

The December 20th, 2017 Christmas Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

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Welcome to the December 20th, 2017 Christmas Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

Christmas is only a few days away and everybody is getting ready around Casa Bolgeo for the event. SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED is out every day shopping and has just about completed here list. I on the other hand have another set of jobs. I either order presents off of Amazon or I sign checks. You see, we found out years ago that if we give the children and grandchildren the right present, it is always the right size. Always the right color. And they never give it back, I'll let you guess what it is. ☺

One thing we did a little different this year was to buy a new 7' LED lit Christmas Tree. This is a really nifty tree because it has a control switch that causes the lights to change color, blink and cycle through the light intensity. It is really surprising when you hit the but and it goes from multicolor LED's too sold white LED's. It is truly an interesting effect. Other than the new tree, we have been going light on the Christmas Decorations. But I did put up my ceramic Christmas Tree. Either my mother made it or my sister but I have had it for over 40 years and it is one of my prized possessions. Since I rewired it with a LED bulb, it runs cool when lit up. As a matter of fact, after I setup it's display 3 years ago, we keep it up year round now in our living room on our display corner cabinet.

One last thing I have to say are the words of that learned philosopher, Maynard G. Krebs,

*HAVE A COOL YULE!
LATER LIKE DIG!*

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

Uncle Timmy



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

A Very Happy Hanukkah!

From: "Mel Boros" boros@pobox.com

To all those who participate and all those who share. Our son in rural Iowa, invented a bigger way to celebrate and share the holiday. He explains (shows) his front window setup on his Facebook "Jewish Muther" area.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2057031397859989&id=2028562300706899

It amazes me how inventive a Good Ole Southern Boy can be with a nine outlet power strip, lightbulb plug adapters, and specialty bulbs - items from a local Walmart and Ace Hardware store!

Great job, Robbie!

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

VIDEO: WHY 'THE ORVILLE' IS THE NUMBER 1 SHOW ON TELEVISION EVEN THOUGH CRITICS HATE IT

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbf.com

It's performing better than the actual "Star Trek" reboot. Maybe that's because it's an even better love letter to the original series.

Egotastic Fun Time!

<http://digg.com/video/critics-audience-orville>

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

Re: Who would make the best next James Bond

From: "Anita S. Moore" foofighterubu@gmail.com

I'm with you, Uncle Timmy! Cavill would make a GREAT Bond!!!!

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

Re: Who would make the best next James Bond

From: "Karon L. Adams" karon@karonadams.com

Henry Cavill played Charles Brandon the Duke of Somerset in The Tudors. A very handsome man with a good skill set, he could likely do Bond. But, frankly, I prefer the short guys to play bond. The Tall ones don't have the attitude a short tough guy has. One reason I think Craig was good. For the first two. Then he lost the taste for the series and it went VERY bad. I am sincerely praying that EON lets him out of his contract.

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

From: "Bob Bolgeo" bbolgeo@aol.com

A LOVE STORY.....?

I will seek and find you.

I shall take you to bed, and have my way with you.

I will make you ache, shake & sweat until you moan & groan.

I will make you beg for mercy, beg for me to stop.

I will exhaust you to the point that you will be relieved when I'm finished with you.

And, when I am finished, you will be weak for days.

All my love,

Signed: The Flu

Now, stop thinking about sex, and go get your flu shot!

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

From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

Snowman for sale needs repairs \$25



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

DADDY LONGLEGS

A young father in central Texas watched his small daughter playing in the garden. He smiled as he reflected on how sweet and pure his little girl was. Tears formed in his eyes as he thought about her seeing the wonders of nature through such innocent eyes. Suddenly she just stopped and stared at the ground.

He went over to her to see what work of God had captured her attention. He noticed she was looking at two spiders mating.

'Daddy, what are those two spiders doing?' she asked.

'They're mating,' her father replied.

'What do you call the spider on top?' she asked.

'A Daddy Longlegs,' her father answered.

'So, the other one is a Mommy Longlegs?' the little girl asked.

As his heart soared with the joy of such a cute and innocent question he replied, 'No dear. Both of them are Daddy Longlegs.'

'The little girl, looking a little puzzled, thought for a moment, then lifted her foot and stomped both spiders flat.

'Well', she said, "that may be OK in California, but we're not having any of that shit in Texas."

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

The Christmas Fairy

It was Christmas Eve. A poor old lady was sitting alone, except for her cat, in her tiny house, in front of a small fire. Suddenly, there was a flash of light, and the old woman's good fairy appeared in the room.

The old woman was astonished, but the fairy reassured her: "Don't be afraid! I am your good fairy. You are very poor, and all alone at Christmas, so I have come to grant you three wishes, to cheer you up."

The old woman was about to speak, but the fairy held up her hand. "Wait!" she said. "Before you make a wish, think carefully! You will get exactly what you wish for, and no wish can be undone!"

So the old woman sat silently, staring at the fire and thinking. Eventually, she spoke: "First", she said, "I want to be very, very wealthy." Poof! Immediately, the tiny house was packed with pots full of gold coins, and sacks of bank-notes. There was more money than anyone could spend in an entire lifetime.

The old woman looked around and smiled. She thought some more, and spoke again: "Next", she said, "I want to be young and beautiful again, like I was when I was 18." Poof! The old woman disappeared. In her place sat a beautiful young woman, with smooth, white skin and long, golden hair. The woman looked at her hands and arms, felt her hair, and smiled.

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"Third", she said to the fairy, "I want you to change my cat into a handsome young prince, who will love me and take care of me all my life!"

Poof! The fairy disappeared, and the cat leapt up from his place by the fire as a handsome young prince. He reached out to the woman, pulled her to her feet, embraced her, and kissed her passionately. Then he gazed into her eyes and said: "Hah! Now you're really going to be sorry that you took me to the vet!"

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



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

IF YOU ARE AS OLD AS I AM, YOU MIGHT GET YOUR PRETEEN CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.



