

The Official(?) Newsletter of the KGB

An open editorial policy

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Grass Conspiracies

By Chick Nixon. Out There

It has long been known that grass does not survive on CMU's campus. It is removed, dug up, covered with tents, reseeded, and killed again and again for unknown reasons. Recently, trees have begun to follow the same pattern.

But exact description of that pattern has eluded experts for years. Now, finally, Pravda? has unearthed the reason. No single conspiracy theory could explain the grass because there are multiple conspiracies at work! These are summed up for the curious reader...

Conspiracy 1: ROUS's (Rodents of Unusual Size)

CMU's little known Agricultural Department has been working on solutions to world hunger for decades. CMU's little appreciated Psychology Department has been working on solutions to student depression and apathy for just as long. In a terrible "Reese's Peanut Butter Cup"-like accident, a SURG grant was used to combine both solutions. Thus, the enlarging ray intended for vegetable crops was turned against the small fuzzy animals intended to cure depression, and giant rodents were released on campus. They graze nightly on the grass, reducing the cut to a muddy field.

As the rodents are nocturnal, very few students encounter them. Those that do tend to believe they have stumbled across a performance art of some kind, or are forcibly dealt with by CMU's carefully hidden Ninja Department.

Conspiracy 2: Mellon Turf

Recent pressure on the Mellon family to put their names on yet another Pittsburgh landmark lead to the development of Project Mellon Turf. Their goal is to create a super, indestructible grass—a natural astroturf. Millions of dollars were stolen from Mellon Bank accounts (in the form of ATM fees, and monthly fees) and poured into CMU's Landscaping division.

Every day, grass is planted on campus. Every evening, it is killed in a new way. Some small fraction of the grass survives, and this poor phototroph continues to the next round of torture.

Eventually, Mellon will have a grass that can survive any test. This grass will be known as Mellon Turf, and it will carpet the new stadiums of Pittsburgh.

Rivalry from the Hunt family caused the destruction of the most promising variety of grass yet. This grass developed its own intelligence, and had camouflaged itself as a row of crabapple trees in order to escape the torture of Project Mellon Turf. Mellon approved of this new deviousness, and had allowed the grass-trees to live in peace. However, the Hunt family could not stand to see Mellon succeed so quickly, so

they called in a hit against the trees.

This explains why CMU continues to plant grass. This apparent care for the landscape had long puzzled conspiracy buffs who believed CMU wanted to one day asphalt the entire campus. While some fraction of the Administration does want to see more parking in this manner, the money from Mellon holds them at bay.

Conspiracy 3: Aliens

CMU's destruction of grass is part of an elaborate conspiracy to hide the existence of aliens. Aliens do exist, and do not contact only rednecks. They have for many years been attempting to contact the faculty of CMU by marking crop circles in the grass on campus. The Administration is required by a clause in their secret federal funding agreement to prevent aliens from establishing a link with anyone capable of understanding them.

Therefore, every time aliens carve a symbol expressing the formula for Utopian free trade on the cut, the Administration erects a tent over the design and keeps the tent there until the grass is dead and brown. The Orientation Tent is a common ploy, extended month after month by holding concerts or Activity Fairs in the structure.

Conspiracy 4: Highlander

Highlander has been losing money for years, and is unlikely to reverse the trend. Since so few students attend the cafeteria, it was decided to substitute grass, dirt, worms, and leaves for the majority of menu items. It is expected that students will stop attending Highlander altogether (thus leaving it available for the soon to be opened CMU Brothel), or that it will reach a cost-effective point where students pay full meal prices for twigs.

The number of complaints regarding Highlander food was expected to increase rapidly as worms replaced hot dogs and leaves replaced the salad bar, but the saturation point for number of complaints that could be registered each day had already been reached. This realized, the Administration had nothing to lose. With fewer students, the number of complaints has actually decreased and thus Highlander's rating has improved.

