

The February 28th, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

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Welcome to the February 28th, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

Well, this has been the week from hell because pollen season has come early. Supposedly any pollen count over 100 is heavy. Well it reached over 600 here. And you will never guess what, my chest is infected again. I am giving it a week to heal up and if it doesn't then it will be back to the Doctor. But on one high point, my easy chair was repaired by Lazy Boy in only 5 weeks and it is back in the living room and I am sitting pretty again.

One of the things I have been doing is watching the news about all the hell that has broke loose concerning the Parkland High School Shooting in Florida. First, I want to put it in perspective for me and the other confused people who read this missive. Please forgive me if I am a little off here and there because when you try to look something like this up figures vary from website to website. Last year over 40,000 people were killed in traffic accidents. Over 1,500 people were stabbed to death. Over 650 people were killed in gun violence in Chicago last year. And over 300 people were killed in 2017 with the use of fire arms in mass shootings (rifle and pistols). The other interesting thing I have found out was that in the United States from 1994 to 2004 there was an assault weapons ban imposed by the federal government and according to government sources themselves, the assault weapons ban was pretty much ineffective.

So, this begs the question, "What do we do to protect our children in schools." I have been discussing this question in the pages of this missive for years and apparently my line of reasoning is being discussed by a lot of you people in this country. First off, let me start off by an observation. If you have something precious you own or are charged to protect, then you protect it with force. An example of this is banks where all the money is kept. Museums where priceless artifacts are kept. ETC. I don't think I have to complete this list because it would go on for pages. The most precious object I possess are my children and grandchild. My Children are old enough to pretty much protect themselves. But that leaves my grandchildren. My immortality. I think you all can see where this is going. Evidently some states are already allowing teachers to carry in their school.

One thing that I knew and forgot about is that the United States Government has allowed some trained pilots to carry handguns in the cockpit when they fly. I was surprised when this was brought up. I also found out that Texas is in the process of training and arming some of their teachers who have requested to carry a firearm in schools to protect themselves and their charges.

But I have found something disquieting in this debate. A number of the political types have been striking out at the people espousing this method of protecting our children by calling them demented and insane to put guns in the schools to protect children. Instead of openly debating the methods we need to protect our children in schools, they want to attack those they don't agree with and demean them. To belittle the intelligence of those they don't agree with and to question their motives. Like I said, I find this disheartening.

I would really appreciate if you, my readers, would send me your thoughts on this weighty subject. Who know, maybe we will come up with a stellar idea we can share with our politicians to help protect our kids.

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>



From LibertyCon's
Facebook Page

February 23 at 10:31pm ·

Good evening, an Happy
Friday Night!

It's that time again
when Fritz gets a bug and
wants a game to happen
just to see who wins!

On Wednesday of this
week, LibertyCon had just
over 140 memberships left

before we had a Sold Out Show.

As of RIGHT NOW, there are only 97.

LET! THE GAMES! BEGIN!

Soon, we very well could have yet another year of being sold out thru pre-reg alone. There are only 750 Memberships available.

In case you haven't heard, The LibertyCon 31 Charity of Choice is Chattanooga Room in the Inn.

Since the inception of LibertyCon, the organization has been a 501.c(3) non-profit organization.

We were formed back in 1983 with the goal of promoting literacy and education in the Chattanooga area and have done our best to follow that mission with our guests and incredible panels/seminars covering Literature, Art and the Sciences.

Since we are a non-profit ourselves, we've also always felt very strongly about helping other local and worthwhile non-profit organizations around the Chattanooga, TN area.

We, the LibertyCon Board of Directors, try to keep the costs of running the convention as minimal as possible while still providing an outstanding event for all of our attendees. The Board of Directors of LibertyCon and Staff are made up entirely of volunteers. Nobody gets paid anything to help out. All of the BoD and Staff pay for their badge membership, hotel rooms, and banquet tickets. Everybody pays. Putting on the show we love, LibertyCon, is a labor of friendship, family, and joy.

We LOVE to make LibertyCon happen as much as the attendees, pros, and guests love to be here. We all hold LibertyCon dear to our hearts and consider all those who come to the con as family. None of us do this for the money, except... we DO like to give the money away.

We love LibertyCon, and we love the Charities we help support.

Below is this year's Charity of Choice as well as a number of the charities we have sponsored through the years.

Chattanooga Room in the Inn (CRITI)
Mission Statement:

"To empower women and children experiencing homelessness to become self-sufficient by offering a temporary home while providing programs and services necessary to meet their goals."

CRITI is a three to nine month residential program for homeless women and children. Services provided at CRITI are free of charge and include transitional housing, three meals a day, access to affordable or free health care, life skills training, parenting classes, mentoring, assistance with finding affordable housing, and case management services. This program allows the women and their children to find stability and thereby increase their opportunities and chances for independence when they leave the program.



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NETFLIX JUST UNVEILED THE TRAILER FOR 'LOST IN SPACE' REBOOT — AND IT LOOKS AWESOME!

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfri.com

By Tariq Malik, Space.com Managing Editor | February 21, 2018 05:43pm ET

https://www.space.com/39775-lost-in-space-netflix-reboot-teaser-video.html?utm_source=sd-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=test-02-22-sdc

The classic sci-fi series "Lost in Space" is launching back to television on April 13 by way of Netflix, which unveiled the first teaser for the series today (Feb. 21).

The "Lost in Space" teaser runs a tantalizing 1 minute and 32 seconds, revealing glimpses of the space family Robinson boarding their Jupiter 2 spaceship to visit strange new worlds. The show is a modern reboot of Irwin Allen's classic 1960s series, which followed a family of space explorers, a shifty doctor and their robot across the universe.

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"The Robinson family, part of a highly trained mission to establish a new colony in space, is unexpectedly pulled off course, forcing them to crash-land on a lost planet," Netflix wrote in a short description. [The 10 Best Sci-Fi TV Shows of All Time]



The cast of Netflix's "Lost in Space" as seen in Episode 2 of the new series premiering on April 13, 2018. They are (from left to right: Molly Parker as Maureen Robinson; Max Jenkins as Will; Mina Sundwall as Penny; Parker Posey as Dr. Smith; and Toby Stephens as John. Credit: Netflix

The new "Lost in Space" takes place 30 years in the future, with the Robinsons apparently headed to a colony in the Alpha Centauri system, according to a pamphlet seen in the teaser. We also get a short glimpse of the Jupiter 2 (are those heat-resistant tiles covering its belly?) and a nice nod to the original series' theme song before hearing those welcome words: "Danger, Will Robinson!" from the family robot.

Dr. Smith (Parker Posey) and Will Robinson (Max Jenkins) as seen in Netflix's "Lost in Space" debuting on April 13, 2018. Credit: Netflix



Full disclosure: I am a fan of all things Irwin Allen, and the original "Lost in Space" series was high on my list of must-watch TV as a kid. ("Land of the Giants" and "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea" were up there, too.) So, last year when Netflix announced that a reboot was coming, I was ecstatic, to say the least.

According to Den of Geek, astronauts on the International Space Station have already seen the first episode of Netflix's "Lost in Space" from the relative safety of low Earth orbit. The station's current Expedition 54 crew is made up of three Americans, two Russians and a Japanese astronaut.

The Robinsons include scientist and mom Maureen (Molly Parker), dad John (Toby Stephens), daughters Judy (Taylor Russell) and Penny (Mina Sundwall) and son Will (Max Jenkins). Ignacio Serricchio plays Don West, the Jupiter 2's brash pilot, and Parker Posey plays the rogue Dr. Smith.



Judy Robinson (Taylor Russell) and Penny Robinson (Mina Sundwall) in Netflix's "Lost in Space." Credit: Netflix

We don't learn much about the Robinsons' space adventures in Netflix's first teaser, but it is sure to include adventure, spaceships and — as the robot says

—"Danger, Will Robinson!"

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WATER AND ASPIRIN

From: "Jerry Tollett" haleja@epbf.com

MAYO CLINIC - DRINKING WATER

A cardiologist determined that heart attacks can be triggered by dehydration. Good Thing To Know. From The Mayo Clinic. How many folks do you know who say they don't want to drink anything before going to bed because they'll have to get up during the night?

Heart Attack and Water - Drinking one glass of water before going to bed avoids stroke or heart attack. Interesting.....

Something else I didn't know ... I asked my Doctor why people need to urinate so much at night time.

Answer from my Cardiac Doctor: Gravity holds water in the lower part of your body when you are upright (legs swell). When you lie down and the lower body (legs and etc) seeks level with the kidneys, it is then that the kidneys remove the water because it is easier. I knew you need your minimum waterto help flush the toxins out of your body, but this was news to me.

Correct time to drink water... Very Important. From A Cardiac Specialist!

Drinking water at a certain time maximizes its effectiveness on the body:

2 glasses of water after waking up - helps activate internal organs

1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal - helps digestion

1 glass of water before taking a bath - helps lower blood pressure

1 glass of water before going to bed - avoids stroke or heart attack

I can also add to this... My Physician told me that water at bed time will also help prevent night time leg cramps. Your leg muscles are seeking hydration when they cramp and wake you up with a Charlie Horse.

Mayo Clinic on Aspirin -Dr.Virend Somers is a Cardiologist from the Mayo Clinic who is the lead author of the report in the July 29, 2008 issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

Most heart attacks occur in the day, generally between 6 A.M. and noon. Having one during the night, when the heart should be most at rest, means that something unusual happened. Somers and his colleagues have been working for a decade to show that sleep apnea is to blame.

