

*The May 18th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!*

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Welcome to the May 18th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!

Yesterday we celebrated SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED'S BIRTHDAY and the house was filled with family and friends to mark the event. According to SWMBO, one day is not enough and this whole week should be dedicated to her glorification. Hey, who am I to argue with this logic. After over 45 years of being joined in the bonds of Holy Deadlock, I have pretty much learned my lessons (most of the time). ;^) Even Uncle Bobby was up from his Florida Condo to help us celebrate the event. But that is not the only family news this week. Next Saturday, a large portion of the family will gather at my nephew's house to celebrate the baptism of his new grand daughter, Ella DeMelo, my Great Grand Niece. Yep, that is not a misprint, I have that many great nieces and nephews and I love them all. The only problem I have now is that they live all over the world, literally, and I hardly do not ever get to see them. But the family is growing and I am blessed for that.

Another high point of this week was the LibertyCon meeting at Casa Spraker. LibertyCon is only a little less than two months away and we are getting all the final details together. It's kind of funny that back in the old con days we would be going through lists and calling people...you get the idea about the old days. Now it is Derek getting the new Art Show program's final details completed. Getting the links setup online for the artists to access the program to pre-enter their paperwork before the convention. Then we were talking about needing more laptops on Sunday so that con attendees could preregister online for LibertyCon 30. Etc., etc., etc. You get the idea about getting ready for the convention in the new con days. But some things never change, that are still tons of details to go over and complete before the convention. In all honesty, you tell the difference between a regular convention and a good convention based on all the details that the con-committee take care of before the event. I personally have always strived to run a great convention and I think that Brandy, Empress of the Known Universe, is taking after her old man's example in the running LibertyCon.

One thing I can tell you, we always need more help to put on LibertyCon every year. We can't do it all by ourselves. And this is where I feel the guiltiest at the convention. I used to be able to work 12 and 14 hours a day putting up art shows, hustling kegs for the Consuite, helping out on registration, and auctioneering on Saturday night. But the older I get, the more I have to work with my noggin and not with my hands or my body. But I still will not give up my auctioneering work because it gives me a thrill to help out the artists and to raise money for children's charities. I guess it tickles my vanity to still be a little useful. Ann Robards, Ginger Cochran and crew are going to get me a table to sit behind on the stage so that I can still try to work my magic of the kids. For this I am grateful. That's enough rambling from the old fart today.

So, on that "Thoughtful 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>

LIBERTYCON MEETING REPORT

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

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Last Sunday, the Board of Directors of LibertyCon met at the home of Brandy and Derek Spraker to start going over the details to hold LibertyCon 29. It was a long meeting that contained a ton of great information that I hope to pass on the most important items to all of you.

**REGISTRATION:** Matt let us know that we have almost 650 people out of 750 people preregistered. Also, we have almost 80 banquet ticket sold already and only have about 36 or so left to sell.

**HOTEL:** Brandy reported that the Chattanooga Choo Choo was sold out but that she was maintaining a waiting list so that any rooms that happen to open up before LibertyCon the first people on the list would get the first shot at them. She's really good about that. Also, Brandy reported that our overflow hotel, The Staybridge Suites is already getting reservations from LibertyCon members who can't get into the Chattanooga Choo Choo. And then I reported that the hotel layout document was already to go and should be sent to the Choo Choo soon.

**GAMMING;** David Bolling, the Gamemaster of Chattacon is taking over the gaming at LibertyCon and has told us that LibertyCon will be going to a 24 hour a day gaming schedule in the Norfolk Room. Also, they have already schedule a number of tournaments for the weekend that should keep the whole joint jumping. Derek reported that the Southern Room will again be our Computer Gaming center and that plans were looking good here. Then I reported that I am going to be making a few minor changes to the Killer Cutthroat Spades Tournament Schedule because of the space limitations of the American Car. On Friday, the first 5 tables of the tournament will start at 10 pm and the last five tables at 11:30 pm. I will be releasing more information about this in a week or so to all of the Spades Regulars.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Fritz reported on the program book and it looks like it is going to be a pip. Derek reported on the LC29 APP and said it would be loaded up on the net pretty soon but that was based on when Rich was going to be finished with the programming schedule.

**PROGRAMMING:** Rich reported that he was busily working on the programming for the convention and showed us the preliminary work that has been accomplished. OMB is that thing getting bigger by the day. I used to joke about him have 4 things going at once, but I was understating what is going on. Make that 5 or 6 now. Hopefully we will be seeing the programming schedule put up on line by the middle of June so that everybody can take a quick look at it. One big thing I can tell you now is that PROGRAMMING STARTS AT 1 PM ON FRIDAY, JULY 8TH for LibertyCon 29. That's right kiddies, for those of you who get in early for the convention, there will be some additional programming you y'all. And trust me, it's some good stuff!

**ART SHOW:** Ann reported that she already has 46 panels and 9 tables sold for LC29. There are only about 13 panels and 6 or 7 tables left to be sold. So it looks like everything is going to be sold out by the time of the convention. We even talked about the auction this year and things that conflict with it. Yes my children, we are already having a major conflict with LibertyCon's Art Auction on Saturday night. You see, the mean theatrical establishment of Chattanooga is out to get us because appearing about 4 blocks from the Chattanooga Choo Choo at the Tivoli Theater on Saturday night is 'Weird Al Yankovich'. Damn my bad luck because he is one of my musical heroes. But, nothing gets in the way of my devotion to children's charities so I definitely will be auctioneering that evening. Ann also reported that

she and Derek were busily completing the last details on the new Art Show Computer Program that should go a long way to automate all of the paperwork for the Art Show. Hopefully, this will usher in a new way of doing things that will spread to other conventions.

**HOSPITALITY:** Vonn reported that she will be hospitable at the convention. I'm sorry, I had to 'punnish' you a little bit. She is going out of her way to introduce new dishes to tempt all of you. As a matter of fact, she served up dinner for all of us at Casa Spraker and it was delicious. So, I can promise you now that LibertyCon is scheduled to have one of the best Consuites in our history this year. Yum-yum!

That is my abbreviated report on the meeting and I can only tell you that there was a ton of stuff I didn't get to. But I can tell you this, LibertyCon 29 looks like it will be one of our best efforts and something we will be proud to present to y'all. The final Board Meeting before LibertyCon 29 will be on Sunday, June 26th.

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#### **NEBULA AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

SFWA is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 Nebula Awards (presented 2016), the winner of the Ray Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation, and the winner of the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy.

#### **NEBULA AWARDS**

##### **Novel Winner:**

**UPROOTED, Naomi Novik (Del Rey)**

##### **Other nominees:**

**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)**

**Barsk: The Elephants' Graveyard, Lawrence M. Schoen (Tor)**

**Updraft, Fran Wilde (Tor)**

##### **Novella Winner:**

**BINTI, Nnedi Okorafor (Tor.com)**

##### **Other nominees:**

**Wings of Sorrow and Bone, Beth Cato (Harper Voyager Impulse)**

**"The Bone Swans of Amandale," C.S.E. Cooney (Bone Swans)**

**"The New Mother," Eugene Fischer (Asimov's 4-5/15)**

**"The Pauper Prince and the Eucalyptus Jinn," Usman T. Malik (Tor.com 4/22/15)**

**"Waters of Versailles," Kelly Robson (Tor.com 6/10/15)**



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**Novelette Winner:**

**"OUR LADY OF THE OPEN ROAD," Sarah Pinsker (Asimov's 6/15)**

**Other nominees:**

**"Rattlesnakes and Men," Michael Bishop (Asimov's 2/15)**

**"And You Shall Know Her by the Trail of Dead," Brooke Bolander (Lightspeed 2/15)**

**"Grandmother-nai-Leylit's Cloth of Winds," Rose Lemberg (Beneath Ceaseless Skies 6/11/15)**

**"The Ladies' Aquatic Gardening Society," Henry Lien (Asimov's 6/15)**

**"The Deepwater Bride," Tamsyn Muir (F&SF 7-8/15)**

**Short Story Winner:**

**"HUNGRY DAUGHTERS OF STARVING MOTHERS," Alyssa Wong (Nightmare 10/15)**

**Other nominees:**

**"Madeleine," Amal El-Mohtar (Lightspeed 6/15)**

**"Cat Pictures Please," Naomi Kritzer (Clarkesworld 1/15)**

**"Damage," David D. Levine (Tor.com 1/21/15)**

**"When Your Child Strays From God," Sam J. Miller (Clarkesworld 7/15)**

**"Today I Am Paul," Martin L. Shoemaker (Clarkesworld 8/15)**

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**RAY BRADBURY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DRAMATIC PRESENTATION WINNER:**

**MAD MAX: FURY ROAD, Written by George Miller, Brendan McCarthy, Nick Lathouris**

**Other nominees:**

**Ex Machina, Written by Alex Garland**

**Inside Out, Screenplay by Pete Docter, Meg LeFauve, Josh Cooley; Original Story by Pete Docter, Ronnie del Carmen**

**Jessica Jones: AKA Smile, Teleplay by Scott Reynolds & Melissa Rosenberg; Story by Jamie King & Scott**

**Reynolds**

**The Martian, Screenplay by Drew Goddard**

**Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Written by Lawrence Kasdan & J.J. Abrams and Michael Arndt**

...

