



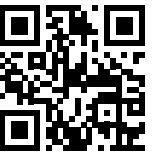
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# UCAST NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 6

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## The Mustached French Waiters' Strike of 1907

by U Cast Studios/U Cast News

The concept of class and class stratification is something that, all things considered, isn't very prevalent in American Society. In the past, there might have been more of an inclination for the haves to not interact with the have nots (and in affluent parts of Los Angeles that's still the case to this day). The same could not be said of early 20th century France.

France, a country that has existed in some form since Charlemagne, has been a society that, to varying degrees, has been class oriented.

In 1907, one of the most unique workers' strikes of all time took place within its borders – the Parisian mustached waiters strike – after in April of that year restaurant owners instituted a clean-shaven mandate.

Essentially, restaurant owners in Paris decided to institute a clean-shaven mandate, or simply, they told Parisian waiters that they needed to shave their mustaches. The



rationale that restaurant owners had was that they wanted their patrons to feel like they were being served by servants, not by equals who happened to be taking their orders and bringing out their food. The allure of going to a restaurant, for the upper-class and middle-class at that time, was the feeling of being

served/above people waiting on them.

Concurrently, the mustache was viewed as a symbol of masculinity, national pride, and a number of veterans and active servicemen wore mustaches as a badge of honor for serving their country. For the past one hundred years

before the strike, the media and publications had built up the mustache as being something significant. Beyond that, it was seen as a fashion trend and some Parisian men's wives loved the mustaches that their husbands had.

To better understand the significance of the mustache

in early 20th century France, Dr. Christopher Oldstone-Moore states:

“In a time of rapid economic and social change, men grew beards or mustaches to underscore the natural virtues, and supposedly imprescriptible rights,

*Continued on page 6*

## Cybercrime will soon be the 4th Largest Crime in the World

by Turner Stephens

How did this happen? Why is cybercrime so pervasive and fast-growing? This story begins back in the middle of the last century and affects everyone who uses the Internet today.

In 1958, the Department of Defense formed the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) to address the rapid growth of military and space technology by the Soviet Union. One of ARPA's major goals was to keep US military and government communications alive in

case the Soviets destroyed the core of the US telephone long-distance network. ARPA scientist J.C.R. Licklider recommended the military create a “galactic network” of computers that communicated with each other. This network would enable government and military leaders to communicate, even if the Soviets destroyed the telephone system. The Department of Defense launched ARPANET on October 29, 1969. It was a network with only two

computers, each being the size of a small house. The first message was only one word, “Login”, and this was enough to crash the system. Over the next few years, France, the United Kingdom, and the US made immense technological improvements and created additional networks calling this group of networks the Internet. Initially, the primary users of the Internet were the military, government agencies, universities, and large corporations.

If your average person could not access ARPANET, could they tap into another computer network? Ward Christensen and Randy Suess figured this out on Feb. 16th, 1978 and announced the first public dial-up Bulletin Board System or BBS. This service used regular telephone lines to log in to remote computers to post messages, stories, and documents in text (.txt) format. BBS and all other dial-up online service providers to follow were point-to-point

systems and home computers to one central computer. This was unlike today where home or work computers connect through many servers to innumerable Internet websites and can email practically anyone, anywhere. BBS users would connect their computer to a phone line and dial the online service phone number to connect only to that online service's computer. If you dialed into a BBS out of your area code, the phone company charged

*Continued on page 3*



# Business Spotlight: Kopy King – The Queen of Community Connections

2 – February 2021 / U CAST NEWS



# The Crispy Chicken Sandwich Wars Are Heating Up

by Market Crumbs



Impossible Foods is slashing its wholesale prices for the second time in a year in an attempt to get the prices of its patties closer to parity with beef prices.

Given the number of Americans who are vegetarian is so low – just 5% according to a 2018 Gallup poll, quick service restaurants have more important menu items to compete over than alternatives to meat.

While the crispy chicken sandwich has been around for a long time, the food item has gained popularity since Popeyes launched its version in August 2019.

The first week of the new year has already seen both McDonald's and KFC make announcements about their versions of the crispy chicken sandwich as the crispy chicken sandwich wars heat up.

McDonald's announced on Monday that its new Crispy Chicken Sandwich, featuring the sandwich's signature pickle, will be available at participating restaurants nationwide on February 24. McDonald's is introducing three versions of the sandwich—Crispy, Spicy and Deluxe, which includes lettuce, Roma tomatoes and mayo.

"We've heard our customers loud and clear, and we know they're craving more chicken options," McDonald's Vice President of Menu Innovation Linda VanGosen said. "We're confident all chicken fans – from traditionalists to spice enthusiasts – will discover a new menu favorite they'll come back for time and time again."

With the addition of the Crispy Chicken Sandwich, McDonald's is sticking to a promise it made to investors last year when it told them it would release a sandwich as franchisees voiced their concerns over offerings from Popeye's and Chick-fil-A

threatening their sales. McDonald's teased the sandwich in December 2019 as it was testing it in Houston and Knoxville, but delayed its release last year amid the pandemic.

KFC announced yesterday it too would join the crispy chicken sandwich wars with the debut of its KFC Chicken Sandwich, which will be available at all 4,000 KFC restaurants in the U.S. by the end of February. Saying "Fried chicken fans have never tasted a sandwich like this before," KFC's version has all the traditional ingredients plus real mayo or spicy sauce.

KFC touted the amount of detail it went into to create what one customer during the test run in Orlando called "a life-changer." The KFC food innovation team tested pickles with eight variations of thickness and teamed up with six different bakeries on more than ten recipes to find the perfect bun.

"We tested the new KFC Chicken Sandwich in Orlando last spring, and we nearly doubled our sales expectations, so we knew that we had a winner," KFC U.S. Chief Marketing Officer Andrea Zahumensky said. "Many customers hadn't considered KFC as a part of the chicken sandwich conversation, but anyone who tastes this sandwich will know, without a doubt, that we're playing to win."

Besides offering a sandwich that many find delicious, quick service restaurants are rushing into the category for one reason, as best explained by McDonald's USA President Joe Erlinger in November.

"Globally, the chicken category is almost twice the size of beef," Erlinger said. "It is growing faster and represents a significant opportunity."

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## Cybercrimes, *continued from page 1*

you long-distance fees. For example, in 1981 the cost for access at the speed of 300 baud was \$5.00 per hour at night (6 p.m. to 5 a.m.) and \$22.50 per hour during the day. This was a text-based communication medium, with no photos, videos, music, or audio. Eventually, there were 17,000 BBS serving their subscriber's specific interests.

In 1968, CompuServe began in Columbus, Ohio. It provided computer timeshare services to businesses through telephone lines. This was a big success, and they became a major provider servicing over 700 cities. CompuServe only had business customers and took a big risk when it started MicroNET ON September 24, 1979. It was sold through Radio Shack stores. Radio Shack's Tandy Model 100 computers were popular, and salespeople easily convinced consumers that MicroNet would be a great service to have on them. Unlike a BBS, CompuServe provided email and became the dominant online services provider. CompuServe was innovative and introduced electronic email to the public, then live chat and file transfer capability which America Online, Prodigy, and other early online service providers adopted as services for their customers as well.

Though most BBS users were honest, early hackers shared stolen data with each other through BBS sites. Some hackers committed credit card fraud. Others illegally visited military, government, and corporate computers to steal confidential information. Organized crime heard about these cases and decided online crime was a great new opportunity. Congress

did not understand the scope of the problem and passed the poorly written Counterfeit Access Device and Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1984. As the years passed, Congress passed more effective laws and regulations to identify cybercrimes and punish violators.

