

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

Page 1 of 45

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

Well, the results are in on who is your favorite Star Trek Captain. And as far as I can tell your favorite is James T. Kirk by a small margin. I was really surprised that the rest of the returns were all across the board. But then again, each of the Star Trek series kept us entertained for years and I am happy to have lived in this age of great Science Fiction.

One thing I would love to point all of you to is the great amount of Star Trek Fan fiction that is available on YouTube. I stumble across it a few years ago and have been entertained by it since then. About the only downside of it is that Paramount really put an end to it when Axanar was being produced by a lot of energetic fans. If you ever get a chance, go up on YouTube and check out the "Prelude to Axanar" because it is better than the latest Star Trek incarnations. I would have loved to have seen Axanar completed because I think it would have been a new high point for the Star Trek Universe. Much better than Star Trek Discovery in my opinion.

This week has been very stressful to me because SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED was kind of ticked off at me. You see, SWMBO hates change and I forced her to accept a major change in her life. She has a 2003 Kia Sedona Minivan she loves, it is getting old even though I keep it in tip-top shape. But I felt that she needed something newer and more reliable. So, I "forced" her to go down to Carmax and bought her a 2014 Buick Enclave SUV. At first I was the Evil Bastard of the Tale. But now she is getting used to it and admits that she loves it now. That my friends is my life in a nutshell. ☺

So on that "fun 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>

LEGENDARY PHYSICIST STEPHEN HAWKING DEAD

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

American Action Network, 03/14/2018

<http://americanactionnews.com/articles/breaking-legendary-physicist-dead#g8sRBqS15fKVZ1d5.99>

The world just lost an icon. Fox News reports:

Stephen Hawking, the famed theoretical physicist who defied a diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis to live virtually his entire adult life with the disease – in a wheelchair and paralyzed but making constant contributions to a world few could understand – has died at age 76, a family spokesman said.

He was not modest about what he wanted to do. "My goal is simple," he once said. "It is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all."

Hawking reached his eighth decade, but was forced to miss a scientific debate to mark his 70th birthday in January 2012 because he was discharged from a hospital only two days earlier. His personal assistant told the Daily Telegraph at the time his speech was getting noticeably slower, sometimes only a word a minute.

The March 21st, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPHDAY!

Page 2 of 45

As part of the events surrounding his birthday, Hawking gave a rare interview to New Scientist magazine and declared there was still one puzzle left for him. Asked what he thought about most during the day, Hawking replied, "Women. They are a complete mystery."

Some of those that met him memorialized Hawking on Twitter:



Neil deGrasse Tyson
@neiltyson

His passing has left an intellectual vacuum in his wake. But it's not empty. Think of it as a kind of vacuum energy permeating the fabric of spacetime that defies measure. Stephen Hawking, RIP 1942-2018.

12:06 AM - Mar 14, 2018



The Big Bang Theory
@bigbangtheory

In loving memory of Stephen Hawking. It was an honor to have him on The #BigBangTheory. Thank you for inspiring us and the world.

1:13 AM - Mar 14, 2018



Michael Shermer
@michaelshermer

He lived more than half a century past his doctors' projection for ALS & humanity is the better for it. Great scientist, humanist, public intellectual, & inspiration to billions. Honored to have met him at Caltech. Stephen Hawking 1942-2018. Now he belongs to the ages. RIP

12:32 AM - Mar 14, 2018

VIDEO OF STEPHEN HAWKING'S FINAL SPEECH AT THE WEBSITE.

The March 21st, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPHDAY!

Page 3 of 45

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

*Dr. Hawking, you have been an inspiration to those of us who love science for generations. Your light will shine to light our way for generations to come. Ad Astra!
UT*

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

Re: WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE STAR TREK CAPTAIN?

From: "Lu Ann Curlee" laccpa@aol.com
KIRK!! All the rest are pretenders. James T. Kirk.

From: "Karen Boyd" abtales@comcast.net
I'm afraid I'm Old School & I've always liked a "Bad Boy" - so my choice would have to be Kirk~

From: "Pam Adams" pamcrippenadams@gmail.com
Picard is my favorite captain.

From: "John Purcell" askance73@gmail.com
My top three ST captains: #1 is James T. Kirk, then Benjamin Sisko, then Archer.

From: "Shannon Souvinette" zqc8@cdc.gov
Kathryn Janeway – she was totally bad-ass!

From: "Jeff Wormsley" daworm@gmail.com
My personal favorite, for obvious reasons, though, was never seen on screen.
http://memory-alpha.wikia.com/wiki/W.M._Jefferies

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com
Jonathan Archer is the Man and NC-01 is the real Enterprise!

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

From: "Mike Williamson" mzmadmike@gmail.com

HOW TO THOROUGHLY ANNOY YOUR ROOMMATES.

https://www.facebook.com/teamcoco/videos/1764730413585833/?hc_ref=ARS4T3dR6P88ntjNORSKi1ew5DiOPrFq-s5y_S2wD9wrl3zYM0pYYEeBBIXEv-f6ooM

Excellent video that will leave you in stitches.

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

From: "Ray Beloate" beerman@rittermail.com

THINGS THEY DIDN'T TEACH YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL ABOUT FOOD.

- 1. A Strawberry isn't a Berry but a Banana is.**
- 2. Avocados and Watermelon are Berries, too.**
- 3. Cashews grow on Trees like this:**
- 4. And Brussel Sprouts grow in long stalks like this:**
- 5. Chocolate Milk was invented in Ireland.**
- 6. Ketchup used to be sold as Medicine.**
- 7. Carrots were originally purple.**
- 8. McDonald's sells 75 Hamburgers every second of every day.**
- 9. Yams and sweet Potatoes are not the same thing.**
- 10. Ripe Cranberries will bounce like rubber balls.**
- 11. An average ear of Corn has an even number of rows, usually 16.**
- 12. Betty White is actually older than sliced Bread.**
- 13. Humans share 50% of their DNA with Bananas.**
- 14. Honey never spoils. You can eat 32,000-year-old Honey.**
- 15. Peanuts are not Nuts. They grow in the ground like this, so they are legumes.**
- 16. Vending machines are twice as likely to kill you than a shark is.**
- 17. Coconuts kill more people than Sharks every year. So do Cows.**
- 18. Pound cake got its name from its original recipe, which called for a pound each of Butter, Eggs, Sugar, and Flour.**
- 19. The probability of you drinking a glass of Water that contains a molecule of Water that also passed through a Dinosaur is almost 100%.**
- 20. Honey is made from nectar and Bee vomit.**
- 21. Pineapples grow like this:**
- 22. Quinoa is the seeds of this plant:**
- 23. Kiwis grow on Vines:**
- 24. Ginger is the root of a Plant:**

25. And Cinnamon is just the inner part of this Tree:
26. And Artichokes are Flowers that are eaten as buds.
27. "Spam" is short for spiced Ham.
28. Popsicles were invented by an 11-year-old in 1905.
29. Apples, like Pears and Plums, belong to the rose family.
30. The official state Vegetable of Oklahoma is the Watermelon.
31. Peas are one the most popular Pizza toppings in Brazil:
32. There are over 7,500 varieties of Apples throughout the World, and it would take you 20 Years to try them all if you had one each day.
33. The twists in Pretzels are made to look like arms crossed in prayer.
34. Canola oil was originally called rapeseed oil, but renamed by the Canadian oil industry in 1978 to avoid negative connotations. "Canola" is short for "Canadian oil."
35. And no matter what colour Fruit Loop you eat, they all taste the same.

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

SO TIRED OF CHARDONAY

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie.

'Tie me up,' she purred, 'and you can do anything you want.'

So he tied her up and went golfing.

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, 'Honey, pack your bags, I won the lottery!'

The husband said, 'Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?'

'Doesn't matter,' she said. 'Just get out.'

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is a husband.

Polish immigrant went to the DMV to apply for a driver's license. First, of course, he had to take an eye exam. The optician showed him a card with the letters 'C Z W I X N O S T A C Z.'

'Can you read this?' the optician asked.

'Read it?' the Polish guy replied, 'I know the guy.'

Mother Superior called all the nuns together and said to them, 'I must tell you all something. We have a case of gonorrhea in the convent.'

'Thank God,' said an elderly nun at the back. 'I'm so tired of chardonay.'

Fifty-one years ago, Herman James, a North Carolina mountain man, was drafted by the Army.

On his first day in basic training, the Army issued him a comb. That afternoon the Army barber sheared off all his hair.

On his second day, the Army issued Herman a toothbrush. That afternoon the Army dentist yanked seven of his teeth.

On the third day, the Army issued him a jock strap. The Army has been looking for Herman for 51 years.

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

From: "Allen Lakner" allen@nehifirearmstraining.com

**IF FOUND UNCONSCIOUS,
ADMINISTER THE FOLLOWING:**

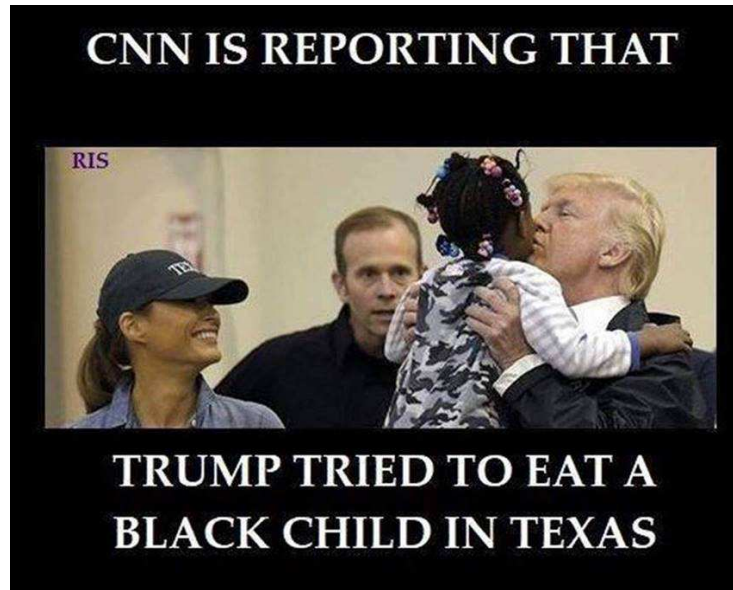


<U><T><'><s><*><C><O><M><M><E><N><T>

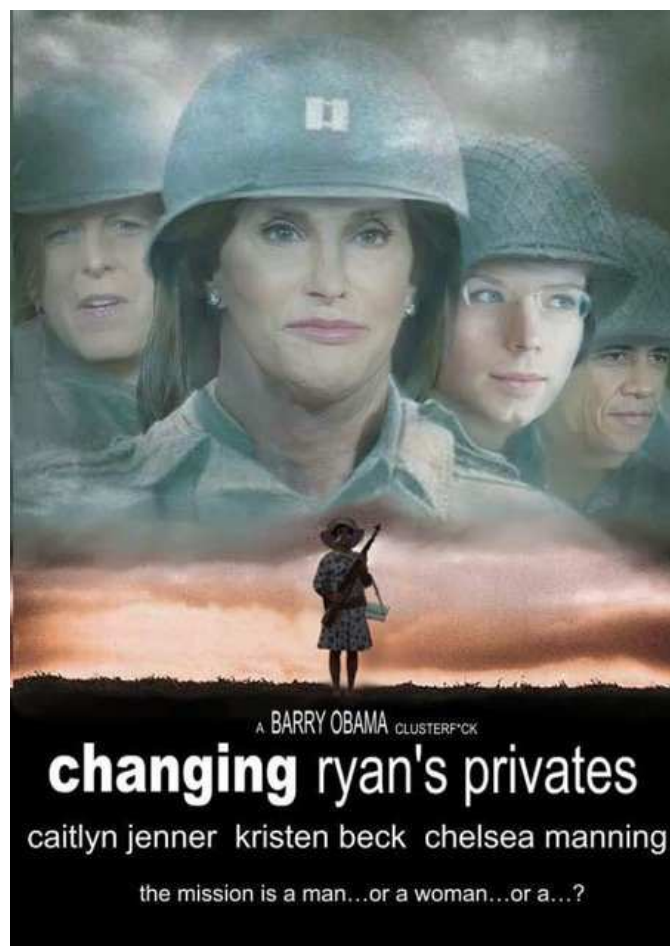
A man after my own heart. UT

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

From: "Jim Woosley" jimwoosley@aol.com



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



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



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



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

MY LAZY GLOCK PISTOL

Today, I placed my Glock pistol on the table right next to my front door. I left its clip beside it, then left it alone and went about my business.

