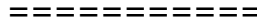
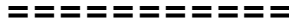


Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday July 17 2022



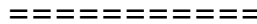
Afternoon Interrupted

Oil on stretched canvas 28x36



Barbara Medaille

Barbara has the uncanny ability to portray strong emotions in her paintings. Her talent has been there from when I first knew her back in the early 1960s, but it has matured year after year as she sets her sights on new challenges. Bravo, my buddy.



Webb's Southern Ring Nebula



Image Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, NIRCarn

Cataloged as NGC 3132 the Southern Ring Nebula is a planetary nebula, the death shroud of a dying sun-like star some 2,500 light-years from Earth.

Composed of gas and dust the stunning cosmic landscape is nearly half a light-year in diameter, explored in unprecedented detail by the James Webb Space Telescope.

In this NIRCarn image the bright star near center is a companion of the dying star. In mutual orbit, the star whose transformation has ejected the nebula's gas and dust shells over thousands of years is the fainter stellar partner.

Evolving to become a white dwarf, the faint star appears along the diffraction spike extending toward the 8 o'clock position. This stellar pair's orbital motion has resulted the complex structures within the Southern Ring Nebula.

For the moment we get the artwork, but the science will follow in short order.

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Cable repairman was on my street and asked me what time it was. I told him it is between 8 am and 1 pm

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Swedish Pole Vaulter Mondo Duplantis Sets New World Record



Mondo Duplantis warmed up for next month's world championships, delighting home fans by setting an outdoor pole vault record.

Agence France-Presse Updated: July 04, 2022 10:17 AM IST Read Time: 3 min

Mondo Duplantis warmed up for next month's world championships in perfect style at Stockholm's Diamond League meet on Thursday, delighting home fans by setting an outdoor pole vault record. While Olympic champion Marcell Jacobs was a late withdrawal from track's blue riband event, the men's 100m, Duplantis ensured there was drama guaranteed to the end in the field.

In yet another dominant pole vaulting display in the final major meet before the July 15-24 worlds in Eugene, Oregon, Duplantis had the competition wrapped up after his third effort at 5.83m.

17 year-old Mondo Duplantis has broken the world record outdoor pole vault in Stockholm with 6.16m. The slow motion of his record attempt is extraordinary.

<https://twitter.com/TansuYegen/status/1067881255046447104>

The US-born vaulter then nailed 5.93 and 6.03m before clearing 6.16 on his second attempt, the best-ever performance outdoors that bettered by 1cm his previous outdoor best set in Rome in September 2020.

"I feel like I am definitely in shape to win my title and maybe to do something special in Eugene," said the 22-year-old Olympic champion who holds the overall world record of 6.20m, set at the world indoor championships in Belgrade in March.

The outdoor record, Stockholm-based Duplantis said, felt "quite amazing... but really wasn't that much of a surprise for me".

"There's better things that I can do. I felt really good jumping today but it wasn't like I did everything so perfect that I don't think I can do any better.

"It's extra special when you're jumping on the track where you train. I live about 10 minutes away so you want to defend your home territory first and foremost!"

I you look carefully you will notice that at about the two-thirds point, Duplantis' flight feels the effect of Lunar gravity.

=====

10-Foot-Tall Gorgosaurus Skeleton for Sale

By Fang Block



A Gorgosaurus skeleton that was discovered in 2018 in Montana will be offered for the first time at a Sotheby's auction in July.

Courtesy of Sotheby's

A Gorgosaurus skeleton that was discovered in 2018 in Montana will be offered for the first time at a Sotheby's auction in July. With a presale estimate between US\$5 million and US\$8 million, it will become one of the most valuable dinosaurs to ever appear on the market.

Gorgosaurus roamed the earth approximately 77 million years ago, predating Tyrannosaurus rex—its close relative—by around 10 million years. They share several features including a large head, dozens of curved serrated teeth, and small two-fingered front limbs. Despite being slightly smaller in size, Gorgosaurus was believed to be faster and fiercer than T-Rex, according to Sotheby's.

