

**Subtle Humor: In the
Shadow of the Onion
Dome, the Onion, and
rec.humor.funny**

From the "Minor Works" series

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Orthodox Humor

Evangelical Converts Striving to be Orthodox

Anytown, USA. The Parish Council at St. Patrick of Ireland Very Antiochian Very Former Evangelical Orthodox Very Orthodox Very Orthodox Church is working hard to become more Orthodox, in all that it means to be Orthodox.

Fr. Joseph explains. "It's part of our Protestant heritage to turn outward in warmth and evangelism. But as an Evangelical Orthodox congregation, we realized that Orthodoxy is the fulness of what we were reaching for, and it's time to free ourselves from our Protestant heritage and become more truly Orthodox. True Orthodox know how to serve and even evangelize—as the monks did in Alaska—while remaining an inward-looking church that extends a rather chilly lack of welcome to visitors. We *can* turn a cold shoulder if we try."

As a result, the Parish Council will be holding a brainstorming session on ways to make the parish less friendly to visitors. The council will be handing out prizes for best ideas, including a thick accent, a long and bushy beard, and a series of motivational tapes on how to have a

more lukewarm approach to morals.

Objections were raised in the parish to the effect that there was no Evangelical Orthodox Church in 19th century Russia. 19th century Russia was not available for comment.

Archdruid of Canterbury Visits Orthodox Patriarch

The Archdruid of Canterbury appeared as head of a delegation to His Holiness THOMAS, Patriarch of Xanadu.

The Archdruid bore solemn greetings and ecumenical best wishes. He presented gifts, including an oak and holly icon, portraying St. Francis of Assisi as the pioneer of "I-Thou" existentialism. The icon was "not made by hands" ("all done by paw," in the memorable words of Paddington Bear).

The Druidic leader spoke of the Orthodox Church with the most solemn reverence. "The Orthodox Church is not only Oriental and exotic, but has the most hauntingly beautiful liturgy which achieves has what we are trying to engineer in our liturgical reform, and the Orthodox Church would make the perfect partner for the most dynamic and progressive forces that keep the C of E a living spiritual power in this world. St. Alban and St. Sergius are Anglican saints, but they are first and foremost Orthodox saints, and are only Anglican saints because they are Orthodox saints. I have personally blended the most excellent traditions of Druidic Bard and occupant of the See of Canterbury. We would be most deeply honoured if the existing profound (if invisible) bond uniting Orthodox, Anglican, and Druid were made explicit."

After the Druid spoke for an hour, he paused in thought a moment, turned to His Holiness THOMAS and said, "But I fear I have done too much talking, while you have said

nothing. Isn't there anything you'd like to say? Don't you have questions we could speak to?"

The Patriarch coughed, sat in silence for a moment, and began to squirm. "Have you considered pursuing ecumenical relations with the African majority in your own communion? I've dealt with some of them and they're really quite solid people, with good heads on their shoulders."

The Archdruid made no reply.

Pope Makes Historic Ecumenical Bid to Woo Eastern Rite Catholics

Rome (AP). His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has made a historic ecumenical bid to woo Eastern Rite Catholics and stop treating them as second class citizens. Eastern Rite Catholics are essentially Eastern Orthodox Christians who were received into full communion with the Catholic Church under an agreement intended to let them to preserve their Orthodox liturgy and faith. In the centuries since this historic agreement, Eastern Rite Catholics have found themselves not exactly treated as first-class citizens by the Roman Catholic Church.

In the nineteenth century, the Eastern Rite Catholic priest Alexis Toth entered the U.S. and found that Archbishop Ireland rejected him as a Catholic, not recognizing his Orthodox rite nor even recognizing him or his bishop as clergy, but demanding Roman behavior and Roman rites, nor accepting that Toth quoted chapter and verse demonstrating that he was allowed to continue his traditional practices as an Eastern Rite Catholic priest. Alexis Toth, regarded today as a saint by the Orthodox Church, was a leader among those moving from being treated as second-class citizens by Rome to come home to the Orthodox Church.

Today, Eastern Rite Catholics enjoy somewhat better treatment, but it is a matter of some debate how much better today's treatment really is. In Rome, priests are basically required to be celibate; in Orthodoxy, prospective priests are usually expected to be married before they are ordained to the priesthood, and Rome respects this by allowing married Eastern Rite Catholics to be ordained priests. However, given the state of U.S. Catholic church politics, Rome is very reluctant to let married men be ordained priest on U.S. soil: Eastern Rite Catholic bishops from the U.S. may only ordain married men to the priesthood if they have special, case-by-case permission to ordain that particular man, and this is actually an improvement: not long ago, Eastern Rite Catholics had to be flown to another continent entirely if married men were to be ordained to the priesthood. This is how Rome allows Eastern Rite Catholics to preserve their Orthodox tradition and practices. (Rumor has it this is not the only rough point of how Rome treats its Eastern Rite Catholics today.)

But the Pope is very keen on restoring communion and seeing that all Eastern Orthodox become Eastern Rite Catholics, or rather restore communion with Rome, if that is really any different. Now that Anglicans have been offered full communion with Rome while keeping a great deal of their liturgy and faith, the Pope is now tackling the ambitious task of allowing Eastern Rite Catholics to keep their liturgy and faith as first-class members within the Roman communion. Some sources suggest the move may be intended to ease Eastern Orthodox apprehensions about being under papal authority implied in restoring communion with Rome.

At present, details remain sketchy about how the Pope intends to improve Eastern Rite Catholics' standing. Perhaps only time will tell what it is like to be in full communion with Rome while preserving your tradition's liturgy and faith.

Your Fast Track to Becoming a Bishop

Dear Valued Orthodox;

Have you ever thought about being a bishop? Have you thought how special that office would be?

Have you thought it was beyond you?

It doesn't need to be. Being a bishop is very easy, if only you know how.

How is it possible? Well, really, there's a method that's right at your fingertips. And it's almost two thousand years old.

Jesus didn't start out with a Church under him. What he did instead was start with twelve disciples, who in turn disciplined others. When he set the ball in motion, it grew and grew and grew.

Would you like to be a bishop? Let me explain how it's done. Then you'll see how many people you can have under you. All you have to do is edit the following list, then send it out to twelve people and the contact person at the bottom of the list. That's it! See, you have a list:

Write your name and email in the slot immediately above your rank, pushing others down to make room. For instance, if you're a layman, you put your name in the 'reader' slot, push everyone down, making the 'bishop' the 'contact bishop' below the list.

Then send the updated list to the new contact bishop, who will make arrangements for tonsures, ordinations, and consecrations.

Reader: Lawrence Town, lite@fastmail.fm
Subdeacon: Sdn. John Clough, jfc92847@aol.com
Deacon: Fr. Dn. John Cloud, john@johncloud.com
Priest: Fr. Andrew Costello, costello@pobox.com
Bishop: His Grace ANTHYMUS, anthymus@auth.gr

Contact Bishop (for tonsures/ordinations/consecrations): THOMAS, orthodoxthomas@x.com

Needs monastic tonsure (check one): Yes / No.

