

Welcome to the August 2, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

This week SpaceX announced that they would not be using repulsive propulsion to land the Dragon 2 Space Capsule. From what I can tell, NASA doesn't like this type of landing system. Well, I have another idea. The Dragon 2 Space Capsule is also equipped with parachutes. So why don't you use the parachutes to land a mile off of the beach. And if the repulsive propulsion rockets are working fine at about 20,000 feet, then have the parachutes guide the capsule back to the launch pad and land on it. Now some of you will be saying that the parachutes are not that accurate, well, that's not exactly true. The USAF has had a system for dropping cargo that is based on GPS for years that works just fine. And I am sure that Elon Musk and the bright boys and girls of SpaceX can improve on it. Honestly, they are bulls eying first stage busters back at the launch pads now.

Another item I took notice of is that the new Russian Tank, the T-14 Armata, has a range of almost 5km on it's 125mm main gun which is about 1.5km farther than the US M1A2 Abraham's 102mm main gun. It would seem to me that with a little modification, you could increase the distance of the Abraham's main gun to at least 20km. The modification is the addition of a rocket propelled Excalibur GPS artillery shell and a drone piloted by the gunner of the Abram's. The drone takes off from the Abraham's, locates the tank (ala Predator Drone), sends the picture back to the Abram's gunner and BOOM! Then the drone comes back to the Abram's, lands on the top and recharges for the next mission. Simple.

The latest idiocy of the United States Air Force is that they are talking about getting rid of the A-10 Warthog again. The Air Force is run by fighter jocks and has no idea of how valuable that plane is to the Army and Marine grunts on the ground. Maybe General "Mad Dog" Mattis can talk some sense into them since he was a 4 star Marine General when he retired from the military and he is now head of the Department of Defense.

I have been geeking out on YouTube for the past few weeks and there is a ton of military subjects out there. And yes children, I have been a student of military hardware my entire life. It's been really fun getting my geek on even this week even in retirement.

So on that "funfilled 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>

WATCH: THIS 'TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE HEART' PARODY FOR THE 2017 SOLAR ECLIPSE IS AWESOME

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

By Samantha Mathewson, Space.com Contributor | August 1, 2017 07:00am ET
<https://www.space.com/37675-warby-parker-total-solar-eclipse-parody.html>

The August 2, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!

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A whimsical parody of the Bonnie Tyler song "Total Eclipse of the Heart" highlights [the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse](#) that will be visible from the contiguous United States. Created by the Warby Parker eyeglass company, a music video for the fake song includes dancers dressed as the sun and the moon, dramatically prancing around an empty school building.

The company also will give away solar viewing glasses at all of its locations, starting Aug. 1. Warby Parker, which is obviously interested in healthy eyes, is also offering free assistance through its website to anyone who needs help buying their own solar viewing glasses online. Visit [the company website](#) to find a store near you, or to enter a chance to win a free trip to Nashville to see the eclipse.

The reimagined lyrics also explain the science of a total solar eclipse and the sensation of seeing [such an amazing celestial sight](#). Here's a verse from Warby Parker's parody:

(Turn around)
Every now and then
I get a little bit nervous
That the best eclipses all have gone by

(Turn around, bright eyes)
Every now and then
I want the dark
Turn around, bright eyes
Every now and then
I want the dark

And I need to see no light
And I need the whole corona
And if I miss this dazzling sight
I'll be sad until forever

The Aug. 21 eclipse, also called the Great American Solar Eclipse, will sweep across the contiguous U.S. [from Oregon to South Carolina](#) along a stretch of land about 70 miles (113 kilometers) wide. This is the first such eclipse to travel the width of the U.S. in 99 years, and not until 2024 will another total solar eclipse cross the U.S. from coast to coast.

As the moon passes in front of the sun, it will temporarily block out the sun's disk and much of the light radiated from the body of the star. It is safe to observe this period of totality (when the solar disk is completely covered by the moon) with the naked eye. However, eclipse glasses or solar viewing glasses are required to safely view the solar eclipse whenever any part of the solar disk is visible.

Having the proper eye protection is important because the sun's bright light can [cause serious eye damage](#) during a solar eclipse, when part of the sun's disk is still visible. You can find a Warby Parker store near you [online](#) and snag a pair of eclipse glasses before Aug. 21.

What's more, the company's Nashville store falls within the path of totality and will host a viewing party. You can enter Warby Parker's [Facebook contest](#) for a chance to win a trip to Nashville to celebrate the celestial event.

To enter, tell Warby Parker whom you would bring with you to witness the total solar eclipse, and why, before the contest closes today (July 31) at 11:59 p.m. EDT. The company will fly one winner and a friend to Nashville for the company's eclipse viewing party. You can find more information and all of the contest rules [here](#).

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

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com

Timmy, I don't believe I sent you the Smuggled Lithuanian Book article. Please double check your records. I don't recall it and can't (quickly) find an email where I sent it to you.

<U><T><'><s><*><C><O><M><M><E><N><T>

It was probably my fault because I forgot to put the name in the header. Yours was closest and I thought it was yours Jim. Sorry about that Jim. UT

