

Nuclear Picnic

by Dave Barry (excerpted)

The Boston Globe Magazine, June 25, 1995

Each year, George Goble, a computer engineer at Purdue University and a bunch of other engineers hold a picnic in West Lafayette, Indiana, at which they cook hamburgers on a big grill. Being engineers, they began looking for practical ways to speed up the charcoal-lighting process.

“We started by blowing the charcoal with a hair dryer,” Goble stated in an interview. “Then we figured out that it would light faster if we used a vacuum cleaner.” If you know anything about (1) engineers and (2) guys in general, you know what happened: The purpose of the charcoal-lighting shifted from cooking hamburgers to seeing how fast they could light the charcoal.

From the vacuum cleaner, they escalated to using a propane torch, then an acetylene torch. Then Goble started using compressed pure oxygen, which caused the charcoal to burn much faster. By this point, Goble was getting pretty good times. But in the world of competitive charcoal-lighting, “pretty good” does not cut the mustard. Thus, Goble hit upon the idea of using—get ready—liquid oxygen. This is the form of oxygen used in rocket engines; it’s 295 degrees below zero and 600 times as dense as regular oxygen. In terms of releasing energy, pouring liquid oxygen on charcoal is the equivalent of throwing a live squirrel into a room containing 50 million Labrador retrievers.

With a quick Google search, you can find photographs and a video of Goble using a bucket attached to a 10-foot-long wooden handle to dump 3 gallons of liquid oxygen (not sold in stores) onto a grill containing 60 pounds of charcoal and a lit cigarette for ignition. The charcoal was ready for cooking in—this has to be a world record—3 seconds.

Looking at Goble’s video and photos, I became, as an American, all choked up with gratitude at the fact that I do not live anywhere near the engineers’ picnic site. But also, I was proud of my country for producing guys who can be ready to barbecue in less time than it takes for guys in less-advanced nations, such as France, to spit.

Will the 3-second barrier ever be broken? Will engineers come up with a new, more powerful charcoal-lighting technology? It’s something for all of us to ponder this summer as we sit outside, chewing our hamburgers, every now and then glancing in the direction of West Lafayette, Indiana, looking for a mushroom cloud.



Fellowship Opportunity

The NSPE Educational Foundation 2005 Steinman Fellowship will be awarded to a graduate of an ABET-accredited engineering program entering a program in engineering. Applicants for the 2005 award must be from the NSPE North Central Region (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD). Please visit the NSPE Web site at <http://www.nspe.org/scholarships/sc1-peg.asp> for criteria and application information. The award is for \$10,000. The deadline is March 1, 2005.

For more information, please contact NSPE Senior Manager of Education, Mary Maul at mmaul@nspe.org or (703) 684-2833.

Don't Forget to Vote on Nov. 2!

ATTENTION ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY SENIORS

All seniors graduating in calendar year 2005 with majors (Agricultural, Biological Systems, Chemical, Computer, Industrial and Mechanical Engineering) that are required to complete ENGR 400 must register for ENGR 400 in the Spring 2005 Semester.

ENGR 400 is scheduled to meet from 11:00-11:50 PM or 12:30-1:20 PM on Tuesdays. .

Please direct any questions to Associate Dean Ballard at 472-3181 or jballard2@unl.edu.

Thought of the Week

When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

~Kahlil Gibran

FROM THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

We can help with all phases of your academic experience and employment search! Need help? Walk-in counseling is available M-F, 10 am – 4 pm in room 230 NU. These are 20-minute sessions, with the final session beginning at 3:40 pm. Sign up sheets are available beginning at 8 am each day. Assistance is also available by appointment:

Chris Timm, Associate Director
Career Services
ctimm1@unl.edu
472.8049

Lark Bear, Career Specialist
College of Engineering & Technology
114 Othmer Hall
472-7073 / lbear1@unl.edu

CASNR Career Specialist
CASNR
301 East Campus Union
472-8273

Open Sign-up Interviews and Pre-Select Deadlines

Interview schedules are subject to change. Log-on to Husker Hire Link for the most current information.

