

Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday September 11 2022



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The Spinning Pulsar of the Crab Nebula



Image Credit: NASA: X-ray: Chandra (CXC), Optical: Hubble (STScI), Infrared: Spitzer (JPL-Caltech)

At the core of the Crab Nebula lies a city-sized, magnetized neutron star spinning 30 times a second. Known as the Crab Pulsar, it is the bright spot in the center of the gaseous swirl at the nebula's core.

About twelve light-years across, the spectacular picture frames the glowing gas, cavities and swirling filaments near the Crab Nebula's center.

The picture combines visible light from the Hubble Space Telescope in purple, X-ray light from the Chandra X-ray Observatory in blue, and infrared light from the Spitzer Space Telescope in red. Like a cosmic dynamo the Crab pulsar powers the emission from the nebula, driving a shock wave through surrounding material and accelerating the spiraling electrons.

With more mass than the Sun and the density of an atomic nucleus, the spinning pulsar is the collapsed core of a massive star that exploded. The outer parts of the Crab Nebula are the expanding remnants of the star's component gasses. The supernova explosion was witnessed on planet Earth in the year 1054.

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Who is Collecting Data from Your Car?



<https://bit.ly/3A14ail>

Why worry. They've got your best interests in mind, right?

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What an iPhone Lidar Can Show About the Speed of Light

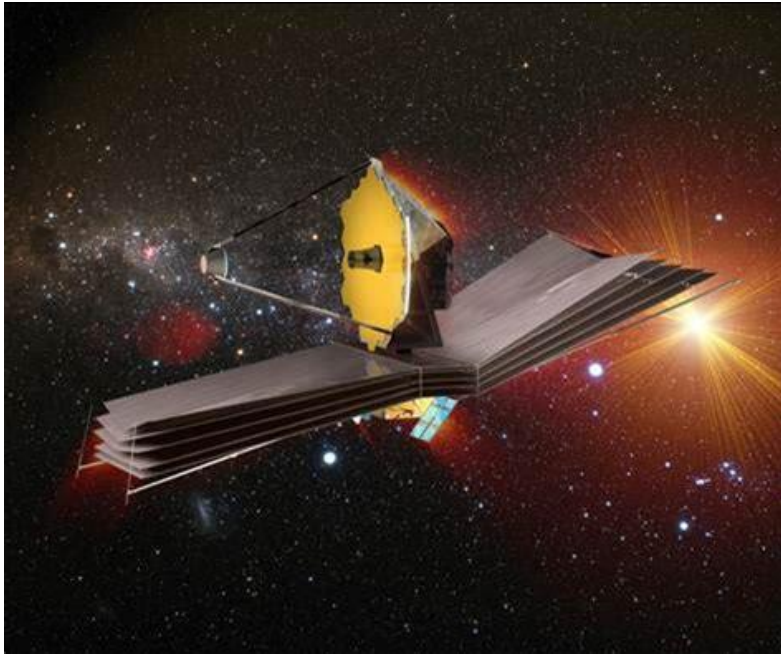
Lidar measures distance by bouncing light off of objects—but there’s more to how light travels in the first place.

$$n = \frac{c}{v}$$

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

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Webb Telescope Space Images Explained



The James Webb Space Telescope has dazzled us with its first batch of images. Bill Nye breaks down some of these astonishing photos, explaining what we're really looking at. Bill analyzes some images of the Carina Nebula, Southern Ring Nebula, Stephan's Quintet and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piMfL12RzoA>

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Aphorisms We all can Use

1. The nicest thing about the future is . . . that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.

3. If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important. . .because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Scratch a cat . . . and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. - like, it could be the right number.
13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
14. I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
15. Be careful about reading the fine print. . . there's no way you're going to like it.
16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos? (And rap music will be the Golden Oldies!)
18. Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than in a Yugo.
19. After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
20. Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter.
21. Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

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It's Another Ode to Fighter Pilots



<https://youtu.be/mgkqWsGGUwY>

The Battle for Britain folks. It fits in with the piece on Colonel Joe Peterburs from the Ode of a couple of weeks ago.

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How Can Society Prepare for the Moral Norms of Tomorrow?

The moral framework of future generations may be a radical departure from the past—and the present. Axiological open-mindedness could help bridge that gap.



<https://bit.ly/3c6TmHy>

Is nasty the new norm?

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Here's Red Skelton on the Johnny Carson Show



Skelton believed that his life's work was to make people laugh; he wanted to be known as a clown because he defined it as being able to do everything. He had a 70-year-long career as a performer and entertained three generations of Americans

<https://youtu.be/jnZwa6w0rcI>

I would see Mr. Skelton every once in a while on my way home from school. This was in the 1940s and he had an apartment on Wilshire Boulevard in West Los Angeles whose garage entrance was on our street.

