

March 16, 2014

Robert Kaplan of Stratfor wrote a piece that could be a companion to the Pickings introduction about Russia from last week. Only, his is more elegantly written.

The Obama administration claims it is motivated by the G-8, interdependence, human rights and international law. Russian President Vladimir Putin is a more traditional historical actor. He is motivated by geopolitics. That is why he temporarily has the upper hand in the crisis over Ukraine and Crimea.

Geopolitics, according to the mid-20th century U.S. diplomat and academic Robert Strausz-Hupe, is "the struggle for space and power," played out in a geographical setting. Geopolitics is eternal, ever since Persia was the world's first superpower in antiquity. ...

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... To wit, the late military historian John Keegan explains that Great Britain and the United States could champion freedom only because the sea protected them "from the landbound enemies of liberty." Alexander Hamilton observed that had Britain not been an island, its military establishment would have been just as overbearing as those of continental Europe, and Britain "would in all probability" have become "a victim to the absolute power of a single man." ...

... Geography is no less relevant to the 21st century than it has been throughout history. Communications technology has not erased geography; rather, it has only made it more claustrophobic, so that each region of the earth interacts with every other one as never before. Intensifying this claustrophobia is the growth of cities -- another geographical phenomenon. The earth is smaller than ever, thanks to technology. But like a tiny wristwatch with all of its mechanisms, you have to disaggregate its geographical parts and features in order to understand how it works.

Thus, any international relations strategy must emanate initially from the physical terrain upon which we all live. And because geopolitics emanates from geography, it will never go away or become irrelevant. Strausz-Hupe had it right. If liberal powers do not engage in geopolitics, they will only leave the playing field to their enemies who do. For even evolved liberal states, such as those in America and Europe, are not exempt from the battle for survival. Such things as the G-8, human rights and international law can and must triumph over geography. But that is only possible if geopolitics becomes part of the strategy of the West.

Along a similar vein, Jennifer Rubin asks non-interventionist libertarians how the inter-dependent world is working out?

One of the key assumptions of non-interventionist libertarians (who rankle at the term "isolationist") is that through trade and economic integration we can woo our enemies and make a profit all at the same time. The only problem is that it is almost never true.

Seth Mandel points out that letting Russia into the World Trade Organization didn't make it less aggressive: "It's because the economic integration of Russia has done precisely the opposite of what it was expected to do in one crucial regard: the recent events in Ukraine and the West's unsteady response indicate Russia's increased leverage instead." That is because the West's business interests become invested (literally) in a new market (thereby weakening support for any kind of sanctions) and because the aggressor gets economic benefits at no costs. ...

Ann Coulter recaps Dem disasters in foreign policy from Kennedy to the present. ... When Obama took office, al Qaida had been routed in Iraq — from Fallujah, Sadr City and Basra. Muqtada al-Sadr — the Dr. Phil of Islamofascist radicalism — had waddled off in retreat to Iran. The Iraqis had a democracy, a miracle on the order of flush toilets in Afghanistan.

By Bush's last year in office, monthly casualties in Iraq were coming in slightly below a weekend with Justin Bieber. In 2008, there were more than three times as many homicides in Chicago as U.S. troop deaths in the Iraq War. (Chicago: 509; Iraq: 155).

On May 30, The Washington Post reported: "CIA Director Michael V. Hayden now portrays (al-Qaida) as essentially defeated in Iraq and Saudi Arabia and on the defensive throughout much of the rest of the world ..." Even hysterics at The New York Times admitted that al-Qaida and other terrorist groups had nearly disappeared from Southeast Asia by 2008.

A few short years into Obama's presidency — and al-Qaida is back! For purely political reasons, as soon as he became president, Obama removed every last troop from Iraq, despite there being Americans troops deployed in dozens of countries around the world.

In 2004, nearly 100 soldiers, mostly Marines, died in the battle to take Fallujah from al-Qaida. Today, al-Qaida's black flag flies above Fallujah.

Bush won the war, and Obama gave it back.

Obama couldn't be bothered with preserving America's victory in Iraq. He was busy helping to topple a strong American ally in Egypt and a slavish American minion in Libya — in order to install the Muslim Brotherhood in those countries instead. ...

