

Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday March 20 2022



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Point Reyes Milky Way



Image Credit & Copyright: Dan Zafra

Northern winter constellations and a long arc of the Milky Way are setting in this night skyscape looking toward the Pacific Ocean from Point Reyes on planet Earth's California coast.

Sirius, alpha star of Canis Major, is prominent below the starry arc toward the left. Orion's yellowish Betelgeuse, Aldebaran in Taurus, and the blue tinted Pleiades star cluster also find themselves between Milky Way and northwestern horizon near the center of the scene.

The nebulae visible in the series of exposures used to construct this panoramic view were captured in early March, but are just too faint to be seen with the unaided eye. On that northern night their expansive glow includes the reddish semi-circle of Barnard's Loop in Orion and NGC 1499 above and right of the Pleiades, also known as the California Nebula.

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Kim Carnes



Kim Carnes (July 20, 1945, an American singer and songwriter, was born and raised in Los Angeles. She began her career as a songwriter in the 1960s, writing for other artists while performing in local clubs. In her breakthrough year, 1980, Carnes was commissioned by Kenny Rogers to co-write the songs for his concept album Gideon, and their duet "Don't Fall in Love with a Dreamer"

In 1981, Carnes released *Mistaken Identity*, which featured the worldwide hit, "Bette Davis Eyes". This became the best-selling single of the year in the United States, spending nine weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100, going Gold, and won the Grammy Award for Record of the Year and Song of the Year.

Bette Davis Eyes <https://youtu.be/EPOIS5taqA8>

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Kings and Queens of England



<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/neil.richards/viz/KingsandQueensofEngland/KingsandQueens>

As far back as the 9th century, when Athelstan, grandson of Alfred the Great, became King, England has had a ruling monarchy.

Many countries have had monarchies at some point in history, though few are still recognized today. However, England's monarchy is very much present, with the current sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, having reigned for over 70 years.

This visualization by Neil Richards illustrates the reigns of England's kings and queens from 1066 to present day.

England's Kings and Queens (1066–2021)

The English monarchy is passed from generation to generation, from parent to eldest child, a tradition that started with the sovereign William I (also known as William the Conqueror).

Up until 1702, this order of succession only applied to male heirs, until Parliament passed the Act of Settlement which allowed women to inherit the throne if a male heir was unavailable. Not until 2013 were these rules further updated to allow a female to inherit the throne if she is the eldest child, regardless of male heirs.

Monarch	Reign	Length of Reign (Years)
William I	1066–1087	20
William II	1087–1100	12
Henry I	1100–1135	35
Stephen	1135–1154	18
Henry II	1154–1189	34
Richard I	1189–1199	09

John	1199–1216	17
Henry III	1216–1272	56
Edward I	1272–1307	34
Edward II	1307–1327	19
Edward III	1327–1377	50
Richard II	1377–1399	22
Henry IV	1399–1413	13
Henry V	1413–1422	09
Henry VI	1422–1461	38
Edward IV	1461–1470	09
Henry VI	1470–1471	0.5 (191 days)
Edward IV	1471–1483	11
Edward V	1483	0.2 (78 days)
Richard III	1483–1485	02
Henry VII	1485–1509	23
Henry VIII	1509–1547	37
Edward VI	1547–1553	06
Jane	1553	0.02 (9 days)
Mary I	1553–1558	05
Elizabeth I	1558–1603	44
James I	1603–1625	22
Charles I	1625–1649	23
Charles II	1660–1685	24
James II	1685–1688	03
Mary II	1689–1694	05
William III	1689–1702	13
Anne	1702–1714	12
George I	1714–1727	12
George II	1727–1760	33
George III	1760–1820	59
George IV	1820–1830	10
William IV	1830–1837	06
Victoria	1837–1901	63
Edward VII	1901–1910	09
George V	1910–1936	25
Edward VIII	1936	0.9 (327 days)
George VI	1936–1952	15
Elizabeth II	1952–Present	70+

One notable time frame missing is 1650–1659, which had no reigning monarch following the beheading of Charles I in 1649. Instead, England was ruled by Parliament in a period known as the Commonwealth of England, which lasted until 1653. That year, a coup d'état led by Oliver Cromwell ensued, leading to the eventual restoration of the monarchy in 1660, reigned by Charles II.

