

The February 21st, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

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Welcome to the February 21st, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

It has been a full week around Casa Bolgeo. First off, we have been hosting family visitors. Cousin Carol and the Infamous Tish have been hanging around having fun keeping SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED company and driving me crazy. Nah, I'm just joking because I love having them here. Cousin Carol talked the family into playing "Pauper's Poker" on Saturday Night. What the heck is "Pauper's Poker" you might ask. It's actually simple. You put up \$25 dollars and get a stack of chips and you play poker. If you lose all of your chips, you still get to play but just can't bet anymore. But you can win the pot and get some money back. It's a fun game for the family and doesn't bankrupt you. I would say they abused and mistreated me, but I won big time. I was about \$40 ahead, when I felt guilty and gave Tristan \$5 to go and buy some goodies. At least I got a hug for it. ;^)

The morning we had the poker game, we had another milestone in the family. Brandy took Beth, Destroyer of Worlds, down to Northgate Shopping Center before it opened and let her drive around the parking lot. OMG, Beth, Destroyer of Worlds, behind the wheel of a large SUV! Can you think of anything more terrifying. Actually, yes I can. I could have been there in the care when she was driving! ARGGGGG! ;^)

Jamie's mother, Dot, is still in the hospital but seems to be getting a little stronger. They are trying to talk her into going to the Soddy Daisy Nursing Home for rehabilitation. It is a wonderful place and only a few miles from Casa Bolgeo and SWMBO goes there almost every day to visit her mother. So Dot will have tons of company during her stint in rehab.

I have been having my usual spring problems because we have had a few days of mind weather and things are starting to bloom. So of course, my allergies are going into high gear and I feel miserable. But heck, it beats the hell out of the alternatives because I am still kicking.

So on that "Thoughtful 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>

ATTN: SOUTHERN SF FANS

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

Due to the recent passing of Don Dea Cook, and his wife, Samanda Jeude, is now in residence in a Canton nursing home, there will be a number of sales and auctions of their vast collection of books, art, and collectibles, with all proceeds going to the continuing care of Samanda.

For those younger fans who may not have known Don and Sam, they were very active in the Science Fiction community for many years. Don/Dea was the Chair of the Atlanta in 1995 Worldcon Committee. Samanda was the Founder of Electrical Eggs, which started the

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move toward access to conventions for people with different physical challenges. She spent the biggest part of her adult life working to help others. Now it's our time to help her.

Sam has asked my husband Tim Illingworth and myself to coordinate the disposition of their collection. Our plan is to hold auctions at as many conventions as possible, as well as online auctions and fixed price sales. We are awaiting word from this year's DeepSouthCon, ConCave in Kentucky later this month, where we hope to be able to hold the first auction. After all, Samanda is a past winner of the Rebel Award.

We welcome any suggestions for venues, and volunteers for assistance. With careful oversight and management, we should be able to take care of Samanda's needs. If you have any further questions, please contact me via Messenger or email. This post is public, so please feel free to share it far and wide. Thank you.

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

SIGN PETITION FOR JROTC PETER WANG, 15 YEARS OLD, KILLED IN HIS ROTC UNIFORM WHILE HELPING OTHERS TO SAFETY DURING THE PARKLAND, FL HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

From: "Steve Clark" clarkcentral@comcast.net

ETMAC Members:

This story was brought to my attention, and I felt some of you would like to know about it:

Peter Wang, one of the students killed in the Parkland, FL high school shooting, died in his Junior ROTC uniform while helping fellow students get to safety as shots rang out inside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine's Day.

The Parkland community wants the 15-year-old to have a burial fit for a military hero. An online petition filed Feb.16 on whitehouse.gov calls for Congress to allow for Peter to have a full honors military funeral.

The online petition states: "Peter Wang, 15, was one of the students killed in Florida this past week. He was a JROTC Cadet who was last seen, in uniform, holding doors open and thus allowing other students, teachers, and staff to flee to safety. Wang was killed in the process. His selfless and heroic actions have led to the survival of dozens in the area. Wang died a hero, and deserves to be treated as such, and deserves a full honors military burial."

The petition needs 100,000 signatures by March 18 to get a response from the White House, according to the website. By Sunday evening, 17,491 people signed the petition.

Wang's funeral will be Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. at Kraeer Funeral Home, [1655 University Drive](#) in Coral Springs. He will be laid to rest at Bailey Memorial Gardens in North Lauderdale.

See the petition at <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/allow-cadet-peter-wang-receive-full-honors-military-burial>

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Please pass this along if you so wish. Thank you.

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PASSING OF A FRIEND AND SIGMA MEMBER

From: "Arlan Keith Andrews" arlan@thingsto.com

SIGMA member, Albuquerque resident, and longtime friend, Vic Milán, passed away February 14, 2018. Vic wrote THE CYBERNETIC SAMURAI and lately, THE DINOSAUR LORDS. He died of myeloma and pneumonia.

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From: "Dutch Stacy" lstacy726@gmail.com

Hi Uncle Timmy

I can imagine folks are probably wondering, by now, where the hell I am coming from. That's easy, that little place between nowhere and nevermore. I'm not a Democrat or a Republican. Nor am I a conservative or a liberal. I only have one label, American. And I have seen most of it. I was born in July of '53 in Muncie, Indiana. By the time I was ten days old we were in Corpus Christi, Texas. That was just the beginning. By the time I was six years old I had seen more of this wonderful country than most people, at that time, would see their entire life.

In the first grade I started out in Baltimore, Maryland, spent the winter months in Arcadia, Texas and finished up in Claxton, Georgia before heading back north. I use to keep up with the number of schools I attended each year. I hit the record in the seventh grade having attended seven different schools during that school year. I have attended schools all the way from Claxton, Georgia to Cottage Grove, Oregon.

I have been swimming in the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico. I have been across the Mexican border as well as the Canadian border. What this is all leading up to is perspective. Living in so many different places all over this country honed my ability to see things from so many different angles. All the schools were unique, with their own way of teaching. People's ideas, views and opinions were, as Uncle Timmy puts it, from as far to the right as you can go to as far to the left as you can go, with some just totally outrageous and insane. This shaped the way I see things. Sometimes it's pretty, sometimes not so much. However, I still keep an open mind to try to see things every way possible before coming to a conclusion. I never could understand why the different parties would vote a straight ticket, either Democrat or Republican. This served to put a lot of idiots in office because the voters would not vote for anyone not a member of their chosen party, no matter who was more qualified. I have always taken people at face value. Not because of Tags, Labels or Affiliations. I'm not concerned with who their friends are or what clubs they belong to. I judge them on their own actions. I don't give a damn as to who came up with a particular idea. If it's good, vote for it. Take the time to do a little research on the side and see if what you are hearing is the truth or just more slander and liable gossip to turn people against something or someone. In other words, look at things from different perspectives before making a decision. The American public has not stood together for anything since

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WW II. At that time the entire Nation pulled together. Women worked the factories because most of the men were fighting overseas. Kids went out and gathered scrap metal for the war effort to build more ships, tanks and planes along with the weapons, ammo and hardware that was needed. I, for one, think it's high time the American people got off their duffs and put the "United" back in the United States.

For examples of perspective: I never could figure out why we were paying restitution to Japan for dropping the Bomb on them. After all, they started it by decimating Pearl Harbor with their bombs. We just came up with a bigger and better bomb than they had. Until they destroyed our installations we were not openly committed to the war. Now, on the other hand ask yourself, of all the places to launch a surprise attack that could have caused far more damage, why Pearl Harbor? Think about it for a second then continue reading. The answer is simple. They bombed the Harbor for the same reason we were going to blow Cuba out of the water in 1962. In the shadow of WW I we were still considered the enemy. Then we start building military installations in their back door. They didn't like it any better than we did when the USSR started the same thing in our's. Another example is Terrorism: It has been said before, and it's the truth, no matter how much people hate that word. It all depends which side of the fence you are standing on. Go to South America and ask them about terrorists and see what you might find out. We took out entire villages to get one person in charge of a drug cartel. So seeing things from different perspectives makes you wonder who the bad guys are. When you stop and think about it there are a lot of things out there that's just not quite right. If they want to conduct a war on drugs, fine, do it the easy way. Put a bounty on drug dealers. Think about what an addict is going to do when he/she is out of money and their dealer won't sell to them anymore on credit. Collect the bounty? After a while the dealers will be too paranoid to sell to anyone.

