

# Order of The Iron Test Pattern



Volume 1

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Number 3

This is your Newsletter and your input is, of course, most welcome.

After a few seconds of radio silence, a very shaken voice came back: "I'm afraid we can't do that, sir!" The incensed Captain grabbed the mike with both hands and shouted: "I'm a Captain in the United States Navy and I order you to change course immediately!"

Again the prolonged radio silence. Then even more sheepishly, the voice replied: "But sir, I'm only a seaman and we can't change course; we're a lighthouse."

Well so far we've not encountered any lighthouses, except the one up at Heceta Head near our town of Florence, OR. Wonder if that's the one our Captain encountered?



It's always good news to report an increase in membership. We've gone from 245 to 270. Unfortunately we only have e-mail address for 169 on this newsletter server, but we will be calling all the remaining 101 to see if we can find a way to inundate them with these pearls of wisdom.

Remember when a patch was something your mother put on your favorite Levis so you could wear them and not have parts exposed? Well a patch today is a computer fix and we've found the patch or fix for the Forum list. When we first launched it and this newsletter list, whenever someone posted a message, it went to the whole list. Only problem was that when someone wanted to reply, the whole list got it. Well that's been fixed. Unless you post your reply to the Forum list as well as the originator, only the originator will get your reply now. So if you want to tell the remaining 144 on the Forum list something really fantastic about the world, yourself, or a new way to reinvent the wheel, go for it.

In case you've not visited our website (<http://www.OITP.org>) recently, it has an even newer look. We've been busy consolidating the pages and have installed some new navigating buttons. Hope you like it. If you're not the one who's been there, someone

has. Since we launched this puppy on September 22nd, we've had over 1650 visitors. Not too bad for 31 days. At the suggestion of several members, we've put the day each page has been updated at the top, so you'll know if we have been messing with it or not. As we said in our last newsletter: "Those of you who haven't taken the time to visit our website, well what can we say?"

There's also a new page on the website: Membership. At the request of many, we've included a membership list and have instituted a database for all the members. Check it out thoroughly. You may see an upgrade or a missing e-mail address. No! The e-mail addresses aren't posted on the website, just the fact that we have or do not have them in our database.

## NEWS

For the latest in industry news, Tech-Notes just put out a new edition on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month. Take a look: <http://www.Tech-Notes.TV>. These are the folks who maintain our <http://www.OITP.org> website. Lots of goodies; go check it out.

Yet another use for duct tape.

From the Archives Of Pediatrics And Adolescent Medicine:

<http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/issues/v156n10/rfull/poa20075.html>

According to the article, duct tape is more effective than liquid nitrogen in the treatment of the common wart. Don't ask what this has to do with Order of The Iron Test Pattern, but if you have warts caused by playing with frogs, here's a possible cure.

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Microsoft introduces their new keyboard:



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Another don't ask story: Science of belly lint, ostrich love honored Dubious scientific achievements hailed at Ig Nobel ceremony Friday, October 4, 2002

BOSTON -- The definitive study on bellybutton lint, a dog-to-person translation device and an inquiry into what arouses ostriches were recognized with Ig Nobel prizes for dubious contributions to science and cocktail-party conversations everywhere. The Ig Nobel Prizes, announced Thursday and awarded annually at Harvard University as a spoof of the Nobel ceremony, recognize achievements that "cannot or should not be reproduced."

"It's a great honor. It introduces people to the idea that science is fun," said Karl Kruszelnicki, a University of Sydney researcher who wrote the paper on bellybutton lint. Kruszelnicki, at his own expense, studied bellybutton lint samples sent to him by 5,000 people. He concluded the lint is a combination of clothing fibers and skin cells that are led to the navel, via body hair, "as all roads lead to Rome." "Your typical generator of bellybutton lint or fluff is a slightly overweight, middle-aged male with a hairy abdomen," Kruszelnicki said.

A potentially more practical achievement is a Japanese device that measures the tone of a dog's bark and relays his mood. The device is on the market in Japan, and an English version, called Bow-Lingual, should be ready in about a year.

