


## INSIDE...

- 
- 2 From the President: New Directions
- 
- 3 What's New, cont., New Directions, cont.
- 
- 4-5 Gallery of Gatherings
- 
- 6 EXTRO 3 Plans; Members' Publications
- 
- 7 Extropic Art Manifesto; Washington DC Meeting
- 
- 8 Local Events
- 



# EXPROIMENT

## Extropy Institute Newsletter

### WHAT'S NEW

#### Max More and Eric Watt Forste meet with Prof. Paul Churchland

Readers of *Extropy* will be familiar with the work of neurophilosopher Paul Churchland, of the University of California, San Diego. Churchland's important books include *A Neurocomputational Perspective*, *The Engine of Reason*, *The Seat of the Soul* (see *Extropy* #17), and *Matter and Consciousness*—a superb introduction to modern philosophy of mind, informed by neuroscience and AI.

Max More and Eric Watt Forste have been enthusiasts of Prof. Churchland's work. So, when Max got a contract from *Wired* magazine to interview him, the two of them took a trip south. Max and Eric enjoyed a highly stimulating conversation with Paul over lunch in a restaurant room that look appropriately like a library. They were fortunate with meet with the renowned neurophilosopher who was back from Canada only for two days for a neuroscience conference. For a condensed selection of results from the meeting see "Thinking About Thinking, *Wired*, December 1996.

#### HOST: Cryonics, AI, Uploading, Extropy

Looking for an extremely gripping novel that deals with themes like cryonics and uploading? Here it is: *Host* by Peter James. Everyone I know who has picked up this book has had the same experience: it was hard to stop reading at the end of a chapter. Other activities must be put aside while you read this book. Not only is Host su-



perbly constructed as a science thriller, it pays close attention to accurate detail in its treatment of cryonics, AI, and uploading.

Apart from all that, how could I resist a book in which this passage appears:

"He [prof. Joe Messenger] hated pen-pushing and all the bureaucracy that the university demanded from him, and he sifted through the envelopes of the morning's mail with mounting gloom.

"He cheered a little as he came across one that bore the frank of one of his publishers, and might contain reviews of his most recent book, *The Computer That Loved Ben-Hur*. He slit open the envelope and was pleased to see a group of clippings: an interview he'd done with the *Guardian*; a review in *New Scientist*; a more lengthy review in *The Sunday Times*, which he scanned and was reasonably happy with, even though the reviewer appeared to have totally missed the fundamental point of the book. And there was what looked like a rave write-up in a

cont. on p.3

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Max More, Ph.D.

## Mission for the Millennium

The future is coming on strong. To better shape the future in extropic directions Extropy Institute is refocusing and renewing its activities. ExI will seek to extend its reach as the premier futurist intellectual, entrepreneurial, and cultural networking organization.

1997 will see some major changes in ExI. We will be developing more than ever our network of thinkers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and communicators. Forming the core of our reshaped mission, networking will bring together individuals of diverse interests but shared extropic values to hasten research and development of the technologies crucial to life extension, intelligence increase, and our other goals involving overcoming biological limits. Exactly how will our revised and strengthened focus affect our activities? The first item you will want to know about is the transformation of *Extropy* magazine:

## Extropy Moves to the Web

In its 8½ years of existence, *Extropy* has grown from a print run of 50 to 4,500, and from a small, brief, basic publication to a 68-page, full-size, color cover, well designed magazine. Among *Extropy's* subscribers are leading researchers, top executives of major technology corporations, teachers, students, entrepreneurs, and others comprising an exceptionally bright and unusual readership.

Despite these advances, *Extropy* has been held back by limited resources, both in finance and personnel. To overcome these limits and to make use of a natural medium for the spread of extropian thinking, we are moving *Extropy* to the Web. A natural medium for an extropian publication, the Web will make possible a great reduction in production costs. We will no longer have to deal with printers and distributors, and collaboration by the editorial and production teams should

# NEW DIRECTIONS

become easier, allowing us to produce *Extropy* more frequently.

The Web should allow *Extropy* to reach a far larger audience. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of the publication's contents, massive cross-linking and so heavy traffic should be generated. The presence of *Extropy* on the ExI Web site will also boost regular surfing of our site. This should increase awareness of the Institute and its programs.

