

Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday August 28 2022



=====

Loquat



Louisa Wallace Jacobs

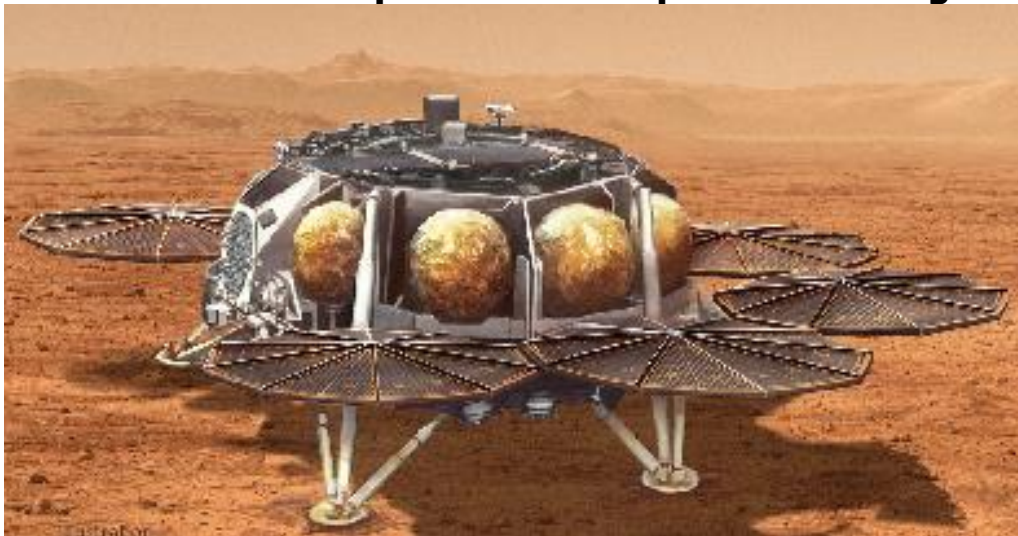
Louisa is my oldest (by time in grade, not age) friend. Accomplished in more ways than there's time for me to list. She is a consistent award winner in juried art shows.

=====



=====

New Research Group for Mars Sample Return Program



*Concept for a proposed NASA Sample Retrieval Lander that would carry a small rocket (about 10 feet, or 3 meters, tall) called the Mars Ascent Vehicle to the Martian surface.
Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech*

https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/nasa-partner-establish-new-research-group-for-mars-sample-return-program?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nasajpl&utm_content=daily06142022-1

=====

Jester's Cap



Thoughts regarding the previous Ode

Herbed up never gets old. Love it. 'They'll believe me, citizen.'

Regarding stress' effect on aging by causing inflammation, perhaps that's the basis of the observation that nasty people--who give rather than have ulcers--seem to outlive those of us who get them.

Origins of life...been looked at for years.

Back when I was still in high school, I worked in the organic chem lab at Loyola (New Orleans). Another kid a year behind me, Charles Irving, was working with a "primitive earth" experiment. It consisted of a sealed glass system containing a few very simple gases, including ammonia (NH₃), hydrocyanic acid (HCN), CO₂, maybe some methane. It was possible to send sparks across gaps in the tube. After a while, the tube contained what looked a lot like tar--really gunky. He then opened the tube and analyzed what was there. Turned out to be a lot of molecules you might not have expected, like adenine, a few amino acids, that sort of stuff. Plus a fair number of quite complex stuff that he didn't bother to analyze--a real witch's brew of things in tiny quantities. I graduated from high school in '65, Charles in '66. The stuff at Scripps is only new because they analyzed deeper.

But at Scripps there's also the Skagg Institute for Organic Chemistry. The first guy in charge of it was Jules Rebek, a friend of mine from college days. Jules bopped around between the Coasts for a number of years, including a stint back at MIT for a couple years. And while there, he designed and synthesized a molecule that made copies of itself. On purpose. He didn't make any statements about implications of the little beast, but everyone from the Boston Globe to Pravda jumped on the "eek--it's alive!" bandwagon.

