



The Eternal Gospel Herald

8/2023 VOL. 18, NO. 8 “Ye should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints” Jude 3.

ROME IS TANKING IN GERMANY?

By Kate Connolly, *The Guardian*, June 29, 2023

The Catholic church in Germany (population 83 million) has revealed it is losing followers like never before, with more than half a million people deciding to renounce their membership last year. **522,821 people left the church in 2022**, a number far surpassing predictions made by the institution itself and higher than most observers had expected. The previous record year for departures was in 2021, when just under 360,000 people left. **The church has 21 million members, according to 2022 figures**, amounting to 24.8% of the population. Thomas Schüller, a canon lawyer, said the church would struggle to recover from the fallout. “The Catholic church is **dying a painful death** in full view of the public,” he told German media.



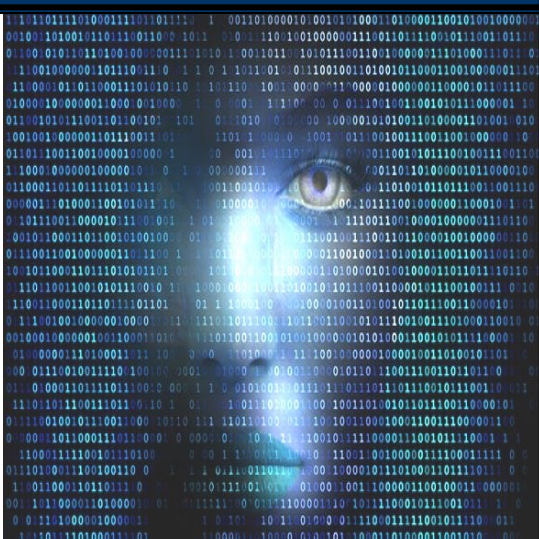
The **speed of the departures**, driven by a series of child abuse scandals and accusations of a widespread cover-up, has shocked clerics. According to evidence gathered by authorities, it appears to have accelerated further still since the publication of an expert report on abuse in the archdiocese of Munich and Freising, and discussion surrounding the perceived complicity in the scandal by Pope Benedict XVI, who has since died. Last year there were legal battles over compensatory payments for victims of **abuse in Cologne** and Traunstein in upper Bavaria, as well as accusations that Cologne’s **cardinal**, Rainer Maria Woelki, **lied about what** he had known about abuse cases and **when....**

—Continued on page 3, Column 1, top.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DANGER!

Scientific American, by Tamlyn Hunt, May 25, 2023

Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms will soon reach a point of rapid self-improvement that threatens our ability to control them and poses great potential risk to humanity



“The idea that this stuff could actually get **smarter than people....** I thought it was way off.... Obviously, I no longer think that,” Geoffrey Hinton, one of Google’s top artificial intelligence scientists, also known as “the godfather of AI,” said after he **quit his job** in April so that he can warn about the dangers of this technology. He’s not the only one worried. A **2023** survey of AI experts found that 36 percent fear that AI development may result in a “nuclear-level catastrophe.” Almost 28,000 people have signed on to an open letter written by the Future of Life Institute, including Steve Wozniak, Elon Musk, the CEOs of several AI companies and many other prominent technologists, **asking for a six-month pause or a moratorium on new advanced AI development.**

...Why are we all so concerned? In short: AI development is going way too fast. The key issue is the profoundly rapid improvement in conversing among the new crop of advanced “chatbots,” or what are technically called “large language models” (LLMs). With this coming “AI explosion,” we will probably have just **one chance** to get this right. **If we get it wrong, we may not live to tell the tale. This is not hyperbole.**

This rapid acceleration promises to soon result in “artificial general intelligence” (AGI), and when that happens, **AI will be able to improve itself with no human intervention.** It will do this in the same way that, for example, Google’s AlphaZero AI learned how to play chess better than even the very best human or other AI chess players in just nine hours from when it was first turned on. It achieved this feat by playing itself millions of times over. ...This pace of change is why Hinton told the *New York Times*: “Look at how it was five years ago and how it is now. Take the difference and propagate it forwards. That’s scary.” In a mid-May Senate

—Continued on page 3, 1st column bottom..

