

Gerard's Underpants

Go a Long Way

"Our trip to the IAU in Prague was most interesting and full of adventure" said Sallie most diplomatically. "Full of &#@k ups you mean" her less than diplomatic husband replied. First, they decide to land in Heathrow on the very morning of a terrorist alert. After hours at the airport, including meeting a friend from Atlanta, standing in line, and wondering what was going on Sallie kindly told a stranger they would look after his bags. Theo remained calm. They then found themselves stuck in London paying over \$200 a night for a Hotel room



Their luggage didn't make it. Theo remained calm. In their luggage was all their carry on goods, including computer, phones, camera and the address of their condo. Theo remained calm. After a delightful time in Amsterdam, it transpired that their luggage had been listed incorrectly by the airline as the wrong color and size. Theo remained calm. Thinking that their clothes would turn up at any time, they refused to buy more. They washed their only outfits the night before flying out and the drier refused to work. Theo remained calm. At 5am they still had wet clothes, so it was decided to dry them in the oven. They caught fire. Theo laughed

you wouldn't pay \$50 for. Theo remained calm. After waiting many hours in the cold they ran for the plane to Amsterdam.

hysterically. Sporting wet, shrunken and burnt jeans they traveled to Prague to attend the meeting. Meanwhile, thinking he could use Gerard's computer to prepare the presentation, they found Gerard had left it at LAX security, along with his poster, on the way there. He also informed them his wallet was left at home. Theo, after some decent local beers, remained calm. Prague was a delight, and the meeting went well despite the ridiculous de-planeting exorcise. Many friends were met and made. Theo continued to remain calm until the first bag arrive in LA, a week after their return, labeled "Bag 1 of 1". A few days later the second, and final, bag arrived. All ended well, as they discovered the computer and all their other goods were in one piece and untouched. "I have visions of two guys hiding in the back of a large room full of lost luggage having a quiet smoke" Sallie commented as she tried to keep Theo in a relaxed state.



Pluto Demotion Explained

Of 10000 members, about 2500 turned up for the meeting. Of those about 400 turned up to vote using their little yellow cards. After much discussion it was decided that Pluto didn't cut the mustard and is no longer a planet. It's a "Dwarf Planet". So while it has the word planet in the name - it is not a planet. The members (a good name for them) then decided to create a new category of object of which Pluto is the first. Naturally they failed to agree on a name for this new category. So, to summarize: Pluto is not a planet, it's a dwarf planet and it is the first member of a new type of object we don't have a name for. Your tax dollar well spent, and think of all the poor teachers who now have to explain this to the tiny tots.



Dangerous Aliens Play First Gig

Shown at a recent rehearsal the band with the forever changing name (currently "Mr Princess", though formally "The Woopsie Poofas") played their first show in public, well Sallie's birthday party. Fortunately they only knew six songs at the time and decided not to do an encore by playing them all a second time. Having been fully bribed by food and drink the crowd reacted well and even applauded once or twice.



Em and Aar Visit the US



Despite warnings from friends and family Emily and Aaron came to visit early in the year. After a short stay in LA they went to Vegas, San Fran and New York, where Em managed to throw up in Aaron's hat. A good time was had by all, including an enjoyable, but strange meal in a place called "Down Under" or some such. We're still not sure what Australian cuisine is, but they sure didn't serve it there.



Dragon Update

Our intrepid explorers finally found the courage to meet the dreaded Kriss Kringle. They came, they saw, they ran. Then they ran some more. After a bit more running around they attempted to fight the old man. This involved a lot more running away, which they finally did for good. Meanwhile, our other band of explorers did a little better. They decided to risk all and travel to the next town. Naturally they were way-laid by some bandits, who are now all safely out of harms way. They continue to travel on, a bit richer and bit more confident.

Hawaii Run Complete Failure

"Six days of hell by the beach" was the description given by the good Dr. Tuthill, shown here displaying his new board shorts. "The telescope failed to work, the adaptive optics system spent its time correcting for the bad mount model, and one of the mirror actuators spent it's time banging on the back of the mirror." He went on to say "then the weather went bad. We got no data what so ever. Nada. Bugger all. Not an electronic sausage." Still, there were some compensations. On his return to LA Theo discovered that gazebo number three had been destroyed by the wind. At least one good laugh was had in the end.