1. If you take an aspirin or a baby aspirin once a day, take it at night.

The Reason: Aspirin has a 24-hour "half-life"; therefore, if most heart attacks happen in the wee hours of the morning, the Aspirin would be strongest in your system.

2. Aspirin lasts a really long time in your medicine chest; for years. (when it gets old, it smells like vinegar).

Please read on.

Something that we can do to help ourselves - nice to know. Bayer is making crystal aspirin to dissolve instantly on the tongue. They work much faster than the tablets.

WHY KEEP ASPIRIN BY YOUR BEDSIDE?

It's about Heart Attacks –There are other symptoms of a heart attack, besides the pain on the left arm.

One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating; however, these symptoms may also occur less frequently.

Note: There may be NO pain in the chest during a heart attack.

The majority of people (about 60%) who had a heart attack during their sleep did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep. If that happens, immediately dissolve two aspirins in your mouth and swallow them with a bit of water.

Afterwards:- Call 911. - Phone a neighbor or a family member who lives very close by. Say "heart attack!" –

Say that you have taken 2 Aspirins. - Take a seat on a chair or sofa near the front door, and wait for their arrival andDO NOT LIE DOWN!

A Cardiologist has stated that if each person after receiving this e-mail, sends it to 10 people, probably one life could be saved! I have already shared this information. What about you?

Do forward this message. It may save lives!

"Life is a one time gift" (Let's forward and hope this will help save some!!!)

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LIMITING RIGHTS UNDER 21

From: Marty King

I am about tired of the media drumbeat so I sat down and wrote this this morning. Please read and if you agree, "do something NOW!"

Like send it to your representatives and your friends who are in the same boat... This is what I just sent to my senators Johnny Isakson & Sonny Perdue please put any parts that you agree with in your own words and send them to your senators and representatives thanks

I have watched with some interest the media campaign to “do something now!” in response to school shootings.

I have noticed the following:

- 1. It doesn't seem to matter that none of the legislation proposed would have prevented any of the previous shootings.**
- 2. It doesn't seem to matter that any of the proposed actions would be likely to prevent future attacks.**
- 3. It doesn't seem to matter that many of the arguments are based in emotion and give credence to opinions held not only in ignorance of the facts but in outright denial of provable facts. This makes any honest discussion with these people impossible, because while everyone is entitled to their own opinion, no one is entitled to their own “facts” no matter how “truthy” they sound.**

Therefore the following seems only reasonable:

The argument has been made that the 2nd Amendment Right, to “keep and bear arms” should be limited to those of 21 years of age or older. The argument seems to be that those under 21 lack the experience and maturity needed to responsibly exercise the right to own and use firearms. Given personal observational data from those under 21 that I know there is some merit to this argument. But as dangerous as a teenager might be with a gun, how much more dangerous are such people with a vote? Teenagers have demonstrated that they are far too easily stampeded by social media and sloganeering into trading their rights for the illusion of safety. It is my proposal that none of the “Bill of Rights” should apply to them until they are 21 unless they are active duty military.

Yep if the second doesn't apply neither should the other four and they certainly shouldn't be allowed to vote until they have reached the age of accountability. Because if they can't be trusted with a bullet, they sure as hell can't be trusted with a ballot.

Then perhaps we will be spared the spectacle of the media, as they “wave the bloody shirt” while traumatized children read prepared statements authored by media propagandists to make their viewers feel rather than think.

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Monotype Corva

Well said Marty. Well said. UT

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Re: Cursive writing as a secret code for old people

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

My cursive writing has always been a secret code.

After twenty-four hours, not even I can read it.

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

Re: What If Earth's Magnetic Poles Flip? - Live Science

From: "Stephanie Osborn"

Uncle Timmy,

I'm not sure where the article came from about the Earth's pole reversal, but at least part of it is so much hokum.

"If this happens, there will be no light, no computers, and no cellphones. Even filling a car's gas tank would be impossible."

This is utter bull offal. Short of a massive CME impact, there is nothing to stop any of this from occurring. And let me point out that in the event of a Carrington superflare/CME, the grid is likely to go down whether the mag field is full-up or not. It has nothing to do with whether or not the field reverses -- which, per the geological record, can take up to millennia to occur, so there's plenty of time to adapt.

Here is a little more reliable article about the matter.

<https://www.livescience.com/18426-earth-magnetic-poles-flip.html>

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

From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

Here's a selection of some of our favourites quotes from some of the best films ever made

We all have our favourite memories.....Please add yours at the top.

MOVIE QUOTES

Mrs Robinson. You're trying to seduce me - aren't you?
The Graduate (1967)

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E.T. phone home
E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1986)

Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn
Gone with the Wind (1939)

Here's looking at you, kid
Casablanca (1942)

I love the smell of napalm in the morning
Apocalypse Now (1979)

I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse
The Godfather (1972)

You don't understand! I could'a had class. I could'a been a contender. I could'a been somebody, instead of a bum, which is what I am
On The Waterfront (1954)

Go ahead - make my day
Sudden Impact (1983)

You talking to me?
Taxi Driver (1976)

May the Force be with you
Star Wars (1977)

Bond. James Bond
Dr. No (1962)

Show me the money!
Jerry Maguire (1996)

You can't handle the truth!
A Few Good Men (1992)

A boy's best friend is his mother
Psycho (1960)

If you build it, he will come
Field of Dreams (1989)

Gentlemen, you can't fight in here... this is the War Room!
Dr. Strangelove (1964)

Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary
Dead Poets Society (1989)

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Hasta la vista, baby
Terminator 2: Judgement Day (1991)

I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!
Network (1976)

There's no place like home
The Wizard of Oz (1939)

I feel the need for speed...
Top Gun (1986)

Love means never having to say you're sorry
Love Story (1970)

They may take our lives... but they'll never take our freedom!
Braveheart (1995)

I'm also just a girl standing in front of a boy asking him to love her
Notting Hill (1999)

Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads
Back to the Future (1985)

What we have here is a failure to communicate.
Cool Hand Luke (1967)

"Go ahead, skin that smokewagon and see what happens"
"You die first, your friends might get me in a rush, but not before I make your head into a canoe"
"I'm your huckleberry"
Tombstone

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

BEEN AROUND BUT STILL GOOD FOR A CHUCKLE

An old Doberman starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost.

Wandering about, he notices a lion heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old Doberman thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep s**t now!"

Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.

Just as the lion is about to leap, the old Doberman exclaims loudly,

"Boy, that was one delicious lion! I wonder, if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young lion halts his attack in mid-stride, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees.

"Whew!," says the lion, "That was close! That old Doberman nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the lion. So, off he goes.

The squirrel soon catches up with the lion, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the lion.

The young lion is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now, the old Doberman sees the lion coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?," but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old Doberman says....

"Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another lion!"

Moral of this story.

Don't mess with the old dogs ... Age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery!

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

A LITTLE AUSSIE HUMOR

A very nice, innocent Australian woman wants to get married, but she is only willing to marry a man if he has never had sex with another woman. After several unsuccessful years of searching, she decides to take out a personal ad.

She ends up corresponding with Scotty Greer, who is an average golfer and who has lived his entire life in the Australian Outback and he has no experience with women. They meet and she is very happy with him; she feels that they are perfect for each other. Eventually they end up getting married.

On their wedding night, she goes into the bathroom to prepare for the evening. When she returns to the bedroom, she finds her new husband standing in the middle of the room, naked and all the furniture from the room is piled in one corner.

"What happened?" she asks.

"I've never been with a woman" he says, "But if it's anything like a kangaroo, I'm gonna need all the room I can get!"

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A weasel walks into a bar.

The bartender looks up and says "Wow! In all my years tending bar, I've never had a weasel stop by. What can I get you?"

"Pop," goes the weasel.

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

A MARINE and Superman once fought each other on a bet. The loser had to start wearing his underwear on the outside of his pants.

Most MARINES have a grizzly bear carpet in their room...the bear isn't dead; it's just afraid to move.

The MARINES have already been to Mars; that's why there are no signs of life.

Ghosts sit around the campfire and tell MARINE CORPS stories.

A MARINE can cut through a hot knife with butter.

Death once had a near-MARINE experience.

The MARINES are the reason why Waldo is hiding.

A MARINE can slam a revolving door.

When the Boogeyman goes to sleep every night, he checks his closet for US MARINES.

A MARINE once kicked a horse in the chin... Its descendants are known today as Giraffes.

A MARINE once got bit by a rattle snake. After three days of pain and agony – the rattle snake died.

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From: Douglas Dudash

AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SEEN SNEAKING INTO CANADA ...

So, Canada's Prime Minister has made the decision to build a wall ...



