopathies the following works are recommended:

Unconventional Viruses and the Origin and Disappearance of Kuru, by D. Carelton Gajdusek, Science, 197, 943-960, (1977). (This is Gajdusek's Nobel Prize acceptance speech)

The Human Spongiform Encephalopathies, by Paul E. Bendheim, Neurologic Clinics, Volume 2, p. 281-298, 1984.

My thanks to Steve Harris for his help with references in preparing this article.

How Relatives Stole \$Millions From Dick Jones by Saul Kent

During the last few weeks of his life, TV producer and writer Dick Jones -- who was placed into suspension by Alcor in December, 1988 -- went through hell. Dick, who had AIDS, was suffering from multiple infections that attacked his liver, his lungs, his mouth and -- most tragically of all -- his brain. He had two brain infections -- toxoplasmosis and AIDS dementia -- both of which were progressively damaging his brain.

Throughout those weeks, Dick was often confused, disoriented, and subject to hallucinations. Once he saw balloons in the room when there were none, another time he saw an old friend (who had long since died) enter the room, a third time he insisted it was "1888" when someone asked him what year it was.

Dick's declining mental condition was clear to everyone who visited him: his friends from Alcor, his friends from show business, his business partner Jenna McMahon, his sister Claire Martin, who had moved into his house, and an attorney named Barrett McInerney, who told Dick he was visiting him because he was his "friend".

In his final week, Dick was in a state of almost constant delirium, which made it increasingly difficult to carry on a rational conversation with him. During this period. there were 45 entries the hospital nursing notes dealing with his mental state, of which 44 stated that he was either "confused", "disoriented", otherwise mentally unstable, or that he was laboring for breath under an oxygen mask.

Dick's condition was especially disturbing to his friends from Alcor because we knew that -- in addition to the pain and indignity of losing his life -- there was the realization that he was slowly losing his ability to control his own life. We felt for him because he was one of us. Because we knew -- more than anyone else in his life -- how much passion he had for life and how horrible it was to be losing it.

The Final Indignity

If losing his life wasn't enough of an ordeal for Dick, he had to suffer the final indignity when his family took advantage of his condition by stealing millions of dollars of his hard-earned money from him. They did so by inducing him to sign four legal documents, including a new Will and an amended 46-page Trust, only 56 hours before he was pronounced clinically dead at the hospital prior to his suspension.

These new documents made Jenna McMahon (instead of Saul Kent) responsible for his medical treatment (including



his cryonic suspension) as well as the administration of his estate. They also provided for the distribution of a major portion of his assets to his sister Claire and his 10 nephews and nieces. The new will and trust also radically changed an estate plan that Dick had spent considerable time, money, and effort creating when he was strong, healthy, and lucid in order to reward relatives whom Dick had little contact with, or use for, when he was in his right mind.

How did this happen? It wasn't easy. It took a greedy sister, a cooperative partner, an unethical attorney, and a great deal of hard work. But when it was all over, Dick (and Alcor) were the losers and Dick's relatives had money they didn't even know existed before Dick began to suffer from brain damage.



Why Dick Had Given His Money To Alcor

When Dick was healthy and lucid, he had created a comprehensive estate plan that included two entirely separate trusts. In one trust, he left to his family everything left to him by his mother (about \$200,000.00). In the other trust, he left every asset he had earned throughout his life (about \$5 million) to Alcor, which was also entrusted with his most valuable asset, Dick himself. Alcor had not only agreed to suspend Dick and maintain him in cryonic suspension, but was also committed to doing research to improve Dick's chances of reanimation and, eventually, to attempt to restore him to life and, if successful, to help him re-enter society in a responsible manner.

Dick chose to give his money to Alcor because he understood that the strength and financial sta-

bility of Alcor -- as well as the extent to which it could conduct research -- would be critical factors in determining his prospects for life in the future. He knew that any money he gave to Alcor would be *his* money because it would help Alcor do the things that had to be done to bring him back to life.

He chose *not* to give any of his money to his family because he knew they didn't need it, because he wasn't close to any of them, and because he knew that money given to his family would do him no good at all!

Claire Martin Arrives

Claire Martin had no idea that her brother was a wealthy man before she arrived to see him (from the East coast) in late October, 1988. She knew very little about him. She didn't know he had AIDS. She barely knew Jenna, his business partner of 27 years, or any of his friends. And she knew nothing at all about cryonics, except that Dick had once told her ("eons ago") that he wanted to be frozen after he died.

Dick had moved to Hollywood decades ago to make it in show business. He had been born in San Francisco as Richard Clair Jones, but had dropped his family name (Jones), and become Dick Clair, when he entered show business, and had created a new and very private world for himself. His sister Claire wasn't part of that world. In the last 10 years of his life, in fact, Dick and Claire had only gotten together 4 or 5 times, usually for family events like weddings and funerals. When Dick had been diagnosed with AIDS in 1986, he hadn't told Claire anything, except that he had been in the hospital for "a few days". Claire hadn't known that Dick had almost died of pneumocystis pneumonia because Dick didn't want her to know. Dick didn't want Claire to know anything about his private life until he called her in late October. . . after he had already begun to suffer from brain damage.

As soon as Claire arrived, she showed tremendous interest in how much money Dick had and what he planned to do with it. When she found out how much he had, she decided to stay "for a while" and moved into Dick's house "to care for him". Except for a brief trip home during the Thanksgiving holidays, Claire stayed as close as possible to Dick until it was time to suspend him.

Claire's Request For Money

One of the first things out of her mouth was a request from Dick for an extra \$50,000.00 from his estate "for her children". Dick agreed to this, even though he could barely remember the names of the children. (When one of them came to visit Dick, they had almost nothing to say to each other.) Since I was executor of Dick's estate, he asked me to arrange to give Claire the \$50,000 in "any way I thought best".



Since I had no way of knowing how much more of Dick's money Claire would ask for or try to get by other means, I had an attorney (David Epstein) prepare an agreement between Claire and Alcor, in which she (or her children) would receive \$50,000 in return for a guarantee that she (and they) would forego any further claims to Dick's money.

Claire's reaction to this proposed agreement was to hire an attorney and begin her plot to get more of Dick's money.

Claire Makes Friends

Claire made friends with everyone who came to visit Dick except, of course, with the Alcor people, who she knew were her enemies. Her most fruitful friendship proved to be with Dick's partner Jenna McMahon, who had always felt she should honor Dick's wish to be frozen, but didn't feel it was right for Dick to leave *all* his money to Alcor. Since Jenna had the same sources of income as Dick, she was able to reveal to Claire exactly how much Dick had and where it was coming from. She also introduced Claire to attorney Barrett McInerney, a friendly Irishman who had represented Dick and Jenna in a legal action against TV producer Joe Hamilton, the ex-husband of Carol Burnett, whose show Dick and Jenna had written for (and received three Emmys for) in the 1970s.

"You Have More Money Than You Think You Do"

Claire suggested that Jenna and Barrett be the ones to "persuade" Dick to give his family more money because they could do it better and because she didn't feel "comfortable" talking to Dick about money. They agreed.



Jenna McMahon with Dick Jones in TV comedy routine in the early 1970's.

First Jenna told Dick that he was much wealthier than he thought he was. She told him he was going to be extremely wealthy because two TV series (currently on the air) that they had worked on -- Mama's Family and It's A Living -- were going to be worth many millions in the future. What she didn't tell him was that neither series would be worth a dime if they didn't stay on TV long enough to invite second syndication.

When Dick was healthy and lucid, he had definitely known how much money he had, as well about the potential value of both of these shows. But now he was slipping in and out of reality and no longer had a firm grip on the worth of his estate. I soon found this out personally.

The Million Dollar "Gift"

Early in November, I received a phone call from Dick in which he said he was thinking about giving his sister Claire "a million dollars". I told him I would speak to him later that day when Jerry Leaf (vice-president of Alcor) and I would be visiting him to help him get home safely from the hospital. (Dick was sent home twice during his last three months, only to be rushed back to the hospital a few days later when his condition worsened.)

When Jerry and I spoke to Dick at his home that evening, he told us he was thinking of giving Claire "a million dollars" because Jenna had told him that he was worth so much that giving Claire a million would be a "drop in the bucket". When I asked him how much Jenna had said he was worth, he replied: "A hundred million dollars". When I said again, "How much?", he said he wasn't sure what figure Jenna had used: "It was either, \$10 million, \$20 million, or \$100 million", he said, looking puzzled.

Jerry and I proceeded to explain to Dick how much he was actually worth. (His manager estimated his total of current value and future income from residuals at around \$5 million.) We also reminded him that -- when he was in good shape -- he had wanted all the money he had earned to go to Alcor. He responded by saying he would "talk to Claire about it." Later, when I was out, he told Claire he would not be leaving her "a million dollars". Afterwards Claire told Jerry that she was upset with "all this talk about money" and said she was going to accept the \$50,000.

The Plot Thickens

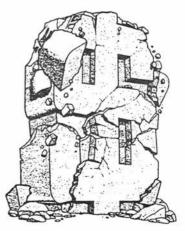
But she didn't. Instead, she and Jenna met with McInerney to search for a new angle. Since Dick was still too lucid to "resist" Saul Kent and Alcor, they decided to wait until Dick's mental condition declined some more, and then to take steps to keep me and any other Alcor people from having any further access to Dick.

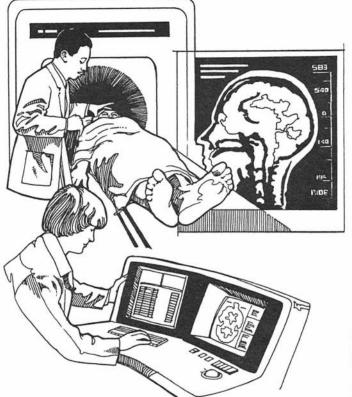
Their next move was to try to get Jenna appointed as Dick's Conservator so that she could gain control over both his health care and his finances. The only problem was that

Dick had given me Power of Attorney over his affairs, all of which were being taken care of. I was dealing with his doctor and the hospital on a daily basis, and an accountant, whom Dick had hired a year earlier, was paying all his bills.

The Perjury Begins

Their solution was to commit perjury behind our backs. Just before Thanksgiving, they went before Judge Thomas Murphy in Burbank Superior Court to file an application to appoint Jenna "Temporary Conservator" over Dick's affairs. They swore (under oath) to the judge, in print and in person, that Dick was mentally incompetent, that his affairs were *not* being cared for, and that it was imperative to have his "good friend" Jenna assume control over all his affairs. They included a declaration from





Dick (with a virtually nonexistent signature) that he wanted Jenna as his Conservator -- and a declaration from Dr. Anthony Scarsella (Dick's physician) that Dick was incompetent. They also mentioned that Jenna intended to modify Dick's estate plan to give more money to his "relatives". Not knowing any better, the judge appointed Jenna Temporary Conservator and set a hearing date to determine whether Jenna should be appointed Permanent Conservator. With the dirty deed done, Claire went home to spend Thanksgiving with her family, while Jenna and Barrett moved forward.

We Visit Dick

I finally heard about the Conservatorship action the day after the Thanksgiving holidays, when I received notice by mail of the hearing. I immediately went to see Dick (who was back in the hospital)

to find out if he really wanted Jenna to be his Conservator. I asked Jerry Leaf and Carlos Mondragon (president of Alcor) to accompany me.

When we arrived at the hospital that evening, several of Dick's "friends" (not including Jenna and Barrett) were at his side. I asked if they (and a nurse I had hired to stay with Dick) would step outside so that we could speak with Dick privately. They agreed to do so. I had a tape recorder with me.

Soon after we entered the room, it became apparent that Dick's mental condition was so poor that it was impossible to conduct a rational conversation with him.

When I asked him if he wanted Jenna to be his Conservator, he answered:

"Yes".

When I asked him if he wanted me to remain in control of his affairs, he answered:

"Yes", directly contradicting his previous answer.

The final and conclusive sign of his incompetence was that he was constantly trying to get up to urinate, despite the fact that he had a urinary catheter (which had just been changed before we entered the room) for days for just that purpose, and that he kept on trying to get up even after we told him about the catheter. When we left, after about 15 minutes, Dick was smiling and happy, but we were not.

The Attempt To Get A Court Order

Our dismay reached new heights on the following day, when I was informed (by my attorney) that Jenna McMahon and Barrett McInerney were taking us to court on an emergency (*ex parte*) basis that very day in an attempt to get a court order to stop me, or any Alcor member, from ever seeing Dick again -- except in the presence of his "Temporary Conservator" Jenna McMahon.

