Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday November 10 2024

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A Triangular Prominence Hovers Over the Sun

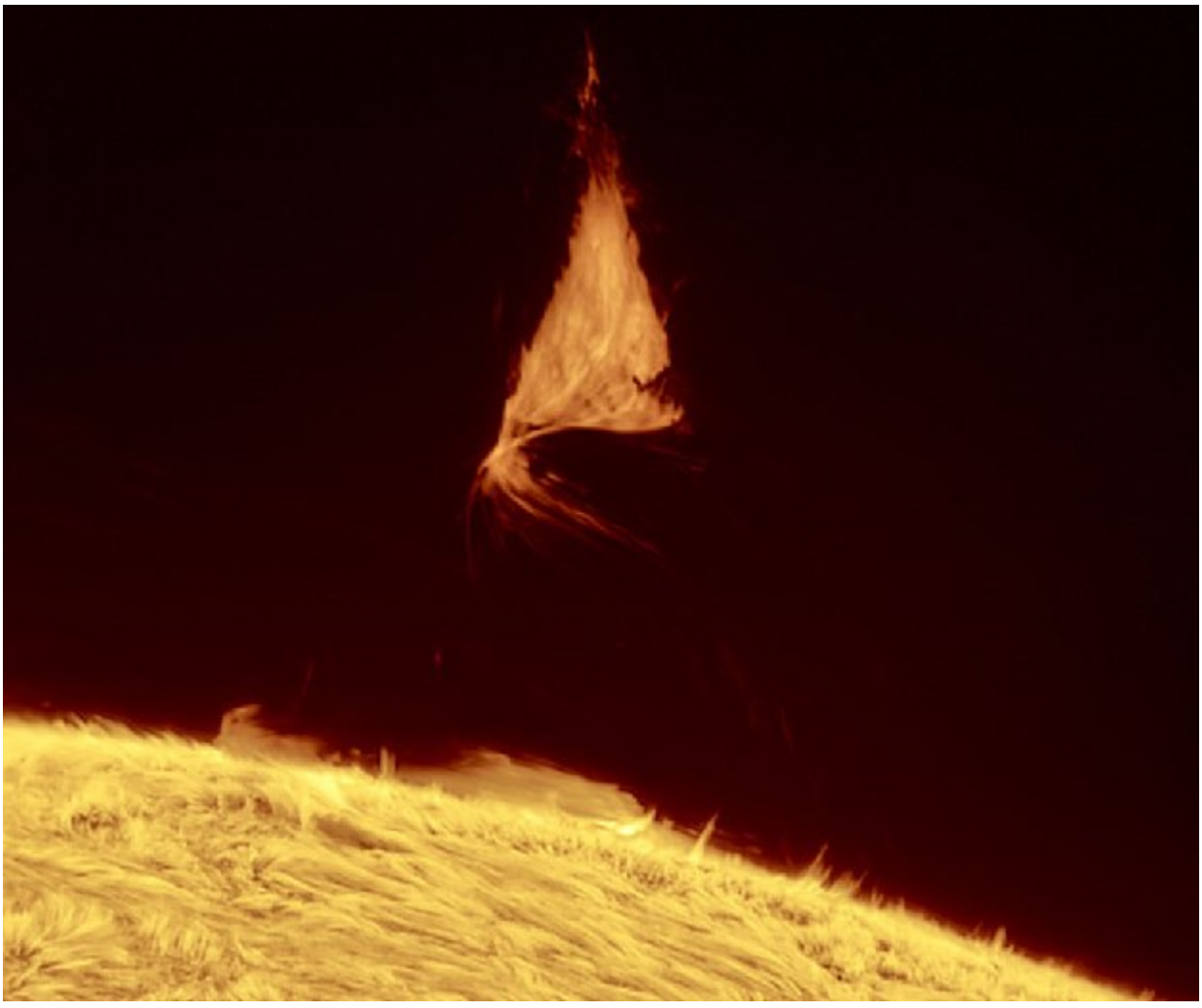

Image Credit & Copyright: Andrea Vanoni

Why is there a triangle hovering over the Sun?

Although the shape is unusual, the type of structure is not: it is part of an evolving solar prominence. Looping magnetic fields on the Sun channel the flow of energetic particles, sometimes holding glowing gaseous structures aloft for months.

A prominence glows brightly because it contains particularly hot, dense, or opaque solar plasma. Larger than our Earth, the iconic prominence was imaged by several solar photographers and documented by NASA's Solar Dynamic Observatory to form and violently dissipate in about a day.

The featured image was captured in a color of red light emitted strongly by hydrogen. Below, solar fibrils carpet the Sun's chromosphere, while the background sky is so faint in comparison that no stars are visible. Our Sun's surface has been quite active this year.

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Poetry Corner

The United States Marine Corps at 249 Years of Age

cfr.com

The Marine Corps Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom

And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
of United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in ev'ry clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far-off Northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;

If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.

https://youtu.be/uGdkJcP3jNU

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From Artists We Know

Unnamed (40x50)

Barbara Medaille (2024)

Barbara says she hasn't gotten around to naming it yet, but I think of it as a "Streambed at its Fullest."

