

## ART WESTERBERG'S AFTER DINNER COMMENTS

Imagine being given the opportunity to make a few comments about George and to return the favors he has “done” to me at similar events. (That sounds better than to say “get even.”)

George came to North America to McMasters to do his MS thesis, where he worked under Cam Crowe. In 1971 he applied to the U of Florida for our PhD program, and Cam wrote a glowing letter of recommendation. By this time I knew Cam to be a no holds barred kind of recommender so we readily accepted George. To put it briefly, George was a treat to have as a student. We spent hours at the board working on lots of theorem, proofs, etc., the like of which I would hesitate now to read, much less reproduce. One of the seven papers from his thesis was to the Journal of Optimization Theory and Applications and contained 14 theorems, corollaries and lemmas - you know, the kind of paper we all fear we will be sent to review. Our CS department thought him to be the best student in their classes.

But it wasn't all academics. Barbara and I invited George to prepare an Easter dinner in the Greek tradition. We supplied the ingredients; he supplied the cooking. He asked Barbara to have lots of garlic on hand; she bought three heads of garlic - not cloves but heads. His reaction: Is that all? We reeked of garlic after; it oozed out of our skin. We seriously thought of heading to the local Seven Eleven and breathing on the clerk, with the threat that he should give us all the money in the till, or we would do it again.

Then I was invited to MIT to give the Warren K. Lewis lecture in 1991. George, a master of eloquent language, asked me a question after. Have any of you had George ask a question following a paper or seminar? Allow me to give the gist of it to you:

In the following, actually say the punctuation when reading so the first bit should be: “Open quote Art comma you .....

**“Art, you talked about process synthesis, the use of AI in problem formulation, and modeling, and, as these topics are one of major interest to me, especially on the use of 1. intelligent systems, 2. the use pf AI in optimization (by optimization, I mean large scale), and 3. the use of insights as per the work Mike Doherty is doing in complex azeotropic distillation - where he shows how to look at the topic geometrically, it occurred to me that there could be serious issues you might have considered that relate to overall plant control (which could in some cases lead to considering discrete decision making) - such as using AI in fault detection as Venkat has done, and possibly related to Vasilios' theoretical work on optimization, how might all this work on analysis related to the work you just discussed?”**

To which I remember I responded “George, let me paraphrase your question. Did your fourth example converge quickly?”