

THE MACARTHUR ASSOCIATES

by John Luther, R. Jay Magill and
William Coleman

www.john-luther.com

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO, IL – The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation—with generous support from Amazon.com®, Earth’s Biggest Selection™ of books, music, DVDs, toys, games, auctions, e-cards, software, tools, lawn & patio, kitchens, shoes, surgical supplies, industrial abrasives, mercenary soldiers, and Far-Eastern esoterica—invites you to join us in congratulating the 2003 MacArthur Fellows Program Runners-Up, or, as we call them, the “MacArthur Associates.”

Although not as lucrative as the full \$500,000 MacArthur Fellowship (a.k.a., the “Genius Grant”), MacArthur Associate are generously compensated. Each Associate receives a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, as well as a \$100 gift certificate to Amazon.com®, Earth’s Biggest Selection™ of books, music, DVDs, toys, games, auctions, e-cards, software, tools, lawn & patio, kitchens, shoes, surgical supplies, industrial abrasives, mercenary soldiers, and Far-Eastern esoterica.

Congratulations, Associates!

DR. ULRIKA CHASE, WESTERN OREGON OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

Though hers is by no means a household name, Dr. Chase assures us that the results of her work will someday be found, ironically enough, in every American household.

“This only proves that my egg research is profoundly relevant,” she said upon learning that she nearly won a MacArthur Fellowship. “Throughout the coming week, I and my staff will use this generous gift to develop next-generation applications for our technology, starting with the ingenious ‘Yolk-mobile’ prototype.

“Indeed,” she continued, “I look forward to the day when I humiliate my jealous, eavesdropping, drunken, physically unattractive colleagues and those narrow-minded industry dolts who insist that humankind will never see an automobile propelled solely by the planet’s most abundant renewable resource: eggs and egg by-products.”

Our advisory board soon determined that Dr. Chase is a raving psychotic. We attempted to nullify her award, but after receiving written threats of violence our legal counsel advised us to let her keep the savings bond.

We wish Dr. Chase the best of luck, but also remind her that several restraining orders are in place.

SHEILA HERMAN, FLOOR SUPERVISOR, T. J. MAXX

Sheila Herman was ten years old when she conceived a Weapons Defense System made entirely of Nerf. Championed in the Senate by Dan Quayle, the Nerf Defense System (NerDS) called for a giant Nerf barrier above the continental United States. “A Nerf cozy, if you will,” as Sen. Quayle described it during his fifty-four hour filibuster in 1986, during which he also recited the list of ingredients in a bar of Snickers, read into the record entire transcripts from Murphy Brown, and sang an incredible four hundred and eight verses of “Kumbaya.” While many snickering Senators responded in kind—“Someone’s bored, Lord, Kumbaya”—thers critiqued NerDS on its merits: at one particularly tense moment in the debate, Orrin Hatch thundered, “But, my esteemed colleague, what of rain?! Wouldn’t such a system grow heavy and crush us?”

Despite the controversy, NerDS garnered a remarkable two votes in the Senate. Sheila, now 31, refuses to speak of NerDS, and, according to our accountants, has still not redeemed her gift certificate.

DR. ENGLEBERT FINKENBEINER, EASTERN OREGON ACCIDENTAL COLLEGE

Dr. Finkenbeiner is best known for his work in the field of particle acceleration; he was the first to propose a vast, technically intricate machine to propel subatomic particles, thereby rejecting a previous theory that one could coax them toward light speed with a hockey stick. Dr. Finkenbeiner is also a world-class puppeteer, an international lecturer on “Tron,” and a former assistant manager at Portland City Radio Shack, where he exposed the notorious Tandy monopoly in ¼-inch stereo cables.

ROBERT RUBEMAN, UNEMPLOYED

Poet Robert Rubeman’s first fifty chapbooks won the First Fifty Chapbook prize in 1984. Since then, he has published one book of poems, followed immediately by the release of his “Poems I Wrote Last Year: Collected Poems, 2002-End of 2002.” He has recently completed a book of criticism--

to be published by the University of Michigan Poets on Poetry Series this fall—entitled: “How I Select Poems for Collected Poems.” Later today, Rubeman’s e-mail Listserver will distribute his “Poems I Revised This Year: Poems Old and New, 2000-2002.”

JONATHAN SCHMENK, INTROVERT

Jonathan Schmenk has been painting for well over twenty minutes. When we heard about Mr. Schmenk’s genius four minutes ago (an anonymous tipster rhapsodized on his “faux pseudo-ness and colorful use of the color red”), we convened an emergency conference-call and rushed a check to the artist’s door via bonded courier pigeon. As of one minute ago, we have been assured that he is completing his first masterpiece. Mr. Schmenk, that is, not the pigeon. The pigeon squandered his grant on skittles and hot dog buns.

JIM GRIMES, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

When historians write the book on urban housing of the ‘00s, we are confident that MacArthur Associate Jim Grimes will be the cover-boy. His innovative “shoe housing,” inspired, he says, “by some nursery rhyme I heard once,” is poised to change the face of the urban landscape. According to a report issued by H.U.D., Prof. Grimes “represents a disturbing trend in America—his idea that people should be herded into giant shoes is utterly reprehensible and ridiculous. Prof. Grimes’s work, if not outright illegal, is certainly immoral, and must be stopped at all costs.” According to another report, however, provided by Prof. Grimes’s legal team, “Jim Grimes is a true visionary, in the most true-and good- vision-implying sense of the word.” We agree.

JAY MARTIN, SELF-DESCRIBED “LADY SLAYER”

Now that the human genetic code has been mapped and sequenced, what next? Well, if Human Genome Project intern and MacArthur Associate Jay Martin has his way, each individual gene will soon receive corporate sponsorship. Nike™ has expressed interest in branding the chromosome responsible for muscle growth (as well as acne, hair loss, and impotence). As we said

in our MacArthur Associates brochure, “Martin’s marketing savvy takes the word savvy to new heights, where it meets the word genius and becomes gavvy™.”

Our generous award, if wisely invested, might enable Martin to train and mobilize anti-anti-globalist militias and secure a crackerjack legal team, including five members of the Supreme Court. Pretty gavvy™. ♣