

All the News
That Fits,
We Print.



All the News
That is Fit to
E-Mail.

The Useless Button

October 2024

Free to All



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Technology

Curated by our editors

Open invitation to submit articles
to our publication

Opinion pieces, reported stories,
personal essays, works of
humor, illustrated narratives,
photography and of course
technology pieces are
welcome.

Newsletter@TechEdConnect.org

TechEdConnect[®] is a non-profit
technology club located in Westchester County,
New York. Our goal is to increase the technology
knowledge of our members and our community.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RESEARCH OUR
RECORDS

Explore our nation's history through
our documents, photos, and
records.

VETERANS' SERVICE
RECORDS

Request military records and learn
about other services for yourself or
a family member.



COVID-19
testing and
vaccinations



**Cultivate public participation, and
strengthen our nation's democracy
through equitable public access to high-
value government records.**

(The Washington Post)

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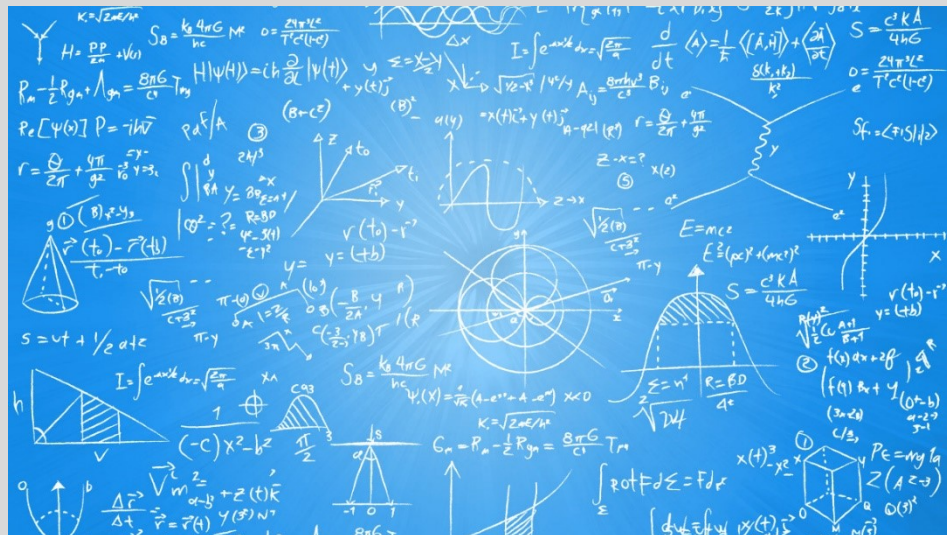


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Geoffrey Hinton, AI pioneer and figurehead of doomerism, wins Nobel Prize

Note

The award recognizes foundational contributions to deep learning, a technology that Hinton has since come to fear.



Hinton shares the award with fellow computer scientist John Hopfield, who invented a type of pattern-matching neural network that could store and reconstruct data. Hinton built on this technology, known as a Hopfield network, to develop backpropagation, an algorithm that lets neural networks learn.

(MIT Tech Review) [Continue Reading...](#)



We may have AI superintelligence in “a few thousand days”

(Ars Technica) [Continue Reading...](#)



Why OpenAI’s new model is such a big deal

(MIT Tech Review) [Continue Reading...](#)



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President's Message

Earlier this month, we held our third hybrid General Meeting. Not only was the presenter and topic very interesting, but attendance continued to be good. We are learning each time to make it go smoother from a technology perspective. It will eventually become second nature, but we aren't quite there yet.

Don't forget that the November GM, which falls on Election Day (November 5), will be on Zoom only since the Scarsdale Library is a polling site and hence unavailable that day.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we continue to make good progress on the new website. Progress was slowed down a bit in September due to unforeseen travel. I will no longer make predictions as to when we will go live, to stop embarrassing myself 😊.

Late last month, I submitted our newsletter to the APCUG annual contest. Let's hope we get a good ranking (among top 3) so we can claim our award winning qualifier again for the newsletter. Thank you David for doing such a great job. Winners will be announced at the APCUG Annual Meeting on November 9. So hang in there.

Dr. Pierre Darmon

President, **TechEdConnect**® (formerly Westchester PC Users Group)

PC/Mac Computer Support and Education Consultant

Cell: (914) 646-3813



Note

Winner of Nobel Prize in chemistry describes how his work could transform lives



We reserve the right not to publish anything we consider inappropriate.

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STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded Wednesday to three scientists for their breakthrough work predicting and even designing the structure of proteins, the building blocks of life.

The prize was awarded to David Baker, who works at the University of Washington in Seattle, and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, who both work at Google DeepMind, a British-American artificial intelligence research laboratory based in London.

Hassabis received Israel's Dan David Prize in 2020. Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honored research that made connections between amino acid sequence and protein structure.

Nobel Prize in chemistry goes to scientists who predicted proteins' shapes using AI

(The Times of Israel)
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(The Times of Israel)
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Americans in both parties are concerned over the impact of AI on the 2024 presidential campaign

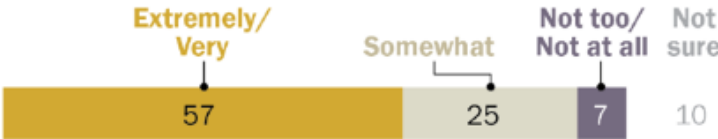
Americans also express little confidence in major technology companies to prevent misuse of their platforms to influence the election.

A majority of Americans are highly concerned that AI will be used to create fake info about the 2024 candidates

% who say artificial intelligence (AI) will be used ___ during the presidential campaign



% who say they are ___ concerned that AI will be used to create and distribute fake information about the presidential candidates and campaigns



Note: No answer responses are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 26-Sept. 2, 2024.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(Pew Research Center)
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AI helps uncover hundreds of unknown ancient symbols hidden in Peru's Nazca Desert

Archaeologists working in Peru, assisted by artificial intelligence, have discovered 303 previously unknown giant symbols carved in the Nazca Desert. The carvings include birds, plants, spiders, humanlike figures with headdresses, decapitated heads and an orca wielding a knife. Described in study published Monday in the journal PNAS, the discovery almost doubles the number of known Nazca geoglyphs, mysterious artworks formed in the ground by moving stones or gravel that date back some 2,000 years. The researchers' findings also shed some light on the symbols' enigmatic purpose.



Note

(CNN Science) Continue Reading...

AI uncovers hundreds of new Nazca geoglyphs in breakthrough discovery - YouTube

NEW Nazca Lines Hypothesis + 168 New Discoveries | Ancient Architects

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20 Most Powerful Photographs Ever Taken



This shocking image shows South Vietnamese police chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan executing Vietcong member Nguyen Van Lem in the street.

There are lots of powerful photos in human history. Here you can enjoy 20 most powerful photographs ever taken.

(boredpanda) Continue Reading...



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Stunning images of the northern lights



Spectacular images as the Aurora Borealis dance across the night sky.

(Reuters) Continue Reading...



