

NEWS ITEM:
U.S. HOUSE
APPROVES
BILL TO LET
ASTRONAUTS
KEEP SPACE
ARTIFACTS.

YOU KNOW
WHICH
ARTIFACT I'D
REALLY LIKE
TO KEEP?



U.S. MANNED
SPACE
PROGRAM



IT
DROPPED
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TODAY
AND FOR THE
NEWS-PRESS

Caught In The Net

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

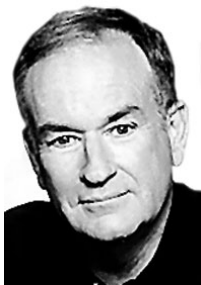
When I was a kid back in the Paleolithic Age, we used to play sandlot football after school. My group of thug friends chose sides, and the mayhem began. We played tackle without equipment, accompanied by bloody noses, bruised knees and bumps on the head. It was a blast.

If you do that today, the law firm of Greed, Deceit and Extortion will be on the sidelines eagerly waiting to sue the municipal locale, the property owner and the parents. So after school these days, many playing fields are largely unused, the children kept safely away from any dose of reality. And where are the urchins parked? In front of the computer, that's where.

It's all so easy. No sweating, no losing, no angst. Just clicking. Presto! There's your fantasy world. Why face uncertainty outside when you can idle away your time in the climate-controlled electronic world of your choosing?

The world's growing addiction to high tech is doing two pernicious things: sapping ambition and fostering escapism. When I suggest to my children that we explore a nature trail, they look as if I am ordering them to a gulag. A nature trail? Why? It's dirty, and there are bugs. I can look at nature on my PC anytime I want.

The escape scenario is even worse. Surveys show that for the first time ever, more Americans turn on the PC than the TV when they come home from work or school. At least on television you can watch a news program. On the Internet, there are headlines, but most



Bill
O'REILLY

of the reportage is shallow and slanted. When The Huffington Post becomes your primary newsagent, you're in trouble.

I submit that's why President Obama is running ahead of Mitt Romney right now. Many voters simply have no idea what's going on. In this brutal economy, Obama should be running way behind. But he's not. His mixture of charisma and confidence is keeping him competitive because many voters don't know a deficit from a donut. They do know, however, how to play an Xbox.

You can tie many of the nation's problems into the tech age. Obesity is certainly driven by sitting around looking at various screens. Your fingers may be in great shape, but your butt is threatening to visit your ankles.

And how about speaking the language? LOL! R U kidding me? OMG! If you don't know what those letters mean, say a prayer of thanks. Many Americans today have trouble putting two grammatically correct sentences together, and that's not a laughing matter.

It's safe to say we are living in a rapidly changing world where a few folks will rule and many others will sit passively by not even watching as crucial events unfold. There's simply too much going on in "Techland," where achievement and face-to-face human interaction don't really matter.

OMG, indeed.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

Will Humans Become Obsolete?

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
Tribune Media Services

This was going to be a rant.

Then I thought about it, which was a mistake. As any experienced ranter can tell you, thinking about it has the unfortunate tendency of turning a good, clean rant into a muddy quagmire of fine points, conditional sentences, and digressions as delicately balanced as a Swiss watch.

You want to flambe the target of your ire, but you find yourself conscience-bound to admit: maybe your target has a point. Such was the case last week when California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law legalizing self-driving cars in the Golden State. Cali joins Nevada in allowing Google and other manufacturers to test "autonomous" cars on its roads. The law in both states requires that a human driver be onboard to take over in the event of emergency but the cars, which use a combination of sensors, cameras and artificial intelligence to stay between the lines, apparently don't need the help.

If you are a kid — "kid" herein being defined as anyone under 35 years of age who uses the phrase "back in the day" when referring to 1992 — you're probably wondering what the fuss is. The notion of self-driving cars probably sounds cool to you — or whatever word your generation uses to mean cool. "Jiggy"... "da bomb"... "fo' shizzle"... whatever.

If you are a grown-up — "grown-up" herein being defined as someone over 35 who has begun to look with faintly homicidal malice at those kids who insist upon traipsing across your lawn — you understand quite well what the fuss is. Bad enough you now use a computer to order a pizza, and you have to interface with a machine to buy your groceries, pay your parking or communicate with your own kids. Bad enough you have to press one for English, then press two for the service department, then press three if you are over 6 feet tall, then press four if you are left-handed, then press five and hop on one foot if your favorite color is red, then listen to 15 minutes of Kenny G before you are allowed to speak with another human being. Now the machines will drive our cars, too?



Leonard
PITTS

When "The Terminator" came out in 1984, it postulated an apocalyptic future wherein machines had risen against us. Having arrived in that future, we now know better. The machines won't kill us. But they are removing us from the equation.

Anybody remember a little thing called the human touch? Me neither.

That was going to be the basis of the aforementioned rant. Then I made the aforementioned mistake.

