

# Order of The Iron Test Pattern



Volume 1

Number 6

December 10, 2002

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



At the risk of saying the obvious, it's that time of year once again.

**What ever faith, philosophy or lifestyle you embrace, we wish you and yours the very best of the season and may you all live long and prosper.**

From all of us here at  
Galactic Headquarters  
Order of the Iron Test Pattern

## News

**When it happens you'll see it happen, even if we have to make it happen!**

There's a good chance that we'll not get another newsletter before the first of the year, so, in addition to the above, here's wishing you also the best of the New Year as well.

Membership wise, we're doing OK. With all the recent press, one would think that we'd be inundated with applications. Our roster currently stands at 312. Not too bad, considering we started out in September with only 246. Web site visits aren't doing to bad either.

We've averaged 35 visitors a day since we started it back on September 22, 2002. As of today, we've had over 2800 different visitors. The counter only counts an IP address once.

The one disappointing thing that comes to mind is that a number of folks promised to take out a Business Card add on our Business Card page and that was the last we heard from them. These are the kinds of things needed to keep our organization afloat. Without such support, we'll end up in the deep six. Yes, we need some bucks. The costs of operations are not cheap. Contact your Sagacious Pixel for details on how you can get your card posted. Don't want to sound like the kid away in college asking for money, but if we're to have our bash at NAB this next year, which is only a four months away, we're also going to need some one or some company(s) to step forward and help underwrite such an undertaking. Any takers?

Speaking of finances, it will be necessary to raise the cost of our certificates and lapel pins. Having just placed an order to replace the ones we've sent out and anticipating a large volume of applications, we had to track down a company who'd do the casting for us and it isn't cheap. The previous suppliers don't have our molds and were a little squirrely when we tried to place our order with them, so we narrowed our search down to a company in Sonoma, CA who'll do the job for us. Survivors deserve the best.

As of January 1, 2003, certificates and lapel pins will cost \$15.00 each, so if you're thinking of sending in for an up grade or buying one as a gift, get your order in before January 1<sup>st</sup>. Shipping and handling will remain at \$5.00 for the time being.

**Just remember: "Certitude is not the test of certainty. We have been cocksure of many things that are not so" - Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.**

### Free Software

Here's a little freebie for you. Tiger Technologies has a desk flag that's free for the downloading. DeskFlag places an animated United States flag on your screen. The flag waves in the lower-right corner as you use your computer.



DeskFlag was created after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and is dedicated to the memory of the victims. Tiger Technologies hopes that in some small way, using this program will help people demonstrate their condemnation of this senseless act.

DeskFlag should work with any Windows computer running Windows 95 or later. Use the link below to download the program, tell a friend about DeskFlag, or get more information. It can be found at <http://www.deskflag.com> Tiger has had over 5.8 Million visitors to their website since September. 26, 2001.

Here's another freebie or two. Tired of filling in the blanks on forms on the internet, or continuously entering your user name and pass word? Check out "Gator." Gator will do this for you. Visit <http://www.gator.com>

They also offer free software that will sync your computer's clock with an atomic standard and show you the current date. Precision Time automatically synchronizes your computer clock with the U.S. Atomic clock every week.



**How it works:** Precision Time is set up to work automatically. It will update the clock in your desktop (Usually found in the bottom right corner of your screen) on a recurring basis. Check these out too at <http://www.precision-time.com> .

Speaking of websites, software, etc., Check this website out. We've not begun to see the end of the Osama Bin Laden jokes, so be sure to have your sound turned on for this one: <http://tlf.cx/talibantele.swf>

Here's another <http://www.bigfatbaby.com/newfun2/flash/saddam.swf>  
Some one has too much time on their hands.



**From one of our members**

Howdy,

Just rcvd the latest OITP Newsletter . . . have enjoyed what I've read so far, thanks, but when I saw the mention of Farnsworth, I thought you'd probably enjoy reading this other article, posted today on NewsMax.com, so decided to send it before I forget. Full article at: <http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2002/11/22/30635.shtml>

## One Reporter's Opinion: Television's Forgotten Inventor

George Putnam Friday, Nov. 22, 2002



It is this reporter's opinion that three inventions have had the greatest impact on present-day civilization: the wheel, the printing press and television. The wheel gave us mobility; the printing press disseminated information; and television combined sight, sound and wide-range communications.