Barbara lives and works in Healdsburg, an area of unnatural beauty that in recent years has faced the ravages of storms and fires… probably what gives it its special nature.

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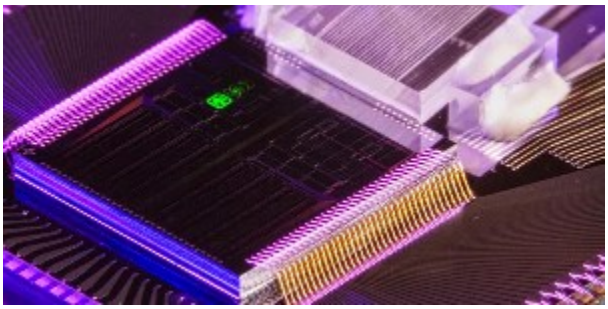
Quantum Compasses on a Microchip Closer to Replacing GPS



This modulator is the latest step in the development of miniature "quantum compasses."
(Image credit: Craig Fritz, Sandia National Laboratories.)

Quantum compasses need six atom interferometers, each the size of a small room, to work. But scientists have made crucial steps to miniaturizing these devices.

Like light, electrons sometimes behave as waves. Atom interferometry takes advantage of this property to precisely measure acceleration, rotation and angular velocity. Those variables could help quantum compass users measure and track their own position without using GPS, which relies on continuously transmitting signals between devices and satellites.

Eventually, quantum compasses could help people navigate in areas where GPS isn't available, or in conflict zones when GPS signals are blocked. And the technology being developed to support the compasses could find uses in other sectors, such as lidar and quantum computing.

https://bit.ly/3Z0EO1V

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Homefront Dad Shows Mom How He's Caring for the Little Darling

A graphic artist living in Germany works from home while his wife leaves their baby girl with him each day as she goes off to work.

A few months ago, he got tired of her texting to check on how he was doing with the baby, so he started photoshopping responses to text back to her. I'll try and include a different one in subsequent Odes.

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Winter's coming

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Why Do We Shrink as We Age?

People invariably get shorter as they age. Men and women lose about 2 to 3 inches by age 80, according to a study.
(Image credit: Ozgurcankaya via Getty Images)

Height loss could be an early sign of a more serious health condition.

It turns out that it's a combination of our bones "eating" themselves, our cartilage thinning and our muscles being whittled away. But the rates at which these processes happen vary depending on genes, physical nutrition and activity levels across a person's lifespan.

The study, which included people ages 17 to 94, found that the men, on average, lost 1.2 inches (3 centimeters), and the women lost 2 inches (5 cm), between age 30 and 70. By age 80, men had lost 2 inches (5 cm), and women had lost 3 inches (8 cm).

https://bit.ly/3AE04Ay

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If Potatoes Are the Perfect Vegetable, Why Are We Eating Fewer?

The humble potato is a miraculous vegetable, but Americans are eating less of them than ever before and have ditched fresh potatoes for frozen. Is it time to rebrand the spud?

Getty Images

Compared with other carb-loaded staples like pasta, white bread, or rice, potatoes are rich in vitamin C, potassium, and fiber. They're also surprisingly high in protein. If you hit your daily calorie goal by eating only potatoes, then you'd also exceed your daily goal for protein, which is 56 grams for a man aged 31–50.

Potatoes aren't just amazing from a nutritional point of view—they are one of the original disruptive food technologies. First domesticated in the Andes and then brought to Europe by Spanish colonizers in the mid-1500s, wherever potatoes were grown they supercharged local societies. Potatoes were well suited to growing in cool, wet, European climates and produced veritable bounties compared with established crops like wheat, barley, and oats.

https://bit.ly/3TokpQP

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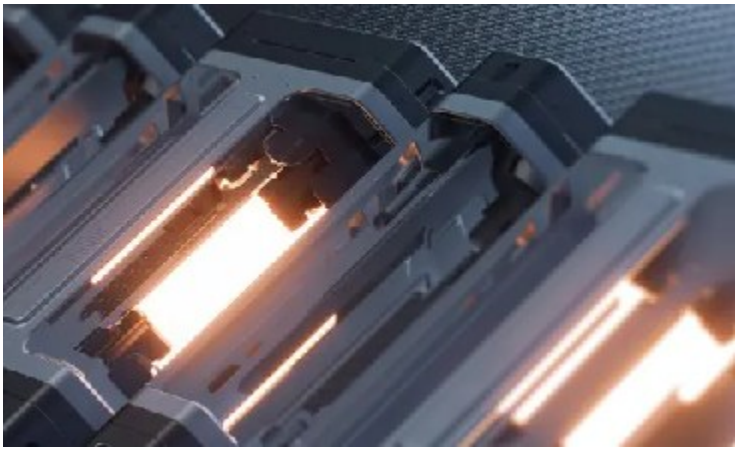
Tiny Nuclear Battery Promises Decades of Uninterrupted Power

This innovative battery uses americium, a radioactive element, to generate energy through the emission of alpha particles.



Americium was embedded within a special crystal, converting its energy into a usable form. (Representational image)

The battery developed by the research team at China's Soochow University harnesses the energy of radioactive decay, a process associated with nuclear waste.

