

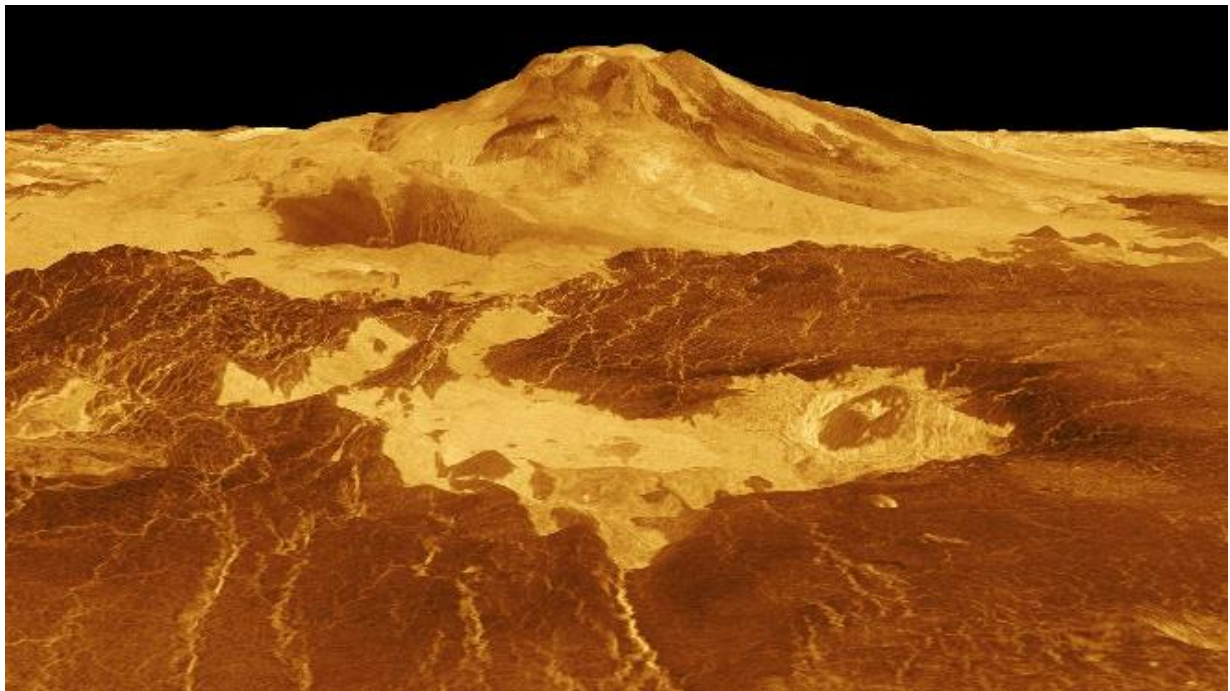
## Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday March 26 2023

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## NASA's Magellan Data Reveals Volcanic Activity on Venus



Direct geological evidence of recent volcanic activity has been observed on the surface of Venus for the first time. Scientists made the discovery after poring over archival radar images of Venus taken more than 30 years ago, in the 1990s, by NASA's Magellan mission. The images revealed a volcanic vent changing shape and increasing significantly in size in less than a year.

<http://bit.ly/3TAoiAZ>

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## How Many Hearts Does an Octopus Have?

By Charles Q. Choi for Live Science

Octopuses are odd: They have more than one heart and they have copper-rich blue blood.



<http://bit.ly/3mGfInO>

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## **ChatGPT Explained: What Is It and Why Is It Important?**

Your most frequently asked questions about ChatGPT, answered



<https://www.tomsguide.com/news/chatgpt-explained>

Lots of people are trying to figure out how to use this new technology and what its limitations are. If you want to know how to use the chatbot AI check out the guide on [how to use ChatGPT](#), as well as these [seven tips to get the most out of the chatbot](#), but here are answers to the top questions about ChatGPT.

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## Archaeologists Unearth Smiling Sphinx of Roman Emperor



<http://bit.ly/3Zx2Bnw>

'I Claudius' revisited.

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## In Neural Networks, Unbreakable Locks Can Hide Invisible Doors

Cryptographers have shown how perfect security can undermine machine learning models.



<https://bit.ly/3ym69gz>

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## 100 Colleges Whose Grads Go on to Earn the Most



While finding high-paying jobs can sometimes be challenging, there are plenty of schools that have a history of placing their graduates into big companies.