That's it! What happens now is that you will have twelve people below you, and if each of them has twelve people below them, then the number of people will shoot up, growing at a geometric rate like an intelligent computer in a bad science fiction movie! Just look at this chart, if you're a layman now, and I say now, because you don't need to be a layman for long!

Your Rank	Followers
Reader	12
Subdeacon	156
Deacon	1,884
Priest	22,620
Bishop	271,452

That's more than a quarter of a million followers when you're a bishop! And best of all, the opportunity doesn't stop there. As your own followers become deacons and then priests, you become an archbishop and a metropolitan. The sky is the limit!

It really works! I was a layman who found out this opportunity only three weeks ago, and now I'm His Holiness THOMAS, The Patriarch of Xanadu! Think about it! All you have to do is a little editing, and then forward this email! Can you afford to wait?

Do it now!

Cordially Yours,
X His Holiness THOMAS, the Patriarch of Xanadu

Communities of Mount Mathos Release Another Letter to Ecumenist Patriarch

Thessaloniki (DP). A monk from one of the communities explained a recent uproar:

During a recent voyage that crossed the U.S., the Ecumenist Patriarch was approached by a beggar, and asked one of the priests with him to "Give him some change."

The importance of this request simply cannot be overstated. It might perhaps have been appropriate to say, "Give him 37 cents," or "Give him nothing," or even "Give him twenty (or a hundred) dollars," costly as that may be. However, to say to give someone some money, without specifying the amount, is in no way consistent with best practices in accounting. **And what is Orthodoxy, if not a training ground for the life of an accountant?**

Our reporter said, "Yes, but aren't there two principles of accounting? Isn't there room for both strict precision that knows what you have down to the last cent, but also a much smaller area where it isn't worth the bother to keep tabs. Doesn't basic accounting have some degree of flexibility for both basic principles, even if the absolute precision bit is the deeper of the two?"

The monk coughed, and shifted his position slightly. "I planned fifteen minutes for this interview. I see that those fifteen minutes have already elapsed."

Q: How many process theologians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Actually, what we're working hard to change is the outmoded prejudice that "light" is somehow superior to "darkness."

Q: How many Wiccan fundamentalists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Why on earth would Mary Daley want LIGHT?

Devotees of Fr. Cherubim (Jones) Demand His Immediate Canonization and Full Recognition as Equal to the Heirophants

Adamant devotees of Fr. Cherubim (Jones) demand immediate canonization and full recognition as "Equal to the Heirophants". They have stepped beside their usual tactics of demanding canonization whether or not Fr. Cherubim should be canonized, and demanding that any problems be swept under the carpet, to insist that he be called, "Equal to the Heirophants."

Much of the work in his wake was consolidated in the book, *Christ the Eternal Doubt*. Our devotee explained, "Blessed Cherubim Jones saw more than anything the spiritual toxicity of postmodernism. And he sensed, perhaps

even more than he realized, that the proper rebuttal to postmodernism is to reconstruct modernism: indeed, there are powerful modernist currents in his thought even when he seems to condemn all Western trends. The great grandfather of modernism was René DesCartes, and Blessed Cherubim Jones uncovered layer after layer of this philosopher whose very name means 'Born Again' and whose Meditations put doubt on a pedestal and said, in essence, 'Doubt what you can; what remains after doubt is unshakable.' And Λογος or Logos is interchangeable, one might almost say homoousios, with logic and with doubt." And to quench the ills of the postmodern world, Blessed Cherubim Jones mined a vein that would come together in the classic *Christ the Eternal Doubt*.

Fr. Cherubim has left a considerable wake; the tip of the iceberg is in his contribution to a wave of committed Evangelicals deciding that being Orthodox is an indispensable aid to pursuing their cottage industry of reconstructing the ancient Church. The sycophant excitedly commented, "Yes; there was an article on this phenomenon in *The Onion Dome*. It was a bit like that article in *The Onion*, um, what was it... there was a woman, a strong woman, who overcame years of childhood abuse to become a successful porn star. And this is nothing next to what happened when he was the only fashionable Orthodoxy the communist East could listen to."

Fr. Cherubim was indeed very concerned that his version of the Fathers be adhered to. He pointed out that many Church Fathers, in giving the theology of the created world, absolutely denied that matter was made from atoms and molecules, but insisted that science properly interpreted proves that matter was made from the four elements: "earth, air, fire, and water." And he drew a line in the sand here, and most of his devotees are extraordinarily suspicious about whether you can be Orthodox and believe anything like modern atheistic chemistry.

There is some slight controversy surrounding Fr.

Cherubim's teaching on the phantom tollbooth. His position, as carried forth by others, is that practically every major element of *The Phantom Tollbooth* is already in the Fathers and is attested in quite ancient liturgy.

Consequently, many argue, the book *The Phantom Tollbooth* is no mere imaginative children's tale, but an entirely literal factual account describing life beyond the mundane.

Fr. Cherubim (Jones) Anathematized by the Canonical Autonomous True Orthodox Synod in Dissent, of the Dregs of the Dregs of Rubbish Outside of Rubbish Bins (RORB)

[*Editor's note:* Our first reporter, assigned to investigate directly with the Canonical Autonomous True Orthodox Synod in Dissent, of the Dregs of the Dregs of Rubbish Outside of Rubbish Bins, ran away screaming. A more seasoned reporter was able to locate a Church scholar with a strong heresiological and religious studies background, who was willing to speak on the record; the official was available for comment but has requested conditions of anonymity.]

Reporter: So how do I get to the bottom of all this? What on earth is "the Article by which the Orthodox Church stands or falls?"

Scholar: Fr. Cherubim, like many after him and even those who anathematized him, retained significant

Protestant attributes long after being received into the Orthodox Church. The concept of an Article by which the Church stands or falls stems from the Reformation, when Martin Luther rightly or wrongly pressed the entirety of theology as it was then known into a very small nutshell and cut off things that wouldn't go in. He had a famed three Sola's: "*Sola gratia. Sola fide. Sola Scriptura*," that we are saved only by divine grace, saved only through faith, and accept Scripture alone as authoritative. The "Article by which the Church stands or falls" is that we are saved only by grace. It was, to Luther, the only doctrine that *mattered*: if you know whether the Church believes in salvation by grace alone, that is really the only question worth asking.

In Fr. Cherubim, called "*Dead Cherubim Jones*" by those who anathematized him, there are large bits of intact Protestantism that have survived and gotten a brushstroke or two of Orthodox décor. With or without anyone anathematizing anyone, the zealots, written CATOSDDDRORB, owe Fr. Cherubim a tremendous debt. There is no longer an Article by which the Church stands or falls, but now an Article by which the *Orthodox* Church stands or falls. Where the former was concerned with momentous questions of *grace and salvation*, this is concerned by *how many miles across* the universe is.