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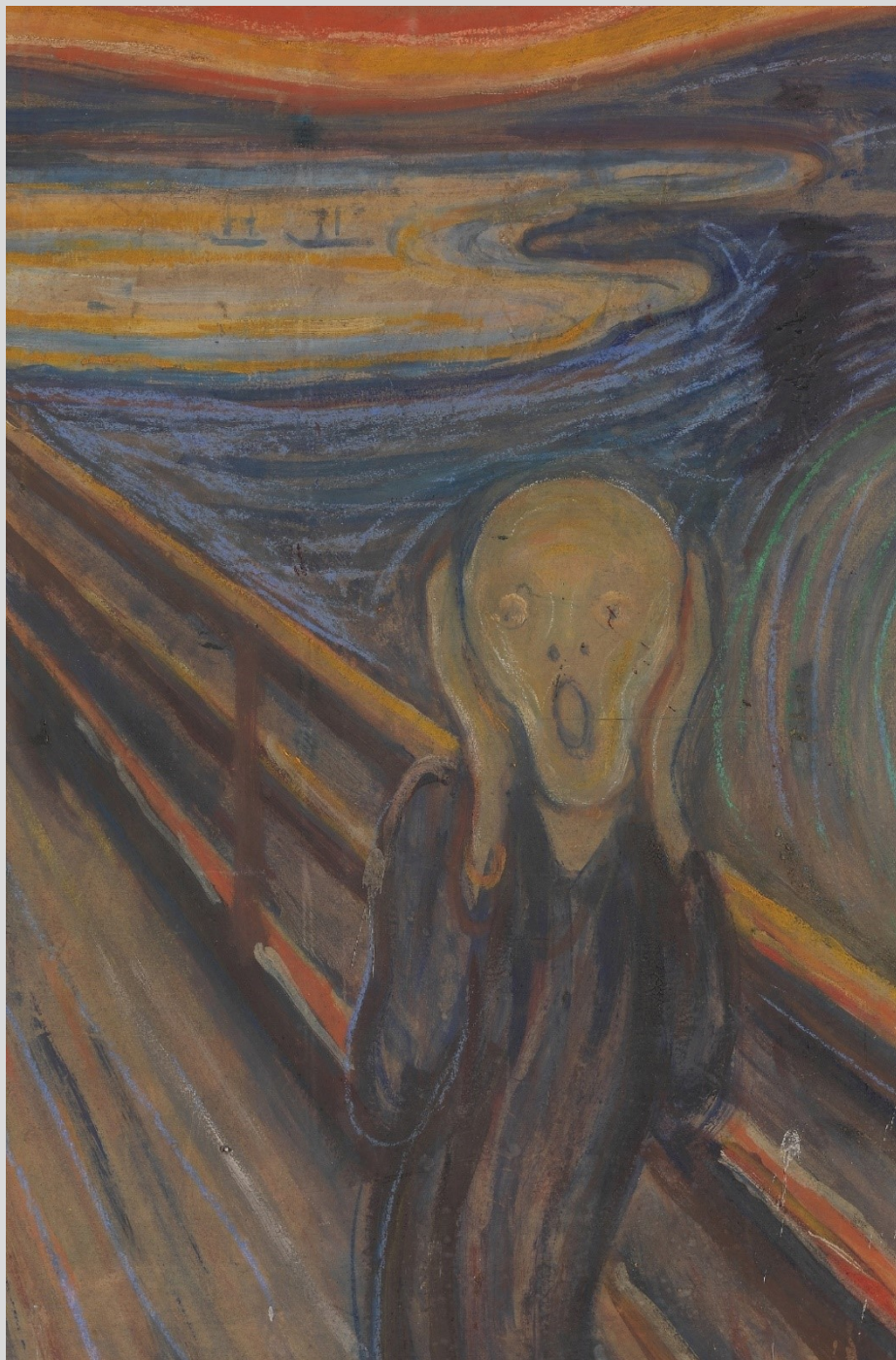
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Me after reading the news!

The Scream

Artvee



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Indicted NYC mayor to FBI- I, uh, forgot my phone's passcode

(Ars Technica)
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Blind man kicked off flight because of service dog

(YouTube)
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Meta smart glasses can be used to dox anyone in seconds

(Ars Technica)
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Ford Seeks Patent for Software That Records Your Conversations

(Gizmodo)
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Monday to Thursday

October

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Today ◀ ▶ October 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
30 7pm Exploring Software with Pierre D.	Oct 1 7pm General Meeting: Looking at Wes	2 4:30pm CANCELED: Westchester PC-R 7pm CANCELED: All Things Mobile	3
7 7pm Navigating Windows	8 7pm Office Suites: Understanding FOF	9 2:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (in per	10
14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 7pm Upgrade & Repair	15 7pm Photo & Video Editing: New AI fe	16 4:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (Zoom 7pm The Curious Lion: Storing Electr	17 7pm Cultural Technology with David L
21	22	23 2:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (in per	24 7pm Digital Cameras
28 7pm Exploring Software with Pierre D.	29	30 4:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (Zoom 7pm Executive Board Meeting	Halloween

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How Products are Made



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Workshops presently on Zoom

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General Meetings
are back in person after years of
COVID Zooms.

Next Month is Zoom only
because of Election Day.
See you there!

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TechEdConnect® Calendar

Monday to Thursday

November

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Today

November 2024

Mon

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Wed

Thu

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7pm Exploring Software with Pierre D.

4:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (Zoom)
7pm Executive Board Meeting

Halloween

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7pm Apple for beginners

Election Day (General Election)
7pm General Meeting

2:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (in per
7pm All Things Mobile

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Veterans Day
7pm Upgrade & Repair

7pm Office Suites

4:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (Zoom)

7pm Technology with Anthony Tedesco

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7pm Photo & Video Editing

2:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (in per

7pm Cultural Technology with David L.

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27

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7pm Exploring Software with Pierre D.

4:30pm Westchester PC-Renew (Zoom)
7pm Executive Board Meeting

Thanksgiving Day

12am Thanksgiving - no workshops
7pm Digital Cameras

Note

AirForce General
Responds To Racial Slur



REPAIR
CAFE HUDSON
VALLEY



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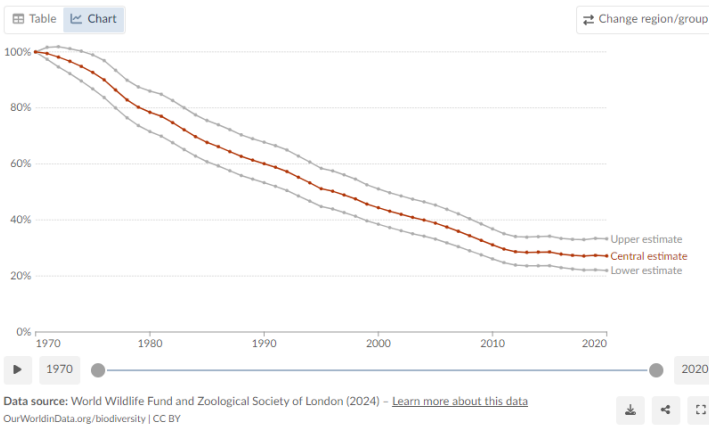
Our World in Data uses interactive charts and maps to illustrate research findings, often taking a long-term view to show how global living conditions have changed over time.
From Wikipedia

Planet Index reports a 73% average decline in wildlife populations

Living Planet Index, World

The Living Planet Index (LPI) measures the average decline in monitored wildlife populations. The index value measures the change in abundance in 34,836 populations across 5,495 native species relative to the year 1970 (i.e. 1970 = 100%).

Our World in Data



The headline figure from the 2024 update of the LPI is that studied wildlife populations have seen an average decline of 73% from 1970 through 2020.

(Our World in Data) Read More...



Daily Data Insights

The “baby boom” in the United States

Fertility rate: number of children per woman, based on age-specific fertility rates in one particular year.



Bite-sized insights on how the world is changing, published every weekday.

(Our World in Data) Read More...