"Micronuclear batteries harness energy from the radioactive decay of radioisotopes to generate electricity on a small scale, typically in the nanowatt or microwatt range," said researchers in their study.

Testing revealed that this battery could produce a steady electricity supply for over 200 hours, demonstrating exceptional longevity. It manages to do so with minimal radioactive material, making it a safer and more sustainable option.

https://bit.ly/3TyoRg3

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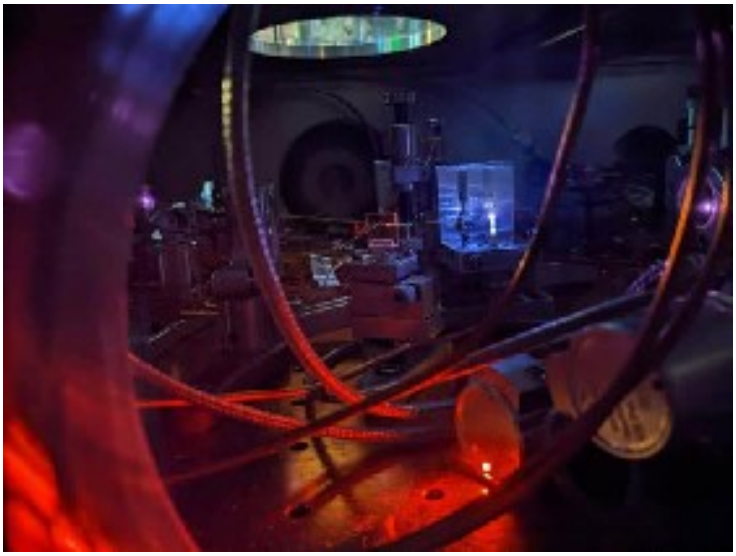
Nuclear Clock Ticks Ever Closer



The frequency comb A powerful laser shines into a jet of gas, creating a bright plasma and generating ultraviolet light. This process helps scientists precisely measure the energy needed to excite the thorium-229 nucleus, a crucial step towards developing a future nuclear clock. *(Courtesy: Chuankun Zhang/JILA)*

Could a new type of clock potentially be more accurate than today's best optical atomic clocks? Such a device is now nearing reality, thanks to new work by researchers at JILA and their collaborators who have successfully built all the elements necessary for a fully functioning nuclear clock. The clock might not only outperform the best time-keepers today, it could also revolutionize fundamental physics studies.

Today's most accurate clocks rely on optically trapped ensembles of atoms or ions, such as strontium or ytterbium. They measure time by locking laser light into resonance with the frequencies of specific electronic transitions. The oscillations of the laser then behave like (very high-frequency) pendulum swings. Such clocks can be stable to within one part in 1020, which means after nearly 14 billion years (or the age of the universe), they will be out by just 10 ms.

https://physicsworld.com/a/nuclear-clock-ticks-ever-closer/?nbd_source=adestra&nbd=3453679

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SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Spacewalk

businesstoday.in

https://youtu.be/VjHzpOqu5iU

During the spacewalk (also known as an extravehicular activity, or EVA), Polaris Dawn crewmembers Jared Isaacman and Sarah Gillis exited their fully depressurized Crew Dragon spacecraft in specially-designed SpaceX spacesuits.

Before the walk, the crew underwent a two-day pre-breathe process—breathing pure oxygen to purge nitrogen from the bloodstream—while decreasing cabin pressure to reduce the risk of decompression sickness. All four crew members wore spacesuits, which operate at a lower pressure than the spacecraft's interior, and the entire capsule needed to be depressurized as it lacks an airlock. The mission is also conducted 36 scientific experiments from 31 institutions, including studies on radiation exposure, motion sickness, and eye health. Many aimed to contribute to NASA's Human Research Program and provide insights into deeper space travel.

You too can become a ~~specimen~~ spaceman for less than $1 billion… maybe

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World War II Naval Ace Gets Back In The Sky

A chance internet search leads to a heartwarming flight.

Fagen Fighters' F6F Hellcat painted in Don McPherson's World War II livery.
AVweb

A random search for a World War II Navy aircraft paint scheme led to a touching relationship and an inspiring flight, just last week. Evan Fagen, chief pilot at Fagen Fighters WWII Museum in Granite Falls, Minnesota, was tasked with picking the livery for the Grumman F6F Hellcat the museum was restoring to flying condition.

Fagen told a local television station that he did a random internet search and liked what he saw in the paint scheme of USN aviator Don McPherson's Hellcat. "You never know where it's going to go," Fagen said. "[I] never thought in a million years that, several years later, we'd have this great friend in Don."

McPherson is one of the very few—perhaps the only—living WWII fighter aces, having destroyed five Japanese aircraft in air-to-air combat (and one on the ground) during his tour of duty in the South Pacific from March to September 1945. Fagen asked his permission to use his paint scheme on the museum's Hellcat, and he agreed. That led to Fagen Fighters offering Nebraska resident McPherson, now 102, a ride in another WWII Navy combat plane—an ultra-rare Curtiss Helldiver dive bomber, last Friday, flown by USAF Lt. Col. Ray Fowler of Carrollton, Georgia. In a video interview the next day, McPherson said, "I hadn't been in a World War Two airplane until yesterday. Brought back some really, really cool memories."