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

Re: THE 19TH-CENTURY LITHUANIANS WHO SMUGGLED BOOKS TO SAVE THEIR LANGUAGE

From: "Frank @ home Brayman" afranklin3@gmail.com

My grandmother was born in Poland in 1894, and came to America in 1912. She said that the Russians tried to "Russify" Poland too. Her village school had two sets of books, and they hid the Polish ones when Russian officials came around.

~~~~~

Re: Opiate Abuse

One of daughter Laura's friends from Church Youth died last week of an opiate overdose, just a few days short of his 21st birthday. Heroin isn't like it was 30 years ago - purity is much higher, and it's often mixed with surgical opiates that can be safely applied only by an MD-anesthesiologist with years of training.

About 90% of the world's illegal opium comes from Afghanistan. Current anti-opium efforts are doomed to fail. Spray the crop with herbicides, and you destroy farmers' livelihoods. Understandably, they'll shoot at you for doing this. Opium is by far more profitable than alternate crops, so getting farmers to grow other things won't happen.

It's long past time to approach this problem from a new direction. The world's leading economies should band together, purchase the entire Afghan crop, and then incinerate it. India would be a good site for an incinerator - it's nearby, and they already produce

pharmaceutical opium under tight controls. Alternatively, put the incinerator in Canada, which probably has the lowest general level of corruption of the countries involved.

Think about it. Then write or email your Senators and Congressman, like I did.

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

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

Proof that Brits can't copy edit either...



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

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

## INTEGRITY

An older golfer was chipping his ball from near a water hazard; his club fell into the water. When he cried out, the Lord appeared and asked, "Why are you crying?"

The golfer replied that his club had fallen into water, and he needed the club to win the tournament to supplement his meager pension.

The Lord went down into the water and reappeared with a golden club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked. The golfer replied, "No."

The Lord again went down and came up with a silver club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked. Again, the golfer replied, "No."

The Lord went down again and came up with an iron club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked. The golfer replied, "Yes."

The Lord was pleased with the golfer's honesty and gave him all three clubs to keep, and the golfer went home happy.

Sometime later the golfer was walking with his wife along the water hazard, and she fell into the river. When he cried out, the Lord again appeared and asked him, "Why are you crying?"

"Oh Lord, my woman has fallen into the water!"

The Lord went down into the water and came up with Kate Upton. "Is this your woman?" the Lord asked.

"Yes," cried the golfer. The Lord was furious. "You lied! That is an untruth!"

The golfer replied, "Oh, forgive me Lord. It is a misunderstanding. You see, if I had said 'no' to Kate Upton, You would have come up with Jennifer Anniston. Then if I said 'no' to her, you would have come up with my woman. Had I then said 'yes,' you would have given me all three. And Lord, I am an old man not able to take care of all three women in a way that they deserve, that's why I said yes to Kate Upton."

And God was pleased.

The moral of this story is: If a golfer ever tells a lie, it is for a good and honorable reason, and only out of consideration for others!

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

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

**SOME AWESOME SCIENTIFIC FACTS...**

**If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.**

**(Hardly seems worth it.)**

**If you farted consistently for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.**

**(Now that's more like it!)**

**The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet.**

**(O.M.G!)**

**A pig's orgasm lasts 30 minutes.**

**(O.M.G.!!! Is that why they are always squealing?)**

**A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death.(Creepy)**

**(I'm still not over the pig.)**

**Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour.**

**(Don't try this at home; maybe at work.)**

**The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off.**

**(Honey, I'm home. What the...?)**

**The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.**

**(30 minutes. Lucky pig! Can you imagine?)**

**The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds.**

**(What could be so tasty on the bottom of a pond?)**

**Some lions mate over 50 times a day.**

**(I still can't believe that pig...quality over quantity.)**

**Butterflies taste with their feet.**

**(Something I always wanted to know.)**

**The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.**

**(HMMMMMM...)**

**Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.**

**(If you're ambidextrous, do you split the difference?)**

**Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.**

(Okay, so that would be a good thing.)

A cat's urine glows under a black light.  
(I wonder how much the government paid to figure that out.)

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.  
(I know some people like that.)

Starfish have no brains.  
(I know some people like that, too.)

Polar bears are left-handed.  
(If they switch, they'll live a lot longer.)

Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure.  
(What about that pig? Do the dolphins know about the pig?)

Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread these crazy facts. Send this to someone you want to bring a smile to, maybe even a chuckle.

In other words, send it to everyone!  
(and Godlove that pig!)

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

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

#### THE NOT-TOO-SUCCESSFUL LAWYER

A not-too-successful lawyer was sitting alone in his office, dejected and worried about his inability to earn enough from his practice to meet his needs. Suddenly, a cloud of smoke appeared. As the smoke subsided, the devil emerged and addressed the attorney. "Young man, I see that you are at a crisis point in your life, but I can help. I can make you a wealthy man by providing you with a never-ending string of wealthy clients. And all I want in return is your eternal soul, your wife's soul and the the souls of your children."

Incredulous and stunned, the lawyer take a moment to digest this, then says to the devil, "Let me see if I understand this. You are going to make me rich man for life and in return you are asking for the everlasting souls of me, my wife and my children. O.k What's the catch?"

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

#### A MATTER OF STANDARDS

A lawyer a Hindu and a Muslim were traveling together and late in the evening they stop at a farmhouse to see if they can get accommodations for the night. The farmer is agreeable to putting them up but he says there is only room for two in the house, so one member of

the party must stay in the barn. The Hindu says, "I am a peaceful man by my religion, so I will gladly make the small sacrifice of sleeping in the barn. So off he goes to the barn.

A few minutes later there is a knock on the door and it is the Hindu. He says, "There is a cow in the barn and my religion will not allow me to share quarters with an animal so sacred." So the Muslim says, "My religion has no rules against sharing quarters with a cow, so I will spend the night in the barn." So off he goes to the barn.

A few minutes later there is a knock on the door and it is the Muslim. He says, "There is a pig in the barn and my religion will not allow me to share quarters with so unclean an animal." At that, the lawyer throws up his hands and says, "Oh for Pete's sake, I'll go spend the night in the barn. I don't have any bothersome religion that will prevent me from sharing quarters with these animals. So off he goes to the barn.

A few minutes later there is a knock on the door. It's the cow and the pig....

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

#### THE MAGICIAN AND THE PARROT

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience was different each week so he did same tricks over and over.

The problem was, the captain's parrot saw all the shows and began to understand how the magician did every trick.

He started shouting in the middle of the show: 'Look, it's not the same hat. Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table. Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?'

The magician was furious but, as it was the captain's parrot, he could do nothing.

Then one day the ship sank and the magician found himself floating on a piece of wood with the parrot.

They glared at each other but said nothing. Finally, after a week, the parrot said: 'OK, I give up. Where's the boat?'

<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)

CALIFORNIA POLITICS UPDATES: GOV. JERRY BROWN SIGNS CAP-AND-TRADE EXTENSION, CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR QUIZZED ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

JULY 27, 2017, 3 A.M.

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/essential/la-pol-ca-essential-politics-updates-california-producing-pot-surplus-1501101923-htmlstory.html>

\* Gov. Jerry Brown signed an extension to the state's cap-and-trade climate policy, in a setting that mirrored the creation of the law in 2006.

\* Legislative caucuses of Latino and black lawmakers are asking the candidates for governor to weigh in on the future of affirmative action.

**California has too much pot, and growers won't be able to export the surplus**

A leader of California's marijuana industry warned Wednesday that the state's cannabis growers produce eight times the pot that is consumed in the state so some will face "painful" pressure to reduce crops under new state regulations that will ban exports after Jan. 1.

Some marijuana growers will stay in the black market and continue to illegally send cannabis to other states, which is also not allowed under federal law, said Hezekiah Allen, executive director of the California Growers' Assn.

"We are producing too much," Allen said, adding state-licensed growers "are going to have to scale back. We are on a painful downsizing curve."

He said some marijuana growers may stop, while others just won't apply for state permits.

Allen made his comments to the Sacramento Press Club during a panel discussion that also included Joseph Devlin, chief of Cannabis Policy and Enforcement for City of Sacramento, and Lori Ajax, chief of the state's Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation.

Devlin said estimates he has heard put California production at five times the state consumption; one consultant in the audience said the number may be 12 times what is consumed in the state.

Ajax agreed with Allen that some cannabis cultivators may have to scale back while others may never apply for a state license.

"For right now, our goal is to get folks into the regulated market, as many as possible," Ajax said. But, she added, "There are some people who will never come into the regulated market."

Those people, she said, will eventually face enforcement actions for growing marijuana without a state license.

Medical marijuana use was approved by California voters two decades ago. Voters in November approved the legal sale and possession of an ounce of marijuana for recreational use.

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