In November 1989, a business named "The World" became the first Commercial Internet Service Provider (ISP). Other ISPs soon followed, enabling a user to visit the Internet sites (which MicroNET could not do) as well use email and send digitized documents over the Internet. That same year Tim Berners Lee was working as a consultant at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Located in Switzerland, it had the largest Internet network node in Europe. The primary function of CERN was to be the largest high-energy physics research facility on the planet. Lee found it was cumbersome and tedious to communicate on the Internet and after working for many months developed a way to correspond, search for information, and navigate from any connected computer in the world. He called this Internet architecture the World Wide Web, or more commonly, the Web. Critics praised the Web because non-tech people could easily use the Internet for free or at an extremely low cost. By 1996, 40 million people were Web users.

*Scan here to read the rest of this article*





The Dumbest Argument I’ve Ever Heard Against Cryptocurrency

by Simon Black of Sovereign Man

Two decades ago, General Tommy Franks— commander of the original U invasion of Afghanistan back in 2001— was asked his opinion about a civilian bureaucrat named Doug Feith. Feith was an academic policy expert, despite never having served in the military, was a staunch supporter of the Iraq War.

General Franks was a straight-talking Texan who wasted no words in his opinion that Feith was “the dumbest f\*\*king guy on the planet”.

Over the years of this publication, I have, from time to time, submitted some candidates for what I call the “Tommy Franks Award”.

As you can imagine there’s pretty stiff competition for the dumbest f\*\*king person on the planet, especially these days. But I feel especially compelled right now to nominate the World Economic Forum.

Traditionally the World Economic Forum’s annual event in Davos, Switzerland has been a pageant of wealth and power.

If you’re there, you’ve made it... at least in the eyes of the global elite; it’s nothing but billionaires and politicians. And in the past, the event was typically just photo ops and pointless speeches. But lately, the World Economic Forum

has been much more active in cranking out horrifically stupid policy ideas.

The Forum’s founder Klaus Schwab penned a book last year entitled Covid 19: The Great Reset, which pushes for a radical agenda involving Green New Deals, strict people controls, “solidarity” taxes, debt defaults, and more.

As Schwab announced last year alongside Prince Charles (who is totally relevant with respect to global economic matters),

“Every country, from the United States to China, must participate, and every industry, from oil and gas to tech,

must transformed. In short, we need a ‘Great Reset’ of capitalism.”

They’re not even hiding their agenda— they’re boldly stating that they want to ‘reset’ the economic system that is responsible for the greatest amount of prosperity that has ever existed in the



history of the world.

And over the next few days, the World Economic Forum is unveiling more about its Great Reset initiative.

Recently they held a live virtual panel entitled “Resetting Digital Currencies.” And, naturally, they sought out the finest ‘experts’ in cryptocurrency, including:

- The CEO of Western Union, a company whose last financial innovation was when they put the Pony Express out of business in 1861
- The Governor of the Bank of England, a central bank whose entire existence is the complete opposite of the decentralized cryptocurrency ethos

Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Netherlands. Yes, I’m serious.

Talk about an EXPERT panel!

Honestly, it was pretty astonishing to watch. The Queen started off with a completely incomprehensible rant about how the Dutch guilder was the original ‘Stablecoin’ because it held its value for so long.

This is just totally inaccurate from a historical perspective; there were plenty of other stable reserve currencies long before Holland even existed. But I’ll let that one slide.

Later, the panel dove into the real meat of their argument: cryptocurrencies are bad because poor people in Africa can’t use them.

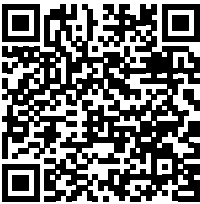
The Queen once again piped up, stating that “digital currencies [depend] on smartphones”, and because most people in Africa still have lower grade ‘feature phones’, they don’t have the opportunity to transact with crypto.

Wrong again! Feature phones have been able to store and transact Bitcoin and other currencies for at least SEVEN years.

And open-source wallets like Electron Cash have been available for even the most basic feature phones since mid-2018.

The Queen and her friends are totally wrong. Just about everyone in the world can use crypto.

Scan here to read the rest of this article



The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of Drone Technology

by Turner Stephens

Drones are flying robots, whether programmed to function autonomously or remotely controlled by an operator. The first drone, the Kettering Bug, was created during World War I but was used only experimentally. Drones went through various prototypes but the first drone to be put to continuous practical use was made in 1935. It was a converted de Havilland DH82B “Queen Bee” biplane with radio and special controls added to the back

seat so the plane could be flown unmanned. Artillery gunners shot at these flying “Queen Bee” biplanes for target practice. The term drone is derived from the use of the name “Queen Bee” and although drone bees have no other function than to mate with a queen bee, the term “drone” remains intact to this day for UAV or “unmanned aerial vehicles.” In a survey by Philly by Air, 8% of Americans own a drone (about 51% are men and 49%

women) and 15% have flown a drone. Recreational drones range from a few ounces to 10 lbs. Commercial drones weigh between a few ounces to 55 lbs.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has authority over all airborne traffic in the USA including UAVs or drones. In 2019, the FAA reported 990,000 recreational drone operators were registered. People operating drones over 0.55 lbs. are required to

register with the FAA. Those who fail to register are subject to civil fines of \$27,000, criminal fines of \$275,000, and may include three years in jail. Drone registrants must pass an Aeronautical Knowledge Test and agree to abide by a few but very clear FAA regulations. Also, drone users must obey local laws such as getting permits, agree to fly only in certain areas, and obey video and

Continued on page 6

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## The Fed, Zombies, & The Pathway To Japanification

by Lance Roberts of Real Investment Advice

We recently penned an article discussing the “moral hazard” fostered by the Fed’s ongoing monetary interventions. However, this story is fraught with zombies and the path to “Japanification.”

The Fed recognizes their ongoing monetary interventions have created financial risks in terms of asset bubbles. They are also aware that most policy tools are likely ineffective at mitigating financial risks in the future. Such leaves them being dependent on expanding their balance sheet as their primary weapon.

Such was a point they made last year, which bypassed overly bullish investors.

“... several participants observed that equity, corporate debt, and CRE valuations were elevated and drew attention to high levels of corporate indebtedness and weak underwriting standards in leveraged loan markets. Some participants expressed the concern that financial imbalances—including overvaluation and excessive indebtedness—could amplify an adverse shock to the economy ...”

“... many participants remarked that the Committee should not rule out the possibility of adjusting the stance of monetary policy to mitigate financial stability risks, particularly when those risks have important implications for the economic outlook and when macroprudential tools had been or were likely to be ineffective at mitigating those risks...”

That was in January 2020. Just a couple of short months later, markets were in the worst drawdown since the “Great Depression.”

### The Unseen

With Central Bank interventions, it is not what is “seen” that is important, but what isn’t.

We “see” the trillions of dollars of liquidity having positive effects on asset markets.

However, what most overlook is what is happening elsewhere in the economy.

We previously discussed how the Fed’s interventions made the top 10% wealthier while bypassing the bottom 90% of income earners.

But the more insidious effect has been the rise of “zombie” companies. These companies survive only due to the Fed’s suppression of interest rates and creating a speculative investment climate for bond issuance. As discussed in “Recessions Are A Good Thing:”



“‘Zombies’ are firms whose debt servicing costs are higher than their profits but are kept alive by relentless borrowing.

Such is a macroeconomic problem. Zombie firms are less productive, and their existence lowers investment in, and employment at, more productive firms. In short, a side effect of central banks keeping rates low for a long time is it keeps unproductive firms alive. Ultimately, that lowers the long-run growth rate of the economy.” – Axios  
Such also explains why there are currently record levels of “junk bond” issuance in the market.

The opportunistic high-yield sector did not go calmly into year-end, as raucous December issuance (\$29.5 billion) shattered yet another long-standing record for the month (\$27.6 billion, in December 2012), and propelled issuance for the last three months to the highest total ever for a fourth-quarter period. And this was no swan song for the primary market, as participants see the strong finish to 2020 as a lead-in to another hectic year ahead, as festering economic uncertainty and low borrowing costs stoke incentives to deepen liquidity and push out debt-maturity profiles.” – S&P

### Zombies Consume The Living

While “zombies” roam the earth in record numbers, the unseen cost to the economy goes unnoticed.

