

*The August 23rd, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!*

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Welcome to the August 23rd, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

Well, we survived the ellipse yesterday and I will say it would momentous. Living near Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, we were in the 99.1% footprint of the ellipse as it went overhead. We didn't get to see the ring around the sun, but we got to see everything else. It was definitely something to remember the rest of my life.

I have been watching the new about all of the screaming and hollering about tearing down the Confederate Monuments because they offend some people. I am having trouble understanding this myself because I take them as a marker for history and they are neither good or bad if they are just depicting historical figures. I know that some of you out there are offended by any slave owner. Does that mean we should tear down all the statues of George Washington or Thomas Jefferson or Andrew Jackson? I know that some extremist Muslims and die hard Atheists are offended by Christian Crosses and the Star of David. Does that mean they have to all come down so that someone is not offended? There is nothing in constitution of this country hat say you have the right to not be offended so get over it.

So, I started thinking about the knotty problem and have come up with an simple answer. It is the same solution that the people of Mississippi used to decide to keep their state flag when a few rabble rousers wanted to replace it with a more PC symbol. We live in a republic where the people decide what should and not be accepted. So, if an offensive statue or symbol is located on property a city owns, then at the next scheduled election it shall be put to a citywide ballot whether to keep the statue where it is or move it to a new location.

The same is true for county statuary and state statuary. The Confederate carvings at Stone Mountain State Park in Stone Mountain, Georgia come to mind. With regard to important national monuments like Mount Rushmore, the entire country shall vote on the issue at the next scheduled election.

The voters of the city, county, state and or nation shall decide to keep the statues, move them or get rid of them. These issues are too important to be left to the discretion of politicians who have their own agendas and not in the best interest of the people.

If you can't live with those results, you are free to move to some place else. I am proposing a simple solution but I would love hear your comments on it.

So on that "questioning 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>

**TVIW 2017, IN HUNTSVILLE, AL, OCT. 3-6, ANNOUNCES DR. ANDREW SIEMION AND A SF AUTHOR'S PANEL**

From: "Martha Knowles" [knowlesme@tviw.us](mailto:knowlesme@tviw.us)

**TVIW 2017, in Huntsville, AL, Oct. 3-6, announces Dr. Andrew Siemion and a SF Author's Panel**

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On Thursday, 5 October, Dr. Andrew Siemion will be speaking at the US Space and Rocket Center, in a TVIW sponsored public event. Dr. Siemion is an astrophysicist at the university of California (UC), Berkeley, and serves as Director of the US Berkeley Center for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Research. He will be speaking about SETI.

Also, there will be a SF author's panel on Friday night, Oct. 6, starting at 8:00 pm, at the Embassy Suites (800 Monroe Street, Huntsville).

Panelists will include: Larry Niven, Allen Steele, Greg Benford, Geoff Landis, Gray Reinhart, maybe more!

Barnes & Noble will be on hand selling books by these authors for you to get signed after the panel discussion.

Both events are open to the public! Come one, come all.

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

**ROCK AND ROLL: THE NEW MADRID FAULT SYSTEM - NEW BOOK FROM STEPHANIE OSBORN**

From: Stephanie Osborn

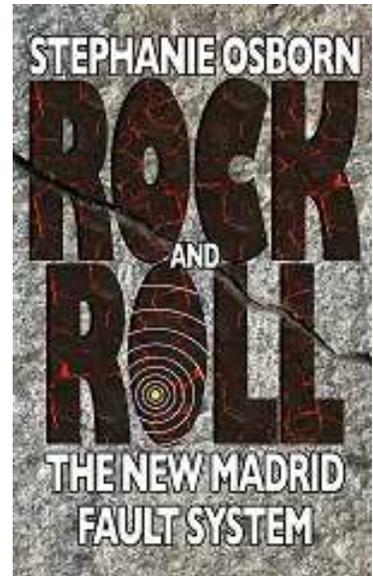
Rock and Roll: The New Madrid Fault System

ISBN:

978-0-9982888-8-8

Description:

The New Madrid Fault Zone is a large area in the central United States consisting of a couple of main faults and numerous secondary faults, as well as other significant geological structures and features. It produced an historic series of severe quakes in the winter of 1811-12, and it continues active to this day. It has a danger potential possibly exceeding that of the San Andreas fault plate boundary, but few people have ever heard of it. How did it form, what areas are in danger from it, and why is it so dangerous?



Kindle link:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B074SJ8ZPT>

Nook link:

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/rock-and-roll-stephanie-osborn/1126973723?ean=2940158848162>

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

**PROBABILIY BROACH WEB COMIC**

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

<http://www.bigheadpress.com/tpbtgn>

## *Presenting: The Compleat On-line Serialization of The Probability Broach: The Graphic Novel*

Forward

### THE MANY LIVES OF THE PROBABILITY BROACH

Do you believe in reincarnation?

I do, as far as my literary "firstborn" is concerned.

Originally, I conceived *The Probability Broach* in the mid-70s as a summary of all I'd ever learned about libertarianism, and, more importantly, the promise it offers of a better, more peaceful, more prosperous world than our authority-battered species has known for the last 10,000 years.

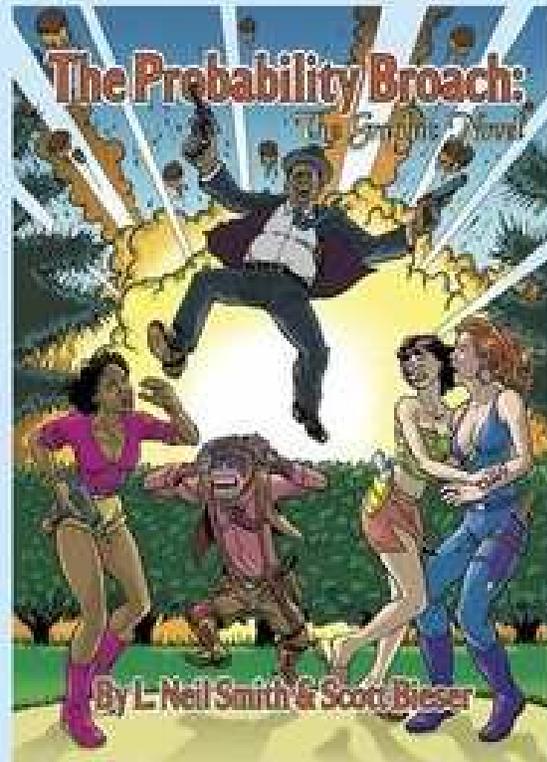
I know, it sounded boring, even then, like a political tract. So I determined to make it a political tract as full of sex, violence, and general silliness as I could cram in between the serious bits. And it worked. Although I'd never sold anything before except a handful of gun magazine articles, the novel was picked up by the first publisher that read it, and the rest, as they say, is history...

Well, not exactly.

My little book – the edition with the caped gorilla on the cover – was a hit with libertarians and, judging from mail and phone calls (there was no Internet back then) fulfilled my hope of bringing lots of new individuals into the movement. It also persuaded an even bigger number of folks to go out and buy their first firearm, something I'm just as proud of, and delight in reporting to liberals and neocons who'd rather see a woman raped in an alley and strangled with her own pantyhose than see her with a gun in her hand.

But for reasons still subject to debate, it took ten years to sell 40,000 copies, and was never reprinted by its original publisher.

Tired of seeing decade-old copies at signing parties for my other novels, and believing the world still needed *Win Bear* and friends, I had to mount what was, for me, a huge campaign to get *TPB* back into print. Dozens of distinguished friends – mine and the book's – helped with letters I mailed all at once to my new publisher, who had another book they wanted me to write. I said I would if *TPB* was part of the deal.



The result was the mass paperback with *Deejay* and *Oolooie* on the cover, followed by an edition with a gorgeous airship flying (I don't know why, but, okay) over Monument Valley.

Then the great Scott Bieser came into my life, followed by his equally great brother Frank: before I knew it, *TPB* was a "graphic novel".

And now it's the webcomic that you're about to start. Literarily speaking, although (oddly enough) there's never been a hardcover edition, *TPB* is an "old soul", and who can say what's next...

Anybody know a good movie producer?

L. Neil Smith  
September, 2006  
Fort Collins, Colorado

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**FAN IS SELLING ARTWORK**

From: "C. Blake Powers" [blake@blakepowers.net](mailto:blake@blakepowers.net)

Tim,

I am reluctantly putting some artwork back up for sale. I have a marvelous sketch by Kelly Freas that is both signed by him and he personalized and signed the matting, am asking \$100.

I also have Mark Maxwell's original painting "The Venus Experiment" that he did for Asimov's for sale, asking \$500. All offers considered on both paintings.



My last item of artwork for sale is a bronze statue, app. 62" tall, "Flowing in the Wind" by Fhighmuth. I am asking \$2,000 for this wonderful piece of art. It comes in a custom shipping/storage case.

Shipping not included on any item, esp. the statue. Photos attached, and glad to provide more detail to interested parties.



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**THE ORVILLE DEBUTS SEPTEMBER 10 ON FOX**

From: "Mel Boros" [boros@pobox.com](mailto:boros@pobox.com)

"The Orville" is a new hour-long SF series that begins on Sept. 10, 2017 (on FOX). A Google (or other) search should link to some very well done video trailers. It appears to have well developed story lines, an assorted crew (of plausible actors), and top

notch sets and CGI (for a TV show). And, it's a comedy (as one of the trailer text overlays states, "there's a crew loose").

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

WORLDCON 75 YOUTUBE CHANNEL

From: "Andrew Porter" [Aporter55@gmail.com](mailto:Aporter55@gmail.com)

Fri Aug 18, 2017 12:53 pm (PDT) . Posted by:

Here's the Helsinki Worldcon's YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT\\_U7RhKFr-lf4pusZY6q8A/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT_U7RhKFr-lf4pusZY6q8A/videos)

<http://tinyurl.com/ycfg5an4>

Lots of videos there.

