



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

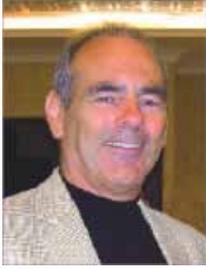
URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://urantia-uai.org)

Nº 53 ■ JAN—APR 2012



Reach out for truth photo

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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI and readers of Tidings,

AS UAI IS GROWING AND moving in the accomplishment of its mission, it needs your help. Not only do we need your help to finance some very important projects, but also to contribute to the sponsorship program, so we can provide the opportunity for people coming from many parts of the world to go to the UAI worldwide conference that will take place in Colombia in April of this year.

Many of our members have been praying to come to an International Conference for many years, but due to a lack of funds, it was out of their reach. With your help, you can make their dream come true, and who knows what it will do for them once they go back to their own country. I know more than one person who got the motivation spark from one of those conferences, and from that got more involved in the work of their association.

You already know that the 8th UAI International Conference will be held in Medellín, Columbia, at the end of April. This is a first time event in South America and historical in nature, it is a rare opportunity to participate in such an event and you should not miss it. Colombia, and certainly Medellín, is a beautiful city with many sights to see and people to meet, especially the members of the many associations making the National Urantia Association of Colombia, and many others coming from the adjoining countries.

Regarding the ISB business, we have been involved in resolutions pertaining to Endowment Funds to provide for the future financial needs of UAI and the Joint Calendar of Events, consisting of an initiative to create a website where the activities of all three major organizations – Urantia Foundation, Urantia Association International, and Urantia Fellowship, will be posted. We are seeking a replacement of the Study Group Chair, Caio Gabriel, who resigned from his position for personal and professional reasons. We are also eagerly awaiting the replacement of the Conference Chair.



As I am writing this message, the Representative Council is voting on the resolution for the Joint Calendar of Events. No doubt the resolution has passed by this time. The next thing on its agenda is the election of the new Conference

Chair that should find its resolution before the end of March. Furthering the spread of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* through volunteer service in the ISB is a great opportunity for many of you to gain valuable experience of service at a different level of commitment. I pray and hope that next year, when we do have our regular elections, many nominations will come from countries in Europe, Africa and South America.

Enjoy your reading, and please write something about your study group or your association and send it to our editor, Federico Folchi at: federicofolchi@gmail.com. You will be surprised at how much it will help others in starting or attending a study group or stimulate participation in their association.

In spirit of brotherhood,
Gaétan G. Charland
President UAI

Gaétan.charland3721@videotron.ca ☐

TIDINGS

From Associations
Around Urantia

Tidings is a bi-monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings.

The Urantia Book online:

<http://www.urantia.org/en/urantia-book/read>

You may submit articles about *The Urantia Book*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision.

Editor: Federico Folchi

federicofolchi@gmail.com

Spanish Translation: Olga López,

olopez65@gmail.com

Portuguese Translation: Ricardo Machado,

mail@ricardomachado.eu

French Translation: Line St-Pierre and collaborators

line.stpierre3721@videotron.ca

Page Layout: Federico Folchi and Verner Verass

You may submit images for possible use on the cover to:

federicofolchi@gmail.com

Tidings archives:

<http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/>

Submissions limited to 700 words (one page) or 1400 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos. Deadline by the 15th of every 2nd month.



Introduction to Boulder Youth



JAMES WOODWARD
USA
tbandg@friendlyuniverse.org

FIRST MET MICHAEL MACISSAC ABOUT fifteen years ago at a UAI conference and we quickly became friends. He was the only person his age in attendance and I was drawn to his outgoing manner and appreciated his solid grasp of The Urantia Book. He kept asking us, "Where are your kids? Where are all the other young readers?"