Despite the anticipated reduction in time spent dealing with the production of the magazine, due to my having less time available, *Extropy* is developing a new, more active Editorial Team. If you think you would be good at gathering information, articles, and reviews in a particular field, feel free to apply for the post. Most are currently open. I'd like to welcome some new editors to the team: Gregory Burch and Wade Cherrington have signed on as Editors-at-Large. David Musick joins us as Extropy Now Editor. David will be responsible for articles and information on practical, personal applications of extropic ideas. Joining us a little earlier was Sean Morgan as Advances Editor. Welcome aboard!

How soon *Extropy* #18 (the first Web edition) will appear depends on how quickly we can assemble the new Editorial Team. At the latest, the first new quarterly issue will appear July 1 1997.

## Filling Out the Mission

ExI has already developed a broad and impressive network. By developing the network further and in new directions, we will accelerate the development of the technologies and the culture that will shape the future. Institute members will benefit by being in the center of this expanding nexus of information, contacts, business organization, research, and social connection. Components of the mission include:

- ◆ The EXTRO conferences. (See p.6 for EXTRO 3 information.)
- ◆ The NodeNet or, more officially, ExI's Scientific, Technical, and Professional Special Interest Groups. (See below.)
- ◆ The Extropy Institute Web Site (ExWeb). This will focus on providing concise information and on connecting individuals and organizations through a mem-

## A NOTE TO NON-MEMBERS

We're mailing this issue of *Exponent*, the Extropy Institute members' newsletter, not only to current members, but also to those whose memberships have expired, and to Extropy subscribers who are not yet members. After reading about our plans for this year and beyond, we hope you'll want to become a member of the Institute. Membership will practically pay for itself if you will attend the EXTRO 3 conference in August. You will also be a part of our effort to bring about an extropian future.

(*Extropy* subscribers will be receiving a letter detailing your options now that *Extropy* will no longer be a paid, paper-based publication.)

- bers' directory, project updates, core essays, and numerous links. The Web site can include archives of focused discussions, reading lists, and listings of local events.
- ◆ Seminars, developed from the NodeNet, will facilitate highly productive contacts and information strongly filtered for quality.
- ◆ We will seek to build up local chapters of the Institute, discussion meetings, dinner gatherings, and action groups.
- ◆ An important part of networking will be cross-fertilization between ExI and organizations with overlapping goals.
- ◆ Our online services, including the Extropians email list, the SIG lists, and local events lists.
- ◆ Social activities.
- ◆ The *Exponent* newsletter which will provide news, information on local events, members' projects, etc.
- ◆ Extropy on the Web.

## NodeNet:

One of our most active members, Gregory Burch, visited England in November '96. There he met several UK Extropians, including Sarah Marr (see photos). Sarah and Greg discussed their desire to see Extropy Institute create new ways to facilitate interaction among researchers working on the advances needed to realize our goals. Soon after his return, globe-trotting Greg visited us here in Southern California for a small gathering of

## WHAT'S NEW from p.1

small California magazine he much admired, called *Extropy*, which pleased him more than anything."

*Host*, by Peter James. (1993, 1995, Villard, New York.) ISBN: 0-679-43733-9

### Proceedings

Yes, the *EXTRO<sup>2</sup> Proceedings* are still in the works. After the previous editor vanished from all communication, Ken Kittlitz (with help from David McFadzean and Sean Morgan) very helpfully volunteered to take over the editing and production of the volume. Good progress is being made. Funding allowing, they should be ready to be printed early in February. The contents will also be available on the Extropy Institute web site.

### Expedition 97

An extropian backpacking trip is being organized for the July 4th holiday in 1997. The current plan is for a trip from July 3 to 7 in the Pecos Wilderness Area near Santa Fe, New Mexico. Greg Burch is coordinating plans for this trip. Don't miss out on this combination of physical exercise, intellectual stimulation, and environmental appreciation. Details can be found at the "official EXpedition 97 web page":

<http://users.aol.com/gburch2/exp97.html>

Greg will be updating interested extropians by e-mail, as well as with regular additions to the web page. If you'd like to stay up to date on plans for the trip, send an e-mail to him at [GBurch1@aol.com](mailto:GBurch1@aol.com) with the term "EXP97" at the beginning of the subject line.

### Russell Whitaker moves to AlphaBlox

Russell recently left Silicon Graphics for his present position as webmaster and co-founder of AlphaBlox Corporation, an internet component software company in Mountain View, California. AlphaBlox is funded, in part, by Netscape Corporation and by the Java Fund.

