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Welcome to the January 31st, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

I was unable to attend Chattacon last week because of my health, but Anita Moore wrote me a great message concerning Chattacon and I thought that I would share it with you at the first item in the gossip section.

The biggest thing around here that has happened to my is that my Lazy Boy Easy chair went boom and broke some of the internal linkage. Brandy came over and with the help of her paramour, Clint "The Cowboy" (as Jason has nicked named him) loaded up my old chair into her Pathfinder and took it to the Lazy Boy dealer near Hamilton Place in the Big Nooga. Lazy Boy will be ordering me a complete new mechanical mechanism for the chair, but that is going to take at least 3 weeks.

I tried using my office chair in the living room, but that didn't work. But Brandy and Jason came to the rescue and brought up my old Wall Hugger Barcalounger from downstairs. But the problem with this chair is that it sits too low and is hell to get out of. Years ago I had a Lazy Boy Recliner with a similar problem and I came up with a solution. I made a platform out of 2"x4"s and plywood that lifted the chair up around 4". It worked great. Jason ended up with my old chair and platform years ago and I got him to bring the platform back. Now it is married up to the Barcalounger and it works great. So I'm all set until my regular recliner comes back home to me.

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

Uncle Timmy

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



CHATTACON 43, January 19 – 21, 2018 at the Chattanoogan in Chattanooga, TN

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

I wish you had been there to see the Narnia doors in person but I'll send you pictures. It was a night Herculean to them hung on the display boards. Randy purchased some two-byfours and put things together and reimbursed him for those and I think I will paint them for the next show what should be LibertyCon. I went to Ribbons this year. First place of course for the doors in second place for the Hall of Justice which you will see here attached.

The new Dick's is lovely I would like the location especially since it's four hundred feet from the urban stack. Nobody was excited about the fact that the concert was not permitted to have hot food. You do remember the days before hot food. But we don't like to think about them. Hahaha. Someone in the staff and on the board told me the hotel has really gone out of their way to accommodate a lot

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of the needs including the beer. Including any food at all and the Khan sweet. The hotel is concern is that no one will buy food from the hotel venues and that's where they really make their money. Selling rims is just breaking even they did better than breaking even this weekend because we brought it with 800 Plus people and he knows how many rooms.

There was some snafus. There always are with new digs. There were some mild inconveniences for always are with new digs. And there was some rules that we blatantly disregarded like no food in the gaming area is so we carried thanks from wherever we got it into the gaming area.

All in all it was an enjoyable event. As always it was good to see the folks whose faces I've known for many many years and even though I don't always have names for haha. It was good to see the Nashville gang of artists and get to see you Sam flegal again. But your presence was greatly missed by all. I'll remind myself to send you more misses and just interesting things that I may think of and fun things that I see happening and maybe pictures of things that I'm working on.

I found on audible.com Harlan Ellison the city on the edge of forever and it's 8 hours long I thought wow that's been place not that long what else is on this thing so I bought it. It turns out to be a lot of information and a lot of testimony. From a lot of people. Including many of the other science fiction authors who wrote for Star Trek Back in the Day. Harlan Ellison begins his segment after some introductory things from other people with the words they say you should not speak ill of the Dead... Oh really. And from there he proceeds to tell the story of how he got involved with Star Trek by request and how he tell me about Andrea friend and then Jean did some very curious things. All in all it's a fascinating account told by many people and not just Harlan Ellison. And it is a reading of the original submission and every right and then the final Free Ride will know not to finally right because that was Koontz not Ellison there were several people who were to rewrite the script and adjust things....

Interesting Lee enough I had never read the original script even though I have a copy of it. I found it in a collection of short stories from Playboy magazine. And that's not a periodical that I had around my home, but this what's the time when I was buying anything and everything by Harlan Ellison. John and I found it at Oxford to books in Atlanta. So John read it but for some reason I didn'tI think I was busy with Mom things or art things... Anyway now there are audio books out there and I've always loved hearing Harlan Ellison read his own words.

When it comes to Harlan Ellison there only two types of people in the world people who love his work people who hate him outright. It is funny.

I don't know where you fall on that Spectrum. Spectrum? It's a seesaw isn't it. This kind of kicked me off into a stomping around in Old territories from when I was a rebellious youngster, now with a new appreciation for his extensive knowledge of ever so many things, his appreciation for the the early Grand masters of the genre, his wit, and is audacity hahaha. I've discovered that there is a really big collection of his interviews and recent clips, recent conversations at a fairly recent conventions. One of the things he said in a new introduction to Alice in Wonderland another collection that I just downloaded fromaudible.com, is that he still has all of his teeth commentaries have so much bite.

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Well I'm going to end this year. But I will write again soon you're welcome to write me back and tell me either you get a kick out of Ellison... Or never mention his name again. Hahaha hugs and greetings to all your family they're at Casa Bolgeo.

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

Thank you Anita, that was a great message for someone who couldn't be there this year. UT

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

Ursula K. Le Guin (1929-2018)

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

Ursula K. Le Guin - 21 October 1929–22 January 2018

January 23, 2018

http://locusmag.com/2018/01/ursula-k-leguin-1929-2018/

Grand Master Ursula K. Le Guin, 88, died January 22, 2018 in Portland OR.

Le Guin was a towering figure in the field, famed for her fiction and non-fiction alike, with a career in SF that spanned more than 50 years. She was a Hugo Award nominee 23 times and won five, and won six Nebula Awards, with 18 nominations. Other major included the World Fantasy Award for life achievement, the Eaton Award for life achievement, and the Pilgrim Award for lifetime contribution to SF and fantasy scholarship. Several of her works have been collected in editions from the prestigious Library of America.



Le Guin began publishing SF in 1962, and wrote numerous major novels of adult and YA SF and fantasy, including The Left Hand of Darkness (1969), The Lathe of Heaven (1971), The Dispossessed (1974), A Wizard of Earthsea (1968), Orsinian Tales (1976), Always Coming Home (1985), Gifts(2004), and Lavinia (2008). Le Guin was equally adept as a short fiction writer, with countless influential and iconic stories, among them "Vaster than Empires and More Slow" (1971), "The Word for World is Forest" (1972), "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (1974), "Buffalo Gals, Won't You Come Out Tonight" (1987), "The Matter of Seggri" (1994), and "A Woman's Liberation" (1995). Her fiction collections were numerous and celebrated, among them The Wind's Twelve Quarters (1975), Buffalo Gals and Other Animal Presences(1987), A Fisherman of the Inland Sea (1994), Unlocking the Air (1996), The

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Birthday of the World and Other Stories (2002), Changing Planes (2003), two volumes of The Unreal and the Real: Selected Stories, and The Found and the Lost: The Collected Novellas of Ursula K. Le Guin (2016). She also wrote for children, including the Catwings series, and numerous other pictures books, along with poetry, and plays.

Le Guin was unparalleled as a critic, SF scholar, thinker, and social commentator. Important works of non-fiction include From Elfland to Poughkeepsie (1973), The Language of the Night (1979), Always Coming Home (1987), Dancing at the End of the World (1989), Steering the Craft (1998), The Wave in the Mind (2004), Words are My Matter (2016), and No Time to Spare: Thinking About What Matters (2017). She also edited anthologies.

Le Guin was the subject of numerous academic and critical works, among them The Farthest Shores of Ursula K. Le Guin, George Edgar Slusser (1976); The Left Hand of Difference: Le Guin & Derrida, Robert Scholes (1983); and Ursula K. Le Guin, (1986) and Ursula K. Le Guin's The Left Hand of Darkness, both edited by Harold Bloom (1987). Her friends Karen Joy Fowler & Debbie Notkin edited 80!: Memories & Reflections on Ursula K Le Guin in 2010.

Ursula Kroeber was born October 21, 1929 in Berkeley CA; her mother was renowned writer Theodora Kroeber, and her father legendary anthropologist Alfred L. Kroeber. Le Guin grew up in Berkeley, spending summers in the Napa Valley. She attended Radcliffe College, earning a BA in French and Italian Literature in 1951 and a MA in the same subjects at Columbia in 1952. She was a Fulbright Fellow in 1953, working on a PhD in France from 1953-54. While traveling in France, she met Charles A. Le Guin, and they were married in Paris in 1953. They returned to the US, where Le Guin taught French at Mercer College and the University of Idaho. The family moved to Portland OR in 1959, where Charles taught at Portland State University; they remained there for the rest of her life. She taught writing at Clarion West, Portland State University, Reading University in England, Tulane University, Bennington College, Stanford, San José State University, and many other programs. She is survived by Charles, their three children, and four grandchildren.

A more complete obituary, plus photos, appreciations, and celebrations of her life, will follow in our March 2018 issue. For more about her, see her extensive website at www.ursulakleguin.com/UKL_info.html.