Competition for valuable resources such as rocks and sticks has increased the amount of construction on campus. While appearing to install new art pieces, or replace steam pipes, Highlander staff is actually gathering foodstuffs for each service day. Conflict with other Administrative plans for the grass on campus has left the fate of Highlander undecided.

“Oh God, It Hurts to Talk.”

by Chris Clark, *Chronicler of the Revolution*

KGB's crack torture research division has once again out done itself. This past Monday KGB Torture R&D, with the help of various members, created the now infamous Milkshake of MoodyDoody. The illustrious Comrade M tested the formula on himself at the same meeting and barely lived to tell the tale. Listed below is this new recipe for disaster:

Wild Cherry Jolt	\$ 1.00
Diet Mountain Dew	\$ 0.50
Creme de Menthe syrup	\$ 3.00
Sardines in Mustard sauce	\$ 5.00
Marshmallow scarry cats	\$ 1.00
Vegitable Oil, Corn starch, BBQ sauce, garlic	\$ 4.00
Artichoke Hearts	\$ 3.00
Chunky Dog Food	\$ 7.00
Chuink Bleu Cheese Dressing	\$ 2.00
PureCap (Capsacin)	\$ 5.00
Marichino Cherries	\$ 0.50
Nestea & Diet Coke	\$ 2.00
Fish Flakes	\$ 4.00
Penguine Caffeeene mints & Old Indigestion pills	\$ 5.00
Cat Food (Chicken Heart & Liver)	\$10.00
Tomato Soup & Anchovies	\$ 5.00

	\$58.00

PLEASE NOTE: Mixing the above is not only dangerous but nauseating. Let only trained professionals try recreating this.

Still a Wild West

By Kirstin Connors, *Author of the Revolution*

Cort the Rascal glared at Sheriff Teki. This town was not big enough for the both of them.

Suddenly, a shadow could be seen crawling across the dirt. It was so massive that both Cort and Teki were distracted. Much to their surprise, it was a Marfa Light.

Marfa is a small town in West Texas that is well known for its mysterious lights which have been seen and recorded for hundreds of years. There are many theories about the possible origins of the lights. Some maintain that the lights are just headlights from a nearby highway. Others say that the lights are burning balls of gas that float about in a particularly bowl shaped part of the climate. Yet others claim that the lights are spy craft of aliens.

This last theory is closest to true. For this particular Marfa light landed in the middle of town separating Teki from Cort. The craft was a beautiful light emitting material. It had no form, it was vaguely spherical, but it could not be determined by looking whether the craft was metal or liquid or even gaseous.

A door began to appear in the side. Teki and Cort scrambled around to the front, if it could be called the front. Three silhouettes appeared in the portal.

The one on the left began to speak.

“I am Laura. I am traveling with my comrades mid and Alisa.”

The Quotable Professor Quinn

Straight From the Mouth of the Master

– “And so it obeyed this relation, which pretty much annoyed physicists, since there was no good reason for it to do that.”

– “Pretty soon, they'll have trick chalk that you can't even erase!”

– “The problem with [action-at-a-distance potentials] is that it's based on *magic*.”

– “I'm from Montreal, which means that I'm from Canada, which means that the last letter of the alphabet is? ... right, zed.”

– “...and so, we prove it by waving large pointy things around [like pieces of chalk]” - prof. quinn “Proof by frozen sea-urchin?!” - student “No, it was really proof by handwaving, because waving frozen sea urchins around is too dangerous.”

-prof. quinn

– “[The matrix representation of operators] doesn't seem to make sense for infinite basis.” - student “It makes sense, but you get a lot more tired [writing out infinitely large matrices]”

- prof. quinn

– professor quinn trying to write a 'b' on the backboard: “Gah! I erased the 't' and wrote a 'd'! Dyslexics of the world untie! Actually, I read that on a wall once as 'Dyslexics of the world unite,' and I couldn't figure out why it was funny.”

