

The February 24th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!

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Welcome to the February 24th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!

In the past few months I have become aware of some of the pressure that Brandy, SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED Jr., EMPRESS OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE, ETC., has been approached by some fans to increase the size of LibertyCon past it's 750 maximum limit. Well, she can't and now I will explain why. The founder who setup LibertyCon originally wrote the Charter for the organization so carefully that it left no wriggle room concerning the number of people who can buy paid memberships for LibertyCon. The Charter was submitted to the state of Tennessee for incorporation and approved by Tennessee. The founder than submitted the Charter to the Internal Revenue Service and fought them for over 4 years to get a 501(C)(3) Nonprofit Corporation Status. After constant warfare with the IRS, LibertyCon was granted this status back in 1992.

Now onto the goodies of why LibertyCon hands are tied. If they try to change the Chart now, they will have to go back through both the State of Tennessee and the IRS. Since the IRS doesn't not issue 501(C)(3) Nonprofit Corporation Status to SF conventions anymore, we would have to settle for a 501(C)(4) Nonprofit Corporation Status. That would mean that we would have to submit a huge amount of paperwork on a yearly status to the state and the IRS that will cost us a fortune. Right now we only have to submit a single page to the State and a single page to the IRS on an annual basis. I hope this is making sense to you.

Also the founder of LibertyCon realized that if the convention got too big, then it would be harder for a limited staff to run it. But most importantly, he wanted a convention where the average fan could meet the Guests of Honor and other professionals and make memories that will last a lifetime. To the founder, Fandom is a hobby. A great hobby that is very precious. But still a hobby.

BTW, I'll let you guess who the founder is. ;^)

But why am I bring this up you might ask. Well, something incredibly interesting is going on. We are a little more that 4 months away from LibertyCon 29 and we already have just shy of 450 people preregistered for the convention. 450 from 750 only leave around 300 memberships left to sell and we haven't even sent out the mass mailing emails which occur around April 15th, my birthday. ;^) So that begs the question of why I am bring this up in this week's missive. Simple, you guys we subscribe to the Revenge have been faithful readers and I really do appreciate your support. I appreciate it enough to give you a heads up on what is going on in case you haven't bought your memberships yet. I hope this helps.

So, on that "Important Note", why don't y'all sit back and relax because here's the best in gossip, jokes and science for your reading pleasure!

Uncle Timmy

<G>~<O>~<S>~<S>~<I>~<P>~<S>~<T>~<A>~<R>~<T>~<S>~<H>~<E>~<R>~<E>~<I>

PASSING OF A BELOVED HUSBAND, DR. ROBERT LIGHTFOOT

From: "Linda Kay Lightfoot" yojimbokaizen@yahoo.com

Hello – It is great sorrow that I have to tell you that my husband, Robert Lightfoot, passed away last night at about 9:00 pm, in the Waycross hospital. I don't know what the

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arrangements will be, I'm waiting on his brother to arrive so we can do that, but I'll post the information as I can. I would appreciate if you folks would this information on to his other friends – I may not get everyone notified, and I know how deeply he cared for all of his friends. I'm sorry if you get this several times – I just used all of his contacts,
Thank you

Linda Kay Lightfoot

IT IS WITH A SAD HEART THAT I BRING THIS NEWS TO YOU. ROBERT "SAM" LIGHTFOOT WAS A FRIEND OF MINE FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS AND I WILL MISS HIM. LATELY I ONLY GOT TO SEE HIM ONCE A YEAR AT LIBERTYCON, BUT I REALLY LOVED TO CATCH UP WITH HIM AND LINDA KAY ON HOW OUR LIVES WERE GOING. THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE I MISS THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE ME. SAM, REST IN PEACE. YOU WERE A GOOD MAN AND YOU WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW YOU. TIM

~~~~~

Hello everyone. I am posting the information on the Celebration of Robert's Life ceremony. It is open to all friends, faculty and students. I would love to see anyone who can attend.

It will be Saturday, March 5th at 4:00 pm. The service will be at Music Funeral Home, here in Waycross. The ceremony will consist of several speakers, a video montage and some of his favorite music.

Some of you may get this more than once, but I'm trying to get this to everyone who knew Robert, so please feel free to repost.

Linda Kay Lightfoot

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From: "William Green" [wilgreen@gmail.com](mailto:wilgreen@gmail.com) →

I'm catching a flight out of Detroit this morning and I thought a you would be amused at where my weather app has me located.

<L>~<I>~<B>~<E>~<R>~<T>~<Y>~<C>~<O>~<N>

CHUCK GANNON NOMINATED FOR NEBULA AWARD FOR BEST NOVEL

From: "Richard Groller" [richard.groller@gmail.com](mailto:richard.groller@gmail.com)

Nebula Nominations Announced –

Here is the text: February 20, 2016

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) is pleased to announce the nominees for the 50th Annual Nebula Awards, the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation, and the Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Young Adult Science



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Fiction or Fantasy Book. The awards will be presented in Chicago at the Palmer House Hotel. Comedian John Hodgman will emcee the ceremony on the evening of May 14.

Novel

RAISING CAINE, CHARLES E. GANNON (BAEN)  
The Fifth Season, N.K. Jemisin (Orbit US; Orbit UK)  
Ancillary Mercy, Ann Leckie (Orbit US; Orbit UK)  
The Grace of Kings, Ken Liu (Saga)  
Uprooted, Naomi Novik (Del Rey)  
Barsk: The Elephants' Graveyard, Lawrence M. Schoen (Tor)

Updraft, Fran Wilde (Tor)

CONGRATULATIONS CHUCK! THE NOMINATION IS WELL DESERVED. TIM

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From: "Tim Bolgeo" [tbolgeo@comcast.net](mailto:tbolgeo@comcast.net)

'STAR TREK' QUADCOPTER WILL LET YOU FLY THE USS ENTERPRISE

By Kasandra Brabaw, Space.com Contributor | February 19, 2016 03:00pm ET  
<http://www.space.com/31950-star-trek-enterprise-quadcopter-drone.html>



Spin Master's "Star Trek" Enterprise drone will be out July 1, just in time for the TV show's 50th anniversary. Credit: Tariq Malik/Space.com

NEW YORK — "Just wait until you see the Enterprise." Those were the words we heard walking through Spin Master's booth at Toy Fair 2016. (When you tell people you work for a [website](#) called Space.com, they assume you and your co-

workers are all a bunch of Trekkies — and they're right.) Seconds after hearing this, we turned the corner and came face to face with the toy we'd been seeking for two days: a Starship Enterprise drone.

It was, surprisingly, the only "Star Trek" drone we came across at Toy Fair this year, but it fulfilled every fantasy we had for the toy. The drone is modeled after starship [Enterprise NCC-1701A](#), the second ship in the series to bear the name Enterprise. Called Enterprise-A for short, it replaced the original ship in 2286 after the first Enterprise was destroyed when Kirk flew to the Genesis Planet to rescue Spock.

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The Air Hogs USS Enterprise NCC-1701A quadcopter drone can be seen in action in this still from a Spin Master video. Credit: Tariq Malik/Space.com



Spin Master's Air Hogs model replicates Enterprise perfectly, complete with blue lights and 10 authentic sound effects. The four rotors that lift and steer the drone are even hidden inside the ship's saucer, so they don't detract from the overall realistic look. Other than the see-through saucer, it's an almost exact replica of Kirk's ship.

So set phasers to fly: The Enterprise drone is expected to hit store shelves July 1, just in time for ["Star Trek's" 50th anniversary](#) and should retail for \$129.99.

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#### VIETNAM WALL "IN MEMORY" PROGRAM

From: "Christina Cowan" [cowanc1028@earthlink.net](mailto:cowanc1028@earthlink.net)

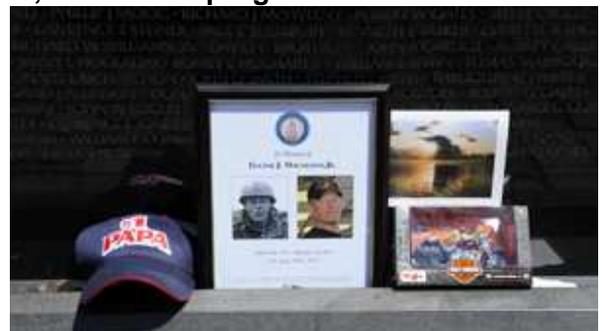
I always tear up when I see The Wall. Even in pictures. We lost so many. CC

<http://www.vvmf.org/InMemoryProgram>

Got this in a message from the VFW and the link to submit applications is above.

More than 58,000 names meet the Defense Department's criteria to be etched into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but those who survived the war—but later died as a result of their service—are not. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund acknowledges their service and sacrifice through an online "In Memory" Honor Roll. Causes of death that fit the criteria for inclusion in the program include exposure to Agent Orange, PTSD-related illnesses/events, cancer, diabetes, heart attacks, etc. The program is free and the application process is simple.

To honor a loved one, you only need to submit the veteran's DD214 to show their proof of service in the Vietnam War, a copy of their death certificate, and a photograph. The application deadline for inclusion in the 2016 ceremony is March 4. For information or to submit applications, click here.



<http://www.vvmf.org/InMemoryProgram>

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#### 2113 SAMPLER BOOKLETS NOW AVAILABLE

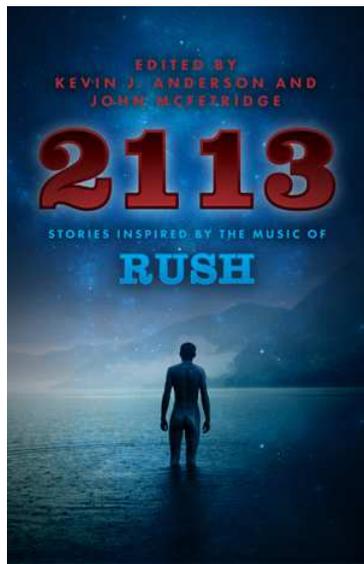
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From: "Kevin J. Anderson" [kja@wordfire.com](mailto:kja@wordfire.com)  
Via: "Mike Williamson" [mzmadmike@gmail.com](mailto:mzmadmike@gmail.com)

Hi all,

ECW has just printed up some extremely wonderful samplers booklets for 2113, which contains the complete short story "Random Access Memory" by John McFetridge, inspired by the song Lakeside Park. I am giving away a thousand of them at all my upcoming convention appearances and comic cons in the next few months, but I have also made them available for other fans to get directly from me for just the cost of postage.



I just posted a blog with a link for ordering copies here at <http://kjablog.com>. PLEASE share this and promote the crap out of this, with the big goal of getting preorders.

Why is this important? \*\*\*read this part, please!\*\*\* I have 18 of you to act as crusaders, to help generate interest and to push the preorders. Our catch phrase will be to try to get the fans to order 2113 copies of 2113. If we do get that many preorders, there's a significant chance that we can actually make the New York Times bestseller list. And we want that.

Other than being cool in and of itself, why do you care? I have made explicit inquiries and got a clear response, that may interest you. According to their own rules, the New York Times says that \*any\* author included in an anthology that makes the New York Times bestseller list is allowed to forever call themselves a "New York Times Bestselling Author." So, if you can ALL work together to help punch this book onto the

bestseller list, then you can ALL call yourselves New York Times bestselling authors. That would be rather cool, yes?

So, with 18 of you acting as full on crusaders, and all the enthusiastic Rush fans, do you think we can pull this off? Let's try!

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Correction to Revenge's Mention of "Panera Bread" Incident

From: "Christina Cowan" [cowan1028@earthlink.net](mailto:cowan1028@earthlink.net)

Don't know where you got your information about "Panera disarming officers" but it's about as wrong as it can get. Probably wasn't from anyone who watched our local news or read the Post.

The officers were answering a 911 call from the restaurant and then were shot by the man. They had been called by a woman who recognized the murderer as her ex-husband, against whom she had a restraining order. She also knew there was an outstanding warrant for him and she called the cops because she felt he was a danger to her family.

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This gives the entire story, with the background

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/a-horror-panera-customer-describes-shooting-of-md-deputy/2016/02/11/bf087472-d0d0-11e5-b2bc-988409ee911b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/a-horror-panera-customer-describes-shooting-of-md-deputy/2016/02/11/bf087472-d0d0-11e5-b2bc-988409ee911b_story.html)

This is from the Baltimore Sun

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/harford/abingdon/bs-md-harford-suspect-ex-wife-20160211-story.html>

This is from that bastion of wussy left wing liberalism, Fox News:

<http://www.fox8live.com/story/31197891/son-gunman-who-killed-deputies-violent-abusive-to-family>

These describe the incident without the background.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/armed-suspect-in-panera-shoots-two-maryland-officers/2016/02/10/75bb1648-d027-11e5-b2bc-988409ee911b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/armed-suspect-in-panera-shoots-two-maryland-officers/2016/02/10/75bb1648-d027-11e5-b2bc-988409ee911b_story.html)

<http://6abc.com/news/2-deputies-killed-suspect-dead-in-maryland-panera-shooting/1195389/>

CHRISTINA, THANK YOU FOR SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT. I READ MORE INTO THE ARTICLE THAN I SHOULD. THE BASIS OF THE STORY WAS THAT A MAN IN A GUNFREE ZONE SHOT THE COP COMING TO INVESTIGATE. THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE WAS FROM BREITBART AT THIS LINK:

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/02/13/business-in-which-maryland-deputy-was-shot-killed-is-gun-free-zone/>

~~~~~

THIS AND THAT

This is from Atlas Obscura about the famous photo of a plane emerging from a circular cloud, mistakenly attributed to the plane breaking the sound barrier. I will point out the Ensigns are officers and thus he was NOT a "Photographer's Mate." That would have been an enlisted rating. (A rating is what job you do, not a rank). He might have been the squadron's Public Affairs Officer.

http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-wildly-misunderstood-aeronautics-event-captured-in-this-photograph?utm_source=Atlas+Obscura&utm_campaign=9e88dff042-Newsletter+2+18+2016+17+2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_62ba9246c0-9e88dff042-61378277&ct=t%28Newsletter+2+18+2016+17+2016%29&mc_cid=9e88dff042&mc_eid=4c73fa18f4

And this is VITAL info for people running Windows 7 who want to keep doing it! MOAA is The Military Officers of America Association, so this is an accurate piece of information.

