Welcome to the February 1st, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

Thankfully things have been very quite around Casa Bolgeo this week and about the only thing interesting that has happened is watching the antics of President Trump. I will say this, he is moving faster than a whirl wind with Executive Orders. Now the funny part about this is that he said that he was going to do this during his campaign and nobody believed him. Some of the I have agreed with, some I am lukewarm about, but I will say that I don't violently disagree with any of them.

The ones I totally agree with are:

1. Regulatory Freeze Pending Review for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies (Does anyone out there disagree with the idea that we have too many government regulations?)

2. Hiring Freeze for the Federal Government with exception of the military and also forbids contracting to circumvent the ban. The order calls for a long-term plan to reduce the federal workforce within 90 days.

3. Construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline and the Dakota Access Pipeline. (Those of you he read this missive has known for years my position on the transportation of oil in pipelines versus trains.

4. Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects

5. Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Employees for a 5 year ban on lobbying after leaving your job with the government. Also a life time ban on lobbying for a foreign government

6. Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs - Trump's so-called "one in, two out" executive order would require agencies to rescind two existing regulations for every one new regulation — and that the regulatory costs of those new regulations balance out.

Most of the rest of President Trumps's Executive orders I am lukewarm about with the exception of the 90 day moratorium on immigration from 7 Muslim Countries. I am hearing some people on the left and those who oppose Trump on the right are up in arms that the President doesn't have this power. But the funny part of it is that he does. This is not the first time that the president has decided to implement a moratorium on some country's ability for it's people to come to the USA. Carter did it with Iran in the late 70s and Obama did it in 2011 with Iraq (I think).It is a limited ban that specifies extreme vetting procedures will be put in place to protect the people of this country from radical terrorists. It's not like he didn't tell the country what he was going to do because this was a big point of his campaign that was cussed and discussed for months. I personally think that it was put in place clumsily but that most of the problems have been ironed out with it in 72 hours. If you have worked with the government like I did for 40 years, this is lightning speed.

I personally feel strongly both ways on this one. I am sorry for the 109 people who were caught at the airports in transient when the order was issued. But I can also understand why it was issued with no advanced warning. (The administration made a very good argument on this type of implementation.) I don't know if this moratorium is going to help or not because it is outside of my expertise. But then again, it probably couldn't hurt. But, he said he was going to take this action in his

campaign and he did it. Our last president, Barak H. Obama said, "Elections have consequences." Well, President Trump won the election.

There are some out there who say that is just the thing to enrage the Jihadists against the US. But in all honesty, everything we do enrages them to try to end our existence. As I write this I am looking at a news item about Jihadists blowing up a Saudi Ship because they thought it was an American Ship. Trust me, no matter what we do they hate us and want to kill us. Whether we like it or not, we are in a war to the knife with them.

I think that the one thing I can applaud President Trump for this week is that he fired the Assistant Attorney General of the United States, Sally Q. Yates, after she refused to defend his executive order closing the nation's borders to refugees and people from predominantly Muslim countries. She defied his executive order, not because it was illegal, but because she didn't want to follow it because it was against his moral code according to her. I worked for the feds for 40 years and you do not have the right NOT to follow a lawful order. You can either follow the order willingly, implement the order and take your name off of any implementation document and file a formal protest later or follow you feet as you walk out the door. There is not much else a federal employee to do.

So on that "Inside information of Federal Policy Implementation", why don't y'all sit back and relax because here's the best in gossip, jokes and science for your reading pleasure!

P.S. I know that I am going to enrage a number of my readers about my personal views on the President, but I try my best to give all of you an honest opinion and to try to give y'all a look at both sides of a question. We might disagree with each other on politics, but it is our best interests to discuss what is going on so that we can understand our world better. Also having someone to talk to that might not always agree with you is at times very helpful to you. But hey, what do I know.

Uncle Timmy

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

FAREWELL TO A HOLLYWOOD LEGEND: SIR JOHN HURT

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

Farewell to a Hollywood legend: Sir John Hurt, who starred in The Elephant Man and Harry Potter, dies aged 77 after a battle with cancer as tributes pour in to 'the most gentlemanly of gentlemen'

* **Elephant Man star, 77, had acclaimed career that spanned more than six decades**
* **He beat pancreatic cancer in 2015, but continued to suffer from health problems**
* **Actor was infamous for his wild lifestyle in earlier years and married four times**
* **Turned to drink after watching partner of 16 years die in a horse-riding accident**
* **His wife, Anwen, paid tribute to a 'gentlemanly' man with the 'greatest of hearts'**
* **Tributes for the actor poured in from Mel Brooks, Elijah Woods, Bonnie Wright, Chris Evans, Stephen Colbert and Stephen Fry**

By Rachael Burford and Jj Nattrass and James Dunn and Anthony Joseph for MailOnline and Jessica Chia For Dailymail.com
PUBLISHED: 20:05 EST, 27 January 2017 | UPDATED: 08:50 EST, 28 January 2017
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4166046/Actor-John-Hurt-dies-cancer-aged-77.html#ixzz4X4SXwlzd

Sir John Hurt, the two-time Oscar nominated star of the Elephant Man, has died, aged 77 after battling with cancer

Sir John Hurt, who won Oscar nominations for the Elephant Man and captured the hearts of millions for his roles in Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings, has died.

The star, one of Britain's most treasured actors, died aged 77 at his home in Norfolk after a long battle with pancreatic cancer, it was revealed today.

His widow, Anwen Hurt, today said it will be 'a strange world' with out the actor, whose death has prompted an outpouring of grief from the showbusiness industry, with director Mel Brooks and J K Rowling among those paying tribute.

Mrs Hurt added: 'John was the most sublime of actors and the most gentlemanly of gentlemen with the greatest of hearts and the most generosity of spirit. He touched all our lives with joy and magic and it will be a strange world without him.'

Sir John was well known for roles including Quentin Crisp in The Naked Civil Servant, the title role in The Elephant Man and wand merchant Mr Ollivander in the Harry Potter films.

Mel Brooks hailed him as a 'truly magnificent talent' while Harry Potter author JK Rowling called him 'immensely talented and deeply beloved'.
Hurt bounced back from pancreatic cancer in October 2015 and signed on to appear in a West End production of The Entertainer, only to pull out on the advice of his doctors after he was taken to the hospital with an intestinal complaint.

Despite revealing that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the summer of 2015, Hurt was matter-of-fact about his mortality.

Speaking to the Radio Times, he said: 'I can't say I worry about mortality, but it's impossible to get to my age and not have a little contemplation of it.

'We're all just passing time, and occupy our chair very briefly,' he said.

In the autumn of 2015, Hurt announced he was in remission and vowed to continue working.

Despite the all-clear, Sir John continued to endure periods of ill health. He suffered intestinal complaints and was forced to withdraw from a West End production of The Entertainer last July.

Hurt, whose death was confirmed by his agent Charles McDonald on Saturday, is survived by wife Anwen Rees-Myers, and sons, Alexander and Nick, from his third marriage with Jo Dalton.

He died on Wednesday, January 25, but had been working on a number of films set for release this year.

In one, That Good Night, he plays a once-famous writer who is terminally ill, perhaps channelling his own experiences.

He is also due to star in a film called Darkest Hour, about the early days of the Second World War. Hurt was due to play Neville Chamberlain alongside Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill, although the movie has not yet finished filming.

His acting aspirations were almost shattered by his headmaster as a young boy, but he plucked up the courage and successfully auditioned for the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London

The English actor, born in Derbyshire in 1940, became a critical and commercial success in films like Midnight Express, Alien and Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.

The son of a vicar and an engineer, Hurt spent what he described as a lonely childhood at an Anglo-Catholic prep school before he enrolled at a boarding school in Lincoln.

His acting aspirations were almost shattered forever by his headmaster's insistence that he did not stand a chance in the profession.

He left school to go to art college but dropped out, impoverished and living in a dismal basement flat.

He finally plucked up enough courage to apply for a scholarship and auditioned successfully for the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, although he later recalled being so hungry he could hardly deliver his lines.

Hurt played a wide range of characters over the course of 60 years, from a mad Roman emperor to a pimp on the road to stardom; a circus freak, to a heroin-addicted prisoner.

He was best-known for his portrayals of the famously misunderstood and he took an instinctive approach to his craft, believing that method acting was for people with no imagination.

Hurt once told the British film critic Geoff Andrew: 'The only way I can describe it is that I put everything I can into the mulberry of my mind and hope that it is going to ferment and make a decent wine.

'How that process happens, I'm sorry to tell you I can't describe.'

<SNIP>

JOHN HURT FIRST CAME TO MY ATTENTION IN A TV MOVIE IN THE EARLIER 70'S CALLED SPECTRE THAT STARED ROBERT CULT AND GIG YOUNG. JOHN PLAYED THE DEVIL IN THE MOVIE BY THE NAME OF AMADEUS AND HE SCARED THE LIVING SH*T OUT OF ME WITH HIS PERFORMANCE. I HAVE WATCHED HIS CAREER OVER THE YEARS AND HE ENTERTAINED ME. ADMITTEDLY I AM A TYPICAL FAN AND LOVED HIM AS GARRICK OLLIVANDER THE WANDMAKER IN THE HARRY POTTER MOVIES. THE FACE HUGGED KANE IN ALIEN. BUT HIS MOST RECENT AND GREATEST TRIUMPH TO ME IS THE 10TH DOCTOR WHO, THE WAR DOCTOR, BLEW ME AWAY. THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY 'DOCTOR WHO' SPECIAL IS PROBABLY THE GREATEST SF PRESENTATION IN A GREAT NUMBER OF YEARS. AND THE REASON IT WAS TO ME WAS JOHN HURT. I WILL MISS YOU MR. HURT, YOU WENT BEFORE YOUR TIME BECAUSE YOU STILL HAD SO MUCH TO GIVE TO YOUR FANS. REST IN PEACE SIR, YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR A 1,000 YEARS. UT

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PETER CAPALDI IS LEAVING DOCTOR WHO

James Whitbrook, January 30, 2017
http://io9.gizmodo.com/peter-capaldi-is-leaving-doctor-who-1791795605

It's time to say farewell to the latest incarnation of the world's most beloved Time Lord: Peter Capaldi has officially announced his departure from Doctor Who at the end of the current series.

Capaldi, who plays the 12th incarnation of the Doctor, joined the series for its eighth season in 2014, but this year's season 10 will now be his last in the TARDIS, and Capaldi will depart during the 2017 Christmas

Special. The news was just confirmed by the BBC on social media this afternoon.