**TV'S BIG BANG THEORY INSPIRES REAL NEW CHEMICAL: BAZNGA!**

**Fictional physicist Sheldon Cooper's catchphrase has been brought to life in the lab**

By Tabitha Watson, Chemistry World on July 25, 2017

[https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/tvs-big-bang-theory-inspires-real-new-chemical-baznga/?WT.mc\\_id=SA\\_SPC\\_20170727](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/tvs-big-bang-theory-inspires-real-new-chemical-baznga/?WT.mc_id=SA_SPC_20170727)



Credit: Sonja Flemming Getty Images

The work of the eminent physicist, Dr Sheldon Cooper of hit TV show *The Big Bang Theory*, has served as the springboard for the creation of a new chemical compound—BaZnGa!

Those familiar with Dr Cooper will know that his use of the phrase ‘bazinga!’ tends to be associated with a jest or jape. Despite this, Paul Canfield, a researcher at Iowa State University, and his team decided that Dr Cooper’s fearsome scientific reputation merited the thorough investigation of the compound he so frequently proposes.

Na Hyun Jo, a graduate student at Iowa State University, had the initial inspiration. ‘I was at home and turned on the TV, and there was a show about *The big bang theory* and a character said “bazinga!”. They showed the elements barium, zinc and gallium. So I thought: “Wow, I think no one has ever tried to grow this material,” and “maybe this could be a new discovery of a high temperature superconductor or some kind of a quasicrystal” or something like that,’ she explains.

‘I respect Dr Cooper and all of his work, and take any pronouncement of his seriously!’ says Canfield. ‘Therefore, when a pronouncement was made that a BaZnGa compound may exist, it was our obligation to check it as part of the scientific method. There was no known ternary compound with barium, zinc and gallium. Wouldn’t that just be smashing if we could find one, and maybe it would have interesting properties. I can very sincerely say that a barium, zinc, gallium compound could have superconductivity, it could have novel

topological electronic properties, it's conceivable it could be not crystalline but quasi-crystalline, there are any number of things. Until you actually make it and look at it, you do not know.'

Sadly, further analysis did not reveal any particularly remarkable properties. However, this has not dampened the team's enthusiasm. 'I think research is always the entertaining part, so the one important thing is that we found a new crystal structure of barium, zinc and gallium,' says Na, and Canfield agrees. 'What we try to do is study the properties of either poorly categorised or unknown materials,' he explains. 'A reason for trying to make something is exploring for unknowns. These can be known unknowns or unknown unknowns. Known unknowns are things that probably exist, they might have been looked at in structural form but nothing is known about their magnetic properties so we want to look for them. If it's really a new compound—an unknown unknown—you do not a priori even know what its structure is. You interview the material by doing measurements and see what it has to offer. This is the nature of basic research—sometimes you explore at the edges of knowledge.'

These findings, along with others, will be discussed at the annual meeting of the American Physical Society in 2018. Incidentally, the meeting is to be held in Los Angeles—the home of Dr Cooper. Canfield and his team hope that he will be in attendance.

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

**FRESNO BEE: MAYOR WHO OPPOSES CONCEALED CARRY BILL CARRIES HIS CONCEALED HANDGUN ON THE JOB**



by [AWR HAWKINS](#) 31 Jul 2017 [409](#)  
<http://www.breitbart.com/california/2017/07/31/fresno-bee-mayor-who-opposes-concealed-carry-bill-carries-his-concealed-handgun-on-the-job/>

Fresno Mayor Lee Brand (R) has a concealed carry permit and carries his concealed handgun on the job but opposes a measure that would allow city workers with permits to carry their guns as well.

[The Fresno Bee](#) confirmed this on July 31.

On July 30 [Breitbart News](#) reported that Brand opposes Councilman Garry Bredefeld's (R-Dist. 6) proposal to allow all city workers with concealed carry permits to carry while on the job.

The [Bee](#) quoted Bredefeld saying, “We have code enforcement officers and other employees working out in the community, and some of them have been threatened. They should have the opportunity to protect themselves and potentially protect others.”

Bredefeld also cited the April 18, 2017, shooting in which Kori Ali Muhammad allegedly killed three people on the streets of Fresno. He suggested the attack was one of many “instances where people with a CCW (concealed-carry weapon) license have been able to prevent such loss of life.”

To Bredefeld’s point, on March 22, 2015, a [concealed carry permit holder stopped a mass shooting](#) in a Philadelphia barbershop. The permit holder was walking by and ran inside when he heard gunshots. He was able to shot and kill the gunman before any innocents were harmed. Moreover, [Breitbart News](#) reported that an Uber driver with a concealed carry permit stopped a mass shooting in Chicago on April 17, 2015. The [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that the driver was watching a group of people when a man allegedly “began firing into the crowd.” The driver exited his vehicle and opened fire, wounding the suspect and ending the alleged mass shooting.

And there are myriad other examples that could be added. The point is, concealed carriers stop crime and oftentimes they stop an attacker in his or her tracks.

Mayor Brand must know this, because “on occasion [he] carries his gun while conducting city business.” But he opposes Bredefeld’s effort to ensure all city workers with concealed permits enjoy the same sense of self-protection, the same ability to defend their lives and dignity.

*As George Orwell wrote in [Animal Farm](#), “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” It appears Brand is among those who are “more equal.”*

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

YOU JUST CAN’T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

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

TSA: WE NEVER TOLD UNITED TO BAN COMIC-CON ATTENDEES FROM CHECKING THEIR COMICS

Fox News, Published July 25, 2017

<http://www.foxnews.com/travel/2017/07/25/tsa-never-told-united-to-ban-comic-con-attendees-from-checking-their-comics.html>

On Sunday, United Airlines posted a message to all Comic-Con attendees traveling through San Diego, informing them that they would not be able to fly with comic books in their checked baggage. The airline even clarified on Twitter that the TSA handed down this edict, which applied to all airlines operating out of San Diego.

There was just one problem with United's announcement: It wasn't true.

In a statement obtained by Fox News, United claims to have "misunderstood" the TSA's instructions regarding comics — even though a TSA spokesperson has since claimed that the agency never issued any instructions of the sort.



United claims they "misunderstood" the TSA's instructions concerning comics. (Reuters)

"I don't know how United went ahead and stated a TSA policy incorrectly," said Lorie Dankers, a TSA spokeswoman

who spoke to Ars Technica.

United Airlines initially posted its flawed message in the San Diego International Airport on Sunday, but confused comics fans soon responded on Twitter, prompting the airline to explain that the restrictions came directly from the Transportation Security Administration. At the time, United also claimed that all airlines operating out of San Diego — and not just United — were affected by the order.

But according to the TSA itself, there was never any such order to restrict comic books from checked luggage at San Diego International Airport.

"I can say that TSA has advised in the past that if people bring several of the same type of item, it can alarm the checked baggage screening, but there is no prohibition on bringing things that are not a security threat," Dankers told Ars Technica.

Dankers also claimed that comic books are not considered a "security threat," and that the TSA encourages travelers to check comic books "if they so choose."

On Monday, the TSA even took to Twitter to refute United's claims, to the astonishment and amusement of several concerned travelers.

A United spokesperson did not reveal the source of the airline's information, but admitted the airline "misunderstood" the TSA's restrictions.

"While TSA is recommending that customers keep their comic books in their carry-on bags, there are no restrictions on packing them in checked luggage," said a United spokesperson in a statement obtained by Fox News.

“We misunderstood TSA’s instructions and regret any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.”

Even though United declined to reveal its TSA source, it’s possible the airline made Sunday’s announcement based on an older @AskTSA blog post published during 2016’s San Diego Comic-Con, in which the TSA advised against packing “stacks of brochures and assorted comic books” in checked baggage, lest they set off any alarms and slow down the screening process. At the time, the TSA also recommended removing such items from carry-on luggage at screening checkpoints, and placing them in a separate bin where they could be x-rayed more easily.

In more recent blog post concerning books and carry-on bags, the TSA stated that, “occasionally, our officers may recommend passengers remove items such as heavy, glossy programs during a special event with a lot of travelers, such as Super Bowl programs,” but nowhere does the post mention that such items could be banned from checked bags.

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

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

From: “Stephanie Osborn”

**TEXAS JUDGE REMOVED OVER CITIZENSHIP BECOMES U.S. CITIZEN**

[www.cbsnews.com/AP](http://www.cbsnews.com/AP) July 9, 2017, 5:11 PM

Texas judge removed over citizenship becomes U.S. citizen



Young Min Burkett, MATT SAYLES/AP

**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas -- A Texas judge who was placed on unpaid leave after officials discovered she was not a U.S. citizen has obtained her citizenship.**

**Corpus Christi Municipal Court Judge Young Min Burkett was sworn in as a citizen on Friday. That makes her eligible to vote and serve as a judge. The oath was administered by a federal judge.**

**Burkett is from South Korea and had been a permanent legal resident. She applied for expedited review of her U.S. citizenship request after being removed from the bench. Burkett says she never tried to deceive or misrepresent her background.**

**She gave up her South Korean citizenship. The**

two countries do not allow dual citizenship.

Burkett had 90 days to obtain citizenship and managed to do it in 51, The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reports.

"I submitted a request to expedite and it was granted," Burkett told reporters Friday, according to the newspaper. "I'm very grateful it was processed in a short period of time, and I'm ready to get back to work."

The Corpus Christi City Council will decide whether Burkett should be reinstated as a judge.

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

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

## ROBOT SPOTS SIGNS OF MELTED FUEL AT SUBMERGED FUKUSHIMA REACTOR

By Aylin Woodward, 24 July 2017

[https://www.newscientist.com/article/2141664-robot-spots-signs-of-melted-fuel-at-submerged-fukushima-reactor/?utm\\_campaign=RSS%7CNSNS&utm\\_source=NSNS&utm\\_medium=RSS&campaign\\_id=RSS%7CNSNS-](https://www.newscientist.com/article/2141664-robot-spots-signs-of-melted-fuel-at-submerged-fukushima-reactor/?utm_campaign=RSS%7CNSNS&utm_source=NSNS&utm_medium=RSS&campaign_id=RSS%7CNSNS-)