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/Features-and-Columns/Tech-Tactics/How-to-Prevent-Automatic-Installation-of-Update-to-Windows-10-From-Microsoft.aspx>

Chris, who is about to do what MOAA details.

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Re: The February 17th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!

From: "Pamela Adams" pamcrippenadams@gmail.com

Tim,

I'm not getting the donation link (for Robert Lightfoot).

I read an article not too long ago about Scalia and Ginsberg- apparently they were both opera fans.

PAM, TRY THE LINK BELOW FOR THE DONATION SITE FOR ROBERT.

<https://www.gofundme.com/arn64vr8>

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Re: The February 17th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!

From: "Klon Michael Waldrip" klon.waldrip@att.net

Uncle Timmy,

I don't think I've ever actually told you how very much I enjoy the Revenge. It always makes my Tuesdays better and usually my heart lighter. so many, many thanks for the effort you invest in putting out something of this quality.

Now having said that, and there is no "bad" coming, I noticed that my credit is given as Michael Klon Waldrip, which doesn't bother me in particular, but in fact my name is Klon Michael Waldrip. Also for the first time today I noted the accompanying email address as klonwaldrip@gmail.com. That is my son's email address (he got to gmail before I did). Mine is waldripk@gmail.com. I'm not looking for the credit but if someone should email him he probably wouldn't know what they are talking about.

An any rate, I hope you and yours continue to do well and you continue to enjoy your lovely city!

WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO YOU THOSE MANY DECADES AGO, KLON NEWELL SAID YOUR NAME IS WAS MIKE BUT THAT HE HAD STOLE YOUR OTHER NAME, KLON, AS HIS CONVENTION HANDLE. NOW I FIND OUT THAT YOUR PARENTS DID TO YOU WHAT MINE DID TO ME. CALL YOU BY YOUR MIDDLE NAME. MINE IS RICHARD TIMOTHY BOLGEO, SO OF COURSE THEY CALLED ME TIM. THAT'S LIVING IN THE SOUTH. ;^) UT

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Re: The February 17th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!

From: Stephanie Osborn

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Uncle Timmy, FYI, the black hole merger that produced the gravitational waves was NOT in our galaxy. Our galaxy is less than 200,000 light years in diameter, and only about 2000 light years thick.

The Local Group, our galactic neighborhood, a galactic cluster, is only about 10 million light years across. The Virgo Supercluster, our local cluster of galactic clusters, is about 110 million light years in diameter.

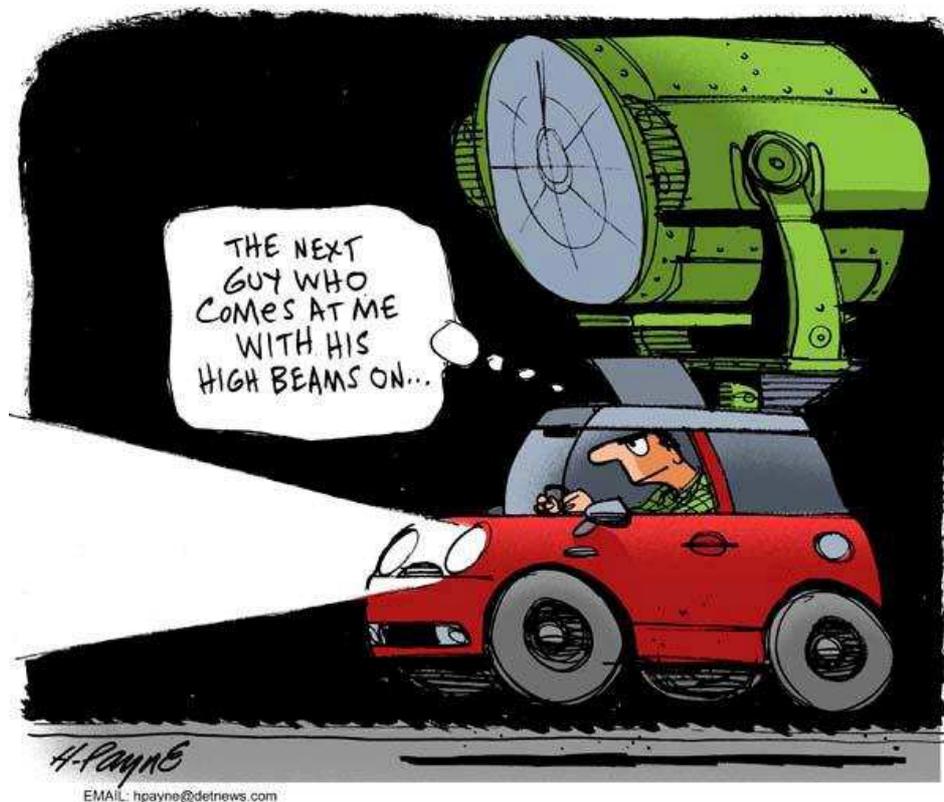
But the black hole merger system was 1.3 BILLION light years away.

The universe is just under 14 billion years old at about 13.799 billion years, so the visible edge of the universe is about 14 billion light years away. The black hole system is therefore almost 10% of the way to the edge of the universe.

HEY, AT LEAST I KNEW IT WAS THE COLLISION OF TWO BLACK HOLES THAT CAUSED THE GRAVITY WAVES. I WAS JUST A LITTLE SHORT ON MY DISTANCE ESTIMATE. ;^)

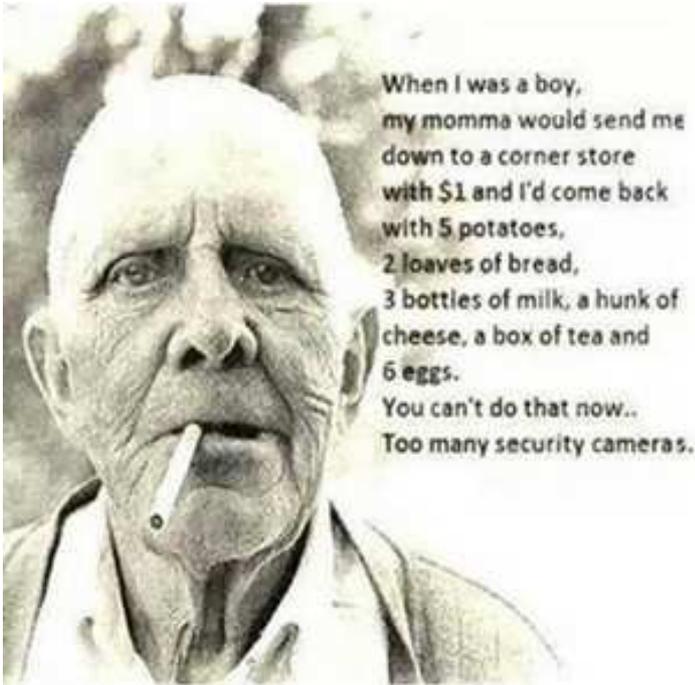
<T>~<H>~<E>~<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>~<S>~<T>~<A>~<R>~<T>~<H>~<E>~<R>~<E>

From Bob Bolgeo's Facebook Page



<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

RETIRED PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE



1. I'm not saying let's go kill all the stupid people. I'm just saying let's remove all the warning labels and let the problem work itself out.

2. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People move out of the way much faster now.

3. You can tell a lot about a woman's mood just by her hands. If they are holding a gun, she's probably very unhappy.

4. You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone you've just met? That's common sense leaving your body.

5. I don't like making plans for the day. Because then the word "premeditated" gets thrown around in the courtroom.

6. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes 1,500 days in a row.

7. I decided to change calling the bathroom the John and renamed it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

8. Dear paranoid people who check behind shower curtains for murderers: If you find one, what's your plan?

9. Everyone has a right to be stupid. Politicians just abuse the privilege.

Old age is not as bad as I thought. It's a good feeling when you just don't give a hoot anymore and you feel happy just to wake up in the morning

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>~<of>~<the>~<W>~<E>~<E>~<K>

From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

A Little Christian Humor

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "And she turned into a telephone pole!"

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GOOD SAMARITAN

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A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

~~~~~

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

~~~~~

**HIGHER POWER**

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

~~~~~

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his Mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

~~~~~

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD**

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

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On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

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UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

"Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."

"How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

~~~~~

**BEING THANKFUL**

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

~~~~~

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

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**TIME TO PRAY**

A pastor asked a little boy if he said his prayers every night

"Yes, sir." the boy replied.

"And, do you always say them in the morning, too?" the pastor asked.

"No sir," the boy replied. "I ain't scared in the daytime"

~~~~~

ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past).

For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls."

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This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?"

Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

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**SAY A PRAYER**

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do." his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>



*"Judging by the size and frequency of these droppings,  
we've found the campaign trail."*

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

**EXTREMES ON EARTH!**

**WHERE IS THE WORLD'S COLDEST PLACE?**

<http://thechive.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/places-ranked-14.jpg>

East Antarctic Plateau ... On the high ridge of the East Antarctic Plateau, the temperature can drop to as low as -135.8 degrees Fahrenheit, which was recorded in August, 2010.

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WHERE IS THE WORLD'S MOST POPULATED CITY ?

Shanghai ... At a whopping 24,150,000 permanent inhabitants, Shanghai is the only city that is home to over 24 million people in one city.

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**WHERE IS THE WORLD'S LEAST POPULATED CITY? (THE PICTURE IS THE CLUE)**

Vatican City ... With a paltry population of 842, the city-state of Vatican City is the smallest city and state in the world.

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WHERE IS THE WORLD'S WEALTHIEST CITY?

Tokyo, Japan ... That tower might as well be made of gold since Tokyo tops the charts with a GDP of \$1,520 billion, beating New York City by a mere \$310 billion.

~~~~~

**WHERE IS THE WORLD'S POOREST CITY IN THE POOREST COUNTRY ?**

Kinshasa, Congo ... it is the poorest city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is also the poorest country in the world, at a GDP of \$55 billion. Many of its residents live on less \$1 a day.

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WHAT IS THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE WORLD? (THIS ONE IS EASY)

Mount Everest ... Towering 29,029 feet in the air, the top of Mount Everest is the closest you can get to touching outer space while still standing on Earth.

~~~~~

**WHERE IS THE LOWEST POINT IN THE WORLD?**

The Challenger Deep Trench ... It is the lowest known natural point in the world at 35,797 ft below sea level at the bottom of the Mariana Trench. Only three people have ever made it to the bottom in a submersible, one of which was filmmaker James Cameron.

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WHAT IS THE MOST PHOTOGRAPHED PLACE IN THE U.S.?

Surprise: the Guggenheim building in New York...

Photos have always told stories, but in today's world of cell phone cameras and social media, that story is relayed as data to companies who monitor everything we do. Geotagged data was culled by Sightsmap using a Google-based image sharing software, and can show us the most photographed places in the world, right down to this landmark. The strange winner is this building in New York City. Guess it impresses a lot of visitors.

And I thought it was Abbey Road, London.

~~~~~

**WHERE IS THE WETTEST SPOT ON EARTH? (AND IT'S NOT THE AMAZON!)**

**Mawsynram, India ... In this city in India, it rains an average of 467.35 inches per year, and has a record of 1,000 inches in 1985... much more than any rain forest!**

~~~~~

WHERE IS THE DRIEST SPOT ON EARTH? (IT'S NOT THE SAHARA!)

The Atacama Desert ... The 600 miles of South America's Atacama desert is recorded as the driest place on Earth, no contest. This desert has an average of only 4 inches of rain every hundred years. Incredible, but true.

~~~~~

**WHAT CITY CLAIMS TO BE THE SUNNIEST PLACE IN THE U.S.?**

**Yuma, Arizona ... In this city in Arizona, the sun shines for an average of 11 hours a day. The usual forecast is sun for 90 percent of the year, averaging a total of 4015 daylight hours each year.**

~~~~~

WHERE IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE CITY TO LIVE IN? (IT'S NOT IN THE U.S. THANKFULLY)

Singapore ... This city has recently beat out Tokyo, Japan, for the title of "most expensive city" for 2014. Cars can cost between 4-6 times as much in Singapore from what they cost in the US or UK (for example, a Toyota Prius actually costs about \$150,000.00 there).