Organization	Position	Preferred Majors	Resume Deadline	Interview Date
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Employer Information Sessions

Employer representatives describe positions, share organization philosophy, and answer questions. All individuals selected to interview should attend as employers offer insight as to their interview questions and employment needs. Other interested individuals may also attend; bring a resume and see if interview times are still available. Business casual attire is appropriate and you may be asked to show a UNL ID.

Meetings the month of November 2004

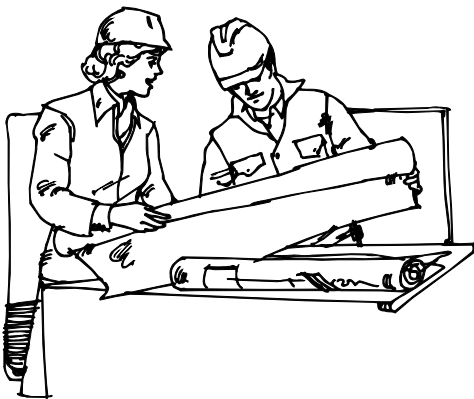
National Oil Well	Nov 8	6-7 pm	City Union
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Alumni of Color Career Forum

On Mon., Nov. 8, between 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Wick Alumni Center, invited alumni will share and discuss their insights and experiences with students of color to help them as they pursue their career aspirations. Refreshments will be served. Presenters will: offer suggestions to help students prepare themselves for the world of work; provide students with a reality check and serve as role models; share their professional experiences and provide ideas for networking; and offer ideas of how students can receive accurate information and insights into their career options through coursework, student organizations, and networking.

This year's presenters include: Jennifer Bear Eagle, Personal Assistant-Healing Pathways Project, UNL -Bureau of Sociological Research; Henry T. Buchanan, State Farm Payment Plan Supervisor, State Farm Insurance Company; Marianna Burks, Research Technician, UNL -Biological Science Department; Ernesto Castillo, Community Development Program Specialist, Urban Development Department; Cynthia Gooch, Coordinator, Cooperative Education and Program Development, Metropolitan Community College; Angela Jackson, Human Resources Services Representative, Omaha Public Power District; Oluyemisi (Yemi) Odugbesan, 4th Yr. Medical School Student, UNMC; Lien Phan, Registered Pharmacist, Walgreen's Pharmacist; Blanca Ramirez-Salazar, Public Information Officer II, Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission; and Nga Vu, Branch Manager, Pinnacle Bank.



Graduate Programs Information Day

On Nov. 5, the College of Engineering & Technology will be hosting a Graduate Programs Information Day. This event is an opportunity to learn more about the engineering master's and doctoral degree programs offered at UNL. Participants will visit departments, meet faculty, see laboratories, learn about current research projects and interact with current and former graduate students. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about what having a graduate degree in engineering can do for you. The event is free and lunch is included. Pre-registration is required. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Kennedy, Graduate Studies Coordinator, at 472-7070, ckennedy1@unl.edu, or in 114 Othmer Hall.

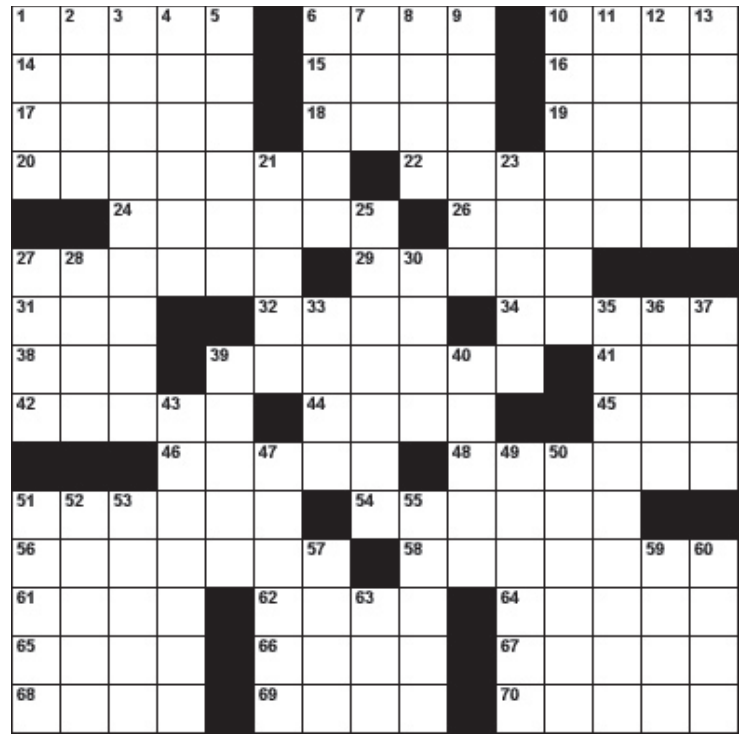
Please register online at http://www.nuengr.unl.edu/cet/Archive/archive_event_sites/GradInfoDay/gradinfoday.html

