



The Annals of Improbable Research (AIR)

The journal of record for inflated research and personalities

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The 1996 Ig Nobel Prize Winners

(Cambridge, MA) Here are the winners of the 1996 Ig Nobel Prizes, presented at the Sixth First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony, held at Sanders Theater, Harvard University on Thursday evening, October 3, 1996.

BIOLOGY Anders **Baerheim** and Hogne Sandvik of the University of Bergen, Norway, for their tasty and tasteful report, "Effect of Ale, Garlic, and Soured Cream on the Appetite of Leeches." [The report was published in "British Medical Journal," vol. 309, Dec 24-31, 1994, p. 1689.]

MEDICINE James Johnston of **R.J. Reynolds**, Joseph Taddeo of U.S. **Tobacco**, Andrew Tisch of **Lorillard**, William Campbell of Philip Morris, and the late Thomas E. Sandefur, Jr., chairman of Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co. for their unshakable discovery, as testified to the US Congress, that nicotine is not addictive.

PHYSICS Robert Matthews of Aston University, England, for his studies of Murphy's Law, and especially for demonstrating that toast always falls on the buttered side. [The report, "Tumbling toast, Murphy's Law and the fundamental constants" was published in "European Journal of Physics," vol. 16, no.4, July 18, 1995, p. 172-6.]

PEACE Jacques **Chirac**, President of France, for commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Hiroshima with atomic bomb tests in the Pacific.

PUBLIC HEALTH Ellen **Kleist** of Nuuk, Greenland and Harald Moi of Oslo, Norway, for their cautionary medical report "Transmission of Gonorrhea Through an Inflatable Doll." [The report was published in "Genitourinary Medicine," vol. 69, no. 4, Aug. 1993, p. 322.]

CHEMISTRY George **Goble** of Purdue University, for his blistering world record time for igniting a barbeque grill —three seconds, using charcoal and liquid oxygen.

BIODIVERSITY Chonosuke Okamura of the Okamura Fossil Laboratory in Nagoya, Japan, for discovering the fossils of dinosaurs, horses, dragons, princesses, and more than 1000 other extinct "mini-species," each of which is less than 1/100 of an inch in length. [For details see the series "Reports of the Okamura Fossil Laboratory," published by the Okamura Fossil Laboratory in Nagoya, Japan during the 1970's and 1980's.]

LITERATURE The editors of the journal "Social Text," for eagerly publishing research that they could not understand, that the author said was meaningless, and which claimed that reality does not exist. [The paper was "Transgressing the Boundaries: Toward a Transformative Hermeneutics of Quantum Gravity," Alan Sokal, "Social Text," Spring/Summer 1996, pp. 217-252.]

ECONOMICS Dr. Robert J. **Genco** of the University of Buffalo for his discovery that "financial strain is a risk indicator for destructive periodontal disease."

ART Don Featherstone of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, for his ornamentally evolutionary invention, the plastic pink flamingo.

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**The Taxonomy
of Barney**

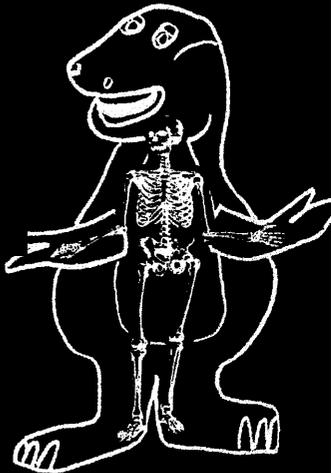


Figure 1. Composite image of Barney showing external morphology and skeletal structure.

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