The Gorgosaurus skeleton being offered for sale was discovered in 2018 in the Judith River Formation near Havre, Mont., a historically important geological area that has been excavated by paleontologists for over a century, according to Sotheby's.



This specimen has a particularly well-preserved skull, including a left maxilla and an assortment of cranial bones.

Courtesy of Sotheby's

This specimen measures nearly 10 feet tall and 22 feet long, indicating that the dinosaur was mature at the time of its death.

Nearly all known Gorgosaurus skeletons excavated in this area are held in institutional collections, making this the only specimen of its kind available for private ownership, Sotheby's said.

"Excavated only a few years ago, a Gorgosaurus has never before been offered at auction," Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's global head of science and popular culture, said in a statement. It will surely "have the capacity to inspire wonder and capture imaginations."

The Gorgosaurus skeleton will be auctioned on July 28, highlighting Sotheby's sale of unique and exceptional objects grouped under "Geek Week." It will be on public view at Sotheby's galleries on York Avenue in Manhattan beginning on July 21.

Sotheby's handled the sale of "Sue," one of the biggest dinosaurs ever found, in 1997, which achieved a then-record US\$8.36 million. It's now housed in Chicago's Field Museum.

The most valuable fossil to sell at auction was "Stan," a nearly complete 67 million-year-old Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton. It realized US\$32 million at Christie's New York in October 2020 and is now displayed at the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi.

=====

The Flying Squirrel Thang



*Although the flying squirrel
Can be found in Indo China
He is also a forest inhabitant
In Western Carolina.*

*Against a darkening sky,
There are no wings to carry him
To where he wants to go.*

*A furry membrane is his parachute
For the squirrely air show.*

*His arms and legs direct his steering
And his tail provides the brakes.*

*He is easily identified by the chirping that he makes.
Large eyes are night effective when he glides from tree to tree
And he sleeps through daylight hours when it's hard for him to see.*

*How others often see us
Is a simple misconception
And not necessarily, an intended deception.
We don't have membranes for flying*

*Nor brakes in our tails.
Most important for us all
Is the wind in our sails.*

Francie Troy

Francie's *Thangs* have been a mainstay of the Odes almost from the beginning.

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Hadron Collider Gets Back to Work



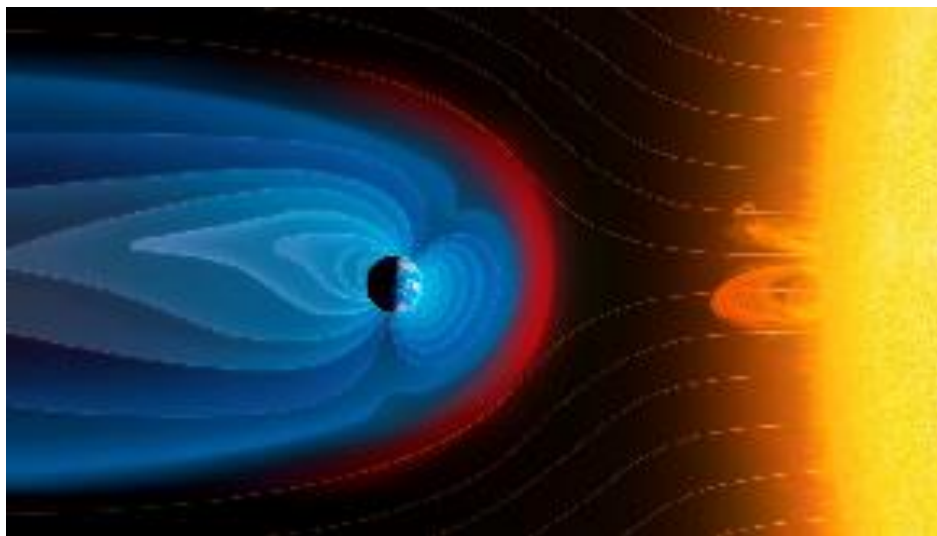
https://www.space.com/large-hadron-collider-scientists-excited-run-3?utm_campaign=58E4DE65-C57F-4CD3-9A5A-609994E2C5A9

The famed particle-smasher reignited after years of technology upgrades.

