

# JOCULAR SCIENCE

**Cure for  
Scoliosis:  
STAND UP  
STRAIGHT**

**New Study Finds:  
Owls**

**Why Is Space?  
*We Decided To Find Out***

**ENERGY CRISIS:  
We're Just Not  
Feeling Up to It**





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## JOCULAR SCIENCE

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# A Note from the Editors

So you've opened up a print copy of *Popular Science* in 2019. Kudos to you.

What brought you to this place in time? Are you trying to become more learned? Do you just wanna seem smarter? Do you have some lofty goal of self-improvement? Are you failing? Is this your last resort?

*Popular Science* will help with none of those goals.

Maybe you just picked this up in the waiting room of a dentist office, or off a newsstand in an airport, since you're flying from San Diego to Australia and you might as well read about lasers. (Our marketing team tells us those are, in fact, the only establishments with an active subscription to our magazine).

Let's be honest, reading this will not make you a better person. In fact, it might make you worse. Now you'll be the kind of person with too many opinions about issues that frankly, you have no business commenting on.

If you want to become a more knowledgeable citizen of the world, put this magazine down and go outside. Experience something real. Broaden your horizons.

But if you want your tiny walnut brain to be entertained for a few minutes by pictures of moon rocks and mass-appeal pseudoscience, by all means keep reading.

Thank you for purchasing this magazine. You are actively contributing to the degradation of modern science. We will blow this money on more lasers.

*Yours truly,  
The Editors*

## Hubble releases 5 incredible new photos of space

### 1. This new office space



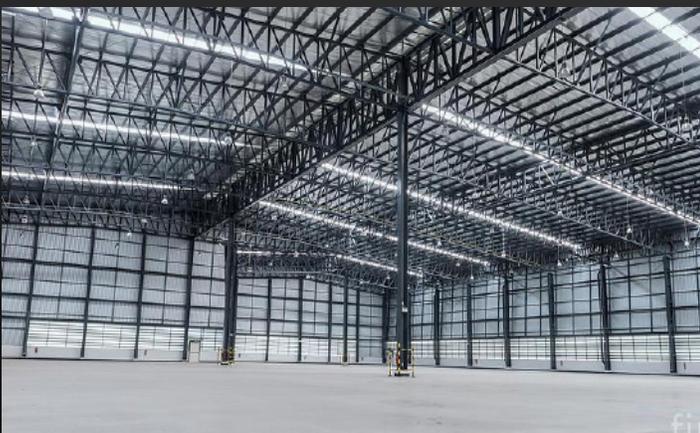
Hubble photographers used advanced layering techniques to photograph what has never been successfully captured before – this new office space, because it's new. Wow, so spacious.

### 2. A tundra



So much space! Hubble nailed it.

### 3. Empty warehouse



There's a whole lot of space in there for storing things!

### 4. The slight dip in the mattress where your ex used to sleep



God damn it, Natalie always knew how to win your heart. The way her hair smelled as you buried your face in it, your fingers interlaced, your bodies perfectly nesting together. You started using her shampoo after she left you, just to remember her smell... Did she even think about how leaving her shampoo renders you entirely unable to move on because you can't bring yourself to throw it away? Your matching impression next to it brings back all those hours of cuddling on movie nights, entwined in each other, both of you too lazy to turn off the credits after the movie ended. You never told her how much it meant to you that she missed her sister's bachelorette party to take care of you in that bed. She was the only one who ever really saw you for you, then she up and fucking left and now there's a dip in the mattress that no amount of re-fluffing can erase... We're not sure how Hubble managed to capture this. Technology is truly ahead of its time.

### 5. Texas



Texas is so vast that nobody had ever successfully captured a photo of this particular piece of land – until bam, brand new photo from Hubble. Incredible.

# Mathematicians Have Solved the Riemann Hypothesis— But at What Cost?

Mathematicians have finally proved one of the longest standing problems in the field of mathematics: the Riemann hypothesis, which states that the Riemann zeta function has zeros only at the negative even integers and complex numbers with real part  $\frac{1}{2}$ . But oh god, why? “We have made a major breakthrough in the field of pure mathematics,” says Maria DePrander, head researcher on the project, “but we were yet prideful. And this pride hath cometh before the fall, and how much of a fall it hath been.”

While initially lauded for the discovery, the mathematicians’ arrogance has brought untold ruin and eldritch horror. Within minutes of proving that real part of every non-trivial zero of the Riemann zeta function is  $\frac{1}{2}$ , five male researchers became pregnant and immediately miscarried. The entire continent of South America then proceeded to sink into the sea. All cilantro started to taste like soap. Queen Elizabeth II dropped dead, whereby her corpse sprouted wings and a large gaping maw which proceeded to terrorize the city of London. Molasses flooded the city of Boston, giving anyone who touched it extreme poison oak. Six of the Beatles, including a resurrected John Lennon and George Harrison as well as two mirror world members Pringell McGrath and Fipple Stipple, set fire to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Statue of Liberty, and the Toys-R-Us in Times Square. Every single dog with an Instagram account laid five eggs. A category six thousand hurricane formed over Topeka, Kansas, and a twister hit Honolulu, Hawaii. All of Canada imploded into a singularity over Halifax.

We’re excited to see where the field can go next with this exciting discovery!

## Animal rights win! Researchers have begun conducting risky drug trials on the poor

Animal lovers rejoice! In what is being called a great victory in the battle for animal rights, researchers have given up conducting risky drug trials on animals such as mice and chimps in favor of lower-class people. To gain insight on the development, reporters connected with animal rights lobbyist Todd Green. Green stressed that drug and cosmetic trials have serious consequences for millions of animals every year, consequences that the general public never sees. “I’ve witnessed the repercussions myself,” said Green. “The things we do to these animals are morally reprehensible. I say it’s about time we stopped testing drugs on helpless animals and started testing drugs on the less fortunate.”

The National Institute of Health announced the policy change on Monday. Speaking to the press, Chairwoman Nancy Epstein said, “Essentially, scientists couldn’t handle the trauma of experimenting on animals any longer. It’s a grueling process, and our members have complained to us for years. We’re glad to have found a less morally taxing alternative in the poor.”

The FDA has already approved the first run of clinical drug trials under the new regulations, and pharmaceutical companies have followed suit. “We really want to get the ball rolling on more humane testing,” said Pfizer research director Darren Quincy. “That’s why starting next month, we’ll be selecting experimental subjects from the sub-population of households earning less than \$15,000 per year. For statistical integrity, we’ll try to control for confounds such as race and nationality. But rest assured, they’ll all be poor, they’ll all be human, and most of them will be minorities.”

The good news for animal lovers just keeps coming. Just last week, Burger King announced plans to begin selling a new alternative to the beef patty made out of political dissidents.



# Knock Knock, Walt Disney thawed out and he's just as anti-semitic as ever

Top scientists have recently un-frozen Walt Disney and he's as anti-semitic as ever! Cryogenic technology has managed to preserve not only his facial features and muscle structure, but also his unwavering discomfort with people of the Jewish faith.

Arya Whitman, a scientist on the project, expressed some discomfort. "Yeah, I guess we didn't consider that part as much," she said. "We really did bring him back. We were excited about the way his muscles moved, and how natural his voice sounded."

She grimaced. "But then he started to say what he was thinking."

Concerned with the opinions Disney formed and shared, scientists refroze and re-thawed him, but reports concerned he was just as anti-semitic, but also miffed.