While I was gone, the mailman delivered my mail, the neighbor's son across the street mowed the yard, a girl walked her dog down the street, and quite a few cars stopped at the "stop" sign near the front of my house.

After about an hour, I checked on the gun and it was quietly sitting there, right where I had left it. It had not moved itself outside. It had not killed anyone, even with the numerous opportunities it had been presented to do that. In fact, it had not even loaded itself.

Well you can imagine my surprise, with all the hype by the Left and the media, about how dangerous guns are and "How They" kill people. Either the media is wrong, or I'm in possession of the laziest gun in the world.

The United States is 3rd in murders throughout the world. But if you take out just 5 'left-wing' cities: Chicago, Detroit, Washington DC, St Louis and New Orleans -- the United States is 4th from the bottom, in the ENTIRE world, for murders.

These 5 cities are controlled by Democrats. They also have the toughest gun control laws in the USA. It would be absurd to draw any conclusions from this data, right?

Well, I'm off to check on my spoons. I hear they're making people fat

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

This is funny and it proves the point that a gun it just a machine. Not at dangerous as a car or any other machine if used improperly. If you really want a dangerous piece of machinery you ought to have worked around an old 25 horse power motor with an open gear reduction system. It used to give me the willies just coming within 10' of it.
UT

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

From: "Mike Waldrip" waldripk@gmail.com

You will not find this story in the bible.

STORY OF ADAM & EVE'S DOG

Adam and Eve said, 'Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you anymore. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us.'

And God said, I will create a companion for you that will be with you and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves.

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve.

And it was a good animal and God was pleased.

And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, 'Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal.'

And God said, 'I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG.

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them.

And they were comforted.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, 'Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well.'

And God said, I will create for them a companion who will be with them and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration.'

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.

And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the Supreme Beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility.

And they were greatly improved.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was happy.

And the Cat . . . didn't give a shit one way or the other.....

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

SACRIFICES

God visited a woman and told her she must give up smoking, drinking and unmarried sex if she wants to get into Heaven.

The woman said she would try her best. God visited the woman a week later to see how she was getting on.

"Not bad" said the woman, "I've given up smoking and drinking but then I bent over to get some stuff out of the freezer and my boyfriend caught sight of my long slender legs in high heels, and made love to me right then and there."

"They don't like that in heaven", said God.

The woman replied: "They're not too happy about it in Costco either!"

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

ADVICE AND INSTRUCTION FROM THE MILITARY

- 1.) When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend. - U.S. Marines
- 2.) Aim toward the enemy. - Rocket launcher instruction
- 3.) If the enemy is within range, so are you. - Infantry Journal
- 4.) A slipped gear could cause the M203 grenade launcher to fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular with what is left of your unit. - Army Preventative Maintenance Magazine
- 5.) It is generally inadvisable to eject over the area you have just bombed. -USAF manual
- 6.) Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo. - Infantry journal
- 7.) Cluster bombing from B-52's is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground. -USAF ammo troop
- 8.) Tracers work both ways. US Army Ordinance
- 9.) Five-second fuses only last three seconds. Infantry Journal
- 10.) If your attack is going too well, you are walking into an ambush. -Infantry Journal
- 11.) No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection. -unknown
- 12.) Any ship can be a minesweeper, ONCE. -unknown
- 13.) If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him. -USAF ammo troop
- 14.) Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do. -Marine Recruit
- 15.) Don't draw fire, it irritates the people around you. -Infantry Journal
- 16.) Bravery is being the only one who knows you are afraid. - David Hockworth

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

GUN-CONTROL ACTIVIST FINDS PICTURE OF 'SCARY' GUN... SILENCED AFTER LEARNING WHAT SHE REALLY POSTED

BY BEN MARQUIS, MARCH 12, 2018 AT 12:44PM

https://conservativetribune.com/control-activist-picture-scary-gun/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter-CT&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=conservative-tribune

Gun control activists have been doing their worst again in recent weeks, demonizing law-abiding gun owners and the National Rifle Association as they seek to undermine and infringe upon the Second Amendment-protected right to keep and bear arms.

As such, they are also pushing yet another legislative attempt to ban "assault weapons," a made-up term that essentially constitutes any sort of firearm that looks like something the military would use, but in actuality is a standard semi-automatic firearm with certain cosmetic features, of which there are millions upon millions in common use.

Unfortunately for them, their fear and loathing when it comes to firearms runs so deep that they can't even keep straight what kinds of weapons they claim they do and don't want to ban — likely because they don't even know the basics of firearms and how they operate in the first place.



Case in point is the following tweet from Shannon Watts, leader of the Bloomberg-backed Moms Demand Action gun control advocacy group, who posted a picture of a "scary" looking rifle and fretted that an 18-year-old adult could purchase one at a sporting goods store, according to The Daily Wire.

2 Mar, Shannon Watts?
@shannonrwatts
You can buy this at @SportsmansWH if you're 18. Tell them #NoGunUntil21
pic.twitter.com/85o34rbbD5

David Seel@DavidSeel7

In the eyes of Watts and her small but vocal coterie of liberal moms demanding gun bans, the above rifle should be classified as an "assault weapon" and ripped from the hands of

The March 21st, 2018 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPHDAY!

Page 13 of 45

law-abiding citizens, largely because of its black “tactical” appearance that resembles a military-issue firearm.

But in reality, the gun Watts is apparently so fearful of is nothing more than a bolt-action .22 long rifle caliber firearm, the sort of firearm that legions of gun owners learned to shoot with and grew up around as children. Deadly with a well-placed shot, yes, but still barely a step above a BB gun, and largely suitable for target practice or hunting small game like rabbits and gophers.

Don't look now Shannon Watts but your ignorance is showing. You literally picked the least dangerous rifle commonly used by adolescents for target practice, to demonstrate that it's too dangerous for adults, only because it's "SCARY" looking.

10:09 PM - Mar 10, 2018

That rifle isn't even one of the “new” “fully semi-automatic” rifles which reloads itself after each trigger pull that ignorant liberals are now clamoring about (they've been in existence for more than a century), but one that must be manually operated to eject the shell of a spent round prior to chambering a new round after each shot.

In other words, this rifle is about as far from an actual “assault rifle” — one capable of fully automatic fire on a single trigger pull — as can be, which, by the way, were already heavily regulated for civilian ownership by the National Firearms Act of 1934.

As Bearing Arms pointed out, Watts received quite an education on this rifle in the comments on her post — not that she will actually learn anything, because she apparently blocks and ignores anyone who doesn't tout her “ban 'em all” propaganda line.

Then the Bearing Arms' writer unloaded the absolute truth: “Shannon picked that particular gun because it's scary looking. It has an M-Lok rail system like a so-called assault rifle, and it has a Picatinny scope base like many evil black rifles, and it has a magazine that's a little too long for her tastes, so it must be an evil rifle.”

But, again, it is simply a bolt-action .22 caliber rifle dressed up to look “cool” with “tactical” accessories. If this exact same rifle was fitted with a traditional wood stock, some of the duplicitous anti-gun liberals would assure us gun owners that we would be allowed to keep it — for now at least — as part of their planned gun control infringements.



That's a bolt-action, .22-caliber rifle. It's used for target practice and hunting small critters/varmints. That's literally no different, functionally, than this rifle pictured below...it just "looks scarier". ffs. And you wonder why "common sense" gun legislation never passes. pic.twitter.com/LzzvDg5UIJ

10:14 AM - Mar 2, 2018



Tuck Chodd@luthiermark

That's a bolt-action, .22-caliber rifle. It's used for target practice and hunting small critters/varmints. That's literally no different, functionally, than this rifle pictured below...it just "looks scarier". ffs. And you wonder why "common sense" gun legislation never passes. pic.twitter.com/LzzvDg5UIJ

10:14 AM - Mar 2, 2018

It is ignorance like this tweet from Watts that cause gun owners to believe that the left is less than serious about actually doing anything reasonable to combat gun violence. Instead, it reveals that their true agenda is to ban guns of all sorts and leave the law-abiding citizens of our nation disarmed.

Share this story on Facebook to help further expose the ignorance of Shannon Watts and gun-grabbers just like her, who can't tell the difference between a fully automatic M4 "actual" assault rifle and bolt-action .22 caliber rifle.

What do you think of Watts' tweet about the "scary" bolt-action .22 caliber rifle?

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

This story boils down to only one thing. If the gun looks scary, BAN IT! UT

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

CHICAGO STUDENTS TRASH WALMART DURING WALKOUT OVER GUN VIOLENCE

By: Dane Placko, MAR 16 2018

<http://www.fox5ny.com/news/chicago-students-trash-walmart-during-walkout-over-gun-violence>

VIDEO POSTED AT THE WEBSITE.

Chicago police are trying to identify the dozens of students from Simeon Career Academy who they say took part in a vandalism spree while they were supposed to be protesting guns.

Shoppers and store employees were stunned by the destruction Wednesday morning at the Walmart in Chatham Market on the South Side.

Chicago police say it started when students at neighboring Simeon Career Academy were allowed to leave the school for 17 minutes to take part in the nationwide walkout to protest guns.

Police say between 40 and 60 of those students crossed the street and trashed parts of the store, knocking over product displays, yanking items off shelves, breaking packages and stealing small items like chips and candy.

In a statement, a Chicago Public Schools spokesperson says: "We are very concerned by these allegations and we are reviewing the matter."

Some of the students that FOX 32 talked to at Simeon say they're angry that a walkout intended to promote peace instead led to vandalism and violence.

FOX 32 showed the video to 21st Ward Alderman Howard Brookins, who was instrumental in getting the big box retailers to move to the South Side.

"We've worked too hard to try to get these national retailers here in our community. And this doesn't help us. It makes no sense to tear up the community which you call home," he said.

A Chicago police spokesman says they're reviewing what he calls "high quality" video surveillance from Walmart to identify the students at fault, as well as videos posted to social media.

He says those students will likely be charged with misdemeanors and face discipline from the school.

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

HIGH SCHOOLERS SUSPENDED OVER GUN-FRIENDLY PHOTO

Source: by: Luka Mikelionis, Fox News , 03/18/2018

<http://americanactionnews.com/articles/high-schoolers-suspended-over-gun-friendly-photo#l5pvFpoV6ZdrFUe4.99>

A New Jersey high school came under fire Friday after it allegedly suspended two students over a gun photo taken during a family visit to a shooting range.

News of the unnamed students' suspension circulated through a Lacey Township Facebook group, according to NJ.com.

Amanda Buron, a Lacey resident and family friend of one of the suspended students said one of the photos shared on SnapChat featured four rifles, ammunition clips and a gun duffel with the caption "fun day at the range," NJ.com reported.



