

The October 4, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

Page 1 of 38

Welcome to the October 4, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

I am sorry that this week's missive is a little late, but I had to have a CT scan on my heart yesterday and whatever they put into the IV to look at the heart knocked me for a loop. On top of that I have another chest infection so that has weakened me a little more. But don't worry, I am hopefully on the mend again and will be feeling better soon.

Last weekend we all experienced the tragedy in Los Vegas with the Mandalay Shooter. Fifty-Nine people were murdered and over 500 wounded. My mind is really trying to come to grips with these figures but I can't. But the thing that really gets me is how some people on the left jumped immediately to gun control to solve this problem. Even the majority of the late night show hosts jumped on the gun control wagon. One Democratic Congress Man from California started calling for banning all semiautomatic long guns. I don't know guys, this is a leap too far for me.

According to the news, some of the shooter's guns were equipped with bump stocks that will turn a semiautomatic rifle almost into an automatic rifle. I understand boys and their toys who like to shot their boom-booms, but trying to make a work around for an automatic weapon without the proper licenses and clearances seems a little extreme to me. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has approved the Slide Fire stock where firearms are legal. One company's patented technology allows for an alternate shooting technique whereby safe, reliable rapid fire is possible. I don't know about this one because I am not very knowledgeable about the technology. Maybe this type of technology should be looked at it again.

Also according to the news some of the weapons had been modified to fully automatic capability. This is dead wrong unless you (again) is wrong without the proper licenses and clearances from the BATF and I agree with that.

However, what I do not agree with is at the first sign of this trouble is to disarm the populace. That doesn't seem right at all. The populace of the US has the right to defend themselves, their families, their homes and their property according to the second amendment to our Constitution. I see nothing that would change my outlook on that.

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

Uncle Timmy

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

THE OCTOBER LIBERTYCON MEETING IS OVER.

From: LibertyCon Facebook Page

There are a few Announcements:

1) Donald Puckett has been voted in as the new LibertyCon Vice-Chair! He's already been a super volunteer on the LC Staff, now he gets to be a super duper volunteer! Welcome Aboard Don!!!

The October 4, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!

Page 2 of 38

2) We have closed the books on 2017. We are now ready to contact the LC 2017 Charity of Choice, the Austin Hatcher Foundation, about a check presentation. This should be happening in the next few weeks.

We will keep everyone posted about the when and where of this presentation.

3) HOTEL - Sigh... believe it or not, we don't have anything to report... yet. Brandy will be in discussions with hotels again within the near future.

We hate to say it, but we'll keep everyone posted about the when and where as soon as we know. We won't be talking about possibilities. We'll let everyone know as soon as the contract is signed. While the ink is still wet, even.

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

PLEASE HELP A DEAR FRIEND AND HER FAMILY OUT AT GO FUND ME.

From: "JoAnn Parsons" joannparsons7395@gmail.com

Help Janet Baggott

<https://www.gofundme.com/6q5g3u-help-janet>



My name is Joann and I am raising money for Janet Baggott.

She matters to me because she's is a dear friend who needs urgent help

The October 4, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

Page 3 of 38

This cause is urgent because her husband left and Janet discovered he has not paid any house note or car note in 5 months. Hoping to save her car (for work) and the house she has been in for seventeen years. She has 2 boys to care for also.. With all the friends Janet has in our fandom family I know we can help her out. To all artist and friends please forward this Thursday facebook so we can help our friend who has helped all of us. Thank you

These funds will be used to help pay bills and lawyer fees.

Your support would mean so much to me and Janet she has always been there for our fandom family let's all help her out

L>~<l>~~<e>~<r>~<t>~<y>~<c>~<o>~<n>

Re: Harry Truman Article

From: Christina Cowan" cowan1028@earthlink.net

Some time back you published the fictitious (!!!!) Harry Truman article. Here's the Snopes article I believe I sent you about it.

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/quotes/trumanpc.asp>

<L>~<l>~~<e>~<r>~<t>~<y>~<c>~<o>~<n>

RE: The September 27th, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY! Introduction

