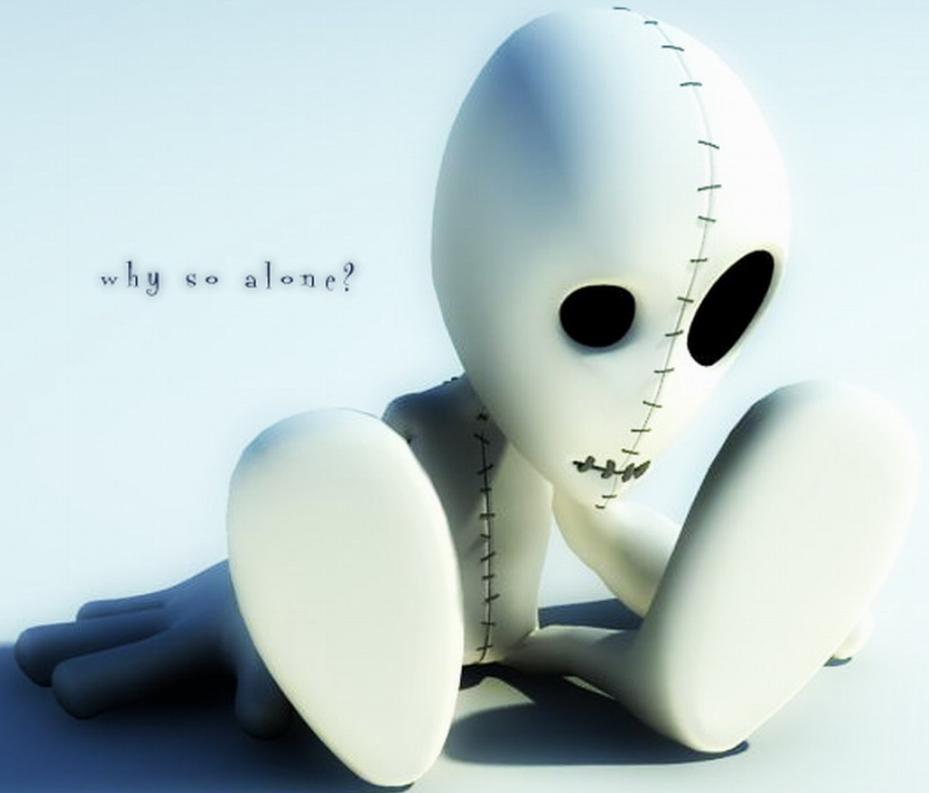


# Current Events #6

why so alone?



