

Ode to Happiness for Sunday January 3 2021

Off and Running in 2021

While there may be a pot full of wreckage in our rear view mirrors, it's up to us to make sure that's where it stays. Our success in bringing the COVID challenge to a positive conclusion lies not in idle conjecture of past ills, but in the restorative magic that lives in our hearts, minds, and hands.

"Oh woe is me" is not appropriate baggage to tote into 2021. Instead, let's create a new title for ourselves—*Januarians*—people who at a boundary, look to the past for knowledge and understanding, then turn resolutely to the future determined to prevail.

That's how to change *Happy New Year* from a plaintive plea to a battle cry.

Portrait of NGC 1055



Image Credit & Copyright: Martin Pugh

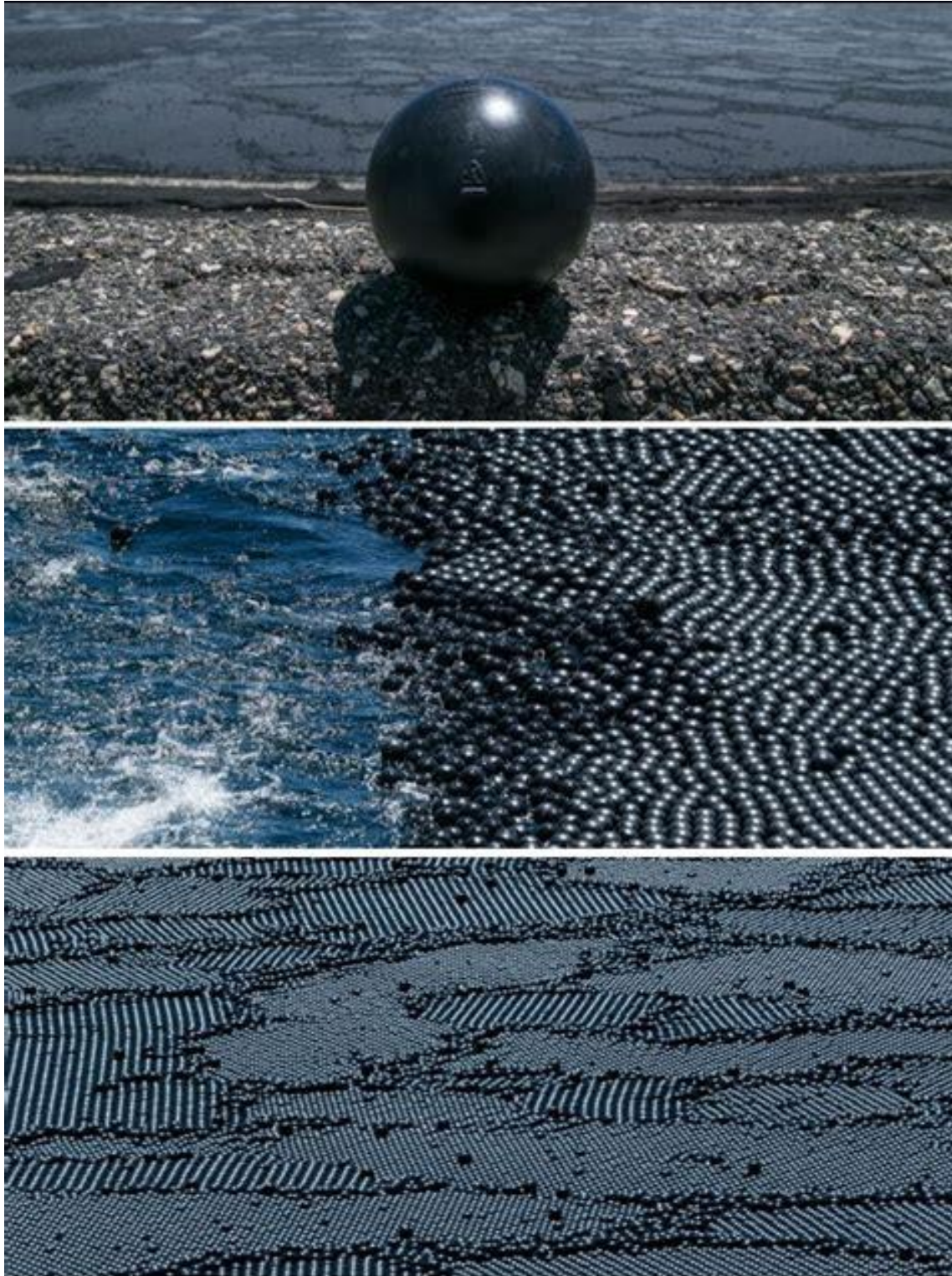
Big, beautiful spiral galaxy NGC 1055 is a dominant member of a small galaxy group a mere 60 million light-years away toward the aquatically intimidating constellation Cetus. Seen edge-on, the island universe spans over 100,000 light-years, a little larger than our own Milky Way galaxy.

