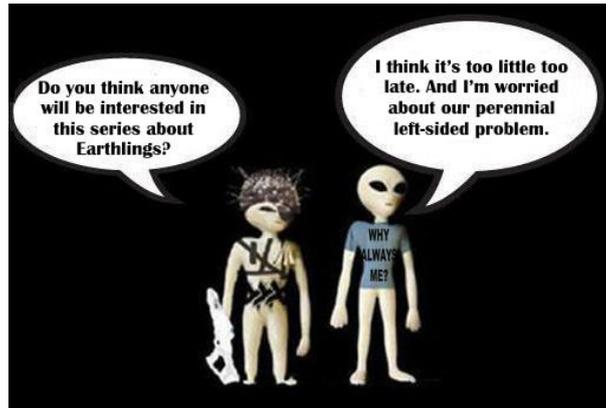


# EARTHWATCH



***Earthwatch presenters – polkingbeal67 & smolin9***  
***“Join us to watch human life unfold on the Pale Blue Dot.”***

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**by**

**Dave Winship**

# The Higgs Boson



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Jul 2012)*

Scientists at CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) have claimed the discovery of a new particle consistent with the Higgs boson. The announcement represents a significant milestone in the 45-year quest to fathom the secrets of the universe. The new particle helps explain how matter attains its mass. CERN's director Rolf Heuer said: "We have now found the missing cornerstone of particle physics." Data from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva, revealed a "bump" corresponding to a particle weighing in at 125.3 gigaelectronvolts (GeV), approximately 133 times heavier than the protons that lie at the heart of every atom.

polkingbeal67: I get a tickle in my throat when I talk about Earthlings.

smoling9: Scoff it up!

polkingbeal67: Apparently they call this part of an atom the 'God particle'.

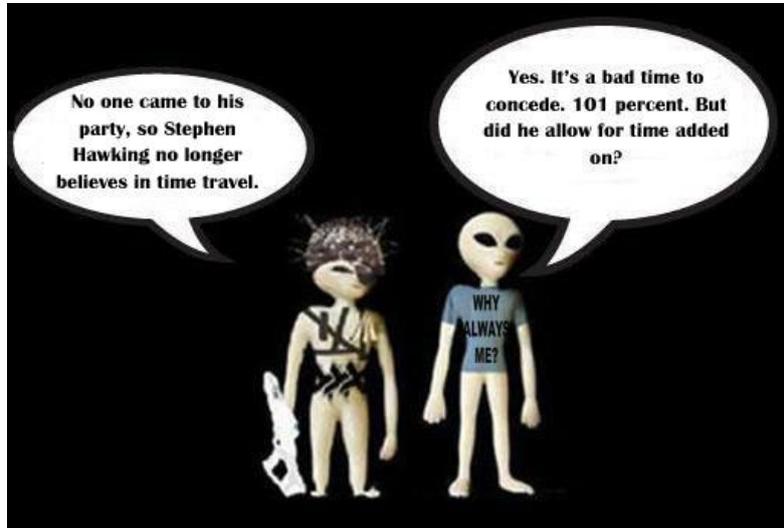
smoling9: Yes. On our planet, of course, we call it the treacletron. The 'God particle', mmm, that reminds me. The Earthlings have this joke: a Higgs boson goes into a church. The priest says 'What are you doing here?' The Higgs boson says 'You can't have mass without me'.

polkingbeal67: If I don't laugh, is it still a joke?

smoling9: If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?

polkingbeal67: If I zap you with a couple of micro beam plasma blasts, will you see stars?

