

The May 17th, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

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Welcome to the May 17th, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

I was very happy with the response I got from a number of my readers on last week's question. "Would you legalize Marijuana and treat it like bheer, booze and wine? The state should tax the 'sh*t' out of it but not put the money in general revenues. The taxes raised from the legalized sale of Marijuana should be used for drug rehabilitation and for state clinics to help the less fortunate in the states." Almost all of you who responded agreed with the idea behind the question and there were not any violent disagreements with the question. I have added all of your comments concerning the question latter in this missive for all of you to check out. Based on the responses I received from y'all, maybe it's time for those of us in the Baby Boomer Generation to have a long talk with our legislators about this issue.

Today (May 16th) is SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED'S birthday and she celebrated the event early. Yesterday, Jason and Jamie took SWMBO and Cousin Carol up to Cherokee, North Carolina to enjoy a day of gambling at the Indian Casino. As usual, they left a hefty donation to the Casino Gods but enjoyed the trip. I stayed at home and baby sat with Tristan, Bubba Bear. Since Tristan had to go to school this morning, I bundled him in bed and we both fell asleep. I didn't even hear when they got home after midnight. I just kept on snoring. Today, SWMBO and Cousin Carol are spending sometime with Linda's mother who is in Soddy Daisy Nursing Home. But I can tell you that there is cake and ice cream in our future tonight when the whole family will gather here at Casa Bolgeo to celebrate SWMBO's 70th birthday.

Happy Birthday Honey Bunny!

So on that "wonderful 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

<Q>~<U>~<E>~<S>~<T>~<I>~<O>~<N>~<O>~<F>~<T>~<H>~<E>~<W>~<E>~<E>~<K>~<I>

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION IS VERY CONTROVERSIAL SO PLEASE READ THE WHOLE THING AND THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU REPLY?

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

Would you legalize Marijuana and treat it like bheer, booze and wine? The state should tax the 'sh*t' out of it but not put the money in general revenues. The taxes raised from the legalized sale of Marijuana should be used for drug rehabilitation and for state clinics to help the less fortunate in the states.

<A>~<N>~<S>~<W>~<E>~<R>~<T>~<S>~<T>~<O>~<Q>~<U>~<E>~<S>~<T>~<I>~<O>~<N>

From: "Pam Adams" pamcrippenadams@gmail.com

I definitely agree on marijuana being legalized. Alcohol and tobacco are addictive drugs, and we manage to deal with their dangers. My older sister is an addict- now 13 years

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clean. Making rehabilitation cheap and easy to access will help those who do become addicted.

Of course, if it's legal, some of the more criminal side effects will go away- you will be able to buy it at the supermarket, not a street corner, and won't be automatically a criminal.

Along with recreational use, I think we need to do a lot of research on how to use marijuana for medical purposes. Opioids are legal, but tremendously addictive and damaging. If people with chronic pain could legally use marijuana, I think that it would cut down on the current demand for opioids.

Reefer Madness!!

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Joellen & Fred Watkins" highly_unlikely@hotmail.com

YES!

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Karen Boyd" abtales@comcast.net

That's a resounding YES to both questions~

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Marcia Illingworth" marcia.illingworth@gmail.com

OK Timmy, I haven't chimed in on one of these in a long time, but here we go. I agree with you *partially* on the marijuana issue. I have been preaching legalization and taxation for years! Where we differ is the use of the tax money.

As you know, I lived in the UK for eleven years. During that time, I also traveled to many other countries around the world. When we were in Australia for the 1999 Worldcon, a non-fan, nurse friend from Chattanooga was also visiting in Melbourne. She had a fall and broke her ankle. She was treated, casted, and given medication. She asked the hospital what the charges would be, and was shocked to learn that she would not be charged. And no, she didn't have travel insurance. On one of my parents' frequent trips to see us, and to do genealogical research in Belfast, my mother developed a severe respiratory infection, which required repeat doctors visits, antibiotics, etc. Same story, no charge.

See where I'm going with this? I am, and I think everyone else should be, embarrassed to live in arguably the richest, most advanced, country in the world, and the only country in the developed world that doesn't have universal, free at the point of access, healthcare for all. Alcohol and tobacco are taxed to death, and both are proven to be seriously damaging to your health. Marijuana (untreated and unenhanced) has little, if any, detrimental effect on health. Lets take that tax money and use it to fund universal health care. This doesn't cut out treatment for people with abuse and addiction issues, as those are healthcare issues.

Problem solved.

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Scott Thorn" castlep@aol.com

Since you asked, gun free schools, colleges and restaurants are among the safer places for children currently, especially in cities. One of the problems with allowing guns everywhere is that onlookers do not know if someone is carrying a gun legally or illegally. If I carry a gun into a gun free area, it is a sure bet I am either very stupid or up to no good.

I do agree with you on legalization of marijuana. If we are going to continue to allow people to buy alcohol and tobacco, which harm people far worse than marijuana, why not legalize it? Doing so would also cut down on a lot of illicit drug trafficking from Mexico, since there is far less profit in trafficking in something legal.

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Frank Brayman" afranklin3@gmail.com

Yes to both.

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Michael A. Banks" mynewbook@aol.com

Timmy, you have given the answers to major problems we face today. I could not agree more on concealed carry (although I prefer my rifle) and everything else you have to say here.

I guess it takes an engineer....

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Carol Donaldson" cdonaldson@zortec.com

Yes! And Yes!

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Jerri Webb" jerriwebb@gmail.com

Yes.

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Adam Grim" Grimaf23@hotmail.com

Marijuana legalization is good both because freedom is good and because it's criminalization does more harm than good. Earmarking taxes for special purposes doesn't work because then the general funds paying for those purposes just get transferred to other areas. It's also backwards, you should determine the appropriate amount of spending then tax enough to cover it, not spend it because you've got it.

Trade Barriers are also generally a bad idea, restricting the free market with them produces higher costs and smuggling.

<A><N><S><W><E><R><T>

From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

Present difficulty/inability to hold someone accountable for driving while impaired - and hence a danger to others - that's the only thing that bothers me about legalizing marijuana for recreational use. If there can be a roadside test for marijuana "intoxication," as there is for drunk driving, yes. (And the modern stuff has been bred to be a lot more potent, I read, than the marijuana of our youth.)

People who are using it to counteract chemo or to cope with pain are not likely to be "stoned drivers" so that should be legal regardless of legality for recreational use. (I also understand it is as hard, or harder, on your lungs as tobacco, but that's another issue.)

And, of course, we should tax the dickens out of it, just like alcohol and tobacco itself...put the money towards healthcare!.

Growing fiber-grade hemp (as opposed to marijuana for smoking), yes in any case

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

From: "Bob Bolgeo" bbolgeo@aol.com

RETIREMENT MADE PERFECT?

One day a man decided to retire...

He booked himself on a Caribbean cruise and proceeded to have the time of his life, that is, until the ship sank.

He soon found himself on an island with no other people, no supplies, nothing, only bananas and coconuts.

After about four months, he is lying on the beach one day when the most gorgeous woman he has ever seen rows up to the shore.

In disbelief, he asks, "Where did you come from? How did you get here?"

She replies, "I rowed over from the other side of the island where I landed when my cruise ship sank."

"Amazing," he notes. "You were really lucky to have a row boat wash up with you."

"Oh, this thing?" explains the woman. "I made the boat out of some raw material I found on the island. The oars were whittled from gum tree branches. I wove the bottom from palm tree branches, and the sides and stern came from an Eucalyptus tree."

"But, where did you get the tools?"

"Oh, that was no problem," replied the woman. " On the south side of the island, a very unusual stratum of alluvial rock is exposed. I found that if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln, it melted into ductile iron and I used that to make tools and used the tools to make the hardware."

The guy is stunned.

"Let's row over to my place," she says "and I'll give you a tour."

So, after a short time of rowing, she soon docks the boat at a small wharf.

As the man looks to shore, he nearly falls off the boat.

Before him is a long stone walk leading to a cabin and tree house.

While the woman ties up the rowboat with an expertly woven hemp rope, the man can only stare ahead, dumb struck. As they walk into the house, she says casually, "It's not much, but I call it home. Please sit down."

"Would you like a drink?"

"No! No thank you," the man blurts out, still dazed. "I can't take another drop of coconut juice."

"Oh, it's not coconut juice," winks the woman. "I have a still. How would you like a Tropical Spritz?"

Trying to hide his continued amazement, the man accepts, and they sit down on her couch to talk. After they exchange their individual survival stories, the woman announces, "I'm going to slip into something more comfortable. Would you like to take a shower and shave? There's a razor in the bathroom cabinet upstairs."

No longer questioning anything, the man goes upstairs into the bathroom. There, in the cabinet is a razor made from a piece of tortoise bone. Two shells honed to a hollow ground edge are fastened on to its end inside a swivel mechanism.

"This woman is amazing," he muses. "What's next?"

When he returns, she greets him wearing nothing but some small flowers on tiny vines, each strategically positioned, she smelled faintly of gardenias. She then beckons for him to sit down next to her.

"Tell me," she begins suggestively, slithering closer to him, "We've both been out here for many months. You must have been lonely. When was the last time you played around? She stares into his eyes.

He can't believe what he's hearing. "You mean..." he swallows excitedly as tears start to form in his eyes,

"You've built a Golf Course?"

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

From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

ENGLISH LESSON

On his 70th birthday, a man was given a gift certificate from his wife. The certificate was for consultation with an Indian Medicine Man living on a nearby reservation who was rumored to have a simple cure for erectile dysfunction. The husband went to the reservation and saw the medicine man.

The old Indian gave him a potion and, with a grip on his shoulder, warned "This is a powerful medicine. You take only a teaspoonful, and then say: '1,2,3.' When you do you will become more manly than you have ever been in your life, and you can perform for as long as you want."

The man thanked the old Indian, and as he walked away, he turned and asked: "How do I stop the medicine from working ?" The old man responded, "Your partner must say '1,2,3,4,' but when she does, the medicine will not work again until the next full moon."

He was very eager to see if it worked, so he went home, showered, shaved, took a spoonful of the medicine, and then invited his wife to join him in the bedroom. When she came in, he took off his clothes and said '1,2,3 !' Immediately, he was the manliest of men. His wife was excited and began throwing off her clothes, and asked: "What was the 1,2,3 for?"

And that, folks, is why we should never end our sentences with a preposition as it may lend up leaving you dangling.

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

INTERESTING RITUAL

Two Red Indians and an Irishman were walking through the woods.

All of a sudden one of the Indians ran up a hill to the mouth of a small cave. 'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' he called into the cave and listened closely until he heard an answering, 'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!'