Later

Dutch

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

From: "Bob Bolgeo" bbolgeo@aol.com

MEDICAL ADVICE

I do not understand why prescription medicine is allowed to advertise on TV or why anyone would think of trying one of the medicines after listening to the laundry list of warnings of possible side effects. But this is definitely an exception!

Do you have feelings of inadequacy?

Do you suffer from shyness?

Do you sometimes wish you were more assertive?

Do you sometimes feel stressed?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist about Cabernet Sauvignon.

Cabernet Sauvignon is the safe, natural way to feel better and more confident. It can help ease you out of your shyness and let you tell the world that you are ready and willing to do just about anything.

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You will notice the benefits of Cabernet Sauvignon almost immediately, and, with a regimen of regular doses, you will overcome obstacles that prevent you from living the life you want.

Shyness and awkwardness will be a thing of the past. You will discover talents you never knew you had..

Cabernet Sauvignon may not be right for everyone. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not use it but women who would not mind nursing or becoming pregnant are encouraged to try it.

Side effects may include:

dizziness, nausea, vomiting, incarceration, loss of motor control, loss of clothing, loss of money, delusions of grandeur, table dancing, headache, dehydration, dry mouth and a desire to sing Karaoke and play all-night Strip Poker, Truth Or Dare and Naked Twister.

Warnings:

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may make you think you are whispering when you are not.

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to think you can sing

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

Please feel free to share this important medical information!

“LIFE IS A CABERNET OLD CHUM”!

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

From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

Grandfather in the Ark? (Classic funny short story)

My sister's eldest boy liked nothing better than to sit on his grandfather's knee and have stories read to him. One day after a story about Noah's ark, and how Noah led pairs of animals to the safety of the ark.

The little boy asked, 'Granddad, you are very old, were you in Noah's ark?' Gosh no' , said Granddad.' In that case, how come you didn't drown when the flood came?'

Easy to Swallow?

My sister, Paula, and her husband, Chris, had just finished tucking their young ones into bed one evening when they heard crying coming from the children's room. Rushing in, they found Tommy crying hysterically.

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He had accidentally swallowed a 5p piece and was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking could change his mind. Trying to calm him, Chris palmed a 5p coin that he happened to have in his pocket and pretended to remove it from Tommy's ear. Tommy, naturally, was delighted. In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed it and demanded cheerfully - 'Do it again, Dad!'

This morning on the way to work I wasn't really paying attention and I drove into the back of a car at some traffic lights.

The driver got out and it turned out he was a dwarf.

He said, "I'm not happy."

I said, "Well, which one are you then?"

A man walks into a bar and says, "Give me a beer before the problems start!"

He drinks the beer and then orders another saying, "Give me a beer before the problems start!"

The bartender looks confused. This goes on for a while, and after the fifth beer the bartender is totally confused and asks the man "When are you going to pay for these beers?"

The man answers, "Now the problems start!"

Bob left work one Friday evening.

But it was payday, so instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend partying with his mates and spending his entire wages.

When he finally appeared at home on Sunday night, he was confronted by his angry wife and was barraged for nearly two hours with a tirade befitting his actions. Finally his wife stopped the nagging and said to him, "How would you like it if you didn't see me for two or three days?"

He replied, "That would be fine with me."

Monday went by and he didn't see his wife.

Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results.

But on Thursday, the swelling went down just enough where he could see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

A dog walked in to the telegram office one day. He took out a blank form and wrote on it: "Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof. Woof."

Then he handed it to the clerk. The clerk examined the paper and said to the dog, "You know there are only nine words here? You could send another 'Woof' for the same price."

The dog replied, "But that would make no sense at all!"

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

DEAD PENGUINS

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica ? Where do they go? Wonder no more !!!

It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried.

The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

"Freeze a jolly good fellow."

"Freeze a jolly good fellow."

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

HOW MEN AND WOMEN RECORD THINGS IN THEIR DIARIES.

Wife's Diary:

Tonight, I thought my husband was acting weird.

We had made plans to meet at a nice restaurant for dinner. I was shopping with my friends all day long, so I thought he was upset at the fact that I was a bit late, but he made no comment on it.

Conversation wasn't flowing, so I suggested that we go somewhere quiet so we could talk. He agreed, but he didn't say much. I asked him what was wrong; He said, nothing.' I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset. He said he wasn't upset, that it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it.

On the way home, I told him that I loved him.

He smiled slightly, and kept driving. I can't explain his behaviour.

I don't know why he didn't say, 'I love you, too.'

When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely, as if he wanted nothing to do with me anymore. He just sat there quietly, and watched TV. He continued to seem distant and absent.

Finally, with silence all around us, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed.

But I still felt that he was distracted, and his thoughts were somewhere else. He fell asleep; I cried. I don't know what to do. I'm almost sure that his thoughts are with someone else.

... My life is a disaster!

Husband's Diary:

A two-foot putt ... who the hell misses a two-foot putt?

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

Civilization 2018

WELCOME to 2018

* Our Phones - Wireless

* Cooking - Fireless

* Cars - Keyless

* Food - Fatless

* Tires -Tubeless

* Dress - Sleeveless

* Youth - Jobless

* Leaders - Shameless

* Relationships - Meaningless

* Attitudes - Careless

* Babies - Fatherless

* Feelings - Heartless

* Education - Valueless

* Children – Mannerless

* Bills - Paperless

* We are-SPEECHLESS,

* Our Government-is CLUELESS,

* And our Politicians-are WORTHLESS!

* I'm scared – *hitless

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

THOSE WERE THE DAYS...FROM AN ENGLISH PERSPECTIVE

Those were the days!!

Yep, that's my era.....

My mum used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread butter on bread on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning..

Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting e.Coli Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake or at the beach instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), no beach closures then.

We all took PE and risked permanent injury with a pair of Dunlop sandals instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors that cost as much as a small car. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

We got the cane for doing something wrong at school, they used to call it discipline yet we all grew up to accept the rules and to honour & respect those older than us. We had 50 kids in our class and we all learned to read and write, do maths and spell almost all the words needed to write a grammatically correct letter....., FUNNY THAT!!

We all said prayers in school irrespective of our religion, sang the national anthem and no one got upset.

Staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention we wish we hadn't got.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself. I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital TV cable stations, OR bloody mobile phones. We weren't!!

Oh yeah ... And where was the antibiotics and sterilization kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played "King of the Hill" on piles of gravel left on vacant building sites and when we got hurt, mum pulled out the 2/6p bottle of iodine and then we got our backside spanked. Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10 day dose of antibiotics and then mum calls the lawyer to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have known that?

We never needed to get into group therapy and/or anger management classes. We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac!

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

FROZEN CARBURETOR

People often complain about the police, but you rarely hear about the positive things they do, such as this incident involving a biker and a frozen carburetor.

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Last January on a bitterly cold winter's day, a North Dakota State Trooper on patrol came upon a motorcyclist who was stalled by the roadside. The biker was swathed in heavy protective clothing and wearing a full-face helmet to protect from the cold weather.

What's the matter? asked the Trooper

"Carburetor's frozen," was the terse reply.

"Pee on it. That'll thaw it out."

"I can't," said the biker.

"OK, watch me closely and I'll show you." The Trooper unzipped and promptly warmed the carburetor as promised.

Moments later the bike started and the rider drove off, waving.

A few days later, the local State Troopers office received a note of thanks from the father of the motorcyclist.

It began: "On behalf of my daughter Susan..."

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

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com



Candace Owens @RealCanda... · 20m ✓

I feel TERRIBLE for Shani Davis. He lost the coin toss because he was black. For far too long, racist quarters have gone unchecked in this country.

One time I called TAILS, but it was HEADS.

Racist quarter attacks are on the rise since Trump's election.



Team USA skater's tweet draws mixed reactions after coin toss decides Ol...
foxnews.com

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From: "Jerry Tollett" haleja@epbfi.com

5-Minute Management Course

Lesson 1:

A man is getting into the shower just as his wife is finishing up her shower, when the doorbell rings.