Since we spent a lot of time looking at failures, we need an expanded humor section.

Tim Stanley caught Chelsea Handler explained to Piers Morgan why he failed. Follow the link if you'd like to see the video.

There's been a lot of debate about why Piers Morgan lost his CNN talk show. A couple of days ago the comedian Chelsea Handler gave him a definitive explanation. Piers was "interviewing" her, they cut to an ad break, and when they returned they had this priceless exchange.

PIERS: You tweet very amusingly.

CHELSEA: I wish you did.

PIERS: Ha.

CHELSEA: I mean in the middle of the commercial break — I want your viewers to know, although they must know, because they're probably following you on Twitter. I mean you can't even pay attention for 60 seconds. You're a terrible interviewer.

PIERS: Well you just weren't keeping my attention.

CHELSEA: That's not my problem.

PIERS: That is your problem.

CHELSEA: This is your show. You have to pay attention to the guests that you invited on your show.

PIERS: If they're interesting enough.

CHELSEA: Yeah, listen. It doesn't matter how interesting I am. You signed up for this job.

PIERS: Of course it does.

CHELSEA: Well, maybe that's why your job is coming to an end.

PIERS: Wow.

CHELSEA: Wow.

It's better watched that read, because that way you can hear Piers' painful laughter.

More humor from [Power Line](#) with the best obit, ever.

There was quite a lot of notice given to [this obituary](#) last November of Leonard Smith, who asked that in lieu of flowers, "the family asks that you cancel your subscription to The New York Times." A rather sensible suggestion.

But I think I've found one that is even better from earlier this week, for [Walter George Bruhl](#), a retired chemical company executive. Highlights:

Walter George Bruhl Jr. of Newark and Dewey Beach is a dead person; he is no more; he is bereft of life; he is deceased; he has rung down the curtain and gone to join the choir invisible; he has expired and gone to meet his maker. . .

There will be no viewing since his wife refuses to honor his request to have him standing in the corner of the room with a glass of Jack Daniels in his hand so he would appear natural to visitors.

Cremation will take place at the family's convenience, and his ashes will be kept in an urn until they get tired of having it around. What's a Grecian Urn? Oh, about 200 drachmas a week.

RIP, Mr. Bruhl. You sound like the kind of person I would like to have met.

We finish with late night humor from [Andrew Malcolm](#).

Seth Meyers: President Obama appeared on an online comedy show the other day. The president was there to talk about his own online comedy show, ObamaCare.

Seth Meyers: Sunday's Crimean vote to join Russia has no option for "No." Only two boxes on the ballot -- one for "yes," and one for "murder my family."

Conan: Obama is threatening Putin now. The U.S. president says if Russia doesn't pull out of Crimea, he won't lend Putin any of the money that we've borrowed from China.

Fallon: The College Board is revamping SATs to focus on what college students really need. The SAT is now just one question: "How much money do your parents have?"

Stratfor via Real Clear Politics

Crimea: The Revenge of Geography?

by Robert Kaplan

The Obama administration claims it is motivated by the G-8, interdependence, human rights and international law. [Russian](#) President Vladimir Putin is a more traditional historical actor. He is motivated by geopolitics. That is why he temporarily has the upper hand in the crisis over [Ukraine](#) and Crimea.

Geopolitics, according to the mid-20th century U.S. diplomat and academic Robert Strausz-Hupe, is "the struggle for space and power," played out in a geographical setting. Geopolitics is eternal, ever since Persia was the world's first superpower in antiquity. Indeed, the Old Testament, on one level, is a lesson in geopolitics. Strausz-Hupe, an Austrian immigrant, wanted to educate the political elite of his adopted country so that the forces of good could make better use of geopolitics than the forces of evil in World War II.