The colorful, spiky stars decorating this cosmic portrait of NGC 1055 are in the foreground, well within the Milky Way. But the telltale pinkish star forming regions are scattered through winding dust lanes along the distant galaxy's thin disk. With a smattering of even more distant background galaxies, the deep image also reveals a boxy halo that extends far above and below the central bulge and disk of NGC 1055.

The halo itself is laced with faint, narrow structures, and could represent the mixed and spread out debris from a satellite galaxy disrupted by the larger spiral some 10 billion years ago.

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Why Are 96,000,000 Black Balls on This Reservoir?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxPdPpi5W4o>

The balls are made of high density polyethylene (HDPE) which is less dense than water so they float on the surface of the reservoir even if they break apart. They are 10cm (4 inches) in diameter and contain about 210ml of water. So the main reason they are on

the reservoir is to block sunlight from entering the water and triggering a chemical reaction that turns harmless bromide into carcinogenic bromate. This effect occurs with prolonged exposure to bromate so regulators insist that levels be kept below 10 microgram per liter on average over a 12 month period.

For more information on bromate in drinking water, please read the WHO explanation. https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwg/chemicals/bromate030406.pdf

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The Incredible Ibex Defies Gravity and Climbs a Dam



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG9TMn1FJzc&feature=youtu.be>

The alpine ibex's incredible dam balancing act is a sight to behold. As we all know, nature can be amazing. It seems like every time we think we have seen it all, we learn about some new animal feat. Take the alpine ibex or Capra ibex as it is known by its scientific name. This may look like your standard domestic goat. However, appearances can be deceiving.

Perhaps these surefooted critters think gravity is overrated.

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Poetry for a New Year

Stephen Vincent Benét
The Ballad of William Sycamore



American poet, short story writer, and novelist, Stephen Vincent Benét, (born July 22, 1898, Bethlehem, PA.—died March 13, 1943, New York, NY) is best known for his narrative poem, *John Brown's Body*, and for the short stories "The Devil and Daniel Webster" and "By the Waters of Babylon". This poem, written in 1923, served to propel him into the spotlight, but his reputation was cemented by the publication of *John Brown's Body*, five years later.

The Ballad of William Sycamore

My father, he was a mountaineer,
His fist was a knotty hammer;
He was quick on his feet as a running deer,
And he spoke with a Yankee stammer.

My mother, she was merry and brave,
And so she came to her labor,
With a tall green fir for her doctor grave
And a stream for her comforting neighbor.

And some are wrapped in the linen fine,
And some like a godling's scion;
But I was cradled on twigs of pine
In the skin of a mountain lion.

And some remember a white, starched lap
And a ewer with silver handles;
But I remember a coonskin cap

And the smell of bayberry candles.

The cabin logs, with the bark still rough,
And my mother who laughed at trifles,
And the tall, lank visitors, brown as snuff,
With their long, straight squirrel-rifles.

I can hear them dance, like a foggy song,
Through the deepest one of my slumbers,
The fiddle squeaking the boots along
And my father calling the numbers.

The quick feet shaking the puncheon-floor,
And the fiddle squealing and squealing,
Till the dried herbs rattled above the door
And the dust went up to the ceiling.

There are children lucky from dawn till dusk,
But never a child so lucky!
For I cut my teeth on "Money Musk"
In the Bloody Ground of Kentucky!