Photo © Liza Groen Trombi

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

THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA AND AMAZING GRACE

From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

Driving back from errands tonight, I put NPR on and heard the last few minutes of an interview with a man who is the lead for "Blind Boys of Alabama" - a really old-time blues band. In more ways than one. The interviewer asked him what his favorite song was over their 70 (!!! I'm sure I heard it right) years of recording and he said "Amazing Grace." Well, it was like nothing I had ever heard before. Heard two versions of the music, but this is a new one. Listen and seehow long it takes to remind you of what it reminds me...beginning with the first quitar bit.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0EN Hmq534

a slightly shorter version by 12 minutes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zE4k76VjGdY

(Hint - it's one of my favorite songs, but I can't sing it unless I sing along with someone else - otherwise I just don't go high or low enough. Joan Baez and Eric Burdon and The Animals notably did it)

Be sure to read the comments for both versions even if you only listen to one.

Re: The January 24th, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

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

For the record, Uncle Timmy, I agree with you on both counts. DACA was a band aid and nothing more.

We need immigration reform and the only thing to do with people already here is expedited citizenship classes, language classes, and knock the fee down to a reasonable amount a working mom and/or dad can afford.

But that will take a lot of time... and a Government that will sit and resolve.

Re: The January 24th, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

From: "Marcia Illingworth" marcia.illingworth@gmail.com

For the record, I was not one of those who responded, because friends dying was more important to me than the political diatribe. That used to be what Revenge was about, Liberty family news first, politics later. The discussions then were polite and rational, and I participated.

Revenge has become more of a Right Wing propaganda machine first, everything else later, and then only if the everything else pertained to people who agreed with you. Political posts are totally one sided, and very critical of anyone who doesn't agree.

I am not one who will say that I don't want to read Revenge any more, because I live in hope that you will realize what you have been doing, and resume the primary focus on LibertyCon family issues on the front page. Put the politics back on the inside pages. I do understand why those people felt that way.

I'm on my way back to Atlanta to care for family.

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Re: The January 24th, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

From: "Scott Thorn" castlep@aol.com

You asked for my thoughts as a liberal on the DACA situation so here you go:

My take on it is that the kids were brought here as minors. They had no say in the matter and have no knowledge of the country or culture from which they were brought and, when given the opportunity to come forward, did so. Why should they be punished for what their parents did? Generally we don't punish the child for the sins of the father.

As far as immigration reform and the government shutdown, I didn't like the shutdown and called my senators to argue against it. However, when Durbin and Graham brought a proposal that protected DACA but also provided partial funding for the wall, and ended family and lottery emigration in favor of a merit based system and the President rejects it because it encourages migration from s***hole countries, despite the fact that the proposed merit based system would apply to them, then you've got a problem.

From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

THE GOOD PASTOR

Pastor Goodbunken came home from Sunday services once, feeling quite proud of his sermon that day. "How many great preachers do you tink dere are in dis state?" he asked his wife. Helga.

To which she replied sweetly, "Probably one less dan you tink."

QUOTES

A longish list of old to new quotes. Some funny some are "life" but worth 5 minutes I would say......

I've been happily married for four years...... out of a total of 10. Mark Watson

=======

I have the confidence to text a man first and second and third and fourth and fifth and sixth and seventh, basically until he answers.......Sofie Hagens

=====

My husband can do the work of two men, unfortunately those two men are Laurel and Hardy.....Jo Brand

=====

I used to think I was great in bed, until I realized all my girl friends had asthma' Jerry Sadowvitz

=======

My wife told me sex is better on holiday, that wasn't a very nice postcard to receive Joe Bo

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Marriage is a great institution, but I'm not ready for a institution. Mae West

=========

All my mother told me about sex was that the man goes on top and the woman goes on the bottom. For three years my husband and I slept in bunk-beds. Joan Rivers

======

I know what men want. Men want to be really, really close to someone who will leave them alone. Elaine Boosler

======

Good marriage would be between a blind wife and a deaf husband.

Michael D Montaigne

======

I went home with this French guy because he said something adorable, like, I have an apartment. Amy Schumer

=======

Many a man in love with a dimple, makes the mistake of marrying the whole girl. Stephen Leacock

=======

Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same. Oscar Wilde

=======

I'm been on so many blind dates, I should get a free dog. Wendy Liebman

======

Last night me and my girlfriend watched three DVDs back to back. Luckily I was the one facing the television set. Tim Vine

=======

Being a good husband is like being a stand-up comic, you need 10 years before you can call yourself a beginner. Jerry Seinfeld.

=======

I was married by a judge, I should've asked for a jury. Groucho Marx

======

Love is the answer but while you're waiting for the answer, sex raises some pretty good questions. Woody Allen

======

Marriage has no guarantees, if that's what you're looking for, go live with a car battery. Erma Bombeck

=======

If there hadn't been women we'd still be squatting in caves eating raw meat, we made civilization in order to impress our girlfriends. Orson Welles

=======

The voice of love seemed to call me but it was a wrong number. PG Waterhouse

=======

There are only two people in your life you should lie to.. the police and your girlfriend Jack Nicholson

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Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes Jim Carey

=======

I haven't spoken to my wife in years, I didn't want to interrupt her. Rodney Dangerfield

=======

Before you marry a person you should first make them use a computer with slow Internet service, to see who they really are. Will Ferrell

======

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There are a number of mechanical devices which increase sexual arousal, particularly in women, chief among these is the Mercedes-Benz 380 SL convertible. PG O'Rourke.

========

Love (noun) A temporary insanity, curable by marriage. From the devils dictionary by Ambrose Bierce.

=======

Men who blow themselves up are promised 72 virgins in paradise. that's a high price to pay for sex. In real life you'd be hard pushed to find one virgin. It begs the question - what on earth do they look like, that's an awful lot of hairy women.

Shazia Miraza

=======

Familiarity breeds contempt and children. Mark Twain

======

Love is the delightful interval between meeting a beautiful girl and discovering that she looks like haddock. John Barrymore

=======

I know nothing about sex because I was always married. Zsa Zsa Gabor

=======

Erotic, not kinky, is the difference between using a feather and using chicken Terry Pratchett.

=======

Monogamy is so weird. Like when you know their name and stuff. Margaret Cho

======

I'm all for bringing back the Birch but only between consenting adults Gore Vidal

=======

There is nothing wrong with going to bed with someone of your own sex, people should be very free with sex, they should draw the line at goats. Elton John

=======

Sometimes I worry that I don't want to get married, as much as I want to get dipped in a vat of warm rising bread dough. That might feel pretty good too. Maria Bamford

=======

Marriage is a wonderful invention, but then again, so is a bicycle repair kit Billy Connelly.

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

BITS OF WISDOM

- 1. It's not whether you win or lose, but how you place the blame.
- 2. We have enough "youth", how about a fountain of "smart"?
- 3. A fool and his money can throw one heck of a party.
- 4. When blondes have more fun, do they know it?
- 6. Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

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- 7. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- 8. We are born naked, wet and hungry. Then things get worse.
- 9. Red meat is not bad for you. Fuzzy green meat is bad for you.
- 10. Ninety-nine percent of all lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 11. Xerox and Wurlitzer will merge to make reproductive organs.
- 12. Alabama State motto: At least we're not Mississippi
- 13. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- 14. The latest survey show that three out of four people make up 75% of the population.
- 15. I think politicians should wear uniforms, you know, like NASCAR drivers, so we can identify their corporate sponsors.
- 16. The reason politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to have to make a living under the laws they've passed.

KFC AND THE POPE

KFC goes to visit the Pope. A man says I work for KFC, and we'll offer you ten million dollars to change the Lord's Prayer from 'Give us this day our daily bread' to 'Give us this day our daily chicken.'

The Pope is aghast! I can't just go changing Gods word for mone!.

The man comes back the next day. Fifty million! Now, think of all the good the church could do with all that money. Your Holiness! The Pope still unimpressed: "Look I told you. I just can't do it. I'm sorry.

The guy is back a week later: Final offer \$500 million. Take it or leave it."

The next day the Pope calls all the leaders of the church together. "Boys, I have good news and bad news. The good news is we have raised \$500 million dollars for Catholic Charities."

The room erupts! Everybody is so happy!

The Pope waits for the room to settle down. Then --- And now for the bad news:

We lost the Wonder Bread Account!

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

From: "Bob Bolgeo" bbolgeo@aol.com

SUPER BOWL TICKETS

A friend of mine has two box seat tickets for the 2018 Super Bowl in Minnesota. He paid \$2500 for each ticket. He didn't realize when he bought them that February 4th was going to be on the same day as his wedding - so now he can't go.

If you know someone who would be interested and would like to go in his place, it's at St Peter's Church, on 14th St., in New York City, at 5 pm.

Her name is Darlene, she's 5'4", about 115 lbs. great figure, good cook, plus she makes \$100,000 a year!

She'll be the one in the white dress.

<J>~<0>~<K>~<E>~<S>

How children perceive their Grandparents

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- 1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye.
- 2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 80. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"
- 3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"
- 4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"
- 5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.
- 6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."
- 7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"
- 8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."
- 9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised." Mine says I'm 4 to 6."
- 10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."
- 11. Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to

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correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. It means carrying a child."