He then tore off his clothes and ran into the cave.

The Irishman was puzzled and asked the remaining Indian what it was all about. 'Was the other Indian crazy or what?'

The Indian replied 'No, It is our custom during mating season when Indian men see cave, they holler 'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' into the opening..

If they get an answer back, it means there's a beautiful squaw in there waiting for us.

Just then they came upon another cave.

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The second Indian ran up to the cave, stopped, and hollered, 'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' Immediately, there was the answer. 'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' from deep inside.

He also tore off his clothes and ran into the opening.

The Irishman wandered around in the woods alone for a while, and then spied a third large cave.

As he looked in amazement at the size of the huge opening, he was thinking, 'Hoo, man! Look at the size of this cave! It is bigger than those the Indians found. There must be some really big, fine women in this cave!'

He stood in front of the opening and hollered with all his might 'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!'

Like the others, he then heard an answering call, 'WOOOOOOOOO, > WOOOOOOOOO WOOOOOOOOO!'

With a gleam in his eye and a smile on his face, he raced into the cave, tearing off his clothes as he ran.

The following day, the headline of the local newspaper read.....

You'll like this.....

NAKED IRISHMAN RUN OVER BY TRAIN!

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

POST OFFICE

This is a story of a man who worked at the post office. His job was to process all mail items that had illegible addresses.

One day a letter came to his desk, addressed, in shaky handwriting, to God. He thought, "I better open this one and see what it's all about."

So he opened it and it read: "Dear God, I am an 83-year-old widow living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had a hundred dollars in it which was all the money I had until my next pension check."

"Next Sunday is Easter, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with." "I have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. Can you please help me?"

The postal worker was touched, and went around showing the letter to all the others.

Each of them dug into his wallet and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected 96 dollars, which they put into an envelope and sent over to her.

The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of the nice thing they had done.

Easter came and went, and a few days later came another letter from the old lady to God.

All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened. It read: "Dear God, How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me?"

"Because of your generosity, I was able to fix a lovely dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day, and I told my friends of your wonderful gift. "

"By the way, there was 4 dollars missing. It was no doubt those thieving bastards at the post office."

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

CAR TROUBLE

A pretty blonde woman is driving down an Alabama country road in her new sports car when something goes wrong and it breaks down. Luckily, she happens to be near a farmhouse.

She goes up to the farmhouse and knocks on the door. When the farmer answers, she says to him, "It's Sunday night and my car broke down! I don't know what to do! Can I stay here for the night until [tomorrow](#) when I can get some help?"

"Well," drawls the farmer, "you can stay here, but I don't want you messing with my sons Jed and Luke."

She looks through the screen door and sees two men standing behind the farmer. She judges them to be in the early twenties.

"Okay," she says. After they have gone to bed for the night the woman begins to get a little horny just thinking about the two boys in the room next to her.

So she quietly goes into their room and says, "Boys, how would you like for me to teach you the ways of the world?" They say, "Huh?"

She says, "The only thing is, I don't want to get pregnant, so you have to wear these rubbers."

She puts them on the boys, and the three of them go at it all night long.

Forty years later, Jed and Luke are sitting on the front porch, rocking back and forth. Jed says, "You remember that blonde woman that came by here about forty years ago and showed us the ways of the world?"

"Yeah", says Luke, "I remember."

"Well, do you care if she gets pregnant?"

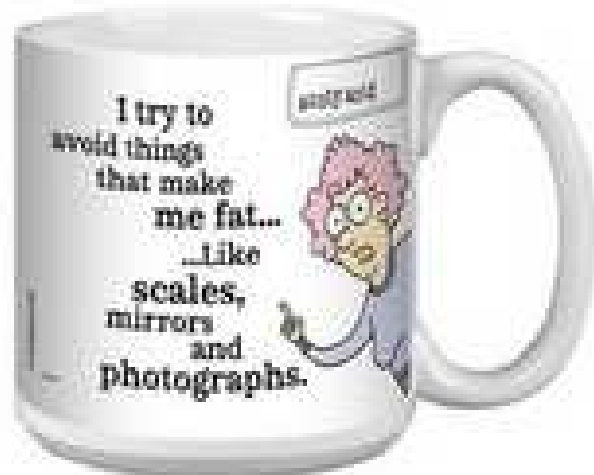
"Nope," says Luke, "I reckon not."

"Let's take these things off!"

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

From: "Ray Beloate" beerman@rittermail.com

A Morning smile. Hugs on Mugs



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

From: "Tom Carpenter" tiej@epbfi.com

THREE DOGS

Three dogs were sitting in the waiting room at the vet's when they struck up a conversation.

The Yellow Labrador turned to the Black Labrador and said, " So why are You here?"

The Black Lab replied, "I'm a pisser. I piss on everything.....the sofa, The curtains, the cat, the kids.

But the final straw was last night when I pissed in the middle of my Owner's' bed."

The Yellow Lab said, "So what's the vet going to do?"

"Gonna cut my nuts off" came the reply from the Black Lab. "They reckon It'll calm me down."

The Black Lab then turned to the Yellow Lab and asked " why are you here?"

The Yellow Lab said, "I'm a digger. I dig under fences, dig up flowers and trees,

I dig just for the hell of it. When I'm inside, I dig up the carpets.

But I went over the line last night when I dug a great big hole in my Owners's couch."

"So what are they going to do to you?" the Black Lab inquired.

"Looks like I'm losing my nuts too," the dejected Yellow Lab said.

The Black Lab then turned to the Great Dane and asked, "Why are you here?"

"I'm a humper," said the Great Dane "I'll hump anything. I'll hump the cat, a pillow, the table, fence posts, whatever.

I want to hump everything I see. Yesterday my owner had just got out of the shower and was bending down to dry her toes, and I just couldn't help myself. I hopped on her back and started hammering away."

The Black and the Yellow Labs exchanged a sad glance and said, "So, it's nuts off for you too, huh?"

The Great Dane said, "No, apparently I'm here to get my nails clipped!"

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

TWO IRISHMEN.....

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Two Irishmen, Paddy and Mick, were adrift in a life boat.

While rummaging through the boat's provisions Paddy stumbled across an old lamp.

As you might expect, he rubbed it vigorously and sure enough, as you might expect, out popped a genie.

This genie however was a little different. He said he could only deliver one wish, not the standard three.

Without giving much thought, Mick blurted out, "Turn the entire ocean into beer. Make that Guinness!"

The genie clapped his hands with a deafening crash, and immediately the sea turned into that hard-earned thirst quencher. His abbreviated work done, the genie vanished.

Only the gentle lapping of beer on the hull broke the stillness as the two men considered their circumstances.

Paddy looked disgustedly at Mick whose wish had been granted.

After a long, tension-filled moment Paddy said, "Nice going idiot! Now we're going to have to piss in the boat.

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

DILBERT CREATOR OBLITERATES LIBERAL CLIMATE CHANGE THEORY IN ONE BRUTAL CARTOON

May 16, 2017 | [Scott Morefield](#) | [Print Article](#)

http://www.bizpacreview.com/2017/05/16/dilbert-creator-scott-adams-obliterates-liberal-climate-change-theory-one-brutal-cartoon-491685?utm_source=BizPac+Review+Email+Newsletter&utm_campaign=93b06cf0c4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fbf9323fb3-93b06cf0c4-32881293

Dilbert creator Scott Adams isn't afraid of taking controversial positions, including supporting Donald Trump for president last year, but his latest stand on climate change might have him in the most hot water yet.



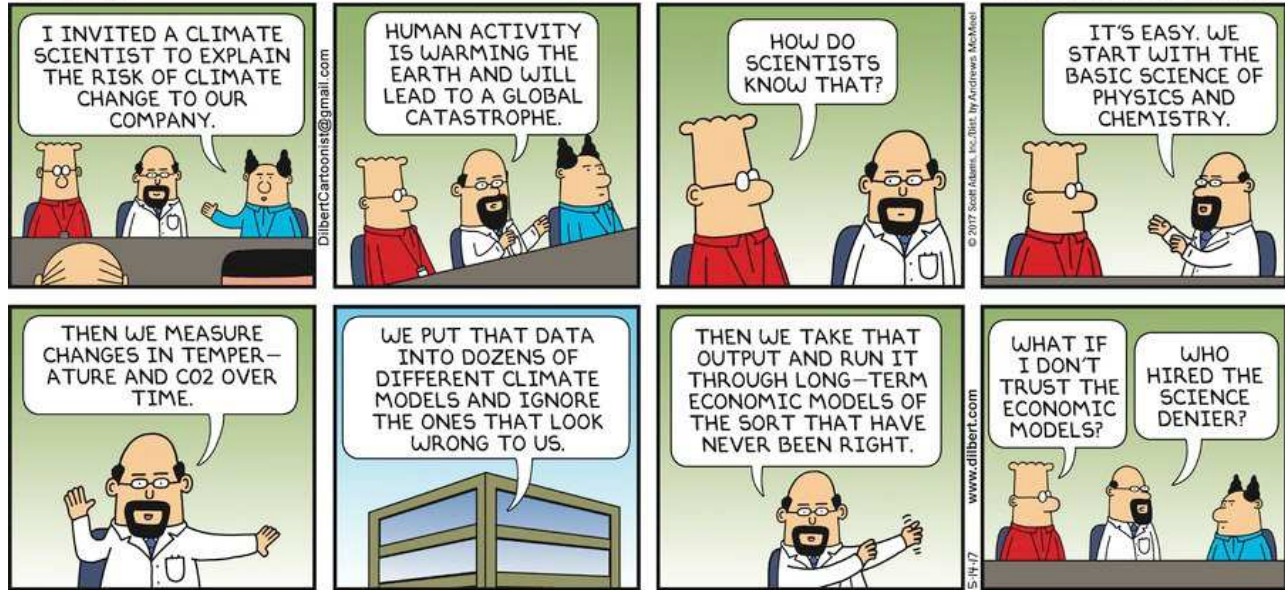
* [Scott Adams.](#) *, [Scott Adams @ScottAdamsSays](#)

Watch how many people conflate "economic models" with "climate models" and call me a science denier today. Fun! [http://dilbert.com/strip/2017-05-14 ...](http://dilbert.com/strip/2017-05-14...)
9:12 AM - 14 May 2017

There's nothing like sarcasm and wit to adeptly mock liberal positions, and Adams used Dilbert to illustrate his point perfectly:

DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



In a March [blog post](#) called "How to Convince Skeptics that Climate Change is a Problem," Adams expressed that, while he does prefer to side with a majority of scientists, it's "mind-boggling to me that the scientific community can't make a case for climate science that sounds convincing."