Adherence to geopolitics allowed the British geographer and liberal educator Sir Halford J. Mackinder in a 1904 article, "The Geographical Pivot of History," to accurately forecast the basic trend lines of the 20th century: how the European power arrangement of the Edwardian age would give way to one encompassing all of Eurasia, with a battle between Western sea power and Russian land power. Geopolitics was at the heart of 19th-century America's bout of imperialism in the Greater Caribbean: By dominating its nearby sea the [United States](#) came, in turn, to dominate the Western Hemisphere, enabling it to affect the balance of power in the Eastern Hemisphere -- the story of the 20th century. Geopolitics was at the heart of World War II, with the German military machine's lunge for the oil of the Caucasus and the [Japanese](#) military machine's lunge for the oil and raw materials of Southeast Asia. Geopolitics was at the heart of the Cold War, with U.S. bases and allies guarding the southern Eurasian rimland from [Greece](#) and [Turkey](#) to [South Korea](#) and [Japan](#) against the Soviet Union. The celebrated diplomat George Kennan's "containment" strategy was, in significant part, a geopolitical one.

It isn't that geography and geopolitics supersede everything else, including Western values and human agency. Not at all! Rather, it is that geography in particular is the starting point for understanding everything else. Only by respecting geography in the first place can Western values and human ingenuity overcome it. It is not one or the other, but the sequence of understanding which is crucial.

To wit, the late military historian John Keegan explains that Great Britain and the United States could champion freedom only because the sea protected them "from the landbound enemies of liberty." Alexander Hamilton observed that had Britain not been an island, its military establishment would have been just as overbearing as those of continental Europe, and Britain "would in all probability" have become "a victim to the absolute power of a single man."

Likewise, the Berlin Wall may have fallen in 1989, but Russia is still big and right next door to Central and Eastern Europe. And Russia remains illiberal and autocratic because, unlike Britain

and America, it is not an island nation, but a vast continent with few geographical features to protect it from invasion. Putin's aggression stems ultimately from this fundamental geographical insecurity. Though, this does not doom him to be a reactionary. A far-sighted ruler would see that only civil society can ultimately save Russia. But Russia's geographical setting does place Putin in an understandable context.

Geographical facts are often simple, brutal, obvious -- not interesting or inspiring or intellectually engaging in any sense -- but they are no less true as a consequence. It is not a matter of denying them, but of overcoming them. George H. W. Bush intuited such truths and thus was careful not to offend Soviet sensibilities, even as the Soviet empire was collapsing in Europe, for fear of providing Moscow with a pretext to crack down more than it did in the Baltic states, next door to the Kremlin. The elder Bush administration was aware, amid all the euphoria surrounding the events of 1989, that geography was still depressingly relevant, if not determinative.

Putin is for the moment in a strong position in [Ukraine](#) because Ukraine simply matters to him more than it matters to the [United States](#) or even to Europe. And it matters more to him because of geography. Ukraine, for all the familiar reasons, is central to the destiny of European [Russia](#), to Russia's history and identity and particularly to Russia's access to the warm waters of the Mediterranean via the Black Sea. And because Russia's Black Sea Fleet is based on the Crimean Peninsula, Putin feels he cannot just stand by and watch his fleet become subject to an emerging, overtly pro-Western state in [Ukraine](#).

Meanwhile, geography dictates that Ukraine has a long border with Russia and is not separated from it by any formidable geographical features. Thus, even as Putin needs Ukraine and Crimea more than the West does, he also has more leverage over Ukraine and Crimea than the West does. Because of geography, natural gas deposits are primarily in Russia rather than in Ukraine. And thus Ukraine is dependent on Russia for not only trade, but energy, too. (Ukraine's shale reserves are mainly in the eastern, pro-Russian part of the country.)

Because of geography, the Baltic states, [Poland](#) and Moldova are threatened: They are contiguous to Russia and Ukraine, with no natural impediments to protect them. In the Baltic states in particular, there are Russian minorities useful to Putin, for the flat geography of the North European Plain has enabled the flow of peoples and changeability of borders over the centuries (even if most of the Russian speakers in the Baltics ended up there during the Soviet period).

Again, these are obvious, elementary school facts, but ones that are central to the relative strengths and weaknesses of the West and Russia in the current crisis. Only from such facts can a useful narrative of the crisis emerge, and ways found to trump Putin's geographical advantage. The Baltic states, Poland and Moldova are in danger primarily because of where they happen to be located. Ukraine, despite its pro-Western upheaval, cannot ultimately be entirely independent of Russia because of where it happens to be located.