When we saw the papers they were filing, it became clear that they would stop at nothing to steal Dick's money. In the summary of "facts" they intended to present to the court, they stated that we had "muscled" our way past hospital officials and subjected Dick to a "tiresome, emotional, draining confrontation" and that, subsequent to our visit, he became "violently ill, suffered a bout of vomiting, and his condition remained seriously deteriorated for the next forty-eight (48) hours."

After failing to show up in court for two straight days, they decided not to pursue this court order. I later found out that the reason they had canceled in court was that they were unable to persuade Dr. Scarsella to sign a declaration (in which he would have perjured himself) to back up their charges.

A Change In Plans

In the meantime, they discovered that -- since the law forbids a Conservator from changing the estate plan of the Conservatee -- they wouldn't be able to use Jenna to divert Dick's money to his relatives. This made it necessary for them to draw up a new Will and Trust for Dick to sign. They asked Claire's attorneys to work on these documents (a clear-cut conflict of interest), which they proceeded to do at a furious pace, while Jenna and McInerney took turns visiting Dick to find out "how he wanted to change his estate plan".

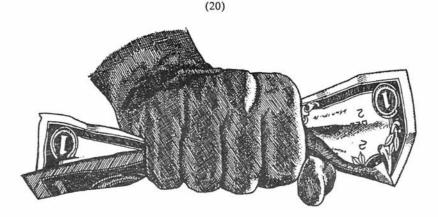
The only problem was that, in their scheming to implement this new plan, they decided not to cancel the other one. So the Conservatorship proceedings continued and, on December 7, about four days before Dick succumbed to AIDS, Chal Peterson, an investigator of the Los Angeles Probate Court paid an unannounced visit to Dick to determine if he was really incompetent.

After spending about an hour with Dick and asking him a series of questions, to which Dick responded inappropriately (in most cases), the investigator concluded that Dick was, indeed, incompetent and later submitted a report in which he testified that Dick was "confused and disoriented", that he "did not appear to fully comprehend his right to counsel", and that he "did not appear capable of completing an affidavit of voter registration."

The Deception Works

But it didn't matter whether Dick was competent enough to vote. Only whether he could sign a 46 page Trust and other legal documents. And so the papers were secretly prepared and the plans made to get Dick to sign, while using the Conservatorship action to misdirect our attention and keep us from discovering their true intent.

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Yet in doing so, they created a problem for themselves. I was opposing their attempt to get Jenna appointed as Dick's Conservator and so we demanded that Jenna and Claire be made available for depositions on Friday, December 9.

By now, McInerney was eagerly anticipating having the new legal papers in hand and heading for the hospital to secure Dick's signature, but was afraid that Jenna would "spill the beans" at her deposition. We thus had to get *two* court orders to force McInerney to let Jenna testify under oath. But it didn't really matter. When the question that would have revealed their plot to get Dick to sign the documents was asked, McInerney refused to let Jenna answer it.

And so that evening -- after the depositions were over -- Jenna and Barrett visited Dick at the hospital. They invited several of Dick's "friends" and a notary public to witness the event. In 45 minutes, it was all over. Dick had signed away almost half of his estate and had given Jenna total control over his fate. The very next day Dick became semi-comatose. The day after he lapsed into a coma. It was time for cryonics.

The Fight Over Dick's Money

That weekend we focused on the task at hand, making sure that Dick would be suspended under the best possible conditions. It wasn't until later that week that McInerney revealed (in a letter) that he had secretly taken the newly signed Will and Trust into probate court to establish Jenna as Executor and Trustee of Dick's estate before I could oppose it in any way.

Once I found out what had happened, I immediately took vigorous legal action to attempt to invalidate the new documents. What followed was a long, bitter, and expensive struggle over the next few months that ended quite cruelly in the month of April.

During that period, we were able to put together a compelling picture of how the plot to steal Dick's money had been accomplished, and of the lying and deception that led to its success. We were also able to gather convincing evidence from Dick's medical records, and the testimony of Dick's doctors, the court investigator, and other doctors who had examined the medical record, that Dick was mentally incompetent on the day he signed the new documents.

Jenna, on the other hand, had a very different kind of evidence -- six eye-witnesses to the actual signing (mostly Dick's "friends") who swore under oath that Dick was entirely lucid and understood the documents completely when he signed them. I, of course, had no witnesses to the signing because neither I nor any other Alcor member had been invited, but a number of us testified that Dick was in no condition to execute legal documents on December 9, 1988.

A Look At The Evidence

The Judge handling the case was Miriam Vogel of the California Superior Court in downtown L.A. When we first entered her courtroom, we had high hopes that we would win the case, despite the fact that the other side had the only eye-witnesses to the signing. After all, the only reason that was the case was that they had conspired to deceive us, and we had solid evidence of the nature of their conspiracy.

On the other hand, the medical evidence that Dick was mentally incompetent, as reflected by his diagnosed condition and the notes taken by the hospital nurses, was strong and compelling. The only "fly in the ointment" was that Dick's physician, Dr. Scarsella, had been inconsistent in his testimony. While Dick was still alive, everything Dr. Scarsella said and wrote about his condition fully supported our position. Three days after Dick died, we obtained a sworn declaration from Dr. Scarsella that on Friday, December 9, the day Dick signed the new documents, he was "in a confused condition", that he made "inappropriate responses to very simple questions", that he "was not able to make any rational decision", and was "in no condition to comprehend any kind of legal document."

But a few weeks later, Dr. Scarsella executed another sworn declaration (at the request of the other side), in which he stated that he had no knowledge of Dick's mental condition at the actual time of the signing and could, therefore, not render an opinion about Dick's mental condition at that specific time. Several months later, when he was examined under oath in a deposition, Scarsella had developed total amnesia about Dick's mental state at the time.

A Law Prohibiting Jenna's Actions

We also had two strong legal arguments to support our position. The first is a law (Probate Code 1872, supported by Civil Code 40) which expressly states that "the appointment of a conservator of the estate is an adjudication that the conservatee lacks the legal capacity to enter into or make any transaction that binds or obligates the conservatorship estate." This language is unequivocal and establishes as a matter of law that Dick did not have the capacity to amend either of his trusts on the night of December 9.

While it is true that Jenna was only Temporary Conservator on December 9 (the law does not state whether it is meant to cover temporary conservators), a look at the legislative history behind this law (which we provided to the court) indicates that the intent of the legislature was to protect a mentally incompetent person from being taken advantage of by a judicially appointed conservator.

The other side argued that P.C. 1872 should not apply to Jenna because she was appointed Temporary Conservator quickly, without benefit of a full hearing. But we argued that the *emergency* appointment of Jenna as Temporary Conservator made it even more necessary to protect Dick against any actions taken by her because the *only* reason to appoint a conservator on an emergency basis is if the patient is absolutely incapable of handling his own affairs. That Dick was in such a condition was testified to by Jenna, McInerney, and Dr. Scarsella, and later confirmed by the court investigator. Either Jenna, McInerney, and Dr. Scarsella had lied under oath when they sought to make Jenna Conservator, or Dick's mental condition had improved markedly three weeks later when he signed the new documents -- a premise that is totally contradicted by the medical record as well as by the fact that Dick died 56 hours after the signing.

A Law Prohibiting Jenna From Taking Advantage Of Her Deception

The second legal issue was the well-established principal of equitable estoppel as expressed in Evidence Code 623: "whenever a party has, by his own statement or conduct, intentionally and deliberately led another to believe a particular thing true and to act upon such belief, he is not, in any litigation arising out of such statement or conduct, permitted to contradict it." This means that if Jenna (and her counsel) deliberately misled me (and my counsel) in any way, she would be prohibited from taking advantage of her deception.

We presented incontrovertible evidence that Jenna and McInerney had deceived us. First, by continuing the Conservatorship action (with the stated intent that Jenna was going to seek permission from the court to change Dick's estate plan) after deciding that they would attempt to get Dick to change his own estate plan. Their deception in this matter was underscored by the fact that -- on the very day they got Dick to sign the new documents -- both Jenna and McInerney told me and David Epstein that they intended to pursue the Conservatorship action and concealed their plans to get Dick to sign new documents. Moreover, at the exact same time that Dick (under the urging of McInerney) was signing the documents, another of Jenna's attorneys (from the same office) was actually delivering copies of the exact same documents to David Epstein (at his home) under the guise that Jenna was going to seek permission to execute them at the upcoming Conservatorship hearing.

Judgment Day

When we came into court on April 11, 1989, we were confident of our position. We felt that we had the law on our side and that -- when the facts of the case were fully explored (at trial) -- we would be able to prove (to anyone's satisfaction) that there had been a deliberate conspiracy to steal Dick's money on the part of Claire Martin, Jenna McMahon, and Barrett McInerney. Our confidence was bolstered by our feelings that the replies to our position by Claire and Jenna's attorneys were inadequate.

What we hadn't counted on was the extreme bias of Judge Vogel, who casually dismissed all our legal arguments as having "no merit", without refuting them in any way, and gave little credence to the objective evidence (as reflected by the hospital's medical records) that Dick was mentally incompetent at the signing. We sat in the courtroom and listened incredulously as Judge Vogel talked about how impressed she was with Jenna's eyewitnesses (even though we had blown holes in their testimony) and how unimpressed she was with the evidence and legal arguments that we had presented.



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4. Some of the pertinent observations which I note in the materials provided are:

a. On his last hospital admission, on December 5, 1988, Kr. Jones was noted to be responsive but not coherent. He was also noted to be confused.

b. The report of the Probate Investigator for the Superior Court, J. Chal Peterson, indicates that on December 7, 1988, Jones was observed to be confused and disoriented, unable to fully comprehend his right to counsel, unable to render a decision as to whether he wanted representation. Mr. Peterson also noted that Mr. Jones did not appear to be capable of completing an Affidavit of Voter Registration and that he did not have the capacity to give informed consent to medical treatment.

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c. I have also taken into consideration portions of the denosition testimony by a witness. Kay Wells, who reported hallucinations by Mr. Jones during visits with him.

d. Following his admission, the medical records indicate that, when seen on December 8, Mr. Jones was noted to have periods of somes and to be confused. On the 9th he was noted to have more prolonged periods of apnea and, on his second visit, the attending physician ordered that the family and the 10 holder of the durable power of attorney be alarted of the patient's declining condition.

a. The final diamonia is listed as:

1. Central nervous system toxoplasmonis, unresponsive to treatment. 2. Apnes caused by increasing lesions of the brain. Recurrent pneumonia with right cavitary lesion and right pleural effusion. . Hycobacterium avium. 5. Elevated transaminase levels

possibly secondary to TPN.

25 5. Based upon my review of all of the foregoing 26 materials, it is my professional opinion that Mr. Jones did not 27 have the pental capacity on December # or 9, 1988 to comprehend. it understand, arend, or approve the 1988 documents referred to

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6. This Declaration has been called for upon short notice, and is a limited statement of my opinions based upon the materials reviewed. If called upon, and time permitting, 1 would be pleased to provide a full explanation of the basis for my opinion stated herein.

Executed this 17th day of February, 1989, at Los Angeles, California.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Stul Stanstein MD

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from the absence of entries in the medical record at paragraph 10. The absence of an entry most likely means that the patient was eleeping or non-verbal, and that no conversation took place or, if it did, it was only minimal. From my review of the nurses' and physicians' notes, the practice appears to have been that when Mr. Jones was observed to be oriented or responsive. that observation was noted.

8. It remains my opinion that the best medical evidence of Mr. Jones' mental state in his last days is the vell-documented medical record which establishes unequivocally that, beginning on December 5, 1988, he was confused. insportoriate and disoriented, and lacked the wental canacity to review and comprehend the complicated estate plan which he signed on the night of December 9, 1988.

9. Dr. Van Corp's statement under ites 16 is misleading. The Centers for Disease Control Definition of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and of HIV encephalopathy is specifically issued by the CDC for epidemiologic surveillance purposes. Thus, it requires evidence of no focal_lesions on MRI in order to capture cases of pure NIV encephalopathy. This exclusion is typical for definitions issued for the purpose of defining all cases of a particular condition and to exclude cases of encephalopathy totally or partly due to other factors some of which may have focal lesions on MRI. Patients with AIDS frequently have multiple central nervous system pathologies. In these circumstances, clinical and pathologic definitions of HIV

encephalopathy are the appropriate reference point, rather than the restrictive CDC definition, specifically issued by the Centers for the purpose of epidemiologic surveillance. In his statement, Dr. Stanquist acknowledges clearly that the patient may also have direct MIV invasion of brain tissue in addition to toxoolasmosis.

