

## Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday March 3 2024

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### AM1054: Stars Form as Galaxies Collide



*Image Credit: NASA, ESA, STScI; Processing: J. English (U. Manitoba); Science: M. Rodruck (Penn State U. & Randolph-Macon C.) et al.;  
Text: Jayanne English (U. Manitoba).*

When galaxies collide, how many stars are born? For AM1054-325, featured here in a recently released image by the Hubble Space Telescope, the answer is millions.

Instead of stars being destroyed as galaxy AM1054-325 and a nearby galaxy circle each other, their gravity and motion has ignited stellar creation.

Star formation occurs rapidly in the gaseous debris stretching from AM1054-325's yellowish body due to the other galaxy's gravitational pull. Hydrogen gas surrounding newborn stars glows pink. Bright infant stars shine blue and cluster together in compact nurseries of thousands to millions of stars.

AM1054-325 possesses over 100 of these intense-blue, dot-like star clusters, some appearing like a string of pearls. Analyzing ultraviolet light helped determine that most of these stars are less than 10 million years old: stellar babies.

Many of these nurseries may grow up to be globular star clusters, while the bundle of young stars at the bottom tip may even detach and form a small galaxy.

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## **A Peale's Falcon Idyll**



*youtube*

*<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=4ed36993f3&attid=0.1.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1791911112472104812&th=18de25a9aff98f6c&view=att&disp=inline>*

*This Nature article was done by Lawrence Crowley, an Ode participant and avid naturalist observer/writer. Really worth your time.*

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## **Favorite Movies...Tell Us Yours**



*openculture*

One of the earliest Odes asked for your favorites. That was nearly 4 years ago, so it's time to give it another shot. How about sending me your list--no more than ten movies --any genre, any era.-- I'll compile them and feature the 'winners' in an upcoming Ode.

<https://youtu.be/n6HoyAJSye0>

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**\$1B Donation to Bronx Medical School to Cover Student Tuition**



*Former professor Ruth Gottesman does what's right.  
Brent N. Clarke/ Getty Images Entertainment*

When Ruth Gottesman's husband David died in 2022, the Wall Street billionaire left her a portfolio of Berkshire Hathaway stock with instructions to "do whatever you think is right with it," Gottesman, 93, told The New York Times. And after much thought, the former professor decided what was right: donating \$1 billion to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, where she formerly taught.

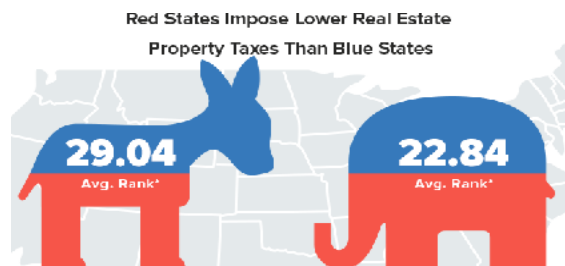
<https://bit.ly/3UW4wmu>

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## Property Taxes by State (2024)



wallet hub

<https://bit.ly/42Q4bDw>

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## Camp Hollywood 2023 Open Lindy Hop Finals



youtube

<https://youtu.be/IjpTqqwmXJU>

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## Smart Glove Accurately Tracks Hand Movements



*Handy invention: UBC's Peyman Servati (left) and Arvin Tashakori show off their smart gloves. (Courtesy: Lou Bosshart/UBC Media Relations)*

A smart glove that tracks finger, hand, and wrist movements with unprecedented accuracy has been developed by researchers at Canada's University of British Columbia (UBC) and Texavie Technologies. The washable device is embedded with individual sensor fibres that respond to tiny changes in the material's stretch and pressure. The sensors wirelessly transmit this information into a machine learning algorithm that estimates the hand's fine scale movements almost immediately.

The work is described in [Nature Machine Intelligence](#).

<https://bit.ly/48ywjfX>

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## Prosthetic Limb Device Can Sense Different Temperatures



*EPFL/Caillet*

Scientists have developed an inexpensive device that allows amputees to sense different temperatures via a prosthetic limb — and it’s a world-first. The efficacy of the device, called the MiniTouch, was detailed in a recent study from researchers at the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, Italy, and École Polytechnique Fédérale in Lausanne, Switzerland.