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

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

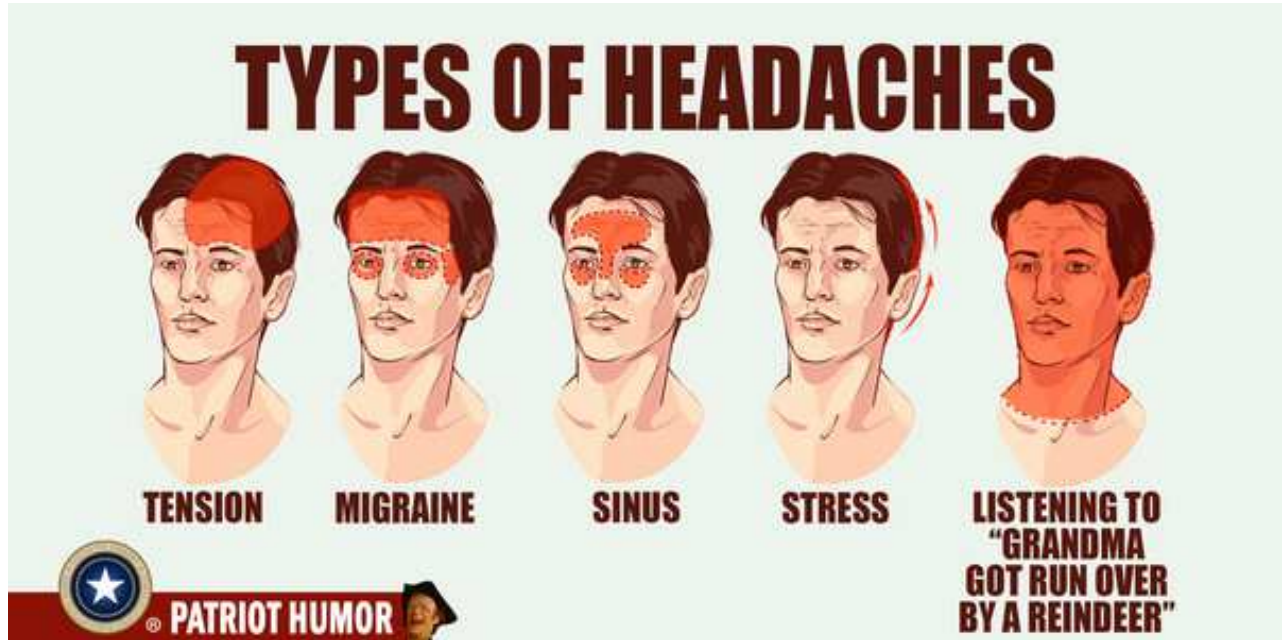
TOP 100 CHUCK NORRIS JOKES & FACTS

<http://chucknorrisjokes.linkpress.info/top-100>

The Internet Chuck Norris (Joke) Database

<http://www.icndb.com/the-jokes-2/>

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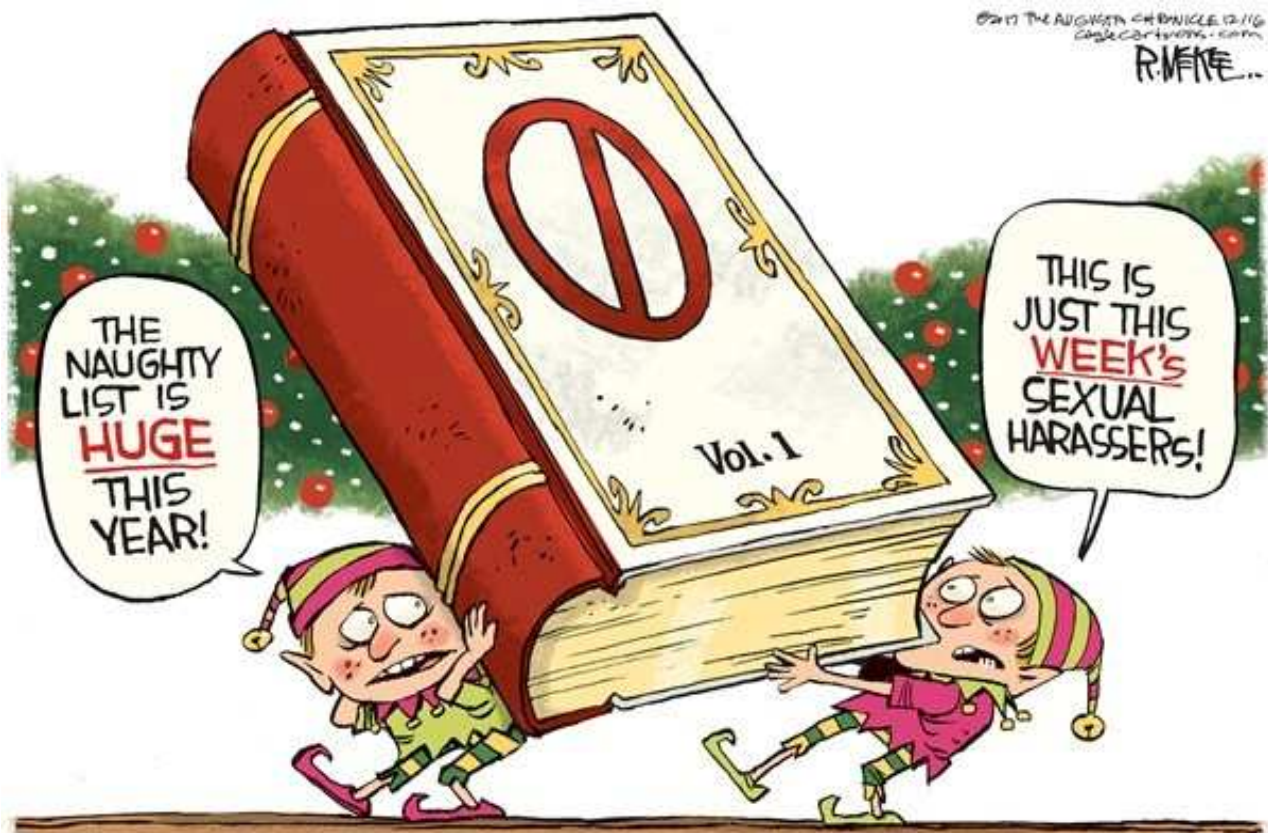
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<J>~<O>~<K>~<E>~<S>~<of>~<the>~<W>~<E>~<E>~<K>

From: "Frank Brayman" afranklin3@gmail.com

Another Swiss Army knife.