And Ukraine and Crimea are but prologue to a reality across the globe.

In Asia, the crises in the South and East [China](#) seas are all about geography -- lines on the map in blue water and where they should be drawn. This is traditional geopolitics, stunningly unaffected by the advance of Western liberal thought. In the Middle East, [Israel](#) faces the tyranny of distance in its planning for any military strike against [Iran](#) -- the fundamental fact of the [Israel](#)-Iran conflict. Tunisia and [Egypt](#), while politically troubled, are nevertheless cohesive, age-old clusters of

civilization -- natural outgrowths of geography, in other words. This keeps them viable as states, unlike [Libya](#), [Syria](#) and [Iraq](#), which are geographically illogical within their present borders and thus have collapsed in various degrees following the weakening or toppling of their dictatorships.

Geography is no less relevant to the 21st century than it has been throughout history. Communications technology has not erased geography; rather, it has only made it more claustrophobic, so that each region of the earth interacts with every other one as never before. Intensifying this claustrophobia is the growth of cities -- another geographical phenomenon. The earth is smaller than ever, thanks to technology. But like a tiny wristwatch with all of its mechanisms, you have to disaggregate its geographical parts and features in order to understand how it works.

Thus, any international relations strategy must emanate initially from the physical terrain upon which we all live. And because geopolitics emanates from geography, it will never go away or become irrelevant. Strausz-Hupe had it right. If liberal powers do not engage in geopolitics, they will only leave the playing field to their enemies who do. For even evolved liberal states, such as those in America and Europe, are not exempt from the battle for survival. Such things as the G-8, human rights and international law can and must triumph over geography. But that is only possible if geopolitics becomes part of the strategy of the West.

Right Turn

[How's that interdependent world working out?](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

One of the key assumptions of non-interventionist libertarians (who rankle at the term "isolationist") is that through trade and economic integration we can woo our enemies and make a profit all at the same time. The only problem is that it is almost never true.

[Seth Mandel](#) points out that letting Russia into the World Trade Organization didn't make it less aggressive: "It's because the economic integration of Russia has done precisely the opposite of what it was expected to do in one crucial regard: the recent events in Ukraine and the West's unsteady response indicate Russia's increased leverage instead." That is because the West's business interests become invested (literally) in a new market (thereby weakening support for any kind of sanctions) and because the aggressor gets economic benefits at no costs.

The same is true in lessening sanctions on Iran. Does anyone --well, other than President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry -- think lifting sanctions on Iran, letting business flow in and enticing European countries to turn a profit in Tehran will make Iran *more* compliant? It sure hasn't so far.

And if we need any more examples, take China. The country's trade and interaction with the West has boomed during a time of uniquely aggressive behavior in Asia and during a time of increased domestic oppression. Once again, economic integration seems inversely related to improving the behavior of rogue regimes.

What does help is integrating emerging democracies into international trade (e.g. the free trade agreements with Colombia) that can help their economy and resist the pressure of neighboring bullies (e.g. Venezuela).

When do despotic regimes lower the level of aggression? If experience is any guide, despots respond to signs of strength, not signs of what they see as weakness. Iran briefly gave up its nuclear ambitions when the U.S. attacked Iraq, for example. The pressure can also be rhetorical (e.g. Ronald Reagan calling the Soviet Union the “evil empire”) or take the form of support for free peoples (as we did successfully in Central America).

The isolationists have it backwards. They’d like to in effect reward totalitarians with economic goodies. Instead, we should be doing everything we can to pressure them diplomatically and economically as well as supporting rebels rhetorically and militarily. When and if they turn over a new leaf, we can consider more fully integrating them into the international economic system. Otherwise, as Lenin said, we are simply selling them the rope with which we will hang ourselves.

Human Events

[Crimea river](#)

by Ann Coulter

It’s pointless to pay attention to foreign policy when a Democrat is president, unless you enjoy having your stomach in a knot. As long as a Democrat sits in the White House, America will be repeatedly humiliated, the world will become a much more dangerous place — and there’s absolutely nothing anybody can do about it. (Though this information might come in handy when voting for president, America!)

