

Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday August 14 2022

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Red kite Lining Up for a Kill. The Eyes Have it.



Red kite (Milvus milvus) in flight at the Llanddeusant Kite Feeding Station, Wales.

This elegant bird soars on long wings held at a dihedral, with a long forked tail, twisting as it changes direction. The body, upper tail, and wing coverts are rufous.

Red kites are resident in the milder parts of their range in western Europe and northwest Africa. Northern birds move south in winter, mostly staying in the west of the breeding range, but also to eastern Turkey, northern Tunisia, and Algeria.

Red kites are carnivores and scavengers. These birds feed mainly on small mammals such as mice, voles, shrews, young hares, and rabbits. They will also hunt live birds and occasionally reptiles and amphibians. Earthworms form an important part of the diet, especially in spring.

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Stop for a Minute. These Webb Images Are Worth Your Time.



<https://wapo.st/3IEkadW>

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Making a Violin with Minimum Hand Tools:

Commandeering Strad's Titian as an amateur woodworker



<https://youtu.be/xtD8GL9iFW8>

I stumbled upon this quite by accident and can't stop watching it.

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Philippoussis vs Ballgirl Amy Clark, 1997 Stella Artois Final

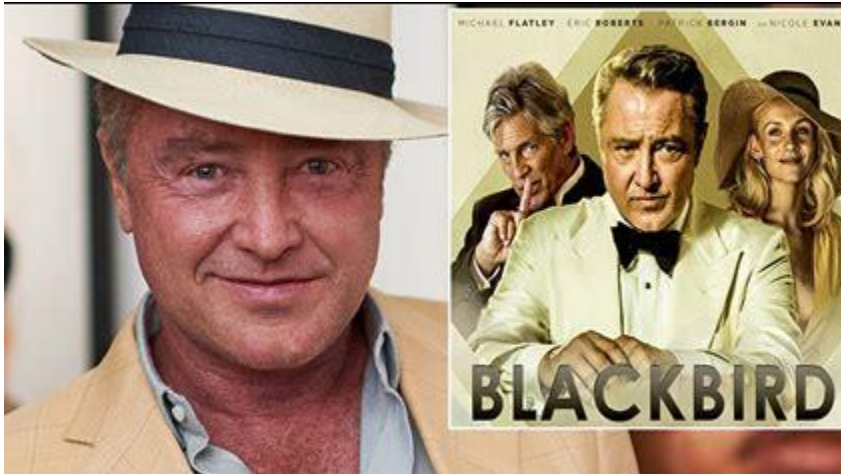


<https://youtu.be/1hhySZPeF8A>

If your racquet going quite right, maybe you should enlist the aid of a ballgirl.

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Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance: Victory -- the Supercut



Flatley became known for Irish dance shows Riverdance, Lord of the Dance, Feet of Flames, and Celtic Tiger Live. Flatley's shows have played to more than 60 million people in 60 countries and have grossed more than \$1 billion

Now he's taking a shot at the silver screen in his movie, Blackbird.

<https://youtu.be/NaaWk7bZguM?t=1>

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The Glenn Gould Corner



I have to fight the temptation to submerge myself in the music and genius of Glenn Gould. Here is one of a number of biographical sketches:

The Genius Within: https://youtu.be/jIc_USZtIiE

Mozart, Piano Sonata No. 13

Glenn Gould performs Mozart's "Piano Sonata No. 13 in B-flat major", at the classical music television series "Music For a Sunday Afternoon", 140 years after the death of the legendary composer, originally broadcast on March 19, 1967.

https://youtu.be/D_1pJ9sptk8

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Then and Now Photos



<https://1funny.com/30-then-and-now-photos-historical-photos-comparison/>

Some provocative comparisons

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Chubby Checker

...Oh-oh, Here Comes the Twist Again



Chubby Checker the American rock and roll singer and dancer is widely known for popularizing many dance styles, including The Twist dance style, with his 1960 hit cover of Hank Ballard & The Midnighters' R&B song "The Twist"

"The Twist" topped Billboard's list of the most popular singles to have appeared in the Hot 100 since its debut in 1960, an honor it maintained for an August 2013 update of the list.

<https://youtu.be/KxQZQ86jJHg?t=1>

Have sciatic issues? This might be the culprit.

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What's Better than a Flathead? One with Ardun Heads Dummy.



Those of us from the 40s and 50s remember the tip of the hat to Zora Arkus-Duntov's overhead valve heads that gave Ford's flathead V-8 an entirely new lease on life. Back

in the day, ZAD made fewer than 300 sets of heads, but to meet the desires of today's hotrodders—along with updated aluminum block recreations and S.Co.T 4-71 superchargers—new units are showing up at concours events around the nation.