The wife quickly wraps herself in a towel and runs downstairs.

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When she opens the door, there stands Bob, the next-door neighbor.

Before she says a word, Bob says, 'I'll give you \$800 to drop that towel..'

After thinking for a moment, the woman drops her towel and stands naked in front of Bob, after a few seconds, Bob hands her \$800 and leaves.

The woman wraps back up in the towel and goes back upstairs.

When she gets to the bathroom, her husband asks, 'Who was that?'

'It was Bob the next door neighbor,' she replies. 'Great,' the husband says, 'did he say anything about the \$800 he owes me?'

Moral of the story:

If you share critical information pertaining to credit and risk with your shareholders in time, you may be in a position to prevent avoidable exposure.

Lesson 2:

A priest offered a Nun a lift.

She got in and crossed her legs, forcing her gown to reveal a leg.

The priest nearly had an accident.

After controlling the car, he stealthily slid his hand up her leg..

The nun said, 'Father, remember Psalm 129?'

The priest removed his hand But, changing gears, he let his hand slide up her leg again. The nun once again said, 'Father, remember Psalm 129?'

The priest apologized 'Sorry sister but the flesh is weak.'

Arriving at the convent, the nun sighed heavily and went on her way.

On his arrival at the church, the priest rushed to look up Psalm 129. It said, 'Go forth and seek, further up, you will find glory.'

Moral of the story:

If you are not well informed in your job, you might miss a great opportunity.

Lesson 3:

A sales rep, an administration clerk, and the manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp.

They rub it and a Genie comes out.

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The Genie says, 'I'll give each of you just one wish.' 'Me first! Me first!' says the admin clerk. 'I want to be in the Bahamas , driving a speedboat, without a care in the world.' Puff! She's gone.

'Me next! Me next!' says the sales rep. 'I want to be in Hawaii , relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Coladas and the love of my life.'

Puff! He's gone.

'OK, you're up,' the Genie says to the manager. The manager says, 'I want those two back in the office after lunch.'

Moral of the story:

Always let your boss have the first say.

Lesson 4:

An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing.

A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, 'Can I also sit like you and do nothing?' The eagle answered: 'Sure, why not.'

So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested. All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Moral of the story:

To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.

Lesson 5:

A turkey was chatting with a bull.

'I would love to be able to get to the top of that tree' sighed the turkey, 'but I haven't got the energy.' 'Well, why don't you nibble on some of my droppings?' replied the bull. They're packed with nutrients.'

The turkey pecked at a lump of dung, and found it actually gave him enough strength to reach the lowest branch of the tree.

The next day, after eating some more dung, he reached the second branch.

Finally after a fourth night, the turkey was proudly perched at the top of the tree.

He was promptly spotted by a farmer, who shot him out of the tree.

Moral of the story:

Bull Shit might get you to the top, but it won't keep you there..

Lesson 6:

A little bird was flying south for the winter. It was so cold the bird froze and fell to the ground into a large field.

While he was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on him.

As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, he began to realize how warm he was.

The dung was actually thawing him out!

He lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy. A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate..

Following the sound, the cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, and promptly dug him out and ate him.

Morals of the story:

- (1) Not everyone who shits on you is your enemy.
- (2) Not everyone who gets you out of shit is your friend..
- (3) And when you're in deep shit, it's best to keep your mouth shut!

THUS ENDS THE FIVE MINUTE MANAGEMENT COURSE?

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

an oldie with a new twist!!!

RADIO IN MY NEW DODGE TRUCK

I bought a new Dodge 3500 Ram Tri-Flex Fuel Truck. It will run on hydrogen, gasoline, or E85.

I took it back to the dealer yesterday because I couldn't get the radio to work. The service technician explained that the radio was voice-activated.

'Nelson', the technician said to the radio.

The radio replied, 'Ricky or Willie?'

'Willie!' he continued, and 'On the Road Again' came from the speakers.

Then he said, 'Ray Charles!', and in an instant 'Georgia on My Mind' replaced Willie Nelson.

I drove away happy, and for the next few days, every time I'd say, 'Beethoven', I'd get beautiful classical music, and if I said, 'Beatles', I'd get one of their awesome songs.

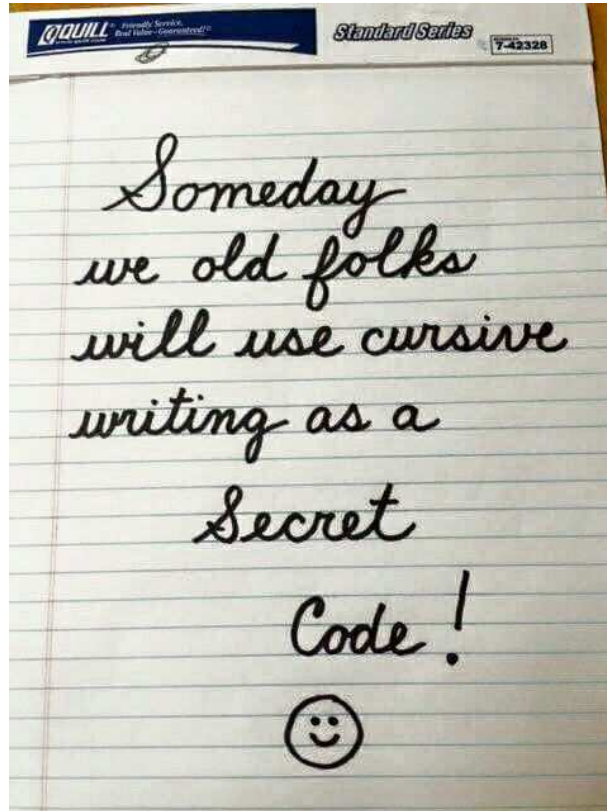
Well, yesterday, some old lady ran a red light and nearly smashed into my new truck, but luckily I swerved in time to avoid her. I yelled, 'You Crazy Bitch!'

Immediately the radio responded with, "Ladies and gentlemen, The Democratic Leader and speaker of the House ...Nancy Pelosi!"

Damn, I love this truck.!!!!

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

From: "Ray Beloate" beerman@rittermail.com



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



**Embarrassing our kids,
that's just one of the
services we offer!!!!!!**

<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@epbfii.com

ADAM BALDWIN TO GUN-GRABBING CELEBS: TIME TO ARM SCHOOL STAFF WITH GUNS

by AWR HAWKINS 15 Feb 2018

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-hollywood/2018/02/15/adam-baldwin-gun-grabbing-celebs-time-arm-school-staff-guns/>



Hours after the horrendous toll of the Florida school shooting on Wednesday became apparent, Hollywood veteran actor Adam Baldwin reacted to gun-grabbing celebrities by calling for school staff members to be armed with guns.

And this call is more than reasonable when one considers that Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School had two armed resource officers assigned to it, yet a killer was still able to infiltrate campus and harm innocents. Armed teachers and staff might have been able to take out the killer once he got on campus, thereby saving every life or at least saving some.

Baldwin tweeted:

Adam Baldwin?@AdamBaldwin

Again, the shooter was stopped by people with firearms. Schools need armed security and volunteer staff members with CCW. 6:51 PM - Feb 14, 2018

Baldwin makes the point about men with guns stopping the attack because men with guns apprehended the attacker. But the critical point is that a school staff ought not be required to be sitting ducks.

Looked at another way, students ought not be required to be sitting ducks because of asinine policies that keep school staff members from being armed for self-defense.

Baldwin's suggestion is very important for another reason, he understands that armed resource officers and armed staff are crucial to school safety.

Again, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High had resource officers but lacked the armed staff. Therefore, when the killer made it past the outside parameter there was no one on the inside who could stop him. Anyone who thinks of copy-cattin the Florida attack should not only have to fear the presence of officers but should also have to frustrate themselves to near paralysis in worrying about which teachers and staff can (and will) shoot back

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I have been advocating for teachers to be educated, trained in the use of firearms and be allowed to carry them on school grounds. We put the minds of our children in the care of the teachers, why not their bodies. States should pay for this education for their teachers and any licenses for teachers who decide to be armed.