The following stroll down memory lane is but the briefest of summaries. For a full accounting of Democratic national security disasters, please read my book, “[Treason: Liberal Treachery From the Cold War to the War on Terrorism](#).”— JFK: John F. Kennedy was in the White House for less than three years and, if you think he screwed a lot of hookers, just look what he did to our foreign policy.

Six months after becoming president, JFK had his calamitous meeting with Nikita Khrushchev in Vienna — a meeting The New York Times described as “one of the more self-destructive American actions of the Cold War, and one that contributed to the most dangerous crisis of the nuclear age.” (The Times admitted that a half-century later. At the time, the Newspaper of Record lied about the meeting.)

For two days, Khrushchev batted Kennedy around, leaving the president’s own advisers white-faced and shaken. Kennedy’s Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Nitze called the meeting “just a disaster.”

Khrushchev was delighted to discover that the U.S. president was so “weak.” A Russian aide said the American president seemed “very inexperienced, even immature.”

Seeing he was dealing with a naif, Khrushchev promptly sent missiles to Cuba. The Kennedy Myth Machine has somehow turned JFK’s handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis into a brilliant foreign

policy coup. The truth is: (1) Russia would never have dared move missiles to Cuba had Khrushchev not realized that JFK was a nincompoop; and (2) it wasn't a victory.

In exchange for Russia's laughably empty threats about Cuba, JFK removed our missiles from Turkey — a major retreat. As Khrushchev put it in his memoirs: "It would have been ridiculous for us to go to war over Cuba — for a country 12,000 miles away. For us, war was unthinkable. We ended up getting exactly what we'd wanted all along, security for Fidel Castro's regime and American missiles removed from Turkey."

– LBJ:

Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, famously escalated the war in Vietnam simply to prove that the Democrats could be trusted with national security.

As historian David Halberstam describes it, LBJ "would talk to his closest political aides about the McCarthy days, of how Truman lost China and then the Congress and the White House and how, by God, Johnson was not going to be the president who lost Vietnam and then the Congress and the White House."

LBJ's incompetent handling of that war allowed liberals to spend the next half-century denouncing every use of American military force as "another Vietnam."

– CARTER:

Jimmy Carter warned Americans about their "inordinate fear of communism" and claimed to have been attacked by a giant swimming rabbit.

His most inspired strategic move was to abandon the Shah of Iran, a loyal U.S. ally, which gave rise to the global Islamofascist movement we're still dealing with today. By allowing the Shah to be overthrown by the Ayatollah Khomeini in February 1979, Carter handed Islamic crazies their first state.

Before the end of the year, the Islamic lunatics had taken 52 Americans hostage in Tehran, where they remained for 444 days.

The hostages were released only minutes after Ronald Reagan's inauguration for reasons succinctly captured in a Jeff MacNelly cartoon. It shows Khomeini reading a telegram aloud: "It's from Ronald Reagan. It must be about one of the Americans in the Den of Spies, but I don't recognize the name. It says 'Remember Hiroshima.'"

– CLINTON:

Bill Clinton's masterful handling of foreign policy was such a catastrophe that he had to deploy his national security adviser, Sandy Berger, to steal classified documents from the National Archives in 2003 to avoid their discovery by the 9/11 commission.

Twice, when Clinton was president, Sudan had offered to turn over bin Laden to the U.S. But, unfortunately, these offers came in early 1996 when Clinton was busy ejaculating on White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Clinton rebuffed Sudan's offers.

According to Michael Scheuer, who ran the bin Laden unit at the CIA for many years, Clinton was given eight to 10 chances to kill or capture bin Laden but refused to act, despite bin Laden's having murdered hundreds of Americans in terrorist attacks around the world. Would that one of those opportunities had arisen on the day of Clinton's scheduled impeachment! Instead of pointlessly bombing Iraq, he might have finally taken out bin Laden.

– OBAMA:

When Obama took office, al Qaida had been routed in Iraq — from Fallujah, Sadr City and Basra. Muqtada al-Sadr — the Dr. Phil of Islamofascist radicalism — had waddled off in retreat to Iran. The Iraqis had a democracy, a miracle on the order of flush toilets in Afghanistan.

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Bush won the war, and Obama gave it back.

