

Welcome to the February 14th, Valentine's Day, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

This has been a very mild week for me, but not for Jason's side of the family. First off his car bit the big one when the transmission started to slip. He and Jamie are now starting to shop for a work car from him. Good thing for all that I keep a spare car around here for him to use. He came over and grabbed 'Big Red', a 1995 Buick LaSabre, that I rebuilt. It originally was my Mother and Father-in-Law's car that was pretty much worn out. But SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED wanted to keep 'Big Red' around. So I replaced just about everything on it except for the engine and transmission. But it runs like a top and rides like a dream now.

Then Jamie and Jason took another hit. Jamie's mother, 'Dot Casteel', started having chest pains and has been put in the hospital for open heart surgery. But she is also having stomach pains and can't keep anything down. They have to get this virus thing taken care of first before they can operate on her. Prayer would be appreciated for 'Dot' because she is a good lady.

As for me, I am starting to work on the LibertyCon 31 Hucksters this week. I have the room all setup and reserved for the Hucksters, now I have got to get them registered and that will take a few weeks. There is always something to do when you help on a convention.

The only other thing of real consequence that has happened around her is that Alexander the Grape was hurt in his final wrestling match at Notre Dame last week. He took a bad tumble and cracked his ribs. He is slowly recovering from the tumble and it still hurts him to breath. Hopefully he will be on the mend soon.

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

Uncle Timmy

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

ROCKET SCIENCE

From: "M Cowan" cowanme@yahoo.com

I hope you've seen the pictures of the Tesla In Space. The dashboard has DON'T PANIC printed on it in large, friendly letters. And there's a towel in the car.

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RESPECT

From: "Dutch Stacy" lstacy726@gmail.com

This deal with the NFL is really getting out of hand. What the players are doing has nothing to do with Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Expression or any other Freedom. However, it

does have to do with Respect and Disrespect. If the players have something against an individual or individuals they should take it up with them, period. We have never gone to war for King and Country, Queen and Country or for that matter President and Country. Our cry has always been for Flag and Country. Our Flag is about the only thing we have that is constant and has been since 1776. It has always been there for us and by us I mean every Patriotic Citizen of the United States of America. When a soldier carrying it was killed or wounded another would pick it up and keep it flying until they could no longer go on, then it was passed on to another. When the players disrespect our Flag it is a kick in the face of every soldier who has ever served and/or died for our Flag and the Country For Which It Stands. If they disrespect our Flag and Country that much maybe it's time for them to find another flag and country that will pay them millions of dollars to play a game. Anyone, and I don't care who it is, who condones this action is no better than those we have been fighting for the past hundred years, and more. The NFL has done their fair share of kicking, also, by refusing to use the AMVETS advertisement. Their excuse is "It's Too Controversial". Like kneeling during our National Anthem isn't? By doing so they are denying the American Veterans, specifically WW II Veterans that originally came up with the idea, the right to Real "Freedom of Speech" which is exactly what "Please Stand" is. It's a sorry state of affairs when a game is more important than our National Flag and Anthem. At least no one took a knee at the Super Bowl. I guess it would have been embarrassing for anyone from either team to have done so, considering their names – Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots.

It would be real easy to put this in check. The NFL is a multi-billion dollar industry. If all the United States Citizens would Unite together for one thing in their lives, they could put a stop to this idiocy in short order. All it would take is for the Citizens of this Great Country to stop. Stop watching the games in any way shape or form. When the powers that be, in the NFL, are standing there staring at the empty stadiums and no TV ratings it would definitely make them take notice. Super Bowl tickets, alone, average from \$2,500 to \$3,000 each. The average for this game is \$4,320 per ticket. At \$4,300 for the 68,000 available seats (you do the math) plus the loss of millions in advertising at \$5 million per 30 second commercial, not counting the rest of the season's income, they wouldn't be able to pay such exorbitant salaries. If the players were faced with a pay cut they would stand in a heartbeat. I doubt it would take more than a couple weeks to show the NFL what true Patriotism really is.

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I have to admit that I peeked in on the superbowl and was fairly happy that neither team used the American Anthem as a place for them to protest. However, it was not a great game for me because I have kinda lost the need to watch them after all of the craziness of the protests this year. UT

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Re: The February 7th, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

Re: Jim Beaverbrook - for my views, that NAILED IT!!!!!! (I might have added - Private profit is no excuse to destroy the land and environment. Public land is OUR land, too, and we all have to breath that air and drink that water!)

It was the article about political beliefs at the end of the Revenge.

It began:

From: "Martha Knowles" knowlesme@tviw.us

This is something that I think is worth reading. It resonates with me, though I'm not totally in agreement with everything.

SOMETHING FROM FACEBOOK

Jim Beaver, January 28 at 11:47am ·

I would like all of my right wing, conservative friends and family members to read the following. It explains my beliefs in a nutshell. It explains my views in an even tempered, logical way. I wish I knew who wrote it so that I could give credit. But I believe it expresses the position of most of us who think of ourselves as liberal

It certainly did for me!

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Re: SOMETHING FROM FACEBOOK

From: "Rich Zellich" rich@zellich.net

I think the original author is guilty of generally thinking things s/he wished were true _is_ true. Regardless, I'm not going to comment on the balance of it, but only on points 13 & 14.

"13. I am not interested in coming after your blessed guns, nor is anyone serving in government. What I am interested in is sensible policies, including background checks, that just MIGHT save one person's, perhaps a toddler's, life by the hand of someone who should not have a gun. (Got another opinion? Put it on your page, not mine)."

This is the usual nonsense from someone who is completely ignorant of guns, gun owners, existing gun laws, criminology, and the culture of anti-gunnism in politicians.

This person doesn't understand that we have over 20,000 "gun control" laws in this country, none of which have ever done anything to control violence because the laws act only on the 100 million+ law-abiding gun owners, and not at all on the criminals or the insane. We already _have_ background checks - they don't work. Last year, the FBI processed over 25,000,000 background checks. A quick search didn't turn up a number of rejections by year, but only 2,000,000 rejections have occurred since the system was implemented 20 years ago, a lifetime average of 100,000 per year, or 4 tenths of one percent, most for false positive hits against the database. In most years, the actual number of prohibited people prosecuted is down in the single digits or low double digits (we're talking numbers like 9 & 12, here). That means that dealers are being forced to keep books on, and make Instant Check calls to the FBI for, 25,000,000+ purchases/year for a minuscule valid

rejection rate. That's a big-ticket item in the FBI's budget, too, and our tax dollars are paying for all of it.

We've already tried everything the anti-gunners are requesting. That included outright bans of guns and gun accessories - that didn't have any effect on violent crime at all, not even gun-specific violent crime.

The familiar "MIGHT save one person's, perhaps a toddler's, life" mantra reflects this person's ignorance of the fact that an estimated 2 million violent crimes are stopped or prevented each year by the presence of a defensive firearm, usually without having to fire it. Yet this person wants to trade these 2 million known cases of safety for the possibility of saving one life.

The very few actually "sensible" gun policies that we know of are not on the table because of the anti-gun crowd - they'd rather get rid of guns somehow, than actually contribute to public safety. Probably the most effective change that could be made is to eliminate the state and Federal Gun Free Zones - AKA Criminal Free-Fire Zones - and allow currently-defenseless people to deter, and fight back against if necessary, public shootings. Apparently, taking personal responsibility for the safety of you and yours is not a "reasonable" step to take... :-)

However, firearms homicides have dropped dramatically over the last few decades while, at the same time, the numbers of guns, gun owners, and concealed carry licenses have increased dramatically - and across all demographics, not just old white males. Eliminating Gun Free Zones seems like a pretty good idea to me, give how far we're reduced the size of the problem in the areas where guns are allowed. But, of course, we're told that doing that (like everything else we've already done, safely) would "make the streets run red with blood".

"14. I believe in so-called political correctness. I prefer to think it's social politeness. If I call you Chuck and you say you prefer to be called Charles I'll call you Charles. It's the polite thing to do. Not because everyone is a delicate snowflake, but because as Maya Angelou put it, when we know better, we do better. When someone tells you that a term or phrase is more accurate/less hurtful than the one you're using, you now know better. So why not do better? How does it hurt you to NOT hurt another person?"

This ignores the extant culture of the snowflakes and the professionally-offended. "Political Correctness" is bullshit, and is based on the assumption that if someone says they are offended, or actually hurt, by something you say that they really are.

Certainly, politeness helps in speech, and deliberately-hurtful speech is not a Good Thing. Unfortunately, the whole concept of PC flies in the face of the First Amendment recognition of our right to free speech. If speech is hurtful, that's not generally good, but it is allowed. If it is hurtful in an actionable way, such as actual defamation or libel, it is not protected and the target can do something about it. Someone merely claiming they don't like a name or label because it "hurts" them, or that they are "triggered" and thereby harmed by it just isn't compatible with the public's right to free speech.

In 75 years, I have seen "accepted" terminology for various racial and cultural groups change multiple times, always because of public pressure to drop a label someone deemed hurtful. The newly-adopted term then, in turn, is discarded for yet another one, until we

arrive at the point of not knowing how to describe several large groups of people for fear of offending someone. And is it really offensive to the Amerind population at large for the Cleveland Indians to have a cartoon mascot named Chief Wahoo? If a resident of a hogan on a hardscrabble reservation tells me it is, I would listen with respect, but would certainly ask him to enlighten me on how/why. But when an Amerind activist in \$400 Nocona boots tells me it's hurtful in a staged press conference, I'm pretty skeptical - how and why is it hurting that activist?

And how much money does he make complaining about it?

Looking back on the above, I'm afraid it turned out to be pretty rambling. I also see that it points out that our unknown liberal friend thinks s/he can make the world a better place by trampling on everybody else's rights as recognized in the First and Second Amendments to our Constitution. That's reason enough to be skeptical about that person's reasoning and motives. You can't do good by doing harm to the Rights of the People.

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From: "Bob Bolgeo" bbolgeo@aol.com

LARRY THE KINDERGARTEN KID - MAY BECOME MY NEW FAVORITE!!!!

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?' 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!'

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Larry watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. 'Why do you do that, mommy?' he asked. 'To make myself beautiful,' said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. 'What's the matter, asked Larry 'Giving up?'

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The math teacher saw that Larry wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, 'Larry! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?' Larry quickly replied, 'NBC, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!'

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Larry's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. 'Yes,' said the policeman. 'The detectives want very badly to capture him.' Larry asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture ? "

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Little Larry attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump, and chest. After a few minutes, Larry asked, 'Dad, why are you doing that?' His father replied, 'Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy. Larry, looking worried, said, 'Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom

If this brightened your day, don't let it stop here. Pass Larry on with a smile. Keep spreading the cheer! Pass him on to your friends!

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From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

Air Traffic Reparte

Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles!"
Delta 351: "Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"

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A Cessna inbound at the reporting point over ManlyBeach.

Tower (Female voice): "Cessna WYXD, congestion at airport approach. I'm going to have to hold you over the Manly area."  
Cessna WYXD: "I love it when you talk dirty to me."

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Tower: "TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees."
TWA 2341: "Center, we are at 35,000 feet.. How much noise can we make up here?"
Tower:"Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"

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From an unknown aircraft waiting in a very long takeoff queue: "I'm f...ing bored!"  
Ground Traffic Control:"Last aircraft transmitting, identify yourself immediately!"  
Unknown aircraft: "I said I was f...ing bored, not f...ing stupid!"

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O'Hare Approach Control to a 747: "United 329 heavy, your traffic is a Fokker, one o'clock, three miles, Eastbound."
United 329:"Approach, I've always wanted to say this...I've got the little Fokker in sight."

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A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, ATC asked, "What was your last known position?"  
Student: "When I was number one for takeoff."

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A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down.
San Jose Tower Noted: "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able.. If you are not able, take the Guadalupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."

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A Pan Am 727 flight, waiting for start clearance in Munich , overheard the following:

Lufthansa (in German): "Ground, what is our start clearance time?"  
Ground (in English):"If you want an answer you must speak in English"

Lufthansa (in English): "I am a German, flying a German airplane, in Germany . Why must I speak English?"

Unknown voice from another plane (in a beautiful British accent): "Because you lost the bloody war!"

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Tower: "Eastern 702, cleared for takeoff, contact Departure on frequency 124..7"

Eastern 702: "Tower, Eastern 702 switching to Departure. By the way, after we lifted off we saw some kind of dead animal on the far end of the runway."

Tower: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff behind Eastern 702, contact Departure on frequency 124.7. Did you copy that report from Eastern 702?"

Continental 635: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff, roger; and yes, we copied Eastern. We've already notified our caterers."

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One day the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?"

The Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for another one."

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The German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them. So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign Speedbird 206.

Speedbird 206: " Frankfurt , Speedbird 206! Clear of active runway."

Ground: "Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Seven."

The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.

Ground: "Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"

Speedbird 206: "Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."

Ground (with quite arrogant impatience): "Speedbird 206, have you not been to Frankfurt before?"

Speedbird 206 (coolly): "Yes, twice in 1944, but it was dark -- and I didn't land."

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While taxiing at London 's Airport, the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727..

An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew, screaming: "US Air 2771, where the hell are you going? I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between C and D, but get it right!"

Continuing her rage to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically: "God! Now you've screwed everything up! It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour, and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?"

"Yes, ma'am," the humbled crew responded.

Naturally, the ground control communications frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771.. Nobody wanted to chance engaging the irate ground controller in her current state of mind. Tension in every cockpit out around Gatwick was definitely running high. Just then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking: "Wasn't I married to you once?"

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## **BRITISH EXAM ANSWERS**

Apparently the following answers were offered by British students in the public examinations set for 15 year olds.

### **English**

Define the word "monotony."

Monotony is being married to the same person all your life.

Use the word "judicious" in a sentence to show you understand its meaning.

Hands that judicious can be soft as your face. (Hands that do dishes)

What does the word "benign" mean?

Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

What is the correct use of a semi-colon?

Only to be used as a last resort, a semi-colon is a partial removal of the intestines.

### **Technology**

What is a turbine?

Something an Arab wears on his head.

### **History**

What is Britain's highest award for valour in war?

Nelson's column. (A famous statue in London)

### **Religious Instruction**

Who did not welcome the return of the prodigal son?