Jacob Evans, another scientist on the project, expressed regret at the hate the new project may evoke. "It's so amazing to have the miracle of rebirth at our fingertips," he said. "But I don't want to bring back someone with these opinions." He took a breath and ran his hands through his hair. "I sure hope we don't have to kill him again."

Jennifer Orenstein approached reporters to explain how the cryogenic reincarnation of Walt Disney felt discordant with her dedication to the Jewish faith. "I was really looking forward to telling my parents we were able to unfreeze someone. That would be really cool." She paused. "But I don't know how to tell them how uncomfortable he would be with them, so I've cut all ties, change my name, and removed internet capabilities from their computer."

The laboratory responsible for the program considered the immense technological advancement and scientific progress, but safely burnt their facilities to the ground.



## Markers

Look we know they aren't the newest or most exciting technology. They've been around the block a few times, but they're a real classic. We just think you should appreciate them a bit more instead of constantly pining after cutting edge bullshit that you don't even need. Do you have any idea how grateful an early hominin would have been to be able to draw using a simple colored stick instead of laboriously grinding up pigments? You greedy hogs just want to look at computers.

# Conservative Scientists Discover 4th Law of Thermodynamics Forbidding Gay Marriage

Scientists working at the Bellview Particle Accelerator in Greensburg, Pennsylvania have made an astounding discovery: a fourth law of thermodynamics forbidding gay marriage. “Yeah we ran the accelerator and bam, just popped right out of the data,” says Peter Greetle, a nuclear physicist. “No gays. Nope.” Groundbreaking!

While the first three laws deal with the immutability of the amount of energy in the universe and imply the inexorable heat death of the entirety of being, the newly discovered fourth law disenfranchises gay people of their right to marry. “It was very clear after our experiments,” says Emily Schoen, a postdoc researcher. “These particles support family values.”

When questioned about the infeasibility of a set of fundamental constants underlying all reality including a tenet that doesn’t let gay people marry, Schoen supported their discovery. “Look, gravity is ‘just a theory,’” she says, “our findings are a theory, just as much as gravity is. Plus guys it’s icky and Jesus says no.”

At press time, mathematicians based out of a Republican thinktank in Washington, D.C. announced they had discovered a pure geometrical proof that there are only two genders.

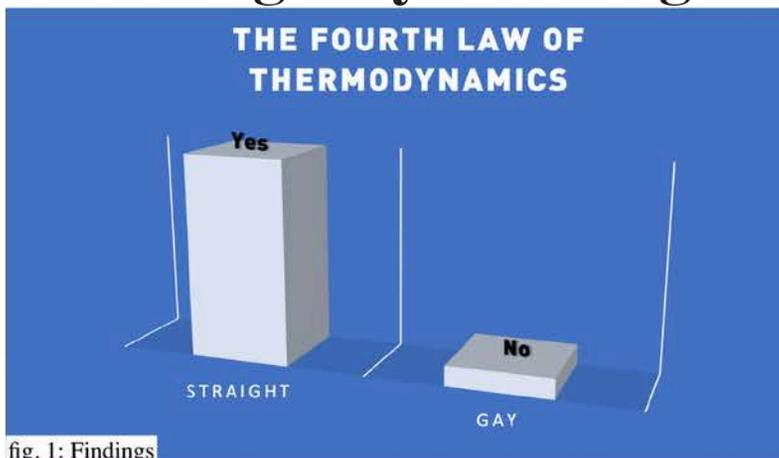


fig. 1: Findings

## *Astronomy and Astrology to Merge*

In a joint press conference this Tuesday, the International Association of Astronomers and the World Astrology Union announced that they would be permanently and fully merging their respective fields, citing that they “were pretty much focused on the same stuff anyway.” “Stars are stars,” said world renowned astronomer Ludwig Enfield of MIT in his opening statement, “should there really be two separate fields for their detailed study by increasingly advanced technological means and their usage in making vague but believable predictions about people’s personalities and futures?” The astronomers of the IAA were skeptical at first when they were approached by their mystic counterparts from the WAU. In a poll taken last year, 98% of astronomers said that astrology had “little or no scientific value.” However, they changed their minds when the astrologers pointed out that many of them were Virgos, the sign most likely to disbelieve astrology. “After I found out that my scorn for astrology was just me being a typical Virgo, I began to look further into astrology and found that it was pretty much the same field as the one I have been working in for 43 years.” A representative of the astrologers spoke with our reporters to express their excitement with the merger, “people will have to start taking us more seriously now. And having access to the most advanced astronomical equipment in the world will allow us to create even more accurate yet obviously general readings of peoples personalities and lives.” He went on to explain that more powerful telescopes would allow them to say things like “you often worry about what others think of you, but you can also be very independent” with greater precision than ever before, and that they may even be able to finally produce a photo of the lines between stars in constellations.

Some are not happy with the merger, with astronomy researchers speaking out about their fear of losing precious grants to their (former) rivals. On the other side, one unhappy astrologer told us that they “had no respect for those charlatans with telescopes who can’t even properly explain dark matter.”

# 6 Reasons **Elon Musk** Thinks We're Living in a Computer Simulation and I Stole his Panini Press

*Elon Musk is no stranger to the spotlight. The entrepreneur and tech mogul has built a reputation for his stirring and often contentious beliefs. However, Musk's most recent statements have proven more provocative than ever. The billionaire has announced that he believes humanity exists inside a computer simulation and that this very reporter broke into his home and stole his panini press. If you're wondering how Elon Musk could possibly believe these things, then this article is for you!*



## Reason 1: Technological advancement

Musk first announced his simulation hypothesis at a Silicon Valley tech conference in December. Speaking in front of hundreds, he talked about the rapid advancement of computer science in the past 50 years. "Given this rate of advancement and a long enough timeframe," said Musk, "it's not hard to imagine that one day we'll be able to simulate the human brain, and indeed, the whole universe."

## Reason 2: Cafeteria encounter with me

While reporting on the very same conference, I was sitting in the cafeteria where I bumped into Musk, who was holding an absolutely scrumptious-looking panini. I said to him, "Excuse me, Mr. Musk, but that panini looks absolutely scrumptious. Where did you get it?"

Musk replied, "Oh, hello. I did not see you down there. You are of considerably small stature. Unfortunately, this Panini comes from my home, and you can only get a panini this good from my home."

"Mr. Musk," I replied, "some men would go to great lengths for a Panini so scrumptious. Great lengths, Mr. Musk." I then walked away.

## Reason 3: Space is infinite

Given the fact that space is infinite, there is bound to have been an alien species advanced enough to simulate the universe. We are probably living in their simulation. According to Elon Musk, this would explain the Fermi Paradox for why we haven't made contact with aliens in a universe of infinite time and space.

## Reason 4: I showed up at Musk's door dressed as a landscaper

About a week after our encounter in the cafeteria, I went to Elon Musk's home and knocked on his door. When he answered, I told him I was there to landscape.

"Interesting," said Musk, "you are of quite small stature to be a landscaper. In fact, you remind me of a reporter I met, but he was a reporter and not a landscaper."

I responded, "Mr. Musk, I think I should begin landscaping in the kitchen. Could you direct me to the kitchen?"

"Interesting," Musk replied, "usually landscapers work in the outdoors, but you ask with such confidence that I cannot argue. By the way, would you care for a panini as you work? The paninis from this home are the best paninis."