# The Time Travellers' Party



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Jul 2012)*

According to technology website Ars Technica, Stephen Hawking, theoretical physicist and celebrated author of the *Brief History of Time*, has dismissed the possibility of time travel. "I have experimental evidence that time travel is not possible," he told journalists. "I gave a party for time-travellers, but I didn't send out the invitations until after the party. I sat there a long time, but no one came." The party was 'held' on 28th June 2009. Hawking said that Einstein's theories offer the possibility of travelling backwards in time – but "it is likely that warping would trigger a bolt of radiation that would destroy the spaceship and maybe the space-time itself".

smoling: Earthlings still cling to such primitive interpretations of the laws of causality.

polkingbeal67: I know. They don't seem to realise that the law is not absolute.

smoling: Right. Like, for example, they observe that things usually fall to the ground when they release them from their hands...

polkingbeal67: ...like Hawking's invitation.

smoling: Good example. What if a sudden gust of wind snatches it up and carries it up out of reach?

polkingbeal67: Is that what happened to your invitation? Did you know about the party?

smoling: Yes, I got the invitation next week!

polkingbeal67: Did you go?

smoling: No. I didn't see any future in it.

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# The UFO Files



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Jul 2012)*

Thousands of previously classified documents on UFOs have been transferred by Britain's military to the National Archives. The revelations include an abduction by aliens, a strange craft shadowing a Lancaster bomber, an RAF officer holidaying in Sri Lanka having a close encounter and a sighting by a police officer of a UFO hovering above Chelsea Football Club. Tony Blair was apparently briefed at length on UFO and alien defence policy when he was Prime Minister and a Whitehall civil servant was paid to investigate UFO reports. Government officials believed aliens 'might come here for holidays' and discussed harnessing UFO technology for British defences. David Clarke, author of a book about UFOs, said: "These records allow us to look behind the scenes of what must have been one of the strangest jobs in Whitehall ... We now have a fascinating insight into some of the extraordinary reports and briefings which passed over the UFO Desk on a daily basis and how its officers used logic and science in their attempts to explain the unexplained."



polkingbeal67: Have you seen this picture?

smoling: Yes. So funny. I'm glad we're using wormhole technology now and don't have to rely on those old rust buckets. My Grandpa flew one of those.

polkingbeal67: Did he? Do tell.

smoling: He once orbited a subdwarf B star so slowly he picked up three parking tickets. Yeh, it was costing him a fortune. It would have been a lot more than three tickets if he hadn't taken drastic action.

polkingbeal67: What did he do?

smoling: He removed the windscreen wipers!

polkingbeal67: Did you ever fly with him in it?

smoling: Yes. We made a few family trips to Earth and got mistaken for a hot air balloon, a chinese lantern and a flying cigar. So embarrassing!

# Curiosity



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Jul 2012)*

The most expensive unmanned probe ever to be sent to Mars is expected to land on August 6 2012. Nasa's Mars Science Laboratory, named 'Curiosity', is a \$2.5 billion robotic planetary rover, the size of a small car, that will be lowered to the surface of the planet from a hovering spacecraft known as a "sky crane". If all goes well, it will spend two years collecting information from the area around Gale crater. Tom Rivellini, an engineer at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory who worked on the new landing system, said: "The entry, descent and landing is also known as 'seven minutes of terror'. We have to get from the top of the atmosphere to the surface of Mars, going from 13,000 miles per hour to zero, in perfect sequence, perfect choreography, and perfect timing. If any one thing does not go right, it is game over."

polkingbeal67: A sky crane? The crazy prokaryotes! They'd be better off using one of their satnavs! You know: "Turn right at the crater, third exit."

smoling: More like: "Turn around when possible!"

polkingbeal67: And then they're going to spend months and months just poking around this crater?

smoling: Yes. The question is – at the end of the day, how much of an impact will it have had? Ha ha.

polkingbeal67: The sky crane thing reminds me of the time our ancestors used something similar to construct a colossal three-tiered monument on Earth in honour of our revered leader.

smoling: Right. Then they made the mistake of placing goopmutt eggs in it as a ritual offering. And some goopmutts got drunk on vitalmados and demolished the structure by launching boulders at it.

The ruins are still there. The Earthlings call it Stonehenge.

polkingbeal67: One of the most disgraceful acts of vandalism in intergalactic history.

smolin9: Yes, but Earthlings still celebrate it.

polkingbeal67: They do?

smolin9: Oh yes. They call it Angry Birds.