~~~~~

**WHERE IS THE LEAST EXPENSIVE CITY TO LIVE IN?**

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**Mumbai, India ... At the other end of the spectrum, Mumbai, India, is the cheapest place to live in the world, according to the Worldwide Cost of Living Index, 2014. For some comparison, a loaf of bread that would cost \$3.36 in Singapore would only cost \$0.91 in Mumbai. A lot of poverty brings the cost of living down.**

~~~~~

WHAT COUNTRY CONSUMES THE MOST FOOD PER CAPITA?

The overweight United States ... We eat an average of 3,770 calories a day each. Shamefully, obesity is becoming more of a problem every year.

~~~~~

**WHERE IS THE WORLD'S OLDEST CITY?**

**Damascus ... There's quite a bit of controversy over which city gets to officially claim the title of "oldest continuously inhabited city. However, Damascus is the safest bet, with evidence of civilization that extends back over 11,000 years.**

~~~~~

WHICH IS THE YOUNGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?

South Sudan ... The people of South Sudan were formally recognized as an independent country in 2011, making it the youngest country in the world to-date.

~~~~~

**WHICH IS THE WORLD'S MOST VISITED CITY?**

**London ... After a several years of competition with Bangkok, London has regained its place as the world's most visited city (according to MasterCard's 2014 Global Destinations City Index). The city sees about 18.69 million international visitors annually, generating \$19.3 billion in revenue for their city.**

~~~~~

WHAT IS THE WORLD'S LEAST POPULAR COUNTRY?

Iran ... On that same rating scale, Iran has come in dead last (at a 79% negativity rating) for many years. Only 15% of people polled viewed Iran in a positive light.

~~~~~

**WHERE IS THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS CITY TO LIVE IN?**

**San Pedro, Honduras ... This city averages over three murders a day. The violence stems from the city's role as a major hub for illegal drug and arms trafficking.**

~~~~~

WHICH COUNTRY CONSUMES THE MOST CAFFEINE IN THE WORLD?

Sweden ... The strong coffee in Sweden will put a spring in your step, and hair on your tongue. The Swedes consume an average of 388 mg of caffeine in coffee per person, per day (that's almost 5 Red Bulls in the U.S.).

~~~~~

**WHICH COUNTRY IN THE WORLD DRINKS THE MOST ALCOHOL?**

Belarus ... In the little country of Belarus, each person above the age of 16 drinks an average of 4.62 gallons of alcohol every year. That's a lot of booze.

~~~~~

WHICH COUNTRY IS THE MOST BICYCLE FRIENDLY IN THE WORLD?

The Netherlands ... By comparing cities using the average number of bicycle trips made daily, one city reigns supreme: Groningen in the Netherlands. About 50 percent of the population commute via bike daily, making it the city with the greatest proportion of cyclists. However, many other cities in the Netherlands have a great bicycling tradition.

~~~~~

**WHERE IS THE WORLD'S MOST ENERGY EFFICIENT CITY?**

Reykjavik, Iceland ... All of the energy and heat used by the citizens of Reykjavik, Iceland come from geothermal plants and renewable hydropower making it the most sustainable and energy efficient city in the world. This city has also been replacing traditional buses with hydrogen-fueled buses, from which the only emissions are water.

~~~~~

WHICH COUNTRY HAS THE LONGEST LIFE EXPECTANCY IN THE WORLD?

Monaco ... According to the World Health Organization's study from 2013, Monaco tops the charts for longest living citizens with an average life expectancy of 87.2 years. Men in Monaco live an average 85.3 years, and women live longer to an average of 89 years.

~~~~~

**WHICH COUNTRY HAS THE SHORTEST LIFE EXPECTANCY ?**

Sierra Leone ... On the opposite side of that coin, the population of Sierra Leone live only to an average of 47 years. The men of Sierra Leone live to an average of 47 years old, whereas women live a little longer, an average of 48 years. Poverty plays a big roll in their short life expectancy.

~~~~~

WHAT COUNTRY WOULD QUALIFY AS THE MOST STRESSED-OUT NATION IN THE WORLD BECAUSE OF THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS?

Nigeria ... By looking at the homicide rate, the GDP per capita, continued income inequality, corruption, lack of education opportunities and unemployment numbers, one thing is clear: Nigeria's people are, hands-down, the most stressed out population in the world.