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

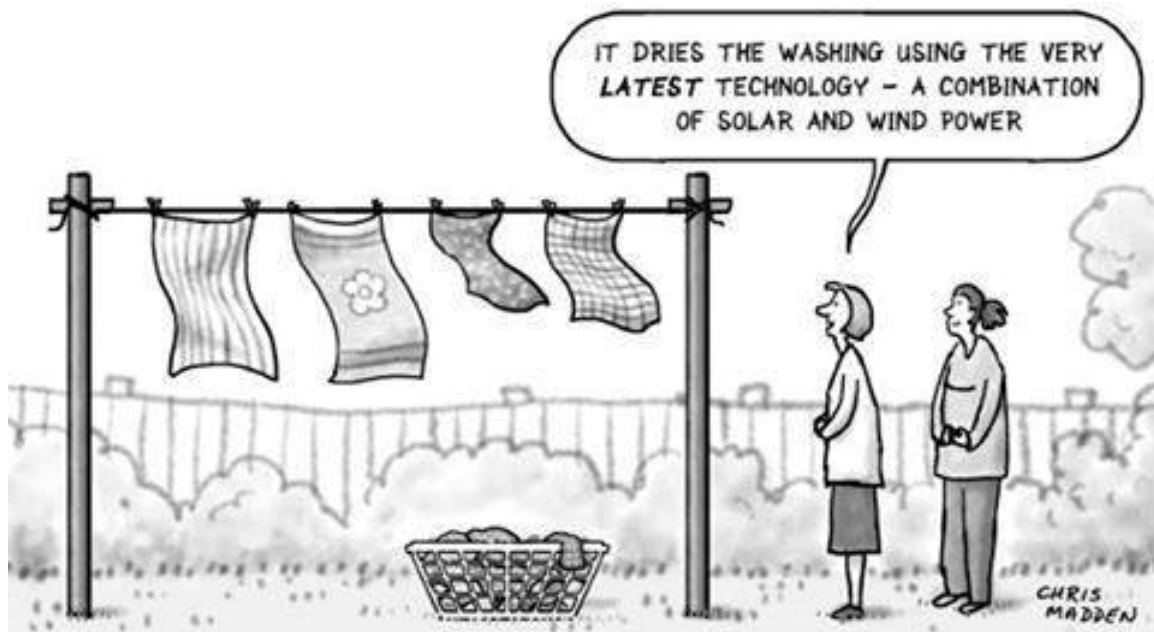
From: "Ray Beloate" <beerman@rittermail.com>



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



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



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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

HERE'S THE 100-FOOT-LONG JOINT ROLLED AT A MASSACHUSETTS MARIJUANA EXPO

The joint took 2 pounds of marijuana and a secret rolling technique to construct.

—Matthew Lee / The Boston Globe, AP, 12:48 PM, December 18, 2017-12-18

<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2017/12/17/heres-the-100-foot-long-joint-rolled-at-a-massachusetts-marijuana-expo>



Organizers rolled a 100-foot-long joint during the Harvest Cup, a marijuana expo and contest to see who can grow the best pot, at this weekend at Worcester's DCU Center.

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — Massachusetts marijuana aficionados have rolled a 100-foot-long (30.48-meter) joint.

The effort was led by Boston-based cannabis club and advocacy group Beantown Greentown during an exhibition of pro-marijuana vendors and supporters at the DCU Center in Worcester on Saturday.

The joint took 2 pounds of marijuana to construct. It was delivered in 5 foot sections.—
Matthew Lee / The Boston Globe

They perfected a secret rolling technique using 1,000 grams (35.27 ounces) of their own pot trimmings.

The Telegram & Gazette reports that people crowded around to take selfies when the final product was displayed Saturday. Thousands of people attended the exhibition.

The newspaper says 55-year-old Denise Fournier, of Gardner, Massachusetts, asked the question on everybody's mind: "When are you going to light it up?"

Massachusetts last year voted to legalize the possession and consumption of marijuana. A Cannabis Control Commission is writing regulations to govern the sale of cannabis.

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

MOST BIZARRE COLLEGE COURSES 2017: 'HOOKING UP,' 'QUEER RELIGION' AND 'SEXY' VAMPIRES

By Caleb Parke | Fox News

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/13/most-bizarre-college-courses-2017-hooking-up-queer-religion-and-sexy-vampires.html>

Colleges nationwide are teaching students about tacos, hooking up and country music's "homophobic and racist" message -- but those are just a few examples, as classes such as "Queer Religion" and "Racial Capitalism" become the new norm.

The classes are listed and explained in Young America's Foundation's annual report of bizarre courses with a "leftist slant" that are offered at top-tier colleges and universities throughout the country.

Many courses fall under "intersectionality" -- the hottest trend in identity politics on college campuses, offering students classes combining forms of discrimination (i.e. racism, sexism and classism) in relation to marginalized individuals or groups.

Ivy Leagues lead the list.

Brown University's American Studies Department offers a course that uses specific objects "including sugar, milk, vibrators, and Spanx" as case studies "to critically consider how material culture informs and signals identity."

"Trying Socrates in the Age of Trump," a course offered by Harvard University's Philosophy Department allows students to "determine why the Athenians killed Socrates" and ask "what should be done with people who spread dangerous ideas?"

Harvard also offers "Tacos, Tamales, and Tequila: Eating and Drinking in Ancient Mexico," "Body Burdens: Toxic Tales and Politics of Environmental Racism" and "Leaning In, Hooking Up."