# What Really Happened?



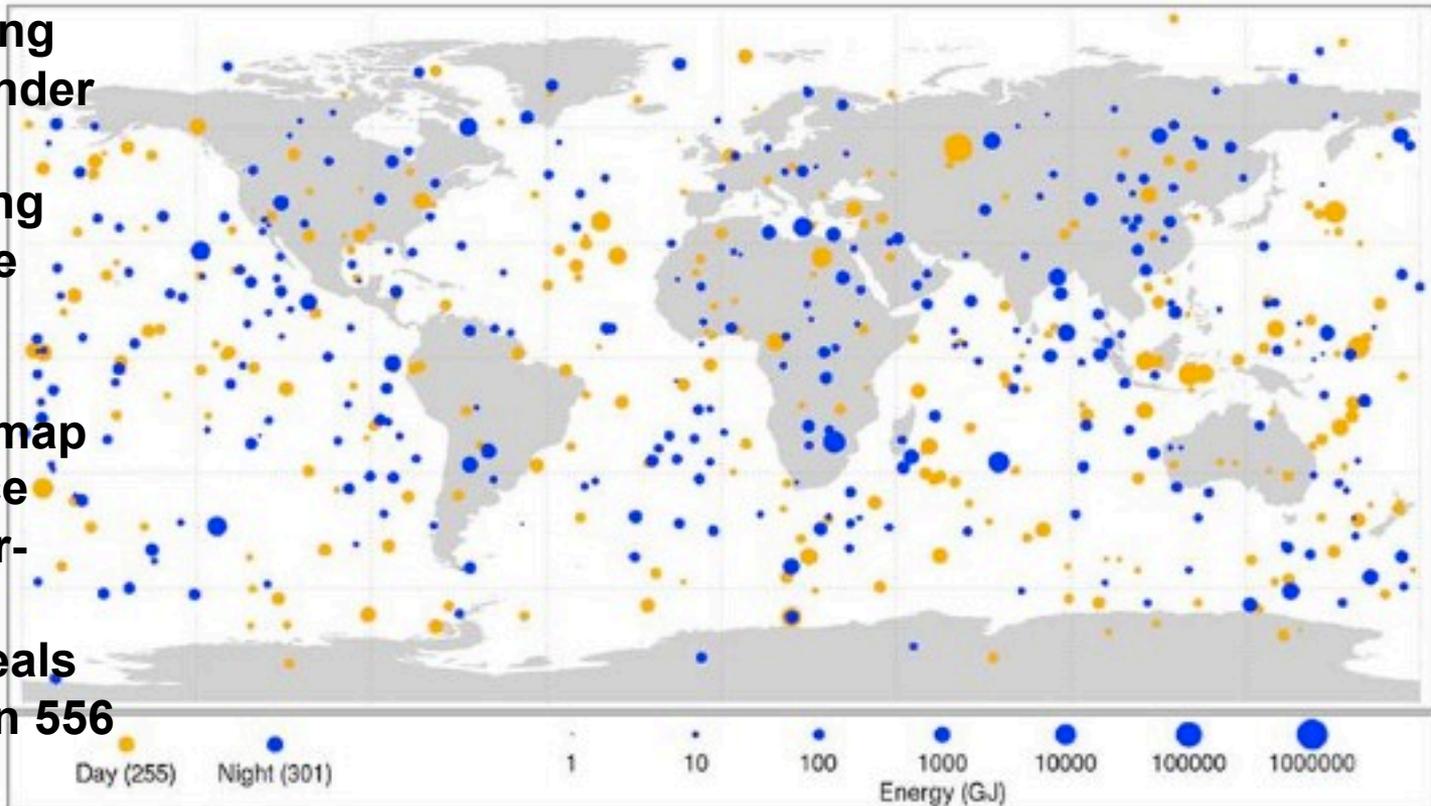
**Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot and killed on Aug. 9, by Darren Wilson, a white police officer, in Ferguson, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis. The shooting prompted protests that roiled the area for weeks. A St. Louis County grand jury announced Nov. 24 that it was not indicting Mr. Wilson.**

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/08/13/us/ferguson-missouri-town-under-siege-after-police-shooting.html>

# It's Raining Asteroids

## Bolide Events 1994–2013

(Small Asteroids that Disintegrated in Earth's Atmosphere)



Fiery asteroids smash into Earth's atmosphere at such a stunning rate, it's a wonder we don't see fireballs raining down from the skies more frequently. A new NASA map from the space agency's Near-Earth Object Program, reveals that more than 556 space rocks smashed into the atmosphere over a 20-year period between 1994 and 2013.

[http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/15/us/nasa-asteroid-map/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t2](http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/15/us/nasa-asteroid-map/index.html?hpt=hp_t2)

# 1 For the Good Girls

Footage shows Aarti and Pooja Kumar landing punches and thrashing three men with a belt while riding a bus in the northern state of Haryana, an area with a reputation for hostility to women. Violence against women and rape in India have made international headlines in the past few years, and the scene of two women fighting back has sparked widespread praise on social media.



Aarti Kumar, 22, told CNN that she and Pooja, 19, were standing at a bus stop near their college Friday when the men came up to them and began taunting and throwing pieces of paper with their telephone numbers. The sisters tried to ignore the men but they persisted. Then they followed the sisters onto the bus, she said.

[http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/01/world/asia/india-bus-women/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t2](http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/01/world/asia/india-bus-women/index.html?hpt=hp_t2)

# Kiva Bowl?

Amazon now has 109 shipping centers around the globe. The Tracy facility is one of 10 in which Amazon has deployed the robots, using technology acquired when the company bought robot-maker Kiva Systems Inc. in 2012.