Our World in Data
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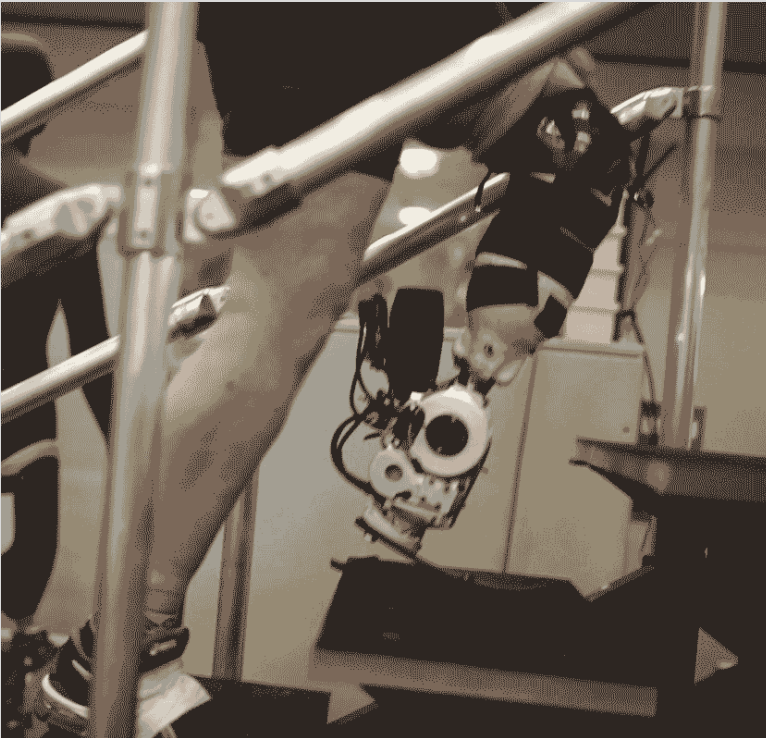
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Articles

Brain-controlled bionic limbs are inching closer to reality



The word “bionic” conjures sci-fi visions of humans enhanced to superhuman levels. It’s true that engineering advances such as better motors and batteries, together with modern computing, mean that the required mechanical and electronic systems are no longer a barrier to advanced prostheses. But the field has struggled to integrate these powerful machines with the human body.

(Science News) [Read More...](#)



Police Chase Koala Through Sydney Train Station



A wayward koala led police on a low-speed, early morning chase through a Sydney train station, video released on Tuesday showed, surprising commuters in the city. Video provided by Transport for New South Wales showed the koala ambling through Casula station on Friday, around 34 km (21 miles) south-west of the city's central business district. The video showed the koala checking out an elevator before opting to descend a stairway. Trains in the area were ordered to slow as the koala - a normally reclusive species and one of Australia's best-loved animals - came dangerously close to the platform edge.

(Asharq Al-Awsat) [Read More...](#)



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TED Talks



(The Enterprisers Project)

TED Conferences is an American-Canadian non-profit media organization that posts international talks online for free distribution under the slogan "ideas worth spreading"

(Wikipedia) [Continue Reading...](#)



[String theory - Brian Greene](#)



[The history of our world in 18 minutes | David Christian](#)



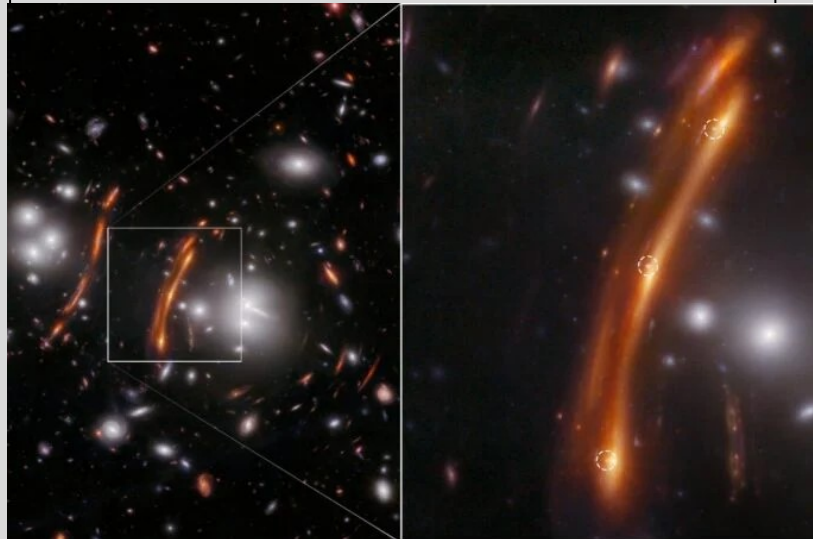
[Songs that bring history to life | Rhiannon Giddens](#)



[Two Monkeys Were Paid Unequally: Excerpt from Frans de Waal's TED Talk](#)



Webb Telescope Captures Supernova Appearing Three Times Due to Spacetime Bending



A gravitational lens tripled the event in the night sky and helped astronomers measure the rate at which the universe is expanding.

(Gizmodo) [Continue Reading...](#)



[The Partisan - Leonard Cohen - YouTube](#)



[An Updated List Of Google Search Operators](#)



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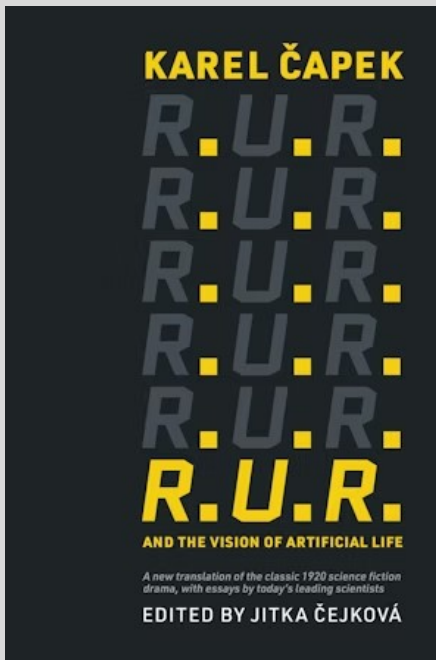
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Go to Hell, Robots!



In 1920, what might be the most successful anthology in German-language publishing history appeared. *Menschheitsdämmerung*, or “Twilight of Humanity,” collects 275 poems, many of which rage against the Machine Age. Viewing Europe as fallen, vulnerable, and in need of renewal, the poems echo other contemporaneous work, including Oswald Spengler’s *Decline of the West* and Otto Dix’s paintings, such as *Prague Street*, in which mutilated veterans evolve into their prosthetics.

(Issues) Continue Reading...



Articles



Animated infographics that explain how everyday things work.

Inside the F4U-4 Corsair - YouTube



How Heat Seeking Missile Works Aim 9 Sidewinder



How the Apollo Spacecraft works- Part 1 - YouTube



How the Apollo Spacecraft works: Part 2



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Martin Luther King Jr. Articles

Martin Luther King Jr. (born Michael King Jr.; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American Baptist minister, activist, and political philosopher who was one of the most prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. A black church leader and a son of early civil rights activist and minister Martin Luther King Sr., King advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through the use of nonviolent resistance and nonviolent civil disobedience against Jim Crow laws and other forms of legalized discrimination.

King participated in and led marches for the right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other civil rights.[1] He oversaw the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and later became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As president of the SCLC, he led the unsuccessful Albany Movement in Albany, Georgia, and helped organize some of the nonviolent 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama. King was one of the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and helped organize two of the three Selma to Montgomery marches during the 1965 Selma voting rights movement. The civil rights movement achieved pivotal legislative gains in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.



