FROM MAN TO MACHINE: NEW VIRUS PLAGUES S. CALIFORNIA

BY TECH STAFF

A disturbing rash of unusual fatalities has recently struck Southern California; their most distinctive feature of which has been the slow transformation of the victims into some sort of machine. There does not appear to be any effective treatment, but health officials warn against hysteria, pointing out that of the millions of people in this metropolitan area there has been a relative handful of fatalities. Doctors admit to being stumped by this new contagion, as we learned in our exclusive interview with a local physician.

"I have to admit, I'm stumped," said the doctor, who wished to remain nameless.

There is some hope, on the science front, at least. Dr. Moira MacTaggart, the famed Scottish geneticist who is currently in Pasadena to study the disease, has recently published her findings in a Letter in the most recent issue of the science journal "Nature". In it she describes the organism as a "techno-organic virus" and attributes it to a human origin.

Several minor celebrities have organized a charity sing-along to benefit research on the disease, but everyone agrees it has never been declassified.

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In the late 70's Professor Lizardo abruptly ceased work on the SuperData computer system and networked virus research, presumably due to funding issues. Shortly thereafter he left to found Yoyodyne Propulsion Systems, an independent Defense Department contractor.

Few specifics are known about a majority of the work Professor Lizardo did while at Caltech, as most of it has never been declassified. It is believed that Professor Lizardo has no immediate or extended family.

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KNOW YE:

That whereas we, the Class of 1921, have labored long, faithfully, and true under the domination of a case hardened faculty;

And That Whereas spring has come, and with it has come, also, a feeling of great unrest, a feeling of discontent, a feeling of perpetual lassitude and ennui which cannot be banished by classroom logic;

And That Whereas it is meet and proper for the kindred souls so afflicted to gather together, so that by recreation and enjoyment of nature we may better withstand the rigorous requirements of the ultimo mensis, and so that by a decent association with one another we may form a group of men capable of withstanding the tempestuous winds of fate which seek to scatter us upon our commencement day;

And That Whereas the Lord when his work of creation was almost finished, rested upon the Seventh Day, thus

Be It Ordained and Decreed that this Twelfth Day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, be a Day of Rest and the Senior Ditch Day of the Class of 1921, and

Be it Further Ordained and Decreed that this day be dedicated to the relaxation and amusement and recreation of the Class of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, in any manner in which it may decide;

And Further that this Day be passed on to the Senior Class of years to come as a tradition to be kept guarded and cherished faithfully and well.

So Be It.

The Class of Nineteen Twenty-one.