Reporter: *Dead Cherubim Jones*?!? How many mile—
whaaa? Is there an indictment of ecumenism in all
this?

Scholar: Hmm, yes, those types will give you quite an earful
about ecumenism, but there is genuinely more going
on. Let me take on a couple of housekeeping details

before addressing the meat of the matter.

First, CATOSDDDRORB correctly notes that when people spoke of "Blessed Cherubim Jones," they were making a twisted use of language. For many, many centuries, someone recently deceased in the Lord is referred to as, "Of blessed memory." When Fr. Cherubim's posthumous work came out, he is quite straightforwardly called "of blessed memory," just like many people are referred to as being "of blessed memory" in the years following their demise.

It is an available alternative, and you find this in figures as ancient as St. Irenaeus, that instead of saying, "So-and-so of blessed memory," things are packed in a bit to refer to that person of "blessed So-and-so." So shortly after the death of an Alexander Schmemann or Vladimir Lossky, one can be entirely right to refer to "blessed Alexander Schmemann" or "blessed Vladimir Lossky," and this is not just for famous people. A recently reposed member of your parish may just as rightly be called "blessed So-and-so," and other things as well.

Fr. Cherubim's camp abused this custom to effectively give Fr. Cherubim a seemingly official honorific that sounds like a type of saint. The term sounded more and more official as "blessed" was hardened into a never-dropped "Blessed," and since this did not satisfy, "Blessed" became "Bl."

Then when Fr. Cherubim had the temerity to challenge Protestant assumptions in posthumous unearthed texts, the "Canonical True Autonomous Orthodox Synod in Dissent, of the Dregs of the Dregs of Rubbish Outside of Rubbish Bins" split off from

another jurisdiction whose name I don't remember, and as their first act, anathemized Fr. Cherubim. Their second act was to collectively realized that "Bl." really only meant "dead," and that it would be calling a spade to refer to their former pioneer as "*Dead* Cherubim Jones." With emphasis on "Dead."

Reporter: Wow. You're bending my brain.

Scholar: There's more; if you need to, take a walk or sit outside for a few minutes. I'll be here.

Reporter: Ok; thanks. Is there more?

Scholar: Ok. Have you heard Alan Perlis's quote, "The best book on programming is *Alice in Wonderland*, but that's just because it's the best book on anything for the layman?"

Reporter: Now I have.

Scholar: Precise measurement as we know it didn't exist. We have a platinum one meter bar under lock and key; we have measuring implements made to the most minute precision we can. Whereas, in the ancient world, under conditions of poverty that you can hardly imagine, having all kinds of measuring tools would be costly on tight purses. So, among other units of measure, they used parts of their own bodies for measurement. If a man straightens out his forearm, the distance from the outside of the elbow to the tip of the finger would be one cubit: a solution that was *free*, *sensible*, and *practical*. It, by the way, remains a brilliant idea today: circumstance permitting, if you want to measure a distance of a certain general neighborhood, if you don't have a measuring

implement handy, you can measure it in cubits, multiply it by some other tool and divide by the length of your body's cubit. Voilà: approximate measurement in a pinch when you don't have any artificial measuring-tool.

This may not be a direct observation of the Bible, but literature in the medieval West had creatures who at times appeared to be the size of insects and at others reached adult human stature, and there was a remarkable lack of interest in nailing down an exact size for such wondrous being. The astute viewer may watch some cartoons that take radical changes in size to be perfectly unremarkable, and entirely natural.

Now there are certain translation issues between the Hebrew and the Greek for the Old Testament, possibly stemming from relations between the arm and the leg. The "hand", in modern Greek, interestingly extends to the elbow, and "daktulos" without further clarification can apply to either fingers and toes. Scientifically speaking, an arm and a leg are the same basic kind of thing; their proportions are different and their uses are different but they are each one of our four limbs.

And what gets really interesting is when you take Protestant fundamentalist efforts to determine the size of the Universe from the Bible.

Reporter: What's that?

Scholar: According to the Hebrew and the Greek Old Testaments, the CATOSDDDRORB devotees yield a size of 4000 miles for the Hebrew, and 7500 for the

Greek, and they decided to do things the Orthodox way and settle with the universe conclusively being 7500 miles in size.

Reporter: Um, uh, ok... does that do any real *harm*?

Scholar: Maybe, but that's not really the point. The CATOSDDDRORB eagerness to straighten out scientists' "backwards understanding of science" has irritated a number of members of the academy.

Reporter: That's not too bad.

Scholar: There's worse.

Reporter: Present CATOSDDDRORB members were scandalized when some further manuscripts were put to publication.

First, Fr. Cherubim said everything we said above and more. He said that a "foot" may be a unit of measure, maybe, but a foot of what? Of an insect? A dinosaur? Ezekiel seems to specify an explicitly human cubit. The Old Testament in either Hebrew or Greek seems to trade in "feet" (I will not comment on some ambiguities), but not "foot of man" as such.

Second, this draws on mathematical subtlety, but a distance on earth, straightened out as much as a sphere permits, corresponds to a certain angle of an arc. Distances between places can be a linear measure of how much surface is crossed, or (if they are straight) they can be an angle.

What this means is that distances, if we are dealing cosmologically, are cosmological distances. There are

the difference represented by an angle between two rays from the earth's center. In normal science, scientists are quick to use so-called "scientific notation" where the total size of the universe is a mouthful of 500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 miles wide but you write it as $5.0e+23$.

But here's the interesting thing. *Fr. Cherubim was not dogmatic, or at least not dogmatic about the size of the universe.*

Reporter: Huh?

Scholar: Of course he was dogmatic about some things; he is dogmatic that this universe in entirety belongs to God, and scarcely less adamant that God could have created the universe at any size he wanted. However, his scholarship on the universe's size never really nails down dogmatically that the universe is either 4000 or 7500 miles wide, or a number with lots of zeroes. If you are at all careful, you will recognize that he mentions something more devastating to CATOSDDDRORB: the size of the universe does not seem to be a particularly live question, or one that attracted particularly much debate. The Fathers didn't really make a fuss about it. But he also fails to vindicate the standard model. Not only does he not make known use of scientific notation, but he does not seem to name the numbers that motivated people to create scientific notation in the first place, or for that matter numbers at all. One gets the impression that he envisioned a "middle-sized" universe, incredibly large to the CATOSDDDRORB crowd, ludicrously small to standard science. The gist of his writing is not to help people get the right numeric calculation. It is, here, to draw to people's attention to

how much they don't know, and gently draw their attention to greater things.

Reporter: What was the reaction to that?

Scholar: In a heartbeat, "Blessed Cherubim Jones" became "**Dead** Cherubim Jones," and the new Canonical Autonomous True Orthodox Synod in Dissent, of the Dregs of the Dregs of Rubbish Outside of Rubbish Bins anathematized him. The chief complaint was that he failed to buttress their efforts to take a beloved Protestant ambiance in Biblical exegesis, substitute the Greek for Hebrew Old Testament, and make their calculation of a 7500 mile wide Universe into the Article by which the Church stands or falls.