Its backers say autonomous cars will reduce traffic jams because they will communicate with one another to use the highways more efficiently. Because they will spend less time in gridlock, they will lessen the emission of harmful pollutants. And, they will give greater personal mobility to those who, because of disability or age, cannot drive.

Perhaps you envision a scenario where there is a software error and a car full of nuns plows into a busload of orphans while a computer screen is showing an hourglass icon.

But even if that happened once a month, it would still fall far short of the more than 32,000 traffic fatalities compiled each year by texting, intoxicated, radio-changing, sleep-deprived, make-up applying, cellphone-chattering, chin-shaving human beings. And it won't happen once a month.

Google tells CNN its cars have racked up 300,000 miles with only one accident. And that happened with a human driver in control.

This is where my rant went south. How do you rant against fewer traffic jams, greater mobility, less pollution and more safety?

Now I'm too depressed to rant, too depressed to do anything except contemplate my — our — looming obsolescence. Of course, there is one bright spot in all of this. They haven't come up with a machine that can write a whiny newspaper column.

Yet.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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YOUR LETTERS

The Jamboree And Yankton

Mindy Hunke, Omaha, Neb.

For the past five years, I've made the trip to Yankton to participate in the South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers Contest and Jamboree which happens the third full weekend of September. The contest just completed its 40th year, which is a remarkable run for any festival or event. It was very well attended by both local people and folks from all over the country. The contest has always been known as a place to see and hear high quality fiddling.

It isn't just the fiddling that keeps me coming back. It's all the people who make the weekend special, including the contest organizers, fiddlers and audience members. I've met and made friends with so many nice people especially some fiddlers from Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri.

I know that the organizers have had help from several Yankton businesses, especially the hotels who have graciously donated rooms for the event and

those who have given their support in other ways. It is a tradition to converge on the Fryn' Pan on Friday and Saturday nights for a late-night meal and jamming and again to eat at JoDeans on Sunday when the contest is done before heading back home.

I doubt there is another fiddle contest quite like this in the country. It's a contest where fiddlers are supportive of one another and happy for the winners. It's also a contest that reminds us of the rich tradition of fiddling in South Dakota and what we call "Missouri Valley" fiddling. It ties us to our settlers' roots. We play the tunes that our great grandparents played and danced to. It is historically significant.

I want to thank all people who are involved in making the South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers Contest and Jamboree happen every year and would urge that, as a community, Yankton continues to support such a unique, well run and special event. For me, Yankton is one of my favorite places thanks to the South Dakota Fiddle Contest and Jamboree.

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN



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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Religion Is A Right, Even For Prisoners

THE DAILY REPUBLIC, Mitchell (Sept. 25): Two American Indian inmates say their religious rights were being trampled in the state penitentiary, where a tobacco ban affected their religious ceremonies.

The prison went smoke-free in 2000, although allowances were made for Indian ceremonies. Some Indians employ tobacco as a central part of their religion and prayers.

But those allowances were dropped in 2009 after prison officials claimed that the policy was being abused, and that some prisoners were instead selling the tobacco.

Members of the Native American Council of Tribes sued, and a judge recently declared that the ban does indeed infringe on Indians' religious rights.

Judge Karen Schreier said inmates and prison officials should now meet to come up with an appropriately crafted alternative.

We think Schreier's decision is just. Even if some prisoners were abusing the previous rules, those abuses shouldn't have resulted in an outright ban that tramples on the way Indians pray and worship.

We feel religious rights are different than other so-called rights of prisoners.

It brings to mind the 2006 dispute that arose when the state prison warden decided that guitars would be removed from cells of certain prison sections. It created a bit of an uproar, especially after a woman complained that the guitar she purchased for a convicted murderer was removed from his cell.

The warden was right in that case. Convicted murders relinquished their rights to creature comforts the moment they committed their heinous act.

Religion is different. And here in South Dakota, which has a large population of Indians, we should be sure to allow exceptions so that inmates who don't abuse the privilege can practice their beliefs as they see fit.

To Whom Is Romney Referring?

KEARNEY (Neb.) HUB (Sept. 23): The problem with Republican Mitt Romney's "47 percent" comment isn't, as the liberals' interpretation insists, that Romney would not care about our nation's less fortunate people who depend upon government, if he were elected. Nor is the problem, as some conservatives see it, that too many Americans are allowing their votes to be bought by the highest bidder, in this case, President Obama.

No, the problem with Romney's statement is that more Americans don't regard themselves as being among the "47 percenters" who depend or benefit in some way because of the generosity of Uncle Sam.

What American isn't getting something of significance via a government subsidy, a tax loophole, or other gift from our bloated federal government? Millions of retired Americans depend on Uncle Sam for Social Security and Medicare. Millions more benefit from Medicaid, free school lunches and crop producer assistance. Many students are attending college because of federal grants or subsidized loans.