Let the Collision Derby resume.

=====

Earth's magnetic field: Explained



https://www.space.com/earths-magnetic-field-explained?utm_campaign=58E4DE65-C57F-4CD3-9A5A-609994E2C5A9

It's another of those 'without it you and I wouldn't be.' Here's a snapshot of why.

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Father-Daughter Military Pilots Celebrate 'First' Flight



By Russ Niles

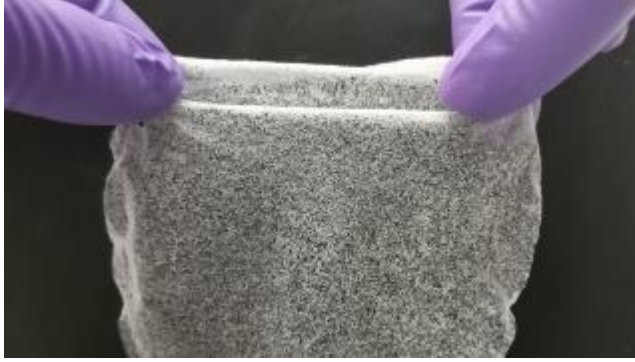
Parent and child pilots on airliners are relatively common but the Indian air force may have scored a first with a father-daughter formation flight. Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and his 24-year-old daughter Ananya achieved the distinction on May 30.

"The father-daughter duo created history on 30 May 2022, when they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 aircraft at Air Force Station Bidar, where Flying Officer Ananya Sharma is undergoing her training before she graduates onto faster and more superior fighter aircraft of the IAF," an air force news release said.

The air force is claiming a first for the flight but the Air Commodore called it years ago according to his daughter. "As a child, I would often ask my father why there were no women fighter pilots. He would tell me in his characteristic style—Don't worry, you will be one," she told the Times of India. The Indian air force now has 15 female fighter pilots flying MiG-21s, Sukhoi-30MKIs and Rafales.

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Water Harvesting Gel Works at Low Humidity Levels



<https://physicsworld.com/a/water-harvesting-gel-works-at-low-humidity-levels/>

Researchers in the US have designed a sustainable polymer gel that can harvest large quantities of water from the surrounding air, even in low-humidity conditions.

=====

Gentleminions Disrupting Minions Screenings May Save Cinema

'Gentleminions' being turned away from showings of the latest Despicable Me spinoff should be nectar for the ailing industry



*Blessing in disguise ... a scene from Minions: The Rise of Gru.
Photograph: Illumination Entertainment/AP*

Nobody really knew what the state of cinema would be post-Covid. Would audiences stay at home through fear? Would streaming kill off the theatrical experience for good? Or would cinema itself take on a whole new form; a bold and exciting incarnation characterized by hundreds of teenagers dressing up in suits and relentlessly screaming nonsense at the screen, to the tangible chagrin of everyone else in attendance?

It's too early to say for sure but, judging by the reaction to the recently released *Minions: The Rise of Gru*, it's definitely the latter. In fact, so many young people are attending *Minions* screenings in formalwear in order to honk full-volume gibberish at the screen that cinemas have started to turn people away.

This might require some explanation. This weekend, as the movie hit cinemas, a few select TikTok users started filming themselves watching the film in their smartest outfits. These brave pioneers – Gentleminions, they call themselves – quickly sparked a rush of imitators. One user filmed a group of well-dressed Gentleminions applauding each other like wedding attendees as they left a screening. Another asked her entire family to dress up, on the pretense that she was taking them out for the night of their lives, only to then show them all sullenly sitting through the sequel to a spinoff of the Despicable Me films.

You would think that this sort of behavior would be like nectar to the ailing cinema industry. In terms of sheer word of mouth, the Gentleminions have done more ground level publicity for Minions 2 than its studio has ever achieved. The Gentleminion fad has transcended film. It has become a true cultural event, like the spontaneous gatherings that took place after David Bowie's death, or Binley Mega Chippy.