British scientists were honored for research that found that ostriches become more amorous with each other when a human is around. In fact, ostriches eventually start putting the moves on humans.

In economics, the executives and auditors at Enron, WorldCom, Arthur Andersen and a host of other companies were commended by the Ig Nobel committee "for adapting the mathematical concept of imaginary numbers for use in the business world."

Actual Nobel Laureates bestow the awards at a raucous ceremony, during which the winners are hailed with cheers and a flurry of paper airplanes. Winners are selected from thousands of nominations by a secret committee.

If a recipient feels insulted by the award, it's withdrawn, said Marc Abrahams, editor of the Cambridge-based Annals of Improbable Research, which bestows the award. He said most people are pleased with the prize.

### **CAN YOU TOP THIS?**

We've had an addition to our "Can You Top This" page. Monochrome Mogul Gene Polley's daughter brags about how her dad, single handily gave birth to the couch potato.

Polley is the inventor of the remote control. If you don't think the remote control is isn't significant, just go count the number of remote controls you have in your house. Polley wins the Iron Couch Potato or Iron Remote Control award. Which should it be? Let us know.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESSES**

A couple from Minneapolis decided to go to Florida for a long weekend to thaw out during one particularly icy winter. Because both had jobs, they had difficulty coordinating their travel schedules. It was decided that the husband would fly to Florida on a Thursday, and his wife would follow him the next day. Upon arriving as planned, the husband checked into the hotel. There he decided to open his laptop and send his wife an e-mail back in Minneapolis, however, he accidentally left off one letter in her address, and sent the e-mail without realizing his error.

In Houston, a widow had just returned from her husband's funeral. He was a minister of many years who had been 'called home to glory' following a heart attack. The widow checked her e-mail, expecting messages from relatives and friends. Upon reading the first message, she fainted and fell to the floor. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife  
From: Your Departed Husband

Subject: I've arrived!

I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you  
then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

p.s. Sure is hot down here!

### **OBSERVATIONS**

There are 10 different kinds of people in this world-- those who understand binary and those who don't.

Why did the programmer confuse Halloween with Christmas? Because OCT 31 = DEC 25.

The difference between an engineer and a terrorist is that you can negotiate with a terrorist.

### **NEW ENDORSEMENTS**

Two new endorsements have been added to the list. Besides the top four, we've added

<b><u>Digital</u> Cinema - Knight of the Cinematic Bit-keeper</b>	<b><u>Radio</u> - Knight of the Wooden Tower</b>
<b><u>Satellite</u> - Knight of the Geosynchronous Stuff</b>	<b><u>Translators</u> - Knight of the Hip-pity-Hop Signal</b>
<b><u>Cable</u> - Knight of the F59 Connector</b>	<b><u>Sales</u> - Knight of the Order Pad</b>

recognition for service to the Cable industry and the ever present Sales folks.

### **SURVIVING FINANCIALLY**

The response to the business card page and the underwriting of the remainder of the website has not exactly taken off like a 747: lots of promises, but not much action.

We'll be mailing out the second wave of new, upgrade and reinstated applications within a day or two. They're ready to go out, now it's just getting them down to the post office.

We still have a few applications that were sent without the \$\$\$\$. As soon as we get the \$\$\$, we'll be sending them out.

In addition to the Lapel Pins, which Father Bob Vendeland says will not hold up your trousers in an emergency, we also have nice new shiny certificates, which are guaranteed to attract beautiful women and a few flies. We also offer a screensaver. You've got to go to the website and see it. It will drive you Ku-Ku (- the Laurel and Hardy theme song).

We're looking for ways for the Order to make some bucks. Any suggestions?

Be sure to tell your friends in the business and get even with your enemies the same way: Tell 'em about the **Order of the Iron Test Pattern**. Remember: There are no dues or initiation fees. To join, simply go to our website: <http://www.OITP.org> and click on the "**How to Join**" tab. This page explains the requirements and how to qualify for the various "dignities" or ranks. You might want to check there to see if you are eligible for an upgrade or reinstatement. If you'd like to see samples of the certificates, there's a link there. And yes, we've sent out our first Monochrome Mogul certificate with its Black, Gray and White ribbons on it.