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# The Olympic Games



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Aug 2012)*

After teething problems involving the G4S security firm's failure to provide enough staff for the event, Friday July 27th saw the start of the Games of the 30th Olympiad with the opening ceremony taking place at the Olympic Stadium in London. The World Badminton Federation charged eight female players with misconduct on Wednesday after four Olympic doubles teams had attempted to "throw" matches to secure a more favourable draw later in the tournament. The pairs were charged with "not using one's best efforts to win a match". China's long-serving head coach Li Yongbo told reporters: "This is nothing. It was just a game."

polkingbeal67: I hear our revered leader sent you on a special mission to the Pale Blue Dot to investigate the Olympic Games.

smolin9: Yes. He wanted to know why Earthlings attach so much importance to strange activities like running round in circles, throwing spears, jumping into sandpits and losing at badminton.

polkingbeal67: Did you acquire any insights?

smolin9: It was too difficult to get in. I didn't have tickets. I tried to trick my way in as a journalist, but my MMBC accreditation was refused. I disguised myself as a G4S security officer, tucked a roll of barbed wire under my arm and told them I was on the fencing team. But they said that was an old joke and anyway I couldn't be a G4S employee because both of them had already turned up. My attempts to pass off as an athlete also failed miserably.

polkingbeal67: Do tell.

smolin9: Well, I think I picked the wrong name. When I said I was Sir Vanessa Redgrave, some of them

laughed and others tried to arrest me.

polkingbeal67: You crazy prokaryote! Didn't you find out anything? Didn't you interview any of the participants?

smoling: I eventually got access to the rowing event at Eton Dorney but I had a bit of a mishap when I tried to interview the winners.

polkingbeal67: What happened?

smoling: The water was too deep.

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# The Prince's New Clothes



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Aug 2012)*

Photos of a royal prince without his clothes have been published around the planet. After partying the night away, the prince and a large entourage of friends and minders invited several women they had just met back to a VIP hotel suite in Las Vegas. Before long, there was some full-on partying within view of cell phone cameras. British newspapers published the photos despite warnings from the Royal Family's lawyers that it would be an invasion of his privacy. A palace spokesman said: "We have made our views on Prince Harry's privacy known. Newspapers regulate themselves, so the publication of the photographs is ultimately a decision for editors to make. We have no further comment to make either on the publication of the photographs or on the story itself concerning Prince Harry's private holiday in Las Vegas."

polkingbeal67: On Earth, perhaps it's normal to drink and end up naked. Personally, I don't like to be seen without my full Morys Minor battle dress. I don't even like to be seen naked in front of *myself*. It's disgraceful. I think all the newspapers that published the photos should be compelled to display nothing but pictures of churches for the rest of the year.

smolin9: These things happen, I suppose. Earthlings have published photos of me without my Bermuda shorts.

polkingbeal67: Yes, but you're not royalty. It puts me in mind of the Earthlings' fairy tale about the vain emperor who buys magic clothes from swindling weavers. They convince him the material is invisible to stupid people. Obviously, the clothes don't really exist, but the emperor doesn't want to appear stupid, so he goes out naked. Everyone else pretends to see the clothes too, until a child shouts, "The Emperor has no clothes on!"

smolin9: Is there a point to all that?

polkingbeal67: I don't know. I think it's something to do with weavers?

smolin9: Yeh, I think you lost the thread. I don't know about you, p, but I was always unsure how to dress for these MMBC Earthwatch appearances. I settled for the T-shirt in the end, but actually I think it would have been sensible to wear a tie.

polkingbeal67: Why?

smolin9: Well, for one thing, I'd know if I was upside down.

