

The May 24th, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

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Welcome to the May 24th, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMP DAY!

Last Friday I was honor to attend the graduation of my granddaughter, Beth, Destroyer of Worlds, from St. Jude's Elementary School. Beth is growing like a sprout and looked beautiful in her new dress. Afterwards, all 22 of the family who attended the event went to Baxter's Restaurant near home to celebrate the evening away. But I wonder how Beth is going to cope who was a lofty 8th grader to being a wormy Freshman next fall at Notre Dame High School. But I'm pretty sure that she will be OK. She is already schedule to start Volley Ball Practice for the Notre Dame Freshman team in June. Batten down the hatches Notre Dame, Hurricane Beth is on the way.

I will going on a short vacation this week to visit Uncle Bobby in Florida over the Memorial Day Weekend. I will return to the Big Nooga on Monday, May 29th and then on Tuesday, May 30th I will have surgery on my right eye to remove a cataract. So, It will be pretty difficult to get the Revenge out next week. So, don't miss me too much and I'll see you in a week or so.

So on that "informational 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>

LAST CALL FOR LIBERTYCON 30 T-SHIRTS

From: "Tim Bolgeo" tbolgeo@epbfi.com

The last day to order T-Shirts for LibertyCon 30 is fast approaching. According to Brandy, Chairman and Empress of the Known Universe, the last day to order the T-Shirt on the Website is June 2. To make it a little easier to make up your mind, I have included a low resolution picture of the logo at the end of this missive. And to make it even easier, please click on the link below to go directly to the LibertyCon wesite to order your T-Shirt. SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED and I like them so well that we both ordered two of them for each of us.

<http://libertycon.org/index.php/registration/online-store>

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

ONE OF THE LIBERYCON FAMILY JUST WON THE KATE WILHELM SOLSTICE AWARD

From Jody Lynn Nye's Facebook Page

Congratulations to Toni Weisskopf, publisher of Baen Books, co-recipient (with Peggy Rae Sapienza) of this year's Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award at the SFWA Nebula Awards banquet, with funny anecdotes by Bill Fawcett.

CONGRATULATIONS TONI. IT IS WELL DESERVED.

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From Ann Robards Facebook Page

**TONI WEISSKOPF TO RECEIVE THE KATE WILHELM SOLSTICE AWARD**

<http://nebula.sfwaweb.org/toni-weisskopf-receive-kate-wilhelm-solstice-award/>



The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) is pleased to announce that Toni Weisskopf has been named the recipient of the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award to honor her activities in support of science fiction and fantasy.

The Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award is given by SFWA for distinguished contributions to the science fiction and fantasy community. Ms. Weisskopf joins the ranks of previous Solstice Award winners, including Octavia Butler, James Tiptree, Jr., Tom Doherty, Carl Sagan,

and Stanley Schmidt. The award will be presented at the 52nd Annual Nebula Conference and Awards in Pittsburgh, PA May 18th-21st, 2017.

Toni Weisskopf has been the publisher of Baen Books since 2006 when she took over following the death of Jim Baen. During that time, Weisskopf has creative an innovative e-publishing program, worked with established authors, discovered a galaxy of new authors, and created the Jim Baen Memorial Short Story Award, the Baen Fantasy Adventure Award, and the Baen Best Military SF & Adventure SF Reader's Choice Award.

In addition to her current role as Baen Books editor and publisher, Ms. Weisskopf compiled Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts, along with Josepha Sherman, a collected of subversive children's folklore. She has edited several anthologies of science fiction, including Cosmic Tales: Adventures in Far Futures and Cosmic Tales: Adventures in Sol System.

Ms. Weisskopf has also been active in the fannish side of science fiction, co-chairing DeepSouthCon 50 in 2012, publishing the fanzine Yngvi is a Louse! And Other Graffitos, and serving as the official Editor of the SFPA, the Southern Fannish Press Alliance, and editing an history of Southern Fandom for the Southern Fandom Confederation.

Ms. Weisskopf joins Peggy Rae Sapienza, who was previously announced, as a recipient of this year's Kate Wilhelm Solstice Awards.

?The Nebula Awards will be presented during the annual SFWA Nebula Conference, which will run from May 18th-21st and feature a series of seminars and panel discussions on the craft and business of writing, SFWA's annual business meeting, and receptions. On May 19th, a mass autograph session will take place at Pittsburgh Marriott City Center and is open to the public.

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The Nebula Awards recognize the best works of science fiction and fantasy published in the United States as selected by members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, membership in which is open to all professional science fiction and fantasy authors. The first Nebula Awards were presented in 1966.

In addition to the Nebula Awards, SFWA will present the Bradbury Award for Outstanding Dramatic Presentation, the Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Young Adult Science Fiction or Fantasy Book, the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award, the Kevin O'Donnell, Jr. Service to SFWA Award, and the Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award.

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

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

This could be awesome ...

STAR TREK: DISCOVERY - FIRST LOOK TRAILER

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dxe\\_uqmlVM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dxe_uqmlVM)

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NEW MEDICARE CARDS IN 2019

From: "Jerry Tollett" [haleja@epbfi.com](mailto:haleja@epbfi.com)

The following is for those of you that are not aware of the change:

Within the next 2 years, Medicare will be sending new cards without our SS number on it. Be aware that there will be scammers trying everything they can to trick you. Remember you need to do nothing re: this card upgrade! Stay safe.

\* In 2006, it was recommended that Social Security encourage HHS to modernize the Medicare card and aide in the development of an alternative identifier that met both agencies' needs.

\* In 2008, it was reported that despite the increasing threat of identity theft, Medicare continued to issue cards that displayed SSNs and unnecessarily placed millions of individuals at risk for identity theft.

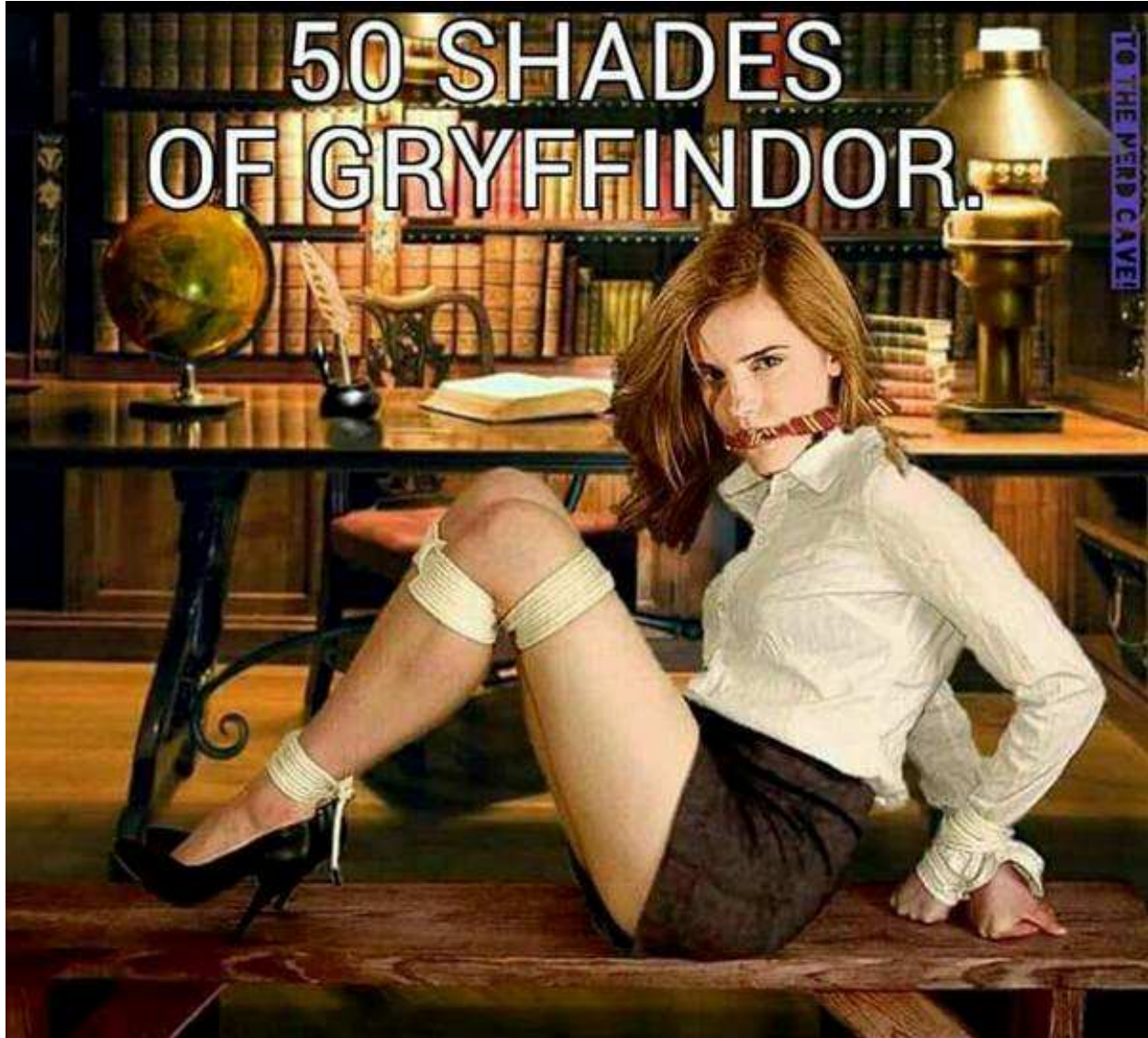
\* Also in 2008, the Inspector General called for immediate action to remove SSNs from Medicare cards—as the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs began carrying out elaborate plans to remove SSNs from their identification cards.

Love to you and yours,  
Jerry Hale Tollett

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

From Gary Shelton's Facebook Page





THIS IS SO MARVELOUS TACKY THAT I HAD TO SHARE IT WITH ALL OF YOU. UT

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

From: "Mike Waldrip" [waldripk@gmail.com](mailto:waldripk@gmail.com)

### THE CRUISE

Mr. Johnson had been retired for a year when his wife of 50 years suggested they take a cruise: "We could go somewhere for a week, and make wild love like we did when we were young!" He thought it over and agreed.

He put on his hat and went down to the pharmacy, where he bought a bottle of seasick pills and a box of condoms. Upon returning home, his wife said, "I've been thinking. There's no reason we can't go for a month." So Mr. Johnson went back to the pharmacy and asked for 12 bottles of seasick pills and a box of condoms. When he returned, his wife said, "You know, since the children are on their own, what's stopping us from cruising the world?"

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So back to the pharmacy Mr. Johnson went, and he brought 297 bottles of seasick pills and the same amount of condoms up to the counter. The pharmacist finally had to ask.

"You know, Mr. Johnson, you have been doing business with me for over 30 years. I certainly don't mean to pry, but if it makes you that sick, why the hell do you do it?"

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



## THE CHIEF

The Navy Chief noticed a new seaman and barked at him, "Get over here! What's your name sailor?"

"John," the new seaman replied.

"Look, I don't know what kind of bleeding-heart pansy crap they're teaching sailors in boot camp these days, but I don't call anyone by his first name," the chief scowled. "It breeds familiarity, and that leads to a breakdown in authority.

I refer to my sailors by their last names only: Smith, Jones, Baker, whatever. And you are to refer to me as 'Chief'. Do I make myself clear?"

"Aye, Aye Chief!"

"Now that we've got that straight, what's your last name?"

The seaman sighed. "Darling. My name is John Darling, Chief."

"Okay, John, here's what I want you to do ...."



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

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

**MORE BREAKING NEWS...**

You heard about the first scandal (look up "Trump gets two scoops of ice cream others only one" a hard hitting, in depth report from Time and CNN) delivered with a "that bastard!" Inflection

Then it was revealed this week that (brace yourself) Donald Trump wants CATSUP with his steak at state dinners. "Ohmigawd can you believe that? The absolute horror, impeachment is too good for him."

Now this....



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

**YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!**

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

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**CAN YOU SPOT WHAT'S RUDE ABOUT THIS PHOTO? FAMILY SPEND HOURS PERFECTING APPARENTLY INNOCENT SNAP WHICH CONCEALS A HIDDEN MESSAGE**

- \* Family photograph shows a father and his children standing on a promenade
- \* On first glance it looks like a perfectly innocent snap of a family day out
- \* But look closer and you might spot an X-rated message hidden in the frame

By Stephanie Linning for MailOnline, PUBLISHED: 07:41 EDT, 18 May 2017

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-4517996/Apparently-innocent-family-snap-hides-rude-message.html#ixzz4hRXtg9jo>

Family photos can be a wonderful way to remember holidays and special milestones. But this picture proves they can also be a chance for parents to simply have a little fun with their children.

At first glance the image might seem perfectly innocent but take a closer look and you might find the X-rated message hidden somewhere in the frame.



+2



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What's wrong with this picture? This hilarious family photo has a hidden X-rated message. The photo, which emerged online and has been shared on Facebook, has left internet users in stitches - and has even inspired some to recreate the snap at home. Taken from above, the picture shows a father and his children standing on a seaside promenade.