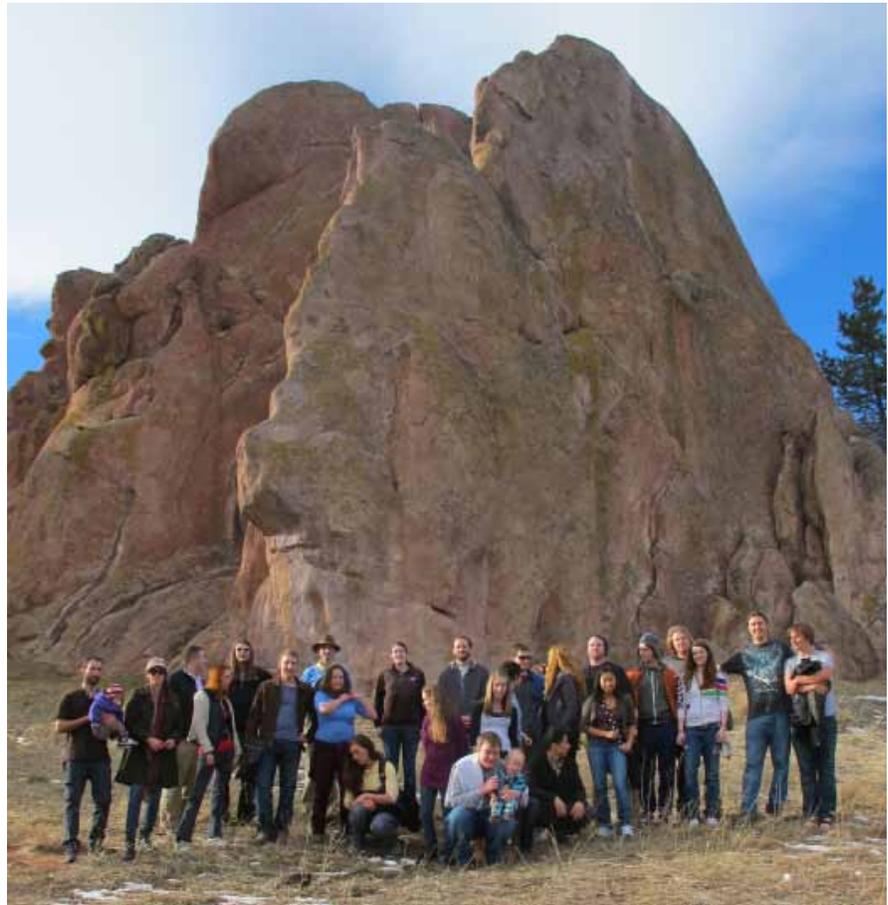
At that time I could see the fire of motivation burning in Mike. He was already jotting down phone numbers and email addresses of our kids or young readers we might know. He wanted to establish contacts and to develop relationships with those who shared his experience of being a second-generation reader.

Watching Mike turn his motivation into a worldwide youth network has been a real joy. Along the way I've been privileged to meet amazing young people, study with them, support them, and just hang out with them. Youthful energy, especially when it's inspired by a new revelation, is a wonderful tonic for the spirit.

When Mike invited me to join the group of young readers he was assembling in Boulder, I thought, "They don't need an old dude like me there." But so many of my young friends made plans to attend that I did too.

There was something else I wanted to see firsthand – Mike was organizing this event in cooperation with the new Youth and Young Adult (YaYA) Committee of the Fellowship. There was going to be a cross-section of second-generation readers in Boulder whose parents had leaned in different directions during "the split."

The good news is that the youth who are emerging into active service are not interested in the politics of an older generation. They may have inherited certain viewpoints through family association but they've grown



Urantia Youth Group meeting in Boulder, Colorado

up in a divided community and are sensitive to the spirit unity of all Urantia Book readers.

I came away from the gathering refreshed by new friendships, reunions, good food and music, and the feeling of the rock group who sang, "The kid's are alright." Boulder was a turning point — young readers are ready and willing to take charge of their sub-culture. Mike remains a leading force, capable and respected, but others are stepping up to service in ways that will bear out in coming seasons.

This event also saw both UAI and the Fellowship financially supporting the next generation of leaders. Clearly, fostering youth leadership is important and maybe, like the Study Group Portal, we have another opportunity to develop cooperative service that benefits all. It would be cool indeed if the youth helped us grow beyond the conflicts of the past as they exercise their own deserved sense of autonomy.

James Woodward USA.

Young Generation Conference



MIKE MACISAAC

Sweden

mmacisaac@gmail.com
video-tron.ca



THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE the Jan 13-16 younger generations conference so awesome!