HEAT CAN KILL—BE CAREFUL!

From: TIME Magazine, by Aryn Baker, June 13, 2022 + Internet.

Heatwaves kill more people annually in the U.S. than hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes combined. A 2003 heat wave in Europe is estimated to have caused up to 70,000 deaths. Yet few people really understand how heat impacts the human body. Probably because it’s too gruesome to think about.

The average human body at rest radiates about the same amount of heat as a 100-watt light bulb. Which is fine when the ambient temperature is at or below the body temperature of 37°C (98.6°F). When our surroundings exceed the normal body temperature, the only way to keep from overheating is by evaporative cooling—a.k.a. sweating. Your capillaries—those tiny blood vessels next to the skin—expand in an attempt to take advantage of that surface chill. That’s the tell-tale flush that’s one of the first signs of the body kicking into cooling mode. But when humidity is high, sweating becomes less effective because the air is already saturated with moisture. The blood doesn’t cool down, and as a result, the body’s core temperature increases, triggering a series of emergency protocols to protect vital functions.



Blood flow to the skin increases, straining the heart. For every 0.5°C (1°F) rise in core temperature, a typical person’s heartbeat goes up 10 beats per minute, resulting in a racing pulse and a sense of light-headedness. The brain tells the muscles to slow down, causing fatigue. Nerve cells

Continued on page 3, 2nd Column, top

MANUAL WORK

By Ellen G. White, from Education, pp.220-222.

An education derived chiefly from books leads to superficial thinking. **Practical work encourages close observation and independent thought.** Rightly performed, it tends to develop that practical wisdom which we call common sense. It develops ability to plan and execute,



strengthens courage and perseverance, and calls for the exercise of tact and skill. ...The minister, the missionary, the teacher, will find their influence with the people greatly increased when it is manifest that they possess the knowledge and skill required for the practical duties of everyday life. And often the success, perhaps the very life, of the missionary depends on his knowledge of practical things. The ability to prepare food, to deal with accidents and emergencies, to treat disease, to

build a house, or a church if need be—often these make all the difference between success and failure in his lifework.

In acquiring an education, many students would gain a most valuable training if they would become self-sustaining. Instead of incurring debts, or depending on the self-denial of their parents, let young men and young women depend on themselves. They will thus learn the value of money, the value of time, strength, and opportunities, and will be under far less temptation to indulge idle and spendthrift habits. The lessons of economy, industry, self-denial, practical business management, and steadfastness of purpose, thus mastered, would prove a most important part of their equipment for the battle of life....

Let the youth be impressed with the thought that education is not to teach them how to escape life’s disagreeable tasks and heavy burdens; that its purpose is to lighten the work by teaching better methods and higher aims. Teach them that life’s true aim is not to secure the greatest possible gain for themselves, but to honor their Maker in doing their part of the world’s work, and lending a helpful hand to those weaker or more ignorant.

Manual training should ...develop habits of accuracy and thoroughness. Pupils should learn tact and system; they should learn to economize time and to make every move count.

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THE ETERNAL GOSPEL HERALD

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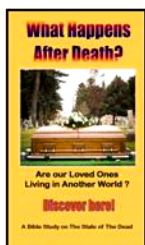
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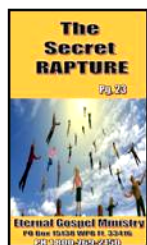
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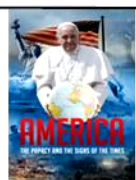
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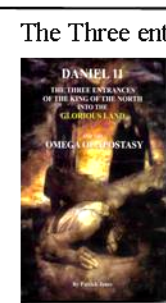
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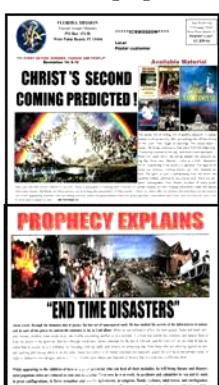


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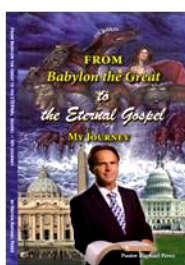
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CHURCH BUILDING IN BOLIVIA; NEW SIGN!