### [How it works.](#)

“With these new technologies I can understand better what I am touching,” Fabrizio Fidati (pictured), a 57-year-old man who had his arm amputated below the elbow, told Smithsonian Magazine after testing the MiniTouch. “Certainly, my priority would be to use it in a kitchen to cook!”

Beyond increasing the functionality of prosthetic limbs, incorporating temperature allows amputees to feel more connected to their limbs and the world around them.

“We have a colleague who says touch without temperature is like vision without color,” said study co-author Solaiman Shokur. He added that the eventual goal will be to add other sensations as well, like texture and proprioception, which helps us perceive the locations and movements of our body parts.

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## 2024 Burning Man Temple Design

A Message of Unity and Hope to the Playa.



*Maissa Sader.*

This year's Burning Man Festival is on the horizon, and the organization has just revealed the design for 2024's Black Rock City Temple. As the centerpiece of the festival, taking the lead on the design is an enormous honor. Caroline Ghosn, also known as Glitter Kitty, is taking the helm on this year's design, which is titled Temple of Together.

<https://bit.ly/3T9eLSY>

## **Ludwig Von Beethoven; Sonata #30 in E major, Op. 109**



*Andras Schiff*  
*nyphil*

Sir Andrés Schiff is world-renowned as a pianist, conductor, pedagogue and lecturer. Called "one of the most penetratingly serious masters of the keyboard before the public today" (Boston Globe), Sir Andrés continues to awe audiences and critics alike. Born in

Budapest, Hungary, in 1953, Sir András studied piano at the Liszt Ferenc Academy with Pal Kadosa, György Kurtág, and Ferenc Rados; and in London with George Malcom.

His many honors include the International Mozarteum Foundation's Golden Medal (2012), Germany's Great Cross of Merit with Star (2012), the Royal Philharmonic Society's Gold Medal (2013), a Knighthood for Services to Music (2014) and a Doctorate from the Royal College of Music (2018). He was awarded the Jean Gimbel Lane Prize in Piano Performance in 2021 from The Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University.

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Beethoven's 30th sonata, Op. 109, was written in 1820 and dedicated to Maximiliane Bentran. After the Hammerklavier, Beethoven returns to a smaller scale and a more intimate character. Musically, the work is characterised by a free and original approach to the traditional sonata form. Its focus is the third movement, a set of variations that interpret its theme in a wide variety of individual ways. The first pianists to undertake to bring Beethoven's last sonatas, including Op. 109, to public attention were Franz Liszt, who regularly included them in his programs between 1830 and 1840, and Hans von Bülow, who even included several of the late sonatas in one evening.

Andras Schiff <https://youtu.be/15EFrXnj49Q?t=1>

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Gould's monologue on Sonata 30 is worth your notice for explaining the inner workings of the piece.

Glenn Gould <https://youtu.be/tuNkBd LL1s?t=3>

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## **Mappa Mundi: The Greatest Medieval Map in the World**





*Calmax/Alamy*

Almost twice as large as the famous English [Hereford Mappa Mundi](#) (ca 1300), this exquisitely decorated planisphere showcasing Europe, Africa and Asia was the masterpiece of Fra Mauro, a monk of the Camaldolese order who lived on the small Venetian island of San Michele.

<https://bit.ly/49yjwea>

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## How 'The Love Boat' Transformed the Cruise Industry



*"The Love Boat" cast members. From left: Ted Lange, Gavin MacLeod, Jill Whelan, Bernie Kopell, Lauren Tewes and Fred Grandy.  
Everett Collection*

Produced by TV legend Aaron Spelling, "The Love Boat" first aired in 1977 and went on to become one of the most successful shows in TV history during its decade-long run.

The program, which is still available on streaming services such as Paramount Plus, partnered with Princess Cruises, and episodes were filmed aboard various Princess Cruise ships, the Pacific Princess and Island Princess being the most notable.

<https://bit.ly/48lu2nU>

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## Dictionary.com Adds More Than 300 New Entries for Winter 2024



*TarikVision/ iStock*

Dictionary.com just got a winter refresh. The popular online lexicon recently added 327 new entries, 173 new definitions, and 1,228 revised definitions.