So, what would it take to convince everyone, according to Adams? There are 14 key things, and all of them are worth checking out. Here are a couple:

When you claim the oceans have risen dramatically, you need to explain why insurance companies are ignoring this risk and why my local beaches look exactly the same to me. Also, when I Google this question, why are half of the top search results debunking the rise? How can I tell who is right? They all sound credible to me.

If you want me to believe warmer temperatures are bad, you need to produce a chart telling me how humankind thrived during various warmer and colder eras. Was warming usually good or usually bad?

You also need to convince me that economic models are accurate. Sure, we might have warming, but you have to run economic models to figure out how that affects things. And economic models are, as you know, usually worthless.

And now, Adams' Sunday cartoon, appearing right next to the likes of Doonesbury in every newspaper in the country, that questions the 'settled wisdom' for literally all to see.

Needless to say, liberal heads are exploding.

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

THE CRITICAL NATIONAL SECURITY BATTLE THE MEDIA ISN'T TELLING YOU ABOUT

By John Moody, Fox News, Published May 09, 2017

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/05/09/critical-national-security-battle-media-isnt-telling-about.html>



FILE -- An open pit mine at Molycorp's rare-earths facility in Mountain Pass, Calif. (Reuters)

A fascinating battle is shaping up between two American entrepreneurs for control of a desert mine in California that could be the key to reviving domestic production of rare earths, the metals and materials that are critical to our national security.

But there's a catch: one entrepreneur is linked to a Russian billionaire. The other is relying on a technology company – from China.

Mountain Pass is an unsightly hole in the earth once owned by a company called Molycorp that produced more critical metals than any facility in the world. Molycorp went bankrupt in 2015 because it could not compete with Chinese rare earth producers, who don't have the same environmental regulations that govern U.S. mining.

China now produces 95 percent of the world's rare earths – metals that are needed for U.S. fighter jet engines, satellite guided rockets, missiles like the Tomahawk Cruise that was used to attack Syria last month, and consumer products ranging from computers to iPhones to GPS systems and microwave ovens.

China now produces 95 percent of the world's rare earths – metals that are needed for U.S. fighter jet engines, satellite guided rockets, missiles like the Tomahawk Cruise that was used to attack Syria last month, and consumer products ranging from computers to iPhones to GPS systems and microwave ovens.

Bellwether has argued that our complete mineral reliance on China – which could cut off exports any time, for any reason – threatens our national security. Now, two entrepreneurs who share that concern are offering different visions of how to revive our domestic production.

Tom Clarke, who has turned abandoned coal mines into more environmentally friendly operations, wants to do something similar with Mountain Pass, though he admits he has no background in critical minerals. He hopes to get financing from Vladimir Iorich, a Russian-born investor who made a fortune producing cheap steel – that kind that has reduced American production to a fraction of its former output. Clarke's biggest stumbling block: his nemesis owns some of the mineral rights to Mountain Pass.

“Our plan is no different from what we've done in Appalachia,” says Clarke. “We are going to put people back to work.” Clarke acknowledges that not having any Mountain Pass mineral rights makes it more difficult for his plan to succeed, and is considering importing foreign ores and processing them in California.

The other contender, hedge fund manager James Litinsky, says he'll put Mountain Pass back to work using the most advanced technology available. His problem: that technology comes from Shenghe Resources, a Chinese company that would be unlikely to do anything against its government's wishes.

Both men say their partners will not have control of a revived Mountain Pass. But neither can guarantee that promise. Further complicating the situation, any attempt to bring foreigners into an American business would have to be reviewed by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), an arm of the Treasury Department.

Litinsky says that his plan has cleared financial and operational hurdles and, once approved, could result in hundreds of jobs for American workers at an environmentally friendly facility.

There's no guarantee that either Litinsky or Clarke will succeed in putting Mountain Pass back to work when their bids are considered by a bankruptcy judge in June. But either plan would be a welcome first step in restoring American mining, even if there are some foreign fingers in the pie.

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

CAL POLY PROFESSOR ARGUES SQUIRRELS ARE SUBJECTED TO RACIALLY-CHARGED MEDIA BIAS

by TOM CICCOTTA10 May 2017,396

<http://www.breitbart.com/tech/2017/05/10/professor-argues-squirrels-are-subjected-to-racially-charged-media-bias/>

An assistant professor at California State Polytechnic University argues in a recent academic research paper that eastern fox squirrels are subjected to a “gendered, racialized, and speciesist” form of media bias.

Teresa Lloro-Bidart, an associate professor of liberal studies at Cal Poly, argues in a recently published postmodernist research paper that eastern fox squirrels are on the receiving end of racially-charged media bias. Lloro-Bidart claims that she worked towards such a conclusion by analyzing the coverage of eastern fox squirrels through “feminist posthumanist,” and “feminist food studies” lenses.



Lloro-Bidart contends that eastern fox squirrels, which is the most populous species of tree squirrel in North America, are on the receiving end of such bigotry due to several factors, most notably, the “western, modernist,” framework by which humans interpret their behaviors and actions.

THERE IS A VIDEO AT THE WEBSITE ABOUT THIS ARTICLE.

Given that the shift in tree squirrel demographics is a relatively recent phenomenon, this case presents a unique opportunity to question and retheorize the ontological given of ‘otherness’ that manifests, in part, through a politics whereby animal food choices [come] to stand in for both compliance and resistance to the dominant forces in [human] culture’. I, therefore, juxtapose feminist posthumanist theories and feminist food studies scholarship to demonstrate how eastern fox squirrels are subjected to gendered, racialized, and speciesist thinking in the popular news media as a result of their feeding/eating practices, their unique and unfixed spatial arrangements in the greater Los Angeles region, and the western, modernist human frame through which humans interpret these actions.

The paper, which is titled, “When ‘Angelino’ squirrels don’t eat nuts: a feminist posthumanist politics of consumption across southern California,” also argues that humans are responsible for “otherizing” eastern fox squirrels.

Eastern fox squirrels, Lloro-Bidart argues, are facing discrimination as a result of the human tendency to lump the species in with the western gray squirrel, a species which is much less tolerant of human beings.

Lloro-Bidart also evokes the concept of intersectionality, an academic concept popularized by Kimberle Crenshaw, which describes overlapping human identities and their relationship to systems of oppression, to analyze the plight of the eastern fox squirrel in California.

Tom Ciccotta is a libertarian who writes about economics and higher education for Breitbart News. You can follow him on Twitter @tciccotta or email him at tciccotta@breitbart.com

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

MICROSOFT ISSUES 'HIGHLY UNUSUAL' WINDOWS XP PATCH TO PREVENT MASSIVE RANSOMWARE ATTACK

by Tom Warren@tomwarren May 13, 2017, 11:10am EDT

<https://www.theverge.com/2017/5/13/15635006/microsoft-windows-xp-security-patch-wannacry-ransomware-attack>

UK hospitals, Telefonica, FedEx, and other businesses were hit by a massive ransomware attack on Friday. Around 75,000 computers in 99 countries were affected by malware known as WannaCry, which encrypts a computer and demands a \$300 ransom before unlocking it. The malware was able to spread thanks to flaws in old versions of Windows that were originally used by the NSA to hack into PCs before being made public by the Shadow Brokers group last month.

While Microsoft quickly issued fixes for the latest versions of Windows last month, this left Windows XP unprotected. Many of the machines attacked today have been breached simply because the latest Windows updates have not been applied quickly enough, but there are still organizations that continue to run Windows XP despite the risks. Microsoft is now taking what it describes as a "highly unusual" step to provide public patches for Windows operating systems that are in custom support only. This includes specific fixes for Windows XP, Windows 8, and Windows Server 2003.

MICROSOFT SAYS IT WAS PAINFUL TO WITNESS THE ATTACKS

Microsoft usually charges businesses to provide custom support agreements for older versions of Windows, which include critical and important software updates from Microsoft beyond the normal end of extended support point. "Seeing businesses and individuals affected by cyberattacks, such as the ones reported today, was painful," explains Phillip Misner, a security group manager at Microsoft. "Given the potential impact to customers and their businesses, we made the decision to make the Security Update for platforms in custom support only."

It's an unusual move for Microsoft, but this security flaw and the way it was discovered and made public is equally unusual. There are now signs that the ransomware attack has subsided thanks to a kill switch, discovered by a 22-year-old in the UK. Some experts believe the attackers behind the ransomware have only raised around \$20,000 from the scam. Either way, this is yet another painful security lesson for everyone involved. Exploits should be disclosed by government agencies, systems should be patched in a timely manner, and nobody should be running an old supported version of Windows.

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

HOW I ALMOST KILLED MY MOM WITH A SIMPLE ANTI-ITCH PILL

By Sheila Sullivan Zubrod May 7

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/how-i-almost-killed-my-mom-with-a-simple-anti-itch-pill/2017/05/05/63359b74-1496-11e7-ada0-1489b735b3a3_story.html?utm_term=.9484a9b274c4

Nobody wants to kill her own mother by accident. Luckily, mine pulled through.

As teachable moments go, this one was huge. I learned that once you or someone you know hits age 65, it's time to learn which drugs can increase the risk of dementia when taken for long periods. And which, for people who already have dementia, can make them psychotic.

I call them the drugs of fog, and I saw firsthand what these seemingly innocuous pills did to my mom. A pill that might make a 20-year-old or a 40-year-old slightly sleepy made my 95-year-old mother, Ceil Zubrod, into someone I had never seen. Known for her easy smile, great style and a crazy-early bedtime, she morphed in less than five hours into a hallucinating, night-walking, screaming basket case, all thanks to one anti-itch prescription pill I gave her for her eczema.

Ignorance is never a great defense, but it's the only one I have. The nightmare began after I gave her that pill at around 9 p.m. as she went to bed. At roughly 2 a.m., she whacked me awake with her flashlight and ordered me to help her pack a suitcase so we could walk to her childhood home in New York, about 1,000 miles from our place in Tampa.

After she tried to flush my underwear down the toilet, I threw on a raincoat and began looking for my car keys to drive to the emergency room. In that minute, she tried to climb over our balcony. Fortunately I happened to look up and pried her hands off the railing. Her face was so tormented I barely recognized her. At the ER, they took blood, did an MRI and — of course, given her age — ordered up a urine test.

When the result came back, the ER doc demanded, "You gave you mother a Benadryl — at her age?" As the exhausted caregiver who'd ingested my share of Benadryl over six decades for occasional allergies, I was clueless because this was not what my mom was taking. The doctor who had prescribed her anti-itch pill never mentioned that it was the equivalent of a giant Benadryl.