Capaldi is not the only Doctor Who talent departing at the end of the season—showrunner Steven Moffat, who's been in charge of the series since 2010, will leave with Capaldi at Christmas, replaced by Broadchurch's Chris Chibnall. The BBC had asked Capaldi to stay on after Moffat's departure, but clearly, the actor has declined. His full statement has now been released by the BBC, and you can read it below:

One of the greatest privileges of being Doctor Who is to see the world at its best. From our brilliant crew and creative team working for the best broadcaster on the planet, to the viewers and fans whose endless creativity, generosity and inclusiveness points to a brighter future ahead. I can't thank everyone enough. It's been cosmic.

The 10th season of Doctor Who is set to air on BBC One and BBC America this April.

[BBC]

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BRONZE STATUE OF EARL HARBINGER FROM MHI

From Larry Correia's Facebook Page

correia45, January 27, 2017
http://monsterhunternation.com/2017/01/27/bronze-statue-of-earl-harbinger-from-mhi/

So this is a new one for me. A fan made a bronze sculpture of one of my characters.

Pretty cool, huh?
That's Earl Harbinger, mid transformation into werewolf (spoiler alert).
Devon Dorrity is a fantastic sculptor, He likes to listen to Audible while working, and had gone through the MHI series a couple of times. Alpha inspired him to create this.

Check out his portfolio. http://www.devondorrity.com/ If you are interested in getting your own Harbinger he can sell you one. (I think they are around $2700, which is a good deal for a bronze this big) He's also got more pictures and videos of how they make the molds, pour the bronze (2000 degrees!), and put the patina on. It is fascinating stuff.

I have this in my living room now. It is super cool and looks even better in person. The whole thing is about 50 pounds, and you can actually cut yourself on the claws, so I had to be careful where I put it so that my kids wouldn't crash into Earl and injure themselves.

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NEW PHONE SCAM

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com

Read about this on Drudge this morning. You get a call, the caller asks you if you can hear him OK. They want you to answer yes or sure. They record your voice and then use it to sign you up for something. Police depts are recommending you not say anything and hang up. About an hour after reading the article, I got one of those calls. It was a local San Jose number and I answered. After a pause, I got "This is Josh from the customer service dept. Can you hear me OK?". I hung up. Be careful.

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From: "Jerry Tollett" haleja@epbfi.com

A GUY & HIS CELL PHONE

This guy might have a problem when he gets home!!

At the Chicago Bulls basketball team home games they have a "Kiss Cam". The idea is that couples images are displayed on the big screen over the basketball court and if your image is shown you should kiss your partner. That's the theory.

Watch till the end – Something we've all wanted to do to certain cell phone loving people.....

https://safeshare.tv/x/sLtCVDmZnm

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MARKETING AND RELATED SKILLS

One buzz word in today's business world is MARKETING. However, people often ask for a simple explanation of "Marketing." Well, here it is:

*** You're a woman and you see a handsome guy at a party. You go up to him and say, "I'm fantastic in bed."**
That's Direct Marketing.

_____ _____

*** You're at a party with a bunch of friends and see a handsome guy. One of your friends goes up to him and, pointing at you, says, "She's fantastic in bed."**
That's Advertising.

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*** You see a handsome guy at a party. You go up to him and get his telephone number. The next day you call and say, "Hi, I'm fantastic in bed."**
That's Telemarketing.

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*** You see a guy at a party; you straighten your dress. You walk up to him and pour him a drink. You say, "May I?" and reach up to straighten his tie, brushing your breast lightly against his arm, and then say, "By the way, I'm fantastic in bed."**
That's Public Relations.

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*** You're at a party and see a handsome guy. He walks up to you and says, "I hear you're fantastic in bed."**
That's Brand Recognition.

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***You're at a party and see a handsome guy. He fancies you, but you talk him into going home with your friend.**

That's a Sales Rep.

_____ _____

*** Your friend can't satisfy him so he calls you.**

That's Tech Support.

_____ _____

*** You're on your way to a party when you realise that there could be handsome men in all these houses you're passing, so you climb onto the roof of one situated towards the centre and shout at the top of your lungs, "I'm fantastic in bed!"**
That's Facebook.

_____ _____

*** You are at a party; this attractive older man walks up to you and grabs your ass.**
That's Donald Trump.

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*** You didn't mind it, but twenty years later your attorney decides you were offended and you are awarded a settlement.**
That's America!

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NEW NAVY RULES

The Department of the Navy is now assigning females to quarters in a separate and private OFF LIMITS area on all aircraft carriers...

Addressing all boat personnel at Pearl Harbor, CINCPAC advised, "The female sleeping quarters will be out-of-bounds for all males. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined $20 the first time."

He continued, " Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined $50.

Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of $100. Are there any questions?"

At this point, a Marine Gunnery Sergeant , from the security detail assigned to the ship, stood up in the crowd and inquired: "How much for a season pass???"

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From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

Below is an article written by Rick Reilly of Sports Illustrated...

He details his experiences when given the opportunity to fly in a F-14 Tomcat... If you aren't laughing out loud by the time you get to 'Milk Duds', your sense of humor is seriously broken.

THE RIDE OF HIS LIFE

By Rick Reilly of Sports Illustrated

This message is for America 's most famous athletes: Someday you may be invited to fly in the back-seat of one of your country's most powerful fighter jets. Many of you already have. John Elway, John Stockton, Tiger Woods to name a few. If you get this opportunity, let me urge you, with the greatest sincerity.... Move to Guam.

Change your name.
Fake your own death!
Whatever you do.
Do Not Go!!!
I know.

The U.S. Navy invited me to try it. I was thrilled. I was pumped. I was toast! I should've known when they told me my pilot would Be Chip (Biff) King of Fighter Squadron 213 at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach.
Whatever you're thinking a Top Gun named Chip (Biff) King looks like, triple it. He's about six-foot, tan, ice-blue eyes, wavy surfer hair, finger-crippling handshake -- the kind of man who wrestles dyspeptic alligators in his leisure time. If you see this man, run the other way. Fast.

Biff King was born to fly. His father, Jack King, was for years the voice of NASA missions. ('T-minus 15 seconds and counting'. Remember?) Chip would charge neighborhood kids a quarter each to hear his dad. Jack would wake up from naps surrounded by nine-year-olds waiting for him to say, 'We have lift off'.

Biff was to fly me in an F- 14D Tomcat, a ridiculously powerful $60 million Weapon with nearly as much thrust as weight, not unlike Colin Montgomerie. I was worried about getting airsick, so the night before the flight I asked Biff if there was something I should eat the next morning.

'Bananas,' he said.

'For the potassium?' I asked.

'No,' Biff said, 'because they taste about the same coming up as they do going down.'

The next morning, out on the tarmac, I had on my flight suit with my name sewn over the left breast. (No call sign -- like Crash or Sticky or Lead foot. But, still, very cool.) I carried my helmet in the crook of my arm, as Biff had instructed. If ever in my life I had a chance to nail Nicole Kidman, this was it.

A fighter pilot named Psycho gave me a safety briefing and then fastened me into my ejection seat, which, when employed, would 'egress' me out of the plane at such a velocity that I would be immediately knocked unconscious.

Just as I was thinking about aborting the flight, the canopy closed over me, and Biff gave the ground crew a thumbs-up In minutes we were firing nose up at 600 mph. We leveled out and then canopy-rolled over another F-14.

Those 20 minutes were the rush of my life. Unfortunately, the ride lasted 80. It was like being on the roller coaster at Six Flags Over Hell. Only without rails. We did barrel rolls, snap rolls, loops, yanks and banks. We dived, rose and dived again, sometimes with a vertical velocity of 10,000 feet per minute. We chased another F-14, and it chased us

We broke the speed of sound. Sea was sky and sky was sea. Flying at 200 feet we did 90-degree turns at 550 mph, creating a G force of 6.5, which is to say I felt as if 6.5 times my body weight was smashing against me, thereby approximating life as Mrs. Colin Montgomerie.

And I egressed the bananas.

And I egressed the pizza from the night before.

And the lunch before that.

I egressed a box of Milk Duds from the sixth grade.

I made Linda Blair look polite. Because of the G's, I was egressing stuff that never thought would be egressed.

I went through not one airsick bag, but two.

Biff said I passed out. Twice... I was coated in sweat. At one point, as we were coming in upside down in a banked curve on a mock bombing target and the G's were flattening me like a tortilla and I Was in and out of consciousness, I realized I was the first person In history to throw down.

I used to know 'cool'. Cool was Elway throwing a touchdown pass, or Norman making a five-iron bite. But now I really know 'cool'. Cool is guys like Biff, men with cast-iron stomachs and freon nerves. I wouldn't go up there again for Derek Jeter's black book, but I'm glad Biff does every day, and for less a year than a rookie reliever makes in a home stand.

A week later, when the spins finally stopped, Biff called. He said he and the fighters had the perfect call sign for me. Said he'd send it on a patch for my flight suit.

What is it? I asked.

'TWO BAGS.'

"A veteran is someone who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for any amount, up to and including their life."

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DEFINITION OF A NURSE

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BLOND "HANDY WOMAN"

A young blond girl in her late teens, wanting to earn some extra money for the summer, decided to hire herself out as a "handy woman" and started canvassing a nearby well-to-do neighborhood.

She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do,

"Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint the porch" he said. "How much will you charge me?"

Delighted, the girl quickly responded, "How about $50?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint and brushes and everything she would need were in the garage.

The man's wife, hearing the conversation, said to her husband, "Does she realize that our porch goes ALL the way around the house?"

"That's a bit cynical, isn't it?" he responded.

The wife replied, "You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes."

A few hours later the blonde came to the door to collect her money.

"You're finished already??" the startled husband asked.

"Yes," the blonde replied, "and I even had paint left over so I gave it two coats."

Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the $50 and handed it to her along with a $10 tip.....

"Thank you," the blonde said, "And, by the way, it's not a Porch, it's a Lexus."

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From: "Ray Beloate" beerman@rittermail.com

TERMS WE HAVE HEARD A MILLION TIMES

We can learn a lot about ourselves by looking to the past. History not only provides us with a nostalgic glimpse at how things used to be — like with these classic childhood toys — but its lessons can still teach us things today.Many of us fondly refer to "the good old days" when times were purer and life was simpler.

_____ _____

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot. Once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery.
If you had to do this to survive, you were "piss poor."

But worse than that were the really poor folks who couldn't even afford to buy a pot. They "didn't have a pot to piss in" and were considered the lowest of the low.

_____ _____

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June.
However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor.
Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

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Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water.
The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies.