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Wikipedia is **WONDERFUL**

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WE ARE THE SAME ANIMAL



@imahappypet



RACISM IS STUPID

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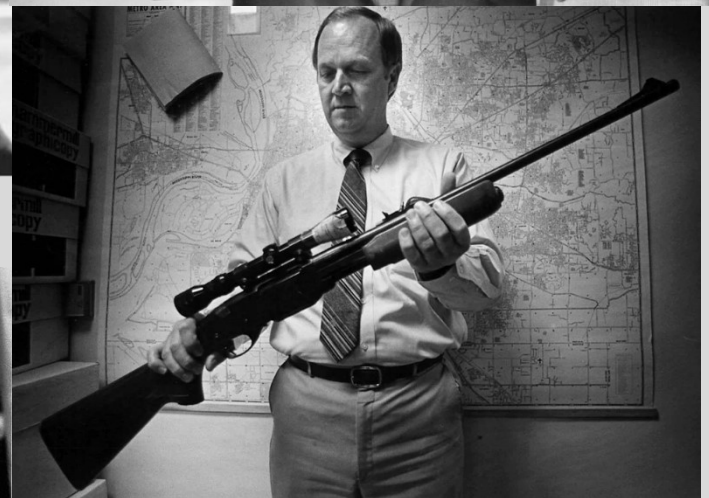
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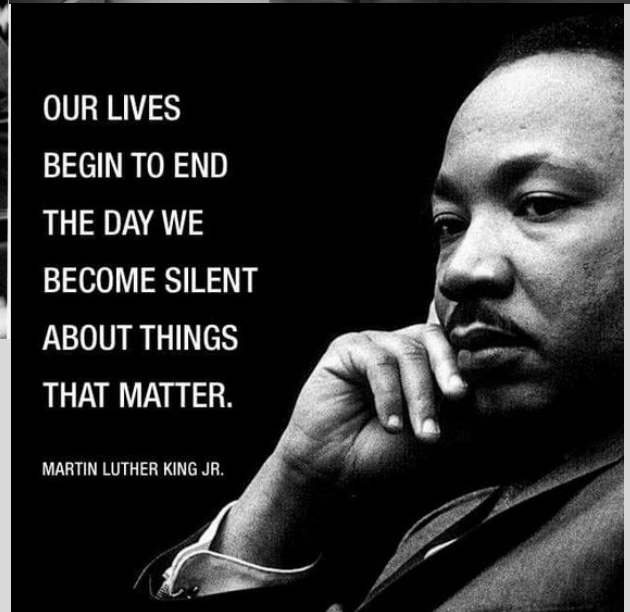


Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr.



OUR LIVES
BEGIN TO END
THE DAY WE
BECOME SILENT
ABOUT THINGS
THAT MATTER.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Thank You Pinterest



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NASA Made the Hubble Telescope to Be Remade



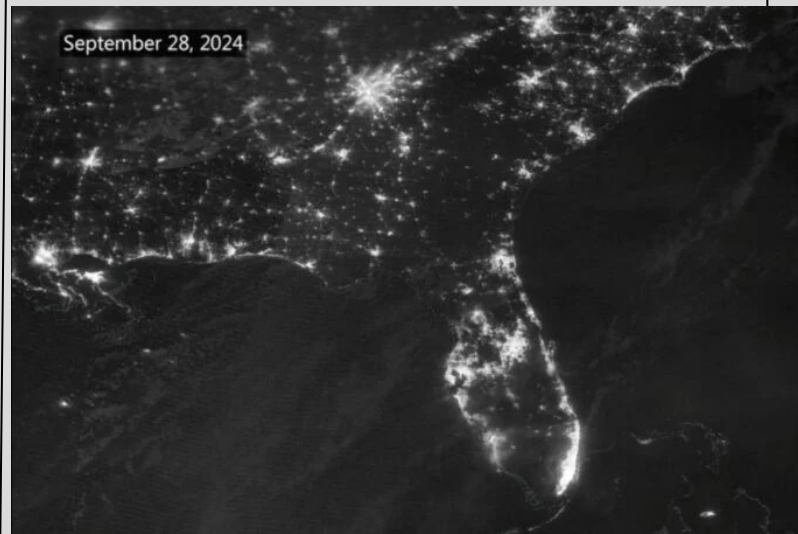
When NASA decided in the 1970s that the Hubble Space Telescope should be serviceable in space, the engineering challenges must have seemed nearly insurmountable. How could a machine that complex and delicate be repaired by astronauts wearing 130-kilogram suits with thick gloves?

In the end, spacewalkers not only fixed the telescope, they regularly remade it.

(IEEE Spectrum) Continue Reading...



Satellite Images Reveal Hurricane Helene's Devastating Aftermath



Images from space show vast swaths of the American southeast without power days after the storm. Many of the nighttime images were taken by the NOAA-NASA Suomi NPP satellite, which has a low-light sensor that allows imaging of nighttime light emissions—a reasonable indicator from space of areas that have power and those that don't.

(Gizmodo) Continue Reading...



How To Design A Plane To Fly At 100,000 Feet?



Throwing Artillery Shells Into Space - YouTube



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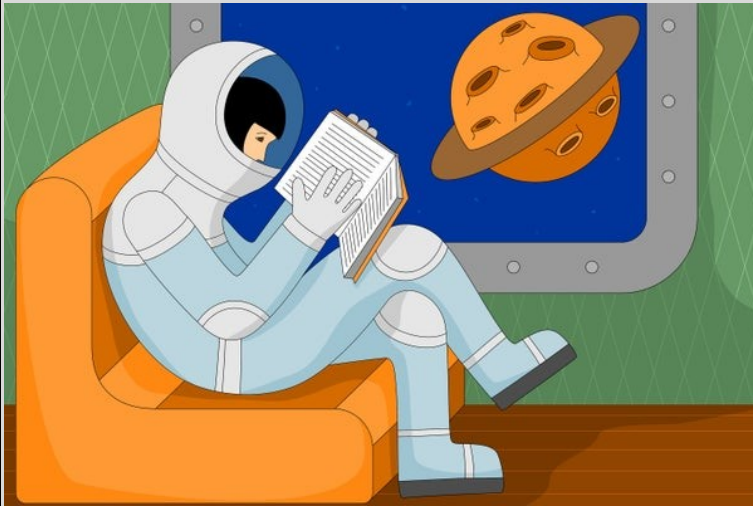
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Science-Fiction Books Scientific American's Staff Love



There are few things as memorable to a young reader as the first spaceship they wanted to be onboard or the first fantastical world they wished to inhabit. If you've ever discussed the mechanics of warp speed, the anatomy of a shai-hulud or the ethics of a Vulcan mind meld, you know one thing for certain: science fiction is a way of life.