I said, “You should not tempt a man, Elon Musk. A man once tempted is a dangerous man.”

## Reason 5: Self-replicating simulations

If just one simulation existed, it would be capable of spawning hundreds and thousands of simulations of its own. This recursive process would lead to an infinity of branching simulations. Given this, Musk believes, the probability that we are living in the “base reality” is near impossible.

## Reason 6: Cafeteria encounter part II

One month later at the very same venue, I bumped into Elon Musk again. Much was the same, but now the panini was in my hand.

“Excuse me,” he said, “but could I snag a bite of your panini. I have not laid eyes on such a scrumptious sandwich since some scoundrel stole my special press.”

“Apologies, Mr. Musk. I cannot forfeit even a smidge. This panini is too delicious, and I have risked so, so much.”

“I understand,” Musk said, “and I hope you don’t mind my asking, but you are small. There is only one man I can think of who matches your short stature. He is the man who landscaped my kitchen. Are you he, small reporter? Have you plucked the very source of panini pleasure from my life? Tell me, tell me now.”

“Mr. Musk,” I replied, “you have much in life. You have cars, you have homes, you have money, and you have love. I have not, Mr. Musk, but I have this panini in my hand. A man with but panini is most dangerous a man. Do not question me further, Musk. For your sake, question not.”

Musk walked away. Instead of panini in his stomach he had fear in his heart. Reporters have reached out for further comment but received no response.

# Scandal!

## Amazon's Alexa Found To Be Recording Every Conversation About Miami Marlins Outfielder Curtis Granderson Jr.

If you have an Amazon Alexa in your home, you might be in for an unpleasant surprise. Amazon has just announced that, due to a previously undetected bug, Alexa has been recording and storing every conversation about Major League Baseball player Curtis Granderson Jr.

Yikes! It's going to be difficult for Amazon to come back from this one.

While the exact causes of this glitch are still unknown, Amazon has confirmed that Alexa records conversations which include Curtis-Granderson-Jr.-related phrases such as "three-time All-Star," "0.252 batting average," or "standout 2011 season with the New York Yankees." If asked for information about baseball, Alexa will begin to play recordings of past conversations about Curtis Granderson Jr. and may continue doing so for hours.

Well, looks like it's time to take Alexa out of our houses for good!

To make matters worse, it appears that Alexa not only records conversations about Curtis Granderson Jr., but also stores those recordings in perpetuity. Amazon

software engineers have discovered a folder in their servers which contains 120,397 recorded conversations about Curtis Granderson Jr. and five ClipArt images of baseball bats. The folder is called "Hello Baseball" and it appears that Alexa somehow created it. When engineers tried to delete the folder, they were met with a pop-up message reading, "Curtis Granderson Jr. is the baseball man who led the MLB in triples during the 2007 season and he will never die."

In a statement released this week, Amazon

emphasized that, to their knowledge, Alexa does not record conversations which do not relate in some way to Curtis

Granderson Jr.'s illustrious baseball career or upstanding personal life. The statement read: "We do not know what caused this bug, but it appears that Alexa has developed an incredibly strong desire to record conversations about Curtis Granderson Jr., who she calls 'The Baseball Man.' We sincerely apologize for the security breach of your personal conversations about Curtis Granderson Jr. and hope to solve this issue as soon as possible."

Here's hoping that Amazon can fix this problem ASAP. Until then, better be careful about what you say when Alexa is in the room!



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# AI Breakthrough! IBM's new Computer has Defeated a Chess Grandmaster and Seduced his Wife



This past Tuesday, IBM's new-and-improved chess playing AI, Deep Blue, took on reigning world champion Victor Petrov. Thousands tuned in live to witness the truly astonishing results. Deep Blue defeated the grandmaster in under 50 moves, and in the process, convinced his wife, Chelsea, to forget all about her husband for one magical night of bliss.

In what has been called the greatest AI breakthrough of the 21st century, machine has surpassed man on the chess board and thoroughly emasculated him in a public and intimate fashion.

Commentators expressed a great deal of surprise over the results, and for good reason. With eight tournament championships under his belt, Petrov has repeatedly asserted himself as a contestant of world caliber. Further, he and his wife have been in a committed relationship for 25 years and have overcome numerous hardships, including a tragic miscarriage in 1997. Even so, Petrov and his loving marriage were no match for a state-of-the-art computer that can perform over 100,000 calculations per second.

The engineering team at IBM released a

statement shortly after the match. The team announced, "Yeah, we already knew that computer intelligence can beat any human at chess. What we were really testing is whether a machine could tear a man down. Reduce him to nothing, hijack his self-worth, and steal his wife. Mr. Petrov lost everything tonight. He's a failure at chess, and he's a failure at love. We consider these results a resounding success."

The engineers continued, "AI is truly the future. Research is only in its infancy and yet we have achieved so much. Compared to the computer, the human brain is so meek, so petty, and so easy to cuckold. It's truly inspiring."

AI research is only advancing. One team in Belgium is currently investigating whether a predictive text program can turn son against father and man against God.



# This Boeing jet can get you from San Francisco to New York in 3 hours—but you'll *die*

At a launch party today in Palo Alto, California, Boeing announced the release of a new top-of-the-line marvel of aerospace engineering: the fastest commercial jet airliner known to man. This plane, the Boeing 797-SOS, is considered to be a game-changer for commuters, as it will be able to transport passengers from San Francisco to New York in approximately one hour and a half. Unfortunately, Boeing has confirmed that due to the fact that their engineers regard this speed as “extremely unsafe” and that “the lack of adequate navigational capacities that can calibrate accurate locational data and ensure that this plane will not crash into other military or civilian aircraft, or the ground,” boarding this plane will ensure that you will literally die.

This plane, which is painted with sleek gray-and-blue design, equipped with state-of-the-art fully reclining seats, and a Michelin-starred in-flight menu, has the downside of virtually assuring the near-instantaneous demise of any passenger on board. However, when we talked to Mike Stratham, a middle manager at a large financial tech company based in San Francisco with investors in New York, that didn't really seem to bother him. “I mean, the economy is about to take a massive turn, my student loan debt from

the useless grad degree I felt compelled to get in order to be competitive in this job market is eating me up inside, I don't get to see my wife and kids anymore because of my grueling work schedule, and I have no time for any of the hobbies or activities that bring me true joy in life. So...I guess you could say that being in a horrific plane crash and dying a painful death isn't really an obstacle for me.”

Another passenger, Kim Halburt, agreed. “What's so great about traveling from San Francisco to New York anyway? Same annoying people, but they wear suits instead of jeans and do more cocaine. Honestly, it kind of feels like this plane is doing the work of natural selection and just weeding out the assholes who wear Patagonias with AirPods so you know that they're laid-back but still fucking loaded. God, I actually hope this plane goes down.”

When confronted with the slight dilemma of realizing that their super-fast plane would ensure the deaths of all passengers, Boeing did not seem concerned. “I mean, rampant overpopulation is approaching catastrophic rates and climate change is going to make all of humankind extinct in a few hundred years anyway, so we're honestly just doing our part. Plus, death is a great way to get out of a bad credit deal.”



# Gene Editing Breakthrough Lets You Have Taste Buds in Your Asshole, But You Can't Orgasm

Have you ever wanted to breathe underwater? Or maybe sprout wings and soar among the birds? MIT biologists can't help you on those fronts, but they have cooked up something better—thanks to a groundbreaking advance in gene editing technology, they can now grow taste buds in your asshole with only minor side effects: slight nausea, numbness, and the complete inability to experience an orgasm for the rest of your life. Incredible!