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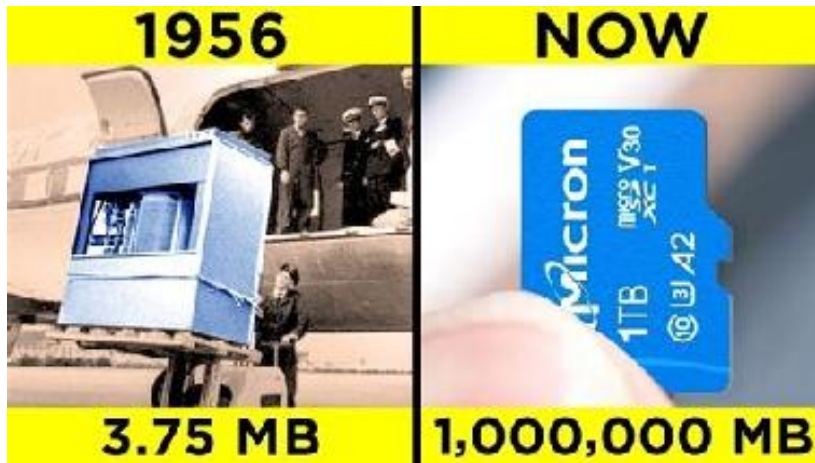
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## Daylight Savings Time in England



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## Past and Present Technology Then and Now

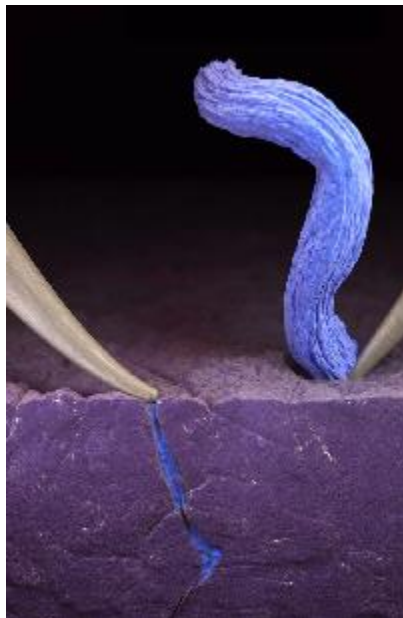


<https://youtu.be/IKLVsXhkZeg>

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### **Avoiding the Barrier to Next Generation Fast Charge Batteries**

In the race for fast-charging, energy-dense lithium metal batteries, researchers discovered why the promising solid electrolyte version has not performed as hoped. This could help new designs – and eventually battery production – avoid the problem.



*This artist's rendition shows one probe bending from applied pressure, causing a fracture in the solid electrolyte, which is filling with lithium. On the right, the probe is not pressing against the electrolyte and the lithium plates on the ceramic surface, as desired. (Image credit: Cube3D)*

<http://bit.ly/3YTXZb4>

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## The Missing Salmon



Atlantic salmon populations are in rapid decline all over the world. The missing salmon alliance tries to find the reasons behind it by bringing together leading salmon organizations from across the uk.

<http://bit.ly/3xLxybk>

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## Protecting Grey Seals



<http://bit.ly/3SmUmb9>

Although grey seals are listed as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, they are globally rare with 50% of the species calling the UK their home."

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## 'Muscle Memories' Get 'Zipped and Unzipped' in the Brain, Like Computer Files

A new study revealed what happens in the brain when people plan and execute learned movement patterns.



*To study muscle memory, scientists took brain scans of people as they played a simple sequence of notes on a keyboard.*

*(Image credit: Andy Catlin / EyeEm via Getty Images)*

Tapping into your "muscle memory" to tie your shoes or play an instrument may feel automatic — but to execute these learned motions, the brain erupts into a flurry of activity, rapidly "unzipping" and "zipping" all the key information about the movement being performed, a new study suggests.

The study, published Feb. 1 in the [Journal of Neuroscience](#), used a brain scanning technique called functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to collect snapshots of people's brains as they played simple melodies on a keyboard. fMRI tracks the flow of oxygenated blood through the brain, and because active brain cells require more oxygen than inactive ones do, the scans provide an indirect measure of brain activity.

The 24 study participants — none of them trained musicians — learned simple, one-handed keyboard melodies over several days and were then asked to play these sequences from memory while in the fMRI scanner. In each trial in the scanner, the participant would receive a visual cue to prepare to perform one of the melodies and then a second cue to execute it.

In some of the trials, the participants weren't given the second cue, so the researchers got snapshots of the brain both planning and executing movements.

These scans revealed that movement-related regions of the brain's wrinkled outer surface, the cerebral cortex, lit up during the planning stage, and this activity reflected the order and timing of the notes to come. In other words, specific patterns of brain activity reliably translated to particular sequences of notes, and separately, other activity patterns reflected the durations of those notes.

"This happens very rapidly and automatically each time in the hundreds of milliseconds before the action starts," [Katja Kornysheva](#), the study's senior author and co-director of the Centre for Human Brain Health at the University of Birmingham in the U.K., told Live Science in an email.

Then, when it comes time to actually play the notes, these separate patterns representing note order and timing become integrated, or "zipped," resulting in a new, unique pattern of brain activity.

"The integrated patterns were those that were unique for a particular combination of key-press order and timing, not something that transferred across these combinations," Kornysheva said. So the brain went from handling each element of the movement separately, like paint and a canvas, to considering them a single, integrated unit, like a completed painting.

An established theory suggests that the parts of the cortex that control movement are in a kind of hierarchy, but this study runs counter to that idea, said [Tanuj Gulati](#), an assistant professor of biomedical sciences at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles who was not involved in the new research.