**ANDRE NORTON AWARD FOR YOUNG ADULT SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY WINNER:**

**UPDRAFT, Fran Wilde (Tor)**

**Other nominees:**

**Seriously Wicked, Tina Connolly (Tor Teen)**

**Court of Fives, Kate Elliott (Little, Brown)**



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Cuckoo Song, Frances Hardinge (Macmillan UK 5/14; Amulet)  
Archivist Wasp, Nicole Kornher-Stace (Big Mouth House)  
Zeroboxer, Fonda Lee (Flux)  
Shadowshaper, Daniel José Older (Levine)  
Bone Gap, Laura Ruby (Balzer + Bray)  
Nimona, Noelle Stevenson (HarperTeen)

The Nebula Awards are voted on, and presented by, active members of SFWA.

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**SNAKE PLISSKEN KINDLY SUGGESTS YOU WATCH THIS JOHN CARPENTER MUSIC VIDEO RIGHT NOW**

Cheryl Eddy, May 10, 2016

<http://io9.gizmodo.com/snake-plissken-kindly-suggests-you-watch-this-john-carp-1775891939>



What's this? Oh, just John Carpenter performing the theme from *Escape From New York* live in a Los Angeles recording studio. (Carpenter directed the video, too, natch.) Crank it up, imagine yourself infiltrating the prison that's replaced Manhattan, and succumb to the incredible urge to suddenly don an eye patch.

Carpenter, whose world tour will give fans their first-ever chance to see him perform his iconic soundtracks live, has a pair of instrumental albums already on shelves, *Lost Themes* and *Lost Themes II*. But since he knows what the kids really want, he's also putting out a pair of "redux 12-inches," featuring the themes of *Halloween* b/w *Escape From New York*, and *Assault on Precinct 13* b/w *The Fog*. Those will be out June 17 with limited-run picture disc editions and accompanying t-shirts also available; vinyl junkies can pre-order through Sacred Bones Records.

**NOW THAT KIDDIES IS COOL WITH A CAPITAL 'C'! UT**

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**ABC HAS CANCELED MARVEL'S AGENT CARTER**

Germain Lussier, May 12, 2016

<http://io9.gizmodo.com/abc-has-cancelled-marvels-agent-carter-1776366639>



After two seasons of fighting crime, Agent Carter has been given her walking papers. The ABC show, based on a character from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, has been canceled.

The show's ratings slipped considerably in the second season—and with star Hayley Atwell already signed for another show (it's called Conviction), the writing was on the wall. It probably didn't help that Captain America: Civil War put a not-so-subtle period on the character's long, exciting, and storied career in the Marvel Universe either.

At least one of ABC's Marvel shows will continue, however: Agents of SHIELD is coming back for another season. But it seems a spinoff that was to be called Marvel's Most Wanted is not making the cut. And for Agent Carter, Jarvis, and the crew, that's all she wrote.

[The Hollywood Reporter]

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**GEORGE TAKEI'S REVIEW OF FILM / GALAXY QUEST**

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

Film / Galaxy Quest

<http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Film/GalaxyQuest>



"Never give up! Never surrender!"

"A chillingly realistic documentary." — George Takei

In 1982, *Galaxy Quest*, a series very much like *Star Trek*, was cancelled. Eighteen years later, its washed-up stars are fixtures on the fan circuit, though most of them despise the show, its fans, and each other. Only Jason Nesmith (played by Tim Allen), the egomaniac actor who played The Captain, is

still enjoying himself — and the rest of the cast think he's a total jerk (again, very much like *Star Trek*).

One day, a hungover Jason is approached by what he believes to be a group of fans who want him to star in an amateur film. Only when the "film" is over does he realize that it was all real. He had been abducted by real aliens, and taken to a real spaceship, a perfect copy of the show's Protector, where he'd fought a real space battle.

Finally realizing that it's not a fan film after getting sling-shotted through space, Jason ropes in the rest of the main cast, plus one Red Shirt. Instead, the actors find that they are the last hope of the Thermians, a race of naïve aliens fighting a losing war, who mistakenly believe that *Galaxy Quest* was actually a documentary. They now have to play their roles for real, defeating an alien warlord with nothing more than mediocre acting skills.

This Affectionate Parody of *Star Trek* (with aspects of the film *¡Three Amigos!*) hangs a lampshade on most of its tropes. The film won the Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation, and the writers accepted the award almost in tears because they were so pleased that the Sci-Fi community "got it" — that the film was a valentine, not a sneer. And some fans consider it an honorary *Star Trek* film to begin with (especially because including it in the timeline helps keep the *Star Trek* Movie Curse straight).

There were plans to make a sequel, but they were cancelled after the death of Alan Rickman, who played Sir Alexander Dane.

<SNIP>

THERE IS A WHOLE LOT MORE TO THIS ARTICLE THAT I THINK YOU WILL ALL ENJOY. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CHECK IT OUT. ALSO, I HAVE ADOPTED GALAXY QUEST'S

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CATCH PHRASE OVER THE YEARS AND IT WORKS FOR ME. "NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER SURRENDER!" UT

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Re: Resizing a picture for the Revenge

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

Downloaded Fastviewer, "bit" on the request for a donation - though not as much as they suggested. Downloaded the .pdf tutorial

If my computer blows up I know how to find you.

ABUSE AND MISTREATMENT, WHAT MORE DID I EXPECT?

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

Re: Resizing a picture for the Revenge

From: "Jim White" [jim@jeem.net](mailto:jim@jeem.net)

On 5/10/2016 11:20 AM, Tim Bolgeo wrote: "On an entirely different subject. I have been using Adobe Photoshop for years to reduce the size of some of the pictures I put in this missive."

Resize by right-clicking in Explorer  
XP had the Windows Powertoy Image resizer. For later windows,

<https://imageresizer.codeplex.com/>

THANKS, I'LL TRY IT UT

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

Re: The May 11th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!

From: "Frank Brayman" <afranklin3@gmail.com>

History Channel had a feature called "Dogfights". One of the segments was on the Korean War, and they interviewed pilots from both sides. The Russian was a retired AF General. The format was, interviewer asked a question. They edited out the translator. The old pilot responded in Russian, with English subtitles.

Russian and Polish are cousins, like Spanish and Italian. I found that I could pick up maybe 25-30% of the spoken Russian language, and fill in the rest from context and a little help from subtitles. Who knew?

Watching it, the subtitle wildly diverged from the spoken, and I cracked up. Rebecca asked, "What did he say?" "Ssh!" I replied. A minute or so later, it happened again. and I lost it. Here's how it went:



Q: "The USAF had a 13-to-1 kill ratio. How do you explain that?"

A: "The Sabre had radar, the MiG-15 didn't. We fought the way we did in WW-2, with ground radar control. But for political reasons, we couldn't speak Russian over the radio, so we had to learn Korean words and phrases. Even so, we were all WW-2 veterans, the very best the Red AF had, and we held your guys to 1:1. If we had fought the way we trained, we would have cleaned your clock." Subtitles diverged then.

Subtitle- "Our Asian allies lacked our experience, and they suffered for it."

Spoken- "Fucking gooks were hopeless, your guys swatted them like flies."

Q: "The USAF evaluated a MiG-15 that a Korean deserter flew to Japan. They came up with a gripe list." (List followed.)

A: (Laughed.) "That was a soldier's airplane, a joy to fly. Only one I liked better was the MiG-17, because for a change, the engineers listened to us and corrected the -15's faults. There weren't many." Subtitles diverged then.