By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs with thick straw-piled high and no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof.
When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."
There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed.
Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the term, "dirt poor."
The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing.
As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way.
Hence, "a thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day, they lit the fire and added things to the pot.
They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day.
Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."
Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off.
It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests, and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death.
This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days.
Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial.
They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up.

Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

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In old, small villages, local folks started running out of places to bury people.
So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave.
When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside, and they realized they had been burying people alive.
So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.
Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night ("the graveyard shift") to listen for the bell.
Thus, someone could be "saved by the bell," or was considered a "dead ringer."

Now, whoever said history was boring?

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

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com

OUR NEW SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

When asked what he thinks about General Mattis being sworn in as Secretary of Defense, Rob O'Neill (the man who killed Bin Laden) said :

"General Mattis has a bear rug in his home, but it's not dead. It's just afraid to move."

But Sarah Hoyt said, "Chuck Norris keeps General Mattis under his pillow in case of intruders!"

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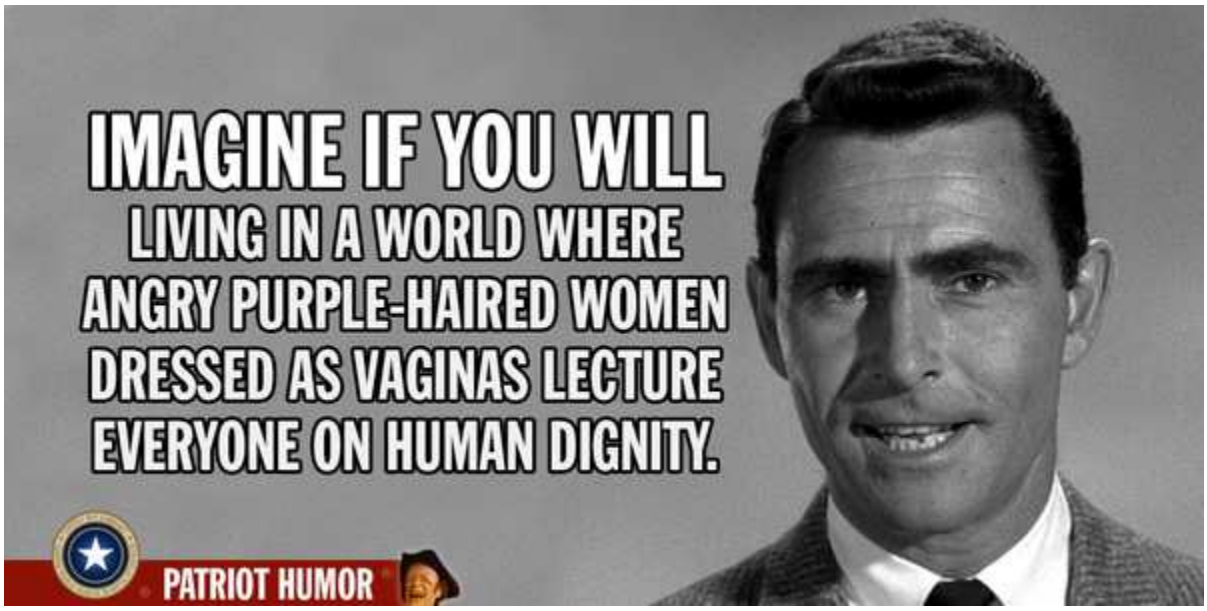
TWILIGHT ZONE
Jan. 30, 2017
https://patriotpost.us/humor/47157



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HAIRPIECE IN OUR TIME
Jan. 30, 2017
https://patriotpost.us/humor/47157

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

Jan. 30, 2017
https://patriotpost.us/humor/47157

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YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

Video: Man saves officer's life, guns down attacker

Jan. 25, 2017 - 1:37 –
http://video.foxnews.com/v/5297207391001/#sp=show-clips

Despite saving a DPS trooper's life, shooting and killing an armed suspect attacking the officer, an Arizona man is rebuffing a hero's title, claiming he's just an 'ordinary' person whose purpose that fateful morning was decided by God.

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

TRUMP FIRES ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR REFUSING TO ENFORCE IMMIGRATION BAN

January 30, 2017
http://www.libertyheadlines.com/trump-fires-acting-attorney-general-refusing-enforce-immigration-ban/?AID=7236

Photo by DonkeyHotey

(Business Insider) President Donald Trump fired acting US Attorney General Sally Yates after she defied him on his controversial executive order on immigrants and refugees, according to a statement White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer issued Monday night.

"The acting Attorney General, Sally Yates, has betrayed the Department of Justice by refusing to enforce a legal order designed to protect the citizens of the United States," the statement read in part.

Trump named Dana Boente, a US district attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, to serve in Yates's place until the president's attorney general appointee Jeff Sessions is confirmed.

Earlier Monday, Yates denounced Trump's executive order in a letter to Justice Department lawyers, saying it may not be lawful.

"I am responsible for ensuring that the positions we take in court remain consistent with this institution's solemn obligation to always seek justice and stand for what is right," Yates said in the letter.

"At present, I am not convinced that the defense of the executive order is consistent with these responsibilities nor am I convinced that the executive order is lawful…"

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YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com

SECRET SERVICE VETS SHOCKED AT AGENT'S CLAIM SHE WON'T TAKE A BULLET FOR TRUMP

By Malia Zimmerman, Published January 25, 2017, FoxNews.com
http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/01/25/secret-service-vet-shocked-at-agents-claim-wont-take-bullet-for-trump.html

A Denver-based Secret Service agent's assertion that she would rather go to jail than take a bullet for President Trump left veterans of the commander-in-chief's vaunted security detail stunned.

Gary Byrne, who guarded President Clinton and the Oval Office during a 12-year stint with the Secret Service, told Fox News Special Agent Kerry O'Grady's revelation on Facebook was astonishing.

"It is unheard of and unbelievable that someone at her level would comment publicly on being unwilling to protect the president," said Byrne, author of "Crisis of Character," a book that came out during the presidential campaign that was highly critical of Hillary Clinton. "Everyone has their own personal political opinions, but this job is not personal. You take an oath to the country, not the person. You are protecting the office, and what makes the country great."

Dan Emmett, a retired Secret Service agent and author of "Within Arms Length" and "I Am a Secret Service Agent," said, "In my view, O'Grady can no longer function with any degree of credibility as an agent and should retire or be dismissed by the Secret Service."

He added, "Her stated refusal or unwillingness to do what all Secret Service agents have been willing and expected to do since 1902 when the Secret Service began protecting presidents presents the worst possible example for her agents as well as all young agents Service wide. She has at this point rendered herself completely irrelevant as an agent. Few will be willing to work for her or with her."

The Secret Service is reportedly "taking appropriate action" after news broke that O'Grady had made the comments in an October Facebook post. The agency did not say if O'Grady, who is in charge of the Denver office, could be disciplined or even fired, but her comments may be in violation of The Hatch Act. That 1939 law bars certain federal employees from engaging in political activity to promote fairness and nonpartisanship within the workplace. The Secret Service is among the agencies affected by the Hatch Act.

"As a public servant for nearly 23 years, I struggle not to violate the Hatch Act," O'Grady wrote. "So I keep quiet and skirt the median. To do otherwise can be a criminal offense for those in my position. Despite the fact that I am expected to take a bullet for both sides. But this world has changed and I have changed. And I would take jail time over a bullet or an endorsement for what I believe to be disaster to this country and the strong and amazing women and minorities who reside here. Hatch Act be damned. I am with Her."

O'Grady told the Washington Examiner that she took down the posts after two or three days and that she would protect the president.

"It was an internal struggle for me but as soon as I put it up, I thought it was not the sentiment that I needed to share because I care very deeply about the mission," she said.

Byrne said simply retracting the statement is not enough.

"At her level, she is special agent in charge of Denver, she has a couple hundred people working under her including agents, technicians, and officers," he said. "Her job is to run the office, but to provide the manpower if the President comes to Colorado.

If she made these comments just to her friends, that is personal. But if you state that publicly, like she did on Facebook, she should be removed from the position.

"I cannot tell you how bad that is," he added.

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

RIOTERS TRY TORCHING AMERICAN FLAG ON THE STREET, BUT BADASS FEDEX BRO IS HAVING NONE OF IT

January 27, 2017 | Samantha Chang
http://www.bizpacreview.com/2017/01/27/rioters-try-torching-american-flag-street-badass-fedex-bro-none-440762?utm_source=BizPac+Review+Email+Newsletter&utm_campaign=a361626d12-

EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_01_27&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fbf9323fb3-a361626d12-32881293

FedEx employee Matt Uhrin singlehandedly stopped protesters from burning an American flag.

A FedEx employee is being called a hero for stopping protesters from burning an American flag at an Iowa mall.

A group of protesters set fire to an American flag in an Iowa City pedestrian mall, claiming they were protesting racism, sexism and the threat of fascism under President Trump.
That's when Matt Uhrin, a uniformed FedEx worker, showed up with a fire extinguisher and put the fire out like a boss.

The protesters then surrounded, harassed and scuffled with Uhrin as he took away the singed American flag.

Two of the protesters, Paul Osgerby and Kellie Ebensberger, were arrested for violating a city ordinance prohibiting setting open fires without a permit. The arrests were not because they had burned a flag.

Ebensberger and Osgerby are due in court Feb. 23, where they face up to 30 days in jail or a $625 fine. The protesters said the American flag — a symbol of freedom around the world — is a symbol of injustice.

"When I see the flag, I see racial injustice," Osgerby told the Iowa City-Press Citizen. "I see social injustice from Native American genocide to African-American slavery to failing to recognize women as citizens until the 20th century."

Meanwhile, one onlooker called the flag-burning disrespectful to military veterans.

"Probably every one of them has a relative at one point or another that died for that [flag]," Bob Guyer said. "That's not free speech. Too many people have died for it."

Many on Twitter hailed Matt Uhrin as a hero, saying the American flag is more than "just a flag."

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From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

LUFTHANSA TECHNIK'S NEW TIOS RADOME

The radome is up to 200 lb. (100 kg) lighter than the original.

Jen Deglmann | Jan 25, 2017
http://beta.mro-network.com/technology/product-spotlight-lufthansa-techniks-new-tios-radome?NL=AW-022&Issue=AW-022_20170126_AW-022_874&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_5&utm_rid=CPEN1000001477803&utm_campaign=8274&utm_medium=email&elq2=2a73087126484b30981ccc02fc1290f3

The radome from Lufthansa Technik material layers allow frequencies in the Ka-band, which means double the speed of data transfer.