<https://www.motortrend.com/how-to/modern-ardun-don-ferguson/>

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Shorty Rogers or Roger Short...Take Your Choice



The American jazz musician, one of the principal creators of West Coast jazz, played trumpet and flugelhorn and was in demand for his skills as an arranger. Albums for Atlantic Records with his own group, Shorty Rogers and His Giants, included Shorty Courts the Count (1954), The Swinging Mr. Rogers (1955), and Martians Come Back (1955), the album title alluding to the tune "Martians Go Home" which Rogers had composed and performed on The Swinging Mr. Rogers earlier the same year. These albums incorporated some of his more avant-garde music. To some extent they could be classified as "cool" jazz; but they also looked back to the "hot" style of Count Basie, whom Rogers always credited as a major inspiration

Time Was <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxqMI7U6Tyc>

Michele's Meditation <https://youtu.be/EXcd9eewtuc>

Martians Go Home <https://youtu.be/hct84B9omxc>

Music credits for the movie The Wild One (Marlon Brando about the takeover of Hollister CA by a motorcycle gang) included 'Roger Short' and 'Manny Shell' since Shorty and drummer Shelly Manne were under contract elsewhere.

My sense is that Shorty Rogers is far too often overlooked for his contributions to jazz, particularly the West Coast variety, but both as a performer and innovative arranger, the musicians that surrounded him knew better. I saw him a number of times at Shelly's Manne Hole in Hollywood and always came away with a good feeling.

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As Good as it Gets



*Tender damp noses, inquisitive eyes
Furry little bodies and muted soft cries
The natural nuzzling to find a warm place
Snuggling and curling into secure space
We are tender to the sights and sounds of small pets
Without exception
Its as good as it gets.*

*Stories and poems are frequently written
About our affection for puppies and kittens.
Their helplessness inspires a personal compassion
And loving a pet has its own unique fashion.
Managing the life of something so small
Requires responsible care-giving above all.
The casual distractions or unexpected diversions,
This relationship must be more than a
Superficial excursion.*

*There is nothing more tender than
Adopting a pet
And the relationship is truly
As good as it gets.*

Francie Troy

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New Flying Car on Sale Requires No License to Operate

If you've seen how bad people are at flying drones, you know this will go swimmingly.



Beep beep - run!

Image Credit: DanieleGay/Shutterstock.com

Author Jack Dunhill

A new flying car touted as the “future of air travel” can travel at 63 miles per hour (101.4 kilometers per hour) and stay airborne for up to 20 minutes thanks to a Tesla battery pack – but thanks to US regulations needs no license to fly. That’s right: you could zip around in a one-person flying car without a pilot’s license or even a driver’s license.

The eVTOL (meaning it can take off and land vertically) Jetson One flying car has been slimmed down to such a low weight – just 86 kilograms (190 pounds) – it is classified as an ultralight aircraft. Ultralight aircraft require no license to operate, meaning the car will have both a low barrier to entry, but may also make for a pretty terrifying sight in the sky.

Perhaps luckily, current US regulations ensure none of these aircraft can be operated near urban areas and definitely nowhere near airports, so flying car use cases may be limited for now.

<https://youtu.be/FzhREYOK0oo?t=2>

The Jetson One can be ordered for personal delivery (though the 2022 production is sold out) for a cool \$22,000 deposit and \$70,000 final payment. Though, that isn't too bad at the current price of cars.

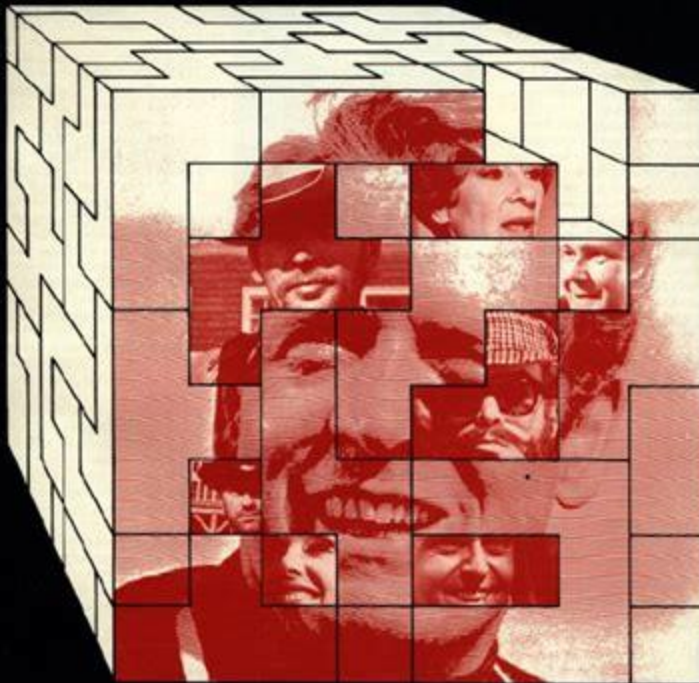
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The Riddle that Seems Impossible Even if You Know the Answer