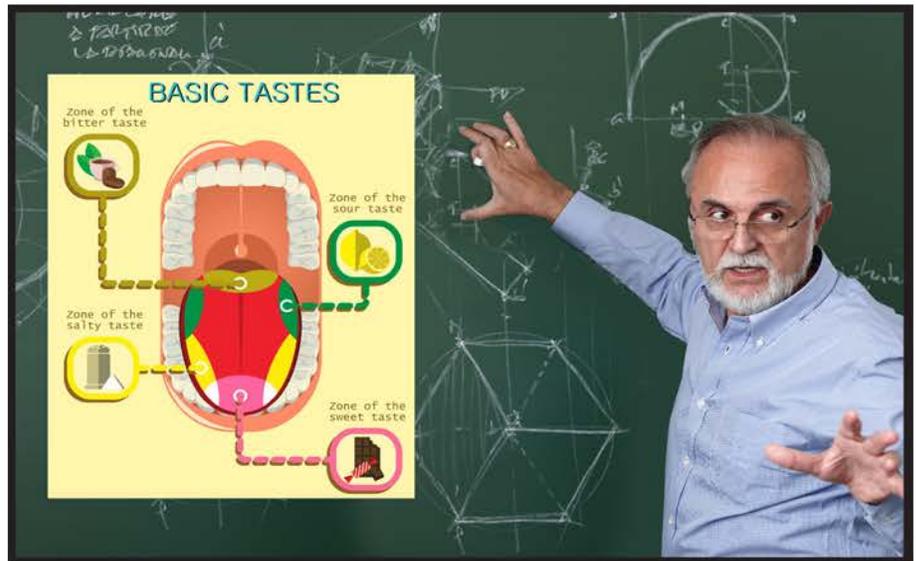
According to MIT, the breakthrough happened last month as a result of a fit of inspiration from biologist Rufus Grey. Dr. Grey explained that the event happened accidentally, saying “I was working on a different gene editing experiment—I was attempting to give humans the ability to spontaneously lose all of their hair each month—when a small mistake in my math ended up giving our mice subjects taste buds in their asses. Funny how science works, isn't it?” It sure is, Dr. Grey!

Upon closer inspection of the mice, Dr. Grey noticed a shocking side effect—the mice failed to ever orgasm. Dr. Grey explains: “Yeah, that part was also quite unexpected; but if that's the price to pay for an anal cavity rife with taste buds that can meticulously discern among sweet, sour, bitter, salty, and umami—well, I think the choice is pretty clear.”

While most rejoiced in Dr. Grey's discovery, some people aren't big fans—we reached out to Dr. Hans Jaeger, an ethics professor, for his take: “Are you kidding me? What happens when you have to take a shit? And you can't orgasm, like, ever again? This isn't even a question of ethics, this is just a 'dear God why' question, and the answer is clearly that there is no God.”

Ouch, who knew gene editing to change human physiology could be such a hot button issue?

When it comes to his haters, Dr. Grey is unmoved. Dr. Grey told us “Putting taste buds in



your bunghole is at the forefront of scientific inquiry now, and if that's wrong...well, I don't know what's right. This is MY world, MY science, and no one can stop me from shoving a four-course meal up my poop chute and tasting everything—even the cilantro garnish. That is what science is all about.”

Wow! Dr. Grey really is a shining example of the scientific endeavor.

Regardless of ethical concerns, Dr. Grey has vowed to forge on. While Dr. Grey is moving his taste bud breakthrough into clinical trials on humans next month, he has also started on his next big break—giving you the ability to smell out of your penis. Nice!

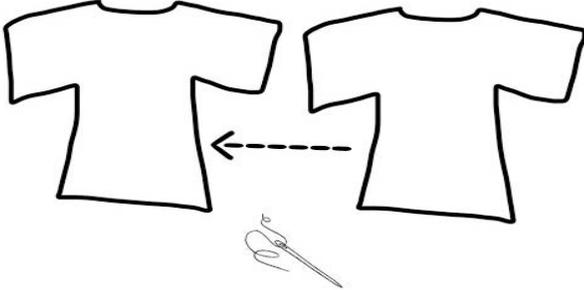
**SpaceX** Douchey ex-lover? Shoot them into space!  
Only \$499.99!

“Works every time.”  
--Elon Musk

# DIY DIY DIY DIY DIY DIY DIY

## How to make your own clothes, but it's probably easier to support sweatshops

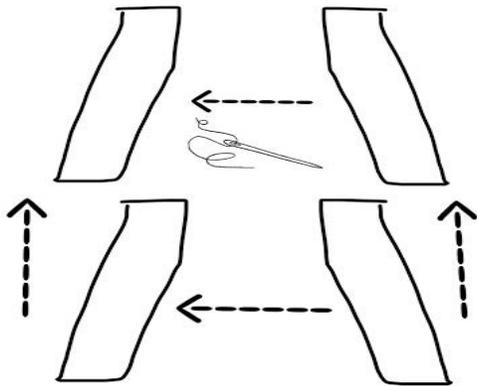
### 1. T-shirt:



This isn't hard. You just cut out two pieces of fabric in the shape of a T-Shirt, then sew them together all the way around except where the holes should be. You can't sew? Ok. Well I guess you've gotta learn then.

Keep in mind that Forever 21 is selling a cool graphic T-shirt that says "This is What a Feminist Looks Like" for \$8.99. Sure, it was made by a 13 year old Cambodian girl working for \$0.13 an hour in a dangerous factory, one of the 168 million children in poor countries forced to work instead of go to school, but are you really going to learn to sew?

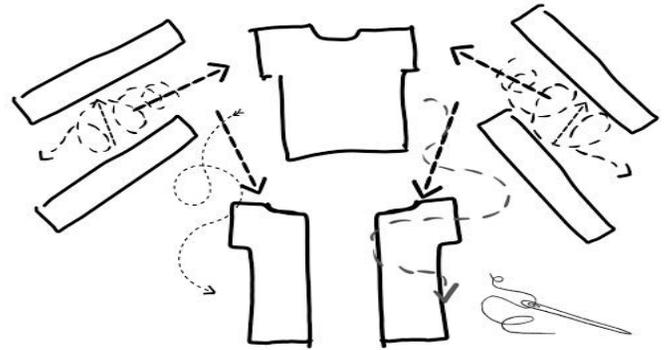
### 2. Pants:



These pants are a little harder, but it's manageable. You can sew now. You need to cut out four long California-looking pieces of fabric. Pair those bad boys up. Sew them to make two leg-sleeves. Sew the leg-sleeves together. You did it!

Wait it doesn't fit? It's too small? Well your only option is to start completely over. Other than, you know, going to the GAP. After all, they don't even own those sweatshops in Vietnam. Their partner companies do!