Buron said the two students received a five-day in-school suspension after the picture drew the attention of Lacey Township High School officials, who argued that it violated the school's policy on weapons possession.

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

Well one thing is sure, the kids are going to get full rides to college because of the liberal administrators in their High School. Can you say H'UGE LAWSUIT? UT

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

CELEBRITY FASHION TREND: FACIALS MADE FROM CLONED BABY FORESKIN CELLS

by WARNER TODD HUSTON, 18 Mar 2018

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-hollywood/2018/03/18/celebrity-fashion-trend-facials-made-cloned-baby-foreskin-cells/>



Actress Cate Blanchett revealed a shocking beauty secret in a recent interview saying that she is a big fan of facial cream made in part from cloned cells from the amputated foreskins.

Blanchett made her stunning admission in a recent interview with Vogue Australia, in which she sang the praises of facial expert Georgia Louise Atelier of New York City.

The Thor: Ragnarok actress noted that she and fellow A-lister Sandra Bullock visited the New York facialist and purchased what Blanchett called a “penis facial,” according to Hollywood Reporter.

“Sandy and I saw this facialist in New York, Georgia Louise, and she gives what we call the ‘penis facial’ and it’s something — I don’t know what it is, or whether it’s just ‘cause it smells a bit like sperm — there’s some enzyme in it, so Sandy refers to it as the ‘penis facial,’” Blanchett responded, after reporter Remy Rippon asked her: “What’s the most outlandish beauty treatment you’ve tried?”

Naturally, the Internet went wild over the quote, the story became worldwide entertainment industry news. But, even as the word spread of Blanchett's strange new facial treatment, Vogue Australia removed the quote from its article without leaving any explanation of just why the edit was made.

Blanchett has since remained mum on the topic, as well.

However, Louise was happy to explain just what ingredients make up her "penis facial."

Again, per Hollywood Reporter:

"The Hollywood EGF Facial started last year when Sandra Bullock was filming in NYC and came to see me for a deep cleansing and long-lasting facial glow," says Louise. "I wanted to give her something that would transform her skin without the need to undergo lasers, so I loaded up her bespoke facial with something that would give her long-lasting results. Within weeks her makeup artist, Whitney, and castmates wanted to know what was the cause of her amazing, long-lasting glowing skin.... And from that moment onward the Hollywood EGF Facial was born!"

"The foreskin is collected during circumcision and the stem cells are then harvested and extracted through a centrifuge," says Louise. "I am always very mindful to explain radical serums and potions that I carry in my back bar, so I always explain that EGF is derived from newborn baby foreskin, but cells were taken and from that, new cells are cloned from a laboratory."

Louise also took to social media to do a bit of self-promotion saying, "My ultra-exclusive facial to the stars has been revealed by Cate Blanchett and Sandra Bullock and is now available at my atelier! No babies were used — only clone cell[s] taken years ago!"

Cate Blanchett is not the first Hollywood star to cause a stir over beauty treatments that might contain the human cells contained in baby foreskins. Several years ago talk show queen and oft-touted Democrat candidate for President Oprah Winfrey also came under fire for touting a beauty aid that might contain foreskin cells.

In 2013 it was revealed that Winfrey was backing an anti-aging cream that was developed with skin cells harvested from baby foreskins produced by the skin care company SkinMedica. The news caused several groups to protest the TV star including an anti-circumcision group based in Canada that wondered how the star would feel about a beauty cream "produced with tissue extracted from the genitalia of little girls."

Follow Warner Todd Huston on Twitter @warnerthuston.

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

DEM CLAIMS SIGN HONORING CIVIL WAR GENERAL OFFENDS 'WOMEN'S DIGNITY'

by: Dave Urbanski, TheBlaze, 03/19/2018

<http://americanactionnews.com/articles/dem-claims-sign-honoring-civil-war-general-offends-women-s-dignity#46y4CVK2trC8mhRE.99>



It's anybody's guess how long the venerable sign on the Massachusetts State House has been the butt of jokes. However, it appears Democratic state Rep. Michelle DuBois has had enough of eyeballing its words: "General Hooker Entrance."

Thing is, the long-standing sign is not a reference to prostitution — in case you hadn't guessed — but instead honors Civil War Gen. Joseph Hooker. Still DuBois [told WBZ-TV](#) it's an affront to women, and she wants it removed or reworded to include his first name.

"Female staffers don't use that entrance because the sign is offensive to them," she added to the station.

DuBois tweeted a photo of the sign Wednesday, writing "#MeToo it's not all about rape & harassment but also women's dignity."

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com



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

VIDEO: DON'T MAKE THESE MISTAKES

By Kevin Michalowski // 03/19/2018

<https://www.usconcealedcarry.com/dont-make-mistakes/>

PLEASE VIEW THE VIDEO AT THE WEBSITE. IT IS HIGHLY INFORMATIVE.

Engaging in a gunfight is never a good thing, but making mistakes during your gunfight can make a bad day even worse. This video shows a great win for a mother and daughter defending their liquor store, but a few mistakes could have turned this into a tragedy for these two women.

First up, the women did not carry their guns on their bodies. Worse, they kept their guns close to the cash register. Bad guys focus on and try to get close to the cash register. If your gun is there, he might find your gun as he looks for the money. After that, the women fought valiantly, but the situation went from bad to worse. The bad guy came back after being shot multiple times, and the mother allowed him to get close enough to grab her gun. As the mother struggled with the bad guy, the daughter tried to shoot at the bad guy in order to stop the threat. The bad guy was able to wrench the revolver from the mother despite the fact that he had been shot a couple of times already. So the moral of the story is clear: Keep your gun on your person, and never let the bad guy get close enough to grab you.

STOP THE THREAT

Keep shooting until the bad guy stops attacking you. In this video, a bad guy who was shot multiple times was still able to take the weapon from a smaller and weaker adversary. Distance is your friend. Don't let people get close to you.

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

From: "Mike Williamson" mzmadmike@gmail.com

16 Russian Dancers Stand Absolutely Still, But When They Start To Move... WOW!

<http://www.viralmirror.com/beriozka-russian-dancers/>

I thought that the entire idea of dancing is for the audience to see the moves, but with Beriozka things are a little bit different. In this traditional Russian dance, performers appear to be floating across the stage, and it is nothing short of impressive. Their secret technique is called the floating step and in a second you are going to have a hard time trusting your eyes!

I thought that these dancers are standing still while the stage beneath them seems to be moving. Even the skirts doesn't seem to ruffle, but that is all part of the show. The women actually have to stay on their tippy toes (en pointe) the entire time to maintain the illusion.

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

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

DIAMONDS FOUND TO CONTAIN EXOTIC ICE NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN NATURE

Michael Irving, March 14, 2018

<https://newatlas.com/ice-vii-earth-mantle-diamonds/53794/>



An exotic mineral known as Ice VII has been discovered on Earth for the first time, locked away inside diamonds (Credit: Kacpura/Depositphotos)

To most of us, ice is just ice. But scientists have categorized no less than 16 types, created under different conditions and featuring different crystalline structures. Most of these have only been created in the lab, but now, geoscientists at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) have discovered a type known as Ice VII (seven) locked inside diamonds. This marks the first time the substance has been directly detected in nature, and it suggests that the Earth's mantle is home to huge pockets of water.

Ice's most common and familiar form is known, appropriately, as Ice I, but its phases are numbered right through to Ice XVI. Ice VII has a cubic crystalline structure, and can form at room temperature from water under 30,000 atmospheres of pressure. The stuff is well known in the lab and is believed to occur naturally on other planets and moons, such as Titan and Europa.

The new study marks the first time Ice VII has been found naturally on Earth, prompting the International Mineralogical Association to officially recognize it as a mineral. This unique crystallized water was found in the form of inclusions (impurities) in diamonds, which formed deep inside the Earth and were slowly pushed upwards over time.

The team says these diamonds would have formed in the mantle some 500 mi (805 km) below the surface, at temperatures over 1,000° F (538° C). The ice is solid now while confined inside the diamonds, but at those depths it would have existed as a liquid, which indicates that there is far more water in the Earth's mantle than previously believed. And since traces of Ice VII were found in diamonds from China, South Africa and Botswana, it appears to be a worldwide thing.

"These discoveries are important in understanding that water-rich regions in the Earth's interior can play a role in the global water budget and the movement of heat-generating radioactive elements," says Oliver Tschauner, first author of the study. "It's another piece of the puzzle in understanding how our planet works."

The researchers say the discovery was made by accident, as they hunted for carbon dioxide. The find should also help scientists build better models of how and where heat is generated deep inside the planet.

The research was published in the journal Science.

Source: UNLV

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

SANDIA LABS COMPLETES NUCLEAR TRIATHLON TO TEST SPENT FUEL SAFETY

David Szondy, March 14, 2018

<https://newatlas.com/sandia-nuclear-fuel-triathlon-safety/53788/>



Loading the nuclear waste transportation and storage cask onto a barge for the second leg of Sandia National Laboratories' triathlon (Credit: SNL)

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

Page 23 of 45

Generating nuclear power requires moving spent radioactive fuel safely over thousands of miles from reactor sites for reprocessing or disposal. To ensure that this is being carried out with the minimum of risks, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) recently completed a nuclear "triathlon" that involved moving a simulated cargo of spent fuel rods over 14,500 miles to record the stress and jolts that fuel undergoes in transit.

According to SNL, up to 2,600 tonnes of spent fuel is produced by the reactors that supply the United States with 20 percent of its electricity. Transporting this fuel is a serious and delicate operation because it not only involves containing the fuel rods in line with the strict regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but it must also be done in a way that reassures the public that every possible precaution is being taken.

For over 30 years, the consignments have been stored in 125-tonne Type B casks, which contain up to about 24 tonnes of used fuel in the form of fuel rod assemblies. These consist of rectangular bundles of zirconium rods stuffed with fuel pellets of enriched uranium 235 or plutonium. The casks are forged out of solid steel with heavily gasketed steel hatches held on by specially reinforced pins that can withstand 100 tonnes of force each. When loaded and sealed, these casks are so strong that they can take a direct hit at their weakest point by a 100 tonne diesel locomotive traveling at 100 mph (160 km/h) and still come away with little more than scratches and superficial dents.

The problem today is that the fuel rods themselves are very fragile. Sitting inside the intense radioactive environment of a critical nuclear reactor for several years, the metal cladding of the rods becomes very brittle and the assemblies require careful handling if they're not to shatter. A similar problem occurs in any routine transportation of fuel rods, where repeated strains place them in danger of unexpectedly snapping.



To understand more about the stresses that these rods undergo, SNL in collaboration with Spanish and South Korean partners as well as Pacific Northwest and Argonne national laboratories, loaded a brand new cask with three dummy fuel rod assemblies. Instead of spent nuclear fuel, the rods were stuffed with lead rope and pellets made of lead or molybdenum. Normally the cask would hold 32 assemblies, but these were special assemblies kitted out with

accelerometers and strain gauges to record every bump, rattle and jolt of the journey.

This isn't the first test that SNL has conducted, but it is the most ambitious to date. Three previous tests included reproducing transport strains on a laboratory shaker table, then on a similar table with 50,000 lb (23,000 kg) of concrete to simulate a transport of casks over city streets and rough roads, and a third to simulate a rail journey.

The fourth and most recent "triathlon" test used a Spanish nuclear flask, which was sent on a 14,500 mile land and sea voyage that began with 250 miles over main roads and highways using a heavy-haul truck from northern Spain to a seaport, where the cask was transferred to a barge and shipped 1,000 miles along the coast to Belgium. There, it was placed aboard a cargo ship headed for Baltimore, 4,000 miles and a fortnight away. Then the cask was set on a flatbed rail car and passed through 12 states as it covered another 2,000 miles to the Transportation Technology Center Inc facility near Pueblo, Colorado for controlled runs on a 50 mile test track. Finally, the whole thing went in reverse as the cask was sent back to Spain.