When I grew as tall as the Indian corn,
My father had little to lend me,
But he gave me his great, old powder-horn
And his woodsman's skill to befriend me.

With a leather shirt to cover my back,
And a redskin nose to unravel
Each forest sign, I carried my pack
As far as a scout could travel.

Till I lost my boyhood and found my wife,
A girl like a Salem clipper!
A woman straight as a hunting-knife
With eyes as bright as the Dipper!

We cleared our camp where the buffalo feed,
Unheard-of streams were our flagons;
And I sowed my sons like the apple-seed
On the trail of the Western wagons.

They were right, tight boys, never sulky or slow,
A fruitful, a goodly muster.

The eldest died at the Alamo.
The youngest fell with Custer.

The letter that told it burned my hand.
Yet we smiled and said, "So be it!"
But I could not live when they fenced the land,
For it broke my heart to see it.

I saddled a red, unbroken colt
And rode him into the day there;
And he threw me down like a thunderbolt
And rolled on me as I lay there.

The hunter's whistle hummed in my ear
As the city-men tried to move me,
And I died in my boots like a pioneer
With the whole wide sky above me.

Now I lie in the heart of the fat, black soil,
Like the seed of the prairie-thistle;
It has washed my bones with honey and oil
And picked them clean as a whistle.

And my youth returns, like the rains of Spring,
And my sons, like the wild-geese flying;
And I lie and hear the meadow-lark sing
And have much content in my dying.

Go play with the towns you have built of blocks,
The towns where you would have bound me!
I sleep in my earth like a tired fox,
And my buffalo have found me.

Bill Warner of Asheville, NC proposed the poem. Leave it to him to know where the good stuff is. He offered the following introduction to his choice of presenters:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEK-FKCN0sk>

The Ballad of William Sycamore is based on a 1902 poem by Stephen Vincent Benet. This setting was actually done by Steve Young (the country singer, not the quarterback) in the early 1970s.

It's a moving poem, I've always thought, and it makes a moving song. *"A woman as straight as a hunting knife/With eyes as bright as the Dipper."* Damn...ya just can't match that!

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Richard Wagner Prelude to Tristan and Isolde



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-qoaiog2UA>

Both the opera's music and libretto attest to Richard Wagner's genius.

The legend of Tristan and Isolde is one of the most influential medieval romances, about a love triangle between the hero, his uncle and his uncle's wife.

The overture heaves like the ocean, the stately chords heralding Tristan's ominous appearance when summoned by whose demands are grand and ominous.

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Seven Palindromes to Get Your Mind in Gear