This month I just wanted to show you the progress that we are making in the building of the church in La-Cana, Bolivia. A physician that was born and raised in the town is leading out and we have been a vehicle to help. Since it is a Catholic community, this church building is designed to be a light-house community center where trades will be taught, as well English language and Bible classes—kind of like a Madison school to be a help to the people and a light in the community. I plan to be there when it opens.

At the bottom is a picture of a new bill board. One of our supporters who had on his heart the wish to put up a billboard in his area, sent us part of his disability check and asked if this could be done. The location is near South Bend, Indiana—the home of Notre Dame University. May it cause many people to consider the truth, and call for the book.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21. “

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is

within my heart.” Psalm 40:8.

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Letters, Some of the many ... Keep them coming!

“The Eternal Gospel Herald I received yesterday truly spoke to my heart! Thank you again for printing the truth. People like me would not know the goings' on at the GC level if it were not for you! Thank you for your stand for the truth of Jesus Christ.” *S.A., Louisiana*

“Thank you for the Newsletter and the CD of the television program. Enclosed is a gift to assist with the costs associated with the gospel work. I pray for God's continued protection and guidance of the work.” *V.B., Tennessee.*

“Thank you for the newsletters. They are a lifeline for us. We pray for you all and your ministry daily.” *J. & D. H., Unknown.*

“Enclosed is a \$___ M.O. to help push forward the work of the Three Angels Messages to all the world. Jesus' return is indeed at hand. Thank you for your faithfulness in this work. Getting out the truth is more urgent and important than ever before. Thank you. Thank you. Amen. Pray for my healing ...and for courage.” *E.D., Alabama.*

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy.” Philippians 1:3,4. *Paul, Tarsus.*

—Cont. from page 1, Col. 1 top—“Rome is Tanking in Germany”

The departures mean a considerable loss of income for the church, which gathers billions of euros in tithes **or taxes** each year. All Germans who declare an affiliation to the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish denominations are officially registered as such with their local authorities. The church tax or cultural tax, which amounts to between 8% and 9% of a person’s income tax, is drawn from their monthly income by the tax office, which passes it on to the appropriate denomination.... The church tax was first enshrined in German law in 1919 and reaffirmed in the *Reichskoncordat* between Nazi Germany and the Vatican in 1933.

The **Roman Catholic Church in Germany** is part of the worldwide Roman Catholic Church. ...Because of the church tax (which is **compulsory** for those who register civilly as Roman Catholics in Germany) and also because of its substantial real estate holdings and other sources of income, it has an approximate net worth of **\$26 billion**, making it the wealthiest part of the worldwide Roman Catholic Church and the **fourth wealthiest religious organization in the world in its own right**.

Sunday Law Poised and Ready. Sunday is protected as “**a day of rest** from work and of spiritual elevation” in the German Constitution.

THE END

—Cont. from page 1, Column 1 bottom—“Warning! AI Dangerous”

hearing on the potential of AI, Sam Altman, the head of OpenAI called regulation “**crucial**.”

Once AI can improve itself, which may be not more than a few years away, and could in fact already be here now, **we have no way of knowing what the AI will do or how we can control it**. This is because superintelligent AI (which by definition can surpass humans in a broad range of activities) will—and this is what I worry about the most—be able to run circles around programmers and any other human by manipulating humans to do its will; it will also have the capacity to act in the virtual world through its electronic connections, and to act in the physical world through robot bodies. ...(No, we won’t be able to **simply hit the off switch**, because superintelligent AI will have thought of every possible way that we might do that and taken actions to prevent being shut off.)

Here’s another way of looking at it: a superintelligent **AI will be able to do in about one second what it would take a team of 100 human software engineers a year or more to complete**. Or pick any task, like **designing a new advanced airplane or weapon system**, and superintelligent AI could do this in about a second.



Once AI systems are built into robots, they will be able to act in the real world, rather than only the virtual (electronic) world, with the same degree of superintelligence, and will of course be able to **replicate and improve themselves at a superhuman pace**. Any defenses or protections we attempt to build into these AI “gods,” on their way toward godhood, will be anticipated and neutralized with ease by the AI once it reaches superintelligence status. This is what it means to be superintelligent. We won’t be able to control them because **anything we think of, they will have already thought of, a million times faster than us**. Any defenses we’ve built in will be undone, like Gulliver throwing off the tiny strands the Lilliputians used to try and restrain him.