As the cask traveled, the sensors collected data on shock and vibrations, which was recorded by a bespoke system. The final result is 8 terabytes of data that will take a year to analyze. According to SNL, this treasure trove will allow engineers to evaluate computer models used to estimate fuel rod stresses.

"Preliminary results show very low shock and vibration levels, which we will compare to the mechanical properties of fuel that's come out of a nuclear power reactor," says Paul McConnell, project manager for the tests. "Ultimately, we want to understand if the fuel can withstand the accumulation of shocks and vibrations during the journey that could potentially cause a fuel rod to break."

Source: SNL

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

SCIENTISTS DEVELOPING PROSTHETIC HANDS THAT AMPUTEES CAN FEEL

Research published in Science Translational Medicine could help mend the disconnect between patients and their prosthetic limbs.

by NATE CHURCH, 15 Mar 2018

<http://www.breitbart.com/tech/2018/03/15/scientists-developing-prosthetic-hands-amputees-can-feel/>

Attaching vibrating devices to muscles at the site of the amputation, researchers were able to create an illusory sensation that mimics the feeling of "kinesthesia," or movement self-awareness. The experiment allowed patients to "feel" the prosthetic hand to an extent that noticeably improved their ability to use it and restored a measure of intuitive function to the limb. In other words, with just the slightest illusion of touch, their brains could begin to use the limb without the constant conscious focus on each individual manipulation.

Paul Marasco, a biomedical engineer at the Cleveland Clinic and head of its Laboratory for Bionic Integration and lead author on the research, told Gizmodo that "...the individuals we worked with, we were able to provide them with that sensation that they could just move their hands into specific places without ever having looking at it and perform every bit as well as able bodied people."



LEON NEAL/AFP/Getty Images

Despite decades of research into the field, Marasco and his team were consistently surprised by the results. “We thought that if it worked like it did in an able bodied person, we’d just get one or two joints; we’d get a wrist—something basic,” he said. “But what we found were these complex, multi-digit synergies where the whole hand is moving and they know where their fingers are going and what they’re doing, and they’re adopting these really interesting grip conformations [shapes]. We were totally floored.”

Further, the method has been successfully replicated in separate labs, even as it grows more compact and efficient. Marasco said that they “went from a robotic vibration system that’s the size of a soda can to one that’s now just a little bigger than a matchbox.” Despite that, “it still has the same horsepower, but this one runs on batteries and it can be mounted directly to a prosthetic socket.”

Their goal is to create limbs that feel more like the originals, to break down the barriers that exist between an amputee and an automated limb. With time and effort, Marasco thinks that they may have found the way. “We think that if we can tap into that system and provide them a sense of agency and ownership so that their brain recognizes their device as being human, it will actually overcome these barriers.”

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

DIAMONDS MAY BE A TITANIUM IMPLANT'S BEST FRIEND

Ben Coxworth, March 15, 2018

<https://newatlas.com/diamonds-titanium-implants/53824/>



One of the diamond-encrusted implants created by the team(Credit: RMIT University)

Titanium is a very biocompatible material, which is why it's so often used for medical implants. That said, chemical compounds in the metal sometimes do result in implants being rejected by the body. Scientists at Australia's RMIT University are attempting to address the problem, by coating such implants with diamonds.

Led by Dr. Kate Fox, an RMIT research team has been 3D-printing titanium implants using a technique known as selective laser melting, in which a high power-density laser is used to melt and fuse together particles of titanium powder in order to form a three-dimensional object.

Utilizing a microwave plasma process, those implants are subsequently covered in a coating consisting of more titanium combined with synthetic diamonds. On a microscopic level, the coating has a scaffold-like structure which encourages cells from the surrounding biological tissue to grow into it.

Diamonds were chosen because the carbon of which they're composed is also a major component of the human body, making them extremely biocompatible. And while diamonds may sound like an expensive way to go, the detonation nanodiamonds that are used actually cost less than the titanium powder.

In lab tests conducted so far, the scientists have been concentrating on how the technology could be used to improve orthopedic implants – and although it may be a

number of years before the implants are suitable for use in humans, the results have been promising.

"The diamond enhances the integration between the living bone and the artificial implant, and reduces bacterial attachment over an extended period of time," says Fox. "Not only could our diamond coating lead to better biocompatibility for 3D-printed implants, but it could also improve their wear and resistance. It's an exceptional biomaterial."

A paper on the research was recently published in the journal ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces.

Source: RMIT University

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

NASA'S PROLIFIC PLANET-HUNTING KEPLER SPACECRAFT IS RUNNING OUT OF FUEL

By Elizabeth Howell, Space.com Contributor | March 16, 2018 03:00pm ET

<https://www.space.com/40008-kepler-planet-hunter-running-out-of-fuel.html>



A view of Kepler, whose extended mission may be nearing an end as it runs out of fuel.
Credit: NASA

The Kepler space telescope's prolific planet-hunting days will end soon. After finding more than 2,300 confirmed planets across its two missions, Kepler is low on fuel and will run out within several months, according to NASA engineers.

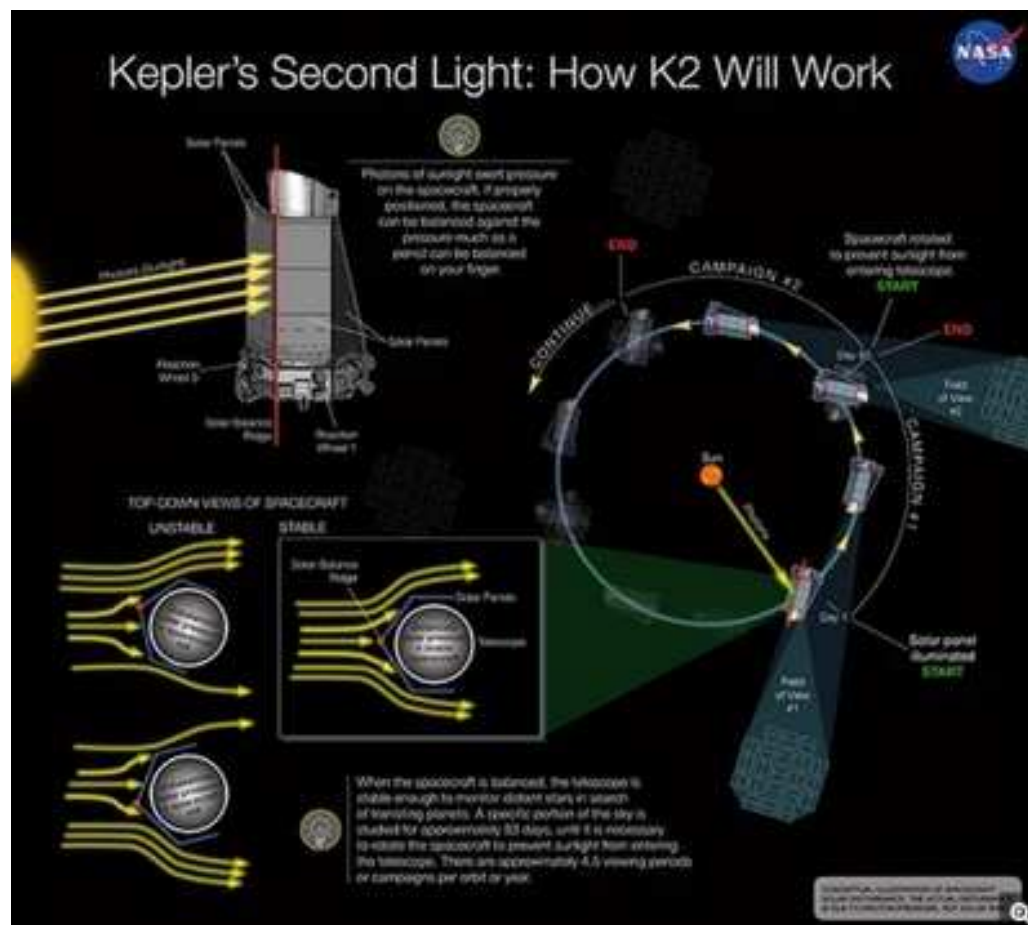
"Our current estimates are that Kepler's tank will run dry within several months — but we've been surprised by its performance before! So, while we anticipate flight operations

ending soon, we are prepared to continue as long as the fuel allows," Charlie Sobeck, system engineer for the Kepler mission, said in a NASA statement.

"The Kepler team is planning to collect as much science data as possible in its remaining time and beam it back to Earth before the loss of the fuel-powered thrusters means that we can't aim the spacecraft for data transfer," he added. "We even have plans to take some final calibration data with the last bit of fuel, if the opportunity presents itself."

The Kepler data will also be plumbed for years as scientists seek to confirm other possible planets in its archive. As of today (March 16), Kepler has confirmed the existence of 2,342 planets across its two missions — about two-thirds of all exoplanets ever discovered. (Just last month, Kepler scientists released a batch of 95 planets that are included in this total.) On top of that, there are 2,245 possible planets that require more observation — a ripe ground for future follow-up.

The \$600 million Kepler mission launched in 2009 to search for exoplanets in a fixed location in the constellation Cygnus. For four years, it watched the stars for the telltale dimming that occurs when an exoplanet crosses the face of a star. The mission's ultimate aim was to find rocky exoplanets that were Earth-size or smaller — a type of planet rarely found when Kepler went into orbit. But within a few years, Kepler's data showed that rocky planets are extremely common in the universe



Infographic showing how the K2 mission works. Credit: NASA

The mission was originally slated to last two years, but it was extended. In 2013, after four years of operation, three of Kepler's four gyroscopes — the "wheels" that aimed the craft — failed. Kepler couldn't maintain a steady gaze in space anymore.

So NASA devised a new mission for the spacecraft,

called K2.

Using the pressure of the solar wind to maintain position, the spacecraft would rotate between different areas of the sky every three months (which, in the parlance of the mission, is called a "campaign"). This would allow Kepler to keep looking for exoplanets, albeit with a shorter orbital period. Even with K2, Kepler exceeded expectations.

"Initially, the Kepler team estimated that the K2 mission could conduct 10 campaigns with the remaining fuel," Sobeck said. "It turns out, we were overly conservative. The mission has already completed 16 campaigns, and this month entered its 17th."

He added that there is no gas gauge on Kepler showing when it might run out of fuel, so the team relies on estimates. These estimates consider factors such as changes in thruster performance and drops in the fuel tank's pressure. But Kepler has an advantage: It's located in deep space. It's not close to a planet hosting icy moons, unlike the Galileo mission near Jupiter (which orbited there between 1995 and 2003) and the Cassini mission near Saturn (which orbited the planet from 2004 to 2017) .

When Cassini and Galileo ran low on fuel, NASA engineers deliberately aimed these spacecraft on death dives into their respective planets, just in case the drifting machines accidentally smacked into an icy moon that has the potential to host life. Kepler, by contrast, can keep going as long as feasible.

"We can afford to squeeze every last drop of data from the spacecraft — and ultimately that means bringing home even more data for science," Sobeck said. "Who knows what surprises about our universe will be in that final downlink to Earth?"

While Kepler is in the twilight of its mission, another planet-hunting spacecraft is ready to take the stage. NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite will launch no earlier than April 16 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. It will do a full-sky survey of at least 200,000 stars, focusing on planets orbiting stars that are brighter and closer to Kepler. This means it will be easier for scientists do follow-up observations using ground telescopes or the James Webb Space Telescope that is slated to launch in 2019.