Executed this 7th day of April at Sherman Caks, California.

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the lavs of the State of California that the foregoing are true and correct.

Michael Cornie

The Final Straw

The final straw in our rhapsody of discontent came when Judge Vogel said she was more "persuaded" by the testimony presented by Jenna's expert consultants than by my experts. This absurd contention on her part was more than evidence of bias, it was right out of *Alice In Wonderland*.

I had presented testimony by three medical doctors with impeccable credentials. One was Dr. Michael Gottlieb, the physician who first described AIDS as a new disease in 1981 and who had published 60 articles in the medical literature on the treatment of AIDS. The second was Dr. Michael E. Gold, a neurologist who had evaluated more than 300 patients with AIDS dementia and who is a board-certified expert in the interpretation of magnetic resonance imaging scans, the scans taken in the hospital to evaluate Dick's brain. And the third was Dr. Saul Faerstein, a prominent psychiatrist with expertise in AIDS.

In contrast, Jenna presented testimony by only one medical doctor, who had not published at all in the medical literature or distinguished himself in any other way, and two Ph.D.s with no medical training.

Judge Vogel's Reason

Even more ludicrous was Judge Vogel's statement that the reason she was more persuaded by Jenna's medical experts than by my experts was that they based their evaluation on the testimony of the eye-witnesses, while my experts relied strictly on the medical records. My experts had presented their testimony on the assumption that they were evaluating Dick's medical record to attempt to resolve the conflicting testimony of the two groups of lay witnesses. But I guess real medical testimony based solely upon objective criteria was not as persuasive (to Judge Vogel) as regurgitation of the testimony of the lay witnesses on one side of the dispute.

Capitulation

Judge Vogel's extreme bias in the case forced my hand (as she intended it to). She made it clear that she was going to rule against me, regardless of the evidence, while, at the same time, she made no actual decisions (on April 11) that could be appealed. The only options I had left were a long and expensive trial (under Judge Vogel) that I was certain to lose, followed by a long and expensive appeal (on the legal issues) that I would probably lose -- or capitulation to the other side.

I decided to give up and drop out of the dispute. The Alcor attorneys took over and negotiated a settlement (based upon the new Will and Trust) with the attorneys for Jenna McMahon and Claire Martin. The terms of this agreement restored to Alcor full control over Dick's suspended body and gave Alcor Dick's house, his remaining liquid assets, and half of the residuals from his TV shows (the major part of his estate).

What Does It All Mean?

Under the new Will and Trust, Alcor will be getting a good deal of money over the next few years; more than the organization has ever had before, but far less than it would have received if Dick Jones' true wishes had been honored.

The primary consequence of this case, however, is not lost money, but lost trust in the outside world. We've always known about the threat of relatives interfering with our wishes, but it took a real case to make this threat compelling. The lesson to be learned from this case is not only that relatives may challenge your plans for cryonic suspension, but that they (and their attorneys) are likely to use every dirty trick in the book to get their way. Another lesson is that we cannot rely on the legal system to protect us. Just one biased judge has the ability to stop us, no matter how well we present our case in court.

What Can We Do To Protect Ourselves

We must learn from what happened to Dick Clair. We must never allow ourselves to become as vulnerable as Dick was in his last days. We must realize that it isn't just our money at stake, but our lives as well. None of Dick's relatives challenged his desire to be frozen; all they wanted was his money. But that won't always be the case. If we don't protect ourselves better, we might not even be frozen. Here are concrete steps you can take to protect yourself against cryonics assault:

1. Hire a doctor you can rely on. One of the problems that Dick had was that Dr. Scarsella had very little backbone under pressure. His only concern was to protect himself, not to serve Dick. The doctor you hire doesn't have to believe in cryonics, but he or she must be honorable and have the kind of strength of character required in a crisis.

2. Make a videotape when you're healthy and lucid (and update it every year) to make your wishes known. In making this tape, don't just talk about what you want, but also about what you don't want. If there's a relative who you think may give you trouble, make sure to state that you do not want this person to have control over your affairs, regardless of the circumstances. A videotape is better evidence than a written document of the fact that you were healthy and lucid when you expressed your wishes.

3. Tell your relatives directly (to their faces) that you intend to be frozen and exactly what you intend to do with your money and tell them not to interfere with your plans. Dick Jones never was as explicit as he should have been about his wishes with Jenna McMahon and Claire Martin.

4. If you execute a Trust to direct the distribution of your assets, make it irrevocable while you are still healthy and lucid. Dick's trust was not irrevocable and it cost him. If you know you're suffering from a terminal disease (as Dick did), this could be crucial.

5. If you don't want to make your trust irrevocable, give as much of your money as you can to Alcor **before** you lose your health and lucidity.



FANDOM IS GIVING SCIENCE FICTION A BAD NAME (AND I DON'T MEAN SCI-FI), OR, FACT IS STRANGER THAN FICTION, EVEN SCIENCE FICTION

by Brenda Peters

(General Notice to Mundanes: The proper abbreviation is "SF". Calling it Sci-Fi (at least to Fandom) is as big a faux pas, as calling San Francisco, Frisco.)

Alcor recently (4th of July weekend) mounted a major publicity effort at the 42nd West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon 42).

I thought that people who read the books of authors like Robert Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke, Larry Niven, Gregory Benford, and Steven Barnes had to be imaginative, had to have a love of life and a curiosity for what is possible, an appreciation for technological advances, a hunger to experience space travel, and a desire for a better world. In short, that they must be positive, thoughtful, intelligent people.

I was wrong.

What is it that Fandom lacks? (Not all of Fandom, of course, but a disappointingly large chunk of it.) How could they be so myopic in their worldview? Why are they so miserable? Why do I see, upon close examination, such an appalling lack of self-esteem, personal hygiene, and assertiveness? I have a theory. It's ugly. I don't like it, but I fear it may be accurate. It goes something like this.

Picture yourself in another incarnation. You have never really felt comfortable around other people. Especially attractive, successful people. It has never occurred to you that you can be beautiful because of your mind, through your accomplishments, as a result of your talents, from just plain hard work, or if all else fails, via cosmetic surgery.

You don't take care of yourself because your self-esteem is dragging along somewhere behind you. You eat too much junk food, you don't exercise, you wear loose, large clothes because it makes it easier for you to indulge in whatever makes you feel good for the moment, since momentary "feelgoods" are about all you ever experience. You are judgmental and critical, since you don't like life very much. Attempting to debase the accomplishments of others has become your method of pseudo-accomplishment.

You can hardly bear reality so you bury your head and mind in a book where you can escape from that reality. You seek out other people like yourself and



some of you rise to the upper echelon of this distressed, unhappy group. If you're successful within your realm of social unacceptability, you can establish an identity for yourself. You can be somebody relative to the nobodies that you associate with. Whether you know it or not, you have become a political animal in your own little microcosm, made up of others who essentially hate life, too.

Now, how do you feel? Accomplish anything worth accomplishing? Are you the master of your own life? Do you like yourself? Are you happy? Would you really want to belong to a club that would have you as a member?

No wonder you're not interested in extending your lifespan. Who'd want more of that?!

The important question is: why can't you answer yes to all of the above? From my experience, an alarmingly high percentage of Fandom cannot answer yes to any of these questions. Sadly, with far too few exceptions, it seems that biological immortality among the *Fen*, as they call themselves, is as unappetizing as their present relatively short-lived and unpleasant existence.

I am here to tell them that all is not lost. Inherent in biological immortality will most likely be the ability to redesign ourselves, to *look* any way we so desire. However, it will still be up to the *Fen* of the world, to motivate themselves to live the assertive, happy lives that their "leaders" write about in their books. Perhaps if they patterned themselves a little more after the hardworking, prolific, open-minded, adventurous authors they love so much, the authors who have the ability to take them to faraway places, who have the imaginations to create new worlds for them, who bathe at least once a day and who are one by one taking a chance on an extended lifespan for themselves, they'd know why life is so dear and why it is something to be treasured and held onto for as long as one possibly can.

I now realize that I had unrealistic expectations with regard to Fandom, the last few Cons that I've attended having provided more empirical evidence substantiating that fact, than I care to think about. It has proven to be an important lesson, however, that ultimately provides valuable insight into the area of marketing cryonics as the following from Brian Wowk, Dr. Steve Harris and myself will, I believe, illustrate.

REFLECTIONS ON WESTERCON by Brian Wowk

My own perspective on Westercon is quite different from Brenda's and others in Alcor, since it was my first SF con, and my first attempt to communicate cryonics to the peculiar audience known as "SF Fandom."

As I understand it, "Fandom" is more than a collection of people who read science fiction. It is a distinct subculture, with its own jargon, rituals, and view of the world. To the SF Fan, the world is divided



into two classes of people: Fans and mundanes. Mundanes are people whose interests fail to extend beyond their suburban lots, while Fans live in the grace of the sublime and marvelous ideas of science fiction.

One of the most sublime and marvelous ideas I know of is cryonics, and it certainly occurs in SF literature. It follows that SF Fans should be both familiar and even enthralled with cryonics. After all, not only is cryonics the stuff of epic SF literature, but it is also of eminently *practical* value to the SF Fan. It offers a potential means of actually reaching a future of SF dreams made *reality*.

But alas, Fandom is not beating down the doors of Alcor to sign up. In fact, most Westercon participants were not the least bit interested in discussing cryonics as an aspect of reality. They were far more concerned with running around in ridiculous costumes, discussing ridiculous stories, and playing ridiculous games. Granted, most Fans come to Cons to have fun. But there was still something strange -- something wrong -- with SF Fans reacting to cryonics no differently than the public at large. It revealed a thinly veiled hypocrisy.

I believe there is a dirty little secret in SF Fandom. That secret is that most SF Fans are more mundane than the "mundanes" they differentiate themselves from. I was consistently amazed at the general lack of "achievers" at Westercon. There were very few



businessmen or professional types, such as scientists or engineers. Technical literacy was very low. In fact, I will go as far as to say that Westercon was a collection of people who were in one way or another failures in life. It follows that the typical Fan reads SF not to expand perspectives on reality, but to *forget* reality.

This observation is nothing new to most cryonicists. But newer Alcor members should be aware that an interest in science fiction is not *in itself* an indicator of cryonics receptivity. Markers such as technical literacy, an engineering background, and libertarian political leanings are much better indicators of a good cryonics prospect.

In conclusion, I don't believe SF Fandom is a particularly fertile market for cryonics. I especially hope Alcor avoids SF conventions in the future. They are unproductive, not to mention undignified, environments, in which to present cryonics. Let Fans have their fantasies. We have to get on with building reality.

EVOLUTION IN ACTION (more from Brenda)

It's been suggested that Alcor get the SF authors signed up and let *them* sell the idea of cryonics to SF Fandom. This suggestion was made by one of my favorite SF authors



Alcor meets the writers: Alcor members Steve Harris and Brenda Peters with science fiction writers Dr. Gregory Benford (2nd from left) and Larry Niven (right).

(one of the most prolific of the lot, in fact and winner of several *Hugo* awards) who shall remain unnamed, and who is not signed up yet, himself, though he admits to being very interested in cryonics. I've seen to it that he has been supplied with ample reading material (actually, inundated is more like it) to help him evaluate the idea and our organization. Now, I plan to sit back and watch "evolution in action". Happily, we do have a very fine SF author (and physicist) who is writing a book about cryonics. What do you know!? This can't be reality, it must be Science Fiction!?

I would be remiss if I did not mention one incident that was astoundingly symbolic. During our panel discussion on Monday night, which included our champions, Mr. Magic, Michael Darwin (who has been described to me by members of the media as "the man with more answers than we have questions"), Dr. Steve Harris of UCLA (my moderator, and a superb moderator he was), the marvelously learned and witty Gregory Benford, the highly respected and infinitely lovable Larry Niven, and our own high-tech Canadian writer, Brian Wowk, an interruption occurred when the large double doors to the Alcor suite opened and everyone turned to find before them a six foot tall (person?) in a large green lizard (dinosaur?)



suit (huge head with large bulbous eyes, lengthy, unwieldy green tail, monstrously large teeth, long snout, green textured skin, the works. . . we're talking serious reptilian presence, here, as in cold-blooded, creeping vertebrate).