Mark Phelps for AVweb

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Demystifying Generative AI: Transforming Data into Innovation

metanesia.id

Forget everything you knew about computers—Generative AI is transforming technology and our future.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bc_0pn4OrDc

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Jupiter's Great Red Spot Grows and Shrinks Like a Stress Ball

0-11-2024
NASA

Did you ever think a raging storm could mimic a stress ball? Well, on Jupiter it can. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has captured intriguing images of Jupiter's iconic storm, the Great Red Spot (GRS), which is big enough to engulf our entire planet.

The Hubble images reveal that the Great Red Spot is not as stable as it may seem. The elliptical storm is constantly shifting and changing its dimensions, behaving much like a stress ball.

https://bit.ly/3YnE7z5

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F-35B – World's Most Modern & Insane Stealth Fighter Jet`

A U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II stealth fighter jets that perform vertical takeoff, short takeoff, vertical landing, and hovering.
USMC

https://youtu.be/uSFnEOK376k?t=2

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The Opioid Crisis

How Fentanyl Made the US Opioid Epidemic So Much Worse

Photographer: Cory Clark/Getty Images

Fatal overdoses from fentanyl-laced drugs in the US and Canada have increased so rapidly over the past five years that some health officials classify it as an epidemic.

Now, the hope is that a vaccine will help to prevent accidental deaths, although it won't cure opioid addiction.

Cities are grappling with the devastating issue: In San Francisco, long celebrated for its liberal values, a deadly fentanyl crisis is forcing the city to adopt more hardline policies.

In Seattle, police are detaining more users, with special booking rules for the downtown area, in an attempt to revive an economy hit hard by public safety concerns.

Our QuickTake explains why fentanyl has made the opioid crisis so much worse:

Fentanyl is claiming the lives not just of people who are addicted to opiates, but also users of cocaine, Adderall, methamphetamine, marijuana and other substances. Originally developed to manage cancer pain, fentanyl is cheap and abundant, and often used to increase the potency or stretch stockpiles of other illicit drugs. Fentanyl's ubiquity means more and more unsuspecting users are being killed by the drugs they consume. And it means that in places where it seemed like the long-running opioid epidemic might be relenting, a new wave of overdoses and deaths is tearing at the social fabric.

https://www.cdc.gov/washington/testimony/2022/t20220726.htm

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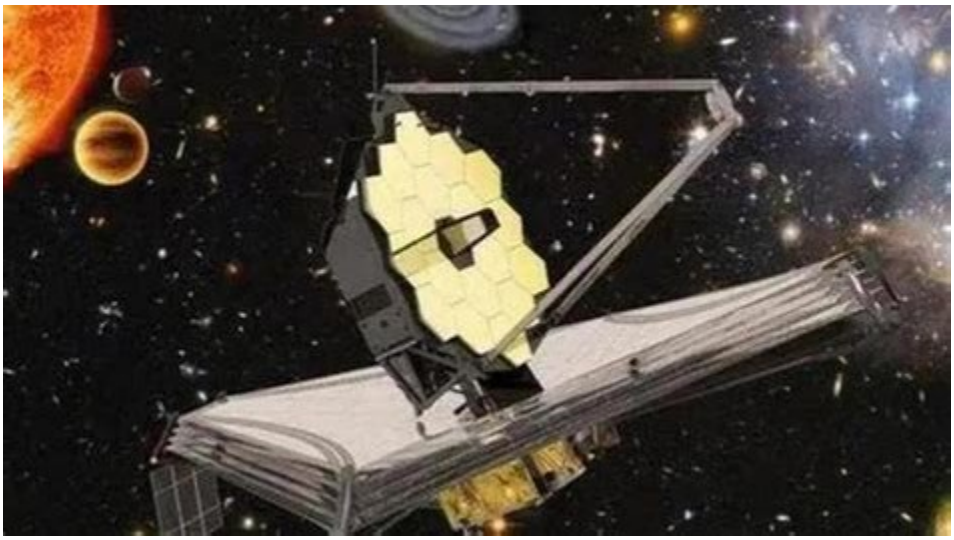
Is Cosmology at a Tipping Point?

JWST findings suggest we may be on the verge of discovering new physics



Republicworld.com

There are heated debates about whether these observations are biased, or whether the cosmological model, which predicts the structure and evolution of the entire universe, may need a rethink. Some even claim that cosmology is in crisis. Right now, we do not know which side will win. But excitingly, we are on the brink of finding that out.

To be fair, controversies are just the normal course of the scientific method. And over many years, the standard cosmological model has had its share of them. This model suggests the universe is made up of 68.3% "dark energy" (an unknown substance that causes the universe's expansion to accelerate), 26.8% dark matter (an unknown form

of matter) and 4.9% ordinary atoms, very precisely measured from the cosmic microwave background – the afterglow of radiation from the Big Bang.

https://bit.ly/4ePNbCI

Do you think cosmologists might take their brilliance a little less seriously?