Meanwhile, the University of Pennsylvania's Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Department offers a course called "More Human Than Human" that explores how ecofeminists and post-humanists are dismantling constructs of "personhood" and giving equal rights to animals -- or "speciesism."

Princeton University's American Studies Department asks "Is science gendered, racialized, ableist or classist?" in a course titled "Science After Feminism." They also offer "Black to the Future: Science, Fiction, and Society," "FAT: The F-Word and the Public Body" and "Media Spectacles, Scandalous Citizens and Democratic Possibilities." That course examines "The Women's March, Trigger Warnings, Black Lives Matter, and Travel Bans."

Indiana University's Gender Studies program offers "We're All A Little Crazy: Gender, Madness, & Popular Culture," promising discussions on "resting b***h face" and "hails of 'Yaaas, Queen!'"

The University of Michigan's American Culture Department offers "Rednecks, Queers, and Country Music," which looks into how "homophobic and racist" music "serves as a medium for multicultural social and erotic exchange among queer country fans."

Washington & Lee University has a course on "Campus Sex in the Digital Age" and "Queering Colonialism," while the University of Illinois offers "Hip Hop Feminism" and "Queer Lives, Queer Politics." Swarthmore College's Religious Studies Department lets students take "Queering God: Feminist and Queer Theology" and "Queering the Bible," and Carleton College has "Queer Religion" while Middlebury offers "Queering Food."

Northwestern University has classes in "Beyond the Binary: Transgender and Race" and "Medieval Sexuality." The latter looks into the "fluidity of sex and gender roles in an age before 'sexual orientation'; impact of and resistance to Christian theology's negatives assessment of sexuality; the cult of chastity."

Rutgers University, which recently fired a professor amid accusations of anti-Semitism, offers a course called "Race, Gender, and Islam in the United States," which looks at "pre- and post-9/11 racializing practices."

Williams College has a course on "Radical Theories of Political Struggle: Anti-Black Racism and the Obama Administration" as well as "Racial Capitalism," which looks at "the ways in which capitalist economies have 'always and everywhere' relied upon forms of racist domination and exclusion."

Davidson College offers a class on "Race, Religion, and Donald Trump," described as helping students "gain appreciation for sociological analysis at the intersection of race-ethnicity and religion through the life experience of Barack Obama."

Perhaps the most bizarre examples come from the University of Kentucky, where students can study "Vampires: Evolution of a Sexy Monster" answering such questions as "What is a vampire? Where do they come from?" At DePaul University students can continue the undead trend with "Zombies: Modern Myths, Race, and Capitalism," examining "the development of the zombie myth as a reflection of US societal concerns while using the lenses of Post-Colonial and Post-Marxist theory."

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From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

MEET THE US ARMY'S NEW PISTOL

By Allison Barrie | Fox News

<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2017/12/13/meet-us-armys-new-pistol.html>



Sig Sauer XM17 (Sig Sauer)

In future battles, U.S. soldiers will have a new sidearm for personal protection. The Army's new pistol may see more action than the last thanks to a design that has great potential for offensive purposes like close quarter combat.

The Army has begun fielding the first Sig Sauer XM17 Modular Handgun System (MHS) sidearms.

The Sig Sauer 9mm XM17, and the more compact version XM18, are replacing the M9 as the Army's service pistol.

This is the first change in about three decades since Beretta's M9 was first introduced as the Army's sidearm in the Cold War era back in 1986.

Over the next 10 years, the Army will distribute the new handguns to all Army units.

Cutting to the chase...what is better about this new weapon? Fans of the new weapon are citing factors like better accuracy and tighter dispersion that will enhance soldiers' lethality. It is also hailed for being easy to use, as well as more comfortable and efficient.

SO WHAT IS THIS NEW WEAPON?

The XM17 and XM18 are variants of Sig Sauer's publicly available P320 pistol.



(U.S. Army)

The compact XM18 can be carried in a concealed holster.

First unveiled back in 2014, the P320 is a polymer striker-fired pistol that was developed as a service pistol. It is modular, with interchangeable grip modules. The user can adjust the caliber and frame size.

The P320 has a number of features handy for law enforcement and military purposes. The trigger has a short pull and reset. It can also be disassembled without having to manipulate the trigger – and also without tools. And it was designed to fit a wide range of hands.

The military variants have a different paintjob. The Army also has different magazine requirements. Soldiers will be able to utilize both standard, and extended capacity, magazines.

Both pistols can be outfitted with suppressors. To attach lasers and lights, there's an integrated MIL-STD-1913 Picatinny rail.

There's also self-illuminating night sights for optimum combat effectiveness in challenging light conditions.

WHAT'S THE XM17 ADVANTAGE?

One of the primary goals in the shift has been to provide soldiers with enhanced performance, together with better durability and adaptability.

Feedback throughout the process has been that it performed very well and reliably on the range.

The XM17 is an easy to shoot, simple handgun with virtually no resistance on the trigger.

In battle conditions, it is expected to give Soldiers more options. Once fired, the new sidearm makes it easy to quickly aim again accurately and shoot.

And the XM17 and XM18 have excellent potential for close-quarter combat.

MORE SOLDIERS TO RECEIVE WEAPONS

Another key development is that younger soldiers will be able to get their hands on this new pistol. The Army will be issuing this new sidearm down to squad leaders and team leaders as well.

Previously, junior leaders were excluded from carrying the M9s. This new policy is expected to apply to all Army units receiving the XM17.

As a result, new training will most likely be developed focusing on skills like shifting from the M4 to the pistol and vice versa.

Are they already in soldiers' hands?

The Army has started rolling them out. The lucky first to receive them? The historic 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. About 2,000 XM17 and XM18 handguns reached them last month.

The military plans to issue the XM17s to three units by the end of the year with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas, next.

And the rest of the Army? Over the next decade, the Army plans to buy 195,000 pistols and will distribute them to all units.

TESTING

Nothing should be more important than the opinion of the soldiers who will be relying on the new weapons.