Reporter: This has been very interesting. Do you have any further reading to recommend?

Scholar: Sure! Here's my spare copy of *Alice in Wonderland!*

1054 and All That: The Confused Person's Guide to Being Even More Confused About Orthodoxy

Eastern Orthodoxy is exactly like Roman Catholicism, except that it is Oriental and exotic. The Catholic Church split off from the Orthodox Church because the Orthodox would not accept the filioque clause, an anti-Arian shibboleth which offended the traditional Orthodox reverence for Constantine (a baptized Arian). The Orthodox Church is very wise because it has traditionally used the

Julian Calendar to have an extra thirteen days to prepare and contemplate before each day. Each year, the Orthodox Church also rolls a die and holds Easter up to six weeks later than in the West, just to make things more confusing.

The Orthodox Church, sometimes called the Church of the Seven Ecumenical Councils, held seven ecumenical councils in response to controversies that arose. The main results were that the Church officially ruled out certain misunderstandings of Christ. The first council was the Council at Nicaea, modern day Nice, where Saint Nicholas of Myra and Lycia (our jolly old Saint Nick) boxed Arius on the ear. The Council at Nicaea rejected Arianism, which teaches that Christ had blonde hair and blue eyes (a misunderstanding which is still prevalent in the land of blonde hair and blue eyes). The other councils are really not that important, as they dealt with abstruse ancient controversies and don't have much to say about the modern and practical questions people struggle with today, such as whether Jesus was really tempted like us, or was just play-acting. The word "ecumenical" comes from the Greek *οικουμενη*, meaning the whole civilized world. Catholics and Orthodox disagree whether there are still being ecumenical councils; the Catholics, who are traditionally more universal and embracing, believe that a council without Orthodox bishops can still be ecumenical, while the Orthodox (considered by the Catholics to be schismatic) do not believe one can hold an ecumenical council without healing certain divisions, a task which faces any number of daunting obstacles, ranging from the Catholic Church's progressive Westernization to the Archbishop of Canterbury's demonstration that an Anglican can be a Druid. (If you find this confusing, don't worry. Most Orthodox don't understand it either.) Most devout Orthodox are wary at best of ecumenism as Protestant in spirit, but even these Orthodox should none the less be distinguished from the "True Orthodox", the preferred designation for a loose confederation people and groups

who regard themselves as properly Orthodox and Novatians as liberal ecumenists.

Understanding the Orthodox understanding of understanding is a point that is not often appreciated, partly because the syntax of "understanding the Orthodox understanding of understanding" is very confusing. The Orthodox believe, as Catholics still do on paper if not in practice, that we have a *logos* (from the Greek *λογος*, meaning the part of the mind we use to keep track of facts related to corporate logos), and a *noose* (from the Greek *νοος*, meaning the part of the mind we use to grasp spiritual realities), and with typical ingenuity the Orthodox insist on using the noose for practical matters. The noose is very different from any Western understanding of mind, but if I explained it you wouldn't believe the claim that Orthodoxy is ordinary, concerned with the here and now, and not exotic in the way people assume. Some Orthodox, caught up in the Celtic culture boom, want to represent the noose with a stylized knot.

The words at the institution of Holy Communion, *λαβετε φαγετε* (literally, "Take, eat") have been misunderstood in the West (i.e. Catholics and Protestants) to mean "Take, understand." In the East, among Orthodox, people have insisted on preserving the apostolic meaning unchanged and have therefore reacted against the West and taken the text to mean, "Take, but do not understand." The Orthodox is free to say that the Eucharist is a symbol, on the understanding that this does not mean anything like the Western understanding of "just a symbol." The Orthodox is also equally free to claim that transsubstantiation occurs, on condition that "transsubstantiation" does not mean what the Catholic doctrine says it means.

Grace is like the sun in Orthodoxy: not only do we see it, but it allows us to see everything else. "Grace" characteristically means different things for Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant; for Catholics "grace" is what we create by our works, for Orthodox "grace" is when God gives

himself, and for Protestants "Grace" is a woman's name. Grace is behind works, sacraments, and everything else—food and drink, for that matter. Orthodox believe that God's grace rains down from Heaven, and because "He has established the round world so sure, it shall never be moved," God's grace then collects at the center of the earth.

Fully Orthodox believers may be divided into cradle Orthodox, who don't understand Orthodoxy very well and tend not to take it seriously, and convert Orthodox, who overdo everything. Orthodox are required to remain in communion with their bishops, which means community and a degree of submission to authority; people who fail to do this are called non-canonical, schismatic, etc. Non-canonical "Orthodox" are notorious for a rigid legalism in their interpretation of ancient canons. Canonical Orthodox take the matter much more lightly and often do not know the difference between a canon and a cannon.

There are many ranks of clergy, including (but not limited to) readers*, subdeacons, deacons, archdeacons, proper subdeacons, sub-sub-deacons, ostriches, priests, arch-priests, archimandrites, bishops, arch-bishops, bishops of the caves, metropolitans, patriarchs, prophets, ascetics, protons, neutrons, and Abednegons. There is a proper way of addressing each of these ranks, and it is traditional to embarrass your priest by not knowing how to address the higher ranks of clergy or (at your option) not being sure how to address anyclergy.

Remember that Orthodoxy originated at a time when most people didn't know how to read and write, and Orthodoxy hasn't seen mass literacy as reason to change its practices. The positive way of stating this is that Orthodoxy, while incorporating the act of writing, preserves many of the attributes and the essential spirit of an oral tradition and culture, an achievement which may be appreciated in light of the anthropological observation that the opposite of "literate" is not "illiterate" but "oral". In other words, a Catholic is an Orthodox who can read.

Orthodoxy has been blessed by many great theologians, including Saint Dionysius the Aereopagite, who was not Saint Dionysius the Aeropagite but another writer known as Saint Dionysius the Aeropagite, and Saint Maximus Confessor, who stalwartly resisted the heresy that Christ lacked a human will, and whose intricate analysis of will concluded that we have something called a "gnomic" will and Christ does not. Augustine is not revered nearly so much in the East, owing to the fact that he became a Christian and in fact a bishop without realizing he was supposed to stop being a Manichee. (This is why Augustine is considered the founder of American Catholicism.) The Orthodox consider the patristic era to be a golden age for theology; it ended in the ninth century and has produced a small number of patristic theologians since its close.

In contrast to American individualism, the Orthodox Church talks about how when we come closer to Christ the more closely we resemble each other. This spirit of uniformity is demonstrated by her saints, who have been known to live on top of a pillar, make acts of public foolishness a form of spiritual discipline, or walk around after their deaths.

Icons are called "windows of Heaven" and, apart from being an emblem of matter drawn into spiritual glory, provide a place where saints can look in and see how people like them were on earth. This is a humbling enough experience for the saints, so that they no longer have problems with pride.