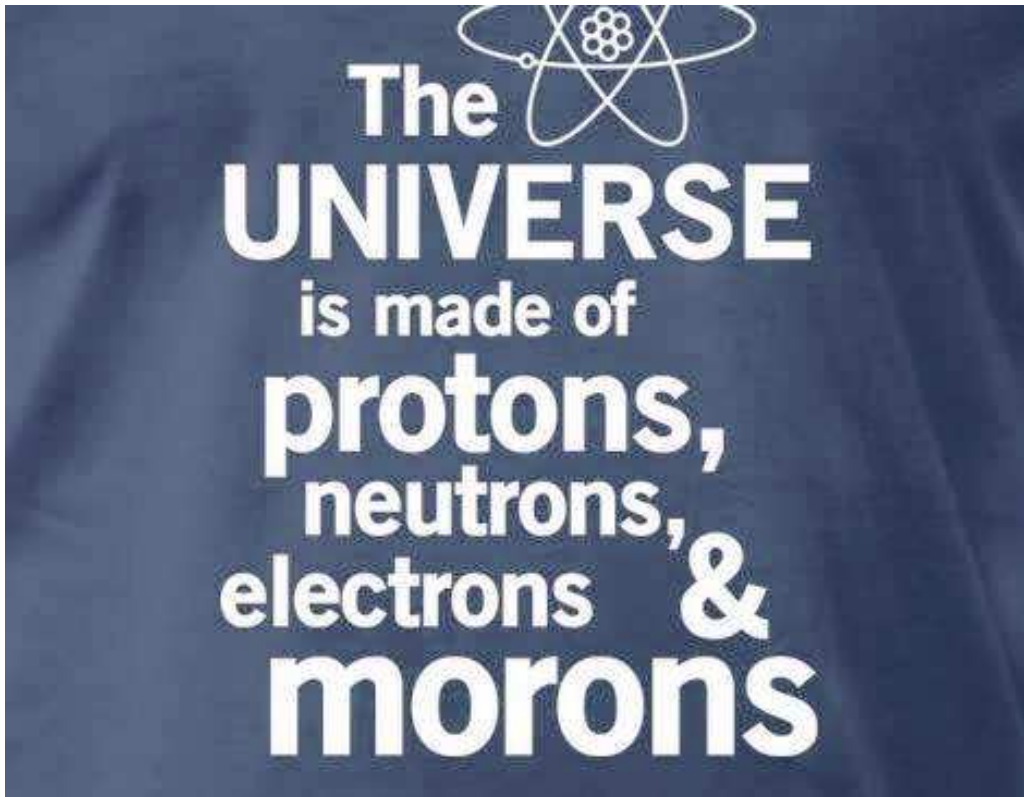
Subtitle- "Our Korean allies had difficulty maintaining modern aircraft. These were probably maintenance issues."

Spoken- "Korean monkeys couldn't handle anything more complicated than an ox cart. They probably fucked it up."

So much for socialist solidarity!

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

From Brenda Byers Facebook Page



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

From: "Mike Waldrip" [waldripk@gmail.com](mailto:waldripk@gmail.com)

**The Writer**

A young man grew up his entire life saying that he wanted to become a great writer. He was once asked about what kind of writer he wanted to become in his life.

"Oh," he said, "I want to become the kind of writer who is great.

I want to write about stuff that everyone in the world will read.

I want what I write to make people react on an emotional level.

I want them to scream, cry, howl in pain and anger," he said of his writing.

Now that he's an adult, he is a writer. He writes error messages for Microsoft.

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



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

THE GOLF BALL AND THE SAND WEDGE.

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A woman takes a lover home during the day, while her husband is at work.

Her 9-year old son comes home unexpectedly, sees them, and hides in the bedroom closet. Then the woman's husband also comes home. She puts her lover in the closet, not realizing that the little boy is in there already.

The little boy says, 'Dark in here.'

The man says, 'Yes, it is.'

Boy - 'I have a golf ball.'

Man - 'That's nice.'

Boy - 'Want to buy it?'

Man - 'No, thanks.'

Boy - 'My dad's outside.'

Man - 'OK, how much?'

Boy - '\$250'

A few weeks later, it happens again that the boy and the lover, are in the closet together..

Boy - 'Dark in here..'

Man - 'Yes, it is.'

Boy - 'I have a sand wedge.'

The lover, remembering the last time, asks the boy, 'How much?'

Boy - '\$750'

Man - 'Sold.'

A few days later, the boys father says to the boy, 'Grab your sand wedge and golf ball, let's go outside and have some short game practice.'

The boy says, 'I can't, I sold my ball and sand wedge, dad.'

The father says, 'What?! How much did you sell them for?'

Boy says \$1000.

The father says, 'That's terrible to overcharge your friends like that. That is far more than those two things cost. I'm going to take you to church and make you confess.'

They go to the church, and the father makes the little boy sit in the confession booth and he closes the door.

The boy says, 'Dark in here.'

The priest says, 'Don't start that shit with me again. You're in my closet now.'

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

## **TWO CROCODILES**

Two crocodiles were sitting at the side of the swamp near the lake. The smaller one turned to the bigger one and said, "I can't understand how you can be so much bigger than me. We're the same age; We were the same size as kids. I just don't get it."

"Well," said the big Croc, "What have you been eating?"

"Politicians, same as you," replied the small Croc.

"Hmm. Well, where do you catch them?"

"Down the other side of the swamp near the parking lot by the Capitol."

"Same here. Hmm. How do you catch them?"

"Well, I crawl up under one of their Lexus cars and wait for one to unlock the car door. Then I jump out, grab them by the leg, shake the shit out of them and eat 'em!"

"Ah!" says the big Crocodile, "I think I see your problem. You're not getting any real nourishment. See, by the time you finish shaking the shit out of a politician, there's nothing left but an asshole and a briefcase."

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

## **DEEP HOLE**

Two Tennessee rednecks are out hunting, and as they are walking along they came upon a huge hole in the ground. They approach it and are amazed at the size of it.

The first hunter says, "Wow, that's some hole; I can't even see the bottom. I wonder how deep it is?"

"The second hunter says," I don't know. Let's throw somethin' down there, listen and see how long it takes to hit bottom."

The first hunter says, "Hey, there's an old automobile transmission over there. Give me a hand, we'll throw it in and see."

So they pick it up and carry it over and count one, two, three and heave it in the hole. They are standing there listening, looking over the edge, when they hear a rustling behind them. As they turn around, they see a goat come crashing through the underbrush, run up to the hole and, without hesitation, jump in the hole headfirst.

While they are standing there staring at each other in amazement, peering into the hole, trying to figure out what that was all about, an old farmer saunters up.

"Say there," says the farmer, "You fellers didn't happen to see my goat around here anywhere, did you?"

The first hunter says, "Funny you should ask, but we were just standing here a minute ago and a goat came running out of the bushes doin' bout a hunnert miles an hour and jumped headfirst into this here hole!!"

The old farmer said, "Naw, that's impossible ...

I had him chained to an old transmission."

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

#### **A NUN GRADING PAPERS**

**CAN YOU IMAGINE THE NUN SITTING AT HER DESK GRADING THESE PAPERS, ALL THE WHILE TRYING TO KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE AND MAINTAIN HER COMPOSURE! PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE WORDS AND SPELLING. IF YOU KNOW THE BIBLE EVEN A LITTLE, YOU'LL FIND THIS HILARIOUS! IT COMES FROM A CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEST. KIDS WERE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. THE FOLLOWING 25 STATEMENTS ABOUT THE BIBLE WERE WRITTEN BY CHILDREN. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RETOUCHEDED OR CORRECTED. INCORRECT SPELLING HAS BEEN LEFT IN.**

- 1. IN THE FIRST BOOK OF THE BIBLE, GUINESSIS. GOD GOT TIRED OF CREATING THE WORLD SO HE TOOK THE SABBATH OFF.**
- 2. ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED FROM AN APPLE TREE. NOAH'S WIFE WAS JOAN OF ARK. NOAH BUILT AND ARK AND THE ANIMALS CAME ON IN PEARS.**
- 3. LOTS WIFE WAS A PILLAR OF SALT DURING THE DAY, BUT A BALL OF FIRE DURING THE NIGHT.**
- 4. THE JEWS WERE A PROUD PEOPLE AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY THEY HAD TROUBLE WITH UNSYMPATHETIC GENITALS.**
- 5. SAMPSON WAS A STRONGMAN WHO LET HIMSELF BE LED ASTRAY BY A JEZEBEL LIKE DELILAH.**
- 6. SAMSON SLAYED THE PHILISTINES WITH THE AXE OF THE APOSTLES.**

7. MOSES LED THE JEWS TO THE REDSEA WHERE THEY MADE UNLEAVENED BREAD, WHICH IS BREAD WITHOUT ANY INGREDIENTS.

8. THE EGYPTIANS WERE ALL DROWNED IN THE DESSERT. AFTERWARDS, MOSES WENT UP TO MOUNT CYANIDE TO GET THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

9. THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WAS WHEN EVE TOLD ADAM TO EAT THE APPLE.

10. THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT IS THOU SHALT NOT ADMIT ADULTERY.

11. MOSES DIED BEFORE HE EVER REACHED CANADA THEN JOSHUA LED THE HEBREWS IN THE BATTLE OF GERITOL.

12. THE GREATEST MIRICLE IN THE BIBLE IS WHEN JOSHUA TOLD HIS SON TO STAND STILL AND HE OBEYED HIM.

13. DAVID WAS A HEBREW KING WHO WAS SKILLED AT PLAYING THE LIAR. HE FOUGHT THE FINKELSTEINS, A RACE OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN BIBLICAL TIMES.

14. SOLOMON, ONE OF DAVIDS SONS, HAD 300 WIVES AND 700 PORCUPINES.

15. WHEN MARY HEARD SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF JESUS, SHE SANG THE MAGNA CARTA.

16. WHEN THE THREE WISE GUYS FROM THE EAST SIDE ARRIVED THEY FOUND JESUS IN THE MANAGER.

17. JESUS WAS BORN BECAUSE MARY HAD AN IMMACULATE CONTRAPTION.

18. ST. JOHN THE BLACKSMITH DUMPED WATER ON HIS HEAD.

19. JESUS ENUNCIATED THE GOLDEN RULE, WHICH SAYS TO DO UNTO OTHERS BEFORE THEY DO ONE TO YOU. HE ALSO EXPLAINED A MAN DOTH NOT LIVE BY SWEAT ALONE.