Some of you out there might think I am crazy about this issue, but we have tried your way by making our schools 'gun free zones' and it hasn't worked. We need to protect our children and this is one way to do it. UT

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

LOCAL REPORTER GOES ROGUE, TELLS TRUTH ABOUT GUNS, ENRAGES LIBERALS ON AIR

BY V SAXENA, FEBRUARY 17, 2018 AT 9:02AM

https://conservativetribune.com/reporter-tells-truth-about-guns/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=CTBreaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=conservative-tribune

During a report this week, a local Minnesota reporter blew some uninformed liberal minds by touting some basic facts about gun ownership in his state.

“We took a very hard look at these numbers, and we did find that Minnesota has a very high rate of gun ownership — one of the highest in the country — but it has a relatively low rate of violent crime,” revealed Minneapolis station WCCO reporter Pat Kessler in a segment Thursday.

He added that in 2017, Minnesota “set a new record for firearms background checks,” processing 473,975 checks on permits, 94,383 checks on handguns and 125,516 checks on long guns.

In other words, more people attempted to purchase weapons in the state last year than ever before.

“Minnesota set another 2017 record, too,” his report continued. “The State Department of Public Safety reports 283,188 Minnesotans now have permits to legally carry firearms in public.”

Listen to the full report AAT THE WEBSITE:

Interestingly, these numbers coincide perfectly with the research of economist, commentator and gun rights advocate John R. Lott, whose award-winning 1998 book, “More Guns, Less Crime,” centers around the thesis that a well-armed population deters crime.

“Criminals are deterred by higher penalties. Just as higher arrest and conviction rates deter crime, so does the risk that someone committing a crime will confront someone able to defend him or herself,” he explained in an interview that year with the University of Chicago Press.

Do you believe that “more guns” means “less crime?”

“There is a strong negative relationship between the number of law-abiding citizens with permits and the crime rate — as more people obtain permits there is a greater decline in violent crime rates. For each additional year that a concealed handgun law is in effect the murder rate declines by 3 percent, rape by 2 percent, and robberies by over 2 percent.”

Other research bears this out. Five years ago Forbes columnist Larry Bell pointed to a then-recent Pew Research Study that found that “(n)ational rates of gun homicide and other violent gun crimes” had dropped significantly since the mid-1990s.

But as noted by Bell, “Those gun crime rates certainly aren’t diminishing for lack of supply...at least not for law-abiding legal buyers.”

“Last December, the FBI recorded a record number of 2.78 million background checks for purchases that month, surpassing a 2.01 million mark set the month before by about 39 percent. That December 2012 figure, in turn, was up 49 percent from a previous record on that month the year before,” he wrote.

And according to data from the FBI, the number of background checks conducted annually have only grown since then, jumping from a total of 19.6 million in 2012 to a high of 25.2 million in 2017.

More people are seeking out and obtaining guns, and yet America's top metropolitans are continuing to see record "drops in crime and murder."

Why is that? I'm not going to speculate because I'm not a trained researcher, but I will quote John R. Lott, who has said many times over, "More guns, less crime."

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

FLORIDA SENATE COMMITTEE TAKING UP BILL TO ARM TEACHERS

George Frey/Getty Images

by AWR HAWKINS17 Feb 2018415

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/02/17/florida-senate-committee-taking-up-bill-to-arm-teachers/>



Florida's Senate Judiciary Committee is taking up a bill February 20 designed to allow designated teachers to be armed for defense of themselves and their students.

The bill was proposed by Sen. Dennis Baxley (R-12) before the February 14 attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, but remained idle.

The February 21st, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!

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USA Today reports that Sen. Greg Steube (R-23) stepped in following the attack, seized the bill, and pushed it to the forefront. They quote Steube saying, "I don't feel gun-free zones protect anyone but criminals, and there is no evidence that says otherwise." The bill would allow the principal of a school to designate persons to carry firearms on campus.

The committee hearing comes as Senate President Joe Negron (R-25) displays openness to doing whatever must be done to keep schools safe. The day after the Stoneman Douglas High attack, he said he pushing "for more money for school safety and to allow district superintendents to act in their schools' best interests."

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We I first brought this issue up years ago I think that there were a number of y'all out there who thought I was crazy. Maybe I am about arming teachers. Crazy as a fox maybe. UT

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

UPENN LAW PROFESSOR TOLD TO TAKE 'LEAVE OF ABSENCE' FOR POLITICALLY INCORRECT VIEWS

by THOMAS D. WILLIAMS, PH.D. 18 Feb 201

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/02/18/upenn-law-professor-told-take-leave-absence-politically-incorrect-views/>

After publicly addressing liberal taboos and free speech on American college campuses, a University of Pennsylvania Law School professor received a condemnatory "open letter" signed by 33 of her colleagues denouncing her views.

Some time after the publication of the open letter attacking Professor Amy Wax, who is UPenn's Robert Mundheim Professor of Law, the dean of the law school asked her to take a leave of absence next year and to stop teaching a mandatory first-year course, saying he was getting "pressure" to banish the professor for her conservative views.

Professor Wax's crime consisted in an op-ed in the Philadelphia Inquirer last August in which she and a colleague from the University of San Diego Law School dared to suggest that many of the "bourgeois" values that reigned in America prior to the 1960s were actually good for society and "a major contributor to the productivity, educational gains and social coherence of that period."

The two professors laid out the "cultural script" embraced during that period in the following terms:

"Get married before you have children and strive to stay married for their sake. Get the education you need for gainful employment, work hard and avoid idleness. Go the extra

mile for your employer or client. Be a patriot, ready to serve the country. Be neighborly, civic-minded and charitable. Avoid coarse language in public. Be respectful of authority. Eschew substance abuse and crime.

The breakdown of this “bourgeois culture,” they contended, underlies many of today’s social pathologies, while a return to that culture would go a long way toward addressing them.”

What critics deemed most offensive about the original op-ed, it would seem, was the suggestion that some cultures are truly superior to others and more suited to human thriving. Such an assertion is apparently taboo in today’s academia, which bends over backwards to appear impartial in its assessment of what makes a society good.

In a Feb. 16 essay in the Wall Street Journal, Professor Wax chronicles the adventure of becoming a target of liberal academia as well as the surprising amount of support (much of it private) from people who are fed up with the illiberal hegemony of politically correct academia.

Importantly, Wax relates how virtually none of the criticism of her views actually engaged the arguments, but instead consisted in “hurling” insults and labels meant to shut down—rather than stimulate—academic debate.

The aptly titled essay—“What Can’t Be Debated on Campus”—explores how the abstract talk about free speech talk on American college campuses translates into action when confronting unpopular ideas. “It is only when people are confronted with speech they don’t like that we see whether these abstractions are real to them,” Wax writes.

Academic institutions should be “places where people are free to think and reason about important questions that affect our society and our way of life—something not possible in today’s atmosphere of enforced orthodoxy,” she laments.

“What those of us in academia should certainly not do is engage in unreasoned speech: hurling slurs and epithets, name-calling, vilification and mindless labeling,” she adds, but slinging labels “doesn’t enlighten, inform, edify or educate. Indeed, it undermines these goals by discouraging or stifling dissent.”

As a follow-up article to the original controversy noted: “Every open letter you sign to condemn a colleague for his or her words brings us closer to a world in which academic disagreements are resolved by social force and political power, not by argumentation and persuasion.”

The signers of the “open letter” sent a very destructive message to students, Wax observed in her Wall Street Journal piece.

“My 33 colleagues might have believed they were protecting students from being injured by harmful opinions, but they were doing those students no favors,” she writes. “Students need the opposite of protection from diverse arguments and points of view. They need exposure to them. This exposure will teach them how to think.”

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Offense and upset go with the territory and are part and parcel of an open, democratic society. “We should be teaching our young people to get used to these things, but instead we are teaching them the opposite,” she added.

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

THIS SCHOOL'S NOT LIKELY TO BE NEXT TARGET ... GOOD GUYS ARE ALL PACKING HEAT AND IT WORKS

February 19, 2018 | [Tom Tillison](#)

[http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/02/19/schools-not-likely-next-target-good-guys-packing-heat-works-](http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/02/19/schools-not-likely-next-target-good-guys-packing-heat-works-604483?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=BPR%20Email&utm_campaign=DMS)

[604483?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=BPR%20Email&utm_campaign=DMS](http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/02/19/schools-not-likely-next-target-good-guys-packing-heat-works-604483?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=BPR%20Email&utm_campaign=DMS)

Amid all the hysteria over gun control in the wake of yet another school shooting, a school in New Mexico is not likely to be the next target. ...because everyone's packing heat!