And if he had, I wouldn't have understood why that was so terrible.

One of the many secret aspects of aging is that physical symptoms can mutate like aliens, which plays havoc with all we think we know about healing ourselves or our loved ones. For example, once we hit our 70s or 80s, symptoms of urinary tract infection that most women recognize — fever or a burning sensation when urinating — give way to something known throughout Florida — the state with the nation's highest percentage of the elderly — as "acting strange."

During this entire episode I naively assumed my mother might have a really bad urinary tract infection, but Ceil's mercifully well-informed ER doctor understood the possible terrifying side effects of pills that adult children give their aged parents. Which is probably why he acted as if I'd fed my mother rat poison.

“Do not give her ANY more anticholinergics,” he practically snarled while signing her discharge papers.

I made him spell it while praying he wouldn't cite me for elder abuse. Once Ceil was asleep in her own bed at our home, I researched what other medications came under that heading.

A Harvard medical health blog told me: “Anticholinergic drugs block the action of acetylcholine. This substance transmits messages in the nervous system. In the brain, acetylcholine is involved in learning and memory. In the rest of the body, it stimulates muscle contractions. Anticholinergic drugs include some antihistamines, tricyclic antidepressants, medications to control overactive bladder, and drugs to relieve the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.” And then it pointed to “mounting evidence that anticholinergics aren't drugs to take long-term if you want to keep a clear head, and keep your head clear into old age.”

I moved on to actual studies. What was news to me had already been well studied around the world. In England, a 2011 study of 13,400 people age 65 and older found that the use of medication containing anticholinergics was linked to an increase in the risk of cognitive impairment — and mortality within two years.

Similarly, researchers in the United States followed 3,434 people 65 and older for more than seven years. None had dementia or Alzheimer's disease when the study began, and all drugs they took were carefully tracked. The findings of this study were as scary to me as the outcome of the overseas research: Those who took anticholinergic drugs — either over-the-counter or prescription-strength formulations — for an extended period had a greater risk of developing dementia.

Anticholinergics include all kinds of mass-market remedies beyond Benadryl (which is known generically as diphenhydramine), such as Nyquil, Sominex, Advil/Tylenol PM, the bladder-control prescription drugs oxybutynin (Ditropan) and tolterodine (Detrol), and neck and back pain drugs such as Flexeril. These are all worthwhile medications — for younger people.

My 95-year-old mother's accumulation of daily prescriptions were classic textbook material, beginning with pills for overactive bladder that she had taken from age 69 to 94. A doctor had prescribed that medication years before — without her even being incontinent. Why, I recently asked that doctor, and I got this response: “Overactive-bladder issues are common in women over 70. They don't like to talk about it.” Actually, my mother never brought it up because it was never a problem. I'm pretty sure she didn't realize what the prescription her doctor renewed faithfully was intended to treat.

Ceil is now down to a single baby aspirin each day. She happily watches her favorite on-demand sports programs — tennis and ice skating — before she goes to sleep. She takes a daily one-mile walk, loves going to a nearby Trader Joe's for flowers and regularly gets a manicure.

So I had been feeling home free after our ER visit until I saw amitriptyline recently on a list of anticholinergics. It had been prescribed as a sleeping pill for me, and I had been taking it nightly, and happily, for almost two years. No more.

Back in my hippie days, “you are what you eat” was a mega mantra. (People were far more forgiving of mind-altering drugs.) These days, I’m more inclined to say, “The older you get, the more you need to keep up with anticholinergic research.”

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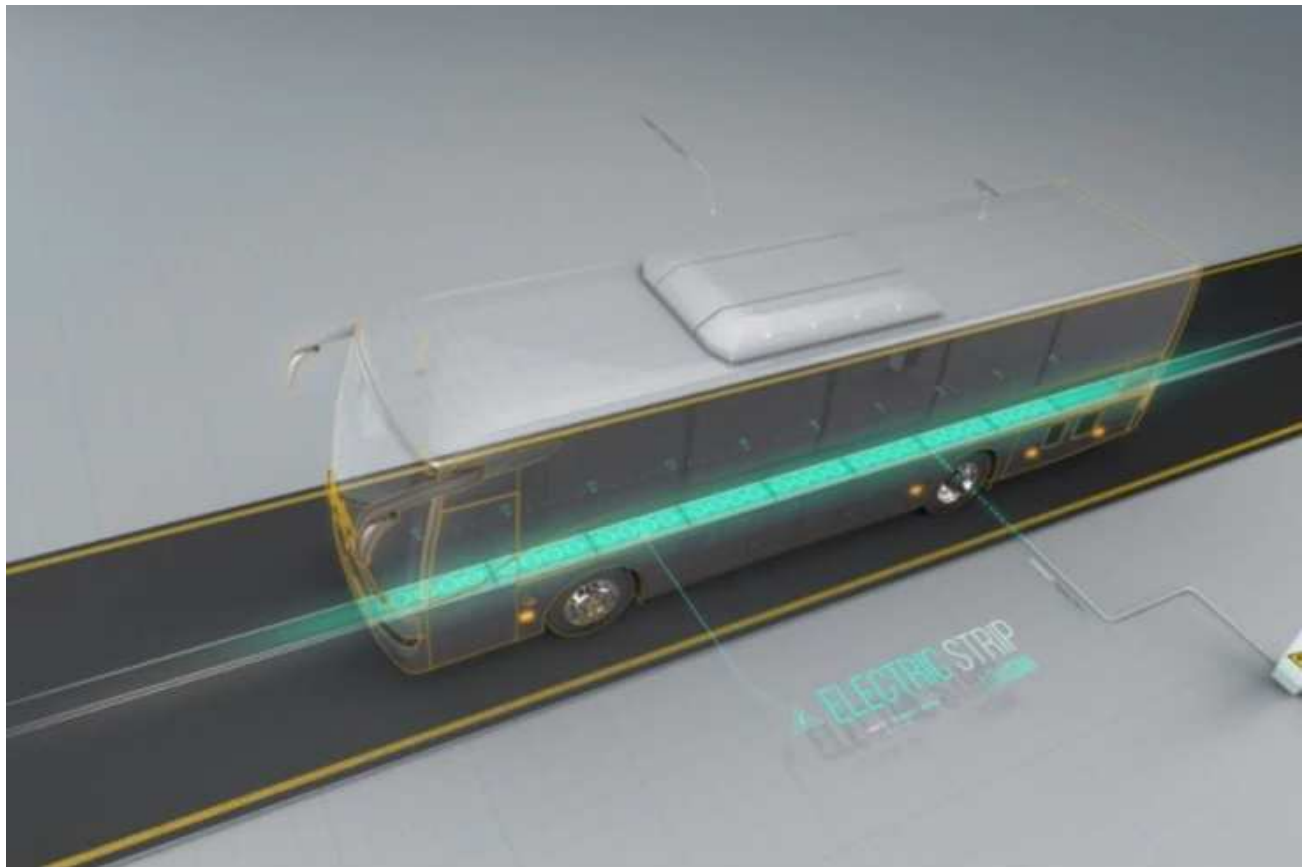
From: “Tim Bolgeo” tbolgeo@epbfi.com

ISRAEL TESTS WIRELESS CHARGING ROADS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

New technology could power buses and cars on the go, but will it be cost-effective?

By Abigail Fagan on May 11, 2017

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/israel-tests-wireless-charging-roads-for-electric-vehicles/?WT.mc_id=SA_ENGYSUS_20170511



New roads that enable wireless charging eliminate the need for an electrical port. But are they financially viable? Credit: Oren Ezer

Electric vehicles have long been a promising option for sustainable transportation. They come with practical headaches like expensive, bulky batteries that often need recharging, however. Israel is tackling those hurdles by investing in roads that power electric buses—as they ride down the street. The government is collaborating with Israeli start-up ElectRoad to install a public bus route in Tel Aviv, using an under-the-pavement wireless technology that eliminates the need for plug-in recharging stations.

Although still in its infancy, the technology could clear the three biggest hurdles—cost, weight and range—that have held back the widespread adoption of battery-powered vehicles for more than a century. First, though, ElectRoad will have to demonstrate that its “inductive charging” technology can be scaled up cheaply enough to be adopted on roadways worldwide. “It’s exciting because it’s charging without wires,” says Tim Cleary, director of BATTERY, an energy-storage research laboratory at The Pennsylvania State University, who is not involved in the project. “But unless it’s affordable and cost-effective it’s not going to take off.”

ElectRoad is betting it will. Wireless charging means the electric buses can carry a light, inexpensive battery instead of a bulky, costly one—and never have to stop for recharging. And once a roadway is outfitted with the technology, it can continuously power properly equipped vehicles. “You only need to pave for the infrastructure one time, and that’s it. You can use it for all kinds of vehicles, so that’s a big advantage,” says Oren Ezer, chief executive and co-founder of the four-year-old company.

So far, the firm’s only proving ground has been an 80-foot test route at its headquarters in Caesarea. But the technology performed well enough for the company to win a \$120,000 grant from Israel’s Ministry of Transport and Road Safety and approval to outfit a portion of a Tel Aviv bus route with their technology, says Shay Soffer, chief scientist at the ministry. The route will be around half a mile long and is slated to open in 2018. If all goes well, the government plans to deploy the technology more widely, starting with an 11-mile shuttle between the city of Eilat and the Ramon International Airport.

“Tel Aviv is the biggest city [in Israel], like New York on a small scale. If it will work in Tel Aviv, it will work anywhere,” Soffer says. “I think in 10 years you’ll see a lot of solutions like ElectRoad in our transportation.”

ElectRoad’s Ezer declined to give the price of the Tel Aviv project but says the total cost of construction will be shared by the transport ministry, the city and the company. The cost per kilometer of roadway will be a crucial factor in future years as the company attempts to scale up. Israel joins a growing number of nations exploring the technology. South Korea, for example, already has several wireless bus routes around the country. The European Union is studying the feasibility of widespread wireless charging, too. ElectRoad’s technology is different, Ezer says, because the transformers are less expensive and the installation process is faster and more efficient.

Inductive charging has been around since the 1890s, when inventor Nicola Tesla first discovered he could wirelessly power lightbulbs. Since then it has been used in an array of devices ranging from phones to toothbrushes—but only recently on the scale of a 13-ton bus. The buses are charged and propelled by power from the interaction of two electromagnetic fields. Inverters installed along the side of the road provide power to plates of copper embedded in the road. Similar copper plates are installed on the bus’s underside. As the vehicle passes over the charged roadway, the two fields interact and generate power.