### Weekend Meeting

Many of you, especially if you're online, will be familiar with a trio of ExI's Canadian members: David McFadzean, who runs ExI's email lists, and has generously offered to host other electronic services; Sean Morgan, editor of the excellent Breakthrough! online newsletter; and Ken Kittlitz, along with the



Los Angeles gathering, Nov 16-17. Greg Burch, Eric Watt Forste, Ken Kittlitz, Nick Szabo, Sean Morgan, Max More, David McFadzean. (Natasha Vita More behind camera.)

others (and Duane Hewitt) an architect of Idea Futures on the Web (now called Foresight Exchange).

Despite the great distance, these three wanted to come to L.A. to discuss the future of Extropy Institute and their own projects. This led to several others joining us on short notice for a highly productive (and extremely enjoyable) weekend of discussions and socializing.

Especially discussed was the NodeNet idea that Greg brought back from his discussion with Sarah Marr in England. Other topics included ExI strategy, the encouragement of local groups, and possible speakers and sessions for EXTRO 3 (there is now an EXTRO 3 Action Team on the net to further

cont. on p.6

## NEW DIRECTIONS, cont. from p.2

Extropians initiated by Canadian activist members Ken Kittlitz, David McFadzean, and Sean Morgan. (See photos.) At that meeting Greg discussed what he and Sarah had come up with.

Out of that discussion is growing what we informally call the NodeNet. The idea is to create a network of forums for the discussion of ideas and technologies vital to our goals of overcoming human limits. More formally, these forums are called ExI's Scientific, Technical, and Professional Special Interests Groups. (Suggestions for a briefer but still adequate name are welcome.) Greg has already done considerable work to get these going. Now it's up to ExI to keep the momentum up.

The basic idea is this: In order to build up ExI as an intellectual network, and to accomplish something more than fun but disorganized talk on the Extropians e-mail list, we need more focused and filtered discussions forums. E-mail forums for particular topics will be created. The SIG administrator, or Nodemaster, would invite only high quality, knowledgeable participants to join. Other people may read the list but will not be able to post. When the Nodes have developed and drawn in an array of major talent in the areas covered, we may think about specialist academic publications and seminars.

Extropy Institute is uniquely positioned to bring together thinkers, researchers, and entrepreneurs for productive exchanges and

collaborations. However, our existing forums do not serve well in this regard. The Node Network seems a good way to move forward.

*Exponent* will carry news of the NodeNet as it develops. Once forums are formed, information about them will also be posted to the Extropians email list. We are excited about the possibilities of this project. By connecting leading thinkers and doers together in ways not easy through traditional channels, we intend to accelerate the development of extended lifespans, augmented intelligence, redesign of the brain, neural-computer integration, uploading, political system redesign, and other goals.



Anton, flexing.

Dave Krieger, secure in his transhuman invulnerability, taunts the black dog to attack his throat.



Steve, Kennita, and Will, the morning after.

Sean Hastings, all the way from New Orleans.



Tim May



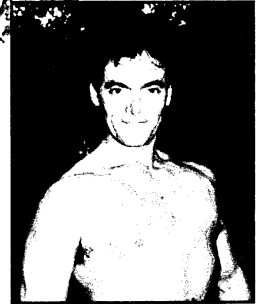
Amara, star gazing ...



Jerome, alerting the WWW that it's party time.



Natasha



Russell, again without clothes— (and looking good.)

# EXTROPY PARTY!

Extropians gather at Jerome's for the Extropy is 8 party.



Krystyna and Natasha happily at Shadow Ranch Film Studio — Joshua Tree.



Fred Moulton, Sameer Parekh, and Sandy Sandfort and that's Peter McCluskey in the background.





Max, Dan, Regina, Abe and tongue, and friends at monthly ExI dinner in L.A..

Hollis and Paul at Wired party.

