
WIZARD'S END

Posted by bulldust - 2018/03/06 10:42

Eleven-thousand words is a lot for the Bullmeister to wrap his horns around without going all bleary-eyed and needing a beer. That topped with fifty thousand misspellings of "œcan not" and it makes it tough to focus.

But it was a decent weekend, and the Bull got some crap done. Although, the poultry flock was aggravating as hell, freaking beaky bitches. We had some words about my stuff and who can peck at it. Let's just say, the Bull is low on patience for creatures that break other people's stuff. But that is a story for another day. The Bull will try to be open-minded on this long, badly-formatted cap.

I mean this is a formatting nightmare, extra spaces, and lines

The cap is confusing, jumping around. Random segments are inserted like this commentary from Igor regarding a heist in Miami and some peanut butter thing with Bigfoot. The diversion derailed the little bit of focus I had on the cap up to that point. But I regained my resolve and tried again.

Then I got to this:

Now, what I've done is to put an opposite pair of magnetic monopoles on the two particles. When they collapse you also have the energy created and released by the reuniting of those. It's important that a tiny black hole also appears in their neighborhood. That pushes the system toward a net production of energy and, with luck, there will be a chain reaction. This might really be important as a new energy source.

And:

The machine in question was on the second floor with the giant magnets which held toroids of plasma in place, trapping the virtual particles.

First, let's talk the production of monopoles.

- 1) Monopoles have not existed since before the big bang.
- 2) The amount of energy needed to create a monopole is larger than we have the capacity to generate. Unless we want to just suck all the energy from the sun and surrounding stars, but you really can't do that in a lab in a three-story building. You would need a huge facility to do this. Something like, I don't know, a power plant, a supercollider. This would not be something unobtrusive and quiet.

Let's talk about scale.

- 1) How exactly are you going to attach a constituent of matter that doesn't normally exist in this universe to a particle?
- 2) What kind of particle are we talking about? Quarks? Leptons? Bosons?

Let's talk containment.

- 1) How do the magnets contain the tiny black hole? How is the plasma and subsequent chain reaction kept in check? (Well, I guess it isn't because containment is lost further down the story).
- 2) How is energy harvested from this reaction?
- 3) Virtual particles are non-energetic to the point of NOT actually producing any discernible energy levels.

The Bull has very strong feelings about people misusing science. Stretching concepts is one thing. Spewing Tyson like gibberish is another. The Bull will not abide bad science!

The Bull is done with the physics portion of this cap review.

The conversation bounced around. It was like a cracked out Beatles movie without the wit.

Okay. I'm being an asshole. I get that. However, this cap is really long and really sloppy. Even with the bad pop science, it could be fully entertaining. The spacing, the commas, the spelling all need to be checked thoroughly. If you tighten this up, it could be cool. As is, no.

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Re:WIZARD'S END

Posted by rockefeller - 2018/03/07 10:33

Last month Rocks invented a handheld device that, powered only by a couple AA batteries, could sink an aircraft carrier. Actually, with a little refinement, you could use it to vaporize the moon, even the sun. Theoretically you could destroy the universe if it weren't for the fact that even the release of a nigh infinite amount of kinetic energy would still only expand out at c , and the universe, now mathematically considered to be infinite in size and mass, is expanding way faster. But it'd still make a decent solar system, maybe even galaxy (if you don't mind waiting a long time) buster. Rocks was very proud of his little invention which emits three (a low, middle and high frequency) low-energy, very narrow (nanometer) laser beams, whose interference patterns when they converge will transform with near 100 percent probability their ripples in the electromagnetic field into at least one in the Higgs-boson field: i.e., one "God particle." Every physicist wannabe knows this is the virtual particle that lends baryonic matter mass, and that even an infinitesimal mass with a relative velocity of c 's kinetic energy approaches infinity. Boom! Yeah. Expect a bidding war between the Chinese, who've been working on this sort of thing for decades, and the Russians. (US's credit's no good.)

So, needless to say, Rocks had no problem with the "science" in this Wizard SF. Maybe he's slipping, but he also had no problem with the spelling or grammar (except that it seemed to want for more contractions). Even the voice was tight. But there were things that made for a too long and, eventually, too fast read. For Rocks, it read like a Gibson/Adams hybrid, but with most of the edge off each. The humor seemed at odds with and to detract from what was at stake. Much telling by the narrator of how scared and anxious he felt regarding his (seemingly voluntary?) abduction, distracted from the proposed threat of the entire universe slipping into another dimension, and left Rocks caring not much about either (the universe or the MC). The metafictional insert, albeit very well done and in a distinct voice, seemed to belong to another cap.

In Cixin's Death's End, an advanced alien entity fires a "dual force vector" at our sun. Just a tiny slip of paper moving at near c , able to pass through spaceships and people's heads. Seemingly benign. But when its containment field eventually evaporates, it explodes outward at c compressing our three dimensions into two, flattening our solar system. Really, flattening everything, except that (as already mentioned) the speed of light is downright sluggish, almost static, in the context of the universe. There is nothing funny about any of this. But it was, for Rocks, thought provoking and entertaining.

Humor, like sex, is highly subjective and context dependent. For Rocks, this cap's silly humor and serious SF concepts and consequences mostly cancelled each other out. He did kind of like the ending, in which it seemed the universe had indeed slipped into some alternate dimension or reality in which the narrator's wife had never left him. Like, maybe this sort of thing happens all the time. How would we know? Change the past and you change our memory of it. Some real solipsistic shit there.

So, overall, an erudite, intelligent and well penned work, but that scored low on entertainment here. But hey, if writing were easy, everyone would do it... okay, bad example. But the VC surely knows how subjective and conditional reading is, and hopefully will accept the Rockmonster's "No" here in this vein.

Re:WIZARD'S END

Posted by bulldust - 2018/03/07 15:26

rockefeller wrote:

"Last month Rocks invented a handheld device that, powered only by a couple AA batteries, could sink an aircraft carrier. Actually, with a little refinement, you could use it to vaporize the moon, even the sun. Theoretically you could destroy the universe if it weren't for the fact that even the release of a nigh infinite amount of kinetic energy would still only expand out at c , and the universe, now mathematically considered to be infinite in size and mass, is expanding way faster. But it'd still make a decent solar system, maybe even galaxy (if you don't mind waiting a long time) buster. Rocks was very proud of his little invention which emits three (a low, middle and high frequency) low-energy, very narrow (nanometer) laser beams, whose interference patterns when they converge will transform with near 100 percent probability their ripples in the electromagnetic field into at least one in the Higgs-boson field: i.e., one "God particle." Every physicist wannabe knows this is the virtual particle that lends baryonic matter mass, and that even an infinitesimal mass with a relative velocity of c 's kinetic energy approaches infinity. Boom! Yeah. Expect a bidding war between the Chinese, who've been working on this sort of thing for decades, and the Russians. (US's credit's no good.)"

You're killing me, brother. Killing me.

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Re:WIZARD'S END

Posted by rockefeller - 2018/03/08 09:08

Okay okay, you got me. It's still kind of in the R&D stage. But my laser fly-swatter is totally patent pending. And don't you and your barnyard babes be trying to steal it on me.

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Re:WIZARD'S END

Posted by bulldust - 2018/03/08 09:39

Really? You're going with the "laser fly-swatter"? Not plasma? I was sure you'd go for the plasma beam to keep up with the Joses.

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Re:WIZARD'S END

Posted by rockefeller - 2018/03/08 10:02

Hmmm... might be overkill. The Rocks is all about safety. Don't wanna fry your tail along with the blue bottles.

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