the more established hypothermic conditions that in any case tend to come about by default). We completed our ongoing study of the effects of normothermic systemic perfusion on other organ systems²⁻⁵ but no longer use it routinely.

The best "comic operas" need an element of tragedy. It often lies in the fact that the protagonists do not know whether and how much they agree.

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Can you top this?

To the Editor:

On the order of "Can you top this?," I place in the running for the longest recorded functioning bioprosthesis a Medtronic porcine bioprosthesis (Medtronic, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.), which was implanted in a Catholic priest on March 22, 1976, by Dr. Duvoisin of Spokane, Washington. This bioprosthesis was replaced on December 5, 1995, after 19 years and 258 days. At the second operation, we found two of the three leaflets to be surprisingly intact, with only minimal calcification; the third leaflet had torn at the site of more dense calcification at the post. As the patient was only 52 years old at the time of this reoperation. I replaced the valve with an aortic homograft root.

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