The fatted calf.

What is a Hindu?

It lays eggs.

Name some famous pilgrimages.

Muslims used to go to Gamages but now it's closed. Christians still go on pilgrimage to Lord's.

### **Geography**



**Name the four seasons.**

**Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.**

**What is the equator?**

**A menagerie lion running around the Earth through Africa.**

**Name a greenhouse gas. What could be done to decrease global warming?**

**Cows make large amounts of methane when they fart. This could be reduced by fitting them with catalytic converters.**

**Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.**

**Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.**

**How is dew formed?**

**The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.**

**What is a planet?**

**A body of earth surrounded by sky.**

**What causes the tides in the oceans?**

**The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.**

**What is a fossil?**

**A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is.**

## **Biology**

**What happens to your body as you age?**

**When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.**

**What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?**

**He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.**

**Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.**

**Premature death.**

**What is artificial insemination?**

**When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.**

**How can you delay milk turning sour?**

**Keep it in the cow.**

**How are the main parts of the body categorised? (E.g. abdomen.)**

**The body is consisted into three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity.**

**The brainium contains the brain,**

**the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels,**

**A, E, I, O and U.**

**Briefly describe the skeleton and its function in the body.**

**The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off. The purpose of the skeleton is something to hitch the meat onto.**

**What is the Fibula?**

**A small lie.**

**Where are the Tibia?**

**They live in a country in North Africa.**

**What does "varicose" mean?**

**Nearby.**

**What is the most common form of birth control?**

**Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium.**

**Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean Section."**

**The caesarean section is a district in Rome.**

**What is the alimentary canal?**

**The alimentary canal is located in the northern part of Indiana.**

**What is a coma?**

**A coma is a punctual mark a bit like a period or full stop.**

**What is a seizure?**

**A Roman emperor.**

**What is a terminal illness?**

**When you are sick at the airport.**

**Name the types of teeth in an adult human. How many are there of each?**

**A permanent set of teeth consists of eight canines, eight cupids, two molars and eight cuspidors.**

**Sociology**

**What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?**

**If you are buying a house, they will insist you are well endowed.**

**In a democratic society, how important are elections?**

**Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.**

**What is a social node?**

**A friend you have known for a very long time.**

**Medical**

**What is the first thing you would do to someone who has been immobilised in a road accident?**

**Rape them tight in a blanket and give them a sweet cup of tea.**

**What is artificial respiration commonly known as?**

**The kiss of death.**

**What should you do with someone you have found unconscious in the water?**

- 1. Lay them on their backs and give them artificial insemination.**
- 2. Climb on top of the person and move up and down to make artificial perspiration.**

**How can you help someone who has fainted?**

- 1. Rub the person's chest or, if it's a lady, rub her arm above the hand instead.**
- 2. Put its head between the knees of the nearest doctor.**

**What are steroids?**

**Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.**

**What is a common treatment for a bad nosebleed?**

- 1. Circumcision.**
- 2. Put the nose much lower than the body until the heart stops.**

**How would you treat a head cold?**

**Use an agonised to spray the nose until it drops into your throat.**

**What should be done if someone has been bitten by a dog?**

**Put the dog away for several days. If he has not recovered, then kill it.**

**What has to be established before giving a blood transfusion?**

**If the blood is affirmative or negative.**

**How should you remove dust from the eye?**

**Pull the eye down over the nose.**

**What is an enema?**

**Someone who is not your friend.**

## **Psychology**

**What is a morbid state?**

**A stage in a take-over, when a bigger offer is made.**

## **Botany**

**What can be coloured red, pink, orange or flamingo?**

**The rectum.**

**Give an example of a fungus. What is a characteristic feature?**

**Mushrooms. They always grow in damp places and so they look like umbrellas.**

**What is rhubarb?**

**A kind of celery gone bloodshot.**

**Describe how flowers are most commonly fertilised.**

- 1. The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects.**
- 2. Germination is the process of becoming a German.**
- 3. Fertilisation is the fussing of the male with the female garments.**

**Chemistry**

**What is a supersaturated solution?**

**A super-saturated solution is one that holds more than it can hold.**

**Physics**

**What is momentum?**

**What you give a body when they are going away.**

**What is a vacuum?**

**A large empty space where the pope lives.**

**What is a magnet?**

**Something you find crawling on a dead cat.**

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

**Walking the Dog**

**A little girl asked her mom, "Mom, may I take the dog for a walk around the block?" Mom says, "No, because the dog is in heat." "What does that mean?" asked the child. "Go ask your father. I think he is in the garage." The little girl went to the garage and asked, "Dad, may I take Susie for a walk around the block? I asked Mom, but she said that Susie was in heat, and to come talk to you." Dad said, "Bring Susie over here." He took a rag, soaked it with gasoline, and scrubbed the dog's rear-end with it and said, "Okay, you can go now, but keep Susie on the leash and only go one time around the block." The little girl left and returned a few minutes later with NO DOG on the leash. Dad asked, "Where is Susie?" The little girl said, "She will be here in a minute, she ran out of gas about halfway down the block and another dog is pushing her home."**

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**School Question**

**Mother: "Why are you home from school so early?"**

**Son: "I was the only one who could answer a question."**

**Mother: "Oh, really? What was the question?"**

**Son: "Who threw the eraser at the principal?"**

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**Hiking A father came home from a long business trip to find his young son riding a brand new bike.**

**"Where did you get the money for that?" he asked.**

**"It must have cost over 300 dollars!"**

"I earned it hiking," replied the boy.

"Hiking??? Come on son; tell your Dad the truth. Nobody can make that sort of money hiking. Where did you Really get the cash from?"

"It's like I say, Dad. Every night when you were gone, Mr. Goldberg from the bank would come over to see Mom. He'd give me a 20 dollar bill and tell me to take a hike!"

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### **Ghost**

A visiting professor at Cardiff University is giving a seminar on the supernatural. To get a feel for his audience, he asks: "How many people here believe in ghosts?" About 90 students raise their hands. "Well that's a good start. Out of those of you who believe in ghosts, do any of you think you've ever seen a ghost?" About 40 students raise their hands. "That's really good. I'm really glad you take this seriously. Has anyone here ever talked to a ghost? 15 students raise their hands. "That's a great response. Has anyone here ever touched a ghost?" Three students raise their hands. "That's fantastic. But let me ask you one question further.....Have any of you ever made love to a ghost?" One student in the back raises his hand. The professor is astonished. He takes off his glasses, takes a step back, and says, "Son, all the years I've been giving this lecture, no one has ever claimed to have slept with a ghost. You've got to come up here and tell us about your experience." The redneck student replies with a nod and a grin, and begins to make his way up to the podium. The professor says, "Well, tell us what it's like to have sex with a ghost." The student replies, "Ghost? Damn..... From back there I thought you said 'goats'!"

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### **Lone Ranger**

A teacher cautiously approaches the subject of sex education with her fourth grade class because she realizes Little Johnny's propensity for sexual innuendo. But Johnny remains attentive throughout the entire lecture. Finally, towards the end of the lesson, the teacher asks for examples of sex education from the class. One little boy raises his hand, "I saw a bird in her nest with some eggs." "Very good, William," cooed the teacher. "My mommy had a baby," said little Esther. "Oh, that's nice," replied the teacher. Little Johnny raises his hand. With much fear and trepidation, the teacher calls on him. "I was watchin' TV yesterday, and I saw the Lone Ranger. He was surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of Indians. And they all attacked at one time. And he killed every one of them with his two guns." The teacher was relieved but puzzled, "And what does that have to do with sex education, Johnny?" "It'll teach those Indians not to \*\*\*k with the Lone Ranger."

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

### **LONE RANGER AND TONTO**

Lone Ranger and Tonto have fought crime all day in the small western outpost, and it is near dusk and they are tired. The local Motel 6 is booked, so they head out to the prairie to pitch their tent on a small rise near a stream. They set up the tent, start a small campfire, eat up and water Silver and Scout, then set about boiling some beans and cracking a few beef jerky strips.

Couple hours pass, it is now dark, LR and T, and their mounts, are ready to bed down for the night. They all drift off, and a few hours later LR wakes with a start. He shakes T, rouses

him and asks, "what do you see T?" T rubs his eyes and says he sees the sky, the stars and the moon. LR asks T what that tells him. T replies that it tells him, according to the position of moon and stars, that it is about four hours to sunrise, the temp is about three rocks, and the wind is calm.

T then asks what it tells LR. LR replies, "It tells me, Tonto, that someone stole our freakin' tent!!!"

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

### LEXOPHILIA GONE MAD!

- \* Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!
- \* How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- \* England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .
- \* I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- \* They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.
- \* I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- \* Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- \* I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- \* I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, then it dawned on me.
- \* When chemists die, they barium.
- \* I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- \* I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- \* Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- \* I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- \* Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- \* When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- \* Broken pencils are pointless.
- \* What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- \* I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- \* I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- \* Velcro - what a rip off!

And last not least, one that is for most of us on this forum

- \* Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last.

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

### YES, WE ARE APPARENTLY THAT STUPID

In case you needed further proof that the human race is littered with stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

1. On a Sear's hairdryer: Do not use while sleeping." (Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair.)
2. On a bag of Frito's: "You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside." (The shoplifter special.)

3. On a bar of Dial soap: "Directions: Use like regular soap." (And that would be how...?)
4. On some Swanson frozen dinners: "Serving suggestion: Defrost." (But its "just" a suggestion.)
5. On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom): "Do not turn upside down." (Too late!)
6. On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding: "Product will be hot after heating." (As night follows day ...)
7. On packaging for a Rowenta iron: "Do not iron clothes on body." (But wouldn't this save me more time?)
8. On Boot's Children Cough Medicine: "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication." (We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts.)
9. On Nytol Sleep Aid: "Warning: May cause drowsiness." (One would hope.)
10. On most brands of Christmas lights: "For indoor or outdoor use only." (As opposed to what?)
11. On a Japanese food processor: "Not to be used for the other use." (I gotta admit, I'm curious.)
12. On Sainsbury's peanuts: "Warning: contains nuts." (Talk about a news flash.)
13. On an American Airlines packet of nuts: "Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts." (Step 3: Fly Delta.)
14. On a child's superman costume: "Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly." (I don't blame the company. I blame parents for this one.)
15. On a Swedish chainsaw: "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands." (Was there a lot of this happening somewhere?)

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

#### **USN INSIGNIA**

An admiral visits one of the ships under his command. While eating breakfast with the crew he was impressed to see the naval insignia stamped on every biscuit.

He went to the Chief cook to ask how this feat was done, so it could be used on other ships under his command.

The Chief replied, "Well Admiral, after each one is cut out I just slap it here against my belt buckle which bears the insignia."

Horried, the Admiral exclaims, "That's very unhygienic!"

The Chief shrugs and replies, "If you feel that way sir, I suggest you avoid the donuts."

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

#### **NEW AGENT**

Donald is walking out of the White House and heading toward his limo, when a possible assassin steps forward and aims a gun.

A secret service agent, new on the job, shouts "Mickey Mouse!" This startles the would be assassin and he is captured.

Later, the secret service agent's supervisor takes him aside and asks, "What in the hell made you shout Mickey Mouse?"

Blushing, the agent replies, "I got nervous. I meant to shout "Donald, duck!"

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

#### **TECH SUPPORT FOR SENIORS**

Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: A white one...

Tech support: Click on the 'my computer' icon on to the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

\*\*\*\*\*

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'can't find printer'.

I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it..

\*\*\*\*\*

Customer: My keyboard is not working anymore.

Tech support: Are you sure it's plugged into the computer?

Customer: No. I can't get behind the computer.

Tech support: Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces back.

Customer: OK

Tech support: Did the keyboard come with you?

Customer: Yes

Tech support: That means the keyboard is not plugged in.

\*\*\*\*\*

Customer: I can't get on the Internet.

Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?

Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?

Customer: Five dots.



\*\*\*\*\*

Tech support: What anti-virus program do you use?

Customer: Netscape.

Tech support: That's not an anti-virus program.

Customer: Oh, sorry... Internet Explorer..

\*\*\*\*\*

Customer: I have a huge problem. A friend has placed a screen saver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tech support: How may I help you?

Customer: I'm writing my first email.

Tech support: OK, and what seems to be the problem?

Customer: Well, I have the letter 'a' in the address, but how do I get the little circle around it?

\*\*\*\*\*

This one and the next are our personal favorites

A woman customer called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer.

Tech support: Are you running it under windows?

Customer: 'No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point.

The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine.'

\*\*\*\*\*

And last but not least

Tech support: 'Okay Bob, let's press the control and escape keys at the same time.

That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter 'P' to bring up the Program Manager.'

Customer: I don't have a P.

Tech support: On your keyboard, Bob.

Customer: What do you mean?

Tech support: 'P'.....on your keyboard, Bob.

Customer: I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT

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

OLE'S GAFFE

Ole'd gone down to Saint Paul for business. On the way home he dropped into the Dew Drop Inn for a cuppa. He just couldn't help staring at the young woman sitting there wearing the tightest pants he's ever seen.

Finally his curiosity gets the best of him, so he walks over and asks,

"Howdya get into dose pants?" The young woman looks him over. Then she says, "In your case it's not likely, but you could buy me a drink & see if that works."

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

## LUIGI'S HONEYMOON

After returning from his honeymoon in Florida with his new bride, Virginia, Luigi stopped by his old barbershop in Jersey to say hello to this friends.

Giovanni said, "Hey Luigi, how wasa da treep?"

Luigi said, "Everyting wasa perfecta except for da train ride down."

"Whatayou mean, Luigi?" asked Giovanni.

"Well, we boarda da train at Grana Central Station. My beautiful Virginia , she pack a biga basketa food. She a bringa da vino, some nice cigars for me, and we were lookina forward to da trip, and open upa da luncha basket .

The conductore come aby, waga his finger at us anda say, 'no eat in disa car. Musta use a dining car..' So, me and my beautiful Virginia, we go to da dining car, eat a biga lunch and starta at open da bottle of a nice a vino!

Conductore walka by again, waga his finger and say, 'No drinka in disa car! Musta use a cluba car.' So, we go to cluba car.

