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## Why We Don't Have Flying Cars

Remember the predictions made 5 decades ago? They imagined that, by the year 2000, we would all be driving flying cars. Yet here we sit, in the year 2003, with the same basic design as that of the 1950s. Why? Special Interests.

Did you know that we have the technology to build clean burning, energy efficient vehicles that produce pure water as exhaust? We do. As a matter of fact, we have had this technology for decades. The Apollo spacecraft, which landed on the moon, was, in fact, water powered. The ship took hydrogen and oxygen and chemically combined them into water and electricity. This reaction powered the entire flight to the moon. We also have the technology to build electric cars. One of Thomas Edison's inventions way back in the wee years of the 1900's was an electric car which ran off of wet-cell batteries. So, if we have the tools and technology and we've had them for decades, then why don't we utilize them to aid society? Again, special interests.

As everyone is aware, oil is a multi-billion dollar business. Oil companies cover several countries. They pump oil everywhere from the Middle East to Alaska, and they make billions doing it. But what do oil companies have to do with new cars? Everything. Oil companies can only survive if they have someone to sell to. In this case it is the American public. Oil companies want people to drive huge, energy-inefficient, gas-guzzling cars. Why? Simply because the more money the American public spends on fuel, the more money they make. Energy efficient, clean burning cars would spell disaster for the oil industry, and that industry is willing to stop at nothing to keep them off the market. There are your special interests.

Don't believe it? Well then look at some of the examples. All the latest vehicles advertised by Detroit are either trucks or SUVs. Both trucks and SUVs are large vehicles which consume large amounts of fuel. Yet they are pushed in advertising over small vehicles with better fuel economy. Why? Kickbacks. The oil industry pays

auto manufacturers to push gas-guzzlers. The SUV is a key example of this. SUVs are ludicrously oversized, roll at the drop of a hat, have been known to explode (i.e. the Ford exploder), encourage road rage, and have the worst overall track record of all the vehicles. Yet they keep making them, and pushing them, and we keep buying them.

If you don't believe that Big Oil has its hand in Detroit, just look at its hand in government. Our president, Mr. George W. Bush, is an oil man. He was involved in the oil industry before he became president. Now that he is president, he is pushing for oil drilling in nature preserves and protected national forests, and his administration supports it. To top it all off, oil is one of the catalysts in the Middle East. The major issue that the Arab people have with the US is its presence in their country. One of the reasons we are in their country is for oil. Notably, we import more oil from Venezuela than the Middle East. Imagine what would happen if they put an oil embargo on us.

So, oil permeates our daily lives. It makes us drive cars that could be cleaner and more efficient to drive. It holds back technology. It even pushes back technology, as cars are larger and less fuel efficient than in the 80s. It keeps us from having the new, and that is why we don't have flying cars.

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## Random Violence

Should you be concerned? Of course! Frankly, it's the casual criminal that you should fear. The dedicated criminal will kill you whether you protect yourself or not; it's the casual gunman who may or may not be in the mood to shoot you in a creative location. Let's say you're walking down a dark alley, and at the other end you see a man who's a little groggy and disconnected from his cough syrup habit. He looks up at you, and you can see by the glare in his eyes that he's not really looking at you; he's looking way past you. His eyes focus a little and they recognize your human shape in the foreground. Now is one of those times that you wish the medical marijuana bill had passed so people like this could be happily baking their brains out. He raises the concealed pistol, which he has a permit for under our state law, and fires at you. Sure, your odds are good, but if the bullet doesn't get you, the pollution will. After all, our cities are filled with Carbon Monoxide just waiting to bind itself to your hemoglobin (don't we have a wonderful environmental policy?).

Let's say he paid attention in his high school marksmanship course, which was available since he went to school back in the days when they still had riflery at his public school. He aims and fires. If he's good, he'll probably miss because he'll aim where he thinks you are, and therefore shoot the bullet at his feet. But this is the casual criminal, so let's say he's awful. Your odds are suddenly a little disturbing; maybe a bullet could hit you. After all, with the alleyway around you providing thousands of viable ricochets, if he shoots several feet off to the left or right, you could be hit. Now the danger is not of death; if you're going to die, there's very little to

## SENIOR WILLS!

Yes, yes, we're doing them again. By popular demand, FRICH will be continuing the tradition of printing our Senior Wills edition at the end of the school year. As always, all seniors are encouraged to take advantage of this chance to say good bye (and good riddance) to their underclassmen pals. Just like last year, we won't be printing any anonymous wills so that people can take issue with the author instead of taking issue with us. Just like submitting articles, you can turn in your will to your friendly neighborhood FRICH distributor, or you can send it to us via our special address:

*wills\_frich@hotmail.com*

Wills are due **Friday, March 28th!**

## Top Ten Things NOT to Say in Your Senior Will

10. To Mr(s). So-and-so: An insomnia clinic for you to cure with those lectures of yours.
9. I'd leave you my pants if I could find them.
8. To my younger boy/girlfriend: Remember when I said the camera was empty...
7. SATAN COMPELS YOU!
6. Oh, there my pants are.
5. \$\*^&^ the ^&@\$#? @ because !&#^ is (!\*#&, man.
4. To that one Freshman: My heart.
3. <censored>
2. I leave to you... me! SURPRISE! I FAILED!
1. Signed: Ross Perot

worry about. It's when you get shot in an unmentionable place that things get interesting, because suddenly you'll blush whenever you have to explain where the bullet hit you. Hopefully, it'll tag you in a leg or arm. Otherwise, you'll have some explaining to do to any person you become intimate with. "Careful of my inner thigh, honey. It's still healing from a gunshot wound."

Fortunately, there is hope, and, ironically, it's in the justice system. If we can't count on them to keep crime down fundamentally, then what we need to do is make the criminals into cops. The best way to create a society in which casual criminals can't exist would be to get those would-be guys-shooting-your-privates into law enforcement positions, where they can play with guns while getting high on jelly donuts. An alternative method would be to discourage violence in our society, but social inertia limits the short term effectiveness of this method. Our politicians operate in terms of the years during which they'll be in office, and, therefore, it wouldn't be feasible to fix this problem in the long term. As an added benefit to the politicians leaving the problem, their children can base their campaigns on the unresolved issues.

Unless this problem is fixed, I recommend cowering in your homes. Set the right example for your children and just stay home. If your children are thinking of attacking someone, make sure they're properly doped up first. I'm sure they can find some substance to form dependence to at school or in the pantry.

$\pi$  Lazlow  $\pi$

## A Medicine for the World's Ailments

Because of the controversy it caused in California, almost everyone has heard of medical marijuana. Marijuana has many medical uses, mainly treating the loss of appetite caused by AIDS, the nausea caused by chemotherapy, glaucoma, asthma (believe it or not), and much more. Some supporters of medicinal marijuana have raised the question, "If this one plant/drug does so much to ease human suffering, why is it still illegal in the United States?" This same question, or rather, a very similar one, can be applied to another breed of *Cannabis sativa*, marijuana's cousin (or brother, or sister, or second cousin twice removed), hemp. Hemp contains much, much less THC than marijuana and actually has an anti-psychoactive drug: cannabidiol, so the only effect of smoking hemp is a headache. Hemp is not used as a drug, and, except through, perhaps, extracts, it will never be used as such. So, one would ask, "Why does that question apply to hemp as well? How can hemp do much to ease human suffering?"

Hemp has multitudes of practical uses. Hemp clothing, for instance, is all over the marketplace. Hemp can be used to make cloth, paper, fiberboard, rope, etc., and that's not all! Hempseed, when crushed, produces an oil that can be used as salad dressing, in bath and body products (shampoo, lotion, etc.), as fuel, and (much like petroleum) to make plastic. The cake that is left over after the crushing of the seeds can be used as animal seed, and the whole seed is the most preferred component of many birdseeds. Hemp plants can also be used as bedding for horses and other farm animals. In fact, the royal stables in England use them as such.

If one makes an analogy of the world to a person, hemp is a potential cure for many of the world's ailments (third world poverty, global warming, pollution, over-mining, the energy crisis, malnutrition, etc.). People in third world countries could grow hemp, not only to make their houses, clothing, cars (Henry Ford made a car out of hemp plastic and powered it with a fuel derived from hemp), anything else made out of plastic, rope, shoes and soap, but also to become less dependent on first world countries. Also, once the world beings to use hemp on a more widespread basis, it will make a great cash crop, as it grows very quickly and can be grown either before or after another crop. Hemp is also a great crop because doesn't require pesticide or herbicide and it renews the soil that crops like cotton deplete.

Hemp could also become a valiant warrior in the battle

against global warming. Hemp can be used instead of trees to make paper and building materials (fiberboard and a substitute for concrete/cement: Isochanvre) and would therefore cut down the amount of trees being... well... cut down. Using hemp instead of trees prevents deforestation, and also leaves more plants alive to clean the air of excess carbon dioxide. Not only would there be more trees in the forests, the hemp being planted would also help keep the amount of carbon dioxide down. Using hemp instead of petroleum to make plastic and fuel would cut down on the amount of non-renewable fossil fuels being mined and burned. This would lower the amount of carbon dioxide being released into the air and would keep the carbon cycle more of a cycle by balancing the amount of carbon dioxide being released that wasn't being used by plants for photosynthesis.