Let's make this perfectly clear – I wasn't there at the birth of the wheel or the printing press. But I was around at the time of the discovery of television, and Sept. 7, 2002, was the 75th anniversary of the greatest medium of all time.

[snip]

Enjoy . .daveo

### **Television Icon Dies**

ABCNEWS Chairman Roone Arledge Revolutionized Sports, News Coverage

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 — Television pioneer Roone Arledge, chairman and longtime president of ABCNEWS, died today in New York City of complications from cancer. He was 71.



In a long and distinguished career spanning four decades, Arledge played a key role in revolutionizing how news and sporting events are covered and watched around the world. When Life magazine asked historians, critics and scholars to select the "100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century" in 1990, they put Arledge on that exclusive list. Sports Illustrated magazine ranked Arledge third — behind only Muhammad Ali and Michael Jordan — as one of the 40 individuals who have most significantly altered or elevated the world of sports in the last four decades.

"Roone Arledge revolutionized television and with it the way people see and understand the world," ABCNEWS President David L. Westin said. "A true creator, Roone invented many of television's most enduring and important programs, all the while fostering the brilliant careers of generations of the most talented men and women to work in front of or behind a television camera.

"His ability to broadcast the essential and unfolding drama in all human situations — from the gridiron to the world's stage — transformed not only sports and news but all of us who watched. He was our leader and our friend and we will miss his passion and his will to make us all better than we were."

The list of Arledge's accomplishments speaks for itself. During his nearly two decades at the helm of ABCNEWS, Arledge created some of the most critically acclaimed news programs in television history.

Prior to his tenure at the news division, Arledge was credited with transforming sports broadcasting. While president of ABC Sports from 1968 to 1986, Arledge introduced virtually all state-of-the-art technologies to sports programming, including instant replays, slow motion, advanced graphics, as well as the introduction of journalistic values and personalization of athletes to sports broadcasting.

"Before Roone Arledge there were no replays. There were no slow-mo machines," said Dick Ebersol, Arledge's protégé who later became the president of NBC Sports. "There was absolutely no prime-time sports on any network."

### **From one of our new members**

I have really enjoyed telling people about my induction into the OITP and even have a frame ready for the certificate and everything! I also read through the newsletter and am looking forward to more of them- I love humor and know that there are no old jokes, just new listeners.

Here is the question that I've got for you. I bought a piece of gear really cheap off of EBay. It's an old test signal generator made by GC #36-610. When I plug it in there is an indicator light that comes on indicating that it might still work, but I can't seem to get a signal out of

it.

It's a little briefcase style thing with an AC plug, red and black alligator clips, and a massive multipin plug. When I say massive, I meant it- it's nearly the size of a small doorknob. I tried using the alligator leads to hook it up to the Composite inputs on a TV, but it didn't do anything.

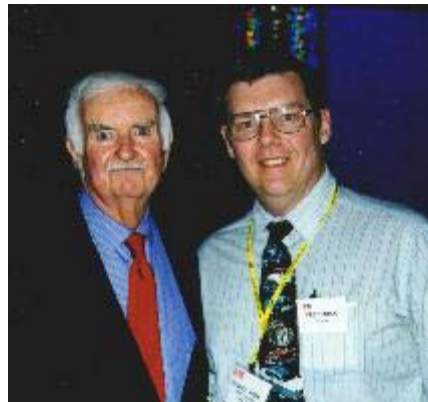
Do you any of you know what this thing is, or how I can get a signal out of it? I looked on the web, but as you probably know there is precious little about old test gear online. Perhaps it could be a little challenge to run in the next newsletter? I can also describe the controls to anyone who's interested.

Just a thought here in the dark cold Chicago night. Be well, and thanks for letting me join the group!