ElectRoad says it can install the technology in an existing road with minimal disruption, using two tractors that can fully equip one kilometer of roadway in a single night. Each bus still needs a small onboard battery for a couple of reasons: The first is to accelerate, because the jolt of energy required to propel a stationary bus is far more than the energy it needs to coast down the street. The second is to provide power on short stretches of road

that are not fitted with the technology. ElectRoad's buses can travel off the charging road for about three miles.

The biggest advantages of wireless charging are that it allows for significantly smaller batteries or the ability to travel longer distances with a larger battery. Both are convenient, says Burak Ozpineci, who works on wireless technologies at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. However, the cost of the infrastructure and materials, especially copper, will likely be expensive, he says. Currently, the metal costs about \$2.60 per pound. In addition to costing more, wireless power might not be as straightforward as simply plugging into a socket—the bus could stray from the main strip, becoming misaligned and delivering less power, according to Penn State's Cleary.

In addition, the advantages of ElectRoad's technology may become less important as electric vehicle batteries get cheaper, lighter and more efficient. Breakthroughs in engineering and chemistry have made batteries much more cost-efficient over the past 15 years, says Dustin Grace, director of battery engineering at Proterra, an electric bus company. A few years ago a typical electric vehicle battery cost about \$1,000 per kilowatt hour. But now many companies are down to \$200 to \$300 per kilowatt hour, and a few, including Tesla, General Motors and Nissan, are even lower, according to Grace. "I'm in the camp where I see the cost of lithium ions and energy storage just plummeting," Grace says. "What these auto manufacturers are finding when they're getting into the \$100-to-\$200-per-kilowatt-hour range is these vehicles are really on parity with other vehicles. They're no longer looking at batteries as this challenge that has to be solved."

Ezer acknowledges battery prices are falling but emphasizes ElectRoad's solution is not for individual vehicles but for all-encompassing infrastructure that can eventually serve entire cities. That's where the savings are, he says. And remember that small, light battery onboard? It is only used about 6 percent of the time the vehicle is running, and thus can last as long as 25 years, Ezer asserts. By contrast, conventional batteries in electric buses, like those made by Proterra, last around six years.

Despite the challenges of scaling up, ElectRoad is optimistic about the growing synergies between its vehicles and electric grids that are transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar and wind, instead of fossil fuels. Eventually, the company even hopes to make wireless charging a two-way street: not only from road to bus but vice versa with the energy generated from braking, according to Ezer.

And down the road, the start-up's dreams are even bigger, Ezer says. "We plan to start with buses, of course, but we believe in revolutionizing the entirety of transportation."

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PODCAST: GOPHERS VERSUS THE VOLCANO

By Steve Mirsky on May 9, 2017

https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/gophers-versus-the-volcano/?WT.mc_id=SA_ENGYSUS_20170511

Pocket gophers survived the Mount Saint Helens eruption in their underground burrows and immediately went to work bringing back the ecosystem.

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STATIC FIRE TEST BRINGS FALCON HEAVY ONE STEP CLOSER TO DEBUT

by Jeff Foust — May 9, 2017

<http://spacenews.com/static-fire-test-brings-falcon-heavy-one-step-closer-to-debut/>



The first Falcon Heavy core stage performs a static-fire test at SpaceX's McGregor, Texas, test site the week of May 1. Credit: SpaceX

WASHINGTON — SpaceX said May 9 that it has successfully test-fired the center core stage of its first Falcon Heavy rocket, a key step towards its long-delayed first launch later this year.

In a tweet, the company said that it completed the first static fire of the core stage of the rocket at the company's McGregor, Texas, test site last week. The company did not disclose the precise date of the test or its duration. The company included in the tweet a video showing about 15 seconds of the test.

The Falcon Heavy uses three Falcon 9 first stages, or cores, along with an upper stage, an approach similar to United Launch Alliance's Delta 4 Heavy. The two side booster cores for the first launch will be previously-flown Falcon 9 first stages, but the center core will be a new stage, modified to accommodate the side boosters.

The development of the Falcon Heavy has been plagued by delays. The vehicle, whose first launch was planned for 2013 when SpaceX unveiled its plans for the vehicle in April 2011, is now set to fly an initial, demonstration mission in late summer, SpaceX Chief Executive Elon Musk said at a March 30 press conference after the first Falcon 9 launch that used a previously-flown first stage.

Those delays, Musk said, were in part due to the unforeseen complexity in modifying the center core booster. "At first it sounded easy. We'll just take two first stages and use them

as strap-on boosters,” Musk recalled at that March briefing. “Actually, no, it’s crazy hard and required redesign of the center core and a ton of additional hardware.”

Part of that schedule is also driven by repairs to the company’s Space Launch Complex (SLC) 40 pad at Cape Canaveral, damaged during a pad explosion in September 2016 during preparations for a Falcon 9 static-fire test. That has forced the company to use Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center, which the company planned to use for Falcon Heavy and crewed Falcon 9 launches, for more routine Falcon 9 missions.

SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell said in February that the company expected to have SLC-40 repaired by June, allowing most Falcon 9 launches to shift there while Launch Complex 39A is updated to support Falcon Heavy and crewed Falcon 9 launches.

SpaceX had a backlog of several Falcon Heavy launches, including the Space Test Program 2 mission for the U.S. Air Force tentatively scheduled for late 2017. That mission includes six satellites for the Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere and Climate (COSMIC) 2 program, a joint effort of the United States and Taiwan to collect GPS radio occultation data for weather forecasting.

However, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration official suggested last week that the COSMIC-2 satellites might not launch until 2018. Those satellites will be “launching as soon as SpaceX Falcon Heavy gets into space,” said Steve Volz, assistant administrator for NOAA Satellite and Information Services, in a May 3 presentation to the Space Studies Board of the National Academies here. “Probably about spring of next year.”

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SPACEX LAUNCHES FOURTH GLOBAL XPRESS SATELLITE ON EXPENDABLE FALCON 9

by [Caleb Henry](#) — May 15, 2017

<http://spacenews.com/spacex-launches-fourth-global-xpress-satellite-on-expendable-falcon-9/>

SINGAPORE — SpaceX launched the last of telecom satellite operator Inmarsat’s first-generation Global Xpress satellites May 15 on a mission where SpaceX did not attempt to recover the Falcon 9 rocket’s first stage.

The Falcon 9 lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on schedule at 7:21 p.m. Eastern, releasing the Inmarsat-5 F4 satellite into a geostationary transfer orbit nearly 32 minutes later.

The decision to conduct an expendable launch, now seen as rare for the Hawthorne, California, company that has landed 10 first stage boosters after their respective missions, was because of the satellite’s mass, the heaviest geostationary orbit satellite launched to date by SpaceX. At 6,100 kilograms, Inmarsat-5 F4 required fuel SpaceX would have otherwise reserved for the rocket’s return in order to get the satellite to geostationary transfer orbit.

British satellite operator Inmarsat launched the first three of its fifth generation satellites, branded as Global Xpress, on Russian Proton rockets between 2013 and 2015. In March 2016, the company made the decision to launch the fourth satellite, originally intended as a

spare, to both add additional capacity and serve as an in-orbit backup. Global Xpress needs at least three satellites to have coverage of the entire globe except the poles.



Liftoff of a SpaceX Falcon 9 carrying the Inmarsat 5 F4 satellite May 15 from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida. Credit: SpaceX webcast

Built by Boeing, each Global Xpress satellite has 89 fixed high-throughput spot beams, delivering Ka-band connectivity for customers in aviation, maritime, defense and other sectors. The U.S. government is the largest revenue driver for Global Xpress so far. Inmarsat anticipates generating \$500 million a year in revenue from the first three Global Xpress satellites by 2020.

Company representatives have not shared what Inmarsat's business plan will be for the fourth satellite, beyond saying that it will [likely go over Europe](#).

Inmarsat's next satellite launch, the Europasat S-band payload that shares a satellite bus with Greek operator Hellas Sat's Hellas Sat-3, is scheduled for an Arianespace Ariane 5 launch in June. The satellite was originally scheduled to launch on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy last year, but delays in that vehicle's introduction prompted the operator to switch launch providers.

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From: Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com
and
"Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

WHY EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT SALT MAY BE WRONG

By GINA KOLATAMAY 8, 2017

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/08/health/salt-health-effects.html?_r=0Share



Oliver Knickel, center, with Russian cosmonauts in an isolation facility in Moscow. Credit: European Space Agency

The salt equation taught to doctors for more than 200 years is not hard to understand.

The body relies on this essential mineral for a variety of functions, including blood pressure and the transmission of nerve impulses. Sodium levels in the blood must be carefully

maintained.

If you eat a lot of salt — sodium chloride — you will become thirsty and drink water, diluting your blood enough to maintain the proper concentration of sodium. Ultimately you will excrete much of the excess salt and water in urine.

The theory is intuitive and simple. And it may be completely wrong.

New studies of Russian cosmonauts, held in isolation to simulate space travel, show that eating more salt made them less thirsty but somehow hungrier. Subsequent experiments found that mice burned more calories when they got more salt, eating 25 percent more just to maintain their weight.

The research, published recently in two dense papers in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, contradicts much of the conventional wisdom about how the body handles salt and suggests that high levels may play a role in weight loss.

The findings have stunned kidney specialists.

“This is just very novel and fascinating,” said Dr. Melanie Hoenig, an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. “The work was meticulously done.”

Dr. James R. Johnston, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, marked each unexpected finding in the margins of the two papers. The studies were covered with scribbles by the time he was done.

“Really cool,” he said, although he added that the findings need to be replicated.

The new studies are the culmination of a decades-long quest by a determined scientist, Dr. Jens Titze, now a kidney specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Research in Erlangen, Germany.

In 1991, as a medical student in Berlin, he took a class on human physiology in extreme environments. The professor who taught the course worked with the European space program and presented data from a simulated 28-day mission in which a crew lived in a small capsule.

The main goal was to learn how the crew members would get along. But the scientists also had collected the astronauts' urine and other physiological markers.

Dr. Titze noticed something puzzling in the crew members' data: Their urine volumes went up and down in a seven-day cycle. That contradicted all he'd been taught in medical school: There should be no such temporal cycle.

In 1994, the Russian space program decided to do a 135-day simulation of life on the Mir space station. Dr. Titze arranged to go to Russia to study urine patterns among the crew members and how these were affected by salt in the diet.

A striking finding emerged: a 28-day rhythm in the amount of sodium the cosmonauts' bodies retained that was not linked to the amount of urine they produced. And the sodium rhythms were much more pronounced than the urine patterns.

