

Judo Menudo



Saturday's scheduled liftoff of the Big Corn Rocket was a big deal indeed for Meptang, Kansas. Not only was the little town the launch site, but its biggest employer, Dinklaker Corn Ethanol Futures, was the exclusive supplier of the fuel that would propel the craft all the way to the distant dwarf planet of Pluto, where, in 2028, it would deliver its cargo of freeze-dried corn dogs—to whom or what, however, was classified information. On hand to help celebrate the launching festivities was Judo Menudo, a synchronized martial arts team renowned for its spot-on portrayal of the European corn borer's mating ritual. The one potential problem was that the dance routine—which featured lots of rhythmically salacious stomping (ohh, those randy corn borers!)—was ill advised in an area of high seismic activity. Which Meptang was. (Who knew?!) The resulting temblor struck at one second before blast-off, tilting the gantry 0.0003 degrees—not much, but enough to alter the rocket's trajectory and guarantee that someplace other than Pluto would, in fourteen years, have a lot of corn dogs on its hands. Or pseudopods or whatever.