- Bohus Blahut Modern Filmmaker [bohus@xnet.com](mailto:bohus@xnet.com)

### **Bob Keeshan Inducted Into The N.A.B. Hall Of Fame April 7, 1998**

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Bob Keeshan, best known as Captain Kangaroo, was inducted Monday into the National Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame. Keeshan, who creating the award-winning children's show in 1955, accepted the NAB's highest award at its annual convention here, and received a standing ovation. He is seen here with Fred Vobbe, publisher of the DX Audio Service. The six-time Emmy-winning "Captain Kangaroo" ran on CBS for 30 years, the longest-running children's TV show ever, the NAB said. Keeshan got his TV start on the "Howdy Doody" show, where he played Clarabelle the Clown, a character he created and played for five years. Recent TV inductees into the NAB's Hall of Fame include the casts of the "Today" show, "Mash," and "60 Minutes," as well as comedian Carol Burnette and ABC News Chairman Roone Arledge.



Keeshan is seen above with OITP Fred Vobbe, Editor for the National Radio Club's DX Audio Service.

### **Documented Screw-Ups of the year**

When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at its intended victim during a holdup in Long

Beach, California, would be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder: He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

\*\*\*\*\*

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and, after a little hopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company, suspecting negligence, sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine out and lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

\*\*\*\*\*

A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus-stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days. Damn I like that one...

\*\*\*\*\*

An American teenager was in the hospital yesterday recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

A mother took her daughter to the doctor and asked him to give her an examination to determine the cause of her daughter's swollen abdomen. It only took the doctor about 2 seconds to say "Your daughter is pregnant." The mother turned red with fury and she argued with the doctor that her daughter was a good girl and would never compromise her reputation by having sex with a boy. The doctor faced the window and silently watched the horizon. The mother became enraged and screamed, "Quit looking out the window! Aren't you paying attention to me?" "Yes, of course I am paying attention ma'am. It's just that the last time this happened, a star appeared in the East, and three wise men came. And I was hoping that they would show up again."



### **A Wonderful Post 9-11 Message by George Carlin**

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees, but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have



multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember, to say, "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all... mean it! A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak, and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.



Christmas shopping – seriously! And this is a real car.

**Caught for speeding:**

The cop got out of his car and the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said. The guy replied, "Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could." When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

**Stuck under a bridge:**

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway. A sign comes up that reads "low bridge ahead." Before he knows it the bridge is right ahead of him and he gets stuck under the bridge. Cars are backed up for miles. Finally, a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks around to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, "Got stuck, huh?" The truck driver says, "No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of gas."

**I'm going to a lecture:**

The man was in no shape to drive, so he wisely left his car parked and walked home. As he was walking unsteadily along, a policeman stopped him. "What are you doing out here at 2 A.M.?" said the officer. "I'm going to a lecture." the man said. "And who is going to give a

lecture at this hour?" the cop asked. "My wife," said the man.

### The Technology page



Television



High-Definition Television

### KEEPING EVERYONE HAPPY AT CHRISTMAS

(Copies of our inter-office memos here at OITP)

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director  
TO: All Employees  
DATE: December 1  
RE: Holiday Party

I'm happy to inform you that the company Christmas Party will take place on December 23, starting at noon in the private function room at the Grill House. There will be a cash bar and plenty of drinks! We'll have a small band playing traditional carols...feel free to sing along. And don't be surprised if our CEO shows up dressed as Santa Claus!! A Christmas tree will be lit at 1:00pm. Exchange of gifts among employees can be done at that time; however, no gift should be over \$10.00 to make the giving of Gifts easy for everyone's pockets. This gathering is only for employees! A special announcement will be made by our CEO at that time! Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Patty

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

TO: All Employees  
DATE: December 2  
RE: Holiday Party

In no way was yesterday's memo intended to exclude our Jewish employees. We recognize that Chanukah is an important holiday which often coincides with Christmas, though unfortunately not this year. However, from now on we're calling it our "Holiday Party." The same policy applies to any other employees who are not Christians or those still celebrating Reconciliation Day. There will be no Christmas tree present. No Christmas carols sung. We will have other types of music for your enjoyment. Happy now? Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Patty

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director  
TO: All Employees  
DATE: December 3  
RE: Holiday Party

Regarding the note I received from a member of Alcoholics Anonymous requesting a non-drinking table ... you didn't sign your name. I'm happy to accommodate this request, but if I put a sign on a table that reads, "AA Only"; you wouldn't be anonymous anymore.