Invariably he would do one of his clown routines for me during these chance encounters and once I sat and watched as he gave an impromptu performance to a group of people—young and old--at nearby Holmby Park.

This was before television so we all knew him from radio as a welcome guest in our home. There was something more personal about radio, possibly because we had to bring something of ourselves to the performance.

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Webb's Jupiter Images Showcase Auroras, Hazes



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

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The Statler Brothers; Do You Remember These?



The quartet was formed in 1955 performing locally, and from 1964 to 1972, they sang as opening act and backup singers for Johnny Cash.

The group actually named themselves after a brand of facial tissue they had noticed in a hotel room (they later quipped that they could just as easily have named themselves "the Kleenex Brothers").

Most of their albums contain one gospel song at a minimum, and they produced several containing only gospel. They also recorded a tribute song to The Blackwood Brothers, who influenced their music. The song "We Got Paid by Cash" was written by the Statler Brothers as a tribute to Johnny Cash, who discovered and mentored them

Do You Remember These <https://youtu.be/puGQsQux80k?t=1>

Some Memories Last Forever https://youtu.be/4wDizd-O_Xs?t=2

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Celia Munoz Drinks a Milkshake While Singing



<https://youtu.be/pI5LKVINNXQ>

Celia shows her unique spin on the artform while performing "Hopelessly Devoted to You" from Grease.

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Let's Hear it for the Irish



"While reading an article last night about fathers and the sons, memories came flooding back to the time I took me son out for his first pint.
"Off we went to our local pub only two blocks from the cottage.
"I got him a Guinness. He didn't like it, so I drank it.
"Then I got him a Kilkenny's, he didn't like that either, so I drank it. Finally, I thought he might like some Harp Lager?"

"He didn't. I drank it.

"I thought maybe he'd like whisky better than beer so we tried a Jameson's; nope!

"In desperation, I had him try that rare Redbreast, Ireland's finest whisky.

"He wouldn't even smell it.

"What could I do but drink it!

"By the time I realized he just didn't like to drink, I was so shit-faced I could hardly push his stroller back home!"

"I went into the confessional box after many years of being away from the Catholic Church.

"Inside I found a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On one wall, there was a row of decanters with fine Irish whiskey and Waterford crystal glasses.

"On the other wall was a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates.

"When the priest came in, I said to him, 'Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be.'"

He replied, "You moron, you're on my side."

An old Irish farmer's dog goes missing and he's inconsolable.

His wife says: "Why don't you put an ad in the paper?"

The farmer does. Two weeks later the dog is still missing.

"What did you put in the paper?" his wife asks.

"Here boy" he replies.

Paddy's in jail. The Guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet.

"What the hell you doing?" he asks.

"Hanging myself", Paddy replies.

"It should be around your neck", says the Guard.

"I know", says Paddy, "but I couldn't breathe."

A tourist asks an Irishman: "Why do Scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"

To which the Irishman replies: "If they fell forwards, they'd still be in the bloody boat."

Murphy told Quinn that his wife was driving him to drink.

Quinn thinks he's very lucky because his own wife makes him walk.

Mrs. Feeney shouted from the kitchen, 'Is that you I hear spittin' in the vase on the mantle piece?'

'No,' said himself, 'but I'm gettin' closer all the time.'

Finnegan: My wife has a terrible habit of staying up 'til two o'clock in the morning. I can't break her out of it.

Keenan: What on earth is she doin' at that time?
Finnegin: Waitin' for me to come home.

Slaney phoned the maternity ward at the hospital. 'Quick! 'he said. 'Send an ambulance, my wife is goin' to have a baby!'
'Tell me, is this her first baby?' the intern asked.
'No, this is her husband, Kevin, speakin'.'

Did you hear about the Irish newlyweds who sat up all night on their honeymoon waiting for their sexual relations to arrive?



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AMERICAN AVOCET



On skinny, long waders, called Blue Shanks
This bird maneuvers water along marshy banks.
Water-proof body of black and white feather
Cinnamon capped head, all coming together.
A long tilted bill sweeps the water's surface
Appeasing hunger, satisfying its purpose.
Thus defining this curiously shaped pipette,
Bird lovers identify as the American Avocet.

All of this is, of course, to say
We need more than looking good at the end of the day.

Being lovely to look at is never enough
To carry us through the really tough stuff.

Avocets secure their social unity
With strength in numbers and community.
Equal in value is the interlude,
A valued peace called solitude.