The Army's testing was extensive before the new sidearm was selected. Committed to the goal of ensuring the best pistol was selected for soldiers in the future Army, a team traveled to different testing sites throughout the country.

Fort Bragg's excellent ranges were used to test the pistol in realistic conditions. Different scenarios were used such as testing the new Sig while in cold weather gear.

In addition to the Army, testing was conducted through the military as well with sailors, airmen and Marines participating. Different specializations were also involved pilots, crew chiefs and infantry putting the new weapons through their paces and providing feedback.

INTENSE COMPETITION FOR SELECTION

The Army launched the competition to replace the M9 back in 2015.

It was a hotly contested battle between some of the world's finest gun makers with Beretta USA, Glock Inc. and FN America all competing alongside Sig Sauer.

In January of this year, the Army announced that the XM17 was chosen as the new service pistol.

Other services also have embraced the XM17 and XM18 as well. The Air Force is scheduled to buy 130,000, the Navy plans to buy 61,000 and the Marine Corps plans to buy 35,000.

ON SHELVES NOW

Looking for a new primary carry pistol? Or to gift one this holiday season? In terms of civilians, the Army's variant is not publicly available but the base model, the P320, is available in 9mm, .357 SIG, .40 S&W and .45 ACP. It retails for approximately \$713.

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BAE'S LATEST UAV HAS NO USE FOR FLAPS

Ben Coxworth, December 13, 2017

<https://newatlas.com/bae-magma-uav/52611/3>



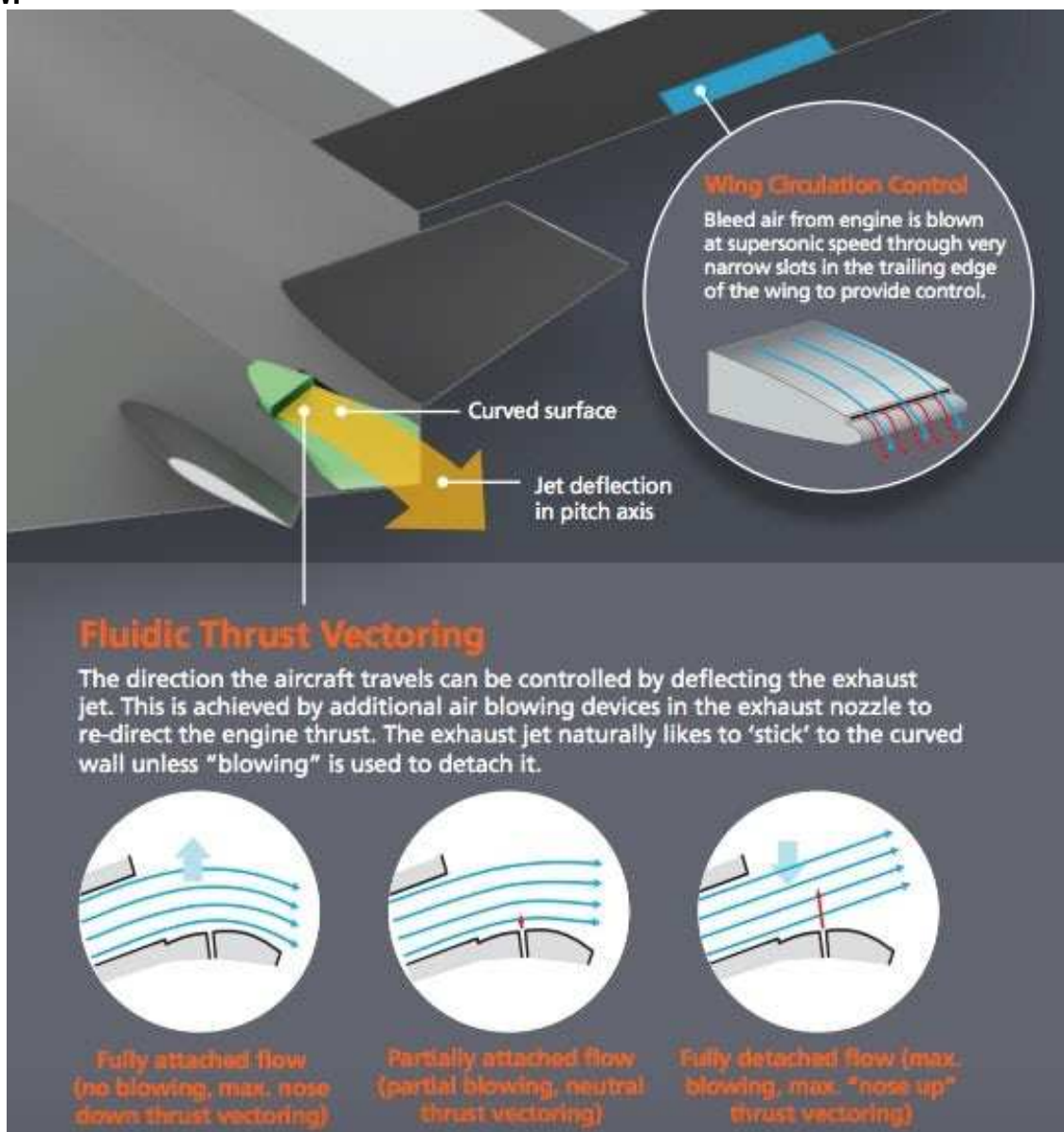
The MAGMA UAV has already completed the first phase of flight testing (Credit: BAE Systems)

If you're trying to make an aircraft lighter, stealthier, faster, and easier to maintain, how about getting rid of the flaps on the wings and tail? That's what engineers from BAE Systems have done on a small scale, working with colleagues from The University of Manchester. The resulting MAGMA UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) is instead controlled by

air blown from its single jet engine. Instead of ailerons, the MAGMA's wings have a series of very narrow slots along their trailing edges. Some of the exhaust air is diverted from the engine, and exits those slots at supersonic speed. Utilizing this setup, it's possible to control the UAV's roll simply by controlling how much air is blown out of which wing at what time.