Two regions, known as the premotor and parietal areas, are thought to store "high-level" information about movements — in this case, the order and timing of keystrokes. The primary motor cortex, which communicates with muscles via the spinal cord, handles only "low-level" information — what muscles in the fingers and forearms actually need to activate to make the keystrokes happen.

"This notion is challenged in this study," Gulati told Live Science in an email. "The areas thought to be 'low-level' that can only communicate fixed commands to downstream muscles were instead found to be constantly updating based on order and timing challenges of a movement," and so they were dynamically involved in movement planning and execution.

Kornysheva and her team are currently studying muscle memory in the context of disorders such as dyspraxia, a neurological disorder that affects the ability to plan and coordinate movements. Their work could also be useful for helping people regain motor skills after they've had a stroke, Kornysheva added.

The team is also starting to study motor learning in trained musicians, in addition to novices, she said.

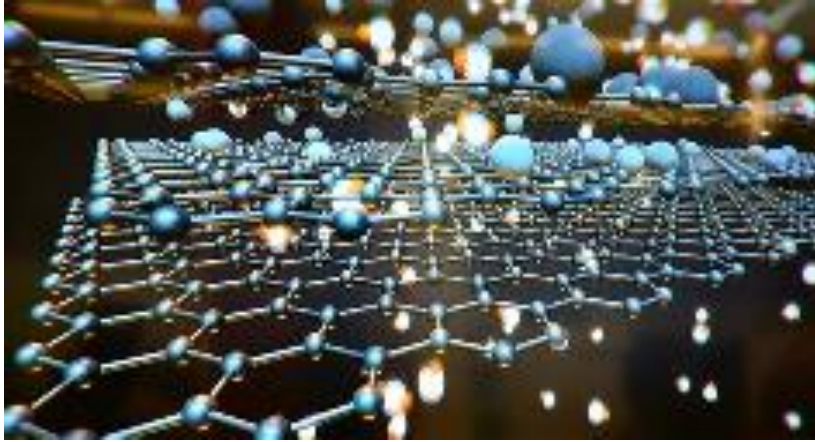
"Musicians with seasoned finger proficiency and their sequence/timing control are akin to elite athletes, say a gymnast with excellent postural control," Gulati said. It may be that, in highly trained individuals, certain movement sequences become "hardwired" in the motor cortex and the rapid adjustments to high-level features of those movements may unfold differently than they do in the brains of novices, he said.



*By Nicoletta Lanese*

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## **Boosting Superconductivity in Graphene Bilayers**



*compositimagazine.com*

Nearly a decade ago, researchers heralded the discovery of a new wonder class of ultrathin materials with special optical and electrical properties that made it a potential rival for graphene, a form of carbon discovered in 2004 whose own special properties interest both scientists and engineers.

Now, Caltech engineers have shown that one of these wonder materials, tungsten diselenide, is not just a rival to graphene but also a complement to it. By adding tungsten diselenide to graphene, they have managed to enhance the graphene's electrical properties in ways that enrich our understanding of superconductivity and pave the way for engineering more robust and highly tunable graphene-based superconductors.

To understand what the researchers have accomplished, it is helpful to first know what graphene is and why its properties make it useful.

Graphene is a form of carbon consisting of a single layer of atoms arranged in a honeycomb-like lattice pattern that looks like chicken wire. When two or more of these sheets are stacked on top of each other, the resulting material can exhibit vastly different electronic properties depending on the alignment of those sheets in relation to one another.

For instance, when the second sheet of graphene is "twisted" by just 1.05 degrees (a value known as the "magic angle") in relation to the sheet it is laid on top of, the resulting stack can be either a superconductor that conducts electricity with absolutely no resistance whatsoever or an insulator that completely blocks the passage of

electricity. All that is needed to switch between these vastly different states is the application of an external electrical field.

Surprisingly, research conducted in 2022 shows that even untwisted graphene bilayers can exhibit superconductivity. Untwisted bilayers of graphene are easier to fabricate in bulk than their twisted counterparts, but the superconductive state in these untwisted bilayers is more delicate, harder to tune, and only occurs at temperatures that are about a hundred times lower than in twisted structures (such temperatures typically can only be achieved through the use of liquid helium). New research at Caltech shows a way to significantly improve upon this fragile superconductivity with tungsten diselenide.

In this new work, which was published in the journal *Nature* on January 11, Stevan Nadj-Perge, assistant professor of applied physics and materials science, and his colleagues discovered that when tungsten diselenide is placed on top of graphene bilayers, the untwisted graphene's superconductivity is greatly improved. Notably, the superconducting critical temperature—that is, the warmest temperature at which the material can superconduct—is enhanced by a factor of 10. By being in close proximity to graphene, tungsten diselenide bestows the benefits of the "magic angle" twist to the more mass-producible untwisted graphene. This finding provides new insight into the nature of superconductivity and suggests strategies for enhancing superconductivity in other related graphene-based materials.