The lizard's head turned from side to side as he (she?) perused our suite, the attendees, the luminaries on our panel at the front of the room, the cryonics literature and the copious amounts of free food and drink (we were fresh out of insects). I can't help but feel that *it* experienced disappointment that *it* did not elicit any response other than mild curiosity from the occupants of the suite. It seemed marginally thoughtful (as thoughtful as a lizard can be) and clearly, at least in my mind, decided that the rest of the convention held more of interest to a lizard than could ever be expected to be found in this room. And I agreed. It turned (and slithered away?) and we continued with our discussion of the potential of man's mind and his destiny of ultimate supremacy on his planet and in the universe at large. (I am continually amazed at the diversity of levels of the evolutionary scale that are to be found to occur at the same time, within the same species.)

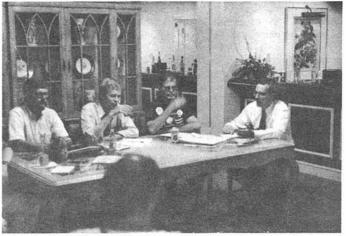
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST by Steve Harris

The experience of chairing a panel on life extension at a science fiction convention was interesting, but not nearly as interesting as I had thought it would be. Part of the problem was the expectation of talking to people who were more flexible in their thinking about the progress of technology than average. Unfortunately, however, it seems that science fiction fans in some ways have not advanced in their thinking about the far future much beyond the general public. Symbolic of this syndrome is the less than imaginative medical technology of the science fiction series *Star Trek*, in which humans two and three centuries in the future are still fighting killer viruses, and have only succeeded in lengthening human lifespan by less than 50% of the current figure. At Westercon, on the planet Earth, in the present time, I'm unhappy to report that some of the same poverty of vision abounds. Perhaps *Star Trek* is to blame.

Science fiction authors, on the other hand, are quite another breed than the fans. From the first, the idea had been to have some major science fiction writers as well as Alcor members on a panel to discuss aspects of life extension in the far future, and thus we were especially pleased when author Steve Barnes agreed to speak on the panel the first night of discussion, and authors Larry Niven and Dr. Gregory Benford the second night.

Nor were we disappointed. Steve Barnes had once upon a time said something at a similar science fiction panel discussion about letting himself be frozen after death by a "bunch of nongs smoking dope." [Covered in the October, 1987 Cryonics. -- Ed.] On this year's panel, however, Barnes seemed to accept the workability of cryonics almost as a given (as did later both Niven and Benford), and instead chose to speak about the social access problems of the procedure. The next night Larry Niven's devil's advocate argument centered on the possibility that a future in the transition period before full nanotechnology might find use for some the body parts of the frozen dead for transplant purposes. Although this scenario has always appeared unlikely to me (given the pervasive freezing injury to such organs, they'd need nanotechnology to repair them anyway), Niven's dark visions of the future helped set the stage for much of the discussion which came later.

Altogether it was interesting that comparatively few of the cryonics issues which surfaced at the life extension discussion were technical. Most of the discussion centered, in fact, around social issues. What would happen to the population boom if suddenly death were eliminated? Many people were surprised to find that it wouldn't change much, since deaths on planet Earth now only cancel out a tiny fraction of births. Another question asked in many different ways concerned the low availability of cryonics to the poor. The answer that life insurance is cheaper than smoking did not seem to



Panel discussion at Westercon 42. L to R, Greg Benford, Steve Harris, Larry Niven, and Mike Darwin. Brian Wowk is also on the panel, but outside the camera's view on the left.

satisfy, and the idea that being poor might carry greater necessity to think about the future and insure against disaster, also seemed anathema to the fans. I personally found this part of the discussion to be spiritually draining; these social objectors were not people who had signed up for cryonics and were now casting about for ways to help their less fortunate brothers, mind you, but rather outsiders with an idea that any boon not available to everybody should be available to nobody. It is amazing sometimes what grassroots populism one may find among people eating free hors d'oeuvres in a Luxury Hotel, but such are the contradictions of our time.

There were the usual metaphysical objections, too, of course. For instance, there was a woman in the audience who identified herself as an emergency room nurse who believed in life after death, and who went on to assert that she could simply look at a person in cardiac arrest and tell when something had "gone out of them" and they were thus beyond hope of resuscitation. To my own answering observation that (as a physician) I had yet to be able to come up with a good way of telling who was going to respond to resuscitation and who was not, she asked me if I had ever successfully resuscitated anyone "after their sphincters had let go." The mystical may turn to the mundane quite suddenly in cryonics. For just a moment I had a vision in which all the authorities of law and medicine had known for years how to determine the exact moment when the "silver cord" which binds spirit to flesh is broken, but had just been too fastidious and polite to say anything about it. Just as I too, when the time came, found that I was too polite to comment properly on the woman's suggestion.

I won't say that the convention did not have much to teach. By now, it has become a truism that science fiction conventions make surprisingly poor hunting grounds for cryonicists, since the people who attend them are *ipso facto* engaged in a full-throttle flight from reality. Clinical death and the changes which attend it are not pretty, and the thought that all of us will one day play a center stage part in that sort of a drama is not pretty either. We flee from unpretty thoughts, and some of us flee much faster than others. Time and time again I observed science fiction fans walk into the rented

suite where Alcor had its displays, look at the pictures of medical procedures, recoil as if bitten by some poisonous snake, and then withdraw to discuss computer fantasy games or novels with other fans. As panel moderator I also had to contend with people who walked into the room for just long enough to deliver an opinion, and then walk out again.

But it may be more complex than that. There is a paradox in cryonics: a frozen human is the most helpless and dependent being it is possible to imagine, and yet the people who are attracted to cryonics are precisely those who delight in placing themselves in situations where they must be self-reliant. Among cryonicists one will find adventurers, backpackers, campers, skydivers, scuba enthusiasts, private pilots, and people who like to travel solo in strange lands carrying their own gear. The key to all these activities (some dangerous, some not) is self-containment. Cryonicists are the sort of people who prepare for earthquakes, not just because of the danger, but also out of the sheer delight in fixing things up for a period of forced self-reliance. At least one cryonicist I know of has a fallout shelter. Cryonicists include gun owners and survivalists. Cryonicists are the sort of people who would buy life insurance anyway because life insurance is one aspect of self-(even if cryonics did not exist), sufficiency -- that is, it allows one to take care of one's family even from the grave, instead of allowing someone else to do it. In the past it has been assumed that this psychological quality in cryonicists was merely a response to a survival urge ("a cryonicist's international border is his skin," says Mike Darwin). But I have lately begun to suspect that it is a primary trait.

Whatever kind of people cryonicists are psychologically, at Westercon in July, I had the distinct feeling that I was not surrounded by that kind of person. Science fiction fans are bright, but on average they are not people who enjoy being self-contained. Rather the opposite: they seem to be people who have been in many cases alienated from their society against their wills, and who desperately want in. In fact, they are damned tired of being selfcontained, and at a science fiction convention act as though enjoying some of the few moments of true camaraderie they get all year. In such a circumstance fans can hardly be expected to react well to the thought of being ripped away from the social fabric and thrust naked into the unknown future. Faced with such a scenario the typical SF fan reaction is to block the thought furiously, link arms, and sing SF-peculiar folksongs (filksongs, Ed.).

In short, I now have begun to think differently about how and to whom cryonics should be presented. I have begun to feel strongly that Alcor advertising efforts in the future be directed at explorer's and adventurers' groups, survivalists, travel bugs, backpackers, pilots, and space enthusiasts. Conventions teach us that a great many science fiction fans will expend much effort to be with kindred souls, in order to be at last in a place where they feel they belong. When they finally get there, best



to leave them alone.

• •

ON THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER, THERE ARE RUNGS AND THERE ARE RUNGS (more from Brenda)

I recall one moment at Westercon which had a profound effect upon me. I was sitting down in a chair for a few minutes, because my feet hurt so much from two days and nights of "campaigning" in heels, that I Brian rehad no choice but to sit down. turned to the Alcor suite and found me thus. (One feels guilty even sitting at one of these things, when so much money and effort is being expended.) Anyway, Brian, dear Brian said "Brenda, you're sitting down." (I don't think he'd seen me do that in the last couple of days, not to mention nights.) I said "I know. It was either that or take off my heels, which I refuse to do. They won't beat me, Brian. I won't allow it." He said, "I'm glad you're sitting down, because of what I have to tell you."



I looked at him with "there's nothing you could say that could shock me, now" eyes. (I had just witnessed a 300 pound, 4'8" "Miss Piggy" smiling broadly (how else) as she glided seductively down the hallway, resplendent in feathers, black fishnet stockings (stretched to the extent that they would be useless if they ever were used to catch fish, since all the fish would get away through the now-gaping holes), a thin, frail piece of pink silk, aching at the seams and pulled far beyond its capacity, in an attempt to cover all of the critical masses, and last and least, a tail; a pink wiggly thing that protruded in a curlicue manner which bounced to the beat of her buttocks. I had been on my way out, but when I saw this, I came back inside, closed the door, and LOCKED it.)

Brian continued. "I was just at a panel discussion. There were about 300 people in the room, that's why I stopped to see what it was about. I had to know what could draw that many people at one time." I looked at him, my mind blank, cleared, as it were, of any preconceptions, of any biases, of anything that might color, dilute or otherwise distract me from the words that he was about to pronounce. (I adore drama and I respect I had become a new, blank file, ready for input.) Brian's pause was positively Brian. professional (he likes drama, too). He said "The title of the panel discussion was "Some Things Man Was Just Not Meant To Know". I stared at him, my mind pushing the words away from me, refusing to allow them into my head. They were ridiculous words, stupid words, worse than that, they were horrifyingly discouraging and demoralizing. I stared into the air between us for a numb, disbelieving moment. Then I looked up at my brilliant young friend and I said, "Brian, . . . I think we're in the wrong place." He grinned widely, knowingly, and with the confidence that is only possible through acquired knowledge. (To the panel's credit, I subsequently discovered that its consensus was that man should know just about everything that he can find out. The question remaining is, why a subject with such an obviously (to me) foregone conclusion should have attracted so many people.)

The Ambrosial Flavor Of Life

Optimism being my middle name (some would say) I can only hope that cryonics is a meme that is brewing in the SF cauldron and sending out delectable, mouth-watering aromas to waft gently, irresistibly through Fandom and that in time we'll see more and more of the *Fen* joining the ranks of the "mundanes" who dare to try to make the stuff of Science Fiction a reality. I hope, for their sake, that lots of them get frozen (even if we have to hose them down with disinfectant, first) and they have a chance to actually "walk under strange stars and skies", instead of just reading about it.

Just prior to this article's going to press, Alcor received a declaration from the legendary Arthur C. Clarke (of the geosynchronous communications satellite, "2001" and "2010" fame) stating that in his opinion there is at least a 90% probability of cryonics working. Not bad odds. In fact, most gamblers would agree that "at least 90%" is tantamount to "a sure thing". One can only hope that for Mr. Clarke's and Alcor's sake, he is a gambler about to make a bet in the "lottery of life" (cryonics being the only winning ticket, of course).

Credit Where Credit Is Due

While trying to come up with "slogans" to use at Westercon, I thought it would be fun to make a slight change in the "GHOSTBUSTERS, WHO YA' GONNA CALL ???" logo, changing GHOSTBUSTERS to DEATHBUST-ERS. My friend Martin Tays suggested that we change the symbol as well, with a minor change (i.e. instead of the ghost inside the international negation symbol we could use a grim reaper) and he knew just the person to create the image for us. A very special thank you to a very special lady! Because of Casey Bernay's excellent art design, our "WHO YA' GONNA CALL ??? ALCOR, DEATHBUSTERS !!!" was one of the most popular images at Westercon. Too bad it wasn't taken a little more seriously. I handed it to three guys dressed up like the Ghostbusters. Proton Packs on their backs, etc. and they loved it, as apparently did most of Fandom, since they kept absconding with our signs!



In Conclusion

I found Westercon as frustrating as the Ventura Freeway during rush hour (also known as "the parking lot") and felt that we weren't getting anywhere very fast. But, maybe I'm forgetting the fact that there are very few "naturals" like Brian and myself, out there. For most, (especially lizards) it takes a while. Immediate gratification is not something to expect where cryonics is concerned, not on any level. Except, perhaps among us, of the same mindset. It's nice to know I'm not alone. Thanks, for the support, Brian, Steve, Hugh, Michael, Jerry, Kurt, Rand, Maureen, Paul (and Martin, Casey, Mike, and Frank from L.A.S.F.S.) and most specially Gregory Benford, Larry Niven, and Steven Barnes. And to these wonderful authors who provide SF Fandom with their fantasies, I would simply say this: maybe it's time you allowed us to provide you with some fantasies, some fantasies that may prove to be realities and therefore better than anything you ever dreamed of! Just before I submitted this article, I got word that we have *still another* very fine SF author in the process of signing up with Alcor. Maybe my friend's advice will turn out to be prophetic.