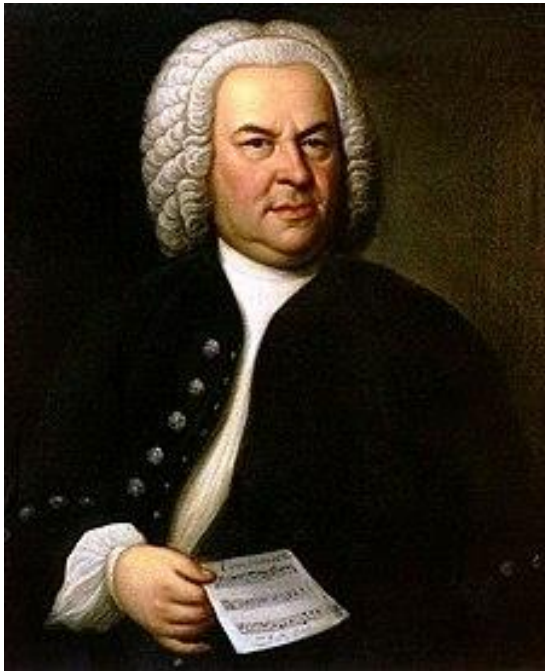
Everyone, that is, except for one Carl "billions and billions" Sagan. His take was that it wasn't really alive because it was too perfect--it could only make perfect copies of itself, and couldn't make mistakes, which are necessary for evolution to happen. And without evolution--per Sagan--it couldn't really be considered alive. To which Jules replied, "Oh, really? If you want to see mistakes, look at Sagan's work!" They eventually got together and made nice. Jules created modifications of his system that were far from gimmies, so they were able, in some measure, to sort of evolve.

=====

The Glenn Gould Corner



J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah392InFHxM>

The work consists of an aria and a set of 30 variations. First published in 1741, it is named after Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, who may also have been the first performer of the work.

It is impossible to discuss the Goldberg Variations without mentioning Glenn Gould's groundbreaking recording in 1955 that put both artist and work on the classical music map. The success of the album, which sold more than 100,000 copies in Gould's lifetime, drove the variations into the mainstream of classical keyboard repertoire. His second recording of the work in 1981 reached over 2 million sales in 2000.



=====

A.A.A.D.D. - KNOW THE SYMPTOMS!

Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder
Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder.

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden.
As I turn on the hose in the driveway,
 I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I start toward the garage,
 I notice mail on the porch table that
 I brought up from the mail box earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table,
 Put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table,
 And notice that the can is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back
 On the table and take out the garbage first...

But then I think,
 Since I'm going to be near the mailbox
 When I take out the garbage anyway,
 I may as well pay the bills first.

**I take my check book off the table,
And see that there is only one check left.
My extra checks are in my desk in the study,
So I go inside the house to my desk where
I find the can of Pepsi I'd been drinking.**

**I'm going to look for my checks,
But first I need to push the Pepsi aside
So that I don't accidentally knock it over.**

**The Pepsi is getting warm,
And I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.**

**As I head toward the kitchen with the Pepsi,
A vase of flowers on the counter
Catches my eye--
they need water.**

**I put the Pepsi on the counter and
Discover my reading glasses that
I've been searching for all morning.
I decide I better put them back on my desk,
But first I'm going to water the flowers.**

**I set the glasses back down on the counter ,
Fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote.
Someone left it on the kitchen table.**

**I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV,
I'll be looking for the remote,
But I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table,
So I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs,
But first I'll water the flowers.**

**I pour some water in the flowers,
But quite a bit of it spills on the floor.**

**So, I set the remote back on the table,
Get some towels and wipe up the spill.**

**Then, I head down the hall trying to
Remember what I was planning to do.**

**At the end of the day:
The car isn't washed,
The bills aren't paid,
There is a warm can of Pepsi sitting on the counter,
The flowers don't have enough water,**

**There is still only 1 check in my check book,
I can't find the remote,
I can't find my glasses,
And I don't remember what I did with the car keys.
Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today,
I'm baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired.**

**I realize this is a serious problem,
And I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail....**

**Do me a favor
Forward this message to everyone you know,
Because I don't remember who I've sent it to.**

P.S. I don't remember who sent it to me, so if it was you, I'm sorry.