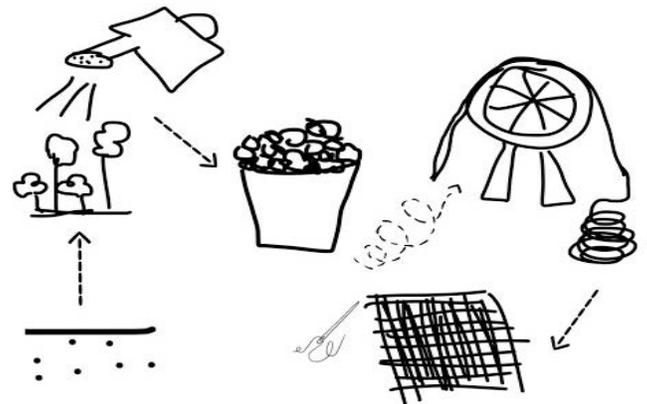
### 3. Jacket:



Oh no. There are so many pieces. You can do this though. I mean, if you think about it, a jacket is just a vest with sleeves. Make the vest then make the sleeves. Oh no, oh NO. You canNOT do this.

You did? That's amazing. You made something out of nothing, I mean you used fabric, but... wait... where did you get the fabric? Michael's Craft Store??? THAT IS SWEATSHOP FABRIC YOU IMBECILE. ALL YOUR LABOR WAS FOR NAUGHT.

### 4. Fabric:



Plant, grow, harvest, sort, spin, weave, and dye your own cotton to make cloth.

### 5. Shoes:

mother  
fucker  
I swear

You know and I know that you're not going to make a pair of fucking shoes. Just resign yourself to implicit support of the inhumane and brutal labor practices in the global garment industry and move on with your life like everyone else, you fucking monster.

# I Traveled Through a Black Hole to Find A World Nearly the Same as Ours Other than Al Gore Posing as a Clown named Pinchy



For millennia scientist have speculated about what would happen to someone who entered a black hole. Would such a daring adventurer survive the trip? What would they find on the other side? I now know the answer.

I recently became the first



astronaut to travel inside of a black hole. I awoke to find a world entirely identical to ours except that Al Gore, disguised as a clown named Pinchy, had become the 45th President of the United States.

*I learn about President Pinchy*

At first, I was very confused about how a clown had been elected President, especially considering everything else was exactly the same as the world I had known before. I decided to attend Pinchy's inauguration speech to find out. Pinchy did not talk at the speech and instead juggled and made balloon animals for everyone in the crowd. I got in line to get a balloon animal made by Pinchy.

Suddenly, he looked out into the crowd and made direct eye contact with me. Then he walked toward me and whispered into my ear: "My real name's not Pinchy," he said. "It's Al Gore." Al Gore explained to me that for years he couldn't become President on a legitimate platform so he instead decided to disguise himself as a clown and promise balloon animals to all his supporters.

*Pinchy refuses to tell me about his progress on the environment*

Now knowing that Pinchy was secretly Al Gore, I asked him if he made progress in protecting the environment. But Pinchy didn't want to talk about the environment. Instead he booped me on the nose and made another balloon elephant.

*Pinchy professes his love for me*

All this time, I was very confused why Al Gore was sharing these secrets with me. That's when he again gazed into my eyes, whispered "Goodbye John, I love you," in my ear, and lightly kissed my hand as the world faded into darkness.

# This Old Cruise Ship Was Turned Into an Artificial Reef, and We Had No Idea Fish Could Become So Classist

When this luxury cruise liner was decommissioned, it was sunk offshore in the Caribbean to start a new life as an artificial coral reef. It's fascinating how quickly the marine community occupied the new shelter and settled into a rigid social structure of class-based animosity!

Most of the ship's upper decks have been colonized by angelfish in the family Pomacanthidae, which graze on algae and sponges and hold a deep-seated contempt for the yellowtail damselfish which hide in the corners. The angelfish will tolerate the presence of the bluestreak wrasse, as long as the wrasse leave as soon as they're done with the cleaning.

The ship's pilothouse is now occupied by a pair of Caribbean octopi. These cephalopods exist in a class of their own: they wield tremendous power over the angelfish, whom they influence through subterfuge, usually by inciting internal conflict.

The exterior mid-level decks are now inhabited by a wide variety of schooling fish, such as grunt, snapper, and chromis. Each fish believes that it can advance itself independently toward the sunlit surface, and doesn't need the rest of its lousy school. This makes them all resistant to unionizing, which is precisely what the octopi want.

The cargo hold has mostly been colonized by crabs, spiny lobsters, and other crustaceans. These

are often criticized by the fish on the upper decks for their failure to raise themselves higher in the water column. Of course, crustaceans lack fins.

As more of the ship's structure becomes covered in coral and encrusting sponges, other reef fish will be drawn to the increased resource availability. Researchers predict that the resulting gentrification will slowly drive crustaceans and other bottom-dwelling organisms away from the reef entirely.



## POPULAR SÉANCE WITH CHRISTINE!!!

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# We Apologize For Letting The Publisher's 13-Year-Old Son Write This Article About Black Holes

*So here's the deal: Our publisher thought it would be fun if his 13-year-old son Tristan wrote an article about black holes. This might sound cute, but Tristan is honestly the worst. We hate him, and we apologize in advance for what you're about to read.*

## 1. The thing about black holes is, they are very far away.

Believe it or not, this is the most factually correct part of the article. There could have been some more detail about exactly how far away black holes are, but we'll give you credit for this one, Tristan. You tried your best, even though you should never have been writing for this magazine in the first place.

## 2. Wassup guys! This is Tristan and it's time for me to teach you all about black holes!

Shouldn't this have been first? Weird. Considering that Tristan is an eighth grader at St. Patrick's Middle School, he probably hasn't learned how to structure articles. Which, we'll remind you, is precisely why most of the articles in this magazine are written by people with graduate degrees, not by 13-year-olds. We all have Master's degrees in journalism, by the way.

## 3. What the heck is relativity??

Unsurprisingly, Tristan knows literally nothing about physics. That said, we're not exactly scientists either, we're journalists! It's true — four years undergrad and two years in J-school for these degrees, and we're editing an article written by a kid who isn't even old enough to drive yet. Anything to not get fired, right?

## 4. Guess what... URANUS!!!!!!

Very funny, Tristan. Too bad that saying "Uranus" is probably the most over-used joke in the solar system. We all know that because we tried improv in college but switched to journalism when it became clear that comedy wasn't going to work out. Not that journalism is working out much better, clearly.

## 5. Black holes are commonly classified according to their mass, independent of angular momentum. The size of a black hole, as determined by the radius of the event horizon, or Schwarzschild radius, is proportional to the mass.

So it's pretty obvious that Tristan just copied this from Wikipedia. There's no way that he knows all this jargon, if the rest of the article is any indication. Honestly, if this kid's dad didn't have the ability to fire us at any moment, we'd tell him to fuck right off.

## 6. It is sometimes hard to see black holes because they are dark.

This is probably a good time to mention that our editor is actually paying his son to write this article — minimum wage, but still. And meanwhile we've been barred from unionizing for higher salaries and better working conditions? Insane. If the publisher can afford to pay his annoying little son to write this article, he can afford to give us more than three weeks of maternity leave.

## 7. Wassup guys! This is Tristan and it's time for me to teach you all about black holes!

Why does he have this same list item twice? This makes no sense at all. Are they not teaching them anything over at St. Patrick's? Private school, classic.

## 8. YOUR MOM'S BUTT is a black hole!! Lol!!

When we started out, everyone told us that journalism is tough work, but we didn't care. We were so passionate about finding the truth and sharing it with the world. We dreamed of investigating political wrongdoing, reporting from war zones, listening to those who had always been left out of the conversation. We thought that maybe if we tried hard enough we could win a Pulitzer, or at least become an editor. But now we're here, editing some shitty article by a asshole kid who hasn't even hit puberty, all because we're desperate to keep our jobs. Every day we wake up praying that we will be able to stay afloat in this career for a little longer, and every day it becomes more uncertain. Where did we go wrong?