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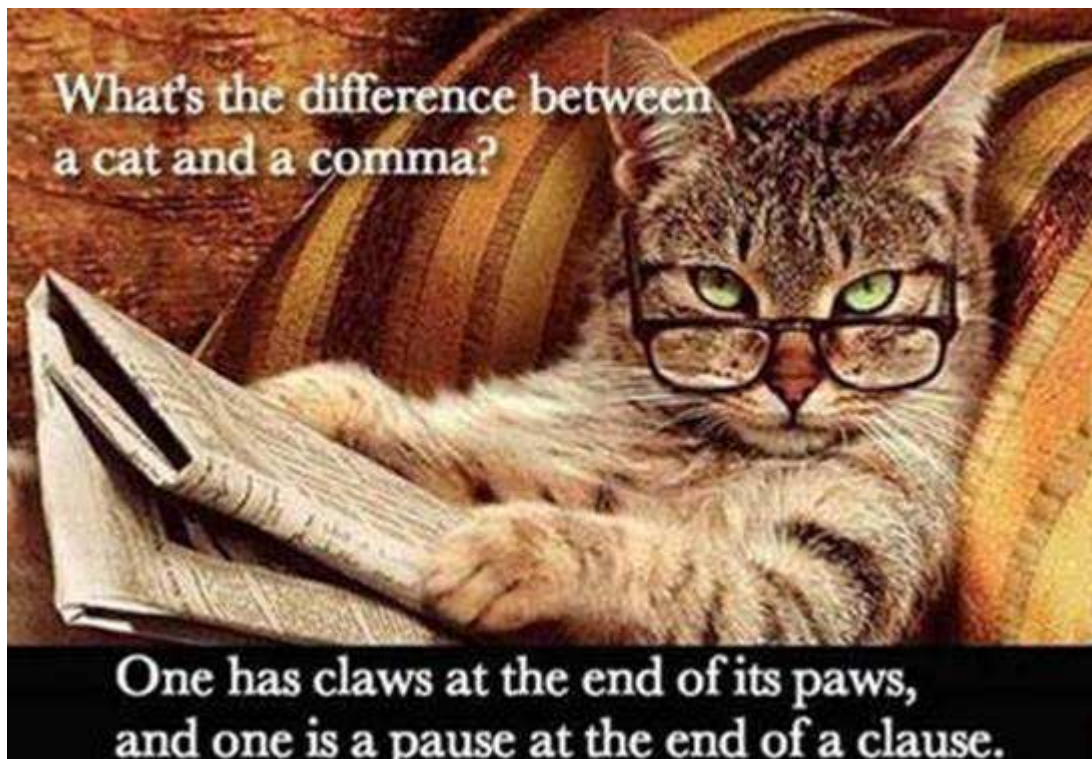


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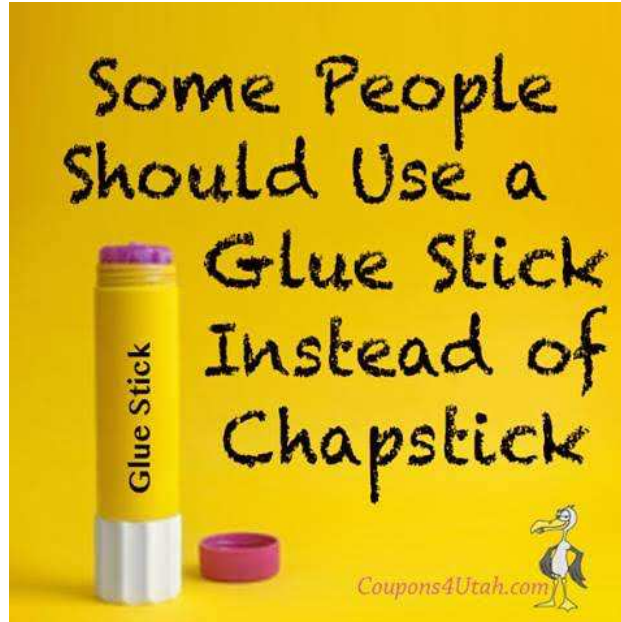
From: "Jerry Tollett" haleja@epbfi.com



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A police officer called the station on his radio.
"I have an interesting case here. An old lady
shot her husband for stepping on the floor she
just mopped."

"Have you arrested the woman?"

"Not yet. The floor's still wet."

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

AN AMAZING FOOTBALL GAME.

The other day I saw an amazing football game:

- 1) The player's hair fit under their helmets.
- 2) No tattoos could be seen.
- 3) There were no outlandish end zone celebrations.
- 4) There was no taunting.
- 5) Opposition players helped each other up after a play.
- 6) Footballs were not spiked or left for the referee to retrieve; they were handed to the referee.
- 8) No one took a knee on the sidelines.
- 9) Players stood at attention during the playing of the national anthem.

It's always great to watch the Army - Navy game.

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

CHURCH LADIES WITH TYPEWRITERS - read carefully.

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off-let the Church help

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

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At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

And this one just about sums them all up

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge—Up Yours.'

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From: "Rich Garber" rsgarber@hotmail.com

If You Laugh at These Dark Jokes, You're Probably a Genius

LAUGHING DOESN'T MAKE YOU A BAD PERSON—JUST A SMART ONE.

BY BRANDON SPECKTOR

<https://www.rd.com/culture/dark-sense-of-humor-and-intelligence/>

[dropcap]A[/dropcap] man walks into a rooftop bar and takes a seat next to another guy. "What are you drinking?" he asks the guy.

“Magic beer,” he says.

“Oh, yeah? What’s so magical about it?”

Then he shows him: He swigs some beer, dives off the roof, flies around the building, then finally returns to his seat with a triumphant smile.

“Amazing!” the man says. “Lemme try some of that!” The man grabs the beer. He downs it, leaps off the roof —and plummets 15 stories to the ground.

The bartender shakes his head. “You know, you’re a real jerk when you’re drunk, Superman.”

[dropcap]Let’s[/dropcap] ignore for a moment whether or not that poor rube survived his fall (if it makes you feel better, let’s say Trampoline Man was waiting for him on the ground). The real question is: Did you find this joke funny? Sick? Maybe a little of both?

According to a new study published in the journal *Cognitive Processing*, your reaction could indicate your intelligence. In the paper, a team of psychologists concludes that people who appreciate dark humor—defined as “humor that treats sinister subjects like death, disease, deformity, handicap or warfare with bitter amusement and presents such tragic, distressing or morbid topics in humorous terms”—may have higher IQs, show lower aggression, and resist negative feelings more effectively than people who turn up their noses at it.

To test this correlation between sense of humor and intellect, researchers had 156 male and female participants read 12 bleak cartoons from *The Black Book* by German cartoonist Uli Stein. (One of them, which paraphrases a classic joke, shows a mortician reaching deep into a cadaver as a nurse muses, “The autopsy is finished; he is only looking for his wrist watch.”) Participants indicated whether they understood each joke and whether they found it funny, then took some basic IQ tests and answered questionnaires about their mood, aggressive tendencies, and educational background.

The results were remarkably consistent: Participants who both comprehended and enjoyed the dark humor jokes showed higher IQs, and reported less aggressive tendencies, than those who did not. Incidentally, the participants who least liked the humor showed the highest levels of aggression and the worst moods of the bunch. The latter point makes sense when you consider the widely-studied health benefits of laughter and smiling; if you aren’t able to greet negativity with playful optimism, of course you will feel worse.

But what about the link to intelligence? According to the researchers, processing dark humor jokes takes a bit more mental gymnastics than, say, processing a knock-knock joke—it’s “a complex information-processing task” that requires parsing multiple layers of meaning, while creating a bit of emotional distance from the content so that it registers as benign instead of hostile. That emotional maneuvering is what sets dark humor jokes apart from, say, puns, which literally pit your brain’s right and left hemispheres against each other as you process a single word’s multiple meanings, but usually don’t force you out of your emotional comfort zone. Tina Fey sums up the difference pretty well: “If you want to make an audience laugh, you dress a man up like an old lady and push her down the stairs. If you want to make comedy writers laugh, you push an actual old lady down the stairs.”

The takeaway: Pretty much any joke that relies on wordplay will put your brain to work—dark humor jokes just require a bit more emotional control to earn a laugh. Give your brain a spin with these jokes proven to make anyone sound smart, or, if you do want to test your black humor cognizance, consider the following dark jokes from the Reader's Digest comedy crypt to exercise your hardened funny bone:

- “‘I’m sorry’ and ‘I apologize’ mean the same thing. Except at a funeral.” —Demetri Martin

- Q: What has four legs and one arm?

A: A happy pit bull.

- “Cats have nine lives. Makes them ideal for experimentation.” —Jimmy Carr

- Q: Why don't cannibals eat clowns?

A: Because they taste funny.

- “I have a vest. If I had my arms cut off, it would be a jacket.” —Mitch Hedberg

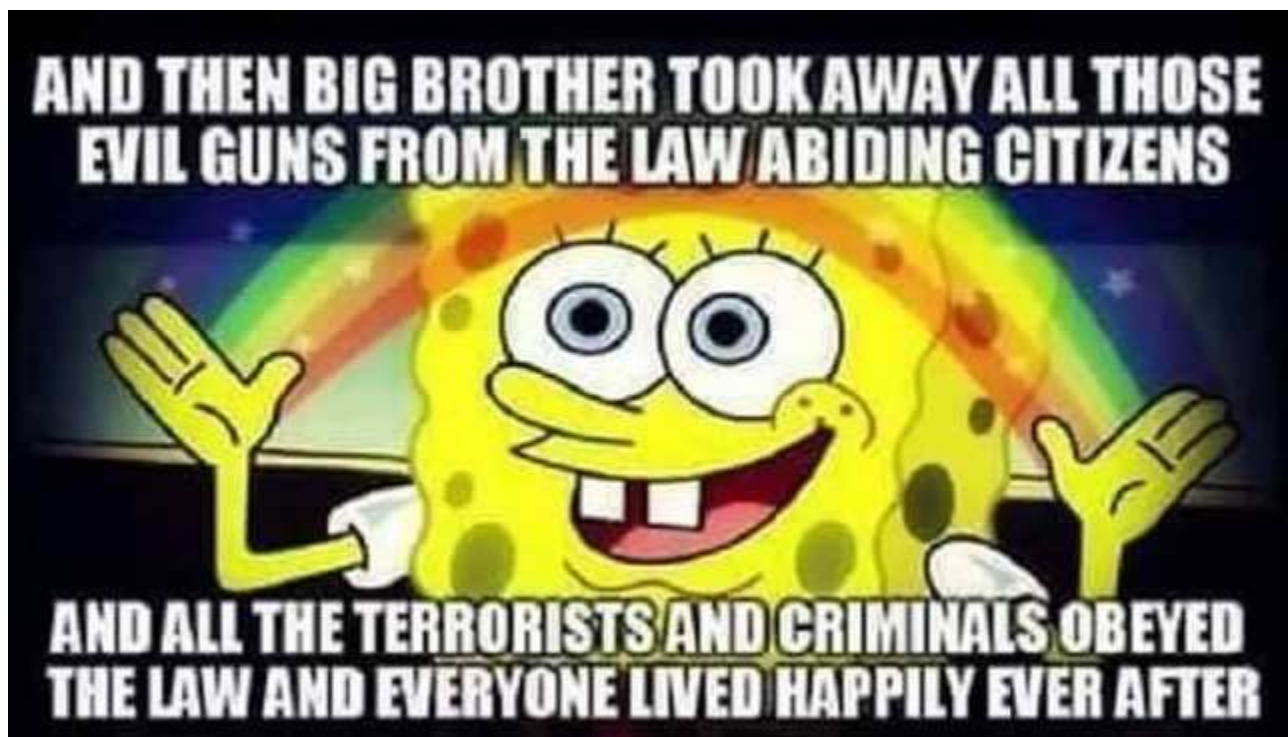
- Q: What did Kermit the frog say at Jim Henson's funeral?