~~~~~

**WHICH CITY HAS THE HIGHEST AVERAGE IQ?**

Hong Kong ... There are a lot of factors that affect an IQ score, ranging from national and personal wealth, to simply what test is used. As a result, these findings are highly controversial, but suggest that Hong Kong has the highest IQ level, at an average of 107 points per person. \*However, Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China, meaning that it falls within the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China, yet does not form part of Mainland China, because it has it's own government. So these results are questionable.

~~~~~

WHICH FOREIGN CITY IS THE WORLD'S MOST WELL-CONNECTED ONE FOR INTERNET USE?

Seoul, South Korea ... Surprisingly, despite China's 618 million Internet users who spend an average of 18.7 hours a week surfing the net, China didn't even make the top 10 for Internet connection. Seoul, Korea is a different story considering the average connection speed, availability, (including free access), openness to innovation, support of public data, and privacy/security, Seoul, South Korea is the champion of Internet-connectedness. With 10,000 government supported free WiFi spots dotting the city, and an Internet speed that goes unchallenged globally, Seoul is an Internet junkie's paradise.

Wasn't that interesting? I'll bet you learned something new, I know I did!

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

SHORT GUN STORY

A guy walked into a crowded bar, waving his pistol and yelled, "I have a .45 Colt with an eight shot clip and I want to know who's been sleeping with my wife."

A voice from the back of the room called out, "You need more ammo".

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

BOUDREAUX

Boudreaux, the smoothest-talking Cajun in the Louisiana National Guard, got called up to active duty.

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Boudreaux's first assignment was in a military induction center. Because he was a good talker, they assigned him the duty of advising new recruits about government benefits, especially the GI insurance to which they were entitled.

The officer in charge soon noticed that Boudreaux was getting a 99% sign-up rate for the more expensive supplemental form of GI insurance. This was remarkable, because it cost these low-income recruits \$30.00 per month for the higher coverage, compared to what the government was already providing at no charge.

The officer decided he'd sit in the back of the room at the next briefing and observe Boudreaux's sales pitch.

Boudreaux stood up before the latest group of inductees and said, "If you has da normal GI insurans an' you goes to Afghanistan an' gets youself killed, da govment' pays you benefishery \$20,000. If you takes out da suppmental insurans, which cost you only t'irty dollars a munt, den da government' gots ta pay you benefishery \$400,000! "

"Now," Boudreaux concluded, "which bunch you tink dey gonna send ta Afghanistan first?"

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

YOUR YEARLY DEMENTIA TEST
(only 4 questions)

Yep, it's that time of year again for us to take our annual senior citizen test.

Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. As we grow older, it's important to keep mentally alert. If you don't use it, you lose it!

Here is a very private way to gauge how your memory compares to your last test. Some may think it is too easy, but the ones with memory problems may have difficulty.

Take this test to determine if you're losing it or not.

The spaces below are so you don't see the answers until you've made your answer. OK, relax, clear your mind and begin.

#1. What do you put in a toaster?

Answer: 'bread.' If you said 'toast', just give up now and go do something else. And, try not to hurt yourself.

If you said, bread, go to Question #2.

#2. Say 'silk' five times. Now spell 'silk.' What do cows drink?

Answer: Cows drink water. If you said 'milk,' don't attempt the next question. Your brain is already over-stressed and may even overheat. Content yourself with reading more appropriate literature such as Women's Weekly or Auto World. However, if you did say 'water', proceed to Question #3.

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#3. If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from?

Answer: Greenhouses are made from glass.

If you said 'green bricks', why are you still reading this??? PLEASE, go lie down!

But, if you said 'glass,' go on to Question #4.

#4. Do not use a calculator for this:

You are driving a bus from New York City to Philadelphia.

In Staten Island, 17 people got on the bus.

In New Brunswick, 6 people get off the bus and 9 people get on.

In Windsor, 2 people get off and 4 get on.

In Trenton, 11 people get off and 16 people get on.

In Bristol, 3 people get off and 5 people get on.

And, in Camden, 6 people get off and 3 get on.

You then arrive at Philadelphia Station.

Without going back to review, how old is the bus driver?

Answer: Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember your own age?!?! The Question said it was YOU driving the bus!

If you pass this along to your friends, pray they do better than you.

PS: 95% of people fail most of the questions!

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

The problem with political jokes is they get elected.

~Henry Cate, VII~

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office

~Aesop~

If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven.

~Will Rogers~

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.

~Nikita Khrushchev~

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.

~Clarence Darrow~

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Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.

~Author unknown~

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.

~John Quinton~

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

~Oscar Ameringer~

I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them.

~Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952~

A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country.

~ Tex Guinan~

I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.

~Charles de Gaulle~

Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks.

~Doug Larson~

There ought to be one day -- just one -- when there is open season on senators.

~Will Rogers~

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

ROOM 858

A hotel guest calls the front desk and the clerk answers, "May I help you?"

The woman says, "Yes, I'm in room 858. You need to send someone to my room immediately. I'm having an argument with my husband and he says he's going to jump out the window."

The desk clerk says, "I'm sorry madam, but that's a personal matter."

The woman replies, "Listen you idiot. The window won't open.... that's a maintenance matter."

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

KID LOGIC

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years.

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became father only when I was born.

(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

(I love this child.)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir; It's the same dog.

(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher.

PASS THIS AROUND AND MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH!

LAUGHTER IS THE SOUL'S MEDICINE!!

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

ALWAYS ASK, NEVER ASSUME

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His request approved, the CNN News photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger.

He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go."

The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off.

Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, "Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm a photographer for CNN", he responded, "and I need to get some close up shots."

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered,

"So, what you're telling me, is....You're NOT my flight instructor?"

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>~<of>~<the>~<W>~<E>~<E>~<K>

From: "Michael Townsend" mtown3721@gmail.com



<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>

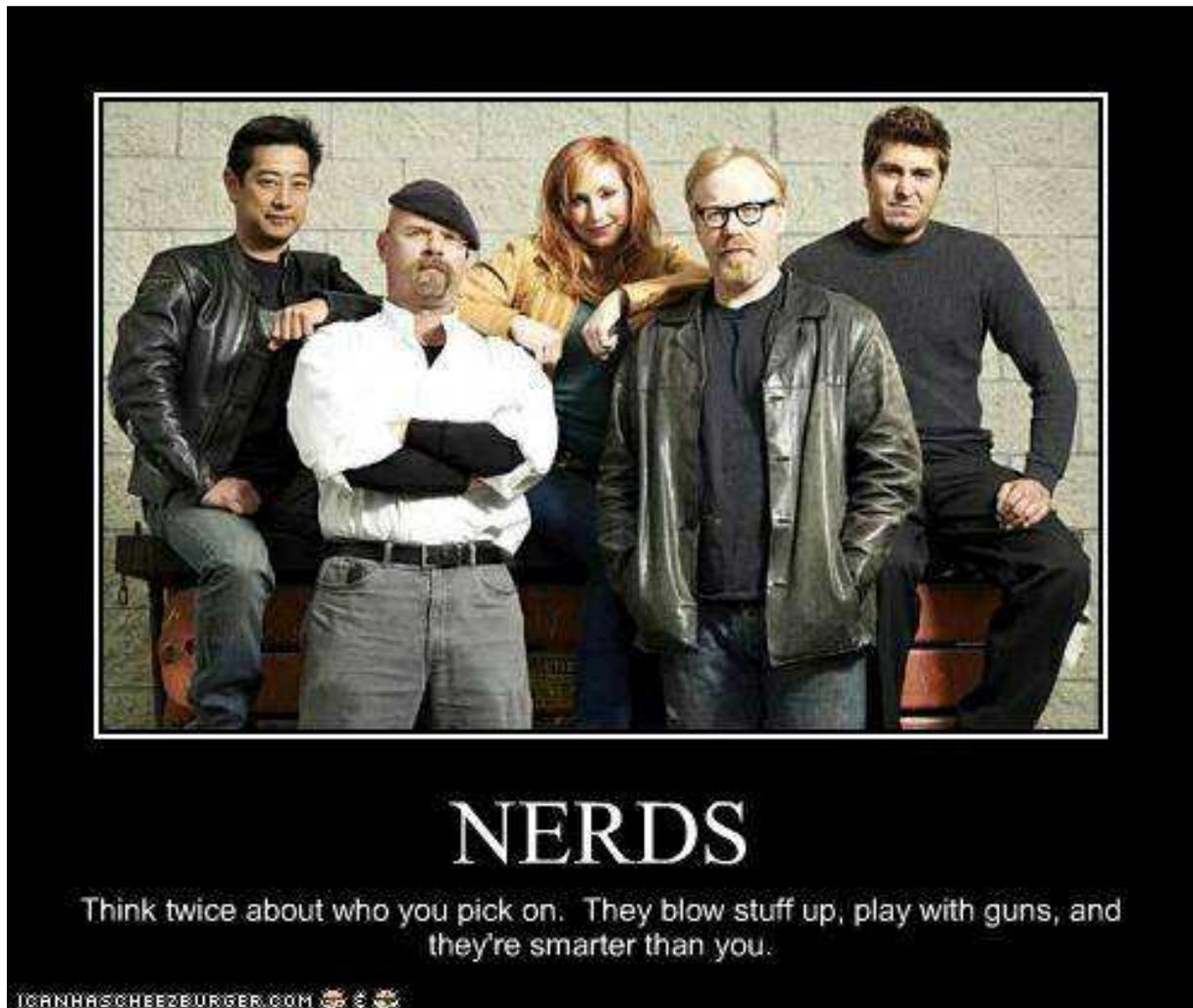
Even if you don't play golf....you got to admire Sergio Garcia.

PLAY IT WHERE IT LIES

https://www.youtube.com/embed/10jORLiU7Ak?feature=player_detailpage

<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>~<of>~<the>~<W>~<E>~<E>~<K>

From Walter Daniel's Facebook Page



<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>~<of>~<the>~<W>~<E>~<E>~<K>

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com

Wow...that cuts right to the quick...doesn't it



<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>~<of>~<the>~<W>~<E>~<E>~<K>

From Michael Kabongo Facebook Page

OVERPROTECTIVE PARENTS LEFT THEIR NEWBORN WITH THE BABY'S GRANDPARENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEY CALLED EVERY 4 MINUTES CHECKING ON THE BABY, SO THE GRANDDAD SENT THEM THIS PHOTO.



<YOU>~<>~<JUST>~<>~<CAN'T>~<>~<MAKE>~<>~<THIS>~<>~<STUFF>~<>~<UP!>

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Keith A. Glass" salgak@comcast.net

FLORIDA TEEN ARRESTED AFTER POSING AS DOCTOR, OPENING MEDICAL PRACTICE

Posted 8:26 pm, February 16, 2016, by Tribune Media

<http://fox2now.com/2016/02/16/florida-teen-arrested-after-posing-as-doctor-opening-medical-practice/>

"Dr. Malachi A. Love" is shown in a photo posted to his Facebook page on Jan. 12, 2016.

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — A Florida teen was arrested on suspicion of practicing medicine without a license after he allegedly performed a physical exam on an undercover agent on Tuesday.

Malachi Love-Robinson, 18, was taken into custody after the undercover operation, during which he gave medical advice, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office announced.

Authorities had received a complaint earlier in the month about Love-Robinson, who had been cited by the state health department for practicing medicine without a license in October 2015.

Love-Robinson opened a medical office in West Palm Beach and was presenting himself as a doctor, the Sheriff's Office said.

A Facebook page for Dr. Malachi A. Love listed a medical office at the same address — 4700 N. Congress Ave. — as the one given by the Sheriff's Office, calling the business "New Birth New Life Holistic and Alternative Medical Center & Urgent Care." A website and Facebook page were also set up for the center.

Photos on the center's Facebook page showed "Dr. Love" posing with two older women described as the center's "staff." And on the website Healthgrades.com, a first-person description of Dr. Love-Robinson read:

"I am a well rounded professional that treats, and cares for patients, using a system of practice that bases treatment of physiological functions and abnormal conditions on natural laws governing the human body. I utilize physiological, psychological, and mechanical methods, such as air, water, light, heat, earth, phototherapy, food and herb therapy, psychotherapy, electrotherapy, physiotherapy, minor and official surgery, mechanotherapy, naturopathic corrections and manipulation, and natural methods or modalities, together with natural medicines, natural processed foods, and herbs and nature's remedies."



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Love-Robinson was booked on suspicion of practicing medicine without a license, and the Florida Department of Health served him notice to cease and desist along with several other citations.

In January, West Palm Beach police stopped a juvenile for posing as a doctor in a lab coat at an area hospital, the Florida Sun-Sentinel reported. No charges were filed.

It's not clear if the two incidents are linked.

<YOU>~<>~<JUST>~<>~<CAN'T>~<>~<MAKE>~<>~<THIS>~<>~<STUFF>~<>~<UP!>

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com

100 DRONES CONTROLLED BY INTEL PC DURING THE FIFTH SYMPHONY.

Drones have a lot of people worried about privacy, but they can be used for good as well as nefarious purposes.

Take, for instance, a spectacular display of drone technology by Intel Corporation (USA) involving 100 small aircrafts being launched skywards in formation has earned a new Guinness World Record for the Most Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) airborne simultaneously.

Controlled on the ground by a crew using PCs with Intel software, the mass of drones lit up the night sky in sync to a live performance of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and executed a stunning light show resembling a fireworks display.

This took place at Flugplatz Ahrenlohe, Tornesch, Germany, in November 2015. The record was set in collaboration with Ars Electronica Futurelab to push the limits of the UAV industry and to show what UAVs can be used for.

This 100 Drone Synchronized Airshow Is The World's Largest, And Most Impressive

https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=mOBQXuu_5Zw

<S>~<C>~<I>~<E>~<N>~<C>~<E>~<S>~<T>~<A>~<R>~<T>~<S>~<H>~<E>~<R>~<E>

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@comcast.net

BOOM! NASA WANTS TO BRING BACK SUPERSONIC X-PLANES

DAVIES.ALEX DAVIES TRANSPORTATION, 02.17.16

<http://www.wired.com/2016/02/boom-nasa-wants-to-bring-back-supersonic-x-planes/#slide-7>

NASA WANTS TO revive its storied "X-plane" division, one of the coolest aviation programs ever, with an eye toward making the future of commercial flight quieter, more efficient, and much, much faster.

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In a budget request published this month, NASA—which, remember, has “aeronautics” in its name as well as “space”—announced plans to revive the experimental program that started after World War II and created some of history’s most remarkable aircraft. Its milestones include the X-1 (first aircraft to break the sound barrier), the X-5 (first plane with variable sweep wings), the X-13 (first use of jet power for vertical takeoffs and landings), the X-31A (could turn 180 degrees in the air), and many more. The program was synonymous with the dawn of the jet age and continued building airplanes into the last decade. Its last plane was the unmanned X-51A “Waverider,” designed to fly at six times the speed of sound (roughly 4,000 mph) by riding its own shockwave. Like many x-planes, the Waverider was developed with military applications in mind.



One of the crazier-looking x-planes, the X-29 featured a swept wing design, but with the wings swept forward instead of backward. NASA/ LARRY SAMMONS

Now NASA is interested in making flying a better experience for the rest of us. The agency plans a “bold series of new experimental aircraft” to develop the technologies needed to cut the fuel consumption of commercial airplanes in half, reduce emissions by 75 percent, promote the use of renewable energy, and reduce noise levels around airports.

Those are ambitious, noble goals: Aviation’s responsible for 1.5 percent of the planet’s anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and demand for air travel is booming in the developing world. Planes have to get more efficient—the global aviation industry just last week agreed to a four percent reduction in fuel consumption by 2028—and NASA should be helping that effort.

Still, it's exciting to see that the aeronautics agency isn't all about cutting carbon. It's already got its next x-plane in mind, and this one, like so many of its predecessors, is all about going fast.