While a drinkina da vino, I starta to lighta my biga cigar. The conductore, he waga is finger again and say, 'No a smokina in disa car. Musta go to a smokina car ..' "We go to a smokina car and I smoke a my biga cigar.

Then my beautiful Virginia and I, we go to a sleeper car anda go to bed. We just about to go badaboom badaboom and the conductore, he walka through da hallway shouting at a top of his a voice..

'Nofolka Virginia ! Nofolka Virginia !'

"Nexta time, I'ma just gonna taka da bus."

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

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

**'DREAMERS' THREATEN TO LEAVE U.S. IF CONGRESS DOESN'T GET THEM A DACA DEAL**

<https://www.cnsnews.com/blog/craig-bannister/dreamers-threaten-leave-us-if-daca-deal-doesnt-allow-them-stay>

You can tell they grew up here and went to our public schools. God help em. MLK Jr.

From: "Mike Williamson" [mzmadmike@gmail.com](mailto:mzmadmike@gmail.com)

OH, SHIT

<http://www.latlmes.com/world/anthrax-attack-on-olympics-1>

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

*GINGER SOUL! I LOVE IT! UT*

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

From: "Douglas Dudash"

THE HANDYMAN HUSBAND

On a cold winter morning, wife texts husband:  
"WINDOWS FROZEN, WON'T OPEN"

Husband texts back:  
"POUR SOME LUKEWARM WATER OVER IT AND TAP GENTLY ALONG THE EDGES WITH  
A HAMMER"

Five minutes later wife texts husband:  
"COMPUTER REALLY SCREWED UP NOW"

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

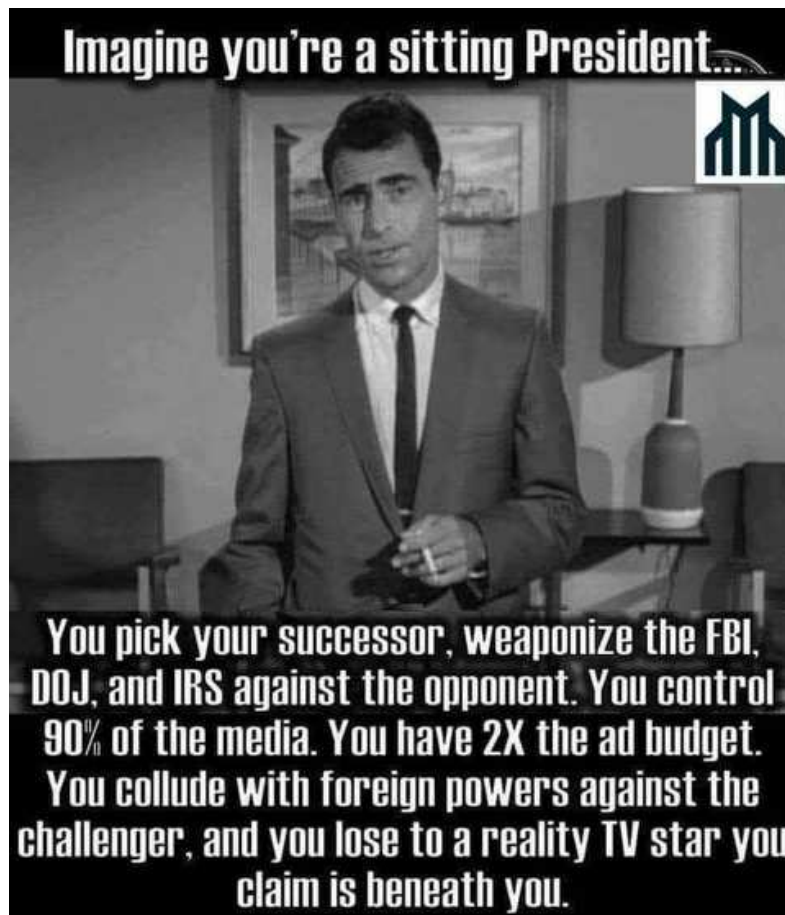
From: "Jim Woosley" [Jimwoosley@aol.com](mailto:Jimwoosley@aol.com)



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



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



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



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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

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

JUDGE STICKS IT TO LGBT ACTIVISTS IN SPECIAL RULING FOR CAKE SHOP OWNER

BY V SAXENA, FEBRUARY 7, 2018 AT 8:02AM

[https://conservativetribune.com/judge-sticks-it-to-lgbt-community/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=dailypm&utm\\_content=conservative-tribune](https://conservativetribune.com/judge-sticks-it-to-lgbt-community/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=conservative-tribune)

For once, a Christian cake shop owner has triumphed over her LGBT bullies in court — and to top it all off, it happened in the most unlikely state: California.

The case began in August of last year, when Christian baker Cathy Miller of Tastries Bakery refused to bake a wedding cake for Mireya and Eileen Rodriguez-Del Rio, according to The Bakersfield Californian.

Unable to take no for an answer, the gay couple filed a complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing accusing Miller of violating the Unruh Civil Rights Act, a state law that prohibits discrimination based on characteristics such as

sexual orientation. The DFEH bought this accusation hook, line and sinker, and subsequently filed a suit against Miller.

Now fast forward to Monday, when, stunningly enough, Kern County Superior Court Judge David Lampe sided with the Christian baker — and against the DFEH and the gay couple. The ruling was a stirring defense of religious liberty.

“A wedding cake is not just a cake in a Free Speech analysis. It is an artistic expression by the person making it that is to be used traditionally as a centerpiece in the celebration of a marriage,” he said, as reported by the Bakersfield Californian. “There could not be a greater form of expressive conduct.”

Yet DFEH sought to “compel Miller against her will and religion to allow her artistic expression in celebration of marriage to be co-opted to promote the message desired by same-sex marital partners, and with which Miller disagrees,” he added.

Here’s the key, though, that differentiated this case from that of, as an example, a Christian baker refusing to sell an already baked cake to a gay couple: “(T)he cake in question is not yet baked.”

Thus, DFEH wasn’t merely “petitioning the court to order” Miller to bake a cake — it was demanding that the court force her “to use her talents to design and create a cake she has not yet conceived with the knowledge that her work will be displayed in celebration of a marital union her religion forbids.”

“For this court to force such compliance would do violence to the essentials of Free Speech guaranteed under the First Amendment,” Lampe concluded.

In case you’re interested in reading Lampe’s feel ruling, you may access it here.

[https://www.scribd.com/document/370887819/CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT-OF-FAIR-EMPLOYMENT-AND-HOUSING-VS-CATHY-S-CREATIONS-INC#from\\_embed](https://www.scribd.com/document/370887819/CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT-OF-FAIR-EMPLOYMENT-AND-HOUSING-VS-CATHY-S-CREATIONS-INC#from_embed)

But in case you happen to be a liberal who finds Lampe’s ruling abhorrent, would you feel differently had a Catholic couple tried to force a gay baker to prepare a cake for their wedding? Or suppose a local KKK group tried to force a Jewish seamstress to make Nazi costumes for an upcoming rally? Would that be OK?

As Lampe further noted in his ruling, America’s legal system is obligated “to protect Free Speech, regardless of whose foot the shoe is on.”

\And sorry, LGBT bullies across the nation, but that includes the free speech rights of the proud Christians you appear to so fervently loathe.

“This is a significant victory for faith and freedom because the judge indicated in his ruling that the State cannot succeed in this case as a matter of law,” noted Miller’s attorney, Charles LiMandri of the Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund. “No doubt the California officials will continue their persecution of Cathy, but it is clear that she has the Constitution on her side.”

Indeed.

Please share this story on Facebook and Twitter and let us know what you think about this unprecedented ruling against two LGBT bullies in California.

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

**AFTER OUTRAGE OVER TRUMP'S 'MILITARY PARADE' IDEA, TOP DEMOCRAT FOUND TO ALSO HAVE PROPOSED IT IN 2014**

February 10, 2018 | Kyle Becker

[http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/02/10/outrage-trumps-military-parade-proposal-top-democrat-found-also-proposed-2014-600418?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=BPR%20Email&utm\\_campaign=DMS](http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/02/10/outrage-trumps-military-parade-proposal-top-democrat-found-also-proposed-2014-600418?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=BPR%20Email&utm_campaign=DMS)

Whether or not one believes a military parade is a fantastic idea, there's one thing that is for certain: The selective outrage of the U.S. mainstream media.

The hyperbole about President Trump's proposal to put the military on full display was pushed to the extreme: He was like Kim Jong Un, or even Napoleon, as commentators had it.

Does the same qualify for Chuck Schumer?

Hannity guest Joe Concha discussed the startling twist and took the media to task over it.

"The media's hatred of President Trump is once again on full display. Listen to this," Hannity said, then rolled clips of the media's reaction.

"You know, you think about it, I added up, it was something like 25, 30, between the music industry and the academy awards, the global awards, this awards, Joe Concha, I think it's actually a great idea," Hannity said. "And I think the country, we owe them a debt of gratitude and any way to honor them I think is well worth it."

"I think because President Trump's name is involved in this proposal, Sean, that that is causing the reaction," Concha said. "And you can play a game of parallel universe: Take the name 'Trump' out and put in Chuck Schumer."

"What if Chuck Schumer had actually proposed a military — oh, that's right," Concha said. "He did in 2014. And there wasn't a sniff of outrage around that. But, to one point though, you can honor the military with a parade. No problem. The costs are down. Logistically pull it off. No problem. I think the president could really back up those words and back up a parade by actually going to Afghanistan and visiting the troops. He hasn't done that yet. I think that will go a long way in showing he is not just doing this for show as his critics are charging."

"Even if he does that I'm sure it will be criticized," Hannity said. "How did they miss the biggest story in their lifetime Concha? How did they get it so wrong on Trump-Russia collusion."

"Have got it wrong. The evidence is still going," Concha responded.

"Is there any evidence over the year that you see?" Hannity asked.



“No. No evidence presented,” he responded. “Remember, everything gets leaks these days. If they did have something, it probably would end up in the hands of ‘The Washington Post’ or the ‘New York Times.’ Not yet. Let Mueller finish his investigation before we start saying there isn’t any.”

“I don’t think Mueller should have been there in the first place,” Hannity said. “We have learned just in the last week with the Nunes memo and unredacted Grassley-Graham memo, Sean Spicer, seems to me this whole thing was a witch hunt from the get-go.”

“Well, we will see,” he responded. “I want the investigation to play out only because I do believe the president has been very clear from the beginning there was no collusion. At some point you run out the clock and you say as have you noted that if you haven’t found anything by now, let’s give it a break.”

When the media blow up about proposals like a “military parade” coming out of the White House, even if one disagrees, it’s not the gigantic controversy it’s being made out to be. At least, not when top-ranking Democrats like Chuck Schumer do it.

Because in 2014, the current Senate Minority Leader proposed a military parade. The Daily Caller reported it and provided video proof. (Fact check it for yourself.)

If it wasn’t a big deal in 2014, why is it suddenly a monumental issue now? Because it’s a Republican president doing it, that’s why.

There is a video of Senator Chuck Schumer talking about the parade holding a military parade in New York City in 2014 at the website. It is very enlightening. The point I was trying to make is that if a liberal makes the same comment, the media and talking heads are not out there screaming that this guy is a Napoleon Bonaparte or a Hitler or a Stalin or crazy. They didn’t when Chuck Schumer brought it up but they sure did when Donald Trump did.UT

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

## **MUSICAL SHUT DOWN AFTER WHITE KID LANDS LEAD ROLE**

**BY BENJAMIN ARIE, FEBRUARY 10, 2018 AT 6:21PM**

[https://conservativetribune.com/musical-shut-down-white-actress/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=dailypm&utm\\_content=conservative-tribune](https://conservativetribune.com/musical-shut-down-white-actress/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=conservative-tribune)

Liberal “social justice” is never about actual equality. Case in point: A New York high school musical has been shut down due to protesting students, after a girl who is white was cast as the lead role in the play.

Why is this a problem for the oh-so-tolerant crowd? It turns out that a group of African-American students believe that only “brown and black” people should be allowed to have the role. So much for being colorblind.

According to Fox News, the kerfuffle at Ithaca High School started when a white classmate was cast as Esmeralda in “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.”



**“Student activists then banded together under the umbrella of Students United Ithaca and wrote a letter that included a list of demands,” Fox reported.**

**The protesting students even admitted that that young student cast as Esmeralda was “a stellar actor, singer, and dancer,” but she should be excluded from the role because she is the “epitome of whiteness.”**

**How is this not blatant bigotry?**

**Ironically, the tone-deaf student group is claiming that the casting of a talented white girl in a lead part is “racist”... while simultaneously boycotting the production because of one actor’s race.**

**“At best, this is cultural appropriation,” the students whined in their letter. “At worst, it is whitewashing, a racist casting practice which has its roots in minstrelsy.”**

**That’s a flimsy argument to begin with, especially for a high school musical. What they’re essentially arguing is that no races can ever play a part written with a particular skin color in mind; to them, this obsession with race is progress.**

**But there’s an even more glaring issue: The character of Esmeralda as written by Victor Hugo is actually half Roma, half French. If they consult a map, the outraged students will find that France is European, and the Roma people from northern India are in fact Asian.**

**Yes, the character was not “black” to begin with, not that it should even matter.**

**“It shows you that theater wasn’t made for you,” one of the protesting students declared to the Ithaca Journal. “And it shows you that, if you can’t get the parts that are written for you, what parts are you going to get?”**

**Incredibly, the student group is literally complaining that color-blind casting is racist. No, this is not “The Onion.” You just can’t make this stuff up.**

**“Stop the racist and openly stated policy of ‘color blind’ casting in the ICSD,” the students wrote in a hysterical and demanding Facebook post.**

**“Because of institutionalized racism this results in white children being cast in roles written as white parts and also white children being cast in roles that were specifically intended for people of color,” the unhinged high school students declared.**

**It becomes even more like a bad parody. The race-obsessed actors actually believe that they are forwarding Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision of a colorblind America.**

**“Members of the group told Fox News that their ultimate goal is in line with Martin Luther King, Jr.’s message of love, unity, understanding, and inclusion,” that news outlet reported.**

**“Our endgame,” the group declared, “is a performing arts program with more unity, more inclusion, and musical where we can all experience the joy and bonding of inclusive performing arts following best theatrical practices.”**

Nothing says “inclusion” quite like demanding that a talented actress lose her role because she was born with the wrong skin color. The irony and twisted bigotry of this seems completely lost on them.