Well, maybe not everyone, but many teachers at the parochial school carry firearms, as does the principle and head of security, [according to Inside Edition](#).



By a show of hands, student's in a classroom at the school were asked if they feel safer knowing their teacher was carrying a gun. Every hand in the room went up, as seen in the video clip [AT THE WEBSITE](#).

Some in law enforcement support the idea of arming select teachers as a safety precaution.

Polk County, Fla. Sheriff Grady Judd said allowing some hand-picked teachers to carry firearms in the classroom would be a “game changer,” Fox News reported.

The sheriff's initiative would screen teachers and include skill and psychological requirements.

The reaction on social media suggests that many Americans would support the idea of arming teachers.

<SNIP>

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Mike Williamson" mzmadmike@gmail.com

CALIFORNIA GREEN-LIGHTS INITIATIVE THAT IS CONSPIRACY THEORIST'S DREAM

It would ban chemicals, GMOs, smart meters, reverse vaccine law, end water treatment.

BETH MOLE - 2/12/2018,

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2018/02/california-green-lights-initiative-thats-a-conspiracy-theorists-dream/>

Activists in California can now move forward collecting signatures for an expansive ballot initiative that encompasses a world of non-evidence-based and fringe notions, according to California Secretary of State Alex Padilla.

Anti-vaccine Californians are rich, white, but not necessarily highly educated

The initiative would eliminate vaccination requirements for schools and daycares, banish genetically modified organisms, and prohibit basic water treatments with fluoride and chlorine. The initiative would ban more than 300 chemicals, including fire retardants, and it would order the removal of smart meters. These, the initiative claims, are "neither smart nor meters but intermittent samplers, not accurate, not accountable, [that] emit and receive unnecessary radiation."

The initiative, dubbed the "California Clean Environment" initiative, will create an elected, three-person board to oversee the sweeping regulations and approve new chemicals. Violations under the initiative would be considered up to felony crimes punishable by fines and prison sentences.

As justification for extensive regulation, the initiative claims that GMOs and unspecified contaminants in the environment, food, and vaccines are causing cancers, autism, Parkinson's, and a slew of other diseases.

"We are trying to restore people's ability to fight for themselves and decide what they should do," the initiative's author, Cheri Jensen, told Patch.com. "These companies that make the chemicals have taken our right to refuse those chemicals away."

Measles outbreak rages after anti-vaccine groups target vulnerable community

The initiative states that “nothing may be introduced into people, commerce, or the environment if it causes or increases the probability of one or more of the following in people, mammals, birds, bees, other beneficial insects, or amphibians.”

This is followed by a long list of conditions and diseases spanning death, cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer’s. The list also hits allergies, interference with sleep, loss of productivity of the soil, and a die-off of intestinal bacteria.

With the state authorization, Jensen is now clear to start collecting signatures to get the initiative on the ballot this November. She’ll need to collect valid signatures from 365,880 registered voters—five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2014 general election—in order to qualify. She has until August 8 to do so.

California already has some of the strictest environmental measures in the country, and the state has previously rejected even labeling GMOs in foods. Still, the initiative may find a foothold with the anti-vaccine and vaccine-hesitant crowd. In 2016, California implemented a law that clamped down on personal belief exemptions for required vaccines in school-aged children, which riled opponents. Many have vowed to overturn the law, which this initiative would do, among many other things.

An initial assessment by California’s Legislative Analyst’s Office and Department of Finance determined that, if the measure passes, it would “result in a substantial net change in state and local finances.”

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YOU JUST CAN’T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

QUOTATIONS OF JEFF COOPER

John Dean "Jeff" Cooper (May 10, 1920 - September 25, 2006) is known as father of the "Modern Technique" of handgun shooting. Most firearm professionals consider him to be one of the 20th century's leading experts on the use and history of small arms.

Col. Cooper is noted for his no-nonsense quotations about guns and personal defense. If you know of a gun quote from Col. Cooper not listed here, send it to us.(But make SURE it’s not already listed. Okay?)

"One cannot legislate the maniacs off the street ... these maniacs can only be shut down by an armed citizenry. Indeed bad things can happen in nations where the citizenry is armed, but not as bad as those which seem to be threatening our disarmed citizenry in this country at this time."

"Owning a handgun doesn't make you armed any more than owning a guitar makes you a musician."

"Remember the first rule of gunfighting ... have a gun."

"The police cannot protect the citizen at this stage of our development, and they cannot even protect themselves in many cases. It is up to the private citizen to protect himself and his family, and this is not only acceptable, but mandatory."

"The will to survive is not as important as the will to prevail ... the answer to criminal aggression is retaliation."

"Safety is something that happens between your ears, not something you hold in your hands."

"All the people constitute the militia - according to the Founding Fathers. Therefore every able-bodied man has a duty under the Constitution to become part of the 'well-regulated' militia, specifically to understand and perform well with the individual weapon currently issued to the regular establishment Thus one who has not qualified himself with the M-16 may not be considered to be a responsible citizen."

"Already a couple of the faithful have sent in checks for a foundation memorial to the innocents who perished at the hands of the ninja at Waco ... I have been criticized by referring to our federal masked men as 'ninja' ... Let us reflect upon the fact that a man who covers his face shows reason to be ashamed of what he is doing. A man who takes it upon himself to shed blood while concealing his identity is a revolting perversion of the warrior ethic. It has long been my conviction that a masked man with a gun is a target. I see no reason to change that view."

"One bleeding-heart type asked me in a recent interview if I did not agree that 'violence begets violence.' I told him that it is my earnest endeavor to see that it does. I would like very much to ensure — and in some cases I have — that any man who offers violence to his fellow citizen begets a whole lot more in return than he can enjoy."

"The purpose of the pistol is to stop a fight that somebody else has started, almost always at very short range."

"Bushido is all very well in its way, but it is no match for a 30-06."

"A free man must not be told how to think, either by the government or by social activists. He may certainly be shown the right way, but he must not accept being forced into it."

"The conclusions seem inescapable that in certain circles a tendency has arisen to fear people who fear government. Government, as the Father of Our Country put it so well, is a dangerous servant and a fearful master. People who understand history, especially the history of government, do well to fear it. For a people to express openly their fear of those of us who are afraid of tyranny is alarming. Fear of the state is in no sense subversive. It is, to the contrary, the healthiest political philosophy for a free people."

"Hoplophobia is a mental disturbance characterized by irrational aversion to weapons, as opposed to justified apprehension about those who may wield them."

"The media insist that crime is the major concern of the American public today. In this connection they generally push the point that a disarmed society would be a crime-free society. They will not accept the truth that if you take all the guns off the street you still will

have a crime problem, whereas if you take the criminals off the street you cannot have a gun problem."

"In the larger sense, however, the personal ownership of firearms is only secondarily a matter of defense against the criminal. Note the following from Thomas Jefferson: The strongest reason for the people to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against the tyranny of government. That is why our masters in Washington are so anxious to disarm us. They are not afraid of criminals. They are afraid of a populace which cannot be subdued by tyrants."

"The 1911 pistol remains the service pistol of choice in the eyes of those who understand the problem. Back when we audited the FBI academy in 1947, I was told that I ought not to use my pistol in their training program because it was not fair. Maybe the first thing one should demand of his sidearm is that it be unfair."

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From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

NEURAL NETWORKS EVERYWHERE

New chip reduces neural networks' power consumption by up to 95 percent, making them practical for battery-powered devices.

Larry Hardesty | MIT News Office, February 13, 2018

<http://news.mit.edu/2018/chip-neural-networks-battery-powered-devices-0214>

Most recent advances in artificial-intelligence systems such as speech- or face-recognition programs have come courtesy of neural networks, densely interconnected meshes of simple information processors that learn to perform tasks by analyzing huge sets of training data.

But neural nets are large, and their computations are energy intensive, so they're not very practical for handheld devices. Most smartphone apps that rely on neural nets simply upload data to internet servers, which process it and send the results back to the phone.