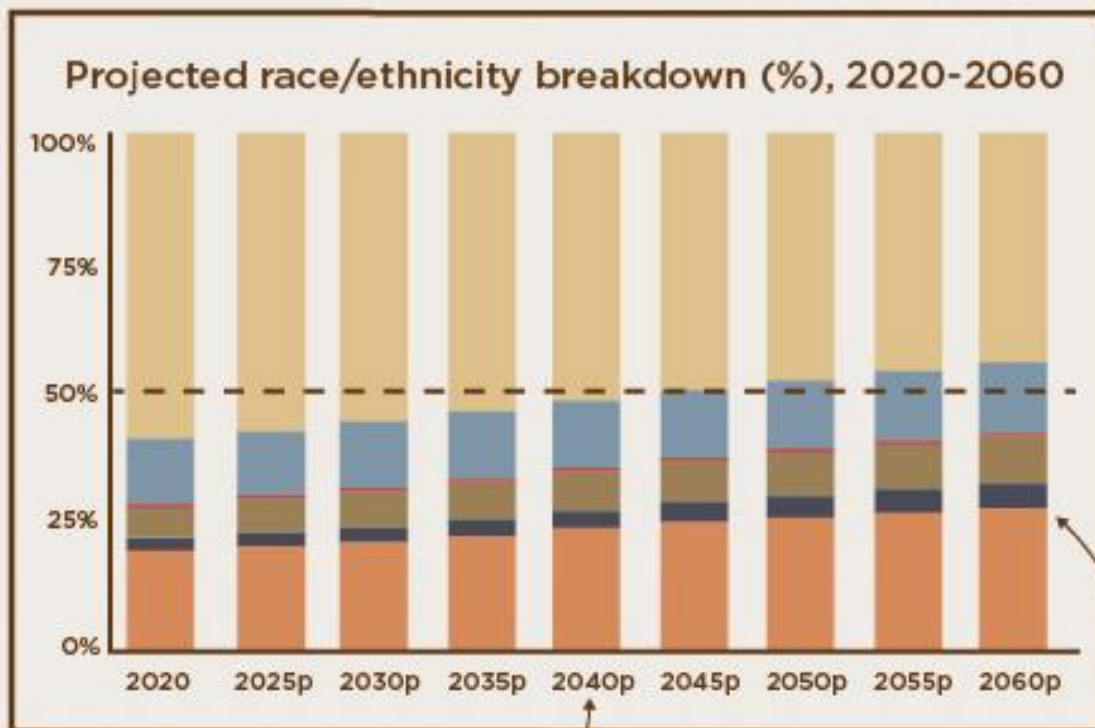
Ready? Okay here we go

1. Racecar
2. Dammit I'm Mad
3. Never odd or even
4. Satan, oscillate my metallic sonatas
5. Marge lets Norah see Sharon's telegram
6. Doc, note: I dissent. A fast never prevents a fatness. I diet on cod

If you want to see the seventh, you'll need to go to the end of the Ode.

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Visualizing the U.S. Population By Race

Here, we visualize the breakdown of the U.S. population in 2019, and how this will change over time.



Over time, the share of white populations is expected to decline to less than half (44%) of all Americans after 2045.

The proportion of those with multiple racial backgrounds will more than double by 2060.

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The American population is a unique mosaic of cultures—and almost 40% of people identify as racial or ethnic minorities today.

In this treemap, we use data for 2019 from the Kaiser Family Foundation, which bases its analysis on the latest American Community Survey (ACS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Then we break down the same data on a state-by-state basis.

Growing Diversity in America

As of 2019, here is the current distribution of the U.S. population by race:

White:	60.1%
Hispanic:	18.5%
Black:	12.2%
Asian:	5.6%
Multiple Races:	2.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native:	0.7%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander:	0.2%

*Note that the U.S. totals do not include Puerto Rico.

However, these race and ethnicity projections are expected to change over the coming years. By the year 2060, it's expected that the distribution of Whites as a percentage of total population will fall from 60.1% to 44.3% of Americans.

Year	White	Black	Hisp	Asian	Multi	Other*
2020	59.7%	12.5%	18.7%	5.8%	2.3%	0.9%
2025	57.7%	12.7%	19.9%	6.3%	2.6%	0.9%
2030	55.8%	12.8%	21.1%	6.7%	2.8%	0.9%
2035	53.8%	12.9%	22.3%	7.1%	3.1%	0.9%
2040	51.7%	13.0%	23.5%	7.5%	3.4%	0.9%
2045	49.7%	13.1%	24.6%	7.9%	3.8%	0.9%
2050	47.8%	13.3%	25.7%	8.2%	4.1%	0.9%
2055	46.0%	13.4%	26.6%	8.5%	4.5%	0.9%
2060	44.3%	13.6%	27.5%	8.9%	4.9%	0.9%

*Other includes American Indian/Alaska Native (0.7%) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0.2%). Both proportions remain unchanged in these projections.

Interestingly, the proportion of those from multiple racial and ethnic backgrounds will more than double, from 2.3% to 4.9% alongside rising patterns of interracial marriage.

Over time, the U.S. Census has been vastly expanded to reflect the true diversity that the country holds. In fact, it was only from 1960 onwards that people could select their own race—and only from 2020 can those who chose White or Black provide further information on their roots.

A State-by-State Breakdown

Of course, racial diversity in the United States differs widely from region to region.

In the Northeast—particularly the states Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire—the White population accounts for 90% or more of the total. In contrast, Black populations are highest in the District of Columbia (45%) and several Southern states.