Because hemp is an ultra-renewable energy source (think about it: an energy source that one can grow over and over, whenever it's needed), its use as fuel would ease the energy crisis considerably (just think: no mining wildlife reserves in Alaska).

Finally, hempseed is extremely nutritious. It contains all eight essential amino acids, as well as essential fatty acids, in addition to other plant seed nutrients. It's a small overstatement to say that hemp would "cure" malnutrition, but it could certainly help.

So, global warming, third world poverty, pollution, over-mining, the energy crisis, and malnutrition would be taken care of, or at least reduced. The question becomes, "If hemp can help solve so many of the world's problems, why aren't we using it?" Hemp was never actually made illegal in the United States, but because hemp is the same species as marijuana and narcotics officers can't see either the visual differences (hemp, grown for its fiber, is tall and woody; marijuana, grown for its leaves and flowers, is bushy) or the chemical ones (hemp contains much less THC than marijuana), hemp has, in effect, been outlawed. If the United States would just follow the examples of European countries like France that have established concrete laws about the THC allowed in the plant, or even the Netherlands that has made the entire species legal, the whole world would probably follow suit, and hemp could begin to heal so many of the world's ailments.

π Mother Cannabis π

## Who are You?

A while ago, I watched a segment of "60 Minutes" (hey, it came on after a football game) that focused on how more and more retirees are going back to work. One sociologist proposed a surprisingly simple reason: they need a sense of identity. In America, she said, we define ourselves by what we do for a living. That makes sense to me. It's possible to get a fair understanding of a person just by knowing their profession; imagine what you would automatically know about someone if you knew they were a doctor, or a writer, or a professional athlete. All these distinctions allow us to make educated inferences as to the person's education, experiences, work ethic, and, to some extent, even their personality. It's not surprising to me that, over time, we even grow to think of ourselves as our professions, nor is it surprising that all of these senior citizens, suddenly stripped of the work that had defined their entire lives, are now seeking to regain this identity.

More recently my thoughts have turned to myself, my fellow seniors, and the disease known as 'senioritis.' One Niwot High counselor claims that research has been performed that shows high school seniors subconsciously sabotage their academic efforts during their final year of high school, because they don't want to leave home and go off into the big, scary world, but while I recognize the phenomenon, I disagree with the cause. I don't believe it could be anticipated homesickness that creates senioritis; in my mind, it's a potential loss of identity.

Consider your high school career. As you prepare to go off to college, do you consider your experiences as a student, or as a member the clubs, groups, teams, and other activities in which you've participated? Do you think of yourself as "someone preparing to eventually assume a role in the real world," or do you think of yourself as a varsity football player, a member of the tech crew, an actor, or whatever else you may do?

I know that I consider myself a musician and a bit of a writer. Now, when I look forward to studying computers and maybe engineering in college (because the career prospects look pretty good), I admit that I wonder how my ideas of myself, my very identity, will change. I've spent more than seventeen years becoming who I am now, and I'm about to change everything. No wonder I have senioritis.

π John Nash π

## Failure of Darwinism

In all people's childhoods, they are told not to stick their fingers in electrical sockets. The kids who have more common sense listen to this advice and follow it. The other kids ignored this advice and stuck their fingers in the sockets anyway. Thanks to modern medical science and humanities "morals" (for preserving everybody's life), these idiots survive. This is strong evidence that we are going backwards in the evolutionary process.

I'm not trying to sound mean or anything. I'm just saying that these kids deserve to die. Since they still live, they're able to pass on their genes. This starts a general trend of de-evolution in the modern world. This process has already begun, and the volume of the problem is steadily increasing. Because of this trend, humanity has fallen into its old tracks.

With every new generation of Americans, the level of common sense drops. As the level drops even further, we will start to see "helpful" instructions on ordinary things. Watermelons will tell one to "slice open before eating," pants will have directions for putting them on, and warning labels will appear on carpet, which will soon be able to suffocate small children if not properly installed.

The one bright spot in this situation is that the economy will experience a large boom in the dummy book industry. This market will soon start displaying titles such as: Eating Cereal for Dummies, Counting Made E-Z, and The Idiot's Guide to Breathing. However, all of these things point to one single statement: This race is doomed!

π The Gnawing Gargoyle π

### Disclaimer:

Well, that's all for this issue. We hope you've enjoyed it. If you haven't, then why don't you make your own damn underground newspaper? Huh!? Come on, I dare you. Make my day, punk. Remember *Peaceful Resistance* and the *Blind American*? NO? Well, there you go.

Okay, okay. We're sorry. We've had a hard week. We didn't mean to snap at you, baby. You know I only do it because I love you! ...come back, baby! **I LOVE YOU!**

Anyway, we're sorry if you're offended. If your not, then send us money. You know you want to. Come on. Do it. Now.

**Please don't sue!**