View from the remote-controlled robot from within the submerged reactor TEPCO



A submersible robot has spotted what representatives from the Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepco) say is likely missing melted nuclear fuel from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

In the wake of a magnitude 9 earthquake, the power plant was disastrously taken off-line. A subsequent tsunami

compromised the emergency generators that could provide power to cool them back down. The cooling system failures led to nuclear meltdowns and explosions that damaged the reactor's containment systems. Three reactors sank into 6 metres of water, allowing the release of radioactive material.

The area remains contaminated so an unmanned robot nicknamed "Little Sunfish" was sent below water to survey the flooded parts of plant and hunt for the melted nuclear fuel. Previous robots sent to explore the plant often had their motor functions fail, thanks to high radiation levels.



The orange clumps seen by the robot are possibly remnants of nuclear fuel TEPCO

Tepco spokesman Takahiro Kimoto told the Japan Times that video taken by the robot over three days shows clumps of what is likely to be melted fuel. "This means something of high temperature melted some structural objects and came out. So it is natural to think that melted fuel rods are mixed with them," he said.

Finding and removing the nuclear fuel is a necessary part of the plant's decommissioning process, which could take decades and tens of billions of dollars.

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**RIGID SOLAR ENERGYSAIL SET FOR SEA TRIALS NEXT YEAR**

Scott Collie July 25, 2017

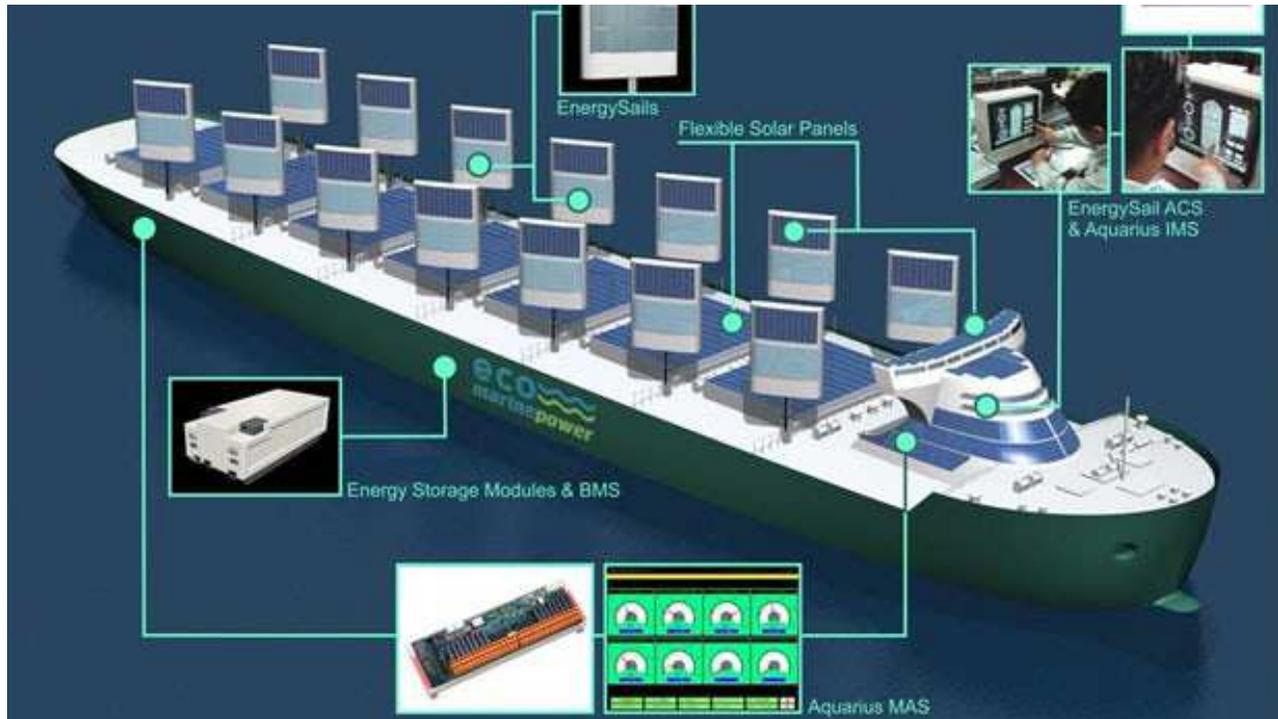
<http://newatlas.com/rigid-solar-energy-sails/50633/>

Eco Marine Power is preparing to put its rigid solar energy sails through their paces next year.

Unlike some other proposals for reviving the use of sails in commercial shipping, the EnergySail from Eco Marine Power (EMP) can harness the power of the wind and sun at the same time, for high-efficiency transport on the high seas.

Made of either high strength steel or carbon fiber, the EnergySail is a rigid sail sitting on a rotating pole, mounted on the deck of a ship. Solar panels embedded in the sail, along with panels mounted on the deck, are used to augment the power usually provided by auxiliary generators. When conditions get rough, the sails can be lowered and stored out of harm's way.

When the ship is sitting in port, the EnergySails can also be used to collect energy. It'll be stored in a battery and used for zero-emissions operation of its electrical systems. EMP is also planning a version of the sails capable of collecting solar power when lowered.



**A look at the Aquarius MRE concept**

The company is currently conducting a feasibility study in tandem with Hisafuku Kisen K.K, working to estimate the amount of propulsion a rigid sail system could provide each ship in its fleet. The amount of solar power each shipping route would provide is also being taken into account. One ship will be chosen for a proper 12 - 18 month sea trial, set to take place next year.

The trial ship will be fitted with EnergySails, solar panels on the decks, battery storage and all the requisite energy management hardware. When used together, EMP says the setup will deliver better fuel consumption, lower air pollution and CO2 emissions. By extension, that should also mean lower fuel costs for global shipping operators.

"It's great that we are able to co-operate with Hisafuku Kisen and we very much appreciate their cooperation in helping us move this important project towards sea trials," says Greg Atkinson, Chief Technology Officer and Founder of Eco Marine Power. "We also appreciate the support of our strategic partners and together we believe Aquarius MRE will pave the way towards the widespread adoption of renewable energy on ships."

Source: Eco Marine Power

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## **TOYOTA'S NEW SOLID-STATE BATTERY COULD MAKE ITS WAY TO CARS BY 2020**

July 25, 2017 by Darrell Etherington (@etherington)

<https://techcrunch.com/2017/07/25/toyotas-new-solid-state-battery-could-make-its-way-to-cars-by-2020/>



**Toyota is touting its progress on a new kind of battery technology, which uses a solid electrolyte instead of the conventional semi-liquid version used in today's lithium-ion batteries. The car maker said that it's near a breakthrough in production engineering that could help it put the new tech in production electric vehicles as early as 2020, according to the Wall Street Journal.**

**The improved battery technology would make it possible to create smaller, more lightweight lithium-ion batteries for use in EVs, that could also potentially boost the total charge capacity and result in longer-range vehicles.**

**Another improvement for this type of battery would be longer overall usable life, which would make it possible to both use the vehicles they're installed in for longer, and add potential for product recycling and alternative post-vehicle life (some companies are already looking into putting EV batteries into use in home and commercial energy storage, for example).**

**Batteries remain a key limiting factor for electric vehicle design, because of how far tech companies focused on the problem have pushed existing science. The move to solid state would help make room for more gains in terms of charge capacity achieved in the footprint available in consumer vehicles, while helping to push further existing efficiencies achieved through things like the use of ultra-light materials in car frames and interiors.**

Toyota isn't saying yet where its batteries will end up, but any edge here is bound to be a big boon for automakers looking at a future that increasingly seems like it'll be dominated by EVs.

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## SPACEX TWEAKING DRAGON 2 DESIGN AND MARS PLANS

Jul 26, 2017 Irene Klotz | Aviation Week & Space Technology

[http://aviationweek.com/space/spacex-tweaking-dragon-2-design-and-mars-plans?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05\\_20170727\\_AW-05\\_576&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article\\_1&utm\\_rid=CPEN1000003019593&utm\\_campaign=11066&utm\\_medium=email&elq2=06a9b200e6be4391b8d82cafd8852b01](http://aviationweek.com/space/spacex-tweaking-dragon-2-design-and-mars-plans?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05_20170727_AW-05_576&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_1&utm_rid=CPEN1000003019593&utm_campaign=11066&utm_medium=email&elq2=06a9b200e6be4391b8d82cafd8852b01)

Saddled between steep



SpaceX, NASA and the U.S. Air Force are working with a model of the SpaceX Dragon capsule to teach parajumpers how to recover astronauts from the spacecraft after splashdown. Credit: SpaceX

NASA certification requirements for propulsive capsule landings and a rethink of related technology for Mars expeditions, SpaceX is shelving plans for upcoming Dragon 2 crew

and cargo retrorocket returns to Earth.

“That was a tough decision,” company founder and CEO Elon Musk said during last week’s International Space Station (ISS) Research and Development Conference in Washington.

“Dragon 2 is capable of landing propulsively . . . although you’d have to land it on some pretty soft landing pad because we’ve deleted the little legs that pop out of the heat shield,” Musk said. “The reason we decided not to pursue that heavily is it would have taken a tremendous effort to qualify that for safety, particularly for crew transport.”

SpaceX also intended to parlay Dragon 2’s propulsive landing technology into a Mars landing system incorporating a base heat shield and side-mounted thrusters. “I’m pretty confident that is not the right way, and [that] there’s a far better approach,” Musk said. “From a technology evolution standpoint, [propulsive Dragon landing] was no longer in line with what we were confident was the optimal way to land on Mars.

**“It is something that we could bring back later, but it doesn’t seem like the right way to apply resources right now,” he added. “Our primary focus is making sure we stay on track for getting crew to [the] station, as we promised NASA, by the middle of next year.”**

**SpaceX, which holds a NASA Commercial Crew Transportation Capability (CCtCap) contract worth up to \$2.6 billion, intends to demonstrate Dragon 2 during an unmanned test flight in February, followed by a crewed test flight in June, NASA said in a program update posted on its website July 20. Boeing, which holds a separate CCtCap contract worth up to \$4.2 billion, plans similar unmanned and manned test flights of its CST-100 Starliner capsule in June and August 2018, respectively.**

**Dragon 2 is a next-generation capsule that expands the capabilities of the SpaceX freighter currently used for cargo runs to the ISS under a NASA Commercial Resupply Services contract. Dragon 2 will include an Environmental Control and Life-Support System, a launch abort system and the ability to conduct automatic docking maneuvers at the ISS without the aid of the station’s robotic arm. SpaceX, which intends to use Dragon 2 for both crew and cargo missions, will continue to parachute the capsules into the ocean for recovery.**

**Musk says he might unveil SpaceX’s revamped Mars architecture at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), which will be held in September in Adelaide, Australia. Besides the technical challenges of propulsive landings on Mars, economic issues are driving the redesign.**

**“If we downsize the Mars vehicle, make it capable of doing Earth-orbit activity as well as Mars activity, then maybe we could pay for it,” Musk said. “That’s one of the key elements in the new architecture.”**

**At last year’s IAC in Guadalajara, Mexico, Musk unveiled a Mars colonization blueprint with an estimated development cost of \$10 billion. The plan featured reusable boosters flying huge tanker spacecraft into low Earth orbit and fueling a massive human spaceship for a relatively quick trip to Mars. The ship would be capable of carrying 450 tons, plus more than 100 people, who would pay about \$100,000 apiece.**

**The spacecraft, which would land on Mars, would return to Earth fueled by liquid methane and oxygen extracted from the planet’s carbon dioxide atmosphere. To build a sustainable colony of 1 million settlers, Musk envisioned a fleet of 1,000 ships departing for Mars every 26 months when Earth and Mars are optimally positioned for flights.**

**Key to SpaceX’s goal of making humanity a multiplanet species is the development of heavy-lift launch services, which the company hopes to demonstrate later this year. Musk, however, is setting expectations quite low for the debut flight of the Falcon Heavy from Kennedy Space Center’s Launch Complex 39A in Florida.**

**Similar to United Launch Alliance’s Delta IV Heavy, Falcon Heavy uses two Falcon 9 first-stages as strap-on boosters on a reinforced Falcon 9 core, a configuration that presented transonic airflow, maximum dynamic pressure and other flight dynamics and modeling challenges far beyond what Musk and his engineering team anticipated.**

“I think Falcon Heavy is going to be a great vehicle. There’s just so much that’s really impossible to test on the ground,” Musk says. “It actually ended up being way harder to do Falcon Heavy than we thought. At first it sounds real easy. You just stick two first stages on as strap-on boosters. How hard could that be? But then everything changes. All the loads change. Aerodynamics totally change. You’ve tripled the vibration and acoustics. . . . The amount of load you’re putting through that center core is crazy because you have two super-powerful boosters also shoving that center core, so we had to redesign the whole center core airframe. Then we’ve got the separation systems. It just ended up being way, way more difficult than we originally thought. We were pretty naive about that.