These companies borrow “living” capital from investors to feed a “dying” host. In turn, such deprive new ventures of needed capital, resources, and opportunities. Keeping dying companies alive longer than “Darwinism” would naturally allow ultimately suppresses economic growth.

The New York Fed recently had a study

on how “zombie credit” has affected inflation, a byproduct of economic growth, in Europe. “Europe’s economic growth and inflation have remained depressed, consistently undershooting projections. In a striking resemblance to Japan’s “lost decades,” the European economy has been recently characterized by persistently low-interest rates and the provision of cheap bank credit to impaired firms, or “zombie credit.”

While this study applies to Europe, we see the same effect in the U.S. Over the last decade, as zombie companies have risen to a record level in the U.S., inflation remains suppressed and well below targeted levels.

While economists continue to maintain perennial hopes of strong economic growth and inflation, such continues to remain elusive and a function of displaced capital. To this point, Daniel LaCalle noted, the displacement of capital specifically as a cause of disappointing economic growth in 2021.

With \$26 trillion injected by central banks, massive liquidity injections got used mostly to perpetuate elevated government spending, fundamentally

current spending, and fund public debt.

The second is that corporate balance sheets have become damaged to a level that will make it difficult to see significant investment growth above depreciation. SP Global expects global capital expenditures to remain weak in 2021.

### Can’t Cure A Debt Problem With More Debt

For the last 40 years, each Administration and the Federal Reserve have continued to operate under Keynesian monetary and fiscal policies believing the model worked. However, most of the aggregate economic growth gets financed by deficit spending, credit expansion, and a reduction in savings. In turn, the reduction of productive investment into the economy has led to slowing output. As the economy slowed and wages fell, it forced the consumer to take on more leverage, which also decreased savings. As a result of the increased leverage, it diverted more of their income into servicing the debt.

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Mustache, continued from page 1

of men. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, full beards had come into fashion in Europe and America. Meanwhile, most European armies required their officers – and sometimes enlisted men too – to wear mustaches. That turned them into a symbol of dashing masculinity that was quickly adopted by civilian men.”

In April of 1907, after the mandate had been given out, waiters and other restaurant workers decided to go on strike. They picketed restaurants, they would heckle scabs who had taken their jobs while they were striking, and as a result, the police started arresting some striking waiters.

According to Atlas Obscura:

*“But the waiters also had defenders who joined them in challenging France to live up to its republican ideals. ‘These gentlemen will wear the mustache,’ wrote an observer in L’Avenir. ‘I congratulate them, and I find this conquest as fair as natural.’ For La Presse, the movement was an expression of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen and*

*allowed the waiters ‘to finally show that they are men, free men, who have no more kings, who have no masters and who can wear at their ease this symbol of the all-powerful male, the mustache. Oh!’ the paper proclaimed, ‘the beautiful independence!’ The cause had even risen to Parliament, where Antide Boyer, the Socialist Deputy from Marseilles, proposed a bill making mustache bans illegal, on pain of up to three months’ imprisonment.”*

Eventually, the men striking for the right to have a mustache won out, and the restaurant owners caved to their demands. Some socialists at the time complained that waiters should have fought harder and longer in order to achieve greater demands, but this strike wasn’t about socialism or capitalism; it was about the little guy getting trampled by those in power and how they fought back and won.

This strike, all things considered, wasn’t very significant in the grand scale of political events that took place in the early 20th century, but what is more meaningful is what caused the strike to happen in the first place.



Drone Technology, continued from page 4

photo restrictions. As of July 21, 2020, there were 1,662,819 FAA registered drones in the United States. Seventy-one percent were recreational drones, and the rest were for commercial use.

New jobs are being created. The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) estimates 100,000 + U.S. drone jobs will emerge and add \$82 billion to the economy by 2025. However, losses due to automation technologies, which includes drones, are estimated to replace 45% to 50% of all U.S. jobs by 2030. This projection was from the 2016 White House Council of Economic Advisors. Similar projections were made by PwC global consulting, Oxford University and McKinsey & Company worldwide management consulting. The highest job losses are projected for workers in the transportation, storage, manufacturing, construction, administration, wholesale and retail industries. The most secure jobs are projected to be in education, human health, and social work. Additionally, employees who earn less than \$20 / hr. have an 83% chance of their jobs being replaced by automation technology by the year 2030. Employees earning between \$20 and \$40 / hr. have a 31% chance of job loss and those earning over \$40 have only a 4% chance of technology replacing their jobs in the next ten years. It appears that employees with computer or tech knowledge or who are employed in jobs that require complex human-to-human interactions are much safer from job losses by automation for now.

When drones become much more capable of safely making deliveries and are fully FAA approved, Amazon, UPS, FedEx, and other delivery companies will invest heavily in this technology. They project that up to 50% of food and other consumer shopping items will be delivered by drones.

News reporters might soon use drones to get closer to breaking news like crimes, fires, and traffic jams instead of relying on helicopters.

Drone proponents list many uses for drones in the United States such as the following:

Drones do safety or insurance inspections of roofs, chimneys, bridges, cell phone towers, pipelines, power lines, buildings, and traffic accidents.

Urban planners, timber companies, mining companies, construction firms, archeologists, flood control, and pollution control agencies use drones for greater accuracy and speed in mapping and surveying.

Agricultural companies analyze crop health and soil with drones as well as determine how much and when to water, fertilize, and apply pesticides. Walmart has filed a patent for an insect-sized drone to pollinate crops because it wants to ensure it has products to sell. The retail giant anticipates bee populations will continue to decline.

Drone sports are growing. One of the newer racing drones is capable of speeds up to 114 miles per hour.

Emergency responders can use drones to more quickly determine the location of fires in buildings and reduce the risk of death and injury to firefighters.

Wildlife conservationists already use stationary cameras to monitor animals in parks and sanctuaries, but they are beginning to add drones to increase their tracking of mammals and birds. Hunters can send out drones before going into the woods and eliminate much of the need for manually tracking game. Unfortunately, this technology can be used by poachers as well.

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## Musicians are Cashing in on their Catalogs

by *Market Crumbs*

2019 saw a slew of mega deals as video content providers fought over hit shows up for renewal such as Seinfeld, The Office, and Friends. Rights to Seinfeld and The Office, which were acquired by Netflix and NBCUniversal, respectively, reportedly demanded similar 5-year deals totaling \$500 million. WarnerMedia reportedly paid \$425 million for a 5-year deal to bring the rights to Friends to its HBO Max streaming service. With much of the world continuing to be locked inside consuming content as a result of the coronavirus, owning the rights to what people watch and listen to is continuing to attract big bucks. We recently saw a pair of major deals in the music publishing space as two of music’s biggest stars have decided to cash in. Recently, music publisher Primary Wave purchased an 80% stake in Stevie Nicks’ publishing catalog in a deal valued at about \$100 million. The deal comes on the heels of Fleetwood Mac’s renewed popularity following a viral TikTok video of a man skateboarding while listening to the

band’s hit “Dreams.” The song, which Nicks wrote, returned to the Billboard charts for the first time since 1977. Under the terms of the deal, Primary Wave gains the rights to Nicks’ name and likeness and the two sides will form a joint venture that will allow Nicks to sign new songwriters. The two sides will also partner to generate more revenue from her catalog through marketing and branding. “Stevie’s music, while exceptionally well known, is still very under commercialized and undermarketed,” Primary Wave CEO Larry Mestel said. “There’s enormous upside potential for her songs to be reinvigorated and introduced to youth culture.” Universal Music Publishing Group announced yesterday it acquired Bob Dylan’s entire catalog of songs, which includes more than 600 copyrights spanning 60 years, in a deal that is reportedly worth more than \$300 million. UPMG notes Dylan has sold more than 125 million records across the world and became the first songwriter to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

“To represent the body of work of one of the greatest songwriters of all time – whose cultural importance can’t be overstated – is both a privilege and a responsibility,” UMPG chairman and CEO Jody Gerson said. “We look forward to working with Bob and the team in ensuring his artistry continues to reach and inspire generations of fans, recording artists, and songwriters around the world.” The deals for Nicks’ and Dylan’s catalogs follow a deal last month for the catalog of Taylor Swift’s first six albums, which was acquired by Los Angeles-based investment firm Shamrock Capital Advisors in a deal reportedly worth more than \$300 million. The deal was the latest in the feud between Swift and Scooter Braun, who reportedly sold her recordings for a second time without giving her a chance to purchase them.