Across

- 1 Magnificent
- 6 Dirty-minded
- 10 Taxi passenger
- 14 Sound
- 15 Feel sore
- 16 Austrian painter Schiele
- 17 Simple tool
- 18 Well behaved
- 19 "Shane" actor
- 20 Half-witted
- 22 Confines
- 24 Elevator alternative
- 26 Like arcade games
- 27 Spinach, etc.
- 29 "In other words ..."
- 31 SOS response
- 32 Goya's "The Duchess of ___"
- 34 Long-term convict
- 38 Actor Mineo
- 39 Like a Cyclops
- 41 Foofaraw
- 42 Undergrad course
- 44 Its capital is Baghdad
- 45 Election winners
- 46 Island west of Maui
- 48 Extremists
- 51 Beguile
- 54 Zoo section
- 56 Babylonian sun god
- 58 Greek vowel
- 61 Lock part
- 62 ___ de force
- 64 Trite
- 65 "Now it's clear!"
- 66 Night birds
- 67 Ancient Aegean region
- 68 Western friend
- 69 Nerve network
- 70 Biblical witch's home

Down

- 1 Festive
- 2 Regrets
- 3 By design
- 4 Dolce far ___
- 5 "The Picture of ___ Gray"
- 6 Brewed beverage
- 7 Environmental prefix
- 8 Defeat decisively
- 9 Infer
- 10 "La Dolce Vita" director
- 11 Once more
- 12 Cowboys' competition
- 13 Become, finally
- 21 Month after Adar
- 23 Explorer Amundsen
- 25 Area between the Urals and the Pacific
- 27 Pant
- 28 Narrow inlets
- 30 Mexican Indian
- 33 "Star Wars" princess
- 35 Enchanting place
- 36 Author Ferber
- 37 Supreme Supreme
- 39 "Butterfield 8" author
- 40 Outfit
- 43 Walked heavily
- 47 Wise old man
- 49 Dog star
- 50 Largest moon of Neptune
- 51 On board
- 52 Buddhist holy city
- 53 Surgery tool
- 55 Poems
- 57 Inventor Elias
- 59 Medley
- 60 Warm, so to speak
- 63 Last mo.



The first three students to return the puzzle to 114 J Othmer Hall, correctly solved, will win a prize!!

P.S. Omaha students, this includes you. Take your completed puzzles to Alma Ramirez Rodgers in PKI 105 E!

Co-Ed Dodgeball Tournament

The National associate of Home Builders (NAHB) presents its First Annual CoEd Dodgeball Tournament on Nov. 20. Pre-register by Nov. 11. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. and the games begin at 10 a.m. Teams must include six to ten players. The entry fee is \$12 a person and includes a free t-shirt. If a team signs up after the pre-registration date, they are not guaranteed a t-shirt for the event. If you don't have a full team, but still want to play, you can still sign up and be assigned to a team.

Prizes will be given for the best dressed team. The tournament winner plays a faculty team in the ultimate battle between students and faculty. Download rules and the registration form online at <http://cmdept.unl.edu/nahb>. Bring completed registration forms and the \$12 fee to W145 Nebraska Hall. Contact Nichole Karr at nicholek@bigred.unl.edu with the subject header of Dodgeball, should you have additional questions. Get ready to rumble!