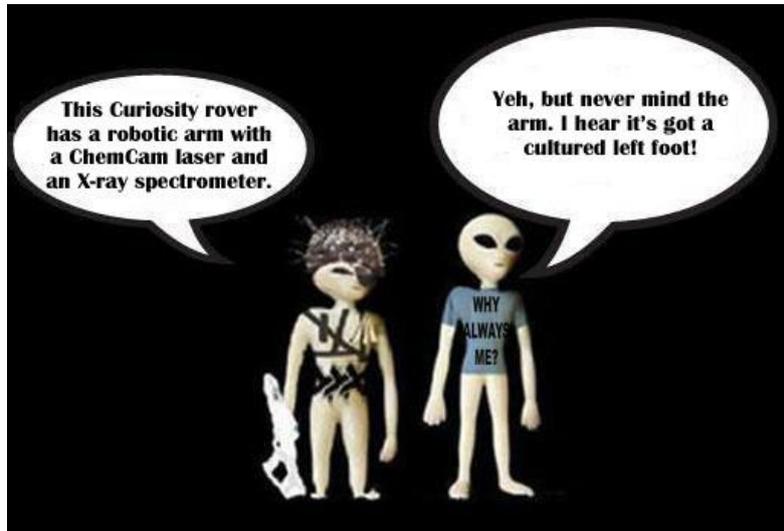
polkingbeal67: What? Well, why *aren't* you wearing a tie? Haven't you got one?

smolin9: Yes, I bought one, but I had to take it back to the shop.

polkingbeal67: Why?

smolin9: It was too tight.

# The Pocket Pyramid



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Sep 2012)*

NASA's Mars rover, Curiosity, has spotted an unusual pyramid-shaped rock en route to an area known as Glenelg. Looking uncannily like an Egyptian pyramid, it is not something you would expect to see on the surface of Mars. Engineers have guided the Curiosity rover up to it for a closer look. The rover will use radioactive curium to bombard its target with energetic alpha particles and X-rays. It will then zap the rock remotely with its ChemCam laser instrument and measure the spectra of the resulting vapour. Project scientist John Grotzinger said: "We want to get compositional information on things that we can't see with our eyes."



polkingbeal67: Why do you suppose earthlings are so fascinated with the barren, desiccated wasteland on Mars?

smoling9: They probably hope they'll encounter an extra-terrestrial.

polkingbeal67: Oh, is that what they'd call *us*?

smoling9: They'd probably call *you* an extra-cholesterol.

polkingbeal67: Eh? What? How about these earthlings though! They never cease to amaze me. They want to find out everything there is to know about Mars, but they can't be bothered even to give a name to their own sun!

smoling9: Or their own solar system. Yeh, I don't think they're too impressed with their sun.

polkingbeal67: Why not? It warms them and provides them with light, doesn't it?

smoling9: Yeh, but it only comes out during the day, when they don't really need it!

polkingbeal67: Eh? Anyway, what about this pyramid rock on Mars?

smoling9: I know. I've heard it was built by the Chilloks to rival the Great Pyramids on Earth.

polkingbeal67: But they're colossal. Earthlings consider them the most astounding structures ever built on their planet. This one on Mars is about the size of a football.

smoling9: Yes, but don't forget Chilloks are ant-sized creatures. It's absolutely massive to them. Come to think of it, if there are still Chilloks on Mars, that Curiosity rover thing has probably wiped out entire populations of them already.

polkingbeal67: Oh my word! Yes, they could have run over them with those big wheels! And now they're going to compound the atrocity by blasting the Chilloks' precious monument with a laser. Disgraceful!

smoling9: Yes. Calm down, p! Hey, you know what would be a good gag? We should transport ourselves to Mars and nick the tyres! Wouldn't you love to see the faces of those NASA people as they download images of their precious rover – all neatly propped up on bricks?

# Felix Baumgartner



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Oct 2012)*

Austrian Felix Baumgartner became the first skydiver to go faster than the speed of sound, jumping out of a balloon from the edge of space – 24 miles above New Mexico. The 43-year-old also smashed the record for the highest ever freefall. “Sometimes you have to be really high to see how small you really are,” he said. “I didn’t feel a sonic boom because I was so busy just trying to stabilise myself. We’ll have to wait and see if we really broke the sound barrier. It was really a lot harder than I thought it was going to be.”



smolin9:

One thing I don’t understand. Apparently, this guy said he almost aborted the dive because his helmet visor fogged up. How could he abort the dive? If Earthlings have developed a way of switching gravity off, how would they do it without affecting everybody else? So you’re enjoying a nice Sunday afternoon by the river, when the water all turns to globules and floats away, along with your deckchair and your picnic. What do you do – just shrug your shoulders and say ‘Oh dear, never mind, old Felix must be having a bit of trouble with his visor’?