Please do ask why we aren't up to date enough to have women priests. Some Orthodox consider feminism to be an interesting spot of local color in our time and place, and at any rate the Orthodox will remember feminism as it remembers other challenges which lasted a mere century or two and which you probably haven't heard of. The Orthodox Church will continue discipling boys and girls, men and women, to be the men and women God created them to be, long after feminism is one more -ism that people of the

future will learn about when they study the history of abandoned fashions. And besides, Orthodoxy is gender balanced. Cradle Orthodoxy is a woman thing, and convert Orthodoxy is a man thing.

It is an Orthodox principle that there should be one Orthodox Church in each country. That is why, if you are an American, you have your choice of Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Orthodox Church in America, Antiochian Orthodox...

Metania (μετανοια) is from meta (μετα) as in "metacognition" or "metaphysics", for a philosophical analysis of other things, and noia (νοια), which means mind but is not to be confused with the noose above. Hence "metania" means a philosophical discussion of how our minds should be functioning if we are Orthodox. This is very important in convert Orthodoxy; cradle Orthodox think converts miss metania completely. "Metania" also refers to an action performed with the body in worship, thus exemplifying the Orthodox penchant for conflating mind and body.

One closing word. Part of what distinguishes Orthodox theology is that it is no more systematic than the Church Fathers. In keeping with this tradition, this introduction is proudly disorganized.

Open Source Humor

I was trying to help my son look into colleges, and yesterday he handed me the phone, really excited, and said, "You have got to speak with these guys." I fumbled the phone, picked it up, and heard, "—online. We offer perhaps the best-rounded of degrees, and from day one our students are equipped with a top-of-the-line Dell running up-to-the-minute Vista. Besides the ins and outs of Office 2007, we address back-end issues, giving students a grounding in Visual Basic .NET, striking the right balance between 'reach' and 'rich,' and a thorough groundings in Flash-based design and web design optimized for the Internet Explorer 6. Throw in an MCSE, and marketing-based communication instruction that harnesses the full power of PowerPoint and covers the most effective ways to make use of animated pop-ups, opt-in subscriber lists, and—"

I interrupted. "Internet Exploder 6? Minesweeper Consultant and Solitaire Exp—excuse me, but what is your organization *called*?"

"The A-rist-o-crats."

And thus we find that Win98SE boots in $O(1)$ runtime, although with constants such that a good implementation of

bogosort usually beats it in practice.

Dear Esteemed, Distinguished Programmer;

I have been acquainted of late with truly wondrous software in all of its many dimensions. Of its superficial purpose and category I will not note; it would be a travesty to stop there. It is indeed, truly wondrous software. It includes virtual reality that makes SecondWife look like Castle Wolfenstein. It includes a full artificial intelligence, and that to a high degree. It can solve the halting problem, and it can process an infinite loop in less than eight seconds. And it has many other wonders and virtues.

But I have yet a word of concern. I'm only a poor arachnid, and I haven't enough limbs to press all of the modifier keys needed to do anything useful.

Can you help me in this?

Cordially Yours,
Eight Legs And Constantly Swapping

Q: What's the difference between programming and bug collecting?

A: None.

The sweat stood out cold on Ford Prefect's brow, and slid round the electrodes strapped to his temples. The Vogons wanted to be very much on top of the next-generation web. And they had the technology to show it - ajaxian social media delivering crowdsourcing network effects via software-as-a-service - all designed to heighten

the experience of the sites and make sure that not a single nuance of the next-generation web's poetry was lost.

Arthur Dent sat and quivered. He had no idea what he was in for, but he knew that he hadn't liked anything that had happened so far and didn't think things were likely to change.

The Vogon began to read — a fetid little passage of his own devising.

"Oh twitter xanga..." he began. Spasms wracked Ford's body - this was worse than even he'd been prepared for.

"... thy topix are to me — As orkut skype on a lulu bee."

"Aaaaaaarggggghhhhh!" went Ford Prefect, wrenching his head back as lumps of pain thumped through it. He could dimly see beside him Arthur lolling and rolling in his seat. He clenched his teeth.

"Digg I implore thee," continued the merciless Vogon, "my ning shutterfly."

His voice was rising to a horrible pitch of impassioned stridency. "And rolyyo woot me with wikia flickr,— Or I will rend thee in the squidoo with my storngce, see if I don't!"

"Aaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrgggggggccccc!" cried Ford Prefect and threw one final spasm as the electronic enhancement of the last line caught him full blast across the temples. He went limp.

TL;DR

```
curl http://JonathansCorner.com/cfl/download.cgi >
~/bin/cfl && chmod 0755 !#:3
```

What is CFL?

You've tried CVS, SVN (Subversion), Git, Mercurial, and others. Isn't it time to try a little more *green* of a distributed

version control system?

CFL is the first green distributed version control system (DVCS). Inspired by "twisted but brilliant" compact fluorescent lights, CFL offers full DVCS services at a download weight of a very green file size of just under 8k.

CFL IN ACTION

```
dev ~/directory $ cfl commit
```

cfl can be turned off for efficiency purposes, and comes turned off by default.

Right now cfl is turned off.

To turn it on, type:

```
cfl on
```

Thank you for using cfl!

```
dev ~/directory $ cfl on
```

You have turned cfl on. Please remember to turn it off when you have finished using it.

Thank you for using cfl!

```
dev ~/directory $ cfl commit
```

cfl needs some time too warm up after you have turned it on. Please try again in a few seconds.

Thank you for using cfl!

```
dev ~/directory $ cfl commit
```

cfl needs some time too warm up after you have turned it on. Please try again in a few seconds.

Thank you for using cfl!

```
dev ~/directory $ sleep 5; cfl commit
```

To encourage efficient use of resources and a green footprint in terms of bytes taken by commits, cfl has disabled editor-based commit messages in favor of command-line inline commit messages, e.g.

```
cfl commit -m 'Last commit before adding experimental feature.'
```

Please try again using an inline commit message.

Thank you for using cfl!

```
dev ~/directory $
```

Testimonials

"Whoa, CVS is so much better than CFL it's not even funny." -Jane Q. Hacker

"Every programmer needs time to percolate, and slow down enough to be productive. That is why I consider CFL an essential programmer productivity tool." -John Q. Hacker

"Every so often you run across a tool that changes the way you think about technology. CFL is that tool." -A former environmental activist

"How did you get in here? Who let you past security? Guard!" -A Fortune 500 CTO

Bill Gates approached a customer and said, "Excuse me. If I made a version of Windows which only crashed once a year, would you buy it?" The customer's eyes glistened: "Oh, would I!"

Bill Gates then asked, "And if I made a version of Windows which crashed every five minutes?" The customer

glared at him, and said, "And what kind of customer do you think I am?"

Bill Gates winked, and said, "We've already established that. We're just haggling over the frequency."