From: "Jerry Tollett" haleja@epbfi.com

AGREE 100%!

~~~~~

From: "John Stewart"

Cherry and I are 100% in agreement with you, Uncle Timmy!

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

From: "Ray Beloate" [beerman@rittermail.com](mailto:beerman@rittermail.com)

TEACHING HOW TO MILK A COW

"It's all about camera angles" is a bit of an understatement. Bless that poor teacher's heart!

BTW, that ain't the way kids my age who lived on a farm or ranch were taught to milk a cow. We had to learn it the hard way including such niceties as tails swatting us in the face, pails kicked over, toes/feet stepped on, and stepping in poop walking to or from the cow. But on really cold mornings, when fingers felt frozen, was it ever a warming sensation to run your hands up between the cow's flank and udder and not have the old gal kick or throw a fit!

Teaching kids to milk cows in Elementary Education in Wisconsin, America's Dairyland

It's all about camera angle, and I bet whoever took this picture wished they had not taken the picture. And . . .



**I BET THAT WHEN THE TEACHER SAW THE PICTURE, SHE FAINTED.**

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

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

### **RANDOM THOUGHTS**

**Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?**

**What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?**

**If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?**

**Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work.**

**Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.**

**100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.**



Your future self is watching you right now through memories.

The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.

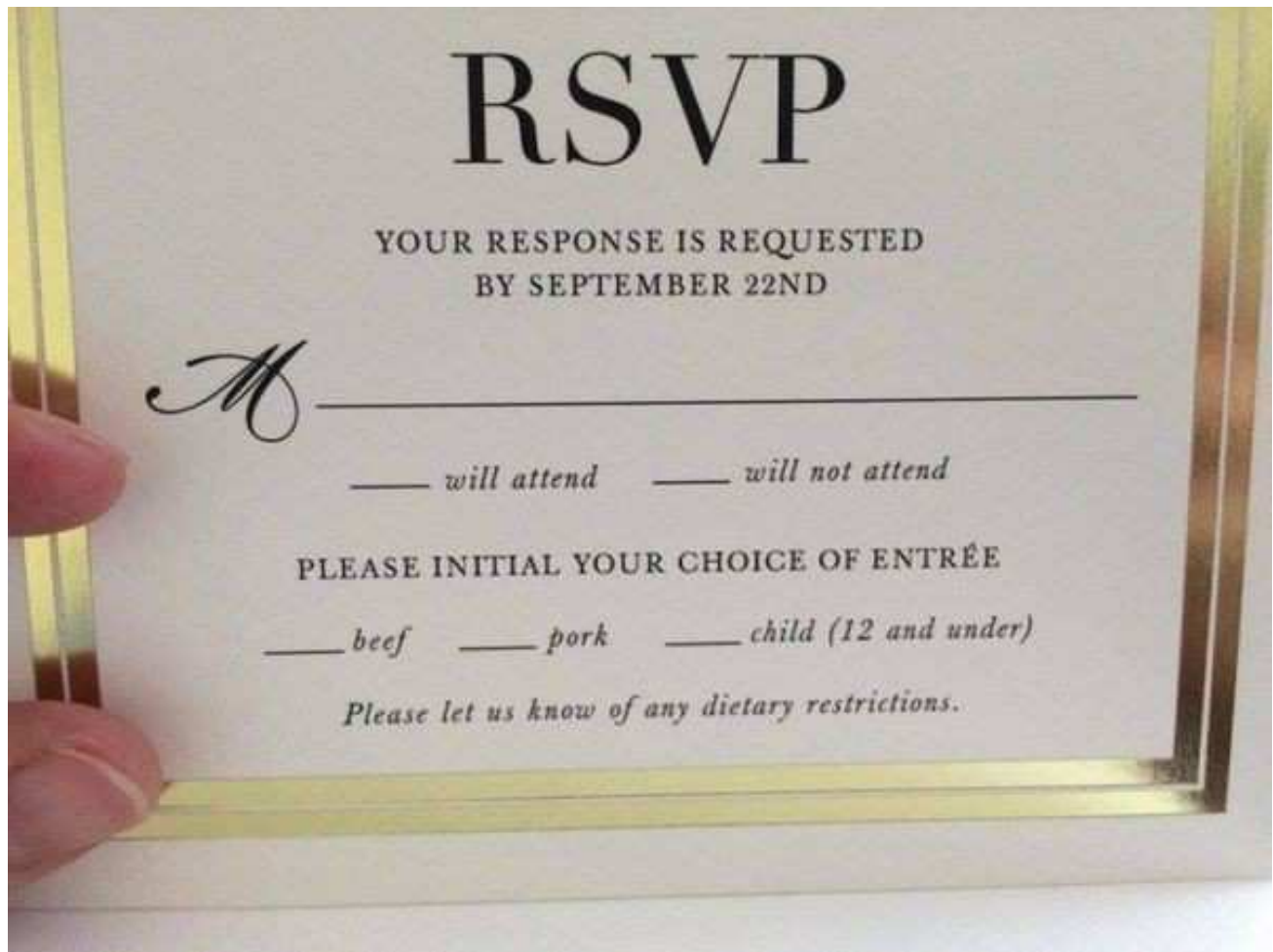
Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.

If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

If 2/2/22 falls on a Tuesday, we'll just call it "2's Day".(It does fall on a Tuesday).

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

I'm Pretty Sure You Can't Eat Children in Georgia



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

Too Good!



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

From: "Tedd Roberts"

"Salty Speak"

- The Guide to Politically Correct nautical double entendres and relationship terms:

Abreast -- (speaks for itself)

Adrift -- a loose man or woman, i.e. has just dumped/been dumped by boyfriend/girlfriend:  
"Yeah, he's adrift since last month."

Athwartships -- the girl sitting on your lap: "So there she was, sitting athwartships..."

Bitter End -- a breakup: "So we hit the bitter end and now I'm adrift"

Brightwork -- what you buy as a present in hopes of return favors: "I got her some brightwork for her birthday..." " As she pulled abreast I offered to polish her brightwork."

Bulkhead -- chaperones or mothers-in-law: "I ran right into the bulkhead."

*The October 4, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!*

*Page 7 of 38*

**Catamaran -- twin hulls: "Oh yeah, nice catamaran, that one."**

**Cockpit -- (you really don't expect me to include this one do you?)**

**Dead Ahead -- heading for marriage: "No, she's not available, she's headed dead ahead."**

**Dead Astern -- just divorced: "Now that his ex is dead astern, he's been hanging out at the marina a lot."**

**Dinghy -- needs Viagra: "How's \*your\* dinghy?"**

**Ebb -- Viagra's wearing off: "Once the tide began to ebb..."**

**Fathom -- trying to understand women: "Don't try to fathom..."**

**Forepeak -- a bit premature: "Nice boat, but the girls were put off by his forepeak."**

**Fouled -- married: "Don't bother, she's fouled."**

**Freeboard -- no wedding ring: "Check it out... trim lines, shiny brightwork and freeboard."**

**Grab Rails -- love handles: "Good thing he had those grab rails, it was the only part she could hold on to."**

**Hatch -- just wait 9 months and see: "Best to batten that hatch a while."**

**Headway -- what Monica did: "They were caught making headway in the galley."**

**Inboard -- in the bedroom: "They really should have been inboard."**

**Knot -- clothing fasteners: "Just slip those knots and get comfortable"**

**Latitude -- how far he/she's willing to go: "I know she had the latitude..."**

**Longitude -- how much it'll cost to get there: "... But I didn't have the longitude."**

**Lubber's Line -- bad pickup line: "I couldn't believe that he walked right up to her and used that old Lubber's Line 'Hey, baby. What's your sign?'"**

**Midship -- anywhere indoors except the bedroom: "They only made it to midship before the clothes came off."**

**Mooring -- ropes, ties and handcuffs: "His eyes popped when she pulled out the mooring ropes."**

**Nautical Mile -- a measure of naughtiness: "She was rated at 5 nautical miles..."**

**Navigation Rules -- usually delivered by the girl's father: "...but her father's navigation rules wouldn't let us get there."**

**Outboard -- outdoors: "They loved it outboard - in the woods, on the beach, on the deck."**

**Piloting -- on top: "Oh, and who was piloting?"**

**Planing Hull -- thin, slightly built: "She had a planing hull, not a catamaran, but made up for it in enthusiasm."**

**Port -- orientation: "After all those years at sea he tended to list a little to port."**

**Privileged Vessel -- arrogant, or spoiled: "He thought he was a privileged vessel but she set him straight."**

**Quartering Sea -- surprise: "He came home as on a quartering sea and caught her cheating."**

**Rudder -- buttocks: "I grabbed her rudder and she slapped me!"**

**Running Lights -- see Brightwork**

**Satellite Navigation -- maneuvering: "The lights were out so we found each other by satellite navigation."**

**Screw -- (don't even go there)**

**Sea Worthy -- well put together: "They were a sea worthy couple, she was quite the catamaran, and he was no dinghy himself."**

**Stern line -- rear profile: "All of the girls stopped to watch his stern line as he passed."**

**Topsides -- on top, of course: "She was a cowgirl and wanted topsides..."**

**Underway -- on the bottom: "...and he was perfectly content to be underway."**

**Waterline -- nautical pickup line: "He offered to show her his yacht and she fell for that old waterline."**

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

**YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!**

**From: "Tim Bolgeo" [tbolgeo@epbf.com](mailto:tbolgeo@epbf.com)**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARIAN REJECTS MELANIA TRUMP'S BOOK DONATION**

**by KATHERINE RODRIGUEZ28 Sep 2017Cambridge, MA**

**[http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/28/elementary-school-librarian-rejects-melania-trumps-book-](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/28/elementary-school-librarian-rejects-melania-trumps-book-donation/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=daily&utm_content=link_s&utm_campaign=20170928)**

**[donation/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=daily&utm\\_content=link\\_s&utm\\_campaign=20170928](http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/09/28/elementary-school-librarian-rejects-melania-trumps-book-donation/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=daily&utm_content=link_s&utm_campaign=20170928)**



An elementary school librarian in Massachusetts rejected a donation made by First Lady Melania Trump to her school's library.



CBS Boston reports that Cambridgeport Elementary School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was one of a select number of schools chosen by the White House to receive ten Dr. Seuss books for National Read a Book Day.

The White House chose one school from each state to send the books.

Liz Phipps Soeiro, Cambridgeport Elementary's school librarian, penned an editorial for the Horn Book Family Reading Blog explaining

why she would not accept the first lady's gift.

"My students have access to a school library with over nine thousand volumes and a librarian with a graduate degree in library science. Multiple studies show that schools with professionally staffed libraries improve student performance," wrote Phipps Soeiro.

Phipps Soeiro added that her school "does not have a need for these books" while claiming that underfunded school districts who are shutting down their libraries due to school choice programs could put the books to better use.

But her critique of the first lady's gift did not end there. She also criticized Melania's choice of books, calling the Dr. Seuss titles "tired clichés" for children's literature.

"You may not be aware of this, but Dr. Seuss is a bit of a cliché, a tired and worn ambassador for children's literature. As First Lady of the United States, you have an incredible platform with world-class resources at your fingertips."

Phipps Soeiro added that the Dr. Seuss books contained illustrations "steeped in racist propaganda" and offered an alternate list of ten books that include two titles advocating for the legalization of illegal aliens.

Cambridgeport Elementary School said that the opinions expressed in Phipps Soeiro's editorial do not reflect the school district or the school itself. They released a statement clarifying that she has been "counseled" on school policies regarding political activity:

In this instance, the employee was not authorized to accept or reject donated books on behalf of the school or school district. We have counseled the employee on all relevant policies, including the policy against public resources being used for political purposes.

~~~~~

LIBRARIAN WHO REJECTED MELANIA TRUMP'S DR. SEUSS BOOKS DRESSED AS 'CAT IN THE HAT'

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! K and 1 celebrated with a green egg breakfast! @Cport_School @cambridge_cpsd

https://twitter.com/Cport_Special/status/572793892287991810/photo/1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&ref_url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.foxnews.com%2Fus%2F2017%2F09%2F29%2Flibrarian-who-rejected-melania-trumps-dr-seuss-books-dressed-as-cat-in-hat.html

If she does not like 'The Cat in the Hat', why then did she dress like that?

The Massachusetts elementary school librarian who rejected Dr. Seuss books donated by the first lady because they contained "racist mockery," was previously photographed dressed as the Cat in the Hat.

Horton hears a hypocrite.

The Massachusetts elementary school librarian who rejected Dr. Seuss books donated by First Lady Melania Trump because the publication's artwork contained "racist mockery," was previously photographed dressed as the Cat in the Hat and holding a "Green Eggs and Ham" themed breakfast.



Liz Phipps Soeiro was busted Friday by Twitter users after she snubbed the First Lady's donation to the Cambridgeport Elementary School. Soeiro wrote in a letter to Trump that the school could not accept the books, which included: "The Cat in the Hat," "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" and "Green Eggs and Ham."

<SNIP>

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

Breaking: NFL Ticket Sales Numbers Are in... Absolutely Brutal News for Anthem Haters

BY BENJAMIN ARIE, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 AT 2:29PM

https://conservativetribune.com/breaking-nfl-ticket-sales-numbers/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=conservative-tribune

The NFL and its flag-disrespecting players just got the worst news possible, which is topping off a week of nothing but bad news.

First, one of the biggest broadcasters of football games announced that it would break its own policy and allow outraged fans to cancel their sports packages. We thought that was great. Little did we know what was to come.