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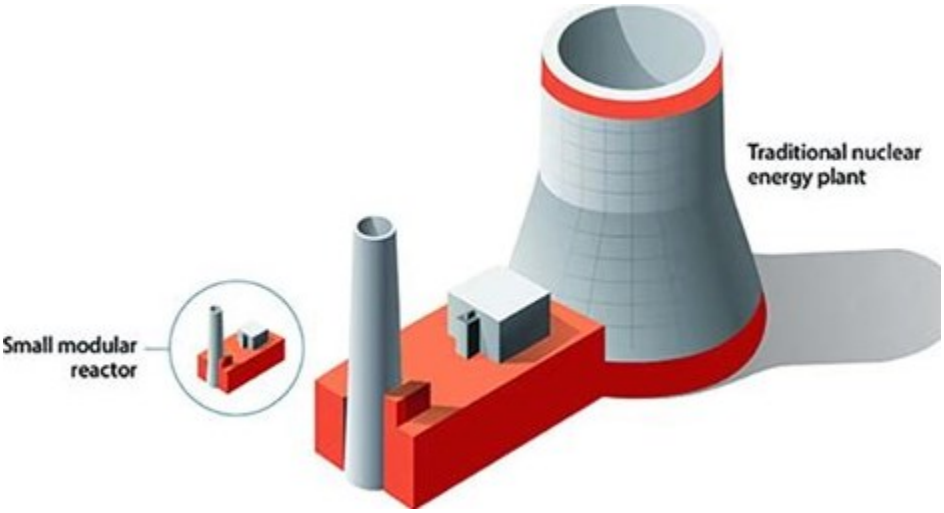
Big Tech Goes Nuclear



americanstudies.am

Amazon is investing $500M toward nuclear power to meet the rising energy demands of its data centers and artificial intelligence initiatives. Yesterday's announcement comes two days after Google unveiled plans to purchase nuclear power and less than a month after Microsoft said it would reopen the Three Mile Island plant—home to the worst nuclear accident in US history—to fuel its AI efforts.

Nuclear power accounts for 19% of US electricity generation and comes from energy released when the nucleus of a heavy atom splits into lighter atoms. While expensive and potentially hazardous, proponents pitch nuclear power (see 101) as a clean alternative to greenhouse gas-emitting energy sources like coal, oil, and gas. Energy-intensive generative AI applications and data centers are expected to account for roughly 9% of total US power consumption by 2030.

Amazon and Google are investing in small modular reactors, which are cheaper and easier to build than traditional nuclear reactors and generate up to 300 megawatts of power or about one-third the amount of power of a traditional reactor. Only two SMRs currently operate in the world, in China and Russia [Thanks to discarded US technology].

Coulda… Shoulda… been done 75 years ago…Straight outa da box.

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How a 12-Ounce Layer of Foam Changed the NFL

Even the makers of the Guardian Cap admit it looks silly. But for a sport facing an existential brain-injury crisis, once unthinkable solutions have now become almost normal.

Guardian Sports

Already mandatory for most positions at all NFL preseason practices, as well as regular-season and postseason practices with contact, these soft shells received another vote of confidence this year when the league greenlit them for optional game use, citing a roughly 50 percent drop in training camp concussions since their official 2022 debut. Through six weeks of action this fall, only 10 NFL players had actually taken the field with one on, according to a league spokesperson. But the decision was easy for Granson, who tried out his gameday Guardian Cap—itself covered by a 1-ounce pinnie with the Colts logo to simulate the design of the helmet underneath—in preseason games before committing to wear it for real.

https://bit.ly/3BOSow3

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These Stunning Images Show the World From Under a Microscope

From spines on neurons to pollen on an insect's eye, the winners of Nikon's Small World photo contest offer a kaleidoscopic glimpse into a tiny world.

A cross-section of Ammophila arenaria, more commonly known as marram grass and European beach grass. The walls of hundreds of hexagonal compartments are stained a golden yellow and orange.
Photograph By Gerd A. Günther, Nikon Small World

Microscopic photography has the power to bring what can usually only be seen through a lens in a lab into the spotlight. It's a celebration of science and art that has been championed for 50 years by Nikon's annual Small World contest.

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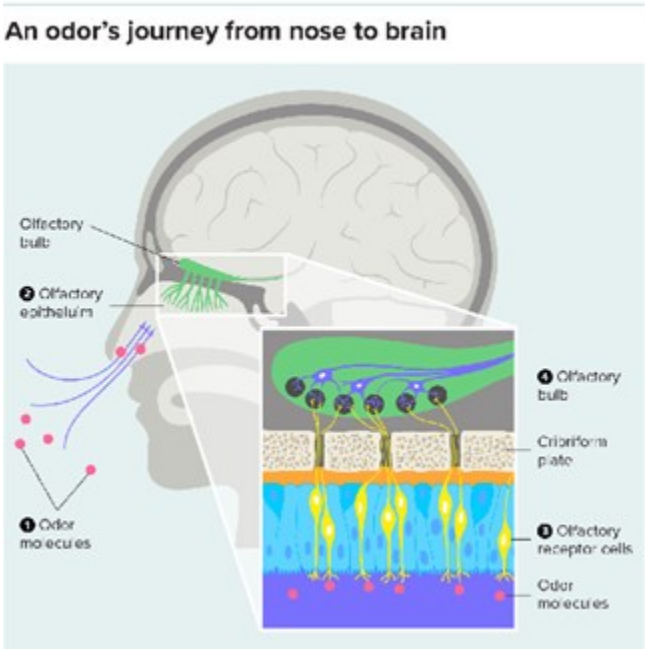
How Do We Detect Odors?