BAE has previously used a similar system in the wings of its DEMON UAV. In the rear, meanwhile, the engine exhaust blows out of a vent that has a curved lower surface. Ordinarily, the exhaust air tends to "stick" to that surface, following its curve and thus leaving the vent at a particular angle – this angle determines the aircraft's pitch. By blowing a jet of air straight up out of that surface and into the exhaust, however, it's possible to "unstick" it and change the angle at which the exhaust leaves – thus changing the pitch.

Known as fluidic thrust vectoring, the system is illustrated in the bottom of the diagram below.



"Flight trials are planned for the coming months to demonstrate the novel flight control technologies with the ultimate aim of flying the aircraft without any moving control surfaces or fins," BAE states. "If successful, the tests will demonstrate the first ever use of such circulation control in flight on a gas turbine aircraft and from a single engine."

It is hoped that the technology could ultimately find its way into full-scale military and civilian aircraft.

Source: BAE Systems

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SEE THE NEXT GENERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER FOR MARS MISSIONS (VIDEO)

By Harrison Tasoff, Space.com Staff Writer | December 14, 2017 07:50am ET

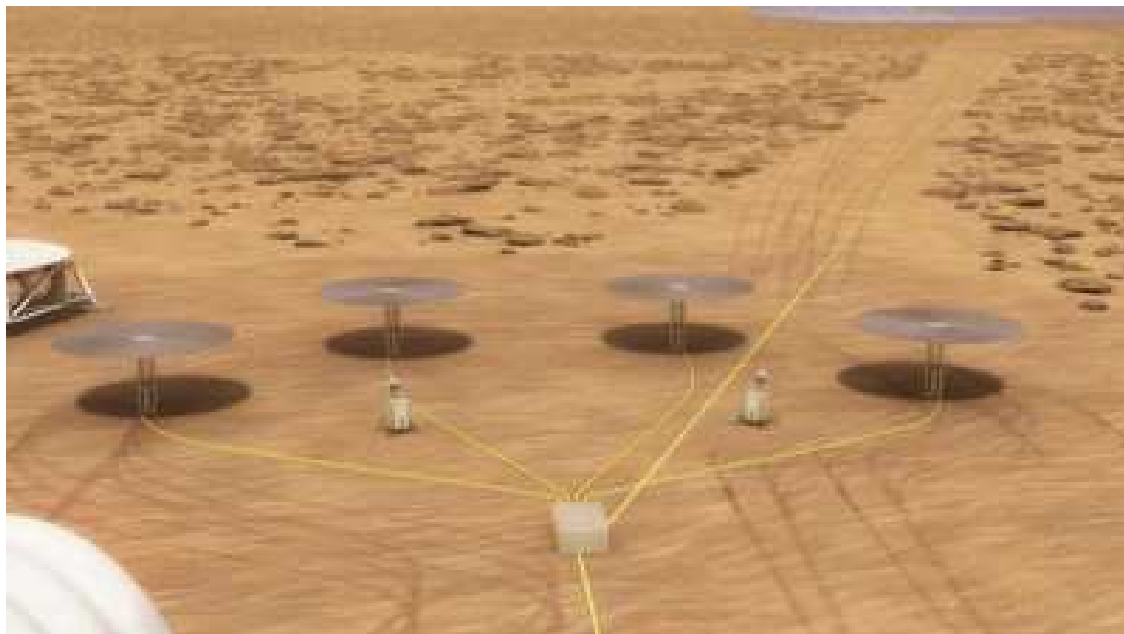
<https://www.space.com/39084-space-nuclear-fission-reactors-for-mars-video.html>

NASA and the U.S. Department of Energy are collaborating to develop the next generation of nuclear generators, with a focus on crewed missions to Mars.

The Kilopower project, depicted in a new video from NASA, aims to produce a nuclear generator with greater efficiency and higher output than those currently in use.

Nuclear power has a long and successful history of use in space exploration. It powered the Pioneer 10 and 11 spacecraft that explored the solar system in the 1970s and continues to be used in technologies such as the Curiosity rover, which arrived on Mars in 2012. Nuclear fission provides a compact, reliable source of electricity, especially in situations where solar panels would be ineffective.

An artist depicts the umbrella-like heat radiators of four Kilopower reactors casting shade on the Martian surface as fission reactions energize a small power grid. Credit: NASA



NASA has used so-called radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs) for decades to convert heat from the natural decay of radioacti

ve elements directly into electricity. This is what the Pioneers and Curiosity use. The decay causes a temperature difference across plates of two different kinds of metal — one connected to the reactor and the other to a radiator, which produces a voltage. This component, called a thermocouple, is commonly used in thermometers and temperature sensors. RTGs have the benefit of containing no moving parts, which could wear down on long missions, with no chance for maintenance or replacement.

In contrast, the Kilopower reactor will use active fission, or atom splitting, to drive piston-based Stirling converters, which are more efficient than RTGs, according to NASA. Kilopower will be able to produce 1 to 10 kilowatts of power, continuously, for 10 years or more, according to the statement that accompanied the NASA video. For comparison, a typical American household drew 1.2 kilowatts from the grid on average in 2016, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration

"What we are striving to do is give space missions an option beyond RTGs, which generally provide a couple hundred watts or so," Lee Mason, a principal technologist at NASA, said in the statement.

The technology can scale to hundreds of kilowatts, or even megawatts of power, Mason added. This wouldn't be the hundreds to thousands of megawatts produced by industrial powerplants, but kilopower reactors also wouldn't be responsible for electrifying systems the size of a city.. In addition, several generators could be set up in a modular system tailored to the electricity needs of a particular mission.

The agencies plan to test prototypes at the Department of Energy's Nevada National Security Site, located in the Nevada desert. The last time NASA tested a fission reactor was in the 1960s, as a part of the Systems for Nuclear Auxiliary Power program. On the deserts of Mars, astronauts might use the Kilopower reactor to electrify habitats, run equipment, and turn the planet's resources into oxygen, water and fuel.