“This was the second time my music has been sold without my knowledge,” Swift said in a tweet. “The letter told me that they wanted to reach out before the sale to let me know, but that Scooter Braun had required that they make no contact with me or my team, or the deal would be off.” Similar to how big bucks are being spent to acquire shows, movies, and podcasts, it’s clear deep pockets are now moving into the music publishing space as artists look to unload their catalogs.

## Why Do Non-Americans Sing with American Accents?

by *Isabella Giotis*

What do musicians like Adele, Bono, Eric Clapton, Dua Lipa, Keith Urban, Iggy Azalea, and Peter Dinklage all have in common? They all sing in American accents – but they are all either from the United Kingdom or Australia. Many casual music listeners in America are stunned when they hear a new artist they like being interviewed, and realize they aren’t American. Going beyond English-speaking countries, there are still numerous bands and artists from around the world that have songs in English with an “American” accent, such as the Swedish band Abba. Why American?

Is it just to cater to a broader audience and sell more records, or is there another explanation for changing their accents when singing? Linguists believe that’s just part of it. They suggest there are two major reasons why regional accents are often reduced or undetectable in songs. First, phonetic alterations like intonation, speech rhythm, and vowel length can impact the accent. In a song, intonation gets replaced by a melody, and vowels are frequently elongated. The air pressure from the vocal cords can affect the quality of sound and cause the stresses of a sentence to fall in a different place.

These impacts tend to make the sounds more neutralized. Even the pacing of the music can impact the heaviness of an accent. Accents are more detectable at a speaking pace. At a slower pace, with words more dragged out and pronounced as they often are in singing; accents tend to become leveled out. The more neutral sound that is produced many find most similar to a general American accent. Linguists say some singers may be completely unaware of the fact that they change their accent while singing. They could simply be singing in a way that comes naturally to them, and it happens to align with an American accent.

But perhaps the main reason artists drop their regional accents to echo the mainstream sound we are used to hearing in popular music is a practical one. The U.S. music market is the largest in the world. Soundcharts.com reports more than 70% of the songs on Spotify’s Global Top-50 playlist were recorded by US-based artists as of March 2019. So, many contend the biggest reason is simple: it comes down to popularity, playing to the biggest audience which translates into a successful professional career. And that means the biggest shot at fame and the money that comes with it.



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# The Lakers' All-Decades Team: The '90s

by Dustin Brewer

The '90s didn't get off to the best of starts for the Los Angeles Lakers but by the dawn of the new millennium, one of the most important franchises in all sports soared to new heights when they were led by one of the greatest 1-2 pairings in NBA history.

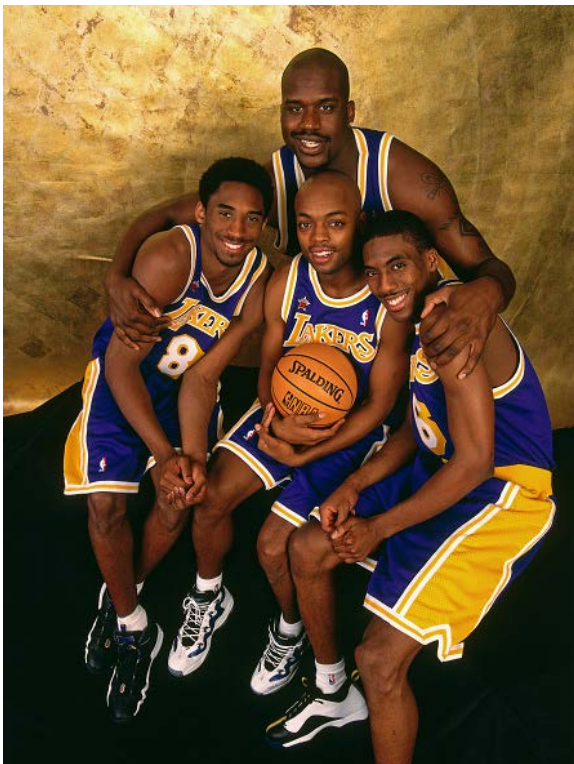
**This is the '90s All-Decade team.**

**PG: Nick Van Exel** – When Magic Johnson announced his retirement due to being HIV positive, he left impossibly large shoes to fill from a basketball perspective. Nick Van Exel isn't anyone's favorite Laker, but as a guiding figure over his five seasons with the team, he never dipped below averaging 14ppg and averaged 8+ assists twice. More than that, his steady presence on and off the court helped hold the team together in even the most turbulent times.

**SG: Kobe Bryant** – Little did LA know that in 1996, they acquired one of the greatest basketball players of all time in waiting in 18-year-old Kobe Bryant. His early career struggles are well-known but by 1998, Kobe was averaging 20pts while shooting just

under 50% from the field. From there, he continued to develop his game; averaging highs of 22.5pts, 6.3r, & 5a on the way to the first of his eventual five titles.

**SF: Cedric Ceballos** – In three seasons with the Lakers, Ceballos averaged career highs in minutes, points, three-point percentage, steals, rebounds, & blocks. The mid-'90s wasn't exactly a rich period for the team but Ceballos' steady contributions helped keep the Lakers in the playoff mix.



Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, Nick Van Exel, and Eddie Jones of the Los Angeles Lakers

**PF: James Worthy** – Even late in his career, Big Game James remained an impactful contributor to the Lakers. In the '90s, Worthy averaged career highs in points, steals, & assists before finally retiring at the end of the '93-'94 season. Other forwards would come later in the decade, but they didn't truly begin to step out of Worthy's large shadow until the 2000s, solidifying Big Game James' final appearance on the All-Decades team.

**C: Shaquille O'Neal** – When the Lakers traded for Shaq in 1996, he

immediately made an impact as the most dominant player in the league. Shaq Diesel was 7'1" & 325lbs of unstoppable force and in his first four seasons with the team, he never averaged below 26ppg in a season. Alongside a young Kobe Bryant, the two quickly forged a 1-2 punch that most teams simply could never find an answer for.

**Sixth Man: Robert Horry** – Horry may not have become Big Shot Bob until the early 2000s but from the moment he arrived in LA, Horry was a steady contributor even as AC Green's backup. His rebounding & shooting off the bench helped build the Lakers' depth back up after losing players throughout the decade.

The Lakers ended the decade as NBA champions, with the league having no idea how they would ever be able to stop Kobe & Shaq. Little did they know, they wouldn't have to do much or wait long to see the tandem come to an end.

*Next Up: The 2000s Lakers All-Decades Team!*

## This Month In Sports History: March

by Andrew D. Bernstein (NBA Photographer), Cowritten by Veronica An

### March 3rd

A.C. Green tallied 707 consecutive games played during a 1995 Phoenix Suns vs. Seattle SuperSonics game. Green, nicknamed "Iron Man," currently holds the record for most consecutive NBA games at 1,192. During his second NBA season, Green only missed 2 games out of a 1,278-game season. Green was selected by the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1985 NBA draft and was the first rookie since LeRoy Ellis (1962-63) to appear in every game during his rookie season. Green played for the Los Angeles Lakers, Phoenix Suns, Dallas Mavericks, and Miami Heat between 1985-2001. He is a three-time NBA Champion (1987, 1988, 2000) and was named to the NBA All-Star team in 1990. Green finished his career with 12,331 points, 9,473 rebounds, and 1,033 steals.