- 12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck. A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."
- 13. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."
- 14. Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!
- 15. My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over, you hear gas leaks and they blame their dog.

THE PROPER WAY TO CALL A GOLFER A BASTARD

A guy was getting ready to tee off on the first hole when a second golfer approached and asked if he could join him.

The first said that he usually played alone, but agreed to the twosome.

They were even after the first two holes. The second guy said, "We're about evenly matched, how about playing for five bucks a hole.

The first guy said that he wasn't much for betting, but agreed to the terms.

The second guy won the remaining sixteen holes with ease. As they were walking off number eighteen, the second guy was busy counting his \$80.00.

He confessed that he was the pro at the neighbouring course and liked to pick on suckers.

The first fellow revealed that he was the Parish Priest.

The pro was flustered and apologetic, offering to return the money.

The Priest said, "You won fair and square and I was foolish to bet with you. You keep your winnings."

The pro said, "Is there anything I can do to make it up to you?"

The Priest said, "Well, you could come to Mass on Sunday and make a donation of \$80. And, if you want to, bring your Mother and Father along and I'll marry them."

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From: "Kay Bolgeo" ronkaybo@gmail.com

Best Tweet of the Week.



An actual tweet from Chicago:

"I thought my vasectomy would keep my wife from getting pregnant. But apparently it just changes the color of the baby."

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

WHITE HOUSE PROPOSAL EXTENDS AMNESTY FOR 1.8 MILLION ILLEGALS IN EXCHANGE FOR 25 BILLION FOR WALL, END OF CHAIN MIGRATION, VISA LOTTERY

by CHARLIE SPIERING25 Jan 2018

http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/01/25/white-house-proposal-extends-amnesty-for-1-8-million-illegals-in-exchange-for-25-billion-for-wall-end-of-chain-migration-visa-lottery/

The White House revealed a proposal to extend legal status and a path for citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants brought to the country as children in exchange for \$25 billion in funding for the wall, an end to chain migration across the board, and an end to the visa lottery program.

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The bill's framework would apply to the roughly 690,000 illegal immigrants who registered for the DACA program started by former President Barack Obama as well as illegal immigrants who did not apply. A senior administration official told reporters that the 1.8 million number would be restricted by minor adjustments to timeframes and dates of entry issues.

"The argument is by some people in Congress is that there is another 690,000 roughly that never got around to registering but fall into the general category, age, and all the rest of it," the official said. "Those combined come to 1.8 million."

The path to citizenship would require a 10-12 year period where recipients would be required to demonstrate good behavior, work and education requirements, and good moral character.

A senior White House official described the plan as an "extraordinarily generous concession" with Democrats but made several demands considered non-starters by members of Congress supporting amnesty.

The White House said that it intended to send the framework to Senate Majority Mitch McConnell, who promised Democrats a vote on the Senate floor by February 8. The framework includes a \$25 billion lump sum "trust fund" for a border security "wall system" for not only the Southern border but major security investments on the Northern border as well.

It also includes sweeping limitations for chain migration — limiting family immigration sponsorships to only spouses and minor children — not for parents or extended family members.

The new migration limitations would apply to all immigrants in the United States, not just the newly legalized 1.8 million.

"It will never, ever, ever, ever, work unless it's universal," the official noted. "It's a global change to the U.S. immigration system."

The bill framework was described as an effort to show exactly what the president wanted in a bill after open borders advocates complained that they had no idea where the president stood in their negotiations.

The proposal would also end the visa lottery program and reallocate them towards fulfilling the skills-based visa backlog.

The official noted that the current legislation was "galaxies apart" from what Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer discussed with Trump over lunch before the government shutdown, but felt that it was a plan that could get 60 votes in the Senate.

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

TRUMP: NO MORE AID UNLESS PALESTINIANS TALK PEACE; JERUSALEM IS 'OFF THE TABLE'

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Sitting next to Netanyahu in Davos, US president says Israel 'wants to make peace,' Palestinians 'disrespected' US in refusing to meet Pence

By ERIC CORTELLESSA and JACOB MAGID25 January 2018, 6:02 pm 18 https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-no-more-aid-unless-palestinians-accept-that-jerusalem-is-off-the-table/



US President Donald Trump during a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, eastern Switzerland, on January 25, 2018 (AFP PHOTO / Nicholas Kamm)

DAVOS, Switzerland — In unscripted remarks to the press on Thursday, US President Donald Trump said the US would no longer transfer monetary aid to the Palestinians unless they entered peace negotiations with Israel, and excoriated the Palestinian leadership's reaction to his decision last month to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"That money is not going to them unless they sit down and negotiate peace, because I can tell you that Israel does want to make peace, and they're going to have to want to make peace, too, or we're going to have nothing to do with it any longer," he said.

Sitting alongside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before their bilateral meeting at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Trump called Palestinian Authority officials' unwillingness to meet with members of his administration — including US Vice President Mike Pence during his visit to the region last week — "disrespectful."

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US President Donald Trump (right) speaks with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on January 25, 2018. (AFP PHOTO / Nicholas Kamm)

PA President Mahmoud Abbas has also recently sought to have European powers replace the United States as the primary mediator in Middle East peace talks.

"If you look back at the various peace proposals, and they are endless, and I spoke to some of the people involved. And I said, 'Did you ever talk about the vast amount of funds, money that we give to the Palestinians? You know, we give hundreds of millions of dollars.' And they said, 'We never talk about it,'" Trump said. "Well, we do talk about it. When they disrespected us a week ago by not allowing our great vice president to see them, and we give them hundreds of millions of dollars in aid and support, tremendous numbers, numbers that nobody understands, that money is on the table."

Netanyahu, for his part, called Trump's Jerusalem recognition a "historic decision." Despite the crisis it has spurred with the Palestinians and much of the broader Arab world, he said it would advance the prospects for an agreement.

"People say that this pushes peace backward," Netanyahu said. "I say it pushes peace forward, because it recognizes history, it recognizes the present reality. And peace can only be built on the basis of truth."

Meanwhile, the president suggested that his December 6 announcement recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and setting in motion plans to move the US embassy there had settled one of the key issues in the conflict.

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"The hardest subject they had to talk about was Jerusalem," he said. "We took Jerusalem off the table, so we don't have to talk about it anymore. They never got past Jerusalem. We took it off the table. We don't have to talk about it anymore."

He then turned to Netanyahu and said: "You won one point, and you'll give up some other points later on in the negotiation — if it ever takes place. I don't know that it ever will take place."

Asked by The Times of Israel whether Jerusalem being "off the table" meant no part of the city would be part of a future Palestinian state, Trump responded, "Next question."

That statement seemed to be at odds with his original speech making the announcement, in which he said the move was simply a "recognition of reality" and not an attempt to prejudge the way the Jerusalem issue is ultimately resolved between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

"We are not taking a position on any final status issues, including the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, or the resolution of contested borders," Trump said at the time. "Those questions are up to the parties involved."

On Thursday, Trump added that the team he tasked with brokering the coveted Israeli-Palestinian peace accord — led by his son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner — had already solidified its peace plan.

"We have a proposal for peace," he said. "It's a great proposal for the Palestinians. I think it's a very good proposal for Israel," notably differentiating how the two sides might perceive the plan.

"It covers a lot of the things we've over the years discussed and agreed on," he added.



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas speaks at a conference press following a summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) about US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, on December 13, 2017, in Istanbul. Photo/Yasin (AFP Akgul)

He also repeated a point he'd made

before — that Israel would have had to "pay" for the Jerusalem recognition, apparently with a major concession that would be enticing to the Palestinians and advance their aspirations.

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"The fact is... there were never any deals that came close, because you could never get past Jerusalem. I helped them, because I've taken it off the table. That was the toughest issue," he said.

"And Israel will pay for that. Look, something's going to happen. They will do something that is going to be a very good thing. But they want to make peace, and I hope the Palestinians want to make peace. And if they do, everybody's going to be very happy in the end," he added.

Trump was asked if he had heard Abbas's remarks criticizing him personally — Abbas declared on January 14 in Ramallah: "We told Trump we will not accept his project, the 'deal of the century,' which has become the 'slap of the century. But we will slap back." And he added of Trump, "May God demolish your house."

Said the US president: "No, I didn't really read his remarks personally. I think I'm probably better off not seeing them. But we've done a lot for them, and hopefully they're going to make peace for their people. You know what, it's many years of killing people. It's many years of killing each other. They have to be tired and disgusted of it."

The president closed by expressing hope he could get the two sides to reconcile, ending over 100 years of conflict and violence. If that did happen, he said, the glory would rest on his own shoulders. "I think eventually very sound minds — I hope sound minds — are going to prevail. And it would be a very great achievement of mine."

Jacob Magid reported from Davos and Eric Cortellessa from New York.