Q: How many Django developers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: NONE. (There's an application for that that comes standard with any Django installation.)

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) has given a ringing endorsement to GNU/Emacs. Hand surgeon Namllats Drahcir explains:

"The AAOS would like to affirm the clear superiority of GNU/Emacs and its capabilities over the Editor That Shall Not Be Named. It may seem strange for a surgeon interested in the hand and wrist to take a stand in the Unix editor wars, but this arcane editor offers untold possibilities for our profession. In financially shaky times, there simply isn't any other editor—or any other software, for that matter—that promises our profession anything like the revenue stream offered by the so-called Escape-Meta-Alt-Control-Shift editor. There is simply no one who can give us what the founders of GNU/Emacs have given us."

One reporter asked, "But can't you find anything to commend with the Other Editor?"

Dr. Namllats said, "Nothing whatsoever!"

:wq

:wq

ZZ

Sorry, I'm having slight technical difficulties with my word processor!"

A master was explaining the nature of Dow to a novice. "The Dow is in all software, no matter how small or insignificant."

The novice said, "Is the Dow in the handheld calculator?"

"It is.", came the reply.

The novice said, "Is the Dow even in the video game?"

The master said, "The Dow is even in the video game."

The novice then asked, "And is the Dow in the Windows for a personal computer?"

The master shifted slightly. "Please excuse me. I need to place a sell order."

Kindly Sir or Madam;

I am writing to express my grave concern over the new proposal for EMACScript to replace current EMCA scripting (i.e. JavaScript) as the new standard for web scripting.

You say in your proposal that the new and improved EMACScript should 'finally realize the dream of allowing EVERY modern graphical web browser—Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera—to compete with Mozilla Seamonkey on its own terms.'

I fear that this is true, but this is not a dream at all. It is a nightmare. What hinders Internet Explorer, for instance, is not that as a pure 'web browser,' it cannot compete with a 'web browser and webpage editor and POP/IMAP e-mail client and IM client and newsreader and calendar and PIM tool and OS/platform and religion and kitchen sink and fully customizable kitchen sink factory.' The reason Firefox rather quickly displaced the original Mozilla all-in-one as the most popular open source graphical browser is that Firefox carries the liabilities of a web browser alone, rather than the bloat and liabilities of an all-in-one package, and there are considerable advantage to 'only' being a web

browser, and CONTINUING to only do something that works well. This really constitutes A Very Good Thing.

Admittedly, as you say, 'browser add-ons can add almost any extension to EMACScript that a computer can run, implemented in a language consisting solely of parentheses.' What you say may be true, but this also is not a dream but a nightmare: most of the problems in existing JavaScript as EMCA script is now implemented are less a matter of how JavaScript *has not* been extended than how it *HAS*.

Furthermore, you say that the new EMACScript is easier to learn than the alternative, and it seems odd for people who know the alternative to switch because EMACScript is, after all, easier to learn. I won't contest that EMACScript could be easier to learn if you're beginning, but if you already know how to use the current alternative, then the English translation of 'easier' is 'expect roadbumps: your practical knowledge of how to work smoothly will no longer be anything approaching an easy way to work smoothly,' or to simply cut to the chase, 'your knowledge will seem almost useless now.' Maybe it IS easier for newcomers not to have to be burdened with some features of the alternative, like modal state—but you never seem to acknowledge that dated modal state allows single-keystroke navigation with the fingers of one hand never leaving home row, and that this is a genuinely nice feature. People who switch may find surprises that add up to a long-standing pain in the wrist.

And finally, kindly Sir or Madam, please—I'm only a poor arachnid, and I am part of the picture of creatures you're trying to serve. As a tarantula, I simply haven't got enough limbs to press all the modifier keys needed to do anything useful.

Cordially yours,
Eight Legs And Constantly Swapping

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UH-LEEEZE FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO EVERYONE
IN YOUR ADDRESS BOOK!

Snopes.com is tracking this e-mail, and for everyone you
forward this e-mail to, Snopes.com will donate three free
clues to POOR, WELL-MEANING, KLEWLESS people who
just don't get that FORWARDS ARE EVIL AND MUST BE
STOPPED!!

PUH_LEEZE FORWARD! IF YOU DON"T FORWARD
THIS THEN U DON"T HAVE A BRANE!!!!1!!!!1111

Miscellaneous Other Humor

My first joke on the newsgroup rec.humor.funny was some time like when I was ten.:

Brand new! Simpler than anything before:

Here is a valuable speech maker's utility. It makes writing a reelection speech something a three year old can do, and the product it produces is just as good, if not better than, existing reelection speeches.

Just add hot air.

Cut here:

I've created quite a few jokes since then.

You Can Make Clutter VANISH!

Hello, folks, and I have a new way for you to make clutter **vanish**. (*It's based on modern physics!*)

What you need to do is:

1. Order a PODS container and fill it with as much of your household clutter as you can really cram in.
2. Send the PODS container to the first address on this list:

8215 SW. Cemetery St.
Worcester, MA 01604

632 Columbia St.
Iowa City, IA 52240

9489 Jennings Street
Burlington, MA 01803

9871 Rock Creek Street
Defiance, OH 43512

939 Cleveland Court
Kenosha, WI 53140

24 Manhattan Rd.
Woonsocket, RI 02895

99 Gainsway Street
Fall River, MA 02720

9215 Second St.
Macon, GA 31204

331 Hilldale Dr.

Farmingdale, NY 11735

66 Brown St.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

176 SW. Tanglewood Street
Roslindale, MA 02131

7604 Grant Circle
Horn Lake, MS 38637

3. Delete the first address of this list.
4. Send this email to everyone you know.

That's all you have to do!

This approach may be counter-intuitive, but it works and the theory is sound. Sending away one container of unneeded clutter is only the beginning!

Once you have taken the simple steps outlined above, the principles will unfold. People will send you PODS containers *off* free clutter! Furthermore, the mass of the clutter delivered to you will increase with an exponential rate with high constants, enough so that a precise calculation would decidedly lend itself to using purely scientific notation.

As the plan unfolds further, the Swarzschild radius of the rapidly increasing mass of clutter will itself rapidly increase, while the gravitational pull will be inward. Before long a singularity will manifest and you will have a gravitationally completely collapsed object, AKA a black hole.

Then all clutter will vanish, and all new clutter will vanish!

So that's it! An urban legend that's *actually* based on modern physics!

Unvera Announces New Kool-Aid Line

Unvera has announced a new line of poison Kool-Aid supplements intended to bring its distributors unique extracts of the most powerful plant toxins available to its research.