### March 13th

In 1992, Chick Hearn, the voice of the Los Angeles Lakers, called his 2,500th consecutive game. Hearn was on a 27-year streak that started in November 1965. His broadcasting streak would last an astounding 3,338 games until 2000 when a flight delay forced him

to miss a game. Hearn spent a total of 42 years with the Lakers and was the first sportscaster elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003 and also the recipient of the National Sportscaster of the Year in 1959, 1965, 1987. A statue of Hearn behind a Lakers sports desk sits in front of the Staples Center main entrance and he has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6755 Hollywood Blvd.

### March 25th

In 1982, Wayne Gretzky scored two goals in less than 30 seconds. This quick scoring feat pushed him past the 200-point mark, making him the youngest player (21 years old) to score more than 200 points in a single season. He accomplished this feat four times during his career. Gretzky would finish his third NHL season with a total of 212 points. Gretzky, nicknamed "The Great One," leads the league in assists and total points. When he retired from professional hockey in 1999, Gretzky held 61 NHL records: 40 regular-season records, 15 playoff records, and 6 All-Star records. The NHL retired his no. 99 jersey throughout the entire league and he was inducted into the Hockey Hall



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# 8 Million More Living in Poverty, 9 Million Small Businesses in Danger of Closing, 10 Million Behind on Rent

by Michael Snyder of The Most Important News

The economic downturn that we are currently experiencing is making the last recession look like a Sunday picnic. Yes, 2008 and 2009 were bad, but they weren't anything like this. Unprecedented intervention by the Federal Reserve has allowed the rich to get even richer during this crisis, but meanwhile millions upon millions of ordinary Americans are deeply suffering. Unfortunately, what we have gone through so far is just the beginning.

As a child, I was a big fan of Sesame Street, and one of the characters that really stood out to me was Count von Count. I loved the fact that he was always counting things, and that is what I am going to do in this article in order to illustrate how bad economic conditions have now become.

Let's start with the number 7. According to the Congressional Budget Office, approximately 7 million more Americans would have jobs right now if the COVID pandemic had never happened:

"But in fact, what the CBO is projecting is dire: around 7 million

people out of work in 2021 whom CBO thought before the pandemic would be working. That's dire – and a call to immediate action, not calm, not wait-and-see."

Personally, I think that estimate is way too low.

In fact, the Federal Reserve says that 152 million Americans were working before the pandemic started, and only 142 million Americans are working now.

So... the CBO estimate appears to be off by about 3 million.

Count von Count would not be happy. Let's try another number. According to Bloomberg, the number of Americans living in poverty has risen by 8 million during this crisis...

"Support is rising among policymakers to address America's child-poverty crisis, which is getting worse as the pandemic drags on.

More than 8 million Americans — including many children — fell into poverty during the second half of last year, exacerbating the racial and income inequalities that are holding

back the U.S. economy."

In this case, I think that this is a reasonable estimate, but that number will inevitably keep growing in the months ahead.

One of the big reasons why it will continue to rise is because hordes of small businesses will be collapsing, and that brings us to our next number.

According to a study that was recently released by the Fed, 9 million small businesses in the U.S. say that they "won't survive" in 2021 without more government assistance:

"Three in ten small businesses — or 9 million out of the estimated 30 million in the United States — fear they won't survive in the coming year without additional government assistance, according to a survey recently published by the Federal Reserve.



The Small Business Credit Survey, which was conducted last September and October and released last week, showcased the incredible burden the coronavirus pandemic has placed on America's small businesses, as 88% of the businesses surveyed reported that sales had not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels."

To read the rest of this article, please scan here



## Hi Mrs. Lucky Lady

by Doc Lovelace

Dear Doc Lovelace,

My husband and I have been married for two years but we've been together for three years, and my issue is that he doesn't stand up for himself. He's a very sweet person, and he has a good job, but when it comes to certain people, especially his family, he seems to always give in to them and he doesn't stand up for himself.

For example, his father and he will be talking about something, let's say something political, and during the conversation, he'll just nod and quietly agree with his dad even though I know that he believes the complete opposite

of him. Or there have numerous situations in the past where he feels like his mom will guilt-trip him into going somewhere or doing something with her or for her that he doesn't want to do. I'm not saying that he shouldn't help out his mom, but when things come up that she or his dad can do for her, why should he be the one who's forced into doing things he doesn't want to do? His mom knows what she's doing, even if he doesn't see it like that.

How can I tell him that he should focus more on US and let his family fend for themselves more?

Hi Mrs. Lucky Lady,

I've met so many like you. Keep it up and you'll make that sweet as pie husband of yours miserable.

It's funny that you would use discussing politics as an example.

Ask yourself this:

"Why in the hell would you want your sweetness to spend the little time you allow him with his parents to argue about politics?"

Here's my advice: Jump in and help him do the thing or go to the place with his mom.

By the way, who taught your sugar lips to be so sweet?

A good guess would be his mom and dad. Invite them over for dinner. Show some respect,

Your husband will appreciate it, and so will they. Stop being so needy, it's unattractive. Let him do his thing with his parents and you concentrate on being his hot, sweet wife... (think negligee, not nagging).

You are the lucky one, you got the guy that respects and honors people he loves.

Be nice, share him.

I'm wondering how you treat your parents, and why they didn't teach you some manners?

Your Baby Cakes is thanking his parents every time he does something for them, every time he chooses to let it go, and not argue.

It's called love, respect, kindness, being polite.

If you want a man that dumps his family because he got married, you're wanting a man that would dump you when he meets a nicer newer model.

Do yourself a favor, don't ruin a good thing.

Respectfully,  
Doc Lovelace



♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

Having a relationship issue?  
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50 of 349 Good Questions to Ask

by Conversation Starters World

Here is my ridiculously long list of good questions to ask. Use them to get a conversation going or as a fun way to pass the time with friends or loved ones. With 350 questions to choose from, I'm confident that everyone can find plenty of good questions to ask!

Try to be creative as you can and have fun with the questions. And don't forget to ask follow up questions!

Good questions to ask:

- 1. What weird food combinations do you really enjoy?
- 2. What social stigma does society need to get over?
- 3. What food have you never eaten but would really like to try?
- 4. What's something you really resent paying for?
- 5. What would a world populated by clones of you be like?
- 6. Do you think that aliens exist?
- 7. What are you currently worried about?
- 8. Where are some unusual places you've been to?
- 9. Where do you get your news?
- 10. What are some red flags to watch out for in daily life?
- 11. What movie can you watch over and over without ever getting tired of?
- 12. When you are old, what do you think children will ask you to tell stories about?

13. If you could switch two movie characters, what switch would lead to the most inappropriate movies?

14. What inanimate object would be the most annoying if it played loud upbeat music while being used?

15. When did something start out badly for you but in the end, it was great?

16. How would your country change if everyone, regardless of age, could vote?

17. What animal would be cutest if scaled down to the size of a cat?

18. If your job gave you a surprise three day paid break to rest and recuperate, what would you do?

19. What's wrong but sounds right?

20. What's the most epic way you've seen someone quit or be fired?

21. If you couldn't be convicted of a crime, what criminal charge would you like to be immune to?

22. What's something that will always be in fashion, no matter how much time passes?

23. What actors or actresses play the same character in almost every movie or show they do?



24. In the past people were buried with the items they would need in the afterlife, what would you want buried with you so you could use it in the afterlife?