* *

FREEZER-BURNED IN OZ: Truth, Justice and the Fannish Way of Life an invitational rebuttal by Martin Tays

A Typical Fan. The phrase itself may be slightly oxymoronic, but will do for now. Let's talk to the typical convention-going fan about Alcor. That one over there, the one wearing the rabbit-fur codpiece, plastic Viking helmet, and birth control glasses; the one clutching a con program and an autographed copy of "Accountants of Gor" in Easy Eye text. "Alcor?" he says, "Those guys are strange."

Now, don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with strange. The typical fan gets stranger things than Alcor free in their breakfast cereal. Asking around the convention, the responses I heard regarding Alcor were fairly uniformly negative. Note my phraseology. Not cryonics. Alcor. The reasons fell into two categories. The minor reason, one that's really a harmonic of the major reason, was "They have no sense of humor/take themselves way too seriously."

Now, before you roll your eyes and toss the magazine unceremoniously on the floor, look at it from the unwashed's point of view. "You want to cut off my what, and put it where?" These are, after all, people who are willing to stay up to 2 AM watching Victor Frankenstein jump-start Boris Karloff. They will listen to every word you have to say, and accept it, and still look for an opportunity to use every ice cube pun you could imagine. And failing to see the humor inherent in their own ideas was for Alcor the first stroke.

But the major reason was the fatal one. "Sorry, I'm not interested in anyone's religion."

"But, Alcor's not a religion."

"Oh, yeah? Ever listen to them?"

And I did listen. And what I heard sounded an awful lot like a religion. Oh, I don't mean the mystical parts ("Come forward now and convert, feel the cleansing power of the Lord, and receive this free set of Ginzu knives!") but I mean that deep-rooted convert-the-heathen intensity that makes normally sane Iowa farmers reach for their shotguns when they see Mormon missionaries. I actually heard an Alcor member say "Well, you've got your choice. You can join up, or you can be stupid." The validity of the phrase is not the question. The phenomenal lack of tact is.

Having a deep rooted belief in something is no problem. I've run across fans who believed in everything from the Fairy Kingdom to the Democratic Party. But, for the most part, if you don't share their beliefs, they may try to convert you, but they never, never denigrate you for not believing. And, as I said before, cryonics itself is not the issue here. Most of the people I've talked to thought it a worthwhile possibility. And most of those who did said they would not consider Alcor.

There's an important lesson to be learned, here, but it's not my job to point it out.

In the microcosm of Fandom there are a great number of people who would make a wonderful addition to Alcor. You can write them off, you can try to reach them, or you can make fun of them. If, as it appears, it's going to be the latter, then I'm a little sad.

I would have expected better.

(Martin is currently in the process of signing up with Alcor. Happily, it would appear that we "reached" him in spite of our lack of humor, our occasional tactless remark, and our "religious fervor". Could it be that Martin is one of the small and extraordinary faction of fandom that do have a love of life and an instinct for the unspeakable "s" word (survival)?!)

ALCOR, THE NATURAL SELECTION

(Brenda gets the Last Word)

And well we should all be sad, since these "wonderful additions to Alcor" exist everywhere (not just in Fandom) but try as we may, we simply cannot "reach" everyone. We also cannot give someone an instinct for survival (though we're all guilty of trying, from time to time). Though we ourselves are compelled to make an active attempt to save our own lives and feel that our lives are worth saving, if others do not feel so inclined, we cannot instill those values in them. I agree with Steve and Brian that, sadly, the number of prospective Alcor members to be found in Fandom is probably at best, proportionate to, or perhaps even less than the number to be found among the General Public. In my opinion, Fandom has been rendered inert by its provincialism.

As far as our "convert the heathen" attitude, maybe it's not so bad. To quote Saul Kent, "Do you know anyone in the history of the world who didn't die?!! Maybe we are fanatics but it's very likely going to take a bit of fanaticism to pull this thing off." Any Fan, or anyone else, for that matter, who "would not choose Alcor" because of our dogged determination is indeed foolish, in my opinion. And to quote Saul again, "The difference between Alcor and religions is that we are really trying to *deliver*; they don't have to."

In my opinion cryonicists are the first ones "to see the humor inherent in our own ideas" and happen to appreciate a new freezer joke if one has the imagination to come up with a *new* one (since, believe me, we've heard them all) as well as, if not better than, *anyone.* At Westercon, our slogans, flyers, and PR buttons were clever and full of humor (Martin having come up with several of them himself) but one can laugh and joke about the issue of life and death only so long. Ultimately, the cryonicist must address the issues at hand. At what point does one begin to think seriously about the most irrational, timely aspect of one's existence, namely the deadly vulnerability of it all? And especially when there's a possibility of doing something about that vulnerability for the first time in the history of mankind!

Finally, Alcor is not a brand of laundry detergent. For a Fan to say that he/she would not choose what is clearly the best simply because one of us becomes frustrated to the point of telling it like it is, rather than maintaining the kid-glove technique tells me that the "prospective member" is not, in fact, a prospective member at all, just a critic. The intent of this article was never to "poke fun at Fandom", but rather to evaluate it. We poked fun at ourselves during Westercon to the extent that it was appropriate, and even beyond, but if what Fandom needs is to be constantly humored and patted on the head, then I, for one, do not have the time nor the inclination to

accommodate. We are just too busy trying to save our own lives. I fear that as "off-thewall" as the concept of cryonics may appear to some, it's nonetheless too "reality-based" for presentation at SF "I-just-wanna-have-fun" Cons. We have truly tried and no doubt will continue in some measure trying to "reach" Fandom, especially the ones who have exhibited interest in what we are offering, but a genuine instinct for survival is something that one either has or has not. I predict that the "have-nots" will be without a significant Alcor presence at their Cons for some time to come. And this truly is sad, because as SF authors know and as any fan worth his salt *ought* to know, *science fiction can become science fact*.

So, Fandom, here we are, down in Riverside, California, "ALCOR, DEATHBUSTERS!!!" offering the possibility of LIFE and lots of it!

WHO YA' GONNA CALL ?? ?!!!



Recollections Of An Average Man

by Joseph G. Cannon Book review by Mike Darwin

There is a 40 year difference in age between me and Joe Cannon. We have led very different lives. And yet, I find myself doing what Joe has undoubtedly done (his book is evidence of it): thinking back on my past. Despite the separation of time and space, Joe's book has helped me to do that by churning up many memories of my own that I didn't know I had.

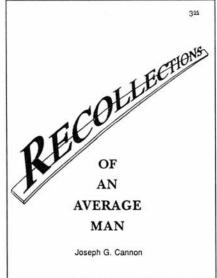
But first, about Joe's book. *Recollections* is not going to be a best-seller nor is it any great feat of creative writing. When I first opened it I was not impressed: it is a series of unconnected anecdotes, numbered consecutively and covering every topic imaginable.

But the book got me. It got me to read it. It got me to laugh. And it got me to recall many sweet memories of my own childhood and growing up. That is a rare thing for any book to do. I am sure that part of my interest and fascination in reading the book stems from the fact that I know Joe, and that his wife Terri is resting in liquid nitrogen just a few feet from where I sit writing this. *Recollections* is thus a chronicle of events in the life of two cryonicists and therefore holds special interest. But it is not that alone. The book warmly captures that sense of joy, wonder, and warmth that make a man's life and his memories worth reflecting on. The anecdotes have a *Reader's Digest* kind of flavor to them, and I'll confess to being a sucker for that kind of story. Some are funny, some are sweet, a few are risque, and some make you stop and reflect.

But beyond the individual messages of the little disconnected stories that make up this book there is another; Joe Cannon is a profoundly decent man who has led a charming and interesting life. If the pages of *Recollections* speak the truth (and I believe they do) then Joe is a very lucky man. He has lead a life of balance and moderation and he has had something priceless which all too few people experience; the love of a woman every bit as good and decent as he. If any two people deserve a second shot at life, Joe and Terri do.

Joe didn't send his book to me to get a review in Cryonics. But I liked his book almost as much as I like him (that's a compliment, for those of you who don't know how much I like Joe). I can also recommend it to anyone who wants some lighthearted reading for those spare moments when tackling a full-length tome is not desirable or The independent anecdote format works possible. well for this. You can pick up this book, open it to any page and read three paragraphs or thirty. Each story stands alone. It is exactly the kind of book to take along in your purse or car to fill those spare little moments that might otherwise be lost in boredom or irritation. I won't tell you where my copy ended up, although I know Joe would get a laugh out of it and wouldn't mind at all. The anecdotes are just the right size!

Others interested in reading *Recollections* may do so by sending \$5.00 to Joe Cannon, at 2494 S. Lake Letta Dr.; Avon Park, FL 33825.



THE ALCOR SURVEY 1988-9

tabulated by Max O'Connor comments by Max O'Connor and Mike Perry

INTRODUCTION

Years have passed and change has accelerated in the world of cryonics since the last Alcor survey, conducted by Steve Bridge in 1982. The present survey serves a number of functions. First, it satisfies the curiosity of many of us who like to know more about the unusual individuals who are willing to defy tradition and to take a practical stand against death. We feel a need to know what characteristics we have in common; this helps us to feel more a part of a community. Second, the more we learn about cryonicists and how they became involved, the better equipped we are to target our limited resources at the most promising groups. Third, the information from the survey will be useful in defending our position in the many legal conflicts we find ourselves in.

A perusal of the results produces some surprises and confirms many expectations. While cryonicists are certainly a diverse crowd, it's clear that they tend to be highly educated, very well read, optimistic, technically sophisticated, quite well-off, unreligious, predominantly libertarian, mostly male, and overwhelmingly caucasian. The conclusions for outreach strategy cannot be straightforwardly derived from this information, however. Should we aim at people who share these characteristics? Or should we conclude that such a market has been well worked and that it's time to try other types of people? I will not try to decide such questions here; this should be discussed in the pages of *Cryonics* now that the data is at hand.

I would like to thank Steve Bridge for the original survey, from which I lifted many questions. Thanks also to those who suggested questions aimed at finding out the personal details of our people. Inevitably, with hindsight, ideas for extra questions and for better formulations of questions occurred to me. At various points in the presentation of data I will note problems with the wording of a question. Given the rapidity of Alcor's growth, a third survey should be undertaken in two years or so. I will be happy to help out with formulating a better version, and I will warn the future surveyor now that it will be a very time-consuming task!

-- Max O'Connor



Max O'Connor

THE RESULTS

How many returns? (including doubles): 109

Question 1: Are you currently a member of a cryonics organization?

Yes: 72 ("suspension member", SM)

No: 37 ("associate or non-member", AN)

This question (along with #3) was originally to allow me to divide respondents into three categories: (a) suspension member, (b) associate member, and (c) subscriber. Unfortunately the last two categories became mixed up since some people who were only subscribers claimed to be associates. An (Alcor) associate member (my definition) is one who pays the annual dues of \$200, but has not signed up. (Actually only about a dozen people have chosen this option.) In the results to follow I will therefore use only two categories: suspension member (SM), and associate member/non-member (AN). This is probably just as useful as the three-way classification, since a number of associate members have not made any move to sign up after several years, while some non-members are clearly intending to be signed up soon. If we are interested in dividing persons according to degree of practical commitment, little will be lost by putting categories (b) and (c) together.

Question 2: Have you previously been a member of a cryonics organization that no longer exists? Which one?

Note: some people listed organizations that still exist or which have changed their name or have merged with other groups.

No: SM:49

Yes: Cryonics Society of California (CSC): SM:9 Bay Area Cryonics Society (BACS): SM:3 Cryonics Institute (CI): SM:2 Life Extension Society (LES): SM:2 Mizar: SM:1 Cryonics Society of New York (CSNY): SM:1 Institute for Advanced Biological Studies (IABS): SM:1

Trans Time: SM:1 Cryocrypt Corporation: SM:1 Cryogenetics International: SM:1 Cryonics Society of South Florida: SM:1 I.C.E.: SM:0 AN:1 San Diego Chapter (group unspecified): SM:0 AN:1

A good plurality of the "refugee" SM's are from CSC, Robert Nelson's disastrous enterprise that failed in the 1970's and led to litigation and bad feeling about cryonics in California. Otherwise there is a sprinkling from many other organizations, including many that were very short lived.