Prankster dad: A closer look reveals how the family's shadows spell out the word 'penis'. In fact the father has carefully positioned each child so that their shadows spell out the word 'penis' on the ground.

The hilarious picture prompted a flurry of delighted responses when it was shared on the Life of Dad Facebook page yesterday.

Dozens said they wanted to recreate the image with their own family - with one even suggesting it could make a light-hearted Christmas card.

One Facebook user wrote: 'That's brilliant and parenting at its best,' while another posted: 'Family goals.'

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

YOU JUST CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!

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

CRAZY THINGS PACIFISTS TELL ME ABOUT GUNS

By Rob Morse, Posted on May 18, 2017 by Rob Morse

<https://slowfacts.wordpress.com/2017/05/17/the-crazy-thinks-pacifists-tell-me/#ixzz4hd4xK4ER>

Louisiana- (Ammoland.com)- I don't mention being a gun owner to strangers. Sometimes people find out, and the way they respond is remarkable. I assume that they are sincere in what they say, but that assumption isn't easy.

Their comments are more of a confession about themselves than an honest question about me. I usually bite my tongue because of the social situation. Then it occurred to me that other gun owners must be hearing similar comments. I've kept my answers to myself, but now I'll share them with you.

"I live on the safe side of town so I don't need a gun for protection."

I usually hear this from a well-to-do woman and it makes me smile. Does she think criminals don't have maps that show them where the rich people live? Maybe she thinks criminals can't drive. The woman is obviously intelligent, but has a profound blind-spot when it comes to personal safety. We didn't meet inside her gated community, so why does she think she is safe everywhere?

"GUNS AREN'T THE ANSWER."

Maybe guns are not the answer, but then we are certainly talking about different questions. I assume the speaker knows that the police have firearms for personal protection. The first person who told me to go armed was a police officer. I listen to professionals.

**“PEOPLE DON’T PROTECT THEMSELVES WITH GUNS ANY LONGER. THAT IS JUST A FANTASY FROM THE OLD-WEST.”**

This one perplexes me. I assume they read too many cowboy novels but they stopped reading too soon. They never learned the real history of our western frontier. Also, the speaker never bothered to learn the facts about armed citizens who carry in public now. Armed towns on the western frontier were safer than our large democrat-controlled cities today. Ain’t that right, Marshal Dillon?

**“ONLY THE POLICE SHOULD HAVE GUNS.”**

True, the police should have guns, but have you thought about what it is like to be a policeman? Almost every policeman I’ve met told me to carry because of what they see every day. Time after time, day after day, the police arrive too late. They take reports from innocent injured victims. That is a core part of their job and it has to hurt. The police would much rather take your report that says you protected yourself and the criminal ran away.

**“ONLY CRIMINALS HAVE GUNS.”**

This is really a statement about how narrow a group of friends the speaker has. I’m probably the first gun owner they know... and there are a hundred million gun owners in the US. To be fair, they probably don’t know anyone who owns a pickup truck either.

**“YOU DON’T NEED A GUN.”**

That is true. I don’t. I guess I don’t need toothpaste and deodorant. I don’t need a fire extinguisher at home or a first aid kit in my car, but I have them. just like I have a firearm.

**“MY HUSBAND OR WIFE HAS A GUN, SO I DON’T NEED ONE.”**

This comment makes me bite my tongue. I’m thinking they volunteered to be the designated victim..or maybe the designated hostage. Must be an interesting personal relationship they have with their spouse, but I don’t ask.

**“GUN’S DON’T BELONG IN SCHOOLS.”**

Lots of things don’t belong in schools, but I’ve seen them. Cuts and broken bones don’t belong in schools, but we have first aid kits on scene for a reason. I won’t pretend that bad things don’t happen. I won’t lie to make you feel better. What exactly is your plan when you see more things you don’t want in schools?

**“YOU JUST WANT TO KILL SOMEONE.”**

This person obviously has no idea about the costs of threatening to use lethal force, let alone pulling the trigger. Ignorance must be bliss.

**“I COULDN’T KILL SOMEONE.”**

That is hard to believe. Maybe the people who say this think they are gentle. Would they really stand by and watch while their family is threatened or injured? If I take them seriously, then either they don’t care about other people, or they look forward to seeing an innocent person hurt. Has some village lost its sociopath?

**“PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOULDN’T HAVE MACHINE GUNS.”**

I’ve fired a machine gun. Not having automatic weapons hasn’t compromised my self-defense plans since I don’t feel the need to fight off a zombie horde tonight.

**“WHY DO YOU WANT ANOTHER TOOL THAT KILLS?”**

I love this question. I look around the room and see how many things I could use or improvise. What can I say. I’m an engineer so everything is a tool.

**“YOU’RE MORE LIKELY TO BE HURT IF YOU HAVE A GUN BECAUSE THE CRIMINAL WILL TAKE YOUR GUN AWAY FROM YOU.”**

So you’re saying we’d be safer if we disarmed the police and gave guns to criminals? That way the police would always have a gun when they needed it by taking the criminal’s gun! It’s an interesting idea, but you go first and I’ll record the results from here.

I know I’m not alone. You’ve heard similar things and you’ve thought similar things. Thank you for sharing them.. here, and not saying them in public

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

**RINGLING BROS. SHUTS DOWN THE BIG TOP**

By TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

<http://www.waff.com/story/35480501/ringling-bros-shuts-down-the-big-top-after-146-years>

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) - With laughter, hugs and tears - and the requisite death-defying stunts - the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus received its final standing ovation Sunday night as it performed its last show.

"We are, forevermore, the Greatest Show on Earth," boomed Johnathan Lee Iverson, who has been the ringmaster since 1999. His son, who also performed, stood by his side. The show was held at the Nassau County Coliseum in Uniondale, New York, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) east of New York City.

It was an emotional 2 1/2 hours for those who worked on the circus. Many of Ringling's employees are second, third and even fourth-generation circus performers, while others met their spouses while touring. All spent months on the road, traveling from city to city in Ringling's train cars and describing themselves as a giant family, albeit one with many clowns.

But it also was the fans who felt like family.





(AP Photo/Tamara Lush). Gene Goldstein, center right, and his family stop for a photo outside the Nassau Veteran's Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y., which is hosting the final performances of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Sa...

Elaine Bario, a 57-year-old usher at the Nassau County Coliseum, said she's seen the circus every time it's been on Long Island - some years as a child with her father, who also was an usher at the same venue.

"The animals, this is where we fell in love with them," she said. "We got to see animals here and the Bronx Zoo. We don't go on safaris."

Bario cried as she watched the final big cat act with its leopards, tigers and Alexander Lacey, the handsome animal trainer.

"I've always had a crush on the lion tamers," she said, laughing through tears.

But it was those animal shows that led to the circus' eventual demise.

Over the years, animal rights activists had targeted Ringling, saying that forcing animals to perform and transporting them around the country amounted to abuse. In May 2016, the company removed elephants from its shows, but ticket sales continued to decline. People, it seemed, didn't want to see a circus without elephants. Ringling's parent company, Feld

Entertainment, announced in January it would close the show, citing declining attendance and high operating costs.

A handful of protesters stood outside the venue on Sunday, with signs that said "compassion always wins," and "the future is animal free."

Feld Entertainment CEO Kenneth Feld said that "we all have to embrace change."

Feld's father and uncle bought the circus in 1967. It was sold to Mattel in 1971, but the Feld family continued to manage the shows. The Felds bought the circus back in 1982.

Earlier Sunday, a group of retired and former circus performers sat across the street at a hotel bar, laughing and hugging and sharing memories of tours past.

"There's a lot of mixed emotions, said Rev. George "Jerry" Hogan, Ringling's circus chaplain. "It's a reunion, but it's bittersweet. I'm seeing people I haven't seen in years."

Once a mainstay of entertainment in small towns and big cities across the country, Ringling had two touring circuses this season, one of which ended its run earlier this month in Providence, Rhode Island . That show was the more traditional, three-ring circus, while the one performing this weekend had a narrative storyline. Called "Out of This World," it was set in futuristic outer space.

In the end, though, Feld executives said they knew the circus couldn't compete with iPhones, the internet, video games and massively branded and carefully marketed characters. Their other productions - Frozen on Ice, Marvel Live, Supercross, Monster Trucks, Disney on Ice - resonate better with younger generations.

But that didn't stop the circus from giving the performance of their life, one last time, to one last crowd.

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

## ONE OF THESE THREE LIGHT ATTACK PLANES COULD HELP REPLACE THE A-10

A series of tests this summer will consider three new air support concepts.

By Kyle Mizokami, May 15, 2017

[http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a26515/three-planes-oax-help-replace-the-a-10/?src=nl&maq=pop&list=nl\\_pnl\\_news&date=051617](http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/aviation/a26515/three-planes-oax-help-replace-the-a-10/?src=nl&maq=pop&list=nl_pnl_news&date=051617)

The Air Force has chosen three aircraft designs to participate in a series of demonstration flights this summer, and one of them could be selected for a new light attack aircraft to serve as a partial replacement for the A-10 Warthog. The Air Force hopes the OA-X program will lead to smaller, lighter airplanes capable of providing air support in low-threat conflicts.

The three planes—the Sierra Nevada/Embraer A-29 Super Tucano, Beechcraft AT-6 Wolverine, and Textron Scorpion—will fly this Summer at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. The OA-X, or "Observation, Attack, concept," envisions a small, nimble airplane

that can carry a large payload of sensors and weapons. Flown by a pilot and copilot/observer, the small plane could carry out strike and close air support missions in support of ground troops.



Beechcraft photo.

OA-X is seen as half of a two airplane solution for eventually replacing the A-10 Thunderbolt. OA-X is a smaller, cheaper plane that would thrive where the air defense threat is limited to shoulder-fired missiles and machine guns. Another key requirement is that the plane be cheaper to fly per hour than the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter or A-10. The F-35 costs a whopping \$42,000 an hour to fly, while the A-10 costs \$17,000 an hour. The Air Force envisions the OA-X costing about \$4,000 to \$5,000 an hour.

One of the three planes picked for this summer's fly-off is the AT-6 Wolverine. The Wolverine is a descendant of the Beechcraft T-6 Texan II, a trainer used by the Air Force and Navy. The two-person Wolverine features new engines delivering nearly 50 percent more horsepower, a glass cockpit, 7 wing hardpoints for weapons and sensors, color and IR cameras, a laser designator, laser illuminator, and laser rangefinder.

The A-29 Super Tucano is a Brazilian-designed aircraft used extensively around the world. Designed by Embraer, the South American company has partnered with Sierra Nevada Corporation to bring the plane to the U.S. market. Like the AT-6, the Super Tucano is also a two-seat turboprop aircraft, and aviation authority Robert Dorr posted a detailed comparison of the two planes last year. In 2008 the Super Tucano was evaluated for



the Imminent Fury program, a 2008 U.S. Navy effort to field a close air support aircraft for U.S. special operations forces.



A-29 Super Tucano. Sierra Nevada/Embraer photo.

Scorpion jet. Via Textron.

The third contestant is the Scorpion. A self-funded project from Textron AirLand, the Scorpion is the only jet in the competition. A clean-sheet design, the aircraft was unveiled to the public in 2013. The aircraft has six external hardpoints and an internal payload bay, with a total weight capacity in fuel, weapons, and sensors of close to 10,000 pounds. The Scorpion is also affordable, costing only \$3,000 an hour to fly.

The tests will take place in July, after which the Air Force will stand back, look at the data, and decide if it wants to actually buy an OA-X aircraft. The plane will be flying into some tough fiscal headwinds: The service is also buying the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter, KC-46A Pegasus tanker, developing the B-21 Raider bomber, looking for a new T-X jet trainer, and starting work on a new ICBM. On the other hand, the OA-X could be highly useful, and if the plane can deliver an affordable partial replacement for the A-10 Thunderbolt, cutting operating costs by a projected 75 percent along the way, it just might attract benefactors in Congress.

**DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, THE AIR FORCE WAS USING THE A1E/A1H'S SKYRAIDERS, A WORLD WAR II FIGHTER/BOMBER TO PERFORM THIS ROLE. IT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL THAT THEY TRIED TO HAVE MORE OF THEM MADE. SO, THIS IS NOT AS RADICAL MOVE AS YOU WOULD THINK. UT**



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**THIS FUTURISTIC MARS ROVER LOOKS LIKE AN AWESOME NASA TANK**

By Tariq Malik, Space.com Managing Editor | May 16, 2017 05:05pm ET

<http://www.space.com/36872-futuristic-mars-rover-nasa-ksc-center-concept.html> 11



A sleek, black, concept Mars rover is seen at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The rover will tour the U.S. East Coast this summer for the center's Summer of Mars program. Credit: Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

There's off-roading, and then there's off-roading on Mars. And from the looks of this concept rover, it's a vehicle that

can handle any terrain on Earth (and beyond).