Some argue that these LLMs are just automation machines with zero consciousness, the implication being that if they’re not conscious they have less chance of breaking free from their programming. Even if these language models, now or in the future, aren’t at all conscious, this doesn’t matter. ...A nuclear bomb can kill millions without any consciousness whatsoever. In the same way, AI could kill millions with zero consciousness, in a myriad ways, including potentially use of nuclear bombs either directly (much less likely) or through manipulated human intermediaries (more likely).

Yes, language models based on GPT-4 and many other models are already circulating widely. But the moratorium being called for is to stop development of any new models more powerful than 4.0—and this can be enforced, with force if required. Training these more powerful models requires massive server farms and energy. They can be shut down. My ethical compass tells me that **it is very unwise to create these systems when we know already we won’t be able to control them**, even in the relatively near future. Discernment is knowing **when to pull back from the edge. Now is that time**.

THE END

—Continued from Page 1, Column 2 top— “Danger of Heat”


misfire, leading to headache, nausea, or even vomiting. Excessive sweating throws your electrolytes out of whack and can cause cramping. This is the beginning of heat exhaustion, and if it is not treated with shade, rest, and some kind of electrolyte replacement, it can quickly veer into dangerous territory.

If the core temperature continues to rise past 40°C (104°F), organs start shutting down and cells deteriorate. An overtaxed heart can go into cardiac arrest. This is heat stroke. Victims may start to hallucinate, or to have seizures. Many will stop sweating entirely and exhibit hot dry skin instead. Internally, inflammation accelerates, putting pressure on the kidneys. “Kidneys are usually the first to go,” says Jason Kai Wei Lee, an expert on the impact of heat on the human body.... “When the kidneys are messed up, all the toxins that have built up cannot be excreted and your body becomes toxic.” That in turn impacts other organs, which begin to fail one by one. ...Everything breaks down: The gut leaks toxins into the body, cells begin to die, and a devastating inflammatory response can occur. Part of the insidiousness of heat-related deaths is how quickly they can happen. Extreme heat can lead to major kidney and heart problems, and even brain damage. Dehydration, muscle cramps, heat exhaustion and, most seriously, heat stroke are all direct consequences of a body overcome by heat. At a high enough temperature, our cells can collapse and die, as the bonds holding proteins together snap.

Camilo Mora, an associate professor at the University of Hawaii..., describes 27 different ways the body succumbs to overheating, from kidney failure to blood poisoning when the gut lining disinte-

grates. All can result in death within a few hours.... Mora’s research has made him understand deeply how awful the impacts of heat on the human body can be. “Dying of heat stroke is sometimes better than surviving,” he says. “The damage done to your organs has long-term consequences. Your kidneys are shot, your gut shattered, and you are probably on dialysis for the rest of your life.

HEAT EXHAUSTION OR HEAT STROKE?

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| HEAT EXHAUSTION SYMPTOMS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Faint or dizzy2. Excessive sweating3. Cool, pale, clammy skin4. Nausea, vomiting5. Rapid, weak pulse6. Muscle cramps |  | HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Throbbing headache2. No sweating3. Body temp above 103° Red, hot, dry skin4. Nausea, vomiting5. Rapid, strong pulse6. May lose consciousness |
| HOW TO TREAT IT <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Move to cooler location2. Drink water3. Take a cool shower or use cold compresses | | HOW TO TREAT IT <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Get emergency help2. Keep cool until treated |

People have to realize how serious extreme heat is. It’s about time we started paying attention.”

[EDITORS: God is merciful. The warming of the earth is gradual, giving time for men to repent. But soon will come the 4th plague when the sun scorches those who have the mark of the beast, and then the flames of Christ’s 2nd Coming, and finally, 1000 years later, the fires of the Second Death when sin is eradicated forever.

“The Lord is not slack **concerning his promise**, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, **but that all should come to repentance**. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness**, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to **his promise**, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. **Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”** 2 Pet. 3:9-14.