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YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

CALIFORNIA CONSIDERS \$1,000 FINE FOR WAITERS OFFERING UNSOLICITED PLASTIC STRAWS

This sucks.

Christian Britschgi|Jan. 25, 2018 10:10 am http://reason.com/blog/2018/01/25/california-bill-would-criminalize-restau

Ilkin Guliyev/Dreamstime.comlan Calderon wants restaurateurs to think long and hard before giving you a straw.

Calderon, the Democratic majority leader in California's lower house, has introduced a bill to stop sit-down restaurants from offering customers straws with their beverages unless they specifically request



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one. Under Calderon's law, a waiter who serves a drink with an unrequested straw in it would face up to 6 months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.

"We need to create awareness around the issue of one-time use plastic straws and its detrimental effects on our landfills, waterways, and oceans," Calderon explained in a press release.

This isn't just Calderon's crusade. The California cities of San Luis Obispo and Davis both passed straws-on-request laws last year, and Manhattan Beach maintains a prohibition on all disposable plastics. And up in Seattle, food service businesses won't be allowed to offer plastic straws or utensils as of July.

The Los Angeles Times has gotten behind the movement, endorsing straws-on-request policies in an editorial that also warned that "repetitive sucking may cause or exacerbate wrinkles on the lips or around the mouth." Celebrity astronomer Neil DeGrasse Tyson (always up for a little chiding) and Entourage star Adrian Grenier have appeared in videos where an octopus slaps them in the face for using a plastic straw.

The actual number of straws being used is unclear. Calderon, along with news outlets writing about this issue—from CNN to the San Francisco Chronicle—unfailingly state that Americans use 500 million plastic straws a day, many of them ending up in waterways and oceans. The 500 million figure is often attributed to the National Park Service; it in turn got it from the recycling company Eco-Cycle.

Eco-Cycle is unable to provide any data to back up this number, telling Reason that it was relying on the research of one Milo Cress. Cress—whose Be Straw Free Campaign is hosted on Eco-Cycle's website—tells Reason that he arrived at the 500 million straws a day figure from phone surveys he conducted of straw manufacturers in 2011, when he was just 9 years old.

Cress, who is now 16, says that the National Restaurant Association has endorsed his estimates in private correspondence. This may well be true, but the only references to the 500 million figure on the association's website again points back to the work done by Cress.

More important than how many straws Americans use each day is how many wind up in waterways. We don't know that figure either. The closest we have is the number of straws collected by the California Costal Commission during its annual Coastal Cleanup Day: a total of 835,425 straws and stirrers since 1988, or about 4.1 percent of debris collected.

Squishy moderates on the straw issue have pushed paper straws, which come compostable at only eight times the price. Eco-Cycle skews a bit more radical, with their "Be Straw Free" campaign—sponsored in part by reusable straw makers—that urges the adoption of glass or steel straws. Because we all know how good steel smelting is for the environment.

In any case, criminalizing unsolicited straws seems like a rather heavy-handed approach to the problem, especially since we don't actually know how big a problem it is. But don't take my word for that. Ask Milo Cress.

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"If people are forced not to use straws, then they won't necessarily see that it's for the environment," he tells Reason."They'll just think it's just another inconvenience imposed on them by government."

Update: Reason spoke with Voleck Taing, a senior assistant to Assemblyman Calderon, who said they intend to amend the bill to remove the fines.

Photo Credit: Ilkin Guliyev/Dreamstime.com

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PARENT'S COMPLAINTS SEND MAYOR AND EL RANCHO HIGH TEACHER SALCIDO ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

By DAILY NEWS, PUBLISHED: July 21, 2010 UPDATED: January 27, 2018 https://www.dailynews.com/2010/07/21/parents-complaints-send-mayor-and-el-rancho-high-teacher-salcido-on-administrative-leave/



Teacher Gregory Salcido stands in front of El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera after a complaint has been filed against him on Wednesday July 21, 2010. A parent has filed a complaint with the school board over his classroom conduct and Salcido has been placed on paid administrative leave.

PICO RIVERA – Mayor Gregory Salcido, a history teacher at El Rancho High School, has been placed on administrative leave by the school district after a parent complained about Salcido's classroom

conduct.

UPDATE: Teacher Gregory Salcido caught on video degrading military https://www.dailynews.com/2018/01/27/pico-rivera-councilman-and-el-rancho-high-teacher-gregory-salcido-caught-on-tape-degrading-military/

Salcido said he is being targeted because of his unconventional world views.

Parent Gerald Kelly, 42, said he complained to the El Rancho Unified School District Tuesday. He said his daughter Savanah, 16, told him Salcido threatened her, made inappropriate comments about race and insulted other students and parents. Salcido denied making threats or derogatory comments toward students or parents, and said some of his remarks to his 54-student world history class were taken out of context and exaggerated.

"There's no way this individual can truthfully say she was threatened, discriminated against or harmed," said Salcido, who has taught for 14 years. "The examples (used in class) offended her father's political sensibilities and now we're in this situation. It's a matter of conveniently altering semantics."

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John Lopez, assistant superintendent of human resources for El Rancho Unified, said he couldn't comment on personnel matters. Salcido said he was placed on leave Tuesday afternoon.

"This is a positive thing for everybody involved, and we're not treating Mr. Salcido any different because he's the mayor," said El Rancho School Board member Rachel Canchola. "This tells the student we're taking the allegations seriously and tells the teacher we're going to investigate it and go from there."

Savanah Kelly said she was talking to a classmate when Salcido said, "shut up Kelly before I kill you."

Salcido said he keeps discipline lighthearted by making over-the-top statements meant to be humorous.

"I can understand how that would bother a third party, but it's out of context. That's not at all what I meant and at no time did this individual feel threatened," he said.

Students at El Rancho on Wednesday described Salcido as a popular, effective teacher who often jokes with students.

"He's like one of the best teachers I've ever had," said student Oscar Navarrete, 17. "He actually teaches. He doesn't just go from the book."

Gerald Kelly, a former Marine, said he was angered by his daughter's recanting of Salcido's classroom lecture content about topics like religion, the military and gay marriage.

"This is the mayor and he's out here destroying these kids' minds," Kelly said. "Why allow him to lead this city when he stands for non-religious beliefs and that it's OK to be against the Bible, (says it's OK to be) homosexual and defames people in the military?"

Salcido, 41, said he blends traditional teaching methods with unconventional ones and called his lessons "intense." He said he teaches students history by making parallels between the past and present.

His classroom discussions have brought up examples of religion shaping public policy and exploitation by governments of their fighting forces, he said.

Salcido said he believes gay marriage is a civil right and has been unabashed about his unorthodox views about institutional religion. In February, Salcido was criticized by local pastors for removing a Bible from the City Council dais, saying it violated the U.S. Constitution's establishment clause.

"As a public figure I understand I've got to be able to take it, but that's not going to make me back down from what I know is right," Salcido said. "I'm not happy about the situation, however I support the school district's desire to proceed with due diligence."

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YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jerry Tollett" haleja@epbfi.com



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From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

FALCON HEAVY VS. THE CLASSIC SATURN V

David Szondy, January 24, 2018-01-24 https://newatlas.com/falcon-heavy-saturn-v/53090/

The first flight of SpaceX's long awaited Falcon Heavy rocket is scheduled for January 31. If all goes well, it will be the most powerful operational booster in the world – at twice the capacity of its nearest rival. According to SpaceX, it will be able to lift the equivalent of a fully loaded 737 airliner into orbit, but how powerful is the Falcon Heavy overall? To get a sense of perspective, let's see how it stacks up to the granddaddy of all space rockets, the Saturn V.

Though it hasn't flown yet, the Falcon Heavy is already a pretty impressive bird. If successful, it will not only be the biggest rocket in the world today, but it will be a general purpose launcher that was developed for commercial use solely through private funding. It will also be largely reusable, depending on the mission and payload, and promises to bring the cost of everything from Earth orbital payloads to interplanetary missions way down. And that's not even mentioning that it will be the first to launch an electric supercar into space.

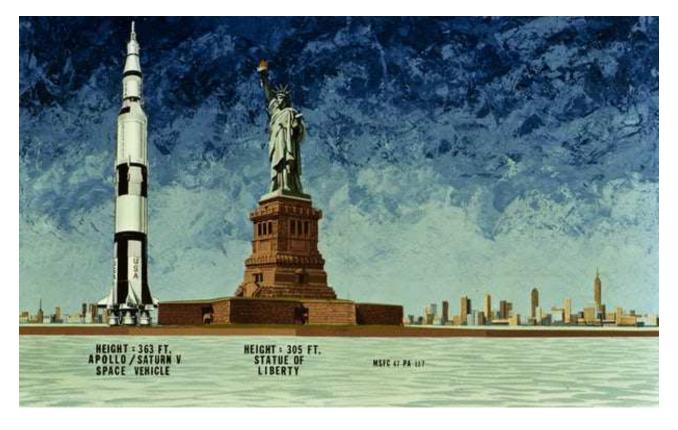
If we compare it to the Saturn V rocket that was built for the NASA Apollo program in the 1960s, there are some very obvious differences between the two before we even get down to the statistics. The most apparent is that the Falcon Heavy is a general purpose rocket

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designed to carry out a whole range of jobs for a variety of customers. It's also designed as an evolution of the Falcon 9 rocket and will share its reusability as a way of keeping down costs.