Question 3: Are you signed up to be frozen? If "no", are you in the process of doing so?

In process: AN:15 Not in process: AN:22 (But several others said they intend to sign up.)

So, about half the AN's intend to be signed up.

Question 4: Do you subscribe to: A) Cryonics; B) Other cryonics newsletters?

Subscribe to Cryonics: SM:71 AN:37

Subscribe to other cryonics newsletters/magazines: SM:35 AN:10

As expected, nearly all the participants are *Cryonics* subscribers. It is significant that only a minority of both SM's and AN's subscribe to other cryonics publications. (We must be doing something right, huh?)

Question 5: If you are not signed up, what is the most important reason for your reluctance?

Financial: AN:15 Complexity & difficulty of sign-up: AN:3 Lack of social support: AN:2 Wife/girlfriend objects: AN:2 Inertia/laziness: AN:1 Lack of confidence in techniques: AN:2 Distance from organization: AN:2 Poor profit/loss balance: AN:1 Morbid concept: AN:1 Scientific doubts: AN:1 Lack of information: AN:1 Want wife to sign up also: AN:1 Been busy: AN:1 Don't want to pay worthless lawyers: AN:1 Don't like cold: AN:1 Waiting to see if organization survives: AN:1 Difficulty with will: AN:1 Still thinking about it: AN:1

It is significant that, of 37 AN's responding, 41%, or nearly half listed "financial" as their reason for not signing up. This underscores the importance of finding lower cost alternatives to the approximately \$30,000-or-more cryonic suspension options now available.

Question 6: If you are a suspension member are you: A) Neuro; B) Whole body? Why have you chosen that option rather than the alternative?

Figures for ANs represent their intentions, where these are stated.

Neuro: SM:53 AN:9 Whole Body: SM:18 AN:5

Reasons in favor of neuro:

Cost: SM:33 AN:4 Whole body is unnecessary (with nanotech): SM:17 AN:1 Better security/mobility/patient care: SM:16 AN:2 Better perfusion/biologically superior: SM:11 AN:4 Allows overfunding: 3

Reasons in favor of whole body:

Gives more options: SM:6 May come back sooner: SM:2 Cloning body may not be possible: SM:1 Body will need replacing anyway: SM:3 Want a better body: SM:2 Whole bodies will be guinea pigs: SM:1 Vitrification will be easier for brain: SM:1 More aesthetically pleasing: SM:1 Makes strong statement about belief in future technology: SM:1

So can afford to change mind later: SM:1 Uncomfortable about neuro: SM:1 Find neuro repulsive: SM:0 AN:1 (con't) May be information not in brain: SM:1 AN:1 Most practical: SM:1 More likely to be revived: SM:2 AN:1

Best option: SM:0 AN:1 More socially acceptable: SM:0 AN:1 Irrational objection: SM:0 AN:1

Libertarian circles: SM:0 AN:2

In general, respondents heavily favor neuro, which is explained by the high proportion of Alcor members in the survey (about 2/3 of Alcor signups are neuro). "Financial" is the most commonly given reason for the choice of neuro.

Question 7: How did you first hear about cryonics?

Friend or acquaintance: SM:11 AN:2 Ettinger's "The Prospect of Immortality": SM:8 AN:7 Newspaper article: SM:8 AN:1 Magazine article: SM:8 AN:1 Ettinger's "Man Into Superman": SM:0 AN:3 TV-TV interview: SM:3 AN:2 - TV documentary: SM:2 - TV news: SM:2 AN:4 - TV (unspecified): SM:1 - British TV children's show: SM:1 College lecture: SM:2 Science fiction: SM:3 (Analog, Heinlein, other) AN:2 R.A. Wilson's "Cosmic Trigger": SM:1 Review of "Prospect of Immortality": SM:1 Life extension conference: SM:1 AN:2 (One specified a 1977

conference)

Herman Kahn's "The Year 2000": SM:1 Saul Kent's "Life Extension Revolution": SM:1 AN:1 Conference in Los Angeles: SM:1 High school class: SM:1 College professor: SM:1 Life extension newsletter: SM:1 Life extension books: SM:0 AN:1 Walt Disney rumors: SM:1 AN:1 Children's science magazine/comic: SM:1 Relative: SM:1 Cryonics talk: SM:0 AN:1 Drexler's "Engines of Creation": SM:0 AN:1 Neo-Tech Research Center: SM:0 AN:1 Harrington's "The Immortalist": SM:0 AN:1 Research for article: SM:0 AN:1 Abiolysis (Mensa): SM:0 AN:1

So, people first heard about cryonics from a wide variety of sources, with "friend or acquaintance" holding the plurality vote for SM's (the "true believers") and "The Prospect of Immortality holding the plurality for AN's. No matter how you slice it, probably that eloquent and lucid work of Ettinger's deserves the lion's share of credit for first introducing the idea.

Question 8: In what year did you first hear about cryonics?

| 1988: SM:1 | AN:2 | 1981: SM:1 | AN:0 | 1974: SM:2 | AN:0 | 1967: SM:4 AN:0 |
|------------|------|------------|------|------------|------|-----------------|
| 1987: SM:0 | AN:3 | 1980: SM:3 | AN:1 | 1973: SM:2 | AN:2 | 1966: SM:7 AN:0 |
| 1986: SM:1 | AN:1 | 1979: SM:3 | AN:2 | 1972: SM:1 | AN:2 | 1965: SM:9 AN:3 |
| 1985: SM:2 | AN:2 | 1978: SM:1 | AN:0 | 1971: SM:0 | AN:0 | 1964: SM:5 AN:3 |
| 1984: SM:0 | AN:1 | 1977: SM:2 | AN:1 | 1970: SM:1 | AN:1 | 1962: SM:0 AN:1 |
| 1983: SM:3 | AN:2 | 1976: SM:5 | AN:1 | 1969: SM:0 | AN:3 | 1960s: SM:5 |
| 1982: SM:2 | AN:0 | 1975: SM:1 | AN:1 | 1968: SM:6 | AN:1 | 1970s: SM:1 |

A large plurality of SM's, nearly half, heard about cryonics right near the beginning, that is, between 1964 and 1968. Otherwise responses are more randomly sprinkled over the quarter-century or so that cryonics has been in existence.

Question 9: How many times did you hear about cryonics before contacting someone?

| 1: SM:21 | AN:10 | More than 5: SM:12 AN:6 |
|----------|-------|-------------------------|
| 2: SM:10 | AN:4 | Few: SM:5 AN:3 |
| 3: SM:6 | AN:1 | Don't know: SM:2 AN:1 |
| 4: SM:2 | AN:2 | |
| 5: SM:0 | AN:1 | |

In general, it appears that both SM's and AN's were quick to contact someone when they heard about cryonics.

Question 10: Why are you involved in cryonics, and has your reason changed since you first became involved?

To stay alive/live longer/live forever: SM:56 AN:26 To see the future: SM:9 AN:2 It's a good idea/it will work: SM:5 My involvement makes a difference: SM:3 To learn more: SM:3 To explore space: SM:2 Meet unusual and fascinating people: SM:2 AN:1 Gesture of defiance: SM:2 AN:1 Love life: SM:1 AN:2 Interested in movement: SM:1 AN:1 Doubts about afterlife: SM:2 AN:1 To have more time to find suitable partner: SM:1 Adventure: SM:1 Like to be at the cutting edge: SM:1 Interesting idea: SM:1 Fear of death: SM:1 AN:1 To change the culture: SM:1 Cryonicists are interested in life extension: SM:0 AN:1 It will work: SM:0 AN:1



Hate death: SM:0 AN:1 To get future capabilities: SM:0 AN:1 To accomplish more: SM:0 AN:1 To help others live: SM:0 AN:1 To do the will of God for longer: SM:0 AN:1 To do research: SM:1

Isn't it amazing how many AN's are in cryonics to extend their survival? One hopes they sign up soon.

Question 11: How many years have you been actively involved in cryonics?

| 1: SM:10 | AN:13 | 10: SM:6 | AN:1 | 19: SM:1 AN:0 |
|----------|-------|----------|------|-----------------------------|
| 2: SM:9 | AN:1 | 11: SM:4 | AN:1 | 20: SM:6 AN:0 |
| 3: SM:11 | AN:3 | 12: SM:3 | AN:1 | 21: SM:2 AN:0 |
| 4: SM:3 | AN:1 | 13: SM:0 | AN:0 | 22: SM:0 AN:0 |
| 5: SM:2 | AN:1 | 14: SM:0 | AN:0 | 23: SM:1 AN:0 |
| 6: SM:0 | AN:0 | 15: SM:0 | AN:0 | 24: SM:1 AN:1 |
| 7: SM:1 | AN:0 | 16: SM:1 | AN:0 | 25: SM:1 AN:0 |
| 8: SM:2 | AN:0 | 17: SM:0 | AN:0 | Not actively involved: AN:7 |
| 9: SM:1 | AN:1 | 18: SM:1 | AN:0 | |

One person claimed to have been actively involved for thirty years; this seems unlikely since that was five to six years before Ettinger's book was published. Otherwise there are interesting differences between SM's and AN's. More than half the AN's can be classed as "neophytes" -- active only in the last 1-3 years. With SM's the situation is more interesting, with 3 peaks of starting involvement clustering around (1) the last 1-3 years, like the AN's, (2) 10-12 years ago (mid-to-late '70's) and (3) about 20 years ago (late '60's). It would seem that SM's come in waves like the incoming tide, at 10-year intervals.

Question 12: How do you handle discussing cryonics?

A. No one knows I'm involved: SM:0 AN:2

B. Only closest friends know: SM:8 AN:7

C. I've told most friends

but not relatives: SM:3 AN:4

D. I've told everyone I care about: SM:23 AN:6

- E. Discuss it freely and openly: SM:41 AN:17
- F. Preach cryonics everywhere: SM:5 AN:1

Some friends and some relatives: AN:1

Generally, SM's and AN's are reasonably open about their involvement in cryonics, though it doesn't seem to have generated any stampede into the movement. Perhaps most people on the outside have a "you-do-your-thing-I'll-do-mine" attitude.

Question 13: What social problems has cryonics caused you?

None: SM:44 AN:26 Teased/ridiculed/butt of jokes: SM:8 Relationship problems with non-cryonicists: SM:5 AN:4 Alienation from others: SM:4 Danger of losing job: SM:2 Danger of going to jail: SM:2 Bores some people: SM:2 Friends very negative about it: SM:2 Marriage problems: SM:2 Was arrested: SM:1 Received bomb threat: SM:1 Accused of theft and homicide: SM:1 Lost job: SM:1 Probably worsened drug use: SM:1 Low income: SM:1 Problems with women: SM:1 Annoys people: SM:1 Takes up time: SM:1



Lawsuit: SM:1 Occasional embarrassment: SM:1 More reluctant to befriend people who will die because they are not cryonicists: SM:1 Unwilling to get romantically involved with non-cryonicist because of legal powers: SM:1 Can't stand funerals: SM:0 AN:1 Offends religious people: SM:0 AN:1

A majority (both SM's and AN's) report no social problems, which fits with Question 12, while the major problems, for those who do have them, are being teased or ridiculed, or relationship problems.

Question 14: What social benefits have you received from cryonics?

New more interesting/more rational friends: SM:43 AN:8 None: SM:11 AN:20 Interesting discussions: SM:1 AN:3 Good conversational topic/I'm more interesting: SM:4 Broadens my knowledge: SM:4 AN:2 Hope: SM:2 Met a partner: SM:2 Smug superiority: SM:2 Chance to develop skills: SM:2 Few: SM:1 Get invited to more parties: SM:1 Reinforces self-esteem/intellectual independence: SM:1 Less withdrawn: SM:1 Receive recognition for contributions: SM:1 Sense of belonging: SM:1 Contribution to something worthwhile: SM:1 Get respect for dedication: SM:1 Appeared on TV: SM:1 Worry less about death: SM:0 AN:1 Shows desire to help others live: SM:0 AN:1 More positive about life: SM:0 AN:1 Greater affinity for medical people: SM:0 AN:1

At least a majority of SM's report *some* social benefits, unlike the AN's, with meeting new, more rational, interesting, etc. friends winning the plurality of votes. The message to AN's would seem clear: "come on in, the water [liquid nitrogen?]'s fine."