Today recent ticket sales for the troubled league have been revealed — and they show that fans have declared all-out war on the NFL, hitting them right in the wallet.

The Washington Examiner has just reported that professional football ticket sales have plummeted nearly 20 percent this week compared to last week.

That information was based on data from TickPick, a major online ticket reseller. Specifically, the retail site reported a drop of 17.9 in the last week.

“We have seen a massive decrease in NFL ticket purchases this past week in comparison to years past. Week 3 seems to usually have less ticket orders than week 2, but this year ticket purchases are down more than 7 percent from this time last year,” TickPick representative Jack Slingland explained.

For a league that takes in a huge amount of revenue annually, a 17.9 percent drop in ticket sales could mean a loss of billions of dollars.

The football ticket sales expert stopped short of specifically blaming the NFL’s anti-anthem antics for the drop, but strongly hinted that this was the cause.

“[T]he conversation around the NFL this week has focused on the president’s comments as well as the players’ and owners’ reaction,” Slingland told The Washington Examiner.

“As viewers continue to abandon their NFL Sunday habits, both the number of ticket sales and the purchase price of tickets will drop.”

Given that the American people are squarely arrayed against the NFL, Slingland probably could have curried some goodwill from fans if he had just embraced the truth wholeheartedly — the American people are furious that multimillionaires think their lot in life is worse than the average American’s.

Showing just how out of touch the Trump-deranged liberals are, they actually didn’t see a problem with such an insane claim (I guess the derangement explains that, huh?).

They actually thought the American people would sit there to be lectured by people who make more money, saying that everyday Americans are the real problem. And just as they did before the last presidential election, left-leaning groups dramatically under-estimated the number of patriotic Americans who are fed up with being ignored and insulted.

Red-blooded Americans have had enough. If we haven't reached the tipping point where they lose millions of fans over this, we're almost there.

Let's keep the heat on them! Please press "Share on Facebook" if you think the arrogant NFL is getting exactly what it deserves.

Is the NFL getting what it deserves? Scroll down to comment below!

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

CUBAN DOCTORS REVOLT: 'YOU GET TIRED OF BEING A SLAVE'

By ERNESTO LONDOÑO SEPT. 29, 2017

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/29/world/americas/brazil-cuban-doctors-revolt.html>



Maireilys Álvarez Rodríguez, a Cuban doctor working in São Luís, Brazil, as part of a program to import thousands of doctors from Cuba and a few other countries to provide primary care in remote, impoverished areas. Credit: Dado Galdieri for The New York Times

RIO DE JANEIRO — In a rare act of collective defiance, scores of Cuban doctors working overseas to make money for their families and their country are suing to break ranks with

the Cuban government, demanding to be released from what one judge called a "form of slave labor."

Thousands of Cuban doctors work abroad under contracts with the Cuban authorities. Countries like Brazil pay the island's Communist government millions of dollars every month to provide the medical services, effectively making the doctors Cuba's most valuable export.

But the doctors get a small cut of that money, and a growing number of them in Brazil have begun to rebel. In the last year, at least 150 Cuban doctors have filed lawsuits in Brazilian courts to challenge the arrangement, demanding to be treated as independent contractors who earn full salaries, not agents of the Cuban state.

"When you leave Cuba for the first time, you discover many things that you had been blind to," said Yaili Jiménez Gutierrez, one of the doctors who filed suit. "There comes a time when you get tired of being a slave."

Cuban artists and athletes have defected during overseas trips for decades, most of them winding up in the United States. But the lawsuits in Brazil represent an unusual rebellion that takes aim at one of Cuba's signature efforts. Sending doctors overseas is not only a way for Cuba to earn much-needed income, but it also helps promote the nation's image as a medical powerhouse that routinely comes to the world's aid.

The legal challenges are all the more important because the doctors have lost a common backup plan: going to the United States. The American government, which has long tried to undermine Cuba's leaders, established a program in 2006 to welcome Cuban doctors, with the aim of exacerbating the island's brain drain.

But in one of his final attempts to normalize relations with Cuba, President Barack Obama in January ended the program, which had allowed Cuban doctors stationed in other countries to get permanent residency visas for the United States. "The end of the program was a huge blow to us," said Maireilys Álvarez Rodríguez, another of the doctors who sued in Brazil. "That was our way out."

The end of the visa program means that the future of these doctors now rests in the hands of the Brazilian courts. They have mostly ruled against the doctors, but some judges have sided with them, allowing the doctors to work on their own and get paid directly. The doctors' defiance puts them at risk of serious repercussions by the Cuban government, including being barred from the island and their families for years.

The seeds of the rebellion were planted a year ago in a conversation between a Cuban doctor and a clergyman in a remote village in northeastern Brazil. Anis Deli Grana de Carvalho, a doctor from Cuba, was coming to the end of her three-year medical assignment. But having married a Brazilian man, she wanted to stay and keep working.

The pastor was outraged to learn that, under the terms of their employment, Cuban doctors earn only about a quarter of the amount the Brazilian government pays Cuba for their services.

Dr. Álvarez spoke with the family of Celia Guimarães, 78, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Credit: Dado Galdieri for The New York Times



He quickly put her in touch with a lawyer in Brasília, the Brazilian capital. In late September of last year, she sued in federal court to work as an independent contractor.

Within weeks, scores of other Cuban doctors followed Dr. Grana's lead and filed suits in Brazilian courts. The Brazilian government, which struck the deal with Cuba in 2013 to provide doctors in underserved parts of the country, is appealing the cases that doctors have won and thinks it will prevail.

"There is no injustice," said Brazil's health minister, Ricardo Barros. "When they signed up they agreed to the terms."

Dr. Álvarez said that the stipend offered by the Cuban government to work for a few years in Brazil seemed appealing to her and her husband, Arnulfo Castanet Batista, also a doctor, when they signed up in 2013.

It meant leaving behind their two children in the care of relatives, but each of them would earn 2,900 Brazilian reais a month — then worth about \$1,400, and now worth \$908 — an amount that seemed enormous compared with the roughly \$30 a month Cuban doctors earned at home.

"It was a pretty acceptable offer compared to what we made in Cuba," Dr. Álvarez said.

So they said goodbye to their children and boarded flights to Brazil, joining the first wave of Cuban doctors greeted at airports with welcome signs and Che Guevara T-shirts.

At the time, Brazil's leftist government, led by President Dilma Rousseff, saw expanding access to health care as crucial to its goal of building a more equitable society. Flush with cash from a commodities boom, Brazil imported thousands of doctors from Cuba and a few other countries to provide primary care in remote, impoverished areas under a program called Mais Médicos, or More Doctors.

The World Health Organization, a United Nations agency, helped broker the deal. Under it, Brazil pays Cuba roughly \$3,620 a month for each doctor, or nearly four times what Cuban doctors earn through the arrangement. Approximately 18,000 Cuban doctors have done stints in Brazil; roughly 8,600 remain in the country.

The United Nations has called the program a success story, noting that it has lowered Brazil's infant mortality rate and extended care to indigenous communities.

"The More Doctors Project is replicable and would potentially be beneficial in any country that decides to adopt it," the United Nations Development Program said in a report last year.

Doing so, some Cuban doctors contend, would perpetuate an injustice. Soon after arriving in Santa Rita, a poor village in the northeastern state of Maranhão, Dr. Álvarez and her husband began to feel uneasy about the terms of the contract they signed, particularly after befriending doctors from other countries.

"We began to see that the conditions for the other doctors were totally different," she said. "They could be with their family, bring their kids. The salaries were much higher."

Hundreds of miles away, in Minas Gerais State, Dr. Jiménez, 34, found the work rewarding, but also began to harbor feelings of resentment.

“You are trained in Cuba and our education is free, health care is free, but at what price?” she said. “You wind up paying for it your whole life.”



Dr. Álvarez with a pregnant patient at a health center in the countryside of Santa Rita municipality in São Luís, Maranhao state, Brazil. CreditDado Galdieri for The New York Times

Months before their three-year tour was up last fall, some Cuban doctors who had married Brazilians were offered the chance to extend their stay. Others, including Dr. Álvarez and her husband, were told to prepare to head home.

Cuban doctors unhappy with their situations formed a group on WhatsApp. André de Santana Corrêa, a Brazilian lawyer, said his cellphone began buzzing constantly as Cuban doctors across the country started to text him seeking help.

After analyzing their contracts, Mr. de Santana concluded that the agreements were at odds with the equality protections in Brazil’s Constitution.

Late last year, judges issued temporary injunctions in some cases, granting Cuban doctors the right to remain as independent contractors, earning full wages. One federal judge in the capital denounced the Cuban contracts as a “form of slave labor” that could not be tolerated.

But the federal judge who handled Dr. Grana's case ruled against her, finding that allowing Cuban doctors to walk away from their contracts posed "undue risks in the political and diplomatic spheres."