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Re: Voter Fraud

From: "Adam Grim" [Grimaf23@hotmail.com](mailto:Grimaf23@hotmail.com)

If you read the article "Proof that Hillary's popular vote victory was a total fraud: local voter registrations found to exceed population" closely, you'll notice a few things. From the title alone three absurdity's pop out, that the legally meaningless popular vote was rigged, that the ruling party lost a rigged election, and that the "proof" of election fraud doesn't even look at the actual election. The body of the article is standard conspiracy theory stuff, cherry pick some facts and insist your explanation for them is the only one, ignoring other possibilities and refuting evidence. Think of the arguments for ancient aliens, faked moon landings, 9/11 truthers, face on Mars, etc. They all sound convincing unless you take a skeptical look at them. In this case, the articles premise rests on the ridiculous assumption that the only reason for errors on voter registration lists is to allow people to stuff the ballot. The difficulties involved in tracking who's died or left the county are ignored. Remember, never ascribe to malice that which is adequately explained by incompetence.

Try googling "Number of cases of voter fraud", you'll find that voter fraud isn't in the millions, it's one in million.

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

*Adam, I never have ever thought there were millions of fraudulent voters in any state (except for maybe California ; ^). But in some cases a few hundred votes can tip the results of an election. (See Florida, Michigan,...) All elections should be as right and proper as possible. And I would hope that the United States would adopt a reasonable voter ID law that would safeguard our sacred right to vote. Citizens should be allowed to vote to determine our future. Not Non-Citizens. UT*

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

Re: Introduction to last week's Revenge on the troubles in Charlottesville, VA.

From: "Martha Knowles" [wildwoman54@att.net](mailto:wildwoman54@att.net)

<sigh> I am still overwhelmed by the events in Charlottesville. It's like something out of the 30's and 40's in parts of Europe. To have it happening here, in America, saddens my soul. You note that 'both sides with the radical fringe elements' came to commit mayhem. I emphasize fringe here, because it wasn't just the Left or Right, it was the outliers that sparked the violence. I still believe the Left and Right can come to some peaceful resolution on all the issues that now seem to divide us so.

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

*When you can get both sides to sit down and talk about their grievances, you might not convince anyone but at least they will understand where you are coming from. UT*

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

Re: Introduction to last week's Revenge on the troubles in Charlottesville, VA.

From: "Jerry Pournelle" [jerry@jerrypournelle.com](mailto:jerry@jerrypournelle.com)

Now I'm a good old rebel,  
Now that's just what I am...

We learned that in grade school. In Tennessee the Klan – at least in my part – was considered lower class and spoken of disparagingly as a Yankee organization, while I learned in Tennessee history (6th grade? 5th?) that the actual Klan, started by Nathan Bedford Forrest in Tennessee, was disbanded as part of the compromise over the Hayes-Tilden election, which I doubt any Yankees ever heard of, because no one who had held any office under the Confederacy could hold any office in any state or city under Reconstruction.

It all ended when Forrest disbanded to Klan, which was revived in Michigan and Indiana after the turn of the century, and was far more popular in the North than ever it was in the South. I never met anyone who considered the Klan respectable when I was growing up in Memphis or in Capleville or back in Memphis when I went to Christian Brothers high school.

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*I think that Jerry pretty much summed it up on how we were raised in Memphis. Some people have some very interesting ideas about how southerners look at the radical right in the south and they couldn't be farther from the truth. UT*

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

Re: Introduction to last week's Revenge on the troubles in Charlottesville, VA.

From: "Marcia @ Gmail Illingworth" [marcia.illingworth@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.illingworth@gmail.com)

I know that it will come as no surprise to you that I seriously disagree with your account and assessment of this situation. Like you, I have been getting information from a number of sources. The most recent being reading the article you so thoughtfully linked. I can't believe we read the same article!

The NYT article pointed out that some of the Unite the Right group, not "so-called", as they themselves named their march, dressed in militia gear/uniforms and carrying assault weapons, arrived at the site of the demonstration well ahead of the agreed upon, permitted, start time.

The NYT article goes on to say that some of the counter-protestors were dressed in black, and wearing helmets (as, by the way, were some of the original protesters). NOWHERE does it say that they were carrying clubs! It does later state that an observer saw people begin clubbing each other. Was that literal? I don't know, nor do you. We were not there! If it was, why would it be alright for one group to carry assault rifles, but not alright for the other group to carry clubs? From my perspective, and again I am sure this will shock you, my knowledge of people in the Black Lives Matter movement, leads me to believe that those people might have been wearing helmets in expectation of being attacked. Gee, I can't imagine why they would think that!

As for the actions being cited as causing all of this to begin with, I totally understand why there is a movement to remove Confederate memorial statues from places of honor, and place them into museums. Yes, the Civil War is a part of our history. It was a war fought to preserve the "rights" of some human beings to OWN other human beings, after that "right" had been outlawed by the Federal government. Of course that wasn't the only reason cited in each state's Articles of Secession, but it was the main one, in every one of them.

The people who declared war on their own country, and then fired the first shot, were not heroes. Honoring them as if they were, is a constant slap in the face to every African American who has to look at them every single day. Did Germany preserve any structures honoring Hitler? You honor history that you are proud of.

Now, the silly extrapolation that this will lead to eliminating memorials to our Founding Fathers because some of them owned slaves. That's bollocks! They owned slaves when it was legal to do so. Over time, people began to realize the immorality of that practice. It was being abolished all over the world. Our country caught up with the times, and outlawed that practice. Now there is a move to stop rubbing people's noses in the fact that there were (and sadly, still are) people in this country who were willing to go to war to keep them in servitude. History is just that. It's not going to be forgotten or erased because statues and flags get moved to a museum.

I don't pick my friends and family based on their political beliefs. I do, however, feel a responsibility to share other points of view. I do know people in the BLM movement, which is why I know some of the advice they are given. And like you, I have seen the terrifying display of irrational hatred that is a large, burning cross. I will do anything in my power to ensure that my grandchildren never do.

In loving difference,  
Marcia

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

Re: Introduction to last week's Revenge on the troubles in Charlottesville, VA.

From: "Guy Lillian" [ghliii@yahoo.com](mailto:ghliii@yahoo.com)

Good piece to begin your latest REVENGE.

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

Re: Introduction to last week's Revenge on the troubles in Charlottesville, VA.

From: "John Stewart"

I agree with you 100% on Trump's comments. Both sides were "at fault". Excellent write-up.

The "Media" is on attack vis-a-vis anything Trump says. Getting tired of the Media.

Thanks.

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

From: "Martin L King" [kingjr\\_martin@yahoo.com](mailto:kingjr_martin@yahoo.com)



**MOST OF YOU CHILDREN WILL NOT GET THIS ONE. JUST ASK ONE OF THE OLD FARTS IN YOUR FAMILY TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU. UT**

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

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

### **TOO OLD**

Bob and Sam, two friends, met in the park every day to feed the pigeons, watch the squirrels and discuss world problems

One day Bob didn't show up. Sam didn't think much about it and figured maybe he had a cold or something..But after Bob hadn't shown up for a week or so, Sam really got worried.However, since the only time they ever got together was at the park, Sam didn't know where Bob lived, so he was unable to find out what had happened to him.

A month had passed, and Sam figured he had seen the last of Bob, but one day, Sam approached the park and-- lo and behold! --there sat Bob! Sam was very excited and happy to see him and told him so.Then he said, 'For crying out loud Bob, what in the world happened to you?' Bob replied, 'I have been in jail.' 'Jail!' cried Sam. What in the world for?"

Well,' Bob said, 'you know Sue, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where I sometimes go? "Yeah,' said Sam, 'I remember her. What about her?

'Well, the little gold-digging witch figured I was rich and she filed rape charges against me; and, at 86 years old, I was so proud that when I got into court, I pleaded 'guilty'. 'The judge gave me 30 days for perjury.'

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

### **CHURCH HUMOR**

#### **WHY GO TO CHURCH?**

One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going."

"Why not?" she asked.

"I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "(1), they don't like me, and (2), I don't like them."

His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church:

(1) You're 59 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"

#### **THE PICNIC**

A Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you'r missing. you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

### **THE USHER**

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps.

"Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row, please," she answered.

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired.

"No," he said.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"No," she said.

"Good," he answered.

### **SHOW AND TELL**

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object that represented their religion to share with the class.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am

Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Methodist, and this is a casserole."

### **THE TWENTY AND THE ONE**

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired.

As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean "

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So, tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church."

The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

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

### **5 Riddles**

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?

2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?

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3. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you throw it away?
4. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?
5. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!

**NO LOOKING! THE ANSWERS TO ALL FIVE THE RIDDLES ARE BELOW:**

**Answers:**

1. The third room. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead. That one was easy, right?
2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry (shot; held under water; and hung).
3. Charcoal, as it is used in barbecuing.
4. Sure you can name three consecutive days, yesterday, today, and tomorrow!
5. The letter e, which is the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.

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



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

From: "Jim Hollis" [jhollis@northsidesales.com](mailto:jhollis@northsidesales.com)

### ITALIAN FUNERAL

A Jewish man was leaving a convenience store with his espresso when he noticed a most unusual Italian funeral procession approaching the nearby cemetery. A black hearse was followed by a second black hearse about 50 feet behind the first one. Behind the second hearse was a solitary Italian man walking a dog on a leash. Behind him, a short distance back, were about 200 men walking in single file.

The Jewish man couldn't stand the curiosity. He respectfully approached the Italian man walking the dog and said: "I am so sorry for your loss, and this may be a bad time to disturb you, but I've never seen an Italian funeral like this. Whose funeral is it?"

"My wife's."

"What happened to her?"

"She yelled at me and my dog attacked and killed her."

He inquired further, "But who is in the second hearse?"

"My mother-in-law. She came to help my wife and the dog turned on her and killed her also"

A very poignant and touching moment of Jewish and Italian Brotherhood and silence passed between the two men.

The Jewish man then asked "Can I borrow the dog?"

The Italian man replied, "Get in line"

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

From: "Leon Jester" [rmlwj1@gmail.com](mailto:rmlwj1@gmail.com)

### DIFFERENT WAYS OF LOOKING AT THINGS

A little boy went up to his father and asked, 'Dad, where did my intelligence come from?' The father replied, 'Well, son, you must have got it from your mother, cause I still have mine.'