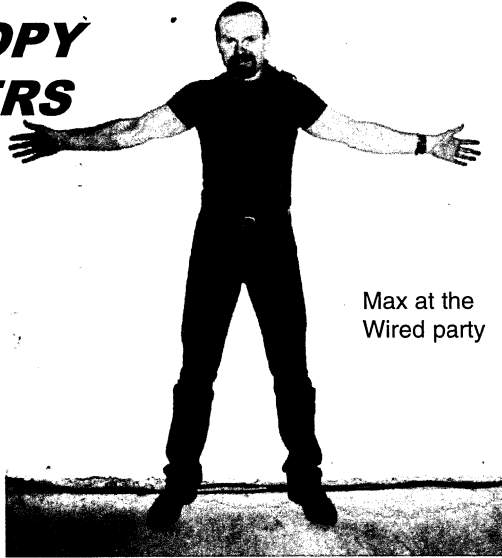


Authors, Dan McNeill and Ray Sahelian at ExI dinner, Kifuni Restaurant, Marina del Rey, CA.

# WIRED

## 4TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

### EXTROPY DINNERS



Max at the Wired party

Yawn or dance, Natasha?



Wired author, Brad Weiners (*Reality Check*)

Mark Frauenfelder of *Wired* (founder of bOING bOING)



KISS. David Pescovitz (co-author, *Reality Check*) and friend.

Nadia, QueenMuse, Reed Studio.



---

## EXTRO 3 Plans

Plans for EXTRO 3 are well underway. The EXTRO 3 Team has drawn up a list of potential speakers. The date and location have been decided and the hotel booked:

**EXTRO 3**  
**August 9-10 1997**  
Red Lion Inn,  
San Jose, CA.

You can keep track of news updates on the event by check the conference web page at:

<http://www.extropy.org/extro3.htm>

Whereas the first two conferences covered topics of all kinds, EXTRO 3 will have two overall themes. On one day, all sessions will focus on aspects of the future of the body and brain. On the other day, the focus will be on future infrastructure, including computers, communications, and economy. Clearly, this leaves plenty of room for variety in presentations, yet creates more focus and structure.

Watch the next issue of *Exponent* for more information, and in a special mailing in the Spring. Assistance both before the event and on the weekend will be needed. If you want to help in return for discounted or free attendance at the event, please contact the ExI office at: (310) 398-0375, or [more@extropy.org](mailto:more@extropy.org)

---

## WHAT'S NEW from p.3

assist conference chair Max More). Thanks to you all for travelling from far away for such a productive weekend.

### Ray Sahelian's new web site:

Extropy columnist Dr. Ray Sahelian has a new web site:  
<http://www.raysahelian.com/>

You can read excerpts from Ray's several best-selling books, including *Melatonin: Nature's Sleeping Pill*, *Creatine: Nature's Muscle Builder*, and books on *DHEA*, *Pregnenolone*, and *Glycosamine*.

### ExI Web Site.

The Institute's web site, which was featured on TV's *Strange Universe* show in January, will be moving from its current host C2, to [lucifer.com](http://lucifer.com). Services will be provided by the energetic and always-helpful David McFadzean. As time allows, we will be adding a members' directory, more links, more essays, back issues of *Extropy*, and the new online *Extropy*.

**Extropy Institute web Site:**  
**<http://www.extropy.org>**

---

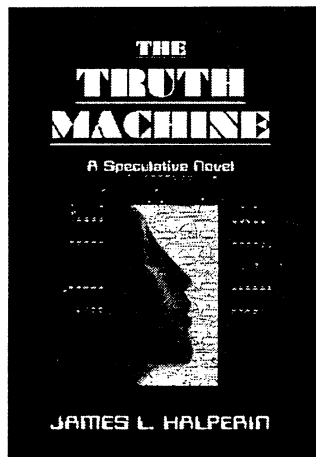
## Member's Publications

**Forrest Bishop:** "I've had an article, "A Description of a Universal Assembler" published in the *IEEE Proceedings*. I am an interviewed 'authority' on a new nanotechnology video, which may be aired on the Discovery Channel. I am centrally involved in a fairly major video/film project on nanotech in space."

**Davin C. Enigl:** Enigl, Davin C. and Kent M. Sorrells. 1996. *Water Activity and Self-Preserving Formulas. In: Preservative-Free and Self-Preserving Cosmetics and Drugs*. Jon J. Kabara and Donald S. Orth, Eds. Marcel Dekker, Inc. New York, NY. ISBN: 0-8247-9366-8. pp 296. \$150.00.

<http://members.aol.com/enigl/index.html> [enigl@aol.com](mailto:enigl@aol.com)

**James L. Halperin's** first novel, *The Truth Machine* (to be reviewed in the next *Extropy*). IvyPress, Inc., Dallas, Texas, 1996.