Click on the application link; you'll need an Adobe Acrobat Reader. A link for one is there also. Print the application, fill it in and follow the directions on how to return it. We went to PDF because the other way was too messy.

The Order has been contacted by the Sagacious Pixel's long distance company. He's had their service for nearly six years and has no complaints. Their name is Talk America. We pay 0.039 cents per minute on all out of state calls. They're willing to give us a 5% kickback on the Gross Revenues, less taxes, surcharges and credits, collected by them from any of our members who will sign up with them. We will be posting a full disclosure of this offer on our website very soon. Stand by and don't complain. We're just trying to make a few bucks to help pay for our ventures at NAB this next year.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor--

I've been conflicted about your wonderful invitation, since there is no sense in which I've been a contributor to television like the people described in your web site. However, I've decided that the opportunity to meet you guys and pretend to be one of you is just too exciting to pass up. Please allow me to accept the gracious invitation, and tell me what else I need to do.

We're starting to lose hope in having an effect on the US market, but are considering variations that might work elsewhere. The situation has been analyzed by a few groups that seem to understand the market, and they aren't generally optimistic. Even the cable business, which we thought might be the best avenue, has this difficulty that broadcasters demand that there be no degradation in the image. Having any letterbox lines, even dark ones, is thought to be such degradation. Also, I randomly picked 720p as the format that works well with the integer arithmetic involved, and now it seems that 1080i is better in some regards. I'm currently working on a variant for 1080i, and considering ways to add MPEG. So far, we've been able to generate pretty nice images without it. I guess the best thing we can claim is not one that we thought about originally--it just happens that image resolution degrades somewhat gracefully with increased distance from the transmitter.

Thanks very much—(Name withheld on request)

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Editor:

Try this link I picked up checking the Order of The Iron Test Pattern in Google.



[www.digitaltelevision.com/tvb1999/99.9.24.8.htm](http://www.digitaltelevision.com/tvb1999/99.9.24.8.htm)

By the way, OITP.org is already listed.

Robert N. Vendeland  
(Better known by us as Father Bob –our founder)  
[RNVendeland@cox.net](mailto:RNVendeland@cox.net)

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Larry,

Got my certificate and pins yesterday.  
One pin had the "prong" broken off the second pin had the "prong" bent.  
Looks like the post office might have piled too much stuff on top of the envelope.

Larry Albert, TV Engineer, Broadcast Media Services  
Murray State University  
Murray, Kentucky 42071 USA  
(nearly at the western end of Kentucky)

**(Editor's Note:** *Yes. Send back any pin that arrives broken and we'll replace it.*)

### **A LITTLE HUMOR – VERY LITTLE HUMOR**

Just in case we got too serious here are some things to ponder. When engineers have far too much spare time on their hands, when they can come up with things like this.

Are you tired of all those mushy "friendship" poems that always sound good but never actually come close to reality? Well, here is a "friendship" poem that really speaks true friendship...

Friend:

When you are sad, ...I will get you drunk and help you plot revenge against the bastard who made you sad.

When you are blue, ...I'll try to dislodge whatever is choking you (unless I'm pissed at you at the moment).

When you smile, ...I'll know you finally "got some".

When you are scared, ...I will tease you about it every chance I get.

When you are worried, ...I will tell you horrible stories about how much worse it could be, and then tell you to quit whining.

When you are confused, ...I will use "little" words to explain it to your dumb @\$\$.

When you are sick, ...stay away from me until you're well again. I don't want what you've got.

When you fall, ...I will try to keep from laughing too hard.

That's what a friend does. This is my oath, I pledge 'til the end. Why do you ask? Because you're my friend.

When you try to send this to 10 of your closest friends then get depressed because you realize you only have 2, and one of them is not speaking to you right now because he is a redneck piece of c\*@p, with no sense of humor at all... Always remember:

A friend will help you move....A really good friend will help you move a body.

