

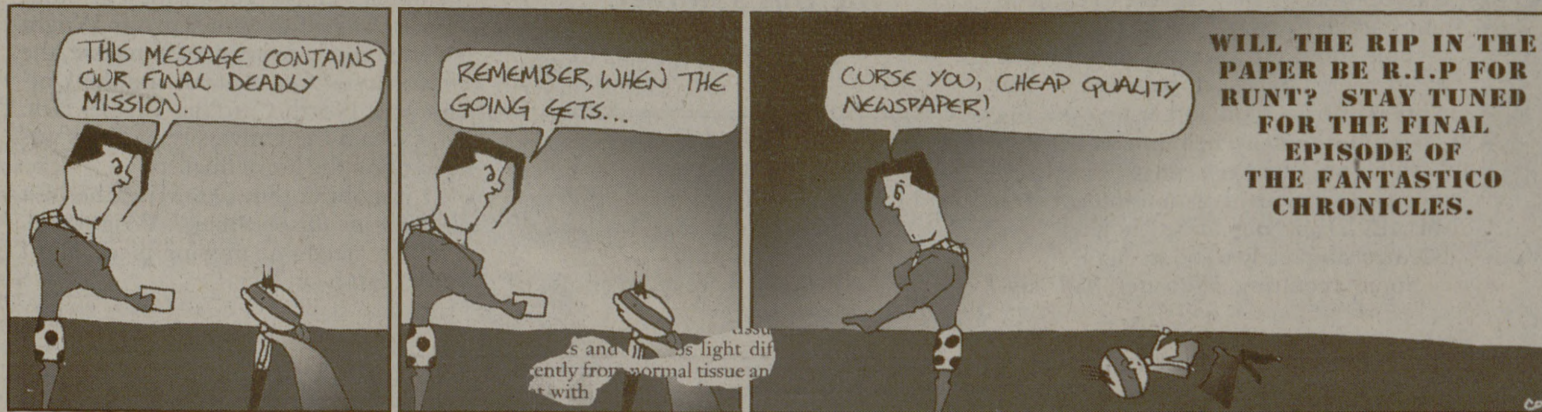
DIRTY APES

BY R. DELUNA



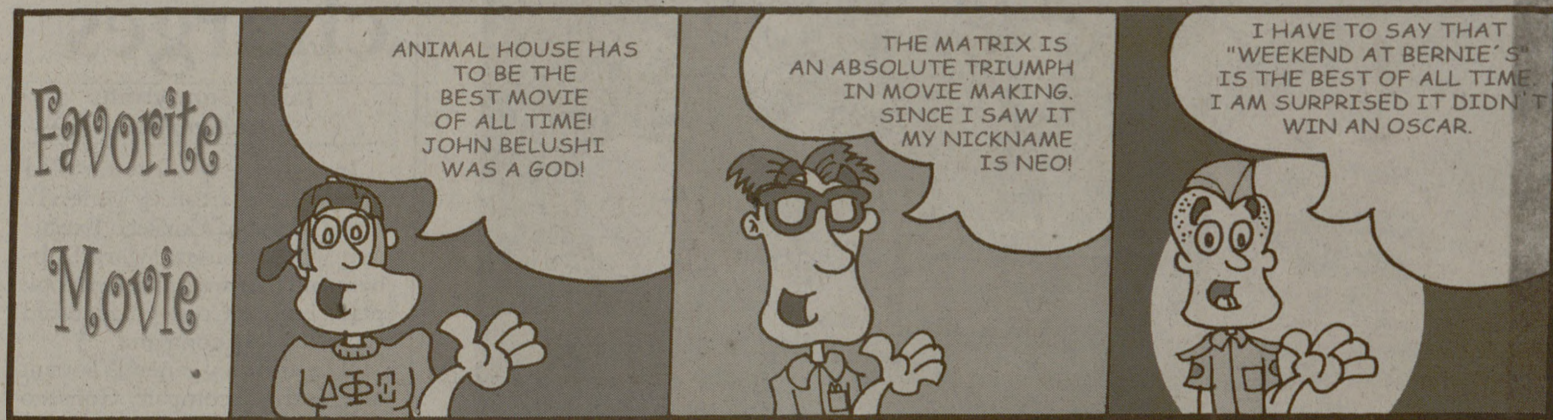
The Fantastico Chronicles

BY J. GOLDFLUTE



HAZING

by Adrian



Recipient of artificial heart alive after nearly one month

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The first recipient of a fully self-contained artificial heart celebrated nearly a month of survival on the pump by eating ice cream and cheesecake, his surgeon said Wednesday. "We've had tremendous success," said Dr. Robert Dowling reporters on the 30th day since the patient received the AbioCor pump at Jewish Hospital. "He's doing remarkably well." The patient, described only as a diabetic in his 50s, has a history of heart and liver problems. He was deemed terminally ill before the procedure and had been given only 30 days to live. "He was facing death 30 days