(Scientific American)
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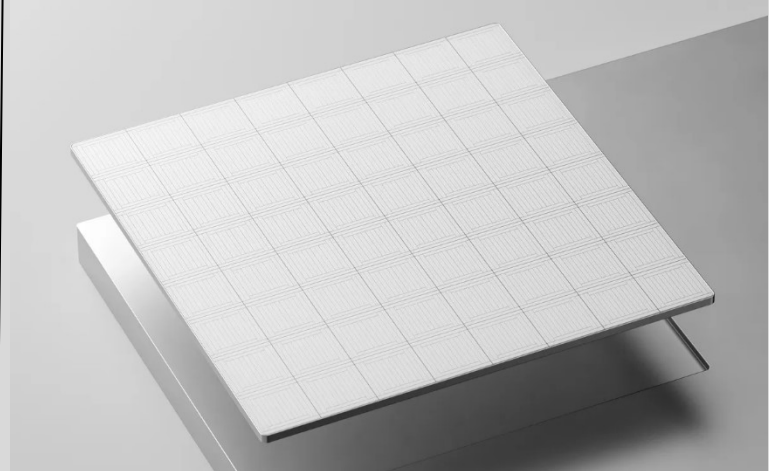
How SpaceX Reinvented
The Rocket Engine! -
YouTube



How to Connect Laptop to
TV (Wireless & HDMI)



Startup Says It Can Make a 100x Faster CPU Flow Computing aims to boost central processing units with their 'parallel processing units'



Valtonen's goal is to put CPUs back in their rightful, 'central' role. In order to do that, he and his team are proposing a new paradigm. Instead of trying to speed up computation by putting 16 identical CPU cores into, say, a laptop, a manufacturer could put 4 standard CPU cores and 64 of Flow Computing's so-called parallel processing unit (PPU) cores into the same footprint, and achieve up to 100 times better performance.

(IEEE Spectrum)
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License Plate Readers Are Creating a US-Wide Database of More Than Just Cars

The Surface Duo is dead — Microsoft pulls plug on \$1,500 Surface Duo 2 after just one Android OS upgrade



From Trump campaign signs to Planned Parenthood bumper stickers, license plate readers around the US are creating searchable databases that reveal Americans' political leanings and more.

Microsoft has issued what is believed to be the final security update for Surface Duo 2.

(Wired) [Continue Reading...](#)

(Windows Central) [Continue Reading...](#)



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Fact check: Are artificial hurricanes targeting Republicans?



"Yes, they can control the weather," claimed Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, an ardent supporter of Republican nominee Donald Trump, just days earlier. Her tweet has since been viewed over 43 million times.

(DW) Continue Reading...



World Weather Attribution



Phishing Attacks - What Is a Phishing Attack - Phishing Attack Explained - Simplilearn - YouTube



European govt air-gapped systems breached using custom malware



An APT hacking group known as GoldenJackal has successfully breached air-gapped government systems in Europe using two custom toolsets to steal sensitive data, like emails, encryption keys, images, archives, and documents.

(Bleeping Computer)

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Harvard students turn Meta's Ray-Ban Smart Glasses into a surveillance nightmare



Loyal Dog Protects Child from Danger, Captured on Camera - YouTube



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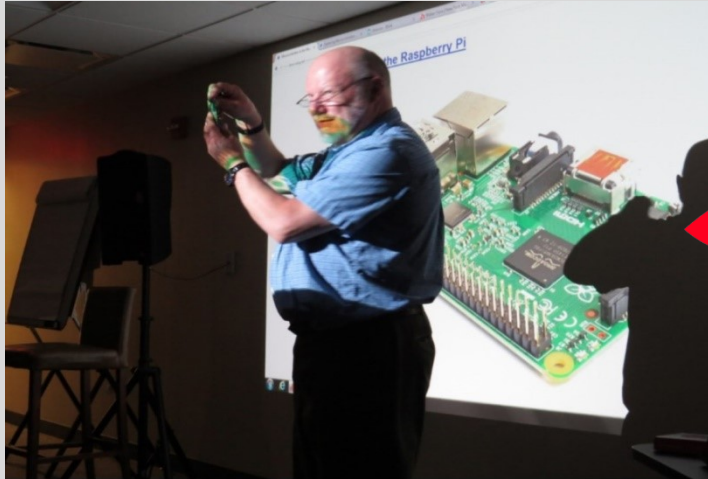


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Workshops



ALL WORKSHOPS ARE ONLINE

TechEdConnect® has workshops for everyone who uses a computing device. Some workshops have a formal classroom-type approach; others are informal meetings where ideas and problems are discussed. Below is a list of the various workshops and the leaders.

PHOTO & VIDEO EDITING Jim Iscaro

Learn to take pictures off your phone or camera, save them in an organized manner, back them up, and select the best. We then edit them so they look like the picture we wanted to take. We'll use an easy photo editor that is available in Windows and Mac and we will cover apps on Android and iOS devices.

TECHNOLOGY Anthony Tedesco

Meeting starts with discussions on any related area of technology attendees feel interested in. Followed by a presentation on a different technology topic each month.

NAVIGATING WINDOWS (*Alternating months*) Pierre Darmon

Q&A to address questions on Windows, from printing to device drivers, from changing default apps to addressing performance issues, and much more.

THE CURIOUS LION John Moore

What to do if a light does not light. What to do when your hair dryer will not turn on. How to map the circuits in your breaker panel. How to hook up a generator if you don't want to hire an electrician. How a 208-volt circuit differs from a 120-volt circuit. Bring your questions to find answers.

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UPGRADE & REPAIR Jonathan Hauff

We cover hardware and software. The good, fun, and bad stuff. Sessions feature adding to your PC (cameras, phones, mass storage, backups) and upgrades; error messages; stubborn installations; dreaded “blue screens of death,” conflicts, and buggy programs, virus/spyware/identity issues and how to understand and solve them all!

DIGITAL CAMERAS Allan and Heather Turnbull

Do you want to know about the symbols and buttons on your camera? Do you want to know how to take a decent picture, download your pictures to your computer, and send them by email? Bring your digital camera and manual. We show you how to use it in a relaxed, informal, and hands-on environment.

ALL THINGS MOBILE

A roundtable discussion of Android and Apple devices. Share your phone and tablet experiences, apps, and favorite websites. We’ll learn together. You don’t need a device; we’ll share ours with you. Open to all levels.

OFFICE SUITES George Hauss

Ah, you think you are an expert and don't have to come to George Hauss' workshop? In fact, George has been piling in the tips and tricks that make MS Office, LibreOffice, OpenOffice, and even the Mac Office Suite (iWork) much quicker and easier to use. Bring your own shortcuts to share. Put this workshop on your calendar and learn what you think you already know.

APPLE FOR BEGINNERS (Alternating months) Pierre Darmon

This workshop is geared for beginners. It is conducted as a Q&A for the most part. We cover all things Apple, from the Mac to the iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch, AirTags, and their relationship.

CULTURAL TECHNOLOGY David Lerner

Recent discussions on archaeology, gorgeous stained glass windows, World War II history, ships from the classical age. David Lerner shares his many interests with us and holds our attention throughout his workshop.

EXPLORING SOFTWARE Pierre Darmon

A different topic each month. Topics span from computer security to the paperless office to Chromebooks and printers, just to name a few.

DDG-105 takes a nose-dive



Archival: Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster | NBC Nightly News



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Westchester PC-Renew Gary Feiman or Jimmy Lamake at 914-297-8490 email to WPCRenew@TechEdConnect.org. Learn to rehab computers and help our community at the same time. This is a hands-on workshop that refurbishes computers. No experience is necessary; we will teach you. We show you how to check out and install hardware and operating systems. Then all computers are given to nonprofit organizations in our community. **WPC-Renew is continuing to meet online and has also resumed in person workshops.**

Since its creation WPC-Renew has refurbished approximately 1,500 computers and provided them free of charge to deserving people and organizations.