The mid-January younger generations conference in Boulder, Colorado was well attended and went superbly. The Friday to Monday program included a rich variety of activities. A large number of visitors also arrived early and stayed late for additional days of friendship-deepening great times. The weekend included a variety of group-readings, workshops, presentations and discussions having to do with spiritual living, community and more intimately getting to know each other. We also went on a short hike overlooking central Boulder, engaged in hilarious improvisational exercises, experienced a guided meditation, went to Chris Halvorson's Friday night class <http://perfectinghorizons.org/>, enjoyed the Outlook hotel's atrium with pool and hot tub, and made the most of opportunities for nocturnal socializing. One highlight was the large potluck event to which local readers of all generations were invited. It included inspiring short talks from locals as well as young visitors and music by the UB-inspired composer Stockhausen which was played by a highly skilled young professor of music theory.

It was awesome to reconnect with old friends as well as to get to know several young and dedicated Urantia students who were thrilled to be participating in something of this nature for the first time. Some other participants were new to the UB and it was encouraging to see their enthusiasm and how they found the event so inspiring. Another highlight for me was the magic brought to us by the adorable one-year-olds that were with us throughout the weekend as we explored deep topics. The days were filled



Urantia Youth member preparing to start the conference

with awesome conversations and the joys of old and new friendships.

Everything nonspiritual in human experience, excepting personality, is a means to an end. Every true relationship of mortal man with other persons — human or divine — is an end in itself. (p. 1228)

I initially envisioned this mid January event to be rather small and mostly for friends that were not able to come to the previous October one in Boulder. While both the October and January conferences for younger generations in Boulder were equally wonderful, inspiring, and joyous, what caught me by surprise about this event was the comparatively robust turnout — about twice the number of participants came from out of state compared to the previous gathering! We enjoyed twenty-four such visitors — one baby, one baby-boomer, two late-teens, and twenty people in their twenties or thirties. Quite a few dear friends travelled from Kansas, four made the trip from California, four from NYC, while others journeyed from Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin. An additional twenty four readers from their teens to thirties (as well as babies and kids) that live in Colorado participated to varying extents depending on their schedules and interest levels. I've organized numerous young reader events since the late 90's and since there are so few active young readers in North America, attracting participants is always the greatest challenge and what I put the most work into. This conference for younger readers turned out to be much larger than any I've seen in the fifteen years since I

became active in the movement, which was rather surprising especially considering that it took place in mid-January!

An encouraging development that helped in the task of attracting young, spiritually motivated individuals is that some who were kids when I was fostering community in the past are now active readers, a 'new batch' of mostly second-generation young readers has arrived on the scene! This includes the "YaYA" (Youth and Young Adult) Committee of the Fellowship, which is a relatively new team working to foster the younger generations of readers. I've recently become active with the YaYA Committee, and their input, encouragement, and attendance (five Committee members came) brought unique and priceless dynamism to this event. I want thank Angie Thurston, Tony Finstad, and the rest of the Committee for their help and support!

The YaYA Committee also contributed funds toward scholarships and event expenses which went a long way toward making it possible for us to have such a large group. The past events and young reader tours I've organized have not benefited from budgets for scholarships and so forth. When YaYA voted to devote money toward this event, I decided to also ask Urantia Association International if they would be willing and able to also assist with a few travel scholarships for young readers. This resulted in a handful of individuals also donating assistance to support this event via UAI. I want to thank James Woodward, David Linthicum, Rick Lyon, Arnie Ondis, and an anonymous donor for their contributions which >>

Young Generation Conference cont.



All the group having a beer together



Urantia Youth conference

were enormously helpful! Scholarships, which typically covered about half of travel expenses for those in need, made it possible for half a dozen young people to come who otherwise would not have been able to afford it. Had it not been for this assistance, we would also not have been able to accommodate so many young people coming from out of state. As it worked out, we were able to get some rooms at an inexpensive hotel that also served as an ideal location for some of our workshops and socializing! We who took part in this momentous gathering are deeply grateful for the support!