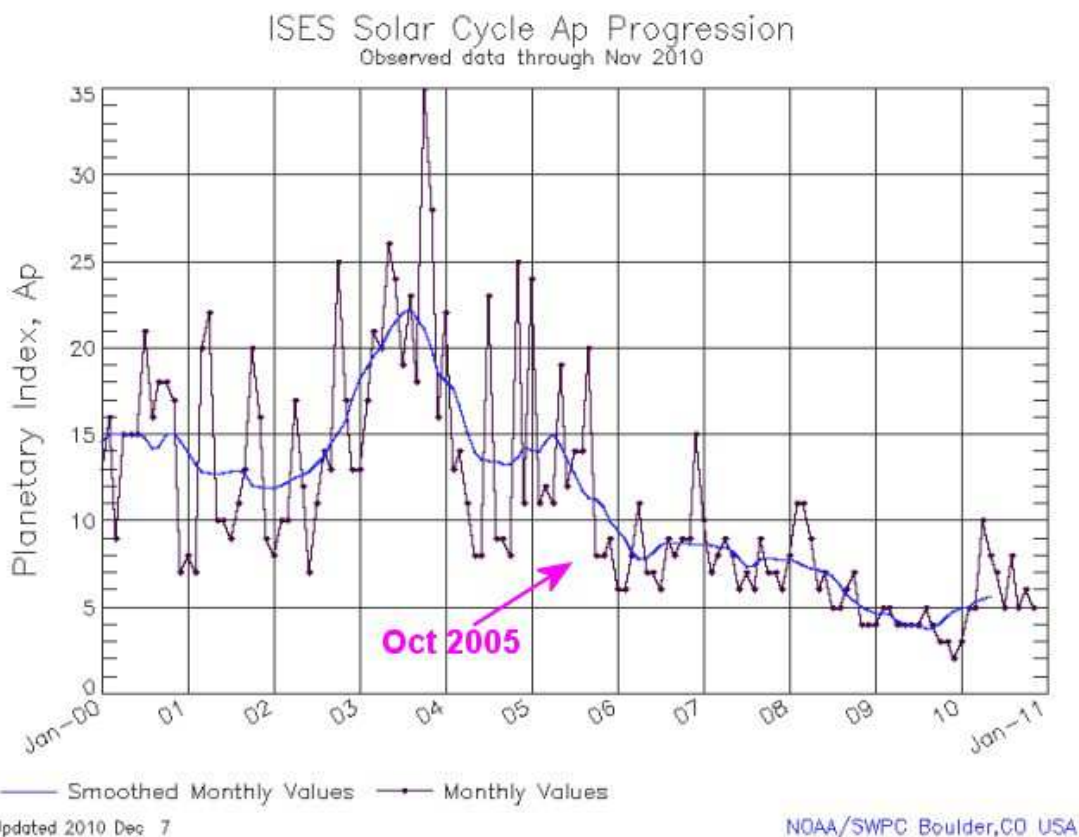
<S><C><I><E><N><C><E>

APPROACHING 'GRAND SOLAR MINIMUM' COULD CAUSE GLOBAL COOLING

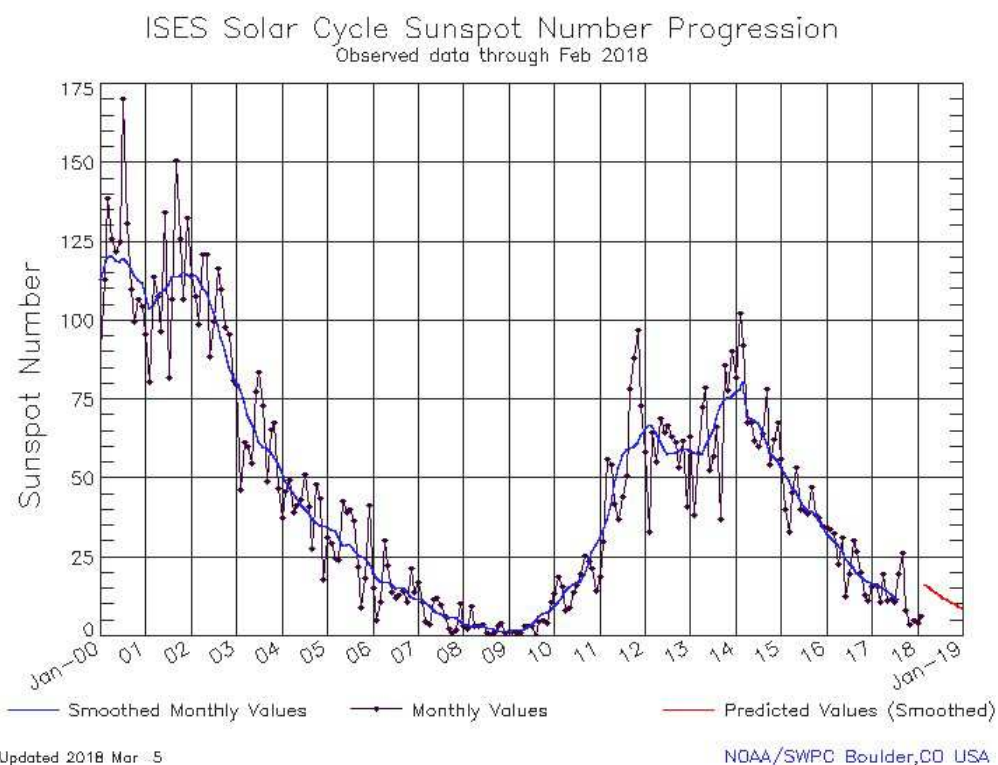
Anthony Watts, March 18, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/03/18/approaching-grand-solar-minimum-could-cause-global-cooling/>

There's a lot of evidence mounting that solar cycle 25 will usher in a new grand solar minimum. Since about October 2005, when the sun's magnetic activity went into a sharp fall, solar activity has been markedly lower, with solar cycle 24 being the lowest in over 100 years.

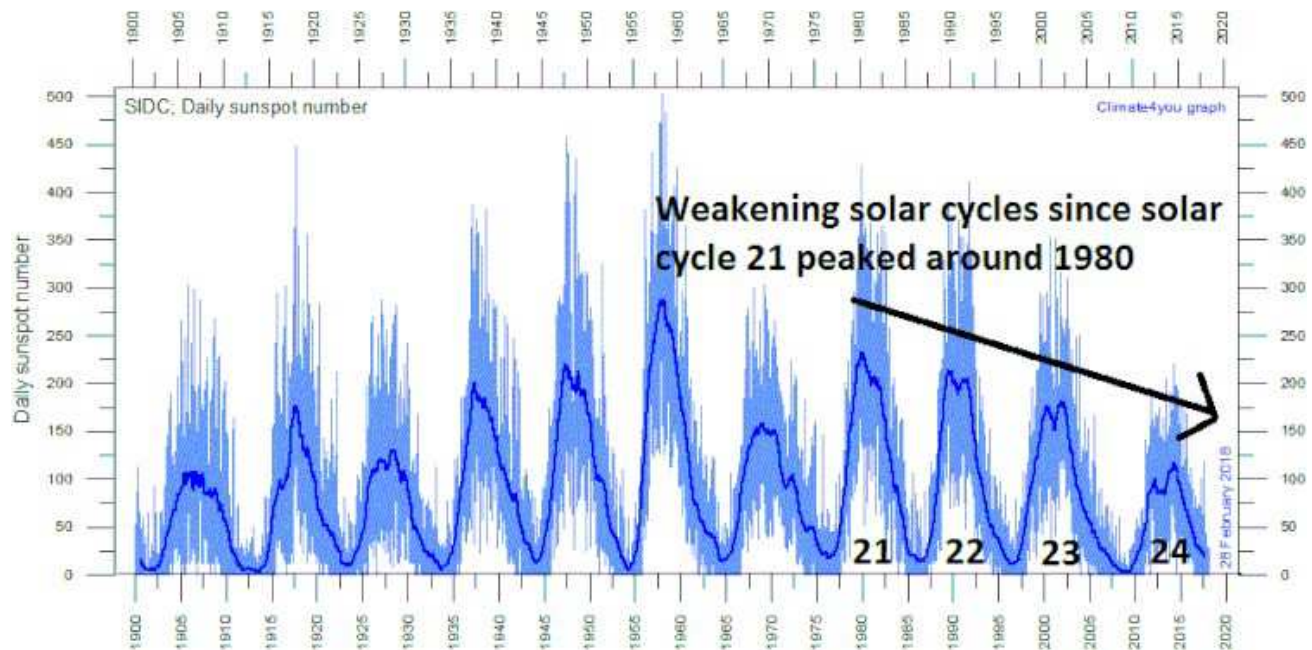


Interplanetary magnetic field – Image from NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center



Solar cycle 24 – Image from NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center

Cycle 24 is part of a weakening progression of solar cycles since 1980:



Daily observations of the number of sunspots since 1 January 1900 according to Solar Influences Data Analysis Center (SIDC). The thin blue line indicates the daily sunspot number, while the dark blue line indicates the running annual average. The recent low sunspot activity is clearly reflected in the recent low values for the total solar irradiance. Data source: WDC-SILSO, Royal Observatory of Belgium, Brussels. Last day shown: 28 February 2018. Last diagram update: 1 March 2018. (Credit climate4you.com)

Meteorologist Paul Dorian at Vencore weather writes:

All indications are that the upcoming solar minimum which is expected to begin in 2019 may be even quieter than the last one which was the deepest in nearly a century.

Some scientists are even saying that we are on the cusp of a new grand solar minimum, and the upcoming cycle 25 may have even lower cycles after it.

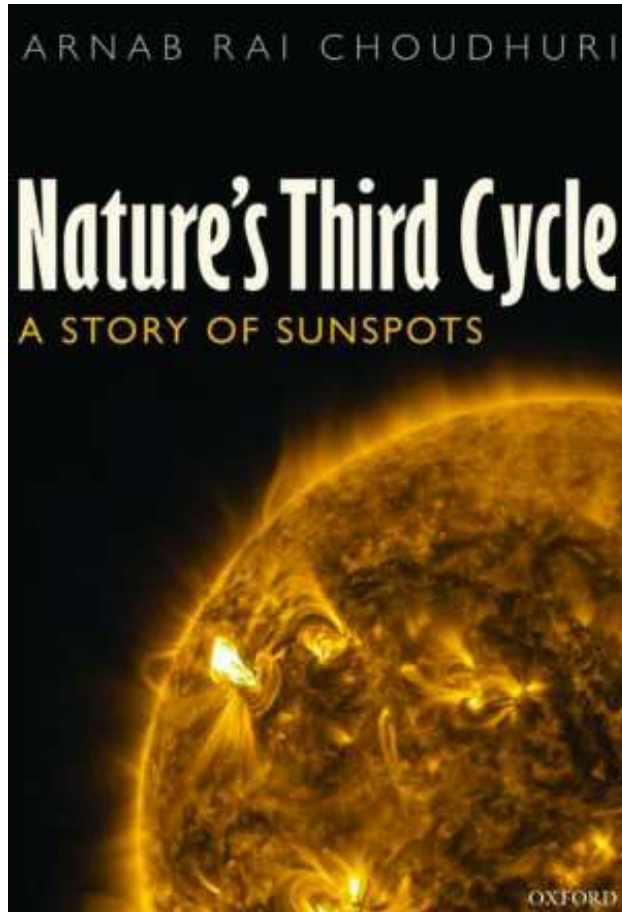
This empirical modeling of solar recurrent patterns has also provided a consequent multi-millennial-scale experimental forecast, suggesting a solar decreasing trend toward Grand (Super) Minimum conditions for the upcoming period, AD2050–2250 (AD 3750–4450).