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'Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully,' the Divorce Court judge said, 'and I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week.'

'That's very fair, Your Honor,' the husband said. 'And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself.'

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A doctor examining a woman who had been rushed to the Emergency Room, took the husband aside, and said, 'I don't like the looks of your wife at all.'

'Me neither. Doc,' said the husband. 'But she's a great cook and really good with the kids.'

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\*\*\*

Two guys were discussing popular family trends on sex, marriage, and family values. Bill said, 'I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married, did you?' Bob replied, 'I'm not sure, what was her maiden name?'

---

An old woman goes to the Wizard to ask him if he can remove a curse she has been living with for the last 40 years.

The Wizard says, 'Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you.'

The old woman says without hesitation, 'I now pronounce you man and wife.'

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Two Reasons Why It's So Hard To Solve A Redneck Murder:

1. The DNA all matches.
2. There are no dental records.

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A blonde calls Delta Airlines and asks, 'Can you tell me how long it'll take to fly from San Francisco to New York City?'

The agent replies, 'Just a minute.'

'Thank you,' the blonde says, and hangs up.

---

Two Mexican detectives were investigating the murder of Juan Gonzalez.

'How was he killed?' asked one detective.

'With a golf gun,' the other detective replied.

'A golf gun! What is a golf gun?'

'I don't know. But it sure made a hole in Juan.'

---

Moe: 'My wife got me to believe in religion.'

Joe: 'Really?'

Moe: 'Yeah, until I married her I didn't believe in Hell.'

---

A man is recovering from surgery when the Surgical Nurse appears and asks him how he is feeling.

'I'm O.K. but I didn't like the four letter-words the doctor used in surgery,' he answered.

'What did he say?' asked the nurse.

'Oops!'

---

While shopping for vacation clothes, my husband and I passed a display of bathing suits. It had been at least ten years and twenty pounds since I had even considered buying a bathing suit, so I sought my husband's advice.

'What do you think?' I asked. 'Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?'

'Better get a bikini,' he replied. 'You'd never get it all in one.'

He's still in Intensive Care.

---

The graveside service just barely finished, when there was massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance.

The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, 'Well, she's there...

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

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

TH' KID

After 10 years, the wife starts to think their kid looks kinda strange so she decides to do a DNA test. She finds out that the kid is actually from completely different parents.

Wife: Honey, I have something very serious to tell you.

Husband: What's up?

Wife: According to DNA test results, this is not our kid.

Husband: Well, you don't remember, do you?? When we were leaving the hospital, we noticed that our baby had pooped. Then you said: Please go change the baby, I'll wait for you here. So I went inside, got a clean one and left the dirty one there.

Moral: Never give a man a job that he is unqualified to accomplish.

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

CYNICAL PHILOSOPHER...

♦ I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble but shouldn't that be an even number?

♦ I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

♦ When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body... men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

♦ Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

♦ America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

♦ You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

♦ Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

♦ My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

♦ I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

♦ Money talks ...but all mine ever says is good-bye.

♦ You're not fat, you're just... easier to see.

- ◆ If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.
- ◆ I always wondered what the job application is like at Hooters. Do they just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out?"
- ◆ I can't understand why women are okay that JC Penney has an older women's clothing line named, "Sag Harbor."
- ◆ My therapist said that my narcissism causes me to misread social situations. I'm pretty sure she was hitting on me.
- ◆ My 60 year kindergarten reunion is coming up soon and I'm worried about the 175 pounds I've gained since then.
- ◆ Denny's has a slogan, "If it's your birthday, the meal is on us." If you're in Denny's and it's your birthday, your life sucks!
- ◆ The pharmacist asked me my birth date again today. I'm pretty sure she's going to get me something.
- ◆ The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can be in a robe before you start looking like a mental patient.
- ◆ I think it's pretty cool how Chinese people made a language entirely out of tattoos.
- ◆ Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch!
- ◆ The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course, Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis, and he stayed drunk.

Now, go have a nice day!

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

**SO YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW EVERYTHING!**

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

*The August 23rd, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!*

*Page 16 of 47*

**A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.**

**A snail can sleep for three years.**

**Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.**

**All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.**

**Almonds are a member of the peach family.**

**An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.**

**Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.**

**Butterflies taste with their feet.**

**Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.**

**"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "MT".**

**February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.**

**In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.**

**If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.**

**If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.**

**It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.  
Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.**

**Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.**

**No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.**

**Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.**

**Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.**

**Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.**

**"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right.**

**The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.**

**The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.**

**The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.**

*The August 23rd, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!*

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The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewable Vitamins.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.

There, now you know everything

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

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



<https://patriotpost.us/humor/50875>

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



<https://patriotpost.us/humor/50875>

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

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

### DEATHBED DISTRIBUTION

Doug Pender lived all his life in the Florida Keys and is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons, are with him.

He asks for two witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes, and when all is ready he begins to speak:

"My son, Bernie, I want you to take the Ocean Reef houses."

"My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments between mile markers 100 and Tavernier."

"My son, Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the Marathon Government Center."

"Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the bayside on Blackwater Sound."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings, and as Doug slips away, the nurse says,

"Mrs. Pender, your husband must have been an extremely hard-working man to have accumulated all this property."

The wife replies, "The asshole had a paper route."

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

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

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

**CALIFORNIA FARMER GOES TO COURT AFTER FEDS FINE HIM MILLIONS FOR PLOWING HIS OWN FIELD**

Tim Pearce, The Daily Caller, August 15, 2017, BPR Wire

<http://www.bizpacreview.com/2017/08/15/california-farmer-goes-court-feds-fine-millions-plowing-field-525647>

John Duarte and the Army Corps of Engineers will face off in court Tuesday, four years after the federal government fined Duarte millions for "deep[ly] ripping" shallow pools of water on his land.

Duarte has refused to pay a penalty of \$2.8 million as well as purchase \$13 million in "mitigation credits" to compensate for polluting the pools, protected as "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act, according to the Weekly Standard.

The dispute between Duarte and the Army Corps of Engineers rests on the definition of "normal farming" practices, exempted from needing a permit under the Clean Water Act.

The Army Corps of Engineers claims normal means "ongoing," or a farming practice that is being repeated year after year. Duarte and the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), a nonprofit law group helping represent Duarte, claim that any reasonable agriculture activity can be classified as a normal farming practices, PLF attorney Tony Francois told The Daily Caller News Foundation.

The trial, being held in front of a U.S. district judge in Sacramento, is a battle over the penalty Duarte should pay, not Duarte's guilt. The court has already ruled that the farmer is guilty of polluting "waters of the U.S."

Duarte's lawyers are pushing for a ruling where Duarte will have to make a nominal payment of \$1 to satisfy the terms of being found guilty of breaking the Clean Water Act. Duarte will appeal the decision, however, no matter the outcome.

"The liability ruling, in a certain sense, brands the company as a prior violator and that can have an effect on future permitting actions ... so its important to make sure that, at the end

of the day, the right thing is done here,” Francois told TheDCNF. “The other thing is that the case sets a very bad precedent for agriculture in general.”

Obtaining a “dredge and fill” permit, the type of permit Duarte would have needed to plow his land, from the Army Corps of Engineers takes an average two years. The entire process can cost the applicant over \$250,000 in consultant fees alone, Francois says.

“You look at that permitting regime and, basically, you won’t grown any food if you needed that permit to farm,” Francois pointed out.

The trial is scheduled to take three weeks, however there is no hard limit on the actual length of time the trial can take. Duarte’s appeal will take the case to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

“We are optimistic,” Francois said. “We think that [the evidence] clearly shows on all of the factors that the judge has to consider that it favors a modest or nominal penalty rather than the astonishing pile of money the government has demanded.”

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

## **JUDGE ORDERS NEW SEARCH INTO HILLARY CLINTON EMAILS ... AND A COMPLETE SEARCH THIS TIME**

August 15, 2017 | Frieda Powers

<http://www.bizpacreview.com/2017/08/15/judge-orders-new-search-hillary-clinton-emails-complete-search-time-525616>

A Judicial Watch senior attorney hopes that after two years of stonewalling by the State Department, new orders by a federal judge will force the agency to finally produce Benghazi related emails and records.

Ramona Cotca, an attorney for the watchdog group, told Fox News it is “unbelievable” that five years after the 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate that left four Americans dead, they are still trying to gather all related documents.

A federal judge ruled last week that the State Department had not properly searched for all relevant documents pertaining to the attack that occurred under Hillary Clinton’s tenure as Secretary of State in the Obama administration. The court ordered the Department to search its own servers for emails from top Clinton aides that were related to the event.

That ruling is part of the Freedom of Information Act request filed by Judicial Watch back in 2015.

“The State Department has continued to stonewall with regard to compiling all the records about Benghazi,” Cotca said on “Fox & Friends Weekend,” explaining how the lawsuit request for all of Clinton’s emails related to the attack resulted in searches through her emails and those of her senior aides, including former deputy chief of staff, Huma Abedin, former chief of staff Cheryl Mills, and Jacob Sullivan, former director of policy planning.

“But, incredibly, they refused to search their own record keeping, from their own server,” Cotca said. “We don’t have a complete set yet of all of her (Clinton’s) emails” as the

released records to this date were “hand-selected” by the former secretary of state’s attorneys.

“The court finds that State’s search was inadequate insofar as it did not search the official state.gov e-mail accounts of Secretary Clinton’s three aides, and orders State to conduct a supplemental search of those accounts,” the ruling stated, according to The Hill.

The State Department must update the court on its supplemental search by Sept. 22.

“This is a very straightforward search. This search does not take more than a day,” Cotca explained.

“Hopefully the State Department will be forthcoming,” she added. “They should have done this two years ago when we filed the lawsuit.”