"These graphene bilayer devices are remarkably tunable," says Nadj-Perge, corresponding author of the new work. "For example, by applying electric fields, we can add or remove electrons from the bilayer as well as push them toward and away from tungsten diselenide. This allowed us to carefully study the enhancement of superconductivity in the system."

"The high level of tunability opens up possibilities for future applications," Nadj-Perge continues. "One of the main advantages of untwisted graphene superconductors compared to their twisted counterparts is that they are much cleaner in terms of disorder and defects, and technically much easier to fabricate. That implies these structures may be more suited for applications where one would need to make many identical copies of the same device architecture."

The paper is titled "[Enhanced superconductivity in spin-orbit proximitized bilayer graphene](#)." Co-authors include Jason Alicea, William K. Davis Professor of Theoretical Physics; Caltech graduate students Yiran Zhang, lead author, and Robert Polski (PhD '22); Alex Thomson former Caltech postdoc, now assistant professor at UC Davis; Étienne Lantagne Hurtubise, Moore Postdoctoral Scholar Research Associate in Theoretical Physics at Caltech; Cyprian Lewandowski, former Caltech postdoc, now assistant professor at Florida State University; Haoxin Zhou, postdoctoral scholar

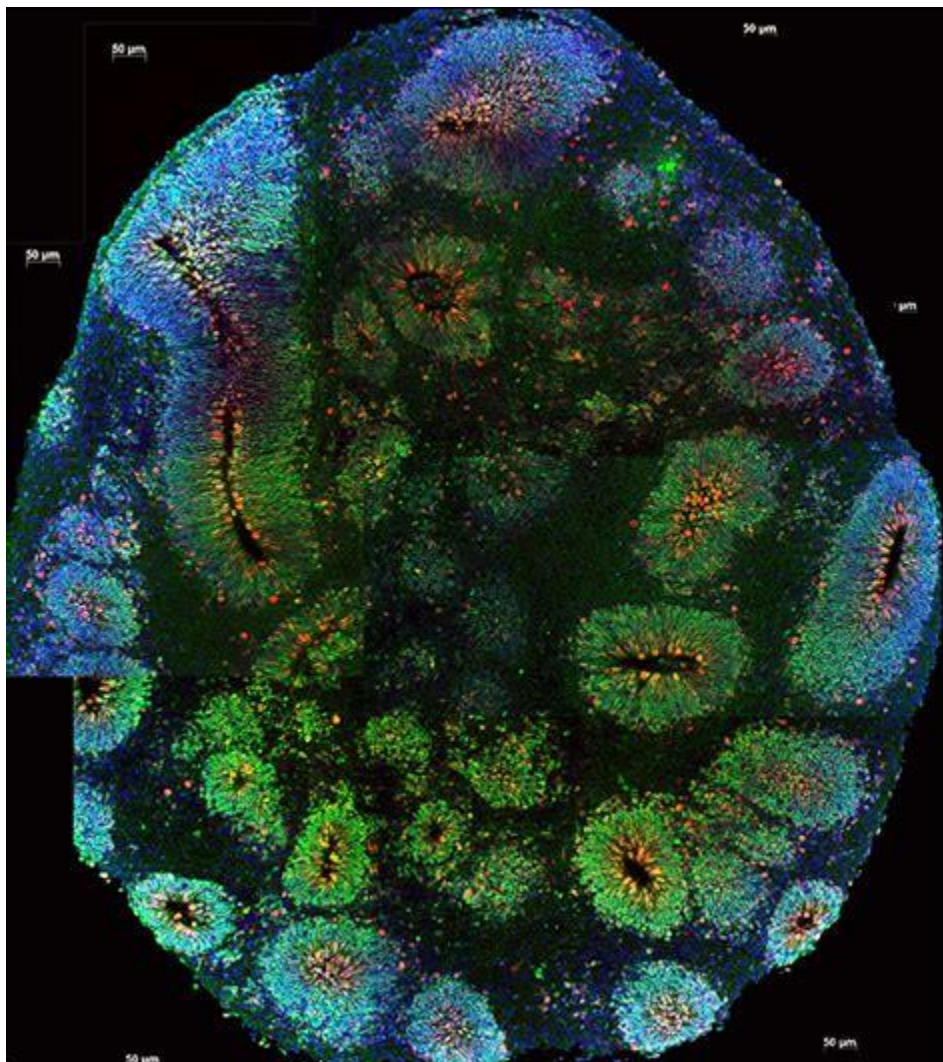
research associate in applied physics and materials science; and Kenji Watanabe and Takashi Taniguchi of the National Institute for Materials Science in Japan.