Now, MIT researchers have developed a special-purpose chip that increases the speed of neural-network computations by three to seven times over its predecessors, while reducing power consumption 94 to 95 percent. That could make it practical to run neural networks locally on smartphones or even to embed them in household appliances.

"The general processor model is that there is a memory in some part of the chip, and there is a processor in another part of the chip, and you move the data back and forth between them when you do these computations," says Avishek Biswas, an MIT graduate student in electrical engineering and computer science, who led the new chip's development.

"Since these machine-learning algorithms need so many computations, this transferring back and forth of data is the dominant portion of the energy consumption. But the computation these algorithms do can be simplified to one specific operation, called the dot product. Our approach was, can we implement this dot-product functionality inside the memory so that you don't need to transfer this data back and forth?"

Biswas and his thesis advisor, Anantha Chandrakasan, dean of MIT's School of Engineering and the Vannevar Bush Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, describe the new chip in a paper that Biswas is presenting this week at the International Solid State Circuits Conference.

BACK TO ANALOG

Neural networks are typically arranged into layers. A single processing node in one layer of the network will generally receive data from several nodes in the layer below and pass data to several nodes in the layer above. Each connection between nodes has its own "weight," which indicates how large a role the output of one node will play in the computation performed by the next. Training the network is a matter of setting those weights.

A node receiving data from multiple nodes in the layer below will multiply each input by the weight of the corresponding connection and sum the results. That operation — the summation of multiplications — is the definition of a dot product. If the dot product exceeds some threshold value, the node will transmit it to nodes in the next layer, over connections with their own weights.

A neural net is an abstraction: The "nodes" are just weights stored in a computer's memory. Calculating a dot product usually involves fetching a weight from memory, fetching the associated data item, multiplying the two, storing the result somewhere, and then repeating the operation for every input to a node. Given that a neural net will have thousands or even millions of nodes, that's a lot of data to move around.

But that sequence of operations is just a digital approximation of what happens in the brain, where signals traveling along multiple neurons meet at a "synapse," or a gap between bundles of neurons. The neurons' firing rates and the electrochemical signals that cross the synapse correspond to the data values and weights. The MIT researchers' new chip improves efficiency by replicating the brain more faithfully.

In the chip, a node's input values are converted into electrical voltages and then multiplied by the appropriate weights. Summing the products is simply a matter of combining the voltages. Only the combined voltages are converted back into a digital representation and stored for further processing.

The chip can thus calculate dot products for multiple nodes — 16 at a time, in the prototype — in a single step, instead of shuttling between a processor and memory for every computation.

ALL OR NOTHING

One of the keys to the system is that all the weights are either 1 or -1. That means that they can be implemented within the memory itself as simple switches that either close a circuit or leave it open. Recent theoretical work suggests that neural nets trained with only two weights should lose little accuracy — somewhere between 1 and 2 percent.

Biswas and Chandrakasan's research bears that prediction out. In experiments, they ran the full implementation of a neural network on a conventional computer and the binary-

weight equivalent on their chip. Their chip's results were generally within 2 to 3 percent of the conventional network's.

"This is a promising real-world demonstration of SRAM-based in-memory analog computing for deep-learning applications," says Dario Gil, vice president of artificial intelligence at IBM. "The results show impressive specifications for the energy-efficient implementation of convolution operations with memory arrays. It certainly will open the possibility to employ more complex convolutional neural networks for image and video classifications in IoT [the internet of things] in the future."

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GRAPHENE FILTER MAKES EVEN SYDNEY HARBOUR WATER DRINKABLE

Michael Irving, February 16, 2018

<https://newatlas.com/graphene-graphair-water-filter/53437/>

Among graphene's long list of superpowers, filtering water may be one of the most directly beneficial. Now a team of Australian scientists has demonstrated how effective a specially-designed form of graphene can be at purifying water with a pretty challenging test: the filter made water from Sydney Harbour safe to drink in one step.



Dong Han Seo, of the CSIRO, holds a flask of water taken from Sydney Harbour, which has been purified to a drinkable standard thanks to a graphene-based filter(Credit: CSIRO)

As well as being extremely strong and an excellent conductor of heat and electricity, graphene has proven itself to be an effective water filter. These devices could take the form of biofilm sheets floating on top of dirty or salty water, which absorb and purify the water.

Other methods include a graphene-oxide membrane that can filter even the smallest salts out of water without impeding the flow.

The newest graphene water filter system was made using a form of the material dubbed "Graphair," which was developed last year by a team at the CSIRO. Graphene is normally created using an energy-intensive process of chemical vapor deposition onto metal substrates, but Graphair is made from soybean oil, an inexpensive and renewable material.

In the new study, the team coated a commercial water filter with a thin film of Graphair, which contains microscopic nano-channels that block contaminants while allowing water to pass through. To really put it to the test, they ran samples of water from the heavily-polluted Sydney Harbour through these filters, some with a layer of Graphair and some without. After just one pass, the Graphair filters had purified the water to a drinkable standard.

"In Graphair we've found a perfect filter for water purification," says Dong Han Seo, lead author on a paper describing the project. "It can replace the complex, time consuming and multi-stage processes currently needed with a single step. All that's needed is heat, our graphene, a membrane filter and a small water pump."

The Graphair filters also managed to keep their filtration rate higher for longer. One of the main problems with regular filters is that the unwanted material tends to build up on the membrane, eventually slowing down the rate that water can pass through. In these tests, the team found that after 72 hours, filters in the control group were only half as effective as they'd been initially. The Graphair filters didn't have this problem, with membranes 4 cm² (0.6 in²) in size processing about 0.5 liters (17 oz) per day.

The researchers say they hope to start field trials of the Graphair water filters in developing countries next year. In the long run, the technology could be scaled up to clean a home or town's water supply, and may eventually be used to filter seawater and industrial wastewater on a large scale.

The study was published in the journal Nature Communications. The researchers describe their work in the video below.

Source: CSIRO

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UK CHURCH SPIRES USED TO BOOST PHONE, WI-FI SIGNAL

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/826/uk-church-spires-used-boost-phone-wi-fi-signal-doc-1026ir1>

Church spires across Britain will be used to boost broadband, mobile phone and WiFi connectivity in rural areas, under a deal struck between the government and the Church of England, it was announced Sunday.

"This agreement with the Church of England will mean that even a 15th century building can help make Britain fit for the future," said Matt Hancock, the minister for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.



AFP / PAUL ELLIS The Church of England has agreed to allow church spires across Britain to be used to boost broadband, mobile phone and WiFi connectivity in rural areas

The CoE has 16,000 church buildings and around 65 percent of its churches are located in rural communities, making them ideal hosts of key digital infrastructure.

There are currently more than 120 cases of broadband and mobile services being delivered from parish churches, from wireless transmitters fitted in spires and towers, to aerials, satellite dishes and fibre cables.

"We know that rural churches in particular have always served as a hub for their communities," said Stephen Cottrell, the bishop of Chelmsford in southeast England, where the church has already helped boost broadband access.

"Encouraging churches to improve connectivity will help tackle two of the biggest issues rural areas face -- isolation and sustainability."

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EARTH'S MAGNETIC POLES MAY BE ABOUT TO FLIP. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY DO?

By: [Nidhi Goyal](#) | February 12th, 2018

<http://www.industrytap.com/earths-magnetic-poles-flip-guess-will-happen/44823>



[inShare](#) - Image by The Cosmos News on Youtube

Earth's magnetic field extends from the interior of the planet out into space. It protects us from solar and cosmic rays and deflects most of the solar wind, which would otherwise make holes in the ozone layer that protects us from harmful ultraviolet radiation. When harmful particles enter the atmosphere, Earth's magnetic field deflects them.

Experts have warned that Earth's magnetic field has weakened by around 15 percent over the last 200 years. According to scientists, it could be a sign that the Earth's magnetic poles are about to flip. If this happens, there will be no light, no computers, and no cellphones. Even filling a car's gas tank would be impossible.

This switching process could take centuries, but if it happens, we would be exposed to harmful radiation, and it may cause entire species to go extinct. Probably it will render some areas of the planet uninhabitable by knocking out power grids.