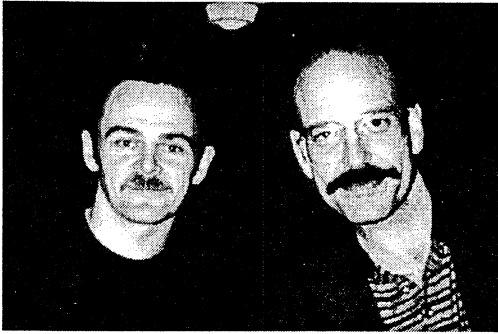
**Bart Kosko** "Time for a Digital Rights Act", January 1997 *Rage*. *Heaven in a Chip*. Forthcoming book, 1997.

**Max More:** "Is God a Computer Nerd?" (interview with Hans Moravec, who was the keynote speaker at EXTRO-1) appeared in *Rage*, November 1996. Max's "Memes and Ends" in *Rage*, February 1997, introducing the meme meme to a new audience.

**Natasha Vita More & Ray Sahelian:** Appeared on *Geraldo* in January 1997, discussing healthy living. Extropy columnist Ray Sahelian explained the benefits of melatonin for sound sleep, while "the lovely Natasha from Los Angeles" explained the need for highly creative people to balance intense activity with restoration.

Ray Sahelian: *DHEA: A Practical Guide* (Avery, New York, 1996); *Creatine: Nature's Muscle Builder* (with David Tuttle, Avery, New York, 1997); *Pregnenolone: A Practical Guide* (1997), *Glucosamine: Nature's Arthritis Remedy* (1997).

*Please send to the editor notices of your publications, awards, lectures, and conference appearances.*



Nicholas Bostrom and Gregory Burch in UK pub.



Sarah Marr's sensual, yet soothing smile in the UK.

### London Gathering

Sarah Marr, Martin Traynor, Nicholas Bostrom and Greg Burch gathered at a pub in London on November 3, 1996. The group turned up a few beers and discussed the state of transhumanism and possible new initiatives for Extropy Institute. Sarah in particular proposed some good ideas regarding organization of scientific and professional networking. These ideas have been developed further since and have become key concepts for much of the new direction being taken by Extropy Institute discussed in this newsletter. (See photos on next page.)

## Extropic Art Manifesto

Natasha Vita More, long-time transhumanist and founder in 1982 of Transhumanist Art (originally called Transart) has released the Extropic Art Manifesto. Officially released on January 1 1997, the manifesto has already been signed by many artists, scientists, thinkers, and creative persons of all kinds. Extropic Art embraces creativity in every field (not just "art"), conceiving of art as a creative process not limited to traditional forms called "art".

We expect the Extropic Art Manifesto, and accompanying ideas, to inject extropic ideas into the art community, and to highlight the importance of creativity driven by extropic values to creative thinkers of every kind. You can read the Manifesto on the web at the URL below, and can become an early signer by emailing Natasha at: [flexeon@primenet.com](mailto:flexeon@primenet.com)

<http://www.primenet.com/~flexeon/extropic.htm>

## Extropy Institute

13428 Maxella Avenue, 273,  
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292.  
(310) 398-0375  
[exi-info@extropy.org](mailto:exi-info@extropy.org)

### Directors

Max More, President. [maxmore@primenet.com](mailto:maxmore@primenet.com)  
Tom Morrow, Vice President. [t0morrow@aol.com](mailto:t0morrow@aol.com)  
Ralph Whelan, Secretary. [ralph@alcor.org](mailto:ralph@alcor.org)  
Tanya Jones, Treasurer. [tanya@alcor.org](mailto:tanya@alcor.org)  
Eric Watt Forste. [arkuat@pobox.com](mailto:arkuat@pobox.com)  
Russell Whitaker. [russw@netcom.com](mailto:russw@netcom.com)

## EMAIL LISTS

To join the mail Extropian e-mail forum, send mail to:

[extropians-request@extropy.org](mailto:extropians-request@extropy.org)

In the body of the message, put  
"subscribe extropians youraddress"

You can join one of the local lists by replacing  
"extropians" with one of these other list names:

exi-la Los Angeles area list  
exi-bay SF/Bay Area list  
exi-east East Coast of the USA list

### ARCHIVES:

A Hypermail archive of postings to the various lists can be found at:

<http://www.lucifer.com/extropians/>

Thanks to David McFadzean and lucifer.com for hosting and maintaining the lists.