“There’s a lot of risk associated with Falcon Heavy,” Musk says, adding that there was a “real good chance” the first vehicle would not make it to orbit. “I hope it makes it far enough away from the pad that it does not cause pad damage. I would consider even that a win.”

Falcon Heavy is intended to lift more than 2.5 times the payload capability of Falcon 9. A second Falcon Heavy is slated to fly in 2018 with the ArabSat 6A, according to SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell, followed by a demonstration mission for the Defense Department’s Space Test Program, which is overseen by the Space Development Group at Kirtland AFB in New Mexico. SpaceX also intends to launch two paying passengers on a Falcon Heavy lunar fly-around mission before the end of 2018.

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## 100X FASTER, 10X CHEAPER: 3D METAL PRINTING IS ABOUT TO GO MAINSTREAM

Loz Blain July 26, 2017

<http://newatlas.com/desktop-metal-3d-printing/50654/>



Sintering Multiple Parts – Desktop Metal’s Studio System includes a fully-automated, office-friendly sintering furnace with fast cycle times and a peak temperature of 1400°C, allowing for the sintering of a wide variety of materials. (Credit: Desktop Metal)

Desktop Metal – remember the name. This Massachusetts company is preparing to turn manufacturing on its head, with a 3D metal printing system that’s so much faster, safer and cheaper than existing systems that it’s going to compete with traditional mass manufacturing processes.

We've been hearing for years now about 3D printing and how it's going to revolutionize manufacturing. As yet, though, it's still on the periphery.

Plenty of design studios and even home users run desktop printers, but the only affordable printing materials are cheap ABS plastics. And at the other end of the market, while organizations like NASA and Boeing are getting valuable use out of laser-melted metal printing, it's a very slow and expensive process that doesn't seem to scale well.

But a very exciting company out of Massachusetts, headed by some of the guys who came up with the idea of additive manufacture in the first place, believes it's got the technology and the machinery to boost 3D printing into the big time, for real.

## DESKTOP METAL

Desktop Metal is an engineering-driven startup whose founders include several MIT professors, and Emanuel Sachs, who has patents in 3D printing dating back to the dawn of the field in 1989.

The company has raised a ton of money in the last few months, including some US\$115 million in a recent Series D round that brings total equity investments up over US\$210 million. That money has come from big players, too, including Google Ventures.

The hype is real. And if Desktop Metal delivers on its promises – that it can make reliable metal printing up to 100 times faster, with 10 times cheaper initial costs and 20 times cheaper materials costs than existing laser technologies, using a much wider range of alloys – these machines might be the tipping point for large scale 3D manufacturing.

The company is putting forward two systems: a studio system aimed at rapid, cheap metal prototyping for engineering groups, and a production system for mass manufacture.

### The Studio System: Rapid prototyping

Coming in at some 10 times cheaper than equivalent laser systems, Desktop Metal's Studio machines are also a ton more practical to have in an office. Without hazardous (and sometimes



explosive) metal powders to deal with, or dangerous lasers, you can stick them pretty much anywhere without needing to install ventilation or make your workers wear respirators.

Indeed, having the Studio system around is much more like a regular old FDM (fused deposition modeling) ABS plastic printer than any other metal printing machine. It's very low maintenance and requires no special support equipment or staff.

The metals arrive in rod form, bound to a polymer binding agent and shipped in cartridges. But there's a ton of metal options – basically anything you can use in a Metal Injection Molding (MIM) system. That includes 4140 chromoly steel, aluminum, copper, bronze, a range of stainless steels, Hipercro 50 magnetic, titanium, and more than 200 other alloys.

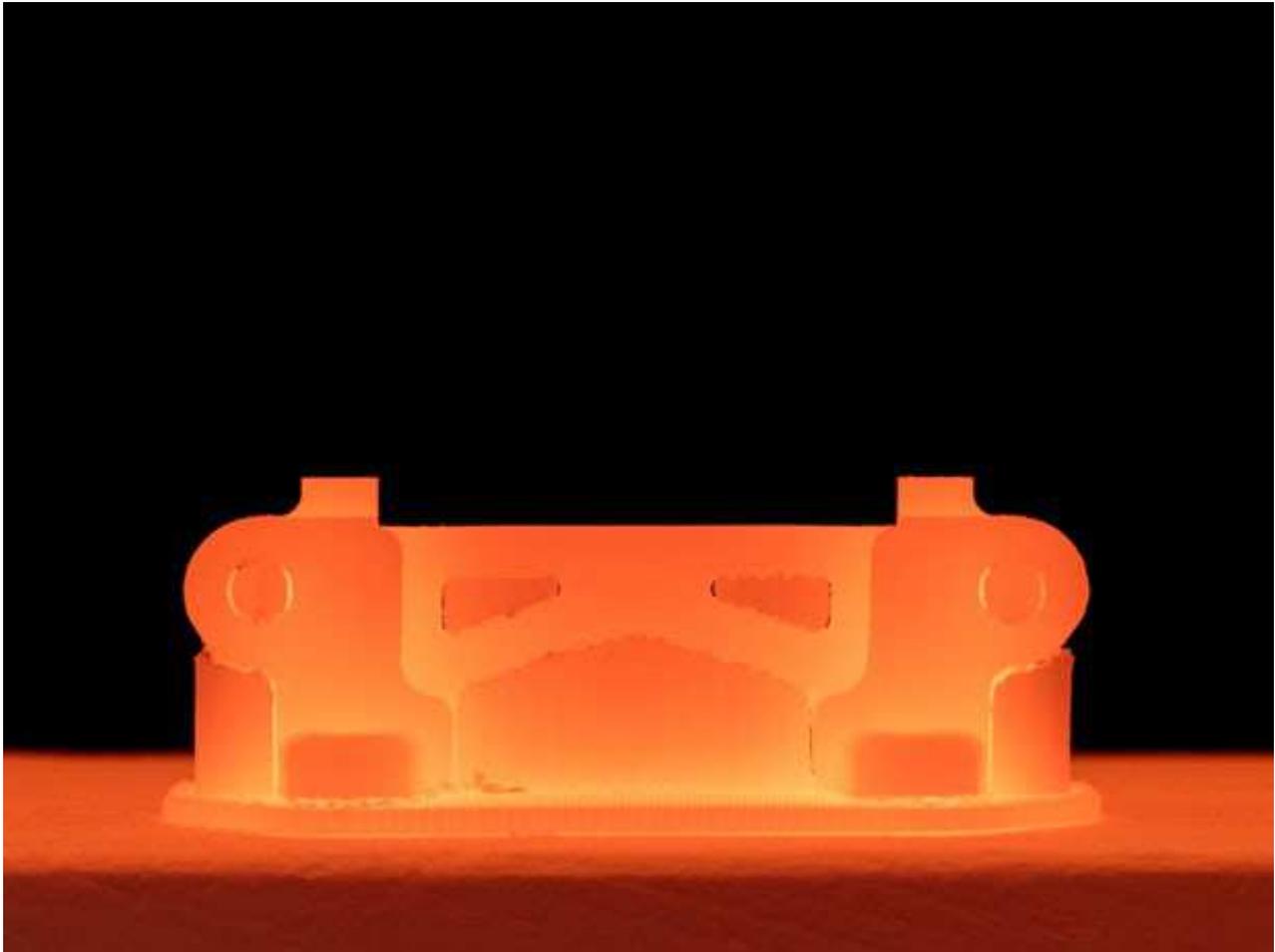


The Studio printer runs around and prints parts into layers of bound metal. The parts then go into a de-binding bath that removes a good portion of the binding polymer, and then the parts go into a sintering furnace.

The furnace is the special sauce in the Desktop Metal process. It uses a combination of regular heating elements and microwave heating to bring the part up to a temperature just below its melting point, where the binding agent burns off and the metal particles within fuse to their neighbors to produce a highly dense, sintered metal.

Timing and temperature are managed automatically by the system, depending on the design and the metals you've used. Parts also shrink up to 15 percent during the debinding and sintering process – but again, that's all automatically managed by the system. All you need to do is feed in the end design and all that business is handled.

At the end of the process, you basically poke out the support sections with a screwdriver. They're not welded to the part, and in many cases can be broken off by hand.



Depending on the nature of the part, it might be necessary to do some post-print surface finishing like sanding or bead blasting to smooth out the layered surfaces, but effectively you're left with a prototype part, produced quickly, in the production material and ready for testing. And parts are around 99.8 percent dense, which is huge. They're very mechanically tough.

The Studio system makes rapid, affordable metal prototyping much more accessible than ever before, using a huge range of cheap, safe and easily handled materials and producing high-quality parts that can be tested properly. The entire integrated system and associated software retails for US\$120,000, where an equivalent laser system will run you more than US\$1 million – and that doesn't take into account the safety and materials handling overheads the laser systems require.

That's a massive step forward in prototyping, and the Studio system will begin shipping this year. But the production system, which will debut in 2018, is where the real revolution could lie.

**THE PRODUCTION SYSTEM: MASS MANUFACTURE**



The production system is built for speed, to a degree that has never been seen before. Faster than machining, casting, forging or any other technique, each production printer can produce up to an incredible 500 cubic inches of complex parts per hour. That's 100 times quicker than a laser-based alternative, with zero tooling.

Indeed, it prints faster than those hybrid microwave furnaces can sinter. To reach the full production speed, you'll need up to four furnaces per printer.

The Production printers use a different process called Single Pass Jetting, explained in the video below.

Instead of bound metal rod cartridges like the Studio printer uses, the Production machines use powders, which are bonded together during printing by spray-jetted droplets of a binder solution. They use regular, low-cost, easily available MIM powders. That's another huge advantage over laser machines, which need expensive powders with very precise particle sizes. Material costs here will be up to 20 times lower.

This, combined with the lack of tooling and job setup costs, can bring 3D printed metal parts down cheap enough to compete with traditional manufacturing processes for the first time.



The rest of the process – de-binding and sintering – looks much the same as the Studio system. Print resolution is as fine as 50 microns, roughly the width of a human hair. And while no final pricing has been given yet on the full system, each printer will retail for around US\$360,000.

It's hard to overstate what a leap forward the Desktop Metal system represents. It's orders of magnitude faster than the current state of the art. It uses vastly cheaper materials that already exist in commercial quantities thanks to Metal Injection Molding. And the printers themselves are massively cheaper, too.

It's safe, simple and highly automated, and it's designed to make 3D printing as cost-effective as traditional manufacturing. It could be the tipping point that opens the door to radical 3D-printed design elements in mass market products.

This could be huge, folks. Hold on tight!

More information: Desktop Metal

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## AUSTRALIA'S ELECTRIC SUPER HIGHWAY TO POWER EVS ALONG 1,000 MILES OF COASTLINE

Nick Lavars July 27, 2017

<http://newatlas.com/australia-electric-super-highway/50659/>

Motorists traveling in electric vehicles along the Queensland coast in Australia's north will soon be able to keep their rides topped up for free, thanks to a new Electric Super Highway.

Announced on Thursday, the roadway will be free to use initially, as the state government tries to encourage a shift to greener transport.



Australia's Electric Super Highway will connect the Queensland city of the Gold Coast to the state's far north (Credit: jabiru/Depositphotos)

The Electric Super Highway will be the world's longest in a single state, according to the Queensland Government. It will see more than 1,000 mi (1,600 km) of coastal roadway between the cities of the Gold Coast and Cairns dotted with fast-charging stations, enabling electric vehicles to be driven from the state's southern border to its far north.

"This project is ambitious, but we want as many people as possible on board the electric vehicle revolution, as part of our transition to a low emissions future," said Queensland's Environment Minister and Acting Main Roads Minister Steven Miles. "Today I'm announcing the first 18 towns and cities that make up phase one of the Electric Super Highway and will, once operational in the next six months, make it possible to drive an electric vehicle from the state's southern border to the Far North. They will be available for use at no cost for the initial phase of the super highway so we can encourage as many people as possible to start using them."

The energy supplied through the fast-charging stations will be clean, purchased through green energy offsets and credits. Miles cited a recent survey showing 50 percent of Queensland's residents will consider buying an electric vehicle, plug-in hybrid or regenerative braking hybrid in the next two years. Most of those participants said new fast-charging infrastructure would add further motivation.

"EVs can provide not only a reduced fuel cost for Queenslanders, but an environmentally-friendly transport option, particularly when charged from renewable energy," said Miles.

"The Queensland Electric Super Highway has the potential to revolutionize the way we travel around Queensland in the future."

Source: Queensland Government

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## PRIVATE DREAM CHASER SPACE PLANE WILL LAUNCH ON ATLAS V ROCKETS

By Mike Wall, Space.com Senior Writer | July 27, 2017 07:00am ET

<https://www.space.com/37636-dream-chaser-space-plane-on-atlas-v-rockets.html>



Artist's illustration of Sierra Nevada Corp.'s Dream Chaser space plane atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket. Credit: Sierra Nevada Corp.