“Social justice” has gone crazy. King’s vision has been co-opted by a new generation of racists — there is no other term for them — who sees coin tosses as intolerant and academic performance as prejudice.

America better wake up, because a new wave of intolerance is starting to spread.

Please press “Share on Facebook” if you’re outraged by these demands and tired of racism!

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

#### **FOR LEGAL CANNABIS, SOME NEW WRINKLES: OLDER USERS**

While some seniors use cannabis for pain relief, others are chasing the mellow buzz of their youth.

Peter RoweContact Reporter

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/marijuana/sd-me-senior-pot-20180131-story.html>

One unexpected wrinkle in the emerging market for legal cannabis — rising interest among seniors.

- \* While most seniors do not use marijuana, the population of older users is rapidly growing.
- \* Researchers say cannabis has legitimate medicinal uses, yet worry that patients do not receive the right products or doses.
- \* Some elders have been toking since adolescence, while others are returning to pot after decades of abstinence.
- \* Products with CBDs, a chemical compound found in cannabis and hemp, are popular with people suffering from arthritis.
- \* While some seniors use cannabis for pain relief, others are chasing the mellow buzz of their youth.

Green buds, gray consumers: Here’s the full story:

While legal marijuana is new to California, cannabis is an old companion to Lee.

“I’ve been using since I was a junior in college in, what, 1966?” said the 70-year-old real estate broker, browsing in Torrey Holistics, a Sorrento Valley cannabis dispensary. “I never thought I’d live to see the day it was legal.”

Even before Jan. 1, when California legalized recreational weed, pot was enjoying a gray renaissance. Between 2006 and 2013, the National Survey of Drug Use and Health reported

a 250 percent rise in marijuana use by Americans 65 and older. This is still a small number, climbing from 0.4 percent to 1.4 percent of that population, but local dispensaries see plenty of silver-haired shoppers.

"This is probably the most interested — and wariest — group," said Lincoln Fish, CEO of Outco, noting that the average customer at his Outliers Collective in El Cajon is over 58 years old.

Older consumers add a new wrinkle to the legal cannabis trade. Retirees tend to be less interested in getting high and more interested in getting relief from pain, anxiety and insomnia. Many are skittish about being identified as a user. (Lee and most other seniors interviewed for this story declined to be photographed or give their full names.)

"There's a stigma around marijuana use," said Michelle Sexton, a naturopathic doctor assisting in a medical cannabis study at UC San Diego School of Medicine. "It's got this whole negative connotation. They think they'll be viewed as druggies or hippies."

Moreover, a fog of mystery clouds this topic. More research is needed into cannabinoids, marijuana's active chemical compounds, said Dr. Mark Wallace, chair of the Division of Pain Medicine at UC San Diego Health. Effects vary depending on strains, delivery methods — whether it's smoked, consumed in brownies and gummies, or administered in tinctures — and the user's age.

Wallace has no qualms about recommending medical cannabis to his patients. "I'm completely comfortable that it is safe," he said.

Yet he notes that buying products from a dispensary is a crapshoot. The clerks or "budtenders" are not medical professionals, and seniors often buy products that are too strong or ineffective.

Still, older users — like their younger counterparts — are not exclusively focused on therapy. Some just want to recapture the sweet buzz of youth.

"I smoke every night," said Terri Graham, 61, a visitor from Wisconsin who had stopped to admire the Cannabus, a black bus with tinted windows that runs from Ocean Beach to a dispensary in Bay Park. "Why not?"

Why?

"It's the high!"

Endless Christmas

On a recent morning, half the customers inside Torrey Holistics were in their 60s and 70s. Some attended a free Cannabis 101 class on how marijuana products can combat insomnia. Others hoped to ease nagging aches and pains.

That search can be complicated and frustrating. Beth, a 73-year-old Carlsbad resident, originally bought a vape pen to treat her spondylitis, a form of arthritis that targets the spine.

"It was too strong for me," she said. "I don't want to get high, I just want to be able to get out of pain."

This was her second trip to Torrey Holistics, and this time she was considering its edible offerings. "If this doesn't work," she said, "I am through."

Bill, 71, hadn't bought or used weed for 50 years. That streak ended on this morning, when he purchased cannabis-infused soda, brownies and gummies. He hoped they would reduce the inflammation around his eyelids, a condition known as blepharitis.

Making his dispensary debut, he looked as jittery as a teen buying condoms. But the green buds and sweet fragrance stirred old memories.

"It was hard to go through college in the '60s without using marijuana," he said with a laugh.

That's no exaggeration. In the 1960s and '70s, Gallup surveyed college students about marijuana usage. Between 1967 and 1971, the number of undergraduates who admitted trying the then-illegal substance zoomed from 5 to 51 percent.

For some, this kindled a lifelong passion.

Walking into Urbn Leaf wearing a faded T-shirt with psychedelic "Yellow Submarine" images, Kerry Durrell looked like Central Casting's "Aging Hippie." Now 61, she's been smoking pot off and on — "I've gone through phases" — since 1969.

"It helps me sleep," she said, inspecting buds at Urbn Leaf. "And it's recreational."

For some veteran users, the advent of legal marijuana is like an endless Christmas. Joe, 60, said he's been smoking weed since his teens. This week, the semi-retired truck driver from Encinitas was thrilled by his first visit to Torrey Holistics.

"Like a kid in a candy shop," he said. "I just love it."

Lee, the 70-year-old real estate agent, was equally enthusiastic. Although he grows marijuana at home, he happily bought a pocket-sized pack of edibles for \$18.

"The thing I like about buying it here," he said, "you know what you are getting. When you grow it, sometimes you don't get high and sometimes you get too high. Here, the quality and consistency seem better."

Lee's peers, though, generally frown upon marijuana. In 2010, the Pew Research Center found that only 22 percent of Americans 65 and older favored legalization of marijuana. That number had grown to 30 percent by 2017, but it's still a minority of seniors.

Among those who disapprove: Bill's wife. While eager to treat his blepharitis with cannabis-laced soda, he doesn't expect his spouse to take a sip.

"My wife is too conservative," he said. "I don't think she'd indulge."

Beyond "Easy Rider"

In a classroom at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in North Park, a dozen men and women formed a circle and reached out to each other.

"I put my hand in yours and together we can do what we could never do alone," they said in unison. "No longer is there a sense of hopelessness..."

This was the Tuesday night "Beginner's Meeting" of Marijuana Anonymous, a 12-step program for people whose own marijuana use has become a problem. Getting high, they say, became more important than careers, relationships, responsibilities.

The leader of this meeting was Henry, 58. Before hitting bottom, Henry said, marijuana was the center of his life. Some months, he spent his mortgage money on weed. He credited MA with helping him to recover his self-respect and sense of purpose.

"I've been sober for eight years, four months and about 16 days," he said.

Studies have not shown cannabis to be physically addictive, said Markus Roggen, a chemist and Outco's vice president of extraction. "But there might be signs of mental addiction," he said.

When properly dosed, UC San Diego's Dr. Wallace said, cannabis is often a better choice than more traditional painkillers. "I see medical cannabis as a more conservative treatment than opioids," he said.

At the university's pain clinic, he urges patients to shelve any mental images of Grateful Dead concerts or Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper toking in "Easy Rider." Instead, he said, cannabis should be seen as another pharmaceutical.

He starts clients on "microdoses," then adjusts the amount. This is a gradual process, he said, because it is easy to over- and under-prescribe THC, a mood-enhancing and pain-killing compound in marijuana.

"As THC levels go up, the pain will reduce," he said, "until you get too much THC and then the pain will increase."

CBD, another cannabinoid or chemical compound within cannabis, has a strong following among seniors, in part because it has no intoxicating effect.

"It's not about smoking a joint any more," said Ruthie Edelson, marketing director at Torrey Holistics. That company's CBD-infused rubbing creams have been embraced by people afflicted by arthritis. "All of our products have a high content of CBD and a very low content of THC. That's where you get the best medicinal benefit."

Because CBDs are also found in hemp, products with these cannabinoids have been legal for years. San Diego-based KB Pure Essentials sells CBD-rich massage oils, pain salves, tinctures, deodorants and pet shampoos since 2015.

"We have a bunch of older lady customers," said KB Pure Essentials co-founder Brooke Brun, who takes a CBD tincture with prescription medicines to control her epilepsy. "A lot of them use it for inflammation, arthritis. A lot take it every day as a wellness supplement."

Yet Urbn Leaf head buyer Josh Bubeck advises customers they'll get better results with products containing both CBD and THC. And no matter what seniors buy, he cautions them to go slow.

"The older consumer, some of them haven't tried cannabis for 30 years," Bubeck said. "They should start with microdoses. The five milligram gummy has been very popular with the older consumer."

### The family stash

Seniors who are new to cannabis, or returning after a long absence, are vulnerable to overdosing, said Sexton, the naturopathic doctor. Because it takes time to feel marijuana's full effect, rookies are susceptible to "couch lock."

"That's where you don't want to move," she said.

While studies indicate that cannabis' pain-relieving properties are best with a mild 3.4 percent THC content, Sexton said, commercial products are often stronger.

"My patients can't tolerate 10 milligrams and they don't need it," she said. "The doctors aren't driving this change or deciding what's available for patients. It's the people making the products."

Cannabis isn't for everyone, which is true for former users as well as marijuana virgins. Researchers have found one's tolerance for weed changes with age.

Remember Terri Graham, the 61-year-old tourist from Wisconsin who is a nightly user? She made the trip here with her husband, George Graham, who is also 61.

"We probably did all of it at one time or another," he said. "Bongs, joints."

These days, though, the family stash is Terri's alone. "The weed is too strong for me," George said. "I get too paranoid and think of all the stuff I should be doing."

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YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Christina Cowan" [Cowan1028@earthlink.net](mailto:Cowan1028@earthlink.net)

### PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE UNVEILS A NEW SOURCE FOR 11 OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS

By MICHAEL BLANDING FEB. 7, 2018

[https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/07/books/plagiarism-software-unveils-a-new-source-for-11-of-shakespeares-plays.html?emc=edit\\_bk\\_20180209&nl=book-review&nliid=16257369&te=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/07/books/plagiarism-software-unveils-a-new-source-for-11-of-shakespeares-plays.html?emc=edit_bk_20180209&nl=book-review&nliid=16257369&te=1)

Dennis McCarthy, a self-taught Shakespeare scholar, at his



home in North Hampton, N.H. Credit Cody O'Loughlin for The New York Times

For years scholars have debated what inspired William Shakespeare's writings. Now, with the help of software typically used by professors to nab cheating students, two writers have discovered an unpublished manuscript they believe the Bard of Avon consulted to write "King Lear," "Macbeth," "Richard III," "Henry V" and seven other plays.

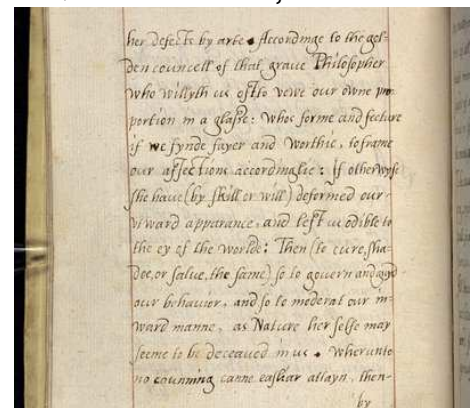
The news has caused Shakespeareans to sit up and take notice.

"If it proves to be what they say it is, it is a once-in-a-generation — or several generations — find," said Michael Witmore, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington.

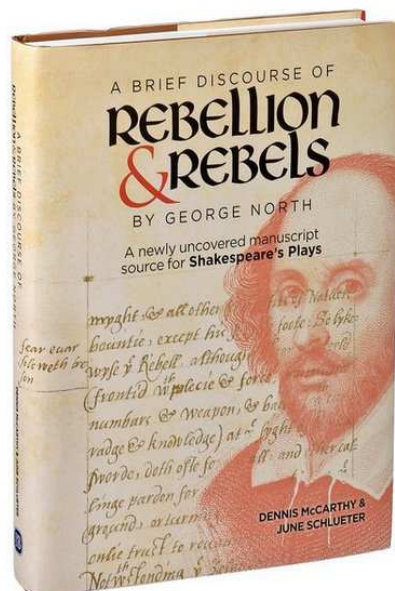
The findings were made by Dennis McCarthy and June Schlueter, who describe them in a book to be published next week by the academic press D. S. Brewer and the British Library. The authors are not suggesting that Shakespeare plagiarized but rather that he read and was inspired by a manuscript titled "A Brief Discourse of Rebellion and Rebels," written in the late 1500s by George North, a minor figure in the court of Queen Elizabeth, who served as an ambassador to Sweden.

The second page of the George North manuscript, showing the passage that Shakespeare used to write the opening soliloquy in "Richard III."

"It's a source that he keeps coming back to," said Mr. McCarthy, a self-taught Shakespeare scholar, during a recent interview at his home in North Hampton, N.H. "It affects the language, it shapes the scenes and it, to a certain extent, really even influences the philosophy of the plays."



Credit Patricia Wall/The New York Times



In reviewing the book before it was published, David Bevington, professor emeritus in the humanities at the University of Chicago and editor of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (7th Edition)," called it "a revelation" for the sheer number of correlations with the plays, eclipsed only by the chronicles of Holinshed and Hall and Plutarch's "Lives."

Martin Meisel, professor of dramatic literature emeritus at Columbia University, said in another review that the book is "impressively argued." He added that there is no question the manuscript "must have been somewhere in the background mix of Shakespeare's mental landscape" while writing the plays.

Mr. McCarthy used decidedly modern techniques to marshal his evidence, employing WCopyfind, an open-

source plagiarism software, which picked out common words and phrases in the manuscript and the plays.



