

Happy New Year 2005 ... from Diane and Alan

Image Symbolic of the US after the 2004 Election

Seems like our hopes were dashed like the NASA Genesis spacecraft in the Utah desert. If the symbolism carries further, then it's not as bad as it looks, since much of the Genesis payload is recovered.

Does that mean that we may eventually recover from the administration's fervent efforts to rape the environment, cast a pall of debt to our children, leave them behind for lack of education funding, destroy our world image, blur or obliterate the separation of church and state, promulgate destruction, violence and terrorism in Iraq, and annihilate Roe v Wade?

Highlights of 2004 for Tokugawa-Goulds:

- We had some tragic losses, both political and family (two aunts passed away, Sylvia and Bea—magnificent human beings, both).
- Diane has accepted a position at Kaiser Hospital in Richmond, where the commute will be only 20 min or so, instead of 40-90 minutes as it has been, going to San Francisco Kaiser up to now. She starts full time in Richmond with the new year—Jan 3, 2005. The staff at Kaiser Richmond has a reputation for community-



NASA Genesis Spacecraft, whose parachute failed to open, crashed in the Utah desert.

[click on picture for larger image]

Photo source: Credit: USAF 388th Range Sqd

"For the velocity of the impact [311 km/hr, or 193 mph], I thought there was surprisingly little damage," said Roy Haggard. "The capsule penetrated the soil about 50 percent of its diameter."

Genesis scientists are optimistic that samples of the Sun that were collected in the spacecraft over the nearly 3-year mission will be largely recovered and will provide important information on the history and origin of the solar system.

From trailer to the movie 1984:

*A world held in a grip of fear,
A world of absolute conformity,
of continuous surveillance,
of organized hatred
and ceaseless war.*

[Sound familiar?]

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- Alan's projects continue to keep him productively engaged:
 - Global Systems Science (GSS) project, a high school science course based on societal issues, now has a grant project in collaboration with Museum of Science Boston called *Measuring Vegetation Health*.
 - Hands-On Universe (HOU) is in full swing on a NSF grant to create a museum exhibit at LHS to allow visitors during the day here to operate a telescope in Australia where it is night. The project is called the Real Astronomy Experience (RAE).
 - NASA Kepler mission Education and Public Outreach (EPO)—the mission is to discover Earth-like or habitable planets around other stars
 - Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS), with Kepler funding, is creating a Space Science Core Sequence for elementary school and one for middle school,
 - We're applying for grants to build a new planetarium at LHS—one that will serve as an exhibit where visitors can drop in and operate the star projector and special effects. Still President of the Pacific Planetarium Association (PPA) as well as chair of the worldwide web committee of the International Planetarium Society (IPS; <http://www.ips-planetarium.org/>)
- Alan had a little scare in June, when he had a bit of a heart episode. See page 3 of this New Year card for details and before and after angiograms.

Forecast for 2005:

Continued needless wars: war in Iraq, war on terrorism, war on drugs. Continued smug looks from George Dubya causing illness among liberals—we recommend they not cast gaze upon his face. Chance of partly sunny skies from socially responsible investments. Focus on personal, familial, and community improvements will be the most rewarding.

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mindedness that Diane really likes.

- The results of the national election and the hypocrisy of half of the American population has been devastating. It will take much time to recover and save up energy for the battles ahead.

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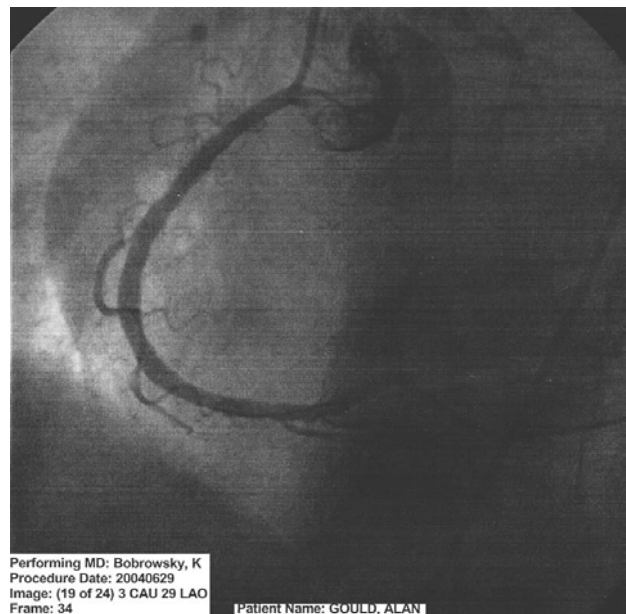
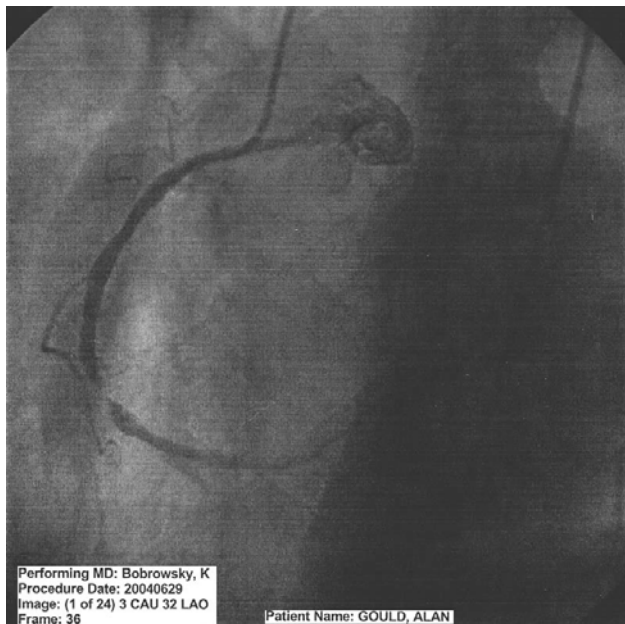
Alan's Heart Episode

I had an unexpected change of plan that prevented my going to International Planetarium Conference in Spain set for early July. At the Hands-On Universe conference at Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, June 20-25, I started experiencing chest pains once or twice per day. When I got back to Berkeley, Diane took me to get checked out at Kaiser Hospital Oakland Sat June 26. I had treadmill-stress test w/thallium Mon (June 28) and since results came out equivocal, they set me up for angiogram that took place at San Francisco Kaiser Hospital Wed Jun 29.

Since Diane worked at The SF Kaiser, some of her/our doctor friends stopped by for a visit. The first was an oncologist (Dr. Lopez) who came in and said "Is this where I do the bone marrow biopsy?" That pretty much freaked out the nurses who overheard that. The chief of cardiology (Dr. Raskoff) came by and explained a lot of stuff to us—very kind of him.

Turned out my right coronary artery was 95% blocked in a very well defined point in the artery, so they did immediate angioplasty (blowing up a little balloon in the artery to enlarge blocked section) and put in a stent (a small metal mesh tube to help keep the artery from becoming blocked again). The procedure was very successful -- "textbook" as one of the cardio-catheterization team put it. After the procedure, I was visited by a gynecologist (Dr. Field) who looked at the angiogram photos (see below) and said "Gee, I'm a gynecologist and even I can see the problem here." I got released the next day (Wed June 30). As of now, I'm feeling very good indeed.

Diane was incredibly supportive the whole time—I think it took as much toll on her as on me.



Angiogram from June 29, 2004, after angioplasty

Angiogram from June 29, 2004, before angioplasty
and insertion of stent.
[Click on picture for larger version.]

and insertion of stent.
[Click on picture for larger version.]