Protecting our privacy to be alone,
Yet holding close friendships the years have sown.

We develop a personal tapestry
That reflects our engagement with humanity.

Francie Troy

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Seen at the Pebble Beach 2022 Concours



<https://www.yahoo.com/now/1932-duesenberg-wins-best-show-233000135.html>

If I could afford the Boat Tail Deusy, I'd build a palace to keep it out of the weather.

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Carl Orff (1895 –1982)



The German composer and music educator is best known for his cantata Carmina Burana (1937). The concepts of his Schulwerk were influential for children's music education.



Carmina Burana <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXF5K0ogeg4>

Carl Orff's Carmina Burana is probably the most frequently performed choral work of the 21st century, made popular by the memorable surfing advertisement for Old Spice aftershave.

Carmina Burana translates as Songs Of Beuren, and refers to a collection of early 13th-century songs and poems that was discovered in Beuren in 1803 – although it has since been established that the collection originated from Seckau Abbey, Austria – and is now housed in the Bavarian State Library.

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Paul Simon



Paul Simon has many many honors including 12 Grammy Awards, three of which ("Bridge Over Troubled Water", "Still Crazy After All These Years" and "Graceland") were albums of the year. In 2003 he was given a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award for his work as half of the duo Simon and Garfunkel

He is a member of The Songwriters Hall of Fame, a recipient of their Johnny Mercer Award and is in the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame as a member of Simon and Garfunkel and as a solo artist.

His song "Mrs. Robinson" from the motion picture "The Graduate" was named in the top ten of The American Film Institute's 100 Years 100 Songs.

Still Crazy After All These Years <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5Eoax6I-O4>

On the Dick Cavett show <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDqIsuIpVy4>

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Glenn Gould Corner



Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1 - Gould/Bernstein - Bernstein's
Speech included



The Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15, was completed by Johannes Brahms in 1858. The composer gave the work's public debut in Hanover, the following year. It was his first-performed orchestral work, and a staple in concert hall the world over. Gould and Bernstein were at odds on how it should be performed. In this case Gould won.

<https://youtu.be/zuxPKikM0NI?list=RDEmtwWijDpjlcvNJ4BWFoxEQQ>

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A Snapshot of Education in California



California educates about an eighth of America's students, so does it make the grade when compared to the rest of the nation?

- 51st nationally in student-to-teacher ratio
- 51st nationally in student-to-counselor ratio
- 51st nationally in student-to-librarian ratio
- 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending when adjusted for cost of living
- 38th in percentage of high school graduates who completed the ACT
- 46th in math test score
- 42nd in reading test score
- 30th in dropout rate
- 34th in average SAT Score

In case you'd like to see how other states make out

<https://wallethub.com/edu/e/states-with-the-best-schools/5335>

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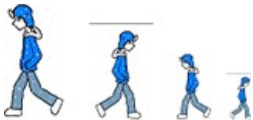
Records of Manifest Destiny



<https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/of-wandering-angels-and-lost-landmarks/>

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My Walking Thoughts



For September 11 2022

Longing to Belong

Reflection on a Response to my Walking Thoughts on Cannabis

Responses to my questions on cannabis were predictably all over the place, ranging from villainy on one side to enlightenment on the other, leaving me exactly where I was before.

There was, however, a thought from an old A-4 squadron buddy, Bart Halliday, that intrigued me, not just in its relation to cannabis but a host of other aspects of our lives.

Here's what he had to say:

An article in the current MOAA magazine about veteran suicide has a one-liner about those with the suicide problem which is in many ways similar to the needs of the cannabis user in my opinion. it addresses the need for a sense of belonging. My observation would be that the cannabis user has that same need. The greater the need the greater the problem.

He concluded, "I'm no professional but in very simple terms that's how I read it."

This opens the door to a lot more '*thoughts on the hoof*' because it touches us all to the very core...or so I'm predisposed to believe.

For example. one of the critical concerns for parents is how to monitor and control the friends (the *peer group*) with whom their children hang out, but this is made more difficult today where social and other electronic media add virtual components to an already confusing situation.

There is of course another side to this coin in which the word 'opportunity' comes to the fore that often involves boundary-crossing. My example here—perhaps wrong and if so I apologize—is the seeming mismatch of Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak in creating Apple Computer. Had the two—one a nerd the other a dreamer (hey, I know those are egregious over-simplifications)—not gotten together...well, you get the point.

If I sound a little spacy here, it's because of the enormity I see in the topic...the possibilities...the pitfalls.

Bart, you've put a true hitch in my walking giddyap, but I have faith that friends will come to my rescue and expand on the topic. As the title says, we all *long* to belong.

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