Question 15: Age.

| 20: SM:0 | AN:1 | 34: SM:1 | AN:0 | 48: SM:0 | AN:0 | 62: SM:1 | AN:0 |
|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| 21: SM:0 | AN:0 | 35: SM:4 | AN:0 | 49: SM:1 | AN:0 | 63: SM:0 | AN:0 |
| 22: SM:0 | AN:1 | 36: SM:2 | AN:0 | 50: SM:2 | AN:0 | 64: SM:0 | AN:0 |
| 23: SM:0 | AN:1 | 37: SM:4 | AN:0 | 51: SM:0 | AN:0 | 65: SM:0 | AN:0 |
| 24: SM:1 | AN:0 | 38: SM:3 | AN:1 | 52: SM:0 | AN:3 | 66: SM:0 | AN:1 |
| 25: SM:4 | AN:1 | 39: SM:3 | AN:1 | 53: SM:1 | AN:1 | 67: SM:0 | AN:0 |
| 26: SM:0 | AN:0 | 40: SM:1 | AN:0 | 54: SM:1 | AN:1 | 68: SM:0 | AN:0 |
| 27: SM:1 | AN:1 | 41: SM:2 | AN:1 | 55: SM:2 | AN:0 | 69: SM:0 | AN:0 |
| 28: SM:2 | AN:1 | 42: SM:1 | AN:0 | 56: SM:1 | AN:1 | 70: SM:1 | AN:0 |
| 29: SM:2 | AN:4 | 43: SM:1 | AN:2 | 57: SM:1 | AN:0 | 71: SM:1 | AN:0 |
| 30: SM:2 | AN:0 | 44: SM:2 | AN:4 | 58: SM:0 | AN:0 | 72: SM:0 | AN:0 |
| 31: SM:2 | AN:2 | 45: SM:2 | AN:3 | 59: SM:1 | AN:0 | 73: SM:1 | AN:0 |
| 32: SM:3 | AN:3 | 46: SM:4 | AN:0 | 60: SM:2 | AN:0 | 74: SM:1 | AN:0 |
| 33: SM:3 | AN:0 | 47: SM:3 | AN:0 | 61: SM:0 | AN:1 | | |

Mean age: SM: 41.8 AN:39.4

Median age: SM:49.0 AN:40.0

In short, the typical person involved in cryonics is fortyish, young enough to enjoy life a lot, old enough to be worried about aging and death.

Question 16: Gender.

Male: SM:56 AN:33 Female: SM:14 AN:2

So, males outnumber females 4-to-1 among SM's and even more lopsidedly among AN's. Looks as if there could be a lot of cloning/artificial manufacture of mates someday, if this trend continues. On the other hand, there is speculation that the ladies may become staunch supporters of cryonics, when/if it becomes respectable (cf. the medical and nursing professions).

Question 17: Race:

Caucasian: SM:67 AN:33 Hispanic: SM:3 AN:0 American Indian: SM:1 AN:0 Oriental: SM:1 AN:0 Black: SM:0 AN:0 Asian-American: SM:0 AN:1

One person accounts for one each in the categories Caucasian, American Indian, and Hispanic. The predominance of Caucasians seems to reflect their dominance in American society at large, rather than any large dependence on cultural, racial, or other factors.

Question 18: Married?

Yes: SM:30 AN:17 No: SM:35 AN:16 Divorced: SM:1 AN:3 Widower with wife in suspension: SM:1

It is striking that the majority of SM's are unmarried, and nearly this proportion of AN's as well. (Remember the median ages are in the 40's.)

Question 19: Number of children? If you have children are they signed up?

| 0: SM:42 | AN:23 |
|----------|-------|
| 1: SM:7 | AN:2 |
| 2: SM:10 | AN:7 |
| 3: SM:3 | AN:1 |
| 4: SM:1 | AN:2 |
| 5: SM:4 | AN:0 |
| 6: SM:2 | AN:0 |

Signed up: SM:8 Not signed up: SM:14

One person included under "0" has two children by sperm donation.

Again, cryonics people are not great makers of families, by and large. Is it possible that the concern for individual survival has blunted the urgency for reproduction? If so, it should offer some solace to those who fear "overpopulation" if cryonics patients are resuscitated. It is interesting too, that by nearly a 2/3 majority, children of SM's are not signed up, a further indication of how rare and improbable a serious cryonicist is today. (Several times more people have "gone to heaven" by drinking cyanide than have signed up for cryonic suspension!)



Question 20: Family members involved?

| None: SM:41 AN:8 | Brother/sister: SM:2 AN:1 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Spouse: SM:13 AN:2 | Girlfriend: SM:1 AN:0 |
| Children: SM:6 AN:1 | Lifepact partner: SM:1 AN:0 |
| Parents: SM:4 AN:0 | Brother-in-law: SM:1 AN:0 |

The majority of cryonicists have no family members involved, though probably a substantially larger proportion of *married* cryonicists have at least one family member (their spouse) involved.

Question 21: Occupation?

Computers: Programmer: SM:9 AN:3 Operator: SM:1 Manager: SM:1 Software engineer: SM:2 AN:1 (Manager) Computer Aided Design: SM:1 Computer science: SM:1 AN:2 Consultant: SM:0 AN:1 Cryonicist: SM:5 Real estate: SM:5 AN:2 Engineering: Unspecified: SM:2 Electrical: SM:1 AN:1 Naval architect/engineer: SM1 Broadcast: SM:1 Self-employed: SM:2 Writer: SM:2 AN:3 Student: SM:2 AN:3 Administrator: SM:2 (One medical) Lawyer: SM:2 AN:1 (tax) Homemaker: SM:2 Clerk: SM:2 Retired: SM:2 AN:1 Graduate student: SM:1 AN:1 Yachtsman: SM:1 C.E.O.: SM:1 Librarian: SM:1 Artist: SM:1 Consultant for pharmaceutical company: SM:1 Financial analyst: SM:1 Finance/marketing: SM:1 AN:2 (1 sales director) Stockbroker: SM:0 AN:1 Banker: SM:0 AN:1 Teach acting: SM:1 Medical transcriber: SM:1 Physician: SM:0 AN:3 Trucking: SM:1

Military: SM:1 Draftsperson: SM:1 Sex therapist: SM:1 Accountant: SM:2 Career consultant: SM:1 Psychologist: SM:1 AN:1 Print operator: SM:1 Mathematician: SM:1 Mathematical physicist: SM:0 AN:1 Salesman: SM:1 Medical researcher: SM:1 Management advisor: SM:1 Molecular biologist: SM:1 Scientist: SM:1 Correctional sergeant: SM:1 Publisher: SM:1 Teacher: SM:1 Editor: SM:1 Manager: SM:1 Physician recruiter: SM:1 Contract administrator: SM:1 Consultant (unspecified): SM:1 Electronic design: SM:1 Business owner; SM:1 Biologist: SM:1 Entrepreneur: SM:1 AN:1 Biochemist: SM:1 Secretary: SM:1 General contractor: SM:0 AN:1 Mental health worker: SM:0 AN:1 Actress: SM:0 AN:1 Jail administrator: SM:0 AN:1 Medical student: SM:0 AN:1 Medical technologist: SM:0 AN:1 None: SM:0 AN:1

A plurality of SM's are in computer-related occupations, and a majority of these SM's are programmers. It has often been remarked that computer programmers have a natural orientation for cryonics, since the cryonics premise is well supported by the viewpoint of a human being as a program (the personality) running on hardware (the body). Otherwise, the wide variety and high skill level of the occupations are striking.

Question 22: Education:

| Less than high school:SM:1 | AN:0 |
|----------------------------|-------|
| High school:SM:3 | AN:0 |
| Some college:SM:17 | AN:5 |
| Bachelors:SM:23 | AN:15 |
| Masters:SM:14 | AN:8 |
| Doctorate:SM:13 | AN:8 |
| Associate degree:SM:2 | AN:0 |

(SMs - two have two bachelors, one has two masters, two of the doctorates are in progress. ANs - one has four bachelors, one has two masters, three of the doctorates are still in progress.)



A majority of both SM's and AN's have college or more advanced degrees; about 20% have Ph.D.s.

Question 23: What subject(s) did you study at college?

Business: SM:10 AN:3 Mathematics: SM:9 AN:7 Computers: SM:8 AN:5 Physics: SM:6 AN:8 Philosophy: SM:6 AN:3 Engineering: SM:6 AN:2 (one electrical) Chemistry: SM:6 AN:3 Biology: SM:5 AN:1 English: SM:5 Electronics: SM:5 Psychology: SM:4 AN:7 Economics: SM:3 AN:1 Politics: SM:3 Accounting: SM:3 AN:2 Drama/theatre: SM:3 Liberal arts: SM:2 AN:1 Fine arts: SM:2 Humanities: SM:2 Science (unspecified): SM:2 Law: SM:2 AN:2 History: SM:2 AN:3 Sociology: SM:2 Music: SM:2 Biochemistry: SM:2 AN:2 Finance: SM:1 AN:2 EMT: SM:1 Ethics: SM:1 Astronomy: SM:1 Statistics: SM:1

Design: SM:1 Architecture: SM:1 Physical chemistry: SM:1 Library science: SM:1 Speech theatre: SM:1 Astrophysics: SM:1 AN:1 Telecommunications: SM:1 Space science: SM:1 Health administration: SM:1 Pre-med: SM:1 AN:1 Management: SM:1 Education: SM:1 Pre-nursing: SM:1 Photography/art: SM:1 Journalism: SM:0 AN:1 Military science: SM:0 AN:1 Radio/TV: SM:0 AN:1 Anthropology: SM:0 AN:1 American civilization: SM:0 AN:1 Public health administration: SM:0 AN:1 Pharmacy: SM:0 AN;1 Physiology & anatomy: SM:0 AN:2 Geology: SM:0 AN:1 Aero & astronautics: SM:0 AN:1 Travel & tourism: SM:0 AN:1 Salesmanship: SM:0 AN:1 Literature: SM:0 AN:1 Zoology: SM:0 AN:1 Psychometrics: SM:0 AN:1

Subjects studied are widely distributed, with some emphasis on business, mathematics, "hard" sciences, and generally, the kinds of subjects through which one could earn a reasonably high income in a technological society.

Question 24: Annual income:

| \$0-\$10,000:SM:5AN:5 | \$40-\$80,000SM:16AN:6 |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| \$10-\$15,000SM:4AN:3 | \$80-\$120,000SM:4AN:3 |
| \$15-\$25,000SM:7AN:2 | Over \$120,000 SM:3AN:5 |
| \$25-\$40,000SM:23AN:9 | |

The generally high incomes (median falls in the range \$25 - \$40,000 for both SM's and AN's) are consistent with the subjects studied in college (see previous question). One fact worth pointing out, though, is that at the time of the survey, the real hard-core cryonicists (i.e. people who make their living doing cryonics, five in number according to question 21) were not earning high annual incomes (some were under \$10,000). In general these people had high levels of technical training and skills, but for such an exotic profession the money just wasn't there.

Question 25: Religious background:

Unfortunately it wasn't made clear in the question whether this meant previous beliefs or parental beliefs, though the latter was intended, and most people seem to have realized this from the comments included with the answers.

Protestant: SM:24 AN:14 Religious Science: SM:1 Catholic: SM:12 AN:11 Mormon: SM:1 AN:1 Christian (unspecified): SM:5 AN:2 (one Swedenborgian) Secular Humanist: SM:1 None: SM:12 (7 "Atheist", 5 "None") AN:4 (1 "Atheist") Disciples of Christ: SM:1 Jewish: SM:3 Seventh Day Adventist: SM:1 Unitarian/Universalist: SM:3 AN:1 Eclectic: SM:1 Worldwide Church Agnostic: SM:1 Reincarnation: SM:1 of God: SM:0 AN:1 Venturist: SM-1 "Some": SM:0 AN:1

Making allowance for confusion about the intent of the question as noted above, the religious background suggests a random sampling of the population. Maybe "religious background" is not that important as a determining factor.

Fifteen of the SM's and 5 of the AN's classed as Protestant above also indicated a denominational affiliation. The subtotals came out as follows:

Episcopalian: SM:5; AN:1, Presbyterian: SM:5; AN:2 Methodist: SM:2; AN:0, Baptist: SM:2; AN:2, Fundamentalist: SM:1; AN:0

Question 26: Current religious conviction?

None: SM:48 AN:27 (Atheist: SM:26; AN:15, None: SM:22; AN:12, though one of the "none" (SM) said he believes in supersymmetry.)
Agnostic: SM:8 AN:3
Christian: SM:3 (1 Catholic) AN:2 (1 Catholic)
Secular Humanist: SM:1
Jewish: SM:1
Erisian: SM:1
Belief in higher power: SM:1
Pagan: SM:1
Undecided: SM:1 AN:1
Reform (Jew?): SM:1

One unbeliever called himself an anti-theist, and another said that we are becoming God. A large majority of both SM's and AN's (at least 67% and 73% respectively) could be classed as nonreligious.