"We have a double layer defense shield," said Jim Wild, a space scientist at Lancaster University.

"Space is full of stuff that's not great for biological tissue. If we didn't have an atmosphere, that stuff would be hitting us. It's the magnetic field that protects the atmosphere from the solar wind."

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From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

NASA BUDGET PROPOSAL DEFUNDS SPACE STATION, SPACE TELESCOPES AND MORE

The White House's controversial plans for U.S. space science and exploration could ignite a budgetary battle with Congress

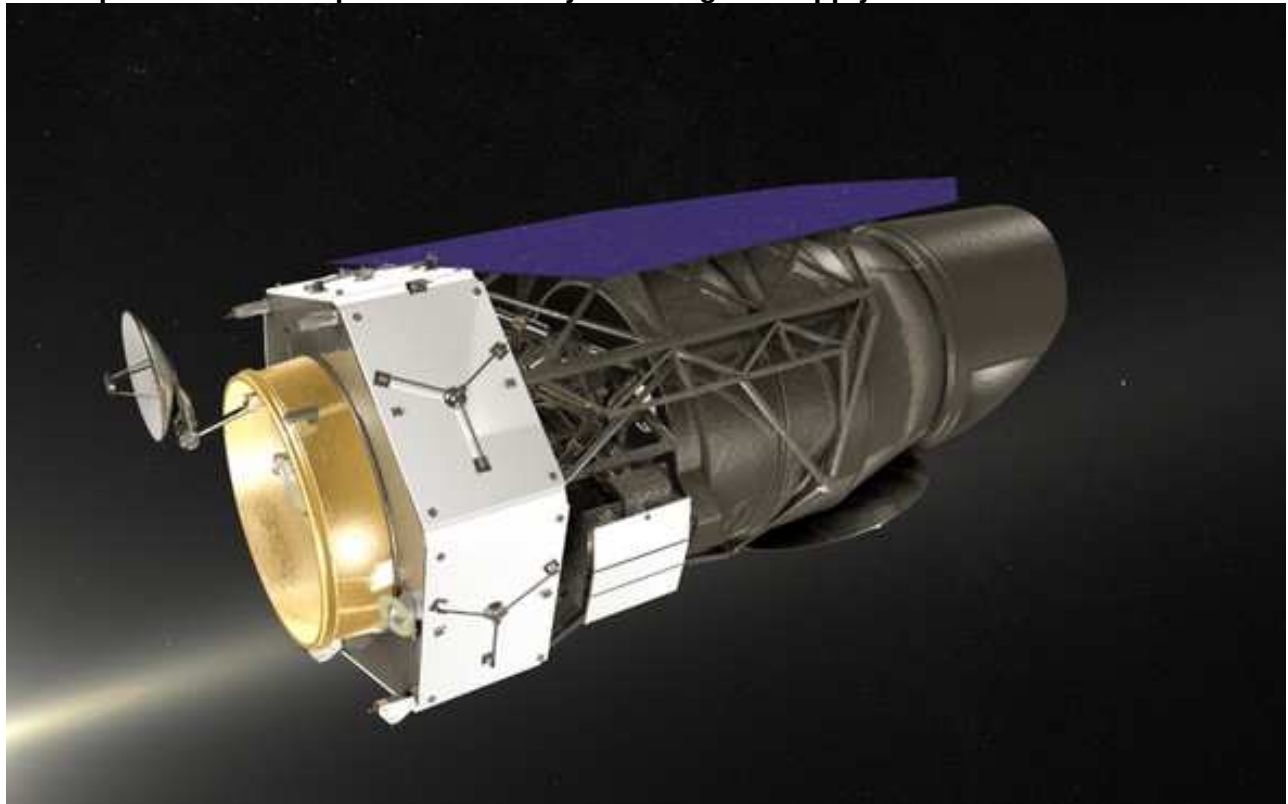
By Lee Billings on February 12, 2018

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/nasa-budget-proposal-defunds-space-station-space-telescopes-and-more/?WT.mc_id=send-to-friend

The Trump administration is proposing a budget of \$19.9 billion for NASA in its request for fiscal year 2019—slightly more than its request for fiscal year 2018. The additional funds

would support the administration's directive to reinvigorate human and robotic exploration of Earth's moon and other planets in the solar system but would also come at the expense of several other big-ticket items in NASA's portfolio—namely the International Space Station (ISS) as well as the Wide Field Infrared Space Telescope (WFIRST), a "flagship"-class mission next in line for launch after the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). The budget also recommends canceling five NASA Earth science missions as well as the space agency's Office of Education.

Under the proposal U.S. funding for the ISS would cease in 2025, a year after the station's current retirement date. That's years ahead of 2028, however, which many public and private ISS stakeholders have been counting on as the most likely target for an extension of the ISS's mission that has cost U.S. taxpayers some \$100 billion since the 1990s. The station would potentially live on, however, sustained by still-nascent public-private partnerships that could in theory shift the bulk of upkeep costs to private businesses. To that end, the budget also calls for \$150 million in 2019 and more in future years to help commercial companies expand their activities in low Earth orbit, although it does not specify the ISS as an explicit part of that spending. In recent years the ISS has become a vital destination for U.S. launch providers such as SpaceX and Boeing, which are competing for NASA contracts to ferry astronauts to and from the orbital outpost. Rockets from SpaceX and other providers already make regular supply runs to the ISS.



An artist's rendition of NASA's Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), a major observatory in development for launch in the 2020s. Ranked by the U.S. astrophysics community as the highest priority of their field in that decade, WFIRST is meant to study dark energy, dark matter and exoplanets. Now, however, it may be canceled according to a White House budget plan. Credit: NASA

Despite the budget's supposed support for more commercial activity in low Earth orbit, industry representatives view its defunding of the ISS as shortsighted. "Only now are we finally reaching the full operational level for which ISS had been designed," Commercial Spaceflight Federation president Eric Stallmer said in a statement. "An early retirement of the station prior to 2028 would not allow sufficient time to leverage the asset appropriately..., the ISS should fly throughout a transition period until such time as we have a sustainable orbital economy, more likely to be in place by 2028."

Within NASA the official view is decidedly rosier. "The commercial cargo and crew work continues through the life of the International Space Station in the budget," NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot said in a statement. "Further, this budget proposes for NASA to ramp up efforts to transition low Earth [orbital] activities to the commercial sector, and end direct federal government support of the ISS in 2025 and begin relying on commercial partners for our low Earth orbit research and technology demonstration requirements." Some of the savings from defunding the ISS would feed into NASA's return to the moon, chiefly a new lunar robotic exploration program as well as a "Deep Space Gateway" in lunar orbit that would serve as a staging ground for operations on the surface. Some of those payloads, presumably, would launch on NASA's in-development mega-rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), which is slated for its first test flight in 2019 or 2020 and has to date consumed more than \$18 billion of taxpayer funds. In the White House proposal, the SLS and its associated Orion spacecraft would receive \$3.7 billion in fiscal year 2019.

The White House has bleaker plans for WFIRST, which the U.S. space science community ranked as the highest priority for NASA's astrophysics program in the 2010 Decadal Survey. Offering a field of view 100 times larger than that of the iconic Hubble Space Telescope, WFIRST is meant to study dark energy—the mysterious force driving the universe's accelerating expansion—as well as large numbers of planets orbiting other stars, among many other scientific objectives. The telescope is currently being developed for launch in the mid-2020s. According to language in the new budget proposal, however, WFIRST should instead be canceled because it "was not executable within its previous budget and would have required a significant funding increase in 2019 and future years." WFIRST's funds, the budget indicates, would instead be given to smaller, competitively selected astrophysics missions akin to those led by outside researchers as part of NASA's New Frontiers program. Meanwhile the budget still includes necessary funds for WFIRST's predecessor, JWST, which is undergoing final testing in California and is slated for launch as early as next year at a total estimated cost of \$8.8 billion.

WFIRST's estimated price tag has indeed grown in recent years, up to \$3.9 billion in latest estimates, but NASA is in the midst of replanning the telescope to bring it back within its previously approved budget of \$3.2 billion. Much of the project's past cost growth ironically stems from a "free" upgrade that came in 2012, when the National Reconnaissance Office gifted NASA with a spare Hubble-size mirror larger than the one the space agency planned to build for WFIRST. The mirror's larger size would boost WFIRST's scientific capabilities but also necessitated expensive redesigns and a pricier launch on a heftier rocket.