Here's how olfaction works: Odor molecules enter the nose and move to the olfactory

epithelium, at the top of the nasal cavity. The olfactory epithelium contains numerous olfactory receptor cells, with each cell displaying just one of the nearly 400 human olfactory receptors. When an odor molecule binds to a receptor, it sends a nerve signal to the olfactory bulb of the brain, which collects and relays those signals to other brain areas for processing.

knowable magazine

An adult human can distinguish up to 10,000 odors. You use your nose to figure out what to eat, what to buy and even when it's time to take a shower. But how do the molecules in the air get translated into smells in your brain? Rose Eveleth charts the smelly journey through your olfactory epithelium and explains why scent can be so subjective

https://youtu.be/snJnO6OpjCs?t=6

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People Who Can't Smell Breathe Differently

A new study reveals hidden inhalation differences in those born without olfaction.

howstuffworks

If you have a normal sense of smell, an hour's worth of breathing comes with hundreds of "exploratory sniffs," according to new research. These subtle, unconscious inhalation peaks–along with other small signatures–amount to a respiratory pattern that significantly differs from that of people born without a sense of smell. In other words: Your ability to smell dictates the way you breathe, per the study published October 22 in the journal Nature Communications.

Smelling "is the most primitive sense," says Simon Gane, an ENT surgeon at the University College London Hospital who studies olfaction but was uninvolved in the new research. "It's hooked into a lot of the basic parts of our animal selves," Gane adds. This study, he says, which demonstrates that core bodily functions like breathing are intertwined with smell, emphasizes how fundamental and important the ability is.

https://bit.ly/40jeHE5

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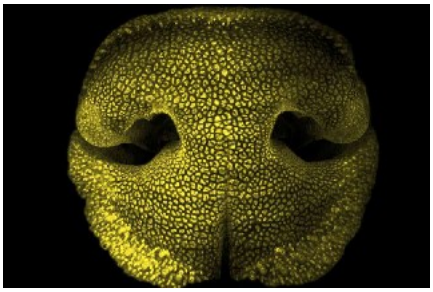
3D Imaging Shows How Geometric Mechanics Shape the Dog's Nose



Volumetric imaging of an embryonic dog nose, obtained with light-sheet fluorescence microscopy.
Credit: Milinkovitch, Dagenois

The noses of many mammals, such as dogs, ferrets and cows, feature grooves forming a multitude of polygons. A team from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) has analyzed in detail how these patterns form in the embryo using 3D imaging techniques and computer simulations.

Researchers found that polygonal networks of folds in the epidermis—the outer layer of the skin—appear during embryogenesis, and are systematically and exactly superimposed over an underlying network of rigid blood vessels located in the dermis—the deeper layer of the skin. They also observed that epidermal cells proliferate faster than dermal cells.

https://bit.ly/3YAoLr7

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Chords & Riffs

Philip Glass (1937-)

npr.org

The American composer and pianist is widely regarded as one of the most influential composers of the late 20th century. His work has been associated with minimalism, being built up from repetitive phrases and shifting layers. Glass describes himself as a composer of "music with repetitive structures", which he has helped to evolve stylistically.

He has written 15 operas, numerous chamber operas and musical theatre works, 14 symphonies, 12 concertos, nine string quartets, various other chamber music pieces, and many film scores.

He has received nominations for four Grammy Awards for including two for Best Contemporary Classical Composition for Satyagraha (1987) and String Quartet No. 2 (1988). He has received three Academy Award for Best Original Score nominations for Martin Scorsese's Kundun (1997), Stephen Daldry's The Hours (2002), and Richard Eyre's Notes on a Scandal (2006). He also composed the scores for Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters (1985), Hamburger Hill (1987), The Thin Blue Line (1988), The Truman Show (1998), and The Illusionist (2006).

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Philip Glass Chaconne Part 2 https://youtu.be/nSisv7O6qsY

The Opening https://youtu.be/-nBE9U7q1Uc

Movement 3 from Glass' Symphony No. 3 https://youtu.be/b9qB5U84fQw

Akhnaten • Hymn to the Sun https://youtu.be/JG33g_ELdeM

Glass: Études, No. 2 | Yellow Lounge https://youtu.be/YK_KTXb_Jrg

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Portable Device Extracts Water from Air Using 50% Less Energy

The device uses special materials that change temperature when stretched or compressed, allowing it to cool the air and condense water vapor with minimal energy use.

Researchers have created a backpack-sized water harvester that uses special materials to pull drinking water from the air. (Representational image)
**Kateryna Artsybasheva/iStock*

Several researchers across the globe are conducting study to make drinking water readily available, even in the driest of climates. A research team at The Ohio State University has made a significant stride in this regard.