Question 27: Sexual preference.

| Heterosexual. | | .SM:61 | AN:34 |
|---------------|--|--------|-------|
| Homosexual | | .SM:4 | AN:1 |
| Bisexual | | .SM:0 | AN:0 |

(One SM said "androgynous", which might be meant to be bisexual, and one SM said that he had no preference, meaning that sex did not interest him.)

In general this might reflect a random sampling of the population. (5-10%) of the general population is said to be gay, for instance.) Sexual preference does not seem to be a significant factor in making a cryonicist, which is especially interesting in view of the fact that the majority of cryonicists are unmarried and without children. (E.g. this trend is not explained by homosexuality.)



Question 28: Philosophical-political orientation:

| Α. | Anarchist | SM:11 | AN:6 | H. Socialist. | SM:0 | AN:2 |
|----|--------------|-------|-------|--------------------|------|------|
| Β. | Conservative | SM:10 | AN:5 | I. No opinion | | AN:1 |
| C. | Democrat | SM:7 | AN:0 | Others: | | |
| D. | Liberal | SM:7 | AN:3 | Utilitarian | SM:1 | AN:0 |
| E. | Libertarian | SM:36 | AN:19 | Centrist | SM:1 | AN:0 |
| F. | Randian | SM:9 | AN:5 | Eclectic/variable | SM:2 | AN:0 |
| G. | Republican | SM:12 | AN:4 | None of the above: | SM:0 | AN:1 |

It's an interesting group that has more anarchists than conservatives, liberals, Republicans or Democrats! Almost exactly half the respondents, of both SM's and AN's, are libertarians. Perhaps cryonics is so relatively attractive to libertarians because death is seen as the ultimate limitation of liberty.

Question 29: Hours of television watched per week?

| 0: | SM:9 AN:6 | 8: SM:2 AN:0 | 16: SM:1 AN:0 |
|----|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1: | SM:4 AN:2 | 9: SM:1 AN:0 | 17: SM:0 AN:0 |
| 2: | SM:0 AN:2 | 10: SM:8 AN:4 | 18: SM:0 AN:0 |
| 3: | SM:3 AN:1 | 11: SM:4 AN:0 | 19: SM:0 AN:0 |
| 4: | SM:4 AN:2 | 12: SM:2 AN:1 | 20: SM:3 AN:0 |
| 5: | SM:10 AN:3 | 13: SM:0 AN:1 | More than 20: SM:6 AN:6 |
| 6: | SM:4 AN:1 | 14: SM:0 AN:1 | (SM: 25, 40, 25-30, 25, 24;) |
| 7: | SM:4 AN:3 | 15: SM:3 AN:1 | (AN: 21, 30, 30, 30-35, lots.) |

Seven hours is the median for both SM's and AN's. Probably these statistics are somewhat biased by rounding (note that peaks tend to occur at multiples of 5 hours). Otherwise there seems to be a more-or-less uniform distribution in the number of watchers claiming up to 10 hours per week, with a tapering off after this point.

Question 30: Types of show watched:

| News: SM:48 AN:24 | Comedy: SM:25 AN:14 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Movies: SM:38 AN:16 | Science: SM:44 AN:24 |
| Drama: SM:24 AN:6 | Action: SM:17 AN:6 |
| Documentary: SM:37 AN:13 | PBS: SM:33 AN:16 |

(con't) Educational: SM:28 AN:13 Talk shows: SM:18 AN:9 MTV (write-in): SM:2

Sports: SM:12 AN:11 Science fiction: SM:34 AN:19 Variety (write-in): SM:1

News, movies, science, PBS, documentaries predominate -- in general, what you'd expect for an intelligent, educated audience.

Question 31: Hobbies and spare-time activities:

Reading: SM:59 AN:35 Physical activities and sports: SM:34 AN:25 Various intellectual studies: SM:35 AN:22 Music: SM:30 AN:17 Tourism and travel: SM:27 AN:16 Sex: SM:38 AN:12 Gardening: SM:8 AN:5 Flying: SM:5 AN:3 Cryonics and immortalism: SM:42 AN:17 Collecting: SM:14 AN:2 Writing: SM:24 AN:7 Personal computer: SM:29 AN:8 Computer and video games: SM:10 AN:2 Construction, woodwork, and machinery: SM:12 AN:6 Sailing and boating; SM:8 AN:4 Theatre: SM:8 AN:2 Amateur astronomy: SM:1 Drugs: SM:1 Photography: SM:1 Square dancing: SM:1 Art: SM:0 AN:1 Loving: SM:0 AN:1

Reading beats sex hands down, and only one person considers "loving" a hobby! Cryonics and immortalism get high marks as expected, otherwise the prevalent hobbies are what you might expect of the typical intelligent, educated American.

Question 32: What magazines do you read regularly? (Other than Cryonics?)

ACS Newsletter: SM:21 AN:7 The Immortalist: SM:26 AN:11 Life Extension News: SM:23 AN:12 Omni: SM:15 AN:10 Time: SM:21 AN:9 Scientific American: SM:22 AN:15 Newsweek: SM:16 AN:6 Science Digest: SM:4 AN:3 Science: SM:10 AN:6 Cryobiology: SM:5 AN:2 Reason: SM:15 AN:9 US News and World Report: SM:9 AN:2 Science News: SM:22 AN:9 Analog: SM:14 AN:5 Nature: SM:7 AN:2 Liberty: SM:6 AN:3 Foresight Update: SM:32 AN:9 Nanotech News (now defunct): SM:11 AN:1 American Scientist: SM:1 AN:1 Skeptical Inquirer: SM:2 National Geographic: SM:2 AN:1 Longevity: SM:2 AN:2 Sciences: SM:2 Financial investment newsletters: SM:2 Space World: SM:2 AN:3 The Pragmatist: SM:1 Sky and Telescope: SM:1 AN:1 Psychology Today: SM:1 National Review: SM:1 Spectrum: SM:1 AN:1 Prevention: SM:2 New Republic: SM:1

New England Journal of Medicine: SM:6 AN:3 Science '88: SM:2 AN:3 Byte: SM:6 AN:4 Consumer Reports: SM:15 AN:7

Others:

Claustrophobia: SM:5 AN:1 Economist: SM:4 AN:2 Discover: SM:4 Extropy: SM:4 Free Inquiry: SM:3 Venturist Voice: SM:3 AN:1 Smithsonian: SM:3 Sports Illustrated: SM:3 Esquire: SM:2 Insight: SM:2 AN:2 Changing Times: SM:2 Real Estate Investing newsletter: SM:2 Astronomy: SM:2 AN:1 Orange Coast: SM:1 Destinies: SM:1 JBIS: SM:1 Digital Audio: SM:1 Playboy: SM:1 Minor Matters: SM:1 Comics Buyers Guide: SM:1 Threads: SM:1 Proceedings of US Naval Institute: SM:1 South Florida: SM:1 Bunches: SM:1 AGE Journal: SM:1 Rolling Stone: SM:1

(Con't) Discovery: SM:1 PC Tech Journal: SM:1 Privileged Information: SM:1 New Scientist: SM:1 AN:1 Cryo-Letters: SM:2 AI Computer: SM:1 AI Expert: SM:1 Supercomputing Review: SM:1 The Scientist: SM:1 Los Angeles: SM:1 Medical World News: SM:1 Soldier of Fortune: SM:1 American Rifleman: SM:1 Reader's Digest: SM:1 MAD Magazine: SM:1 International Living: SM:1 Town and Country: SM:1 The Toastmaster: SM:1 AT&T Focus: SM:1 New Woman: SM:1 Which?: SM:1 AN:1 Cosmopolitan: SM:1 Bon Appetite: SM:1 Advocate: SM:1 Muscle and Fitness: SM:1 Pacific Diver: SM:1 Dive: SM:1 Locus: SM:1 TV Guide: SM:1 Various professional journals: SM:1 Various librarians journals: SM:1 Various scientific journals: SM:1 Economics journals: SM:0 AN:1 Mathematics journals: SM:0 AN:1 Horticulture: SM:1 Flower and garden: SM:1 Art in America: SM:1 Art International: SM:1 Mac Tutor: SM:1 Baseball Card Digest: SM:1 Games: SM:1 Popular Science: AN:1 American Hunter: AN:1 Western Outdoors: AN:1 Sunset: AN:1 Anesthesiology: AN:1 California Rifle and Pistol Association Newsletter: AN:1 Journal of the American Medical Association: AN:1

Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery: SM:1 Amsect Journal: SM:1 Health newsletters: SM:1 Wilson Quarterly: SM:1 Video: SM:1 Stereo Review: SM:1 Aviation Week: SM:1 AN:2 Libertarian Party News: SM:1 INC: SM:1 American Atheist: SM:1 Venture: SM:1 Forbes: SM:1 AN:2 Electronic Trade Journals: SM:1 Electronics: SM:1 Frontiers: SM:1 Fortune: AN:2 Gold Digest: AN:1 PC World: AN:1 Gerontology journals: AN:1 Journal of the Megahealth Society: AN:1 Planetary Report: AN:1 High Tech: AN:1 Vogue: AN:1 Architectural Digest: AN:1 Hollywood Reporter: AN:1 APL Market News: AN:1 Wellness Letter: AN:1 UTNC Reader: AN:1 Playboy: AN:1 Final Frontier: AN:1 Discover: AN:1 Stereo Review: AN:1 Reader's Digest: AN:1 Nature Conservancy: AN:1 Space Calendar: AN:1 Alaska Magazine: AN:1 Arizona Highways: AN:1 Current Reviews in Clinical Anesthesia: AN:1 Space Solar Power: AN:1 People: AN:1 Military Science magazines: AN:1 Various computer magazines: AN:1 Various electronics magazines: AN:1 Canadian Cryonics News: AN:1 Writers' Monthly: AN:1

Many people did not want to take the time to list all the magazines they read, so the numbers for many of these would have been higher. In general, what you'd expect, with a bias in favor of cryonics/immortalist publications.

Part 2 of 2 continued next month

Meeting Schedules

Alcor business meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of the month. Guests are welcome. Unless otherwise noted, meetings start at 1 PM. For meeting directions, or if you get lost, call Alcor at (714) 736-1703 and page the technician on call.



LAST MINUTE CHANGE to avoid meeting on Labor Day weekend. The SEPTEMBER meeting will be held at the home of:

| (SUN, 10 SEP 1988) | Allen Lopp |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| (SECÓND SUNDAÝ) | 13354 Veracruz St. Cerritos, CA |

The OCTOBER meeting will be held at the Alcor facility:

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(SUN, 1 OCT, 1989) Alcor Life Extension Foundation 12327 Doherty St. Riverside, CA

There will be a YARD SALE of furniture and things from Dick Jones' house.

Alcor members in the San Francisco Bay area have formed an Alcor chapter, and are aggressively pursuing an improved rescue and suspension capability in that area. Meetings are generally held on the second Sunday of the month, at 4 PM. Meeting locations can be obtained by calling the chapter's Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas Donaldson, at (408) 732-4234 (home), or at work, (415) 593-3200 (ask for Thomas Donaldson).

*

The SEPTEMBER meeting will be held at the home of:

(SUN, 10 SEP, 1989) Leonard Zubkoff 3078 Sulphur Spring Court San Jose, CA

The OCTOBER meeting will be held at the home of:

| (SUN, 8 OCT, 1989) | Keith Henson and Arel Lucas 1794 Cardel Way |
|--------------------|--|
| | San Jose, CA |

The New York Cryonics Discussion Group of Alcor meets on the the third Saturday of each month at 6:30 PM, at 72nd Street Studios. The address is 131 West 72nd Street (New York), between Columbus and Broadway. Ask for the Alcor group. Subway stop: 72nd Street, on the 1, 2, or 3 trains.

The meeting dates are as follows:

SEPTEMBER 16 OCTOBER 21 NOVEMBER 18 **DECEMBER 16**

If you live in the New York, Philadelphia, New Jersey, or Boston areas and would like to participate in the rebirth of New York cryonics please contact one or more of the following people:

| Gerard Arthus | (516) 273-3201 |
|------------------|----------------|
| Curtis Henderson | (516) 589-4256 |

ALCOR LIFE ENTENSION FOUNDATION 12327 Doherty Street Riverside, CA 92503

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