Location	White	Black	Hisp	Asian	Multi	Other	N/A
Alabama	65%	27%	4%	1%	2%	0%	-
Alaska	60%	2%	7%	6%	8%	15%	2%
Arizona	54%	4%	32%	3%	2%	4%	0%
Arkansas	72%	15%	8%	2%	2%	1%	0%

California	36%	5%	40%	15%	3%	0%	0%
Colorado	68%	4%	22%	3%	3%	1%	0%
Connecticut	66%	10%	17%	5%	3%	0%	-
Delaware	61%	22%	10%	4%	3%	0%	-
District of Columbia	37%	45%	11%	4%	3%	0%	--
Florida	53%	15%	27%	3%	2%	0%	0%
Georgia	52%	31%	10%	4%	3%	0%	0%
Hawaii	20%	1%	10%	39%	18%	0%	10%
Idaho	82%	1%	13%	1%	3%	1%	--
Illinois	61%	14%	18%	6%	2%	0%	<.01
Indiana	79%	9%	7%	2%	2%	0%	--
Iowa	85%	4%	6%	2%	2%	0%	<.01
Kansas	76%	6%	12%	3%	3%	1%	--
Kentucky	85%	8%	4%	2%	2%	0%	--
Louisiana	59%	32%	5%	2%	2%	1%	--
Maine	93%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	--
Maryland	50%	30%	11%	6%	3%	0%	--
Massachusetts	71%	7%	12%	7%	3%	0%	<.01
Michigan	75%	13%	5%	3%	3%	1%	--
Minnesota	79%	6%	6%	5%	3%	1%	--
Mississippi	57%	38%	3%	1%	1%	0%	--
Missouri	79%	11%	4%	2%	3%	0%	0%
Montana	86%	1%	4%	1%	3%	6%	--
Nebraska	79%	5%	11%	2%	2%	1%	--
Nevada	48%	9%	29%	9%	4%	1%	1%
New Hampshire	90%	1%	4%	3%	2%	-	--
New Jersey	55%	12%	21%	10%	2%	0%	--
New Mexico	37%	2%	50%	2%	2%	9%	--
New York	55%	14%	19%	9%	3%	0%	-
North Carolina	63%	21%	10%	3%	3%	1%	<.01
North Dakota	84%	2%	4%	1%	3%	5%	-
Ohio	79%	12%	4%	2%	3%	0%	-
Oklahoma	65%	7%	11%	2%	7%	8%	0%
Oregon	75%	2%	13%	5%	4%	1%	0%
Pennsylvania	76%	10%	8%	4%	2%	0%	<.01
Puerto Rico	1%	0%	98%	-	0%	-	-
Rhode Island	71%	6%	17%	3%	3%	0%	-
South Carolina	64%	26%	6%	2%	2%	0%	-
South Dakota	82%	2%	4%	1%	2%	8%	-
Tennessee	74%	16%	6%	2%	2%	0%	-
Texas	41%	12%	40%	5%	2%	0%	0%
Utah	78%	1%	14%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Vermont	93%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	--

Virginia	61%	19%	10%	7%	3%	0%	<.01
Washington	68%	4%	13%	9%	5%	1%	1%
West Virginia	93%	3%	1%	1%	2%	0%	--
Wisconsin	81%	6%	7%	3%	2%	1%	--
Wyoming	84%	1%	10%	1%	2%	2%	--
U.S.	60.1%	12.2%	18.5%	5.6%	2.8%	0.7%	0.2%

Note: A dash (-) indicates estimates with relative standard errors greater than 30%, which were not included in the data

Of all the 50 states, Hawaii is home to the largest share of Asian populations at 39%. It also has one of the most diverse racial breakdowns in the nation overall, including the highest proportion of mixed race individuals.

Looking to another island, an overwhelming majority (98%) of Puerto Ricans are of Hispanic origins. While it's not a state, its inhabitants are all considered U.S. citizens.

Charting the U.S. population by race is crucial for a number of reasons. This information can be used to better understand existing income and wealth gaps, track public health outcomes, and to aid in policy decision-making at higher levels.

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Barbara Medaille Chronicles California on Fire

Pyrocumulus Over Cow Mountain



Oil 56 x 46

Shady Grove: Peter Rose Tony Rice Quartet



<https://youtu.be/tyfRpnvW8I>

Bill Warner sent me this note about Bill Rice along with several examples of his genius.