This innovative approach employs special materials that change temperature when stretched or compressed. These materials allow the device to cool the air and condense water vapor with minimal energy consumption.

https://bit.ly/3UqjUq0

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Joby's Air Taxi

A mockup of Joby's air taxi was front and center at NBAA-BACE last week.

smokeongo.co.za

Powered by six electric motors, Joby's electric aircraft takes off and lands vertically and can carry one pilot and four riders at speeds near 200 knots. Joby is engaged in a multiyear testing program with the FAA to certify the vehicle for commercial operations and has completed the first three of five stages. It was showing the vehicle at the 2024 NBAA-BACE convention in Las Vegas and AVweb's Russ Niles caught up with Joby's chief pilot of flight operations, Garrett Smith.

https://youtu.be/_eQXuXw7I7o

A nifty flight transition system, and a 10 minute recharge, what's not to like?

==========

Sophie & Thomas – To Me You Are Beautiful

Rock That Swing Festival 2019: Sophie & Thomas at Deutsches Theater.

variety.show

https://youtu.be/i6hWWtsvw9U?t=6

I've been voted the world's worst dancer for 87 years in a row. I spent the first one in the crib so it didn't count. It must be jealousy that makes me watch things like this.

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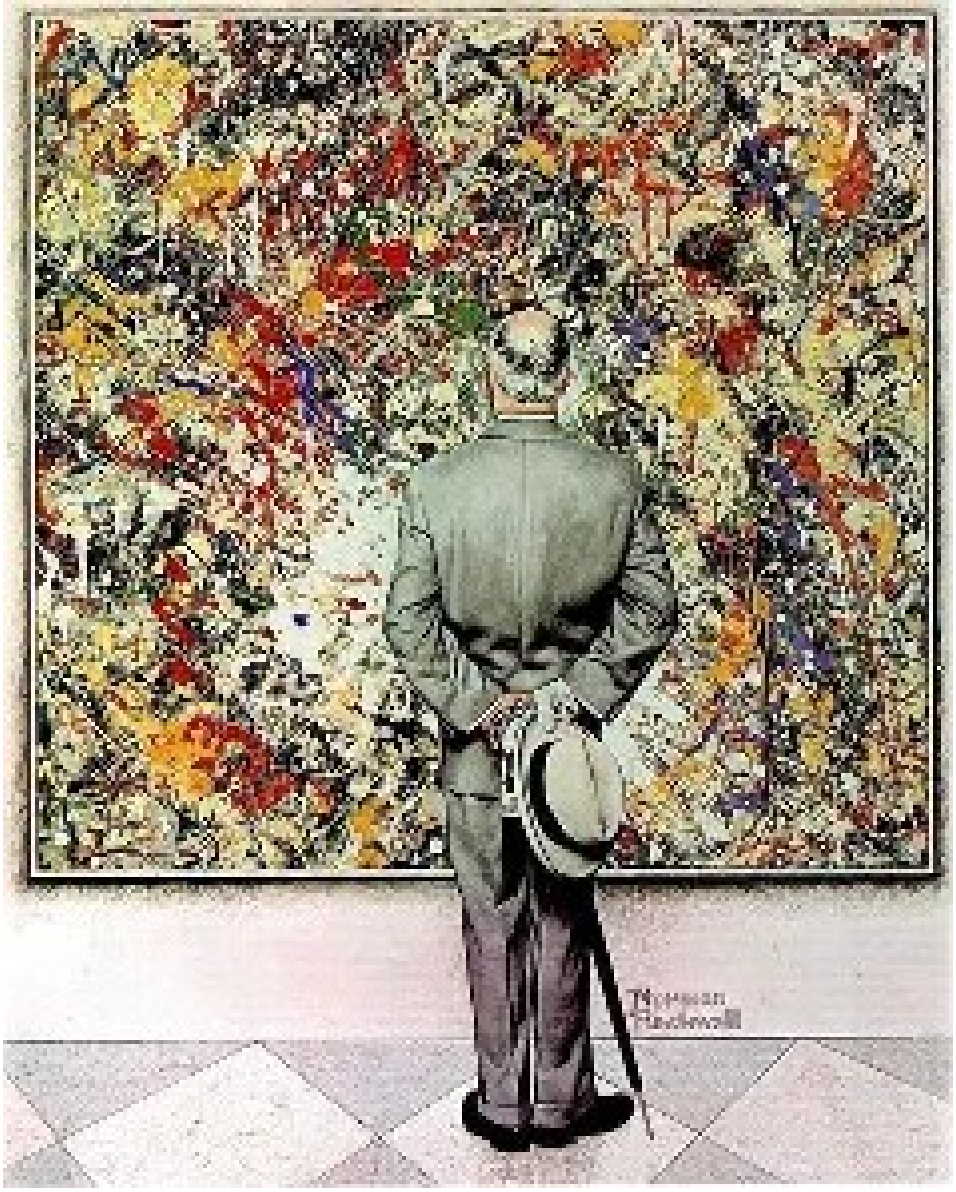

Norman Rockwell looks at Jackson Pollock's version of a Rockwell painting

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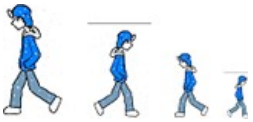
My Walking Thoughts



For Sunday November 10 2024

The Importance of walking

Walking can add minutes to your life.
This enables you at 85 years old
to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing
home at $4,000 per month.