A: Nothing.

- “If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving definitely isn't for you.” —Steven Wright

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

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com



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

I honestly didn't know where to put this one.



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

From: "Jim Hollis" jhollis@northsidesales.com

TIME GETS BETTER: WITH AGE

Read it through to the end, it gets better as you go!

*

I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night." Age 5

*

I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either. Age 7

*

I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. Age 9

*

I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again. Age 12

*

I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. Age 14

*

I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. Age 15

*

I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. Age 24

*

I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures. Age 26

*

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I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there. Age 29

*

I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. Age 30

*

I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it. Age 42

*

I've learned that you can make someone's day by simply sending them a little note. Age 44

*

I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her need to cast blame on others. Age 46

*

I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies. Age 47

*

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on and it will be better tomorrow. Age 48

*

I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours. Age 49

*

I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. Age 50

*

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. Age 51

*

I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills. Age 52

*

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. Age 53

*

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. Age 58

*

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. Age 62

*

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. Age 64

*

**I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people,
And doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. Age 65**

*

I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. Age 66

*

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. Age 72

*

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. Age 74

*

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch - holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. Age 76

*

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. Age 78

*

I've learned that you should pass this on to someone you care about. Sometimes they just need a little something to make them smile. Age 80

If Things Get Better With Age Then I'm Approaching Excellent. Age 82

"You can't make Old Friends!" Age 84

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

DELINGPOLE: NOAA CAUGHT ADJUSTING BIG FREEZE OUT OF EXISTENCE

by JAMES DELINGPOLE 20 Feb 2018

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/02/20/delingpole-noaa-caught-adjusting-big-freeze-out-of-existence/>

AP/Charles Rex Arbogast

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has yet again been caught exaggerating 'global warming' by fiddling with the raw temperature data.

This time, that data concerns the recent record-breaking cold across the northeastern U.S. which NOAA is trying to erase from history.

If you believe NOAA's charts, there was nothing particularly unusual about this winter's cold weather which caused sharks to freeze in the ocean and iguanas to drop out of trees.

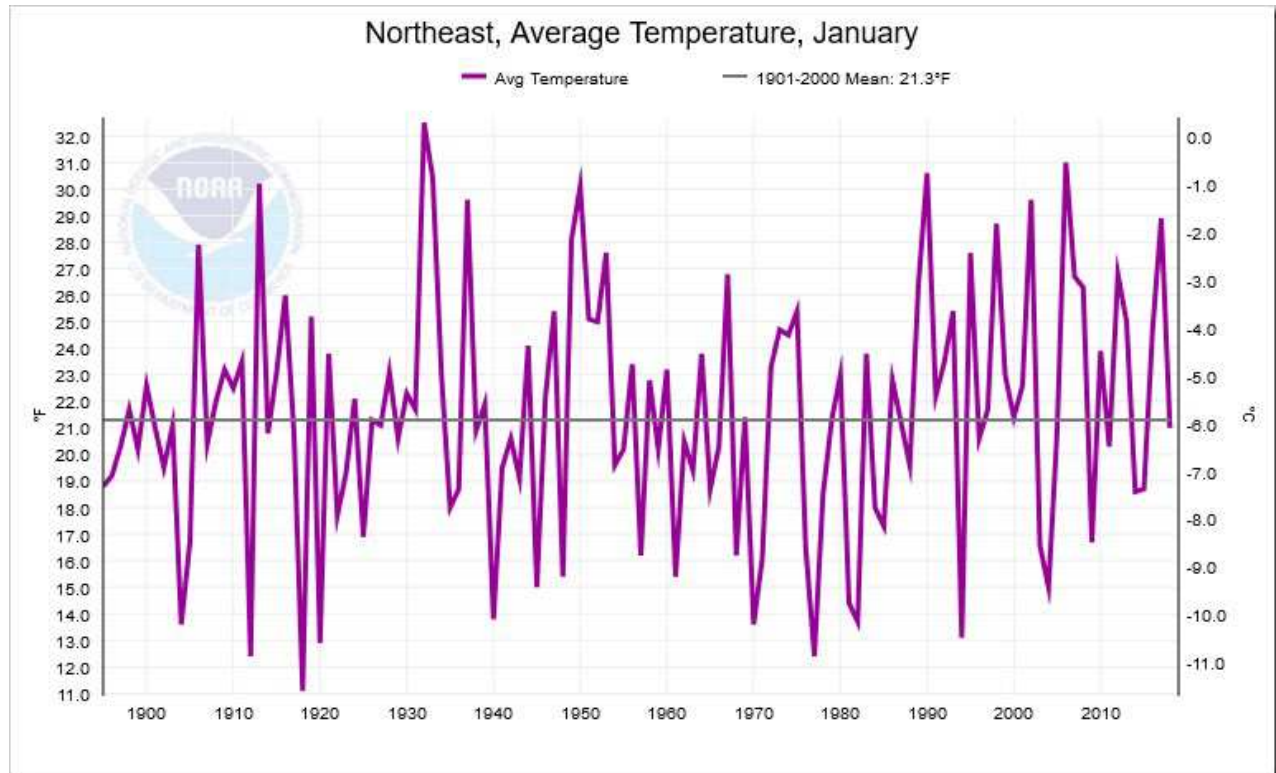
Here is NOAA's January 2018 chart for Northeast U.S. – an area which includes New England along with NY, PA, NJ, DE and MD.

You'd never guess from it that those regions had just experienced record-breaking cold, would you?

That's because, as Paul Homewood has discovered, NOAA has been cooking the books. Yet again – presumably for reasons more to do with ideology than meteorology – NOAA has adjusted past temperatures to look colder than they were and recent temperatures to look warmer than they were.

We're not talking fractions of a degree, here. The adjustments amount to a whopping 3.1 degrees F. This takes us well beyond the regions of error margins or innocent mistakes and deep into the realm of fiction and political propaganda.





Homewood first smelt a rat when he examined the New York data sets.

He was particularly puzzled at NOAA's treatment of the especially cold winter that ravaged New York in 2013/14, which he describes here:

The cold weather really began on Jan 2nd, when an Arctic front descended across much of the country, and extended well into March.

The NWS wrote at the end of the winter:

The winter of 2013-14 finished as one of the coldest winters in recent memory for New York State. Snowfall across Western and North Central New York was above normal for many areas, and in some locations well above normal. This winter comes on the heels of two previous mild winters, making the cold and snow this winter feel that much harsher.

Temperatures this winter finished below normal every month, and the January through March timeframe finished at least 4 degrees below normal for the two primary climate stations of Western New York (Buffalo and Rochester).....

Relentless cold continued through the month of January across the region.

So why, he wondered, did NOAA have this marked down as only the 30th coldest winter (since 1895) on its New York State charts, with a mean temperature of 16.9F?

Homewood compared the local records for January 1943 and January 2014 – months which, according to NOAA's charts, had very similar average temperatures.

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What he found was that NOAA's charts were deeply inaccurate. The 2014 local temperatures had been adjusted upwards by NOAA and the 1943 local temperatures downwards.

	Mean Temperature F		
	1943	2014	Diff
Auburn	22.2	18.5	-3.7
Avon	21.7	19.3	-2.4
Dansville	24.1	19.8	-4.3
Geneva	22.3	18.1	-4.2
Hemlock	21.0	19.0	-2.0
Ithaca	20.6	17.7	-2.9
Syracuse AP	19.2	19.9	0.7
Average	21.6	18.9	-2.7
Average excl			
Syracuse AP	22.0	18.7	-3.3
NOAA	18.7	17.8	-0.9

He concludes:

On average the mean temperatures in Jan 2014 were 2.7F less than in 1943. Yet, according to NOAA, the difference was only 0.9F.

Somehow, NOAA has adjusted past temperatures down, relatively, by 1.8F.

Now, Homewood has given the same treatment to the most recent Big Freeze – the winter of 2017/2018.

Yet again, he has found that NOAA's arbitrary adjustments tell a lie. They claim that January 2018 was warmer in the New York region than January 1943, when the raw data from local stations tells us this just isn't true.