In the dedication to his manuscript, for example, North urges those who might see themselves as ugly to strive to be inwardly beautiful, to defy nature. He uses a succession of words to make the argument, including “proportion,” “glass,” “feature,” “fair,” “deformed,” “world,” “shadow” and “nature.” In the opening soliloquy of Richard III (“Now is the winter of our discontent ...”) the hunchbacked tyrant uses the same words in virtually the same order to come to the opposite conclusion: that since he is outwardly ugly, he will act the villain he appears to be.

“People don’t realize how rare these words actually are,” Mr. McCarthy said. “And he keeps hitting word after word. It’s like a lottery ticket. It’s easy to get one number out of six, but not to get every number.”

Dennis McCarthy used plagiarism software to compare Shakespeare’s works and George North’s manuscript. Credit Cody O’Loughlin for The New York Times

Scholars have used computer-assisted techniques in the humanities for several decades. Most of that scholarship, however, uses function words such as articles and prepositions to create a “digital signature” that can be used to identify a writer as author or co-author of another work, rather than using comparatively rare words to locate a source.

Mr. McCarthy was inspired to use plagiarism software by the work of Sir Brian Vickers, who used similar techniques in 2009 to identify Shakespeare as a co-author of the play “Edward III.” While the book has been received favorably, the statistical techniques used have not yet been subjected to a rigorous review by other scholars in the digital humanities field.



Those techniques may only be the “icing on the cake,” said Mr. Witmore, who briefly examined an advance copy. “At its core, this remains a literary argument, not a statistical one.” The book contends that Shakespeare not only uses the same words as North, but often uses them in scenes about similar themes, and even the same historical characters. In another passage, North uses six terms for dogs, from the noble mastiff to the lowly cur and “trundle-tail,” to argue that just as dogs exist in a natural hierarchy, so do humans. Shakespeare uses essentially the same list of dogs to make similar points in “King Lear” and “Macbeth.”

To make sure North and Shakespeare weren’t using common sources, Mr. McCarthy ran phrases through the database Early English Books Online, which contains 17 million pages from nearly every work published in English between 1473 and 1700. He found that almost no other works contained the same words in passages of the same length. Some words are especially rare; “trundle-tail” appears in only one other work before 1623.

In the past, some scholars have identified sources for Shakespeare from a few unique words. In 1977, for example, Kenneth Muir made the case that Shakespeare used a particular translation of a book of Latin stories for “The Merchant of Venice” based on the



word “insculpt.” In recent years, however, it’s become rare to identify new sources for Shakespeare. “The field has been picked over so carefully,” Mr. Bevington said.

Mr. McCarthy is an unlikely literary scholar. Originally from Amherst, N.Y., he studied computer science and theater at the University at Buffalo, but never graduated. He began writing for magazines and newspapers and published a book in 2009, titled “Here Be Dragons,” about the geographical underpinnings of evolution.

That interest led him to wonder if literary ideas could propagate the same way, and starting in 2006 he began to explore the sources of Shakespeare. Mr. McCarthy focused on Thomas North, a translator of Plutarch’s “Lives,” whom Shakespeare relied on heavily for his dramas.

In April 2011, Mr. McCarthy brought some of his findings to Ms. Schlueter, professor emerita of English at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania and a founding editor of Shakespeare Bulletin, a scholarly journal. She admired his diligence and natural affinity for scholarly research. “Dennis is the Steve Jobs of the Shakespeare community,” Ms. Schlueter said, referring to the self-taught Apple founder.

Mr. McCarthy, 53, works behind three computer monitors on the dining room table of his home. Supported financially by his wife, a biotechnology executive, he spends 12 hours a day or more at his computer.

Books by and about Shakespeare dominate Dennis McCarthy’s shelves. Credit Cody O’Loughlin for The New York Times

Mr. McCarthy found a reference to the manuscript by George North, a likely cousin of Thomas, online in a 1927 auction catalog, which noted it would be “extremely interesting” to compare certain passages with Shakespeare. He and Ms. Schlueter scoured libraries and archives for a year before enlisting the help of a manuscript detective, who studies rare documents and traced it to the British Library, which had purchased it in 1933. (The manuscript was filed under an obscure shelf mark, which made finding it difficult.)

In 1576, North was living at Kirtling Hall near Cambridge, England, the estate of Baron Roger North. It was here, Mr. McCarthy says, that he wrote his manuscript, at the same time Thomas North was there possibly working on his translation of Plutarch.

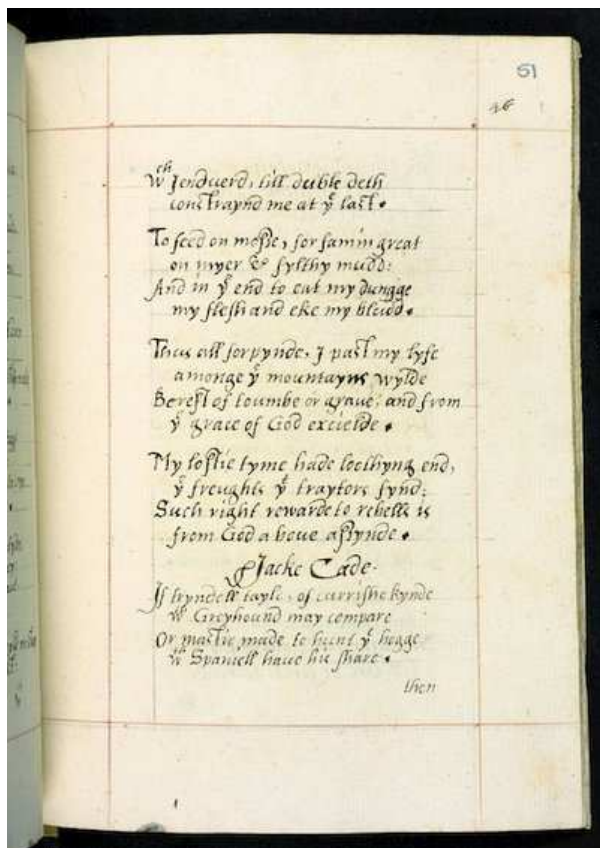
The manuscript is a diatribe against rebels, arguing that all rebellions against a monarch are unjust and doomed to fail. While Shakespeare had a more ambiguous position on rebellion, Mr. McCarthy said he clearly mined North’s treatise for themes and characters.



One of the most compelling is Jack Cade, who led a failed popular rebellion against Henry VI in 1450. Shakespeare describes Cade's final days in "Henry VI, Part 2," in which he says he was starving and eating grass, before he was finally caught and dragged through the street by his heels, his body left to be eaten by crows. Scholars have long thought that Shakespeare invented these details, but all of them are present in a passage from North's "Discourse" in which he inveighs against Cade and two other famous rebels. Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Schlueter argue that Shakespeare used those details to make Cade into a composite of the three.

A scene from "Henry VI, Part 2," with Jack Cade seated. Credit Alamy

While Cade is a minor character, Mr. McCarthy also argues that North's "Discourse" may have inspired one of Shakespeare's most iconic characters, the Fool in "King Lear." He points to the memorable passage in which the Fool and Lear are lost in a storm, and the Fool recites a prophecy that he attributes to Merlin.



A page from the George North manuscript that starts the poem about Jack Cade. The last stanza lists terms for dogs, which Shakespeare used in "King Lear" and "Macbeth."

Scholars have long puzzled over the recitation, which doesn't seem to match any known prophecy of Merlin's. In their book, however, Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Schlueter claim the passage was inspired by a version of Merlin's prophecy that North includes in his "Discourse" to present a dystopian view of the world "turned up side down." Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Schlueter argue such lines may have inspired themes in "King Lear" and even the character of the Fool.

While agreeing the passage influenced the scene in "King Lear," Mr. Bevington cautioned against an overly expansive reading, noting such themes were in the air in contemporaneous works, including Erasmus's "In Praise of Folly." Whatever its influence, Mr.

Witmore said, the find suggests that while scholars may have exhausted print sources, there may be other unpublished manuscripts that inspired the Bard that remain to be discovered.



For his part, Mr. McCarthy is already planning future volumes based on his electronic techniques, hoping to present more discoveries that shed light on how Shakespeare wrote his plays.

Michael Blanding, a senior fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University, is the author of "The Map Thief."

Follow Michael Blanding on Twitter: @michaelblanding.

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

## CHEMISTRY MAY YIELD LUCRATIVE USE FOR WASTED METHANE

Methane that leaks from fracking wells can be captured and converted into a product used in plastics manufacturing

By Scott Waldman, ClimateWire on February 6, 2018

[https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/chemistry-may-yield-lucrative-use-for-wasted-methane/?WT.mc\\_id=send-to-friend](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/chemistry-may-yield-lucrative-use-for-wasted-methane/?WT.mc_id=send-to-friend)



Researchers see a way to use methane in the production of plastics. Methane can be captured at natural gas wells, like those pictured in this aerial view. Credit: Simon Fraser University Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

Methane that leaks from fracking wells can be captured and converted into a chemical used in plastics manufacturing.

New research from the University of Southern California has found that wasted methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that drives climate change, can be efficiently converted into a valuable new product. The study, published recently in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, found a more streamlined process for converting methane into basic chemicals used to manufacture plastics, agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals.

The findings show that as pressure mounts on the natural gas industry to control methane leaks, it can be done in a way that a business incentive, as well, said senior author G.K. Surya Prakash, a researcher at USC's Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute.

"We are all made of carbon. We cannot divest from carbon; we can only manage it," he said. "If carbon is the problem, carbon has to be the solution for mankind."

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that drives warming at a much faster rate in the short term. The United States is one of the world's leading methane polluters. The gas is flared at many hydraulic fracturing wells or is leaked from aging infrastructure. The new research suggests that methane could be trapped at individual wells and converted into a new chemical, which would negate the need for expensive pipeline infrastructure that has it made transporting it cost-prohibitive for many producers, Prakash said.

Methane is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide at warming the atmosphere over a 20-year time span, according to the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Researchers at the University of Southern California found a single step to convert methane into ethylene and propylene, whereas previous research had found it could only be converted using two or three steps. The chemicals are typically produced from petroleum oil and shale liquid cracking, a process that consumes a significant amount of energy when compared to converting it in a single step from methane.

Reducing methane emissions has increasingly garnered attention from both Republicans and Democrats. The switch to natural gas from coal over the last decade has reduced carbon dioxide emissions sharply. However, it has also dramatically increased methane emissions, which environmentalists say could wipe out the climate gains of cutting carbon dioxide.

The study was funded by the Department of Energy, which is expected to see some programs targeted for drastic cuts in the upcoming White House budget proposal. The DOE budget for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, for example, is slated for a 72 percent reduction under the fiscal 2019 proposal (E&E News PM, Jan. 31).

Prakash said his research was funded by an existing grant, but worries that such funding will be eliminated by the Trump administration, because his work focuses on sustainable energy solutions. He said the research highlights the way other fields may contribute to addressing global warming in nontraditional ways, which can avoid the type of partisan fights that stifle progress on the issue. "Chemistry is a better way to handle some of these problems," he said.

The study could have major implications for the booming natural gas industry, which loses a significant amount of methane. That comes as a steep financial cost, estimated to be up to \$10 billion annually. U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has also recently begun talking about the dangers of methane as a greenhouse gas, and has said the agency will soon address its emissions (Climatewire, Jan. 23).

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YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

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

Saturday (Feb 10) morning's NPR mentioned an interesting delemma for Kansas which has very stringent voter qualifications, but none whatsoever on candidacy for governor! Does this make them lawless ;- ) There are six teenagers running for governor even though they can't vote in elections. MB

## KANSAS SCRAMBLES TO CHANGE RULES AFTER 6 TEENS ENTER GOVERNOR'S RACE

LAUREL WAMSLEY, February 9, 2018 6:44 PM ET

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/02/09/584678163/kansas-scrambles-to-change-rules-after-6-teens-enter-governors-race>



Six Kansas teens are running for governor, following the lead of Jack Bergeson (center). Some of the candidates are seen here participating in a forum at a high school in Lawrence, Kan., in October. Christopher Smith/AFP/Getty Images

There are a lot of requirements if you want to vote in Kansas. You must be 18 years old. You need to show a photo ID at your polling place and show proof of U.S. citizenship when you

register to vote. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights says the state's voter ID laws are among the strictest in the nation.

But when it comes to the rules about who can run for state office? There are no rules.

"Under Kansas law, there is no law governing the qualifications for governor, not one," Bryan Caskey, director of elections at the Kansas secretary of state's office, told The Kansas City Star last year. "So there's seriously nothing on the books that lays out anything, no age, no residency, no experience. Nothing."

So into the race jumped Jack Bergeson. Calling himself an anti-establishment candidate, 17-year-old Bergeson is pursuing the Democratic nomination, advocating for a \$12 minimum wage, legalization of medical marijuana, and high-speed rail for major cities in the region.

"I thought, you know, let's give the people of Kansas a chance," Bergeson told the Star in August. "Let's try something new that has never really been tried anywhere else before."

Three more teen boys, running as Republicans, soon entered the governor's race – so many that they had their own candidates' forum in a high school gym in Lawrence.

"This needs to be a government that represents everyone, not just 30 years old up," said 17-year-old candidate Dominic Scavuzzo.

Two more teen boys threw hats in the ring, spurring Kansas lawmakers to try to put a stop to such youthful exuberance. Republican Rep. Blake Carpenter introduced a bill requiring candidates to be at least 18 years old to run for the state's top elected offices, such as governor, secretary of state or attorney general. And candidates for governor and lieutenant governor would have to have lived in the state for four years.

"We have age requirements on voters, and I really think that anybody who's running should be able to vote for themselves," Rep. Keith Esau, a Republican running for secretary of state, told The Topeka Capital-Journal.

The Star reports that the bill passed out of House committee on Monday.

"I don't think it's a good thing," Bergeson, now 17, told the Star. "I'm not a fan of it. I think it's a reactionary bill. I think it's trying to disenfranchise candidates."

The law wouldn't take effect until after the November elections. And that's important, said Caskey at the secretary of state's office.

"The secretary of state does not want there to be any appearance of a conflict of interest concerning persons who are currently candidates and do not meet these proposed requirements," he told the Capital-Journal.

He's referring to Secretary of State Kris Kobach, the force behind the state's strict voter ID law, who is running for governor. Kobach was also co-chair of President Trump's controversial voting commission, which was dissolved last month.