The cargo missions flown by the private Dream Chaser space plane will launch atop United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rockets, at least at first.

Dream Chaser's builder, Sierra Nevada Corp. (SNC), and ULA have signed an agreement to use Atlas V

rockets for the robotic space plane's first two resupply flights to the International Space Station (ISS), representatives of the two companies announced last week. Those missions are scheduled to lift off in 2020 and 2021.

"SNC recognizes the proven reliability of the Atlas V rocket, and its availability and schedule performance make it the right choice for the first two flights of the Dream Chaser," Mark Sirangelo, corporate vice president of Sierra Nevada's space systems business area, said in a statement.

Sierra Nevada has been developing the 30-foot-long (9 meters) Dream Chaser for more than a decade. Like NASA's now-retired space shuttle orbiter, Dream Chaser launches vertically and comes back down to Earth horizontally in a runway landing.

Sierra Nevada is working on both crewed and uncrewed variants of the space plane. In 2016, NASA tabbed the uncrewed Dream Chaser to fly cargo to and from the ISS, under a Commercial Resupply Services 2 contract. (Two other private robotic vehicles, SpaceX's Dragon capsule and Orbital ATK's Cygnus spacecraft, are already flying cargo missions to the orbiting lab for the space agency.)



This United Launch Alliance graphic shows how the Sierra Nevada Corporation's Dream Chaser space plane will launch atop Atlas V rockets to deliver cargo to the International Space Station.

Credit: United Launch Alliance

The Atlas V is a workhorse rocket that has launched a number of high-profile payloads over the years, including NASA's New Horizons Pluto probe, Juno Jupiter orbiter and Curiosity

Mars rover. The Atlas V has also launched all four missions of the U.S. Air Force's X-37B vehicle — a small, robotic space plane, like the uncrewed Dream Chaser.

An Atlas V will also loft the maiden moon mission of the Peregrine lander, a lunar spacecraft being developed by Pittsburgh-based company Astrobotic. That flight is currently scheduled to take place in 2019.

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## SAN FRANCISCO DA: ANTI-THEFT LAW RESULTS IN HUGE DROP IN STOLEN PHONES

"Stealing a smartphone is no longer worth the trouble."

CYRUS FARIVAR - 7/28/2017, 8:59 AM

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2017/07/san-francisco-da-anti-theft-law-results-in-huge-drop-in-stolen-phones/>

San Francisco's district attorney says that a California state law mandating "theft-detering technological solutions" for smartphones has resulted in a precipitous drop in such robberies.

Those measures primarily include a remote kill switch after a phone has been stolen that would allow a phone to be disabled, withstanding even a hard reset. Such a kill switch has become standard in all iPhones ("Activation Lock") and Android phones ("Device Protection") since 2015.

In a press release sent to reporters on Thursday, George Gascón said that since the law went into effect on July 1, 2015, smartphone-related robberies have fallen 22 percent from 2015 to 2016. When measured from the peak in 2013, "overall robberies involving smartphones have declined an astonishing 50 percent."

"The prevalence of these crimes made it evident early on that enforcement and prosecution were not sufficient tools to reduce the violence on our streets," Gascón said in the statement. "Because of this hard-fought legislation, stealing a smartphone is no longer worth the trouble, and that means the devices we use every day no longer make us targets for violent crime."

Anyone who is considering purchasing a second-hand smartphone should consult with <https://stolenphonechecker.org> first.

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### 2019 SOFTWARE FIX FOR AIRCRAFT CARRIER ELECTROMAGNETIC LAUNCH PROBLEM

brian wang | July 28, 2017 |

<https://www.nextbigfuture.com/2017/07/2019-software-fix-for-aircraft-carrier-electromagnetic-launch-problem.html>



The US Navy completed testing on a software fix for its Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) that will allow the heaviest planes to take off with less stress to the airframe, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) announced this week.

The EMALS team found during April 2014 testing that airplanes carrying full 480-gallon wing-mounted external fuel tanks were experiencing a great amount of stress on the airframe.

The software fix will now allow EMALS to handle the upper limit of its workload – the heaviest planes, Super Hornets and EA-18G Growlers with full external fuel tanks – without exceeding stress limits on the airplanes.

The software fix will be uploaded to the EMALS aboard Ford in 2019, when the ship goes in for its post-shakedown availability. That shipyard availability is the first opportunity to update the EMALS software without disrupting ship operations, Koon said, and presents no risk to the ship or any airplanes by waiting.

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#### AUSTRALIA WEATHER BUREAU CAUGHT TAMPERING WITH CLIMATE NUMBERS

**CHRIS WHITE**, 9:57 PM 07/31/2017

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/07/31/australia-weather-bureau-caught-tampering-with-climate-numbers/>

Australian scientists at the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) ordered a review of temperature recording instruments after the government agency was caught tampering with temperature logs in several locations.

Agency officials [admit that the problem](#) with instruments recording low temperatures likely happened in several locations throughout Australia, but they refuse to admit to manipulating temperature readings. The BOM located missing logs in Goulburn and the Snow Mountains, both of which are in New South Wales.

Meteorologist Lance Pidgeon watched the 13 degrees Fahrenheit Goulburn recording from July 2 disappear from the bureau's website. The temperature readings fluctuated briefly and then disappeared from the government's website.

"The temperature dropped to minus 10 (13 degrees Fahrenheit), stayed there for some time and then it changed to minus 10.4 (14 degrees Fahrenheit) and then it disappeared," Pidgeon said, adding that he notified scientist Jennifer Marohasy about the problem, who then brought the readings to the attention of the bureau.

The bureau would later restore the original 13 degrees Fahrenheit reading after a brief question and answer session with Marohasy.

"The bureau's quality control system, designed to filter out spurious low or high values was set at minus 10 minimum for Goulburn which is why the record automatically adjusted," a bureau spokeswoman told reporters Monday. BOM added that there are limits placed on how low temperatures could go in some very cold areas of the country.

Bureau's Chief Executive Andrew Johnson told Australian Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg that the failure to record the low temperatures at Goulburn in early July was

due to faulty equipment. A similar failure wiped out a reading of 13 degrees Fahrenheit at Thredbo Top on July 16, even though temperatures at that station have been recorded as low as 5.54 degrees Fahrenheit.

Failure to observe the low temperatures had “been interpreted by a member of the community in such a way as to imply the bureau sought to manipulate the data record,” Johnson said, according to The Australian. “I categorically reject this implication.”

Marohasy, for her part, told reporters that Johnson’s claims are nearly impossible to believe given that there are screen shots that show the very low temperatures before being “quality assured” out. It could take several weeks before the equipment is eventually tested, reviewed and ready for service, Johnson said.

“I have taken steps to ensure that the hardware at this location is replaced immediately,” he added. “To ensure that I have full assurance on these matters, I have actioned an internal review of our AWS network and associated data quality control processes for temperature observations.”

BOM has been put under the microscope before for similar manipulations. The agency was accused in 2014 of tampering with the country’s temperature record to make it appear as if temperatures had warmed over the decades, [according to reports](#) in August 2014.

Marohasey claimed at the time that BOM’s adjusted temperature records are “propaganda” and not science. She analyzed raw temperature data from places across Australia, compared them to BOM data, and found the agency’s data created an artificial warming trend.

Marohasey said BOM adjustments changed Aussie temperature records from a slight cooling trend to one of “dramatic warming” over the past century.

Follow Chris White on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

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## MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL GIVE NEXT-GENERATION CHINOOKS MORE MUSCLE

[David Szondy](#) July 31, 2017

[HTTP://NEWATLAS.COM/BOEING-CHINOOK-BLOCKII-MODERNIZATION/50700/](http://newatlas.com/boeing-chinook-blockii-modernization/50700/)

The US Army’s fleet of [Chinook](#) helicopters will be getting a bit more muscle over the next decade as Boeing ramps up for construction and testing of three CH-47F Block II airframes as part of a modernization program. The US\$276 million Army contract will see the introduction of new technologies into the vintage Chinook that will provide it with more lifting power and a stronger fuselage.

Among the ever changing makes and mods of aircraft that come and go, there are a few that just keep on keeping on after hitting the aerospace engineering sweet spot. One of these is the Boeing Chinook, which first flew in 1961 and has been ferrying troops, artillery and supplies for over 25 nations for 65 years.

**Boeing will build and test three U.S. Army CH-47F Block II Chinook helicopters as part of**



**a modernization effort (Credit: Boeing)**

To extend the life of the venerable twin-rotor design, Boeing is adding a series of improvements to the CH-47F variant. Currently at the demonstration and validation phase, the fuselage is reinforced at critical areas for greater structural integrity at less weight and there's an improved, more efficient drivetrain to deliver more power to the new swept-tip Advanced Chinook Rotor Blades

Made of a composite material a sporting a new geometry, these rotors provide 1,500 lb (680 kg) more lifting capacity on their own. To further improve payload, the six fuel tanks have been consolidated into two for more fuel and less weight.

Boeing says that work on the first test helicopter will begin in 2018 with testing in 2019. If all goes according to schedule, the first Block II Chinook will be delivered in 2023 and 500 Chinooks will eventually be upgraded to Block II configuration.

"The Army's only heavy-lift helicopter exists to deliver decisive combat power for our ground commanders," says Colonel Greg Fortier, US Army project manager for Cargo Helicopters. "The Cargo family is anxious to build upon Colonel Rob Barrie's efforts to establish this critical program and deliver an adaptive air vehicle. Increasing payload capacity today enhances battlefield agility and prepares the Chinook for even greater performance gains in the future."

Source: [Boeing](https://www.boeing.com)

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

NASA WEBSITE ON ECLIPSE TIMING AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTALITY

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-who-what-where-when-and-how>

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NATURAL MATERIALS SUCCESSFULLY FILTER GREYWATER

High school students find activated charcoal is effective filter