the Prisoner Puzzle



<https://youtu.be/iSNsgj1OCLA>

Without a strategy the probability of success is about the same as two people finding the same grain of sand. Hmm, something in the neighborhood of *point*, thirty zeroes followed by an eight (.0000000000000000000000000000008). Not great odds.

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World Dog Surfing Championships: In pictures

Check out these PAW-some pics of top dogs taking to the waves at the World Dog Surfing Championship near Pacifica on the west coast of America!

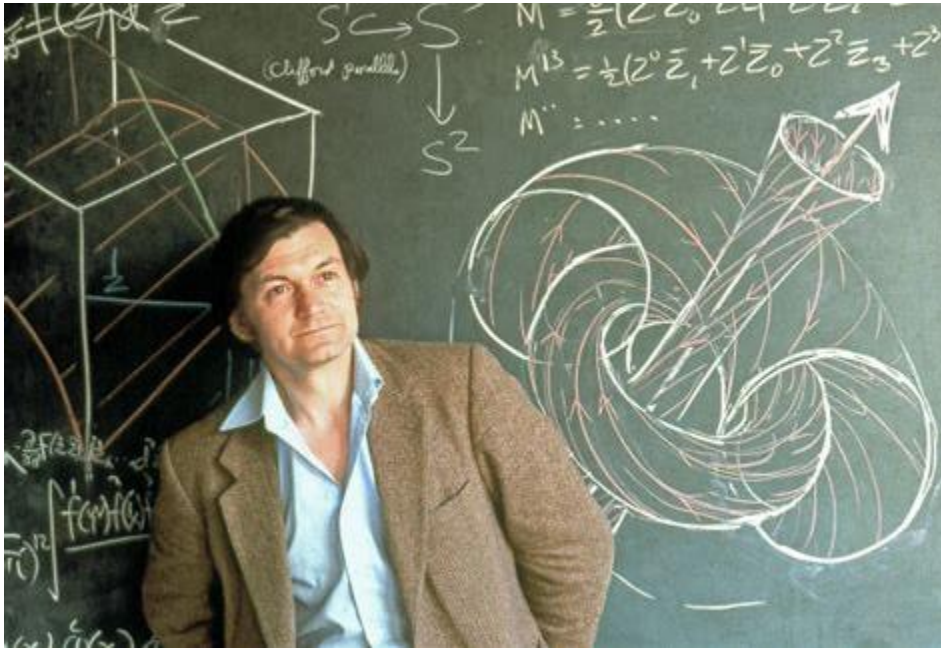


https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/62462293?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter

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Mass and Angular Momentum, Left Ambiguous by Einstein, Get Defined

Surprising as it may sound, 107 years after the introduction of general relativity, the meanings of basic concepts are still being worked out.



Roger Penrose of the University of Oxford pointed to quasilocal definitions of mass and angular momentum as the first and second most important open problems in general relativity.

https://www.quantamagazine.org/mass-and-angular-momentum-left-ambiguous-by-einstein-get-defined-20220713/?mc_cid=a9457bc2de&mc_eid=636bc88d2e

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Flight Trails of Winged Creatures as a Meditation on Time



https://mymodernmet.com/doris-mitsch-locked-down-lookin-up/?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter

Training Day in the operating area?

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Jay Leno's Garage: Nethercutt's 1930 Cadillac V-16

The Nethercutt pulls out this priceless antiquity from their collection for Jay to experience the smooth power of this Cadillac V-16.



<https://youtu.be/rCscgBEJfKU>

The Nethercutt Collection is a multi-storied private car collection and museum complex located in Sylmar, California. It was founded by J.B. Nethercutt in 1971 and its centerpiece is the prestigious automobile collection of the Nethercutt-Richards family, which has led several publications to name it as one of the greatest collections in the world

J. B, Nethercutt began his restoration enterprise in 1956 when he purchased a 1936 Duesenberg Convertible Roadster and a 1930 DuPont Town Car, assuming it would take little time and effort to bring both to their original condition. 18 month and \$65,000 (1936 dollars) later the project was completed, leading to the first of numerous 'Best of Show' awards at Pebble Beach and other prestigious Concours events around the nation.