Soon after the first injunctions were issued, Cuban supervisors in Brazil summoned doctors who had filed suits and fired them on the spot, several doctors said. Each was given the chance to get on a plane to Cuba within 24 hours — or face exile for eight years.

Cuban officials did not respond to requests for comment, but a post on the Medical Brigade Facebook page includes an oblique reference to the controversy.

"Many of us seem to have forgotten, when we embarked on this mission, the contract we signed," the post says. "That's why you get weaknesses and errors that start eroding the worthy values our parents raised us with."

When it became clear that a majority of the doctors were losing in court, the WhatsApp group became a place for doctors to strategize and commiserate.

"We keep one another strong," said Dr. Jiménez, who says she has been unemployed since being fired in June and is now barred from re-entering Cuba for eight years.

Dr. Álvarez and her husband were among the lucky ones to keep their jobs and get what amounted to a huge pay raise. They also managed to bring their children to Brazil.

"It's sad to leave your family and friends and your homeland," she said. "But here we're in a country where you're free, where no one asks you where you're going, or tells you what you have to do. In Cuba, your life is dictated by the government."

Mr. Barros, the Brazilian health minister, said the Cuban doctors should not feel as if they were being poorly compensated, because their salaries were similar to what Brazilian doctors earned during their residencies.

"None of them, to this day, has come to me to complain about their work conditions," he said.

Mr. de Santana, the lawyer, says he hopes Brazil's Supreme Federal Court will take up the case. But because Brazil's top court is so backlogged, a definitive ruling may take years.

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

SAN JUAN MAYOR TO LIBERAL MEDIA: WE ARE GETTING NO HELP FROM TRUMP – AS SHE STANDS IN FRONT OF PALLETS OF AID

September 30, 2017 by Jim Hoff

<http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2017/09/san-juan-mayor-tells-liberal-media-getting-no-help-trump-stands-front-pallets-aid/>

Just four days ago San Juan, Puerto Rico Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz Soto praised FEMA for the work on the island.

The October 4, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!

Page 17 of 38

Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Irma and then Hurricane Maria a category 5 monster hurricane two weeks later.

But Caren Yuliz Cruz Soto is a Democrat so she expects everything to be given to her for free.

So now she's out on all of the liberal mainstream news outlets trashing President Trump.

Mayor Caren Yuliz Cruz Soto went on a tirade against President Trump on Friday.



San Juan Mayor: "I'm mad as hell because my people's lives are at stake... We are dying, and you (Trump) are killing us with inefficiency"

The San Juan mayor accused FEMA and President Trump of offering her no help.

She said this in front of a pallet of US aid.

Also note that in the video AT THE WEBSITE she didn't have anyone behind her moving product.

Does Trump have to hand out the water bottles, too?

You just can't make this up.

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Ray Beloate" beerman@rittermail.com

6 BOYS AND 13 HANDS

Each year I am hired to go to Washington, DC, with the eighth grade class from Clinton, WI where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history -- that of the six brave soldiers raising the American Flag at the top of a rocky hill on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan, during WW II

Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, 'Where are you guys from?'

I told him that we were from Wisconsin. 'Hey, I'm a cheese head, too! Come gather around, Cheese heads, and I will tell you a story.'

(It was James Bradley who just happened to be in Washington , DC , to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good night to his dad, who had passed away. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington , DC , but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night.)

When all had gathered around, he reverently began to speak. (Here are his words that night.)

'My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin My dad is on that Statue, and I wrote a book called 'Flags of Our Fathers'. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me.

'Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team.. They were off to play another type of game. A game called 'War.' But it didn't turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of 21, died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out, I say that because there are people who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years old - and it was so hard that the ones who did make it home never even would talk to their families about it.

(He pointed to the statue) 'You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph...a photograph of his girlfriend Rene put that in there for protection because he was scared. He was 18 years old. It was just boys who won the battle of Iwo Jima . Boys. Not old men.

The October 4, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!

Page 19 of 38

'The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the 'old man' because he was so old. He was already 24. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn't say, 'Let's go kill some Japanese' or 'Let's die for our country' He knew he was talking to little boys.. Instead he would say, 'You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers.'

'The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes was one of them who lived to walk off Iwo Jima . He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, 'You're a hero' He told reporters, 'How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only 27 of us walked off alive?'

So you take your class at school, 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only 27 of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes carried the pain home with him and eventually died dead drunk, face down, drowned in a very shallow puddle, at the age of 32 (ten years after this picture was taken).

'The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky . A fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, 'Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn't get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Those cows crapped all night.' Yes, he was a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of 19.

When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother's farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. Those neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

'The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley, from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite's producers or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say 'No, I'm sorry, sir, my dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back.' My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually, he was sitting there right at the table eating his Campbell's soup. But we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press.

'You see, like Ira Hayes, my dad didn't see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and on a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a combat caregiver. On Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died. And when boys died on Iwo Jima , they writhed and screamed, without any medication or help with the pain.

'When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, 'I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. Did NOT come back.'

'So that's the story about six nice young boys.. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7,000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the

history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time.'

Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag ticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero for the reasons most people would believe, but a hero nonetheless.

One thing I learned while on tour with my 8th grade students in DC that is not mentioned here is . . . that if you look at the statue very closely and count the number of 'hands' raising the flag, there are 13. When the man who made the statue was asked why there were 13, he simply said the 13th hand was the hand of God.

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From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

ZEALANDIA DRILLING REVEALS SECRETS OF SUNKEN LOST CONTINENT

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/27/zealandia-drilling-reveals-secrets-of-sunken-lost-continent>

South Pacific landmass may have been closer to land level than once thought, providing pathways for animals and plants



Lord Howe Island is part of Zealandia, the Earth's newest continent. Photograph: Patrick Keneally for the Guardian

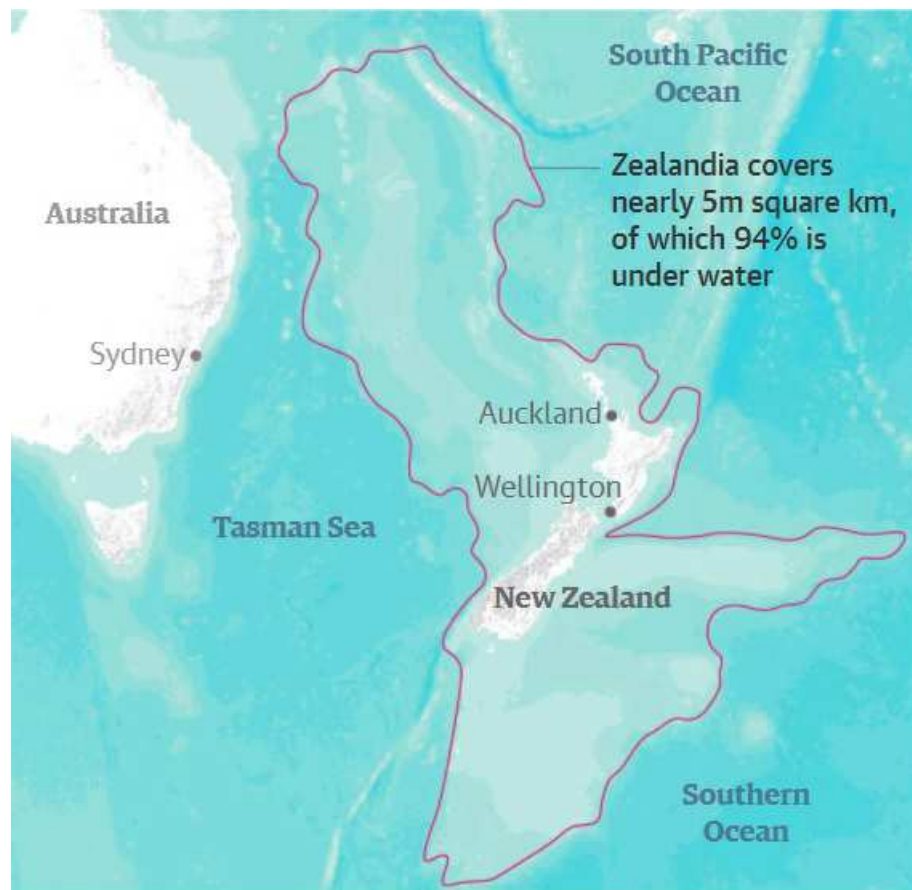
The mostly submerged continent of Zealandia may have been much closer to land level than previously thought, providing pathways for animals and plants to cross continents from 80m years ago, an expedition has revealed.

Zealandia, a for the most part underwater landmass in the South Pacific, was declared the Earth's newest continent this year in a paper in the journal of the Geological Society of America. It includes Lord Howe Island off the east coast of Australia, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

On Wednesday researchers shared findings from their two-month-long expedition, one of the first extensive surveys of the region, announcing fossil discoveries and evidence of large-scale tectonic movements.