Obama couldn't be bothered with preserving America's victory in Iraq. He was busy helping to topple a strong American ally in Egypt and a slavish American minion in Libya — in order to install the Muslim Brotherhood in those countries instead. (That didn't work out so well for U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans murdered in Benghazi.)

So now, another Russian leader is playing cat-and-mouse with an American president — and guess who's the mouse? Putin has taunted Obama in Iran, in Syria and with Edward Snowden. By now, Obama has become such an object for Putin's amusement that the fastest way to get the Russians out of Crimea would be for Obama to call on Putin to invade Ukraine.

Telegraph, UK

Piers Morgan's guest explains to him why he lost his CNN show: because he was rude

by Tim Stanley

There's been a lot of debate about [why Piers Morgan lost his CNN talk show](#). A couple of days ago the comedian Chelsea Handler gave him a definitive explanation. Piers was "interviewing" her, they cut to an ad break, and when they returned they had this priceless exchange.

PIERS: You tweet very amusingly.

CHELSEA: I wish you did.

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CHELSEA: I mean in the middle of the commercial break — I want your viewers to know, although they must know, because they're probably following you on Twitter. I mean you can't even pay attention for 60 seconds. You're a terrible interviewer.

PIERS: Well you just weren't keeping my attention.

CHELSEA: That's not my problem.

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CHELSEA: This is your show. You have to pay attention to the guests that you invited on your show.

PIERS: If they're interesting enough.

CHELSEA: Yeah, listen. It doesn't matter how interesting I am. You signed up for this job.

PIERS: Of course it does.

CHELSEA: Well, maybe that's why your job is coming to an end.

PIERS: Wow.

CHELSEA: Wow.

It's better watched than read, because that way you can hear Piers' painful laughter.

Here's why the CNN gig didn't work out: Morgan was too rude. A lot of Brits go to America and presume that a) all Americans are fake and b) they'll appreciate someone explaining to them what's wrong with their country. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Oh, Americans can take criticism – which is why Christopher Hitchens and John Oliver flourished out there. But they're not "fakes" and they don't like being told by foreigners that they're "messed up". Who would? Americans are, nine-times-on-ten, honestly nice people who appreciate good manners. Be polite to them and tell them how much you like their country before you offer any spiky observations about their (often) bizarre way of life. In other words, act like a polite guest would. Not like the jerk who turns up uninvited to the party, helps themselves to a beer from the fridge and starts asking the host why his kids are so fat.

To rudeness, Piers added arrogance. Take the guns debate. When the Sandy Hook massacre happened it was right for Morgan to broadcast about it and, as a Brit, he was entitled to raise questions about America's gun laws. But he acted as though no one had ever thought to discuss the subject before. Like, *ever*. He tried to make gun control his own personal crusade, to "school" the Americans on law and order. And he displayed a crass insensitivity towards issues such as the importance of the Constitution or the American tradition of self-reliance. The scale of his ego was extraordinary. No US liberal has ever managed to challenge their country's fundamental respect for gun ownership. Why did he imagine that a guy with an English accent – the accent of George III no less – would succeed where Bill Clinton, Teddy Kennedy or Barack Obama had failed?

So Chelsea Handler nailed it. When he should've been talking to his guest during the ad break, he was tweeting – sharing his invaluable wisdom with America. And he failed even on air to show due deference to the fine people from the great country that was kind enough to host him. The embarrassing thing about the whole Piers Morgan affair is that it has turned the tables on us Brits. We always insisted that we were the courteous ones and the Americans were the boobs. In this case, it's been the other way around.

Power Line

Best. Obituary. Ever.

by Steve Hayward

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IBD

Late Night

by Andrew Malcolm

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SethMeyers: Sunday's Crimean vote to join Russia has no option for “No.” Only two boxes on the ballot -- one for “yes,” and one for “murder my family.”

Conan: Obama is threatening Putin now. The U.S. president says if Russia doesn't pull out of Crimea, he won't lend Putin any of the money that we've borrowed from China.

Fallon: The College Board is revamping SATs to focus on what college students really need. The SAT is now just one question: "How much money do your parents have?"

Fallon: The SAT revamping includes phasing out obscure vocabulary words. About time. I always thought that part of the test was completely amphibious.