But this isn't the case. Cinemas are reporting that the Gentleminions are, in fact, a terrible menace, exhibiting such dreadful behavior – namely throwing objects at the screen while incessantly talking like Minions – that they are having to issue thousands of pounds' worth of refunds to appalled non-Gentleminions in attendance.

According to the BBC, a cinema in Cornwall posted a notice banning "children wearing suits" from screenings. Odeon cinemas have erected signs noting that "any groups of guests in formal attire will be refused entry" to the film. Two teenagers in white shirts were initially turned away from a showing in Mansfield, until their parents turned up with jumpers for them to wear.

Some of the criticism is valid. For instance, the argument that young children might have their first cinema trip spoiled by what basically amounts to a social media flashmob seems fairly sound. However, it is my firm belief that the Gentleminions movement should be embraced wholeheartedly.

https://ci6.googleusercontent.com/proxy/HqAnqA7iOu6tLYymvq7IFwuKLbBkTf1CyIDRfo6AIBEdvpQVXvJrMi0Pw8MU0WLjzXppXhJl7gbFI9f5m9Xu8v57lGo2_iVqKijmGO3DISZBiJy_xh-WYwApEvg=s0-d-e1-ft#https://media.sailthru.com/composer/images/sailthru-prod-6ks/minions.gif

The cause of the fad is down to one of two reasons. The first is potentially sincere. The last Despicable Me film – Despicable Me 3 – came out five years ago. The children who watched that film are now teenagers, and they're responding to the return of the series with what seems like genuine joy. What's more, Rise of Gru was one of those films that was booted down the schedule by Covid. Trailers for the film have existed for years now, and merchandise long ago leaked into shops. The postponement was so abrupt, in fact, that during lockdown several supermarkets were selling perishable Minions: The Rise of Gru food items. Perhaps, after such a long wait, an explosion of pent-up relief was bound to occur.

Then again, there is a chance that this is all ironic. The Gentleminions know that Minions: The Rise of Gru is a children's film, and they're attaching an overblown

prestige to it in the same way that students of 25 years ago declared their love for the Teletubbies. However, this is also potentially incredibly lucrative. Look at The Room; a giant flop of a film that eventually turned a profit thanks to year-round screenings where audiences screamed and hooted and threw plastic cutlery at the screen.

This could well be the future of Minions: The Rise of Gru. If cinemas stop wildly overreacting to the Gentleminions, and start hosting dedicated Gentleminion screenings where dressing up and jabbering incoherently is actively encouraged, the film will still be in cinemas at Christmas. It could be in cinemas for years. It could become the biggest film of all time. This is what we all deserve.

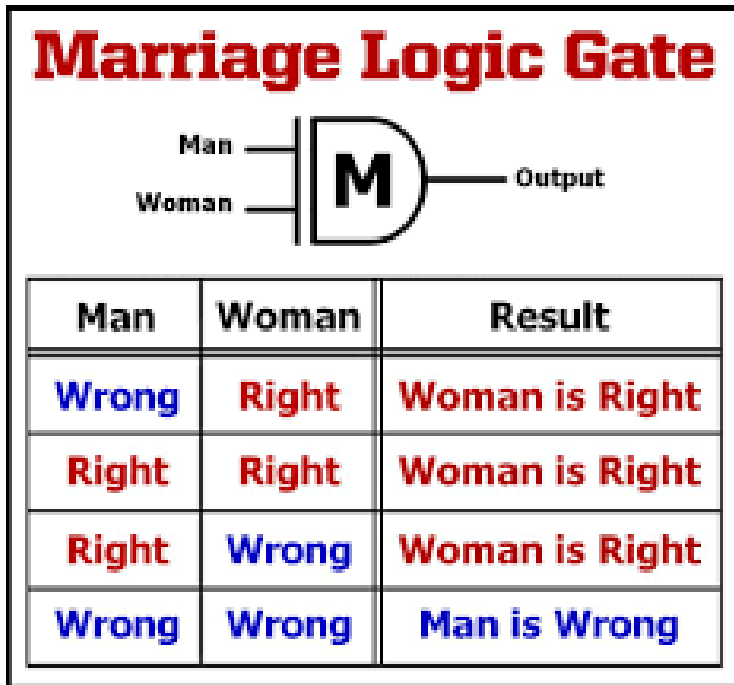
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Decided to go for a walk on the beach
and got freaked out when I thought I ran
into a KKK meeting...turns out they're
just closed beach umbrellas