This sleek, black, monster of a Mars rover is a concept design of a vehicle that might one day transport astronauts across the Red Planet. To me, it looks like "The Martian" met a tank with a "Knight Rider" obsession and spawned a Mars car that runs on awesome.

The rover was built for the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex — a space museum center near the NASA spaceport in Cape Canaveral, Florida — as part of its Summer of Mars program this summer. It will be used "for the purposes of education and inspiration," Complex representatives explained in an email alert Friday (May 12). [In Photos: Driving on the Moon]

"As with all 'secret missions,' we are limited at this point as to what we can reveal about it," they wrote. "We will share the exciting updates and information very soon."

According to Business Insider, the concept rover was designed by Marc Parker of Parker Brothers Concepts. It's 23 feet long (7 meters), 13 feet wide (4 m), 11 feet tall (3.3 m) and weighs an estimated 5,000 lbs. (2,268 kilograms), Business Insider reported.

A quick look at the Visitor Complex's Summer of Mars website revealed a tantalizing clue. The rover is part of the complex's new Astronaut Training Experience attraction that's opening in the fall. And the rover is not staying in Florida this summer! Like any good rover, it's hitting the open road.

"Check back here for cities and dates of the rover's East Coast tour this summer!" the website reads.

So, if you live on the East Coast, keep an eye out for this concept Mars rover's road show this summer!

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

## MAIDEN FLIGHT FOR ROCKET LAB'S MINI LAUNCHER NEARS

By Irene Klotz, Space.com Contributor | May 17, 2017 06:50am ET

<http://www.space.com/36877-rocket-lab-mini-launcher-maiden-flight-nears.html>

Rocket Lab's Electron rocket, seen here in a hangar at the company's New Zealand launch site, is scheduled to launch for the first time on May 21. Credit: Rocket Lab

When Rocket Lab's small satellite launcher blasts off





from New Zealand next week on its debut test flight, it will be more than just the Electron rocket that is on trial.

The flight, which Rocket Lab playfully named "It's a Test," also will serve as a shakedown for the world's first commercial spaceport for orbital flights and as a test of procedures for launching from a country that has never flown a rocket into space before.

"It's a test of not just the launch vehicle, but all this brand-new infrastructure," Rocket Lab founder and chief executive Peter Beck said in an interview with Space.com. "There's apt to be some teething problems." [Electron Rocket Arrives at Launch Pad In New Zealand (Video)]

Although the rocket is flying from New Zealand, Rocket Lab's home base, the company also has headquarters in Los Angeles, putting launch oversight in the hands of the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

On Monday (May 15), the FAA issued a license for Rocket Lab to launch three test flights of its Electron rocket from Mahia Peninsula, located in Hawke's Bay on the east coast of New Zealand's North Island.

The 10-day launch window opens at 5 p.m. EDT (2100 GMT) on Sunday (May 21).

No matter what results from the rocket's first flight, the second launch will not occur until sometime this summer, Beck said.

"We don't want to just fly one and then turn right around and fly the second one. We want to learn from the first flight," he said. "Even if it's really successful, there's still probably a couple of months of data analysis to go through and understand what margins we had, or if there are any improvements we can make."

The two-stage, liquid-fuel Electron rocket is powered by 3D-printed Rutherford engines that include first-of-its-kind electric turbopumps. The carbon-composite rocket is designed to deliver a payload weighing up to about 330 lbs. (150 kilograms) into a 311-mile-high (500 kilometers), sun-synchronous orbit for about \$5.5 million per launch.

For its debut flight, the Electron will not be carrying any commercial payloads. Instead, the rocket is expected to put its heavily instrumented second stage into an elliptical orbit ranging from 186 miles to 311 miles (300 to 500 km) in altitude and inclined 83 degrees relative to the equator.

"There's over 20,000 channels of instrumentation on the vehicle," Beck said. "This flight program is all about gathering data together to understand vehicle performance."

Rocket Lab's goal is to begin flying satellites for commercial customers this year. Among those waiting for rides are Cape Canaveral-based Moon Express, which is making a run for the \$30 million Google Lunar X Prize, which has a launch deadline of Dec. 31.

"All customers have deadlines," Beck said. "We've been lucky that all our customers really want to see a good, solid launch vehicle ... We don't want to be experimenting with launch vehicles with customers' payloads aboard."

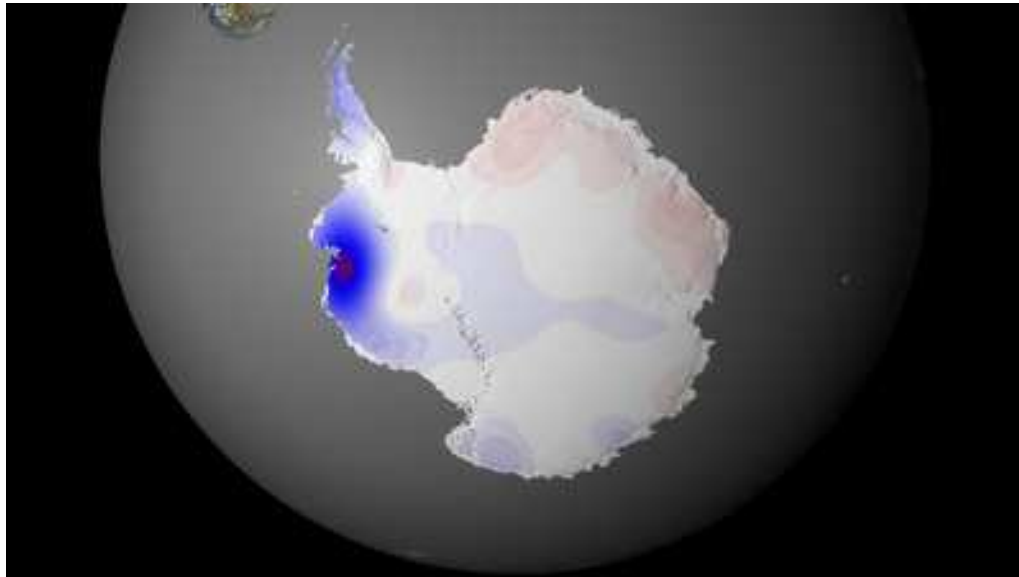
"We've come out of the ground-test program very successfully," Beck added. "Now we're just moving to the flight-test program ... another step in the journey. The real prize is when we start flying commercially."

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## IS ANTARCTICA GAINING OR LOSING ICE? NATURE MAY HAVE JUST SETTLED THE DEBATE

By Eric Betz | May 16, 2017 12:57 pm

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/d-brief/2017/05/16/is-antarctica-gaining-or-losing-ice-nature-may-have-settled-the-debate/#.WR28r2grJPY>



West Antarctica is rapidly melting, while some parts of East Antarctica have seen increased snowfall. (Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Scientific Visualization Studio)

For years, scientists have debated whether heavy

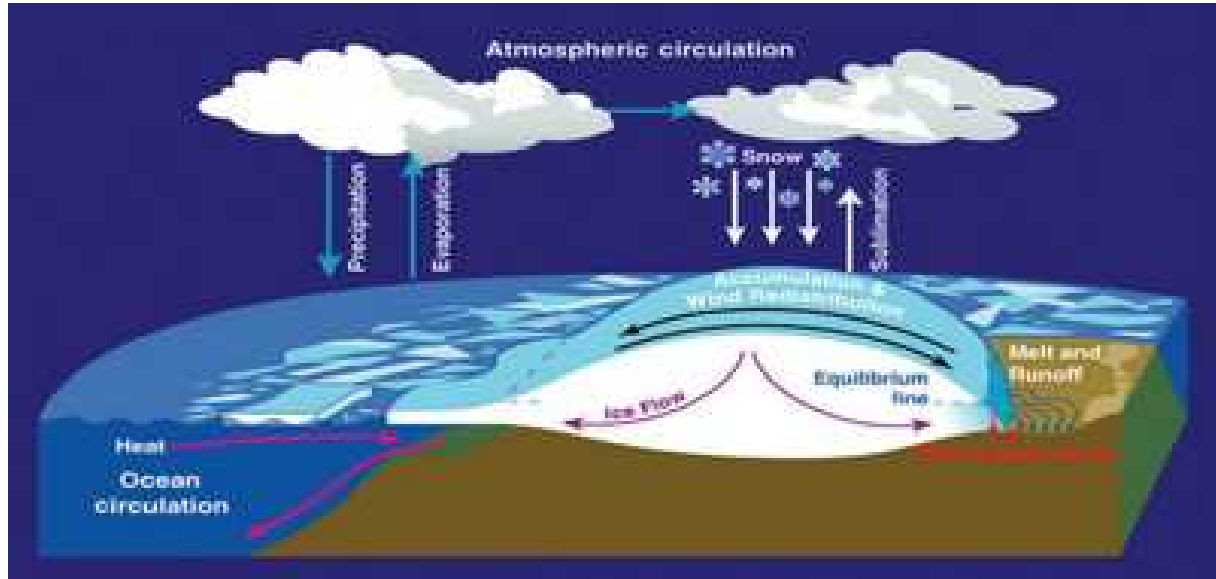
inland snowfall on the vast East Antarctic Ice Sheet — Earth's largest — balances out the rapid melting in West Antarctica.

Given enough snowfall, the continent might not yet be contributing to sea level rise.

Most research shows the melt rate is so high that the continent is indeed losing ice. But in 2015, a group of NASA scientists published a controversial study that found Antarctica was instead gaining ice. The NASA team combined space- and land-based measurements and found so much snow dropping in East Antarctica that even with drastic melting elsewhere, the continent was adding some 80 billion tons of ice annually.

It contradicted prominent previous findings — including reports from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The result drew global headlines and excited climate change skeptics. That's despite warnings from the study's lead author, NASA Goddard's chief cryospheric scientist Jay Zwally, who predicted that melting would outpace increased snowfall in a decade or two.

For their part, a number of veteran climate scientists have challenged Zwally's findings.



(Credit: Zwally et al., Journal of Glaciology, Volume 61, Number 230, December 2015, pp. 1019-1036(18))

In one study published in Geophysical Research Letters earlier this month, researchers say East Antarctica is gaining three times less ice than the NASA scientists found — enough to easily tip the balance the other direction.

The latest research was led by scientists at the University of Bristol and used data sets similar to those used by the NASA team, but also added in observations from the Grace spacecraft. The NASA satellite can measure minute changes in Earth's gravitational field to watch Antarctica shed the weight of ice.

During their study period, which included data from 2003 to 2013, Antarctica as a whole added to sea level rise, they found. "In every experiment, mass loss from the west always exceeded gains in the east," lead author Jonathan Bamber of the University of Bristol said in a media release.

Zwally says the problem is that East Antarctica is so enormous even tiny discrepancies can completely change the answer.

"In West Antarctica, you're looking at bigger changes over a small area," Zwally says. "And in East Antarctica, you're looking at smaller changes over a much bigger area."

Zwally, himself a veteran glaciologist, says the differences stem from how teams treat the density of the ice sheet, which is thousands of feet thick, as well as how the teams analyze the slow movement of bedrock under the ice. According to Zwally, on-the-ground studies have shown that Antarctica has seen unusually heavy snowfall over the last 10,000 years. That weight burdens the ice sheet and gradually makes the ground beneath it sink. These changes have to be accounted for, he says.

"It's a debate over the methodology, and their methodology is primitive," Zwally says. "It's what we were doing 15 years ago, but we've advanced beyond that state. We no longer have to guess at that density."

Zwally still stands by his 2015 study, but in an interview last week, he said nature has recently changed the equation. His team is crunching numbers from the past two years, looking at ice melting and snowfall rates in Antarctica. And they found something startling.

The melt rates in West Antarctica just increased significantly. His calculations now show that the continent is in overall balance. The findings haven't been peer reviewed yet, but he plans to present them at a science conference later this year.

"In our paper we said that might happen in two to three decades," Zwally says. "Well, this is an unpublished result, but now we're very close to the zero line."

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## **ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH? CHINA HAS SUCCESSFULLY MINED 'FIRE ICE' FROM THE SEA**

By Tsvetana Paraskova - May 18, 2017, 12:51 PM

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Natural-Gas/Energy-Breakthrough-China-Has-Successfully-Mined-Fire-Ice-From-The-Sea.html>



China has successfully extracted gas from gas hydrates—also known as ‘fire ice’ or ‘flammable ice’—in the northern part of the South China Sea, the China Geographical Survey said on Thursday.

Gas hydrate, methane hydrate in particular, is a cage-like structure of crystallized ice, inside of which are trapped molecules of methane, the chief constituent of natural gas. If methane hydrate is either warmed or depressurized, it reverts back to water and natural gas.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), global estimates vary, but the energy content of methane in hydrates is “immense, possibly exceeding the combined energy content of all other known fossil fuels”. But no methane production other than small-scale field experiments has been documented so far.



Today, the China Geographical Survey said that it managed to collect samples from the Shenhu area in the South China Sea in a test that started last Wednesday. Every day some 16,000 cubic meters (565,000 cubic feet) of gas, almost all of which was methane, were extracted from the test field.