More than 1,500 full-time employees work at the Tracy center, which has 1.2 million square feet of space--the equivalent of 28 football fields. They are joined by about 3,000 robots, gliding swiftly and quietly around the warehouse. The robots navigate by scanning coded stickers on the floor, following digital commands that are beamed wirelessly from a central computer.



Each of the squat orange machines can slide under and then lift a stack of shelves that's four feet wide and holds up to 750 pounds of merchandise. The system uses bar codes to track which items are on each shelf, so a robot can fetch the right shelves for each worker as orders come in.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/amazons-robot-army-ready-ship-27270765>

# The Way to Go

**COPENHAGEN — On a busy road in the center of town here, a string of green lights embedded in the bike path — the “Green Wave” — flashes on, helping cyclists avoid red traffic lights.**

**On a main artery into the city, truck drivers can see on smartphones when the next light will change. And in a nearby suburb, new LED streetlights brighten only as vehicles approach, dimming once they pass.**

**Aimed at saving money, cutting the use of fossil fuels and easing mobility, the installations are part of a growing wireless network of streetlamps and sensors that officials hope will help this city of roughly 1.2 million meet its ambitious goal of becoming the world’s first carbon-neutral capital by 2025.**



[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/09/business/energy-environment/copenhagen-lighting-the-way-to-greener-more-efficient-cities.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=mini-moth&region=top-stories-below&WT.nav=top-stories-below&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/09/business/energy-environment/copenhagen-lighting-the-way-to-greener-more-efficient-cities.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=mini-moth&region=top-stories-below&WT.nav=top-stories-below&_r=0)

# Threat from Within?

**The FBI issued a warning Sunday to members of the U.S. military that ISIS is calling for attacks against them, according to a law enforcement source, saying that "overseas based individuals are looking for like-minded individuals in the U.S. to carry out these attacks."**



**"We also request members of the military review their online social media presence for any information that might attract the attention of violent extremists," the bulletin said, advising that members of the military "use caution and practice operational security when posting."**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/12/01/politics/fbi-warns-military-of-isis-threat/index.html?c=intl-homepage-t>

# Banish the Trolls

The Supreme Court levels a one-two punch against so-called patent trolls.

The decisions are critical to small businesses, which have been beset by expensive and often frivolous lawsuits brought by "patent trolls" in recent years. Patent trolls, or non-practicing entities, purchase rights to expired or soon-to-expire patents and then sue businesses for infringement, with no other goal than a quick monetary settlement. Small businesses frequently settle, rather than face hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars in court costs.



**PATENT TROLL**  
*Nonpracticing Entity*  
(It doesn't actually make anything)



The troll's primary weapon is the threat of massive legal fees.

<http://www.inc.com/jeremy-quittner/supreme-court-ruling-on-patent-trolls.html?cid=ps01902ros>

# I'm Ready for My Close-Up

**Dozens of New York City police officers will wear body cameras to record their interactions with citizens beginning this week, city officials announced Wednesday.**

**DeBlasio said the cameras, which could one day be worn by all 35,000 officers, would increase transparency and accountability.**

**“God forbid, when something goes wrong, we are going to have a clearer sense of what happened,” he said. “We’re going to see the officer’s perspective, and I think that’s powerful.”**

**He believes the cameras will actually reduce complaints against the Police Department, as happened in Los Angeles after some officers began wearing them.**



<http://news.yahoo.com/new-york-cops-test-out-body-cameras-as-protests-begin-over-garner-decision-224720242.html>

# Once More Unto the Breach

**Researchers say they've developed a drug that may help heal a damaged spine — the first time anything like a drug has been shown to help.**

**The drug works on nerve cells that are cut, sending connections across the break, and it helped injured rats move their back legs again and also gave them back control of their bladders.**

**One of the problems with repairing a crushed spine is scar tissue. The body grows a lot of it, and even if nerve cells try to send out little growths called axons across the breach, they get bogged down by the scar tissue.**



<http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/unprecedented-drug-may-help-heal-damaged-spine-n261116>

# We Cannot Breathe

Protesters poured onto the streets of New York late Wednesday, upset over a grand jury's decision not to indict a police officer in the death of Eric Garner.