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SYSTEM THAT BRINGS AUTONOMOUS CAPABILITIES TO EXISTING HELICOPTERS DEMOED FOR MARINES

David Szondy, December 15th, 2017

<https://newatlas.com/aacus-retrofit-system-autonomous-helicopter/52612/>

In 2012, the US Office of Naval Research (ONR) began a five-year, US\$98-million program to develop an autonomous flight system that could be retrofitted to existing helicopters. Now, Aurora Flight Sciences has successfully demonstrated such a system at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. A US Marine Corps UH-1H helicopter fitted with the Autonomous Aerial Cargo Utility System (AACUS) demonstrated its autonomous flight and operational capabilities on multiple flights as it executed a series of re-supply missions under various conditions.

The AACUS program was inspired by difficulties encountered by US Marines in Afghanistan and Iraq, where re-supply helicopter flights were hindered by enemy fire and improvised explosive devices. To make such missions safer while minimizing the risk to US and allied personnel, Aurora was tasked with developing a system that could make existing helicopters pilot-optional.



A UH-1 Huey equipped with an AACUS autonomy kit makes an approach for landing during final testing at Marine Corps Base Quantico(Credit: John Williams/US Navy)

To accomplish this, AACUS is a lidar and camera sensor suite that can be fitted to a helicopter along with an autonomous flight control system. Unlike other systems that require an experienced pilot remotely operating the aircraft (often requiring line of sight), AACUS has software that allows it to autonomously detect and avoid obstacles as well as evaluating a landing zone before attempting to touch down. It is even capable of selecting an alternative landing site and is not dependent on GPS.

"The Marines' vision for the future of vertical lift operation and support is optionally-piloted aircraft," says AACUS Program Manager Stephen Chisarik. "Aurora's system enables any rotary-wing aircraft to detect and react to hazards in the flight path, and make appropriate adjustments to keep the aircraft safe."

Where previous tests have concentrated on demonstrating AACUS's autonomous flight capabilities, the most recent series of tests put the system to work on cargo and utility missions. During the test flights, the helicopter operated without a pilot, though a Marine on the ground with only 15 minutes of training interacted with it by means of a tablet app. A safety pilot was also aboard to fulfil FAA conditions for its Special Airworthiness Certificate. The exercises included Marines loading the helicopter with supplies, then using the app to clear it for autonomous takeoff and flight.

According to Aurora, the Quantico tests complete the third and final phase of the five-year prototype program and AACUS will now be handed over to the Marine Corps for evaluation and possible acquisition.

"This is more than just an unmanned helicopter," says Dr. Walter Jones, ONR executive director. "AACUS is an autonomy kit that can be placed on any rotary-wing platform and

provide it with an autonomous capability. Imagine a Marine Corps unit deployed in a remote location, in rough terrain, needing ammunition, water, batteries or even blood.

"With AACUS, an unmanned helicopter takes the supplies from the base, picks out the optimal route and best landing site closest to the warfighters, lands, and returns to base once the resupply is complete — all with the single touch of a handheld tablet."

Sources: ONR, Aurora (PDF)

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ANCIENT BIBLICAL CITY 'DESTROYED BY EARTHQUAKE 1,400 YEARS AGO' FOUND INTACT UNDERWATER

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have uncovered "mind-blowing" architecture almost perfectly intact from the ancient Biblical city of Corinth – despite being wiped out by a devastating earthquake 1,400 years ago.

By Simon Green / Published 16th December 2017

<https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/667479/Underwater-city-Roman-Bible-Corinth-Corinthians-Greece-intact-discovery-video>



The Greek city, which was rebuilt in 44BC by Roman Emperor Julius Caesar, holds major significance for Christians.

Jesus's disciple Paul is said to have visited there and wrote two letters about his time in Corinth – featured in the New Testament.

Just days ago, another group of archaeologists in Italy were amazed to discover the historic resort of Baiae in perfect condition.

And new underwater excavations of Corinth's harbour at the port of Lechaion have discovered wooden foundations preserved so well that they look new.

Roman artefacts including fishing lines and hooks, wooden pulleys and ceramics from Tunisia and Turkey were also found.



Experts also think they have found an ancient lighthouse – depicted on coins from that time – and another monument.

The giant earthquake that hit the region caused huge layers of sediment to cover the artefacts and allowed them to barely be touched by decay, despite their age.

Bjørn Lovén, director of the Lechaion Harbour Project (LHP) which is responsible for the excavations, said: “For almost two decades I have been hunting for the perfect

archaeological context where all the organic material normally not found on land is preserved.

“The potential for more unique discoveries is mind-blowing.”

Corinth officials built the harbour towns of Lechaion and Kenchreai to take advantage of its two-mile distance from the sea in Greece.

BIZARRE: The city was destroyed over 1,400 years ago by a giant earthquake Incredible images show ancient Roman city under the sea Ancient Roman city lost for centuries below the sea found perfectly intact.

The pair of harbours connected the ancient city to a host of Mediterranean trade networks and helped it become one of the most powerful and wealthy cities in the region.

The project also found vast blocks weighing up to five-tons, which were used to separate basins within the port.

Boffins hope to use the research to find out just how much Lechaion changed at different time periods throughout history.

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BELL'S NEXT-GENERATION TILTROTOR TAKES FLIGHT

Dec 18, 2017 James Drew and Guy Norris | Aerospace Daily & Defense Report

http://aviationweek.com/vertical-flight/bell-s-next-generation-tiltrotor-takes-flight?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05_20171219_AW-05_36&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_4&utm_rid=CPEN1000003019593&utm_campaign=13023&utm_medium=email&elq2=226367181b764287947f0f3c2aa92cbe



V-280: Bell Helicopter

Bell Helicopter's third-generation tiltrotor prototype, the V-280 Valor, achieved first flight at the company's plant in Amarillo, Texas, on Dec. 18.

A Bell spokeswoman confirmed that the V-280 took flight at 2:03 p.m. Central time, although the exact flight duration has not yet been confirmed.