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

**WEATHER CHANNEL FOUNDER DENIES CLIMATE CHANGE, SO ‘PUT ME TO DEATH’**

**POSTED BY KEN STONE ON AUGUST 17, 2017 IN HOLLYWOOD**

<http://mynews1a.com/hollywood/2017/08/17/weather-channel-founder-denies-climate-change-so-put-me-to-death/>



Homepage graphic from John Coleman’s blog titled: MY BATTLE TO CORRECT THE BAD SCIENCE BEHIND THE “CLIMATE CHANGE” FRENZY. Image via johncolemantblog.com

John Coleman says Al Gore started it — the “global warming silliness.” But now the retired weatherman and founder of The Weather Channel is “horrified” to see San Diego Mayor

Kevin Faulconer channeling the ex-veep with a Climate Action Plan. It “just turns my stomach.”

John Coleman left KUSI in April 2014 after 20 years as meteorologist. Photo via Wikimedia Commons

“I think he saw money and power, and I don’t know what else he thought of it,” Coleman says of the Republican mayor. “I can’t believe he really [felt he] was going to save the city from some terrible fate.”

Coleman, 82, laughs during a lively phone chat from his home near Las Vegas.

“San Diego’s not going to go underwater. Period,” he says. “Not in my lifetime or yours or our kids’ lifetime. When the Earth ends in 4 1/2 billion years, it probably still won’t have flooded.”

He also mocks “the damn tsunami warning route signs that they put up all over the city,” which he calls “about as silly as anything I’ve ever saw in my life. The chance of a significant tsunami hitting Southern California is about as great as a flying saucer landing tonight at Lindbergh Field. It’s just sheer nonsense.”

Coleman also knows how many people regard his decade-old public arguments. As sheer nonsense.

He’s unapologetic.

“I’m just a dumb old skeptic — a denier as they call me — who ought to be jailed or put to death,” he says. “I understand how they feel. But you know something? I know I’m right. So I don’t care.”

That’s clear from his Twitter feed, “climate frenzy” blog and occasional political activism — he made hundreds of phone calls (reading a script) urging votes for Donald Trump during the primaries.

“I went to the opening of the Trump campaign headquarters in Nevada, and that sort of thing,” he says of the man who labels climate change a hoax. “I went to one of his rallies.”

Coleman aims to expose what he calls “Algorian” scientists fudging data and taking billions in government research grants for the sake of career advancement and economic comfort.

At KUSI-TV in San Diego, with financial backing from the Republican McKinnon family, Coleman hosted two hour-long documentaries critical of the notion of manmade climate change. He did many news pieces.

Coleman calls global warming a scientific issue, not a political one. “But since it had become a political issue, [Michael D. McKinnon] strongly supported my skeptical position on global warming,” he says. “If it hadn’t been for that, I probably would have retired much sooner. [KUSI] gave me a great platform from which to work.”

How did Coleman go from the clowning meteorologist of ABC's "Eyewitness News" in Chicago to the Kay-YOOOOOUUUU-Es-Eye crusader against "the greatest scam in history"?

Several stories are told.

Charles Homan of Columbia Journalism Review said Coleman "snapped" while watching an Eagles-Cowboys football game one Sunday night when TV studio lights were cut as a "green" gesture.

"I couldn't take it anymore," Coleman told Homan in that 2010 piece. "I did a Howard Beale."

Coleman also points to Gore's Oscar-winning "An Inconvenient Truth" of 2006. "I think the Al Gore movie probably stimulated me more than anything," he now says. "I'm happy to see that his new movie seems to be less than spectacular success."

But the seeds were planted decades before Coleman's 2007 manifestos.

Coleman credits Joseph D'Aleo, his meteorological director at The Weather Channel and forecast assistant at "Good Morning America."

"We started together in 1977, I guess," he says. "He's the one who has taught me about climate skepticism, about Algorian skepticism, and I learned it through him. And then I learned it through Willie Soon. It goes way, way back before 2007."

In January 2010, responding to an "Other Side" broadcast on KUSI but not using Coleman's name, research professor emeritus Richard Somerville of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography issued a 550-word, six-point "Response to Climate Change Denialism."

In July 2014, John P. Reisman offered a line-by-line rebuttal to Coleman's arguments in "The Amazing Story Behind the Global Warming Scam."

On July 1, 2017, fact-checking site Snopes.com labeled as "False" the assertion — circulating after Trump pulled out of the Paris climate accords — that "Weather Channel co-founder John Coleman provided evidence that convincingly refutes the concept of anthropogenic global warming."

Coleman went on several national shows after his April 2014 exit from KUSI, including Fox News (with Megyn Kelly) and CNN (with Brian Stelter), to make his case.

But Coleman confessed to Times of San Diego that his TV turns are drying up.

He says a CBS production company contacted him about an interview for an hour long TV show.

"And we talked and talked and everything was scheduled," Coleman says. "And then two days before the shoot was to occur, they called and said, 'Sorry, we have to cancel that. Thank you very much anyway.'"

"Because?" Coleman asked.

“Well, you know,” came the reply.

Said Coleman: “That happens all the time.”

Coleman doubles down: “I understand that there are plenty of people who rip me to shreds, and you can find strong and powerful put-downs on every topic I’m talking about. ... But the truth is that I know all about all that stuff, and I don’t give a rat’s ass, because I know I’m right.”

In the phone chat, Coleman was asked about “97 percent of climate scientists” citing manmade change.

Coleman shot back: “Do you believe that? That’s sheer nonsense.”

He called it a “totally contrived figure” that gained ultimate currency when it was “uttered by President Obama. ... But it’s totally fabricated. The so-called research that came up with that 97 percent was done by people who were looking to produce that figure and had to manipulate everything they got.”

He directed me to [wattsupwiththat.com](http://wattsupwiththat.com) to view “eight or nine well-done articles that debunk the 97 percent.”

So where did the 97 percent come from?

Coleman’s says it’s just the share of scientists who agree the earth is warming, which even Coleman concedes.

“You’ve had Ice Ages and glacial periods, warm spells, one after another, cycling back and forth,” he says. “And certainly man didn’t cause any of them. They’re all natural events.”

He says the American Meteorological Society, in its most recent survey, “came up with about 47 percent skeptical, so 53 percent support (manmade climate change). And that’s after the society did everything they can to promote it. The society has been totally politicized. And still they can’t get all their members aboard.”

But contacted this week, AMS spokesman Tom Champoux provided links to several reports and blogs, including its 2016 survey of members which found “only 5 percent [of survey respondents] said that climate change was ‘largely or entirely’ due to natural events.”

“Mr. Coleman’s assertion that the 97 percent figure is ‘totally contrived’ and was ‘uttered by President Obama’ is in no way accurate,” said Champoux, who pointed to a British science nonprofit’s conclusion that “amongst 1,381 papers self-rated by their authors as stating a position on human-caused global warming, 97.2 percent endorsed the consensus.”

The AMS survey did find a 53 percent figure, however: “A total of 4,092 AMS members participated, with participants coming from the United States and internationally. The participation rate in the survey was 53.3 percent.”

Another evergreen Coleman critique is that billions of dollars of research grants go only to scientists who support the global warming theory: “You MUST take the Algerian side or you’re dead meat.”

He cites “the great Judith Curry,” an accomplished climate scientist who left her job at Georgia Tech “because she couldn’t handle it anymore” — reaction to her skeptical positions. He noted “my great friend Willie Soon at the Smithsonian Institute, whose life has been turned to hell because of his position.”

He says the power of money — \$20 billion a year — buys opinion. “But even THAT has not produced a 97 percent consensus, so that consensus figure is a dead-in-the-ringer lie.”

But what about that fact Republicans control the pursestrings?

Coleman is ready.

“Have you heard the chant ‘Drain the swamp’? I don’t think the swamp is only Democrats and bureaucrats. ... Lord help me, the Republican Congress is very unlikely to cut off funding projects of the Scripps Oceanographic Institute or Woods Hole or any of the others. The Republican Party, they’re a slimy fish swimming through the swamp.”

Coleman agrees that Trump would like to shut the spigot. But not because he has a strong position on climate science. It’s just for budget savings.

“But I’m also confident that his family ... they’re going to have dinner with him at night: ‘Hey, Dad, we got to keep this money flowing.’ So I don’t know how successful it will be. But I know the two most powerful forces on earth are sex and money. And by God it’s really hard to shut off the money. And it’s really hard to not go for the sex.”

What about Sacramento’s cap-and-trade measure — passed with GOP help?

“Just pure and total embarrassing nonsense,” Coleman says, “And another darn good reason not to live in California. If I have to get a passport to come see my son in Palm Springs in the future, so be it. That state has gotten so silly. Oh my God, I’m so glad I don’t live there.”

He calls efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions “an insult to the average American family,” whose energy costs already rise \$2,500 a year “because of the threat of so-called global warming. And that cap-and-trade will take it up to probably \$4,800 a year.”

“That takes phones away from the kids, or they don’t get new tablets so they can do their homework right. Or the college fund is down. Or clothes or vacations. It hurts that family very deeply. And these politicians who live on the top edge don’t have any understanding or feeling for the average people. And it drives ... me ... nuts,” he says, pausing between words for emphasis.

Does Coleman regard La Jolla’s prestigious Scripps Institution of Oceanography — a groundbreaker in climate studies — as doing fake science?

“I think that they are dead wrong,” Coleman says. “I think the Keeling Curve is excellent science — the measurement of carbon [dioxide] in the atmosphere through the years and

the development of that good steady flow of data. That's a very good scientific piece of work."

But the rest of Scripps' studies?

"Just pathetic," he says. "And it drives me nuts. A fine institution just went ... where the money is. Without that money, hundreds of people would have to be let go."

He asks: "Have you looked at my video where I tell about that dispute between [Scripps and UCSD legend] Roger Revelle and [his Harvard student] Al Gore? I gather it didn't impress you. I'm convinced that it's correct [that climate scientist Revelle didn't urge action on human-caused global warming]. By the way, that has over a million views on YouTube."

(Revelle's daughter Carolyn said Coleman and others took his remarks out of context.)

A spokeswoman for Scripps — once ranked No. 1 in the nation for earth and environmental sciences by the journal *Nature* — said Somerville's post still holds up seven years later, and she also noted that "while Mr. Coleman was at KUSI he was invited here many times to see the research in action and talk to scientists. He never came."

Mayor Faulconer's office did not respond to a request for comment.