20. IT WAS A MIRICLE WHEN JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND MANAGED TO GET THE TOMBSTONE OFF THE ENTRANCE.

21. THE PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED THE LORD WERE CALLED THE 12 DECIBELS.

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

PADDY MURPHY

Into a Belfast pub comes Paddy Murphy, looking like he'd just been run over by a train. His arm is in a sling, his nose is broken, his face is cut and bruised and he's walking with a limp.

"What happened to you?" asks Sean, the bartender.

"Jamie O'Connor and me had a fight," says Paddy.

"That little shit, O'Connor," says Sean, "He couldn't do that to you, he must have had something in his hand."

"That he did," says Paddy, "a shovel is what he had, and a terrible lickin' he gave me with it."

"Well," says Sean, "you should have defended yourself, didn't you have something in your hand?"

"That I did," said Paddy. "Mrs. O'Connor's breast, and a thing of beauty it was, but useless in a fight."

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

From: "Keith A. Glass" [salgak@comcast.net](mailto:salgak@comcast.net)

Snopes says it's false. I say it's still funny. . .

From the BBC - by John Cleese.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent terrorist threats and have therefore raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved."

Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's get the Bastards." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."

The Germans have increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbor" and "Lose."

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Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Americans meanwhile and as usual are carrying out pre-emptive strikes, on all of their allies, just in case.

And in the southern hemisphere...

New Zealand has also raised its security levels - from "baaa" to "BAAAA!". Due to continuing defense cutbacks (the airforce being a squadron of spotty teenagers flying paper aeroplanes and the navy some toy boats in the Prime Minister's bath), New Zealand only has one more level of escalation, which is "I hope Australia will come and rescue us".

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be right, mate". Three more escalation levels remain: "Crikey!", "I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend" and "The barbie is cancelled". So far no situation has ever warranted use of the final escalation level.

Regards, John Cleese , British writer, actor and tall person And as a final thought - Greece is collapsing, the Iranians are getting aggressive, and Rome is in disarray. Welcome back to 430 BC. Life is too short.

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

From Wyman Cooke's Facebook Page





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IT'S TRUE. I'M TELLING YOU IT'S TOTALLY TRUE! (30 YEARS OF HERDING CATS EXPERIENCE.) UT

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

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

SONS OF CLIMATEGATE: DODGY SCIENTISTS CAUGHT RED-HANDED BY FOIA LAWSUIT

by JAMES DELINGPOLE 15 May 2016

<http://www.breitbart.com/environment/2016/05/15/sons-climategate-dodgy-scientists-caught-red-handed-foia-lawsuit/>



REUTERS/KACPER PEMPEL

The dodgy scientists who wrote to President Obama and Attorney General Loretta Lynch demanding that RICO laws be used to prosecute climate skeptics just got even more badly screwed.

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Already one of them — George Mason University professor Jagadish Shukla — is under Congressional investigation for what has been described as the “largest science scandal in US history.”

Now the background to their footling conspiracy has been exposed thanks to a FOIA request by the Competitive Enterprise Institute which has forced them to release their private letters and emails.

Like Climategate, it makes for some fascinating reading, mainly because — yet again — it shows the climate alarmist establishment in such a terrible light.

Remember, these guys are supposed to be the experts on whose judgment our political leaders base their policies; every year they snaffle millions and millions of dollars worth of grant funding courtesy of the U.S. taxpayer — some of them may even be teaching your kids.

It is therefore a matter of considerable public concern to see them revealed by their correspondence to be such a bunch of bumbling shysters, apparently more interested in political activism than engaging in rigorous science, and even prepared to flirt with breaking the law in order to conceal their dubious antics.

Here are some of the things we learn from their correspondence.

It all began when Shukla made the mistake of taking seriously an op-ed by Sen Sheldon Whitehouse in the Washington Post. He approached Ed Maibach, his university’s director of Climate Change Communication with a cunning plan. (Maibach, we later learn, doesn’t have a science degree.)

<SNIP>

THERE IS TONS OF DOCUMENTATION TO VERIFY WHAT IS GOING ON THAT WAS COLLECTED BY THE FOIA REQUEST. YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND GO TO THE WEBSITE JUST TO READ THE MEMO’S. IT PROVES WHAT SOME ON THE LEFT WILL DO TO SILENCE THEIR CRITICS. UT

<http://www.breitbart.com/environment/2016/05/15/sons-climategate-dodgy-scientists-caught-red-handed-foia-lawsuit/>

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

YOU JUST CAN’T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

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

Uncle Timmy -

This is your richly deserved reward for all the times you've put things in The Revenge without the Kleenex warning.

[http://twistedgifter.com/videos/the-present-short-film-by-jacob-frey/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Twistedgifter+%28TwistedSifter+%29](http://twistedgifter.com/videos/the-present-short-film-by-jacob-frey/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Twistedgifter+%28TwistedSifter+%29)

The site itself has the video to click on

### Short Film About Disabled Pup Earns Creators 59 Awards and Job at Disney

“The Present” is a graduation short from the Institute of Animation, Visual Effects and Digital Postproduction at the Filmakademie Baden-Wuerttemberg in Ludwigsburg, Germany and based on a comic strip by Fabio Coala.

The short film was shown at over 180 film festivals around the world and garnered the team 59 awards. “The Present” was directed and animated by Jacob Frey. For full credits, click here.

I ADMIT, YOU GOT ME ON THAT ONE. GREAT FLICK! UT

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

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

### MOON VS. MARS DEBATE HEATING UP IN U.S.

May 4, 2016 Frank Moring, Jr. | Aviation Week & Space Technology

[http://aviationweek.com/space/moon-vs-mars-debate-heating-us?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05\\_20160511\\_AW-05\\_93&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article\\_6\\_2&utm\\_rid=CPEN1000001477803&utm\\_campaign=5860&utm\\_medium=email&elq2=45198d9b64e64813ae4fded72df4f567](http://aviationweek.com/space/moon-vs-mars-debate-heating-us?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05_20160511_AW-05_93&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_6_2&utm_rid=CPEN1000001477803&utm_campaign=5860&utm_medium=email&elq2=45198d9b64e64813ae4fded72df4f567)

As NASA does its best to spark an off-planet economy in low Earth orbit (LEO) before the International Space Station wears out, a new book published last week argues that a potentially lucrative source of revenue in space lies a little farther out—on the Moon. And it isn’t platinum-family metal ore or helium 3, sometimes mentioned as economic enticements for space mining. It’s water.

In the book, Paul Spudis, a well-known U.S. geologist specializing in lunar science, repeats and expands his long-held belief that the next step for explorers from Earth should be at the Moon’s poles, where the deep freeze in the permanent darkness at the bottom of deep craters preserves millions of tons of water ice deposited by comets and other objects over the past 4.5 billion years.

“Because of its utilitarian value, water is truly the ‘currency’ of spaceflight,” Spudis writes in *The Value of the Moon: How to Explore, Live and Prosper in Space Using the Moon’s Resources* (Smithsonian Books, 243 pages).

He is restating a concept that dates back to the 1990s. That is when a series of orbital and impact missions beginning with the Pentagon’s Clementine missile-defense testbed started finding evidence of water at the lunar poles. As a result, Spudis says, NASA’s current plan to bypass the Moon on the way to Mars is a mistake.

Instead, the human exploration effort would be better served by developing a polar base, powered by the almost-constant sunlight that falls on some high-elevation sites adjacent to the cold-trap craters, and beginning mining of ice-bearing material to use on voyages deeper into the Solar System.

“Water is the most useful material in space,” he writes. “In its native form, we can drink it and use it to reconstitute food, cool equipment, and jacket habitats for radiation protection, as well as for hygiene and sanitation needs. An electrical current can disassociate water into its component hydrogen and oxygen. These gases can be stored and used; oxygen can be used for breathing, and both gases can be recombined in a fuel cell to generate electricity. Used this way, water is a medium of energy storage. Finally, the hydrogen and oxygen can be cooled into cryogenic liquids and used as rocket fuel, the most powerful chemical propellant known.”

Like landing humans on Mars, building and operating an industrial site on the Moon is a lot easier said than done. In his highly readable account, Spudis explains why he believes building a lunar base make a lot more sense for space exploration in the long run than NASA’s current “journey-to-Mars” approach.

Instead of using the “proving ground” in lunar orbit to shake out the vehicles and operating procedures needed to keep a crew alive for the long-duration flight to Mars, Spudis argues a lunar-surface infrastructure would serve as a much better spot to learn how to operate on other planetary surfaces, while generating the resources necessary to travel there.