### Washington DC Gathering

Several of us in the Washington, DC area got together this past Saturday night for dinner in Alexandria, Virginia. In attendance were Kathryn Aegis, Douglas Houts, Mark Crosby, Simon Levy, and me (John Blanco-Losada). Tom Morrow even made a surprise appearance!

This was basically a meet & greet session for us to get to know one another beyond our usual email interactions. Aside from learning what each of us does "in real life," we didn't have any Singularity-causing revelations, but we did have an extended discussion about our favorite cartoons. All in all it was a very enjoyable evening, and I encourage other Extropians to make an effort to meet one another. We hope to gather again, probably around some local event of Extropian interest.

John Blanco-Losada [jbl@clark.net](mailto:jbl@clark.net)

# LOCAL EVENTS

Want to meet others in your area? Contact the Extropy Institute office if you want your name and contact information to appear in this section.

## LOS ANGELES

We have been holding monthly dinner meeting now for several months. The day of the meeting changed in January. Here are the current details:

DATE: First Thursday of the month (Next: February 6, March 6)  
TIME: 7.30pm  
PLACE: Kifune Restaurant, 405 Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey/Venice, CA.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Roderick A. Carder-Russell and I are forming Transhumans of New Hampshire. He has been giving some talks on cryonics to positive responses, including, of all places, a Catholic School! I've been doing some low key recruiting in west central NH among the gaming crowd. Roderick is getting settled at Plymouth State, where he will be infiltrating the Computer Science Department with some extropic meme grenades this coming semester.

Any and all Extropians/Transhumans in NH are encouraged to contact us for further organization.

Transhumans of New Hampshire (>HNH): <http://www.tpk.net/~retroman/TRANSHNH.htm>

Michael Lorrey, President, Northstar Technologies  
[retroman@tpk.net](mailto:retroman@tpk.net)  
Website: <http://www.tpk.net/~retroman/>

## SF/BAY AREA

Kennita Watson has taken the initiative to get a new regular gathering going in this area. Here are the details of the current meeting. Since the first meeting will have taken place before this newsletter is printed, you might check that the details of the February meeting will be the same.

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 1997

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Jing-Jing Szechuan Hunan Cuisine  
443 Emerson, Palo Alto  
415-328-6885

Emerson is 2 blocks towards 101 from Alma/Caltrain (*The Good Earth* is on the corner of Emerson and University). 443 is about half a block towards San Francisco—if you reach Hamilton you're going the wrong way, and if you reach Lytton, you went too far.

CalTrain info:

The 6:20 CalTrain from San Francisco gets there (the Palo Alto station) at 7:20. The 7:00 train from San Jose arrives at 7:29. If you're going back to San Francisco, you probably want to catch either the 10:28 or a ride. Going back to San Jose, you have more options—8:59, 9:59, or 10:59 (depending how long we gab, and whether we decide to have dessert, check out a bookstore, take in the 9:30 show at Stanford Theatre, etc.). (Thanks to [www.transitinfo.org](http://www.transitinfo.org).) We can discuss longer-term plans over dinner. I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it. Kennita Watson, [kwatson@netcom.com](mailto:kwatson@netcom.com)

## WASHINGTON DC

I'd be happy to compile a list of DC area Extropians and put a directory page up on my web site. Those of you who are interested, please send me an email with as much info as you are comfortable providing.

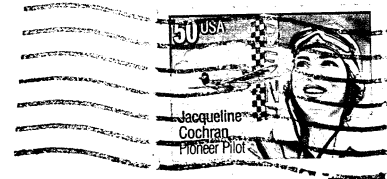
John Blanco-Losada  
[jbl@clark.net](mailto:jbl@clark.net)  
<http://www.clark.net/pub/jbl/jbl.html>

## SAN DIEGO

If you're interested in getting together to discuss extropian ideas and activities, or more specifically interested in caloric restriction as a means of life extension, contact John McPherson. [mcperso@lumina.ucsd.edu](mailto:mcperso@lumina.ucsd.edu)

## EXPONENT

Extropy Institute  
13428 Maxella Avenue, #273  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292



Phil Goetz SubExp:#19  
226 Bell Hall, SUNY  
Buffalo, NY 14260