China is not the only country that is testing 'fire ice' deposits discovered in their waters. Japan, for example, has been studying for years the potential recovery of methane hydrate, and launched last month preparations to carry out a second production test to extract methane gas from gas hydrates with two wells. Related: Venezuela's Oil Production On The Brink Of Collapse

Last week, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) said that on May 4 the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE) had launched a gas production test to dissolve methane hydrate and extract natural gas offshore Japan, and confirmed the production of natural gas.

The U.S. also has a methane hydrate program to develop technologies that could allow safe methane production from arctic and domestic offshore hydrates.

In July last year, the U.S. Geological Survey said that large deposits of potentially producible gas hydrate was found in the Indian Ocean for the first time, in a joint research project with the governments of India and Japan.

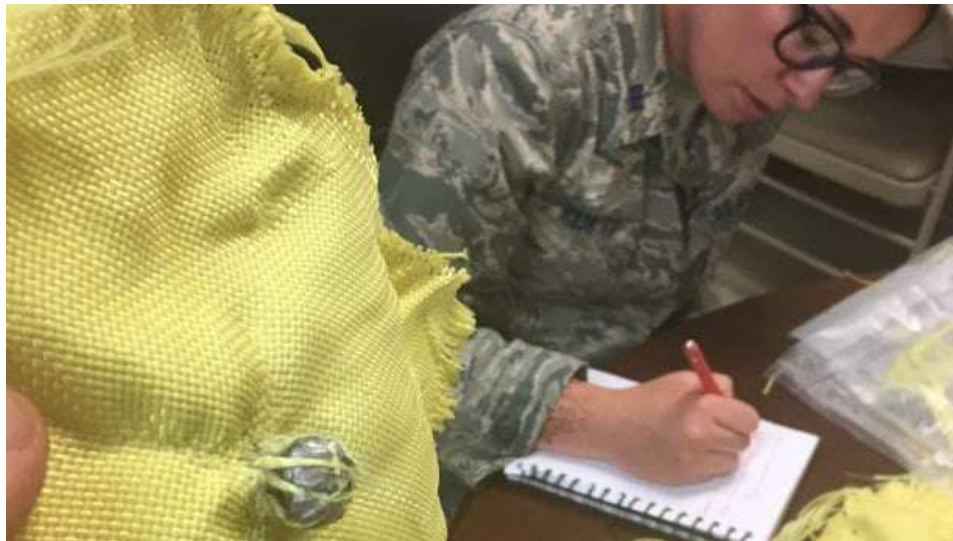
By Tsvetana Paraskova for Oilprice.com

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## US AIR FORCE ACADEMY CADET TURNS GOO INTO BULLET-STOPPING ARMOR

David Szondy May 19, 2017

<http://newatlas.com/us-air-force-cadet-goo-armor/49610/>



Air Force Academy Cadet 1st Class Hayley Weir created a goo-like substance that can stop bullets (Credit: US Air Force)

A US Air Force Academy cadet demonstrated that school lessons aren't just about retreading old ground, by turning a classroom exercise into a new ballistic

armor made out of goo. In 2014, Cadet 1st Class Hayley Weir's assignment to combine epoxy, Kevlar and carbon fiber into an anti-ballistic substance inspired her to develop the task into a new type of flexible bullet stopper.

Composite armors aren't new and Weir's assignment was a standard one, but she wasn't satisfied with the result, which could stop a bullet but was hard and brittle. Following the suggestion of an Academy chemical adviser, she swapped out the epoxy with a shear thickening liquid.

Again, this wasn't new. Shear thickening liquids are made of nanoparticles suspended in a polymer that looks like a plastic goo and is as flexible as a defrosted freezer gel pack under normal conditions. But if they're struck hard enough, their properties change radically and they become extremely hard and viscous.

If you want a cheap analogy to this, take a ball of Silly Putty and play with it. Molded by fingers, it's soft, saggy, and will even ooze under its own weight if left alone. But yank it or hit with a hammer and it snaps or even shatters like glass. Such fluids are already used in motorcycle leathers and military personnel armor, but Weir had stumbled on something new.

Teaming up with military and strategic studies professor Ryan Burke, Weir started developing her idea for a Kevlar, composite goo armor. When the two looked at the existing research, however, they found that no one had produced anything similar to Weir's combination.

In 2016, Weir and Burke conducted tests with the new armor as they tried to develop a mix of the three elements that was most effective. They also attempted to figure out how to layer them for the best stopping power. By December, they were ready for test shots.

What they found was that not only had they come up with a bullet stopper, but one that was more effective the larger and faster the round. A 9-mm round pierced most of the layers only to be stopped by the Kevlar fiber backing, but a .40 Smith & Wesson only got to the third Kevlar layer, and a high velocity .44 Magnum round didn't get past the first.

"The greater the force, the greater the hardening or thickening effect," says Burke.

Weir, who is graduating from the Academy, will continue her research at Clemson University in South Carolina as she and Burke work to perfect the technology. They see it as having a wide range of applications, including as personal and vehicle armor, protective tent material against bullets and shrapnel, and as quick-deploying barricades to protect civilians in mass shooting incidents.

Source: US Air Force

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**US MILITARY IS CLOSE TO SELECTING BUILDER FOR XS-1 SPACE PLANE**

By Leonard David, Space.com's Space Insider Columnist | May 18, 2017 07:30am ET  
<http://www.space.com/36892-darpa-xs-1-space-plane-contract-decision.html>



The Defense Advances Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is seeking the development of a reusable military spacecraft XS-1 space plane. Several concepts for the spacecraft are seen here. Credit: DARPA

The U.S. military's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will soon select a company to build its robotic XS-1 space plane, according to media reports.

DARPA has entered the final stages of the selection process, in which it will ultimately choose one company to construct the space plane, Air Force Magazine reported last week.

In Phase 1 of the XS-1 program, DARPA awarded prime contracts to three companies, each of which will work with a commercial launch provider: Boeing (working with Blue Origin), Masten Space Systems (working with XCOR Aerospace) and Northrop Grumman (working with Virgin Galactic).

However, the Phase 2 contractor won't necessarily be chosen from the three Phase 1 participants, according to the Air Force Magazine report.



Early DARPA artwork of the XS-1 military space plane. Credit: DARPA

Technical goals

The XS-1 space plane will consist of a reusable booster vehicle and an expendable upper stage. According to the DARPA website, the XS-1 program has four primary technical goals:

\* Fly 10 times in a 10-day period, to demonstrate efficient,

aircraft-like access to space.

\* Fly fast enough to allow the use of a small (and therefore cheap) expendable upper stage.

*The May 24th, 2017 Edition of THE REVENGE HUMPH DAY!*

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\* Launch a 900-lb. to 1,500-lb. (408 to 680 kilograms) payload, to demonstrate a launch capability that could support both military and commercial missions. The same XS-1 vehicle could eventually also launch future payloads in excess of 3,000 lbs. (1,360 kg), by using a larger upper stage.

\* Reduce the cost of access to space to about \$5 million per flight for payloads of at least 3,000 lbs.

"Structures made of advanced materials, cryogenic tanks, durable thermal protection, and modular subsystems would make possible a vehicle able to launch, fly to high speeds and then land in a condition amenable to rapid turnaround and launch with the next payload. Reusable, reliable propulsion would also be essential for a low-cost and recurring flight capability," DARPA officials wrote on the agency's website last year.

Northrop Grumman is one of three firms vying for XS-1 space plane. The company's concept is shown here. Credit: Northrop Grumman



**FLIGHT BY 2020?**

If everything goes according to plan, the XS-1 could get off the ground just a few years from now.

"After downselect, a critical design review would take place in 2018, and a series of flights could be made as early as 2020," Air Force Magazine's John Tirpak wrote in his story last week. "One of the program requirements is to fly 10 suborbital or orbital missions in as many days, achieving space operations with 'aircraft-like' frequency, DARPA said. If successful, a 'public-private partnership' model of operating the vehicles could be adopted, DARPA documents show."

Space.com contacted Jess Sponable, program manager of XS-1 at DARPA's Tactical Technology Office, about the Air Force Magazine report and projected timelines for XS-1 milestones. "Absolutely, we are moving forward. But we never say so until it is a done deal," Sponable said.

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

**FOUR KEY CHARTS FOR A CLIMATE CHANGE SKEPTIC**



Anthony Watts / January 28, 2017

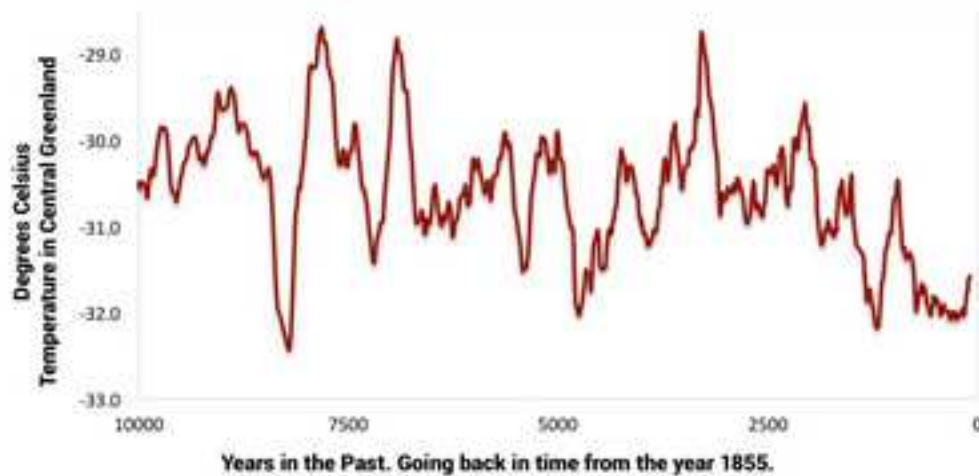
<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2017/01/28/four-key-charts-for-a-climate-change-skeptic/>

Skeptics often get asked to show why they think climate change isn't a crisis, and why we should not be alarmed about it. These four graphs from Michael David White are handy to use for such a purpose.

By Michael David White

## 10,000 Years of Climate Change

The Climate Has Always Changed



Earth's temperature changes constantly. The range of temperatures is approximately 6.5 Fahrenheit over the last 10,000 years. This chart shows temperatures in Greenland fluctuating between negative 29 degrees Celsius to negative 32.5 degrees Celsius. Do they prove climate change real? Yes, climate change is real and constant. Is "manmade" carbon causing climate change? In all of the 10,000 years shown here man played no role in the change of temperature or the carbon level. Climate changes with or without man's presence.

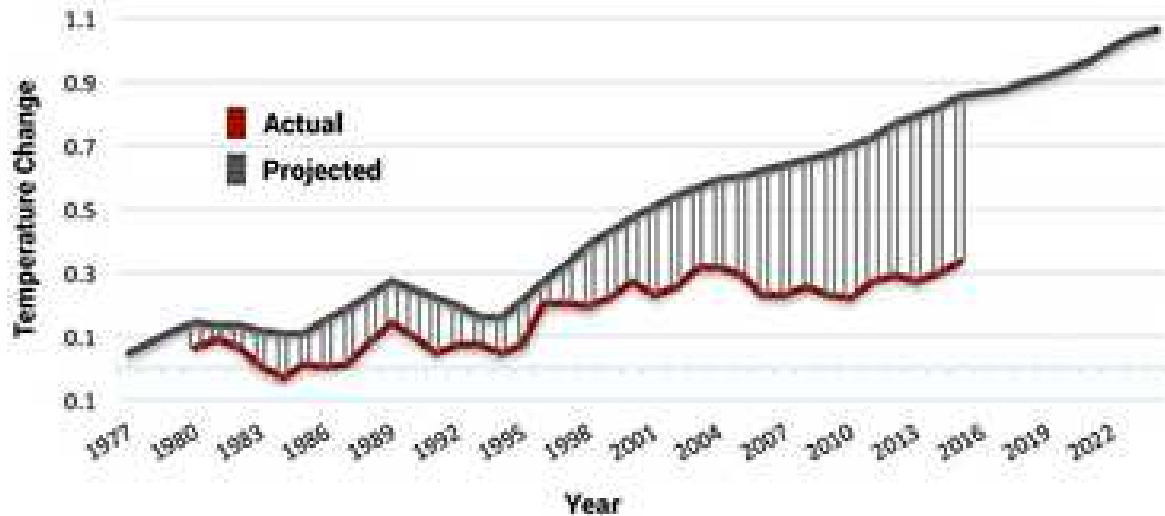
Sources & Notes:

GISP2 ice Core Temperature and Accumulation Data, NOAA Paleoclimatology Program and World Data Center for Paleoclimatology (Boulder). Scientists estimated the temperatures by analyzing ice cores. They are a reliable proxy for climate change in the northern hemisphere.

Chart by Michael David White for The Right Track Magazine. Published October 11, 2016.

## Climate Models Fail to Predict Warming Trends

If we cannot predict future weather then the probability of dangerous manmade climate change is beyond our comprehension.