“It’s 2024, and the pace of language change is as rapid as it has ever been,” wrote Senior Editor Nick Norlen and Director of Lexicography Grant Barrett. “Our lexicographers are updating the dictionary more frequently than ever, doing the human-scale work of documenting words across the vast spectrum of the always-evolving English language. And wow, the variety is real.”

The entries run the gamut of categories, from youthful slang to science terms and new wellness fads. They include the TikTok trend “girl dinner,” defined as “an often attractively presented collection of snacks that involve little preparation, such as small quantities of cold cuts, cheese, fruit, cherry tomatoes, etc., deemed sufficient to constitute a meal for one.”

There’s also “stellar nursery,” an astronomy phrase that entered the mainstream thanks to discoveries from the James Webb Space Telescope; “shacket,” a combination of shirt and jacket; and so much more.

[Read the Entries](#)

*Bed-rotting, bussin'? How did we get by without these?*

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## **Robot Dog Does Backflips Off Skateboards, Costs \$3,000**



*Xiaomi*

Announced this past summer, CyberDog 2 looks a bit more friendly than its predecessor. “A bit” is doing a lot of heavy lifting here. The robot dog is still no Sony Aibo. It does, however, trade the first CyberDog’s flat, Spot-like head for something more dog like.

<https://tcrn.ch/3OU7yDW>

*I saw one during a walk. It was accompanied by a man tethered by leash to a Terrier. I asked which he preferred. He pointed to 'Scotty,' but holding up a poop bag he sighed, admitting, "but Bowser here doesn't leave treasures."*

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## **A Small Step for Your Salad, a Giant Leap for Farming in Space**



*The Hustle*

When we dreamed of becoming astronauts one day, that the fantasy probably didn't include eating our veggies.

But growing greens in space is actually a top priority for scientists, with ambitious missions planned for as early as the 2030s, like NASA's Mars exploration.

Since that little jaunt would take three years round-trip, astronauts will need more robust options than freeze-dried pouches to stay healthy, per The Guardian.

Now, the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Plants for Space (yes, that's the name) is taking \$35m in funding over seven years to grow a new solution.

At the University of Melbourne, researchers are experimenting with:

- Farmbots — robotic farming machines — that can plant and irrigate seeds, harvest crops, spray pesticides, and monitor plant growth and temperature with soil sensors.
- Organic materials that can be used to 3D-print food, and microencapsulation techniques to incrementally release flavors to control the taste and smell of food.

And it doesn't stop at leafy greens — astronauts deserve a little fun, too, so scientists are even looking into brewing beer.

### **Taste test**

Though NASA has already managed to grow flowers and greens on the space station with its Vegetable Production System (AKA Veggie), all this tech faces a host of challenges — the obvious one being the whole no gravity thing.

But there are other obstacles for scientists trying to solve the food problem, like spacecraft weight limits which give each astronaut ~1.87k pounds, including all gear and food.

Not to mention the most important part of eating: enjoying it. That's why the university's team is employing AI and facial analysis to measure blood pressure, heart rate, and facial expressions via a biosensor app.

That data can then be fed to algorithms to better predict how astronauts might react to food in space.

Ultimately, though, we're not sure what all the fuss is about. Why would you need anything else when we already have [Dippin' Dots](#)?

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### **F4U Corsair: The Epitome from the 'Art on the Hoof' Era**