“By 'a', of course, I mean 'b' ”

– prof. quinn: “...column.” matt mcgrath: “Row.” prof. quinn: “Yes, I mean column in the horizontal sense of the word. Like after an earthquake.”

– “We want a simple example, so we'll use the hardest imaginable physics.”

– “Spins have this thing called 'spin space', which for an electron has 2 values, which is better than a particle that can be in an infinite number of spaces. So I've restricted myself to a 2-by-2 space, but it's a 2-by-2 space that makes my brain hurt.”

– “...because then, you have an infinite number of equations with an infinite number of unknowns, and that'll take all day!”

– “When we get to continuous wave functions, we'll distinguish between on and the other by calling one ψ and the other ψ , so we'll need all the distinctions we can get.”

– “We define the Dirac delta because it make calculations immensely simpler, and because it gives mathematicians the willies.”

– “It's infinity for a very infinite sense of infinity.”

– “Individually, these parts are right. It's just when I try to claim they're equal to each other...”

– “We will now derive the calculus of variations, by writing, see, 'calc. of variations'.”

– “This is true, but the proof is terribly difficult, so I've given it to you on the homework.”

– “So we're cheating, but it's the right cheat, and that's what classical mechanics is all based on.”

– “If God would just come down and tell us how the world works, then we wouldn't have to pull these things out of thin air all the time.”

– “I wish I wouldn't do stupid things like reach across high voltage power supplies.”

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Obituaries

"Enthusiasm for Physics" died Monday night while preparing for a Classical Electrodynamics (33-762) midterm exam. Enthusiasm had been on life support since last semester's painful Theoretical Physics (33-759) exam when the class average was 26 percent—and was expected to recover over the winter break. Sadly, even with the midsemester and spring breaks fast approaching, Enthusiasm could not hold on.

Enthusiasm is survived by Anxiety, Bitterness, and Despair—who are already vying for the rights to fail Karen out of graduate school. However, Enthusiasm's will clearly states that Karen should fail by spending all of her time building a Dalek, or writing *Pravda?* articles for Teki.

— **Chick Nixon**

"Common Sense" succumbed to a festering disease late last week. It was 3 1/2 minutes old. "Common Sense" was an old war horse of the Wall Street power set and was seen frequenting the Waldorf Astoria. He is survived by "Impulsiveness," "Insanity," and his cousin "Logic," who has contracted the same disease that "Common Sense" died of.

— **Chris Clark**

L4002-BA "Chip" MS690. Chip was a good friend until he went on the fritz this past week, passing on into the great bit bucket in the sky on 27 march 2001. 32 megs less core in mindolluin now. Survived by brother, L4002-CA, father KA690, and cousin MS650. He will leave many good memories behind.

— **Isildur**

Teki's Sense of Taste died violently during a fundraising event at a KGB meeting on the 12th of March, in which he volunteered to consume large quantities of wasabi in exchange for donations to KGB. An autopsy of the event showed that it was in fact the second out of four servings, the one that was most obviously painful to onlookers, that dealt the final blow.

This shocking death has caused severe reverberations in Teki's Mind, and many other entities are considering resigning before they suffer the same fate, most notably Sight and Touch. Memory has filed a civil suit against Imagination, the one who came up with the stunt, claiming that it still suffers from flashbacks to this day, and has been seeking professional help on its own. The surgeon general has been asked to issue a warning that while it is safe to eat Triscuit (tm)-brand chips with wasabi, adding jelly beans to the mix is right out.

— **Sean "Teki" Dobbs**

One pair of club boots were lost in Canada today, in what has become a national tragedy. The boots were last seen in the Sheraton Parking Lot in Toronto, and their disappearance has sparked a militant uprising among their friends and family in Pittsburgh. The boots were not only highly praised for their military accomplishments, having served in the Battle of Evading Skeezy Guys at Club Laga, but they were also loved for their role as matriarch of the closet where they resided. The boots are survived by their sisters Steel Toe Boots, Worn Out Birkenstocks, and Doc Martens. Services will be held this Sunday, as Pittsburgh forces attack Toronto in a blaze of gunfire.