This research was funded by the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, the Army Research Office, Department of Energy, the Kavli Nanoscience Institute, the Institute for Quantum Information and Matter at Caltech, the Walter Burke Institute for Theoretical Physics at Caltech, the Sloan Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

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## **What Are 'Minibrains'? Everything to Know About Brain Organoids**

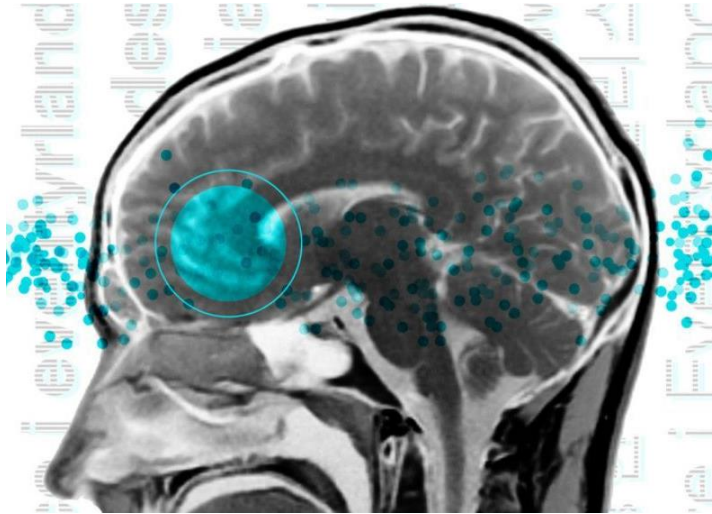
Brain organoids, or minibrains, contain human tissues and have potential uses in basic research, drug development and computer science.



<http://bit.ly/41zpmZv>

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## 'Universal Language Network' Identified in the Brain



*The brain's language processing network is mostly located in the left hemisphere.  
(Image credit: Christine Daniloff, MIT; iStock image)*

<https://www.livescience.com/universal-language-brain-network>

The research team scanned the participants' brains using a technique called functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), which tracks the flow of oxygenated blood through the brain. Active brain cells require more energy and oxygen, so fMRI provides an indirect measure of brain cell activity.

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## Glow-in-the-Dark Mushrooms? Visit Brazil's Other Rainforest

An emerging ecotourism industry hopes to awaken interest in the lesser known Atlantic Forest—a hot spot for biodiversity that is arguably more threatened than the Amazon.

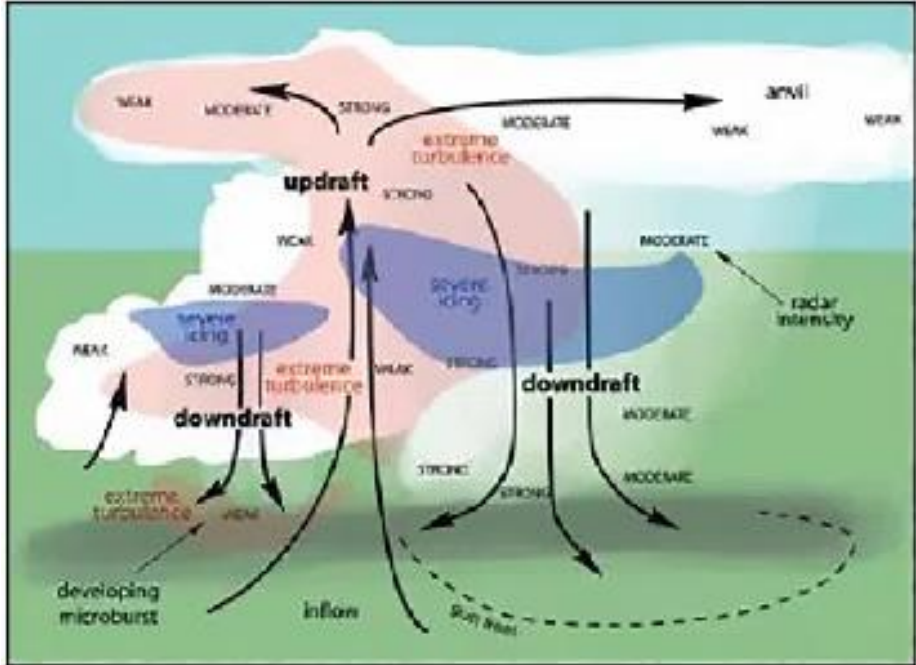


<http://bit.ly/3J3ZmgF>

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## **The Severe Storm**

Little raises dread in a pilot more than a severe storm, and for good reason. But assume your analytical persona for a moment and we'll make short work of `em.



<http://bit.ly/3LdbD4U>

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**Quantum Detector Achieves World-Leading Milestone**

A new detector could transform how quantum computers, located thousands of miles apart, exchange huge quantities of quantum data.



<http://bit.ly/3SWPART>

Quantum computers encode information as quantum bits – or qubits – in fundamental particles, such as electrons and photons, that can't be copied and retransmitted without being destroyed.