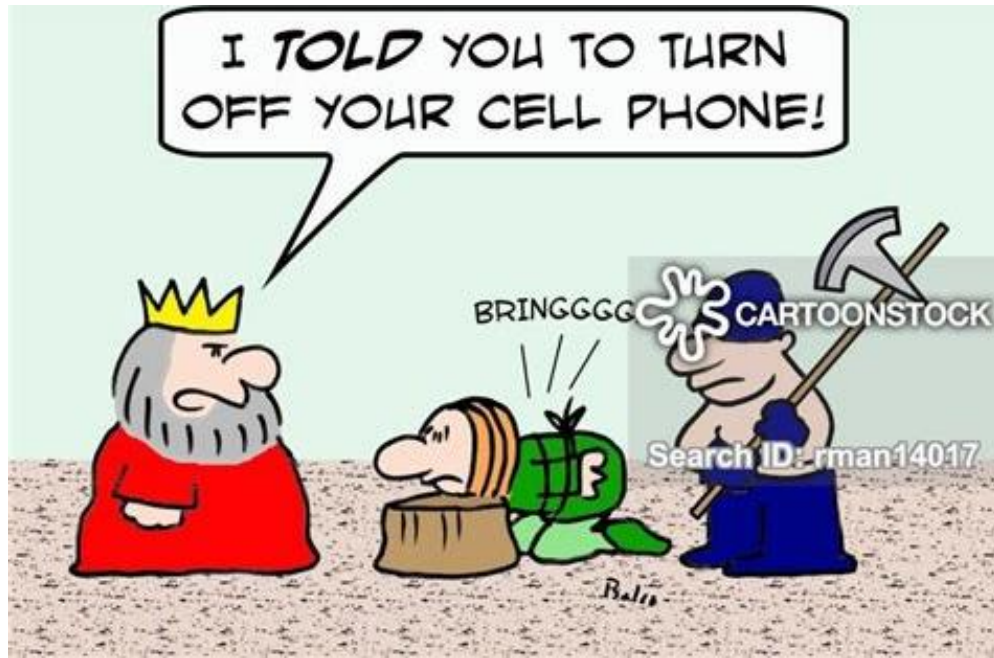
“He died Christmas day. One of the greatest flat-pickers of our time -- maybe the finest of all -- Rice did as much and more than anyone to move jazz into bluegrass. He had stopped playing several years ago, citing arthritis as the cause. I was at Merlefest in 2018, and a musician there told me Rice had a wide range of health problems.”

He was great as a soloist, but really at his best, I've always thought, when he was jamming -- the guy just loved to play with friends. Presented here is the studio version of "Shady Grove," when he was playing with Peter Rowan, Sharon Gilchrist and Brynne Davies. No one ever did "Shady Grove" better!

Anyhow... sorry to go on so long. (...I'm almost in tears.) We always saw Norman Blake, Doc Watson and Tony Rice as the three giants of flat picking. Now Blake's the last man standing.

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Proof that Cell Phones Are Bad for Your Health



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

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Wintergatan Marble Band

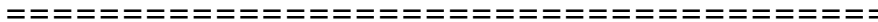


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvUU8joBb1Q>

The 'musician' sort of reminds me of Tiny Time without the uke. I hate to imagine what Mod Two will be like.

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Okay, It's Time for Today's Medical Lesson



Airbus Reveals Hydrogen 'Plane Pods' Concept

By Sam Morgan | EURACTIV.com



Three fuel cell pods on each wing could power the aircraft.

[Photo: Airbus]

European aerospace giant Airbus revealed more details about its hydrogen aircraft project on Thursday (17 December), which could include a propeller-driven plane “unlike anything seen on today’s runways”.

In September, Airbus said it aimed to develop a commercial airliner by 2035 that can be fueled by hydrogen, potentially unlocking the prospect of zero-emission air travel.

As part of that presentation, the aerospace firm released three concepts: a propeller-driven regional aircraft, a short-to-medium-haul airliner and a radical ‘blended-wing’ aircraft. Airbus is due to decide by 2025 which design to focus on.