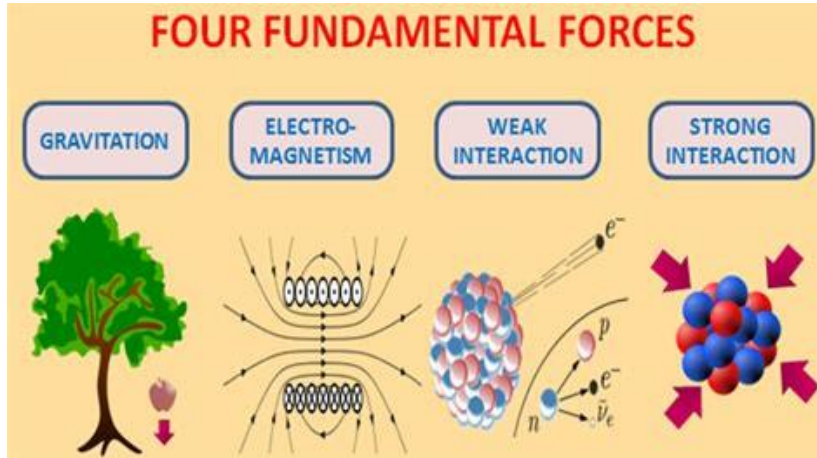
*aircraftsandplanes*

[https://youtu.be/6Rw\\_eQ4S\\_OM](https://youtu.be/6Rw_eQ4S_OM)

*My buddy Pat Healy sent this. What a machine.*

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## The Unpredictable Strong Force Continues to Surprise Physicists



*socratic.org*

After more than a century of slamming particles together, physicists have a pretty good idea of what goes on in the heart of the atom. Electrons buzz in probabilistic clouds around a nucleus of protons and neutrons, each of which contains a trio of bizarre particles known as quarks. The force that holds all the quarks together to make the nucleus is the aptly named strong force. It is the strong force that must be overcome to split the atom. And it is the strong force that binds quarks together so tightly that no quark has ever been spotted solo.

Just last summer, the LHCb collaboration at the Large Hadron Collider in Europe spotted signs of two hitherto unseen varieties of quark foursomes known as [tetraquarks](#) briefly zipping through the collider's underground tunnels. Cataloging the diversity of quark behaviors helps physicists refine their models for simplifying the complexities of the strong force by providing new examples of phenomena the theory must account for.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGxRnbMjChswxBQrcHLRwzHWqSD>

<https://www.livescience.com/48575-strong-force.html>

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## Man Builds World's Longest Backyard Railroad Trestle



*1funny.Com*

<https://youtu.be/IL11VjrY530>

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## Ultra-Processed Food Consumption and Mental Health



*Diets heavy in ultra-processed food are linked with increased morbidity and mortality, including increased risk for metabolic syndrome, obesity, and depression.*

*Photograph by Wildpixel, Getty Images*

Mental disorders are among the leading causes of global burden, and a recent report by the Global Burden of Disease Study noted that, despite greater availability of treatments (e.g., increase in prescriptions), there has been no reduction in the burden of mental disorders since 1990.

Poor dietary quality is well established as a potentially modifiable risk factor for mental disorders. Historically, the associations of poor dietary quality with mental disorders have largely focused on depression. Emerging evidence implicates different degrees of food processing as a discrete indicator of dietary quality in mental disorders.

<https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/14/13/2568>

*Is this true? I don't know for certain, but it feels true.*

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## SR-71 Blackbird Stealth RC Afterburning Turbine Scale Model



*siamagazinmag.co*

Remote Controlled Airplane Enthusiasts invest thousands of euros to create the best performing toys that can fly.

[https://youtu.be/XHmL\\_My0\\_A4](https://youtu.be/XHmL_My0_A4)

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## “God Bless America” Flash Mob with The Denver Brass



*1funny.com*

The Denver Brass and their friends, Celtic Colorado Pipes & Drums, surprised the patrons of the Cherry Creek Arts Festival in Denver, Colorado with a fun and patriotic flash mob.

<https://1funny.com/god-bless-america-flash-mob-with-the-denver-brass/>

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## California Airshow Includes Beach Runway



*Dailypilot*



Scores of attendees, aircraft and performers will again flock to Huntington Beach this fall for the Pacific Airshow—a cornerstone event for Southern California and the largest airshow in the U.S. by attendance.

To commemorate its return to Surf City Oct. 4-6, event officials made history by landing two aircraft on the beach—a preview of what’s to come as this year’s airshow marks the first time a temporary runway will be built on the sand giving spectators an up-close look at the action. The airshow is held right on the beach so aircraft launch and recover from a nearby airport.

“Our team is relentless in our pursuit of innovation and our commitment to continually evolve this event. This year is no exception as we will build the very first temporary ocean-front runway at an Airshow,” said Kevin Elliott, Pacific Airshow’s executive director. “Our vision has always been to bring the Airshow to the people and this new infrastructure will allow us to bring the public closer to our world than ever before.”