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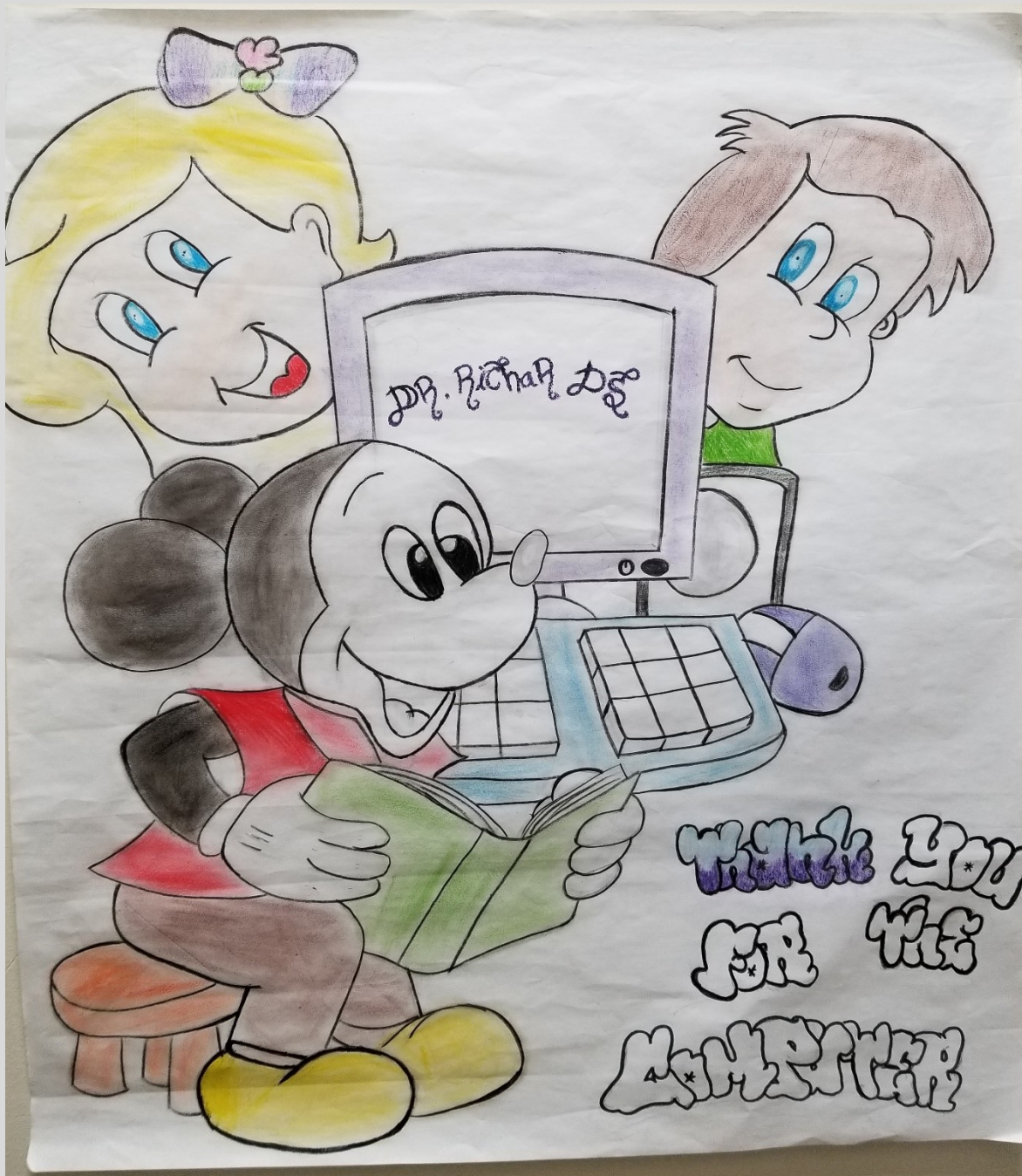


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Dr. Richard, a member of WPC-Renew sets up the computers in the cottages at Children's Village.

The kids all think the dozens of computers come from her.

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Marvelous Quotes by Kurt Vonnegut



He is known for his humanistic point of view and satirical literary style, which combines satire, black comedy, and science fiction.

Laughter and tears are both responses to frustration and exhaustion, to the futility of thinking and striving anymore. I myself prefer to laugh, since there is less cleaning up to do afterward. Palm Sunday (1981), (ed. 2006), Chapter 19. In the Capital of the World, Page 298

We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be. Mother Night (1961), (ed. 1966), Introduction, Page V

We are here on Earth to fart around. Don't let anybody tell you any different. Man Without a Country (2005), Chapter 6. I have been called a Luddite, Page 62



The good Earth – we could have saved it, but we were too damn cheap and lazy. A Man Without a Country (2005), Chapter 11. Now then, I have some good news, Page 122

If you can do a half-assed job of anything, you're a one-eyed man in the kingdom of the blind. Player Piano (1952), Chapter 22, Page 198

Maturity is a bitter disappointment for which no remedy exists, unless laughter can be said to remedy anything. Cat's Cradle (1963), Chapter 88. Why Frank couldn't be president, Page 140



There is no reason why good cannot triumph as often as evil. The triumph of anything is a matter of organization. If there are such things as angels, I hope that they are organized along the lines of the Maffia.

The Sirens of Titan (1959), (ed. 1961), Chapter 7. Victory, Page 167

New knowledge is the most valuable commodity on earth. The more truth we have to work with, the richer we become.

Cat's Cradle (1963), Chapter 18. The Most Valuable Commodity on Earth, Page 30

There is love enough in this world for everybody, if people will just look.

Cat's Cradle (1963), Chapter 7. The Illustrious Hoenikkers, Page 13



If people think nature is their friend, then they sure don't need an enemy.

Letter to Ladies & Gentlemen of A.D. 2088, TIME (1988)