How am I supposed to handle this? Somebody? Forget about the gifts exchange, no gifts exchange are allowed since the union members feel that \$10.00 is too much money and executives believe \$10.00 is very little for a gift. NO GIFTS EXCHANGE ARE ALLOWED.

Patty

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director  
To: All Employees  
DATE: December 7  
RE: Holiday Party

What a diverse group we are!

I had no idea that December 20 begins the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which forbids eating and drinking during daylight hours. There goes the party! Seriously, we can appreciate how a luncheon at this time of year does not accommodate our Muslim employees' beliefs. Perhaps the Grill House can hold off on serving your meal until the end of the party, or else package everything for you to take it home in little foil doggy baggy. Will that work? Meanwhile, I've arranged for members of Weight Watchers to sit farthest from the dessert buffet and pregnant women will get the table closest to the restrooms.

Gays are allowed to sit with each other. Lesbians do not have to sit with Gay men; each will have their own table. Yes, there will be flower arrangement for the Gay men's table. To the person asking permission to cross dress, no cross dressing allowed though. We will have booster seats for short people. Low-fat food will be available for those on a diet. We cannot control the salt used in the food we suggest for those people with high blood pressure to taste first. There will be fresh fruits as dessert for Diabetics; the restaurant cannot supply "No Sugar" desserts. Sorry!

Did I miss anything?!?!?

Patty

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director  
TO: All #S%^&\*! Employees  
DATE: December 10  
RE: The %#\*&^%@\*%^ Holiday Party

Vegetarians?!?!? I've had it with you people!!! We're going to keep this party at the Grill House whether you like it or not, so you can sit quietly at the table furthest from the "grill of death," as you so quaintly put it, and you'll get your #S%^&\*! salad bar, including hydroponics tomatoes. But you know, they have feelings, too. Tomatoes scream when you slice them. I've heard them scream. I'm hearing them scream right now! HA! I hope you all have a rotten holiday! Drive drunk and die, you hear me?!?!!!!!

The Bitch from HELL!!!!!!!!!!

**From one of our members:**

I recently picked a new primary care physician. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age. A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?" He asked, "Well, do you smoke tobacco or drink beer?" "Oh no," I replied, "I've never done either." Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and bar-b-qued ribs? I said, "No, I've heard that all "red meat" is very unhealthy!" "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf?" he asked. "No I don't," I said. He said, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or fool around with sexy women?" "No," I said, "I've never done any of those things." He look at me and said, "Then why in hell do you want to live to be 80 ??"

Jim

**Our New Rules of Order**

1. We can only please one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow is not looking good either.
2. We love deadlines. We especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.
3. Tell us what you need, and we'll tell you how to get along without it.
4. Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days the Statue.
5. We don't have an attitude problem, you have a perception problem.
6. Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, then beat you with experience.
7. Don't be irreplaceable - if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
8. If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
9. Following the rules will not get the job done.
10. When confronted by a difficult problem, you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"

#### **"Stella" awards**

If you can't earn a living for yourself, here are some nifty ideas to make others pay for your existence. Truly pathetic. "Stella" awards rank up there with the Darwin awards. Stella Liebeck is the 81 year old lady who spilled coffee on herself and sued McDonalds. This case inspired an annual award - The "Stella" Award - for the most frivolous lawsuits in the U.S.

The following are this year's candidates:

1. January 2000: Kathleen Robertson of Austin Texas was awarded \$780,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering it was Ms. Robertson's son.
2. June 1998: A 19 year old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car, when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.
3. October 1998: A Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up

since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't reenter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation. Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found, and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The jury agreed to the tune of half a million dollars.