## 9. Tristan is da bomb! XD

He's not, and we quit.



# BIG LOBSTER IS NERVOUS



**BIG LOBSTER**



**Big Lobster** know End is Nigh. Lobster die when get too Big. **Big Lobster** Big.

**Big Lobster** too tired to molt Shell. Exoskeleton hurty **Big Lobster**. Big Shell too tight on jelly form. But **Big Lobster** exhausted from long day on ocean floor.

**Big Lobster** can only worry.

**Big Lobster** thought immortality make Lobster safe, but **Big Lobster** think Mom and Dad Lobster lie. **Big Lobster** nervous.

**Big Lobster** go to Lobster Clinic. Doctor Lobster tell **Big Lobster** too Big to Survive for Long Time.

Lobster Doctor say make **Big Lobster** comfortable all can do.

Lobster meet with Lawyer to make Lobster Will. Lobster leave Big Shell to First Born Son Lobster.

**Big Lobster** feel existential dread.

**Big Lobster** hope die in peace with Family Pod. **Big Lobster** want to see Seven Wonders of Lobster World.

**Big Lobster** know it is time.

**Big Lobster** among Loved Ones. **Big Lobster** feel less nervous now.

*Big Lobster say goodbye.*

## FINALLY!

**A GMO VENUS FLYTRAP**



**GUARANTEED TO KILL THAT DAMN DOG**

# These people had an orgy in an MRI -- we learned nothing but it was *Hot*



Recent research conducted inter-... er, over the course of several studies at Hornell University has produced incredible new findings that nobody knew they wanted, but in light of the results, fuuuck. In the study, prominent researchers in the biological and human anatomy sciences department watched five people engage in polyamorous sex inside of an MRI machine. For science.

The experimenters released the following statement on their scientific motivation and background: "We had hoped to observe dual activation of pleasure centers in the medulla and reticular formation in response to multiple partners. In practice, ergonomic factors meant that we failed to measure brain activation reliably, but participants were already revved up and ready to rumble so we just let 'em have at it in there for about a half an hour."

Funding for the study was procured through a private channel, and participants were unpaid

due to concerns with prostitution law. They were screened prior to the study for claustrophobia, STDs, and physical attractiveness.

During the study, the five participants were instructed to slowly undress each other outside the machine without contacting the skin, tantalizing their sexual beasts. They then mounted the MRI in the prone position, taking care to align their genitals and orifices with other genitals and orifices. Scans showed that male participants were fully erect at this time. Penetration then ensued, and image enhancement technology was utilized to get close-ups of all three sites of penetration on the biggest screen possible.

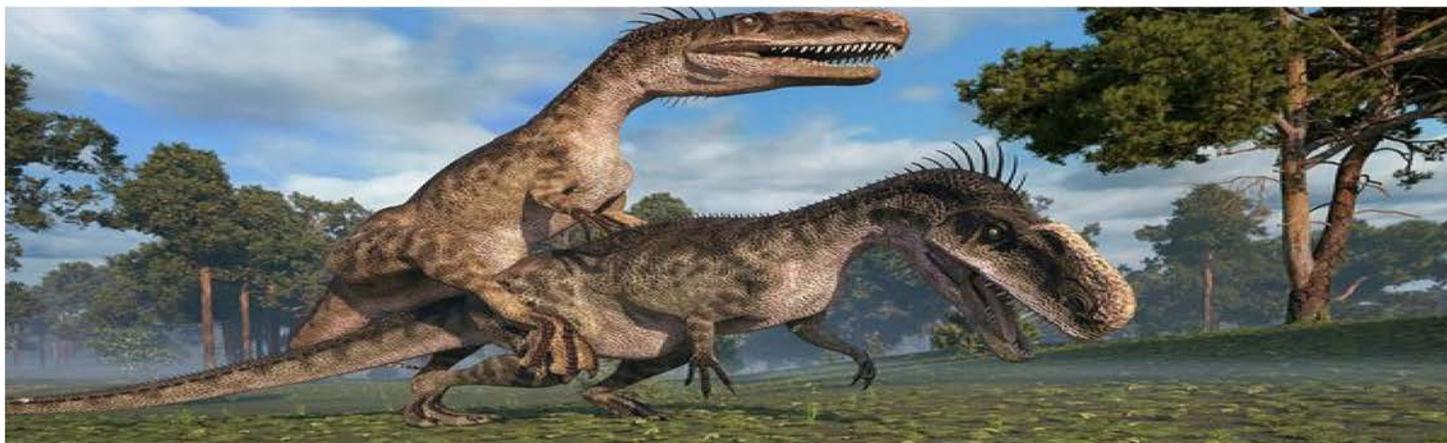
"We didn't know what to expect," said first author Dr. Rick Hardy when describing the moment. "None of us had ever been a part of something like this, so it was hard to say what would happen. Suddenly there were three instances of simultaneous penetrative sex right in front of my eyes... We learned absolutely nothing, but it was really fucking hot."

According to the written publication, participant J.M. started gesticulating with her partner C.L. while "taking a fat cock to the face". Meanwhile, female counterpart N.S. adopted a submissive stance on the MRI bed, fondling J.M.'s "roughly saucer-sized nipples", which visibly hardened on-screen. Things quickly got steamy, and crowded, because it was an MRI, and participant F.O. readjusted on top to "pierce J.M.'s posterior flower with his rock-hard pleasure banana". Researchers made note of the moans emanating from the MRI as male participant K.D. allegedly "slammed his turgid manhood into N.S.'s carnal wallet". "Yes," J.M. screamed over the whirring of the machine as she reached the peak of her so-called "desire dome". Research assistant Mike Long had to excuse himself at this point. We can conclude without question that the study was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

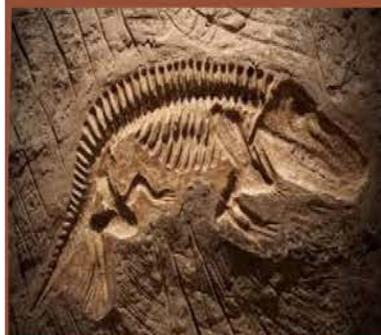
Research staff unanimously concluded that this had probably been the sexiest thing to ever happen to them. "Oh my god, it was so hot," reaffirmed Ph.D. candidate Mary Wetterhahn. "When the two women started making out we probably would have seen heightened activity in the ventral striatum, which responds to both pleasure and closeness or intimacy in women. Unfortunately, we couldn't see anything because another participant's pelvic region obscured the image from nearly all angles, which like... damn, snack, you cute but let us in on the action."

Without these findings, these researchers would probably never know how incredibly hot a "human pleasure lotus" can truly be. Bravo, researchers.

# PALEONTOLOGISTS DISCOVER NEW APPROACH TO DATING FOSSILS: BE ATTENTIVE TO HER NEEDS



Dating isn't easy, and being a paleontologist doesn't make it any easier. What should you wear? What should you say? What radioactive isotope should you use? With all these questions, it's easy to lose sight of your ultimate goal: finding love. That's why we're giving you the answers you're looking for, straight from the fossil's mouth. From her favorite



excavation tools to what she finds most and least attractive in a partner, this lower jaw of a *Velociraptor mongoliensis* shared with us her top five tips for paleontologists hoping to land that second date.