Luftahansa Technik has announced a two-in-one solution (TIOS) antenna radome for the Boeing 737-700 and -800. The antenna, installed on the vertical stabilizer to reduce drag and positively affect the aircraft's center of gravity, will make it possible to install Ka-band antennas to provide high-speed internet, TV connections and a high-definition camera.

The radome is up to 200 lb. (100 kg) lighter than the original and is FAA validated and has an EASA Supplemental Type Certificate.

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HARVARD'S ROBOTIC EXOSUIT USES SCIENCE-FICTION SMARTS TO PUT A SPRING IN YOUR STEP

By Luke Dormehl, Published January 26, 2017
http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2017/01/26/harvards-robotic-exosuit-uses-science-fiction-smarts-to-put-spring-in-your-step.html

Movies have a lot to answer for.

Thanks to science fiction, we can't think about artificial intelligence without summoning the ghost of 2001: A Space Odyssey's killer AI HAL 9000; we have to make the obligatory Terminator reference in any story about cutting edge robots; and the picture that

immediately springs to mind when we mention robotic exoskeletons are bulky pieces of kit straight out of Iron Man or the underrated Tom Cruise flick Edge of Tomorrow.

(Harvard Biodesign Lab)

However, when it comes to that last research topic, investigators at the Harvard Biodesign Lab are doing everything they can to change our perceptions and convince us that robotic exoskeletons don't have to be rigid cages surrounding a person's limbs, applying torque directly to their joints to aid them with a specific motion.

While this approach can be hugely promising in helping individuals with paraplegia, it's less necessary in other scenarios. For example, in situations where you have an individual with gait impairments, but who still has function in their lower limbs (such as a post-stroke patients or individuals with multiple sclerosis), applying the same approach is a bit like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

This isn't just about saving money on hardware, either. The considerable weight of rigid exoskeletons and the energy expenditure they therefore prompt in the person wearing them isn't something to be sniffed at. At Harvard Biodesign Lab, they've been developing soft robot exosuits to help with this exact problem.

"The approach our lab, and several other research labs, have taken recently is to use extremely lightweight devices to try to deliver assistance in parallel to the underlying biological muscles in order to reduce the metabolic cost of walking," Brendan Quinlivan, a graduate student at the Harvard Biodesign Lab, told Digital Trends. "Such an approach could be used to assist soldiers or firefighters who often have to wear large amounts of equipment and could get fatigued over time. By applying assistance in parallel to the biological muscles, the theory is that the muscles will have to do less work reducing the

metabolic cost of the wearer and ultimately reducing their fatigue and their potential for injury."

The problem of what is known in the trade as "metabolic reduction with an exoskeleton or exosuit" has been the work of researchers for decades now. But it took until 2013 for the first major breakthrough to be made when investigators were able to find a way to create an exosuit that would garner a 6 percent reduction in effort, compared to normal, unaided walking in a healthy person.

In a new paper published recently in the journal Science Robotics, titled "Assistance magnitude versus metabolic cost reductions for a tethered multiarticular soft exosuit," the team of researchers at Harvard managed to push these metabolic reductions to their highest threshold yet: close to 23 percent reduction with an off-board actuation system.

These subtle exosuits won't drag wearers around like a horror movie spirit seizing control of a person's body. Instead, they make it easier to perform certain strenuous actions like pushing off from the ankle.

To test their exosuit, researchers strapped seven participants up to the equipment and had them walk on treadmills. They then measured the balance of oxygen inhaled and carbon dioxide exhaled as they walked, and tested this at four levels of robot assistance. The top level is where the 23 percent metabolic cost reduction came in.

Things aren't yet perfect. As with many technologies, the eventual goal is to have it the exosuits virtually invisible for the wearer so that they get all of the benefits with none of the negatives. While the exosuit itself presently weighs only 2.2 pounds, its power supply weighs a bit more.

The current workaround is to wire this up to an external battery so the weight isn't carried by the user. However, that wouldn't work if a person was on the move. True, 17 pounds isn't an insurmountable weight to carry around (it's around one-third of a military backpack), but it's more than a little counterproductive for something that's meant to make it easier to move around.

Still -- and no pun intended -- it's another important leap in the right direction for research.

"This study is a nice step forward in the development of the soft exosuits within our lab," Quinlivan said. "The force sweep conducted gives us some more information on the relationship to the level of assistance and the metabolic benefit the user experiences. This is especially useful as we design new actuators and need to consider the trade-offs between actuator power and weight. The bigger the motor and batteries, the more assistance we can provide the wearer -- and the higher potential metabolic reduction we can get -- but that also means the heavier actuators they need to carry. Understanding this trade-off is key as we develop mobile actuation units so individuals can use this technology outside of the lab."

Having recently partnered with ReWalk Robotics to commercialize the exosuits for the first time, hopefully that will happen sooner rather than later.

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BOEING'S NEW SPACESUIT MAY LOOK STYLISH AS HELL, BUT IT'S ALL BUSINESS

AUTHOR: LIZ STINSON, DATE OF PUBLICATION: 01.26.17.01.26.17
https://www.wired.com/2017/01/boeings-new-spacesuit-may-look-stylish-hell-business/

Caption:Caption:Boeing's new spacesuit will be worn on missions to the International Space Station beginning in 2018.BOEING

ALAN SHEPARD ROCKETED into space in 1961 wearing a shiny silver spacesuit. Four years later, Ed White completed the first US spacewalk in a puffy white jumpsuit that made him look like the Michelin Man. In the space shuttle era, astronauts wore bright orange "pumpkin suits." Effective and protective, but not terribly stylish. Boeing hopes to change that with a cobalt number called Boeing Blue. Astronauts will wear the sleek suit as they rocket to the International Space Station aboard the Boeing Starliner next year. The bright blue onesie does away with the fishbowl helmet in favor of a hoodie secured with a pressurized zipper.

The gloves work on touch screens. Even the booties got an upgrade from Reebok.
The Boeing Blue is designed for intra-vehicular activity, meaning it's meant for wearing inside the spacecraft. It offers a measure of protection in the event of a serious problem like sudden depressurization or a fire. Unlike a suit designed for extra-vehicular activity, it can't shield astronauts from micro meteoroids or keep them from being baked like a potato by solar radiation. They'll wear it primarily during launches and re-entries, when they face

the greatest risk of something going wrong. "The nickname for it in the Apollo era was the 'get me down quick suit,' says Nicholas de Monchaux, who wrote Spacesuit: Fashioning Apollo, a book about spacesuit design.

Boeing's suit is an evolution of the pressurized suits high altitude pilots have worn since World War II. "They're incredibly similar, which makes a lot of sense because they're doing the same thing," de Monchaux says. Boeing worked with David Clark, the aerospace firm that built pressurized suits for wartime fighter pilots and astronauts in the Gemini, Apollo, and shuttle missions. The goal this time around was the same—create a suit capable of protecting astronauts from fire and sudden changes in pressure—but make it lighter, sleeker, and more comfortable.

Besides the hoodie, gloves, and more flexible boots, the 20-pound suit is 10 pounds lighter than the pumpkin suit. It's less fussy too, with fewer zippers and buckles and such to make it easier to get in and out of. And the material was designed to allow water vapor out while keeping air in, making the suit cooler.

Spacesuits have an annoying habit of trying to look like anything other than a spacesuit when pressurized. "It wants to be like a basketball," de Monchaux says. In the 1950s, David Clark found a solution while knitting on an airplane: link-net, a knitted nylon material acts like a flexible cast, helping the suit retain its shape. Boeing Blue features a similar technology that features extra material at the joints to allow greater range of motion.

The suits must face a battery of tests before they're certified for launch next year, an important reminder that a spacesuit, no matter the material, color, or fit, must do one thing: Make sure astronauts reach space and return home safely.

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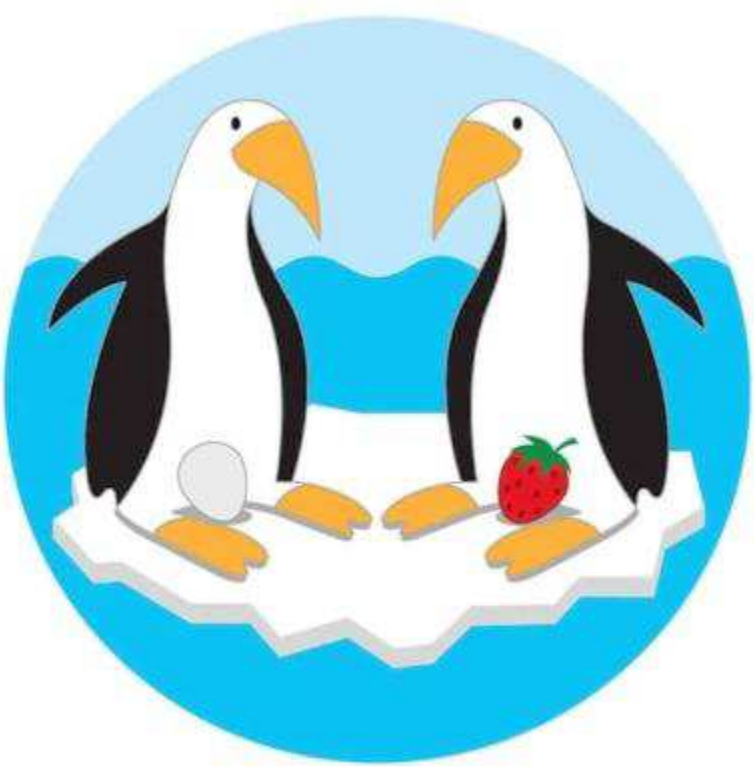
A NEW ANTARCTIC-PROOF GREENHOUSE HEADS SOUTH TO POLAR SCIENTISTS

By Megan Gannon | Scientific American February 2017 Issue
https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-new-antarctic-proof-greenhouse-heads-south-to-polar-scientists/?WT.mc_id=SA_ENGYSUS_20170126



Credit: Thomas Fuchs

In the endless winter that is Antarctica, the picture of decadence is a juicy strawberry. Research scientists at the Neumayer III polar station may soon be so lucky as to count the treat—and other fresh fruits and vegetables—as part of their diets: engineers at the German Aerospace Center are currently building them a year-round greenhouse.

Called Eden ISS, the closed-system, 20-foot-long shipping container will head to Antarctica in October. The project is now in its final phase; next month Paul Zabel, the future caretaker of the greenhouse, and his colleagues will begin a trial of the garden in Bremen. In simulated Antarctic isolation, they plan to grow between 30 and 50 different species, including tomatoes, peppers, lettuce and strawberries, as well as herbs such as basil and parsley that could add fresh flavors to the packaged foods that make up the typical diet of an Antarctic scientist. "We are focused on pick-and-eat crops—plants that don't need any postprocessing," Zabel says.