— **Laura Marsh**

The entire Sleep family perished in a 4 alarm fire in Outer Mongolia yesterday. The 1st response arrived this afternoon. District Fire Commissioner Ghengis Murdock told *Pravda?* that this was a case of arson and is looking for information on the prime suspects in the case: the CMU Physics Faculty and its gang of crack foreign TAs.

— **Chris Clark**

Teki's Connection with Reality finally passed away this past Monday, April 2nd. It was feared the worse when Connection failed to reconnect this spring break, after taking a severe beating the previous weeks from coursework and the resulting lack of sleep, leaving Teki apparently floating in a sea of unreality. This situation bore a superficial resemblance to Northern Virginia and a house that he might have inhabited at some point or another. Unfortunately, even this stimulation was not enough to fix the damage caused by CMU. After returning to Pittsburgh, the situation deteriorated until rabbit was sitting happily magnetic lobster. Connect was pronounced dead at 11:34 AM. Squish patterned cooly giant cobra, demo red pen Balsa zaftig pico bubbly wa.

— **The Editor**

President, Comrade, Friend, Lab Partner

by **Kirstin Connors, Hero of the Revolution**

This is a Testimonial for Dan Hook. I knew him well. While having made the passing acquaintance of Mr. Hook, freshman year, I became friends with Dan second semester of our sophomore year. We were brought together by one fundamental love, one necessity of life: Booth.

The theme of Carnival was Around the World. KGB's booth theme was Sputnik. Dan and I painted bricks together. We cut wood together. We put a roof on together in freezing snow sleet. The booth was fantastic. It had a rocket. It had a movie: "KGB: the Movie." All this became possible because of Dan. His brilliance, dedication, and cookie baking skills lead to a booth such magnificence that even other booth people complimented us on a booth that looked like an actual building.

It is regrettable how he died. I only barely escaped with my life. You see, there was a brief altercation in the lab and several students didn't make it out alive. Curse you, 18-551! Fortunately, the project will go on, I have Dan Hook Clone #36 to help me.

May he rest in peace.

Wild West from Page 2

To Laura, Teki said, "Ma'am."

To mid, Cort said, "Ma'am."

To Alisa, Teki said, "Ma'am."

To Laura, Cort said, "Ma'am."

To mid, Teki said, "Ma'am."

To Alisa, Cort said, "Ma'am."

Alisa spoke now from the right. "We have decided that this little fight you are having is dumb. We have also decided that it is a symptom of a greater problem."

Teki addressed Alisa now, "I assure you that this problem is well under control."

mid did not speak, but it was clear that she disagreed and one look from her silenced Teki and prevented any protests from Cort.

Laura now addressed the two who dared to contradict them despite their best intentions. "Clearly, you must be taught a lesson."

The three did an about face as a unit and started into the craft. Entranced, Teki and Cort could do nothing but follow.

Why?

By Rachel Gockley

My “matlab primer” from 385 has a “reference” section, where it lists commands and what they do. Looking through it, I happened to notice the command “why” has the description “receive flippant answer.” Here’s a sampling of this, straight from the matlab command line.

- Barney told me to.
- Some mathematician wanted it that way.
- The engineer knew it was a good idea.
- Loren obeyed the rich kid.
- To satisfy a hamster.
- The hamster wanted it that way.
- Some terrified not excessively good hamster told me to.
- For the love of all.
- To fool the very bald system manager.
- Pete knew it was a good idea.
- A not excessively bald kid insisted on it.
- For the approval from the rich smart programmer.
- Because a engineer wanted it.
- Some not very young kid obeyed a kid.
- Jack obeyed a bald and smart and rich programmer.
- The customer is always right.
- Joe told me to.
- She told me to.
- A very tall and tall and young and terrified and smart bald kid wanted it that way.
- To please the mathematician.
- A tall engineer told him.