But Masada Disenhouse did. The founder of climate action group SanDiego350 — who helped organize the downtown Climate March in April — defended the mayor and countered Coleman on other issues.

"I think that the mayor of San Diego took climate change seriously and has moved to address it is because it's been clear from polling, elections, growing climate marches and activism, and other indicators, that the people of San Diego increasingly support moving to clean energy and addressing the climate crisis," she said Wednesday via email. "And when the people lead, the elected officials who represent them follow."

On Coleman's rejection of a waterlogged San Diego: "While Mr. Coleman may be in denial about it, coastal flooding due to sea level rise is already a problem in our coastal areas like Imperial Beach, Mission Beach and Carlsbad, with some areas expected to flood regularly at high tide in the next few decades."

Disenhouse says Miami and New Orleans are a preview — "facing flooding from high tides even on sunny days on a regular basis right now."

In 2015, she noted, SanDiego350 drew a chalk line in Mission Beach's retail area to show where high tide would reach if trends continue until 2050.

Disenhouse defended efforts to wean the economy from fossil fuels.

"California's economy has been growing as it has reduced its energy use per person and begun to bring down greenhouse gas emissions," she says. "In fact, the renewable energy sector has been hugely successful in California, one of the fastest growing job sectors."

But here Coleman concurs.

“I love solar power,” he says. “But what does that have to do with climate change? Not a dibble-dee-do-dot.”

He says people assume that that if he’s a climate skeptic or opposed to cap-and-trade that he’s against solar or wind power or environmentalism, “or I want to fill the oceans with plastic or something.”

Coleman insists: “I am an environmentalist through and through. So don’t give me any of that. My son has solar on his house. And pays \$16 a month for power in Palm Springs, and I’m excited about the future of graphene.”

He says a day will come when homes are coated with graphene paint and homeowners “disconnect the power line.” Same with the car.

“The age of fossil fuels and the electric grid will come to an end,” Coleman says. “Not in my lifetime, but possibly in yours. Time will tell and it’s all wonderful. Our life is good today not because a bunch of politicians have made laws and regulations and try to tell us how to live. Our lives are good today because of science.”

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

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

From: "Randy Bovell" [crbovell@epbfi.com](mailto:crbovell@epbfi.com)

## **BARBARY NAVAL BATTLE**

Here’s a great story of a naval battle that shows what the US Navy was up against, fighting the pirates.

In his book, "Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates," Brian Kilmeade wrote about one of the first naval battles fought by the US Navy against the Barbary Coast pirates.

On 1 August 1801, while blockading the Tripoli harbor, the schooner USS Enterprise (third ship with that name) was sent to Malta, to take on water for herself and the USS Philadelphia. Another ship appeared in the distance, so the Enterprise approached, flying the British flag. Tripoli had declared war on America, but they were at peace with the British.

On approaching the unknown ship, Lt. Sterett, identified her as the pirate corsair Tripoli. When the distance closed, Sterett asked the pirates what they were doing. They replied that they were looking for Americans to attack, but had not found any. They got what they wanted.

Sterett ordered the British flag lowered, and the American flag raised. The Enterprise immediately fired her 6 pounder guns on the pirates, at close range, holing the Tripoli in several places above the waterline, and shooting away one mast. The pirate admiral stuck his colors, as a sign of surrender. The Enterprise ceased firing, and raised three cheers in victory. The pirate raised her colors, and began firing on the Enterprise, a clear betrayal of naval protocol of the time. The American guns again raked the Tripoli. The pirates attempted to board the Enterprise, for hand to hand combat. Marines firing from the

rigging put an end to that idea. After the pirates struck their colors, and raised them two more times, Sterett continued firing until the pirates dropped their colors into the sea.

After the firing ceased, all that could be heard were the moans of the wounded and dying aboard the Tripoli. The Enterprise suffered no casualties nor damage. The Tripoli was allowed to sail away on a makeshift sail, because the Enterprise was ordered to take no prizes.

<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)

VIDEO: CASSINI'S GRAND FINALE

<https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/sciencecasts/cassinis-grand-finale>

Video Length: 3:20

Cassini is in the process of executing 22 daring 'Grand Finale' dives in the 1,200-mile gap between Saturn and its innermost ring, concluding with an epic final plunge into the gas giant's upper atmosphere.

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

NEW GLASS BLOCKS MAY BE A CLEAR CHOICE FOR SOLAR POWER

Ben Coxworth August 16, 2017

<http://newatlas.com/solar-squared-glass-blocks/50925/>



Solar Squared blocks should hit the market in 2018

Buildings have a lot of surface area that's exposed to sunlight, so why just stop at rooftop solar panels? We've already seen solar energy-harvesting windows, and of course Tesla's solar roof.

Thanks to research being carried out at the University of Exeter, we may soon also have the option of replacing opaque exterior walls with solar glass blocks.

Known as Solar Squared, the transparent blocks contain multiple optical elements that each focus incoming sunlight onto an individual solar cell. All of the cells within each block are linked together, and the blocks themselves can in turn be wired to one another, ultimately feeding into the building's electrical grid or a battery.

Although much of the sunlight passes right through the blocks to illuminate the building's interior, tinting can be added on their inside surface to keep rooms from overheating. As a side benefit, they're claimed to offer better thermal insulation than traditional glass blocks.

The technology is being developed by spinoff company Build Solar, which is currently looking for partners to help carry out commercial testing. It is hoped that a finished product will be available by sometime next year. There's currently no word on cost or efficiency.

Sources: University of Exeter, Build Solar

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## SCIENTISTS COOK UP MAGIC MUSHROOMS' PSYCHEDELIC RECIPE

By Nathaniel Scharping | August 15, 2017 3:03 pm

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2017/08/15/mushrooms-psilocybin-lab/#.WZXeqVF95PY>

Psychedelic mushrooms. (Credit: atomazul/Shutterstock)

Scientists have known about psilocybin, the psychoactive ingredient in "magic mushrooms," ever since Albert Hofmann isolated it in 1958. It's taken until now, however, for them to figure out how it's produced.

Researchers at Friedrich Schiller University Jena in Germany sequenced the genomes of two psychedelic mushroom species and used the information to identify four key enzymes involved in the process of creating psilocybin. Knowing how the mushrooms make the compound opens the door to large-scale bioengineering of the chemical that has increasingly been shown to benefit people suffering from depression, alcoholism and other disorders.



Farming or genetically-engineering fungi is difficult, so mass-producing psilocybin with the kind of quality controls demanded by the drug industry has never before been feasible. Now that the pathway and ingredients are known, the process could potentially be applied on an industrial scale. For their study, the researchers engineered bacteria to reproduce some of the steps involved in synthesizing psilocybin as a test of the process. They ended up with a simplified approach to producing the compound that could be applied on a larger scale in the future.

The process, published in the journal *Angewandte Chemie*, starts with a molecule called 4-hydroxy-L-tryptophan and strips off a carbon dioxide molecule before adding on phosphorus and methyl groups. Each step takes a different enzyme — in fungi it takes four, but the researchers were able to slim it to three with their method.

There was one attempt to figure out the series of steps that turns tryptophan into psilocybin back in 1968, but researchers got the order wrong. The subsequent Schedule 1 classification of the drug forestalled further research. In recent years, there's been something of a psychedelic science renaissance, and small-scale studies have begun to reveal myriad benefits to psilocybin and have reinforced its safety. As with any drug, however, producers must ensure that their product meets stringent safety protocols. Bringing the synthesis of psilocybin out of the woods and into the lab is a big step toward potentially putting psychedelics on the market.

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## DEADLINE FOR GOOGLE LUNAR X PRIZE MOON RACE EXTENDED THROUGH MARCH 2018

By Mike Wall, Space.com Senior Writer | August 16, 2017 12:00pm ET

<https://www.space.com/37813-google-lunar-x-prize-deadline-extended-march-2018.html>



Artist's illustration showing Moon Express' MX-1E spacecraft descending toward the lunar surface carrying a suite of science and exploration instruments. Florida-based Moon Express is one of five teams left in the \$30 million Google Lunar X Prize. Credit: Moon Express

The five teams left in a \$30 million race to the moon now have a bit more time to accomplish their missions — and the chance to win some additional money along the way. The Google Lunar X Prize (GLXP) is offering \$20 million to the first privately funded team that soft-lands a spacecraft on the moon, moves it at least 1,640 feet (500 meters), and transmits high-definition photos and video back to Earth. The second team to complete those tasks gets \$5 million, and another \$5 million is available for a variety of other accomplishments, bringing the total purse to \$30 million.

GLXP guidelines had stated that teams must launch by Dec. 31 of this year to be eligible for the grand or second-place prize. But that has changed: Teams now must complete their missions by March 31, 2018, and the launch date is not a factor anymore, GLXP representatives said today (Aug. 16). [Google Lunar X Prize: The Private Moon Race Teams (Images)]

Contest organizers are dangling an additional \$4.75 million in new "milestone prizes" as well: \$1.75 million for arriving at the moon (descending directly to the surface or completing at least one lunar orbit) and \$3 million for proof of a soft lunar landing.

This money will be split evenly among all the teams that pull off the feats, GLXP representatives said. (Milestone prizes count toward, and do not boost, the total purse of a team that wins the grand or second prize. For example, if one team alone claims the \$4.75 million for arrival and proof of landing, and it also later wins the grand prize, its purse will still be \$20 million, not \$24.75 million.)

"X Prize and Google are thrilled to offer these additional in-space milestone prizes as a further incentive for finalist teams and to recognize the full gravity of these bold technological feats taking place in the race to the moon," GLXP Senior Director Chanda Gonzales-Mowrer said in a statement.

The five teams left in the competition — out of more than two dozen that have vied for the prize at some point over the last decade — are Florida-based Moon Express, Israel's SpacEL, Hakuto from Japan, India-based TeamIndus and the international collaboration Synergy Moon.