Today, its engineers gave more details about the propeller concept, which could be powered by three ‘pods’ on each wing. Those self-contained units would include all of the liquid hydrogen, fuel cells, propeller blades and electronics needed to lift the aircraft.

“This ‘pod’ configuration is a great starting point to nurture further inquiry into how we can scale up hydrogen technology to commercial aircraft,” said Glenn Llewellyn, VP of zero-emission aircraft at Airbus.

He added in a statement that “this is one option, but many more will be conceptualized before we make a final selection, a decision that is expected by 2025.”

Airbus aims to design the pods so that they can be assembled, installed, removed and disassembled in record time, which could provide an elegant solution to refueling worries. Airports do not currently have hydrogen-refueling infrastructure.

Lead architect on the project Matthieu Thomas explained that “hydrogen fuel cells have very different design considerations, so we knew we had to come up with a unique approach.”

It is also an early attempt to pioneer a design that will cut down on manufacturing and maintenance costs. Given that hydrogen-flight is almost an entirely new technology for aviation, the development costs are predicted to be substantial.

A patent application for the pod concept will be filed this month and Airbus said in a statement that the idea has been in the works since 2018, suggesting that its attempts to build hydrogen aircraft is more than a PR exercise.

“Several more patent applications are expected to be submitted over the coming months and years as R&D continues on the ZEROe programme,” the planemaker said in a statement.

The French government has made billions of euros available as part of its COVID stimulus package for the aerospace industry, provided that it is partly used to develop zero-emission aircraft. Money from the EU’s €750 billion recovery fund is also expected to be used.

France was among 23 EU countries that on Thursday signed up to an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) aimed at scaling up and bringing down the costs

of hydrogen production. It mirrors a similar scheme already in place for electric batteries.

As part of its new mobility strategy, the European Commission said that it wants a zero-emission aircraft to be in service by 2035, aligning its ambitions with the timeframe suggested by Airbus. The firm's US rival Boeing has given little indication that it will follow suit.

Hydrogen has the potential to be zero-emission if it is produced using clean energy and electrolysis, rather than natural gas. But planemakers also face another problem if they want to develop truly emission-free aircraft as water-vapor is also an issue.

According to a recent EU study on the non-CO2 impacts of aviation, water vapor can have a significant impact on our climate. Airbus has suggested that it will be able to collect the H2O produced by fuel cells as part of its airframe designs.

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Tired Playing with Just One Drone? Try This



200 drones light up sky for Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvQbN8pZLUI>

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Volvo Begins Deliveries of All-Electric Machines

December 21, 2020



Volvo ECR25 Electric compact excavator and Volvo FE Electric truck.

Volvo Group’s construction equipment division announced that it began deliveries of its first electric construction machinery to customers. The recipient of the new products—an electric Volvo FE truck with electrically powered crane, and a Volvo CER25 electric compact excavator—was French contractor Eiffage. The machines support Eiffage’s low carbon strategy and are to work on the Grand Paris Express transport project in the French capital. According to a press release, this initiative will add 120 miles of new track and 68 new stations.

The Volvo FE Electric 6X2 truck was built at the Volvo plant of Blainville sur Orne in France. It will be used to deliver and collect tools and spare parts for demolition works of Part 1–line 16 and Part T2B of line 15 of the Grand Paris Express project. It will do around 93 miles per day with zero exhaust emissions.

The Volvo ECR25 Electric compact excavator will be used by Eiffage in support of demolition and dismantling activities, with zero CO2 emissions and lower noise and vibration levels than traditional diesel engine machines. The 2.5-ton machine has the same performance as its diesel counterpart, and its battery pack offers four hours work time, depending on application. The Volvo ECR25 Electric was developed and built at Volvo CE’s Belley factory in France.

“By 2030, we want over a third of the machines the Volvo Group sells to be electric. We can’t do this alone, we want to do this together with our customers, partners like Eiffage and the wider society,” says Volvo Group CEO, Martin Lundstedt. “Today is an exciting landmark on this journey to shape the future of transport and infrastructure.”