In addition to dozens of military and civilian performers, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team and the A-10 Demo Team are a few of the show’s most anticipated headliners.

2024 marks the eighth year Pacific Airshow will return to Huntington Beach. According to the event, last year’s three-day gathering drew in an estimated 700,000 spectators with thousands more watching from nearby homes, rooftops and balconies from surrounding cities.

“Pacific Airshow is a tentpole event on the City of Huntington Beach’s annual calendar,” said Gracey Van Der Mark, mayor of Huntington Beach. “The Airshow drives tremendous economic impact for our local businesses and provides a global exposure platform that attracts visitors throughout the year.”

*By Amelia Walsh for AVWeb*

More information can be found on the event’s [website](#).

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## **Cannabis Use Associated with Higher Risk of Heart Attack and Stroke, Study Finds**



tittlepress.com

For daily cannabis users, for example, odds of a heart attack were 25% higher compared to non-users and 42% higher for stroke, the study found.

<https://bit.ly/3P1rtk5>

*What the heck, why not get the kiddies to turn on?*

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## Here's a Tour of the Ritz-Carlton Maldives Luxury Resort



*theluxurytraveler*

<https://youtu.be/Bf7WOfZ4I5A?t=3>

*It's nice there are still places for the super-wealthy to go and play with their peers.*

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## Make Your Own Cured Salmon Gravlax



*youtube*

Gravlax is a Scandinavian specialty. It's very similar to lox, the deli counter favorite, but gravlax is usually cured with spices and fresh herbs (unlike lox, which is left plain). Gravlax is also never smoked.

All you need to make gravlax at home is a baking dish and two heavy cans to use as weights during the curing process. And, of course, some salmon.

Get two 1-pound pieces of salmon, preferably cut from the thicker end of the fillet. Make sure the skin is still on. You'll press these two pieces together with salt, herbs, and other seasonings sandwiched in between.

After 48 hours in the fridge, use your sharpest, straight-edged knife to cut the salmon into thin slices. When you arrange them on the platter, curl the pieces slightly before sprinkling with red onion, capers, and more dill—this makes such a pretty presentation.

<https://youtu.be/UHvMjtlgIrQ>

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## **USAF Museum Struck By Tornado: Buildings, Aircraft Damaged**



*Wright-Patterson Air Force Base*

A probable tornado caused serious damage to buildings and some aircraft at the National Museum of the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio early February 29th at approximately 4:42 a.m.

Among other buildings on the base, the museum's Hangar 4 restoration facility and Gate 22B were damaged, according to the Air Force. No injuries were reported.

Wright-Patterson released [photos](#) showing damage to hangars and some aircraft. The base's 88th Civil Engineer Group joined first responders and Air Force safety personnel in assessing damage. Col. Travis Pond, 88th Air Base Wing commander, said, "Our initial assessment from this morning's storm is the damage is isolated to the southern side of Area B. Our initial focus right now is on safety and damage assessment."

The National Weather Service confirmed other tornadoes touched down nearby the Air Force base at 4:37 a.m., 4:54 a.m., 4:56 a.m., and 5:01 a.m. Two-inch hailstones also caused damage to buildings, barns and other property.

*Mark Phelps for AVweb*

*Wright Patterson is a true National treasure featuring the epitome of 20<sup>th</sup> Century art.*

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## Eerie Vision of Office Staffed with Weird AI-Powered Robots



*fool.com*

<https://youtu.be/iHXuU3nTXfQ?t=2>

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## Maurice Ravel Piano Concerto in G major



*Hollywoodbowl.com*

Ravel's Piano Concerto in G was always intended to be a frivolous work. In contrast to many of the concertos of his day, what Ravel was aiming to write was something light, fanciful and not inherently serious: 'In the spirit', as he said, 'of Mozart and Saint-Saëns'.

It certainly wasn't composed in a throwaway manner, though. On the contrary, Ravel mulled over his ideas for the concerto for a full three years.

In 1928, the composer returned from his tour of America and visited Oxford, where he began to consider writing a piano concerto.