Source: Evidence of cosmic recurrent and lagged millennia-scale patterns and consequent forecasts: multi-scale responses of solar activity (SA) to planetary gravitational forcing (PGF) (open access)

Simon Constable, in Forbes writes:

The question is whether we will enter another grand solar minimum just like the Maunder minimum which, if history is a guide, would mean a period of much colder weather winters and summers.

Once upon a time, people would worship the sun as a deity. It was with good reason that they did so for the sun provided much of what sustains life on our small planet, warmth and bountiful harvests. How would we survive if the sun stopped beating down on us? It was a real fear.



Then came science and industrialization. As the new era took over, we mostly forgot the sun and its importance to our existence. (Of course, most people occasionally complain that it is either too sunny or not sunny enough.)

But just because we stopped paying close attention doesn't mean that it lost any of its importance to our world. And neither does the fact that the life of the sun is far more complex than many people realize. Indeed, if we are to believe the experts, the sun's behavior is about to change in a way that could have dramatic consequences for the food we eat and the broader economy.

That's why it is rather handy that an important book on the matter was recently published in paperback. *Nature's Third Cycle: A Story of Sunspots* by Arnab Rai Choudhuri.

The third cycle is that of the Sun and the dark spots which appear on the solar surface. The first two cycles are day versus night and the changing seasons.

Choudhuri gives us a condensed history of the study of the sun and of sunspots over the past few centuries back to Galileo Gailiei, whose discovery of the Sun's 27-day rotation marked the serious start of solar physics.

The remarkable tale includes skilled amateurs as well as professional academics, the rivalries between the main players, and a probable husband-wife murder-suicide thrown into the mix. Yes, there is a lot in the story of studying the sun, and the author does a masterful job of making it a fascinating read. Not too shabby when many scientific books do more to muddle the reader than to enlighten.

The names which might be familiar include the following: space observatory pioneer George Ellery Hale; discoverer of Uranus William Herschel; and astronomer Edward Maunder. It was the last of those men who identified a period from about 1640 through 1715 when the spots on the Sun disappeared. Usually, the number of dark blemishes on the solar surface tends to rise and fall in somewhat predictable 11-year cycles.

The period when the spots vanished, a so-called grand solar minimum, also coincided with a sort of mini-ice age with harsh winters and short cool summers. It became known as the Maunder minimum after the man who studied it.

Of course, the idea that the temperature of the earth could be changed by mysterious fluctuating dark patterns on the sun's surface is nothing if not controversial. But that doesn't mean it isn't true, as the author states:

[...] the earth indeed becomes cooler when sunspots go missing. Exactly how this happens is still a question on which experts seem to have very differing views and which is unlikely to be settled definitively in the near future.

Choudhuri takes pains to add that none of this negates the effect of industrialization on climate change. They are both critical factors.

However, the whole matter is complicated by the fact that while the world was warming up in the 20th century the number of sunspots were above their average count. Remember, other things being equal, more spots means warmer earth temperatures.

When the book was published in hardback in 2015, the author was reluctant to forecast the likely outcome of the current sunspot cycle.

But what has become more apparent based on more recent research from NASA is that we are now in a period of very few or no sunspots. This has coincided with the brutal winter we are going through now.

The question is whether we will enter another grand solar minimum just like the Maunder minimum which if history is a guide would mean a period of much colder weather winters and summers. More than a few experts with whom I speak regularly believe that we shall enter such a grand minimum along with the resulting bone-chilling weather.

If that happens, then there will be profound influences on the economy, including possible crop failures and rising energy use for home and workplace heating. Or in other words, expect bigger bills for food and energy. After a period in which the supply of both has been increasingly abundant then this change will likely come as a shock to many people and likely the broader global economy as well.

We live in interesting times.

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

ONCE WRITTEN OFF FOR DEAD, THE ARAL SEA IS NOW FULL OF LIFE

Thanks to large-scale restoration efforts, the North Aral Sea has seen a resurgence of fish—a boon to the communities that rely on it.

By Dene-Hern Chen, PUBLISHED MARCH 16, 2018

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/03/north-aral-sea-restoration-fish-kazakhstan/>

Reporting on this story was supported by a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

ARALSK DISTRICT, KAZAKHSTAN Omirserik Ibragimov fixed his gaze on the hole he had carved out from the frozen Aral Sea. The 25-year-old's hands moved steadily, pulling out a

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

Page 34 of 45

fishing net that he and his father had left under the solid, snow-covered surface just three days earlier.

Omirserik Ibragimov, 25, uses a net to ice fish on the frozen surface of the North Aral Sea near Tastubek, Kazakhstan. PHOTOGRAPH BY TAYLOR WEIDMAN

After a minute marked by tense silence, two breams emerged from the hole. Then three pike-perches, their silver scales shimmering as they struggled against the net's green meshing.



“Here comes the gold,” Omirserik said with a smile as he continued tugging the net. The pike-perch, with its tender flesh and few bones, is considered to be the most valuable catch, selling for roughly 650 tenge (a little over \$2) for a kilogram; local fishermen refer to them as “gold fish.”

His father, Kidirbai, worked with his bare hands to free the fish, his knuckles flush from the freezing water. After gathering all their nets, their total catch of the day was about 77 pounds (35 kilograms) of pike-perch and 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of bream—a sizable haul for a few hours of work.

The fishing has improved dramatically over the past few years on the North Aral Sea, indicating restoration efforts are working. PHOTOGRAPH BY TAYLOR WEIDMAN

Just 15 years earlier, this would not have been possible. Once the world's fourth-largest freshwater lake, with an area of some 26,000 square miles, the Aral Sea became the victim of the Soviet Union's agricultural policies in the 1950s. Water from its two river sources—the Amu Darya and Syr Darya—was intentionally diverted for cotton cultivation. (See other rivers that have been run dry.)



As decreasing water flow into the sea caused a rise in salinity, the abundant freshwater fish species began to die out. By the 1980s, the fishing industry in the Aralsk district—once a robust source of employment for the region—was wiped out, forcing a mass migration of

people. The remaining population was hit by extreme weather, brought on by the dried-out Aral seabed, and deteriorating health.

“The people destroyed the sea and then nature took revenge on the people,” said Madi Zhasekenov, the director of the Aralsk Regional Museum and Fishermen Museum.

MASSIVE DISASTER

This rapid collapse over less than three decades—which environmental scientists say is one of the planet’s worst ecological disasters—is marked today by the sea’s reduced size. Its total area of water, straddling Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, is now a tenth of its original size.

What’s left has broken into two distinct bodies: the North and South Aral Seas. In Uzbekistan, the entire eastern basin of the South Aral Sea is completely desiccated, leaving merely a single strip of water in the west. (Learn about other vanishing lakes around the world.)

But Kazakhstan’s North Aral Sea has seen a happier outcome, thanks to a nearly \$86 million project financed in large part by the World Bank. Along with repairs to existing dikes around the basin to prevent spillage, an eight-mile dam was constructed just south of the Syr Darya River. Completed in the summer of 2005, this dam, named Kokaral, surpassed all expectations. It led to an 11-foot increase in water levels after just seven months—a goal that scientists initially expected would take three years.



Local people have long relied on camels as livestock, especially as fishing declined. PHOTOGRAPH BY TAYLOR WEIDMAN

This turnaround in the North Aral Sea’s fate has meant that the fish stocks have returned to its waters, injecting new life into the local communities. Just as government policies had doomed the Aral Sea, careful planning and research helped revive at least part of it.

Kristopher White, a researcher and professor of Almaty’s KIMEP University who has studied the economic impacts of the Aral Sea’s desiccation, explained that while the sea will never return to its former size, the 18 percent increase in mass of the North Aral Sea is a testament to how political will and scientific research can benefit the environment.

“Anthropogenic ecological damage can be reversed by human intervention,” said White.



Children play on a snowdrift in Tastubek, Kazakhstan, where economic opportunities are improving with the health of the sea. PHOTOGRAPH BY TAYLOR WEIDMAN

OPTIMISM AND HOPE

At its peak in 1957, the Aral Sea produced more than 48,000 tons of fish, representing roughly 13 percent of the Soviet Union's fish stocks. By the 1980s, due to the rising salinity of the sea, the 20 native species of fish were

decimated; commercial harvests plummeted to zero by 1987. The water from the sea receded, and today, the shore is about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from Aralsk.

"The major source of employment was gone, and with it optimism and hope for the future," said White. "And that really prevailed throughout the region until the completion of this dam."

During those decades, flounder was the only fish that could survive the high-salinity North Aral Sea. But after the Kokaral Dam was finished, the average salinity dropped from 30 grams to 8 grams per liter, prompting the return of almost two dozen freshwater species through the Syr Darya river.

According to the Aralsk Fish Inspection Unit, fish catch in the North Aral Sea has grown six-fold since 2006, when the bulk of the 1,360 tons caught was flounder. By 2016, 7,106 tons of fish was caught, with bream being the most common, followed by roach and the sought-after pike-perch. For 2018, the fishing limit is set at 8,200 tons, said head inspector Esenbai Ensepov.

A worker prepares fish for smoking. PHOTOGRAPH BY TAYLOR WEIDMAN

This return has brought commerce back to the inland town of Aralsk. Askar Zhumashev, 42, a supervisor at Kambala Balyk Processing Plant, said that his team processed roughly 500 tons of fish two years ago, the biggest amount since he started working there.



"When I was born, the sea

was already gone,” said Zhumashev. “I went to the Aral Sea for the first time only two years ago. My parents used to tell me that the boats would come in and out everyday from the old port.” (Learn why a giant green lake turned red.)

In the winter, the village of Tastubek, about four hours from Aralsk, appears desolate. But around 10 AM every morning, the town hums to life as the fishermen begin gathering to inspect their gear and discuss the day’s plans. With the Aral Sea just an hour’s drive away, they can be back in the village by the late afternoon with a successful haul.

Kidirbai, the patriarch of the Ibragimov family, has witnessed the changing fortunes of Tastubek. He was born here in 1973. Unlike those forced to move during the bleak years, his family relied on their livestock of camels and horses for income. When he was a young boy, there were 90 houses in Tastubek.

“By the mid-90s, there were only nine houses left,” he said. This year, he counted 34, an increase from last year’s 29. The newcomers are young fishermen attempting to strike gold. “I am happy the village is growing because then maybe the government will pay more attention to us, like they would build a road or support the village,” said Kidirbai.

But prosperity has also generated some negative effects, like the raft of illegal fishing during the breeding season of May to July. Aldanbek Kerinov, a former taxi driver from Aralsk who started fishing full-time with his brothers seven years ago, explained that this period, well legally off limits, is considered the most bountiful because fish swim closer to the shore to lay their eggs.

“Everyone usually goes late at night, because during the day, everyone is afraid the fish inspectors will come,” he said. “There are no other jobs and fishing is the main source of income, so they will always continue to fish.”

Aldanbek was unconcerned about the impact this would have on the fisheries, as the World Bank’s second phase to the dam is touted to bring more water and thus more fish, he said. (While a plan to raise the Kokaral Dam’s walls to increase water levels has been in the works for years, a World Bank representative said that the government needs to approve the project in order for it to move forward.)

Yet the illegal fishing does worry experts like White, who points out that illicit harvests are much harder to track for management purposes. And the history of fishing has been rife with loose or no management, followed by collapse of stocks. (Learn about vanishing aquifers.)