I want to thank Rocky Mountain Spiritual Fellowship and the numerous Colorado readers who participated in the Saturday evening potluck event and helped make this and other parts of the conference wonderful, including Chris and Cydney Riggio, Chris and Cady Halvorson, Paula Thompson, Andre Radatus, Claire Thurston, and Laura Hay. Part of this conference was held at Laura Hay's beautiful home which was also the case in October. Thank you Laura for having us again and for the amazing meals! I also wish to thank Don Green, who maintains a Urantia club and booth at the University of Colorado, for booking rooms for both of the recent young reader events in Boulder. Finally, thanks to everyone who made it a priority to come to Boulder and contributed their unique perspectives and personalities!

Geoff Theiss, a young reader who attended, has written about his experience here:



Young generation conference group

<http://urantianow.com/building-community/>

We aim to keep the momentum from these great experiences going. I'm excited to be working with the YaYA committee and others to organize several similar gatherings for this July. Keep an eye out for information on a conference in Berlin as well as a young reader event in Chicago!

Your brother,
Mike MacIsaac ☐

The Annual One Thousand Dollar Club address on Facebook



GAÉTAN CHARLAND
President UAI
Gaétan.charland3721@videotron.ca



THE IDEA MOTIVATING THIS initiative is the desire to provide UAI with the funds necessary to accomplish its mission without the continuous task of juggling the budget and undertaking so many costly and time consuming fundraising activities every year. Today and for many years UAI has had to struggle to meet organizational operating expenses and to fund services and projects for the accomplishment of its mission because of lack of funds. Many projects of significant importance for the management of its many associations worldwide have been postponed year after year and are still part of a wish list. In fact, the number of projects pending in the wish list is growing every year.

UAI is expanding worldwide every year. The demands made on its meager funds are increasing exponentially and if this situation continues, UAI may be unable to accomplish the mission it is tasked to do. The number of contributors is also limited due to the redistribution of wealth worldwide and this in itself is producing increased stress on our usual ways of gathering needed funds. Currently, UAI funding is provided by donations from individual members themselves with only a very limited number of national associations contributing to UAI.

It would only take a small amount of generous contributors to make UAI free from the chains of shortage. As it stands, UAI has a very small yearly income of no more than \$40,000. For UAI to function properly as a worldwide organization it would need at minimum \$100,000 per year not only to be efficient, but also to provide for the future. The consequences of a lack of funding cannot be measured just in dollars or pending projects, but will also result in our failure to progressively provide through our members and as an organization the 'good news' which

our world of darkness and growing tensions so urgently needs.

When we think about what \$1000 could do when it is multiplied by 50, 60 or a 100, our imagination can become very creative when focused in areas of service. My goal is to recruit 100 members or readers who will give repeatedly \$1000 a year either as a lump sum payment or through monthly regular donations. There are among us people who can and could be that generous. Here are a few things that could be done with the proper amount of funds:

- Updating and providing a self maintain and self-service database to our many chartered associations and to our members.

- Creating an intranet website to serve all of our associations.

- Renewing our UAI website and providing hosting facilities for all of our association websites as well as templates and forums in their own languages.

- Provide email format for our Tidings newsletter and the Journal.

- Provide the Journal to all of our members in electronic or paper format in their own languages.

- Provide *The Urantia Book* to associations or readers in countries where needed.

- Provide financial assistance for dissemination programs where requested or needed.

- Provide help and funds necessary to participate in book fair activities across the world.

- Produce, publish and provide educational materials for study groups and readers.

- Develop, publish and provide training materials for board members of local and national associations.

- Support Urantia youth activities.

- Develop, publish and provide training materials for study group hosts.

- Provide sponsorship to some of our members or certain readers so they can participate in conferences or symposiums.

- Provide sufficient financial support for the growing demands and the many tasks required of the Executive Administrator of UAI.

- Provide traveling assistance to ISB members to visit local and national associations worldwide and to participate in ISB face to face meetings once a year.

- Provide assistance for travel expenses to future and potential ISB members from countries without financial resources.

- Provide financial help to the Urantia Foundation for its work in translation and publishing.

This list of administration or essential mission projects is not exhaustive; there are many items in the UAI yearly budget that need additional funds. As the number of readers increases in the poorest countries of the world, more funds will be needed to help them create and foster study groups. Are we ready and willing to take the challenge that is facing us? I would like to believe that in UAI we have the potential to take a firm and unequivocal hold on the opportunities this Revelation is providing.