Several of us Odesters have had the privilege of visiting the Nethercutt Collection as guests of J.B.'s son Jack and Helen Nethercutt. If you've never visited the collection—or even if you have already have—you need to do so. Check it out at <https://www.nethercuttcollection.org>.

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*Not Funny!
(I've gone from 5'9' to 5'7")*

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A Warning to All You Wine Connoisseurs and Winos as Well



If you want to make a small fortune in the wine business, start with a large one, the old adage goes. And yet that hasn't stopped a generation of optimistic investors from chasing the lure of trophy wines with astronomical appreciations. But there's another easy-money scheme millennia older than investing in wine: good old-fashioned fraud.

And what a wine crime pairing they make. The latest affront comes from the U.K. by way of Cleveland, where one Casey Alexander, a British citizen, was arrested June 14 by the FBI and charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Along with unidentified co-conspirators (some of whom are cooperating with authorities), Alexander stands accused of orchestrating a scheme that swindled more than \$13 million from more than 150 victims through promises of up to 50 percent returns on investments in collectible wines and whiskies.

The purported scam, as detailed in an affidavit by FBI agent Matthew Scalisi, involved setting up three LLCs (Charles Winn, Vintage Whisky Casks and Windsor Jones) in Delaware and cold-calling potential victims, many of them elderly, to convince them to invest. Alexander's alleged crimes came to light in April 2020, when the son of an 89-year-old Ohio resident called Cleveland's Highland Heights Police Department to report that his father was defrauded of more than \$300,000 during an 18-month period. The victim believed he was investing in rare dessert wines. Investigators uncovered similar complaints of someone with a British accent using various assumed names, among them "Michael Phelps" (?!), promising outsized returns on investment in rare wines and whiskies, including Craigellachie Scotch.

"[Representatives from Charles Winn, Vintage Whisky Casks and Windsor Jones] claimed they could identify and purchase a portfolio of fine wines and/or whiskies on behalf of investors, which would be held in a bonded warehouse within the United Kingdom until sold for a profit," Scalisi reported in his affidavit. The suspect companies'

websites include images of Bordeaux first-growths and videos with Master Sommeliers pulled from other media.

By May 2020, the FBI agents had a cooperating witness and were able to stop more than \$450,000 in checks from being deposited by the suspect companies. An unidentified participant in the scheme who is now cooperating with the investigation was arrested in May 2022, and Alexander was arrested after traveling to Cleveland earlier this month, allegedly to solicit a whisky investment from a potential victim.

Alexander has been released on a \$50,000 bond, and his lawyer has not responded to request for comment. Thus far, just \$250,000 of the \$13 million invested in the apparent wine and whisky scheme has been recovered.

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Bearly Used Toyota Sequoia for Sale



<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzGpHHTQLKzZljLxfNtXxcsZWWXs>

How do you total a vehicle without scratching the outside?

A man in Waterton Park , (south of Calgary), came out to Find the inside of his 18 month old Toyota Sequoia trashed. A grizzly bear had somehow got a door open. Once inside it got trapped when the door shut behind him, probably by the wind.



The Toyota was the Platinum edition, all the door panels were ripped off, the head-liner torn to pieces, all headrests, the leather seats, the dash shredded. The steering column was twisted Sideways. Two of the six airbags went off, the other four the bear ripped to pieces.

You can imagine a trapped grizzly being hit with an airbag in an enclosed space! He must have figured he was in for the fight of his life, and by the looks of the car, he won.



When the bear ripped off the door panels he also clawed all the wiring harnesses out. Toyota figures every wire he pulled or clawed at resulted in alarm bells, voices or sparks.

The head mechanic at Calgary Toyota doubted if they had the expertise to put this vehicle back together, even if they had enough parts to do it. And, to add insult to injury, the bear took a big Dump in the back of the SUV . . . and then broke out the rear window. (So a bear doesn't always go in the woods.)

Fish and wildlife officers have inspected the damage and Figure it was a 3 year old Grizzly.

The vehicle has been written off by the insurance company.

The cost of this fully optioned vehicle new was over \$70,000, and they stopped counting the repair costs at \$60,000 plus.

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Michael McDonald



McDonald wrote and sang several hit singles with the Doobie Brothers, including "What a Fool Believes", "Minute by Minute", and "Takin' It to the Streets." McDonald has also performed as a prominent backing vocalist on numerous recordings by artists including Steely Dan, Christopher Cross, and Kenny Loggins.