July 11, 2017, Outreach & Equity Society

<https://www.societyforscience.org/content/ssp-blog/natural-materials-successfully-filter-greywater>



Akshara and Suditi tested different natural materials in greywater filtration. Photo courtesy of Akshara Legala.

Akshara Legala and Suditi Bhatt, two high school students from Sacramento, California, developed and

tested greywater filtration systems with natural filters. Greywater is a way to recycle used water, and a method environmentalists tout to save freshwater resources for drinking while greywater could be used for appliances and agriculture.

Nurturing the next generation of scientists — like these young women — is one of our main goals at the Society for Science & the Public. To help us reach this goal, the Society recognized 20 students competing in science fairs throughout the country to recognize their STEM efforts. These Community Innovation Awards, part of the Society's STEM Action Grants, recognize amazing young scientists.

Read on below to learn how their device works and how they first became interested in science.



**Akshara and Suditi hold up the Community Innovation Award they received from the Society for their research on natural greywater filters. Photo courtesy of Akshara Legala.**

**HOW THEIR GREYWATER FILTRATION METHOD WORKS:** Only three percent of the water on Earth is freshwater that can be consumed by living creatures. According to the EPA, an average American home annually uses 21,900 gallons of freshwater to irrigate lawns and gardens, while 102,200 gallons of freshwater a year are used for household appliances. Eighty percent of America's water supply is used to irrigate agricultural crops.

**Natural fibrous components — like activated charcoal powder, moringa oleifera seeds, and crushed corn cob — have the potential to purify greywater.**

**Greywater treatment is a method to reuse used water and save freshwater resources for drinking purposes. Greywater is water that has been used in household appliances or drained out as sprinkler water. Although greywater isn't fit for human consumption, it's a potential resource for agriculture. Greywater treatment is also less expensive than water desalination.**

**Greywater removes large contaminants from water, like hair, dirt, and grass. One obstacle with standard filters is they are unable to refine excess salts, chemicals, and minerals that may pollute the water. Chlorine and disinfecting additives can be added to the water; however, it would be ideal to minimize the addition of artificial chemicals in greywater treatment for agricultural use.**

**Greywater treatment is a method to reuse used water and save freshwater resources for drinking purposes.**

**In Latin America and Africa, natural filters are used in greywater filtration systems. We researched whether fibers like coconut husks, maize, and seeds remove chemical toxins from water, and if they could filter polluted freshwater the same as greywater. Through research, we found natural fibrous components with the potential to purify greywater: activated charcoal powder, moringa oleifera seeds, and crushed corn cob. Charcoal powder has been used in greywater treatments before, and it can replace chlorine as a natural disinfectant; the seeds contain a protein with an antimicrobial effect in water filtration; and the corn has the ability to trap chemicals in its pores and soak in excess salts like calcium and magnesium.**

**In Latin America and Africa, natural filters are used in greywater filtration systems.**

**First, we constructed a standard filter that would remove large contaminants from greywater. In a 2-liter plastic bottle, a quarter was filled with moist sand, which is effective at absorbing bacteria and dirt. The middle layer contained pebbles that capture large particles. The top layer contained moist wood chips, which has properties that contribute to the removal of oils and grease from the water. Cheesecloth was positioned between each layer to keep the contents in the filter organized. Then, 12 cups of greywater (pH of 7.7) was**

poured into the filter. Four cups of this water was placed into three separate containers with charcoal, seeds, and corn cob. We left the fibers to soak in greywater for at least 48 hours; and the treated water was then run through a sand filter. We then analyzed the filtered greywater for pH, chlorine, nitrate, nitrite, iron, hardness, and copper levels.

Only three percent of the water on Earth is freshwater that can be consumed by living creatures.

All three natural additives were successful in refining certain properties of greywater. The water filtered with corn cob filtered chlorine, nitrates, and concentrations of calcium and magnesium; however, the amount of iron that remained (0.3 ppm) is harmful for drinking and irrigation. If the iron level is over 0.1 ppm, it can cause discoloration in plants and may be toxic to plant tissue. The desired pH for agricultural irrigation ranges between 5.0-7.0. The water filtered with the seeds reduced chlorine, copper, nitrate, and iron levels to 0 ppm, the pH became more acidic, and the hardness increased from 100 ppm to 250 ppm. Although this concentration of minerals isn't ideal for drinking, the richness is beneficial for the health of agricultural crops (as long as it isn't over 250 ppm). The water filtered with charcoal produced similar results to the seeds: all tested chemical properties were 0 ppm, the pH became 5.0, and the hardness increased to 250 ppm.

Activated charcoal worked best to filter the greywater, but the seeds have the potential to successfully filter water for agriculture.

**WHAT THE COMMUNITY INNOVATION AWARD MEANS TO THEM:** This recognition is an honor to receive and it really motivates us to continue our research about STEM topics. The award is a reward that encourages us to keep learning about new ideas and working hard.

**HOW THEY FIRST BECAME INTERESTED IN STEM:**

I wanted to learn more about technology and the impact it has on society ... [so] I joined a Lego robotics team.

**Akshara:** I was first interested in STEM in fourth grade. I wanted to learn more about technology and the impact it has on society. To learn more, I joined a Lego robotics team. This experience furthered my passion for STEM and it allowed me to use critical thinking skills to develop solutions to problems in our community. Another reason I was interested in STEM is because of my parents' occupations. Both my parents are software engineers who have encouraged me to participate in STEM related programs. Their background has motivated me into learning more about science and technology.

My interest in STEM developed when I visited a facility for the blind in India ... the computers were designed to have Braille keyboards and voice-activated functions.

**Suditi:** My interest in the STEM field developed when I visited a facility for the blind in India. At the facility, the computers and devices were designed to all have Braille keyboards and voice-activated functions. Many of the children shared with me how these technologies allowed them to access the Internet for educational purposes, overcome the challenges of their visual disabilities, and reach their full potential. This experience led me to appreciate the positive impact scientific advances and technology have had on society. By personally

witnessing the ways technology can be applied to improve lives, my trip to the blind association really inspired my interest in STEM.

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**ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE FAIRS:** Science fairs are important because they encourage students to apply their skills to a STEM topic and share their ideas and research. Not only do students learn how to perform research for projects and conduct experiments through science fairs, they also gain motivation to expose themselves to various topics and opportunities in the STEM field.

**THEIR CURRENT STEM GOALS:**

**Akshara:** My current STEM goal is to continue learning more about the different fields in STEM and to implement my learning to help the community. I also want to pursue a career as a doctor and improve medical technologies in the future.

**Suditi:** My STEM goal is to continue to research topics and expose myself to situations where I can understand how science and technology can be used to improve the lives of others.

Make sure to follow your passion and always have fun doing it!

**AKSHARA'S ADVICE TO OTHERS INTERESTED IN STEM:** Make sure to follow your passion and always have fun doing it! Stay curious and open-minded about the ideas you learn about.

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From: "Randy Bovell" [RandyBovell@cofis.es](mailto:RandyBovell@cofis.es)

**STEPHEN HAWKING PREDICTS, "THIS PILL WILL CHANGE HUMANITY"**

Sunday, July 30, 2017" Special editorial by Jon Stewart from Forbes.



<http://thelimitlessmind.asia/88a09cad/bfadb24a2c7e/f01db60ab8ca/limitless?key=aER5clJOVnFSWGvFYjY4bW5DMkEyZEpONXJPZUZFNzZDVNSTNnRmxFdGhWVXhkTWtGcDNQZGF4dFdXaVQveWl4b1JCRU5kQkYvcil3SW9CWktoT0pjOVE0YnhjekxmamlzWFhrR2R6VTRqSEQxbG1IMGIXeZDUnlDa3VTVno5U3VLavYzaUxjWVBQMStochzWTF3PT0=>

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*For some reason Forbes will not allow me to cut and paste the article into this missive. So, you will have to go to the website and read it for yourself. UT*

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

**CAUTION: THE FOLLOWING IS PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICAL CORRECTNESS. BUT IT DOES ACTUALLY SAY WHAT A LARGE NUMBER OF THE RIGHT BELIEVE. IN THE WORLDS OF J.R.R.TOLKIEN, "IT HAS THE RING OF TRUTH TO IT." UT**

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

Fwd: Nevertheless and the left

As you all (should) know, I don't have anything to do with Face Book. This was FORWARDED to me (you can tell that from the "Fwd:" in the subject line, and by the marks down the left side margin of the forwarded text, the exact character depends on YOUR email client). Having noted all that, I would appreciate if you didn't take me to task for what is FORWARDED below - although, if you must know, I agree with it. :-)

**"My Leftist friends (as well as many ardent #Never Trumpers) and, if truth be told, many of us in the -"older" generation my addition) constantly ask me if I'm not bothered by Donald Trump's lack of decorum. They ask if I don't think his tweets are "beneath the dignity of the office." Here's my answer: We Right-thinking people have tried dignity. There could not have been a man of more quiet dignity than George W. Bush as he suffered the outrageous lies and politically motivated hatreds that undermined his presidency. We tried statesmanship. Could there be another human being on this earth who so desperately prized "collegiality" as John McCain? We tried propriety - has there been a nicer human being ever than Mitt Romney? And the results were always the same. This is because, while we were playing by the rules of dignity, collegiality and propriety, the Left has been, for the past 60 years, engaged in a knife fight where the only rules are those of Saul Alinsky and the Chicago mob. I don't find anything "dignified," "collegial" or "proper" about Barack Obama's lying about what went down on the streets of Ferguson in order to ramp up racial hatreds because racial hatreds serve the Democratic Party. I don't see anything "dignified" in lying about the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi and imprisoning an innocent filmmaker to cover your tracks. I don't see anything "statesman-like" in weaponizing the IRS to be used to destroy your political opponents and any dissent. Yes, Obama was "articulate" and "polished" but in no way was he in the least bit "dignified," "collegial" or "proper." The Left has been engaged in a war against America since the rise of the Children of the '60s. To them, it has been an all-out war where nothing is held sacred and nothing is seen as beyond the pale. It has been a war they've fought with violence, the threat of violence, demagoguery and lies from day one - the violent take-over of the universities - till today. The problem is that, through these years, the Left has been the only side fighting this war. While the Left has been taking a knife to anyone who stands in their way, the Right**

has continued to act with dignity, collegiality and propriety. With Donald Trump, this all has come to an end.