"The discovery of microscopic shells of organisms that lived in warm shallow seas, and spores and pollen from land plants, reveal that the geography and climate of Zealandia was dramatically different in the past," said Prof Gerald Dickens of Rice University.

Researchers drilled more than 860 metres below the sea floor in six different sites across Zealandia. The sediment cores collected showed evidence of tectonic and ecological change across millions of years.



"The cores acted as time machines for us, allowing us to reach further and further back in time," said Stephen Pekar, a researcher on board the scientific drilling vessel, in August. "As one scientist put it: 'We are rewriting the geologic and tectonic history of Zealandia at this drill site.'"

The 5 million sq km continent, roughly the size of the Indian subcontinent, is believed to have separated from Australia and Antarctica, as part of Gondwana, about 80m years ago.

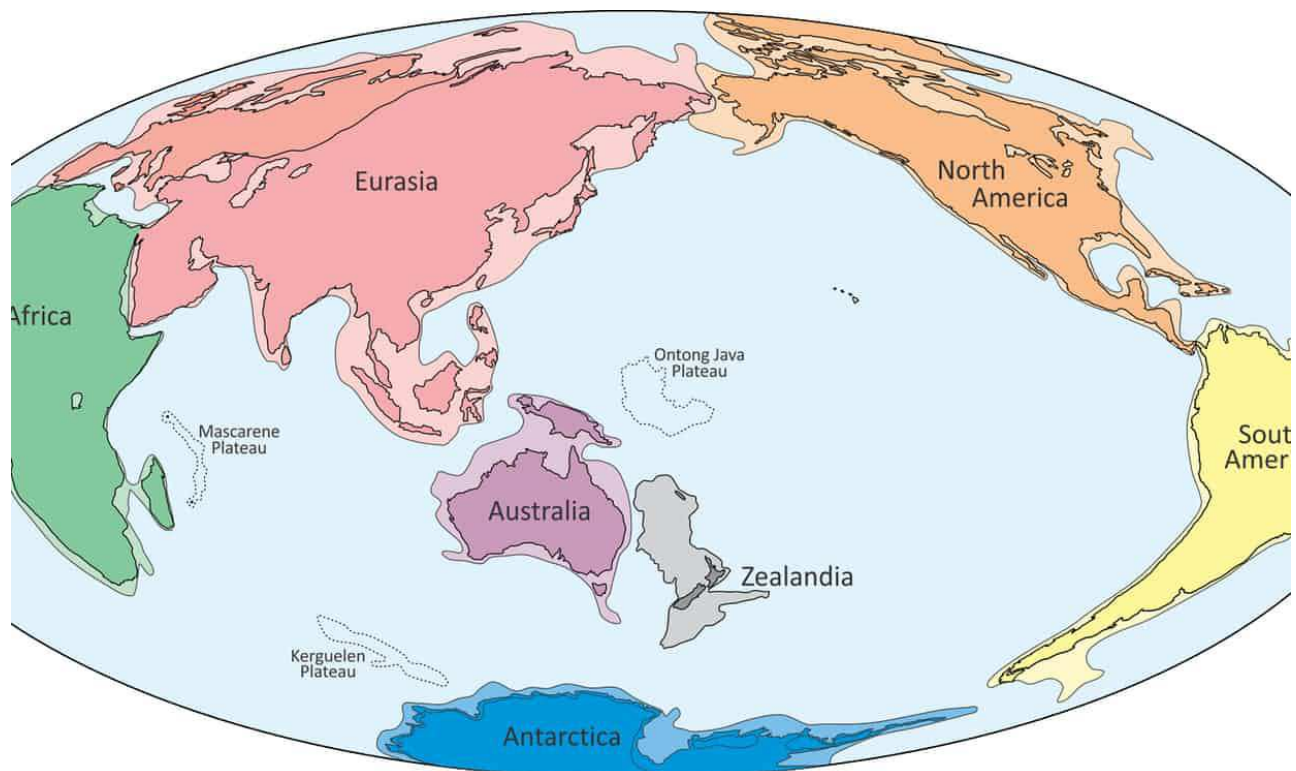
On Wednesday Prof Rupert Sutherland from New Zealand's Victoria University said the expedition had discovered "big geographic changes".

“[The research] has big implications for understanding big scientific questions, such as how did plants and animals disperse and evolve in the South Pacific? The discovery of past land and shallow seas now provides an explanation: there were pathways for animals and plants to move along.”

Geologists and academics have intermittently argued for Zealandia’s recognition as a continent for the past 20 years. The name was coined by the geophysicist and oceanographer Bruce Luyendyk in 1995.

But this year’s paper in GSA Today was “when the penny dropped” in terms of Zealandia’s growing recognition, said one of its co-authors, Nick Mortimer.

Mortimer told Guardian Australia in February that his was the first peer-reviewed scientific paper on Zealandia but that it was “nothing new” to many other geologists.



Zealandia shown on a map of the continents. Photograph: GNS Science

The paper contends that Zealandia, in terms of elevation of continental shelf, distinct geology and thickness of crust, qualifies as a continent.

“Zealandia is everywhere substantially elevated above the surrounding oceanic crust,” it says. “Whereas most of Zealandia’s crust is thinner than the 30–46km that is typical of most continents, studies show that it is everywhere thicker than the 7km-thick crust of the ocean basins. “Currently used conventions and definitions of continental crust, continents and microcontinents require no modification to accommodate Zealandia ...

This is not a sudden discovery but a gradual realisation. The 4.9m sq km area of continental crust is large and separate enough to be considered not just as a continental fragment or a microcontinent, but as an actual continent.”

Further study of the 2,500 metres of sediment core extracted during the expedition is expected to provide insight into climate change and Zealandia’s climate history. The drilling ship is scheduled to conduct further expeditions around New Zealand, Australia and Antarctica next year.

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ELON MUSK PRESENTS UPDATED PLAN FOR MARS COLONIZATION

David Szondy, September 29, 2017

<http://newatlas.com/elon-musk-mars-update-mars/51558/11>



Artist's concept of Mars City(Credit: SpaceX)

Today, at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Adelaide, Australia, SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk updated his 2016 plan to colonize Mars. The plan not only sees the establishment of a Moon base and a city on Mars within the next decade, but also much cheaper and larger payloads being sent into Earth orbit and maybe even hypersonic passenger travel.

In 2016, Elon Musk made a presentation and later released a white paper in which he outlined his ideas for turning mankind into a "multi-planet species" by building a "Battlestar Galactica" style fleet of spacecraft to carry people and cargo to the Red Planet. Now, at the IAC meeting in Adelaide, he has refined his ideas that revolve around his company's tentatively named BFR booster and reusable Mars Transport.

In his presentation, Musk reiterated his argument that a completely reusable rocket that only requires refueling to fly again is much cheaper than today's practice of disposing of boosters entirely during each flight, comparing it to destroying a multi-million dollar private plane at the end of a flight rather than just chartering a much cheaper air liner.



Musk said that part of his revised plan is based on the rapid progress that SpaceX has made in recent years with its perfection of its Falcon 9 first stage landings to the point where the next mod of the rocket will eliminate the landing legs. Another factor has been the development of autonomous systems that will allow the Crew Dragon to dock directly with the International Space Station (ISS) rather than being guided to its berth by a robotic arm like the cargo version.

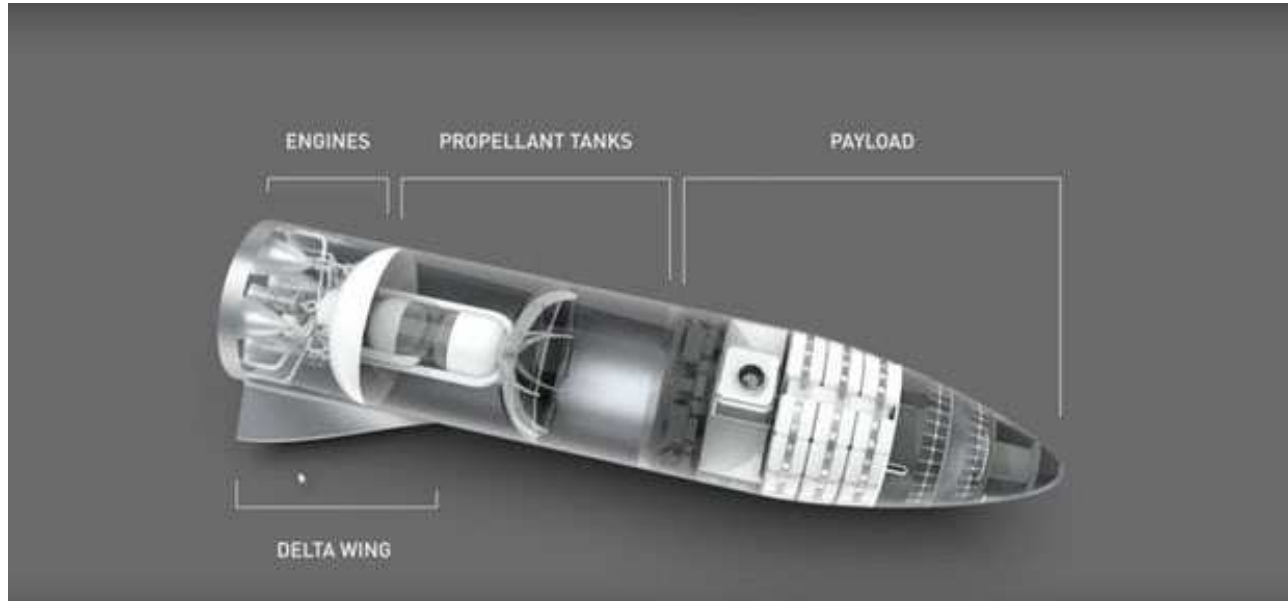
The updated Mars plan uses the BFR booster, burning supercooled methane and liquid oxygen to power 31 Raptor engines punching 5,400 tons of thrust, allowing for a total vehicle mass of 4,400 tons.