Falcon Heavy on the pad(Credit: SpaceX)



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The Saturn V, on the other hand was a very specialized rocket intended for only one thing – to send the Apollo missions to the Moon. Though it's final task was to lift the Skylab space station into orbit in 1973, that was basically all it ever did in the 13 times that it flew. Built by Boeing, North American, and Douglas along with an army of subcontractors, it was the brainchild of space pioneer Wernher Von Braun and a direct descendant of the V2 rocket of the Second World War.

The Saturn V was also strange because where the Falcon Heavy has been under development for 13 years and still hasn't gone practical, the Saturn went from conception to operational flight in only seven years. Even then, the Saturn's evolution was one of constantly aiming at a moving target as the spacecraft it was meant to launch kept changing in both basic conception and details. It was also mind-bogglingly expensive as the American government spent the equivalent cost of a small war on its development.

But the result was the world's largest, most powerful rocket. You'll notice there are no qualifiers there. The Saturn V was the biggest by a wide margin and remains so to this day. And if we compare it to the Falcon Heavy, which will be the most powerful rocket of today, we can see by how much the Apollo launcher excelled.



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Let's look at the basic statistics. The Falcon Heavy stands 230 ft (70 m) tall, has a diameter of 12 ft (3.66 m), and when fully assembled (including its boosters) is 40 ft (12.2 m) wide and weighs 3,132,301 lb (1,420,788 kg). The Saturn V with its three stages in place, tops out at 363 ft (110.6 m) tall, has a diameter of 33 ft (10.1 m), and tips the scales at 6,540,000 lb (2,970,000 kg).

Of course, size isn't everything. The Empire State building is bigger than both the Saturn V and the Falcon Heavy, but it can't fly for toffee. On the other hand, the two-stage Falcon Heavy has nine Merlin 1D main engines in its first stage and nine in each of its two boosters burning supercooled liquid oxygen and kerosene to produce 5,130,000 lb of thrust. Then the second stage takes over with its single Merlin 1D engine to punch 210,000 lb of thrust.

That's remarkable when compared to the Atlas and Ariane rockets of today, but now let's look at the Saturn V. Its S-IC first stage has five Rocketdyne F1engines that, when set loose, generate a staggering 7,891,000 lb as it burns kerosene and liquid oxygen.

Then comes the S-II second stage with its five Rocketdyne J-2 putting out 1,155,800 lb of thrust from a mix of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen. But where Falcon Heavy has already used up its stages, the Saturn still has its S-IVB third stage and its single J-2 engine that can manage a respectable 225,000 lb of thrust.



Leaving aside minutiae like specific impulse and burn times, what does all this mean at the end of the day? It means that the Falcon Heavy can put a payload of 140,700 lb (63,800 kg)

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into low Earth orbit at an inclination of 28.5 degrees. It could also reach escape velocity to send 35,000 lb (16,000 kg) to the Moon.

Saturn V? Its low Earth orbit throw weight is over twice the Heavy's at 310,000 lb (140,000 kg) with a 30° inclination. Getting to escape velocity, it can loft 107,100 lb (48,600 kg) into lunar orbit. That's the equivalent of nine full grown elephants – without their spacesuits.

But where the Falcon Heavy comes out ahead is in economy. The estimated cost of a Saturn V launch in today's dollars is a whopping US\$1.16 billion. Meanwhile, the upper estimate for Falcon heavy is US\$90 million. That's million with an "M."

So, which rocket comes out ahead? In terms of sheer numbers, the Saturn V wins hands down, but the contest is a bit unfair. Saturn V was a Cold War project with a main objective to put a man on the Moon as part of the struggle to prove the superiority of the Free World over the Soviet Union. It was a cost-is-no-object machine intended to win a bloodless battle for world supremacy.

Falcon Heavy, on the other hand, is a business venture. Its job is to make a profit for SpaceX's investors and its development always had one eye on the ledger at all times. Its design is different, its function is different. To compare it with the Saturn V is a bit like comparing a nuclear strike carrier with the Queen Mary 2. Beyond a certain point, the exercise becomes meaningless.

Besides, the Saturn V is no competition to the Falcon Heavy, if for no other reason that no more Saturns could be built. True, the complete microfilm plans for the giant rocket and its support systems are carefully stored by NASA, but the men and women who built Saturn are all dead or retired, the machine tools used to build it are all broken up, and most of the components are no longer manufactured.

What Falcon Heavy must worry about is what comes next.

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FUNGI CAN HELP CONCRETE HEAL ITS OWN CRACKS

One promising candidate is eco-friendly and poses no known risks to human health

By Congrui Jin, The Conversation US on January 24, 2018

<a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fungi-can-help-concrete-heal-its-own-cracks/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sustainability&utm_content=link&utm_term=2018-01-25_more-stories

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

Infrastructure supports and facilitates our daily lives—think of the roads we drive on, the bridges and tunnels that help transport people and freight, the office buildings where we work and the dams that provide the water we drink. But it's no secret that American infrastructure is aging and in desperate need of rehabilitation.

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Credit: apasciuto Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

Concrete structures, in particular, suffer from serious deterioration. Cracks are very common due to various chemical and physical phenomena that occur during everyday use. Concrete shrinks as it dries, which can cause cracks. It can crack when there's movement underneath or thanks to freeze/thaw cycles over the course of the seasons. Simply putting too much weight on it can cause fractures. Even worse, the steel bars embedded in concrete as reinforcement can corrode over time.

Very tiny cracks can be quite harmful because they provide an easy route in for liquids and gasses—and the harmful substances they might contain. For instance, micro-cracks can allow water and oxygen to infiltrate and then corrode the steel, leading to structural failure. Even a slender breach just the width of a hair can allow enough water in to undermine the concrete's integrity.

But continuous maintenance and repair work is difficult because it usually requires an enormous amount of labor and investment.

So since 2013, I've been trying to figure out how these harmful cracks could heal themselves without human intervention. The idea was originally inspired by the amazing ability of the human body to heal itself of cuts, bruises and broken bones. A person takes in nutrients which the body uses to produce new substitutes to heal damaged tissues. In the same way, can we provide necessary products to concrete to fill in cracks when damage happens?

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My Binghamton University colleagues Guangwen Zhou and David Davies, Ning Zhang from Rutgers University and I have found an unusual candidate to help concrete heal itself: a fungus called Trichoderma reesei.



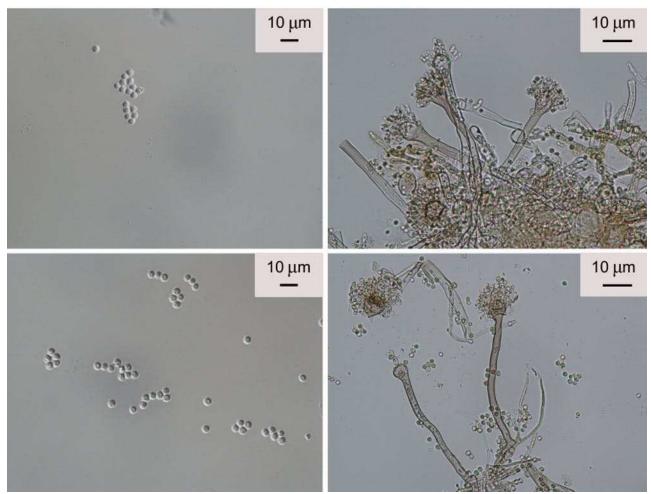
Researchers screened a number of fungi looking for a candidate that could help fill concrete cracks. Credit: Congrui Jin (CC BY-ND)

We initially screened about 20 different species of fungi in order to find one that could withstand the harsh conditions in concrete. Some we isolated from the roots of plants that grew in nutrient-poor soils, including from the New Jersey Pine Barrens and the Canadian Rocky Mountains in Alberta.

We found that as calcium hydroxide from concrete dissolved in water, the pH of our fungal growth medium increased from a close-to-neutral original value of 6.5 all the way to a very alkaline 13.0. Of all the fungi we tested, only T. reesei could survive this environment. Despite the drastic pH increase, its spores germinated into threadlike hyphal mycelium and grew equally well with or without concrete.

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Once the spores (left) germinate with the addition of water, they grow into threadlike hyphal mycelium (right). Credit: Congrui Jin (CC BY-ND)

We propose including fungal spores, together with nutrients, during the initial mixing process when building a new concrete structure. When the inevitable cracking occurs and water finds its way in, the dormant fungal spores will germinate.