=====

Eagles Docs Share Benefits of Tiered Response



*Paramedic skill sets are essential, but not every 9-1-1 call needs them.
(Photo: Tomás Del Coro/Wikimedia Commons)*

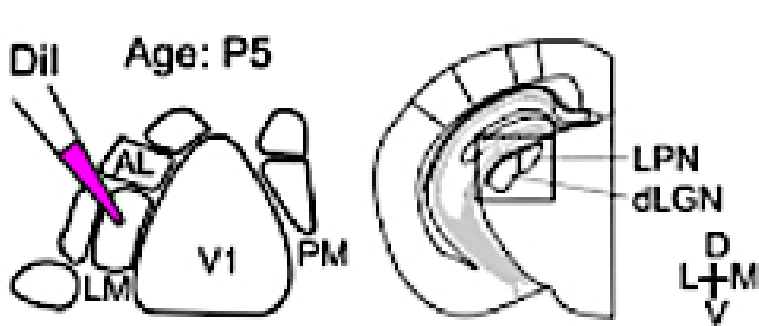
<https://www.hmpgloballearningnetwork.com/site/emsworld/feature-story/eagles-docs-share-benefits-tiered-response>

This article was written by Carol Brzozowski whose creative and organizational skills made my job as the editor of a group of trade publications a piece of cake.

=====

The eyes have it

New insight gained into how the visual system develops in mice



https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/focus/en/press/z0508_00240.html?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email

A new study in mice has revealed never-before-seen details about how the complicated visual network forms in them. This research could inform future research into the treatment of congenital blindness.

=====

Forrest Gump's Tesla Coils



For those who did not understand what is going on this video, here's a brief explanation: The main loud music really comes from the tesla coil sparks. They are literally playing the music due to the programmed phase, pulse width and firing frequency! So, there are no speakers, no audio / video special effects. It looks even better in person and sounds almost the same, just louder than people expect!

<https://youtu.be/UwpmzQWp5NU>

=====

NASA Data on Plant 'Sweating' Could Help Predict Wildfire Severity

A new study uses data from the ECOSTRESS instrument aboard the space station to better understand why some parts of a wildfire burn more intensely than others.



Smoke rises from the Bobcat Fire, which burned more than 115,000 acres (46,539 hectares) in Southern California's San Gabriel Mountains in 2020. In the months before the fire, NASA's ECOSTRESS passed over the area aboard the International Space Station, collecting data on plant water use.

Credit: NASA

<https://go.nasa.gov/3C01Men>

=====

Paraprosookians Wandering Around Our Universe



A paraprosdokian is a sentence or statement with an unexpected ending. It means "against expectations" in Greek

Will glass coffins be a success?

Remains to be seen.

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?

One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter.

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma?

There's no menu - you get what you deserve.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers yesterday

but couldn't find any.

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?

A maybe. I lost my case.

Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today?

I don't know and don't really care.

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant

Then I changed my mind.

Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population?

Ireland. Every day it's Dublin.

I saw an ad for burial plots, and I thought:

"That's the last thing I need!"

Need an ark?

I Noah guy.

You're not completely useless,

You can always serve as a bad example.

I broke my finger last week.

On the other hand, I'm okay.

Don't spell part backwards.

It's a trap.

And the Lord said unto John, "Come forth and you will receive eternal life."

But John came fifth, and he got hell.

Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda?

He was lucky it was a soft drink.

To the mathematician who thought of the idea of zero.
Thanks for nothing!

Son: "Dad, can you tell me what a solar eclipse is?"
Dad: "No sun."

After these I think Paraproductians are groaners

=====

New Wearable Sensor Detects Compounds in Human Sweat



A version of the sweat sensor. The large curved sections are electrodes that stimulate sweat production.

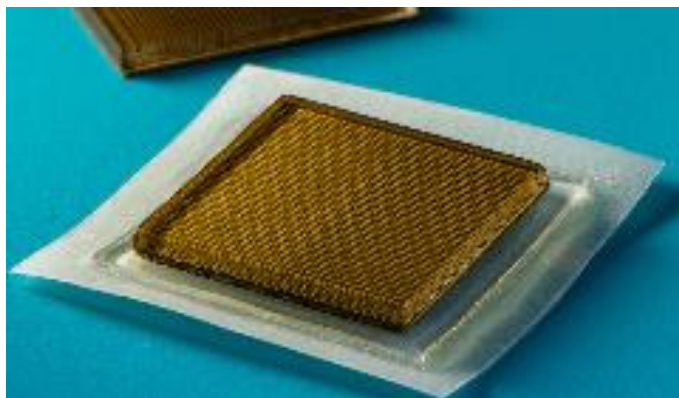
Credit: Caltech

If you have ever had your blood drawn, whether to check your cholesterol, kidney function, hormone levels, blood sugar, or as part of a general checkup, you might have wondered why there is not an easier, less painful way.