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**Dancing to Benny's Sing Sing Sing**



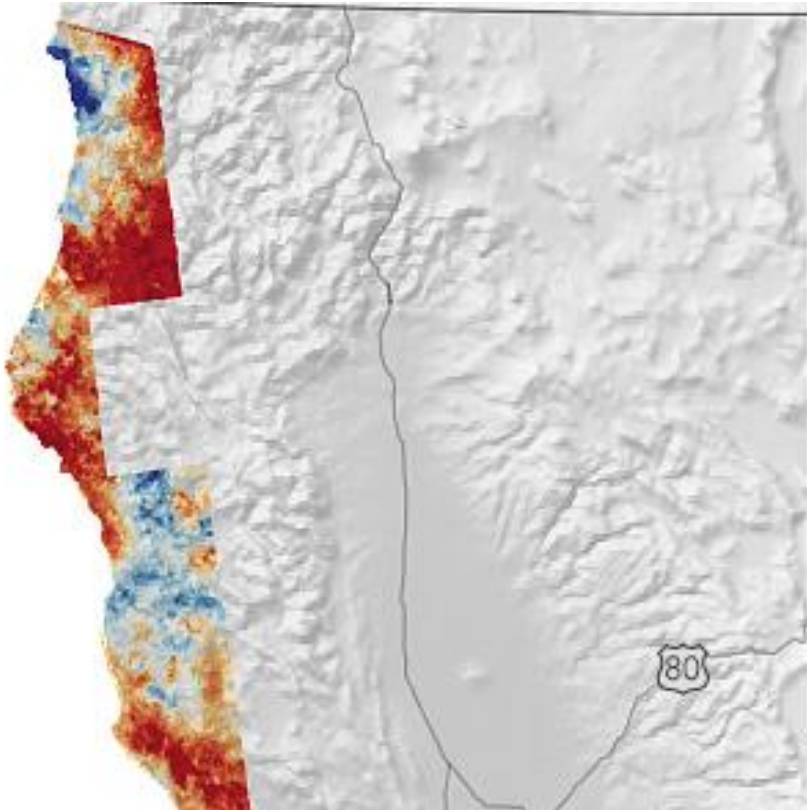
<https://youtu.be/odqatAZCi2w?t=1>

*da...da...da da de da da*

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## **Relative Sea and Land Level Changes in Northern California**

Tectonic Land Level Changes and their Contribution to Sea-Level Rise, Humboldt Bay Region, Northern California

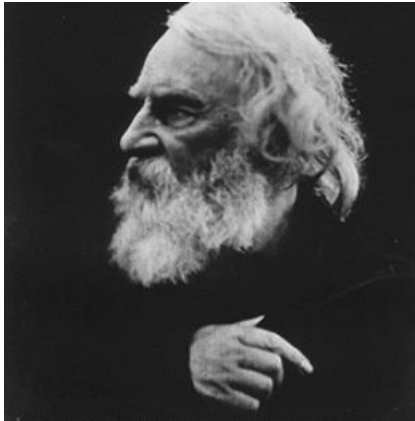


Article <https://tektonika.online/index.php/home/article/view/6/1>

*This is a more detailed study of California's North Coast showing the more complex results of interactions of tidal and tectonic forces than shown in last week's NASA survey found at <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147439/californias-rising-and-sinking-coast>.*

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## **Paul Revere's Ride by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow -1807-1882**



Listen, my children, and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five:  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, "If the British march  
By land or sea from the town to-night,  
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch  
Of the North-Church-tower, as a signal-light,—  
One if by land, and two if by sea;  
And I on the opposite shore will be,  
Ready to ride and spread the alarm  
Through every Middlesex village and farm,  
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said "Good night!" and with muffled oar  
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,  
Just as the moon rose over the bay,  
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay  
The Somerset, British man-of-war:  
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar



Across the moon, like a prison-bar,  
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified  
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street  
Wanders and watches with eager ears,  
Till in the silence around him he hears  
The muster of men at the barrack door,  
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,  
And the measured tread of the grenadiers  
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed to the tower of the church,  
Up the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,  
To the belfry-chamber overhead,  
And startled the pigeons from their perch  
On the sombre rafters, that round him made  
Masses and moving shapes of shade,—  
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,  
To the highest window in the wall,  
Where he paused to listen and look down  
A moment on the roofs of the town,  
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,  
In their night-encampment on the hill,  
Wrapped in silence so deep and still  
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,  
The watchful night-wind, as it went  
Creeping along from tent to tent,  
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"  
A moment only he feels the spell  
Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread  
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;  
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent  
On a shadowy something far away,  
Where the river widens to meet the bay,—  
A line of black, that bends and floats  
On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,  
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride,  
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.

Now he patted his horse's side,  
Now gazed on the landscape far and near,  
Then impetuous stamped the earth,  
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;  
But mostly he watched with eager search  
The belfry-tower of the old North Church,  
As it rose above the graves on the hill,  
Lonely and spectral and sombre and still.  
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height,  
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!  
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,  
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight  
A second lamp in the belfry burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village-street,  
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,  
And beneath from the pebbles, in passing, a spark  
Struck out by a steed that flies fearless and fleet:  
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,  
The fate of a nation was riding that night;  
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,  
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep,  
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,  
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;  
And under the alders, that skirt its edge,  
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,  
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock  
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.  
He heard the crowing of the cock,  
And the barking of the farmer's dog,  
And felt the damp of the river-fog,  
That rises when the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,  
When he galloped into Lexington.  
He saw the gilded weathercock  
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,  
And the meeting-house windows, blank and bare,  
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,

As if they already stood aghast  
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,  
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.  
He heard the bleating of the flock,  
And the twitter of birds among the trees,  
And felt the breath of the morning breeze  
Blowing over the meadows brown.  
And one was safe and asleep in his bed  
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,  
Who that day would be lying dead,  
Pierced by a British musket-ball.