Spudis’s views hark back to the approach followed by NASA under President George W. Bush’s Constellation program, which he helped draft. His book could mark the first round in a space-policy debate that might develop as the brutal presidential-primary season gives way to the final struggle for the White House. If history is a guide, space will be a sideshow in the blood-and-guts campaign endgame, but a reprise of the Moon/Mars debate might be part of it.

There is a bitter edge in Spudis’s narrative that reflects the frustration he and other back-to-the-Moon advocates felt when Democratic policymakers dismantled their plans. That is too bad, because the issue transcends the partisan bickering that has characterized the U.S. space endeavor over the past 7.5 years.

The original idea advanced by President Barack Obama’s civil-space advisers was to turn LEO over to the private sector so NASA could focus on deeper exploration aimed at Mars. So far, though, the private sector hasn’t found the LEO pot of gold needed to generate the commercial revenue that would replace exploration money provided by taxpayers.

Spudis’s lunar water could be that pot of gold, both as a resource and as the basis for an off-planet economy providing cargo and crew transport. Michael Griffin, Bush’s NASA administrator, postulated in a 2011 paper that, “[i]f there is to be a viable commercial spaceflight industry, an anchoring public enterprise of significantly larger scope is necessary. In the author’s opinion, development of an international lunar base provides the best near-term option for such a program” (AW&ST Oct. 3, 2011, p. 59).

The Google Lunar X-Prize competition has spawned a handful of robotic commercial applications that might generate revenue on the Moon. NASA is collaborating with SpaceX on a commercial Mars mission that would blur the “old space/new space”

dichotomy that some Democrats use to characterize the Obama space policy. Elon Musk may be planning to fly his own spacecraft to Mars, but he's going to need the Deep Space Network and a lot of other public-funded support to do it.

Jan Woerner, the brash new head of the European Space Agency, is actively promoting a "lunar village" as the logical next step for international human and robotic space exploration. While he initially pushed for a site on the Moon's far side, he has started including a polar base in his pitch.

"No human has ever visited the lunar pole regions, where unmanned missions found water ice," Woerner says. "Water is an important resource, because you can produce rocket propellant and oxygen from it. Both lunar regions are scientifically very promising places. The Moon Village would also act as a 'pit stop' for the further exploration of the Universe."

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### 15-YEAR-OLD BOY CLAIMS TO HAVE FOUND LOST MAYAN CITY FROM HIS HOUSE

FoxNews.com, Published May 11, 2016

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2016/05/11/15-year-old-boy-claims-to-have-found-lost-mayan-city-from-his-house.html?intcmp=hpbt4>



These undated images show possible man-made structures in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula that may be a lost Mayan city(Canadian Space Agency)

A Canadian teenager believes he has discovered the ruins of a lost Mayan city in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula — with the assistance of Google Maps and a star chart.

William Gadoury, of Saint-Jean-de-Matha, Quebec, has had a longstanding interest in Mayan civilization, particularly where they chose to build their towns and cities.

"The Mayans were extremely good builders, but they often built in places that made little practical sense — far from rivers, far from fertile areas. It seemed strange for a civilization that was so intelligent," Gadoury told CBC News. "I knew they were good at astronomy, so I tried to make the link."

Gadoury studied 22 Mayan constellations and found the stars matched the locations of 117 known ancient cities when overlaid on a map. He then realized that one star in a 23rd constellation didn't have a corresponding Mayan city.



This undated photo shows William Gadoury presenting a school science fair project on Mayan cities (Hydro-Quebec)

That's when the teen got the Canadian Space Agency involved. After meeting CSA project officer Daniel De Lisle at a school science fair and presenting his theory, Gadoury was given access to high-definition satellite images which he cross-referenced against Google Earth.

Underneath the Yucatan's dense vegetation, Gadoury located possible man-made structures where the astronomical data suggested the missing city would be. He believes the objects to be the remains of pyramids. The CSA's De Lisle is cautiously optimistic.

"There are linear features that would suggest there is something underneath that big canopy," De Lisle told The Independent. "There are enough items to suggest it could be a man-made structure."

Gadoury has tentatively dubbed the ancient city K'aak Chi, or Mouth of Fire. His findings will be published in a scientific journal and he has been invited to present them at a conference in Brazil next year.

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## TECH-SAVVY FAMILIES USE HOME-BUILT DIABETES DEVICE

Companies work on artificial pancreas, but approval process is too long for many patients

By Kate Linebaugh

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/tech-savvy-families-use-home-built-diabetes-device-1462728637>

Third-grader Andrew Calabrese carries his backpack everywhere he goes at his San Diego-area school. His backpack isn't just filled with books, it is carrying his robotic pancreas.

The device, long considered the Holy Grail of Type 1 diabetes technology, wasn't constructed by a medical-device company. It hasn't been approved by regulators.



It was put together by his father.

Jason Calabrese, a software engineer, followed instructions that had been shared online to hack an old insulin pump so it could automatically dose the hormone in response to his son's blood-sugar levels. Mr. Calabrese got the approval of Andrew's doctor for his son to take the home-built device to school.

The Calabreses aren't alone. More than 50 people have soldered, tinkered and written software to make such devices for themselves or their children. The systems—known in the industry as artificial pancreases or closed loop systems—have been studied for decades, but improvements to sensor technology for real-time glucose monitoring have made them possible.

The Food and Drug Administration has made approving such devices a priority and several companies are working on them. But the yearslong process of commercial development and regulatory approval is longer than many patients want, and some are technologically savvy enough to do it on their own.

Andrew Calabrese looks over the device his father built. PHOTO: SANDY HUFFAKER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Initially, Mr. Calabrese worried about the safety of the do-it-yourself project. He built it over two months, and spent weeks testing. At first, he only tried it out on his son on weekends and at night. Once it performed well enough, he said it felt irresponsible not to use it on his 9-year-old son.

“Diabetes is dangerous anyway. Insulin is dangerous. I think what we are doing is actually improving that and lowering the risk,” Mr. Calabrese, 41, said.

The FDA regulates companies that make and market medical devices but the agency doesn't have authority over how doctors and patients can use such devices. This means that as long as the people tinkering with their insulin pumps aren't selling or distributing them, the FDA doesn't have a legal means to stop it.

More than one million Americans live with Type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune condition in which the pancreas stops producing insulin, a hormone needed to turn sugar into energy. Too much sugar, or glucose, in the blood can lead to long-term complications like kidney failure; too little can cause seizures and coma. The hope for the artificial pancreas is that an algorithm can optimize insulin dosing by processing blood-sugar data generated every five minutes by a subcutaneous sensor.

Medtronic PLC completed a trial in March for its device, called the 670G, which the company plans to submit for regulatory approval in June. Johnson & Johnson plans to start enrolling a clinical trial later this year. About two years ago, at a meeting with Medtronic in which company executives laid out several intermediate products that would be introduced prior to an artificial pancreas, FDA officials responded with a desire for a faster time frame, according to two people familiar with the meeting.



Andrew Calabrese takes a glucose reading from his dad, Jason, before school at their home in San Diego. PHOTO: SANDY HUFFAKER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

“Biology isn’t quite as easy as controlling the temperature in a room,” said Francine Kaufman, chief medical officer for Medtronic’s diabetes division. She sees do-it-yourself efforts as a sign of the interest in the technology, but distinct from

the process of getting a commercial device to market. Dr. Kaufman estimates Medtronic’s submission to the FDA will exceed 100,000 pages and hopes that the device will be approved in 2017.

The home-built project that the Calabreses followed, known as OpenAPS, was started by Dana Lewis, a 27-year-old with Type 1 diabetes in Seattle. Ms. Lewis began using the system in December 2014 as a sort of self-experiment. After months of tweeting about it, she attracted others who wanted what she had.

The only restriction of the project is users have to put the system together on their own. Ms. Lewis and other users offer advice, but it is each one’s responsibility to know how to troubleshoot. A Bay Area cardiologist is teaching himself software programming to build one for his 1-year-old daughter who was diagnosed in March.

The system involves an outdated insulin pump that communicates with a small radio stick connected to a continuous glucose monitor, a computer motherboard and a battery pack. (Insulin pumps are small pager-sized computers that deliver doses of the hormone through a small tube under the skin.) It is an outgrowth of another open-source project where caregivers developed software to remotely monitor blood-sugar levels.

The size of the homemade system varies, and the one that Andrew Calabrese carries has come down from the size of a small shoebox to that of a headphone case. He wears his insulin pump and glucose monitor on his belt.

“It is clearly for people who have some expertise in computer programming,” said Bruce Buckingham, a pediatric endocrinologist at Stanford University who has conducted clinical trials for Medtronic and others developing such systems. “What it shows is that people are anxious to get something going,” Dr. Buckingham said.



The FDA declined to comment on the project but said the agency is working with manufacturers to approve a device.

Sarah Howard became interested after she met Ms. Lewis last year. “My first question was: Was it legal?” said the 49-year-old, who has Type 1 diabetes, as does one of her two sons. “I didn’t want to do anything illegal.”