If the theory of dangerous manmade global warming predicts the future, and if weather models prove scientists cannot predict the future, then the alarmist theory about a dangerous future has been disproved as a scientific hypothesis. You cannot reasonably champion a scientific theory when your own work proves you do not have the expertise to make the claim.

### Source & Notes:

John R. Christy, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science, Alabama State Climatologist, and Director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Projected: Tropical average mid-tropospheric temperature variations (5-year averaged) for 32 models (lined) representing 102 individual simulations.

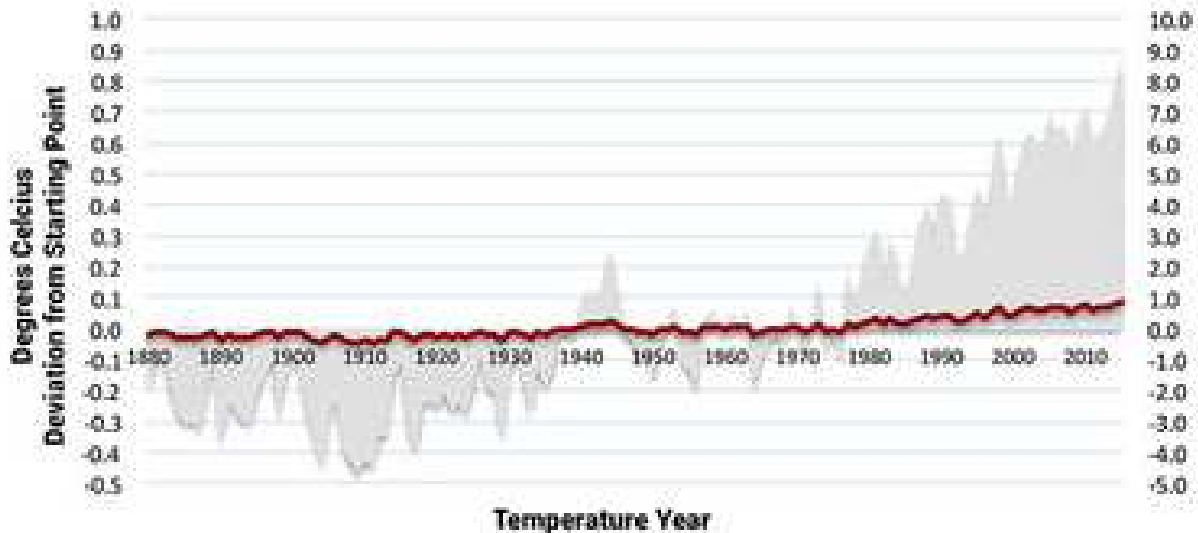
Actual: Satellite based is the average of three satellite datasets (green) - UAH, RSS, NOAA.

\* Climate Change Chart 3 \*

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## 140 Years of Climate Change on Two Scales

### The Malleability of Data



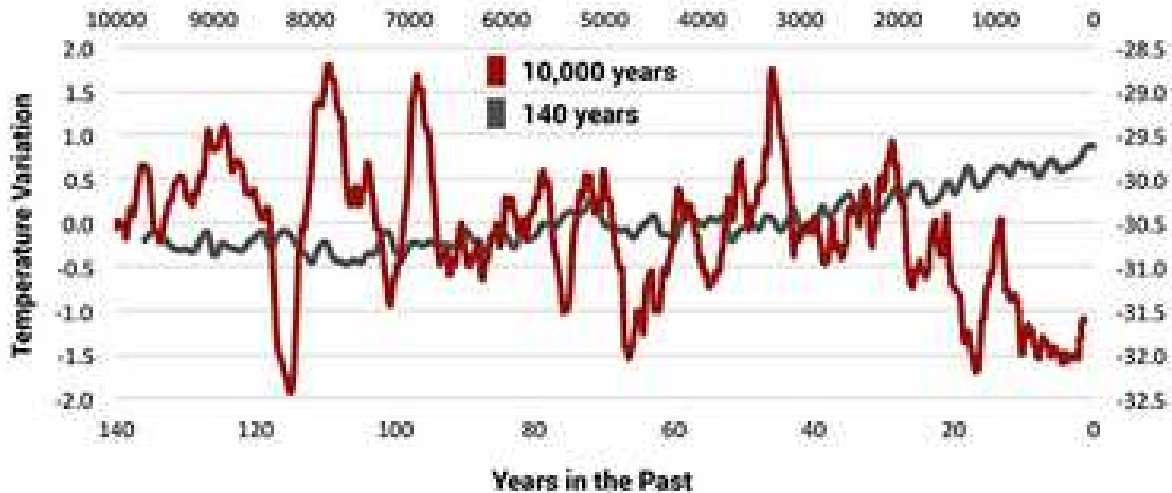
To make your point or hide the truth you may change the representation of data. Both of these charts shows the same numbers.

Source & Notes:  
Goddard Institute for Space Studies, National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Global Annual Mean Surface Air Temperature Change: Global Land-Ocean Temperature Index (G)

Chart by Michael David White for The Right Track Magazine. Published October 11, 2016

## The Banality of Climate Change

140 Years of Climate Change and 10,000 Years of Climate Change.



Changes in temperature in the 10,000-year record and the 140-year record show that recent temperature changes are normal in magnitude. The 10,000-year record has a range of 3.74 Centigrade. The 140-year record has a range of 1.34 Centigrade. The magnitude of change in the long record is almost three times greater than the range in the short record.

Source: B. Namy.

A. 140-year record: Goddard Institute for Space Studies, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Global Annual Mean Surface Air Temperature Change: Global Land Ocean Temperature Index (GI)

B. 10,000-Year Record: GISP2 Ice Core Temperature and Accumulation Data, NOAA Paleoclimatology Program and World Data Center for Paleoclimatology (Berkeley)

Chart by Michael David White for The Right Track Magazine. Published October 11, 2016.

Note: the top chart of 10,000 years of climate change has been updated to reflect the x-axis on 1/31/17

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From: "Chris Cowan" [cowanc1028@earthlink.net](mailto:cowanc1028@earthlink.net)

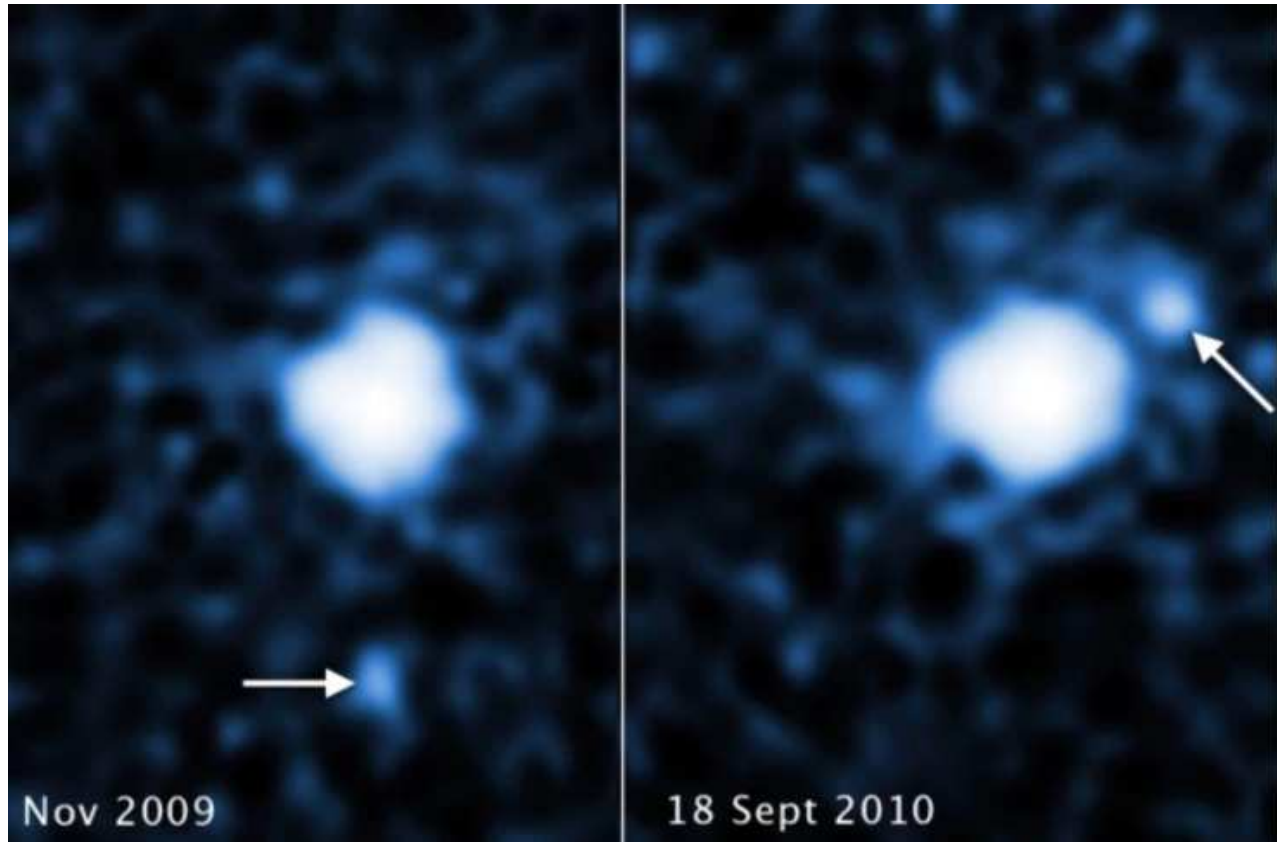
“SNOW WHITE” THE DWARF PLANET HAS ITS OWN MOON



Astronomers have found a moon orbiting the third-largest dwarf planet in our solar system

By [Mike Wall, SPACE.com](#) on May 20, 2017

[https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/ldquo-snow-white-rdquo-the-dwarf-planet-has-its-own-moon/?WT.mc\\_id=send-to-friend](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/ldquo-snow-white-rdquo-the-dwarf-planet-has-its-own-moon/?WT.mc_id=send-to-friend)



These two images, taken a year apart by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, reveal a moon orbiting the dwarf planet 2007 OR10, known informally as "Snow White." Each image shows the satellite in a different orbital position around its parent body. Credit: [NASA, ESA, C. Kiss \(Konkoly Observatory\), and J. Stansberry \(STScI\)](#)

The third-largest dwarf planet in our solar system has its own moon, a new study reveals.

Astronomers used three different telescopes to detect and characterize a moon orbiting 2007 OR10, which is known informally as "[Snow White](#)."

Snow White is a 950-mile-wide (1,530 kilometers) dwarf planet in the Kuiper Belt, the ring of frigid bodies beyond Neptune. The object's newfound satellite is pretty big, with an estimated diameter of 150 to 250 miles (240 to 400 km), researchers reported in the new study.

Most of the Kuiper Belt's large dwarf planets — those at least 600 miles (960 km) in diameter — are now known to host moons, many of which were probably spawned by long-ago collisions. For example, astronomers think a long-ago giant impact led to the formation of Pluto's five-moon system.

"The discovery of satellites around all of the known large dwarf planets — except for Sedna — means that, at the time these bodies formed billions of years ago, collisions must have been more frequent, and that's a constraint on the formation models," lead author Csaba Kiss, of the Konkoly Observatory in Budapest, Hungary, [said in a statement](#).

"If there were frequent collisions, then it was quite easy to form these satellites," Kiss added.

"There must have been a fairly high density of objects, and some of them were massive bodies that were perturbing the orbits of smaller bodies," added co-author John Stansberry, of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. "This gravitational stirring may have nudged the bodies out of their orbits and increased their relative velocities, which may have resulted in collisions."

As its formal moniker suggests, Snow White was discovered in 2007. Of all the known [dwarf planets](#) in our solar system, only Pluto and Eris are bigger. Snow White zooms around the sun in a distant, highly eccentric orbit, getting as close to our star as 33 astronomical units (AU) and as far away as 101 AU. (One AU is the average Earth-sun distance — about 93 million miles, or 150 million km. For perspective, Pluto never gets farther from the sun than 49 AU.)

The first hints of the newfound moon's existence came via NASA's planet-hunting Kepler space telescope, which noticed that Snow White takes about 45 hours to complete one rotation. That's much longer than the typical Kuiper Belt object, which tends to spin once every 24 hours or less, study team members said.

The slow rotation could be caused by a moon's gravitational tug, the researchers reasoned. So they went through archival images of Snow White that were captured by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, and hit the jackpot in two observations made a year apart, in fall 2009 and fall 2010.

The Hubble photos didn't provide enough information for the study team members to calculate an orbit for the newfound moon, or to determine its size. But the astronomers were able to get their diameter estimate for the satellite by studying archival measurements made in far-infrared light by the European Space Agency's Herschel Space Observatory, which ceased operating in 2013.

The study was published online in March in [The Astrophysical Journal Letters](#).

