

The Big Kabong

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Since the beginning of time, man has wondered where he came from, why he was here, and where he could get his rayon cleaned without fear of shrinkage. While some of these questions have been answered to mankind's satisfaction, every day new developments are changing the way man views the universe and leading to even more questions and early morning talk shows. Before Sir Isaac Newton's theory of gravity, people had to nail things down so they would not fly off into space. And before Einstein's Theory of Relativity, nobody was related. Now we have the revelation by a team of Norwegian scientists (although, technically, the point guard was born in Sweden) that the very core of all existence can be traced to the "Big Bang." This theory, which suggests that our universe was brought into existence by an explosion of matter out of antimatter, is widely accepted as a plausible explanation by experts in numerous time zones, although many argue that it still doesn't explain bureaucrats. There remain, however, several points of fact concerning this prime instant of time that still meet with a good deal of derision.

Many argue over what there was before the Big Bang. There are those who say that there was only black nothingness, and a sub-school of those who believe that there was mostly black nothingness and the remainder banana pudding. This later group partially stakes its claim on a comment made by Einstein concerning the era before time began, which he described as "a kind of squishy place."

Another point of debate is over when this event occurred. A group of scientists in Lisbon say there is solid evidence that the Big Bang took place on a Tuesday, at around 3:00 P.M. Their opposition comes mainly from a school headed by Morris Stiedelberg, a German physicist/chef, who insists that the event transpired on the morning of February 23rd, 1862. The Lisbon team has adamantly defended

its position, ridiculing Stiedelberg openly and calling his theory "ludicrously idiotic." In one column in the May 1987 edition of the World Physicists Journal, the Lisbonites asked Stiedelberg: "... what about the Renaissance? All of those paintings were painted in the 1500s. And what about Rome? And Egypt? All of recorded history disproves your sophomoric theory." When asked for a rebuttal on a timely "Meet the Press," Stiedelberg replied, "Oh, they're just jealous." Unfortunately, the negative publicity surrounding the theory turned many faithful away from the school, and Stiedelberg soon lost most of his support, although his fervor towards his theory never faltered. "What do they know?" He criticized his traitors. "Most of them weren't even born then!" Yet while Stiedelberg faded out of fashion, the Lisbonites met up with still more friction from several other schools, notably the Thursday Group of Oslo, and so the debate rages on.

In addition to the timing of the primal event, its location has become yet another hot topic among scholars the world over. Dr. Elton Franks of Harvard's School of Elemental Psychology developed a theory which placed the exact location where the Big Bang occurred at a point not in space, but within the collective mind of every being who ever existed or ever will exist in the universe. "It's merely a matter of perception," he recently stated at a dinner at the home of his bowling partner, Doug. "If nobody believed that the universe existed, then it wouldn't really exist at all," he claimed. When Doug replied to his friend's statements by saying that he had no idea what he was talking about, Franks canned the theory in favor of his newest model, which places the occurrence in a glass of rye whiskey at a small tavern in Boston, Massachusetts. The most promising news on this front, however, came in 1994 when Devon Wyman, an amateur deep space photographer, accidentally captured an image on film which he claimed showed the location of the Big Bang, which was clearly marked by a signpost identifying it as such. Unfortunately, the photographs and negatives were destroyed during a freak fire in Wyman's pants, and later attempts to locate the spot via telescope have turned up only a signpost reading, "Coming Soon: The Mall of the Universe."

Even the name of the genesis is being questioned by some scientists. While the event has long been billed the "Big Bang," Dr. Pembrick Schist, a professor of molecular acoustics at Berkeley, says his studies of the phenomenon indicate that the initial explosion would have generated a sound more closely resembling a "Kabong!" than a "Bang!" The only real opposition to this stance has come from a man in South Bentonridge, New Jersey, who claims that the sound was identical to that of two squirrels singing "I'll Be Home for Christmas." The theory was widely ignored until the man claimed to have an actual recording of the event from the time it occurred; although this was later disreputed when, upon careful listening, there could be heard a barely audible snickering and an occasional passing car. Meanwhile, as early as 1949, Einstein concluded at a talk in Bonn that it was "a kind of squishy sound."