The Mars Transport itself is a reusable cargo/passenger interplanetary spaceship and lander with a length of 48 m (157 ft) and a diameter of 9 m (30 ft), a ship dry mass of 85 tons, a propellant mass of 1,100 tons, an ascent payload capacity of 150 tons from Earth, and the ability to return with a payload of 50 tons. This craft would be able to refuel in orbit and set out to Mars with full tanks.

Encased in a reusable heat shield, the Transport is powered by six Raptor engines – four engines configured for use in vacuum with two configured for sea level pressure. Musk says that there is enough redundant capacity for the Transport to land on only one engine. Inside, there's a common fuel/oxidizer tank with header tanks for precise control, and at the stern of the ship there are prominent delta wings with control surfaces to allow the ship to operate on more than one planet.

The Transport's payload section has a volume of 825 m³ (29,135 ft³), or greater than that of an A380 aircraft. This will allow the passenger version to carry 40 cabins with two to five

passengers each for a total of 80 to 200 passengers, in addition to having common areas, cargo holds, a galley, and a solar storm radiation shelter.



Musk also revealed his concepts of what he calls Moonbase Alpha, a reference to the eponymous setting for the Space:1999 television series, and Mars City. He plans to set up the core of the latter starting in, hopefully, 2022 with a six-ship fleet consisting of four transports and two manned ships, with two unmanned transports landing with supplies and fuel-generating gear to be met by the rest of the fleet when Mars comes back into a favorable orbital position two years later.



One of Musk's big updates is that he plans to pay for the Mars missions by making the BFR SpaceX's standard booster and the Transport the standard vehicle – replacing all the other Falcon marks as well as the cargo and crew Dragons. Musk said that ideas like Kickstarter

and collecting underpants didn't pan out, but that the company is opting for a Transport vehicle that is multipurpose, so it can be used to carry either a single large payload the size of the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit, or many smaller payloads. This means that all of SpaceX's resources can be focused on Mars when the time comes.

Musk also sees the BFR and the passenger version of the Transport as making passenger hypersonic travel practical with vertically launched rockets leaving from, for example, New York Harbor and landing on a barge in Shanghai 30 minutes later.

Musk says that his vision is more than just a concept on paper, with the components for the first ship already on order and assembly scheduled to begin next year.

Elon Musk's live stream talk can be seen in the video below.

Source: SpaceX

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LOCKHEED MARTIN UNVEILS SLEEK, REUSABLE LANDER FOR CREWED MARS MISSIONS

By Calla Cofield, Space.com Senior Writer | September 28, 2017 10:53pm ET

https://www.space.com/38306-lockheed-martin-reusable-mars-lander-unveiled.html?utm_source=sd-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20170929-sdc

A commercial effort to get humans into orbit around Mars in the late 2020s now includes a sleek vehicle to send astronauts down to the surface of the Red Planet.

The aerospace company Lockheed Martin late Thursday (Sept. 28) revealed new details for its Mars Base Camp plan, an architecture aimed at building a crewed space station in orbit around the Red Planet that would support long-term exploration at Mars by astronaut on 1,000-day missions. Among the updates unveiled was a tantalizing design for a reusable, single-stage surface lander called the Mars Ascent/Descent Vehicle (MADV). [In Pictures: Lockheed Martin's Mars Base Camp Plan]

The MADV would attach to the space station, and travel to and from the Martian surface via supersonic retropropulsion, which uses rocket engines to slow the lander from supersonic speeds during its descent, according to three Lockheed Martin engineers who discussed the lander in a presentation at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Adelaide, Australia. Supersonic retropropulsion is the same approach used by SpaceX in to land its reusable Falcon 9 rocket boosters.

The surface landing vehicle for Lockheed Martin's Mars Base Camp is shown to the left of the space station in this artist's illustration. Credit: Lockheed Martin

A BASE CAMP FOR MARS

The initial crewed missions to the Martian surface would be "relatively short-duration, science-focused missions," according to a newly-released report from the company (which you can read and download here). Eventually, the reusable lander would allow up to four

astronauts to take two-week missions to the ground. The report suggests sending two landers, mostly for redundancy purposes to ensure astronauts don't get stuck on the surface of the planet.

The lander would refuel on the space station, and would utilize liquid hydrogen fuel, which would come from water molecules broken into their composite oxygen and hydrogen atoms. (This requires energy that would be supplied by the solar panels on the station.)

The use of liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen as propellant is an integral part of the entire Mars Base Camp (MBC) architecture, the company representatives said. While that water could initially come from Earth, it could later come from water ice frozen on asteroids, in shadowed regions of the moon's surface, from possible sources on Mars' two moons, or from Mars itself. The water would be delivered to the station by a Water Delivery Vehicles (WDVs), which could be operated by a separate commercial entity, the Lockheed Martin engineers said.

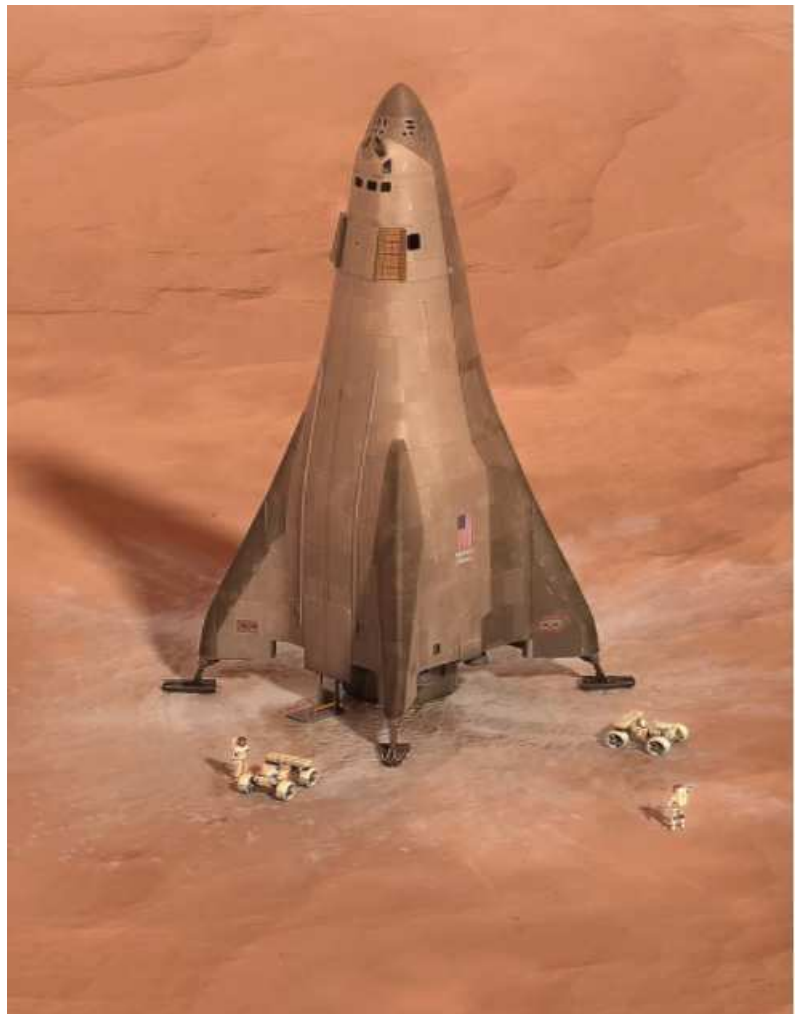
The Mars Ascent/Descent Vehicle (MADV), shown in this artist's illustration, is part of Lockheed Martin's Mars Base Camp architecture. Credit: Lockheed Martin

The crew quarters on the lander would be designed after NASA's Orion human crew capsule for deep-space exploration, which is still in development, but which NASA plans to use in its pursuit of a human Mars mission. Lockheed Martin is NASA's prime contractor for Orion.