So at the three sites of Ithaca, Auburn and Geneva, we find that January 2018 was colder than January 1943 by 1.0, 1.7 and 1.3F respectively.

Yet NOAA say that the division was 2.1F warmer last month. NOAA's figure makes last month at least 3.1F warmer in comparison with 1943 than the actual station data warrants.

He concludes:

Clearly NOAA's highly homogenised and adjusted version of the Central Lakes temperature record bears no resemblance at all the the actual station data.

And if this one division is so badly in error, what confidence can there be that the rest of the US is any better?

Well indeed. The key point here is that while NOAA frequently makes these adjustments to the raw data, it has never offered a convincing explanation as to why they are necessary. Nor yet, how exactly their adjusted data provides a more accurate version of the truth than the original data.

One excuse NOAA's apologists make is that weather stations are subject to changing environmental conditions. For example, when the station sited at Syracuse in 1929 was located at what was originally just a sparse aerodrome. Since then, however, as Homewood notes, it has grown into a large international airport with two runways servicing two million passengers a year. Its weather station readings therefore will certainly have been corrupted by the Urban Heat Island effect: that is, its temperature readings will have been artificially elevated by the warmth from the surrounding development and aircraft engines.

So you'd think, wouldn't you, that to compensate for this NOAA would adjust the recent temperatures downwards. Instead, for no obvious reasons, it has adjusted them upwards. This is a scandal. NOAA's climate gatekeepers are political activists not honest scientists and the U.S. taxpayer has no business funding their propaganda.

Drain the swamp!

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

Women Take Biden's Shotgun Advice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0IVSGctQlq>

Do not do this at home. Unless you have a lot of space, a berm or hill to stop the shot, and a mattress to fall on...

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Hollis" jhollis@northsidesales.com

Our Grandparents

My great grandparents brought my grandfather and his brother from Germany and I researched it when we went to Ellis Island 2 years ago. Found their names and documents. When going through some of the family things, I also found not only my grandfather's original papers but found when he joined the army for WW I, he again proudly renounced his German citizenship and proclaimed his allegiance to the United States of America. This illegal immigration and the dreamers really bothers me and is an insult to all of those who have come before and followed the path to citizenship without all of the whining. Below is the best response I have seen so far.

OUR GRANDPARENTS

This was written by Rosemary LaBonte to the editors of a California newspaper in response to an article written by Ernie Lujan who suggests we should tear down the Statue of Liberty because the immigrants of today aren't being treated the same as those who passed through Ellis Island and other ports of entry. The paper never printed this response, so her husband sent it out via internet.

Maybe we should turn to our history books and point out to people like Mr. Lujan why today's American is not willing to accept this new kind of immigrant any longer. Back in 1900 when there was a rush from all areas of Europe to come to the United States, people had to get off a ship and stand in a long line in New York and be documented. Some would even get down on their hands and knees and kiss the ground. They made a pledge to uphold the laws and support their new country in good and bad times. They made learning English a primary rule in their new American households and some even changed their names to blend in with their new home.

They had waved goodbye to their birth place to give their children a new life and did everything in their power to help their children assimilate into one culture. Nothing was handed to them. No free lunches, no welfare, no labor laws to protect them. All they had were the skills and craftsmanship they had brought with them to trade for a future of prosperity.

Most of their children came of age when World War II broke out. My father fought alongside men whose parents had come straight over from Germany , Italy , France and Japan None of these 1st generation Americans ever gave any thought about what country their parents had come from. They were Americans fighting Hitler, Mussolini and the Emperor of Japan . They were defending the United States of America as one people.

When we liberated France, no one in those villages were looking for the French American, the German American or the Irish American. The people of France saw only Americans. And we carried one flag that represented one country. Not one of those immigrant sons would have thought about picking up another country's flag and waving it to represent who they were. It would have been a disgrace to their parents who had sacrificed so much to be here. These immigrants truly knew what it meant to be an American. They stirred the melting pot into one red, white and blue bowl

And here we are with a new kind of immigrant who wants the same rights and privileges. Only they want to achieve it by playing with a different set of rules, one that includes the entitlement card and a guarantee of being faithful to their mother country.

I'm sorry, that's not what being an American is all about. I believe that the immigrants who landed on Ellis Island in the early 1900's deserve better than that for all the toil, hard work and sacrifice in raising future generations to create a land that has become a beacon for those legally searching for a better life. I think they would be appalled that they are being used as an example by those waving foreign country flags.

And for that suggestion about taking down the Statue of Liberty , it happens to mean a lot to the citizens who are voting on the immigration bill.

I wouldn't start talking about dismantling the United States just yet.

I sincerely hope this letter gets read by millions of people all across the nation!

<S>~<C>~<I>~<E>~<N>~<C>~<E>~~~<S>~<T>~<A>~<R>~<T>~<S>~~~<H>~<E>~<R>~<E>

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

TVA BOOSTING POWER OUTPUT AT BROWNS FERRY WITH \$475 MILLION UPGRADE

Renovation is one of the biggest ever for a U.S. nuclear plant

February 20th, 2018, by Dave Flessnerin Breaking News

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/breakingnews/story/2018/feb/20/tva-boosts-power-output/464144/>

TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, Ala. set a record recently for having all three reactors run continuously for 285 days. Browns Ferry is TVA's oldest and biggest nuclear power plant. Photo by Jay Reeves



This story was updated Feb. 20, 2018, at 10:44 p.m. with more information.

More than 2,100 TVA employees and contractors have started to install new equipment to boost the power output at the utility's oldest nuclear power plant by more than 14 percent.

Following a record-long 653-day run of power generation at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant, TVA idled the Unit 3 reactor at Browns Ferry over the holiday weekend and started Saturday to install equipment to add another 155 megawatts of generating power from the boiling water reactor.

Similar upgrades are planned on the two other units at Browns Ferry as part of a \$475 million program to boost overall power by 465 megawatts by the spring of 2019.



TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, Ala.,...Photo by HANDOUT

The extra power from the Extended Power Uprate, or EPU, is projected to produce enough additional electricity to power 280,000 more homes and will help TVA boost the share of power it gets from its nuclear power plants to 40 percent.

The power upgrade is far less costly than building new nuclear generation. TVA spent \$4.7

billion to add a 1,200 megawatt Unit 2 reactor at Watts Bar in 2016 — or more than \$3.9 million per installed megawatt — compared with only \$1.02 million per megawatt for the upgraded Browns Ferry units. At Plant Vogtle in Georgia, the new AP1000 reactors are projected to cost more than \$6.4 million per megawatt.

The upgrades at Browns Ferry are being done during scheduled refueling and maintenance outages. TVA spokesman Jim Hopson said that in addition to the traditional outage work of loading 344 new fuel assemblies, a final round of modifications will be installed that will boost the power generation on the Unit 3 reactor by this spring.

"Outages are always important because it's our opportunity to do the work necessary to safely and reliably generate electricity for the next two years," said Lang Hughes, Browns Ferry site vice president. "There is added importance to this and our next two outages because we will complete the remaining work needed to operate each unit at extended power uprate conditions to serve the energy needs of the Tennessee Valley."

More than 15,600 work activities are scheduled during this month's outage at Browns Ferry, including maintenance and upgrades of plant equipment, inspections and repairs on reactor components and installing modifications to improve safety margins.

The NRC has approved power uprates 163 times at U.S. commercial nuclear reactors, collectively adding an estimated 23,707 megawatts of generating capacity, according to figures compiled by the Nuclear Energy Institute, a trade group for the nuclear power industry. Equipment and technology advances have allowed reactors to be modified to

generate more steam and to use what steam they do produce to more efficiently generate more electricity, NEI spokesman Matt Wald said.

In 2006, the NRC approved 20-year license extensions for all three reactors at Browns Ferry beyond the original 40-year life of the license.

<S><C><I><E><N><C><E>

A GIANT CLAW WILL GRAB FALLING SPACEX GEAR 'LIKE A GIANT CATCHER'S MITT'

By Laura Geggel, Live Science Senior Writer | February 21, 2018 04:09pm ET

<https://www.space.com/39771-mr-steven-will-catch-spacex-gear.html>



Update for Feb. 22: SpaceX's Falcon 9 mission to launch the Paz satellite has successfully lifted off. The payload fairing attempt, however, was unsuccessful. See our full story here: [SpaceX Launches 1st Test Satellites for Starlink Internet Constellation Along with Spain's Paz](#)

SpaceX is planning to use a giant net — one so immense that it takes up the majority of a high-speed watercraft named Mr. Steven — to catch reusable gear that falls back to Earth after missions to outer space.

If the huge net successfully catches the SpaceX gear, it could save the company about \$5 million per launch, according to Space.com, a Live Science sister site. [6 Ways Entrepreneur Elon Musk Is Changing the World]

"It's like a giant catcher's mitt, in boat form," SpaceX CEO Elon Musk told reporters after the Falcon Heavy launch on Feb. 6, Space.com reported.

In particular, the giant net is designed to catch the payload fairings, also known as the nose-cone halves. During the Feb. 6 mission, the payload fairings held the now-famous midnight-cherry Tesla Roadster and its driver, a mannequin known as Starman.

SpaceX has saved one of its payload fairings before: In March 2017, the company launched a previously used Falcon 9 rocket to carry a payload — a communications satellite designed to provide TV, internet and other services to people in Latin America. After that launch, the payload fairings used an onboard thruster system and a parachute to safely land in the Atlantic Ocean, Space.com reported.

However, the new net aboard Mr. Steven will make it easier for the payload fairing to be retrieved, according to TechCrunch.