Cultivating greens in the Antarctic's hostile conditions requires extreme measures—temperatures on the Ekström Ice Shelf can drop to ?22 degrees Fahrenheit, and the sun disappears for months at a time. To beat the odds, Zabel has turned to the growing method known as aeroponics, which eliminates the need for soil (greenhouses at the American and Australian stations use this method, too). Instead fruit and veggie plants will sit on racks with their roots hanging in the air, where they receive a spritz of nutrient-rich mist every few minutes. Extra carbon dioxide will be pumped into the 75-degree F greenhouse for enrichment, and 42 LED lamps will be tuned to the red and blue wavelengths that plants thrive on, giving the greenhouse a purplish glow.

Biting into a ripe fruit or vegetable could boost morale for the 10 crew members set to overwinter at Neumayer III next season. But the garden is more than a treat for polar scientists, Zabel says. Ultimately the project is designed to test techniques for efficiently

cultivating plant-based food in even more extreme environments, such as on the International Space Station or Mars.

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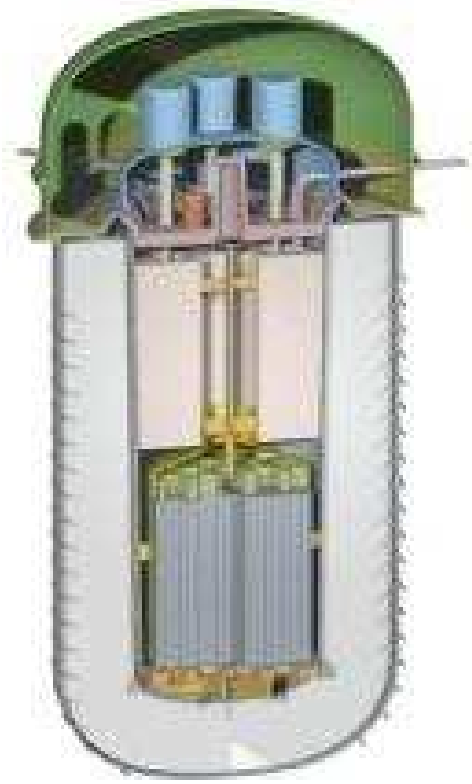
TERRESTRIAL ENERGY TO LICENSE SMALL MODULAR NUCLEAR REACTOR IN THE UNITED STATES

Jan 24, 2017
http://www.power-eng.com/articles/2017/01/terrestrial-energy-to-license-smr-in-the-united-states.html?cmpid=enl_pe_powerengineeringe-newsletter_2017-01-27&email_address=tbolgeo@epbfi.com&eid=366256519&bid=1647480

By Editors of Power Engineering



Terrestrial Energy USA Ltd. has informed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission it plans to license a small modular nuclear reactor in the United States.

The next steps for TEUSA include pre-applications with the NRC this year, and then either a design certification application or a construction permit. The company plans to submit a licensing application in 2019.
The NRC notification included the status of the design, analysis, testing, licensing and project planning for TEUSA's 400-MW Integral Molten Salt Reactor. Canadian-based Terrestrial Energy had previously announced it was collaborating with Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, as well as the University of Manchester in the UK.

We are moving forward with the design and regulatory actions needed to allow the Company to bring the IMSR to market in the 2020s," said Simon Irish, CEO of TEUSA. "The IMSR's design choices will result in an Advanced Reactor that delivers clean, cost-competitive and high-grade industrial heat. This capability can serve the many and varied heat requirements of industry, and as well as those of the electric power sector where the IMSR's dispatchablity will be greatly prized."

Potential test sites for the company's first commercial plant include the Idaho National Laboratory near Idaho Falls and several sites in the eastern United States.

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80 YEARS LATE, SCIENTISTS FINALLY TURN HYDROGEN INTO A METAL

The big hurdle? The pressure kept breaking the diamonds needed.

JOHN TIMMER - 1/26/2017, 2:00 PM
https://arstechnica.com/science/2017/01/80-years-late-scientists-finally-turn-hydrogen-into-a-metal/

Aurich / Thinkstock

If you don't go far enough in chemistry, it's easy to get the impression that metallicity is an innate property of certain elements. But "metallic" is simply defined as substances with electrons that can move around easily. These electrons give metals properties like good conductivity and an opaque, shiny appearance. But these traits are not exclusive to specific elements; carbon nanotubes can be metallic, and elements like sulfur become metallic under sufficient pressure.

In 1935, scientists predicted that the simplest element, hydrogen, could also become metallic under pressure, and they calculated that it would take 25 GigaPascals to force this transition (each Gigapascal is about 10,000 atmospheres of pressure). That estimate, in the words of the people who have finally made metallic hydrogen, "was way off." It took until last year for us to reach pressures where the normal form of hydrogen started breaking down into individual atoms—at 380 GigaPascals. Now, a pair of Harvard researchers has upped the pressure quite a bit more, and they have finally made hydrogen into a metal.

All of these high-pressure studies rely on what are called diamond anvils. This hardware places small samples between two diamonds, which are hard enough to stand up to extreme pressure. As the diamonds are forced together, the pressure keeps going up.

Current calculations suggested that metallic hydrogen might require just a slight boost in pressure from the earlier work, at pressures as low as 400 GigaPascals. But the researchers behind the new work, Ranga Dias and Isaac Silvera, discovered it needed quite a bit more than that. In making that discovery, they also came to a separate realization: normal diamonds weren't up to the task. "Diamond failure," they note, "is the principal

limitation for achieving the required pressures to observe SMH," where SMH means "solid metallic hydrogen" rather than "shaking my head."

The team came up with some ideas about what might be causing the diamonds to fail and corrected them. One possibility was surface defects, so they etched all diamonds down by five microns to eliminate these. Another problem may be that hydrogen under pressure could be forced into the diamond itself, weakening it. So they cooled the hydrogen to slow diffusion and added material to the anvil that absorbed free hydrogen. Shining lasers through the diamond seemed to trigger failures, so they switched to other sources of light to probe the sample.

After loading the sample and cranking up the pressure (literally—they turned a handcrank), they witnessed hydrogen's breakdown at high pressure, which converted it from a clear sample to a black substance, as had been described previously. But then, somewhere between 465 and 495 GigaPascals, the sample turned reflective, a key feature of metals.

The authors have no way of telling whether the metallic substance is a solid or liquid. They expect solid based on theoretical considerations, but all they know for sure is that it's 15 times denser than hydrogen chilled to 15K, which is what they put into the diamond anvil.

One result they do have is that there was no change in appearance even as they allowed the sample to warm up to 83K. That's intriguing, because some theoretical work has suggested that metallic hydrogen could be metastable, meaning it will remain metallic even as the pressure and temperature that forced it there is released. That will definitely be something worth checking into in more detail. Other calculations suggest it will be superconducting, but that hasn't been looked at yet at all.

These sorts of details will probably have to wait until we've overcome what the authors term a "looming challenge"—producing metallic hydrogen in sufficient quantities to study it in detail. Still, we've waited 80 years just to see the stuff. We can probably afford to be patient for a bit more.

Science, 2017. DOI: 10.1126/science.aal1579 (About DOIs).

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MEDICAL FIRST, CHILDREN HAD CANCER CURED WITH GENETICALLY ENGINEERED T-CELLS FROM ANOTHER PERSON

January 26, 2017
http://www.nextbigfuture.com/2017/01/medical-firstchildren-had-cancer-cured.html

Doctors in London say they have cured two babies of leukemia in the world's first attempt to treat cancer with genetically engineered immune cells from a donor.

Experiments, which took place at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital, raise the possibility of off-the-shelf cellular therapy using inexpensive supplies of universal cells that could be dripped into patients' veins on a moment's notice.

The ready-made approach could pose a challenge to companies including Juno Therapeutics and Novartis, each of which has spent tens of millions of dollars pioneering treatments that require collecting a patient's own blood cells, engineering them, and then re-infusing them.

Both methods rely on engineering T cells—the hungry predator cells of the immune system—so they attack leukemic cells.

The British infants, ages 11 and 16 months, each had leukemia and had undergone previous treatments that failed, according to a description of their cases published Wednesday in Science Translational Medicine. Waseem Qasim, a physician and gene-therapy expert who led the tests, reported that both children remain in remission.

Although the cases drew wide media attention in Britain, some researchers said that because the London team also gave the children standard chemotherapy, they failed to show the cell treatment actually cured the kids. "There is a hint of efficacy but no proof," says Stephan Grupp, director of cancer immunotherapy at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who collaborates with Novartis. "It would be great if it works, but that just hasn't been shown yet."

Rights to the London treatment were sold to the biotech company Cellectis, and the treatment is now being further developed by the drug companies Servier and Pfizer.

Treatments using engineered T-cells, commonly known as CAR-T, are new and not yet sold commercially. But they have shown stunning success against blood cancers. In studies so far by Novartis and Juno, about half of patients are permanently cured after receiving altered versions of their own blood cells.

But commercializing such personalized treatments raises unprecedented logistical headaches. Grupp says Novartis has outfitted a manufacturing center in New Jersey and that patient cells have been flown in from 25 hospitals in 11 countries, modified, then quickly shipped back. Novartis has said it will seek U.S. approval to sell its T-cell treatment for children this year.

The promise of immunotherapy has drawn huge investments, yet many newer entrants are betting instead on the off-the-shelf approach. Among them are biotech giant Regeneron, Kite Therapeutics, Fate Therapeutics, and Cell Medica.

"The patient could be treated immediately, as opposed to taking cells from a patient and manufacturing them," says Julianne Smith, vice president of CAR-T development for Cellectis, which specializes in supplying universal cells.

In the off-the-shelf approach, blood is collected from a donor and then turned into "hundreds" of doses that can then be stored frozen, says Smith. "We estimate the cost to manufacture a dose would be about $4,000," she says. That's compared to a cost of around $50,000 to alter a patient's cells and return them.

Either type of treatment is likely to cost insurers half a million dollars or more if they reach the market.

Robert Nelsen, a venture capitalist and a founder of Juno Therapeutics, which raised hundreds of millions for the custom approach, says he's not worried about companies developing universal alternatives. "What they can do in the future is what we can do today," Nelsen said in an interview last year. "And I guarantee you even if things were equal, which they are not, you would want your own stuff, not someone else's cells."

The London treatment is notable for involving the most extensively engineered cells ever given to a patient, with a total of four genetic changes, two of them introduced by gene editing using a method called TALENs. One alteration was to strip the donor cells of their propensity to attack the body of another person. Another directs them to attack cancer cells.