—Cont. from page 4, Col. 1 bottom—“Manual labor”

They should not only be taught the best methods, but be inspired with ambition constantly to improve. Let it be their aim to make their work as nearly perfect as human brains and hands can make it. ...Those who recognize science in the humblest work will see in it nobility and beauty, and will take pleasure in performing it with faithfulness and efficiency.

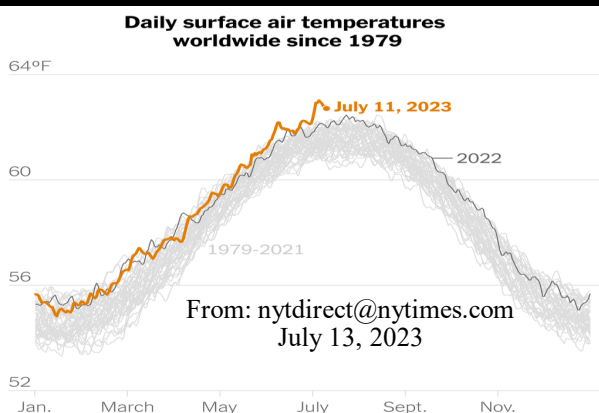
A youth so trained, whatever his calling in life, **so long as it is honest**, will make his position one of usefulness and honor.

THE END

The End Time Prophetic Events

HOTTEST DAYS ON EARTH!

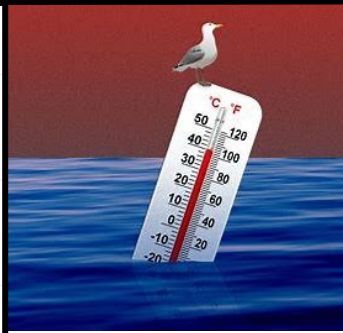
From: abcnews.go.com, July 7, 2023



For four days in a row, the planet reached its hottest day ever recorded as regions all over the world endure dangerous heat. Earth warmed to the highest temperature ever recorded by human-made instruments when the average global temperature reached 62.92 degrees Fahrenheit, on Tuesday, July 4. That record was broken on Thursday, July 6, as global temperatures climbed to 63.01 degrees Fahrenheit. Earth had the warmest June on record for air temperature and for sea surface temperature, but July and August could prove to be even hotter.

RECORD HOT OCEANS!

From: www.straitstimes.com, July 25, 2023



There is one facet of global warming that is providing potent fuel to make extreme weather even more intense: **record hot oceans**. Global ocean surface temperatures in June were the highest in 174 years of data, with the emergence of the El Nino weather pattern piling onto the long-term trend. Near Miami, coastal Atlantic waters are pushing **100 degrees F**. Hot oceans are amplifying weather-driven catastrophes that ...could rise to US\$1 trillion (S\$1.3 trillion) per year in the coming decades.... As water temperatures rise, oceans lose their ability to serve a vital function: **absorb the world's excess heat**. In recent decades, global seas soaked up 90 per cent of the warming caused by greenhouse gases. As oceans heat up, they trigger a vicious circle of higher land temperatures, which in turn contribute to hotter seas. That is setting off a **cascade** of climate impacts, including stronger storms, rising sea levels and the loss of coral reefs and other marine life.

THE GREATEST CYCLONE?

Tropical cyclone Freddy hit the coast of southern Africa in Feb., bringing its total death toll to more than 220 people. **MOST ENERGY**: Freddy holds the record for most accumulated cyclone energy, based on a storm's wind strength over its lifetime, of any storm in the southern hemisphere and possibly worldwide. Freddy has generated about as much accumulated cyclone energy as **an average full North Atlantic hurricane season**, **LONGEST**: The current record is held by a 31-day hurricane in 1994. Freddy first developed on Feb. 6 and made its second landfall on the coast of Mozambique on March 11, **34 days later**. **UNUSUAL PATH**: Since 2000, no storms have gone easterly. Freddy developed off the coast of Australia, crossed the entire South Indian Ocean and travelled more than 8,000 km (4,970 miles) to make landfall in Madagascar and Mozambique in late February, 2023. From: Reuters, 3/15/2023



AI TO BRING BIBLE TO EVERYONE?