Other reigns of interest include the shortest reigning monarch, Jane, who held the throne for just nine days in 1553. Previously, King Edward VI had overruled the order of succession in naming Jane his heir. This was disputed and Edward VI's half-sister, Mary I, was then crowned.

The longest reigning monarch is also the current monarch of England, Elizabeth II, who has been on the throne for over 70 years. Before her, the longest reign was held by Victoria, Elizabeth II's great-great-grandmother, from 1837 to 1901 (63 years).

Why Does England's Monarchy Still Exist?

Today, the English monarchy is largely symbolic. The Queen serves as the Head of State in a ceremonial position, while Parliament, a representative government body headed by the Prime Minister, holds all real political power.

Instead, the monarch's main duty is to provide ceremonial speeches and formal appearances, specifically for the opening of each new Parliament and on holidays and other special occasions. Though the Prime Minister briefs the Queen regularly on national affairs, it is understood that she will never provide opinions on political matters nor make any final decisions.

This beginning of this shift in political power was first established in 1215 with the signing of the Magna Carta by King John. Essentially one of the first written constitutions, it recognized the King and all future sovereigns as being subject to the law, not above it.

The Future of the Monarchy

Currently next in line to the throne is the Queen's eldest son Charles, Prince of Wales, followed by his eldest son William, Duke of Cambridge.

And though there is much criticism of England's monarchy as an outdated, expensive and inequalitarian system, the majority of England's citizens are still in favor of the institution.

Advocates for a reigning king or queen look at the monarch's role in unifying the nation and providing reassurance in times of uncertainty. They see the royal family as a symbol for their country, bringing in massive revenues in tourism.

With 61% of polled British adults in 2021 believing that the monarchy should stay, it is safe to assume that the institution will continue in the near future. But as the world continues to shift around us, how will that attitude evolve over time?

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Operation London Bridge

Here's what will happen upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II



abcnews

<https://youtu.be/QDRF8jdVFC0>

One day Queen Elizabeth II will pass away, resulting in what may be the biggest funeral of the century. The preparations for the days, weeks and months after her passing, are given the code name Operation London Bridge. Upon her death, her eldest son, Prince Charles, will immediately become King. This could signal great change, not just for the United Kingdom but potentially the world.

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Quantum Mechanics and the Fundamental Nature of Reality



Whether an electron behaves as particle or wave depends on how it is observed.
max löffler

The quantum revolution upended our understanding of nature leaving a lot of uncertainty in its wake.

[https://www.sciencenews.org/article/quantum-theory-history-reality-uncertainty-physics?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=latest-newsletter-v2&utm_source=Latest Headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest Headlines](https://www.sciencenews.org/article/quantum-theory-history-reality-uncertainty-physics?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=latest-newsletter-v2&utm_source=Latest+Headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest+Headlines)

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My Kid: I feel like you're always making up rules and stuff.

Me: Like what?

My Kid: Like if I don't clean my room a portal will open and take me to another dimension.

Me: Well that's what happened to your older brother.

My Kid: What older brother?

Me: Exactly.

LOISIR025

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Blue Marble Earth



NASA, Apollo 17 Crew

Welcome to planet Earth, the third planet from a star named the Sun.

The Earth is shaped like a sphere and composed mostly of rock. Over 70 percent of the Earth's surface is water. The planet has a relatively thin atmosphere composed mostly of nitrogen and oxygen.

The featured picture of Earth, dubbed The Blue Marble, was taken from Apollo 17 in 1972 and features Africa and Antarctica. It is thought to be one of the most widely distributed photographs of any kind.

Earth has a single large Moon that is about 1/4 of its diameter and, from the planet's surface, is seen to have almost exactly the same angular size as the Sun.

With its abundance of liquid water, Earth supports a large variety of life forms, including potentially intelligent species such as dolphins and humans. Please enjoy your stay on planet Earth.

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If This Time Has Taught Me Anything—Kevin McCormack



<https://youtu.be/vFRIV-9nFAI>

Verse written and voiced by Kevin McCormack, Meditation & Mindfulness Teacher, Writer and Actor.