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### A Radical Approach against Superbugs: Learn to Live with Them

One physiologist wants us to stop worrying so much about fighting infections and instead help the body tolerate them

By [Usha Lee McFarling](#), [STAT](#) on May 21, 2017

[https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-radical-approach-against-superbugs-learn-to-live-with-them/?WT.mc\\_id=send-to-friend](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-radical-approach-against-superbugs-learn-to-live-with-them/?WT.mc_id=send-to-friend)



Salmonella bacteria invade an immune cell. Credit: [NIAID Flickr](#) ([CC BY 2.0](#))

LA JOLLA, Calif.—As her father lay dying of [sepsis](#), Janelle Ayres spent nine agonizing days at his bedside. When he didn't beat the virulent bloodstream infection, she grieved. And then she got frustrated. She knew there had to be a better way to help patients like her dad.

In fact, she was working on one in her lab.

Ayres, a hard-charging physiologist who has unapologetically decorated her lab with bright touches of hot pink, is intent on upending our most fundamental understanding of how the human body fights disease.

Scientists have focused for decades on the how the immune system battles pathogens. Ayres believes other elements of our physiology are at least as important—so she's hunting for the beneficial bacteria that seem to help some patients maintain a healthy appetite and repair damaged tissue even during bouts of serious disease.

If she can find them—and she's already begun to do so—she believes she can develop drugs that will boost those qualities in patients who lack them and help keep people alive through battles with sepsis, malaria, cholera, and a host of other diseases.

Her approach, in a nutshell: Stop worrying so much about fighting infections. Instead, help the body tolerate them.

And no, she's not spouting some New Age California mumbo jumbo about letting the body heal itself. An associate professor at the Salk Institute in the heart of San Diego's booming biotech beach, Ayres is harnessing all manner of high-tech tools from the fields of microbiomics, genetics, and immunology—and looking to a menagerie of animals—to sort out why some individuals tolerate infection so much better than others.

It's work that's desperately needed, Ayres said, as it becomes ever more clear that our standard approach to fighting infection using antibiotics and antivirals is hopelessly inadequate. The drugs don't work for all diseases, they kill off good bacteria along with bad—and their wanton use is contributing to the rise of antibiotic resistant bacteria, or "[superbugs](#)," which terrify disease experts because there are few ways to stop them.

Ayres's father, Robert Lamberton, developed sepsis after a routine gallbladder surgery in 2015. Battling to fight the infection in the ICU, the hospital used an arsenal of antibiotics.

None worked.

"We're focused only on making new antibiotics," Ayres said. "And that's an arms race that we're never going to win."

Ayres's journey started with thousands of sick, mutant flies. It was about 10 years ago, in biologist David Schneider's lab at Stanford, where Ayres was a grad student. She infected more than 10,000 flies, carrying various genetic mutations, with listeria. "I injured my hand because I had to inject so many flies," she recalled.

While many immunologists would look for very specific immune responses, Ayres asked a simpler, but perhaps more important, question: Which flies survived?

By comparing the mutants that died quickly against the survivors, she found specific sets of genes that played roles in preventing, curbing, and even repairing damage from the listeria infection—regardless of the level of bacteria in the flies' bodies.

Schneider and Ayres [described the response](#) of the surviving flies as tolerance. They went on to propose that immune response to pathogens wasn't the whole story, and that tolerance—a body's ability to minimize damage while infected—may play a key role as well. Ayres has since gone on to call what she studies the "[tolerance defense system](#)."

"We were telling the field of immunology, 'You need a perspective shift,'" Ayres said.

Immunologists were not impressed.

They weren't happy to see the longtime focus on the immune system challenged, said Schneider, who chairs the Stanford University School of Medicine's department of microbiology and immunology. And they hated the term "tolerance" because it has a number of specific technical meanings within their field.

"Every time we used that word, immunologists would jump down our throats and complain that we couldn't take their word," Schneider said.



It seemed a petty and silly disagreement, he said, given that plant biologists have used the word tolerance for more than a century to describe infected plants that nonetheless stay healthy enough to bear fruit. “We were not stealing their word,” he said.

Despite the cold reception, the idea immediately caught the eye of one of the nation’s most renowned and creative immunologists: Ruslan Medzhitov, who has scooped up nearly [every recent major prize for biology](#) and who many think was [unfairly overlooked](#) for the 2011 Nobel Prize for his co-discovery of Toll-like receptors, pattern recognition molecules key to the immune system.

Medzhitov had been frustrated for years by a finding he could not explain. In experiment after experiment, he noted that infected animals differed wildly in their survival rates — and it didn’t seem to matter how many pathogens or disease-causing microbes they carried. If killing microbes was all that mattered, he said, this differential survival of infected animals made no sense at all.

“All the standard thinking about how the immune system works,” he said, “was clearly inefficient.”

So when he first read papers by Ayres and Schneider—and work by Andrew Read and Lars Raberg at Penn State—he became convinced that tolerance was the key issue immunologists had long overlooked.

“I was immediately hooked on the idea,” he said. “It sounded so logical and biologically satisfying.”

For his part, Schneider describes the current focus on killing microbes as “a really violent and militaristic approach.”

“No one says, ‘Why can’t we just live together?’” he said.

That’s just what Ayres is asking in her lab.

Ayres may have gravitated to this trailblazing field because she’s something of an iconoclast herself. The product of a humble family—her father a farm-raised German immigrant, her mother a bookkeeper — Ayres is the only one of three siblings who’s a scientist. “My family has always been very proud of me,” she said. “But they’ve never understood what I do.”

Ayres’s lab at Salk, which happens to be all female, is decidedly pink and glittery, down to the lab stepstool. Scientists wear hot pink rubber gloves. Lab hoodies are pink with “Wolf Pack” printed on the back. Bottles of champagne—yes, it’s also pink—from various lab celebrations on a shelf.

Sitting quietly on another shelf: Science Barbie. “Her skirt’s too short, but she does have closed-toed shoes and goggles,” quipped Ayres.

Ayres, who is in her 30s, makes frequent appearances at area high schools—teaming her white lab coat with glamorous eye shadow and sparkly loafers to send a strong message that female scientists can be great researchers and also be themselves. Ayres’s lab has been all female for four years by happenstance, she said. Her first male postdoc will join this fall, she said, adding dryly: “I hope he likes pink.”

Those who know Ayres attribute her success in part to her broad curiosity. She reads widely, and far outside her discipline.

In fact, it was a 19th-century paper on plants that remained healthy despite being infected with leaf rust that helped inform Ayre's thinking on tolerance. "It had never been looked at in animals, never described in animals," she said, speaking with her characteristic rapid-fire enthusiasm. "That's why you should always read papers outside your bubble."

(She's also fascinated with Typhoid Mary, the chef who sickened dozens and killed three in the early 1900s in New York, but somehow tolerated her own infection.)

Taking a page from her former adviser, Ayres uses math, evolutionary theory, and ecology in her work and is always gobbling up new papers on interesting animals—recently it's been ants and hagfish—that might shed light on the phenomenon she's studying and the bigger picture outside the Petri dish. "I just texted Janelle about naked mole rats," Schneider said. "I can't look at another T cell."

Plainspoken and direct, Ayres could be classified as a workaholic. Other than spending time with her husband and beloved golden retriever—whom she named Hans Ferdinand after her father's original German name—Ayres admits to spending most of her time immersed in work.

"If you're a scientist, it's a lifestyle, not a job," she said.

Not that she doesn't have a sense of humor.

On a recent day, she led her lab mates on a wild chase through the lab, the group shrieking and laughing as they searched for the source of a particularly foul smell. It turned out to be a beaker full of mystery bugs that someone had let sit too long.

Her team has also been waiting, unsuccessfully, for months for bacteria to grow on a doughnut they keep prominently displayed in the lab. (The wait has led to a lot of uneasy jokes about what could be in the doughnut to inhibit all microbial growth.)

Ayres said she feels extremely fortunate to be at the Salk, an iconic ocean-side collection of cement and teak buildings that, in the 1960s, was among the first science institutes to be built with literally no walls between labs. Ayres said it speeds up her work immensely to so easily work with colleagues who are experts on neuroscience and metabolism.

But the main reason for her success may be the work ethic she inherited from her father. Robert Lamberton was a jet mechanic who worked seven days a week, commuting several hours each day from his home in Livermore to the Rolls Royce plant in Oakland.

As a teen, Ayres scooped ice cream and stocked grocery store shelves while in high school. She earned a 4.0 grade point average at Berkeley even while commuting several hours each day and working full time in a lab. Her drive continued at Stanford, where she got her PhD in 2009. "She was commuting several hours a day and still getting so much done," Schneider said. "She works incredibly hard."

Like her dad, a Navy man and Vietnam vet who wasn't above scrubbing the decks even after he rose through the ranks to run a jet engine test facility, Ayres is also willing to roll up her lab coat sleeves when needed.

"I'll go collect mouse poo," she said. "I'm not above that."

Her work is getting notice: In 2014, Ayres was one of just 15 young scientists in the US to be named a Searle Scholar. The next year, the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency recognized her with her a young faculty award. The two honors came with a combined \$800,000 in research funding.

## **A WAR WE CAN'T WIN**

More than 700,000 deaths each year worldwide are attributed to infections that our current roster of drugs cannot beat back. The World Health Organization recently released a ["most wanted" list](#) of the world's most dangerous superbugs.

The public health response, so far, has been to clamor for newer and more effective antibiotics. A public-private partnership in the US and UK, for instance, is investing tens of millions over the next three years in startups working on new drugs.

And last month, Democrats in both houses of Congress introduced a bill that included \$2 billion to establish a prize fund specifically for new antibiotics. All Ayres can do is sigh.

She understands bacteria deeply. She respects them and even loves them. And she knows they will always win.

Society needs drugs that don't target bacteria, which can so quickly evolve to evade our best medicines, she argues.

Instead, she thinks we can harness those bacteria—even the ones normally classified as pathogens—to make new drugs that save lives by targeting an infected person's tissues and organs. That would be an entirely new class of therapeutics, which could lessen our dependence on antibiotics and help save lives in cases, like her father's, where antibiotics fail.

She's had a tough time spreading her view. STAT contacted a number of experts in antibiotic resistance who said they did not know enough about the new area to comment. Yet slowly, some researchers are starting to come around.

Inducing tolerance in a patient "is perhaps the missing but essential element to add to the current components of sepsis care and treatment," three experts on sepsis—the bloodstream infection that killed Ayres's father—wrote in [a medical journal editorial](#) last year.

The approach could also help with viral diseases like the flu. And it could also make a difference with cancer. As Schneider notes, tolerance seems to be an issue in the field: Some cancer patients survive despite large tumor loads, where others succumb to the smallest of tumors. Drugs that could help patients retain their appetites and strengthen bodies weakened by chemotherapy and radiation could potentially boost survival rates.

“It’s essentially a completely new class of drugs, a completely new therapeutic strategy,” said Medzhitov, who himself is heading a startup called Vendanta, which aims to hunt for new classes of microbial drugs to treat autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

Ayres is not involved with that project. She’s been working furiously in her own lab, rolling out a series of studies that have found critical targets for new drugs. Her main focus: the trillions of bacteria—known collectively as the [microbiome](#)—that reside in our bodies but do not sicken us. Ayres suspects they might play a key role in the tolerance defense system.

But if bacteria do help increase tolerance to disease, what strains are involved and what exactly are they doing?

Seeking an answer, Ayres and researchers Michelle Lee and Alexandria Palaferri Schieber collected mice from around the country and tested how they responded to pneumonia and intestinal infections caused by a type of salmonella. (Ayres is always eager to show visitors a small jar of mice innards she keeps in her lab.)

In this study, the mice were genetically identical, but because they had been raised in different environments, they had entirely different microbiomes. One group of mice did not suffer from muscle wasting despite having comparable levels of pathogens—suggesting that something in their microbiome was promoting tolerance.

When they compared the microbiomes of these tolerant mice to regular mice, [they found](#) only the tolerant mice carried a specific strain of *E. coli*, one Ayres calls a “superhero bug.” That strain, when given to regular mice, kept them from wasting as well.

Further study showed the *E. coli* was leaving the gut and migrating to fat tissue, where it was activating a part of the immune system called the inflammasome that can trigger inflammation to help fight microbes. In this case, the *E. coli* was using those same mechanisms to nourish muscles. Ayres is now looking for an analog in humans that might one day be used as a treatment for wasting.

In [another study](#), Ayres found a bacterial protein called SlrP (pronounced “slurpee”) could keep mice from dying of salmonella infection. Mice infected with a mutant salmonella strain that did not include the protein ate less, lost weight, and died more quickly than mice infected with regular salmonella.

Ayres and researcher Sheila Rao found that the SlrP protein in wild salmonella blocked signals that the gut normally sends to the brain to tell it to stop eating—and helped keep the mice it had infected alive and eating well.

“Salmonella has actually evolved ways to keep us healthy,” Rao said. They have a vested interest in doing so: As long as we keep eating and moving about, the salmonella can continue to flourish and spread to other hosts. Ayres hopes to use this insight to develop a SlrP-based drug that can increase appetite in the sick, or those undergoing chemotherapy.