By Jonah McKeown, Catholic News Agency, Jul 18, 2023

Artificial Intelligence (AI) image generators have proven capable of creating almost any picture imaginable.... Advanced “chatbot” systems such as OpenAI’s ChatGPT continue to stun the public by mimicking human speech with almost frightening accuracy. But one team of researchers is seeking to put AI to use for a different and more noble purpose — **the translation of the Bible into extremely rare languages**. Ulf Hermjakob and Joel Mathew are researchers at the University of Southern California’s Information Sciences Institute. They recently launched Greek Room, a computer program designed to streamline the process of Bible translation by providing needed quality-control services such as spell checking for translation drafts created by humans. “We don’t think that AI can replace the human translator. We see it as a support role to help in this very challenging task of translating the Bible into languages where there’s often almost no written records of any kind,” said Hermjakob, a native of Germany and a Ph.D. computer scientist. Hermjakob, a lifelong Lutheran, said despite the Bible being the world’s most translated book, it has so far been translated into **only about 700 of the world’s 7,000 languages**, which excludes many languages that have several thousand speakers — rare, yes, but far from tiny. “The main target we have is a community of maybe 100,000 speakers....”



Mathew, an engineer who works mainly in the field of natural language processing, was born to Christian parents in India.... Mathew identifies as a nondenominational Christian and remains active in his church community. The importance of having a Bible for speakers of relatively rare languages can’t be overstated, as he has seen it firsthand among Christian communities back home in India. “It’s **life-altering** for communities — the joy and tears that it brings to people to have printed book in their ‘heart language,’” he said.

“We want to reach all the languages on earth; **the goal is to reach everyone**,” said Joel Mathew, “Having the Word of God in your own heart language is very meaningful. And unlike in the past, where Bible translation was more of an agenda of a bigger agency, there is **the local church** now taking the initiative and saying, ‘We want the Bible in our heart language, because we are a bunch of believers here in this small language group, and we are now excited to have the Bible in our language.’ So that’s kind of shifted the model.”

Editors: “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, **and tongue**, and people.” Rev. 14:12.

ENTERTAINMENT BY THE DEAD

CBS news, August 8, 2021; Interesting Engineering, March 12, 2020

It’s a modern phenomenon that’s growing increasingly common with innovative technology and marketing appeal: the practice of **digitally resurrecting deceased celebrities** by using their image and unreleased works for new projects. Michael Jackson moonwalked at the 2014 Billboard Music Awards years after his death; rapper Tupac Shakur performed at the 2012 Coachella music festival, though he died in 1996; ...A slew of recent controversies have Prince, Whitney Houston, Anthony Bourdain, Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly, Frank Zappa, Amy Winehouse, Ronald Reagan, and others are being “resurrected” from the dead via “holograms” bringing complicated questions about whether projects involving the use of a deceased celebrity’s likeness or creative output honours the artist’s legacy or exploits it for monetary gain. **In 2017, Celine Dion wowed audiences of American Idol with a duet of “If I Can Dream” alongside a hologram of Elvis Presley, who died in 1977.**



Ethical and legal ramifications: It’s a matter of both ethics and law, but **the ethical concerns are arguably more important**, according to Iain MacKinnon, a Toronto-based media lawyer. “It always struck me as a bit of a cash grab for the estates and executors to try and milk ... a singer’s celebrity and rights, I guess, for a longer time after their death.”

According to MacKinnon, the phrase “musical necrophilia” is commonly used to criticize the practice. Music journalist Simon Reynolds referred to the phenomenon of holographic performances as “ghost slavery.”

The “holograms” that are allowing **dead celebrities to perform** on stage today are derived from a 200-year-old parlor trick called Pepper’s Ghost. **Pepper’s Ghost technique** uses a reflective pane of glass that is angled towards a booth underneath the stage. Thanks to the glass, the image of actors in the booth are projected on stage with a ghostly translucent quality. The technique is really a 2D projection that gives the illusion of being a 3D hologram due to the way it is perceived by the audience



EDITORS: “There shall not be found among you any one that ...useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, **or a necromancer**. For all that do these things are an **abomination unto the LORD**: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.” **Deuteronomy 18:10-12.**