Quinn from Page 2

- “This is all well and good if I’m scattering x-rays, which are waves. If I start scattering electrons, and they start interfering with each other, well then, that’s just spooky.”
- “So I am full of whim...”
- “Things would be much different if I designed the universe.”
- “On a purely artistic basis, I don’t like quantum mechanics at all. The only reason for considering it is that it’s right.”
- “I could call it ϕ , I could call it ψ , I could call it ‘Ralph the Wonder State’.”
- “Hey, I said I could teach this course—I didn’t say I could pass this course!”
- “I had to tell you that it was going to be clear beforehand, otherwise it might not have been clear.”
- “And here is a random volume, which in physics is always a lima bean.”
- “A lecture is an exercise in which the notes of the teacher become the notes of the student without passing through the minds of either.”
- “...and if I have detectors that involve getting poked in the eye by a sharp particle.”
- prof quinn: “Where did [equation] A go? Did I erase it?” student: “Up top.” prof. quinn: “Ahh!”
- “If not educational, at least I’m cute.”

- The computer did it.
- To please some programmer.
- Cleve suggested it.
- To please a terrified good very rich and young and young bald system manager.
- To fool a not very terrified and young and not very terrified kid.
- Some young terrified mathematician knew it was a good idea.
- I wanted it.
- Barney wanted it that way.
- Because they asked a not very terrified engineer.
- For the approval from Bill.
- A very bald kid wanted it that way.
- A system manager threatened some very bald engineer.
- I wanted it that way.
- Some young mathematician knew it was a good idea.
- Because the not excessively good engineer told me to.
- The programmer helped some smart and not very young kid.
- The terrified terrified and bald programmer insisted on it.
- Because they suggested it.
- Loren told me to.
- To satisfy some bald engineer.
- Barney insisted on it.
- Joe wanted it that way.
- The kid insisted on it.
- Why not?
- A programmer knew it was a good idea.

- “...orthogonal in the usual sense of being orthogonal... as opposed to not being orthogonal.”
- prof. quinn: “I have told you how to solve differential equations, have I not? You guess the answer, see if it works. If it does, you’re done, if not, try again” student: “Luckily you’re a good guesser.” prof. quinn “Well, I have the back of the book up my sleeve.”
- “Ah, that’s why I have a minus sign! I have to start believing me more often.”
- “That’ll teach me to mindlessly copy my own notes.”
- “..then it had a short, happy life in that excited state.”
- “What’s that word... oh, ‘kets’! I crossed out the word ‘vector’ and wrote something in Martian.”
- “So, the world and the blackboard get divided into two parts.”
- “When the fabric of space-time begins to tear, the Pauli exclusion principle shrugs its shoulders, and away it goes.”
- “And of course, the sole purpose for type 1 supernovae is to provide something for the astrophysicsts to calibrate their instruments against.”
- “If we take the ψ of α with α , we get zero. It’s hard to normalize *that* one away!”
- “Normally, it’s a definition of the state in a relevant basis. Here’s it’s in an irrelevant basis.”

you'vegotalobsterandyou'vegotamagnet/lobster'sgotantennaebutdon'tyougrabit/magnetmadeofiron/lobstermadeofmeat/
you'vegotalobsterandyou'vegotamagnet/lobstergetshungryheeatarabbit/rabbitmadeofsteal/lobsterhasabeak/don'tputalobsteronaplate/
he'llusehismagnettoescape/he'lljumpupandclawyourear/andthenhe'llbiteyourEYE!!/LOBSTERSTICKSTOMAGNET/
LOBSTERSTICKSTOMAGNET/LOBSTERSTICKSTOMAGNET/rightarmnorth/leftarmsouth