25. What's the best/worst practical joke that you've played on someone or that was played on you?

26. Who do you go out of your way to be nice to?

27. Where do you get most of the decorations for your home?

28. What food is delicious but a pain to eat?

29. Who was your craziest/most interesting teacher?

30. What "old person" things do you do?

31. What was the last photo you took?

32. What is the most amazing slow-motion video you've seen?

33. Which celebrity do you think is the most down to earth?

34. What would be the worst thing to hear as you are going under anesthesia before heart surgery?

35. What's the spiciest thing you've ever eaten?

36. What's the most expensive thing you've broken?

37. What obstacles would be included in the World's most amazing obstacle course?

38. What makes you roll your eyes every time you hear it?

39. What do you think you are much better at than you actually are?

40. Should kidneys be able to be bought and sold?

41. What's the most creative use of emojis you've ever seen?

42. When was the last time you got to tell someone "I told you so."?

43. What riddles do you know?

44. What's your cure for hiccups?

45. What invention doesn't get a lot of love, but has greatly improved the world?

46. What's the most interesting building you've ever seen or been in?

47. What mythical creature do you wish actually existed?

48. What are your most important rules when going on a date?

49. How do you judge a person?

50. If someone narrated your life, who would you want to be the narrator?

Scan here to read the rest of this article



It Is A Marathon, Not A Sprint! Keep On...

by John Tolson

For 18 years, I owned a magic store in Chatsworth (the northernmost part of the San Fernando Valley). We had world-famous magicians as regular patrons, and we also had hobbyists and beginners come in all of the time. I would need to have a seasoned, experienced magician on hand for much of the week so that a beginner could be 'taught' some of the basics, as well as if a professional magician stopped by, all could be helped. Joey-the Rainbow Wizard, Robin DeWitt, Cosmo Solano, Robert Golden, and Frank Zazanis were a few of the dedicated guys who worked for me. Let me tell you about two others. Richard Lake (Richard Raven) and Miguel Rangel (Migz) both would work for me and also work other "gigs." That might include doing 'table hopping' or private 'shows.' They definitely were

not making the 'big bucks' working for me! These two were passionate about improving their skills and working on tricks of their own and even performed both individually, and as a duo 'two-man act.' The physical 'moves' are only a part of the performance. Another important part is the 'patter,' or the words used as you are doing the trick. Rich and Migz will practice in front of a mirror and videotape themselves, all to get the best outcome. A pause at the correct time can make all the difference. As a result of their hard work, both are Performing Members at the world-famous "Magic Castle" in Hollywood, where they have performed individually and together – doing 15 shows in a single week. Now, with COVID, Rich has upped his game and now performs a 'virtual' act. He has been forced to adapt and

learn an entirely new set of skills. Proper cameras and lighting, as well as sound, makes all the difference in a performance. What worked before now just doesn't. His current shows, all via Zoom, are of the finest in the

world. HANDS DOWN.

Another magician, Todd Theman, would come to work for me and almost every day would tell me about a screenplay that he was working on

Continued on page XX



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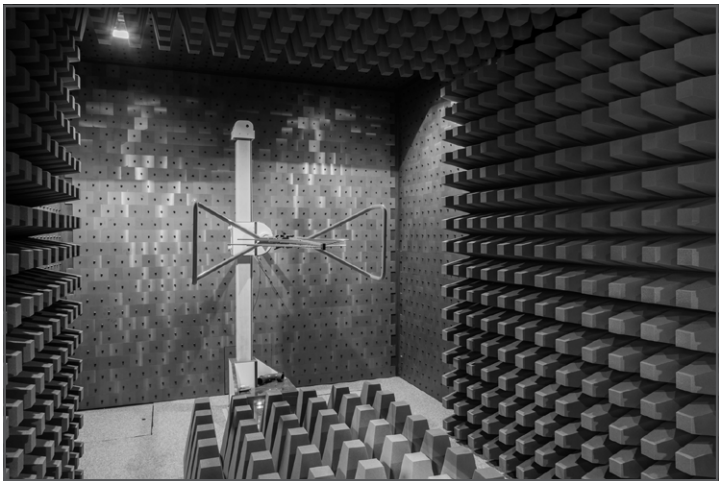
The Quietest Place In The World

by Jane Miller

Do you ever find yourself longing for some peace and quiet or a simple place to escape and revel in silence? While it sounds amazing (pun intended!), there can be too much of a good thing when it comes to silence. Specifically, there are manmade rooms called anechoic chambers that are designed to be the quietest places on earth but which, when one is inside, can be maddening. Anechoic chambers can be exceptionally distressing to the human senses and many people cannot spend any significant amount of time inside of them. Many of those people who have experienced time in these rooms have said they can hear their own heartbeat and their blood circulating in their ears. It has been rumored that no one can last more than forty-five minutes inside.

These extremely quiet places are called “anechoic” chambers because they create no echo. Soundlessness is not a normal human experience, as we well know, and the body and mind can experience temporary profound

shifts once inside a place with negative sound. Once you are inside an anechoic chamber, you can become so disoriented from the soundlessness that you lose your balance, and some people have described experiencing hallucinations.



Scientists have created these rooms to both keep exterior sound out as well to completely absorb any sound made inside. Anechoic chambers are generally designed using an onion-like foam structure, several layers of concrete and steel, and wire mesh flooring. You may

be asking why anechoic chambers were and continue to be created in the first place. Well, they are often used to test product volume and sound quality in a variety of industries. For instance, the iconic motorcycle brand Harley-Davidson uses an anechoic chamber to

test quieter bikes that still give that authentic Harley feeling. NASA uses anechoic chambers to help prepare astronauts for space. There are also examples of anechoic chambers created simply because

of scientific experimentation and pure curiosity. One such example would be the Microsoft Lab in Redmond, Washington.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the anechoic chamber Microsoft created is the quietest place on earth. Inside their anechoic chamber, the average background noise reading is negative 20.35 decibels. To give you some comparison, a typical quiet bedroom at night is 30 decibels,

and calm breathing registers at 10 decibels. While Microsoft does not open their lab to the public, getting to try an anechoic chamber is not out of the public’s reach.

If you are looking to experience some of this soundless fun for yourself, Orfield Labs in Minneapolis offers a tourist experience of an anechoic chamber. This is pretty exciting, considering that before 2015, when Microsoft claimed the title, Orfield’s anechoic chamber held the bragging rights of “world’s quietest place.” If you’re not into the whole quietest room experience, you can simply enjoy a tour of Orfield Labs, which has the distinguished history of having previously been a music recording studio called Sound 80 Studios. This recording studio was the first studio where musicians could record multi-tracks digitally. Artists such as Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, and Dave Brubeck have recorded there. You have to book a reservation at Orfield in advance, and all visits inside the chamber are supervised and require you to sit in a chair (so you don’t lose your balance).

While Microsoft now holds the record for the World’s Quietest Room, who’s to say if scientists can figure out how to create an even quieter room?

Sports, continued from page 9

of Fame in 1999. He is one of only 6 players voted to be a member of the International Ice Hockey Federation’s (IIHF) Centennial All-Star Team. In addition to his NHL career, Gretzky won a gold medal with the Canadian team in the 2002 Winter Olympics. March 29th

In 1952, George Mikan set a then-record by recording 47 points during a Minneapolis Lakers playoffs game against the Rochester Royals. The Lakers lost 88-78 during Game 1 of the 1952 Western Division Finals. Mikan is credited as one of the pioneers of modern basketball by bringing big men (he was 6’10”) to the professional arena. He played for three basketball leagues – the National Basketball League (NBL), the Basketball Association of America (BAA), and the National Basketball Association (NBA). He was

known for his rebounding skills, shot-blocking, ambidextrous hook shot, and underhanded free-throw. Mikan won seven championships (NBL, BAA, and NBA) and an NBA All-Star MVP award in 1948. He played one year with the NBL’s Chicago American Gears before the team folded. He was transferred to the Minneapolis Lakers in 1947. The team switched to the BAA and then became an NBA team when the leagues merged in 1949. After his professional playing career, he became the commissioner for the American Basketball Association (ABA) from 1967-69. He is remembered as one of professional basketball’s original centers. He retired with 11,764 points (22.6 ppg) and an average of 13.4 rebounds and 2.8 assists in 520 NBL, BAA, and NBA games.