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## **BROWNS FERRY NUKE PLANT TO INCREASE POWER OUTPUT**

Decatur Daily, August 17, 2017

[http://www.energycentral.com/news/browns-ferry-nuke-plant-increase-power-output?utm\\_medium=eNL&utm\\_campaign=DAILY\\_NEWS&utm\\_content=0&utm\\_source=2017\\_08\\_18](http://www.energycentral.com/news/browns-ferry-nuke-plant-increase-power-output?utm_medium=eNL&utm_campaign=DAILY_NEWS&utm_content=0&utm_source=2017_08_18)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Wednesday approved a TVA request to increase the power-generating capacity of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant in Limestone County.

The uprate will allow the nuclear plant to increase its power-generating capacity by 14.3 percent by increasing the maximum operating temperature of each of the plant's three reactors and upgrading related systems.

In a statement, the NRC said staff had reviewed the Tennessee Valley Authority's evaluations showing the plant "can handle the increased power level" and that NRC had conducted an independent confirmation of the calculations.

"The NRC staff determined that TVA could safely increase the reactors' output primarily by upgrading certain plants systems and components," the NRC said in a statement.



The NRC assessment focused on nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, and accident evaluations.

TVA spokesman Jim Hopson said the uprate would enable the plant to produce an additional 450 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 200,000 homes. "It's a significant output in power," he said.

Hopson did not have a projection for the capital investment required but said some of the equipment already has been installed.

Economically, the uprate is less expensive for TVA than building a new power plant, but the uprate is not risk free.

David Lochbaum, director of nuclear safety for the Union of Concerned Scientists and a former engineer at Browns Ferry, said the Quad Cities Nuclear Generating Station in Illinois had problems with metal fatigue caused by vibrating steam pipes when it underwent a similar uprate about a decade ago.

The plant had to shut down for repairs, and later plants that underwent uprates installed additional sensors to detect vibrating pipes caused by more steam rushing through the pipes.

Additionally, Lochbaum said the Browns Ferry uprate will not increase the size of the torus safety devices in each reactor, reducing safety margins in the event of accident. Each torus

contains about 2 million gallons of water and is designed to absorb nuclear energy in the event of an accident.

That means the same amount of water would have to absorb about 20 percent more energy created by the updated reactors in the event of an accident, he said.

"The good news is that Browns Ferry is benefiting from the problems that others have faced," Lochbaum said.

Because nuclear is among TVA's cheapest and most reliable sources of energy compared to coal- and natural gas-fired plants, Hopson said consumers could see lower monthly fuel cost adjustments as a result of the update.

Currently, about 38 percent of TVA's total energy output comes from nuclear power compared to about 24 percent coal and 21 percent natural gas. Hopson said he did not have a projection for how the proportion of power production would change with the update.

TVA does not plan to announce the closure of any additional coal or natural gas plants as a result of the update, beyond what the authority already has announced, Hopson said.

Citing a need for economic efficiencies, TVA closed its only two coal plants in Alabama in 2015 and 2016 and plans to phase out two coal plants in Tennessee in the future, converting one to less expensive natural gas.

TVA plans to implement the update for reactor Unit 3 in the spring of 2018, for reactor Unit 1 in the fall of 2018, and for reactor Unit 2 in the spring of 2019.

evan.belanger@decaturdaily.com or 256-340-2439. Twitter @evanbelanger.

(c)2017 The Decatur Daily (Decatur, Ala.)

*I spent many a day at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. Good people and a good plant. UT*

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## **NASA COMPLETES SPACE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

David Szondy August 19, 2017

<http://newatlas.com/nasa-space-communications/50962/>

**NASA's Tracking and Data Relay Satellite-M (TDRS-M) lifting off from Cape Canaveral (Credit:NASA)**

NASA's next-generation orbital tracking and communications network has been completed, with the sixth and final Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS) blasted into orbit on Friday. The Boeing-built TDRS-M lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida atop a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket. It is reported to be in good health and will enter service next year after a four-month checkout.

In the early decades of the Space Age, communications and tracking of important missions was entirely dependent on ground stations. This meant that spacecraft like Skylab, launched in 1973, were only in contact with mission control during the fleeting moments

when they were above the horizons of various tracking stations distributed around the world.



Established in 1973, the TDRS project was introduced to provide NASA with a Space Network that uses a constellation of orbital satellites to provide continuous tracking and high-data-rate communications with the International Space Station, the Hubble Space Telescope, launch vehicles, and other spacecraft in low-Earth orbit.

Boeing-built TDRS-M working its way through Boeing's El Segundo satellite factory as it readies for launch (Credit: Boeing)

The first satellite, TDRS-1, was launched in 1983. TDRS-M and its five counterparts are the latest in the series, the first of which was sent up in 2000.

"The TDRS fleet is a critical connection delivering science and human spaceflight data to those who can use it here on Earth," says Dave Littmann, the TDRS project manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. "TDRS-M will expand the capabilities and extend the lifespan of the Space Network, allowing us to continue receiving and transmitting mission data well into the next decade."



Sources: NASA, Boeing

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## **CPU ARCHITECTURE AFTER MOORE'S LAW: WHAT'S NEXT?**

As Moore's Law loses relevance, specialization may have to replace raw speed in microprocessor design.

By Lamont Wood, Contributing Writer, Computerworld | JUL 24, 2017 3:00 AM PT  
<http://www.computerworld.com/article/3209724/computer-processors/cpu-architecture-after-moores-law.html?upd=1503246431748>

When considering the future of CPU architecture, some industry watchers predict excitement, and some predict boredom. But no one predicts a return to the old days, when speed doubled at least every other year.

The upbeat prognosticators include David Patterson, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who literally wrote the textbook (with John Hennessy) on computer architecture. "This will be a renaissance era for computer architecture — these will be exciting times," he says.

Not so much, says microprocessor consultant Jim Turley, founder of Silicon Insider. "In five years we will be 10% ahead of where we are now," he predicts. "Every few years there is a university research project that thinks they are about to overturn the tried-and-true architecture that John von Neumann and Alan Turing would recognize — and unicorns will dance and butterflies will sing. It never really happens, and we just make the same computers go faster and everyone is satisfied. In terms of commercial value, steady, incremental improvement is the way to go."

They are both reacting to the same thing: the increasing irrelevance of Moore's Law, which observed that the number of transistors that could be put on a chip at the same price doubled every 18 to 24 months. For more to fit they had to get smaller, which let them run faster, albeit hotter, so performance rose over the years — but so did expectations. Today, those expectations remain, but processor performance has plateaued.

## **THE PLATEAU AND BEYOND**

"Power dissipation is the whole deal," says Tom Conte, a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology and past president of the IEEE Computer Society. "Removing 150 watts per square centimeter is the best we can do without resorting to exotic cooling, which costs more. Since power is related to frequency, we can't increase the frequency, as the chip would get hotter. So we put in more cores and clock them at about the same speed. They can accelerate your computer when it has multiple programs running, but no one has more than a few trying to run at the same time."

The approach reaches the point of diminishing returns at about eight cores, says Linley Gwennap, an analyst at The Linley Group. "Eight things in parallel is about the limit, and hardly any programs use more than three or four cores. So we have run into a wall on getting speed from cores. The cores themselves are not getting much wider than 64 bits. Intel-style cores can do about five instructions at a time, and ARM cores are up to three, but

beyond five is the point of diminishing returns, and we need new architecture to get beyond that. The bottom line is traditional software will not get much faster.”

“Actually, we hit the wall back in the ’90s,” Conte adds. “Even though transistors were getting faster, CPU circuits were getting slower as wire length dominated the computation. We hid that fact using superscalar architecture [i.e., internal parallelism]. That gave us a speedup of 2x or 3x. Then we hit the power wall and had to stop playing that game.”

Since then, “We have done the trick of moving from one big, inefficient core to many small, efficient ones,” Patterson adds. “For general-purpose applications, we have run out of ideas for making them faster. The path forward is domain-specific architecture.”

In other words, device makers will be adding processors that do specific, narrow tasks, but do them better than standard microprocessors, he believes.

[ Further reading: A.I. starts to deliver in the enterprise, at last ]

The trend is already well under way in the smartphone field, led by ARM Holdings, the leading smartphone CPU source. Ian Smythe, senior director at ARM, estimates that the typical smartphone may have 10 to 20 processors, including cores running the operating system and apps.

Under ARM’s so-called big.LITTLE architecture, half the processor cores — the big ones — are designed to run foreground apps at maximum speed and have extra circuits for features such as branch prediction and out-of-order execution. The LITTLE cores run background apps with maximum power efficiency. The other processors would handle things such as power management, sensors, video, audio, wireless connectivity, touchscreen management and fingerprint recognition, he says.

“The performance boost should be significant to justify the overhead of moving a workload off the CPU to an accelerator,” says Smythe. “With graphics and video they were justified and, moving forward, neural networking appears amenable to these solutions.”

Indeed, sources agree that neural networking processors will become increasingly popular, since they can expedite machine learning, which is used for machine vision, natural-language recognition and other forms of artificial intelligence.

An example might be Wave Computing’s latest processor, which has 16,000 cores. The idea, explains CTO Chris Nicol, is to avoid the expenditure of energy needed to move data in and out of a standard, sequential CPU.

“The cores are designed so that the result of one can be used as the operand in another in the very next cycle,” says Nicol. He calls the results “spatial computing” and says the process can be conceptualized as a two-dimensional grid, with time as the third dimension. The acceleration factor over conventional processing is about 600, he adds. The end-user version, shipping by the end of the year, will be used as a neural networking appliance rather than a general-purpose computer, he adds.

“Once trained, a neural network can run on your phone using a smaller, domain-specific processor,” explains Patterson.

On the downside, specialized processors run specialized software that requires its own tools and compilers. “The proliferation of CPUs is really horrible from a software perspective, and people held out against it for as long as possible, but it is the only way now,” notes Krste Asanovi?, a professor at UC Berkeley.

Specialized programming frameworks have arisen to combat the chaos, says Steve Roddy, director at Cadence Design Systems, which licenses domain-specific processor (DSP) designs. “They enable programmers to write code that can be platform-independent and lets the box makers apply different levels of resources. Each chipmaker has to decide how to support the framework on that chip — the high end might run on a DSP, while at the low end the same code might run on the CPU. That way the developer does not need to know every detail in order to write Angry Birds on multiple phones.”