My grandpa started walking
five miles a day when he was 60.
Now he's 97 years old
and we have no idea where the hell he is.

I like long walks,
especially when they are taken
by people who annoy me.
==========

Naval Air Station Kingsville, 1960

Kingsville is located next to the headquarters of the 825,000 acre King Ranch. If you have a notion to relate that to something more understandable, look at the state of Rhode Island on any United States map, then realize the ranch is larger. Also it has more cattle (Santa Gertrudis), feral hogs, and a whole lot fewer people per acre, but those who are there are the cream of anywhere's crop. I'll have more to say on this in subsequent episodes.

***

There's not much to say about the farm road trip from NAS Corpus to Kingsville other than feature-wise it was (probably still is) not something to write home about. Except for the small hamlets of Tierra Grande and Petronila, the journey was devoid of crowds and traffic jams all the way to the small town Driscoll, whose most significant feature seemed to me to be the two-laned Highway 77 running through it from Waco to Brownsville.

Heading south I came to a small town with a big billboard advising me where I was and that journey's end was nigh:

Bishop, Texas
Home of Ronnie Bull
of the Chicago Bears

It was there when I passed through the town as a flight student in 1960, still there in 1966 when I returned as an instructor. It says more about South Texas than all the words written about the area could ever manage.

Three miles south of Bishop I passed (and inhaled) the Celanese chemical plant, and five miles beyond that I came to the northern fringe of Kingsville, home not only of the

Naval Air Station and headquarters of the King Ranch, but what was then the Texas College of Arts and Industry (Texas A&I), rechristened Texas A&I University in 1967 and Texas A&M University in 1989.

Highway 77 squiggled right to skirt the town on its western flank and once clear, swung back to dead south. Later I learned you could avoid a lot of sagebrush by plowing straight ahead on Brahma Blvd into the heart of the city rather than accepting the bypass. But since it was still a quarter century before GPS and being unaware of the choice, I stayed on 77. Indeed, I might well have gone on to Brownsville had not a gray Navy pickup whipped past me on the left (in the oncoming traffic lane) and remained there for half a mile before hanging a last-ditch left turn onto an unmarked farm road. It was an interesting maneuver causing a northbound semi to light up all 18 tires to avoid a collision, and me, unharmed but engulfed in sagebrush. On the bright side, the episode alerted me to the possibility the pickup might be headed to the air station, so I followed his dust cloud on the rock-filled dirt farm road that eventually led to a sign with an arrow announcing the base--this time a paved road--and presently I arrived at a guardhouse.

The gate guard, an 8-foot tall Marine PFC, who could easily have done a clean-and-jerk press of my car with me in it, looked at my ID card, delivered a frighteningly brusque salute while pointing me to what could at best be called 'a shack.'

Following directions, with my automobile and insurance papers at the ready, I presented myself to a Navy petty officer—one almost as wide as the PFC was tall--who without bothering to look up from his Playboy magazine. waved a mimeographed page at me filled with rules for driving on the base. Luckily, the PFC was happy to give me directions to the headquarters without quite as expressive a salute as before.

Well, I ramble, because to be absolutely honest there had not been anything particularly noteworthy in my cross country trip to Kingsville… but perhaps, I thought, things might change.

In the next ten minutes, I reported in at the headquarters building, was assigned to Training Squadron 21 (VT-21), given a list of things I had to do as part of the check-in process, then left on my own to find the squadron's hangar… an uncomplicated task since aircraft hangars are hard to hide in the breathtaking flatness of the gulf coast landscape.

The hangar was half-filled with perhaps a dozen red-and-white painted swept-wing Grumman Cougars—half of them single-seat relics of recently frontline fleet fighters, the other half more modern two-seat trainer variants of the breed. Truth be told, I could have stood there gawking for the rest of the morning, but after a few short dreams of daring-do against dastardly red-starred MiGs, decided there was time for that later.

The first several people I asked where I could find the squadron adjutant looked at me as if I were a nut case, but eventually an 7-foot by 7-foot chief petty officer spat a large brown wad of chewing tobacco on the hangar deck, glowered at my second lieutenant bars, and invited me in a voice used to overcoming the howling winds of an aircraft carrier flight deck with a painful, "foller me." Checking to see I was obedient to his request, he turned and led me up a ladderway to the personnel office on the second deck.

The personnel officer looked at my orders, then at me with a seriously forbidding frown, before remarking, "You should have gotten here a week ago."

I replied, "I didn't go to the boat until last Wednesday." He didn't appear totally satisfied by my excuse, but suggested I hightail it over to the ground school building and see if they could fit me into the class that had started the previous Monday.

It was almost noon by this time, but as it turned out, the day was still young, an observation I'll clear up in next week's episode, one that I promise will be more interesting than this one.

Again, I apologize, but if you've been to NAS Kingsville you'll agree that boring or not, it's pretty honest reporting.