We've been flying at subsonic speeds like total lame-o's since the Concorde left service in 2003. Today's airliners typically fly around Mach .8 (~600 mph), leaving you stuck in that middle seat way longer than you'd like to be there. NASA thinks it's time to remedy that. The agency plans "to initiate the detailed design and build of the world's first low-boom flight demonstrator."

The problem with flying faster than the speed of sound is just how terrible it is for everyone on the ground. The sonic boom that results from an aircraft breaking the sound barrier is unpleasant and occasionally damaging. In the 1950s and 60s, when the military's supersonic jets were shooting all over the place, Americans filed nearly 40,000 claims against the Air Force, according to Lawrence R. Benson's book *Quieting the Boom: The Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstrator and the Quest for Quiet Supersonic Flight*. Complaints ranged from broken glass to dead pets and livestock driven insane.

That led the FAA in 1973 to ban supersonic commercial flight over the United States, saying "present technology cannot deal in a practical way with the sonic boom problem." That's why the Concorde stuck to routes between the East Coast and Europe, only firing up to full speed over the Atlantic and limiting its earning potential.

But if you can get rid of the sonic boom, or at least drastically reduce its negative effects, the US and other countries that imitated its ban might be persuaded to allow the revival of supersonic flight. That's the goal of the "low boom" aircraft, NASA says: "to overcome the sonic boom barrier and open the door for development of a new generation of supersonic civil transport aircraft."

NASA hasn't said much about how that plane will reduce the boom, except that it will try to validate work it's done in the wind tunnel. The general idea is to shape the plane so the shockwave it produces isn't quite so rough for those on the ground. The plan right now is to produce a preliminary design review in FY 2016, with a detailed design in FY 2017. The agency's not the only one working on this problem: Boeing, Airbus, Lockheed Martin, have shown concepts for supersonic aircraft in the past few years, and billionaire-backed Aerion Corp. plans to deliver a supersonic business jet around 2023.

If all goes according to plan, there will be a nice circularity to NASA's revived program: The first x-plane sent Chuck Yeager past Mach 1. The next one could let everyone else follow him there.

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GREENLAND'S MELTWATER MAY FERTILIZE FJORDS WITH PHOSPHORUS

By Christopher Intagliata on February 11, 2016

http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/greenland-s-meltwater-may-fertilize-fjords-with-phosphorus/?WT.mc_id=SA_ENGYSSUS_20160218

Greenland's glacial rivers may flush some 400,000 tons of phosphorus into ocean waters—on par with the Mississippi or the Amazon. Christopher Intagliata reports

The massive ice sheet topping Greenland is losing nearly 300 billion tons a year to melting, according to NASA estimates. And all that meltwater means rising seas. But it's also dumping huge amounts of nutrients and minerals into Arctic waters.

"The great thing about glaciers and ice sheets, is that they're these big, very heavy systems, and as they move over rock they grind and crush the rock up." Jon Hawkings, a glacial biogeochemist at the University of Bristol in the U.K. "So they expose all these reactive kind of trace components of the rock lattice to the fresh meltwater that's coming in."

That meltwater funnels rock dust into Greenland's glacial rivers, where Hawkings and his colleagues took their samples. They found that Greenland's rivers are much richer in phosphorus than previously believed. And they estimate that Greenland's glacial rivers may flush some 400,000 tons of phosphorus into ocean waters every year—that's on par with the amount of phosphorous dumped into the ocean by the Mississippi or Amazon rivers. The findings appear in the journal *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*. [Jon Hawkings et al, *The Greenland Ice Sheet as a hot spot of phosphorus weathering and export in the Arctic*]

All that extra phosphorus could be fertilizer for ocean life. "It's an essential nutrient for phytoplankton, who are the guys on the bottom of the food chain. So it's really, really important for life. And life can't exist without it." And this process—glaciers grinding rocks, then melting and flushing those nutrients to sea—it's not the first time it's happened. In fact, the authors speculate that during the last extreme ice age—the so-called "snowball Earth," some 700 million years ago—all this phosphorus runoff may have caused a bloom in ocean life. A bloom that may have ultimately oxygenated the planet...and paved the way for organisms like us.

PODCAST OF THIS ARTICLE IS AT THE WEBSITE.

<S><C><I><E><N><C><E>

THE DRINK OF VIKING WARLORDS COULD HELP FIGHT DISEASE

Maddie Stone, February 19, 2016

<http://gizmodo.com/the-drink-of-viking-warlords-could-help-fight-disease-1759503055>



The post-antibiotic future sounds terrifying, but here's one upside you didn't imagine: swilling Viking crunk juice to stay alive. New research suggests that mead, the vitality drink of gods and berserkers alike, was a potent medicine in ancient times. And with science, we can make it even better.

"A few hundred years ago, people only lived to be 30 or 40 years old,"

Tobias Olofsson, a microbiologist at Lund University in Sweden told Gizmodo. “If you had something to prevent infections, you could live much longer.”

Olofsson believes that something was honey wine. His groundbreaking research shows that bacteria found naturally in honey can fight off some of the toughest drug-resistant infections. Now, through his university-backed startup ConCellae, he’s leading an effort to develop a probiotic mead with the same medicinal properties.

The earliest archaeological evidence for mead-making dates back to the 7th century BC in China. But some experts think people have been getting inebriated off honey for far longer. “I personally believe humans have known how to ferment honeys since they left Africa,” Ken Schramm, the mead-maker who wrote the definitive modern guide on honey wine, told Gizmodo. Schramm, along with many archaeologists, speculates that our hunter-gatherer ancestors discovered mead accidentally, when tasting naturally fermented honey in beehives, or by adding honey to rotten fruit as a preservative.

“What they were getting is a living medicine”

While the origins of mead remain elusive, there’s no doubt our ancestors associated the drink with health and long life. In ancient Greece, mead was the drink of the gods, sent to Earth from the heavens as dew. Odin, the Norse god of healing and battle, was said to have gained his strength by suckling mead from a goat as a baby. And Viking warriors who reached Valhalla would be rewarded with draughts of the stuff, delivered by beautiful maidens. “It was the life-giving liquid across the ancient world,” Schramm said.

But it wasn’t until recently that researchers began asking whether our age-old obsession with mead’s healing properties might have a scientific basis.

That’s where Olofsson’s research comes in. For the last decade, he’s been studying a collection of microorganisms—so-called “lactic acid bacteria,” or LABs—that live inside the honeybee’s crop, a special stomach devoted to nectar collection. These bacteria are a living factory of medicine, exuding a suite of antimicrobial compounds that target and kill pathogens. In 2014, Olofsson published a study showing that honey inoculated with thirteen LABs could treat chronic, antibiotic-resistant wounds in horses. In the lab, the same microbial cocktail eliminates deadly human pathogens, including the notoriously drug-resistant MSRA.

“It was really amazing to discover these bacteria,” he said. “Each one carries special weapons, and together they are very strong.”

But LABs aren’t just found in honeybees—they play a critical role in the maturation of honey itself. “To produce honey from nectar, bees need to lower the water content, which takes two to three days,” Olofsson said. During that time, honeybees regurgitate the nectar, inoculating it over and over with their gut bacteria. “If not for the bacteria, the honey would be spoiled in the hive in just a couple of hours,” Olofsson added.

As honey ripens and its water content drops below 20 percent, sugar and salt become very concentrated, and the LAB can no longer survive. Eventually, the hive is left with mature, sterile honey. But young honey is loaded with LABs—and back in our hunting and gathering days, it’s possible that humans reaped the benefits. “Honey hunters were going

out and getting honey from trees that was still at 25 to 30 percent water content,” Olofsson said. “What they were getting is a living medicine.”

What’s more, Olofsson suspects that ancient honey hunters unwittingly made medicinal mead from immature honeycombs. “To get all of the honey out of the wax combs, honey makers would stick them in water,” Olofsson said. “After a day or two of standing, you had an alcoholic beverage.”

A few years back, Olofsson decided to test this hypothesis, by making mead from fresh honey and studying it in the lab. And he discovered something astonishing. “LABs, I found, went from 100 million per gram of honey to 100 billion to a glass of mead,” he said.

A beverage filled with infection-fighting bacteria certainly sounds like a recipe for good health. But we can’t be sure without careful clinical studies. That’s exactly what Olofsson is writing grant proposals to do right now.

“We started learning what kinds of weapons LABs fight with ten years ago,” Olofsson said. “If you can find those substances in the blood when you drink the mead, then we can really confirm that we’ve found the most potent beverage in the world.” Naturally, he’s volunteering himself as the first medicinal mead-drinking guinea pig.

It sounds like a pretty sweet gig. But when do the rest of us get to try this elixir of life? Since the research is still in an early stage, Olofsson says it’ll be a while before probiotic mead hits the shelves. In the meantime, he’s also started brewing a more traditional honey wine, which he hopes to sell in Sweden later this year.

Other mead-makers—most of whom sterilize their product before bottling it—are waiting for the hard evidence before they get too excited about medicinal booze. “It’s tough to say if there could be health benefits at this point,” Schramm said. But he finds the idea intriguing, and is keen to see where the research goes.

And if clinical trials are as successful as Olofsson hopes? Well, he might have really figured out how to bottle Odin’s strength. If that isn’t the pinnacle of scientific achievement, I don’t know what is.

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From: “Keith A. Glass” salgak@comcast.net

VERIZON’S “HUM” DEVICE FOR YOUR CAR WILL RAT OUT SPEEDING TEENS, WANDERING SPOUSES

By Chris Morran February 17, 2016

<http://consumerist.com/2016/02/17/verizons-hum-device-for-your-car-will-now-rat-out-your-speeding-teen-wandering-spouse/>

Do you have a teen driver in your household and want to know every time they get a little overzealous with the accelerator? Or maybe you’re pretty sure your spouse’s frequent trips to “the office” are not so innocent? If so, then an upcoming update for Verizon’s “hum” in-car smart device might be just what you’re looking for.

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The \$15/month hum service was originally launched to collect vehicle diagnostics, connect users to roadside assistance, provide maintenance reminders. But this morning Verizon announced that it will be adding a slew of new features for the hum, including:

Boundary alerts: Lets you set up a boundary and receive alerts when your vehicle exits and enters the area. So if your kid promised he was just driving a mile away to Josh's, you'll know he's lying when you get a message that your car crossed the boundary five miles away. Or maybe you and the spouse are enjoying some romantic private time because your teen is 20 miles away at some concert. That boundary alert telling you he's on his way back home will give you time to clean up that mess you made in the kitchen trying to reenact that scene from 9-1/2 Weeks.

Speed alerts: While the hum doesn't know the speed limit of every road your vehicles on, you will be able to set up maximum speed limits so that you get an alert — through the app, via email or text — whenever a driver crosses that threshold. So if your teen doesn't need to drive on the interstate to get to school in the morning, there's no reason for her to be driving 63 mph. This is also helpful in situations where you've handed over your vehicle for valet parking, so that things like this don't happen:

Vehicle location: Even more precise than the geofencing of the boundary alerts, the hum will provide map-based tracking of your vehicle's location, speed and travel direction.

Driving history: And just in case you missed all the alerts or your kid was savvy enough to change the account so that all the texts went to some other phone, the hum will provide "trip-based driving information to track driving efficiency, including duration, start and end times, idle times and max/avg. speeds." It might not be enough to convict someone in court, but it could be enough to get them grounded or sleeping on the couch for a month.

"Family members now have the opportunity to remain connected to their teenage drivers, elderly parents and others on the road, putting them in the passenger seat, even if they're miles away," reads a statement from a Verizon executive. "Parents can now sleep well at night knowing their precious cargo is safe on the road."

Or rather, parents can get mad as hell at night when they get a text alert that their 16-year-old just drove 90 mph to visit that college student they're secretly dating 50 miles away.

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Whoops. Bang goes that convenient greenie myth

EASTER ISLANDERS DIDN'T COMMIT 'ECOCIDE' AFTER ALL, SAYS ARCHAEOLOGIST

Myth-busting archaeologist Carl Lipo has dealt another blow to the idea that indigenous Easter Islanders committed "ecocide" in the 19th Century.

19 Feb 2016 at 15:02, Andrew Orlowski

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/02/19/easter_island_ecocide_myth_debunked/

The idea, fashionable with Western environmentalists, posits that the Polynesian natives deforested Rapa Nui, thus leading to cultural and economic collapse. Easter Island is denuded today because the islanders were fighting.

The theory was popularised first in a magazine article by pop science writer Jared Diamond, who asked:

As we try to imagine the decline of Easter's civilization, we ask ourselves, Why didn't they look around, realize what they were doing, and stop before it was too late? What were they thinking when they cut down the last palm tree. By now the meaning of Easter Island for us should be chillingly obvious. Easter Island is Earth writ small.

He repeated the idea in a Pulitzer-prize winning bestseller, *Guns, Germs and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies*. For Diamond, "the history of Easter Island is as close as we can get to a 'pure' ecological collapse."