Several frameworks have arisen just for neural networking, notes Patterson, including TensorFlow from Google; the Microsoft Cognitive Toolkit, or CNTK; and Amazon’s MXNet.

“They are also a target for the hardware and make it easier for the architect to get the software to run on the hardware,” he notes.

#### **DIRECT LANGUAGE EXECUTION**

Frameworks would be unnecessary, and the software would presumably run faster, if a processor could directly execute the commands of a higher-level language, such as Java. But so far the idea has not proved practical.

“People try from time to time, but they have failed miserably in every case,” explains Turley. “The first 50% or 75% of the chip goes really well, investors put in more money, and there are beer bashes every Friday. But then comes the last 25%, and it is really hard, and the results are not that much faster. So they have failed one by one.”

“Existing processors are optimized to run Linux and Windows about as fast as they can, and there’s no obvious way to make them run faster that is not already built in,” notes Gwennap. “Linux and Windows are a big pile of code. Trying to figure out how to accelerate the code is complicated, so the alternative is just to try to do everything reasonably well.”

“It turns out that compilers are a good idea and offer many advantages,” Patterson adds.

#### **THE QUANTUM ROUTE**

In the quest for speed, the best direction would appear to be quantum computing, which avoids the physical limitations of the classical world around us by relying on the quantum physics of the exotic subatomic world. Academics have proposed ways to make logic gates based on quantum mechanics and thereby construct general-purpose quantum processors. But the only quantum computing vendor on the market, D-Wave Systems, is not doing that — yet.

Its latest model has 2,048 quantum bits, called qubits, but processing is not based on binary logic gates as with conventional machines, explains Jeremy Hilton, D-Wave’s senior vice president. “If you can create entangled states between the bits, you can perform logic

operations on all of them simultaneously,” he notes, adding that the process takes five microseconds.

“Within five years we see it as fairly ubiquitous in the cloud and accessible for developers,” he adds.

“The technology uses quantum superposition and entanglement to measure the probability of bit combinations,” adds Tom Hackenberg, an analyst at IHS Markit. “When it becomes commercially viable it will not address traditional computing that relies on definitive binary transactions, but will be greatly sought after in the field of deep learning and neural network computing.”

“The technology could be extended to general-purpose computing, and we are extending it, but that is not our major focus,” Hilton adds.

### Open-source processors

The sheer momentum of the processor market, dominated by Intel, AMD and (in smartphones) ARM, works against radical innovation, sources complain.

“The problem is that firms like Intel and ARM become wedded to their architectures, and there is so much software out there that it is difficult to innovate very much at the architecture level,” says Gwennap.

Development expenses are also a barrier. “When they talk about increasingly small chip geometries, such as 16, 14, 10, 7 and 5nm, the joke is that what the number really means is the number of customers you’ll have,” says Asanovi?. “The fabs are too expensive. The patterns are too exotic to print easily. Design costs are \$500 million, and you need massive volume to justify that.”

But the emergence of open-source processor hardware may open the door to garage-style innovators.

Sources point to RISC-V (pronounced risk-five), an open-source reduced instruction set computing (RISC) architecture, in 32, 64 or 128 bits, promoted by the RISC-V Foundation. Rick O’Connor, head of the foundation, explains that the fifth-generation RISC processor is free for any vendor to use, but they must pay for certification (if they desire that) and to license the trademark. The base architecture has fewer than 50 hardware instructions but can be expanded modularly to the server level, he adds.

“We had 30 years of hindsight to make an efficient instruction set,” explains O’Connor.

The first vendor offering RISC-V silicon is apparently SiFive in San Francisco. Jack Kang, vice president at SiFive, says that by using the RISC-V open-source processor chip and various forms of design automation, he can deliver 32-bit customer samples for under \$100,000.

“That’s an order of magnitude less than conventional methods. We’re trying to democratize access to silicon. People are attracted to RISC-V because it’s free and open, and it’s actually pretty good,” he says.

The adoption of open-source hardware could counter runaway costs, Asanovi? predicts. “As for using open source for common infrastructure components that are not competitive differentiators, the software industry did that a long time ago. But in the hardware industry, they just keep slogging way building the same controller in one company after another. Getting them to use open-source will get more of them to develop their own chips. The chip industry would otherwise be in a death spiral — fewer customers means you have to raise the price, and higher prices mean fewer customers.”

As Patterson puts it, “If the user can’t see the software, as in the internet of things, the [identity of the] processor doesn’t matter, so why pay money for one when you can get another just as good for free?”

#### **VON NEUMANN, NOW AND FOREVER**

What future innovators are unlikely to build is a processor that departs from the so-called von Neumann architecture. The name derives from a description written in 1945 under the byline of computer pioneer John von Neumann, detailing the basic functions that a general-purpose stored-program digital computer would need to include.

“Instructions, program counters, branch instructions, fetching operations, arithmetic operations — those have been around since the beginning, but unless someone is going to declare that [neural networking] matrix operations amount to a new architecture, I don’t see anything displacing von Neumann’s ideas,” Patterson says.

If something did, the field of software engineering might be in jeopardy, warns Conte. “People want reliable, certified, tested, bug-free software, but the science of how we do that is really brittle. Even the algorithms would have to change — it would be a total disruption of the computing stack. We can’t say, ‘Traditional computing stops now.’ That’s not practical.”

Consequently, “Ten years from today your desktop or tablet pretty likely will have a processor similar to the one we use today for the operating system, but will have many special-purpose processors, for vision or neural networking or God knows what,” Patterson adds.

“What we see in development for production in 2022 calls for more of the same: greater specialization and a greater number of specialized subsystems,” says Roddy.

“The assumption we continue to make is that the CPU will remain the conductor of the orchestra [of accelerators] since it is the host of the operating system,” Smythe at ARM says. “Von Neumann is where we are, and there is not much we can do to change that dramatically.”

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#### **18 SPACE SUITS FROM SCIENCE FICTION, FROM WORST TO BEST**

When has Hollywood actually gotten it (somewhat) right?

by Andrew Liptak@AndrewLiptak Aug 19, 2017, 12:00pm EDT

<https://www.theverge.com/2017/8/19/16104004/science-fiction-space-suit-worst-best-the-martian-alien-sunshine-gravity>

Space suits are cool — and complicated. Earlier this week, my colleague Loren Grush launched her new series Space Craft by seeing what wearing one is like. The answer? Exhausting. Unsurprisingly, science fiction writers, movie directors, and prop-makers also love space suits — you’ll find them everywhere from Robert A. Heinlein’s novel *Have Space Suit — Will Travel*, to the latest *Alien* movie. But not everybody does their homework: for every fictional space suit that’s more than just a fancy costume, there’s one that’s impractical and nonsensical even in a fictional world.



There’s no such thing as an “ideal” space suit, because you need specific features for different environments. But we can answer a few basic questions. Is a fictional space suit safe and wearable for its characters? Does it perform its task well? And does it realistically look like it could perform that task? With that in mind, here are some of the greatest and most cringeworthy depictions, arranged from worst to best.

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## MICROSOFT’S SPEECH RECOGNITION SYSTEM HITS A NEW ACCURACY MILESTONE

August 20, 2017 by Catherine Shu

<https://techcrunch.com/2017/08/20/microsofts-speech-recognition-system-hits-a-new-accuracy-milestone/>

Microsoft announced today that its conversational speech recognition system has reached a 5.1% error rate, its lowest so far. This surpasses the 5.9% error rate reached last year by a group of researchers from Microsoft Artificial Intelligence and Research and puts its accuracy on par with professional human transcribers who have advantages like the ability to listen to text several times.

Both studies transcribed recordings from the Switchboard corpus, a collection of about 2,400 telephone conversations that have been used by researchers to test speech recognition systems since the early 1990s. The new study was performed by a group of researchers at Microsoft AI and Research with the goal of achieving the same level of accuracy as a group of human transcribers who were able to listen to what they were transcribing several times, access its conversational context and work with other transcribers.

Overall, researchers from the latest study reduced the error rate by about 12 percent compared to last year’s findings by improving the neural net-based acoustic and language models of Microsoft’s speech recognition system. Notably, they also enabled its speech recognizer to use entire conversations, which let it adapt its transcriptions to context and

predict what words or phrases were likely to come next, the way humans do when talking to one another.

Microsoft's speech recognition system is used in services like Cortana, Presentation Translator and Microsoft Cognitive Services.

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**SAY GOODBYE TO FLAT TIRES THANKS TO A SELF-HEALING RUBBER FROM HARVARD**

By Sean Szymkowski, Motor Authority, Published August 22, 2017

<http://www.foxnews.com/auto/2017/08/22/say-goodbye-to-flat-tires-thanks-to-self-healing-rubber-from-harvard.html>



"Close up of the three high performance winter tires with modern treads (Michelin Alpin A4). Check my other tire photographs in my portfolio, more in" (iStock)

It's a situation drivers are all too familiar with: cruising along the road when suddenly a tire goes flat. Curse words, struggles, and inconvenience ensue. Researchers at Harvard University have developed a potential solution that could put flat tires, and the baggage that comes with them, in the past.

The material is as tough as natural rubber but combines new engineering feats to create a durable, self-healing rubber, according to Phys.org. Self-healing technology isn't new, but it's proven to be much more difficult to incorporate the technology into solid materials, such as rubber. Researchers were able to take the technology from self-healing hydrogels (water based) and create a rope of sorts for the self-healing rubber.

The bonds connecting the polymers in the rubber were reversed so they are able to break and reform and the molecular "rope" ties the natural and self-healing molecular bonds together. In layman's terms, the self-healing properties and rubber compounds finally play nice together with this latest material.

The benefits could be huge for tires specifically. Instead of needing a replacement tire or a spare right away, driving along the road would fix the puncture or whatever caused the tire to go flat. The new material snaps back into place as stress is released and allows imperfections to heal. There's still work to be done and the material is far from ready for commercial use. But the promise of self-healing rubber isn't so far-fetched.