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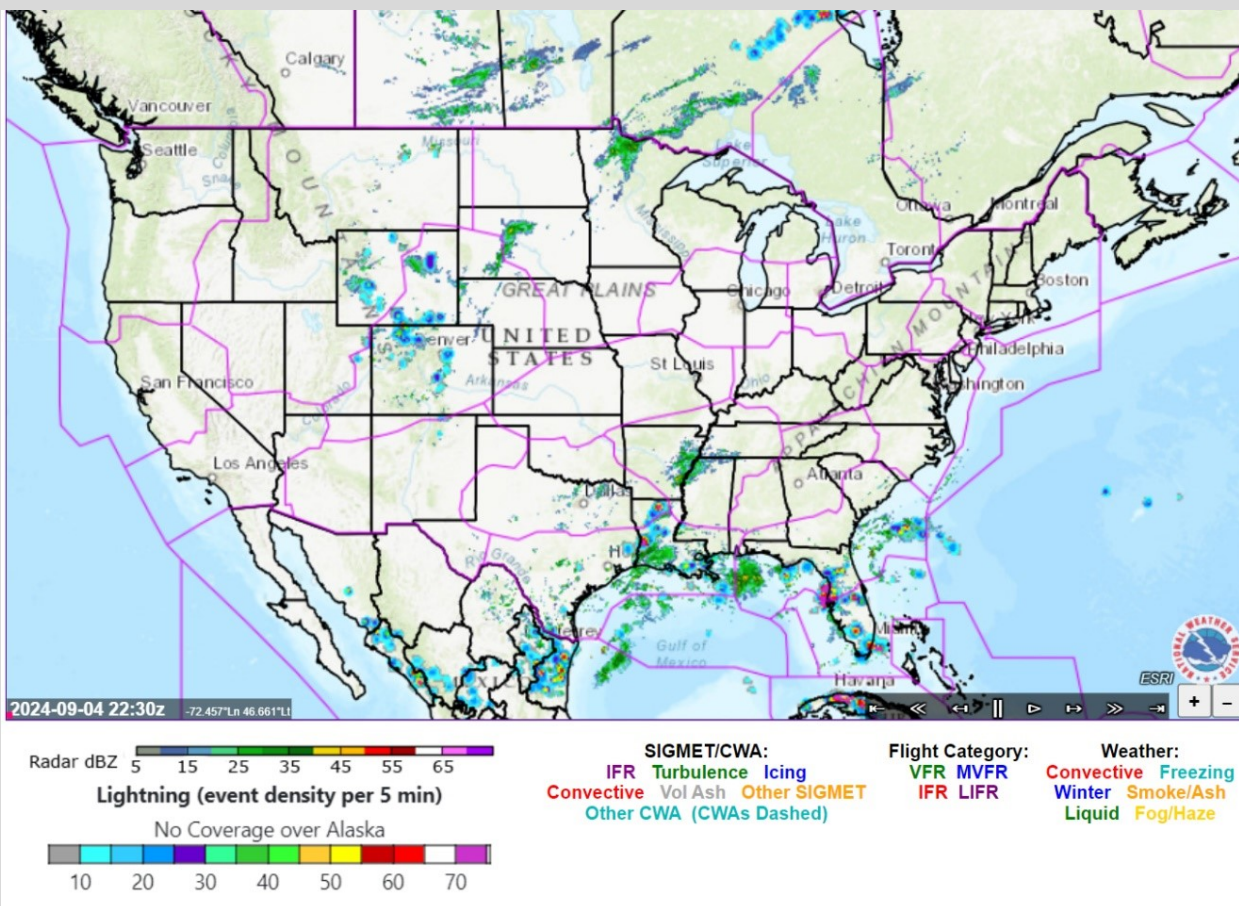
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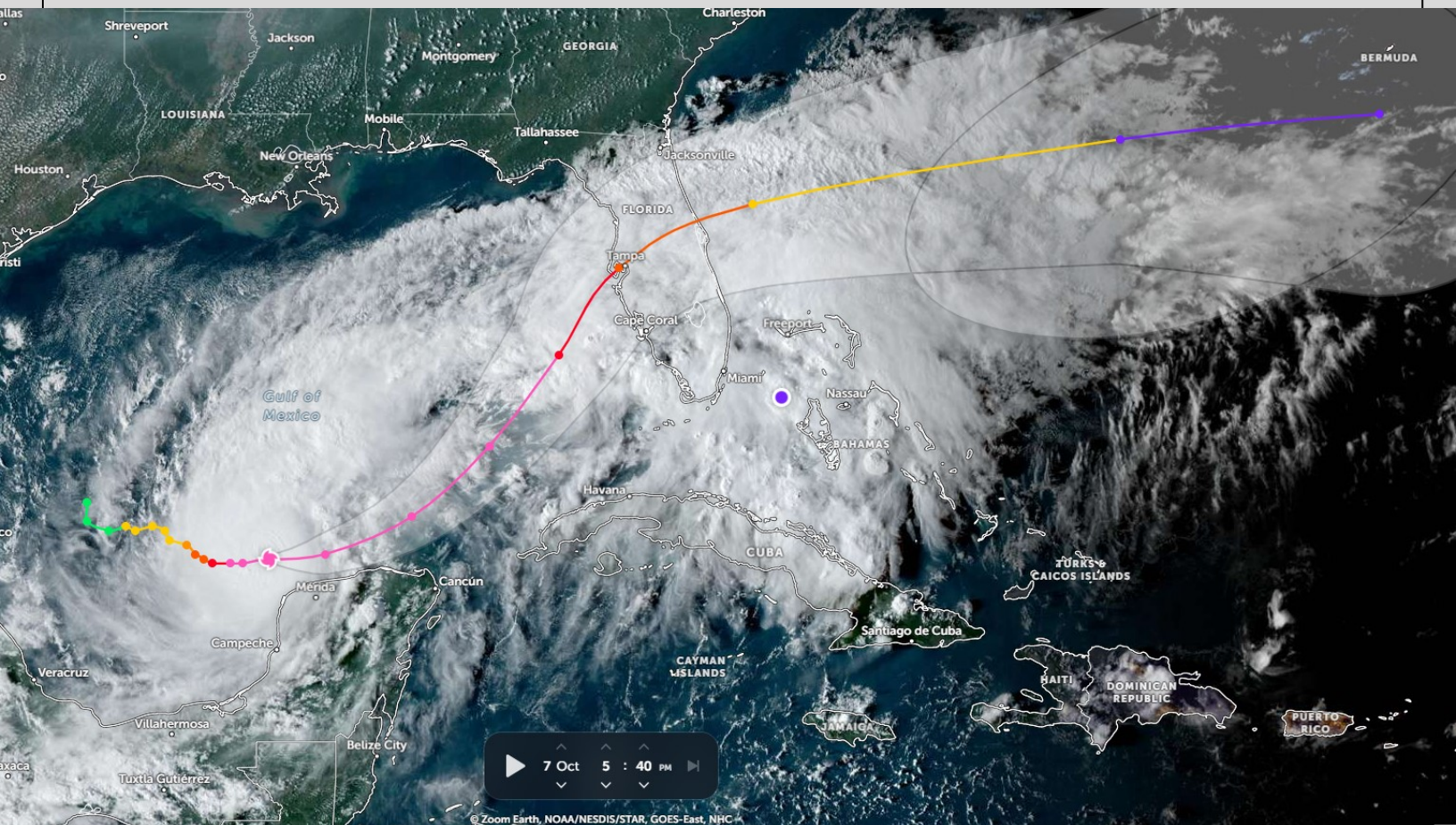
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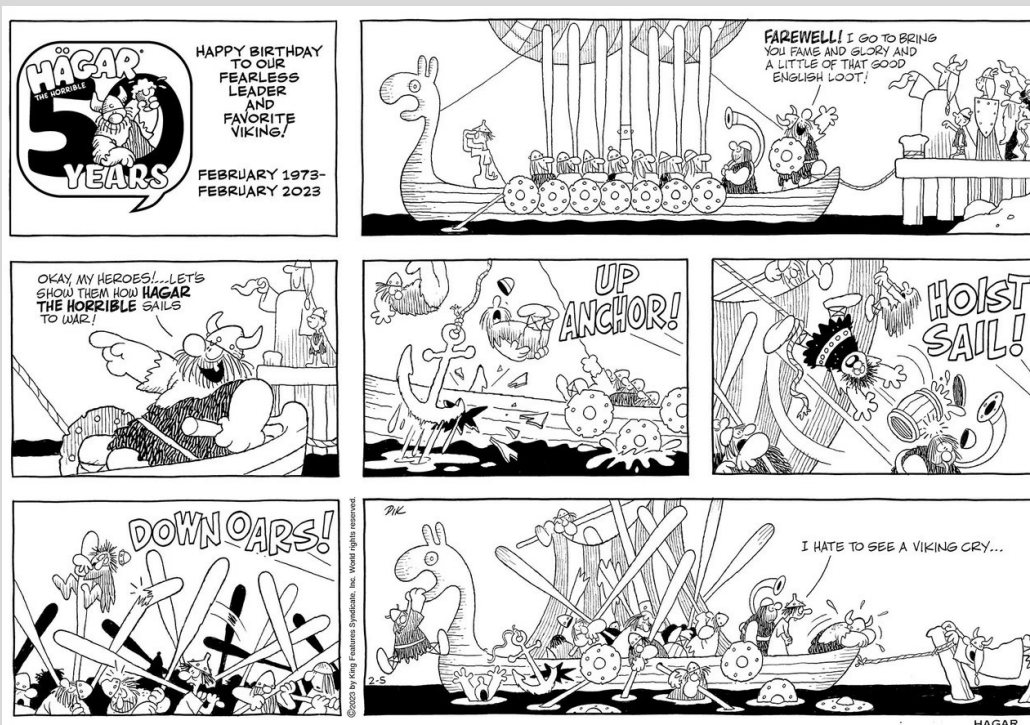
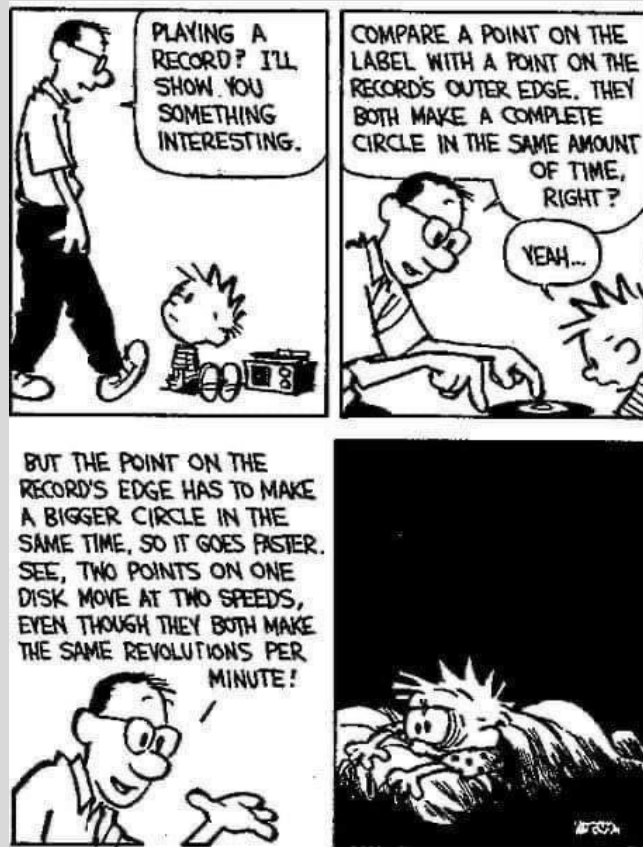