=====

The Scientific Reason Your Wife Is Always Right



<https://1funny.com/the-scientific-reason-your-wife-is-always-right-don-mcmillan/>

The scientific reason your wife is always right as presented by Don McMillan.

=====

How Artists Get Paid from Streaming



Some fundamental principles that dictate how artists get paid from music streaming.

https://pudding.cool/2022/06/streaming/?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter

=====

Did Feathers Help dinosaurs Survive the Triassic Mass Extinction?



A feathered theropod dinosaur snags a mammal snack amid a snowy winter caused by massive volcanic eruptions about 202 million years ago in this artist's rendition.

Painting By Larry Felder

https://www.sciencenews.org/article/dinosaur-feathers-triassic-mass-extinction-volcano-survival?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=latest-newsletter-v2&utm_source=Latest_Headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest_Headlines

Do you think Sally Rand might make a comeback in the next ice age?

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Sally Rand...in Case You Were Wondering



Sally Rand (1904 – 1979) was a burlesque dancer and actress, most noted for her ostrich feather fan dance and balloon bubble dance.

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Johnny Carson: Con Man Frank Abagnale is "Executive Material for NBC"



<https://youtu.be/FIYtKR24LQs>

The real con man is the guy who sold Abnagale that toupee

=====

Harrier Cools Off Roasting Boaters.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RiverDavesPlaceGroup/permalink/3164119037138391/?fs=e&s=c1>

They've given way to the F-35B, but there was something more spectacular about AV-8s...they could VIFF (Vector in Forward Flight)

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From Break to Trap in Your FA-18



<https://youtu.be/G2Y82rkxzY0>

81 seconds of concentration. Nothing quite like it.

=====

Snails and Rails and Puppy Dog Tails...and a Few Other Things

The Elemental Composition of the Human Body



<https://elements.visualcapitalist.com/the-elemental-composition-of-a-human-body/>

That's what men are made of. With women it's Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice, but I'm not sure about the others.

=====

Coming to Grips with Dufferdom

Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.



- I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.
- God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round...and laughed and laughed and laughed.
- I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.
- My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

- Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.
- Apparently, RSVP-ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.
- She says I keep pushing her buttons. If that were true, I would have found "Mute" by now.
- So, you've been eating hot dogs and McChickens all your life, but you won't take the vaccine because you don't know what's in it?
- Sometimes the Universe puts you in the same situation again to see if you're still a dumbass.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is, once you get old you stop being polite and start being honest.

=====

Bon Jovi



Runaway <https://youtu.be/s86K-p089R8>

Bon Jovi is an American rock band formed in 1983 in Sayreville, New Jersey. It consists of singer Jon Bon Jovi, keyboardist David Bryan, drummer Tico Torres, guitarist Phil X, and bassist Hugh McDonald.