Conan: The professional networking site LinkedIn wants to be the "Facebook for work." But there's already a "Facebook for work" — it's called Facebook.

Conan: Facebook says it will still show your page after you die. However, Facebook will change your relationship status to "It's complicated."

Conan: A California couple out walking their dog found \$10 million in rare coins buried in the ground. It's the biggest stash of coins found since Oprah had her couch cushions cleaned.

Conan: The "Got Milk" dairy association has officially retired that slogan. The group said its ad campaign was a success, now that pretty much everyone has heard of milk.

Fallon: A Connecticut man picked up his great-grandson from school, but brought home the wrong kid. He said, "I don't remember Billy being Asian. Or a girl."

Fallon: Hawaiian researchers put webcams on a shark's fin for a firsthand view of what it sees. First thing they saw: The shark eating the guy who put the webcam on the fin.

Conan: The N.Y. Times has apologized for a spelling error it made 161 years ago. It spelled Larry King's name with one "r."

Letterman: The Olympics are over. So Russia invaded Crimea. Putin says it's not to annex Ukrainian territory, but to round-up stray dogs. Well, that's good enough for me.

Letterman: Today was an important day in history. Nine years ago today Martha Stewart escaped from prison. She found a blind spot between two guard towers. She was doing time for egging a neighbor's house.

SethMeyers: Today is National Grammar Day. So no matter whom you are, or where you're at, it's literally party time, y'all.

SethMeyers: The U.S. government is suing Sprint for overcharging on NSA wiretaps. A spokesman explained, "We did them all at night and on weekends."

SethMeyers: Steven Spielberg is rumored to be directing a 'West Side Story' remake. Except his version will feature *ACTUAL* sharks versus *ACTUAL* jets.

SethMeyers: Morgan Freeman says if he met an alien, he would ask, "Is there a God in your society?" And then, "If so, could I play him?"

Conan: Vladimir Putin has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. People were shocked until they learned the head of the nominating committee is Kim Jong Un.

SethMeyers: Britain's Legoland theme park shut down yesterday due to a bomb threat. Although, if there was ever a place that's easy to rebuild....

SethMeyers: A man in India set a world record for fastest nose-typing. I think the most surprising part is that there was an *OLD* world record for nose typing.

Conan: The clothing company H&M is soon going to release a \$99 wedding dress. The \$99 wedding dress is the perfect way to tell your man, "I do — I guess."

Conan: The Internet turns 25 this week. Twenty-five years ago was the first time a wife asked her husband what he was looking at and he said, "Oh.... nothin.'"

SethMeyers: The World Wide Web turned 25 years old today. And everyone who still calls it the World Wide Web turned 50.

Conan: A scientist and a chef have teamed to test whether lobsters feel pain. Apparently, the hardest part is getting a lobster to sit still long enough to watch 'The Notebook.'

SethMeyers: Barbie, the world's most famous doll turned 55 on Sunday. And if you ask me that's a little too old to be waking up naked on the stairs every morning. Get your life together, Barbie.

SethMeyers: A new study reveals that parents who spend more time on their smartphones have more negative interactions with their children. While parents who spend *LESS* time on their smartphones are really mad they forgot their charger.

SethMeyers: NASA's Cassini spacecraft passed by Saturn's largest moon for the 100th time last week. Said Mrs. Cassini, "Can we please just stop and ask for directions?"

Fallon: Keith Richards has announced he's working on a new children's book. It's called "Oh, the Places You'll Wake Up."

Letterman: President Obama was in New York for more campaign fundraisers -- \$32,400 per plate. *Wow!* But you get unlimited bread-sticks.

Letterman: President Obama's wife Michelle now has some blond highlights in her hair. Those will probably be the only highlights of her husband's second term.

Conan: North Korea's Kim Jong Un was re-elected with 100% of the vote. Kim credits the win to his slogan: "Vote for me or you will be murdered."

Conan: A California lawmaker is proposing stricter regulations on the doctors who prescribe medical marijuana. For example, doctors are no longer able to prescribe pot for the medical condition: "I Just Got Netflix."

DO YOU THINK
ANIMALS CAN
SENSE WEAKNESS?