Lockheed Martin is developing its Mars habitat design as part of NASA's Next Space Technologies for Exploration Partnerships (NextSTEP) program. The company received \$982,039 in funding from the first round of the program.

FROM THE MOON TO MARS

The MBC also relies on the use of NASA's Deep Space Gateway at the moon, which is likely to be a small orbiting space station. This would serve as a waystation or in-space launching point for crewed missions on the way to Mars.



The MBC architecture would also use of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, currently in development, to get astronauts and components to Mars, the company has said. The MBC space station would consist of multiple separate components, some of which would be launched straight from Earth, while others might undergo some construction in cislunar space.

Mars Base Camp is named after the base camps set up for climbing expeditions to the tops of mountains like Everest. In this case, the "peak" is down on the surface, and the base camp is in orbit, and would serve a similar purpose to those mountain camps: a place for humans to prepare before making their way to the surface of the Red Planet.

"Base camps are not a destination unto themselves," said Rob Chambers, one of the Lockheed engineers who spoke at the conference. "They're a place from which you then set out — in this case, to descend to the surfaces of other worlds."

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THESE NEW BATTERIES WON'T MAKE YOUR SMARTPHONE EXPLODE

Experimental gas-based lithium-ion batteries could power instruments in high-altitude drones and on spacecraft missions to Mars and beyond

By Matthew Sedacca | Scientific American October 2017 Issue

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/these-new-batteries-wont-make-your-smartphone-explode/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tech&utm_content=link&utm_term=2017-10-03_more-stories

Some owners of Samsung Galaxy Note7 smartphones learned the hard way last year that lithium-ion batteries, commonly used in many consumer electronics, can be flammable and even explosive. Such batteries typically rely on liquid electrolytes, which are made up of an organic solvent and dissolved salts. These liquids enable ions to flow between electrodes separated by a porous membrane, thus creating a current. But the fluid is prone to forming dendrites—microscopic lithium fibers that can cause batteries to short-circuit and heat up rapidly. Now research suggests that gas-based electrolytes could yield a more powerful and safer battery.

Cyrus Rustomji, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, San Diego, and his colleagues recently tested electrolytes composed of liquefied fluoromethane gas solvents, which can absorb lithium salts as well as their conventional liquid-based counterparts do. After the experimental battery was fully charged and drained 400 times, it held a charge nearly as long as it did when new; a conventional lithium-ion battery tends to last nearly 20 percent as long. The condensed-gas battery also generated no dendrites. The findings were published earlier this year in *Science*.

If a standard lithium-ion battery is punctured—and the membrane separating the electrodes is pierced—the electrodes can come into contact and short-circuit. This causes the battery to overheat in the presence of its reactive lithium electrolyte and possibly catch fire (which is exacerbated by oxygen entering from outside). But fluoromethane liquefies only under pressure, so if the new batteries are punctured, the pressure releases, the liquid reverts to a gas and the gas can escape, explains Rustomji, lead author of the *Science* paper. As a

result, “there is no electrolyte to create a rush of ion movement” and therefore no fire, he says.

The batteries perform well in temperatures as low as -60 degrees Celsius, unlike standard lithium-ion batteries, so they could power instruments in high-altitude drones and long-range spacecraft, Rustomji says.

Donald Sadoway, a professor of materials chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who was not involved in the study, says the new concept “opens our eyes to a class of liquids that has been understudied.” But, he adds, the researchers need to ensure that excessive heat does not cause the batteries' liquefied gas to expand rapidly and lead to a dangerous increase in pressure.

This article was originally published with the title "Better Batteries"

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HOW A NEW ORBITAL MOON STATION COULD TAKE US TO MARS AND BEYOND

The Deep Space Gateway brings the dream of a human habitat in orbit about the moon and a stepping stone to Mars is now a step closer

By David Rothery, The Conversation US on September 30, 2017

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-a-new-orbital-moon-station-could-take-us-to-mars-and-beyond/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tech&utm_content=link&utm_term=2017-10-03_more-stories



Credit: Janet Ramsden Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

The following essay is reprinted with permission from The Conversation, an online publication covering the latest research.

The dream of a human habitat in orbit about the moon came a step closer on September 27, when NASA and the Russian space agency (Roscosmos) signed up to a common vision for future

human exploration. The project, a follow-up to the International Space Station (ISS), involves a facility placed in orbit somewhere between the Earth and the moon—a region known as cis-lunar space. Seen as a stepping-stone on the way to deeper space exploration, it has been dubbed the Deep Space Gateway, DSG.

NASA's new heavy-lift rocket, the Space Launch System, which is still in development, will enable the construction of DSG. It will be supplemented by Russia's less-powerful Proton-M and Angara rockets. However, it is misleading to portray this as a purely Russia-US partnership, because the three other ISS partners (the European, Japanese and Canadian space agencies) are highly likely to be involved too.

Since Apollo 17 came back from the moon in 1972, no human has ventured further from home than "low-Earth orbit", an altitude of only 400km in the case of the ISS.

The ISS began construction in 1998 and has been continuously occupied by (usually) six crew since November, 2000. Previously planned to last until 2020, the project has been extended until 2024 and could be eked out longer. However it is ageing—and many would argue that it should have already been replaced. It has cost somewhere in the region of \$150bn. That isn't cheap, but, to put it into context, it works out as about the same as what humanity has frittered away on buying lipstick over the same 20-year period.

We can expect a comparable or larger price tag for the DSG, which is due to begin to be assembled in the mid-2020s, assuming that NASA can get its heavy-lift Space Launch System ready in time despite a precarious funding situation.

ORBITS

The DSG derives its name because its position beyond the deepest part of Earth's gravity well, the strongest part of the Earth's gravity field, which means you need less energy to launch a mission from there. That makes it a great staging post for departure of human expeditions to the lunar surface and more distant destinations such as Mars. It could also act as a receiving facility for initial examination (and quarantine, for planetary protection purposes) of samples brought back from Mars or other bodies.

Unlike the ISS, the DSG would not be continuously inhabited. Current plans call for one annual 42-day visit by a four-member crew, at first. When unoccupied, instruments on the DSG could continue to collect useful scientific data, especially when close to the moon. It won't be placed into a low lunar orbit, but into special points in space such as where the gravitational attraction between the Earth and moon are balanced. This allows it to follow a "near rectilinear halo orbit" (see video below). From the moon's point of view, the DSG would repeatedly sweep low over one pole, offering great opportunities for scientific measurements.

At other times the DSG may sit further from the moon, in a halo orbit about a position on the moon-Earth line known as the L Lagrange point. The balance of gravitational forces here makes it possible to "park" a spacecraft to make observations.

However, these orbits are only quasi-stable, so some adjustments would be necessary to maintain the DSG in these configurations without floating away elsewhere. The Canadian Space Agency has suggested the use of a solar sail to do most of the work, rather than using thruster fuel. I think that is a great idea, because solar sails, which get a push from radiation pressure, have not yet been trialled adequately to test their potential—so this is an opportunity to assess how to best work them. Apart from their use in manoeuvring around the solar system, solar sails may one day propel probes to the nearest stars.

THE COMPETITION

The DSG is all still a very long way from reality. However it is a logical next step after the ISS—and any long-term multinational cooperative enterprise in space has to be a good thing, given the bickering between nations going on down here on Earth. It may not lead us very quickly to Mars though—government-funded projects are often cash-strapped, meaning the plans could lag behind private enterprise efforts such as Elon Musk and his super-heavy-lift Interplanetary Transport System, or BFR.

This is only Musk's first step. Speaking at the International Astronautical Congress in Adelaide, he revealed his own ambitious plans for a lunar base followed by rockets to Mars by 2022.

Whichever way it comes about, it would surely be inspiring to see astronauts travelling beyond low Earth orbit again. A refurbishable platform such as the DSG somewhere near the moon would offer many ways to study both the moon (personally I'd like to mount an X-ray spectrometer on the DSG to map the distribution of the chemical elements across the lunar surface) and the interaction between Earth and the sun.

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article.

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CUMMINS DEVELOPING REVOLUTIONARY NEW DIESEL ENGINE FOR U.S. ARMY

By [Gary Gastelu, Fox News](#)

<http://www.foxnews.com/auto/2017/10/04/cummins-developing-revolutionary-new-diesel-engine-for-u-s-army.html>



(Achatas Power)

Cummins Inc. has landed a \$47.4 million contract from the National Advanced Mobility Consortium to develop a revolutionary new type of diesel engine for the U.S. Army that promises to be lighter and more efficient than those currently in use.