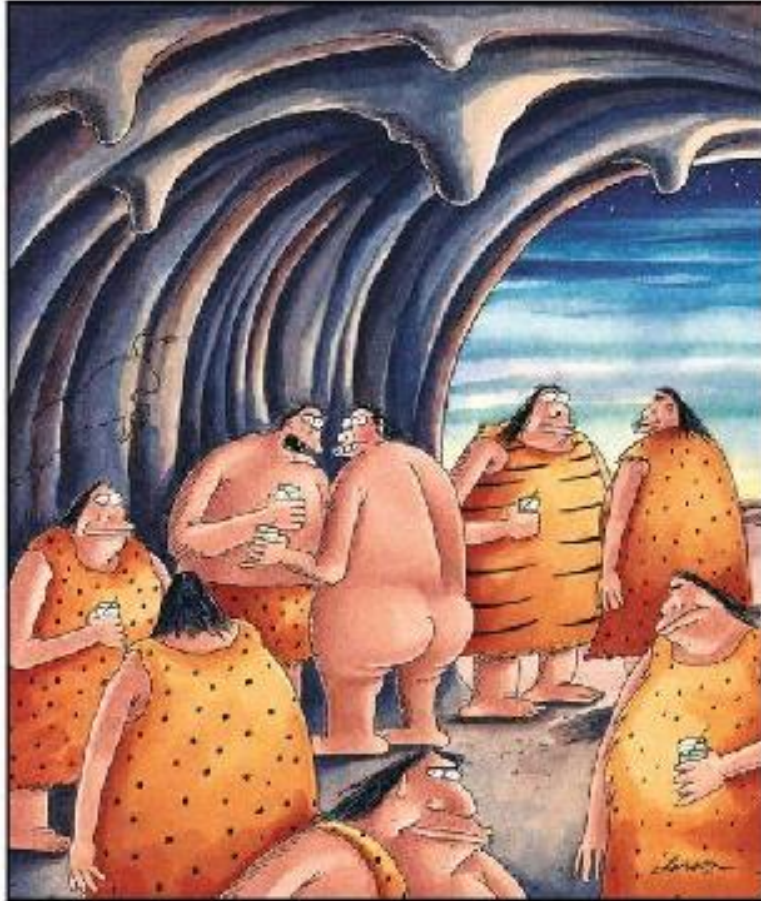
The band has been credited with "bridging the gap between heavy metal and pop with style and ease"

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Just Another Starry Night



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"A word of advice, Durk: It's the Mesolithic. We've domesticated the dog, we're using stone tools, and no one's *naked* anymore."

=====

Mysterious 'Vampire-Slayer Kit' Sells at Auction for \$15,600

By Isobel Whitcomb

You never know when the undead will show up.



A kit with everything you need to slay a vampire, from holy water to the all important wooden stake.

(Image credit: Mark Laban)

Last week, one auction-goer went home well-prepared to face an encounter with the undead after buying a "vampire-slayer kit" dating back to the late 19th century. The kit sold for nearly \$15,600 (£13,000) — six times its estimated price, after bids came from around the world.

The U.K. buyer brought home a heavy wooden box adorned on its outside with a set of brass crucifixes that slide to unlock the kit. Inside the box is a matching set of pistols, a brass gunpowder flask, holy water, a Bible, a wooden mallet, a wooden stake, brass candlesticks and rosary beads. The box also contains paperwork from the Metropolitan Police, a force that serves the greater area around London, registering an "alien enemy" in 1915.

"The task of killing a vampire was extremely serious, and historical accounts suggested the need for particular methods and tools," Charles Hanson, the owner of Hansons Auctioneers, the auction house that sold the box, said in a statement (opens in new tab). "Items of religious significance, such as crucifixes and Bibles, were said to repel these monsters, hence their presence in the kit."

The kit once belonged to Lord Hailey (1872 to 1969), a British aristocrat and administrator in colonial India. It's unclear whether he actually hoped the kit would help him ward off vampires or whether he, like the kit's most recent buyer, bought it out of fascination, Hanson said.

Vampire mythology dates back thousands of years. Archaeologists have unearthed ancient human remains in Greece that were pinned down with heavy rocks to keep the bodies in their graves, possibly due to a belief that the "undead" could rise again and harm the living, Live Science previously reported. This practice spanned cultures and time periods, including in 16th-century Europe, where human burials had stone stakes in their legs and rocks in their mouths to prevent them from feeding on the living.

People's belief in undead beings likely stemmed from a lack of understanding of communicable disease and the natural physical processes that bodies go through as they decompose, Live Science previously reported. For instance, the liquified remains of the decomposed digestive tract sometimes leak out through the mouth and nose of dead bodies. The dark fluid looks just like blood. In addition, hair, beards and nails continue growing after death, which may have tricked some people into thinking the recently deceased were still alive.