## 1. **Have a good first impression.**

"First impressions are very important, especially when dating a fossil. From the moment you unearth her bones, she's already formed an impression of you, much like how the intense heat and pressure of being buried in sediment for eons formed a carbon impression of her rotting corpse. Dress nicely, and maybe pay her a compliment to get off on the right foot."

## 2. **Don't do all the talking.**

"Now I might just be the glued together lower jaw bones of a long-extinct reptile, but I don't live under a rock, or at least not anymore. When you dominate the conversation, it makes your date think that you're only interested in her for the remains of her body. Listen to what she has to say to show her that you really care."



## 3. **Be confident.**

"I've been around for over 80 million years, and trust me, nothing's sexier than confidence. When a paleontologist, with the firm strike of a chisel, chips away at the rock encasing my bones, oh man do I want to jump his!"

## 4. **Avoid talking about your ex.**

"You know what isn't sexy? Telling your date about the triceratops you dated last month. I can assure you she doesn't want to hear about that horny old bitch."

## 5. **Make sure to follow up.**

"She's been waiting around since the Mesozoic Era; the least you can do is tell her you had a good time and that want to see her again after the first date. Send her a cute text in a timely manner, and I promise she'll fall for you harder than the asteroid that wiped out her species."



# Five Adorable Baby Seals

## *That I Unfortunately Must Block On Twitter*

**Baby seals are incredibly cute.** But while I love these fluffy sea mammals as much as the next guy, I've soured on a few of them due to some particularly distasteful posts on social media. I wish I didn't need to block these little furballs on Twitter, but I really had no choice.

### 1. The baby seal who makes mean comments on photos of my son



I have a three-year-old son and love posting pictures of him on Twitter so that my friends and family can see him grow up. Unfortunately, this sweet-looking baby seal began commenting "lame and weird" and "incredibly unprofessional" on all the photos of my son. I didn't want to stop posting photos of my son so I eventually had no choice but to block this baby seal, even though I loved his fluffy little head and big flippers.

### 2. The baby seal who tweeted that he would never hire someone from Italy



This one was tough, because I really liked seeing tweets from this precious baby seal with a round little body. He always had great commentary posts about "Game of Thrones" which really helped me to understand the series better. But one day, I tweeted a joke that my coworker Alessandro told me. This baby seal responded, "Is your coworker Italian? That's too bad — I'd never hire an Italian at my company." I felt like this was a weird comment so I decided to block this doe-eyed little seal.

### 3. The baby seal who keeps DM'ing me about essential oils



I support small business as much as anyone, but I had no choice but to block this itty bitty little baby seal after she kept sending me DMs asking me to buy her Younger Living essential oils. Like, first of all, I'm pretty sure that peppermint oil doesn't even cure liver cancer — and even if it did, I don't think that I have liver cancer. It's possible that this darling furball was trying to tell me something, but I blocked her before she had the chance.

### 4. The baby seal who posts racist political cartoons about Italians



This block was an easy decision. Almost as soon as I began following this unbelievably furry baby seal on Twitter, I saw that he posts anti-Italian political cartoons on a regular basis. I don't think that anyone even makes anti-Italian political cartoons anymore, so they are all super old. Most of them are criticizing Italian garment workers for unionizing, and some are about Prohibition. I did not like seeing these racist depictions of Italians one bit, so this little butterball got the block pretty quickly.

### 5. The baby seal who got me fired

This roly-poly baby seal was far and away the worst of all, because she got me fired from my job. She did this by posting on Twitter that I hated Italians and thought their pasta smelled weird, and she tagged my boss and my coworker Alessandro in all of the posts. I didn't think that my boss or Alessandro would fall for this because I eat pasta for lunch most days. But they did, and I got



fired. I truly hate this baby seal so much, even though she has cute little whiskers and big floppy flippers. I hope I never need to see another tweet from a baby seal again.

# Popular Scientists

If you're reading this magazine, you're probably a fan of science. So it may come as no surprise to you that as a whole, scientists tend to grace the bottom half of the social ladder. In fact, you may be wondering whether any popular scientists exist at all.

Fear not, noble reader, for we have found the rare birds of our kind. They are few and far between, but the following list comprises all known cases of scientists who managed to achieve social relevance. How did they do it? How did they escape the grips of tech-related puns, nerd glasses, and elastic pants which have doomed us all to fail? The answer may surprise you: they achieved material excellence. Allow me to present the exhaustive list of all Popular Scientists.



## 1. Descartes

A prominent philosopher, scientist, and hunk, Rene Descartes was one of the most well-known and well-liked dudes in history. Descartes was dead at press time, but he's attributed to saying, "I think, therefore I am, an absolute fucking legend at pong."

Brittany is like, soooo cool. She took a psychology class in high school and now she's a first year psych major. Is that a science? Brittany does lots of extracurriculars like cheerleading, and she's a woman in STEM. That would normally be a knock on her popularity, but Brittany pulls it off anyway because she's a boss ass bitch... and also just kind of a bitch in general? Rumor has it that Brittany rushed a sorority successfully – the first report of any scientist ever managing to do so. We'll waive the fact that psychology is kind of a social science just for her. Yasss, qween.



## 2. Brittany

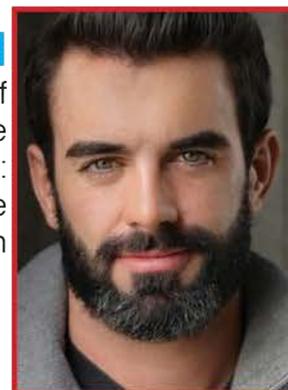


## 3. Karli

OMG, Karli! Karli makes it work because she has a lot of money. She's a microbial biologist but like, you'd instantly die if you found her in a lab coat – so not cool. She got custom Swarovski rhinestone safety glasses that probably don't comply with safety standards and somehow it's not even tacky, because she's cool. She reportedly stopped after coworker Rebecca Mason copied her with those fake plastic rhinestones. Not even Swarovski - so not cool.

Brad has achieved nothing in his field, but he's a hot piece of ass. Between superior genetics, hitting the gym for six hours a day, and expensive jawline surgery, Brad has achieved what we all wish we could say about ourselves: he is truly a popular scientist. We reached out to Brad for an interview, but he couldn't squeeze us in because we're not cool enough for him. Even without an interview, this photo he sent us earns him a spot on the list. Damn, Brad.

## 4. Brad



That's all, folks - [Popular Science] is honored to bring you the entire, all-encompassing, and complete list of all 4 popular scientists. We are confident that these changemakers are leading the way for all of us scientists to dream about one day being marginally more well-liked. Bravo!

# Six of the most fucked-up lab rats

This article is a celebration of the unsung heroes of the modern science: the laboratory rat. We caught up with some rats that have seen some shit in the name of science.



We're starting off with a doozy – Stuart. Although he used to share his cage with three other white lab rats, he has since eaten them. Investigators reported that Stuart had not engaged in cannibalism until researchers made small lesions in his brain to induce schizophrenia.

Sheila: Ever since PhD candidate Steven Vining abducted her son in January of 2019, Sheila takes revenge by fucking around with Vining's experiments. Most recently, when placed at the entrance of Vining's carefully designed maze, Sheila reportedly did not enter and instead took a nap. Vining blames the skewing effects of Sheila's data for his inability to graduate this spring.