They marched at the same time U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced that federal officials were moving ahead with a civil rights investigation.

Garner, an unarmed black man, died in July after a white officer, Daniel Pantaleo, put him in a chokehold. Garner's death was later ruled a homicide.



[http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/03/justice/new-york-grand-jury-chokehold/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t1](http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/03/justice/new-york-grand-jury-chokehold/index.html?hpt=hp_t1)

# Land Ho

**In March, 2011 an earthquake and tsunami devastated a large swath of eastern Japan. The tsunami reached heights of over 100 feet in some places, washing large quantities of manmade materials out to sea. Japanese officials estimate that about 1.5 million tons of debris floated out into the Pacific.**

**Oregon State University marine scientist John Chapman questions the accuracy of that number, but says current tallies of what's washed ashore on the U.S. West Coast are much lower than that.**

**Chapman says it very well could still be out in the ocean, waiting on the right combination of currents, winds and other factors to bring it ashore in the Pacific Northwest.**



<http://earthfix.opb.org/water/article/scientists-predict-more-japanese-tsunami-debris-wi/>

# We Have Ways of Making You Talk

**US embassies and military bases abroad are bracing for the expected release today of the Senate's controversial report on the CIA's use of torture during the Bush administration.**

**The 480-page document reveals the results of Senate investigation into the CIA's use of torture and other techniques that violate international law against prisoners held on terrorism-related charges. Though many details of the Senate's findings will remain classified – the document is a summary of a 6,000-page report that is not being released – the report is expected to conclude that the methods used by the CIA to interrogate prisoners during the post-9/11 years were more extreme than previously admitted and produced no intelligence that could not have been acquired through legal means.**



<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Security-Watch/terrorism-security/2014/1209/Did-torture-yield-results-Expected-report-on-CIA-practices-sparks-controversy>

# Ask Questions First, Shoot Later

The family of a 12-year-old boy fatally wounded by a Cleveland police officer said surveillance video of the shooting shows that if the officer had not acted so quickly the youngster would still be alive.

The video made public on Wednesday shows Tamir Rice being shot within 1½ to 2 seconds of a patrol car stopping near him at a park in Cleveland on Saturday. It shows the boy reaching in his waistband for what police discovered was a pellet gun that shoots non-lethal plastic projectiles. He died the next day.



<http://www.wlwt.com/news/family-boys-fatal-shooting-could-have-been-avoided/29958148>

# Try, Try Again

**The failed attempt to rescue American photojournalist Luke Somers in Yemen on Saturday – in which both Mr. Somers and fellow captive Pierre Korkie were killed, allegedly by their Al Qaeda-aligned captors – is part of a growing trend: US Special Operations Forces being dispatched to corners of the globe to rescue citizens in harms way.**

**US officials say they had solid intelligence that the murder of Somers was imminent; last week Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) issued a video threatening to murder Somers if unspecified demands weren't met quickly.**

**Such efforts are inherently high-risk, and when they involve groups like AQAP, who were clearly willing to execute the civilians they'd kidnapped, they are generally going to end in failure more often than in success.**



<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Security-Watch/Backchannels/2014/1208/Failed-hostage-raid-in-Yemen-why-there-ll-be-more-rescues-to-come-video>

# Are You Ready for some Football?

Ohio State will join Alabama, Oregon and Florida State in the inaugural College Football Playoff.

The No. 1 Crimson Tide will face the No. 4 Buckeyes in the Allstate Sugar Bowl, and the second-seeded Ducks will face the third-seeded Seminoles in the Rose Bowl presented by Northwestern Mutual, both on New Year's Day.

The semifinal winners will meet in the College Football Playoff National Championship Presented By AT&T on Jan. 12.



[http://espn.go.com/college-football/story/\\_/id/11992914/college-football-playoff-alabama-crimson-tide-oregon-ducks-florida-state-seminoles-ohio-state-buckeyes-inaugural-playoff](http://espn.go.com/college-football/story/_/id/11992914/college-football-playoff-alabama-crimson-tide-oregon-ducks-florida-state-seminoles-ohio-state-buckeyes-inaugural-playoff)