In the U.S. and China, scientists are also racing to apply gene editing to make improved treatments for cancer and other diseases.

SOURCES- MIT Technology review

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From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

THE STORY OF NASA'S REAL "HIDDEN FIGURES"

African-American women working behind the scenes as "human computers" were vital to the Space Race

By Elizabeth Howell, SPACE.com on January 24, 2017
https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-story-of-nasas-real-ldquo-hidden-figures-rdquo/?WT.mc_id=SA_DD_20170124

Mary Jackson was one of the "human computers" portrayed in the film "Hidden Figures." Credit: NASA

In the 1960s, Mercury astronauts Alan Shepard, Gus Grissom, John Glenn and others absorbed the accolades of being the first men in space. Behind the scenes, they were supported by hundreds of unheralded NASA workers, including "human computers" who did the calculations for their orbital trajectories. "Hidden Figures," a 2016 book by Margot Lee Shetterly and a movie based on the book, celebrates the contributions of some of those workers.

Beginning in 1935, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), a precursor of NASA, hired hundreds of women as computers. The job title designated someone who performed mathematical equations and calculations by hand, according to a NASA history. The computers worked at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Virginia.

Human computers were not a new concept. In the late 19th and early 20thcentury, female "computers" at Harvard University analyzed star photos to learn more about their basic properties. These women made discoveries still fundamental to astronomy today. For example: Williamina Fleming is best known for classifying stars based on their temperature, and Annie Jump Cannon developed a stellar classification system still used today (from coolest to hottest stars: O, B, A, F, G, K, M.)

During World War II, the computer pool was expanded. Langley began recruiting African-American women with college degrees to work as computers, according to NASA. However, segregation policies required that these women work in a separate section, called

the West Area Computers—although computing sections became more integrated after the first several years.

As the years passed and the center evolved, the West Computers became engineers, (electronic) computer programmers, the first black managers at Langley and trajectory whizzes whose work propelled the first American, John Glenn, into orbit in 1962.

"Hidden Figures" focuses on three computers, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan. Here are brief biographies of these women:

MARY JACKSON (1921-2005)

Jackson hailed from Hampton, Virginia. She graduated with high marks from high school and received a bachelor of science degree from the Hampton Institute in Mathematics and Physical Science, according to a biography posted on NASA's website. She began her career as a schoolteacher, and took on several other jobs before joining NACA.

As a computer with the all-black West Area Computing section, she was involved with wind tunnels and flight experiments. Her job was to extract the relevant data from experiments and flight tests. She also tried to help other women advance in their career, according to the biography, by advising them on what educational opportunities to pursue.

"She discovered that occasionally it was something as simple as a lack of a couple of courses, or perhaps the location of the individual, or perhaps the assignments given them, and of course, the ever present glass ceiling that most women seemed to encounter," stated the biography.

After 30 years with NACA and NASA (at which point she was an engineer), Jackson decided to become an equal opportunity specialist to help women and minorities. Although described as a behind-the-scenes sort of worker, she helped many people get promoted or become supervisors. She retired from NASA in 1985.

KATHERINE JOHNSON (BORN 1918)

Johnson showed early brilliance in West Virginia schools by being promoted several years ahead of her age, according to NASA. She attended a high school on the campus of West Virginia State College by age 13, and began attending the college at age 18. After graduating with highest honors, she started work as a schoolteacher in 1937.

Two years later, when the college chose to integrate its graduate schools, Johnson and two male students were offered spots. She quickly enrolled, but left to have children. In 1953, when she was back in the workforce, Johnson joined the West Area Computing section at Langley.

She began her career working with data from flight tests, but her life quickly changed after the Soviet Union launched the first satellite in 1957. For example, some of her math equations were used in a lecture series compendium called Notes on Space Technology. These lectures were given by engineers that later formed the Space Task Group, NACA's section on space travel.

For the Mercury missions, Johnson did trajectory analysis for Shepard's Freedom 7 mission in 1961, and (at John Glenn's request) did the same job for his orbital mission in 1962. Despite Glenn's trajectory being planned by computers, Glenn reportedly wanted Johnson herself to run through the equations to make sure they were safe

.

"When asked to name her greatest contribution to space exploration, Katherine Johnson talks about the calculations that helped synch Project Apollo's Lunar Lander with the moon-orbiting Command and Service Module," NASA wrote. "She also worked on the space shuttle and the Earth Resources Satellite, and authored or coauthored 26 research reports."

Johnson retired from NASA In 1986. At age 97, in 2015, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States.

DOROTHY VAUGHAN (1910-2008)

Vaughan joined the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in 1943 after beginning her career as a math teacher in Farmville, Virginia. Her job during World War II was a temporary position, but (in part thanks to a new executive order prohibiting discrimination in the defense industry) she was hired on permanently because the laboratory had a wealth of data to process.

Still, the law required that she and her black colleagues needed to work separately from white female computers, and the first supervisors were white. Vaughan became the first black NACA supervisor in 1949 and made sure that her employees received promotions or pay raises if merited.

Her segregation was ended in 1958 when NACA became NASA, at which point NASA created an analysis and computation division. Vaughan was an expert programmer in FORTRAN, a prominent computer language of the day, and also contributed to a satellite-launching rocket called Scout (Solid Controlled Orbital Utility Test). She retired from NASA in 1971.

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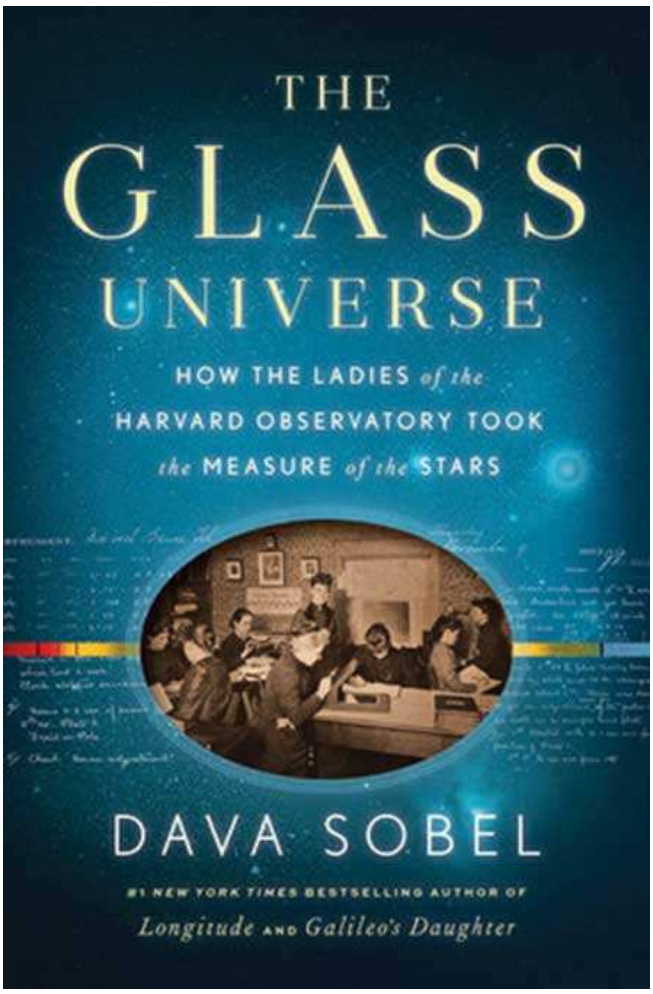
'THE GLASS UNIVERSE' CELEBRATES ASTRONOMY'S UNSUNG HEROINES

Women in the 19th century played underappreciated role in mapping and understanding the stars

BY MACON MOREHOUSE , 8:00AM, NOVEMBER 27, 2016
https://www.sciencenews.org/article/astronomys-unsung-heroines-celebrated-glass-universe

SHINING STARS - In the late 1890s, Harvard observatory hired women as "computers" to document data captured on

glass plate images of the night sky. Their observations and ideas, described in a new book, led to such advances in astronomy as how to measure the distance to stars.



HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Magazine issue: Vol. 190, No. 12, December 10, 2016, p. 28

The Glass Universe, Dava Sobel, Viking, $30

In the early 1880s, Harvard Observatory director Edward Pickering put out a call for volunteers to help observe flickering stars. He welcomed women, in particular — and not just because he couldn't afford to pay anything.

At the time, women's colleges were producing graduates with "abundant training to make excellent observers," Pickering wrote. His belief in women's abilities carried over when he hired staff, even though critics of women's higher education argued that women "originate almost nothing, so that human knowledge is not advanced by their work."

Pickering and his "harem" sure proved the critics wrong.

In The Glass Universe, science writer Dava Sobel shines a light on the often-unheralded scientific contributions of the observatory's beskirted "computers" who helped chart the heavens. By 1893, women made up nearly half of the observatory's assistants, and dozens followed in their footsteps.

These women toiled tirelessly, marking times, coordinates and other notations for photographic images of the sky taken nightly and preserved on glass plates — the glass universe. These women's routine mapping of the stars gave birth to novel ideas that advanced astronomy in ways still instrumental today — from how stars are classified to how galactic distances are measured.

Using diaries, letters, memoirs and scientific papers, Sobel recounts the accomplishments of these extraordinary women, going into enough scientific detail (glossary included) to satisfy curious readers and enough personal detail to bring these women's stories to life.

Sobel traces the origin of the glass universe back to heiress Anna Palmer Draper. The book opens in 1882 with her exulting in hosting a party for the scientific glitterati under the glowing and novel Edison incandescent lights. Her husband, Henry Draper, a doctor and amateur astronomer, had pioneered a way to "fix" the stars on glass photographic plates. The resulting durable black-and-white images revealed spectral lines that could provide

hints to a star's elements — and eventually so much more. Henry's premature death five days after the party launched Anna's philanthropic support of the Harvard Observatory and the creation of the glass universe.

Other women featured in the book had a more hands-on impact on astronomy. For instance, Williamina Fleming came to the United States as a maid. But Pickering soon recognized her knack for mathematics. At the observatory, she read "the rune-like lines of the spectra," Sobel writes, noticing patterns that led to the first iteration in 1890 of the Draper stellar classification system. That system, still used today, was later refined by the observations of other women.

Henrietta Leavitt, a promising Radcliffe College astronomy student slowly going deaf, joined the staff in 1895. While meticulously tracking the changing brightness of variable stars, she noticed a pattern: The brighter a star's magnitude, the longer it took to cycle through all its variations. This period-luminosity law, published in 1912, became crucial in measuring the distance to stars. It underpinned Edwin Hubble's law on cosmic expansion and led to discoveries about the shape of the Milky Way, our solar system's place far from the galactic center and the existence of other galaxies.