ago and he knew it," Dowling said. "He was very cognizant of his mortality. Now he's looking forward to life. He's happy to be here." Dowling said the patient spends his days listening to jazz CDs, watching videotapes and talking with family and nurses. Nurse Rebecca Dentinger said the patient did not show much personality because he was so weak. "Now, he wants joke and talk so much, sometimes he wears himself out," she said. "He's loving life so much." The patient was on and off a ventilator several times in the days following the July 2 opera-

tion, but has been off it for the past week, Dowling said. Last week, hospital officials said he was well enough to stand, walk with assistance for short distances and write notes. He ate ice cream and cheesecake on Tuesday, Dowling said. "The last five days have been absolutely phenomenal," Dowling said. "He talks a lot, he's getting stronger, he's walking great lengths without assistance." The softball-sized, titanium and plastic pump is made by Abiomed Inc. of Danvers, Mass. It is entirely self-contained, with an internal battery and a device that regulates the pumping speed.

Earlier mechanical hearts had wires and tubes penetrating the chest to connect to a power source, which increased the risk of infection. Abiomed and the hospital have maintained a "quiet period" since the surgery to protect the patient's privacy. The patient participated in an Abiomed-sponsored forum for doctors and heart researchers over the weekend. Dowling said that regardless of the patient's progress from here, the procedure will have already been a success. He said the heart itself has beaten "about 6 million times," and continues to work flawlessly.

Engineering the heart

On July 2, in a landmark medical procedure, doctors in Louisville, Ky., conducted the first human implant of a self-contained artificial heart. Unlike its predecessors, the experimental heart, developed by Abiomed Inc. of Danvers, Mass., is free of external machinery attached by wires. The AbioCor, as it is known, was initially expected to extend the seriously ill patient's life by a month. After a tenuous first couple of days, the recipient's condition improved, and doctors hope he can continue to prosper.

SOURCE: Abiomed Inc.

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then increasing them after victims bought policies. The lawsuit alleges Consec and ATL engaged in the unethical rate practices from 1991 to 1999. Kelley said data was available for this year and 2000 but amendments to the suit be made when all the data comes available. Lubbers said Consec would not acquire ATL until 1999 it is important that policyholders are aware that the nature of the wrongdoings alleged by the attorney general's office took place before Consec came involved. But Lubbers said Consec "honor bound" to uphold agreements made by ATL and the company is working to correct any problems. He said he believes the company will come to an amicable agreement with the attorney general after he has all the evidence.

CONSECO

Continued from Page 1

company we acquired were pretty lucky that Consec acquired their business," Lubbers said. "We are one of the top two insurance companies in the nation. We are very dedicated, and we understand our responsibilities as a leader. These are all factors that work in favor of the customers." Tom Kelley, spokesman for the attorney general's office, says the attorney general's suit alleges that Consec knew about these deceptive practices and continued them. "We allege that this company knew full well what was going on. They kept on offering these products," Kelley said. The attorney general's office suit alleges that ATL, and later Consec, misled their policyholders about their premium rates, telling them their premi-

OUTBREAK

Continued from Page 1

are not affected. Experts worried that newly discovered versions of the worm can be reprogrammed to launch crippling attacks on any Website. They also warn that the danger is far from over. Code Red is programmed to keep trying to infect computers until the 19th of the month. After that, it goes into attack mode, sending junk data to the White House's Website. Even though the White House moved its numerical Internet address last month to dodge the first outbreak, the attack may have the unintended effect of clogging up the Internet, causing slowdowns. This is similar to millions of phone calls to a wrong number not affecting the intended recipient, but the calls themselves still

jamming phone lines for everyone else. FBI officials said over a million people had downloaded the patch from Microsoft, although it was impossible to guess how many computers have actually been fixed. Experts' predictions range from the infection of a million or more computers and a massive Internet slowdown to limited effect. The government took few chances, pressing to get many Website operators as possible to inoculate their systems before the attack. Code Red is the most infamous computer worm since the first worm, created in 1988 which took down most of the fledgling Internet. Owners of infected computers can turn their computers off and on again to clear out the worm, but they still need to install Microsoft's patch.

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THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University, Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Media, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 014 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: Thebattalion@hotmail.com; Web site: http://www.thebatt.com

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Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. First copy free, additional copies \$5. Mail subscriptions are \$50 per school year, \$30 for the fall or spring semester and \$17.50 for the summer. Charge by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express, call 845-2613.