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Sand Man - The Sand Art of Peter



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttwxaw00ESc>

It's nice to have feet that know where to go. Better still to have volcanic sand whose character responds to your wishes.

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Singing Candy Boxes



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c04ChTCYqp4>

I'm not certain how much chocolate the happy customers bought, but it was a great attention getter.

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Vintage Pepsi Commercial



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mp6m62m-PbQ>

Don't mess with 'the voice.'

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Senior Trying to Reset a Password

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50damnboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character

USER: 50DAMNboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER: 50damnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

USER:

ReallyPissedOff50DamnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.

Sorry for the profanity, but anyone who has tried knows the feeling.

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Today's Groaners

Three Wise Men

Why did the three wise men have ashes on their sandals?

Ready...Set...Groaaaan...

They had just come from a far...

Bob Wardlaw set my poor father's ghost into a nutating frenzy with this. Me too.

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You Can Groan if You Feel Like It

- My goal for 2020 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go.

- Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons and tomatoes.
- Really, just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce -
- and cheese - and garnished with a little pepperoni.
- Well, yes, FINE, it was a pizza.... OK?
- OK! I ate a pizza! Are you happy now?
- I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.
- I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours and 20 minutes.
- A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.
- Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through the shag carpet to change the TV channel.
- Senility has been a smooth transition for me.
- Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside they closed school? Yeah, Me neither.
- I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented or famous.... but - now I forgot where I was going with this.
- I love being in my 80's. I learn something new every day - and forget 5 other things.
- A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money so I got up and searched with him.
- I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.
- Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.
- Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on your clothes and leave the house.
- It's weird being the same age as old people.
- Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter either.
- It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.
- I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.
- If you can't think of a word, just say "I forget the English word for that." People will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.
- I'm at a place in my life where errands count as going out.
- Coronacoaster: noun; the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing workouts, baking banana bread, and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast, and missing people you don't even like.
- I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.
- I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.
- I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

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For All You Cat Wranglers



https://youtu.be/m_MaJDK3VNE

Lisa Sitek contributed this as her favorite Superbowl commercial. I have to admit that I wouldn't know since if there's something more wretchedly excessive than that TV extravaganza, I would elevate it to a tie for first place in my list of avoidances. That said, this is good stuff...probably better than the game.

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Not to Be Outclassed



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Game Changers

F-14 Design Evolution



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsUCixAeZ0A>

This historical perspective on the evolution of the Grumman F-14 Tomcat is presented by former Northrop Grumman VP Mike Ciminera. The video was produced by Betty Wheaton and Jarel Wheaton for Peninsula Seniors In Palos Verdes, CA.

During its 40-year lifespan, the swing-wing Tomcat could do things no other aircraft of its era could match. It set the stage for aircraft that are today on the front line. Ciminera's presentation will give you insight into this spectacular bird.



Shown here is Chuck Sewell who was Grumman's Chief Test Pilot for the F-14. I got to know him when he was the Commanding Officer of VMFA-314 in 1965-66 in Vietnam. We kept in touch over the next 20 years and he came to my Book Party ([Marine Air: First to Fight](#)) in Santa Barbara where we agreed to do a book on his career. Sadly it never came to pass as he died a week later in the crash of a WWII-vintage Grumman TBF Avenger he was to ferry from Maine to the Navy's Air Museum at Pensacola.

He was a very special guy and much of the credit for the F-14's amazing capabilities can be and were attributed to him.

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How about this for a palindrome?

Dennis, Nell, Edna, Leon, Nedra, Anita, Rolf, Nora, Alice, Carol, Leo, Jane, Reed, Dena, Dale, Basil, Rae, Penny, Lana, Dave, Denny, Lena, Ida, Bernadette, Ben, Ray, Lila, Nina, Jo, Ira, Mara, Sara, Mario, Jan, Ina, Lily, Arne, Bette, Dan, Reba, Diane, Lynn, Ed, Eva, Dana, Lynne, Pearl, Isabel, Ada, Ned, Dee, Rena, Joel, Lora, Cecil, Aaron, Flora, Tina, Arden, Noel, and Ellen sinned.

Poor Ellen. She's the only sinner we're likely to remember.

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