But it was a story of convenience. Diamond needed a tale of ecological collapse, and projected it onto Rapa Nui. It suited the grim, determinist thrust of his book, in which technology and materials shape people, who don't have the brains or the agency to shape the technology or the material.

Carl Lipo and Terry Hunt's 2011 book *The Statues that Walked* dealt the theory several blows. The Polynesians were <http://maritimecookislands.com/the-worlds-first-seafarers.html> expert maritime migrants. There was no evidence they were primitive Jeremy Clarksons. The Rapa Nui had mastered a form of writing, while its population grew until Western contact introduced rats and disease. The rats were very bad news for the trees. A growing body of work has subsequently falsified Diamond's account, and now there's another.

In a new paper published in *Archaeology* Lipo, Hunt et al week point out that the "preserved weapons" ormata'a found in abundance on the island aren't actually weapons, but were agricultural tools.

"Easter Island was a story of remarkable success. And as young Native Islanders have told us, knowledge of their ancestors' success, not failure, matters greatly to them. The 'collapse' story for Easter Island is a convenient and popular parable used for shocking the public about the dangers of over-exuberance and environmental disregard," Lipo and Hunt wrote in 2011.

"However, as we describe in our book, the island's collapse came only with the germs, guns, and enslavement brought by the outside world. Given what is at stake in terms of lessons to be learned about long-term survival on an isolated and resource poor location, the truth matters."

Just under 3,000 people live on Rapa Nui today.

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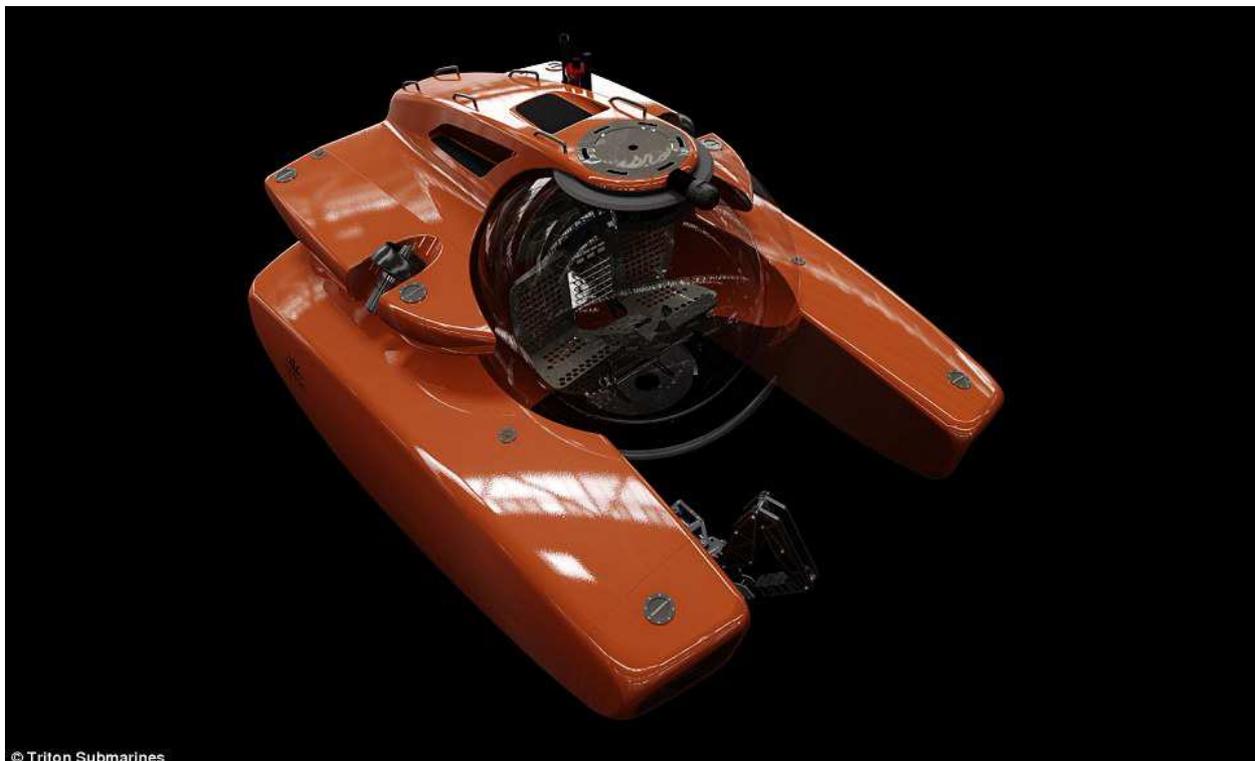
THE MUST-HAVE TOY FOR BILLIONAIRE SUPERYACHT OWNERS: \$5.5MILLION PERSONAL SUBMARINE CAN DIVE MORE THAN A MILE BENEATH THE SEA

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- * Priced from \$5.5million (£3.8million), Triton 6600/2 remains at surface pressure at a maximum depth of 6,600ft
- * Built by Triton Submarines, the two-seater is billed as the world's deepest diving acrylic-hulled submersible
- * With a top speed of nearly 3.5mph, it takes an hour for the pilot and a passenger to reach the maximum depth

By CHRIS KITCHING FOR MAILONLINE, PUBLISHED: 05:55 EST, 17 February, 2016
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-3449540/Triton-submarine-latest-toy-superyacht-owners.html#ixzz40ioU7V7d



© Triton Submarines

+5 - Triton 6600/2, a two-person submersible, remains at surface pressure while diving a mile beneath the sea thanks to its acrylic hull

No superyacht is complete without a mini-submarine that costs a small fortune.

The latest must-have for billionaire yacht owners – the Triton 6600/2 – allows them to explore shipwrecks or other spots at new depths thanks to a revolutionary new passenger compartment that remains at surface pressure even while diving more than a mile beneath the sea.

Priced from \$5.5million (£3.8million), the personal submarine has the thickest transparent acrylic hull ever made, providing a spectacular view of marine life at a depth of up to 6,600ft.

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Built by Triton Submarines, based in Vero Beach, Florida, the two-seater is billed as the world's deepest diving submersible with an acrylic hull.

With a top speed of nearly 3.5mph (three knots), it takes about an hour for the pilot and a passenger to reach the sub's maximum depth while they explore the sea for pleasure or research.

Triton 6600/2 has a maximum dive time of 10 hours, although its life support system, with an emergency oxygen supply, lasts 96 hours.

With air conditioning and high-output LED lights, the submarine weighs 17,640lbs and is 13ft long, nearly 11ft wide and nearly 7ft tall.



+5 - Triton's earlier 3300/3 model (pictured on a research mission) transported Sir David Attenborough to deep parts of the Great Barrier Reef

Triton CEO Bruce Jones unveiled plans for the new model at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show last November.

He said at the time: 'Like other Tritons, the

transparent pressure hull provides remarkable viewing and the capability of diving over a mile deep adds tremendous versatility.'

Project manager Ron Stamm added: 'It should take about an hour for the sub to get down to its maximum depth, but once there, the pilot and passenger will have plenty of time to investigate a wreck or some other artifact on the bottom, and shoot video if desired.'

'Six 20,000-lumens lights will be standard, but owners will be able to add more if needed to support their video operations.'

Triton 6600/2 is currently available for order and takes about 18 months for delivery.

The company's submersibles are a favourite of superyacht owners and researchers.

In his latest programme for the BBC, Sir David Attenborough travelled to deep parts of the Great Barrier Reef in a \$3.6million (£2.5million) Triton 3300/3.

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RUSSIA TO BUILD MOON BASE BY THE 2030S

February 22, 2016

<http://www.sijutech.com/2016/02/russia-to-build-moon-base-by-the-2030s/>



For decades after they pretended never to be in a “moon race” with the U.S., Russia now plans to build bases on the moon with high technology equipments and turned the place into a living for humans. Latest ambitions of one of the leading countries in space science is to create a permanent colony on the moon in 2030. It will be one of a series of missions that prepares for the return of humans to the surface and a possible permanent settlement.

The mission, called Luna 27, which is set for launch in five years' time.

The most recent plans call for up to six launches of the Angara A5V heavy-lift rocket to put enough hardware into orbit for their first mission, which appears to involve establishing a lunar base. The nearly 20-ton spacecraft superficially resembles the famous Eagle lunar module, and will be able to take at least two cosmonauts from a lunar orbit to the surface of the Moon. The nation is hoping to launch a lunar probe in 2024 to scout out colony locations, before landing humans on the moon within 14 years.

Lunar exploration was unveiled is a part of the Russian Federal Space Program 2016-2025, which outlines the country's activity in space for upcoming years. The program envisions sending unmanned robotic probes to the moon around the close of the 20s, which will set the stage for later missions by testing landing technologies. A total of five spacecraft have been outlined in the roadmap: Two landers, one orbiter, one rover, and a sample return vehicle.

Russian engineers are counting on a pair of Angara-5V rockets to deliver the lander without the crew toward its departure point in the lunar orbit. Two more such rockets would be needed to carry a transport ship with four cosmonauts from Earth to the lunar orbit, where the two would link up. Two crew members could then transfer into the lunar module, undock, and make a descent to the Moon. The Angara rocket will eventually replace the Russian workhorse heavy-lift rocket, Proton. It makes more sense to develop a launch vehicle that has commercial and other uses as well, as opposed to building a massive super-heavy lift vehicle.

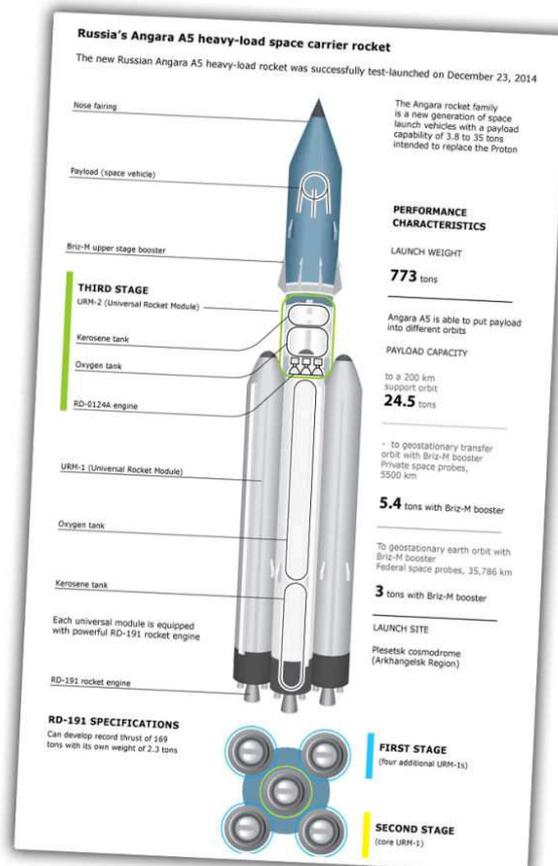
Another two rockets will transport a crew ship with four cosmonauts to the same point in space, where they would meet up. Two cosmonauts could then board the lander before

arriving on the lunar surface. The lander will be made up of an 11-ton descent section that will include a propulsion system and a landing gear. A 8.5-ton ascent stage will contain the crew cabin with all the life-support equipment, along with solar panels and a radiator. The cabin will have a hatch in the front of the module and another at the top for docking. Russian engineers have yet to decide on a shape for the crew cabin. As envisioned by Russian engineers, the human-rated lander would consist of the 11-ton descent stage carrying landing gear and the propulsion system responsible for the trip from lunar orbit to the surface.

To create a human base on the moon, Russia will use six separate launches of the upcoming Angara rocket. Each launch will send a new module to the moon, created the base piece by piece, in a similar way to how the ISS was put together.

Assembly of the moon base is expected to take more than ten years, and Roscosmos says it will eventually serve as a permanent settlement. Russia's first manned flight to the moon is possible a year earlier, in 2029, according to the head of Russia's state-controlled Rocket and Space Corporation Energia had predicted.

Vladimir Solntsev, president of RSC Energia, which is 38 per cent owned by the Russian state, made the predictions at a space technology conference in Moscow in October. Currently Russia's Soyuz spacecraft, which are built by RSC Energia, are the only vehicles capable of sending humans into space. Nasa has been relying upon the system to send its astronauts to the International Space Station along with regular supplies of cargo. In a statement posted on the RSC Energia website, Mr Solntsev said: 'The high-priority line of activities for Russian manned programs in the next 10 to 20 years is lunar exploration.'



SOURCE: TASS

Currently, Russian engineers are also assembling two robotic landers, first of which is scheduled to land in a polar region of the Moon in 2019. These are some of the coldest places in the Solar System. As such, they are icy prisons for water and other chemicals that have been shielded from heating by the Sun. If the joint lunar exploration program goes ahead, the 2019 lander will become a precursor for human missions and even for a permanently occupied lunar base.

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Earlier this year, the European Space Agency said it was interested in joining Russia's attempts to colonise the moon. They were working together to send a lander to the moon's south pole to look for water. The Lunar 27 mission will launch in 2020 and its primary mission will be to look for deposits of water ice in craters on the surface, which could be used by future manned colonies on the moon. Professor Igor Mitrofanov, one of the lead scientists on the project at the Space Research Institute in Moscow, told the BBC: "We have to go to the Moon. "The 21st Century will be the century when it will be the permanent outpost of human civilisation, and our country has to participate in this process."



New manufacturing methods, including 3D printing, have been developed that can make the use of lunar regolith as a building material possible, and the promise of eventual mining of Helium-3 as a fuel for hoped-for fusion reactors are finally giving lunar bases enough justification to exist. In any matter, but Russia's plan is also a good sign for all humanity. Because, in fact, not many countries have the ability to set foot on the moon and

the Apollo Program is a very expensive program.



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ABSOLUTELY & TOTALLY POLITICALLY INCORRECT & AS FAR TO THE RIGHT AS YOU CAN GO!

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com

SCOTUS — BETTER OBSTRUCTION THAN DESTRUCTION

"With the advice and consent of the Senate"

By Mark Alexander - Feb. 17, 2016

<http://patriotpost.us/alexander/40740>

"Be not intimidated ... nor suffer yourselves to be wheedled out of your liberties by any pretense of politeness, delicacy, or decency. These, as they are often used, are but three different names for hypocrisy, chicanery and cowardice." —John Adams, 1765

On Tuesday of last week, Justice Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court majority staying EPA regulations proposed by Barack Obama for his so-called "Clean Power Plan." That plan was just the latest SCOTUS objection to Obama's extra-constitutional efforts to bypass Congress and impose his will by regulatory fiat instead of legislation.

On Tuesday of this week, in the wake of Justice Scalia's death, Barack Obama's United Nations climate envoy declared that Obama would ignore the High Court's ruling against his "climate change" agenda and, moreover, ignore the Constitution's mandate requiring "Consent of the Senate to make Treaties" — as specified in Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 — by signing the UN Climate Treaty.

That announcement was followed by Obama's protests against Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's assertion that "the American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president." Obama claims McConnell is an "obstructionist," insisting "the Constitution is pretty clear about what is supposed to happen," and declaring Republicans are violating Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 mandating the "Consent of the Senate to appoint ... Judges of the supreme Court."

Yes, that is the same Article, Section and Clause Obama is himself ignoring when announcing the same day that he would sign the UN Climate Treaty.

Laughably, Obama offered this assessment of constitutional mandates: "These are responsibilities that I take seriously as should everyone [and are] bigger than any one party. They are about our democracy [sic], and they are about the institution to which Justice Scalia dedicated his professional life in making sure it continues to function as the beacon of justice that our Founders envisioned. I'm amused when I hear people who claim to be strict interpreters of the Constitution suddenly reading into it a whole series of provisions that are not there."

However, McConnell is not proposing anything that would be in violation of Article II, Section 2, Clause 2.

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On the other hand, while Obama's tenure in office has been characterized primarily by ineptitude, a close second would be his persistent and abject violation of his oath "to Support and Defend" our Constitution, and his willful defiance of Rule of Law whenever Congress fails to do his bidding.

Within hours of Justice Scalia's death, Democratic National Committee CEO Amy Dacey broadcast a nationwide email alert, declaring, "Barack Obama has been very clear: He's going to fulfill his constitutional obligation and nominate our next Supreme Court justice."

Why now? Obama certainly hasn't "fulfilled his constitutional obligations" in any other respect.

Taking Obama's lead, there were plenty of other Democrats making laughable references to our Constitution.

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid opined, "This constitutional duty has transcended partisan battles because it is essential to the basic functioning of our co-equal branches of government. By ignoring its constitutional mandate, the Senate would sabotage the highest court in the United States and aim a procedural missile at the foundation of our system of checks and balances. Our founders who envisioned a fair, bipartisan process must be rolling in their graves."

This would be the same Harry Reid who, while Senate majority leader, implemented the "nuclear option" allowing the confirmation of judges (but not justices) by a simple majority vote, effectively eliminating the constitutional provision for filibuster.

Vermont's Patrick Leahy, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, held up a copy of the Constitution at a press conference and complained, "Republicans are talking about the Republican playbook. ... This is the playbook we should follow, the Constitution of the United States." Clearly, Leahy's copy has never been opened.