But the anything-goes system that has been so appealing to Kansas teenagers has been less appealing to one group: women.

State Sen. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, became the first woman to enter the crowded field for governor in December. Meanwhile, more than 20 men or boys have declared their candidacy.

The state's lack of rules for candidacy are so profound that Caskey could not even find a rule limiting the field to human candidates.

"[A] dog has never tried to file," he told the Star last year. "I don't know what would happen if one tried to."

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YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

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

COUPLE SELLS ALL POSSESSIONS FOR SAILBOAT, SINKS 2 DAYS INTO TRIP



By Alexandra Deabler | Fox News

<http://www.foxnews.com/travel/2018/02/11/couple-sells-all-posessions-for-sailboat-sinks-2-days-into-trip.html>



A Colorado couple who dreamed of a life sailing around the world had the wind taken out of their sails when their boat capsized nearly two days into their trip. (Jim Damaske/Tampa Bay Times via AP)

A couple's plan for a better life has been sunk.

Nikki Walsh, 24, and boyfriend Tanner Broadwell, 26, decided nearly a year ago that they were tired of working.

These Affordable, Luxurious Senior Living Communities Might Surprise You.

"How can we live our lives when we're working most of the day and you have to pay so much just to live?" Walsh, who booked time-share tours for a living, said to The New York Post.

"Most of the work you do goes to your home. There has to be another option," she added.

So the Colorado couple sold all their furniture and their SUV and purchased a 49-year-old boat in Alabama to live on and eventually sail the world in.

The couple moved onto the 28-foot boat, which was in the marina of Tarpon Springs, a town on Florida's Gulf Coast, and lived there for months with their two-year-old pug, Remy, while they stocked up on food and supplies.

"We were pretty prepared," Walsh said, of gathering items to last them for their planned trip to the Caribbean.

However, the two were not prepared for what happened next.

Nearly two days into their venture, the couple's boat capsized in a channel of water called John's Pass.

"We thought the channel was where we were going, but it wasn't," Walsh told the Post, telling the publication they were armed with GPS and paper navigation charts.

Local boat captains say the sandbars often shift in John's Pass, the Post reported.

"We started freaking out because waves were coming, and it was tossing our boat back and forth," Walsh recalled.

Broadwell was at the rear of the boat, holding onto Remy when the trouble hit.

"My hands were shaking. We were terrified," she said.

Before abandoning ship, Walsh said they grabbed some clothes and important documents, as well as things for their dog.

"I also grabbed Remy's food and just about everything he needed," said Walsh. "He doesn't deserve to go without his favorite toys."

Walsh admitted she and her boyfriend, who used to drive for Uber, were "new to sailing."

However, the couple, who has been left with just \$90 in cash, no jobs and no boat insurance, say they are still hopeful for their world-sailing plans and have started a GoFundMe begging people to help them "not give up on [their] dreams."

The pair are seeking \$10,000 to rescue the ship, which sunk off the coast of Madeira Beach, FL. Walsh said raising the boat alone will cost at least \$6,700.

"We have a lot of family helping us, but it's hard when you've lost everything," Walsh told The Post from Jacksonville, where the couple is staying with loved ones.

Though the pair seem down and out, they still plan to "buy or salvage another boat" at some point and "try try try again," Walsh writes on the GoFundMe.

"You only have one life. Why spend it doing what you don't love. Money isn't everything!" Walsh told the Post.

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YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

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

WATCH: ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA



Holy Shmoly! This is shocking. Look at what's happening in Orange County, CA, one of the formerly pristine counties in the state. □ Click on the video below. Worth watching the whole thing. It will blow your mind.....

This is located in Anaheim on the west side of the 57 Freeway from Angel Stadium south to the Garden Grove Freeway totaling several miles. This is one area of many in Jerry Brown's California.

How can any decent society permit this form of decline and self-degradation, and actually think it is making the country and the world a better place?

If this obvious “sanctuary city” strategy continues, the s\*\*\*holes of the world will most certainly include even our own California cities.

This is NOT about tolerance and humanity. And this is NOT about discrimination and racial insensitivity. It is about power. And even if some small portion of it is tolerance, then under no circumstances does that EVER outweigh this kind of destructive impact on our society. And the economic consequences are even more destructive.

CA ranks #1 in the US in immigrant population at 27%, compared to Mexico's 1%. One out of four California residents is now foreign born, and I am guessing that these “official” statistics are materially understated. And the greater the illegal immigrant portion of ANY population, the greater the destructive impact on the quality of society and its economic stability. No matter which country or state we are talking about.

Why are politics more important than common sense, quality of living, and our Nations Laws?

CLICK ON THE VIDEO BELOW. YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!

<https://youtu.be/hlGuSNf29U8>

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*I used to go to this area for busness meetings around 10 to 15 years ago and it looked nothing like this now. It was a very upscale neighborhood that was kept imaculatley clean. My how times have changed. UT*

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

Falcon Heavy takes off on its maiden mission

David Szondy, February 6, 2018

<https://newatlas.com/falcon-heavy-launch/53258/16>



**Falcon Heavy lifting off**

**Commercial space travel took a quantum leap forward today as SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket made its maiden flight. At 3:45 pm EST, the world's most powerful operational booster lifted off from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida on a demonstration mission intended to gather information about the reusable launch system before it goes into service.**

**Today's launch came after a two-hour and 15 minute delay due to high-altitude shear winds that were outside the rocket's safety parameters. During liftoff, the 27 Merlin 1D engines of the Falcon Heavy's three Falcon 9 core boosters generated 5,548,500 lb of thrust as they gulped down supercooled liquid oxygen and kerosene. Two minutes and 29 seconds into the flight, the two outboard boosters shut down and then separated from the central core four seconds later. The latter shutdown at the three minute and four second mark, then the second stage separated three seconds after.**

**The second stage then fired for five minutes and 16 seconds, followed by a second burn for 30 seconds. Once the orbital maneuver was executed, it marked a first for SpaceX as its unique payload separated and was set on an elliptical interplanetary trajectory around the Sun that will send it as far as the orbit of Mars.**

**Because the Falcon Heavy was only given a 50/50 chance of success, SpaceX decided not to risk a functioning spacecraft. In such a situation, it's usual to swap out the satellite with ballast made of blocks of steel or concrete, but in a whimsical move, the company used SpaceX CEO and Lead Designer Elon Musk's midnight-cherry Tesla Roadster. This marks either the first time that a motor car was sent into space or the fourth, if you count the three Lunar Rovers carried on the last three Apollo lunar landing missions in the early 1970s.**

In the driver's seat of the Roadster is a mannequin, named "Starman" after the 1972 David Bowie song, who is dressed in one of the spacesuits that will be worn by the passengers and crew on SpaceX's manned dragon missions. In addition, Bowie's hit "Space Oddity" was playing on the car's soundtrack, though in the vacuum of space, there won't be anyone to hear it. However, in a nod to The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, the words "Don't Panic" were displayed on the dashboard screen in large, friendly letters.



No details were given about the Roadster itself, but it's likely that it was modified to make it suitable for space travel by removing the lithium ion battery banks or replacing them with dummies. Though the Roadster is headed out toward Mars, its trajectory is such that it has no chance of colliding with the Red Planet.

In keeping with SpaceX's policy of developing a fully reusable launch system, the two side boosters, which had already flown before, executed a reentry and landing maneuver to bring them down on SpaceX's Landing Zones 1 and 2 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida to the cheers of the crowd outside of Mission Control. Meanwhile, the center core attempted a sea landing on the company's "Of Course I Still Love You" droneship in the Atlantic Ocean.

Update: Musk has confirmed in a press conference following the launch the landing of the middle core was unsuccessful, as two of the three engines failed to fire and the booster slammed into the ocean at 300 mph (482 km/h).

The video AT THE WEBSITE is a replay of the live webcast.

Source: SpaceX



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#### WAIT—THE OZONE LAYER IS STILL DECLINING?

The lower stratosphere's ozone continues to decrease, despite the world's success in phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals

By Annie Sneed on February 6, 2018

[https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/wait-the-ozone-layer-is-still-declining1/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=sustainability&utm\\_content=link&utm\\_term=2018-02-08\\_featured-this-week](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/wait-the-ozone-layer-is-still-declining1/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sustainability&utm_content=link&utm_term=2018-02-08_featured-this-week)



Earth's  
stratosphere Credit: sharply\_  
done Getty Images

In 1985  
scientists reported something very unsettling: They had found a hole in the planet's ozone layer over Antarctica. The culprits, they said, were humans emitting chemicals that depleted atmospheric ozone above the South Pole and the rest of the globe. Because the ozone layer

protects us and other organisms from harmful solar radiation, the international community united in 1987 to sign the Montreal Protocol, which phased out use of such chemicals.

The protocol, widely considered a huge success since its enactment, significantly dropped the level of ozone-depleting chemicals in the atmosphere, and the “hole” over Antarctica has been shrinking. Yet in a new study published in *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, scientists report that one crucial section of the ozone layer still seems to be declining steadily.

The ozone layer resides in the stratosphere, the region of atmosphere from 10 to 50 kilometers above Earth’s surface. This blanket of gas is vital for life on Earth—it absorbs the sun’s ultraviolet radiation, which can damage DNA and also promote skin cancer and other harm to humans, wildlife and crops.

In reality, ozone is distributed throughout the lower, middle and upper stratosphere as well as in the troposphere, the atmosphere’s bottom layer that extends up from Earth’s surface to about 10 kilometers. Thanks to the protocol, from the late 1990s on, ozone in the stratosphere “looked like it wasn’t going down anymore, which is a massive success,” says William Ball, a researcher in atmospheric physics at ETH Zürich and one of the study authors. But precise measurements of the lower stratosphere have been difficult to make. “One of the key problems that’s been left unresolved is that in the lower stratosphere, there’s lots of variability that we don’t capture in the approach that we typically take to work out what the trends are,” Ball says.

Ball and a team of researchers from institutions around the world wanted to more accurately measure trends in the ozone layer. For their study, they synthesized and then analyzed multiple satellite data sets of atmospheric ozone. The data cover the tropics and mid-latitudes, from 1985 through 2016. The team found ozone in the upper stratosphere has indeed rebounded since 1998. “It’s clear it’s going back up,” Ball says. “This is exactly where we’d expect to see the Montreal Protocol working its best.” They also discovered ozone in the troposphere—which comes in large part from air pollution—rose from 2004 through 2016.

They observed, however, no significant upward or downward trends for the middle stratosphere, or for the total ozone column—the sum of the troposphere and stratosphere—since 1998. Starting in 1985 “you can see [the total ozone column] is going down,” Ball says. “After 1998 we see ozone stop depleting, initially see a slight rise and then it seems to stall.” But the rise was statistically nonsignificant, Ball notes. “What this says is, great, since 1998 ozone hasn’t been depleting any further.” But it also does not appear to be rebounding.

What is the culprit? Ball’s team found the ozone in the lower stratosphere has slowly, continuously dropped since 1998. “We see a small but persistent and continuous decline—not as fast as before 1998 but a continued [trend] down,” he says. “This is surprising, because we would have expected to also see this [region’s ozone] stop decreasing.” The finding is important because the lower stratosphere contains the largest fraction of the ozone layer.

Overall, Ball says, global ozone has declined 5 percent between 1970 and 1998—prior to the protocol’s effect. Since then “our analysis suggests that the [ozone in the] stratosphere has declined...another 0.5 percent, most of which has occurred in the lower stratosphere,”



he says. "It doesn't sound like much, and it's slower, but it's contradictory to the trajectory expected in models."

The research team does not yet know the cause of this persistent decline in lower stratospheric ozone. In their paper they venture a handful of possible explanations, several of which are driven by climate change. Another potential reason might be that rising emissions of short-lived chemicals are reaching the lower stratosphere and destroying ozone. But these are just hypotheses scientists still need to explore. "It's quite clear that the Montreal Protocol has worked," Ball says. "But it looks as if something else has come on the stage, and we don't really know what it is."

Outside experts are both impressed by the new study and troubled by its findings. "It's really concerning, because we do not know what's going on," says Michaela Hegglin, an associate professor in atmospheric chemistry at the University of Reading in England. "We're all looking around for signs of recovery, and now this paper comes out and says that the lower stratosphere is declining."

People should not panic over this new finding, Ball cautions. "At the moment, the [total ozone] column is not getting worse," he says. But, he adds, "We should be worried. We need to urgently sort this out, because we don't want the ozone layer to get worse."

A. R. Ravishankara, a professor in the departments of Chemistry and Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University, says this finding also teaches the world an important lesson. "When you make environmental policies, you study the problem, diagnose, take action—and then most people assume that you're done. But that's not the case," he says. "[You have to] continue to measure and monitor, to make sure that what's happening is what you predicted. We cannot take our eyes off the ball."

Hegglin agrees: "The world should realize that the ozone layer story has not ended."

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## **STRONGER THAN STEEL, ABLE TO STOP A SPEEDING BULLET—IT'S SUPER WOOD!**

Simple processes can make wood tough, impact-resistant—or even transparent

By Sid Perkins on February 7, 2018  
[https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/stronger-than-steel-able-to-stop-a-speeding-bullet-mdash-it-rsquo-s-super-wood/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=space&utm\\_content=link&utm\\_term=2018-02-08\\_more-stories](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/stronger-than-steel-able-to-stop-a-speeding-bullet-mdash-it-rsquo-s-super-wood/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=space&utm_content=link&utm_term=2018-02-08_more-stories)

New techniques for "densifying" wood can turn the ubiquitous substance into a super-material suitable for constructing buildings and body armor. Credit:



**mack2happy Getty Images**

Some varieties of wood, such as oak and maple, are renowned for their strength. But scientists say a simple and inexpensive new process can transform any type of wood into a material stronger than steel, and even some high-tech titanium alloys. Besides taking a star turn in buildings and vehicles, the substance could even be used to make bullet-resistant armor plates.

Wood is abundant and relatively low-cost—it literally grows on trees. And although it has been used for millennia to build everything from furniture to homes and larger structures, untreated wood is rarely as strong as metals used in construction. Researchers have long tried to enhance its strength, especially by compressing and “densifying” it, says Liangbing Hu, a materials scientist at the University of Maryland, College Park. But densified wood tends to weaken and spring back toward its original size and shape, especially in humid conditions.