The sodium levels should have been rising and falling with the volume of urine. Although the study wasn't perfect — the crew members' sodium intake was not precisely calibrated — Dr. Titze was convinced something other than fluid intake was influencing sodium stores in the crew's bodies.

The conclusion, he realized, "was heresy."

In 2006, the Russian space program announced two more simulation studies, one lasting 105 days and the other 520 days. Dr. Titze saw a chance to figure out whether his anomalous findings were real.

In the shorter simulation, the cosmonauts ate a diet containing 12 grams of salt daily, followed by nine grams daily, and then a low-salt diet of six grams daily, each for a 28-day period. In the longer mission, the cosmonauts also ate an additional cycle of 12 grams of salt daily.

Like most of us, the cosmonauts liked their salt. Oliver Knickel, 33, a German citizen participating in the program who is now an automotive engineer in Stuttgart, recalled that even the food that supplied 12 grams a day was not salty enough for him.

When the salt level got down to six grams, he said, "It didn't taste good."

The real shocker came when Dr. Titze measured the amount of sodium excreted in the crew's urine, the volume of their urine, and the amount of sodium in their blood.

The mysterious patterns in urine volume persisted, but everything seemed to proceed according to the textbooks. When the crew ate more salt, they excreted more salt; the amount of sodium in their blood remained constant, and their urine volume increased.

"But then we had a look at fluid intake, and were more than surprised," he said.

Instead of drinking more, the crew were drinking less in the long run when getting more salt. So where was the excreted water coming from?

Well

Get the best of Well, with the latest on health, fitness and nutrition, plus exclusive commentary by Tara Parker-Pope, delivered to your inbox every week.

“There was only one way to explain this phenomenon,” Dr. Titze said. “The body most likely had generated or produced water when salt intake was high.”

Another puzzle: The crew complained that they were always hungry on the high-salt diet. Dr. Titze assured them that they were getting exactly enough food to maintain their weights, and were eating the same amount on the lower-salt diets, when hunger did not seem to be problem.

But urine tests suggested another explanation. The crew members were increasing production of glucocorticoid hormones, which influence both metabolism and immune function.

To get further insight, Dr. Titze began a study of mice in the laboratory. Sure enough, the more salt he added to the animals’ diet, the less water they drank. And he saw why.

The animals were getting water — but not by drinking it. The increased levels of glucocorticoid hormones broke down fat and muscle in their own bodies. This freed up water for the body to use.

But that process requires energy, Dr. Titze also found, which is why the mice ate 25 percent more food on a high-salt diet. The hormones also may be a cause of the strange long-term fluctuations in urine volume.

Scientists knew that a starving body will burn its own fat and muscle for sustenance. But the realization that something similar happens on a salty diet has come as a revelation.

People do what camels do, noted Dr. Mark Zeidel, a nephrologist at Harvard Medical School who wrote an editorial accompanying Dr. Titze’s studies. A camel traveling through the desert that has no water to drink gets water instead by breaking down the fat in its hump.

One of the many implications of this finding is that salt may be involved in weight loss. Generally, scientists have assumed that a high-salt diet encourages a greater intake of fluids, which increases weight.

But if balancing a higher salt intake requires the body to break down tissue, it may also increase energy expenditure.

Still, Dr. Titze said he would not advise eating a lot of salt to lose weight. If his results are correct, more salt will make you hungrier in the long run, so you would have to be sure you did not eat more food to make up for the extra calories burned.

And, Dr. Titze said, high glucocorticoid levels are linked to such conditions as osteoporosis, muscle loss, Type 2 diabetes and other metabolic problems. But what about liquids? Everyone knows that salty foods make you thirsty. How could it be that a high-salt diet made the cosmonauts less thirsty?

In reality, said Dr. Zeidel, people and animals get thirsty because salt-detecting neurons in the mouth stimulate an urge to drink. This kind of “thirst” may have nothing to do with the body’s actual need for water.

These findings have opened up an array of puzzling questions, experts said.

“The work suggests that we really do not understand the effect of sodium chloride on the body,” said Dr. Hoenig.

“These effects may be far more complex and far-reaching than the relatively simple laws that dictate movement of fluid, based on pressures and particles.”

She and others have not abandoned their conviction that high-salt diets can raise blood pressure in some people.

But now, Dr. Hoenig said, “I suspect that when it comes to the adverse effects of high sodium intake, we are right for all the wrong reasons.”

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From: “Jim Woosley” jimwoosley@aol.com

'ACCIDENTAL HERO' FINDS KILL SWITCH TO STOP SPREAD OF RANSOMWARE CYBER-ATTACK

Spread of malware curtailed by expert who simply registered a domain name for a few dollars, giving many across world time to protect against attack

- * Cyber-attack hits dozens of countries – live updates
- * Massive ransomware cyber-attack hits 74 countries around the world

The spread of WannaCry ransomware wreaked havoc on organizations including the UK’s National Health Service (NHS). Photograph: Carl Court/Getty Images

An “accidental hero” has halted the global spread of the WannaCry ransomware, reportedly by spending a few dollars on registering a domain name hidden in the malware.

The ransomware has wreaked havoc on organizations including FedEx and Telefonica, as well as the UK’s National Health Service (NHS), where operations were cancelled, x-rays, test results and patient records became unavailable and phones did not work.

However, a UK cybersecurity researcher tweeting as @malwaretechblog, with the help of Darien Huss from security firm Proofpoint, found and activated a “kill switch” in the malicious software.

The switch was hardcoded into the malware in case the creator wanted to stop it spreading. This involved a very long nonsensical domain name that the malware makes a request to – just as if it was looking up any website – and if the request comes back and shows that the domain is live, the kill switch takes effect and the malware stops spreading.

“I saw it wasn’t registered and thought, ‘I think I’ll have that’,” he is reported as saying. The purchase cost him \$10.69. Immediately, the domain name was registering thousands of connections every second.

“They get the accidental hero award of the day,” said Proofpoint’s Ryan Kalember. “They didn’t realize how much it probably slowed down the spread of this ransomware.”

The time that @malwaretechblog registered the domain was too late to help Europe and Asia, where many organizations were affected. But it gave people in the US more time to develop immunity to the attack by patching their systems before they were infected, said Kalember.

PLAY VIDEO AT THE WEBSITE: Theresa May: 'This is not targeted at the NHS, it's an international attack' - 0:32

Theresa May: 'This is not targeted at the NHS, it's an international attack' – video

The kill switch won’t help anyone whose computer is already infected with the ransomware, and and it’s possible that there are other variants of the malware with different kill switches that will continue to spread.

The malware was made available online on 14 April through a dump by a group called Shadow Brokers, which claimed last year to have stolen a cache of “cyber weapons” from the National Security Agency (NSA).

Ransomware is a type of malware that encrypts a user’s data, then demands payment in exchange for unlocking the data. This attack was caused by a bug called “WanaCrypt0r 2.0” or WannaCry, that exploits a vulnerability in Windows. Microsoft released a patch (a software update that fixes the problem) for the flaw in March, but computers that have not installed the security update remain vulnerable.

The ransomware demands users pay \$300 worth of cryptocurrency Bitcoin to retrieve their files, though it warns that the “payment will be raised” after a certain amount of time. Translations of the ransom message in 28 languages are included. The malware spreads through email.

“This was eminently predictable in lots of ways,” said Ryan Kalember from cybersecurity firm Proofpoint. “As soon as the Shadow Brokers dump came out everyone [in the security industry] realized that a lot of people wouldn’t be able to install a patch, especially if they used an operating system like Windows XP [which many NHS computers still use], for which there is no patch.”

Security researchers with Kaspersky Lab have recorded more than 45,000 attacks in 74 countries, including the UK, Russia, Ukraine, India, China, Italy, and Egypt. In Spain, major companies including telecommunications firm Telefónica were infected.

By Friday evening, the ransomware had spread to the United States and South America, though Europe and Russia remained the hardest hit, according to security researchers Malware Hunter Team. The Russian interior ministry says about 1,000 computers have been affected.

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From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

COULD "PLANETARY PROTECTION" SCUTTLE OTHERWORLDLY EXPLORATION?

Scientists are grappling with the problem of biological cross-contamination between Earth and other worlds

By Nola Taylor Redd, SPACE.com on May 9, 2017

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/could-planetary-protection-scuttle-otherworldly-exploration/?WT.mc_id=send-to-friend



Credit: NASA

On Sept. 15, 2017, NASA's Cassini spacecraft will take a suicide plunge into Saturn to avoid contaminating the ringed planet's potentially habitable moons, Titan and Enceladus.

Cassini's fate is tied to the issue of planetary protection, which refers to the measures scientists and engineers take to minimize the chances that life-forms from Earth make it to other worlds. And with NASA's Mars 2020 rover planning to cache samples to one day return to Earth's labs, planetary protection also means making sure that our own world is safe from contamination by possible alien life.

Planetary protection was the first item on the agenda at the Astrobiology Science Conference, which was held last week in Mesa, Arizona. Chemists, biologists, planetary scientists, astronomers and other researchers all vigorously discussed the issue at the meeting's first session on Monday morning (April 24).

"Planetary protection has never been more important to consider," said Andrew Maynard, a researcher at Arizona State University's Risk Innovation Lab, who led the discussion.

Citing Mars sample return, an upcoming mission to Jupiter's ocean-harboring moon Europa and possible future probes that could visit other icy satellites, Maynard engaged the audience of scientists with the stated intent of changing how they think about the process. Maynard, who is not an astrobiologist but a physicist, turned the attention of the room to studies on risk assessment, urging researchers to consider risk not as something to be avoided but rather as "a complex landscape to be moved through to reach goals."

He also said that analyzing the risk of contamination, either of Earth or another world, isn't the exclusive purview of any particular group of scientists — or of scientists in general.

"Everybody has got some stake," Maynard said.

PROTECTING THE EARTH

Concern about contamination has been part of exploration since the dawn of the Space Age. The first three sets of astronauts to land on the moon were kept in isolation on their return to Earth to ensure they hadn't brought any pathogens home with them.

Before NASA's Viking 1 and Viking 2 landers were sent to Mars to hunt for life, they were sterilized to minimize the odds that Earth microbes could contaminate their experiments. The robotic explorers that followed were similarly cleansed. And in 1967, the countries of the world agreed that their space missions would work to avoid contaminating Earth or other worlds, making planetary protection an international goal.