"So what makes your offering different from other MLM's?" our reporter asked. "*Relational marketing*," the Unvera distributor insisted, "Unvera puts things in the most flattering terms possible. We have a **team** approach that really sets us apart. And with us, you're not just a cog in the wheel fueling profits for Unvera. You are the Jim Jones of your own cult, as we repeatedly insist, and we teach you to talk about "my cult". You have the privilege to choose just what you want your *cult's* very own *cult-ure* to be. And we will push you along every step of the way unless you have excellent boundaries and know how to say 'No' and put your foot down. At Unvera, we are your *religion!*"

The reporter asked, "I've heard your nutraceutical supplements are really something. But are the health effects worth a putting yourself in the hands of a pushy MLM, even with your new line of Kool-Aid?"

The Unvera distributor said, "At Unvera, we believe strongly in having multiple trickles of income, and it's good financial sense. If you are good at sales, good enough that you can get a regular job, we're talking three figures, maybe four. Do you have time for a quick online presentation tonight? I'd love to recruit you for my cult. And here, have a sample of our Kool-Aid!"

The reporter said, "There is an old mandate in the business world, 'Revenue must exceed expenses' and it seems that your multi-level marketing system is like most multi-level marketing jobs: it makes its money from its 'distributors' and is designed so that revenue exceeds expenses for the company *and not* for its, um, 'sales'

distributors."

The Unvera distributor said, "But you could be, just like every other Unvera distributor, the Jim Jones of your own cult."

Our reporter said, "But I don't **want** to be the Jim Jones of my own cult!"

The distributor's jaw dropped, flabbergasted.

Q: Which is better to have if you're attacked by a grizzly: a hollow-nosed .45, or a 10-gauge shotgun?

A: The shotgun, because you can use it as a club when it runs out of ammo.

Chicago, DP. Global warming is happening, it's increasing, and the worst of it is caused by humans. But it's not for the reason that you think.

A Kuhn scholar, who asked that her name be kept off the record, explains:

Part of science, historically speaking—and particularly when history is most interesting—is controversy. All of the most important scientists have been controversialists, and nothing really interesting happens just because one person had an idea and other people agreed.

The debate about global warming, whatever you call it, is interesting on a number of levels. The issue is complex, there aren't too many no-brainers, and like many interesting historical periods in science, there is quite a healthy debate. G.K. Chesterton, writing in a culture where lawyers were expected to have wigs, said that saying that people on both sides of a dispute are

both fighting for what is right is like saying that two lawyers in a legal case both have briefs, or for that matter that they both have wigs. And so you have people who strongly disagree, most of whom believe there is a lot at stake.

But what is going on here is particularly interesting. At a time of political correctness, when people are increasingly careful about talking about groups of people without the faintest hint of a slight, one side thinks it perfectly acceptable to refer to others as "climate deniers", the allusion being to Nazi sympathizers who deny that the Holocaust was mass murder. Yet this slur is not classified as "politically incorrect." The contrast between the diplomacy of political correctness, on the one hand, and a Godwinating comparison to people who defend Nazi Germany, on the other hand, is perhaps more pronounced than in any of the historical settings I've had the time to study closely.

And so something happens. The so-called "climate deniers" are not challenging their opponents to duels or hiring assassins, as has happened at other times when people have received this kind of insult, but they are getting very, very hot under the collar, and not just one or two leading scientists. Given present population levels, and the level of attention the debate receives, the heat generated by "hot under the collar" so-called "climate deniers" starts to add up. I'm not a science type myself, but some of the scientists I know are of the opinion that this heat source may be contributing far more to global warming than car emissions or even greenhouse gases from cattle.

Our reporter asked, "Have you done much study of the politics of the situation? Or do you think the matter is interesting enough to study?"

The scholar said, "I haven't studied the politics THAT

much, but who knows? There might be a Nobel Prize involved."

I'm sure you've heard, ad nauseum, the tired claim that e.g. psychologists are-just-as-much-scientists-as-people-in-the-so-called-hard-sciences-like-physics.

Shouldn't that be:

"Psychologists suffer from 'physics envy', and they suffer from 'physics envy' just as much as practitioners of any other non-science discipline."?

Q: If you're in France, and you're attacked by an unusually large dog, what's the best way to defend yourself?

A: Step on it.

...Since about that time, concern about climate change had been literally continuous, though strictly speaking it had not always been the same climate change... At this moment, for instance, in 1984 (if it was 1984), scientific consensus was concerned about man-made global warming and pooh-pooled the thought of global cooling. In no public or private utterance was it ever admitted that the lines could ever have been drawn differently. Actually, as Winston well knew, it was only four decades since scientific consensus had been concerned about global cooling and didn't consider global warming.... Officially the change of partners had never happened. Scientific consensus was alarmed about man-made global warming; therefore scientific consensus had always warned about global warming....

...It was rather more of a shock to him when he discovered from some chance remark that she did not

remember that scientific concensus, four decades ago, had been alarmed about global cooling and not really concerned about global warming...

...The speaker's voice, made metallic by the amplifiers, boomed forth an endless catalogue of extinctions, degradations, natural disasters, destroyed coastlines, massive human starvation, all made worse by self-interested obstructionists. It was almost impossible to listen to hum without being first convinced and then maddened. At every few moments the fury of the crowd boiled over and the voice of the speaker was drowned by a wild beast-like roaring that rose uncontrollably from thousands of throats. The most savage yells of all came from the school-children. The speech had been proceeding for perhaps twenty minutes when a messenger hurried onto the platform and a scrap of paper was slipped into the speaker's hand. He unrolled it and read it without pausing in his speech. Nothing was altered in his voice or manner, or in the content of what he was saying, but suddenly the names were different. Without words said, a wave of understanding rippled through the crowd. Scientific concensus was alarmed about man-made global cooling! The next moment there was tremendous commotion. The broadcasts and e-mails they had been bombarded with were all wrong!... The Alarmed Concensus continued exactly as before, except that the alleged man-made change had quite reversed.

—George Orwell, trying not to think about "climate change"

[This was from a few years back, when a U.S. embassy had been bombed, the U.S. in retaliation destroyed what they claimed they had good intelligence was a chemical weapons plant—it was in fact one of a third world, African nation's very few veterinary pharmaceutical plants—and the U.S. later managed to bomb a Chinese embassy

through some clumsiness I forget.]

Here, we have vast masses of angry Chinese demonstrators almost rioting outside the U.S. embassy, and an ambassador who won't give an ounce of credit to U.S. apologies or investigative efforts...

Granted, it's not much fun to have your embassy bombed, but why can't the Chinese just act like civilized people and fire a few missiles at one of our pharmaceutical plants?

The sweat stood out on Ford Prefect's brow, and slid round the electrodes strapped to his temples. These were attached to a battery of cybernetic equipment—imagery intensifiers, rhythmic modulators, alliterative residulators and simile dumpers—all designed to heighten the experience of the poem and make sure that not a single nuance of the poet's thought was lost.

Arthur Dent sat and quivered. He had no idea what he was in for, but he knew that he hadn't liked anything that had happened so far and didn't think things were likely to change.

The Woke-on began to read—a fetid little passage of Their own devising.

"*O Implied Other . . .*" he began. Spasms wrecked Ford's body—this was worse than even he'd been prepared for.