The process was rather stop-start: after the initial idea, it went on the backburner in 1929, only for Ravel to then become distracted by the composition of his ingenious

Piano Concerto for the Left Hand. In 1930, work on the G major concerto resumed again – but he didn't finish it until 1931.

The light-hearted nature of the concerto is confirmed from the first sound we hear in the opening movement: a playful, percussive whip-crack. The work is jazz-tinged in the outer movements. In between, a slow movement of serene beauty confirms Ravel's status as a master of melody. 'That flowing phrase!' he apparently commented. 'How I worked over it bar by bar! It nearly killed me!'

*Seong-Jin Cho w/Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra* <https://youtu.be/sNgP6NMYTqU>

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## **Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024 Winners**



*Alex Dawson has been named Underwater Photographer of the Year 2024, for his image of a free diver examining the aftermath of whaling.*

Whale Bones beat more than 6,500 photographs from around the world.

"Whale Bones was photographed in the toughest conditions, as a breath-hold diver descends below the Greenland ice sheet to bear witness to the carcasses," Alex Mustard, who chaired the judging panel, said.

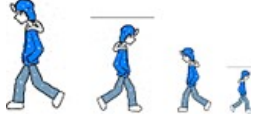
"The diver's suit and torch give it a 'visiting alien' feel.

"The composition flows effortlessly and takes your eye on the right journey to tell the story."

<https://bit.ly/3uzZCkl>

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## My Walking Thoughts



### For Sunday March 3 2024

#### Trip to Terra Incognita: Pensacola, December 1959

##### Preflight: Physical Training

Well, there was some running and pushups along with various daily calisthenics to keep our blood moving. Over time new elements such as simple gymnastics were added to make sure we could do some kindergarten level tumbling, vaulting, rope climbs, and muscle-ups over the bar.

The instructors were not looking for Olympic grade performance, not even what could be euphemistically called a competent skill. What they wanted to see was our willingness to attempt strange and slightly frightening maneuvers and maybe have some fun at the same time. No matter, I don't recall anyone washing out in that part of the program and I found I was able to do several swings on the pommel horse before ending up with my tail on the deck...not elegant but satisfying in terms of my rookie level abilities.

Then came the water stuff.

The venue was a lackluster building with a sign proclaiming *Natatorium*, a high falutin name for a swimming pool albeit at least double Olympic-sized sporting several platforms of different heights and purposes. The most prominent of these was the *Dibert Dunker*.

Dilbert was—perhaps still is though in today's overly gentle culture, perhaps not--Naval Aviation's equivalent of the army's *Sad Sack*, a woebegone rookie, thus in this context we were obliged to don ill-fitting flight gear and climb a metal ladder to a platform where with the enthusiastic help of some giggling sailors, we snuggled into what from inside seemed more like a gopher trap than an aircraft cockpit.

Once settled we signaled our readiness for the adventure with a snappy salute similar to what real carrier aviators gave the catapult officer and stood by for a...umm...well how about *sploosh*.

After an unnerving delay that allowed our imaginations to go into overdrive, someone sprang the trap initiating a two-second plunge to a watery head-on that created a mighty splash causing the dunker to turn turtle and head for the infernal depths.

It was here we were required to regain our orientation, unplug audio and oxygen connections, unstrap from the seat, evacuate the cockpit and swim to the surface. If you were comfortable in the water it was pretty much a non-event, but just in case a pair of lifeguards stood ready to aid those who were not so pleasantly disposed.

The excitement over, it was time for the swimming and diving games, culminating in a one-mile thrash that convinced me that though I completed the task in the time allowed, in the future I would try and avoid a repeat performance.

The final test in the preflight agenda was the infamous *Step Test*, a five-minute exercise requiring us to mount and dismount an 18-inch platform —right foot up...left foot up...right up down...etcetera at two step per second cadence...without a bobble. The good Captain Rapp had advised us back on day-one to ignore any thought of practicing for the event. "Just do it the one time and promise yourself never to do it again." Good advice that I've followed successfully for going on 65 years.

Of our starting roster of 40 preflight students, 30 went on to Primary Stage.

*Next week, Primary Training in the Beechcraft T-34.*