Not to be outdone, Democrat wildcard Elizabeth Warren got into the act: "Article II Section 2 of the Constitution says the president of the United States nominates justices to the Supreme Court, with the advice and consent of the Senate. ... Senate Republicans took an oath just like Senate Democrats did. Abandoning the duties they swore to uphold would threaten both the Constitution and our democracy [sic] itself. It would also prove that all the Republican talk about loving the Constitution is just that — empty talk."

Empty talk indeed from another protagonist of the Socialist Democratic Party who has never honored her oath.

So what does the Constitution actually mandate regarding court nominations, and are the Republicans in violation of same?

Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 states, "[The President] shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States."

In other words, in regard to the federal court nominees, the president is required to submit a nominee to the Senate for its approval or rejection.

To better understand what that means, I turn to The Federalist Papers, written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay to promote ratification of the Constitution. The Federalist remains the most definitive resource for legal and historic scholars in search of the original intent of the Framers of our Constitution.

Federalist No. 76 covers the "Appointing Power of the Executive":

"The President is to nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States whose appointments are not otherwise provided for in the Constitution. ... To what purpose then require the co-operation of the Senate? ... [T]he necessity of their concurrence would ... be an excellent check upon a spirit of favoritism in the President, and would tend greatly to prevent the appointment of unfit characters. ... It will readily be comprehended, that a man who had himself the sole disposition of offices, would be governed much more by his private inclinations and interests, than when he was bound to submit the propriety of his choice to the discussion and determination of a different and independent body, and that body an entire branch of the legislature."

Federalist No. 77 also addresses appointments:

"It has been mentioned as one of the advantages to be expected from the co-operation of the Senate, in the business of appointments, that it would contribute to the stability of the administration. The consent of that body would be necessary to displace as well as to appoint."

In other words, as understood in 1787 and today, Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 provides that the legislative branch (the Senate) has a check on the executive branch (the president) with the objective that the executive not pack the judicial branch (the Supreme Court) with those who would share his prejudices and special interests, rather than abide by Rule of Law as enshrined in our Constitution. The Senate Consent requirement provides some nominal assurance against the threat of prejudicial and special interests nominees.

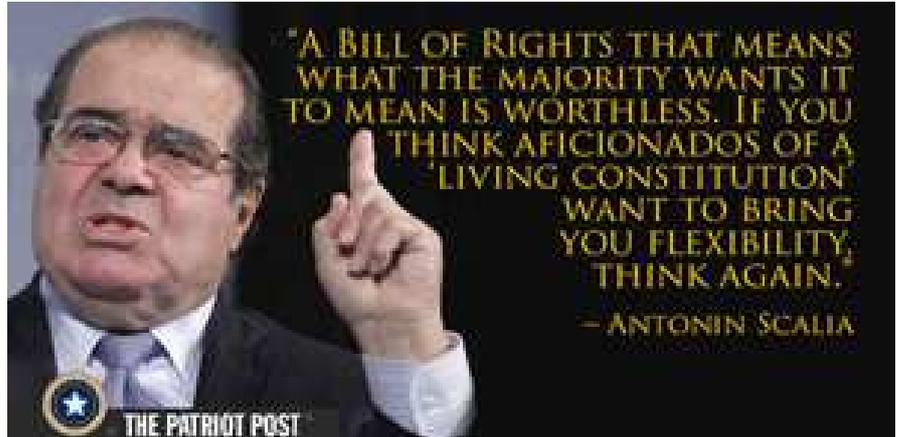
The principle of separation of powers necessitates that the appointment of judges requires a collaborative effort by the executive and legislative branches. The Senate can either approve or reject an Obama court nominee by scheduling votes in the Judicial Committee and the full Senate, or defer consideration of that nomination by not scheduling votes by either the committee or the full Senate.

As constitutional scholar John McGinnis notes:

"The Senate has independent authority in that it may constitutionally refuse to confirm a nominee for any reason. While ideology and jurisprudential 'point of view' were not among the kinds of concerns listed by the Framers as justifying the requirement of advice and consent, nothing in the text of the clause appears to limit the kind of considerations the Senate can take up. ... As the president has complete discretion in the use of his veto power, the Senate has complete and final discretion in whether to accept or approve a nomination."

It is the responsibility of the president to nominate, and the Senate to approve, only those judges who will interpret our Constitution's original intent. As James Madison wrote, "An elective despotism was not the government we fought for; but one in which the powers of government should be so divided and balanced among the several bodies of magistracy as that no one could transcend their legal limits without being effectually checked and restrained by the others."

Justice Scalia, nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 and confirmed soon thereafter by a 98-0 vote in the Senate, adhered strictly to the doctrine of constitutional originalism — the standard our Founders prescribed — reading the plain language of the Constitution for its original intent, and applying the historical context of the drafters when the plain-language intent was not readily apparent.



Scalia's constructionist interpretation was contrary to those "activist judges" whom Thomas Jefferson warned would treat "the Constitution [as] a mere thing of wax ... which they may twist and shape into any form they please." Scalia provided an effective check against SCOTUS activists endeavoring to usurp individual freedoms with their errant notion of a "living constitution."

Regarding judicial activists, Justice Scalia wrote, "As long as judges tinker with the Constitution to 'do what the people want,' instead of what the document actually commands, politicians who pick and confirm new federal judges will naturally want only those who agree with them politically."

Of course, Obama will put forth a nominee who he believes will "twist and shape" the Constitution to comport with his "progressive" will. And any effort to defer his nominee will elicit cries of "obstruction."

It is worth recalling, however, the level of obstruction Democrats put forth when considering President Reagan's 1987 nomination of the distinguished jurist Robert Bork. After the confirmation of Scalia, Senate Democrats were not about to consent to another judge who would interpret the Constitution as our Founders intended. Senator Ted Kennedy protested, "Reagan is still our president. But he should not be able to ... impose his reactionary vision of the Constitution on the Supreme Court and the next generation of Americans. No justice would be better than this injustice."

Soon thereafter, esteemed columnist William Safire coined the word "bork" as a verb, in reference "to the way Democrats savaged Ronald Reagan's nominee, the Appeals Court judge Robert H. Bork." The next jurist Democrats endeavored to bork was a black nominee, Clarence Thomas.

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In the upcoming battle for control of the Supreme Court and, by extension, the United States of America, perhaps Senate Republicans should follow Sen. Chuck Schumer's lead and refrain from consideration of any Obama nominee.

In 2003, Schumer, now Harry Reid's heir-apparent as Democrat leader, declared, "We are blocking [Bush nominees] by filibuster. That is part of the hallowed process around here." Indeed, they blocked confirmation of two outstanding judicial nominees, Miguel Estrada (a Hispanic man) and Janice Rogers Brown (a black woman).

More to the point, in 2007, 18 months before George W. Bush left office, Schumer declared: "[F]or the rest of this president's term and if there is another Republican elected with the same selection criteria let me say this: We should reverse the presumption of confirmation. ... I will recommend to my colleagues that we should not confirm any Bush nominee to the Supreme Court... In the end [we must] ensure that our Court reflects what America wants, rather than what a diminishing clique of conservative ideologues wish for. ... I will do everything in my power to prevent one more ideological ally from joining Roberts and Alito on the court."

Now, however, Schumer insists the Senate has "a constitutional obligation to hold hearings, conduct a full confirmation process, and vote on the nominee based on his or her merits."

Let's remind Obama that, despite his "obstructionist" protests, of the 16 presidents who once served in the Senate, only he endeavored to filibuster a Supreme Court nomination — the 2006 nomination of now-Justice Samuel Alito. And he was joined by then-Senator Hillary Clinton, who now claims, "[Republicans] are even saying [Obama] doesn't have the right to nominate anyone, as if somehow he's not the real president."

The editors of The Wall Street Journal weighed in with this salient advice: "Ignore any complaints you read about 'unprecedented' GOP 'obstruction.' As Justice Scalia warned, legal progressives made the Court a partisan cause by making value judgments that are best left for voters to decide. One result is that Democrats will have to fight and win an election in 2016 to replace the greatest contemporary Justice."

Indeed, better to be an "obstructionist" than to consent to a "destructionist."

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From: "Tim Bolgeo" [tbolgeo@comcast.net](mailto:tbolgeo@comcast.net)

**A HISTORY LESSON CONCERNING BLOCKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE SUPREME COURT IN THE LAST YEAR OF A PRESIDENTIAL TERM. UT**

**DEMS PASSED A 1960 RESOLUTION TO PREVENT SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENT AHEAD OF ELECTION**

**JULIEGRACE BRUFKE, 02/17/2016**

<http://dailycaller.com/2016/02/17/the-tables-have-turned-dems-passed-resolution-in-1960-to-prevent-supreme-court-appointment-ahead-of-election/#ixzz40WXzuvDH>

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In the wake of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's death, President Barack Obama said he plans on nominating a successor despite Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's vow not to fill the seat until the election is over.

While Democrats in the upper chamber – including Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and former Sen. Russ Feingold of Wisconsin, both of which called for blocking former President George W. Bush's nominations – have slammed the GOP for its decision not to consider a nominee until after a new president is elected, Democrats have not always held that stance. The Democrat-controlled Senate passed a resolution in 1960 preventing a recess appointment, much to the dismay of Republicans.

As first reported by The Washington Post – S.RES. 334, also known as Expressing the Sense of the Senate That The President Should Not Make Recess Appointments to the Supreme Court, Except to Prevent or End a Breakdown in the Administration of the Court's Business – passed the Senate in a 48-33 vote in an attempt to prevent former President Dwight Eisenhower from filling a seat last-minute.

Article II, Sec. 2 of the Constitution grants the commander in chief the power to appoint a temporary replacement while the upper chamber is not in session. "The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session," it reads.

AND

White House: Obama 'regrets' decision to filibuster Supreme Court Justice Alito

FoxNews.com, Published February 18, 2016

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/02/18/white-house-obama-regrets-decision-to-filibuster-supreme-court-justice-alito.html?intcmp=hpbt1>

<SNIP>

SO, WHEN YOU START THINKING ABOUT HOW BAD THE REPUBLICANS ARE FOR BLOCKING A VOTE ON A SUPREME COURT NOMINATION, PLEASE REMEMBER HISTORY. UT

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ABSOLUTELY & TOTALLY POLITICALLY INCORRECT & AS FAR TO THE CENTER AS YOU CAN GO!

From: "Tim Bolgeo" [tbolgeo@comcast.net](mailto:tbolgeo@comcast.net)

When anyone tells you how great socialism is and compares it to what is happening in Denmark, please remember this.

NOT EVERYTHING IN THIS POSTER IS CORRECT, AS SPECIFIED BY SNOPE. BUT THE BASIC FACTS OF THE POSTER ABOUT LIFE IN DENMARK ARE PRETTY CLOSE AND ON THE BALL. CHECK OUT THE SNOPE ARTICLE ABOUT THIS.

<http://www.snopes.com/denmark-socialism-brutal-meme/>



I am a school-teacher from Denmark, making about \$61,000 a year. We get free education. You don't have to pay for the doctor, the hospital, and students even get paid to study. It all sounds so great .. right? However, I forgot to mention that nothing is ever free. The lowest personal income-tax in Denmark is minimum 40 percent. Also, we pay a sales tax of 25 percent, and on top of sales tax the government applies further (generally hidden) duties and fees, applied to almost everything, making it really hard for lower-class people to get by, causing them to be deeply dependent on government handouts.

A gallon of gas is about 10 dollars. Tax on a car is 180 percent, which brings a car valued a bit over \$20,000 dollars in the United States (e.g., Honda Accord) up to an astounding \$50,000 dollars in Denmark.

Denmark is the highest taxed nation in the world—taxed an average of 80 percent of every earned dollar. Caused by excessive taxation. Danes also have the highest private debt in the world. Only few will ever own a car or a house here, banks generally do—hypocritically, the very same bankers that the collectivists despise. Anyone who makes over \$80,000 annually pays a personal tax of 68 percent. This means that almost all people with higher earnings have either found ways to evade taxes, or have left the country, often bringing their companies with them, making employment scarcely low.

Denmark's suicide rate has averaged 20.8 per 100,000 during the last five decades, with its highest level of 32. The American suicide rate averaged only 11.1 during the last five decades, and has never exceeded 12.7. Danes are deeply deprived, driven by severe narcissism, and so more than 11 percent of adult Danes — the supposed happiest people in the world — are on antidepressants. Well, of course Danes are happy; they are medicated to be! Everyone wants the American dream. In Denmark's neo-communism no one will ever own or accomplish anything.

Kind regards Mikkel Clair Nissen

Want to know more? [www.manipulism.com](http://www.manipulism.com)

**BE CAREFUL WHO YOU ARE VOTING FOR IN NOVEMBER BECAUSE OF THE CONSEQUENCES. UT**

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**PRESIDENT OBAMA WILL NOT ATTEND JUSTICE SCALIA'S FUNERAL**

Christine Rousselle | Feb 17, 2016

<http://townhall.com/tipsheet/christinerousselle/2016/02/17/president-obama-will-not-attend-justice-scalias-funeral-n2120820>

The president and first lady will not be in attendance at Justice Antonin Scalia's funeral this Saturday. Vice President Joe Biden and his wife Jill will be in attendance. The service will be held on Saturday at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

President Obama and Michelle will pay their respects at the Supreme Court on Friday. Scalia will lie in repose in the Court's Great Hall until 8:00 p.m. that night.

Obama and first lady Michelle Obama instead will go to the Supreme Court on Friday "to pay their respects to Justice Scalia" while the justice lies in repose in the Great Hall, press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters Wednesday.

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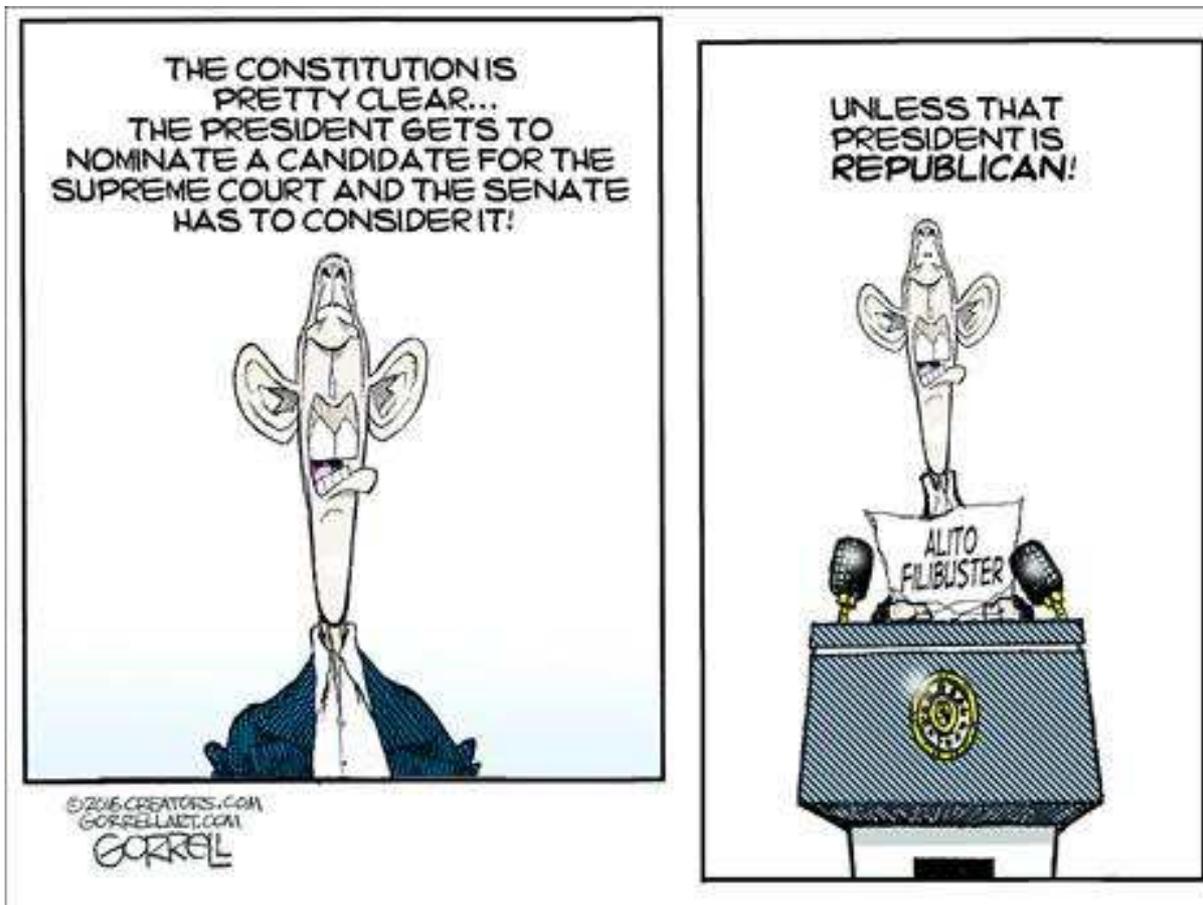
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The last time a justice died was Chief Justice William Rehnquist in 2005, and at that time President George W. Bush not only attended the funeral but also eulogized him.