The Advanced Combat Engine (ACE) project is a joint venture between Cummins and California-based Achates Power, who has designed an opposed-piston engine that works on a two-stroke combustion cycle and eliminates the need for a valvetrain.



(Achates Power)

There are two pistons in each cylinder that compress the air-fuel mixture between them. The movement of the pistons exposes intake ports at the bottom of their strokes, while a direct fuel injection system adds diesel as the piston heads come together. A series of gears connect cranks at the top and bottom of the engine to a common output.

According to Achates, eliminating the head reduces heat loss and improves the thermal efficiency of the engine. Cummins says it is targeting a 21 percent reduction in thermal rejection, along with a 50 percent increase in power density and a 13 percent jump in fuel efficiency compared to engines currently in use.

Apparently the primary engine being benchmarked is the 600 hp Cummins VTA-903T that powers the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and could eventually be replaced by the ACE, which is also destined for the Bradley's replacement if the project goes well.

Tests of the new engine are scheduled to be conducted by the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) starting in 2019.

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AUSTRALIA'S NEW FRIGATES TO FEATURE LONG-RANGE MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM

by Staff Writers, Sydney (AFP) Oct 3, 2017

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Australias_new_frigates_to_feature_long-range_missile_defence_system_999.html



Australia's new frigates will be equipped with a long-range missile defence system to counter threats from rogue states like North Korea, officials announced Tuesday.

Canberra in May revealed details of a massive shipbuilding strategy, its largest peacetime naval investment, including 12 new submarines and 12 offshore patrol vessels.

The Aus\$89 billion (US\$70 billion) package to shore up defence capabilities also featured nine new frigates.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the frigates, primarily meant for anti-submarine warfare, would be armed with Lockheed Martin's Aegis combat management system together with a Saab Australia-developed tactical interface.

"Recent events in our region have proven that Australia's future frigates must be equipped to defend Australia from the threat of medium and long-range missile attacks," he said, referencing North Korea.

He added that the new ships, whose construction is due to start in 2020, would be operating in "a complex and growing threat environment".

"By bringing together the proven Aegis system, with a cutting edge Australian tactical interface developed by SAAB Australia, our future frigates will have the best capability to defeat future threats above and below the surface."

The announcement comes as international alarm mounts over Pyongyang's weapons ambitions, with the rogue regime recently detonating its sixth nuclear bomb while test-firing intercontinental missiles -- saying it needs to defend itself against the threat of a US invasion.

Under Canberra's defence plans, its current ANZAC and Adelaide class frigates will be replaced at an estimated cost of Aus\$35 billion, with Britain's BAE Systems, Italy's Fincantieri, and Spain's Navantia in the running to design them.

The navy's Armidale offshore patrol vessels, designed for border protection, will also be renewed and there will be 12 new submarines to replace the ageing diesel and electric-powered Collins Class fleet.

French naval contractor DCNS was last year selected to design and build them the submarines.

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

From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

Trump's NFL tweets are not constitutionally protected free speech

By Kimberly Wehle, opinion contributor — 09/26/17 05:20 PM EDT

The views expressed by contributors are their own and not the view of The Hill.

This week, the country finds itself in yet another legal discombobulation occasioned by President Trump's constitutional boundary-pushing. And once again, misinformation is lighting up cyberspace.

The latest #TakeAKnee scandal involving professional athletes' "right" to kneel during the national anthem has prompted multiple questions about the players' — and Trump's —

First Amendment rights to free speech. Some of the arguments lobbed across the Twittersverse were filled with vitriol.



© Getty Images

My guess is that very little of the back-and-forth ended in consensus. So, constitutionally, who was right — and who was wrong — about the First Amendment and its protections?

Are the players covered by the First Amendment on the field? Did Trump infringe on that right? Or as some have argued, was Trump — “like all Americans” — simply exercising his own right to free speech?

Let’s start with the First Amendment itself. In a recent poll of 1,013 adult Americans, a stunning 37 percent couldn’t identify a single right guaranteed under the First Amendment, which protects individuals’ rights to free speech, religion, press, assembly, as well as the right to petition the government.

Now, let’s get it straight: Was quarterback Colin Kaepernick exercising his First Amendment rights when he knelt during the national anthem last season to protest racial discrimination? Were the players, coaches and owners doing the same when they locked arms, knelt or — in the case of the New York Giants’ Odell Beckham — celebrated a touchdown by acting out a dog urinating? (SOB pun intended.)

The answer is no.

That’s right, no. And yes, I get it — half of Twitter can’t be happy right now. But it’s a fact of life when it comes to the Constitution that the free speech guarantee restricts only government action — not action by private employers. If, by contrast, Kaepernick were hauled off by the Secret Service or D.C. police for peacefully kneeling as a bystander

during a presidential inauguration on the National Mall, he would have a First Amendment gripe against the government because the government retaliated against him for his speech.

Across town, however, on any given Sunday at FedEx field, football players are private-sector employees. As employees of NFL teams, Kaepernick and other players act under the terms of their contracts while on the field. As a consequence, their employers could have probably told them to stand during the anthem.

So, how can it be that, by acting in solidarity to protest racial discrimination, the players weren't exercising their right to free speech?

The answer comes down to what it means to have a constitutional "right" in the first place. To understand the idea, imagine that each American (and to a lesser extent, non-citizens who are in the United States), walks around with a bag of gadgets. Each gadget has a superpower tied to a provision of the Constitution. The gadgets can be pulled out at will to fight back against government overreach. The government throws you in jail for protesting peacefully against U.S. policy towards North Korea? Pull out your First Amendment gadget, and maybe your Due Process gadget, to get yourself out of jail and maybe even get money from the government to compensate you for the hassle.

A "right" finds its true power when the government tries to squash it.

Which brings us to Trump himself. Was President Trump exercising his First Amendment "right" to call a player kneeling a "son of a b****"? Or put differently, would a court be "infringing" on Trump's speech if it ruled that he couldn't continue those tweets? The answer here is: probably not.

In Trump's defense, the First Amendment does extend to all viewpoints — whether virtuous or evil. But like most of the Constitution, the right to free speech is not unlimited — for anyone. It does not protect people wishing to express themselves through obscenity, child pornography, threats of violence, someone else's intellectual property, lies in an advertisement, and so on.

For First Amendment purposes, it also matters that Trump purports to speak as the President when he tweets. Trump's tweets as president would not get the same First Amendment protections that a private citizen's tweets would if their constitutionality were ever decided in court. In a case called *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, the Supreme Court held that when public employees are not speaking as citizens — but instead in their official public capacities (here, as president) — the First Amendment does not protect them from being disciplined for their speech.

So, again, the answer is no: Trump does not have an unqualified right as president to tweet whatever he wants.

Kimberly Wehle is a professor of Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law, former assistant United States attorney and associate independent counsel in the Whitewater Investigation and author of the forthcoming book, "The Outsourced Constitution: How Public Power in Private Hands Erodes Democracy."

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From: "Jim Woosley" <jimwoosley@aol.com>

SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution

Constitution of the United States of America : The Bill of Rights in the National Archives.



The Second Amendment (Amendment II) to the United States Constitution protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms and was adopted on December 15, 1791, as part of the first ten amendments contained in the Bill of Rights.[1][2][3][4] The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that the right belongs to individuals,[5][6] while also ruling that the right is not unlimited and does not prohibit all regulation of either firearms or similar devices.[7] State and local governments are limited to the same extent as the federal government from infringing this right per the incorporation of the Bill of Rights.

The Second Amendment was based partially on the right to keep and bear arms in English common law and was influenced by the English Bill of Rights of 1689. Sir William Blackstone described this right as an auxiliary right, supporting the natural rights of self-defense, resistance to oppression, and the civic duty to act in concert in defense of the state.[8]

In *United States v. Cruikshank* (1876), the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that, "The right to bear arms is not granted by the Constitution; neither is it in any manner dependent upon that instrument for its existence" and limited the scope of the Second Amendment's protections to the federal government.[9] In *United States v. Miller* (1939), the Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment did not protect weapon types not having a "reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well regulated militia." [10][11]

In the twenty-first century, the amendment has been subjected to renewed academic inquiry and judicial interest.[11] In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Supreme Court handed down a landmark decision that held the amendment protects an individual right to possess and carry firearms.[12][13] In *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010), the Court clarified its earlier decisions that limited the amendment's impact to a restriction on the federal government, expressly holding that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment

The October 4, 2017, Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

Page 38 of 38

incorporates the Second Amendment against state and local governments.[14] In *Caetano v. Massachusetts*(2016), the Supreme Court reiterated its earlier rulings that "the Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding" and that its protection is not limited to "only those weapons useful in warfare".[15]

Despite these decisions, the debate between various organizations regarding gun control and gun rights continues.[16]

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