The story belongs, too, to Pickering and his successor, Harlow Shapley. Perhaps partly motivated by economics at a time of shoestring budgets — in 1888, women computers earned just 25cents per hour — these men not only recognized, but also encouraged and heralded the women's talent.

Sobel takes readers through World War II and a myriad of other moments starring women: first woman observatory head; first woman professor at Harvard (of astronomy, of course); discoveries of binary stars, the prevalence of hydrogen and helium in stars, and the existence of interstellar dust. In some cases, it took male astronomers to make those findings stick — the glass universe had a glass ceiling.

After World War II, radio astronomy emerged, and "the days of the human computer were numbered — by zeros and ones," Sobel writes. Using film to photograph the stars ended in the 1970s. But the glass universe is far from obsolete. The roughly half-million plates hold the ghosts of pulsars, quasars and other stellar phenomena not even imagined when the plates were made. They also offer the promise of more discoveries to come, perhaps by the next generation of women astronomers.

Buy The Glass Universe from Amazon.com. Sales generated through the links to Amazon.com contribute to Society for Science & the Public's programs.

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From: "Bovell, Randy" <crbovell@epbfi.com>

THE US NAVY PLANS TO FIRE LASER WEAPONS OFF OF SHIPS WITHIN A YEAR

Michael Fabey & Kris Osborn, Scout Warrior
http://www.businessinsider.com/us-navy-laser-weapons-2017-1

USS Ponce conducts an operational demonstration of the Office of Naval Research-sponsored Laser Weapon System, or LaWS, while deployed to the Arabian Gulf. US Navy Photo

The US Navy is moving at warp speed to develop lasers with more lethality, precision and power sources as a way to destroy attacking missiles, drones, aircraft, and other threats.

"We're doing a lot more with lasers," Rear Adm. Ronald Boxall, director of the Surface Warfare Division, said earlier this month at the annual Surface Naval Association national symposium.

The Navy plans to fire a 150-kilowatt weapon off a test ship within a year, he said. "Then a year later, we'll have that on a carrier or a destroyer or both."

That's quite a jump from the kilowatt AN/SEQ-3 (XN-1) Laser Weapon System (LaWS), which deployed in 2014 on the amphibious transport dock USS Ponce.

And the kind of power needed to power such a weapon won't come with a simple flip of a switch.

"The Navy will be looking at ships' servers to provide three times that much power," says Donald Klick, director of business development for DRS Power and Control Technologies. "To be putting out 150 kws, they (the laser systems) will be consuming 450 kws."
That is more than most currently operational ships are designed to accommodate, at least when they are conducting other tasks. "Few power systems onboard ships can support sustained usage of a high-powered laser without additional energy storage," noted a recent Naval Postgraduate School paper titled "Power Systems and Energy Storage Modeling for Directed Energy Weapons."

The paper said: "The new DDG-1000 may have enough electrical energy, but other platforms … may require some type of 'energy magazine.' This magazine stores energy for on-demand usage by the laser. It can be made up of batteries, capacitors, or flywheels, and would recharge between laser pulses. The energy magazine should allow for sustained usage against a swarm of targets in an engagement lasting up to twenty minutes."

The US Navy Afloat Forward Staging Base (Interim) USS Ponce (AFSB(I)-15) conducts an operational demonstration of the Office of Naval Research-sponsored LaWS while deployed to the Arabian Gulf.John F. Williams/US Navy

The ship's integrated power system, which includes its electric propulsion, helps generate up to 78 megawatts of onboard electrical power, something seen as key to the future when it comes to ship technologies and the application of anticipated future weapons systems such as laser weapons and rail guns. The ship's electric drive uses two main turbine generations with two auxiliary turbine generators which power up two 35-megawatt advanced induction motors, developers explained.

Ideally, it would charge up as fast as it discharges, allowing for indefinite use (as long as there is ship fuel to expend). Low maintenance, high safety, and long lifespan are other desirable characteristics.

DRS Power and Control Technologies is one of the companies that is developing a specialized energy source. "We have enough for well over 100 shots before we go to recharge," Klick said during a break at SNA, pointing out there's even a mode for continuous recharge. "If you've got power this kind of power, you don't go Winchester."

The DRS system uses a li-ion battery subsystem designed and provided by Lithiumstart housed in three distributed steel welded cabinets that are 48 inches by 66 inches by 100 inches — although they are modular, Klick says, and can be arranged for a tailored fit. Each cabinet contains 18 drawers with 480 li-ion phosphate cells in each drawer.

The redundant power modules can provide 465 kw each for a total of 930 kw. It can hold that full-power mark for about three minutes, Klick says — although most "lases" are normally of relatively short duration.

An at-sea demonstration of the magazine is slated for 2018, Klick says, mostly with the 150-kw laser being developed by Northrop Grumman for the Office of Naval Research.

The system still must go through rigorous Navy certification testing, Klick says.

Lockheed Martin C-130 in flight. Lockheed Martin

He also sees the energy magazine as a candidate for other US military units. "We're looking at Air Force Special Forces on a C-130. You have to strike a car, but you're worried about collateral damage. With that pinpoint accuracy, you don't have to worry about collateral damage. You can just cause a car to stop running. There's a lot more capability."

LONG-TERM EFFORT

The Navy has already been working with Northrop Grumman on a three-year deal to develop a ship-board laser weapon engineered to quickly incinerate enemy drones, small boats, aircraft, ships and missiles, service officials told Scout Warrior.

"This system employs multi-spectral target detection and track capabilities as well as an advanced off-axis beam director with improved fiber laser technologies to provide extended target engagement ranges.
Improvements of high power fiber lasers used to form the laser beam enable the increased power levels and extended range capabilities. Lessons learned, operating procedures, updated hardware and software derived from previous systems will be incorporated in this demonstration," Tom Beutner, director of the Air Warfare and Weapons branch, Office of Naval Research, told Scout Warrior in a written statement at the time of the contract announcement.

A previously established 12-month, $53 million deal between Northrop and the Office of Naval Research will develop a Laser Weapon System Demonstrator through three phases; the phases include an initial design phase, ground-testing phase and then weapons testing at sea aboard a Navy Self Defense test ship, a Northrop statement said.

"The company will design, produce, integrate, and support the shipboard testing of a 150-kilowatt-class solid state (electric) laser weapon system," the Northrop statement added. "The contract could grow to a total value of $91 million over 34 months if ONR exercises all of its contract options."

Office of Naval Research officials told Scout Warrior an aim of the developmental program is to engineer a prototype weapon for further analysis.

"The possibilities can become integrated prototypes — and the prototypes become reality when they become acquisition programs," an ONR official said.

It is not yet clear when this weapon might be operational but the intention seems to be to arm surface ships such as destroyers, cruisers and possibly even carriers or an LCS with inexpensive offensive or defensive laser weapons technology.

Screenshot via LockheedMartinVideos/ YouTube

"It is way too early to determine if this system will ever become operational. Northrop Grumman has been funded to set-up a demo to "demonstrate" the capabilities to senior leadership, who will then determine whether it is an asset worth further funding and turning into a program of record," a Navy official told Scout Warrior.

Both Navy and Northrop Grumman officials often talk about the cost advantages of firing laser weapons to incinerate incoming enemy attacks or destroy enemy targets without having to expend an interceptor missile worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Navy officials describe this as getting ahead of the cost curve.

"For about the price of a gallon of diesel fuel per shot, we're offering the Navy a high-precision defensive approach that will protect not only its sailors, but also its wallet," said Guy Renard, director and program manager of directed energy at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems.

As mentioned, the Navy has already deployed one laser system, called the Laser Weapons System, or LaWS, which has been operational for months.

LaWS uses heat energy from lasers to disable or destroy targets fast, slow, stationary and moving targets. The system has successfully incinerated UAVs and other targets in tests shots and has been operational aboard an amphibious transport dock in the Persian Gulf, the USS Ponce.

The scalable weapon is designed to destroy threats for about 59 cents per shot, an amount that is exponentially lower that the hundreds of thousands or millions needed to fire an interceptor missile such as the Standard Missile-2, Navy officials explained.

While at sea, sailors have been using the LaWS for targeting and training exercises every day and the weapon has even been used to disable and destroy some targets, service officials said.

Navy sailors and engineers have discovered some unanticipated intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance value from the laser weapons system by using its long-range telescope to scan for targets as well, Navy officials said.

U.S. Navy

Laser weapons are expected to figure prominently in the Navy's plans in several respects. New Navy platforms such as the high-tech destroyer, the DDG 1000 or USS Zumwalt, is engineered with an electric drive propulsion system and extra onboard electrical power called an Integrated Power System. This system is in part designed to power up ship electrical systems and accommodate emerging future weapons systems such as lasers and rail guns.

"Laser weapons provide deep magazines, low cost per shot, and precision engagement capabilities with variable effects that range from dazzling to structural defeat against asymmetric threats that are facing the US Naval force," Beutner added.

In addition, laser weapons integrate fully into the Navy's emerging "distributed lethality" strategy aimed at better arming the surface fleet with a wide array of offensive and defensive weapons.

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From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com

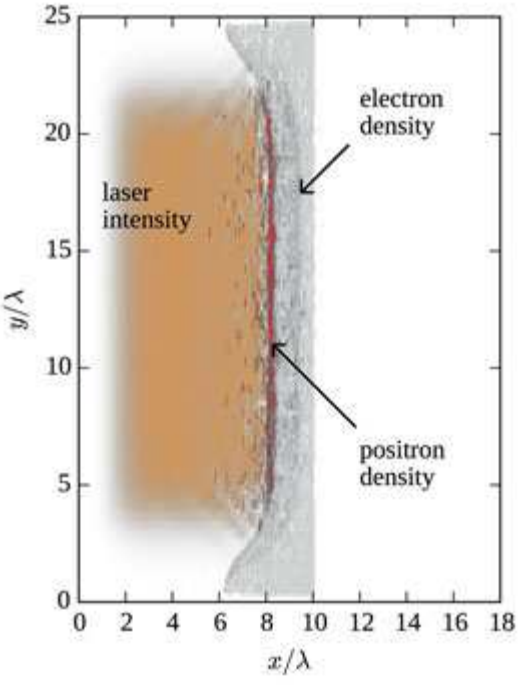
CREATING ANTIMATTER VIA LASERS?

Russian researchers develop calculations to explain the production and dynamics of positrons in the hole-boring regime of ultrahigh-intensity laser-matter interactions.