Earnest declined to elaborate on what the Obamas would be doing on Saturday in lieu of the funeral. While it's not unheard of for presidents to miss the funerals of retired justices, Obama's absence on Saturday may be the first time in at least 65 years that a current president has skipped the funeral of a sitting justice.

NO COMMENT ON THIS ONE. UT

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Bob Gorrell - Wednesday, February 17, 2016  
<http://townhall.com/political-cartoons/2016/02/17/138937>

HYPOCRISY IS ALIVE AND WELL ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE. UT

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From: "Bob Bolgeo" [bbolgeo@aol.com](mailto:bbolgeo@aol.com)

IF PRESIDENT OBAMA GETS HIS WAY---THIS WILL HAPPEN TO US TOO--YOU SHOULD BE SCARED VERY SCARED!

This "furniture shipment" was supposed to go to the refugee camps in GREECE To make their life more bearable and ease their hardships.

52 tons of guns and ammunition in big 40' double containers followed the migrants to Europe, pretending to be furniture but, was discovered by the Greek border securities in 14 containers.

If this doesn't convince you that this IMMIGRATION is nothing less than an ARMED INVASION then nothing will.

Wonder still, why all those young (military age) men without children or wives are taking on the task of traveling all those miles posing as refugees?

They are coming.....Like they said they would.

<http://www.jewsnews.co.il/2016/01/07/this-shipment-going-to-muslim-refugees-in-greece-was-labeled-furniture-see-anything-odd-about-the-picture/>

THE EMAIL FROM BOB CAME WITH TONS OF PICTURES OF SHOTGUNS, RIFLES AND AMMO BUT THEY WERE JUST TOO DARN MANY TO PUT INTO THE MISSIVE. ON THIS ONE YOU WILL HAVE TO TRUST ME THAT IT WAS SCARY. ALSO, I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO HAVE OWNED SOME OF THOSE TOYS MYSELF. UT

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From: "Peter Coblentz" [pcoblentz@mindspring.com](mailto:pcoblentz@mindspring.com)

EAGLES OF DEATH METAL'S JESSE HUGHES: GUN CONTROL FAILED PARIS

"Did your French gun control stop a single person from dying at the Bataclan?" musician asks in emotional interview. "If anyone can answer yes, I'd like to hear it"

BY JON BLISTEIN, Rolling Stone Magazine, February 16, 2016

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/eagles-of-death-metals-jesse-hughes-gun-control-failed-paris-20160216#ixzz40RJOH0ST>

Eagles of Death Metal frontman Jesse Hughes slammed France's strict gun control laws ahead of the group's first full concert in Paris since the November 13th terror attacks.

In an intensely emotional interview with the French channel, iTélé, Hughes recounted the horrific attack at Bataclan that left 89 people dead and the trauma he's experienced since. "When I'm awake is when I see things that are nightmares," Hughes said. The musician also said it was his "sacred responsibility" to finish that Eagles of Death Metal show, as well as

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the rest of the band's tour, noting at one point: "I can't let the bad guys win." (The full interview below features Hughes' answers in English, though a French translator does speak over them.)



**Eagles of Death Metal frontman Jesse Hughes said France's strict gun control laws failed the victims of the November Paris attacks Kevin Winter/Getty**

Hughes, an outspoken proponent of the rights of gun owners, was later asked whether the attack had changed his views on the issue, to which he initially responded, "Gun control kind of doesn't have anything to do with it." But he then added: "Did your French gun control stop a single person from dying at the Bataclan? If anyone can answer yes, I'd like to hear it, because I don't think so. I think the only thing that stopped it was some of the bravest men that I've ever seen in my life charging head-first into the face of death with their firearms.

"I know people will disagree with me, but it just seems like God made men and women, and that night guns made them equal," he continued (cribbing an old adage-turned-bumper-sticker slogan about revolver manufacturer Sam Colt). "I think the only way that my mind has been changed is that maybe that until nobody has guns everybody has to have them, because I don't want to see anything like this ever happen again, and I want everyone to have the best chance to live. I saw people die that maybe could have lived. I don't know, but I wish I knew for sure that if they could have had a better chance, because there were some real angels, real wonderful people at that show."

Eagles of Death Metal played their first full show since the November attacks in Stockholm Saturday, and are set to perform at the Olympia in Paris tonight, February 16th. The group, however, did return to Paris in December to join U2 on stage for a cover of Patti Smith's "People Have the Power." The Irish rockers then stepped aside to let Eagles of Death Metal play their own cut, "I Love You All the Time."

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From: "Jim Woosley" [Jimwoosley@aol.com](mailto:Jimwoosley@aol.com)

**THIS IS THE REAL REASON APPLE IS FIGHTING THE FBI**

Julian Sanchez, Feb. 18, 2016

<http://time.com/4229601/real-reason-apple-is-fighting-the-fbi/>

Julian Sanchez is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute.  
If the FBI wins, it could open the door to massive surveillance

The first thing to understand about Apple's latest fight with the FBI—over a court order to help unlock the deceased San Bernardino shooter's phone—is that it has very little to do with the San Bernardino shooter's phone.

It's not even, really, the latest round of the Crypto Wars—the long running debate about how law enforcement and intelligence agencies can adapt to the growing ubiquity of uncrackable encryption tools.

Rather, it's a fight over the future of high-tech surveillance, the trust infrastructure undergirding the global software ecosystem, and how far technology companies and software developers can be conscripted as unwilling suppliers of hacking tools for governments. It's also the public face of a conflict that will undoubtedly be continued in secret—and is likely already well underway.

First, the specifics of the case. The FBI wants Apple's help unlocking the work iPhone used by Syed Farook, who authorities believe perpetrated last year's mass killing at an office Christmas party before perishing in a shootout with police. They've already obtained plenty of information about Farook's activities from Apple's iCloud servers, where much of his data was backed up, and from other communications providers such as Facebook. It's unclear whether they've been able to recover any data from two other mobile devices Farook physically destroyed before the attack, which seem most likely to have contained relevant information.

But the most recent data from Farook's work-assigned iPhone 5c wasn't backed up, and the device is locked with a simple numeric passcode that's needed to decrypt the phone's drive. Since they don't have to contend with a longer, stronger alphanumeric passphrase, the FBI could easily "brute force" the passcode—churning through all the possible combinations—in a matter of hours, if only the phone weren't configured to wipe its onboard encryption keys after too many wrong guesses, rendering its contents permanently inaccessible.

So the bureau wants Apple to develop a customized version of their iOS operating system that permits an unlimited number of rapid guesses at the passcode—and sign it with the company's secret developer key so that it will be recognized by the device as a legitimate software update.

Considered in isolation, the request seems fairly benign: If it were merely a question of whether to unlock a single device—even one unlikely to contain much essential evidence—there would probably be little enough harm in complying. The reason Apple CEO Tim Cook

has pledged to fight a court's order to assist the bureau is that he understands the danger of the underlying legal precedent the FBI is seeking to establish.

Four important pieces of context are necessary to see the trouble with the Apple order.

1. This offers the government a way to make tech companies help with investigations. Law enforcement and intelligence agencies have for years wanted Congress to update the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1992, which spells out the obligations of telephone companies and Internet providers to assist government investigations, to deal with growing prevalence of encryption—perhaps by requiring companies to build the government backdoors into secure devices and messaging apps. In the face of strong opposition from tech companies, security experts and civil liberties groups, Congress has thus far refused to do so.

By falling back on an unprecedentedly broad reading of the 1789 All Writs Act to compel Apple to produce hacking tools, the government is seeking an entry point from the courts it hasn't been able to obtain legislatively. Moreover, saddling companies with an obligation to help break their own security after the fact will raise the cost of resisting efforts to mandate vulnerabilities baked in by design.

2. This public fight could affect secret orders from the government. Several provisions of the federal laws governing digital intelligence surveillance require companies to provide “technical assistance” to spy agencies. Everything we know suggests that government lawyers are likely to argue for an expansive reading of that obligation—and may already have done so. That fight, however, will unfold in secret, through classified arguments before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The precedent set in the public fight may help determine how ambitious the government can be in seeking secret orders that would require companies to produce hacking or surveillance tools meant to compromise their devices and applications.

3. The consequences of a precedent permitting this sort of coding conscription are likely to be enormous in scope. This summer, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance wrote that his office alone had encountered 74 iPhones it had been unable to open over a six-month period. Once it has been established that Apple can be forced to build one skeleton key, the inevitable flood of similar requests—from governments at all levels, foreign and domestic—could effectively force Apple and its peers to develop internal departments dedicated to building spyware for governments, just as many already have full-time compliance teams dedicated to dealing with ordinary search warrants.

This would create an internal conflict of interest: The same company must work to both secure its products and to undermine that security—and the better it does at the first job, the larger the headaches it creates for itself in doing the second. It would also, as Apple's Cook has argued, make it far more difficult to prevent those cracking tools from escaping into the wild or being replicated.

4. Most ominously, the effects of a win for the FBI in this case almost certainly won't be limited to smartphones. Over the past year I worked with a group of experts at Harvard Law School on a report that predicted governments will respond to the challenges encryption poses by turning to the burgeoning “Internet of Things” to create a global network of surveillance devices. Armed with code blessed by the developer's secret key, governments will be able to deliver spyware in the form of trusted updates to a host of sensor-enabled

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appliances. Don't just think of the webcam and microphone on your laptop, but voice-control devices like Amazon's Echo, smart televisions, network routers, wearable computing devices and even Hello Barbie.

The global market for both traditional computing devices and the new breed of networked appliances depends critically on an underlying ecosystem of trust—trust that critical security updates pushed out by developers and signed by their cryptographic keys will do what it says on the tin, functioning and interacting with other code in a predictable and uniform way. The developer keys that mark code as trusted are critical to that ecosystem, which will become ever more difficult to sustain if developers can be systematically forced to deploy those keys at the behest of governments. Users and consumers will reasonably be even more distrustful if the scope of governments' ability to demand spyware disguised as authentic updates is determined, not by a clear framework, but a hodgepodge of public and secret court decisions.

These, then, are the high stakes of Apple's resistance to the FBI's order: not whether the federal government can read one dead terrorism suspect's phone, but whether technology companies can be conscripted to undermine global trust in our computing devices. That's a staggeringly high price to pay for any investigation.

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From: "Jim Woosley" [Jimwoosley@aol.com](mailto:Jimwoosley@aol.com)

**HILARIOUS: JUDGE JUDY CONTESTANT INADVERTENTLY EXPLAINS EXACTLY WHAT'S WRONG WITH LIBERALISM**

Written by The Analytical Economist on February 18, 2016

<http://www.allenbwest.com/2016/02/hilarious-judge-judy-contestant-inadvertently-explains-exactly-whats-wrong-with-liberalism/>

It's hard to see wealth redistribution as anything but theft with government as the middleman.

Having taxes fund all kind of nice things allows liberalism to hide its true colors as an ideology of envy, but when you cut out government as the middleman, it looks a lot like this:

**GREAT VIDEO OF JUDGE JUDY AT THE WEBSITE! IT IS REALLY EYE OPENING AND FUNNY AS HELL.**

Liberals accuse conservatives who oppose redistribution as being against the best wishes of the poor, when in reality we're against this sort of "forced charity" the government mandates.

In fact, conservatives give more to charity than liberals. The divide in charitable giving is so wide that poor conservatives give more to charity than wealthy liberals. Liberals need to be forced against their will to give to the poor through taxes, but conservatives clearly do not.

All I can say is now I have a Scalia replacement in mind...

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**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM EXPLAINED**

**FASCISM:** The government orders you to give the fruits of your labor to others. If you refuse, the government arrests you.

**COMMUNISM:** The government takes the fruits of your labor and gives it to others. If you refuse, the government arrests you.

**SOCIALISM:** The government **POLITELY** takes the fruits of your labor and gives it to others. If you refuse, the government arrests you.

**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM:** At the request of 51% of voters, the government **POLITELY** takes the fruits of your labor and gives it to others. If you refuse, the government arrests you.

**Democratic Socialism - like Fascism, Communism and Socialism - are all rooted in envy and rely on force. In summary, they are all EVIL.**

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If you would like to unsubscribe From: THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY, please send an email message to Tim Bolgeo [tbolgeo@comcast.net](mailto:tbolgeo@comcast.net) and say, "QUIT SENDING ME THIS STUPID RAG!"

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