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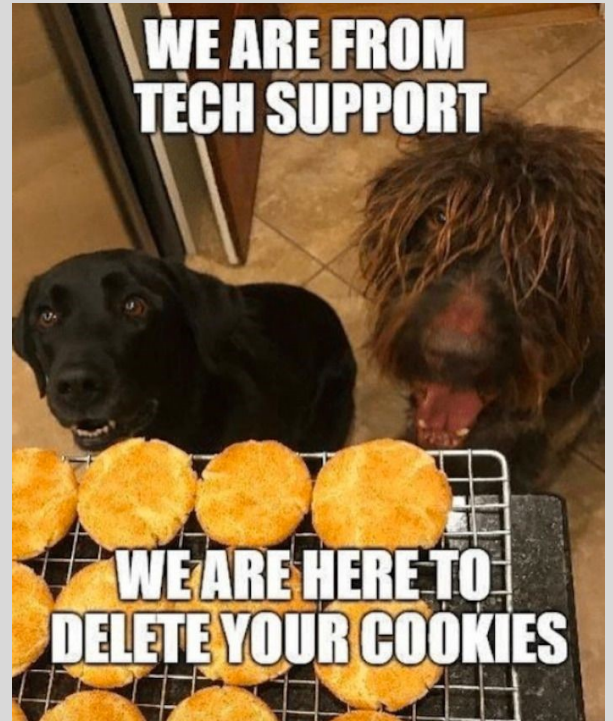


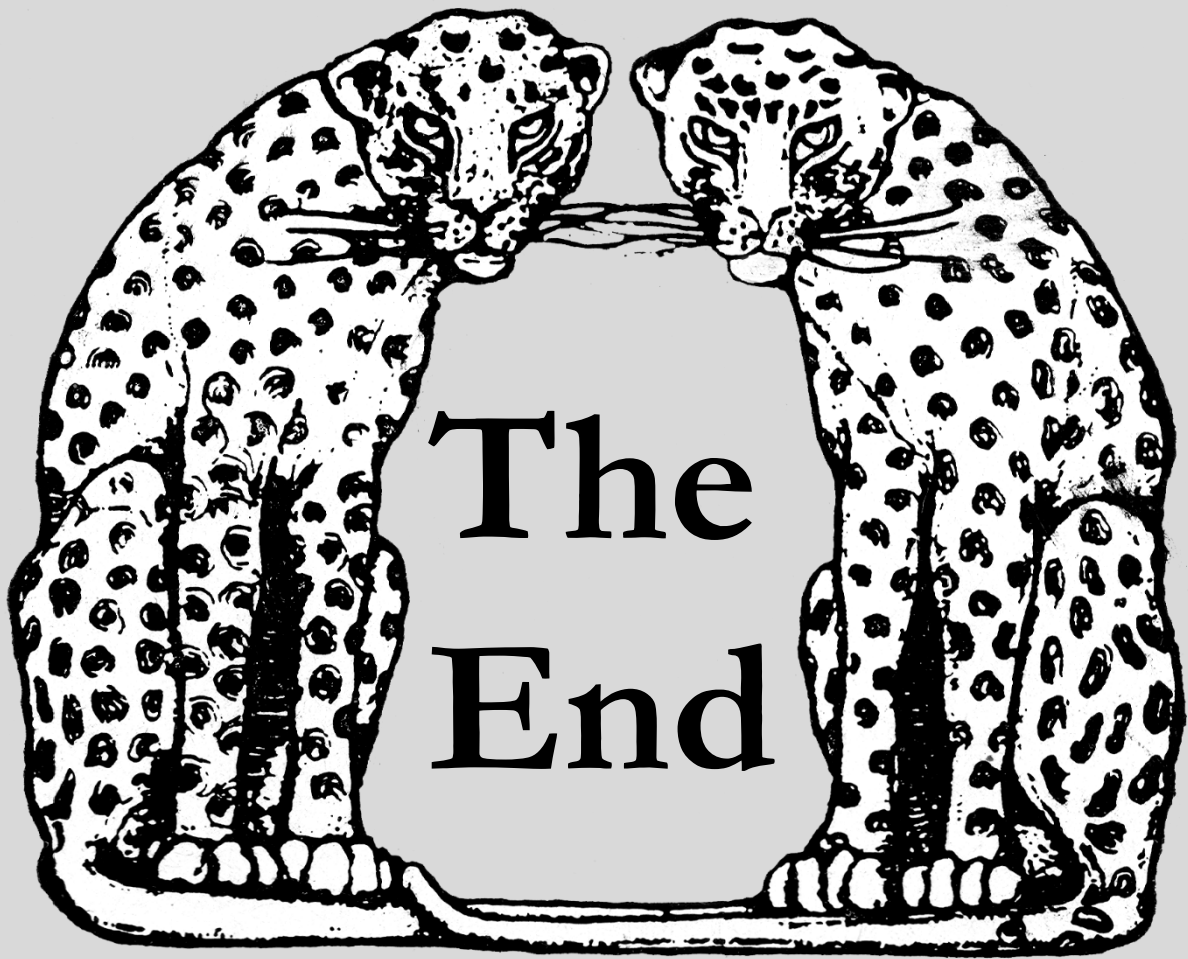
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