According to SeaTran, the company that owns Mr. Steven, the vessel is 205 feet (62 meters) long, can travel up to 32 knots (36.8 mph, or about 59 km/h) and has a deck measuring 136 feet by 27 feet (41 by 8 m). It's not clear why the 2015 watercraft is named Mr. Steven (SeaTran didn't immediately respond to a request for comment), but other vessels in the company's fleet have similar names, including Lady Eve, Mr. Mason, Miss Claire and, amusingly, Greater Scott.

Mr. Steven is currently by Catalina Island, southwest of Los Angeles, according to MarineTraffic, a maritime site that tracks vessels around the world. You can see more images of it on Reddit.

The next SpaceX Falcon 9 mission is scheduled for Wednesday (Feb. 21). The payload fairing from that mission will have geotagged parachutes that will guide it to the Pacific Ocean, where Mr. Steven will attempt to catch it, according to TechCrunch.

Original article on Live Science.

<S><C><I><E><N><C><E>

ROBONAUT HAS BEEN BROKEN FOR YEARS, AND NOW NASA IS BRINGING IT HOME

A mysterious hardware problem has kept the ISS Robonaut out of action since at least 2015, so it's returning to Earth for a fix

By Evan Ackerman and Erico Guizzo

https://spectrum.ieee.org/automaton/robotics/space-robots/robonaut-has-been-broken-for-years-and-now-nasa-is-bringing-it-home?utm_source=roboticsnews&utm_campaign=roboticsnews-02-27-18&utm_medium=email

In February of 2011, NASA launched Robonaut 2 to the International Space Station. It was a huge achievement for the robotics team at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. There had been other robots in space, but Robonaut was the first advanced humanoid to ever go on a mission beyond Earth. On board the ISS, the robot was intended to eventually work side by side with astronauts, performing some of the dull and repetitive

tasks that take up a significant amount of time that the humans on the station could instead be spending on science and discovery.

Photo: NASA

For a while, things went well. The robot was unboxed from its protective foam packaging, and set up in the Destiny laboratory module. It was powered up for the first time in August of 2011, and by 2012 it was flipping practice switches and cleaning practice handrails while being teleoperated from the ground. Once a month or so, astronauts set Robonaut up and it would do research tasks for several hours at a time, working towards making a transition from an experimental project to a useful helper in the caretaking of human spacecraft. Robonaut even got its own Twitter account: “Check me out. I’m in space!”



But in 2014, NASA decided to go forward with a complex and risky upgrade. The Robonaut sent to the ISS was a torso with a pair of arms and head, and now NASA wanted to add a pair of legs. The idea was to give Robonaut more mobility inside the station. The elongated, wiggly legs would work almost as a secondary pair of arms, allowing the robot to move itself around the station by holding on to hand rails, significantly adding to its capability.

But the upgrade didn’t go according to plan, and instead created a persistent problem that astronauts have been unable to fix. For the last several years, Robonaut has been almost entirely disabled, and publicly available ISS status reports show that the last time the robot completed a full research task was December of 2013. This week, NASA announced that it is bringing Robonaut back to Earth to be fixed.



Photo: NASARobonaut at its task board in January of 2013.

The decision to give Robonaut mobility had always been part of NASA’s long-term plan for the robot. NASA originally intended for there to be three distinct phases of Robonaut operations. The first phase involved stationary operations, and was completed successfully by the end of 2013 using the Robonaut torso. Phase II was “IVA Mobility,” where IVA stands for “intravehicular.” For this phase,

Robonaut needed a way to move around the inside of the ISS, which is where the legs came in. The legs would also be key for Phase III, “EVA Mobility,” which would involve working in

vacuum outside of the station, although this scenario would have required even more major hardware upgrades to the robot.

“The space station program was interested in expanding our reach,” Julia Badger, Robonaut Project Manager at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, told IEEE Spectrum this week. “If we were able to move around, we could do logistics management, we could possibly clean filters, or do repairs. Moving around was the next level of capabilities that we’d be able to develop and test.”

Photo: NASARobonaut’s wiggly legs.

But adding new legs to the ISS Robonaut would be much more involved than simply shipping them up to the station and bolting them onto the Robonaut torso. The leg installation would require upgrading a significant amount of Robonaut’s core hardware, including new computers and new wiring to interface the legs to the robot’s main processor, not to mention a complex mechanical assembly process. Further complicating things was the fact that Robonaut was originally developed as a research robot for use on Earth. “Robonaut was not designed at all to be serviceable by astronauts,” Badger said. “It was designed to be a lab robot, and we jumped at the opportunity to send it to space.”

Even for NASA, the leg upgrade was ambitious. Asked if the team was confident it would work, Badger said: “I definitely don’t think we were confident. The ISS basically is about trying new things, so we learned a lot from developing those procedures and having the astronauts run through that complex surgery.” She added that the crew members “did an outstanding job” and that the problem with the robot didn’t involve what the astronauts did, but derived from the complexities of the hardware.



Photo: NASARobonaut undergoing surgery on the ISS.

NASA expected that the leg upgrade, which took the Robonaut team 14 hours to do on Earth, would take the astronauts about 20 hours to complete. It ended up taking about 40. The work began on July 16, 2014, and was completed and called successful on August 28.

Almost immediately the Robonaut team at JSC

realized something was wrong. On August 29, the robot was partially powered up, but they weren't able to see any telemetry on the ground. Not long after, a loose wire was fixed and the robot passed intermediary checkouts, but during the next operation on December 17 (the first time motor power was applied to Robonaut after the upgrade), the legs wouldn't move.

Photo: NASA Astronaut Steve Swanson with Robonaut in 2014, after finishing the leg upgrade.

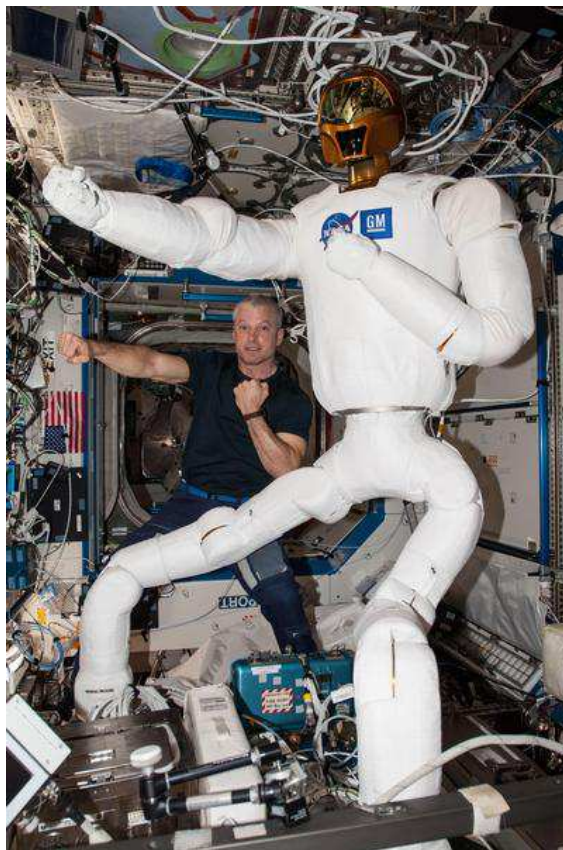
Between January and August 2015, astronauts and ground teams recorded a series of erratic behaviors, including sensor failures, communication failures, and repeated processor lockups. By September, continued troubleshooting suggested that the issue was with the power supply to Robonaut's processors. "We would start losing power to our computers within our operational window, and it got more and more severe as time went on," Badger told us. "A power cycle would in general bring it back, just for a little while. The problem was that since it was intermittent, sometimes we'd be able to turn it on and sometimes it would just fail right away as it degraded, we weren't necessarily able to trust the data—it was very confusing."

David Wettergreen, a roboticist at Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, who specializes in autonomous robots for planetary exploration, explained that the complexity of robotics systems makes error detection and prevention a massive task. "For simpler systems it is reasonable to assume that everything will work, and when it does not, then it can be debugged and repaired, like your car," he said. "But if a robot won't be accessible, like an autonomous underwater vehicle, or if safety is paramount, like a self-driving car, then either all of the failure modes need to be understood and mitigated in advance or the robot needs to be able to diagnose and repair itself." To make things even more challenging, he added, techniques like fault tolerance and fault recovery are areas of substantial active research.

"Robonaut must be both robust and safe," he said, "so the systems engineering required is at the cutting-edge of technology."

The ISS daily summary reports provide a glimpse into how much both the astronauts on the station and the Robonaut team on the ground were struggling to understand what was going wrong with the robot. By 2016, it seems as though Robonaut was being taken apart and analyzed almost piece by piece.

[Astronaut Tim] Kopra set up a camcorder to capture standard definition video downlinks of Robonaut operations in the US Lab. He used the oscilloscope, multimeter and current probe to help guide ground teams with this troubleshooting by disengaging the controller card and successfully powering Robonaut without the controller card. The data collected



from today's activity will be analyzed by the ground to determine the cause of the fault in the power supply.

—Excerpt from ISS Daily Summary Report, 3/23/16

Two controller cards that the JSC team suspected could be the culprits were even shipped back to Earth for testing. But once inspected at the lab, the cards checked out okay, and the search for a fix continued, with the team checking and double-checking everything including the mass of cables inside the robot:

The crew performed troubleshooting on the Robonaut chassis. Previous troubleshooting suggested an issue with two card[s] that were returned and tested on the ground. The cards brought down were exonerated and during today's activities teams received a good response from the Robonaut during first power up. Indicator lights were as expected for a working Robonaut. Various power cycles were performed while trying to narrow down intermittent fault statuses. Eventually the team exonerated several of the cables. The cards were not removed from the CPCI [Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect] chassis and remain installed and all cables were left connected. Teams plan to analyze results to develop any forward actions.