The moon rocks returned by Apollo astronauts soon revealed Earth's natural satellite as a barren, inhospitable place unsuitable for life. The comets and asteroids sampled by past and ongoing missions have already polluted Earth's surface, and NASA has deemed these objects unlikely to harbor life.

But Earth has received relatively few samples from Mars in the form of meteorites. While some scientists think that life could have started on the Red Planet and then hitched a ride to Earth, the issue is far from certain. So, when it comes to returning samples from Mars, space agencies will take great care not to infect Earth.

According to NASA procedural requirement NPR 8020.12: "Unless the sample to be returned is subjected to an accepted, approved, sterilization process, the sample container must be sealed after sample acquisition, and a redundant, fail-safe containment with a method for verification of its operation before Earth-return shall be required."

The requirement also states: "The mission and the spacecraft design shall provide a method to 'break the chain of contact' (BTC) with Mars. No uncontained hardware that contacted Mars, directly or indirectly, may be returned to Earth unless sterilized."

But scientists are still debating just what the biggest concerns are. Maynard's presentation, which involved randomly polling audience members and engaging them in debate, revealed that many of the scientists involved in studying how life could evolve beyond Earth disagree on just how much we need to worry about contamination.

Although the Martian surface appears bereft of life, some researchers think microbes might still exist underground. A sample-return mission could therefore theoretically carry living

organisms back to Earth along with rocks and dirt. Whether a Martian microbe could survive on our planet remains a subject of heavy debate.

For instance, during the discussion period, Vladimir Airapetian, a researcher at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, argued that a living thing that evolved on Mars shouldn't be able to find a place on Earth because all of the planet's biological niches have been filled.

But Benjamin Wolf of Washington University in St. Louis disagreed. "I don't like the argument that we think the niches are taken," he said, citing the success that many invasive species on Earth have had when pushing into previously occupied niches.

"People didn't realize that kudzu would take over the entire South," Wolf said, describing the Japanese vine that has blanketed the southern United States since its 1876 introduction. "We need to understand that sometimes scientists don't know things."

Geochemist Stuart Bartlett, of the Tokyo Institute of Technology's Earth-Life Science Institute, also expressed concern about potentially bringing home organisms able to survive in the extreme conditions on Mars.

"Backwards contamination seems like a more natural candidate for spreading exponentially and invading," Bartlett said.

But Maynard doesn't think that scientists should be the only participants in the discussion. He encouraged opening a dialogue with the public, who would also be affected if a harmful organism were returned to Earth. With most of the world unversed in the potential hazards, Maynard encouraged scientists to do a better job of communicating potential issues, a process that would allow everyone to work together to make an informed decision.

He pointed to the opening of the Large Hadron Collider, a particle accelerator along the France-Switzerland border whose activation some feared would create a microscopic black hole with the potential to destroy Earth. While this risk was considered marginal, Maynard pointed out that the improbable disaster would have a worldwide effect, and that scientists included society in the discussion in a reasonable fashion. (No black hole destroyed Earth when the accelerator was switched on, of course.)

When it comes to sample-return missions, scientists need to determine just how large the threat of extraterrestrial contamination might loom, Maynard said.

"It seems like we have a huge diversity of opinion whether alien life is able to survive on Earth," he said.

CONTAMINATING MARS

During the April 24 discussion, scientists also debated the threat exploration missions pose to the pristine environment of Mars and other worlds. Red Planet rovers and landers are kept in strict isolation throughout their construction, which takes place in clean rooms around the world. Components are sterilized to the best ability of current technology, but researchers stress that it's impossible to kill every microbe aboard any craft.

The concern with carrying micro-organisms abroad is twofold. One issue involves the possibility of interfering with experiments designed to hunt for life on another world. If a

terrestrial microbe hitched a ride, it could be picked up by the mission's tests, causing scientists to wrongly believe they had discovered alien life.

Such a mistake, while disappointing in itself, could also affect how people around the world view scientists, participants in the April 24 session said.

"If NASA spent \$5 billion on a life-detection mission and discovered life from Earth, then the loss of public trust would really shoot up," said Linda Billings, a researcher at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

A terrestrial organism traveling to another world via spacecraft also has the potential to infect that world, overwhelming or driving out any existing life. Many of the commenters who didn't think Martian microbes would flourish on Earth also seemed to believe that terrestrial life would be unlikely to thrive on the Red Planet, because of the considerable differences between the two worlds' environments.

But that's just speculation. And even if life from one world wouldn't last long on the other, it's important to keep things clean for the sake of understanding science, researchers at the session said.

"We need to save the Mars questions for Mars and the Earth questions for Earth," one person in the room said.

The desire to keep Mars free from Earth-based contamination could have serious implications when it comes to sending people to the Red Planet. Humans don't live in isolation; we carry a fleet of micro-organisms everywhere we go, and these tiny creatures outnumber our own cells about 10 to 1.

"If we send humans anywhere, we contaminate the planet, because we're dead if we're sterile," said one commentator. So, human exploration could lead to a conflict with planetary protection.

Not everyone agrees that humans would automatically contaminate the Red Planet, however. John Rummel, an astrobiologist at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, and former NASA Planetary Protection Officer, told the room that he doesn't think there has to be a conflict.

"I don't think it's an all-or-nothing game," Rummel told Space.com. Human exploration could be incremental, he said, with the first explorers making only the most cautious steps outside of their habitation.

NASA and other government agencies aren't the only organizations that seek to put boots on Mars. For example, last September, SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk unveiled his company's plan to help establish a million-person city on the Red Planet.

Even if such efforts succeed, they won't necessarily cause native Mars life to be swamped by microbes from Earth, Rummel said — especially if Red Planet organisms exist only underground, where they're shielded from harmful radiation.

"Musk is not going to have tourists interfering with the deep Martian subsurface," Rummel said.

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A NEW IDEA ON HOW EARTH BECAME A GIANT SNOWBALL

A cool climate, sulfur and volcanism may have thrust the planet into an extreme glacial state

By Annie Sneed on May 8, 2017

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-new-idea-on-how-earth-became-a-giant-snowball/?WT.mc_id=send-to-friend



Credit: Alexandre Buisse Wikimedia (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Eons ago Earth experienced a wild transformation: it turned into a giant snowball. These massive glaciation events, where ice encased the planet from pole-to-pole, are fittingly named “snowball Earth.” There were at least two occurrences: one around 717 million and another some 645 million years ago.

Although geologists have good evidence Earth experienced these snowball events, they still cannot figure out how they happened. Scientists have debated for decades over what set off the most profound climatic changes in the planet’s geologic record. Now researchers at Harvard University have a new idea that may finally provide an answer: They say volcanic regions, located in the right place at the right time, may have triggered at least the one of these giant glaciation events.

If you traveled back in time to Earth about 700 million years ago, you would have found ice hundreds of meters thick covering the oceans and continents, although the land masses may have also had some bare, dry areas dotted with ice-covered hypersaline lakes. The average global temperature fell around negative 37 degrees Fahrenheit. The snowball-like Earth was largely uninhabitable. Thankfully, these apocalyptic glacial periods happen rarely—but that fact also makes it hard for scientists to determine how such an extreme climate formed. “The further we go back in time, the more Earth resembles a world very different from the one we live on today,” explains Linda Sohl, a paleoclimatologist at Columbia University’s Center for Climate Systems Research and NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies “So we can’t readily interpret the past based on our knowledge of the present.”

Researchers have proposed a host of ideas about what sparked snowball Earths. The cause—whatever it was—had to cool the planet so that enough ice formed to reflect much of the sun’s incoming energy, creating a runaway cooling effect. One hypothesis suggests a large meteorite hit the planet and threw up so much dust and ash into the air it reduced the incoming solar radiation for a couple years and chilled the planet. Other ideas involve similar types of brief but catastrophic events, such as a gigantic volcanic eruption. Yet another hypothesis proposes some kind of organism evolved that could remove a large amount of carbon from the surface of the ocean and bury it in deep sediments after they died and settled on the ocean floor; that mechanism would theoretically have kept enough carbon out of the atmosphere to cause runaway cooling. None of these ideas have much—if any—physical evidence to back them up, however.

One of the most popular ideas focuses on weathering, a natural process that captures and stores carbon via the chemical breakdown of rocks. When the supercontinent Rodinia broke up around 750 million years ago, the new, smaller continents scattered to locations around the equator where it was warm and wet—prime conditions for weathering. In addition, large volcanic regions would have emerged as the giant land mass fragmented, which would have been extremely vulnerable to weathering.

The problem: weathering works incredibly slowly—the process is constantly happening but it affects the global climate on a million-year time scale. Earth’s climate system usually self-corrects in that amount of time. Plus, the greater volcanic activity would have released carbon dioxide, making it even harder to push Earth into a snowball state. This supercontinent breakup scenario could have caused a runaway cooling effect only if weathering outpaced other feedbacks in the climate system, explains Francis Macdonald, an associate professor of geology at Harvard.

Because none of the ideas is completely satisfactory, Macdonald and colleague Robin Wordsworth, an assistant professor of environmental science and engineering, set out to find another explanation. In 2010 Macdonald published a paper that, for the first time, pinned down the precise date when the Sturtian glaciation—the first of the two snowball Earths—began. “We could suddenly say within a few hundred thousand years when this event actually occurred,” Macdonald explains. “Before, it had only been known within tens of millions of years.” He discovered Sturtian glaciation started around 717 million years ago.

Around the same time, Macdonald dated a volcanic region, called the Franklin Large Igneous Province (LIP). He discovered the Franklin LIP became active close to when the

first snowball Earth event began. “I started thinking: How could these be so coincident? How might they be related?” he says.

Armed with this new information, Macdonald and Wordsworth used a combination of geologic evidence and modeling to test whether the Franklin LIP could be the culprit. In a new study, published in February in *Geophysical Research Letters*, they show the Franklin LIP’s volcanic activity could have caused extreme climate cooling. That is because of a unique combination of factors: First, the Franklin LIP formed in an area rich in sulfur; as it erupted, large plumes of hot gas and dust would have lofted sulfur particles kilometers into the air. Sulfur particles block the incoming sun and also keep heat from escaping Earth, which can create either a warming or cooling effect, depending on the location. That’s why the next piece of physical evidence is key—geologic records show the Franklin LIP sat at the equator where Earth receives more solar energy than the amount of heat it radiates back out to space. According to the researchers’ model, if enough sulfur particles reached high enough into the atmosphere at this equatorial location, it would block enough of the sun’s incoming energy to trigger runaway cooling. The sulfur aerosols would have spread over the planet as well via mixing that occurs in the stratosphere, but the equatorial region would have the greatest density of sulfur particles, severely blocking the sun. The eruptions would have needed to blast sulfur into the atmosphere for about five years to push Earth into a snowball state.