<https://www.caltech.edu/about/news/new-wearable-sensor-detects-even-more-compounds-in-human-sweat>

=====

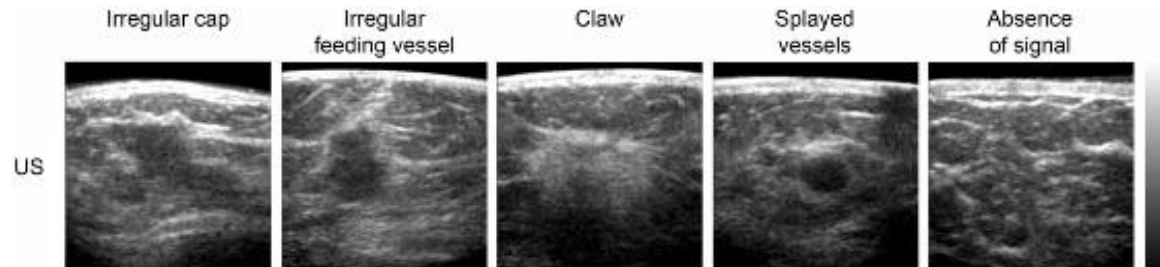
Ultrasound Sticker Provides Continuous Imaging of Internal Organs



<https://physicsworld.com/a/ultrasound-sticker-provides-continuous-imaging-of-internal-organs/>

=====

Optoacoustic Imaging Identifies Breast Cancer



<https://physicsworld.com/a/optoacoustic-imaging-identifies-breast-cancer-from-vascular-patterns/>

=====

George Leonidas Leslie, the All-Time Bank Robber King



<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?pli=1#inbox/FMfcgzGqPzLlpjqxHRBzDhKdpZtVfMpi>

No one else is even in the same ballpark.

=====

Transports of Delight from Yesteryear



=====

Food for Thought

With steadily diminishing requests for them, it is time for some puns and wordplay.

- When I was little my mom used to feed me alphabet soup saying I loved it. Now I realize she was just putting words in my mouth.
- Do you know that ants never get sick? It is because they have anty bodies
- While we are on the subject, do you know how to tell the sex of an ant? Put it in water and if it sinks, it is a girl ant and if it floats, it is....
- Autocorrect has become my worst enema.
- A truck carrying toupees crashed on the highway, spilling everything. Police are combing the area.
- If Satan every lost his hair, there would be hell toupee
- I was going to cook alligator for dinner but realized I only have a croc pot.
- Did you hear about the explosion of a cheese factory in France? Dee Brie was everywhere.
- I was in the store and saw a man throwing milk and cheese around. I thought how dairy!
- If a drummer comes out of retirement, will there be repercussions?
- I have an idea for a chain of Elvis steak houses. It will be for people who love meat tender.
- I went to the beekeeper to get 12 bees. He counted out 13. I told him he gave me too many and responded that it was a freebie.
- I had a happy childhood. My dad used to put me in a tire and roll me down the hill. Those were Goodyears.
- Why couldn't the green pepper practice archery? Because he didn't habanero.
- Honor students have no sense of humor. I asked one why koalas are not considered bears and the girl said "because they are marsupials." I said "No, it's because they don't have the koalafications." She hit me.
- At any given time, the urge to sing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" is just a whim away, a whim away, a whim away....
- I am writing a book about all things I should be doing in my like. It is an oughttobiography.

OK, enough pun-ishment for today.

=====

The Horsemen Cometh - James Horner Scores The Horsemen



James Horner writes his soul for The Horsemen Aerobatic Team, from 2010.

<https://youtu.be/Z6-wxQX7QyY>

And here's the result.

<https://youtu.be/MGZbX1bxKnM>

=====

Emerald Downs T-Rex Derby



You need an extended look at the 2022 T-Rex Race last Sunday at Emerald Downs.

<https://youtu.be/0ICvfAo4Cp8?t=382>

"They're off," cried the grand lizard as he as he backed into the lawn mower.

=====

ScaleWings Carbon Fiber Mustang Replica

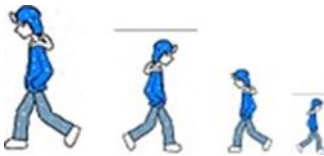


<https://bit.ly/3CsV5I3>

Rotax-powered 70% scale P-51 with flush rivets stamped into the fiber to add to the beauty.

=====

My Walking Thoughts



For Sunday August 28 2022

Special People

I spent last weekend in the veteran's pavilion at the Wings Over Camarillo Airshow, an annual event at the former Air Defense Command airbase in coastal Ventura County, CA.

Always popular, this year's airshow drew nearly 200,000 people for what is in my humble opinion the premier event of its kind anywhere in the country...one that combines world class aircraft displays and smalltown friendliness. If the aircraft portion is not enough, the apron is host to a large auto show featuring everything from show cars and hotrods--yeah, '57 Chevies and 'Birds, many sporting late-model big-block mills--along with my personal favorite, a street-legal Nova with a 1100 horsepower powerplant...*zero to 210 in 6.8 seconds.*

My biggest thrill took place at the Veterans Pavilion where I met and had the opportunity to speak with retired Air Force Colonel, Joe Peterburs, a sprightly 98 year-old gentleman, accompanied by a granddaughter and two great-granddaughters.

The first thing I noticed was that Joe was a man in full bloom, still handsome with an infectious twinkle, and a mind eager to engage in subjects ranging from his experiences in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam to thoughts about the world today...in a word familiar to aviators, CAVU.



Joe entered active duty as an Aviation Cadet in January 1943 and was selected for single engine pilot training a year later when received his pilots' wings and commission. Peterburs was 19 years old when he checked out in a P-51B and accumulated about 20 hours in the B, C and D models before he started flying combat.

On his 49th mission his group was escorting 450+ B-17s to targets near Berlin. Just as the bombers were unloading, a swarm of Me 262 turbojets hit the formation. Joe was flying high cover and saw a 262 slicing through the B-17s blowing four of the bombers out of the sky. Converting altitude to airspeed, Joe pulled into the 262's six o'clock with his six .50 calibers machine guns blazing. He saw hits and smoke on the 262s left wing and engine before his quarry entered a cloud bank.

Shortly afterward Peterburs started strafing an airfield where his aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire forcing him to bail out over Burg, Germany where he was captured and interned at Stalag 3 (Luckenwald) near Berlin.

A week later he escaped and was picked up by a Russian Tank column, given a rifle, and fought with them from near Berlin to the battle of Wittenberg on the Elbe.

Later in the decade Joe flew 76 missions in P-51Ds over the North sustaining battle damage on several of them, including one in which he received multiple facial wounds from a bullet and shrapnel in the cockpit.

But Joe's career was far from over.

In 1967 he was assigned to 7th Air Force Headquarters, Viet Nam as staff operations officer for command and control in the war zone.

From 1968 until 1972 he was director of the 31st NORAD Region Combat Operations Center; promoted to Colonel in 1969 he assumed the position of Director of Operations for the 507th Tactical Air Control Group where he integrated the automated 407L system into the Air Force.

From 1972 to 1978 he was assigned to Germany where he was the principal architect for the introduction of Mobile Command and Control Systems, the integration of Mobile and fixed radar command and control systems and the rapid deployment of mobile systems throughout NATO. During this period, he held positions as the Air Liaison Officer to the US Army's 7th Corps Commander, Commander of both the 600th and 601st Tactical Air Control Groups and Deputy Commander for Tactical Control of the 601st Tactical Control Wing.

In 1979 Colonel Peterburs retired after more than 36 years of active military service.

Sixty years after his last flight in WWII, Joe found that the damage he inflicted on the Me 262 resulted in its engine disintegrating and the pilot bailing out. The pilot of the Me 262 was Oberleutnant Walter Schuck, a top German Ace with 206 (198 in the Me 109 and 8 in the Me 262) confirmed air victories. The two were united in the 1980s, toasting to their mutual achievements.

Here's an interview of Joe and Lt. Col James Harvey of the Red Tails by Mike Rowe:
<https://youtu.be/5UTCXR1Qveo>

They walk among us.