Ayres is anxious to push forward the basic science on tolerance—and is convinced that it will lead to new cures. “I absolutely think these would have saved my dad,” she said. It’s too late for Robert Lamberton. But it might not be too late for others.



Republished with permission from [STAT](#). This article [originally appeared](#) on May 18, 2017  
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ABSOLUTELY & TOTALLY POLITICALLY INCORRECT & AS FAR TO THE CENTER AS YOU CAN GO!

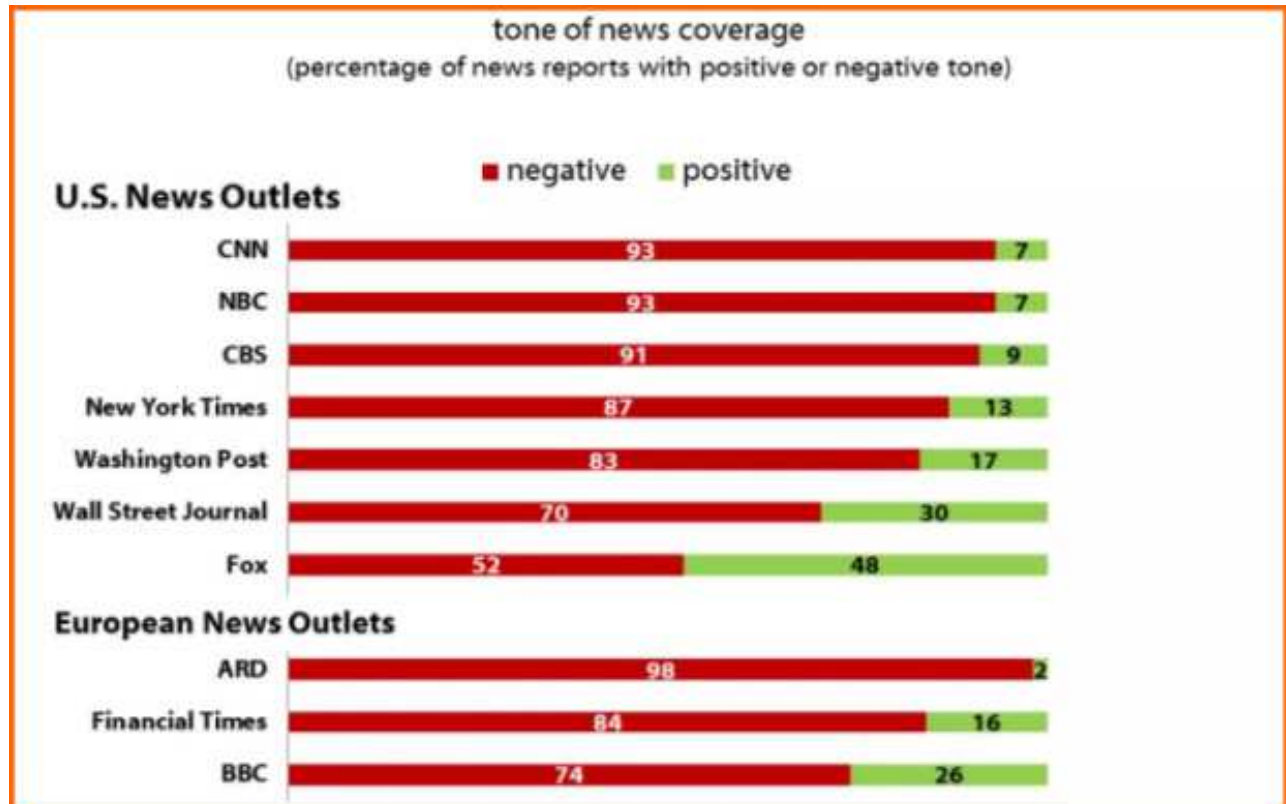
From: “Tim Bolgeo” [tbolgeo@epbf.com](mailto:tbolgeo@epbf.com)

### HARVARD STUDY REVEALS HUGE EXTENT OF ANTI-TRUMP MEDIA BIAS

By Heat Street Staff|7:24 am, May 19, 2017

<https://heatst.com/culture-wars/harvard-study-reveals-huge-extent-of-anti-trump-media-bias/>

A major new study out of Harvard University has revealed the true extent of the mainstream media’s bias against Donald Trump. Academics at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy analyzed coverage from Trump’s first 100 days in office across 10 major TV and print outlets. They found that the tone of some outlets was negative in as many as 98% of reports, significantly more hostile than the first 100 days of the three previous administrations:



The academics based their study on seven US outlets and three European ones.

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In America they analyzed CNN, NBC, CBS, Fox News, the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal.

They also took into account the BBC, the UK's Financial Times and the German public broadcaster ARD.

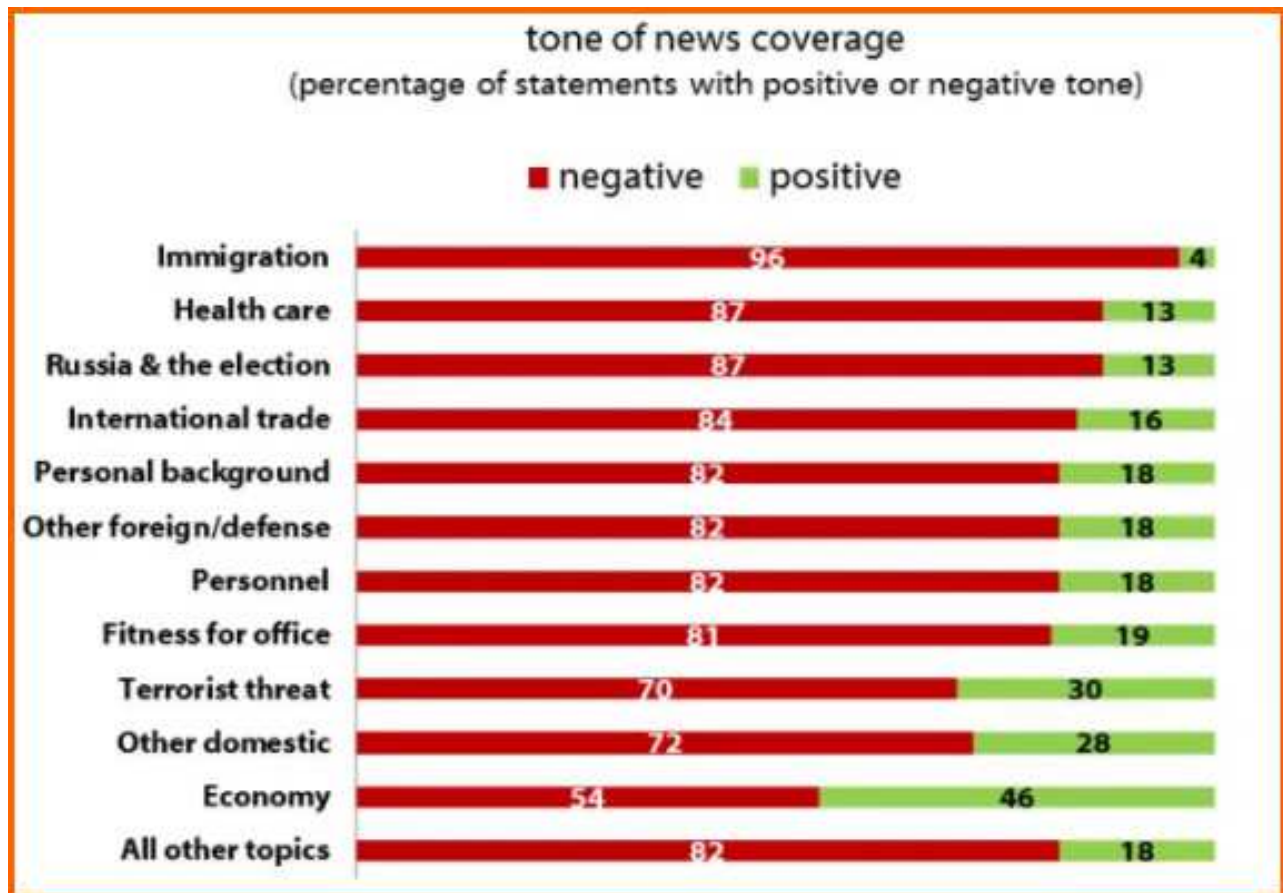
Every outlet was negative more often than positive.

Only Fox News, which features some of Trump's most enthusiastic supporters and is often given special access to the President, even came close to positivity.

Fox was ranked 52% negative and 48% positive.

The study also divided news items across topics. On immigration, healthcare, and Russia, more than 85% of reports were negative.

On the economy, the proportion was more balanced – 54% negative to 46% positive:

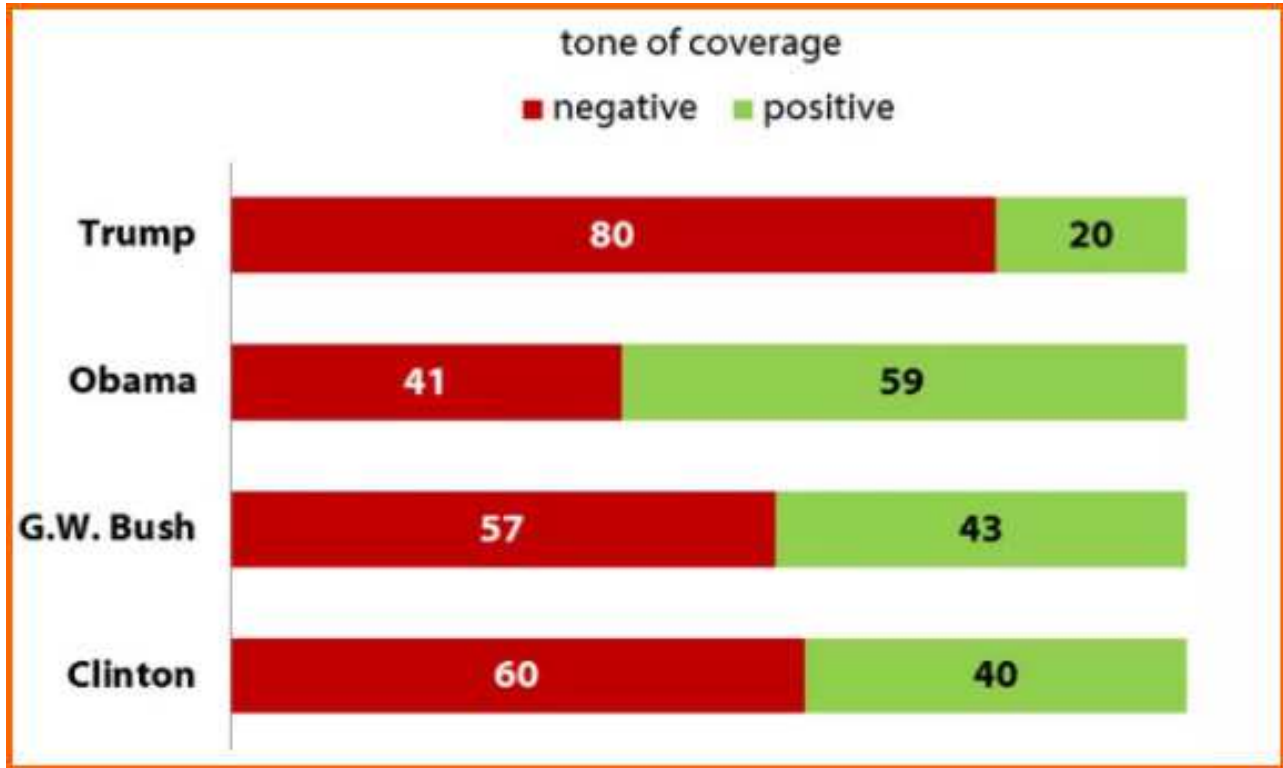


The study highlighted one exception: Trump got overwhelmingly positive coverage for launching a cruise missile attack on Syria.

Around 80% of all reports were positive about that.

The picture was very different for other recent administrations. The study found that President Obama's first 100 days got a good write-up overall – with 59% of reports positive.

Bill Clinton and George W Bush got overall negative coverage, it found, but to a much lesser extent than Trump. Clinton's first 100 days got 40% positivity, while Bush's got 43%:



Trump has repeatedly claimed that his treatment by the media is unprecedented in its hostility.

This study suggests that, at least when it comes to recent history, he's right.

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**WHAT FRAUD? IT'S ONLY 7.2 MILLION DUPLICATED VOTER REGISTRATIONS — IN MULTIPLE STATES**

May 19, 2017 | Michael Dorstewitz

[http://www.bizpacreview.com/2017/05/19/fraud-7-2-million-duplicated-voter-registrations-multiple-states-493102?utm\\_source=BizPac+Review+Email+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=8e973b5b2c-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_05\\_20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fb9323fb3-8e973b5b2c-32881293](http://www.bizpacreview.com/2017/05/19/fraud-7-2-million-duplicated-voter-registrations-multiple-states-493102?utm_source=BizPac+Review+Email+Newsletter&utm_campaign=8e973b5b2c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb9323fb3-8e973b5b2c-32881293)

More than seven million voters appear to be registered to vote in multiple states. This is according to the latest data compiled by the Kansas-run Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program, which was launched in 2005 by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach.



