

American Cryonics Society News and Views

By Jim Yount

In with the Spooks Again

Every once in a while we get fooled, and like Charlie Brown trying to kick the football that Lucy is holding, we fall for it again and again.

Take the Halloween spook thing, for example. A week or so ago we got a nice email inquiry from Jacob Shafer of Marin County based Pacific Sun newspaper, asking for an interview. Sure thing, Jacob, we will be happy to grant an interview about cryonics. Glad to help.

So ACS Governor Kelly Moy, gave old Jacob a call and presented cryonics and ACS in a fair and favorable light. The story that Jacob did on us was mostly favorable with the usual sprinkling of errors and (Ho Hum) the obligatory reference to Walt Disney.

So what do we have to complain about? Oh, I suppose we are a little like the guy who was lucky enough to be hung by a new rope, but modest enough not to brag about his attractively extended neck. Any publicity is good publicity, and they did spell our name right.

Mr. Shafer neglected to mention that he was doing his story as part of the 2nd annual Death Issue, put out by the Pacific Sun for Halloween. Perhaps we should have picked up on that possibility, given how close the story was to All Hallows Eve. Lucy didn't even have to smile at Charlie Brown, just hold that football real straight!

That said, Kelly was superb at getting the word out. For instance, in reaction to a question concerning perceived misconceptions about cryonics she is quoted as saying: I think a lot of times, we're conditioned to automatically react a certain way to certain things, without really thinking about it, and I think cryonics is an example of that. I especially don't like the perception that this is a cult, or that we're cult-like.

Kelly also brought up the fact that there are not enough young people with a strong enough interest to join. Mostly she emphasized her love for life: There are so many things I want to do why not keep living as long as possible?

Would we have cooperated with Mr. Shafer had he told us we would be in with the spooks? Probably. We don't mind having a little fun with our desires to make use of a chilly hiatus to get to the future, as long as humor doesn't become ridicule. Still, it would have been nice to know it was Lucy holding the football.

2007 Inspection of the CI Facility

A few weeks prior to her interview for the Pacific Sun, Kelly Moy took on the task of inspecting the Cryonics Institute facility for the American Cryonics Society. This was Kelly's second inspection trip, having served as the ACS inspector in 1998. A 2006 inspection was performed by the author. ACS members have made a number of other trips to Michigan to look over the operation in a less formal role.

In making these inspections, we are looking for proof that patients are being properly cared for, that the equipment is in good repair, the facility secure, that patient records are being kept in a secure place, and that the cryostats are being regularly topped off with liquid nitrogen and that information recorded in log books. We also look for ways the operation can be improved, and suggest changes or upgrades we judge appropriate.

Kelly was well impressed with the CI operation, and with the dedication to steadfastness of Andy, Ben, and other CI people. We will undoubtedly suggest to our patients that they continue to consider the CI facility as their second home, for a few more decades at least!

Boots on the Ground or Getting Cold, With a Little Help from Your Friends

It is hard to think of situations where one is more helpless than when he has just been pronounced legally dead. It is nice to have a buddy around when that happens. When the Joker has Batman on the rack, Robin comes to the rescue. Though the big guy does the heavy lifting most of the time, the reason they are called *the dynamic duo* is because there are always some situation (Batman on the rack) where being

big and strong is not enough; occasionally a guy *needs* a little buddy -- the more dynamic the better.

Folks in cryonics have recognized how helpful it can be to have fellow cryonicists that can be counted on. The CI website now has the *Cryonics Institute Locator Map (Frapppr)* to make it easier to connect with fellow freezer freaks.

Still, any friend in need is a friend indeed, whether or not that friend is a cryonicist. Look for a sympathetic family member or a friend or neighbor you know well enough to make known your desire to be frozen. Ask that Good Samaritan to be your Boots on the Ground in situations where you are not able to respond. It could make the difference between suspension and no suspension if the Samaritan does nothing more than remind folks of your wish to be suspended. Even better is to ask your friend to keep a copy of your suspension paperwork and to make it available at your time of need.

Some ACS members have asked their attorneys to serve in this capacity. This plan is sound only if the attorney is a good enough friend to know your state of health, and to be promptly notified in emergency situations. Emergency notification bracelets, such as those put out by Medic Alert and issued to ACS members, can help with the prompt notification problem.

In one case, we got a call many months after the death of a man who had left instructions that he be suspended. The call was from his attorney. The man *was not* an ACS member, but *had* specified in his will that he wanted to be frozen by ACS upon death. The lawyer explained that he hadn't notified ACS because his client had died under circumstances where cryonics was not an option. The attorney did his client a great disservice. The lawyer knew almost nothing about cryonics, and was *not qualified* to decide whether or not cryonics procedures were appropriate.

That sad case aside, an attorney who is willing to take calls at odd hours, and who knows his cryonics ABCs can be very effective Boots on the Ground. If you have such a professional willing to work for you, consider passing on that information to Ben, to me, and to other cryonicists, especially those in your State. Helping to line-up Boots on the Ground for others may not prompt the Mayor of Gotham to award

you the Key to the City, but your future self will be might popular with anyone whose future self is lucky enough to become acquainted with your future self!