The budget also resurrects cuts proposed earlier by the White House for fiscal year 2018, namely the cancellation of NASA's Office of Education as well as five Earth science missions: the Radiation Budget Instrument (RBI); the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) satellite; the Orbiting Carbon Observatory 3 (OCO 3); Earth-observing instruments aboard the Deep Space Climate Observatory (DSCOVR); and the Climate

Absolute Radiance and Refractivity Observatory (CLARREO) Pathfinder. These previously proposed cuts have largely floundered in Congress, which has yet to pass them into law. They, along with the rest of the Trump administration's latest budget request, may face a similar fate this year, perhaps even being dead on arrival in Congress given legislators' recent passage of a two-year budget deal funding the government through September 2019. Already, one staunch advocate of human spaceflight, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) is calling the budget a "nonstarter" due to its defunding of the ISS. In the House, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) issued a statement saying "the only good thing about this budget is that it's so extreme, I have no doubt that it will be summarily rejected by both sides of the aisle."

CLARREO, much like WFIRST, was also a high-priority recommendation from the U.S. scientific community, codified in a 2007 decadal report. Of CLARREO's proposed cancellation, Lightfoot said nothing, and only noted WFIRST's potential axing as a "hard decision." Most scientists outside NASA, however, appear to be greeting the news with more opprobrium. On Twitter, Caleb Scharf, an astrophysicist at Columbia University, called the budget "a hostile bill" that burdens NASA with "a set of priorities that veer away from science." Speaking to reporters from Nature, David Spergel, an astrophysicist at Princeton University and co-chair of the WFIRST science team expressed shock: "If a few people in the White House can override these decisions, why do a decadal survey at all?" In tweets, Spergel offered a blunter assessment, writing that the "U.S. is abandoning its leadership in space astronomy," and that the proposed cuts "imperil not only WFIRST but any future major mission."

There is, perhaps, some silver lining for space science advocates in the White House's budget proposal: It aims to boost NASA's planetary science budget to \$2.235 billion, an increase of 22 percent. Of that increase, \$50 million supports the continued development of collecting and returning samples from Mars, which was a top decadal priority. But much of the rest goes toward goals largely absent from the planetary science community's consensus planning, namely the new push for lunar exploration. And in contrast to those hopeful goals, there remains one harsh reality: Beyond the early 2020s the proposal forecasts a flat budget for NASA that would not increase with inflation—effectively acting as a reduction in purchasing power and thus a budget cut each year.

To Casey Dreier, director of space policy at The Planetary Society, supporting such ambitious yet unsanctioned missions while acting to undermine ones like WFIRST makes little sense, particularly because Congress has proactively provided hundreds of millions of dollars for that mission already on a bipartisan basis. "There is a lot of support out there for [WFIRST], and the potential science return is very high," he says. "More to the point, with Congressional activity that increased the size of the budgetary pie there is no reason that NASA's science program can't see a bigger slice. This allows NASA to maintain critical momentum in rebuilding its planetary exploration program, preserve its Earth science missions, and to begin work on the next generation of space telescopes. We should use this rare moment of bipartisan support in spending and invest in the United States' scientific industry and workforce."

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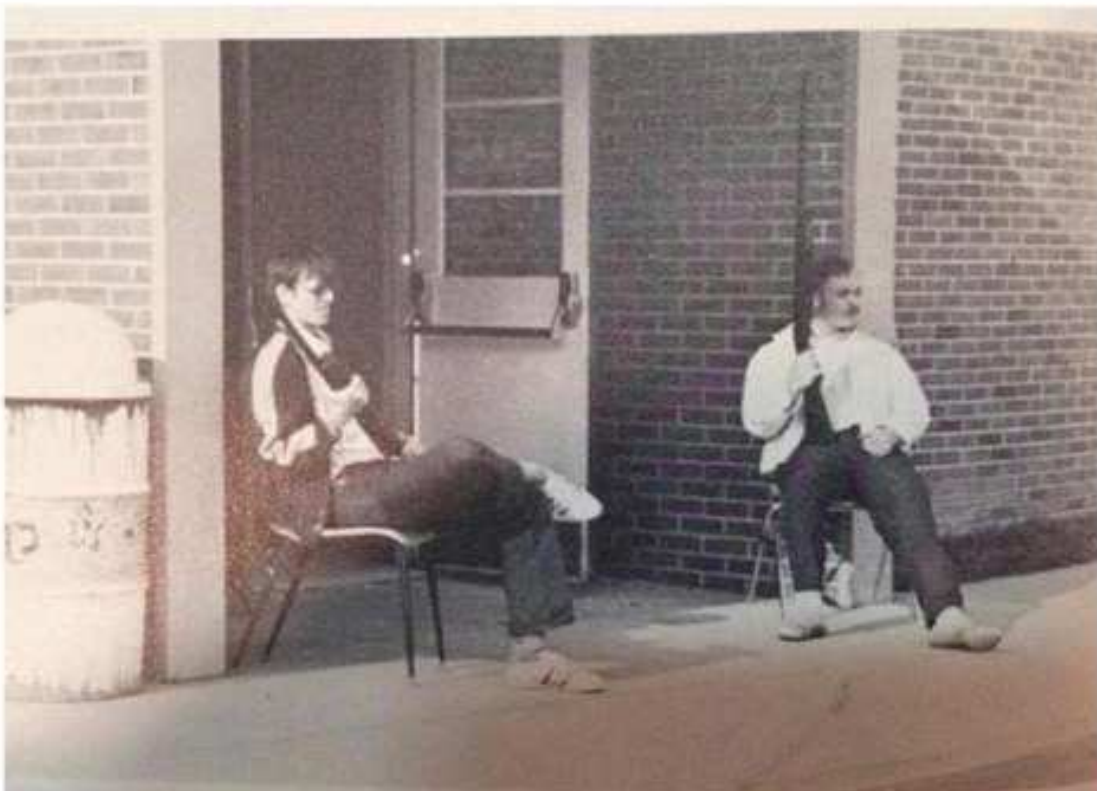
ABSOLUTELY & TOTALLY POLITICALLY INCORRECT & AS FAR TO THE RIGHT AS YOU CAN GO!

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

**WHICH OF THESE SIGNS
WILL PREVENT
ANOTHER TRAGEDY?**



1973, a student and teacher guarding a Delaware high school after someone called in a shooting threat during a morning class. Juniors, seniors, and teachers went to their cars and trucks to grab their guns, and guard the doors between classes. No shooter ever arrived.



The February 21st, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!

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

From: "Jerry Tollett" haleja@epbfi.com



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I am not saying a word except to say something doesn't look right. UT

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From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com



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

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

LIBERAL GROUP WANTS TO STOP TROOPS OVERSEAS FROM VOTING

by: Remington Strelivo, 02/15/2018, Source: AAN

<http://americanactionnews.com/articles/liberal-group-wants-to-stop-troops-overseas-from-voting#pQd1Rb5f5q1zo8VS.99>



By The U.S. Army [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

A far-left group wants to make it substantially more difficult for American troops serving overseas to vote in our elections. The Center for American Progress released a memo on Monday called "Election Security in All 50 States," which called for stricter standards to prevent cyber attacks on voting systems by foreign governments.

The most alarming proposal? A ban on U.S. service members stationed abroad from voting electronically. Center for American Progress instead recommends that "all voted ballots be returned by mail or delivered in person." It's not entirely clear how military personnel stationed overseas would deliver their ballot in-person from, say, Afghanistan. More likely, it would force them to rely on unreliable foreign systems that could easily miss voting deadlines. It's also worth noting that, among active duty military, Republicans outnumber Democrats by a 2-1 margin, possibly suggesting that the Center for American Progress has an ulterior motive.

In Colorado, which is one of the states that allows military stationed in foreign countries to cast votes electronically, Secretary of State Wayne Williams downplayed the Center for American Progress's vote hack hysteria. "We're known as leaders in election security," he explained, citing that Colorado had received the highest grade from CAP's study. "They don't believe someone who works on a submarine should be allowed to vote," he added. "We do."

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