Now, Hu and his colleagues say they have come up with a better way to densify wood, which they report in the February 7 *Nature*. Their simple, two-step process starts with boiling wood in a solution of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and sodium sulfite (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>), a chemical treatment similar to the first step in creating the wood pulp used to make paper. This partially removes lignin and hemicellulose (natural polymers that help stiffen a plant’s cell walls)—but it largely leaves the wood’s cellulose (another natural polymer) intact, Hu says.

The second step is almost as simple as the first: Compressing the treated wood until its cell walls collapse, then maintaining that compression as it is gently heated. The pressure and heat encourage the formation of chemical bonds between large numbers of hydrogen atoms and neighboring atoms in adjacent nanofibers of cellulose, greatly strengthening the material.

The results are impressive. The team’s compressed wood is three times as dense as the untreated substance, Hu says, adding that its resistance to being ripped apart is increased more than 10-fold. It also can become about 50 times more resistant to compression and almost 20 times as stiff. The densified wood is also substantially harder, more scratch-resistant and more impact-resistant. It can be molded into almost any shape. Perhaps most importantly, the densified wood is also moisture-resistant: In lab tests, compressed samples exposed to extreme humidity for more than five days swelled less than 10 percent—and in subsequent tests, Hu says, a simple coat of paint eliminated that swelling entirely.

A five-layer, plywoodlike sandwich of densified wood stopped simulated bullets fired into the material—a result Hu and his colleagues suggest could lead to low-cost armor. The material does not protect quite as well as a Kevlar sheet of the same thickness—but it only costs about 5 percent as much, he notes.

The team’s results “appear to open the door to a new class of lightweight materials,” says Ping Liu, a materials chemist at the University of California, San Diego, unaffiliated with the *Nature* study. Vehicle manufacturers have often tried to save weight by switching from regular steel to high-strength steel, aluminum alloys or carbon-fiber composites—but those materials are costly, and consumers “rarely make that money back in fuel savings,” Liu says. And densified wood has another leg up on carbon-fiber composites: It does not

require expensive adhesives that also can make components difficult, if not impossible, to recycle.

Densified wood provides new design possibilities and uses for which natural wood is too weak, says Peter Fratzl, a materials scientist at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Germany who did not take part in the study. "Instead of creating a design for the material at hand, researchers can create a material to suit the design they want," he says, alluding to a familiar process among aerospace engineers who have a long history of developing ever-stronger alloys to meet their needs.

One possible obstacle to the widespread use of densified wood will be engineers' ability to scale up and accelerate the process, Liu notes. Hu and his team spent several hours making each coffee-table book-size slab of densified wood used for testing. But there are no practical reasons the process could not be sped up or used to make larger components, Hu contends.

Although Hu and his team have sought to enhance wood's strength, other researchers have pursued more unusual goals—such as making it transparent. One team, led by materials scientist Lars Berglund at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, has come up with a way to make windowpanes of wood. The first step in that process (as in Hu's) is to remove lignin, a substance that not only stiffens wood but also creates its brownish color. The researchers infuse the lignin-free wood with a polymer called methyl methacrylate (MMA), a material better known by trade names such as Plexiglas and Lucite.

Because MMA's index of refraction (a measure of how much it bends light) matches that of the lignin-free wood, rays of light pass right through the MMA-infused composite instead of getting bounced around inside empty cells. This renders the material remarkably clear. Berglund and his team described their feat two years ago in *Biomacromolecules*. Coincidentally, at the same time Hu and his colleagues were also developing a method for rendering wood transparent.

Research like Hu's and Berglund's can only add to the wild prospects for the future of materials science. Someday soon it might be possible to live in a home made almost completely from one of Earth's most abundant and versatile building materials—from floors to rafters, walls to windows. In the garage there may be a car whose chassis and bumpers could be composed of densified wood rather than steel and plastic—knock on wood.

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## MUSK EXPLAINS WHY SPACEX PREFERS CLUSTERS OF SMALL ENGINES

"It's sort of like the way modern computer systems are set up."

ERIC BERGER - 2/8/2018, 9:20 AM

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2018/02/musks-inspiration-for-27-engines-modern-computer-clusters/>

One of the most striking aspects of this week's launch of the Falcon Heavy rocket is the number of engines the triple-core booster used to reach orbit. Each of the cores had nine Merlin rocket engines, making for a total of 27 engines.





The Falcon Heavy rocket proved that 27 engines can fly together and not go all explode-y. SpaceX

Prior to this launch, no rocket had ever successfully ascended into orbit with more than nine engines—a feat accomplished previously by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket and Rocket Lab's Electron rocket. (The Russian Soyuz rocket has five engines, each of which has six thrust chambers.)

Launching a rocket with 27 engines, therefore, represents a notable step forward in rocket complexity. It is all the more so, considering the Soviet N-1 rocket. Four times, from 1969 to 1972, the Russians attempted to launch their titanic "Moon rocket," and it failed spectacularly each time. Its 30 engines were just too many to fire, throttle, and steer at the same time.

During an interview with SpaceX founder Elon Musk this week prior to launch, Ars asked Musk if the history of the N-1 rocket concerned him. "No," he replied. "I think with the N-1 failure it was mostly avionics failure. They had engine to engine fire issues." Five decades later, SpaceX could do better.

#### LIKE A COMPUTER

The company's development of the Falcon 9 rocket, with nine engines, had given Musk confidence that SpaceX could scale up to 27 engines in flight, and he believed this was a better overall solution for the thrust needed to escape Earth's gravity. To explain why, the former computer scientist used a computer metaphor.

"It's sort of like the way modern computer systems are set up," Musk said. "With Google or Amazon they have large numbers of small computers, such that if one of the computers goes down it doesn't really affect your use of Google or Amazon. That's different from the old model of the mainframe approach, when you have one big mainframe and if it goes down, the whole system goes down."

For computers, Musk said, using large numbers of small computers ends up being a more efficient, smarter, and faster approach than using a few larger, more powerful computers. So it was with rocket engines. "It's better to use a large number of small engines," Musk said. With the Falcon Heavy rocket, he added, up to half a dozen engines could fail and the rocket would still make it to orbit.

The flight of the Falcon Heavy likely bodes well for SpaceX's next rocket, the much larger Big Falcon Rocket (or BFR), now being designed at the company's Hawthorne, California-based headquarters. This booster will use 31 engines, four more than the Falcon Heavy. But it will also use larger, more powerful engines. The proposed Raptor engine has 380,000 pounds of thrust at sea level, compared to 190,000 pounds of thrust for the Merlin 1-D engine.

"It gives me a lot of faith for our next architecture," Musk said Tuesday night, after the Falcon Heavy's launch. "It gives me confidence that BFR is really quite workable."

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## **DELINGPOLE: 'SINKING' PACIFIC ISLAND ACTUALLY GETTING BIGGER SHOCK**

**TORSTEN BLACKWOOD/AFP/Getty**  
by **JAMES DELINGPOLE**, 9 Feb 2018

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/02/09/delingpole-sinking-pacific-island-actually-getting-bigger-shock/>

Tuvalu – the Pacific island group often cited by climate alarmists as the nation most immediately at risk from rising sea levels caused by 'global warming' – is not sinking after all.

In fact it's getting bigger, scientists now admit.

A University of Auckland study examined changes in the geography of Tuvalu's nine atolls and 101 reef islands between 1971 and 2014, using aerial photographs and satellite imagery.



It found eight of the atolls and almost three-quarters of the islands grew during the study period, lifting Tuvalu's total land area by 2.9 percent, even though sea levels in the country rose at twice the global average.

Co-author Paul Kench said the research, published Friday in the journal Nature Communications, challenged the assumption that low-lying island nations would be swamped as the sea rose.

"We tend to think of Pacific atolls as static landforms that will simply be inundated as sea levels rise, but there is growing evidence these islands are geologically dynamic and are constantly changing," he said.

"The study findings may seem counter-intuitive, given that (the) sea level has been rising in the region over the past half century, but the dominant mode of change over that time on Tuvalu has been expansion, not erosion."

If only they'd done their study a bit earlier they could have saved a lot of alarmists a lot of worry.

As recently as last year, anxious wonks produced a paper for the World Bank arguing that the situation in Tuvalu (pop. 11,000) and nearby Kiribati (pop.107,000) was so dire that Australia and New Zealand should open their doors to the fleeing refugees.

According to the paper:

"The worsening impacts of climate change have provided a new moral imperative for providing open access."

In 2007, Grist went so far as to cite Tuvalu of one of climate change's most "tragic" victims. 'Climate Change in Tuvalu' even has its own Wikipedia page. It records possibly Tuvalu's greatest moment of glory on the international stage when it seized the opportunity at the 2009 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen to grandstand about its terrible plight.

In December 2009 the islands stalled talks at United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, fearing some other developing countries were not committing fully to binding deals on a reduction in carbon emission, their chief negotiator stated "Tuvalu is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change, and our future rests on the outcome of this meeting." [57] When the conference failed to reach a binding, meaningful agreement, Tuvalu's representative Ian Fry said, "It looks like we are being offered 30 pieces of silver to betray our people and our future... Our future is not for sale. I regret to inform you that Tuvalu cannot accept this document." [58]

Fry's speech to the conference was a highly impassioned plea for countries around the world to address the issues of man-made global warming resulting in climate change. The five-minute speech addressed the dangers of rising sea levels to Tuvalu and the world. In his speech Fry claimed man-made global warming to be currently "the greatest threat to humanity", and ended with an emotional "the fate of my country rests in your hands". [59]

Tuvalu's plight also formed part of the basis for arguably the most hysterical fake news claim in the history of climate alarmism: the UN's prediction that by the end of 2010, climate change would have created "50 million environmental refugees".

The UN has since removed the claim from most of its websites. Happily, it can still be glimpsed in the Guardian archives:

Rising sea levels, desertification and shrinking freshwater supplies will create up to 50 million environmental refugees by the end of the decade, experts warn today. Janos Bogardi, director of the Institute for Environment and Human Security at the United Nations University in Bonn, said creeping environmental deterioration already displaced up to 10 million people a year, and the situation would get worse.

“There are well-founded fears that the number of people fleeing untenable environmental conditions may grow exponentially as the world experiences the effects of climate change,” Dr Bogardi said. “This new category of refugee needs to find a place in international agreements. We need to better anticipate support requirements, similar to those of people fleeing other unviable situations.”

In reality, the total number of environmental refugees fleeing climate change so far around the world is close to zero.

But that hasn't stopped a few chancers from trying it on...

Seventeen people from the Pacific – including 11 from Tuvalu and five from Kiribati – have already made refugee claims in New Zealand, citing climate change as part of their basis of claim. None have been successful (four have yet to be determined and 13 have been rejected) because the refugees convention does not recognise climate change as grounds for protection.

To climate skeptics, the fact that Tuvalu is not drowning will come as no surprise whatsoever.

Their favorite sea levels expert – Nils-Axel Möner – has written numerous papers on the subject.

In 2012, he wrote:

In Tuvalu, the President continues to claim that they are in the process of being flooded. Yet, the tide-gauge data provide clear indication of a stability over the last 30 years.

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**“IT WAS COMPLETE CHAOS” SAYS HANFORD WORKER WHO INHALED PLUTONIUM**

The worker tested positive for inhalation of the potential lethal nuclear isotope of plutonium – a key ingredient to the production of nuclear bombs and warheads.

Author: Susannah Framem Published: 4:47 PM PST February 12, 2018

<http://www.king5.com/article/news/local/hanford/it-was-complete-chaos-says-hanford-worker-who-inhaled-plutonium/281-517526634>

For the first time since an extremely dangerous demolition job at Hanford started losing a grip on its safety plan, a Hanford worker directly impacted by the failures has granted an interview.

The worker tested positive for inhalation of the potential lethal nuclear isotope of plutonium – a key ingredient to the production of nuclear bombs and warheads.

**"I'm pissed. I'm scared, like we all are, that sooner or later it's going to bite me and I'm going to end up with cancer," said the contaminated worker.**

**For fear of retaliation, the worker does not want to be identified. Eight months ago, on June 8, the person was one of hundreds working on the demolition of Hanford's Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). The workers were told to 'take cover' as a 'precaution' because monitors detected radioactive plutonium particles could be in the air.**

**But the event ended up not being precautionary whatsoever. The contractor in charge of the demolition, CH2M Hill, had an enormous problem on its hands.**

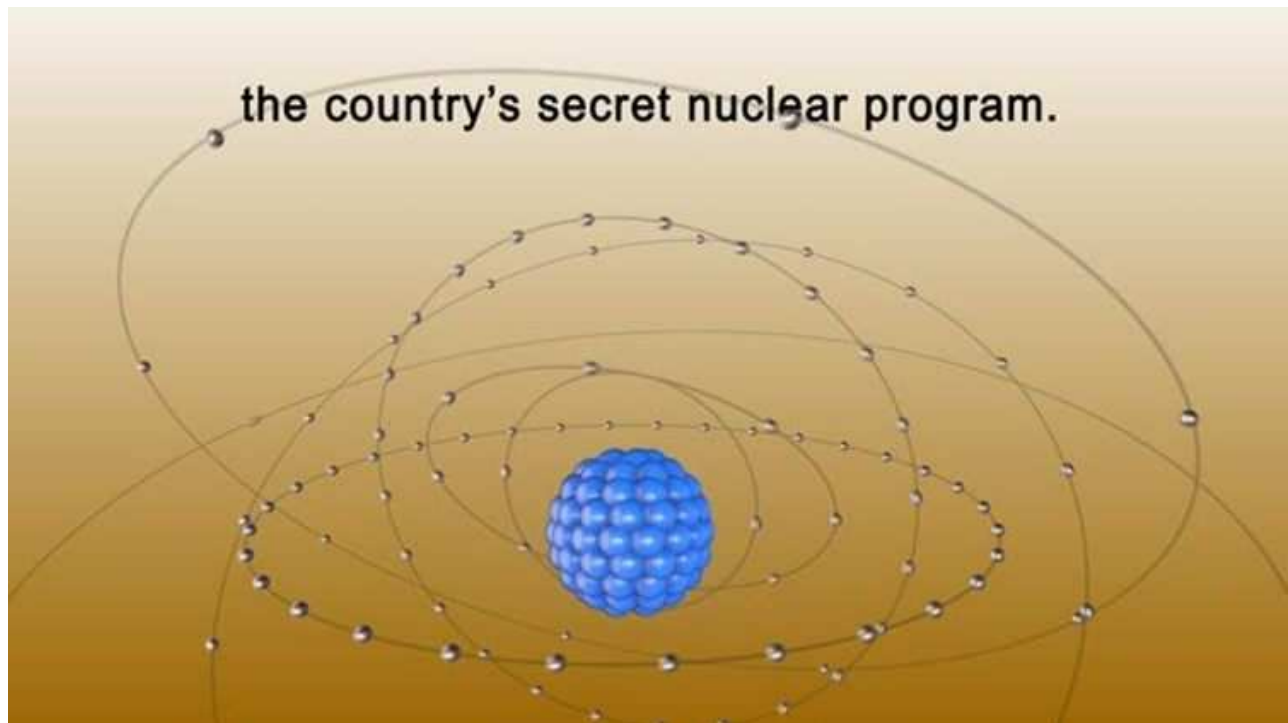
**"It was complete chaos. It was a mess," said the worker.**