What would it cost you to give \$1,000 every year? That is just \$83.33 every month, or \$20.43 a week, or \$2.77 a day, or even better, \$0.34 an hour for an 8 hour a day work schedule.

What could you do with such an amount? One or two meals at a nice restaurant, a few bottles of wine, a few packs of cigarettes, a couple cups of coffee a day, or maybe a few more things you would probably not remember a day or two later. But think of how much good you could do when your donation is combined with the >>

Thousand Dollar Club cont.

generosity of others like you — more things than we could ever imagine. The actions are ours, the consequences are God’s.

What would it represent for you as an individual to give such a regular amount?

Perhaps it is the satisfaction that you are contributing to the unfolding of a Revelation on our planet.

The knowledge that your money is helping to bring good to a world in darkness.

The assurance that you are participating in a project that will have meaning far into the future of this planet.

The unending benefits that selfless generosity carries with it.

The rewards of being in service with others, as well as the many gifts that are not of this world.

How to do it? Very easy! Go to the UAI website at this address:

<http://urantia-uai.org/paypaldonation.htm> and choose your method of payment.

Or send me an email at this address: president.uai@gmail.com and I will help you find a way to become a member of The Annual One Thousand Dollar Club.

Once you become a member, every year we will send you the UAI Annual Report so you are informed how your generous gift was used. We will also send you a hard copy of the Journal and Tidings every time they are published so you stay connected to the planetary projects your contribution helped to fund.

Join with me and many others by being part of this initiative. Become a member of The Annual One Thousand Dollar Club and help UAI and *The Urantia Book* accomplish its worldwide mission to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception.

“It is more blessed to givet han to receive.”

Said he, **“Freely you have received, freely give.”**

In spirit of brotherhood

Gaetan G. Charland
President UAI □

AUQ Annual General Meeting Report



GUY LAPORTE
Vice-President AUQ
Urantia Association of Quebec
glaporte07@gmail.com



Urantia Québec Association 2012 AGM- Annual General Meeting

HELLO DEAR READERS, would like to share with you a few details related to our last annual general meeting held in Drummondville, Québec, Canada on February 5 at the Le Dauphin Hotel.

The favorable road conditions, in cold temperature but with a sunny exposure, allowed some 23 persons to be present — a clear improvement over the previous year.

This annual rendezvous was comprised of two parts; the general assembly held in AM and an after lunch session of sharing.

The daily agenda included the presentation of various administrative factors such as: the reading and adoption of the minutes of our former general assembly, exposing the activity report for year 2011, exposing the ratified resolutions for 2011 as well as the financial statement.

In our association, the board members are elected within a general assembly. Assignments are for a two year period and may be renewed for a second term if the open position is without new proposals. This year, the open seats were for the replacement of Maurice Migneault, Secretary, and for Guy Laporte, Vice-president.

The outcome resulted with the election of a new Secretary in the person of Eric Martel and the re-election of Guy Laporte as Vice-president — a special BRAVO to Eric who represents the type of desired replacement.

For 2012, the AUQ governing board is thus structured as follows : Gaétan G. Charland, President — Guy Laporte, Vice-president — Éric Martel, Secretary — Luciano Camellini, Treasurer and, as Communication Chair, Line St-Pierre.

By way of thankfulness for Maurice Migneault, I captured Luciano Camellini’s words which well express our team’s consideration — “I would like to thank Maurice



Governing Board members for 2012

for the gigantic efforts he afforded to the advancement and progress of the Urantia movement through his involvement within the governing board. At every meeting, I was awed in witnessing his determination (as well as Line’s delicious home cooking), it has been an honor and a great pleasure to work with you. I’m certain you will always be with us even if this means... simply archiving our business. I thank you with all my heart, brother.”

After an excellent noonday lunch at the Le Dauphin Hotel, we returned to our meeting room to initiate an ultra-nourishing activity for the soul. Indeed, we were privileged to hear from six readers, what their encounter with *The Urantia Book* had procured them. One by one, we listened to: Rolande L. Martin, Guy Laporte, Luciano Camellini, Maurice Migneault, Guy Martin and Madeleine Boisvert.