Even during Hailey's lifetime, belief in vampires was alive and well in some places. In the late 19th century, New England had a panic over a vampire when two local women, a mother and daughter, died of tuberculosis, National Geographic(opens in new tab) reported. As the late mother's son, who also had tuberculosis, grew sicker and sicker, townspeople began to believe that the two deceased women were cursing him from the grave — a common belief about vampires, who didn't always leave the ground to prey on their victims, according to early mythology. Around the same time, the Irish author Bram Stoker published his iconic novel "Dracula," keeping vampire mythology alive.

"It's interesting to know a member of the highest aristocratic social order, a man with a place in the House of Lords, acquired this item," Hanson said. "And yet, amid his illustrious career, he was drawn to this vampire-slaying kit. That's understandable. These objects are both curious and intriguing."

=====

A Half Mil Will Put this in Your Garage...or Livingroom



https://bringatrailer.com/listing/1969-ferrari-365-gtb-4-competizione-conversion/?utm_source=dm&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2022-07-09

*Just the sound of this racing Ferrari Daytona is enough to make your heart go piti-pat.
Just think what mashing your right foot to the floorboards would do for your health.*

=====

Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake - The Kirov Ballet



<https://youtu.be/9rJoB7y6Ncs>

The scenario came from Russian and German folk tales relating the story of Odette, a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer's curse. The ballet was premiered by the Bolshoi Ballet in 1877 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

Although it is presented in many different versions, most ballet companies base their stagings both choreographically and musically on this, the 1895 revival of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, first staged for the Imperial Ballet in 1895, at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg.

While normally presented in shorter segments, here is the entire work as staged by the Kirov Ballet

As astrophysicist hunt the universe for dark matter, they might want to look at the suspension of gravity on display right here at the Kirov.

=====

The Camels are on the Horizon Again



<https://youtu.be/-t3YY6yQThY>

A fundamental lesson of history.

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2023 Super Bowl Half Time Show



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When Dancing Was Part of Our DNA

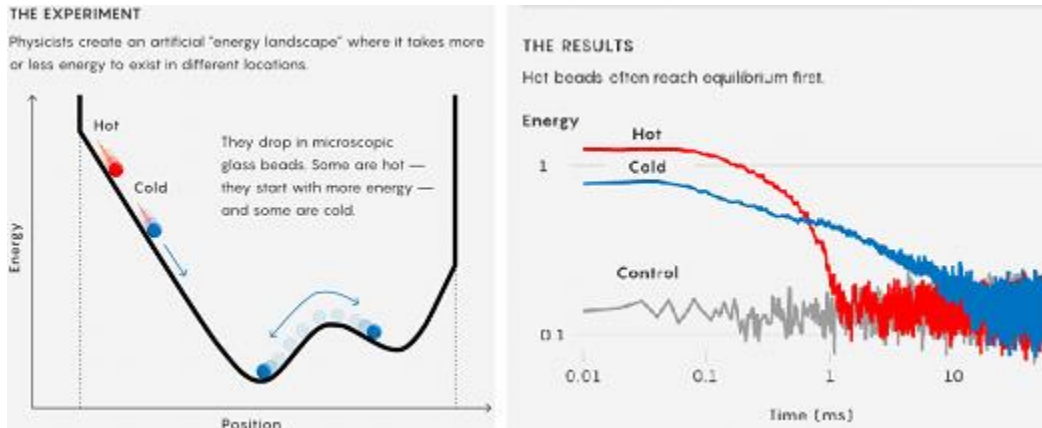


<https://youtu.be/xVuIVP6Pef8>

Will those days ever return?

=====

Controversy Over Whether Hot Water Freezes Faster Than Cold



Decades after a Tanzanian teenager initiated study of the "Mpemba effect," the effort to confirm or refute it is leading physicists toward new theories about how substances relax to equilibrium.