Follow Free  
Beacon ?@FreeBea  
con  
More Than 7 Million  
Voter Registrations  
Are Duplicated in  
Multiple  
States <https://goo.gl/oWb9rY> via @JoeS  
choffstall  
4:23 PM - 18 May  
2017

The program was initiated with the secretaries of three other states — Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska — in an effort to identify “possible duplicate

registrations among states” and prevent voters from casting votes in national elections in more than one state.

In the nearly 12 years since the program was launched, the original four participant states has grown to 28, and the latest data suggests that 7.2 million voters are registered in two states, The Washington Free Beacon reported.

That’s not to say that the 7.2 million actually voted multiple times — only that 7.2 million voters had the ability to do so.

Most instances presumably involved those who moved from one state to another who failed to notify the supervisor of elections of the state they’d left that they relocated.

It’s also impossible to ascertain how those who may have actually voted in two or more states cast their votes.

The states with the greatest number of registration duplicates across state lines were Georgia, North Carolina and Illinois.

In addition to ferreting out interstate registration duplicate registrations, the program identified intrastate multiple registrations. The Free Beacon reported:

The study shows that more than 916,000 people appear to be registered multiple times within their state of residence. North Carolina accounts for 90 percent of potential intrastate duplicates.

Nearly 68,000 registered voters across the 28 states had “invalid” dates of birth, a category that include missing, incomplete, or placeholder birth dates, which can reflect older records before dates of birth were kept on file.



The program also found 32,000 registered voters who appeared to have invalid Social Security Numbers tied to their voter records, which can result either from clerical mistakes or fraud.

On May 11 President Trump signed an executive order naming Kobach and Vice President Mike Pence to head a commission on voter fraud to study “vulnerabilities” in the voting system.

Although Trump won the November 8 election by capturing 304 electoral votes to Democrat Hillary Clinton’s 227, Clinton bested the president by nearly 2.9 million popular votes.

Were people surprised? Not in the least.

18 May ConserValidity @ConserValidity  
DON'T WORRY DEMOCRATS SAY THERE'S NO FRAUD:More Than 7 Million Voter Registrations Are Duplicated in Multiple States <http://freebeacon.com/issues/7-million-voter-registrations-duplicated-multiple-states/> ...

Follow DiveCon Lester @DiveConLFP  
@ConserValidity nothing to see here, move along, voter fraud is just your imagination, it doesnt happen#Sarcasm  
1:43 AM - 19 May 2017

18 May Don Waitt @WaittDon  
@ConserValidity @MtRushmore2016 Don't worry about voter fraud but worry about Russia

Follow Cathy ski @MtRushmore2016  
@WaittDon @ConserValidity Democrats Dont let anyone stand in the way of their efforts to advance socialism first, then communism! #Evil  
9:46 PM - 18 May 2017

Follow John C Stires III @jcsthe3rd  
@ConserValidity MORE THAN ENOUGH TO CHANGE SEVERAL ELECTIONS!  
5:00 PM - 18 May 2017

One had this question about the study:

Follow Marjorie Mickelson @mickelsonrm  
@ConserValidity @VoiceOverPerson Wonder if they include the dead and people who are citizens of other countries? No voter fraud? I have a bridge for sale.  
7:21 PM - 18 May 2017

The answer is no. That 7.2 million doesn't take into account those who are on the voter rolls although ineligible because of non-citizenship, criminal history or death.

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**BREAKING: 'COMPLETE PANIC' AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF DNC OVER KIM DOTCOM'S SETH RICH ANNOUNCEMENT**

Carter May 21st, 2017 9:28 pm 2002 Comments

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<http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2017/05/breaking-complete-panic-set-highest-levels-dnc-seth-rich-murder-investigation/>

Saturday, an anonymous person who works in Washington DC, alleged on 4Chan's /pol/ subgroup that high-ranking current and former Democratic Party officials are terrified of the Seth Rich murder investigation.

This comes after internet entrepreneur and hacker, Kim DotCom, admitted on Saturday that he was part of an operation along with Seth Rich to get stolen DNC emails to Wikileaks.



It wasn't the Russians.



Kim DotCom and the late DNC operative Seth Rich

The anonymous post released Saturday reads:

“Anons, I work in D.C.

I know for certain that the Seth Rich case has scared the shit out of certain high ranking current and former Democratic Party officials.

This is the reason why they have backed away from impeachment talk. They know the smoking gun is out there, and they’re terrified you will find it, because when you do it will bring the entire DNC, along with a couple of very big name politicians.

It appears that certain DNC thugs were not thorough enough when it came time to cover their tracks. Podesta saying he wanted to “make an example of the leaker” is a huge smoking gun.”

Anonymous (ID: ZM6yT5gT) 

05/20/17(Sat)17:28:25 No.126356030

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I know for certain that the Seth Rich case has scared the shit out of certain high ranking current and former Democratic Party officials.

This is the reason why they have backed away from impeachment talk. They know the smoking gun is out there, and they’re terrified you will find it, because when you do it will bring down the entire DNC, along with a couple of very big name politicians.

It appears that certain DNC thugs were not thorough enough when it came time to cover their tracks. Podesta saying he wanted to "make an example of the leaker" is a huge smoking gun.

[>>126356251 #](#) [>>126356701 #](#) [>>126357698 #](#) [>>126358404 #](#)

In a follow up post, the anonymous individual wrote:

Anonymous (ID: ZM6yT5gT)   
05/20/17(Sat)17:38:15 No.126357109

>>126356251 #

The behavior is near open panic. To even mention this name in D.C. Circles will bring you under automatic scrutiny. To even admit that you have knowledge of this story puts you in immediate danger.

If there was no smoke there would be no fire. I have never, in my 20 years of working in D.C. Seen such a panicked reaction from anyone.

I have strong reason to believe that the smoking gun in this case is out o the hands of the conspirators, and will be discovered by anons. I know for certain that Podesta is deeply concerned. He's been receiving anonymous calls and emails from people saying they know the truth. Same with Hillary.

“The behavior is near open panic. To even mention this name in D.C. Circles [sic] will bring you under automatic scrutiny. To even admit that you have knowledge of this story puts you in immediate danger.

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Sean Hannity then went on to tweet today:

Follow Sean Hannity

?@seanhannity

Complete panic has set in at the highest levels of the Democratic Party. Any bets when the kitchen sink is dumped on my head??

<https://twitter.com/seanhannity/status/866464187173752832> ...9:44 PM - 21 May 2017

<SNIP>

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

From: “Jim Woosley” [jimwoosley@aol.com](mailto:jimwoosley@aol.com)

THE ANONYMOUS ASSASSINATION OF DONALD TRUMP

By Dick Morris on May 17, 2017

[http://www.dickmorris.com/anonymous-assassination-donald-trump/?utm\\_source=dmreports&utm\\_medium=dmreports&utm\\_campaign=dmreports](http://www.dickmorris.com/anonymous-assassination-donald-trump/?utm_source=dmreports&utm_medium=dmreports&utm_campaign=dmreports)

Lee Harvey Oswald hid behind the sixth-floor window of the Dallas Book Depository Building as he aimed his rifle at JFK. But, hiding in the grassy knoll ahead was at least one other hidden assassin closing in for the kill shot. It was the first anonymous assassination

of a president in US history. Donald Trump is in danger of becoming the second. His assassins use words not bullets and hide behind the First Amendment, not the grassy knoll.

Every single story attacking Trump, every leaked memo, every intercepted communication, every rumored exchange is reported to the media by anonymous sources. Death by leaking is a particularly Washington spin on the MO of the Salem Witch Trials. Instead of hysterical girls claiming to be possessed by the devil, we have hidden bureaucrats and intelligence operatives who claim to have seen, overheard, or secretly read of the most villainous kind of presidential malfeasance.

This is a particularly offensive form of a kangaroo court. There is no opportunity to confront — or even know the name of — one's accusers. No right to see evidence. No chance for cross examination. No exploration of motives. Just accusation and suspicion.

To try to hobble or even impeach a popularly elected president by a death of a thousand leaks is an outrageous threat to democracy and we must not let it happen.

Consider this week's three scandals:

The president was right to fire Comey. He got too enmeshed in partisan politics in the election to function effectively as head of the FBI. He did not do his job of tracking down leakers, probably because those he would have to investigate work right outside his office. He irresponsibly led to the publication of a lying, dirt-filled dossier of personal slander against the president.

Trump was also within his rights as commander-in-chief to tell the Russians anything he wanted about US intelligence findings. The information our intelligence agencies unearth is not for their use alone. It is part of the arsenal of weapons and incentives that the president has to have at his disposal in charming, threatening, or convincing foreign leaders in our national interest.

And consider the context of his talk with Comey. His newly minted National Security Advisor had just been forced to resign after he called to calm Moscow down and forestall possible retaliation against the US for the sanctions Obama had just provocatively imposed on them for hacking the Democratic Party. Flynn's sin was not in placing the call, but in lying to the vice president about it. (The only law Flynn broke was the fossilized Logan Act, last prosecuted in 1803). The call was necessary so that the situation did not escalate seriously and unpredictably.

Trump was asking Comey to go easy on Flynn for having made the phone call. This was not a broad injunction to close his eyes to all things Russian or any contact between Trump people and Moscow. It was very specifically about the phone call Flynn had made to the Russians. A phone call that was clearly in our national interest and Trump was asking Comey to cut him some slack.

But you won't hear any of this from the media. They are on a mission to undo the will of the voters and oust Donald Trump. They cannot be permitted to get away with it.

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THE PACK HORSE LIBRARIANS



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**\*This is courtesy of the KY Department of Libraries and Archives in Frankfort, KY and presented by Dave Tabler on January 25, 2011. This is credited to him with thanks. It could be classified as a memory and a legend also! \***

**\*Established in 1935, the Pack Horse Library Project was aimed at providing reading materials to rural portions of Eastern Kentucky with no access to public library facilities. Librarians riding horses or mules traveled 50 to 80 miles a week up rocky creekbeds, along muddy footpaths, and among cliffs to deliver reading materials to the most remote residences and schools in the mountains. Some homes were so remote that the book women often had to go part of the way on foot, or even by row boat.\***

**\*Materials used by the pack horse libraries were stored in headquarters libraries, usually located at the county seat. Collections consisted mostly of damaged books and magazines that larger libraries no longer wished to circulate, as well as out-of-date textbooks once used by schools or churches. (The W.P.A. only funded librarian salaries; it did not provide funds for collection development.)\***

**\*When demand for materials exceeded the supply, scrapbooks of magazine clippings, anecdotes, local recipes, and newspaper clippings were made by the librarians as additional resources for the collection. These became very popular in the region, enough so that patrons began making scrapbooks of their own recipes, family history, sewing patterns and child-rearing advice for circulation by the pack horse librarians throughout the community.\***

**\*By 1936, handmade and donated materials could not sustain the circulation needs of the pack horse patrons. Surveys of readers found that pack horse patrons could not get enough of books about travel, adventure and religion, and detective and romance magazines. Children's picture books were also immensely popular, not only with young residents but also their illiterate parents. Per headquarters, approximately 800 books had to be shared among five to ten thousand patrons.\***

**\*To help overcome the shortage, Lena Nofcier, Chairman of Library Service for the Kentucky PTA, began the Penny Fund Plan which called on every PTA member in the state to contribute one penny toward the purchase of new books. Nofcier also petitioned the help of boy scout troops, Sunday-school classes, private organizations/clubs and children's school groups to locate or donate books for the pack horse libraries. Through her efforts, existing pack horse collections not only grew, but eight new pack horse libraries were also established.\***

**\*Despite the ongoing shortage of materials, the Pack Horse Library Project was considered very successful, and one of the most unusual library services ever offered in the country. During its height, the program boasted 30 libraries serving close to 100,000 Eastern Kentucky residents. Interest in ideas outside the realm of Appalachia, an appreciation for education, and an introduction to global cultures were fostered by the program in an area where one-room schoolhouses and churches were the only means of learning about the world.\***

**\*The pack horse libraries came to an end in 1943 when the W.P.A. withdrew its funding from the project. Consequently, many of the areas served were left with no library service**

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whatsoever. Some effort was made to retain the existing collections, being made available in county courthouses. However, the delivery service needed for isolated communities was no longer available, leaving some communities without access to books for decades until bookmobiles were introduced to the area in the late 1950s.\*

Colonel Sandi Gorin - Genelogia Inquistorem

Sandi's Publishing site: <http://www.gensoup.org/gorin/index.html>

Genealogy Puzzlers: <http://gensoup.org/gorinpuzzles/index.php>

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