From the Journal: By AIP News Staff
https://publishing.aip.org/publishing/journal-highlights/creating-antimatter-lasers

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 27, 2016 -- Dramatic advances in laser technologies are enabling novel studies to explore laser-matter interactions at ultrahigh intensity. By focusing high-power laser pulses, electric fields (of orders of magnitude greater than found within atoms) are routinely produced and soon may be sufficiently intense to create matter from light.

Now, intriguing calculations from a research team at the Institute of Applied Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IAP RAS), and reported this week in Physics of Plasmas, from AIP Publishing, explain the production and dynamics of electrons and positrons from ultrahigh-intensity laser-matter interactions. In other words: They've calculated how to create matter and antimatter via lasers.



The distribution of the laser intensity (orange), the foil electron and foil ion densities (gray), and the positron density (red) in the x–y plane. The laser pulse propagates along the x-axis, while the foil surface is perpendicular to the x-axis. CREDIT: IAP RAS

Strong electric fields cause electrons to undergo huge radiation losses because a significant amount of their energy is converted into gamma rays -- high-energy photons, which are the particles that make up light. The high-energy photons produced by this process interact with the strong laser field and create electron-positron pairs. As a result, a new state of matter emerges: strongly interacting particles, optical fields, and gamma radiation, whose dynamics are governed by the interplay between classical physics phenomena and quantum processes.

A key concept behind the team's work is based on the quantum electrodynamics (QED) prediction that "a strong electric field can, generally speaking, 'boil the vacuum,' which is full of 'virtual particles,' such as electron-positron pairs," explained Igor Kostyukov of IAP RAS. "The field can convert these types of particles from a virtual state, in which the particles aren't directly observable, to a real one."

One impressive manifestation of this type of QED phenomenon is a self-sustained laser-driven QED cascade, which is a grand challenge yet to be observed in a laboratory.

But, what's a QED cascade?

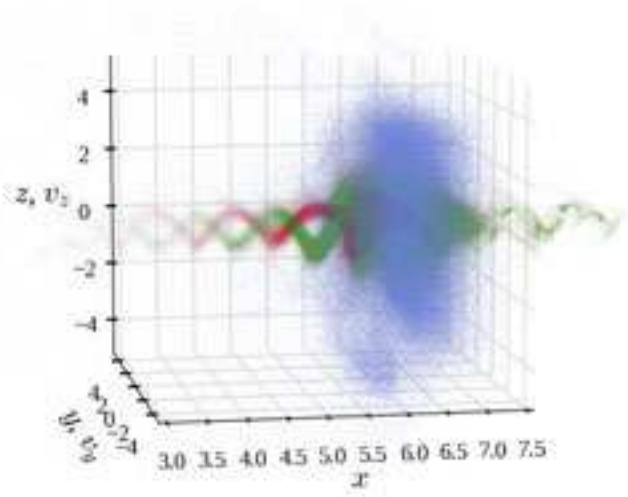
"Think of it as a chain reaction in which each chain link consists of sequential processes," Kostyukov said. "It begins with acceleration of electrons and positrons within the laser field. This is followed by emission of high-energy photons by the accelerated electrons and positrons. Then, the decay of high-energy photons produces electron-positron pairs, which go on to new generations of cascade particles. A QED cascade leads to an avalanche-like production of electron-positron high-energy photon plasmas."

For this work, the researchers explored the interaction of a very intense laser pulse with a foil via numerical simulations.

"We expected to produce a large number of high-energy photons, and that some portion of them would decay and produce electron-positron pairs," Kostyukov continued. "Our first surprise was that the number of high-energy photons produced by the positrons is much greater than that produced by the electrons of the foil. This led to an exponential -- very sharp -- growth of the number of positrons, which means that if we detect a larger number of positrons in a corresponding experiment we can conclude that most of them are generated in a QED cascade."

They were also able to observe a distinct structure of the positron distribution in the simulations -- despite some randomness of the processes of photon emission and decay.

"By analyzing the positron motion in the electromagnetic fields in front of the foil analytically, we discovered that some characteristics of the motion regulate positron distribution and led to helical-like structures being observed in the simulations," he added.



The space distribution of the foil ions (blue). The distribution of the electrons (green) and positrons (red) produced by QED cascading in the x-Vy-Vz space, where Vy and Vz are the transverse components of the velocities of the electrons and positrons produced by QED cascading. The laser pulse

propagates along the x-axis, while the foil is perpendicular to the x-axis. CREDIT: IAP RAS

The team's discoveries are of fundamental importance because the phenomenon they explored can accompany the laser-matter interaction at extreme intensities within a wider range of parameters. "It offers new insights into the properties of these types of interactions," Kostyukov said. "More practical applications may include the development of advanced ideas for the laser-plasma sources of high-energy photons and positrons whose brilliance significantly exceeds that of the modern sources."

So far, the researchers have focused on the initial stage of interaction when the electron-positron pairs they produced don't significantly affect the laser-target interaction.

"Next, we're exploring the nonlinear stage when the self-generated electron-positron plasma strongly modifies the interaction," he said. "And we'll also try to expand our results to more general configurations of the laser–matter interactions and other regimes of interactions -- taking a wider range of parameters into consideration."

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

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

TRUMP ARGUMENT BOLSTERED: CLINTON RECEIVED 800,000 VOTES FROM NONCITIZENS, STUDY FINDS

By Rowan Scarborough - The Washington Times - Friday, January 27, 2017
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jan/26/hillary-clinton-received-800000-votes-from-nonciti/

Hillary Clinton is estimated to have collected 81 percent of noncitizen votes, which may have helped her carry a state, a researcher says. (Associated Press) more >

Hillary Clinton garnered more than 800,000 votes from noncitizens on Nov. 8, an approximation far short of President Trump's estimate of up to 5 million illegal voters but supportive of his charges of fraud.

Political scientist Jesse Richman of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, has worked with colleagues to produce groundbreaking research on noncitizen voting, and this week he posted a blog in response to Mr. Trump's assertion.

Based on national polling by a consortium of universities, a report by Mr. Richman said 6.4 percent of the estimated 20 million adult noncitizens in the U.S. voted in November. He extrapolated that that percentage would have added 834,381 net votes for Mrs. Clinton, who received about 2.8 million more votes than Mr. Trump.

Mr. Richman calculated that Mrs. Clinton would have collected 81 percent of noncitizen votes.

"Is it plausible that non-citizen votes added to Clinton's margin? Yes," Mr. Richman wrote. "Is it plausible that non-citizen votes account for the entire nation-wide popular vote margin held by Clinton? Not at all."

Still, the finding is significant because it means noncitizens may have helped Mrs. Clinton carry a state or finish better than she otherwise would have.

Mr. Trump's unverified accusation to congressional leaders this week, as reported by The Washington Post, has sent the issue skyward.
He apparently was referring to all types of fraud, such as the "dead" voting or multiple votes from the same person. But the thrust of his estimate appears to be that illegal immigrants and noncitizens carried the popular vote.

He returned to the issue Thursday in Philadelphia, where he spoke to congressional Republicans mapping this year's legislative calendar.

"We also need to keep the ballot box safe from illegal voting," the president said. "And, believe me, you take a look at what's registering, folks. Take a look at what's registering. We are going to protect the integrity of the ballot box, and we are going to defend the votes of the American citizen, so important."

The mainstream media reacted to Mr. Trump's assertion with derision. Liberal pundits said there is no evidence of fraud.

CNN's Jake Tapper called it "a stunning allegation for which the White House is providing no evidence. And there is a reason they are providing no evidence — there is no evidence. It is not true."

Esquire.com said, "The most bizarre lie of Donald Trump's presidency so far is his claim of widespread voter fraud in an election he won."

But conservative activists say the liberal media are ignoring evidence — that noncitizen voting is illegal and, thus, fraud. They say the Justice Department in the Obama administration was more concerned with preventing states from cleansing rosters of dead and inactive voters than in mounting any investigation into fraud.

"Most voters are never asked for voter ID, so it is dishonest to suggest that with the tens of millions of illegal and legal aliens here, there is no voter fraud," said Tom Fitton, who heads the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch. "If the key Old Dominion study results on the 2008 election are applied to 2016 — 1.41 million aliens may have voted illegally, with 1.13 million voting for Democrats."

"A federal voter fraud investigation is long overdue," Mr. Fitton said. "It would be a simple matter of analyzing voter registration databases against federal databases of aliens and deceased individuals. Why is the left afraid to even ask the questions? The jig is up."
There does not appear to be any concerted postelection effort by states to take on the daunting task of checking voter rolls and ballots to verify citizenship. In some states, no ID is required to register and vote.

In the absence of detailed accounting, the only scientific way to make an estimate is by post-vote polling.

Mr. Richman relies on a one-of-a-kind poll: the Cooperative Congressional Election Survey. Every two years, a consortium of 28 universities produces a detailed report on voters and their views based on polling by YouGov.

Tucked inside the lengthy questionnaire is a question on citizenship status: A significant number of respondents anonymously acknowledged they were not citizens when they voted.

Three professors at Old Dominion University — Mr. Richman, Gulshan A. Chattha and David C. Earnest — took these answers, did further research and extrapolated that of a 19.4 million estimate of adult noncitizens, about 620,000 were illegally registered to vote in the 2008 presidential election. Using other measuring tools, they said, the actual number of noncitizen voters could be as low as 38,000 and as high as 2.8 million.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported in 2012 that there are 22 million noncitizens in the country. The group comprises illegal immigrants and people in the U.S. legally on a visa or permanent resident green card. Of this 22 million, 20 million were 18 or older, the U.S. voting age requirement.

Conservatives have long suspected that Democrats are tacitly encouraging illegal immigrants to vote. Liberal leaders have created "sanctuary cities" across the nation that refuse to work with federal immigration enforcement authorities.

President Obama was asked during the campaign last year if illegal immigrants had anything to fear from federal authorities if they voted in the presidential race.
"Many of the millennials, Dreamers, undocumented citizens — and I call them citizens because they contribute to this country — are fearful of voting," he was asked on a Latino YouTube channel. "'So if I vote, will Immigration know where I live? Will they come for my family and deport us?'"

"Not true, and the reason is, first of all, when you vote, you are a citizen yourself," Mr. Obama said. "And there is not a situation where the voting rolls somehow are transferred over and people start investigating, etc. The sanctity of the vote is strictly confidential."
Some conservatives interpreted Mr. Obama's answer as a go-ahead signal, with his questionable assertion that voter rolls are off limits to federal investigators.

The WikiLeaks dump of Clinton campaign manger John Podesta's emails contained one message on directing immigrants to vote. He said immigrants should obtain driver's licenses and then attest at a polling place that they are U.S. citizens.

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