After her husband built the system for her and her son, she said the main benefit is starting each day with her blood sugar in range and not having to wake in the night to check her son’s glucose levels.

It isn’t always smooth sailing. Ms. Howard’s 11-year-old son only uses the device at night. The one time he brought the homemade rig to school, his pump failed. “It doesn’t work every day all the time,” she said.

Mr. Calabrese agrees. “It is not going to be a cure,” he said. That is because insulin dosing for meals is still done manually. And the system remains vulnerable to the problems of current technology, like pump failures and occlusions in tubing.

All that said, Mr. Calabrese says the algorithm is more disciplined. “People aren’t suited for this,” he said. “It is definitely a job for machines.”

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## MYSTERIOUS DWARF PLANET 'SNOW WHITE' MUCH BIGGER THAN THOUGHT: STUDY

By Mike Wall, Space.com Senior Writer | May 12, 2016 04:38pm ET

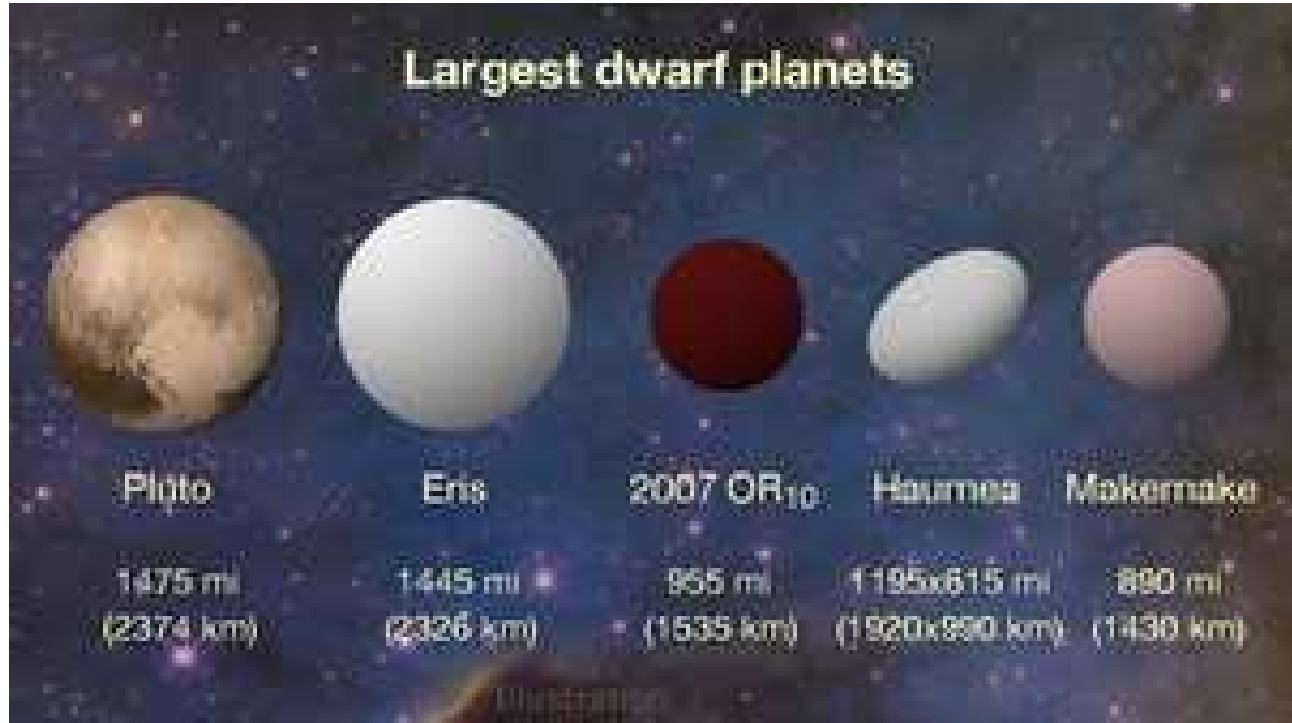
<http://www.space.com/32863-dwarf-planet-snow-white-size-revision.html#sthash.j8TDRFTE.dpuf>

A faraway object nicknamed "Snow White" is considerably larger than scientists had thought, and is in fact the third-largest dwarf planet in the solar system, a new study suggests.

Snow White is about 955 miles (1,535 kilometers) in diameter rather than 795 miles (1,280 km) wide as previously believed, according to the new study. That makes it the largest still-unnamed object in our solar system, NASA officials said. (The dwarf planet has not yet been formally named and currently goes by the placeholder designation 2007 OR10.) NASA released a new video of the dwarf planet Snow White along with its new size figures.

If the new measurement is accurate, the only known dwarf planets bigger than Snow White are Pluto and Eris, which are 1,475 miles (2,374 km) and 1,445 miles (2,236 km) across, respectively.

Fourth place belongs to Haumea, which is 1,195 miles (1,920 km) across in the longest direction but has an oblong shape and is therefore less voluminous than Snow White. The 890-mile-wide (1,430 km) Makemake comes in fifth, NASA officials said.



A new study identifies 2007 OR10 as the largest unnamed body in our solar system, and the third-largest dwarf planet. (Haumea has an oblong shape that is wider on its long axis than 2007 OR10, but its overall volume is smaller.) Credit: Konkoly Observatory/András Pál, Hungarian Astronomical Association/Iván Éder, NASA/JHUAPL/SwRI

However, there is some uncertainty surrounding Snow White's newly determined size; the object's diameter may actually be as large as 1,000 miles (1,610 km) or as small as 814 miles (1,310 km), according to the new study, which has been published in *The Astronomical Journal*.

One of the people who discovered Snow White back in 2007, California Institute of Technology astronomer Mike Brown, urged people to take this uncertainty into account before giving the dwarf planet the third-place trophy.

"Be a little skeptical that 2007 OR10 is the third-largest dwarf planet, please. It has the least well measured size. Could easily be [smaller than] Makemake," Brown said via his Twitter account, @plutokiller, on Wednesday (May 11).

(Brown's Twitter handle refers to his role in the reclassification of Pluto from full-fledged planet to dwarf planet back in 2006. Brown and his colleagues have discovered a number of large objects in the outer solar system, including Eris and Sedna, that helped spur the International Astronomical Union to rethink its definition of "planet.")

#### **A MYSTERIOUS DWARF PLANET**

Snow White orbits the sun every 547.5 years on an extremely elliptical path, getting as close to the star as 33 astronomical units (AU) and as far away as 101 AU. One AU is the average distance from Earth to the sun — about 93 million miles, or 150 million km. For

perspective, Pluto orbits the sun at an average distance of 39.5 AU, and completes one lap every 248 years.

The size revision should help researchers better understand Snow White's composition and evolution, researchers said. For example, the object probably has an even darker surface than scientists had thought (because a larger amount of area is reflecting the same amount of light).



Artist's illustration of 2007 OR10, nicknamed "Snow White." Astronomers suspect that its reddish color is due to the presence of irradiated methane.

Credit: NASA

Previous observations had suggested that Snow White is reddish, perhaps because of the presence of methane ices. The new results bolster this interpretation, researchers said.

"Our revised larger size for 2007 OR10 makes it increasingly likely the planet is covered in volatile ices of methane, carbon monoxide and nitrogen, which would be easily lost to space by a smaller object," lead author András Pál, of Konkoly Observatory in Budapest, Hungary, said in a statement. "It's thrilling to tease out details like this about a distant, new world — especially since it has such an exceptionally dark and reddish surface for its size."

Pál and his colleagues studied observations of Snow White made recently by NASA's Kepler space telescope, as well as archival data gathered by the European Space Agency's infrared Herschel Space Observatory, which ceased operations in April 2013.

Kepler was built to hunt for exoplanets by noting the tiny brightness dips these objects cause when crossing the faces of their parent stars from the spacecraft's perspective. And Kepler did just that for four years, until the second of its four orientation-maintaining reaction wheels failed in May 2013 and the telescope couldn't point with the required precision.

But Kepler team members soon devised a way to stabilize Kepler's position in space using the two remaining reaction wheels and sunlight pressure, and the spacecraft embarked upon a second mission called K2 in 2014. Kepler is still searching for exoplanets during K2, but it's also studying a variety of other cosmic phenomena and objects — including Snow White.

Kepler measured Snow White's reflectivity, and the Herschel data allowed the study team to determine how much solar radiation the dwarf planet absorbs and later radiates as heat. Combining the two types of information allowed the researchers to calculate Snow White's size, NASA officials said.

The team also determined that the object is rotating extremely slowly, completing one spin every 45 hours. Snow White's surface brightness also appears to vary from place to place, researchers said.

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## **HUMANS ON MARS: SCOUTING NEEDED FOR RED PLANET RESOURCES**

By Leonard David, Space.com's Space Insider Columnist, May 16, 2016

<http://www.space.com/32882-nasa-crewed-mars-missions-resources-orbiter.html>

NASA's quest to put boots on Mars in the 2030s is advancing, bolstered by new studies about a multifunction, next-generation Mars orbiter and the best ways to use Red Planet resources to sustain astronaut pioneers.