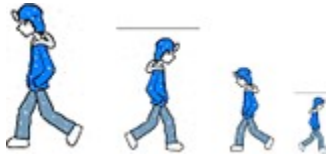
https://www.quantamagazine.org/does-hot-water-freeze-faster-than-cold-physicists-keep-asking-20220629/?mc_cid=ebe725e13e&mc_eid=636bc88d2e

https://d2r55xnwy6nx47.cloudfront.net/uploads/2022/06/MPEMBA_2880x1620_Lede.mp4

Huh? You mean my mother was right?

=====

MY Walking Thoughts



For July 17 2022

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Outtakes from Phantoms from Vietnam (continued)

Gordon and Uncle Joe had arrived at the farm only to find that Aunt Claire was not there. Instead she was pouring her heart out to Pastor Jacobs about her inability to care for Gordon since she felt responsible for the crib death of her own child several years before. Pastor Jacobs set her straight, so we continue.

Claire stopped off at Johanson's Market on the way home, picking up some freshly ground sausage, eggplant, okra, and sweet potatoes—I'll make a gumbo she thought to

herself--then experiencing a sinking sensation when she realized she hadn't any idea of what seven*** year-old boys liked or needed.

But it didn't matter, because by the time she arrived home Joe had fried up a bunch of eggs and onions, and was busy making a second batch of flapjacks to go with the butter and bees-honey that engulfed the first.

Gordon was clearly enjoying the meal and since there were plenty eggs, buttermilk batter, butter, and honey, Claire put her groceries into the icebox and surrendered to the situation.

Joe was about to do the honors, but Gordon, mouth stuffed nearly full, beat him to it.

"Hi Aunt Claire, I'm Gordon. Uncle Joe says I'm going to live with you," and after a short pause while he made a little room in his mouth, "is that Ok with you?"

Claire felt something in her concerns loosen its grip. Partly it was the words and manners, but beyond those the hope and sincerity flowing from them that in due course would ripen into the magic bond of mother-son.

For Joe, the moment confirmed his vision of earlier in the day, thinking again, 'God surly does work in mysterious ways.'

Gordon spent the night in what was until then 'Williams' room,' though there was no trace of its original occupant's having ever been there.

"This has all happened in a hurry so tonight you can sleep on this," Joe rolled out the sleeping bag that he kept, 'Just in case', with no real thought as to what might necessitate its use until just now.

"Tomorrow we'll head down to Tillie's Hand-Me-Downs and see what she's got for the room and clothes for you." Joe explained thinking in the back of his mind that the way boys grew, it made no sense to go into Bakersfield to Penneys or Sears and buy new things if they didn't have to.

"After that we can go around so you can meet people. No sense waiting until Sunday." What he didn't know was that everyone in town knew about Gordon and he would be Claire's salvation.

Nothing lacking in Arvin's intelligence apparatus. Gertie Reuss, the area's telephone operator for the entire 20 years since the Bell System installed tall poles then drew wires from Bakersfield to the southern part of the valley, was privy to everything there was to know not only in the area, but because operators everywhere maintained their own network, everything in Timbuktu or Nome Alaska as well.

Not only did Gertie know that Gordon was coming and that his father had shot his mother and then himself, but that there was a naked Mr. Fleming involved making it an even juicier story for her to pass along.

Gordon quickly understood that Uncle Joe accepted most things that came his way with the same stoicism he accepted the loss of crops to locust or the bonanza of a bumper harvest of cotton. God's will was, after all God's will and everything else was shoveling sand against the tide, an image he favored when explaining the tenets of his pragmatic faith to the other deacons of the Calvary Baptist Church who gathered at Scotty's Corner on Saturday afternoon to assess the concordance of scripture with life in the southeastern San Joaquin Valley.

Despite her recent difficulties, in her own way Aunt Claire was even more pragmatic, relying on broom, boiling water, Ivory Soap, and a simmering stew pot to hold all demons at bay. As a result, her house was safe except for the telephone that hung on the wall in the front hall. If she had her way, it would live in the mailbox, but Joe was adamant, so it stayed, two rings signaling the intrusion she so much dreaded, particularly on dark days when Joe was gone.

To be continued

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