In December 2009, McDonald donated his performance to Keep the Beat in Santa Barbara, California, where he played to a capacity crowd at the newly renovated Granada Theater.

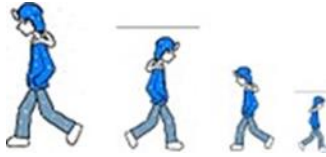
Harry Rabin, producer and head of Keep the Beat, an initiative of the Santa Barbara Education Foundation, produced the show, including two video productions, and worked with student choral groups from primary and secondary schools as well as a brass section so they could perform in the show with McDonald and his band.

Sweet Freedom <https://youtu.be/O8-JPyVRkiE>

Our Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7new-z2oJQ4>

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My Walking Thoughts



For August 14 2022

Back to the Moon at a More Sedate Pace

Some of us will remember the breakneck speed with which we and the Russkis put together programs and equipment looking to land men on the surface of our little brother first while there could be a first. The clock for that ran less than a decade before The Eagle became Tranquility Base.

Today, NASA's timetable is a little more relaxed to the expected crewed landing date—like the moon itself--slipping farther and farther away.

But soon it seems, the program will show some movement with an announced launch date at the end of this month of Artemis I and its unmanned Orion spacecraft on a mission to circle the moon while deploying a fleet of CubeSats in lunar orbit.



NASA to Stream Artemis I Rollout, Briefings on Science, Tech Payloads

<https://go.nasa.gov/3vV1PEn>

If it were up to me, the first thing I would do is insert a constellation of GPS satellites that would permit very precise geo referencing anywhere on the Earth-facing side of on companion.

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More outtakes from Phantoms from Vietnam

This is a continuation of a deleted look at Gordon's childhood and character. In the last episode, Gordon and Pastor Jacobs have left home with a variety of food and clothing items for the Nakano family held with other Japanese/Americans at the Manzanar Internment Camp at Manzanar near Lone Pine CA.

They were met at the camp gate as usual by Sergeant Piper, a slightly pudgy forty-five year old man who had gone to France in 1918 at the ripe age of 19 and gotten as far as Paris when the Armistice was signed.

He stayed on, first as part of the ceremonial detachment during the peace conference, then in a unit overseeing the treaty provisions in the Rhine River Valley, where he hunted deer in the thick forests near Strasbourg, acquired a taste for sweet German white wines at Koblenz, became fluent in both German and French, and before returning home in 1932, married a pleasingly plump Alsatian girl half his age who made the best strudel anyone in his battalion had ever tasted.

He and Charlene were stationed in New Jersey where he made translations of ridiculously dull messages between German commanders taking part in field exercises east of the Ardennes Forest. Then one day in 1937 he was reading a message from an engineering unit notable for its bridge building prowess describing an area that he remembered as being in Belgium, not Germany. Bringing his concern to the attention of his superior, he found to his dismay that his services were no long needed in the intelligence branch, and that he would be shuffled off to an ROTC unit in Nebraska where his talents might be better appreciated.

Then came Germany's attack on Poland followed by the declaration of war by Britain and France, neither of whom was willing to make a serious effort to confront the Nazis in the period known later as the phony war. Then the Germans struck, not through the lowlands as anticipated by the allied planners, but through the Ardennes over a hastily constructed bridge across the Meuse River, giving access to the undefended area of France by the German Army Group A with its 1800 Panzer tanks. The battle for France was for all intents and purposes over the minute the tanks emerged from the Ardennes, but no one but Sergeant Piper had divined the coup.

The army's manpower shortage cancelled Piper's intended retirement and in July 1941 he was sent to Internment/Resettlement Training School in North Carolina, graduating in November as Internment/Resettlement Supervisory Non-Commissioned Officer. He received orders posting him to Manzanar on December 22nd, three months before the resettlement program for Japanese-Americans was enacted.

I wrote a great deal more on George Nakano and his family thinking he might be a part of what was to come in Gordon's future, but that idea died stillborn.

I made the assumption in writing about Manzanar that factions emerged--particularly among the young men. On one side were those like the Nakanos were third-even fourth-generation Americans that while upset with the situation still counselled care. This was less true of more recent arrivals to the US, leading to the rise and spread of militant anti-American cells. When his brother was killed in action in Italy fighting for the US, George joined with the militants, turning his anger toward Gordon and Pastor Jacobs.

In the ensuing crisis, Sergeant Piper was caught in the middle and killed while trying to act as a mediator. The event ended Gordon's friendship with George and his trips to Manzanar.

As you see, I get far afield in my background characterizations. It's a fault I have.

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