Last year, scientists proposed nearly 50 locations on Mars as possible places for future human landings. Those landing-zone sites contain "regions of interest" that can be reached from primary touchdown spots.

Good touchdown sites will allow crews to land safely and carry out operations; offer a wealth of interesting science activities; and provide resources that the astronauts could use. For example, any favored exploration zone should allow expeditionary crews to tap into at least 100 metric tons (110 U.S. tons) of water, NASA officials have said. [Watch: How Mars Landing Sites Will Evolve for Astronauts]

## **LANDING-SITE WISH LIST**

With its suite of instruments and cameras — particularly the sharp-shooting High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) — NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) is being put through a request process called "HiWish" to snag new images of landing-zone candidates. "NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Directorate has begun to think about where human explorers should go on Mars, and what conditions and resources, as well as what science targets, may be present," said HiRISE principal

*The May 18th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!*

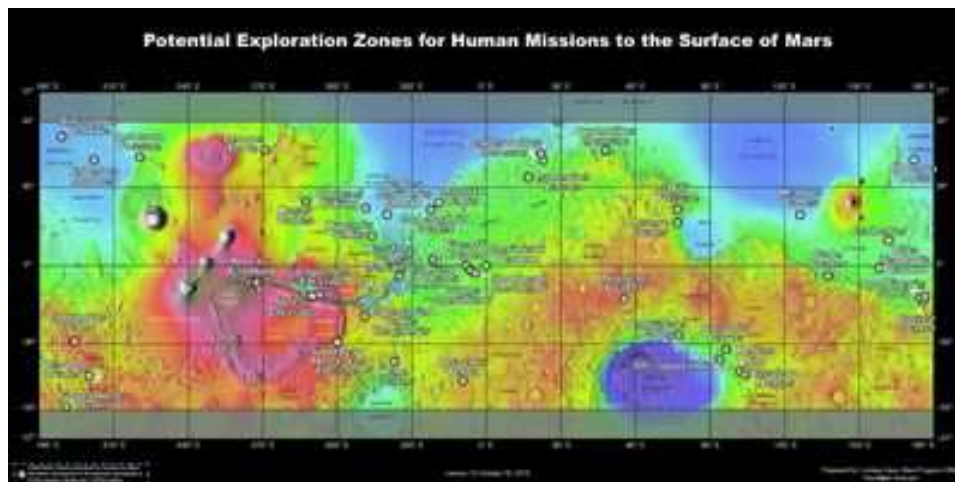
*Page 29 of 37*

investigator Alfred McEwen, director of the Planetary Image Research Lab at the University of Arizona in Tucson. "This is a sign that they are actually thinking about sending people to Mars."



Setting foot on Mars is one thing, but extended astronaut stays on the Red Planet will require tapping the planet's resources, experts say. Credit: NASA/Paul Hudson

"Hopefully, this new interest in Mars will include support for future robotic missions needed to answer key questions," McEwen told Space.com.



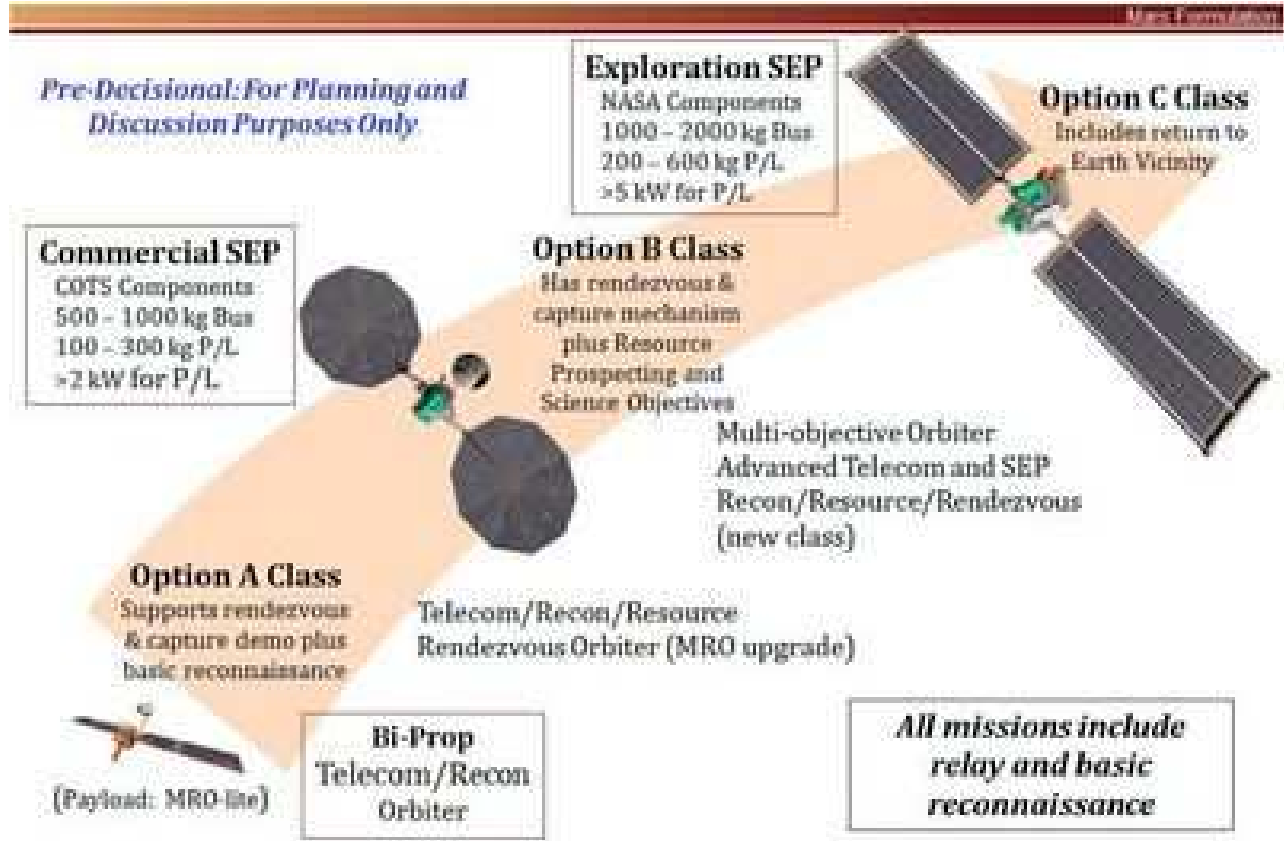
Last year, scientists identified nearly 50 prospective human landing zones on Mars — locations that are safe, scientifically promising and resource-rich. Credit: NASA

**NEW MARS  
ORBITER**

# The May 18th, 2016 Edition of REVENGE OF HUMP DAY!

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Indeed, many experts within and outside NASA would like the agency to launch a multifunctional, next-generation Mars orbiter, the potential benefits of which were laid out in a report published in December by the Science Analysis Group of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group.



NASA is considering launching a multifunctional, next-generation Mars orbiter sometime in the 2020s. Among other tasks, this spacecraft would scout out resources to help sustain human expeditionary crews. Credit: NEX-SAG

This Mars orbiter could employ solar electric propulsion, carry advanced telecommunications gear and make use of powerful radar to scout out and better classify Martian resources for human landing parties. If approved, the spacecraft may be headed for Mars as early as 2022, NASA officials have said.

NASA has allocated funds to take some "very early preformulation" looks at a new Mars orbiter, said Steve Jurczyk, associate administrator of the Space Technology Mission Directorate at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. No mission is yet planned for 2022, he said, but a Mars telecommunications orbiter is under consideration, given the advanced age of some of NASA's current orbiters. (Mars Odyssey launched in 2001, for example, and MRO lifted off in 2005.)

"We use orbital assets at Mars for telecommunications relay from the surface ... and they are getting a little long in the tooth," Jurczyk told Space.com.

Mission planners are thinking about adding a couple of technologies to a prospective Mars orbiter, Jurczyk said — perhaps high-power electric propulsion. Deep-space laser communications technology, which could boost bandwidth capabilities by a factor of 10 compared to standard radio-frequency hardware, might be on board as well, he added..

## **PAY DIRT**

Last month, NASA released the Mars Water In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) Planning Study, which looked into how astronauts could tap into Red Planet water.

"There's an intuitive gut-level view," said Richard Davis, assistant director for science and exploration in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA headquarters. "Human beings in general don't go where there isn't water. That intuition is actually on the mark for Mars."



One small step — with big expectations to eventually homestead the Red Planet.

Credit: Bob Sauls/XP4D/M. Wade Holler, Digital Content and Media Strategy Explore Mars Inc. Used with permission.

Water on Mars is transformative, and not just for drinking and growing crops, many experts believe. Processing the stuff can generate breathable oxygen and propellant for Mars ascent vehicles, among other things that could aid extended human stays on the Red

Planet.