As they grow, they'll work as a catalyst within the calcium-rich conditions of the concrete to promote precipitation of calcium carbonate crystals. These mineral deposits can fill in the cracks. When the cracks are completely caulked and no more water can enter, the fungi will again form spores. If cracks form again and environmental conditions become favorable, the spores could wake up and repeat the process.

T. reesei is eco-friendly and nonpathogenic, posing no known risk to human health. Despite its widespread presence in tropical soils, there are no reports of adverse effects in aquatic or terrestrial plants or animals. In fact, T. reesei has a long history of safe use in industrial-scale production of carbohydrase enzymes, such as cellulase, which plays an important role in fermentation processes during winemaking. Of course, researchers will need to conduct a thorough assessment to investigate any possible immediate and long-term effects on the environment and human health prior to its use as a healing agent in concrete infrastructure.

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We still don't fully understand this very young but promising biological repair technique. Concrete is a harsh environment for the fungus: very high pH values, relatively small pore sizes, severe moisture deficit, high temperatures in summer and low temperatures in winter, limited nutrient availability and possible exposure to ultraviolet rays from sunlight. All of these factors dramatically influence the fungi's metabolic activities and make them vulnerable to death.

Our research is still in the initial stage and there's a long way to go to make self-healing concrete practical and cost-effective. But the scope of American infrastructure's challenges makes exploring creative solutions like this one worthwhile.

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

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THE GOOD AND BAD NEWS ABOUT RISING TEMPERATURES

Scientists believe they can better pinpoint how much future warming the world can expect

By Chelsea Harvey, ClimateWire on January 18, 2018
<a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-good-and-bad-news-about-rising-temperatures/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sustainability&utm_content=link&utm_term=2018-01-25_more-stories



A melt pond in Greenland ice. Credit: NASA ICE Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

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Scientists believe they can better pinpoint how much future climate change the world can expect.

There's some good news: It won't likely be as bad as the worst-case predictions. The bad news: It'll probably be worse than the rosiest projections.

New research published yesterday in the journal Nature claims to have substantially narrowed down the scientific estimate of how much warming would occur if carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere were to double from their preindustrial levels. It's a metric known as "equilibrium climate sensitivity," or ECS, and it's a key component of scientists' estimates about how future greenhouse gas emissions may alter the climate.

Unfortunately, it's also a metric that comes with significant uncertainty. Dozens of studies have attempted to calculate it, with their findings falling across a broad range of possible warming scenarios. So far, the best estimate presented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggests that the range of warming likely falls between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees Celsius.

It's a broad range with a worrying upper limit. Preindustrial carbon dioxide concentrations hovered at around 280 parts per million. A doubling of those levels would amount to 560 ppm—and the planet is already nearly halfway there. Current estimates place carbon dioxide concentrations at around 405 ppm. Under the IPCC's most severe projection, the Earth would already be locked into at least 2 degrees of warming. World leaders are striving to keep the rise in global temperatures within a 2-degree threshold.

The new study, led by Peter Cox of the University of Exeter, suggests the IPCC's worst projections may be too high. It also suggests its lowest projections may not be severe enough.

The research places the likely range of warming, under a doubling of carbon dioxide concentrations, between 2.2 and 3.4 degrees Celsius. There's less than a 3 percent chance the warming would be less than 1.5 degrees, the researchers note—and less than a 1 percent chance it would be greater than 4.5 degrees.

"If the upper limit of ECS can truly be constrained to a lower value than is currently expected, then the risk of very high surface-temperature changes occurring in the future will decrease," said climate scientist Piers Forster of the University of Leeds, who was not involved with the research, in a commentary also published yesterday in Nature. "This, in turn, would improve the chances of keeping the temperature increase well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels."

But as Forster also points out, the new study doesn't completely agree with all recent research on the subject—meaning there's still room for debate among climate scientists about where the most likely range actually falls.

For its part, the new research takes a different approach than many other studies. Previous estimates have often relied on historical warming trends to inform their predictions about the future. The new study instead focused on how present-day temperatures naturally vary from one year to the next, regardless of the long-term warming trend, and how those variations may influence the sensitivity of the climate system. Testing the idea on historical

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climate simulations, it found that these annual variations were useful in helping to predict equilibrium climate sensitivity.

"HELPING ME TO SLEEP A LITTLE EASIER"

If the findings are correct, they could be taken as a bit of good news for the climate.

Although the new study's lower limit is higher than that of previous estimates, it also suggests that we may avoid the kind of catastrophic climate change associated with the IPCC's worst-case scenario of 4.5 degrees warming.

That said, another study published just last month, also in Nature, came to a different conclusion. That study used a similar method to evaluate future warming and suggested that the most accurate climate models—the ones that best reflect real-life observations of climate change—are the ones that make the most severe predictions about future global warming (Climatewire, Dec. 7, 2017).

In his commentary, Forster acknowledges that more research will be required to resolve the debate but notes that he believes the latest study may carry more weight, being "based on simpler physical theories of climate forcing and response."

But not all scientists are necessarily convinced. In a statement to the independent Science Media Centre, Steven Sherwood of the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science said he felt "it is not clear whether to put more weight on this study, or the previous ones suggesting even higher sensitivity."

But he added that, nonetheless, "one thing all the studies agree on is that climate sensitivity is not very low"—that is, central estimates of the equilibrium climate sensitivity always fall above 2 degrees Celsius. That means that even under the more moderate findings in the new study, it's imperative for world leaders to prevent carbon dioxide levels from doubling if they want to meet the climate goals outlined in the Paris climate agreement.

That doesn't make continued study of the ECS any less important, though. On the contrary, continuing to narrow down the estimated range will give scientists and policymakers a better and better idea of what climate effects to expect from current emissions trajectories and how aggressively they must act to change those outcomes.

Though more debate is likely to come, the new study for now provides renewed hope that exceeding the 2-degree threshold is not yet an inevitable end. And to Forster, at least, that's some relief.

"I should thank Cox and colleagues for helping me to sleep a little easier in my bed at night," he wrote.

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WASHINGTON BILL WOULD MAKE IT ILLEGAL TO SELL ELECTRONICS THAT DON'T HAVE EASILY REPLACEABLE BATTERIES

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iPhone CPU throttling controversy is fueling a new round of state-level right to repair legislation.

Jason Koebler, Jan 26 2018, 9:36am

https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/zmqa49/washington-right-to-repair-iphone-cputhrottling

A bill that would make it easier to fix your electronics is rapidly hurtling through the Washington state legislature. The bill's ascent is fueled by Apple's iPhone-throttling controversy, which has placed a renewed focus on the fact that our electronics have become increasingly difficult to repair.

"It was introduced before [the throttling] news broke, but that's become something constituents and legislators have sunk their teeth into," Jeff Morris, a Washington representative who introduced the bill told me on the phone. "They can say 'this is what we're talking about' and point to this as the type of thing that is accelerating the demise of their technology so they have to buy the next model."

Late last year, Apple confirmed that it slows down the processor speeds of iPhones with older batteries. This performance decrease can be fixed by replacing the battery, but Apple's replacement program has a weeks-long waiting list and the company has fought against third-party repair of its phones at every turn.

- 3 (6) Original manufacturers of digital electronic products sold on
- 4 or after January 1, 2019, in Washington state are prohibited from
- 5 designing or manufacturing digital electronic products in such a way
- 6 as to prevent reasonable diagnostic or repair functions by an
- 7 independent repair provider. Preventing reasonable diagnostic or
- 8 repair functions includes permanently affixing a battery in a manner
- 9 that makes it difficult or impossible to remove.

Image from Washington Bill SHB2279

A wave of so-called right-to-repair or fair repair bills that would prevent companies from having repair monopolies have been introduced in states around the country. Last year, 12 states introduced bills that would require electronics manufacturers to make repair information available to consumers and third-party repair shops and would require them to sell replacement parts for electronics. It would also prevent them from using software locks to prevent repair or from remotely bricking electronics that use aftermarket parts. Already in 2018, 17 states have introduced fair repair bills.

Though passage in any state would have important ramifications for consumers nationwide, the Washington bill, called SHB2279, is worth focusing on for a few reasons.

The bill is cosponsored by 11 other representatives across the political spectrum and Thursday was moved out of Morris's Committee on Technology & Economic Development, an important step toward passage that puts it ahead of bills introduced in many other

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states. If passed in Washington, information and parts made available there would likely filter out to the rest of the United States.

The bill Morris introduced also goes further than any other state's legislation because it seeks to tackle the growing trend of manufacturers creating electronics that have difficult-to-replace batteries.

Starting in 2019, the bill would ban the sale of electronics that are designed "in such a way as to prevent reasonable diagnostic or repair functions by an independent repair provider. Preventing reasonable diagnostic or repair functions includes permanently affixing a battery in a manner that makes it difficult or impossible to remove."