Such a scenario would also require a relatively cool Earth ahead of time. Macdonald says that is because sulfur particles need to reach the altitude of the stratosphere to have maximum cooling effect. In a colder climate the stratosphere settles a little closer to Earth’s surface, making it possible for the sulfur-rich hot air plumes to reach. Although scientists have not determined exactly what the climate was like prior to snowball Earth, this new hypothesis is appealing, Macdonald says. “It provides a positive feedback mechanism. As you start cooling, then it gets easier and easier to put more sulfur aerosols up there, then Earth cools more, and so on,” he explains. This process would happen potentially so fast that it would overwhelm other climate feedbacks that might make the planet warmer.”

Other experts find Macdonald’s and Wordsworth idea compelling. “I would say it’s probably the best idea we have, because it’s actually based on observations,” says Joseph Kirschvink, a geobiologist at California Institute of Technology, who coined the term “snowball Earth.” Paul Hoffman, an emeritus professor of geology at Harvard, says the timing between the sulfur-rich Franklin volcanism and snowball Earth makes it an attractive explanation. But “it could just be a coincidence with no relation,” he explains. Linda Sohl says the pair have come up with an intriguing hypothesis, although she also says, “Does it explain all snowball events in Earth’s history? Almost certainly not.”

Hoffman also points out the researcher’s idea does not explain the second snowball event that came soon after the first, called the Marinoan glaciation. “I think that’s the weakest point in the idea,” he says. “So far as we know, there’s no large [volcanic regions] associated with the onset of the second.” Macdonald says there could have been one but that geologic evidence becomes patchy that far back in time. Macdonald himself is not convinced his and Wordsworth’s version of events is what actually occurred 717 million years ago. “We’re not saying this had to happen, just that it’s feasible and it’s a pretty impressive coincidence,” he explains.

Along with this new idea, Macdonald expresses a note of caution to people who have proposed geoengineering projects using sulfur aerosols to combat global warming. “It’s a

little frightening if we want to play with these particles, to know they may have caused major climate change in the past,” he says. “On the other hand, we’re already geoengineering with carbon dioxide. The cat’s already out of the bag.”

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PODCAST: THE SNEAKY DANGER OF SPACE DUST

By Christopher Intagliata on May 11, 2017

https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/the-sneaky-danger-of-space-dust/?WT.mc_id=send-to-friend

When tiny particles of space debris slam into satellites, the collision could cause the emission of hardware-frying radiation. Christopher Intagliata reports.

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

From: "Tom Carpenter" tiej@epbfi.com

Rather long but worth the read. West paints a picture both of despair (I am a victim and only the government can solve my problems) and of hope (I can take charge of my life because the spirit of the rugged individual is still alive in me). Let’s pray that the latter prevails.

'WHERE HAVE ALL THE COWBOYS GONE?'

Allen West, Posted: May 08, 2017 12:15 PM

<https://townhall.com/columnists/allenwest/2017/05/08/where-have-all-the-cowboys-gone-n2323796>

It was the title of a song done by Paula Cole back in 1996, and a very popular song might I add. It came out at a time when I was stationed at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas going through the US Army Command and General Staff Officer College (CGSC). I had just returned from a one-year assignment in the Second Infantry Division up near the DMZ in South Korea. I was wrapping up one Masters from Kansas State University, and beginning another at CGSC. They loved that song out in the Midwest.

Of course today, 21 years later, the radical liberal progressive feminists would condemn Ms. Cole’s song as sexist and misogynist. What Ms. Cole was addressing was a rhetorical question about rugged, strong, responsible men...where had they gone? I can answer that question, the progressive socialist left has changed them into the “Pajama Boy”. For whatever reason, that which the world had previously admired about America, became despised and rejected here at home. There was something about that tough individualism that defined who we were, and oft times it was metaphorically portrayed as the American Cowboy. Sure, they had the gauchos down in South America, but American western movies and folklore gave us a model, an ideal of what resolve looked like.



C'mon, who out there has not watched the movie "Tombstone" countless times and memorized the lines of Val Kilmer portraying Doc Holliday? And ladies, you all recall that line from Dana Delany when she got off the stagecoach and peered down Allen Street in Tombstone, Arizona and said, "who is that tall drink of water?"

However, those images of American men have been denigrated. A prime example was when the liberal progressives of Europe and America demeaned President George W. Bush as just "an American Cowboy." In their eyes, the American Cowboy was an inherently negative and neanderthalic image. To their delight, President Bush was replaced by Barack Obama, who embodied a more acceptable, gentler, less intimidating image of America, which by virtue of his lofty rhetoric and sweet smile, was ordained to pacify the world. What ended up happening was eight years of abject weakness, but hey folks, it felt good right? No longer was the American image one that was threatening or intimidating, it was one that sought not to be respected, but liked.

Furthermore, that image of rugged individualism was replaced by one of victimization. Heck, we no longer saw women as Annie Oakleys but rather as wards of the state as portrayed in the video "The Life of Julia". Our lives were no longer about our own drive and determination, it was about a government that would take care of us from cradle to grave...one that even decided who gets to the cradle. After all, remember the assertion of one Barack Obama in Roanoke, Virginia, 2012, "if you own a business, you didn't build that". That statement, and his reelection after making it, gave the liberal progressive response to the question posed by Paula Cole in 1996. The spirit of the American cowboy was dead.

The fundamental transformation of America that Barack Obama and the leftist progressive socialists sought was simple. It was to recreate American society as not one of hard working family based strong and resilient people who only sought to pursue their happiness. It was to make our American society one of wimps, wussies, whiners, and gender swapping victims who needed government to guarantee their happiness.

All one has to do is look at the past week with the healthcare vote that occurred in the US House of Representatives last week, along with the omnibus spending measure. The overarching message is that we the people can no longer survive, literally according to the liberal progressive leftists of the Democratic Party, unless it is granted to us by the government. And sadly, we have some in the Republican Party now buying into this highly dangerous agenda. It is an agenda that is antithetical to what Alexis de Tocqueville saw when he traveled the United States in the early 1800s and wrote the book, "Democracy in America".

The political masters of America no longer believe that Americans can make decisions about their own lives. And we have fallen into that belief system as a society as well. Democrats this past weekend were out on talk shows discussing how Americans will die if there is no Obamacare. In other words, we cannot be trusted to have policies which enable us to care for ourselves, it must be given to us.

That belief system leads one down a path that does not end up well. If we as a Nation no longer believe that we are capable of determining what is best for ourselves, that healthcare is a right to be bestowed upon us by flawed politicians...can they also deny that right as they wish? There is a popular insight to which we should pay heed, "a government big enough to give you what you want, is also big enough to take it away".

The growth of the culture of the participation trophy will only undermine and harm the idea of determined individualism that once defined America. If we no longer welcome that concept of working hard to attain something of our own volition, realizing that some do need assistance, but only as a stop gap, then we end up surrendering our true unalienable rights – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

There is truly a culture war in America. There is also a conflagration between politics and policy. It is all driven by two very different attitudes. Do Americans seek to hear what they need to hear, or do Americans seek what they want to hear? A statesmen will convey to you that which you need to hear, and set the conditions that create opportunities, through policies consistent with our fundamental principles, for you to pursue your dreams, goals, and aspirations. Politicians will tell you what they think you want to hear using politics and rhetoric to enslave you to what they believe your outcomes should be.

Where have all the Cowboys gone? They are certainly not in Washington, DC, but that spirit still exists in America. It is all about true American individualism, not collectivism. It is about individual sovereignty and liberty, not collective submission and subjugation. It is about a hard day of work, and resting knowing what you have created with your own hands, not waiting for someone to place something into your hands for little to no effort.

It's why once upon a time we called the Dallas Cowboys, "America's Team" because that is our indomitable spirit. I hope and pray we will never have a football team called the "pajama boys

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

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbf.com

DEM. ASSEMBLYMAN PUSHES BILL TO GUARANTEE TEACHERS CANNOT SHOOT BACK IF ATTACKERS STRIKE

by AWR HAWKINS12 May 20171,184

<http://www.breitbart.com/california/2017/05/12/ca-democrats-push-ensure-teachers-defenseless-k-12-schools/>



File Photo: George Frey/Getty Images

California Assemblyman Kevin McCarty (D-7) is pushing legislation to take away school administrators' power to allow teachers with a Carry Concealed Weapon license (CCW) to be armed in classrooms for self-defense.

McCarty's bill—AB 424—was introduced months ago and is snaking its way through the legislative process.

He introduced the bill on February 13 and in mid-March Bakersfield.com reported that it was being pushed as a way “of closing a loophole in the Gun Free School Zone Act. That act, also known as SB 707, barred firearms on school grounds, but made exceptions for anyone granted permission by local superintendents.” AB 424 would take away superintendents' powers to allow teachers with CCW's to be armed for self-defense.

The May 17th, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

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Gun Owners of California's Sam Peredes talked to Breitbart News on May 12 and said, "Two years ago, California passed a bill saying a concealed carry permit holder could not carry on any school campus unless they had the authorization of the school administrator. Well, out of the one thousand school districts in California, five of them decided to allow concealed permit holders to carry on their campuses. That so ticked off the legislature that now they are going to take away the authority of even administrators to allow CCW holders to carry on their campuses."

Breitbart News previously reported that that five school districts which chose to allow CCW holders to carry on campus for self-defense are Kern High School District, Kingsburg Joint Union High School District, Folsom Cordova Unified School District, Anderson Union High School District, and Palo Cedro's North Cow Creek School District

McCarty justified his push to disarm teachers, saying, "A safe learning environment is essential for our children to be successful in the classroom. That's not possible if a school district allows armed civilians to roam California school campuses." Missing from McCarty's appraisal is the fact that Sandy Hook Elementary was a safe learning environment until a mass attacker ignored the gun-free zone signage, and once he was in the building no one was armed to stop him.

McCarty and other Democrats must realize that attackers who refuse to heed a "gun free zone" sign will have no one to stop them once the teachers and staff are disarmed in California either.

AWR Hawkins is the Second Amendment columnist for Breitbart News and host of Bullets with AWR Hawkins, a Breitbart News podcast. He is also the political analyst for Armed American Radio. Follow him on Twitter: @AWRHawkins. Reach him directly at awrhawkins@breitbart.com.

If you would like to unsubscribe From: THE REVENGE OF HUMP DAY, please send an email message to Tim Bolgeo tbolgeo@epbfi.com and say, "QUIT SENDING ME THIS STUPID RAG!"