Donald Trump is America's first wartime president in the Culture War.

During wartime, things like "dignity" and "collegiality" simply aren't the most essential qualities one looks for in their warriors. Ulysses Grant was a drunk whose behavior in peacetime might well have seen him drummed out of the Army for conduct unbecoming. Had Abraham Lincoln applied the peacetime rules of propriety and booted Grant, the Democrats might well still be holding their slaves today. Lincoln rightly recognized that, "I cannot spare this man. He fights." General George Patton was a vulgar-talking, son-of-a-bitch. In peacetime, this might have seen him stripped of rank. But, had Franklin Roosevelt applied the normal rules of decorum then, Hitler and the Socialists would barely be five decades into their thousand-year Reich.

Trump is fighting. And what's particularly delicious is that, like Patton, as depicted in the movie, standing over the battlefield as his tanks obliterated Rommel's, he's shouting, "You magnificent bastards, I read your book!" That is just the icing on the cake, but it's wonderful to see that not only is Trump fighting, he's defeating the Left using their own tactics. That book is Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals – a book so essential to the Liberals' war against America that it is and was the playbook for the entire Obama administration and the subject of Hillary Clinton's senior thesis. Alinsky noted that the first successful radical was Lucifer and he gained a kingdom!!

Trump's tweets may seem rash and unconsidered but, in reality, he is doing exactly what Alinsky suggested his followers do. First, instead of going after "the fake media" and they are so fake that they have literally gotten every single significant story of the past 60 years not just wrong, but diametrically opposed to the truth, from the Tet Offensive to Benghazi, to what really happened on the streets of Ferguson, Missouri Trump isolated CNN. He made it personal. Then, just as Alinsky suggests, he employs ridicule which Alinsky described as "the most powerful weapon of all." ... Most importantly, Trump's tweets have put CNN in an untenable and unwinnable position. ... They need to respond. This leaves them with only two choices. They can either "go high" (as Hillary would disingenuously declare of herself and the fake news would disingenuously report as the truth) and begin to honestly and accurately report the news or they can double-down on their usual tactics and hope to defeat Trump with twice their usual hysteria and demagoguery. The problem for CNN (et al.) with the former is that, if they were to start honestly reporting the news, that would be the end of the Democratic Party they serve. It is nothing but the incessant use of fake news (read: propaganda) that keeps the Left alive. Imagine, for example, if CNN had honestly and accurately reported then-candidate Barack Obama's close ties to foreign terrorists (Rashid Khalidi), domestic terrorists (William Ayers), the mafia (Tony Rezko) or the true evils of his spiritual mentor, Jeremiah Wright's church. Imagine if they had honestly and accurately conveyed the evils of the Obama administration's weaponizing of the IRS to be used against their political opponents or his running of guns to the Mexican cartels or the truth about the murder of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and the Obama administration's cover-up. ...

So, to my friends on the Left and the #NeverTrumpers as well do I wish we lived in a time when our president could be "collegial" and "dignified" and "proper"? Of course I do.

These aren't those times. This is war. And it's a war that the Left has been fighting without opposition for the past 50 years. So, say anything you want about this president I get it, he can be vulgar, he can be crude, he can be undignified at times. I don't care I can't spare this man. He fights for America!"

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

ASK ANDREW W.K.: MY DAD IS A RIGHT-WING ASSHOLE

by ANDREW W.K., AUGUST 6, 2014

<https://www.villagevoice.com/2014/08/06/ask-andrew-w-k-my-dad-is-a-right-wing-asshole/>

Hi Andrew,

I'm writing because I just can't deal with my father anymore. He's a 65-year-old super right-wing conservative who has basically turned into a total asshole intent on ruining our relationship and our planet with his politics. I'm more or less a liberal democrat with very progressive values and I know that people like my dad are going to destroy us all. I don't have any good times with him anymore. All we do is argue. When I try to spend time with him without talking politics or discussing any current events, there's still an underlying tension that makes it really uncomfortable. Don't get me wrong, I love him no matter what, but how do I explain to him that his politics are turning him into a monster, destroying the environment, and pushing away the people who care about him?

Thanks for your help,

Son of A Right-Winger

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Dear Son of A Right-Winger,

Go back and read the opening sentences of your letter. Read them again. Then read the rest of your letter. Then read it again. Try to find a single instance where you referred to your dad as a human being, a person, or a man. There isn't one. You've reduced your father — the person who created you — to a set of beliefs and political views and how it relates to you. And you don't consider your dad a person of his own standing — he's just "your dad." You've also reduced yourself to a set of opposing views, and reduced your relationship with him to a fight between the two. The humanity has been reduced to nothingness and all that's left in its place is an argument that can never really be won. And even if one side did win, it probably wouldn't satisfy the deeper desire to be in a state of inflamed passionate conflict.

The world isn't being destroyed by democrats or republicans, red or blue, liberal or conservative, religious or atheist — the world is being destroyed by one side believing the other side is destroying the world. The world is being hurt and damaged by one group of people believing they're truly better people than the others who think differently. The world officially ends when we let our beliefs conquer love. We must not let this happen.

When we lump people into groups, quickly label them, and assume we know everything about them and their life based on a perceived world view, how they look, where they come from, etc., we are not behaving as full human beings. When we truly believe that some people are monsters, that they fundamentally are less human than we are, and that they deserve to have less than we do, we ourselves become the monsters. When we allow our emotions to be hypnotized by the excitement of petty bickering about seemingly important topics, we drift further and further away from the fragile and crucial human bond holding everything together. When we anticipate with ferocious glee the next chance we have to prove someone “wrong” and ourselves “right,” all the while disregarding the vast complexity of almost every subject — not to mention the universe as a whole — we are reducing the beauty and magic of life to a “side” or a “type,” or worst of all, an “answer.” This is the power of politics at it’s most sinister.

At its best, politics is able to organize extremely complex world views into manageable and communicable systems so they can be grappled with and studied abstractly. But even the most noble efforts to organize the world are essentially futile. The best we can usually achieve is a crude and messy map of life from one particular vantage point, featuring a few grids, bullet points, and sketches of its various aspects and landmarks. Anything as infinitely complex as life, reality, and the human experience can never be summed up or organized in a definitive system, especially one based on “left or right,” “A or B,” “us or them.” This is the fatal flaw of binary thinking in general. However, this flaw isn’t just ignored, it’s also embraced, amplified, and deliberately used as a weapon on the very people who think it’s benefiting their way of thinking.

Human beings crave order and simplicity. We cling to the hope that some day, if we really refine our world view and beliefs, we can actually find the fully correct way to think — the absolute truth and final side to stand on. People and systems craving power take advantage of this desire and pit us against each other using a “this or that” mentality. The point is to create unrest, disagreement, resentment, and anger — a population constantly at war with itself, each side deeply believing that the other is not just wrong, but also a sincere threat to their very way of life and survival. This creates constant anxiety and distraction — the perfect conditions for oppression. The goal of this sort of politics is to keep people held down and mesmerized by a persistent parade of seemingly life-or-death debates, each one worth all of our emotional energy and primal passion.

But the truth is, the world has always been and always will be on the brink of destruction. And what keeps it from actually imploding is our love for life and our deep-seeded desire not to die. Our love for our own life is inextricably connected to our love of all life and the miracle of this phenomenon we call “the world.” We must give all of ourselves credit every day for keeping things going. It’s an incredible achievement to exist at all.

So we must protect and respect each other, no matter how hard it feels. No matter how wrong someone else may seem to us, they are still human. No matter how bad someone may appear, they are truly no worse than us. Our beliefs and behavior don’t make us fundamentally better than others, no matter how satisfying it is to believe otherwise. We must be tireless in our efforts to see things from the point of view we most disagree with. We must make endless efforts to try and understand the people we least relate to. And we must at all times force ourselves to love the people we dislike the most. Not because it’s

nice or because they deserve it, but because our own sanity and survival depends on it. And if we do find ourselves pushed into a corner where we must kill others in order to survive, we must fully accept that we are killing people just as fully human as ourselves, and not some evil abstract creatures.

Love your dad because he's your father, because he made you, because he thinks for himself, and most of all because he is a person. Have the strength to doubt and question what you believe as easily as you're so quick to doubt his beliefs. Live with a truly open mind — the kind of open mind that even questions the idea of an open mind. Don't feel the need to always pick a side. And if you do pick a side, pick the side of love. It remains our only real hope for survival and has more power to save us than any other belief we could ever cling to.

Your friend,

Andrew W.K.

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!"