"With Apple phones in particular, they glue the battery in the case, so for me, that sounds like a purposeful attempt to make it so you couldn't repair the phone"

Morris told me this provision in the bill came out of a conversation with an independent repair shop owner in his district, who noted that many electronics now use glued-down batteries, which makes them difficult to repair and much harder to recycle, because batteries are flammable when shredded. There is currently no easy way for recyclers to remove the batteries from MacBook Pros at scale, for instance.

"With Apple phones in particular, they glue the battery in the case, so for me, that sounds like a purposeful attempt to make it so you couldn't repair the phone," Morris said. "It helps accelerate the path of those devices to the waste stream. So we're trying to keep the philosophy our state is behind, which is recycle, repair, reuse."

It is worth noting that many people can and do replace batteries in iPhones, but it's not particularly easy. It's too early to say whether Apple would specifically have to redesign the iPhone to comply with this law. But Apple's Air Pods and Microsoft's Surface Laptop (among many other new electronics), cannot be disassembled without being completely destroyed, making battery replacement impossible.

Unsurprisingly, tech companies have lined up to oppose the pro-consumer bill.

Earlier this month, a coalition of 14 different tech trade groups—including the Consumer Technology Association, the CTIA, the Telecommunications Industry Association, the Computer Technology Industry Association, and the Entertainment Software Association—called the bill "unwarranted" in a letter to Morris opposing the bill.

Representatives from some of these groups—which represent Apple, Microsoft, Verizon, Comcast, Electronic Arts, and hundreds of other major tech companies—have also testified against the bill at hearings in Washington.

As has happened in other states, these groups say that allowing consumers to repair their own electronics would lead to cybersecurity and safety issues, though the industry has yet to put forward a coherent argument of what, specifically, would be at risk.

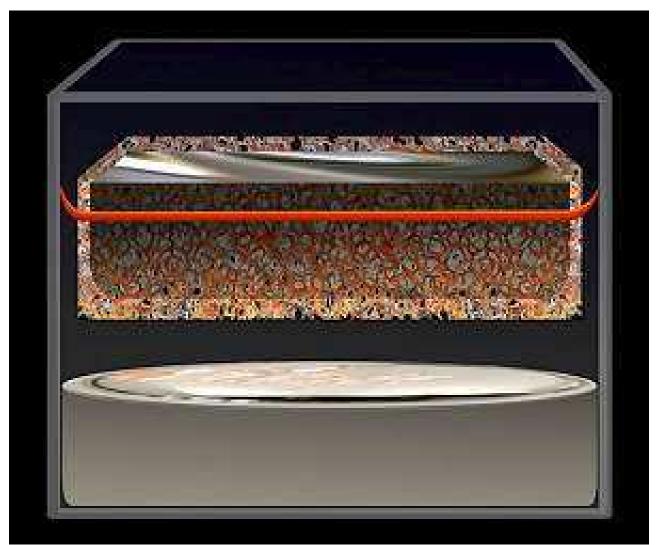
"With access to technical information, criminals can more easily circumvent security protections, harming not only the product owner but also everyone who shares their network," the letter, which was obtained by Motherboard, stated.

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A NEW APPROACH TO RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

by Staff Writers, Boston MA (SPX) Jan 24, 2018 http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/A new approach to rechargeable batteries 999.html



A type of battery first invented nearly five decades ago could catapult to the forefront of energy storage technologies, thanks to a new finding by researchers at MIT.

A type of battery first invented nearly five decades ago could catapult to the forefront of energy storage technologies, thanks to a new finding by researchers at MIT and other institutions. The battery, based on electrodes made of sodium and nickel chloride and using a new type of metal mesh membrane, could be used for grid-scale installations to make intermittent power sources such as wind and solar capable of delivering reliable baseload electricity.

The findings are being reported in the journal Nature Energy, by a team led by MIT professor Donald Sadoway, postdocs Huayi Yin and Brice Chung, and four others.

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Although the basic battery chemistry the team used, based on a liquid sodium electrode material, was first described in 1968, the concept never caught on as a practical approach because of one significant drawback: It required the use of a thin membrane to separate its molten components, and the only known material with the needed properties for that membrane was a brittle and fragile ceramic. These paper-thin membranes made the batteries too easily damaged in real-world operating conditions, so apart from a few specialized industrial applications, the system has never been widely implemented.

But Sadoway and his team took a different approach, realizing that the functions of that membrane could instead be performed by a specially coated metal mesh, a much stronger and more flexible material that could stand up to the rigors of use in industrial-scale storage systems.

"I consider this a breakthrough," Sadoway says, because for the first time in five decades, this type of battery - whose advantages include cheap, abundant raw materials, very safe operational characteristics, and an ability to go through many charge-discharge cycles without degradation - could finally become practical.

While some companies have continued to make liquid-sodium batteries for specialized uses, "the cost was kept high because of the fragility of the ceramic membranes," says Sadoway, the John F. Elliott Professor of Materials Chemistry.

"Nobody's really been able to make that process work," including GE, which spent nearly 10 years working on the technology before abandoning the project.

As Sadoway and his team explored various options for the different components in a molten-metal-based battery, they were surprised by the results of one of their tests using lead compounds.

"We opened the cell and found droplets" inside the test chamber, which "would have to have been droplets of molten lead," he says. But instead of acting as a membrane, as expected, the compound material "was acting as an electrode," actively taking part in the battery's electrochemical reaction.

"That really opened our eyes to a completely different technology," he says. The membrane had performed its role - selectively allowing certain molecules to pass through while blocking others - in an entirely different way, using its electrical properties rather than the typical mechanical sorting based on the sizes of pores in the material.

In the end, after experimenting with various compounds, the team found that an ordinary steel mesh coated with a solution of titanium nitride could perform all the functions of the previously used ceramic membranes, but without the brittleness and fragility. The results could make possible a whole family of inexpensive and durable materials practical for large-scale rechargeable batteries.

The use of the new type of membrane can be applied to a wide variety of molten-electrode battery chemistries, he says, and opens up new avenues for battery design.

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"The fact that you can build a sodium-sulfur type of battery, or a sodium/nickel-chloride type of battery, without resorting to the use of fragile, brittle ceramic - that changes everything," he says.

The work could lead to inexpensive batteries large enough to make intermittent, renewable power sources practical for grid-scale storage, and the same underlying technology could have other applications as well, such as for some kinds of metal production, Sadoway says.

Sadoway cautions that such batteries would not be suitable for some major uses, such as cars or phones. Their strong point is in large, fixed installations where cost is paramount, but size and weight are not, such as utility-scale load leveling. In those applications, inexpensive battery technology could potentially enable a much greater percentage of intermittent renewable energy sources to take the place of baseload, always-available power sources, which are now dominated by fossil fuels.

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NO, THE "RING OF FIRE" IS NOT A REAL THING

By Erik Klemetti | January 26, 2018 8:49 am http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/rockyplanet/2018/01/26/no-the-ring-of-fire-is-not-more-

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The so-called "Ring of Fire". It doesn't mean much, geologically-speaking. Wikipedia.

"The Ring of Fire is really active!" Yup, that's what the headlines say. The supposed "Ring of Fire" — the chain of volcanoes and earthquakes that sits at the edge of the Pacific Ocean

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— appears to be in the news a lot right now because of the eruptions in the Philippines and Indonesia and earthquakes in Alaska and California. However, this is all normal for these parts of the world, so let's not get all worked up about it.

Let's start off with the basics: the "Ring of Fire" is not a thing, geologically-speaking. Maps of this supposed ring of doom show it skirting around the Pacific Ocean from southern Chile, up the coast of South America to the west coast of North America, up over Alaska and Kamchatka, swinging south to get Japan and the Philippines ... then takes a weird jog to the west to include Indonesia because [reasons] and then finishing heading back east to hit the Kermadecs and finally New Zealand. The whole thing, though, is really just an evocative image for writers.

Sure, there are a lot of tectonic boundaries along the edge of the Pacific. It is a large ocean underlain by multiple oceanic plates that are interacting with lots of continental and other oceanic plates. However, what happens in Chile doesn't really change what is happening in California, or Japan or New Zealand. Tectonics doesn't really work that way, it's too big a scale. So, that eruption at Mayon in the Philippines is not causing the eruption in Kusatsuin Japan or triggering earthquakes in Alaska. They are not directly connected (or even involve the same tectonic plates!)

What is true is there are a lot of volcanoes along the edge of the Pacific because of subduction, where oceanic plates dive under continental (or other oceanic) plates meeting their doom in the Earth's mantle. That process generates magma, which forms volcanoes. In this case, lots of volcanoes. Lots of volcanoes, of which dozens are erupting or restless at any given moment ... we just might not hear about them in the news because they're in the middle of nowhere or the media is distracted by other things.

With subduction comes earthquakes too, so along the rim of the Pacific, literally hundreds of earthquakes happen each week. Dozens of these earthquakes can be big (larger than M5) and near populated areas like in Indonesia or Mexico. So, we should all expect earthquakes, not be surprised when a few happen close in time because of the clustering in a random distribution of events (and that's what earthquakes are — randomly distributed).