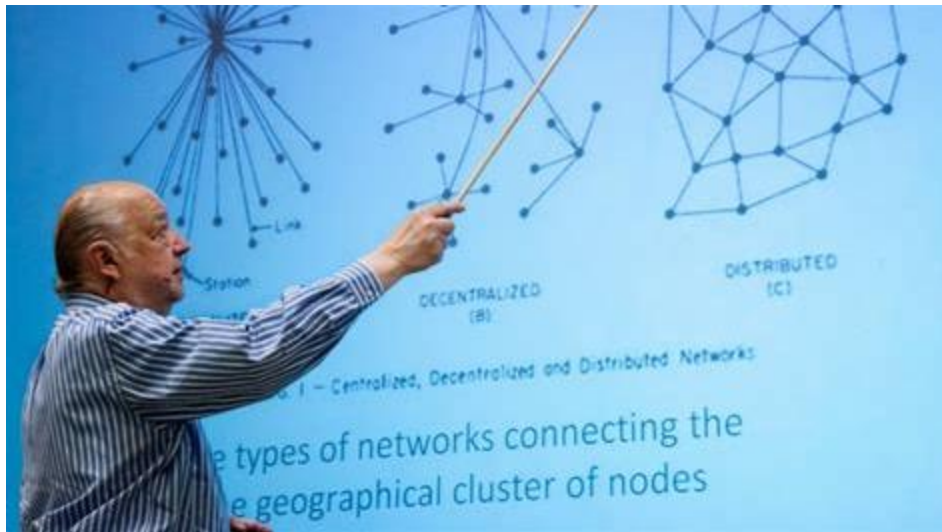
You know the rest. In the books you have read,  
How the British Regulars fired and fled,—  
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,  
From behind each fence and farmyard-wall,  
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,  
Then crossing the fields to emerge again  
Under the trees at the turn of the road,  
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;  
And so through the night went his cry of alarm  
To every Middlesex village and farm,—  
A cry of defiance, and not of fear,  
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,  
And a word that shall echo forevermore!  
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,  
Through all our history, to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,  
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

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## **What Exactly is the Internet?**

A computer scientist explains what it is and how it came to be...something to pass along to your young friends.



*Paul Baran explains his 'Hot Potato' networking system.*

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

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## **How I Met My Wife By Jack Winter: Contributed by Joan Harrell**

New Yorker, July 25, 1994

In this humorous article, Jack Winter amuses us by simply taking the prefix off many of his adjectives & verbs -- which makes the story triumphant after all.

### **How I Met My Wife**

It had been a rough day, so when I walked into the party I was very chalant, despite my efforts to appear grunted and consolate.

I was furling my wieldy umbrella for the coat check when I saw her standing alone in a corner. She was a descript person, a woman in a state of total array. Her hair was kempt, her clothing shevelled, [or should that be hevelled? ] and she moved in a gainly way.

I wanted desperately to meet her, but I knew I'd have to make bones about it, since I was travelling cognito. Beknownst to me, the hostess, whom I could see both hide and hair of, was very proper, so it would be skin off my nose if anything bad happened.

And even though I had only swerving loyalty to her, my manners couldn't be peccable. Only toward and heard-of behavior would do.

Fortunately, the embarrassment that my maculate appearance might cause was evitable. There were two ways about it, but the chances that someone as flappable as I would be ept enough to become persona grata or a sung hero were slim. I was, after

all, something to sneeze at, someone you could easily hold a candle to, someone who usually aroused bridled passion.

So I decided not to risk it. But then, all at once, for some apparent reason, she looked in my direction and smiled in a way that I could make heads or tails of.

I was plussed. It was concerting to see that she was comunicado, and it nerved me that she was interested in a pareil like me, sight seen. Normally, I had a domitable spirit, but, being corrigible, I felt capacitated—as if there were something I was great shakes at—and forgot that I had succeeded in situations like this only a told number of times.

So, after a terminable delay, I acted with mitigated gall and made my way through the ruly crowd with strong givings.

Nevertheless, since this was all new hat to me and I had no time to prepare a promptu speech, I was petuous. Wanting to make only called-for remarks, I started talking about the hors d'oeuvres, trying to abuse her of the notion that I was sipid, and perhaps even bunk a few myths about myself.

She responded well, and I was mayed that she considered me a savory character who was up to some good. She told me who she was. "What a perfect nomer," I said, advertently. The conversation became more and more choate, and we spoke at length to much avail.

But I was defatigable, so I had to leave at a godly hour. I asked if she wanted to come with me. To my delight, she was committal. We left the party together and have been together ever since.

I have given her my love, and she has requited it.

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## **A Small Pack of Puns:**



1. King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates , the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it."

"But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the King!"

Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

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2. Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss League records were destroyed in a fire, . . . and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

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3. A man rushed into a busy doctor's surgery and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!"

The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

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4. An Indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk rawhide and gave it to the chief, telling him to bite off, chew, and swallow one inch of the leather every day.

After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."

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5. A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

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6. There were three Indian squaws. One slept on a deer skin, one slept on an elk skin, and the third slept on a hippopotamus skin. All three became pregnant. The first two each had a baby boy. The one who slept on the hippopotamus skin had twin boys.

This just goes to prove that... the squaw of the hippopotamus is equal to the sons of the squaws of the other two hides. (Some of you may need help with this one).

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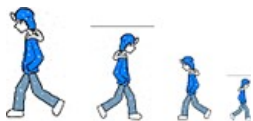
7. A skeptical anthropologist was cataloging South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal elder who indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for any case of constipation. When the anthropologist expressed his doubts, the elder looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, you don't need enemas."

*(Anyone of which would have brought about the forfeiture of a week's allowance (\$0.25), what was in my father's reckoning the gateway to a misspent life.*

*Now, after 70 some odd years I have to admit, "You were right, Pop, but that doesn't stop me from loving puns."*

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## My Walking Thoughts



**For Sunday March 26 2023**

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First off, I need to apologize for the inclusion of what I agree was an inappropriate squib—the blinded lady in last week’s Ode. Was I languishing in the dark ages of humor and forgot that times have changed? Yep.

The Odes should be better than that and I will bear the thought and lesson in mind.

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## **Tick...Tock...Tick...Tock.....TicTok**

I lifted this verbatim from this Thursday’s Bloomberg Technology, and I think its message is worth your consideration.



*mashable.com*

Those born into the smartphone and social media generation have been unwittingly thrust into one massive social experiment, with no control group. We do not know the long-term impacts of growing up on social media or how their algorithms may influence, or manipulate, young developing minds. What’s apparent — and what a number of lawsuits filed against big tech have recently pointed out — is that the explosive popularity of social media tracks closely with a rising youth mental health crisis.

The majority of American teens use TikTok on a daily basis, with some reporting they are on the app almost constantly. The company’s remarkable — and mysterious — algorithm is optimized for engagement, not safety, and its main objective is to keep users glued to the screen for as long as possible. Because the prefrontal cortex (the part of the brain responsible for impulse control and judgment) is not fully developed until age 25 and because adolescents are hypersensitive to peer feedback, psychologists say they are more susceptible to these addictive algorithmic designs.

In the past few years, we’ve seen a steady drumbeat of concern around how social media impacts mental health, especially that of kids. In 2021, US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued a rare and urgent public advisory on declining youth mental health,



where he pointed out that kids are growing up in an online era where they are constantly reminded they, “aren’t good-looking enough, thin enough, popular enough, rich enough, frankly, just not enough.” And, according to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in three teenagers have seriously considered killing themselves, a figure that has more than doubled in the past decade.

It’s easy to find correlation between social media and declining mental health, but causation is much harder to prove, especially as tech companies are notoriously secretive with their data and algorithm designs. In academic circles, this is a fraught area of study with conflicting results.

That’s likely because, for the majority of teens, scrolling through an endless stream of short videos is a welcome escape, a place where they can find a sense of belonging and community. But for others, it can take a much darker turn. And we don’t know why. I’ve read through dozens of lawsuits filed against TikTok in the US in the past year, which contain allegations ranging from social media addiction to insomnia, eating disorders, depression, and suicide.

I spoke to one teenage girl who said she searched for sports content on TikTok when she was 12 and wound up being shown videos about excessive exercise and advice on counting calories to make your legs skinnier. She was hospitalized with anorexia the day after her 13th birthday, with a resting heart rate so low her life was in danger.

On Thursday, in between a barrage of questions about TikTok’s relationship with Beijing, Chew will likely be asked about the role the app is playing in the youth mental health crisis. The answer deserves more time than what will fit in a TikTok video. —

*Olivia Carville for Bloomberg Technology*

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Despite the fact that I have never spent time with TikTok, it is easy to understand its allure to those caught up in social media pursuits. So my question, is suppose our government decides to ban TikTok...what then?

Would it and its look-alikes just go away? Would its audience say, “Oh, well,” and go on to other, hopefully healthier pursuits?

Dream on. Something just as dangerous—perhaps more so—is bound to fill the void. So, what then?

It seems to me we might better address the issue of what’s missing that creates the need for young people to ‘welcome escape,’ or find a place where they can find a sense of belonging and community?’

In my teenage years I looked for avenues of escape, but back then those avenues almost certainly involved interacting with people rather than algorithms. These situations while not necessarily pleasant, offered insight into my place in the world

where things like 'choose up' in sandlot baseball your rank with the bat or the glove was there for everyone to see.

Pitted in competition with others, the range of choices was pretty small...get better or seek success at something more fitting to your talents, neither of which seem implicit in the social media world.

It makes me wonder if we haven't gone too far in the pursuit of behavioral objectives that put everyone in the same bucket rather than invite individual achievement.