'If This Time' carries a message of Gratitude and Hope, and was composed in May of 2020 during Covid-19 lockdown.

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Julie Andrews upon Turning 79



To commemorate her birthday, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the

musical numbers she performed was 'My Favorite Things' from the legendary movie 'Sound Of Music'. Here are the lyrics she used:

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

(Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores. Please share Ms. Andrews' clever wit and humor with others who would appreciate it.)

You can hear it as well https://youtu.be/qVtp_alkN2E

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Lingering Anemia in Astronauts Doesn't Get Better After Landing

By Rebecca Sohn for Space.Com

Space anemia is more serious than we thought.



British astronaut Tim Peake gives a blood sample to help scientists understand why spaceflight damages red blood cells.

(Image credit: NASA)

Being in space causes the human body to destroy about 50% more red blood cells, leading to a potentially dangerous condition known as anemia. The effects persist even after astronauts return to Earth, according to a new study.

The study, led by researchers at the Ottawa Hospital and the University of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada, analyzed breath and blood samples of 14 astronauts before, during, and after their six-month missions aboard the International Space Station. The researchers found that the astronaut's bodies destroyed about 54% more red blood cells than they would on Earth.

Scientists already knew about this phenomenon, known as space anemia, but they expected it would resolve over time as astronauts' bodies adapt to the space environment. The new study revealed for the first time that this is not the case, a finding that could have potentially serious implications for long-term space travel.

"Our study shows that upon arriving in space, more red blood cells are destroyed, and this continues for the entire duration of the astronaut's mission," Guy Trudel, a professor of medicine, surgery and biochemistry at the University of Ottawa and lead author of the study said in a statement.

On Earth, the human body creates and destroys 2 million red blood cells every second. But on the International Space Station, the astronauts' bodies were destroying closer to 3 million blood cells every second. These results were the same for male and female astronauts.

After their return to Earth, five out of the 13 astronauts involved in the study were clinically anemic; the levels of red blood cells in their blood, and those of the oxygen-carrying component hemoglobin, dropped so low that other tissues in their bodies were not receiving enough oxygen. Anemia is known to cause fatigue, physical weakness and dizziness, all of which could be dangerous for astronauts who are frequently conducting challenging tasks that require concentration, precision as well as physical fitness.

Subsequent monitoring revealed that the red blood cell levels of the studied astronauts returned to normal after three or four months back on Earth. Even after that period of time, however, their bodies were destroying about 30% more red blood cells than before they went to space, suggesting longer-term changes as a result of space travel.

Fortunately, none of the astronauts involved in the study suffered obvious health effects of anemia while in space. The researchers therefore assume that the astronauts' bodies continued producing new blood cells during their missions. But increased red blood cell production requires specific nutrients, so future astronauts should have diets that take this into account, the researchers said. This would be especially important on long duration missions, which, a previous study showed, can lead to more severe anemia.

In addition to helping astronauts stay healthy in space, research on space anemia could eventually help people who develop anemia after being bedridden due to an injury or a long illness. Just like with space anemia, scientists don't yet fully understand the reasons why being bedridden makes the body destroy red blood cells.

"If we can find out exactly what's causing this anemia, then there is a potential to treat it or prevent it, both for astronauts and for patients here on Earth," Trudel said.

The study is the first research published as part of the Canadian Space Agency's MARROW project, which is examining the effects that being in space have on human bone marrow and blood cells.

The study was published on Friday (Jan. 14) in the journal Nature Medicine.

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If Chocolate, Licorice, Butterscotch and
Vanilla Swirl Ice Cream Could Be a
Puppy!!



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The Night Watchman



Nightwatchman of Prague (and a few of his monitors)

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard in the middle of a desert.
Congress said, "someone may steal from it at night." so they created a night watchman
position and hired a person for the job.

Then congress said, "how does the watchman do his job without instruction?" so they created a planning department and hired two people, one person to write the instructions, and one person to do time studies.

Then congress said, "how will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?" so they created a quality control department and hired two people. One was to do the studies and one was to write the reports.

Then congress said, "how are these people going to get paid?" so they created two positions: a time keeper and a payroll officer then hired two people.