So, what we are experiencing now in this flurry of news articles about the "Ring of Fire" being more active is not a geologic phenomenon, but rather a human one: One event attracts the attention, other events that might not have garnered much news coverage suddenly do because they are related in our minds and boom! the "Ring of Fire" is going crazy. Except it's not. The tectonic processes going on are doing what they always do. Maybe we have a clustering of these events right now, maybe not (you'd have to look at the actual statistics ... you know, data), but nothing on Earth has changed since last week when we weren't all panicking about the "Ring of Fire".

Anyway, the "Ring of Fire" is a term that I really dislike (if you didn't figure that out) because it really does nothing to help people better understand why eruptions and earthquakes occur. There are a multitude of volcanoes across the globe not on the "Ring of Fire" and earthquakes happen everywhere on the planet. The "Ring of Fire" is just a lazy way to say you didn't want to look up or understand the specific geologic setting of that country's earthquakes or volcanoes, so instead, hey let's throw in some boilerplate about the "Ring of Fire"! That'll get the peeps.

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Let's appreciation the planet for what it is: a tectonically active place where things like eruptions and earthquakes happen. We don't need to use inaccurate literary devices that merely make things sound worse.

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USEFUL AND TIMELY DELIVERY DRONE DROPS LIFE PRESERVER TO AUSTRALIAN SWIMMERS

By Evan Ackerman, Posted 22 Jan 2018 | 17:10 GMT

https://spectrum.ieee.org/automaton/robotics/drones/useful-and-timely-delivery-drone-drops-life-preserver-to-australian-

swimmers?utm source=roboticsnews&utm campaign=roboticsnews-01-30-18&utm medium=email



Photo: Little Ripper Lifesaver

Late last year, we wrote about how Australia was paying a stupendous amount of money to try using drones and artificial intelligence to detect sharks off of popular beaches. We were skeptical, mostly because it's hard to make a convincing argument that shark attacks are actually that big of a problem, in Australia or anywhere else, compared to other, bigger problems that we might want to address first.

One of those bigger problems, in Australia and in many other places, is drowning—in Australia in 2016, about 120 people drowned on the Australian coast, 60 times more people

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than were fatally attacked by sharks. Fortunately, the drones doing the shark spotting also happen to carry life preserver pods along with them, and last week, a drone being used for training managed to save a pair of struggling swimmers 700 meters off the coast of New South Wales.

Here's a video from the drone's point of view:

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, lifeguards were using the drone during a training session when "a call came through of two distressed swimmers."

Lifeguard supervisor Jai Sheridan...was piloting the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) at the time, immediately responded and was able to locate the swimmers within minutes of the initial alert.

Both swimmers were able to use the pod to make their way to shore, where they were met by lifequards and only appeared to show signs of fatigue.

It's not entirely clear what kind of drone is being used here—the news reports all refer to it as a Little Ripper drone, which is really a family of different sorts of commercial drones that Australian company Westpac modifies for shark-spotting and helping lifeguards. There's this sleek, sensor-packed electric helicopter:



Photo: Little Ripper Lifesaver

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Along with a bunch of other less cool-looking drones, like the one pictured at the top of this article. You can see the lifesaving pod on that one, it's the neon yellowy green package at the back. Inside is 4 kilograms worth of lifesaving bouy that autoinflates in 7 seconds once it hits the water, deploying into a two meter high pole (visible from 1.7 km) with hand straps, a strobe light, and a drogue. In the future, it may also include an electronic shark repellent gadget. You're not really supposed to swim with it (it's more of a "come rescue me" device), but hey, whatever works, right?

The most important thing here is that it took just 70 seconds from drone launch to dropping the pod. If a human lifeguard had been trying to reach the swimmers, it would have taken up to 6 minutes. In terms of things that delivery drones are actually useful for, this has to be near the top—a critical delivery that needs to be someplace inconvenient to get to absolutely as fast as possible. If Australia needs to convince itself that drones like these are only worth funding in order to detect sharks, then fine, as long as they also keep using them to save lives a bit more directly.

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LAB-BRED MOSQUITOES TO FLY NEAR MIAMI TO HELP COMBAT ZIKA

<u>Associated Press</u>•January 30, 2018 <u>https://www.yahoo.com/news/lab-bred-mosquitoes-fly-near-miami-help-combat-</u> 092143192.html

MIAMI (AP) — Thousands of bacteria-infected mosquitoes will be flying near Miami to test a new way to suppress insect populations that carry Zika and other viruses.

According to a statement from the Kentucky-based company MosquitoMate, the first mosquitoes will be released in the city of South Miami. The test is in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Mosquito Control and Habitat Management Division.

MosquitoMate infects male Aedes aegypti mosquitoes with the naturally occurring Wolbachia bacteria. Any offspring produced when the lab-bred mosquitoes mate with wild female mosquitoes won't survive to adulthood.

Male mosquitoes don't bite, and Wolbachia isn't harmful to humans.

A similar trial began near Key West last spring. Hurricane Irma's landfall in the Florida Keys interrupted the final weeks of monitoring for that trial. The results are still pending.

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

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

TAXES AND SALARY

You have two families: "Joe Legal" and "Jose Illegal". Both families have two parents, two children, and live in California ..

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Joe Legal works in construction, has a Social Security Number and makes \$25.00 per hour with taxes deducted.

Jose Illegal also works in construction, has NO Social Security Number, and gets paid \$15.00 cash "under the table".

Ready?

Now pay attention....

Joe Legal: \$25.00 per hour x 40 hours = \$1000.00 per week, or \$52,000.00 per year. Now take 30% away for

state and federal tax; Joe Legal now has \$31,231.00.

Jose Illegal: \$15.00 per hour x 40 hours = \$600.00 per week, or \$31,200.0 0 per year. Jose Illegal pays no

taxes. Jose Illegal now has \$31,200.00.

Joe Legal pays medical and dental insurance with limited coverage for his family at \$600.00 per month, or

\$7,200.00 per year. Joe Legal now has \$24,031.00.

Jose Illegal has full medical and dental coverage through the state and local clinics and emergency hospitals at

a cost of \$0.00 per year. Jose Illegal still has \$31,200.00.

Joe Legal makes too much money and is not eligible for food stamps or welfare. Joe Legal pays \$500.00 per

month for food, or \$6,000.00 per year. Joe Legal now has \$18,031.00.

Jose Illegal has no documented income and is eligible for food stamps, WIC and welfare. Jose Illegal still has

\$31,200.00.

Joe Legal pays rent of \$1,200.00 per month, or \$14,400.00 per year. Joe Legal now has 9,631 .00.

Jose Illegal receives a \$500.00 per month Federal Rent Subsidy. Jose Illegal pays out that \$500.00 per month,

or \$6,000.00 per year. Jose Illegal still has \$31,200.00.

Joe Legal pays \$200.00 per month, or \$2,400.00 for car insurance. Some of that is uninsured motorist

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insurance. Joe Legal now has \$7,231.00.

Jose Illegal says, "We don't need no stinkin' insurance!" and still has \$31,200.00.

Joe Legal has to make his \$7,231.00 stretch to pay utilities, gasoline, etc...

Jose Illegal has to make his \$31,200.00 stretch to pay utilities, gasoline, and what he sends out of the country every month..

Joe Legal now works overtime on Saturdays or gets a part time job after work.

Jose Illegal has nights and weekends off to enjoy with his family.

Joe Legal's and Jose Illegal's children both attend the same elementary school.

Joe Legal pays for his children's lunches, while Jose Illegal's children get a government sponsored lunch. Jose Illegal's children have an after school ESL program. Joe Legal's children go home.

Now, when they reach college age, Joe Legal's kids may not get into a State School and may not qualify for

scholarships, grants or other tuition help, even though Joe has been paying for State Schools through his taxes,

while Jose Illegal's kids "go to the head of the class" because they are a minority.

Joe Legal and Jose Illegal both enjoy the same police and fire services, but Joe paid for them and Jose did not pay.

Do you get it, now?

If you vote for or support any politician that supports illegal aliens... You are part of the problem

It's way PAST time to take a stand for America and America!

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

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

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I know, I kind of identify with that last statement. UT



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LIBERALS THINK WE SHOULD BE EQUAL AT THE FINISH LINE.

SHOULD WE TELL HER TO TURN AROUND OR

JUST LET HER CONTINUE?

CONSERVATIVES THINK WE SHOULD BE EQUAL AT THE STARTING LINE.

TPUSA.com

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PROPOSED 28TH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION:

From: "Ray Beloate" beerman@rittermail.com

You are one of my 10

IF Each person that receives this will forward it on to 10 people, in three days most people in The United States of America will have the message. If each person who receives this contacts his congressman and state senator, then we can reach the 38th state approval.

Proposed 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law that applies to the citizens of the United States that does not apply equally to the Senators and/or Representatives; and, Congress shall make no law that applies to the Senators and/or Representatives that does not apply equally to the Citizens of the United States .."

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