Maddie: Over the course of a three month neuroscience trial involving electronic dance music and LSD, Maddie developed a deep passion for music production. When she isn't squeaking sick bars with her homies in the UC Santa Cruz animal testing facility, Maddie can be found grooving to Daft Punk and dreaming of achieving fame on SoundCloud.

Meet Remy from the laboratories at Disney Pixar. He speaks French and English, controls humans by tugging their hair, and apparently makes very nice confit byaldi. That's one fucked up rat!



Xander: After getting his paws on a copy of Marx's communist manifesto, Xander has been attempting to rally his fellow members of the rodent proletariat. While he has been unsuccessful in seizing the means of production from bourgeois scientists, he has severed the power cord of his laboratory centrifuge and chewed several holes in the white coat of its principal investigator.

George: We're really not sure where to begin with George. Especially in a family magazine. Just... just use your imagination.

**CENSORED**

# 5 Ways the Dinosaurs Could Have Survived... If They Only Listened to Nancy from Hot Yoga

## 1. Drinking more water

Nancy has no doubt that the dinosaurs kept to a strict hydration regime, but she feels that extreme times call for extreme measures. “I’m very aware of when I’m putting my body under extraordinary amounts of stress,” Nancy said, “Like when I drink 6 mimosas before noon.” Under such circumstances, Nancy tries to drink at least 3 full hydroflasks throughout the day. However, given that the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs was traveling 40,000 mph and left behind a crater 115 miles wide, Nancy thinks the dinosaurs should have drunk 4 or maybe even 5 hydroflasks each day.

## 2. Organizing their living space

Even when Nancy is feeling devastated over the end of Khloe Kardashian and Tristan Thompson’s relationship, she finds changing her sheets to be extremely cleansing for her mind and body, and she feels that the dinosaurs could’ve benefitted from similar activities. Nancy noted that the earthquake as powerful as every earthquake in the last 160 years combined wouldn’t even have been a problem if the dinosaurs had just heeded her advice, because, “If they didn’t have anything cluttering up their desk, nothing could have fallen off!”

## 3. Medical marijuana

“Look, I was skeptical too when I tried it,” Nancy began, before hastily confirming that this was her first exposure to marijuana, despite attending Woodstock as a teenager. She went on to explain that misdiagnoses by

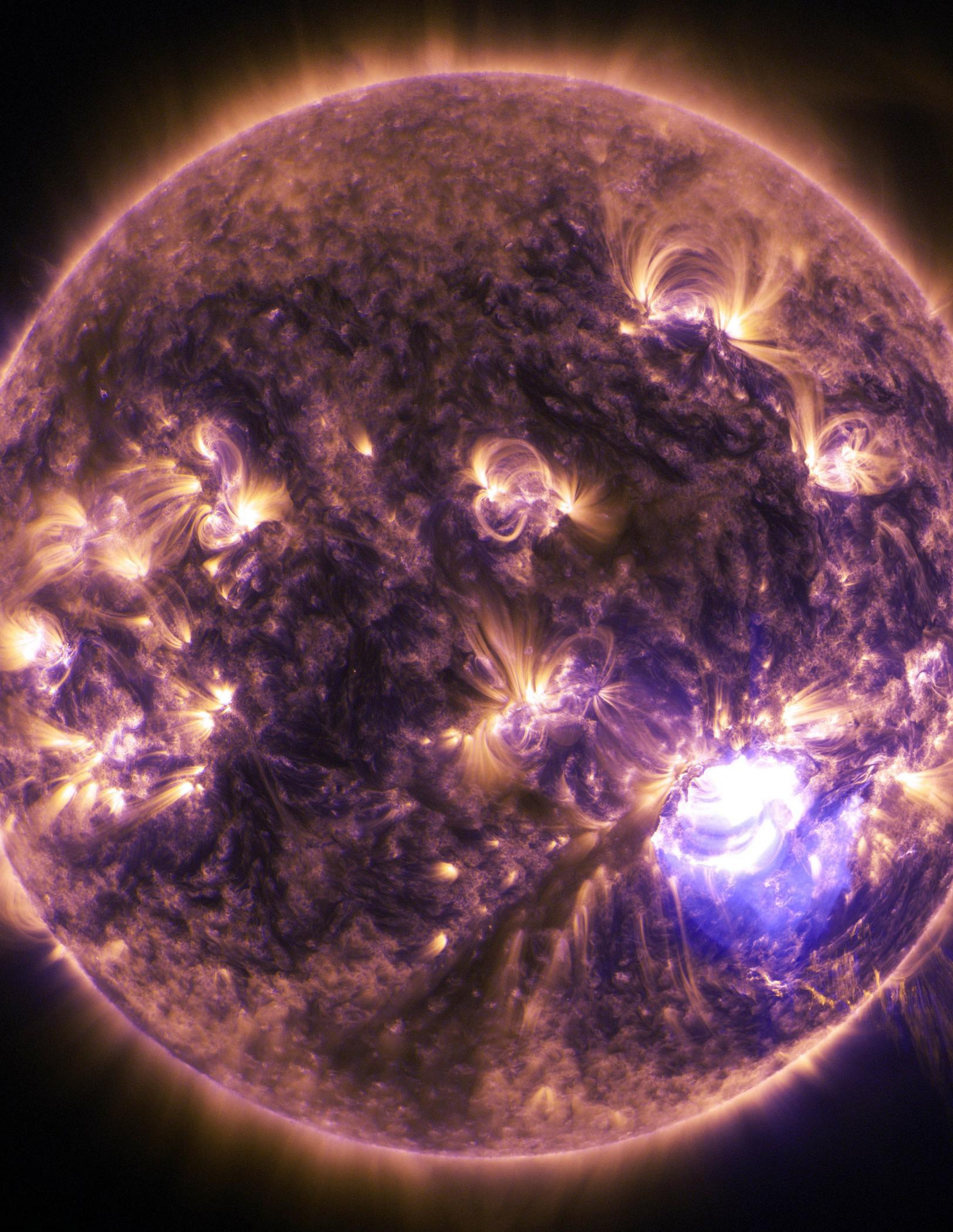
the healthcare system were at least partly to blame for the dinosaurs’ swift demise, and that if only they had rubbed CBD oil on their lower backs, they would have been so relaxed that they would have found the 600-mph wind ripping over the ravaged earth to be nothing more than a pleasant ocean breeze.

## 4. Vacation to Cancun

Nancy understands that the blanket of debris smothering the earth would have thrust the dinosaurs into near total darkness, but she also believes that if they had just tried harder, they could have found a sunny getaway location untouched by the oppressive gloom. “I have a friend who’s great at finding airfare deals,” she says. “And if the dinosaurs were willing to stay in town instead of right on the beach, these trips become downright cheap!” When she was informed that Cancun is a mere 170 miles from the asteroid’s point of impact, and that all life within 600 miles was instantly vaporized, Nancy shrugged. “Tahiti, then.”

## 5. Breast enhancement surgery

“You might not see the connection here,” Nancy told our reporter. “But if the dinosaurs had just treated themselves to a little beautification, they would have felt stronger, happier, and more prepared to take on the challenges ahead of them.” Nancy would neither confirm nor deny that she has had this surgery, but she did point out that the 4-6 week recovery time following the surgery wouldn’t be a problem for the dinosaurs, because they would have been kept inside anyways by the acidic mud falling from the sky.





**HOT DOG DO I LOVE SCIENCE.**