**Indeed, radioactive particles had escaped and spread outside the demolition zone. Hundreds of workers were eventually tested. Thirty-one of them got bad news: They had inhaled or ingested plutonium, which emits alpha radiation, the worst kind of radiation to get inside your body.**

**"Plutonium will go to the bones and sit there for a long, long time," said Dr. Erica Liebelt, a toxicologist and executive director, as well as medical director, of the Washington Poison Center.**

**"Your risks are lung cancer, liver cancer, and bone cancer. That's where plutonium heads in the body."**

**"(After being told no one was hurt) I was angry. You carry that with you for the rest of your life. It's a cancer causer," said the worker interviewed by KING 5.**



The PFP is where, for decades, the Hanford workforce produced plutonium buttons, a key component of building nuclear warheads throughout the Cold War. The buildings left behind were the most lethally radioactive structures on the entire 586-square-mile Hanford reservation.

After that event in June CH2M Hill increased safeguards and promised to do better. But six months later the job got out of control again. More plutonium began escaping outside the demolition control zone on December 15. Instead of getting to the bottom of it right away, CH2M Hill waited two days to halt the job.

Radioactive particles ended up on all kinds of items including worker's boots, office trailers, jersey barriers, tumbleweeds.

And elevated airborne levels of plutonium were recorded at an employee exit right next to a public highway.

"The response was awful. To me (waiting was) unforgivable, inexcusable. That should never have happened and this contractor ought to be on the hot seat," said Tom Carpenter, executive director of the advocacy group Hanford Challenge.

The plutonium spread also made it onto cars. The KING 5 Investigators have found 36 cars total. Seven of them were personal vehicles, driven off the site by unsuspecting employees. The vehicles, with contamination on them, were driven into town and to their homes. One of those cars belongs to the worker who was contaminated internally six months earlier.

"We got in our cars and went home to our families. We hugged our wives, our children, our grandchildren and did our daily routines, so we don't know what we took anywhere," said the worker.

"Once you have contamination that gets on private party's cars and then gets driven off the Hanford Site it's a big concern for us," said Alex Smith of the Washington state Department of Ecology. Smith is the state's top-ranking regulator for the state over Hanford.

On January 9, the Department of Ecology and the EPA sent a joint letter to U.S Department of Energy officials to communicate their great concern. For the first time in Hanford's history, the regulators enacted a provision allowing them to halt work on a project due to a "creation of danger" to people and the environment.

The U.S. Department of Energy owns Hanford and hires contractors such as CH2M Hill to carry out the work on its behalf.

The two regulatory agencies said the project demonstrated so much risk that they were shutting it down until the federal government could prove they could proceed safely.

"We hereby invoke Hanford Federal Facility and Consent Order (HFFACO) Article XXXII ("Creation of Danger") and order all work at PFP to stop until Ecology and EPA determine that (the U.S. Department of Energy) has taken actions sufficient to allow the remaining work at PFP to continue," wrote Smith and Laura Buelow of the EPA.

**"If you get an airborne spread of contamination you risk contaminating rivers, agricultural products, and lands (and people) absolutely. So we want to make sure we're trying to reign in all that in as much as we can," said Smith.**

**Several Hanford workers said the PFP supervisors have been rushing the job for months in order to meet deadlines. That led to sloppy work and shortcuts taken, they said.**

**"Those of us with experience told them that this was going to happen. That if there was a (plutonium) spread, and there was going to be a spread, that it was going to be like this and they didn't listen," said the worker.**

**The KING 5 Investigators have obtained financial documents that could explain a motivation for a rush on the project. Hitting deadlines for the demolition could bring CH2M Hill a bonus of up to \$51-million dollars. And if the project fell behind, the company could end up losing roughly \$147,541 a day.**

**"They only care about their money. Their bonuses. That they make their deadline. That's the only thing that matters to them," said the PFP worker.**

**The Washington State Dept. of Health monitors radiation levels and the safety of the public at Hanford. On January 30, the Dept. of Health wrote a strongly worded letter to the Dept. of Energy expressing its serious concerns with the demolition, including a warning that rushing the job for financial reasons would be unacceptable.**

**"If work speed is increased with the intent of meeting a milestone, and doing so risks spreading contamination, we feel this should be discussed with lead agencies," wrote Clark Halvorson, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Health.**

**"..we are concerned if work resumes without better controls, a risk to the public may develop," wrote Halvorson.**

**The US Dept. of Energy and its contractor have downplayed the risk to workers who have inhaled or ingested plutonium particles. They've said the doses were so small that should be compared to getting an x-ray or flying across the country in an airplane.**

**Experts, veteran workers and the Dept. of Health think otherwise. In the January 30 letter, Asst. Secretary Halvorson highlighted the risk of alpha radiation, the type emitted by plutonium.**

**"From a dosimetry perspective, spread of alpha contamination is troubling because of its greater potential for damage...in biological tissue and the potential for lifelong internal contamination," wrote Halvorson.**

**"(When they told me it was like an x-ray) I said 'That's not true. An x-ray does not stay with me forever and this will. I know (from Hanford training) that alpha is a cancer causer,'" said the worker. "They knew better and they are minimizing it."**

**KING 5 has found the PFP job has created a record number of Hanford workers testing positive for internal plutonium contamination. Since June, that number is at 45, with more results yet to come.**

The Dept. of Energy Hanford website gives frequent PFP updates, available to the public. The most recent posting, on February 9, broke down test results specific to the December plutonium spread. They report 273 tests had been requested by workers. Of that number, 171 were returned negative for internal contamination, and 14 were positive. That would leave 88 test results yet to come back.

“It’s beyond criminal. It’s horrible what they’re doing to people, and they don’t care about the worker. We feel like we play a vital part in the cleanup. We shouldn’t be so easily discarded, or cast aside,” said the worker.

Federal Hanford officials and contractor representatives denied requests to be interviewed for this report. But in a memo sent to the workforce on January 24, Doug Shoop, the Department of Energy’s most senior executive over the PFP demolition wrote:

“(The contractor’s) sole focus at PFP will be entirely on the health and safety of the workforce, addressing any concerns that workers may have, continuing to insure that the PFP facility/debris and rubble piles are in a stable condition, and mitigation the potential for any additional spread of contamination.”

KING 5 has learned that on February 8, more plutonium contamination was found outside the safety zone. This was found on steps leading to a mobile officer trailer where PFP office staff work.

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**THE MIDDLE BOOSTER OF SPACEX’S FALCON HEAVY ROCKET FAILED TO LAND ON ITS DRONE SHIP**

By [Loren Grush@lorengrush](mailto:Loren.Grush@lorengrush) Feb 6, 2018, 6:39pm EST

<https://www.theverge.com/2018/2/6/16980954/spacex-falcon-heavy-rocket-middle-core-failed-landing>

Though the Falcon Heavy’s outer cores successfully landed after launch this afternoon, the middle core of SpaceX’s huge rocket missed the drone ship where it was supposed to land, a source tells The Verge. SpaceX later confirmed The Verge’s reporting in a press conference.

The center core was only able to relight one of the three engines necessary to land, and so it hit the water at 300 miles per hour about 300 feet from the drone ship. As a result, two engines on the drone ship were taken out when it crashed, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk said in a press call after the rocket launch. “[It] was enough to take out two thrusters and shower the deck with shrapnel,” he said.

It’s a small hiccup in an otherwise successful first flight. The Falcon Heavy rocket took off from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, at 3:45PM ET on Tuesday and made a beautiful arc to space. About two and a half minutes after liftoff, the two outer boosters of the rocket broke away and returned to Earth. The pair then touched down just seconds apart on SpaceX’s two ground landing pads at the Cape called Landing Zone 1 and Landing Zone 2.



At about three minutes after liftoff, the center core broke away from the upper stage — the top portion of the rocket that is carrying the Falcon Heavy's payload, Musk's Tesla Roadster. It then attempted to land on SpaceX's drone ship, but live video of the landing stalled just before the core was slated to make its touchdown. "We lost the center core," someone said on a separate, unlisted live stream of the launch.

Meanwhile, the upper stage seems to be doing just fine. After launch, Musk tweeted that it had successfully ignited its engine and raised its orbit as intended. Now, the upper stage will spend about six hours coasting through space — a move by SpaceX to demonstrate a tricky orbital maneuver for the US Air Force.

That coast will take the rocket through regions of intense radiation that surround Earth called the Van Allen belts, where it will be pelted by high-energy particles. If the vehicle is still operating as it should by then, the upper stage will do another engine burn, putting the car on its deep space path to Mars' orbit.

Update February 6th, 7:10PM ET: Added SpaceX confirmation of our reporting, and details on what went wrong.

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From: "Christina Cowan" [Cowan1028@earthlink.net](mailto:Cowan1028@earthlink.net)

SPACEX: FALCON HEAVY - Full Launch (T-45 seconds till end)

GOING UP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBA7su98v3Y> (12+ minutes)

COMING DOWN: [http://twistedsifter.com/videos/amazing-amateur-video-of-the-falcon-heavy-landing/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Twistedsifter+%28TwistedSifter+%29](http://twistedsifter.com/videos/amazing-amateur-video-of-the-falcon-heavy-landing/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Twistedsifter+%28TwistedSifter+%29) 1+ minute

This Amateur Video of the Falcon Heavy Landing is Amazing and the Sound is Unreal



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

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

**VAPE SHOPS ARE SUING THE FDA OVER 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND ILLOGICAL' RULE UPENDING INDUSTRY**

Steve Birr , February 11, 2018 | BPR Wire

[http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/02/11/vape-shops-suing-fda-unconstitutional-illogical-rule-upending-industry-601156?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=BPR%20Email&utm\\_campaign=DMS](http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/02/11/vape-shops-suing-fda-unconstitutional-illogical-rule-upending-industry-601156?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=BPR%20Email&utm_campaign=DMS)

A group of vape shops are suing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) over what they argue is an unconstitutional rule that threatens their industry's existence.

The Pacific Legal Foundation, which is representing shops from five states, filed three lawsuits in federal courts Jan. 30 targeting the FDA's contentious "deeming rule," calling it, "unconstitutional and illogical." The rule allows the FDA to treat vaping devices like combustible cigarettes under the Tobacco Control Act despite the fact they do not contain tobacco, opening the industry up to onerous regulations that most manufacturers and retailers cannot afford.

(Matt Cardy/Getty Images)

The lawsuit argues the rule was unconstitutionally issued by a career bureaucrat at the FDA in violation of the Appointments Clause, which requires such regulations be issued by an agency head appointment by the president and approved by the Senate.



"The FDA is basically doing an end-run around advice and consent, around the requirement of the appointments clause, because they've given the associate commissioner for policy all the same powers that the FDA commissioner has," Thomas Berry, an attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation, told The Daily Caller News Foundation. "If you have a rule that's issued by someone who's not an officer of the United States appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate then that rule is null and void."

The FDA "deeming rule" requires businesses to retroactively submit each individual product to the FDA for approval before it can be sold. Businesses will have to file

applications for nearly every product they currently sell at a cost of \$100,000 to \$400,000 each.

While FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb rescheduled the product application deadline to comply with the deeming rule last summer from Aug. 8, 2018 to Aug. 8, 2022, other aspects of the regulation are already undermining the industry. Vape shops are barred from giving customers free-samples and face speech restrictions regarding what they can say about the impact of the products compared to smoking that Berry says, "flouts the First Amendment."

"Even though some of the deadlines have been extended, some of them have gone into effect already, including a ban on free samples and the speech restriction, which is why our clients clearly have standing to sue immediately," Berry told The DCNF.

The lawsuits, filed in U.S. District Courts in Washington, D.C., Texas and Minnesota, represent a coalition of vape shops from California, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Texas. The non-profit Tobacco Harm Reduction 4 Life is also part of the litigation against the FDA.

Steve Green, owner of Mountain Vapors, a shop in Sonora, Calif., which is part of the lawsuit, says the rule is making it harder to transition smokers from deadly combustible cigarettes to healthier alternatives. He notes the "deeming rule" is so broad that it bars him from sharing stories with customers about how smokers have quit with the devices.

"The advertising restrictions stop me from sharing my personal story," Green said in a statement from the Pacific Legal Foundation. "For years I smoked two-and-a-half packs of cigarettes a day, and it nearly gave me emphysema. Vaping freed me from my addiction and the doctor says I've recovered."

The most comprehensive review of existing research on e-cigarettes to date was released Jan. 23, concluding the products are a useful tool for smokers trying to quit cigarettes that greatly improves health outcomes.

The research from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine echoes previous reports confirming the relative safety of vaping devices when compared to traditional cigarettes. The report found that smokers who completely switch to vaping largely eliminate their exposure to deadly carcinogens, tar and other harmful chemicals present in combustible tobacco.

Millions of former smokers in the U.S. are embracing the positive science on vaping and using the harm reduction tools to quit combustible cigarettes. Roughly 2.62 million former smokers were using a vape in 2016.

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