Then congress said, "who will be accountable for all of these people?" so they created an administrative section and hired three people, an administrative officer, assistant administrative officer, and a legal secretary.

Then congress said, "we have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$918,000 over budget, we must cut back." so they laid off the night watchman.

Now slowly, let it sink in.

Quietly, we go like sheep to slaughter. Does anybody remember the reason given for the establishment of the Department of Energy during the carter administration?

Anybody? Anything? Anyone? No? Didn't think so!

Bottom line is, we've spent several hundred billion dollars in support of an agency, the reason for which very few people who read this can remember!

Ready?

It was very simple...and at the time, everybody thought it very appropriate.

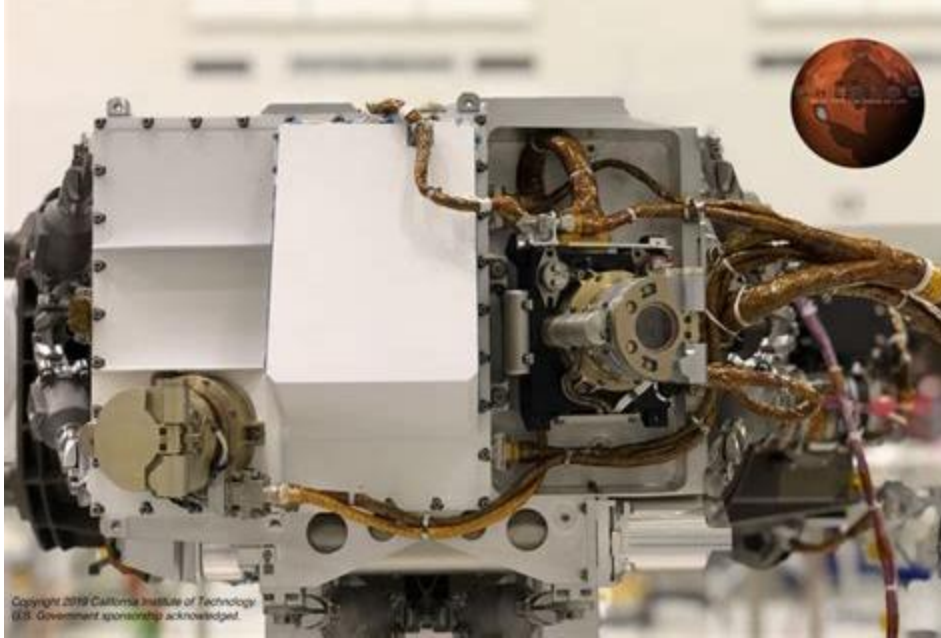
The department of energy was instituted on 8/04/1977, to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

Hey, pretty efficient, huh?

And now it's 2022 -- 45 years later -- and the budget for this "necessary" department is at \$242 billion a year. It has 16,000 federal employees and approximately 100,000 contract employees; and look at the job it has done! (this is where you slap your forehead and say, "what were they thinking?") 34 years ago 30% of our oil consumption was foreign imports. Today 70% of our oil consumption is foreign imports.

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The Special Cameras Powering the Search for Life on Mars



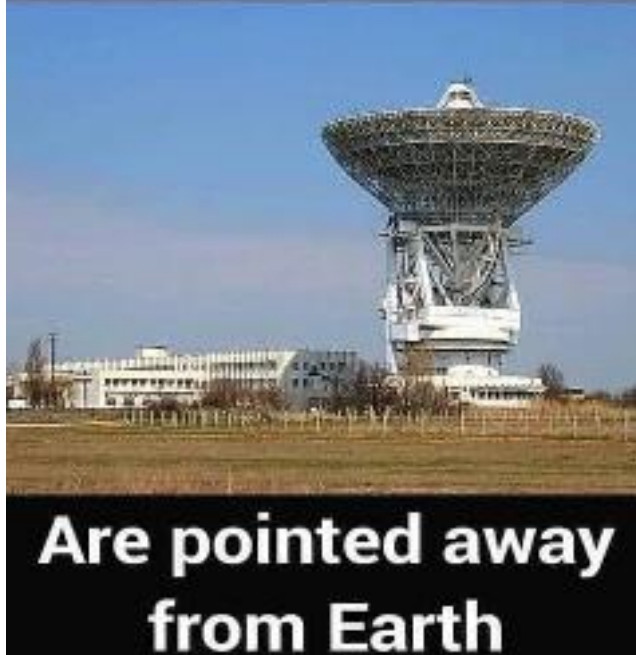
In July 2020, NASA launched a rover named Perseverance on a six-month voyage to Mars. That journey concluded the following February, when the robot's wheels landed safely on the Red Planet's surface.