Reminder:

Scholarship applications will be available online at <http://www.unl.edu/scholfa> starting Nov. 15. Apply early for scholarships for next year.

Poker Tournament Results

Congratulations to the winners of the CETSAB bi-annual poker tournament! First - Dane Eckery, Second - Steve Renter, Third - Jake Liudahl. Over \$400 was raised to support Dance Marathon and its goal of fighting childhood diseases.

Standing at the Gates

Three men were standing in line to get into heaven one day. Apparently it had been a pretty busy day, though, so Peter had to tell the first one, "Heaven's getting pretty close to full today, and I've been asked to admit only people who have had particularly horrible deaths. So what's your story?"

So the first man replies: "Well, for a while I've suspected my wife has been cheating on me, so today I came home early to try to catch her red-handed. As I came into my 25th floor apartment, I could tell something was wrong, but all my searching around didn't reveal where this other guy could have been hiding. Finally, I went out to the balcony, and sure enough, there was this man hanging off the railing, 25 floors above ground!

"By now I was really mad, so I started beating on him and kicking him, but wouldn't you know it, he wouldn't fall off. So finally I went back into my apartment and got a hammer and started hammering on his fingers. Of course, he couldn't stand that for long, so he let go and fell -- but even after 25 stories, he fell into the bushes, stunned but okay. I couldn't stand it anymore, so I ran into the kitchen, grabbed the fridge and threw it over the edge where it landed on him, killing him instantly. But all the stress and anger got to me, and I had a heart attack and died there on the balcony."

"That sounds like a pretty bad day to me," said Peter, and let the man in.

The second man comes up and Peter explains to him about heaven being full, and again asks for his story.

"It's been a very strange day. You see, I live on the 26th floor of my apartment building, and every morning I do my exercises out on my balcony. Well, this morning I must have slipped or something, because I fell over the edge. But I got lucky, and caught the railing of the balcony on the floor below me. I knew I couldn't hang on for very long, when suddenly this man burst out onto the balcony. I thought for sure I was saved, when he started beating on me and kicking me. I held on the best I could until he ran into the apartment and grabbed a hammer and started pounding on my hands. Finally I just let go, but again I got lucky and fell into the bushes below, stunned but all right. Just when I was thinking I was going to be okay, this refrigerator comes falling out of the sky and crushes me instantly, and now I'm here."

Once again, Peter had to concede that that sounded like a pretty horrible death.

The third man came to the front of the line, and again the whole process was repeated. Peter explained that heaven was full and asked for his story.

"Picture this," says the third man, "I'm hiding naked inside a refrigerator..."



About the Blueprint Weekly
Editor: Roxane Gay

If you have news and information you would like to share with the faculty, staff and students of the College of Engineering & Technology, please e-mail the information to us at blueprintweekly2@unl.edu or drop it in our mailbox at 114 Othmer Hall on the Lincoln Campus and in PKI 107A (next to the Dean's office) on the Omaha Campus. Note that the deadlines for information submission are Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

Letters to the Editor

It is the policy of the Blueprint Weekly to print letters that are signed and can be verified. Names may be withheld by request, but must be included for verification. Please include with each letter a name and phone number or email address. All letters should be sent to blueprintweekly2@unl.edu or dropped in the Blueprint Weekly mailbox in 114 Othmer Hall in Lincoln or PKI 107A in Omaha.

The University of Nebraska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

UNIVERSITY OF
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Lincoln

Trivia Corner:

1. What state park was a WWII POW camp?
2. What was the original name of Brock, NE?
3. The word Nebraska is from an Oto Indian name meaning what?

Random link:

Beware Dihydrogen Monoxide
<http://www.dhmo.org/>

Calendar

Lincoln

November 2	Electrion Day
November 5	Graduate Programs Information Day
November 8	12th Annual Alumni of Color Career Forum
November 12	Last day to withdraw from one or more courses for term
November 20	Co-Ed Dodgeball Tournament
November 25-28	Thanksgiving Vacation

Omaha

November 5	Last day to withdraw from courses
November 25-28	Thanksgiving Vacation

Water
1. Fort Robinson; 2. Podunk; 3. Flat
ANSWERS: