

## In Memory of Quin Wells

*The following minute was written by Dr. Andrew Murray, Quin Wells' supervisor at the University of California, San Francisco, for the memorial service that was held in California immediately after his passing.*

I can't believe that Quin is gone, and that I won't turn a corner again to see Quin's long frame leaned against a wall in deep discussion of a topic ranging from the mysteries of the cell cycle to the perfect system for winning money at the horse track. In the breadth and scope of his mind, Quin was always looking for some novel angle that would render an intractable problem prey to an easy and elegant solution.

Quin's relationship with the world was not always an easy one, and he often used his mischievous sense of humor to bridge the gap. Yesterday we talked over his influence on the lab; someone remembered his proposal to introduce a clown and a live chicken to the lab at 3 PM each day to speed us through the doldrums of mid-afternoon. Perhaps the time has come to find the chicken and send it cackling down the corridors and amongst the benches to remind us of what could have been.

What I will remember most about Quin was his pursuit of a dream, the perfect approach to the perfect problem. On the day he died I saw that vision on the front of a T-shirt: a human atop a pyramid, leaning precariously outward to grasp a star. Even though in the end the star was out of reach, we will always remember the dignity of his goal and the vastness of his soul and mind, and the courage of his reach.