The rover was outfitted with special cameras designed to peer intensely at the Martian landscape, hunting for clues of life. In order to find them, the cameras need to be able to decipher light made of reflected x-rays or infrared or ultraviolet—colors imperceptible to the human eye but rich with the type of information scientists are seeking.

https://www.wired.com/story/perseverances-eyes-see-a-different-mars/?utm_source=nl&utm_brand=wired&utm_mailing=WIR_PaywallSubs_020522_Classics&utm_campaign=aud-dev&utm_medium=email&utm_content=WIR_PaywallSubs_020522_Classics&bxid=617fdd8c62717d23af47aa50&cndid=67131721&hasha=4782ace3954582fd7e469974b0c17215&hashb=29b137acc80e1e19b755b18a40d8fd7a9842c1e9&esrc=&source=EDT_WIR_NEWSLETTER_0_ENGAGEMENT_ZZ&utm_term=WIR_PaywallSubs_Active_EXCLUDE_DailyTopClickers

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**Have you ever noticed that
all instruments searching
for intelligent life...**



**Are pointed away
from Earth**

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Leo Delibes 1836-1891 Lakme' Duo Des Fleurs



The French Romantic composer, is best known for his ballets and operas. His works include the ballets Coppélia (1870) and Sylvia (1876) and the opera Lakmé (1883) that includes the well-known "Flower Duet".

Lakmé was premiered at the Opéra-Comique on 14 April 1883, quickly taken up by opera houses across Europe, and productions followed in London (1885) and New York (1886).



Savine Devielhe and Marianne Crebassa

https://youtu.be/C1ZL5AxmK_A?t=1

*Tears cloud my vision as I listen to this.
I loved hearing my friend Cheryl, a mezzo soprano, singing it with a number of different
orchestras and sopranos until at the age of 40, cancer brought an end to her life just as
she was entering the golden years of her voice.*

*Rest in peace, my very special buddy. I miss you and our annual Christmas luncheon
pig-outs at the Santa Barbara Biltmore.*

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Peter Brock's Induction into the Motorsports Hall of Fame



<https://youtu.be/xgv1GvvGNc?t=3108>

Several of us Odesters have known Peter since 1964 when we were freshmen living in the same dorm in Stanford Village. At the time Peter was driving his first automotive

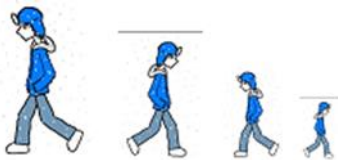
creation, a beautifully fashioned 1946 Ford convertible with a Cadillac engine...still one of my favorites.

Following Master of Ceremonies, David Hobbs, Peter's wife Gayle gives a fascinating introduction you won't want to miss. Peter's talk is interesting on many levels as he gives credit to the impact others have had on his career, but what touches me most is the emotion he displays. I think it's something that affects us at a certain age.

He and I are the same age but he looks 40 years younger. It ain't fair. The only thing I can conclude is like Dorian Grey, there's a picture locked away in a closet doing the aging for him.

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My Walking Thoughts



March 20, 2022

Why

I received an email from a reader asking why I was spending so much time on education...in essence, what did I hope to accomplish.

As I've said throughout this effort, my intent is to encourage dialog on an important topic, but beyond that what we expect education's role to be in a free society.

Given what appears to be a purposeful effort to insert into—perhaps supplant-- traditional education goals with politically directed behavioral objectives, you might want to ask just how important individual freedom is in our (your) list of national desires.

As you grapple with this, you might consider how well the education programs and objectives in your own community are aligned with what you believe is the correct answer to the question.

Of course, we are for the present free to leave the question unanswered but if so, we may be jeopardizing the way of life on which the nation was founded and that we claim to espouse.

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