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

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

**NEW POLLING SHOWS MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WITH TRUMP ON CONFEDERATE MONUMENT ISSUE AND HERE'S WHY ...**

August 22, 2017 | Scott Morefield

<http://www.bizpacreview.com/2017/08/22/new-polling-shows-majority-americans-trump-confederate-monument-issue-heres-528208>

The hysterical left-wing media is attempting to paint the Confederate monument removal issue as a losing one for traditionalists and, particularly, President Trump, who has come out in defense of preserving all of America's history, including the parts that might not have been so pretty.

**TWEET:** Donald J. Trump ?@realDonaldTrump

Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments. You.....

9:07 AM - Aug 17, 2017

**TWEET:** Donald J. Trump ?@realDonaldTrump

...the beauty that is being taken out of our cities, towns and parks will be greatly missed and never able to be comparably replaced!

9:21 AM - Aug 17, 2017

But are voters with the intolerant-Left on this one? Do the majority of Americans want to see the removal of any statue or monument that offends some snowflake's delicate sentimentalities?

According to a new Rasmussen poll of 1,000 likely voters conducted August 17 – 20 and published Monday, the answer appears to be a solid no.

The poll shows 50 percent of likely voters agree with President Trump's first tweet (published above), with only 37 percent disagreeing and 12 percent undecided.

More (39%) American voters believe the removal of Civil War-era monuments will actually hurt race relations than the 28 percent who believe it will help them. The fact that a higher percentage of blacks (43% to 35%) believe the removal of statues will hurt race relations than help is particularly striking.

While blacks disagreed with Trump's tweet, the margin was only 45% to 41%. Fifty-two percent (52%) of whites and non-black minority voters agreed with President Trump's Tweet.

Another poll by Reuters/Ipsos showed even stronger numbers, with 54 percent saying Confederate monuments "should remain in all public spaces."

Sadly, the 66 percent polled by Rasmussen who believed most Americans don't know about America's history were proven right by the fact that a full 37 percent didn't even know when the Civil War was fought!

Op-ed views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of BizPac Review.

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

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

Destroying statues you disagree with. Burning books you disagree with. Both are fascist actions, root, branch, and core. Utterly Vile. - T. J. Mason

A person who would destroy history is a censor, the most offensive violator of the 1st Amendment short of forcing ones religion at gunpoint. -- T. J. Mason

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**"Black people who were never slaves  
are fighting white people  
who were never Nazis  
over a confederate statue  
erected by democrats,  
because democrats can't stand  
their own history anymore  
and somehow it's Trumps fault?  
Interesting. "**

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From: "Steve Clark" [clarkcentral@comcast.net](mailto:clarkcentral@comcast.net)

**MARINE COL. JEFFREY POWERS LETTER TO NFL COMMISSIONER-AUTHORSHIP CONFIRMED!**

<https://www.truthorfiction.com/marine-col-jeffery-powers-letter-to-nfl-commissioner/>

**Summary of eRumor:**

Retired U.S. Marine Colonel Jeffrey A. Powers wrote a letter the NFL commissioner about players kneeling in protest during the playing of the national anthem.

**The Truth:**

Major Colonel Jeffrey A. Powers' wrote an open letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell about the NFL's handling of player protests during the national anthem.

**Commissioner,**

I've been a season pass holder at Yankee Stadium, Yale Bowl and Giants Stadium. I missed the '90-'91 season because I was with a battalion of Marines in Desert Storm. 14 of my wonderful Marines returned home with the American Flag draped across their lifeless bodies. My last conversation with one of them, Sgt Garrett Mongrella, was about how our Giants were going to the Super Bowl. He never got to see it.

Many friends, Marines, and Special Forces Soldiers who worked with or for me through the years returned home with the American Flag draped over their coffins.

Now I watch multi-millionaire athletes who never did anything in their lives but play a game, disrespect what brave Americans fought and died for. They are essentially spitting in the faces and on the graves of real men, men who have actually done something for this country beside playing with a ball and believing they're something special! They're not! My Marines and Soldiers were!

You are complicit in this!

You'll fine players for large and small infractions but you lack the moral courage and respect for our nation and the fallen to put an immediate stop to this. Yes, I know, it's their 1st Amendment right to behave in such a despicable manner. What would happen if they came out and disrespected you or the refs publicly?

I observed a player getting a personal foul for twerking in the end zone after scoring. I guess that's much worse than disrespecting the flag and our National Anthem. Hmmmmm, isn't it his 1st Amendment right to express himself like an idiot in the end zone?

Why is taunting not allowed yet taunting America is OK? You fine players for wearing 9-11 commemorative shoes yet you allow scum on the sidelines to sit, kneel or pump their pathetic fist in the air. They are so deprived with their multi-million dollar contracts for playing a freaking game! You condone it all by your refusal to act. You're just as bad and disgusting as they are. I hope Americans boycott any sponsor who supports that rabble you call the NFL. I hope they turn off the TV when any team that allowed this disrespect to occur, without consequence, on the sidelines. I applaud those who have not.

Legends and heroes do NOT wear shoulder pads. They wear body armor and carry rifles.

They make minimum wage and spend months and years away from their families. They don't do it for an hour on Sunday. They do it 24/7 often with lead, not footballs, coming in their direction. They watch their brothers carted off in pieces not on a gurney to get their knee iced. They don't even have ice! Many don't have legs or arms.

Some wear blue and risk their lives daily on the streets of America. They wear fire helmets and go upstairs into the fire rather than down to safety. On 9-11, hundreds vanished. They are the heroes.

I hope that your high paid protesting pretty boys and you look in that mirror when you shave tomorrow and see what you really are, legends in your own minds. You need to hit the road and take those worms with you!

Time to change the channel.

Col Jeffrey A Powers USMC (Ret)  
Vista, California

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From: "Jerry Tollett" [haleja@epbf.com](mailto:haleja@epbf.com)

VIDEO: If We're Tearing Down Statues, Here's the One Rule...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FU-r0HcNvq0>

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

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

THE MONUMENTS MUST GO

An open letter from the great-great-grandsons of Stonewall Jackson.

By Jack Christian and Warren Christian

The statue of Stonewall Jackson in Richmond, Virginia. Billy Hathorn

Dear Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney and members of the Monument Avenue Commission,

We are native Richmonders and also the great-great-grandsons of Stonewall Jackson. As two of the closest living relatives to Stonewall, we are writing today to ask for the removal of his statue, as well as the removal of all Confederate statues from Monument Avenue. They are overt symbols of racism and white supremacy, and the time is long overdue for them to depart from public display. Overnight, Baltimore has seen fit to take this action. Richmond should, too.

In making this request, we wish to express our respect and admiration for Mayor Stoney's leadership while also strongly disagreeing with his claim that "removal of symbols does [nothing] for telling the actual truth [nor] changes the state and culture of racism in this country today." In our view, the removal of the Jackson statue and others will necessarily further difficult conversations about racial justice. It will begin to tell the truth of us all coming to our senses.

Last weekend, Charlottesville showed us unequivocally that Confederate statues offer pre-existing iconography for racists. The people who descended on Charlottesville last weekend were there to make a naked show of force for white supremacy. To them, the Robert E. Lee statue is a clear symbol of their hateful ideology. The Confederate statues on Monument Avenue are, too—especially Jackson, who faces north, supposedly as if to continue the fight.

We are writing to say that we understand justice very differently from our grandfather's grandfather, and we wish to make it clear his statue does not represent us.

Through our upbringing and education, we have learned much about Stonewall Jackson. We have learned about his reluctance to fight and his teaching of Sunday School to enslaved peoples in Lexington, Virginia, a potentially criminal activity at the time. We have learned how thoughtful and loving he was toward his family. But we cannot ignore his decision to own slaves, his decision to go to war for the Confederacy, and, ultimately, the fact that he was a white man fighting on the side of white supremacy.

While we are not ashamed of our great-great-grandfather, we are ashamed to benefit from white supremacy while our black family and friends suffer. We are ashamed of the monument.

In fact, instead of lauding Jackson's violence, we choose to celebrate Stonewall's sister—our great-great-grandaunt—Laura Jackson Arnold. As an adult Laura became a staunch Unionist and abolitionist. Though she and Stonewall were incredibly close through childhood, she never spoke to Stonewall after his decision to support the Confederacy. We choose to stand on the right side of history with Laura Jackson Arnold.

We are ashamed to benefit from white supremacy while our black family and friends suffer. We are ashamed of the monument.

Confederate monuments like the Jackson statue were never intended as benign symbols. Rather, they were the clearly articulated artwork of white supremacy. Among many examples, we can see this plainly if we look at the dedication of a Confederate statue at the University of North Carolina, in which a speaker proclaimed that the Confederate soldier "saved the very life of the Anglo-Saxon race in the South." Disturbingly, he went on to recount a tale of performing the "pleasing duty" of "horse whipping" a black woman in front of federal soldiers. All over the South, this grotesque message is conveyed by similar monuments. As importantly, this message is clear to today's avowed white supremacists.

There is also historical evidence that the statues on Monument Avenue were rejected by black Richmonders at the time of their construction. In the 1870s, John Mitchell, a black city councilman, called the monuments a tribute to "blood and treason" and voiced strong opposition to the use of public funds for building them. Speaking about the Lee Memorial,

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he vowed that there would come a time when African Americans would “be there to take it down.”

Ongoing racial disparities in incarceration, educational attainment, police brutality, hiring practices, access to health care, and, perhaps most starkly, wealth, make it clear that these monuments do not stand somehow outside of history. Racism and white supremacy, which undoubtedly continue today, are neither natural nor inevitable. Rather, they were created in order to justify the unjustifiable, in particular slavery.

One thing that bonds our extended family, besides our common ancestor, is that many have worked, often as clergy and as educators, for justice in their communities. While we do not purport to speak for all of Stonewall’s kin, our sense of justice leads us to believe that removing the Stonewall statue and other monuments should be part of a larger project of actively mending the racial disparities that hundreds of years of white supremacy have wrought. We hope other descendants of Confederate generals will stand with us.

As cities all over the South are realizing now, we are not in need of added context. We are in need of a new context—one in which the statues have been taken down.

Respectfully,

William Jackson Christian  
Warren Edmund Christian  
Great-great-grandsons of Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson

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

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