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#### THINGS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK:

Indubitably

Innovative

Preliminary

Proliferation

Cinnamon

#### THINGS THAT ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK:

Specificity

British Constitution



Passive-aggressive disorder

Loquacious Transubstantiate

THINGS THAT ARE DOWNRIGHT IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK:

Nope, no more booze for me

Sorry, but you're not really my type

Good evening officer, isn't it lovely out tonight

Oh, I just couldn't. No one wants to hear me sing

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Subject: WHY ATHLETES CAN'T HAVE REAL JOBS

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Chicago Cubs outfielder Andre Dawson on being a role model: "I wan' all them kids to do what I do, to look up to me. I wan' all the kids to copulate me."

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New Orleans Saint RB George Rogers when asked about the upcoming season: "I want to rush for 1,000 or 1,500 yards, whichever comes first."

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And, upon hearing Joe Jacobi of the 'Skins say: "I'd run over my own mother to win the Super Bowl," Matt Millen of the Raiders said: "To win, I'd run over Joe's Mom, too."

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Torrin Polk, University of Houston receiver, on his coach, John Jenkins:  
"He treats us like men. He lets us wear earrings."

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Football commentator and former player Joe Theismann, 1996: "Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein."

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Senior basketball player at the University of Pittsburgh: "I'm going to graduate on time, no matter how long it takes."

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Bill Peterson, a Florida State football coach: "You guys line up alphabetically by height." And, "You guys pair up in groups of three, then line up in a circle."

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Boxing promoter Dan Duva on Mike Tyson hooking up again with promoter Don King: "Why would anyone expect him to come out smarter? He went to prison for three years, not Princeton."

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Stu Grimson, Chicago Blackhawks left wing, explaining why he keeps a color photo of himself above his locker: "That's so when I forget how to spell my name, I can still find my clothes."

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Lou Duva, veteran boxing trainer, on the Spartan training regime of heavyweight Andrew Golota: "He's a guy who gets up at six o'clock in the morning regardless of what time it is."

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Chuck Nevitt, North Carolina State basketball player, explaining to Coach Jim Valvano why he appeared nervous at practice: "My sister's expecting a baby, and I don't know if I'm going to be an uncle or an aunt."

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Frank Layden, Utah Jazz president, on a former player: "I told him, 'Son, what is it with you? Is it ignorance or apathy?' He said, 'Coach, I don't know and I don't care.'"

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Shelby Metcalf, basketball coach at Texas A&M, recounting what he told a player who received four F's and one D: "Son, looks to me like you're spending too much time on one subject."

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Amarillo High School and Oiler coach Bum Phillips when asked by Bob Costas why he takes his wife on all the road trips, Phillips responded: "Because she is too damn ugly to kiss good-bye."

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Fun with academia, courtesy of "D.S." of Thornhill, Ontario:

A thermodynamics professor wrote a takehome exam for his graduate students. It had one question: "Is hell exothermic or endothermic? Support your answer with proof."

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following:

"First, we postulate that if souls exist, then they must have some mass. If they do, then a mole of souls can also have a mass. So, at what rate are souls moving into hell and at what rate are souls leaving? I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for souls entering hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change in volume in hell. Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in hell to stay the same, the ratio of the mass of souls and volume needs to stay constant.

1. So, if hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter hell, then the temperature and pressure in hell will increase until all hell breaks loose.

2. Of course, if hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulate given me by Therese Banyan during our freshman year, and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then #2 cannot be true, and hell is exothermic."

....This student got the only "A".

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One day the zookeeper noticed that the orangutan was reading two books -- the Bible and Darwin's Origin of Species. In surprise he asked the ape, "Why are you reading both

those books"? "Well," said the orangutan, "I just wanted to know if I was my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother."

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Happy Halloween



**THE FADE TO REAL LIFE**

Well that's about it for this time. As we said earlier on, stay tuned – things can only get better! – But only with your help. Tell a friend or associate about us.

Until next time FADE TO *BLACK!* 😊 .