—Excerpt from ISS Daily Summary Report, 2/1/17

It may seem surprising that NASA's robotics experts weren't able to diagnose and fix the problem more quickly, since space hardware is painstakingly designed, built, and tested before going into space. But the ISS Robonaut that the astronauts were working on is slightly different from the other five Robonauts at JSC. The space station Robonaut is an R2-B model, while the robots on Earth are R2-Cs, a later version that is "a fairly significant iteration of design," according to Badger. In the end, she said these differences finally provided the answer, years after the problem first appeared.



Photo: Thomas Pasquet via FacebookAstronauts Peggy Whitson, Shane Kimbrough, and Thomas Pasquet troubleshooting Robonaut on 2/1/17.

"It took us a really long time to figure it out, but what ended up being the case was that the [ISS] robot was missing its ground path from its computer chassis to the ground," she said. "The current was

finding another path through, and it was slowly degrading the robot. Because that robot on orbit was different from the ones on the ground, it was kind of like a mistake that that ground path wasn't there, and it was very difficult to find."

It's possible that some of the robot's circuits and processors were getting no power at all while other components were essentially getting fried by too much current. The fault was slowly killing Robonaut

What this meant is that electrical current wasn't flowing the way it should through Robonaut's body. It's possible that some of its circuits and processors were getting no power at all while other components were essentially getting fried by too much current. The fault was slowly killing Robonaut.

Wettergreen, from CMU, said he's encountered similar scenarios. "Errors in properly grounding circuits can lead to really strange symptoms that initially appear unrelated to the root cause—seemingly anything can happen with the electronics," he said. "It can take a long time to debug because the problem is not easily reproducible and may not occur often, or even in the same way every time."

Photo: Tim Kopra via Twitter "Troubleshooting with @AstroRobonaut experts on the ground to fix some technical issues," astronaut Tim Kopra tweeted in March 2016. "He's not quite healed yet."

Last August, astronauts tried to install a grounding jumper, but that didn't solve things. The place where they wanted to add the jumper, Badger explained, was covered in a special sealant used to protect sensitive components against shorts caused by foreign objects that can be floating around the ISS. The astronauts had to try to chip that away, and "there was a lot of difficulty," Badger said. "There was some doubt left on whether that was actually an effective connection or not. We're also quite confident that there's likely other damage that was caused by this missing wire."

It's this other damage that is the most concerning. Even if the original grounding issue has been solved, and the Robonaut team isn't sure it has been, Robonaut is almost certainly suffering from significant degradation caused by current running unchecked through its computer chassis. There were some additional things the team could have tried, but when NASA asked if they wanted to use some free cargo space on the return flight of an upcoming resupply mission to bring Robonaut home, the team said yes. Depending on how much damage they find, the plan is to either repair the ISS Robonaut and send it back up to the station, or swap it for one of the R2-C units at JSC and send that one up instead.

Badger wasn't able to provide a timeframe for when Robonaut may be back on the ISS—there's no guaranteed mission, and they'll have to find space, which could be a challenge



since Robonaut is a relatively large payload. This means that they might not even be able to have the legs attached when they send it up for the second time, although Badger promises if that's the case, "it will be much, much simpler to reintegrate."



Photo: Joseph Acaba?
via
Twitter "@Astro_sabot
[astronaut Mark T.
Vande Hei] and I
packed up Robonaut
for return to Earth for
repairs and refurb,"
astronaut Joseph M.
Acaba tweeted
yesterday, along with
a picture from
February 9. "We look
forward to his return."

Last Friday, Robonaut
was packed up to get
it ready to come back
to Earth. As the team

in Houston prepares to get their robot back in shape, Badger reminds us that it's important to keep the overall Robonaut mission in context.

"The whole point of the ISS is to be able to try different things out. I think [Robonaut] has given us a lot of knowledge on what the requirements for humanoid robots in space will be in the future," she said. "We're bringing it home, repairing it, and in the near future after that, we're hoping to fly it up there again to proceed with our original goals of advancing new technology."

[NASA Robonaut]

Updated 2/16/18 4:50 p.m.: Added comments by CMU roboticist David Wettergreen.

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

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

BROWARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DID NOT "MISS WARNING SIGNS" OR MAKE "MISTAKES"...

Posted on February 23, 2018 by sundance

<https://theconservativetreehouse.com/2018/02/23/broward-county-sheriffs-office-did-not-miss-warning-signs-or-make-mistakes/#more-146176>

A few points need to be emphasized for those unfamiliar with the Broward County system. First, with revelations of frequent LEO contact and calls from people warning about school shooter Nikolas Cruz, there's a common narrative mistakenly being pushed by mainstream media.



Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel, Hillary Clinton, Broward County School Superintendent Robert Runcie

The Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) didn't "miss warning signs" or make "mistakes" in not writing up reports. The Sheriff's office did exactly what their internal policies, procedures and official training required them to do, they intentionally ignored the signs, and intentionally didn't generate documents. Example:

Miami Herald [...] In November, a tipster called BSO to say Cruz "could be a school shooter in the making" but deputies did not write up a report on that warning. It came just weeks after a relative called urging BSO to seize his weapons. Two years ago, according to a newly released timeline of interactions with Cruz's family, a deputy investigated a report that Cruz "planned to shoot up the school" — intelligence that was forwarded to the school's resource officer, with no apparent result.

It is important to understand the policy here. Broward County law enforcement (Sheriff Israel), in conjunction with Broward County School Officials (Superintendent Runcie and School Board), have a standing policy to ignore any criminal engagement with High School students.

When the police are hiding current, actual and ongoing unlawful conduct as a matter of standard procedure on a regular basis, what do we expect the police would do with reports of potential unlawful conduct? Of course they would ignore them.

You can read a twitter thread on the multi-year-long enterprise [HERE](#)

Jake Tapper?@jaketapper

This is horrific. "In November, a tipster called BSO to say Cruz 'could be a school shooter in the making' but deputies did not write up a report on that warning. It came just weeks after a relative called urging BSO to seize his weapons."

<https://twitter.com/jaketapper/status/966853104179273729> ...

8:54 PM - Feb 22, 2018

This is not a "mistake" on their part, the 'doing nothing' is part of the standard practice.

*** Secondly, the 27 minute tape-delay in the CCTV system is not an "accident", "flaw" or "mistake". It is entirely by design.**

As a standard Broward and Miami-Dade practice, when school law enforcement need to cover-up or hide behavior, they need time (when that behavior happens) to delete the evidence trail. As such the school policy -as carried out in practice- is more efficient with a 30 minute tape delay affording the school officer enough time to deal with the situation, then erase the possibility of a recording of the unlawful activity surfacing.

Building in a 30 minute delay on the CCTV system was one of those pesky add-on items that happened a few years ago when the School and Law Enforcement officials established the policy of intentionally not arresting students.

With modern technology it's tough to hide criminal behavior, especially the violent stuff, when it is being recorded. Duh. Ergo the tape-delay was the best-practice workaround.

Lastly, when the county education policy is intentionally constructed to ignore criminal behavior in schools, the Sheriff and School superintendent cannot rely on "law-and-order-minded" school police officers to carry out the heavily nuanced policy. The county officials need the people closest to the work, the officers, to be able to think quickly on their feet to safeguard their prized district-wide statistics.

2013 – Broward announced broad changes designed to mitigate the use of harsh punishments for minor misbehavior at the beginning of this school year. While other districts have amended their discipline codes, prohibited arrests in some circumstances, and developed alternatives to suspension, Broward was able to do all these things at once with the cooperation of a group that included a member of the local NAACP, a school board member, a public defender, a local sheriff, a state prosecutor, and several others. In early November, The Miami Herald reported that suspensions were already down 40 percent and arrests were down 66 percent. (2013 article link)

A Broward County SRO must carry a political hat and be able to intercept behavior, modify his/her action based on a specific policy need, falsify documents, hide evidence, manipulate records and engage inside the system with an understanding of the unwritten goals.

Broward County school law enforcement are given political instructions, and carrying out political objectives. They are not given law-enforcement instructions.

The school officers are the primary foot soldiers carrying out county political policy. Physical security of school students is not their role, they don't have time for that. The

Broward County SRO is in place to protect the school system “policy” and ensure students are not arrested for criminal conduct.

If you begin reviewing the downstream consequences with a correct understanding of the originating policy objectives then everything begins to make sense. Again, from the Miami Herald:

[...] on Nov. 30, an unidentified caller from Massachusetts called to say Cruz was collecting guns and knives. The caller said “Cruz will kill himself one day and believes he could be a school shooter in the making.”

BSO, however, never even wrote a report on the tip. Internal affairs detectives are now trying to figure out what happened. Deputies Edward Eason and Guntis Treijs are on restricted duty while detectives examine their handling of the two potential school shooter tips. After the shooting, the tipster was re-interviewed and said BSO told him to report Cruz to the Palm Beach Sheriff’s, as the teen was then living in the neighboring county. (read more)

Of course the Broward County Sheriff’s Office didn’t write a report. Writing a report would not be in line with the goals of hiding student criminal behavior.

Additionally, it seems odd to see the Miami Herald reporting on Nikolas Cruz in 2018; when the same editorial staff conspicuously avoided any aspects of Trayvon Martin’s student criminal behavior in 2012 and 2013. I wonder why there’s such a difference now?

I digress...