"? . . . *your microaggressions are to Us / As transphobic racism assuming colonial Orientalism.*"

"Aaaaaaargggggvwww!" went Ford Prefect, wrenching his head back as lumps of pain thumped through it. He could dimly see beside him Arthur lolling and rolling in his seat. He clenched his teeth.

"*We are going to sue you,*" continued the merciless Woke-on, "*O rebel against the Imago DEI.*"

His voice was rising to a horrible pitch of impassioned stridency. "*And oust you from this Woke Studies*

department. / Or We will embarrass you by listing genitalia over and over, see if We don't."

"Nnnnooonnnnnneeee ooooofffff yyyoooouuuuurrrr bbbbuuusssiiiiinnnnneeeesssss!" cried Ford Prefect and threw one final spasm as the cybernetic enhancement of the last line caught him full blast across the temples. He went limp.

Okay, everyone... a true story of justice in the good old U.S. of A. Thought y'all might enjoy this; if nothing else, it shows internet justice, if it can be called that.

On a whim, I decided to visit Hormel's main plant, and, after a tour, we were allowed to taste samples of their various products. And there was one... I don't think that words can describe how it tasted. It was a meat product, but to call it meat would not do it justice. The memory of the taste brings tears to my eyes.

I like to cook in my spare time, so I asked the tour guide if they could give me the recipe. She frowned, and said, "I'm afraid not." Well, I said, would you let me buy the recipe? With a cute smile, she said, "Yes." I asked how much, and she responded, "Two-fifty." I said with approval, just add it to my tab.

Thirty days later, I received my VISA statement from Hormel and it was \$285.00. I looked again and remembered I had only spent \$9.95 for a couple of tins, and about \$20.00 for an anti-nauseant. As I glanced at the bottom of the statement, it said, "Recipe—\$250.00." Boy, was I upset! I called Hormel's Accounting Dept. and told them the waitress said it was "two-fifty," and I did not realize she meant \$250.00 for a recipe. I asked them to take back the recipe and reduce my bill and they said they were sorry, but because all the recipes were this expensive so not just everyone could duplicate any of our delicacies... the bill would stand.

I waited, thinking of how I could get even or even try and get any of my money back. I just said, "Okay, you folks got my \$250.00 and now I'm going to have \$250.00 worth of fun." I told her that I was going to see to it that every gourmet will have a \$250.00 recipe from Hormel for nothing. She replied, "I wish you wouldn't do this." I said, "I'm sorry but this is the only way I feel I could get even," and I will.

So, here it is, and please pass it on to someone else or run a few copies... I paid for it; now you can have it for free.

(Trust me; this recipe is so good that you will want to make as much as you can at once, which is why I list so much. This may be doubled, of course):

1 pig carcass (all parts that are technically digestible but can't be used for any other purpose, even hot dogs)
 1 gallon castor oil
 1 salt lick
 1 gallon vomit
 16 lbs recycled plastic

The cooking technique is simple. Use a blender, branch shredder, or anything else handy to shred the carcass, salt, and plastic; mix evenly in a sufficiently large container. There are a variety of ways to cook it; in experimenting, I have found the best option to be slow boiling in motor oil. But the specific method of cooking doesn't matter much; with such an extraordinary combination of ingredients, nobody will know the difference. When it is cooked, compress it into small tins (at Hormel, it came in dark blue tins with four large white or yellow letters—I won't specify which four letter word, because

there are some people who find it to be more obscene and offensive than a certain crude word for sex), and open and enjoy at leisure. You don't need to worry about it spoiling; bacteria won't touch it, and at any rate there is a specific reason why it can't go bad. Makes at least 112 tins.

Have fun!! This is not a joke -- this is a true story. That's it. Please, pass it along to everyone you know, single people, mailing lists, etc...

Oh, and one last thing I almost forgot...

I feel a little guilty for presuming to speak about how to best serve a delicacy so wonderful—the final word must go to gourmets and chefs with a taste far more refined than mine—but there are a thousand ways in which it may be served, and, after a little experimenting, I really HAVE to share with you my personal favorite:

Open one tin; slice thinly. Marinate in pesto sauce, with a touch of thyme. Roast slowly over an open flame (I have found wood— preferably oak—to work best), then THROW THE STUPID THING OUT THE WINDOW AND COOK YOURSELF A STEAK.

Eight-year-old Boy Diagnosed with Manipulative Syndrome By Proxy (MSBP)

Eight-year-old Uriah Hittite has had some involvement

in African-American circles, although he should not be seen as a true African-American because his birth parents espouse certain conservative beliefs that the African-American community does not care for. He has been found guilty of single-handed, extended, and wasteful manipulations and draining government resources at a scale comparable to a large and coordinated /b/tard trolling attack.

Like a true consman, Hittite manipulated others so deftly they never guessed the bomb he was about to drop. He was reported to be outgoing, friendly and vigorous in physical activity. Neither friends, nor family, nor all the regular doctor visits showed the faintest problem.

Then, shortly after he turned five, he was administered a safe and routine second MMR vaccination, and only then did he tip his hand. And wow, did Hittite pull a surprise!

At first it started as a trickle; he feigned such ordinary sickness as most healthy children do; his birth parents gave him a few days' bed rest in the hopes that that would clear things out. Instead, he started acting worse and worse, to his birth parents' complete bewilderment. Besides remaining symptoms of sickness, he drew into a shell, and his speech became much clumsier. While his birth parents were of limited means and not insured, they did what they should have done immediately and took him to the shelter of a local hospital's emergency room.

The emergency room staff far too trustingly fell to Hittite's deceit, and ran usual tests that failed to produce a medical explanation. Psychiatric staff, experienced as they were, were taken in too. His birth parents continued to foolishly request tests and all but appoint themselves as their little Hittite's own doctors when it became evident that none of the MD's was providing any sort of explanation.

When the birth parents failed to improve the matter, one of the doctors suggested that a change of scenery, *without* the birth parents' dubious expenses. The birth parents consented to a brief and provisional custody.

Once inside better custody, external settings were better and he received the benefit of highly skilled cult deprogrammers who helped free him of certain needlessly constricting beliefs. This was done at great expense to the State, as deprogramming is difficult enough with grown adults of adequate intelligence, and he refused to communicate even at the level of a boy of his calendar age. It was decided to extend the custody indefinitely.

Finally a diagnostician was willing to call a spade a spade, and identify a classic case of Manipulative Syndrome by Proxy (MSBP). There was nothing wrong with Hittite physically; he just had a master plan to squander and drain the states' resources. However, with the laws presently in force, you are not allowed to unplug a useless eater. He remains a ward of state, in bed for twenty-three hours each day, not talking with anyone. The total amount he has drained state coffers is in the millions, not counting the expenses of quieting his former parents' inappropriate efforts to regain contact with their former child.

There ought to be a law against demonstrating Manipulative Symptom by Proxy (MSBP) like this!