This sharing exercise was a first as a supplement to an annual general assembly. I thank everyone who willingly and lovingly shared.

To love is to serve.
Guy Laporte, AUQ Vice-president □

An educational adventure in a study group



GAÉTAN CHARLAND
President UAI
Gaétan.charland3721@videotron.ca

MANY YEARS AGO, AT THE BEGINNING of the Urantia movement, many study groups were created and some readers would visit those groups and give presentations to the students who were attending them. Bill Sadler Jr. was one of those presenters. Today, the local Urantia Association of Quebec is experimenting with this concept and hopes by promoting it, to foster the emergence of teachers/educators.

By encouraging students within study groups to share with other study groups the lessons they have learned, we hope to promote better study of the teachings while offering the study groups a more dynamic alternative than just reading and discussing. The idea is to involve study groups in researching and studying specific topics and have one of their members do a presentation to other study groups on the chosen topic.

In addition, this coming spring the association in Quebec will hold its second meeting dedicated solely to study groups. The goal of the meeting will be to search for ways to improve study groups, to set goals and develop the strategies necessary to accomplish the goals. Building presentations within a study group and sharing them with other groups is only one of the ideas that will be explored during this meeting.

CONTRIBUTE TO UAI

To support the work of UAI please send your contribution to:

Urantia Association International
559 W. Diversey Parkway #351
Chicago, IL 60614-7640
UNITED STATES

The actual hosts of study groups and the board members of the association will be invited to this meeting. This initiative is also intended as an exploration of the ways a local association can serve and foster study groups without politicizing them. Not only can an association foster and serve study groups, but it can also look for ways to improve how they are hosted and organized so they are more dynamic and fulfilling to their members.

Our second experiment with presentations happened at my regular weekly study group. I had invited one reader who was prepared to give a presentation on Paradise and answer questions the participants might have. The experience was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the presentation and participated actively by asking many questions and offering their own views. From this experience, many left with a better understanding of the difficult concepts about Paradise, time and space and the part that God plays in all of this. The presenter did his best in building his presentation by giving meaningful values to the teachings. We hope to have him do his presentation to many more study groups.

We currently have 16 study groups in our region of Canada, so we have a lot of work to do to increase that number and the quality of teaching and learning within them. We hope by sharing this information that others will be motivated to explore ways to foster and improve study groups and to form new groups in their area.

Please share your experience with and within study groups, by telling us the ways your association has found to serve and foster study groups. We all need to learn from each other's experiences, so we can grow in wisdom while promoting the mission of the revelation.

In spirit of brotherhood
Gaetan G.Charland
Quebec, Canada □



IN MEMORIAM

Vern Grimsley



VERN BENNOM GRIMSLEY WAS BORN in Garden City, Kansas, December 22nd 1940, and Died in California in December 2011.

I did not know Vern Grimsley personally, but I heard many good things about him and had the opportunity of listening to many of his speeches that were sent to me on CDs by a good friend of him. From what I have learned, Vern did what he believes he should be doing and this is more than many of us can say about ourselves. Vern took the Revelation seriously and gave his life proclaiming the Gospel, I am sure that his actions will reverberate in the far future of this Revelation for the actions are ours but the consequences to God.

I pray the Father to bless the family and those who were close to Vern and who are in needs of comfort in these times of sorrow.

In spirit of brotherhood
Gaétan G. Charland □

To those who didn't know Vern or his capabilities, go here for his entire collection of speeches and radio broadcast/audio history: <http://www.truthbook.com/index.cfm?linkID=1676>

Victory is the ultimate, valid, and inevitable word that must be employed to refer to the overall achievements of this new honors graduate of the urantia school of Benign but testing experiences. he who was educated most broadly—religiously—lost no time in establishing and expanding a now famously legendary, systematic, global outreach radio broadcasting network. my accolades are emphatic in referring to Great, grand, and good numbers of those radio-listeners who were blessed to hear insights, truths, and values they would have missed entirely without vern's efforts and those so effectively matched by his coworkers. joy, love, and eternal sonship were beamed out to ever-greater numbers as vern's ministry expanded. you'll do well to emulate his **victorious** achievements!

David E Glass
January 2, 2012 □