Marathon, continued from page 11

and ‘someday would be shot and produced.’ His passion was both in magic but really in his desire to make this movie. I remember going with him to Fry’s Electronics to purchase a \$2,500 camera which he would use for the weekend to shoot a scene (not from the screenplay, but to learn the craft of moviemaking) and then to return the camera four days later. Kind of like a rental? Well, some 15 years later, his movie, Little Black Lie, WAS produced and filmed. In December 2019, he had a screening of his movie at the Milan International Film Festival, where is it was nominated for four awards. Once COVID hit, he pivoted and had a Los Angeles screening of his movie at a “Pop Up” Drive-In Movie theater on Friday, November 13th.

These three former employees of mine have a couple of things in common. A desire to accomplish a goal. A non-stop passion to make it happen, despite hurdles and obstacles. The determination to WORK, every day, making small progress towards the end goal.

I am so honored to know these men and count them as friends. Life is a



marathon, not a sprint. Decide what you truly want and go after it!

*John Tolson is the Director of Marketing and Membership for the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, where he has been for 10 years. He also has an independent insurance business, where he is a Broker for many home and auto carriers. He has owned both a retail and wholesale business for over 18 years. Currently, he is also a Planning Commissioner for the City of Simi Valley. He can be reached at john.tolson@goosehead.com.*

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## Canadian Space Policy and Programmable Organisms

by Jesse Hirsh of *Axis of Easy*

Never before has the impossible seemed so probable.

The rapid rate of technological change is usually experienced with regard to the Internet or the devices we use to connect with it. Think smartphones, AI, mobile connectivity, or self-driving cars.

Yet one of the focused applications of advanced technology continues to be space exploration and research.

SpaceX gets a lot of attention for their advances in rocketry and their growing low earth orbit-based Internet service, but they're but one part of a fast-growing sector that is making the possibility of off-planet tourism and industry a reality.

Canada has historically been an active participant in aerospace research and development, and as this field becomes more accessible, a relatively small country like Canada has to think strategically as to how to take advantage of both changes in the global industry but also domestic priorities and capabilities.

Springboard Policy collaborated with our friend Vass Bednar and regs2riches to produce a report that sought to both contribute to the development of Canadian space policy while also expanding participation in the process overall:

“We are entering a new era of space exploration. New opportunities are on the horizon — from commercial space activities to scientific missions deeper in space than we have ever traveled before. Different actors have entered the fore with an increasing number of spacefaring nations and private sector actors.

Space has the potential to improve the lives of Canadians. Activities in this sector may create jobs, generate wealth, and deliver scientific advancements that enhance well-being. But there are obstacles to realizing these benefits. A number of issues remain, that if

left unaddressed, stand in the way of ensuring that the future of space exploration is safe, sustainable, and fair and equitable.”

This report is a great read and offers an excellent primer on some of the issues relevant to Canada but also part of larger global space policy debates.

A tangible example is Internet access. On the one hand, Starlink the SpaceX LEO service is celebrated as a cure for the digital divide. Yet, on the other hand, it could contribute to further altering the night sky and adding to the dangerous potential of space pollution. What if a better space policy would allow us to both offer rural connectivity as well as manage space resources to prevent pollution and unnecessary interference with the view?

A fascinating story, albeit exaggerated a little in how it has been presented. Interestingly it is about research that was published over a year ago. No surprise that there's been big news in the world of microbiology and viruses.

From the abstract:

“Most technologies are made from steel, concrete, chemicals, and plastics, which degrade over time and can produce harmful ecological and health side effects. It would thus be useful to build technologies using self-renewing and biocompatible materials, of which the ideal candidates are living systems themselves. Thus, we here present a method that designs completely biological machines from the ground up: computers automatically design new machines in simulation, and the best designs are then built by combining together different biological tissues. This suggests others may use this approach to design a variety of living machines to safely deliver drugs inside the human body, help with environmental remediation, or further broaden our understanding of the diverse forms and functions life may adopt.”



## “Phrogging” Fad has Many Looking Over Their Shoulders

by Greg Goodsell

Do some items in your home suddenly disappear and then turn up in different parts of your house? Do you have the uneasy feeling that you are being watched? Do you hear mysterious voices emanating from other rooms – and you live alone? Your home may not be haunted, and you might not be losing your mind. You may very well be the victim of a prankster pulling the Internet-fueled fad of “phrogging.”

The phrogging trend is when the perpetrators, or “phroggers,” move into an occupied home and successfully avoid the people who live there. Big, rambling mansions with unused bedrooms, homes with large basements and attics, and homes that are usually left vacant are all tempting to phroggers, who go from lily pad to lily pad.

What separates phroggers from other well-known practitioners such as “trespassers” and “squatters” is their practice of secretly photographing the home's owners who go about their daily business unaware that they are being recorded. These videos are then shared on the darker corners of the web.

The phrogging fad fuels everyday paranoia and touches upon several facets of 21st Century life. The spiraling costs of rent and home ownership; the availability of video cameras on every Smartphone; strange communities that find welcome spaces on the Internet and the homeless situation in America all play a part in this practice.

One classic example of phrogging comes from Taiwan. A nursing student bogged down with classes and night shifts rarely had time to enjoy her own apartment. Unbeknownst to her was that a local homeless man took

advantage of the student's irregular hours to sleep underneath her bed during the daylight hours.

An Internet search will turn up many several examples of homeowners who find out that their homes were occupied by someone else. Videos posted online reveal disused basements containing mattresses and sleeping bags, along with other personal detritus. In even more ambitious examples, false walls discovered during remodeling uncover discarded clothes, books, and health and beauty aids not used by the rightful tenants.

The practice is touched upon as a subplot too many notable films such as *The Boy and Bad Ronald*. Phrogging comes into play in the South Korean thriller, *Parasite*, winner of Best Picture of 2019. In this film, a poor, disreputable family manages to find their way into the immense home of a multi-millionaire by posing as tutors and chauffeurs. Using under-handed skills, the family successfully has the home's usual employees fired in order to take their place. Their plan backfires after they discover that the former maid has kept her deranged husband hidden away in the house's basement. Trying to keep up appearances at all costs, the family's cover is torn away, ending in death and tragedy for all involved.

The tragedy is definitely in the cards for phroggers. All sorts of illegal, those who are caught phrogging have their housing situation solved in exchange for tiny barren rooms with bars across the windows.





# I Read It On the Internet

## Medical Maggots to the Rescue

by *Antarra Belcher*

Do you or someone you know suffer from chronic pressure ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, venous stasis ulcers, osteomyelitis, or any other soft tissue wound? If so, the best line of defense might be “larvae of therapeutic fly species” or as they’re commonly known as Medical-Grade Maggots.

In today’s world, we see hundreds of odd therapy treatments that folks even fifty years ago could not have imagined. We have hydrotherapy, cryotherapy, hypnotherapy, float-therapy, and so on, but this type of therapy takes the cake in strange yet popular therapies of the 21st century. While maggot therapy may be news to most of us, it has been studied to some extent for nearly 500 years! These maggots were first observed at work by Ambroise Paré, Charles IX’s general surgeon in 1557, and in 1829 a surgeon in Napoleon’s army began to use maggots on his injured men to prevent bacterial infection and

promote faster healing.

Years passed without further serious study on this treatment until 1929 when William Baer, an orthopedic surgeon at John Hopkins University, applied maggots to wounded individuals in an effort to heal their tissues. He then brought his research to medical conferences across America. After bringing this therapy to the medical world’s attention, it became widely used throughout the 1920s and 1930s. However, after World War II, advances in medicine made the use of antibodies and surgical remedies far more popular than the squeamish maggot therapy. These medical advancements were seen as a superior method of treating wounds, we no longer needed to place disgusting, creepy maggots on people’s injured skin, but the medical community and general public may have been wrong to do away with the bug-based healing method since maggot therapy

has no recorded negative side effects and is more cost-effective than other treatments! Scientific studies have shown medical maggots help wounded victims in three ways: they clean the wound by moving around the injured area and dissolving dead tissues with their strong digestive enzymes, they stimulate tissue development and the growth of new healthy cells, and they kill bacteria in the wound with their antimicrobial microbes.