When you pump an ethanol-blended fuel into your automobile, you cash in on a subsidy. If you drive an automobile cross-country, you roll over roads built with money from Uncle Sam.

These examples and many more illustrate just how deeply all Americans depend on their federal government — for weather forecasts, food and drug inspections, banking oversight, construction standards, airline subsidies, scientific and medical research, arts funding, etc., etc., etc.

Given a couple of months, we might be able to identify all of the numerous ways we all get something of value from our government. After completing that exercise, we all would see that we're a nation of 47 percenters whose lifestyles and well-being greatly depend upon the generosity of our government. Or, to say it more accurately, we depend upon borrowers willing to loan to Uncle Sam so he can shower us with our needs and wants.

Romney was in hot water because his remarks about dependency and skirting taxes were insulting to some Americans, but the remarks could apply to all of us. We expect our federal government to do more for us than we're willing to pay.

Some observers blame Obama for adding more than \$1.5 trillion to the budget deficit, and \$6 trillion to the national debt, but we all enjoy some measure of assistance, relief or help via Uncle Sam, so we, too, can share the blame for our out-of-control government if we continue electing leaders who don't courageously do what needs to be done.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 1, the 275th day of 2012. There are 91 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 1, 1962, Johnny Carson debuted as host of NBC's "Tonight Show," beginning a nearly 30-year run; after being introduced to the audience by Groucho Marx, Carson received his first guests, actor-singer Rudy Vallee, actress Joan Crawford, singer Tony Bennett and comedian Mel Brooks. (The same day, Merv Griffin launched a daytime show, also on NBC; his guests were comedian Shelley Berman, opera singer Roberta Peters and journalist Adela Rogers St. Johns.)

On this date: In 1861, during the Civil War, the Confederate navy captured the Union steamer Fanny in North Carolina's Pamlico Sound.

In 1908, Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile to the market.

In 1910, the offices of the Los Angeles Times were destroyed by a bomb explosion and fire; 21 Times employees were killed.

In 1932, Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees made his supposed called shot, hitting a home run against Chicago's Charlie Root in the fifth inning of Game 3 of the World Series, won by the New York Yankees 7-5 at Wrigley Field.

In 1937, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black delivered a radio address in which he acknowledged being a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, but said he had dropped out of the organization before becoming a U.S. senator.

In 1940, the first section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, 160 miles in length, was opened to the public.

In 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China during a ceremony in Beijing. A 42-day strike by the United Steelworkers of America began over the issue of retirement benefits.

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit his 61st home run during a 162-game season, compared to Babe Ruth's 60 home runs during a 154-game season. (Tracy Stallard of the Boston Red Sox gave up the round-tripper; the Yankees won 1-0.)

In 1964, the Free Speech Movement was launched at the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1972, the book "The Joy of Sex" by Alex Comfort was first published by

Mitchell Beazley of London.

In 1982, Sony began selling the first commercial compact disc player, the CDP-101, in Japan.

In 1987, eight people were killed when an earthquake measuring magnitude 5.9 struck the Los Angeles area.

Ten years ago: Iraq agreed to a plan for the return of U.N. weapons inspectors for the first time in nearly four years, but ignored U.S. demands for access to Saddam Hussein's palaces and other contested sites. New Jersey Democrats chose former Sen. Frank Lautenberg to be on the November ballot in place of scandal-tainted Sen. Robert Torricelli. Publisher, philanthropist and diplomat Walter H. Annenberg died in Wynnewood, Pa., at age 94.

Five years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a surprise announcement, opened the door to becoming the country's prime minister. Olympic gold-medalist discus thrower Al Oerter died in Fort Myers, Fla., at age 71.

One year ago: More than 700 Occupy Wall Street protesters were arrested after they swarmed the Brooklyn Bridge and shut down a lane of traffic for several hours in a tense confrontation with police. Campaigning began in Tunisia for the first elections born of the revolts that swept the Middle East.

Today's Birthdays: Former President Jimmy Carter is 88. Actress-singer Julie Andrews is 77. Actress Stella Stevens is 74. Rock musician Jerry Martini (Sly and the Family Stone) is 69. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew is 67. Jazz musician Dave Holland is 66. Actor Stephen Collins is 65. Actress Yvette Freeman is 62. Actor Randy Quaid is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Howard Hewett is 57. Alt-country-rock musician Tim O'Reagan (The Jayhawks) is 54. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 53. Actor Esai Morales is 50. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 49. Actor Christopher Titus is 48. Actress-model Cindy Margolis is 47. Rock singer-musician Kevin Griffin (Better Than Ezra) is 44. Actor Zach Galifianakis is 43. Singer Keith Duffy is 38. Actress Sarah Drew is 32. Actress Jurnee Smollett is 26. Actress Brie Larson is 23.

Thought for Today: "Talent alone won't make you a success. Neither will being in the right place at the right time, unless you are ready. The most important question is: 'Are you ready?'" — Johnny Carson (1925-2005).

FROM THE BIBLE

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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