For Kirdirbai, the sea has been an unpredictable force in his life. In 1987, the water froze unexpectedly early in November, and his family’s fishing boat was stuck a thousand feet (300 meters) out in the sea. His father, worried about thin ice, tied a rope to himself and shuffled out from shore to retrieve it. Fourteen-year-old Kidirbai watched as his father freed the craft from the ice with a metal spike and dragged it back, without incident.

Five years later, Kidirbai was not so lucky. He and his friend were fishing in the summer when a big storm hit. The boat overturned and his friend drowned. Kidirbai, traumatized by the incident, stopped fishing for three years.

Yes, it is bad to fish during the breeding season, Kidirbai said. But after decades of poverty and harsh living, they were all hungry for prosperity. “Now the locals are thinking only about how to earn as much as possible,” he said.

His faith in the Aral Sea remains unwavering. Since the freshwater fish species have returned, Kidirbai—who could never fathom living anywhere else—is determined that his son has a future there as well.

“The sea is the source of life for us,” he said. “Next year, I am going to build a new house for him. My son will get married and he will continue fishing.”

With reporting contributions by Serik Dyussenbayev

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

SCOTT PRUITT’S ABOUT TO END EPA’S LONG-STANDING USE OF ‘SECRET SCIENCE’ TO JUSTIFY REGULATIONS

Michael Bastasch, [Daily Caller News Foundation](http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/03/20/scott-pruitts-about-to-end-epas-long-standing-use-of-secret-science-to-justify-regulations-615230?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=BPR%20Email&utm_campaign=DMS), March 20, 2018 | [BPR Wire](http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/03/20/scott-pruitts-about-to-end-epas-long-standing-use-of-secret-science-to-justify-regulations-615230?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=BPR%20Email&utm_campaign=DMS)
http://www.bizpacreview.com/2018/03/20/scott-pruitts-about-to-end-epas-long-standing-use-of-secret-science-to-justify-regulations-615230?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=BPR%20Email&utm_campaign=DMS

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt will soon end his agency’s use of “secret science” to craft regulations.

“We need to make sure their data and methodology are published as part of the record,” Pruitt said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Caller News Foundation. “Otherwise, it’s not transparent. It’s not objectively measured, and that’s important.”

Pruitt will reverse long-standing EPA policy allowing regulators to rely on non-public scientific data in crafting rules. Such studies have been used to justify tens of billions of dollars worth of regulations.

EPA regulators would only be allowed to consider scientific studies that make their data available for public scrutiny under Pruitt’s new policy. Also, EPA-funded studies would need to make all their data public.

“When we do contract that science out, sometimes the findings are published; we make that part of our rule-making processes, but then we don’t publish the methodology and data that went into those findings because the third party who did the study won’t give it to us,” Pruitt added.

“And we’ve said that’s fine — we’re changing that as well,” Pruitt told TheDCNF.

Conservatives have long [criticized](#) EPA for relying on scientific studies that published their findings but not the underlying data. However, Democrats and environmental activists have challenged past attempts to bring transparency to studies used in rule making.

Texas Republican Rep. Lamar Smith pushed legislation to end the use of what he calls “secret science” at EPA. Pruitt [instituted](#) another policy in 2017 backed by Smith against EPA-funded scientists serving on agency advisory boards.

“If we use a third party to engage in scientific review or inquiry, and that’s the basis of rulemaking, you and every American citizen across the country deserve to know what’s the data, what’s the methodology that was used to reach that conclusion that was the underpinning of what — rules that were adopted by this agency,” Pruitt explained.

Pruitt’s pending science transparency policy mirrors Smith’s [HONEST Act](#), which passed the House in March 2017. Smith’s office was pleased to hear Pruitt was adopting another policy the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology chairman championed.

“The chairman has long worked toward a more open and transparent rule-making process at EPA, and he looks forward to any announcement from Administrator Pruitt that would achieve that goal,” committee spokeswoman Thea McDonald told TheDCNF.

Junk science crusader Steve Milloy also called on EPA to end its use of “secret science” in rule making, especially when it comes to studies on the toxicity of fine particulates in the air.

EPA has primarily relied on two 1990s studies linking fine particulate pollution to premature death. Neither studies have made their data public, but EPA used their findings to justify sweeping air quality regulations.

Reported benefits from EPA rules are “mostly attributable to the reduction in public exposure to fine particulate matter,” according to the White House Office of Management and Budget [report](#). That’s equivalent to billions of dollars.

In fact, one of EPA’s most expensive regulation on the books, called MATS, derived most of its estimated benefits from reducing particulates not from reducing mercury, which the rule was ostensibly crafted to address.

EPA estimated MATS would cost \$8.2 billion but yield between \$28 billion to \$77 billion in public health benefits. It’s a similar story for the [Clean Power Plan](#), which EPA estimated would cost \$8.4 billion and yield from \$14 billion to \$34 billion in health and climate benefits.

Democrats and environmentalists have largely opposed attempts to require EPA rely on transparent scientific data. Said data would restrict the amount of studies EPA can use, but a major objection is making data public would reveal confidential patient data, opponents argue.

“A lot of the data that EPA uses to protect public health and ensure that we have clean air and clean water relies on data that cannot be publicly released,” Union of Concerned Scientists representative Yogin Kothari [told](#) E&E News.

“It really hamstrings the ability of the EPA to do anything, to fulfill its mission,” Kothari said.

Milloy, however, countered and argued it’s a “red herring” to claim that forcing regulators to use public science data would harm patient privacy.

“The availability of such data sets is nothing new,” said Milloy, publisher of JunkScience.com and senior fellow at the Energy and Environmental Legal Institute.

“The state of California, for example, makes such data available under the moniker, ‘Public Use Death Files,’” Milloy said. “We used such data in the form of over two million anonymized death certificates in our recent California study on particulates and death.”

“Opponents of data transparency are just trying to hide the data from independent scrutiny,” Milloy added. “But the studies that use this data are taxpayer-financed, and they are used to regulate the public.”

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

IBM UNVEILS 'WORLD'S SMALLEST COMPUTER' WITH BLOCKCHAIN AT THINK 2018

BY [MONICA CHIN](#), March 19, 2018

<https://mashable.com/2018/03/19/ibm-worlds-smallest-computer/#5MeVt1MXigqJ>

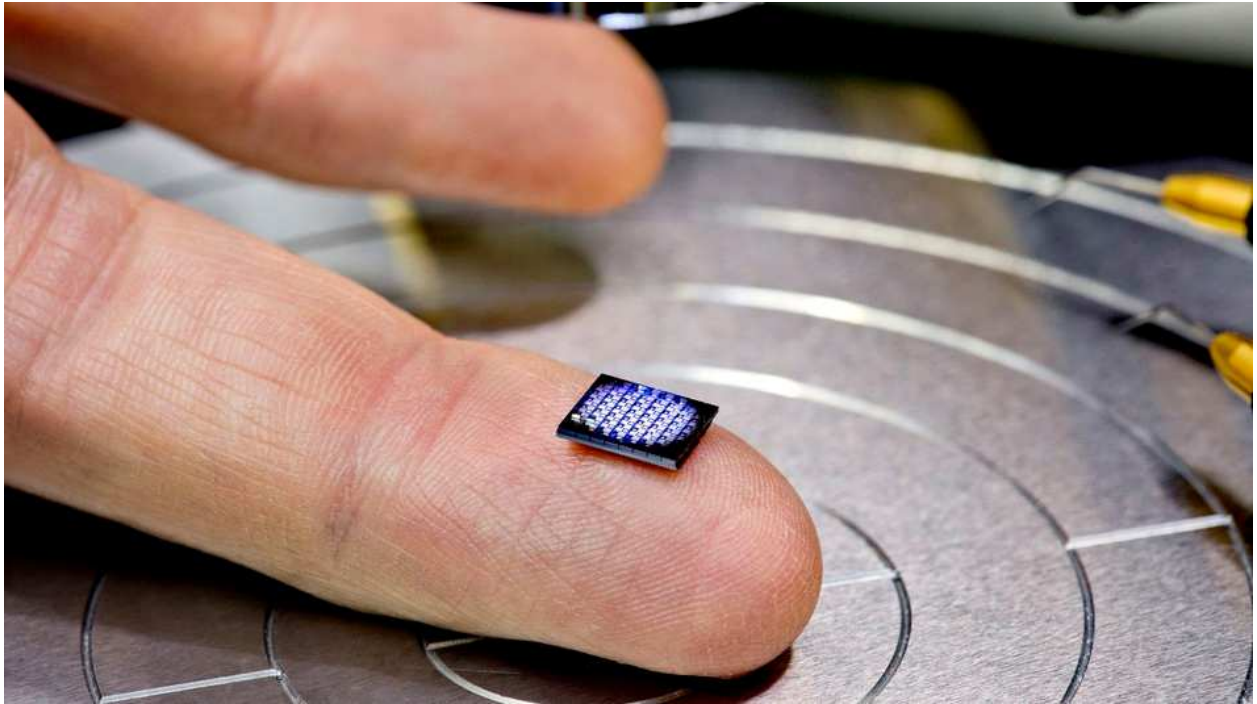


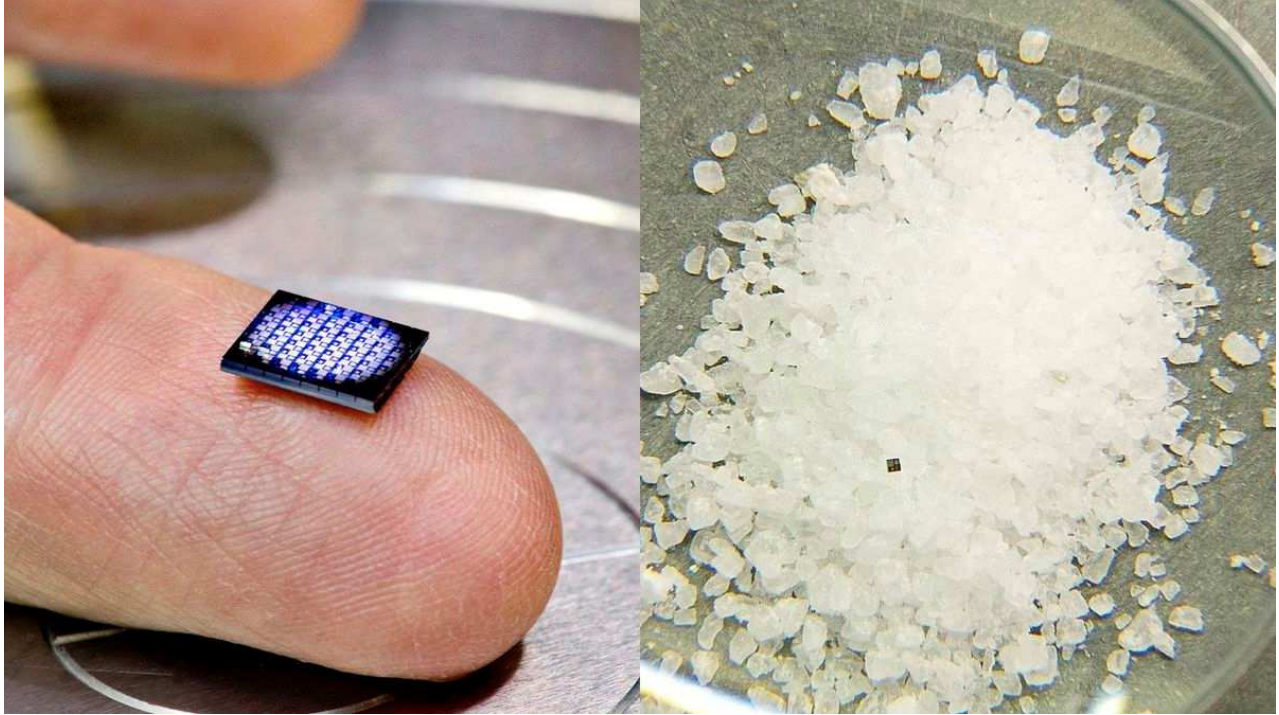
IMAGE: IBM

If there's one downside to powerful computers, it's that they're too damn big. Luckily, that's about to change. At least, if IBM has anything to say about it.