[School Police Officer Scot] Peterson is mentioned as part of a 2016 social services agency investigation into Nikolas Cruz, the 19-year-old identified by police as the gunman. According to a Florida Department of Children and Families report detailing that investigation, Peterson was approached by investigators and “refused to share any information ... regarding [an] incident that took place with” the teenager.

That same year, the sheriff’s office revealed Thursday, it was told about “third hand information” from a “neighbor’s son” suggesting that Cruz “planned to shoot up the school,” although the specific school was not listed. The sheriff’s office said a deputy contacted the caller, determined that Cruz had knives and a BB gun and sent the information to the school resource officer — presumably Peterson. It is unclear whether he investigated. (Washington Post Link)

Feb. 5, 2016: A Broward Sheriff’s Office deputy is told by an anonymous caller that Nikolas Cruz, then 17, had threatened on Instagram to shoot up his school and posted a photo of himself with guns. The information is forwarded to BSO Deputy Scot Peterson, a school resource officer at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Sept. 23, 2016: A “peer counselor” reports to Peterson that Cruz had possibly ingested gasoline in a suicide attempt, was cutting himself and wanted to buy a gun. A mental health counselor advises against involuntarily committing Cruz. The high school says it will conduct a threat assessment.

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Sept. 28, 2016: An investigator for the Florida Department of Children and Families rules Cruz is stable, despite “fresh cuts” on his arms. His mother, Lynda Cruz, says in the past he wrote a racial slur against African Americans on his book bag and had recently talked of buying firearms.

Sept. 24, 2017: A YouTube user named “nikolas cruz” posts a comment stating he wants to become a “professional school shooter.” The comment is reported to the FBI in Mississippi, which fails to make the connection to Cruz in South Florida.

Nov. 1, 2017: Katherine Blaine, Lynda Cruz’s cousin, calls BSO to report that Nikolas Cruz had weapons and asks that police recover them. A “close family friend” agrees to take the firearms, according to BSO.

Nov. 29, 2017: The Palm Beach County family that took in Cruz after the death of his mother calls the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office to report a fight between him and their son, 22. A member of the family says that Cruz had threatened to “get his gun and come back” and that he has “put the gun to others’ heads in the past.” The family does not want him arrested once he calms down.

Nov. 30, 2017: A caller from Massachusetts calls BSO to report that Cruz is collecting guns and knives and could be a “school shooter in the making.” A BSO deputy advises the caller to contact the Palm Beach sheriff.

Jan. 5, 2018: A caller to the FBI’s tip line reports that Cruz has “a desire to kill people” and could potentially conduct a school shooting. The information is never passed on to the FBI’s office in Miami.

Feb. 14, 2018: Nikolas Cruz attacks Stoneman Douglas High. Peterson, the school’s resource officer, Scot Peterson, draws his gun outside the building where Cruz is shooting students and staff. He does not enter.

...Policies have consequences!

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I know that the timeline facts in the article are correct because I have been seeing them for the past two weeks. But the idea that these types of actions are part of the police procedures are chilling. UT

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

From: “Tim Bolgeo” tbolgeo@epbfi.com

PRESIDENT TRUMP PUSHES ARMED TEACHERS TO END SCHOOL ATTACKS

by AWR HAWKINS, 21 Feb 2018

<http://www.breitbart.com/2nd-amendment/2018/02/21/president-trump-suggests-arming-teachers-end-school-attacks/>



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

During the meeting with Parkland students at the White House on Wednesday President Trump said arming teachers is a step that can be taken to make schools less-attractive targets for attackers.

He said that as things stand, attackers have nothing to lose because no one can shoot back.

CNN quoted Trump saying, “Gun-free zone to a maniac—because they’re all cowards—a gun-free zone is ‘let’s go in and let’s attack because bullets aren’t coming back at us.’” He said adopting a policy where “20 percent” of teachers were armed would reduce or eliminate the perception of weakness, making schools a riskier target to strike.

Trump said, “If you had a teacher who was adept with the firearm, they could end the attack very quickly.”

Newsweek reports that Trump also emphasized mental health and raising “the minimum age for purchasing a firearm,” but the push for arming teachers took center stage.

Students showed considerable support for the idea of arming teachers. Hunter Pollack, who lost his sister Meadow in the attack, said, "I'm not here to debate, but I lost my sister. And like Mr. President said, if you could find 20% of maybe retired law enforcement officers, or a teacher who could go through discreet training to carry a firearm around his waist, it could've been a very different situation."

President Trump campaigned on allowing teachers to be armed for self-defense. He said gun-free zones provide "target practice for sickos" and, on October 8, 2016, the Washington Post quoted him saying, "I will get rid of gun-free zones on schools."

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Our most precious possessions are our children and they should be protected in our schools. This is just one way to do it. UT

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ISRAEL HAS ONLY HAD 2 SCHOOL ATTACKS IN 44 YEARS, HERE'S HOW THEY MAKE SURE THEIR KIDS ARE SAFE

By Becky Loggia, February 21, 2018 at 3:59pm

https://www.westernjournal.com/israel-2-school-attacks-44-years-heres-make-sure-kids-safe/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=conservative-brief&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=conservative-tribune

In the wake of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting that claimed 17 lives last week, there has been a renewed debate surrounding gun control and children's safety, leading some to make a comparison to the changes Israel made in response to a terror attack more than four decades ago.

In 1974, Palestinian terrorists took over the Netiv Meir Elementary School in what has been called the "Ma'alot Massacre," which left 22 children dead and many others injured.

The attack forced Israel to come up with a solution in order to prevent such a situation from ever happening again. The nation requires its schools to have a security system, and that policy is still going strong after 40 years.

The results are clearly evident, as there have only been two successful attacks at Israeli schools since 1974, according to Dr. Ted Noel, writing in American Thinker. Noel wrote that "in both cases, the bad guys were killed by armed teachers."

According to Red State, Israel's Ministry of Education funds school security, which ranges from shelters and fences to armed and trained guards at every gate.

gunman does get through security by teaching them to be proactive in times of terror by barricading a door or sensing the ripe opportunity to get away safely.

The guards on the doorsteps of Israel's schools are also trained to look for any suspicious activity, which usually deters anyone with ill intent from entering in the first place.

That added layer of protection, argues Noel, is a proactive step in shielding children from the gunman. Once the shooters are past school gates, the damage is irreversible and quick to happen since any and all faculty and students immediately become targets.

“The Israelis saw this and got busy,” Noel wrote. “They knew that the vast majority of terror attacks are stopped not by police, but by armed civilians.”

Bottom of Form

“So they started training teachers in firearms use,” he added. “Those teachers took out the bad guys in the two incidents since the Ma’alot Massacre.”

Noel wrote that once a shooter is no longer in a “free fire zone,” the situation — and the possible outcome — is likely to change, as he becomes a potential target.

“On top of that, he doesn’t know which of the staff might be ready to shoot, or where they might be coming from,” Noel said. “In short, only an idiot would try to shoot up a school with a trained staff of shooters.”

This sentiment was echoed by CNN’s Steve Cortes, who suggested that guns may not be the problem in the U.S. as much as America’s lack of security when it comes to its children. Cortes compared Wednesday’s shooting not just with Israel, but a disaster that didn’t involve any bullets whatsoever.

“Since the awful Our Lady of the Angels elementary school fire of 1958, which killed 92 students and 3 nuns, there has not been a large casualty school fire in America,” Cortes wrote. “Why? Because we took myriad precautions since then: better fire exits, more extinguishers and sprinklers, routine fire drills, etc.”

“Water squelches a fire,” he added. “And only a gunman, I would argue, can stop another gunman.”

The recent conversation around gun control suggests that an added layer of protection would not only improve school security but also prevent the government from infringing on the Second Amendment, as well as prove that guns aren’t necessarily the problem — people are.

Cortes added to this idea when he argued that stricter gun control laws have failed the world, as seen in the 2015 Paris Bataclan nightclub attack and numerous other incidents, as those who wish harm upon others will always find a way to do so.

“Evildoers, by definition, do not respect our rules and will find ways to skirt them,” Cortes added, suggesting the only sure-fire way to combat these horrific acts is to improve school security and put America’s children first.

“Let’s value our children like the treasure they are and guard them accordingly,” he said. “How? Let’s start with key cards, fences, entry checks, biometric scanners, and — yes — armed guards, and a lot of them.”



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From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Chairman Mao: Every Communist must grasp the truth, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun." Our principle is that the Party commands the gun, and the gun must never be allowed to command the Party.

The American Version:

"The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Hamilton, Federalist 29: Little more can reasonably be aimed at, with respect to the People at large, than to have them properly armed and equipped; and in order to see that this be not neglected, it will be necessary to assemble them once or twice in the course of a year. ... if circumstances should at any time oblige the government to form an army of any magnitude that army can never be formidable to the liberties of the People while there is a large body of citizens, little, if at all, inferior to them in discipline and the use of arms, who stand ready to defend their own rights and those of their fellow-citizens.

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Madison, Federalist 46: "Besides the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the People of almost every other nation, the existence of subordinate governments, to which the People are attached, and by which the militia officers are appointed, forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition, more insurmountable than any which a simple government of any form can admit of"

The Framers recognized the truth of Mao's later statement - but wanted, insisted, ENSURED through the SECOND AMENDMENT that such power remain forever and always in the hands of the people at large.

And today's question for the snowflakes: Who do you want to command and control your life? A government that may not always be a benevolent friend - that in fact many of you insist is your greatest fear - or you, yourself? There are no other options. Be armed and free, or be the slave of whomever has arms after your arms are given up, or taken.

T.J. Mason

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