The first flight follows a series of ground tests over the past weeks, in which the wheels were expected to leave the ground momentarily. The company spokeswoman says the

aircraft flew long enough on Dec. 18 for the event to be counted as a first flight, and it landed back down on the tarmac safely.

But a video appears to show that the first flight was rather quick, with the rotorcraft rising about 20 ft. off the ground in a stable hover for at least 20 sec. A planned follow-up flight has been scrubbed, a source says.

Valor has been assembled for the U.S. Army's Joint-Multi-Role Technology Demonstration (JMR-TD) program, which seeks to validate leading-edge rotorcraft airframe and propulsion systems over a series of flights trials running through 2019.

The tiltrotor is Bell's candidate for the emerging U.S. Army-led Future Vertical Lift acquisition, going head-to-head with the Sikorsky-Boeing SB-1 Defiant, a rigid-coaxial/pusher-prop configuration that is also being developed under the JMR-TD program.

The SB-1 is expected to make flight by mid-2018 at Sikorsky's development center in West Palm Beach, Florida. Meanwhile, Karem Aircraft and AVX Aircraft Co. are validating their alternative concepts using non-flying test hardware.

Bell had originally targeted September for first flight, and then late October or early November. Although ground testing took longer than expected, this flight before year's end will be welcome news to Bell's industry backers and the Army.

"Team Valor" includes Bell, Lockheed Martin, General Electric, Moog, Israel Aerospace Industries, TRU Simulation & Training, Astronics, Eaton, GKN Aerospace, Lord, Meggitt and Spirit AeroSystems.

Bell was one of four primes selected for the JMR-TD program in 2013, and construction of the V-280 began in June 2015. The main fuselage was supplied by Spirit and it is powered by two GE Aviation T64 turboshafts from the CH-53E Super Stallion.

If successfully validated through flight testing, the V-280 model could be offered to replace the U.S. Defense Department's Sikorsky H-60 and Bell H-1-series helicopters under the first phase of the Army/Marine Corps FVL program, called FVL-Medium or Capability Set 3.

"The Valor is designed to revolutionize vertical lift for the Army and represents a transformational aircraft for all the challenging missions our armed forces are asked to undertake," Bell President and CEO Mitch Snyder says. "The V-280 intends to completely transform what is possible for the military when it comes to battle planning and forward operations."

The prototype will be flown by company and Army test pilots, who have been practicing how to fly it in a simulator. Bell hopes that the flight-test program will culminate in an autonomous or unmanned flight test.

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

From: "Bob Bolgeo" <bbolgeo@aol.com>

IF TRUMP SIMPLY AIRED THIS:

Donald Trump should just televise this Bill Clinton speech from 1995 and then simply state "I'm Donald Trump and I approve this message."

Oh, please, please let this go viral. Not one word of commentary needs to be added. Very short video - about 84 seconds

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4351026/clinton-1995-immigration-sotu>

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From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

Allen West posted this today...

In the new era of #metoo, the defeat of Judge Roy Moore validates the Democrat strategy of personal assassination. This will become the operational mode for all Liberals running for office in all future elections. Real issues and substance will be ignored and there will be no more debate. All trials will now be held in the court of Public Opinion. Due process will be a thing of the past. This is the ugly work of a True Democracy in action. A simple majority will rule and chaos will ensue. It will be the death of our Republic. #justsaying

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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA KICKS CHRISTIAN GROUP OFF CAMPUS FOR ITS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

by Nicole Russell | Dec 13, 2017, 1:31 PM

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/the-university-of-iowa-kicks-christian-group-off-campus-for-its-religious-beliefs/article/2643381>



In BLinC v. University of Iowa, BLinC asks the court to stop this religious discrimination and allow it to choose leaders who embrace its mission, just like every other student group on campus. (iStock photo)

The University of Iowa kicked a small Christian group of students, Business Leaders in Christ, off campus recently, because they regularly share their religious beliefs. In response, the group sued. The dean of students told BLinC that if it wants to be back on campus, it must “revise” its religious beliefs and submit an “acceptable plan” for selecting its leaders.

In BLinC v. University of Iowa, BLinC asks the court to stop this religious discrimination and allow it to choose leaders who embrace its mission, just like every other student group on campus. Becket, a legal organization that specializes in religious liberty, is representing the student group.

BLinC is a small student organization that gives Christian students a forum for discussing how to incorporate their beliefs in the competitive business world. Like many religious groups, its members also serve others because of their religious beliefs. On Sept. 1, the university told BLinC it could select leaders who affirm its beliefs, so long as those beliefs were clearly stated so students would be aware of them. But after BLinC added a statement of its religious beliefs to its campus webpage, the university responded by kicking it off campus shortly before Thanksgiving.

“This is 2017, not 1984,” Jacob Estell, the student president of BLinC, told Becket in a statement. “Our beliefs weren’t made by us, and they can’t be changed by us either — certainly not just to satisfy Orwellian government rules.”

What makes this discrimination so particularly obvious and egregious is that there are a plethora of other groups, of all different themes and sizes, on campus all functioning with their own particular focus and within their own guidelines. Just like most colleges and universities, there are more than 500 student groups at the university with distinct missions, creating an intellectually and culturally rich campus environment.

Fraternities and sororities can limit membership to men and women. Pro-choice groups can reject students who are pro-life and vice versa. Feminist groups may require members to support their cause. And environmental groups can choose leaders who support theirs. The Feminist Union requires its members to support birth control and abortion. Imam Madhi, a Sunni Muslim student group, requires its officers to accept Islam. Hawks for Choice is a pro-choice group. All of these groups are still active on campus. But even though BLinC allows anyone to join, the university is discriminating against it for requiring its leaders to share its mission and beliefs.

“This is premeditated religious discrimination, plain and simple,” said Eric Baxter, senior counsel at Becket. “A state school cannot demand a change to students’ faith any more than the U.S. President could demand a change to the Bible.”

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



*Beth, Destroyer of Worlds
Tristan, Bubba Bear
& Alexander the Grape*

Grandchildren, how fast they grow up.