4. October 1999: Jerry Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbor's beagle. The beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced-in yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been just a little provoked at the time by Mr. Williams who was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

5. May 2000: A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx. The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson threw it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

6. December 1997: Kara Walton of Claymont, Delaware successfully sued the owner of a night club in a neighboring city when she fell from the bathroom window to the floor and knocked out her two front teeth. This occurred while Ms. Walton was trying to sneak in through the window in the ladies room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. She was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

.....**And the winner is**.....Mr. Merv Grazinski, of Oklahoma City! In November 2000 Mr. Grazinski purchased a brand new 32 foot Winnebago motor home. On his first trip home, having joined the freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. Not surprisingly the Winnie left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mr. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising him in the handbook that he couldn't actually do this. He was awarded \$1,750,000 plus a new Winnie. (Winnebago actually changed their handbooks on the back of this court case, just in case there are any other complete morons buying their vehicles.) - - Remember - - these people have the right to vote! (Editor's note; We'd just like to know where to hire their attorneys.)



Commodore Tim Cutforth's (new member) pass time – Electric cars.  
Click on his name on the List of Members page for more.

**THE SENILITY PRAYER**

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference. Now that I'm 'older' (but refuse to grow up), here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
3. I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
5. If all is not lost, where is it?
6. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
7. The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
8. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
9. It's not hard to meet expenses ... they're everywhere.
10. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter...I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm hereafter.

Now I think you're supposed to send this to 5 or 6, 10. Oh hell! Send it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are. Then something is supposed to happen, I think. Maybe you get your memory back. Even worse, you may get mine. Did I already send this to you?



<http://www.mundoyerba.com/>  
BOULEVARD HAUSSMAN, PARIS  
A WOMAN WAS CONFUSED BETWEEN THE SUBWAY AND A  
PARKING. VERY NORMAL.  
TWO HOURS LATER... THE POLICE CLEARED THE ENTRANCE

### **Hot laptop burns scientist's "thing"**

In closing, we got this story in. It's real and not a joke. Friday, November 22, 2002 Posted:



9:35 AM EST (1435 GMT)

<http://www.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/europe/11/22/health.laptop.reut/index.html>

LONDON, England (Reuters) -- Laptops have always been a hot item but a 50-year-old scientist did not realize to what extent until he burned his privates.

The previously healthy father of two remembered feeling a burning sensation after he had been writing a report at home for about an hour with the computer on his lap.

He noticed a redness and irritation the following day but it was not until he was examined by a doctor that he realized how much damage had been done.

"The ventral part of his scrotal skin had turned red, and there was a blister with a diameter of about two centimeters (0.8 inches)," Claes-Gorn Ostenson, of the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, wrote in a letter published in The Lancet medical journal on Friday.

Two days later, the blisters broke and the wounds became infected and then crusted but after about a week the unidentified scientist was "healing quite rapidly."

Ostenson noted that the computer manual did warn against operating it directly on exposed skin but said the patient had lap burns even though he had been wearing trousers and underpants.

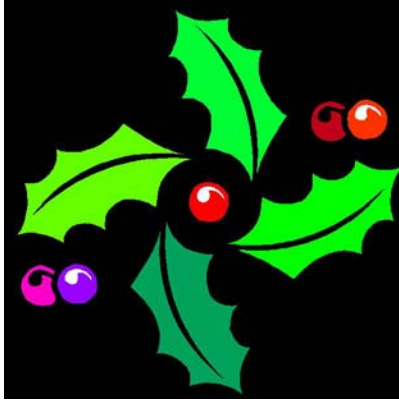
"This...story should be taken as a serious warning against use of a laptop in a literal sense," he added.

This guy is really eligible for a Stella award.



Well that's about it for this time. Don't forget to check out the industry news in the Tech-Notes: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/>

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 Happy Hollidays and FADE TO BLACK! ☺ .

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