"We're starting to converge on an attack plan that starts with reconnaissance," Davis told Space.com. The pay dirt on Mars is water, he added. [Human Mars Exploration: How Landing Sites Could Evolve (Video AT THE WEBSITE)]

Davis, who worked on the ISRU report, said new data from orbit are needed to identify Martian resources that expeditionary crews could use. But orbital information by itself is probably not enough, he added.

"In the end, you need ground-truthing by sending a lander to what you think is the human landing site to validate [resource availability]," Davis said.

### **Water extraction**

One resource option the report ruled out is the extraction of water from the thin Martian atmosphere.

Setting up a semi-permanent Mars base will require crop growth on the planet to sustain explorers far from Earth, experts say. Credit: NASA



The mass, power, volume and mechanical complexity of the system needed for this approach are far beyond what is practical for deployment on the Red Planet, Davis said.

"The density of the water in the Martian atmosphere is so low, it would take a massive processing system," he said. "There's no way we can get there." Water-rich minerals on Mars look far more promising, Davis said. "They require so much less power to actually free up the water molecules," he noted.

The idea of strip-mining Mars for subsurface ice deposits was reviewed in the study but got a thumbs-down, Davis said. A better approach, including to the report's authors, involves boring a hole down through the Martian dirt, vaporizing subsurface ice, bringing it up topside as a gas and then condensing that gas into liquid.

"You make the Martian environment work for us instead of against us," Davis said. "It looks very promising."

#### RESOURCE FEEDSTOCK

The new study is far from the last word on finding and using indigenous Martian resources, Davis said.

"For each resource feedstock on Mars that's validated, we need to understand the technology needed, the mass of the equipment required and the power it will take," he said.

Once a semi-permanent base on Mars is established, crews would set up ISRU equipment, make sure all the kinks in the gear are smoothed out and then start harvesting resources. ISRU hardware would also operate in autonomous mode when there were no humans at the base, Davis said.

"You don't achieve sustainability on Mars overnight. You grow to it," Davis said. "This is not a technical problem. Yes, there are technical issues. But it is a belief problem. If people believe it's achievable, then it will be achievable."

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#### MAGIC MUSHROOMS LIFTS SEVERE DEPRESSION IN TRIAL

[Henry Bodkin](#), 17 MAY 2016 • 1:17PM

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/05/17/magic-mushrooms-lifts-severe-depression-in-trial/>

Ahallucinogenic chemical found in [magic mushrooms](#) has successfully lifted severe [depression](#) in previously untreatable patients.

Scientists at Imperial College London induced intense psychedelic trips in 12 people using high doses of the banned substance psilocybin.



A week after the experience all the volunteers were depression-free, and three months later five still had no symptoms of the condition.



Psilocybin, which is found in magic mushrooms, was administered to depression patients in a pill CREDIT: ALAMY

I wouldn't want members of the public thinking they can treat their own depressions by picking magic mushrooms Dr Robin Carhart-Harris, Imperial College London  
Published in the Lancet Psychiatry Journal, the study welcomes the results as "promising, but not completely compelling".

Its authors are now seeking further funding from the Medical Research Council and other bodies to carry out fuller trials.

They conceded, however, that the use of a placebo control, a crucial component of thorough clinical trials, would be difficult as it would be obvious who was having a hallucinogenic experience and who was not.

The psilocybin is believed to cause relief from depression by targeting receptors in the brain and disrupting the Default Mode Network, which is responsible for sense of self and is overactive in depressed people.

However, the scientists did not rule out that the psychedelic trip could have caused an "awakening", of the kind achieved by spiritual teaching, which also helped lift the depression.

An estimated 350 million people worldwide are affected by the disease and the annual cost to the economy in England is thought to be around £7.5 billion, according to government figures.

About one in ten patients are resistant to treatment.

Despite the promising results, the researchers urged people not to try magic mushrooms themselves as a cure for depression.

Lead author Dr Robin Carhart-Harris, said: “Psychedelic drugs have potent psychological effects and are only given in our research when appropriate safeguards are in place, such as careful screening and professional therapeutic support.

“I wouldn’t want members of the public thinking they can treat their own depressions by picking their own magic mushrooms.

“That kind of approach could be risky.”

The volunteers in the trial had the psilocybin administered orally in capsules and were then closely monitored.

Professor David Nutt, who also took part in the research, criticised the “Kafkaesque” tangle of regulations and licencing requirements that had forced the team to wait 32 months before being allowed to conduct the trial.

“It cost £1,500 to dose each person, when in a sane world it might cost £30,” he said.

“It is important that academic research groups try to develop possible new treatments for depression as the pharmaceutical industry is pulling out of this field.

“Our study has shown psilocybin is safe and fast-acting, so may, if administered carefully, have value for these patients.”

Professor Nutt, who was [sacked as the Government’s drugs advisor in 2009](#) for his outspoken views, urged the Home Secretary to re-designate psilocybin from Schedule 1 of the Misuse of Drugs Act to better enable further clinical trials.

Amanda Feiling, from the Beckley Foundation, which also took part in the research, said: “For the first time in many years, people who were at the end of the road with currently available treatments reported decreased anxiety, increased optimism and an ability to enjoy things.

“This is an unparalleled success and could revolutionise the treatment of depression.”

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## VIDEO: YOU CAN BUILD A SANDCASTLE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD UP A CAR

A geotechnical engineer explains the few simple modifications needed to make dirt and sand sound building materials.

Practical Engineering

<http://digg.com/video/sand-dirt-sandcastle-hold-car-construction>

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**SCIENTISTS DISCOVER A WEIRD NEW TYPE OF LIGHT**

Jamie Condliffe, May 17, 2016

<http://gizmodo.com/scientists-have-discovered-light-that-travels-unlike-an-1777034995>

Not all light is made equal. Now, a team of physicists has discovered that photons can travel differently to any other light that scientists have seen in the past.

The team from Trinity College Dublin has been studying the angular momentum of light. As a beam of light travels through space, it propagates forward in a straight line but it can be rotating about the axis along which it travels, like a corkscrew twirling through space. Until now, the angular momentum resulting from that rotation was always thought to be an integer multiple of Planck's constant.

But new experiments by the team show that it's possible for photons to have angular momentum that is half of those values. The team initially predicted the phenomenon using theoretical models, then tested it using specially constructed experimental kit that could twist a light beam by passing it through crystals of material. Ultimately, they found that half-multiples of angular velocity were in fact possible. The research is [published in Science Advances](#).

It's a subtle but interesting finding, though one whose immediate impacts are hard to predict. "What I think is so exciting about this result is that even this fundamental property of light, that physicists have always thought was fixed, can be changed," explained Assistant Professor Paul Eastham, one of the researchers, [in a press release](#). The team does, however, reckon it could find application in light-based communications, to better encode and secure data in light beams.

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

From: "Mike Waldrip" [waldripk@gmail.com](mailto:waldripk@gmail.com)



HERE IS NO RECORD OF THIS CLIP ON SNOPE THAT I COULD FIND. BUT, THE PATRIOT POST IS FAIRLY RELIABLE IN IT'S CARTOONS. UT

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

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

BET: SO MANY DEATHS IN GUN-CONTROLLED CHICAGO, POLICE ONLY INVESTIGATE 11 PERCENT

by AWR HAWKINS13 May 2016

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<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/05/13/gun-controlled-chicago-11-percent/>

On May 13 BET claimed there were “over 500” firearm-related deaths in gun-controlled Chicago in 2015, yet only “55 of them resulted in a legitimate investigation.”

So many of the dead were black males from Chicago’s south side and their demise made gun-related violence the “leading cause of death for black men between the ages of 18 and 34.”

BET laments that such deaths do not cause an outcry the way the July 2012 Aurora theater shooting or the December 2012 attack on Sandy Hook Elementary did. At Aurora, James Holmes used firearms he had acquired via a background check to kill 12 innocents and wound another 70. In the Sandy Hook attack, Adam Lanza carried a stolen rifle into the school and killed 20 students plus six adults.

But at a rate of “over 500” in 2015, BET points out that deaths are regularly occurring in gun-controlled Chicago. To make their point they spoke to Pam Bosely, whose 18-year-old son Terrell was shot and killed on Chicago’s south side on April 4, 2006. Pam believes that people around the country chalk Chicago deaths up to gang violence and then move on with their day. She said, “People assume that these kids deserve to be dead, even though nobody deserves to be shot and killed.”

Chicago has an “assault weapons” ban, a “violence tax”—which raises the price on every gun sold at retail in Chicago—and they have strict limitations on the number of gun stores and the locations of those stores. Moreover, the New York Times describes Chicago handgun restrictions as being so strict they allow city leaders to “get as close as they could get legally to a ban without a ban.” But all these gun controls have correlated with more murder, not less.

Yet BET reacts to all the firearm-related deaths in gun-controlled Chicago by calling for more gun control on licensed gun dealers.

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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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