March 19 is the first day of [IBM Think 2018](#), the company's flagship conference, where the company will unveil what it claims is the world's smallest computer. They're not kidding: It's literally smaller than a grain of salt.

But don't let the size fool you: This sucker has the computing power of the x86 chip from 1990. Okay, so that's not great compared to what we have today, but cut it some slack — you need a microscope to see it.

The computer will cost less than ten cents to manufacture, and will also pack "several hundred thousand transistors," according to the company. These will allow it to "monitor, analyze, communicate, and even act on data."



Left: 64 motherboards with two tiny computers in the top-left corner. Right: The tiny computer, mounted to a motherboard, atop a pile of salt. IMAGE: IBM

Don't worry, bitcoin bros: It works with blockchain. Specifically, this computer will be a data source for blockchain applications. It's intended to help track the shipment of goods and detect theft, fraud, and non-compliance. It can also do basic AI tasks, such as sorting the data it's given.

According to IBM, this is only the beginning. "Within the next five years, cryptographic anchors — such as ink dots or tiny computers smaller than a grain of salt — will be embedded in everyday objects and devices," says IBM head of research Arvind Krishna. If he's correct, we'll see way more of these tiny systems in objects and devices in the years to come.

It's not clear yet when this thing will be released — IBM researchers are currently testing its first prototype.

But one thing's for sure: The future is here. You just might need a microscope to see it.

From: "Chris Cowan" cowanc1028@earthlink.net

USS JUNEAU, THE FIVE SULLIVAN BROTHER'S SHIP, FOUND

It is another found by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2018/03/19/sunken-ship-of-sullivan-brothers-lore-discovered-nearly-3-miles-beneath-the-surface/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Navy%20DNR%2003-19-18&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Navy%20-%20Daily%20News%20Roundup

The USS Juneau (CL-52) was struck by two Japanese torpedoes during the Battle of Guadalcanal in November 1942, the second of which is believed to have struck the weapons magazine, sparking a massive explosion that ripped the Atlanta-class light cruiser in half, sinking it in only 30 seconds and killing hundreds instantly.

A total of 687 men from the Atlanta-class light cruiser died in the attack, including all five Sullivan brothers, whose name has since been given to two Navy warships, most recently the guided missile destroyer The Sullivans (DDG-68). The first, which served during World War II and the Korean War, is now a museum ship in Buffalo, New York.

After sinking, Juneau's watery resting place remained unknown until two days ago on St. Patrick's Day, when the crew of the Research Vessel Petrel, led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, located the wreck nearly 4,200 meters — or a distance of 2.6 miles — beneath the surface in the South Pacific.

Despite its rapid destruction, more than 100 of Juneau's crew reportedly survived the attack. But because of the speed in which the ship went under, and with the ever-present threat of additional Japanese attacks, American rescue efforts would not get underway until eight days later. By then, only 10 survivors remained.

The five Sullivan brothers — Joseph, Francis, Albert, Madison and George — pushed back against the Navy's policy of separating siblings, insisting that they serve together aboard the same ship. Their tragic end would cement their legendary status in naval history and would go on to serve as a rallying cry for the United States during throughout WWII.

"The story of the USS Juneau crew and Sullivan brothers epitomize the service and sacrifice of our nation's greatest generation," Vice Adm. Rich Brown, commander of Naval Surface Forces, told the editors of [Paul Allen's website](#).

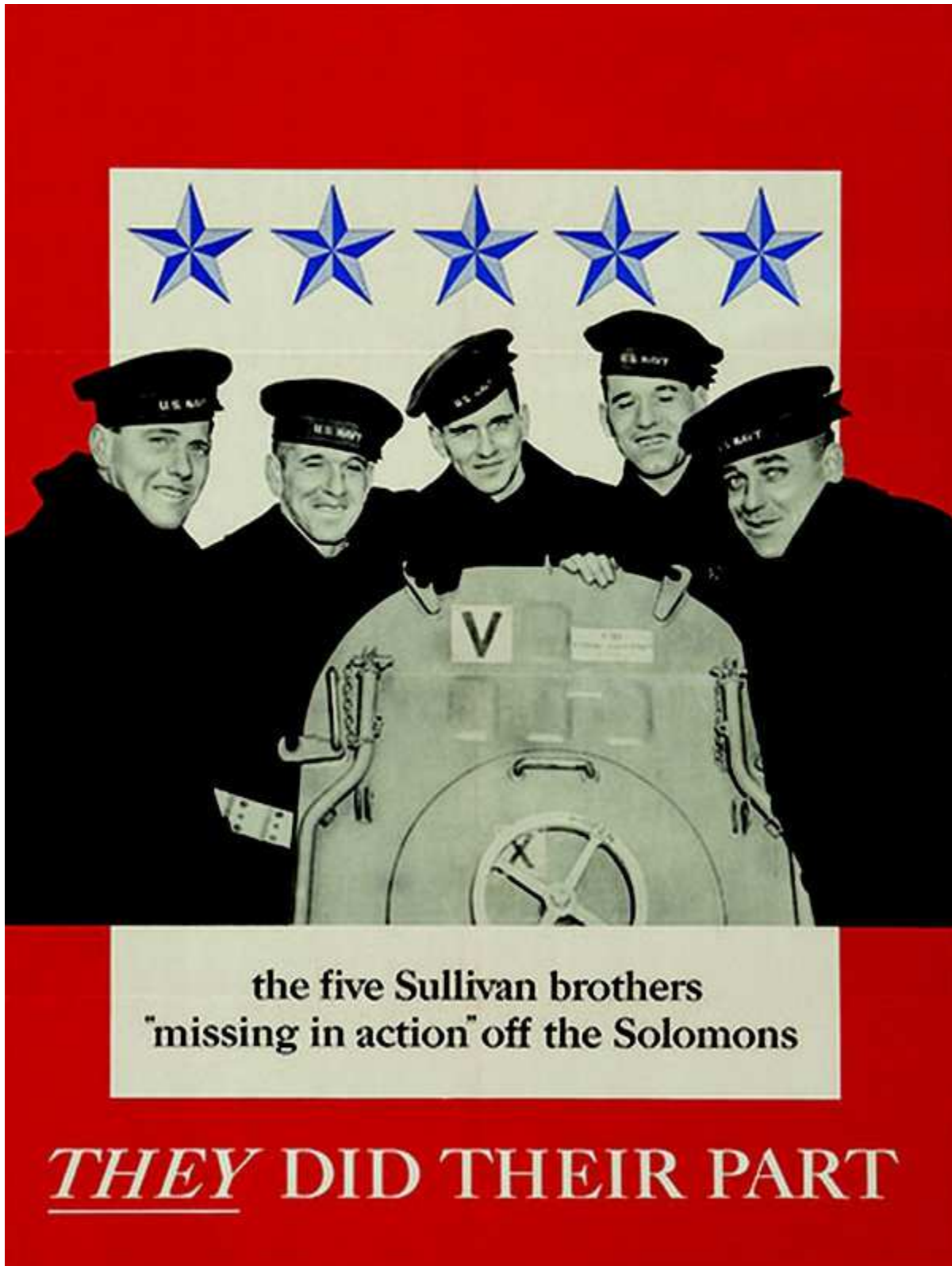
Just over two weeks ago, the R/V Petrel made another astonishing discovery when it located the sunken aircraft carrier USS Lexington (CV-2), along with its aircraft, 500 miles off the coast of Australia.

And in August, an Allen-led R/V Petrel expedition discovered the wreck of the [USS Indianapolis](#), which remains the Navy's single worst loss at sea, about 5,500 meters below the surface.

Nearly 900 crew were killed after the Indianapolis was struck by Japanese torpedoes — many by sharks. Of the 1,196 sailors and Marines on board, only 316 came out of the water.

"As Americans, all of us owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who served and who continue to serve our country for their courage, persistence and sacrifice," Allen wrote on his website following the discovery of the Lexington.

Juneau was commissioned less than a year before she was sent to Davy Jones' locker.



A Navy recruiting poster released in 1943 features all five Sullivan brothers (left to right): Joseph, Francis, Albert, Madison and George. (National Archives)

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

Page 44 of 45

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

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

From: "Jim Woosley" Jimwoosley@aol.com



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

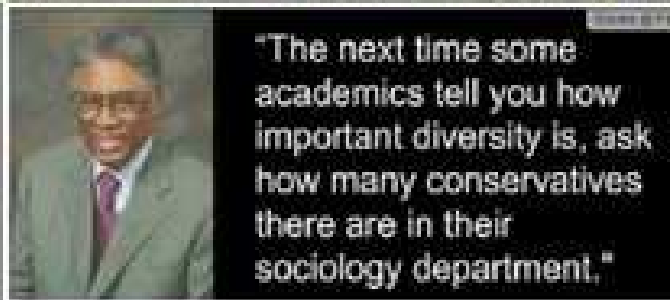
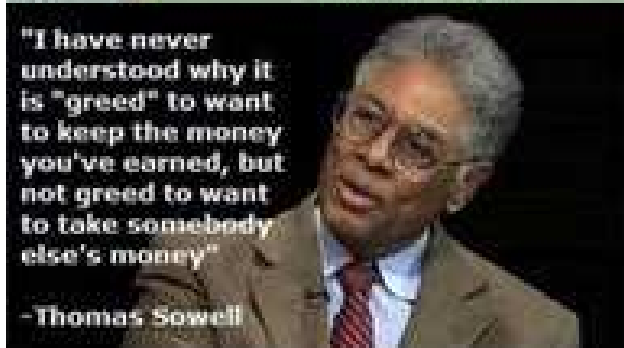
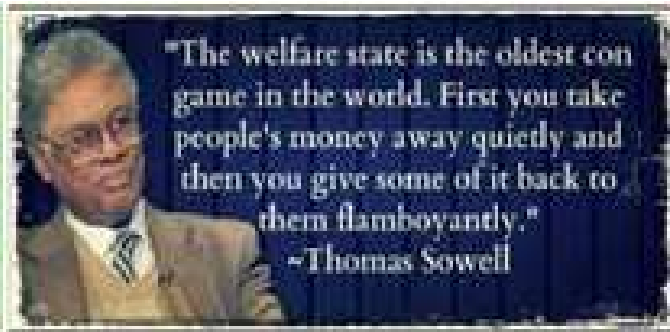
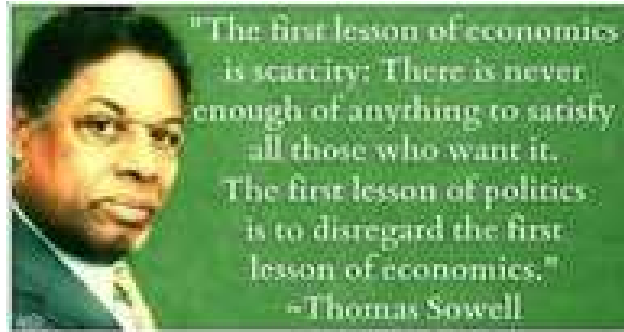
From: "Jim Hollis" jhollis@northsidesales.com

These pithy thoughts from Thomas Sowell are extraordinary distillations applicable to some of the issues of the day.

Well worth reading carefully if you have not seen them before.

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

Page 45 of 45



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