According to peer-reviewed studies done by the US National Library of Medicine, maggot debridement therapy (MDT) is safe, effective, and well-controlled method of healing wounds. This is because the maggots being used are just any old maggots you might find feasting on some rotting meat, but they must meet specific criteria. These wriggling larvae must be sterile maggots typically of the “sheep blowfly” (*Lucilia Phaenicia*) or the “blowflies” (*Calliphoridae*) species. And luckily for

the patients, these fly larvae are selected for their preference to dine on necrotic tissue, not healthy cells!

The process is somewhat stomach-turning as the doctor will place approximately 100 live, squirming maggots onto the infected area then wrap gauze over the wound to keep the maggots in the general vicinity. The patient will then keep the maggots on their skin anywhere from 2 to 5 days depending on the extent of the damage.

A typical round of MDT therapy only costs about \$100 a session, saving you thousands of dollars and avoiding more invasive methods like surgery. There are currently about 1,000 doctors right in the USA that perform maggot debridement therapy so there are plenty you can contact if you’re interested in exploring an alternative, cost-effective, and more natural method of healing your wounds.

## Video Games Were Better When They Only Had One Button

by *The Babylon Bee*

*(\*Note, this article is satirical. The purpose of this piece is parody and light-hearted satire.)*

If you see a barrel coming at you down some girders, what do you do? Well, I guess you have a lot of options. You could dodge to the side. You could pull out a machine gun and shoot it. You could call up the police and say, “Hey! A giant monkey is on the loose throwing barrels, and I am in mortal danger!” You have so many options that you might just freeze up and stand there as the barrel rolls over you and the giant monkey laughs and runs off with your girl.

Now let’s say that barrel is coming at you but you only have one option: jump. What are you going to do? You’re going to jump over that barrel and live.

And that’s why video games were much better when they only had one button. It was simple. You knew what to do. That button made you jump. Or in another game it made you shoot. What if you wanted to jump and shoot? Well, maybe you shouldn’t be so greedy. You don’t need to do everything in every game.

But today people don’t know that. They got their PS-Boxes with their

controllers with eighty buttons on them. Holding that controller makes you feel like you’re at the controls of a space shuttle. What do you possibly need all those buttons for? You need a button to pull up your inventory? Inventory! If you want inventory, work at a warehouse (which I did, when I was eight). And you need another button to bring up a map? Is it really that important to know exactly where in the mushroom kingdom you are? You’re pathetic.

But me, I’m a simple man. I wear a hat. I destroy what I don’t understand. And I play good video games where

you only have one button that does one thing. And while you’re just standing there sorting your potions, checking how far you are from the next dungeon, and picking which of your fifty weapons to use, I’m charging ahead, jumping over barrels, and I am going to kill that monkey.

But not by shooting him. That is not an option. I’m going to kill him somehow with jumping.

*To read this article on The Babylon Bee’s website, please scan here*





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# I Read It On the Internet

## The Strange Disappearance of Glen and Bessie Hyde

by Renee Rose

Most people expect their honeymoon to be a happy, momentous occasion filled with warm memories. Few expect to set out and never return.

On November 18, 1928, when Glen and Bessie Hyde said goodbye to brothers Ellsworth and Emery Kolb, they set out to begin walking down a path leading to the Colorado River. There, the Hydies had a boat tied up and they planned to spend the following weeks floating down the rapids in the Colorado and Green rivers for their extended honeymoon that they had begun the previous October.

In an eerie foreshadowing of the events that would follow, Emery Kolb's young daughter appeared just before the Hydies were out of the line of sight and Bessie Hyde remarked on the little girl's fashionable outfit saying, "I wonder if I shall ever wear pretty shoes again." The couple then waved and departed to board their boat and shove off into the Colorado River.

Neither of them was ever seen again.

### What happened to Glen & Bessie Hyde?

November of 2020 marked the 92nd anniversary of the Hydies' floating down the Colorado River and vanishing into thin air. Exactly what happened to the couple on their honeymoon remains an awe-inducing mystery to all that hear the story and guides down the Colorado River still bring up the mystery while sitting around the campfire at night. Sipping beers, the guides and the members of their group wonder aloud what cruel fate became of the Hydies.

On December 6, 1928, a search for the couple was launched by Glen's father, Rollin, even before the couple was considered to be overdue at Needles, California. Then, on December 19, 1928, three weeks after the disappearance of the Hydies, their scow (a flat-bottomed boat capable of navigating shallow waters) was found floating and abandoned in perfectly

good working order. It had been spotted by a search plane around river mile 226.

The Hydies, on the other hand, were nowhere to be found and there were no clues to suggest what had happened to them. There were no signs on the boat of having been battered by the rapids nor were there signs that the boat had been overturned at any point.

Peculiarly, the Hydies' food and supplies for their journey were still strapped securely into the vessel, seemingly awaiting the return of their owners. A camera, recovered from the boat by Emery and Ellsworth Kolb, revealed the couple's final photograph to have been taken near river mile 165, possibly on or around November 27th. There were no signs of disturbance apparent on the riverbank nor was there any sign of tracks leading away from the boat. The couple was simply gone.

Further evidence found by searchers seemed to suggest that the couple made it as far as river mile 226, Diamond Creek, where it is believed by many that they made camp. In Bessie's journal, found aboard the couple's scow, she noted that they had cleared mile 231 Mile Rapid.

While many people that first hear the peculiar tale of Glen and Bessie Hyde assume that the couple must have been unfamiliar with the area or ill-equipped to handle the dangers presented by the raging rapids, it should be noted that Glen was an expert boat builder. In fact, he handcrafted the couple's 20-foot scow all by himself. Further, years before, he had spent time rafting down Idaho's Snake and Salmon rivers. Sure, he wasn't what one would call a pro

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necessarily, but he was far from being an amateur.

Another theory that many people believe regarding the disappearance of the Hydies has to do with the immense pressure that the couple felt to accomplish the task at hand. Many people believe that in the Hydies' desire to set a speed record for boating through the Grand Canyon, with Bessie becoming the first woman to successfully boat all the way through, the pressure caused them to get sloppy,

leading to fatal mistakes along their journey. Bessie was a newbie at the time of the couple's trip although she did have a few solid weeks of negotiating rapids under her belt. Still, if the reasoning for the couple's disappearance was based on amateur mistakes, one would think that there would be evidence of this on their boat and in the surrounding environment where it was found.

Scan here to read the rest of this article



## Weird & Wacky News

by Chris Carnicelli

From around the corner, down the street, and up your alley, here are some stories that are making headlines... and they're all TRUE!!

### Dateline: Pomona, California

How To Evade Police, Chapter One: Leobardo Hernandez, 32, was on the run from police after stealing a car. Thinking quickly, he entered an apartment complex and found an unlocked door, and ran in. The residents were not home, so Hernandez rushed in, shaved his face, changed his clothes, and even cooked some tortillas, to make it look like he lived there. Unfortunately, he burned the tortillas, which set off the fire alarm! Hernandez was later arrested that day.

### Dateline: London, England

Man's best friend? Russell Jones was out one afternoon walking his doggy, Billy, and noticed he was favoring one of his front paws. Concerned, Jones

took his pet to the veterinarian to have Billy's paws X-rayed, but the vet found nothing wrong. It was noted that Jones, in the past weeks, had recently broken his ankle and was wearing a cast and limping. The vet suggested that Billy wasn't ill, but simply imitating his owner!

### Dateline: South Korea

Wait, didn't I see this in "Up"? Petpuls Labs in South Korea has announced an AI dog collar based on how they bark. "This device gives a dog a voice so that humans can understand them." The collar supposedly detects five emotions, and the owners can find out through a smart-phone app if their pets are happy, relaxed, anxious, angry, or sad. Seoul National University tested the device and declared it has a 90% average accuracy rate. The collar sells for \$99. Bark. Woof. Growl.

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