polkingbeal67:

I think you’re jumping to a few conclusions there.

smolin9:

Felix Baumgartner would have been jumping to a conclusion if his chute hadn’t opened.

polkingbeal67: I'm sure even Earthlings are capable of thoroughly testing these things. There's no way it would have failed.

smoling9: Yeh, even if it had, I'm sure they'd have given him a refund or a replacement.

polkingbeal67: By the way, did you notice the location of Baumgartner's jump? It was over Roswell, New Mexico, where a terrible abomination against our race took place over half a century ago.

smoling9: Oh yeh. Now, right there – that's an example of a truly awful parachute. When our engineers said it was guaranteed to open on impact, why did no one think...? Anyway, I couldn't do what Baumgartner did. I'm terrified of heights.

polkingbeal67: Really? That's illogical. How can heights, or widths for that matter, be terrifying? Fear of falling makes more sense. So, yes, skydiving – there's nothing to it really.

smoling9: Well, of course, the hard part is the ground.

polkingbeal67: You crazy bubblehead! Mind you, he was 24 miles up, so if his chute hadn't opened, he would have had a long time to think about it before he hit the ground.

smoling9: Yeh, plenty of time. The rest of his life! Earthlings have a saying: if at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you. But I tell you what, I'm impressed with his survival suit.

polkingbeal67: Yes, without it, his blood would have boiled and his lungs might have exploded.

smoling9: Right. I really must get one for my next visit to Earth. That's exactly what happens to me when I watch their reality TV.

# Voyager 1



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Oct 2012)*

35 years after leaving Earth, Voyager 1 is about to cross the heliosphere, the protective shield of energy surrounding the solar system, and will venture into interstellar space. Ed Stone, Voyager's chief scientist and a professor of physics at the California Institute of Technology, told reporters: "We're anxious to get outside and find what's out there. Time after time, Voyager revealed unexpected, kind of counterintuitive, results, which means we have a lot to learn."

Identical gold-covered phonograph records are attached to the side of both Voyager 1 and Voyager 2. The mission became possible when mathematician Michael Minovitch solved a problem that had baffled astronomers on Earth for centuries – the "three body problem", i.e. predicting exactly how the gravities of a sun and a planet influence a third object's trajectory.

smolin9: Oh dear. Those poor hapless Earthlings have no idea what happened to Voyager 1, do they?

polkingbeal67: No idea at all. I wonder what they'd think if they knew their precious spacecraft is now decorating the ponds and fountains in our revered leader's palace gardens. The dish antenna is now home to a shoal of bugtrap pontus fish munching on each other over a bed of permanganate seaweed.

smolin9: They should be pleased. Voyager 1 was designed to make contact with extraterrestrial life. You and I wouldn't be here doing this show if it weren't for the golden record.

polkingbeal67: True. By our calculations, Voyager 1 actually entered the heliosphere about ten Earth years ago, at which point it was towed through interstellar space by goopmutt bandits travelling at superluminal speed. They'd left the Digital Tape Recorder behind, after manipulating the data to conceal their crime. Eventually, they abandoned the craft where you and I found it drifting around aimlessly in the Centaurus galaxy.

smolin9: Yeh, if those Earthlings only knew.

polkingbeal67: They wouldn't understand any of it. We're dealing with primitive creatures who've only just cracked the three body problem! They haven't grasped the mathematical concepts for

elementary quantum theory yet!

smoling: No, no. Their maths is coming along well. They're good at multiplying, anyway! Ha ha. Still, something came out of this that I didn't know.

polkingbeal67: What's that?

smoling: There's a Voyager 2!

polkingbeal67: You crazy bubblehead! Of course there's a Voyager 2. They wouldn't have called it Voyager 1 if there wasn't going to be a Voyager 2.

smoling: Okay, but the thing is, there's another golden record! We've got to find it, p. I loved some of the stuff on the first record – Blind Willie Johnson and the Navajo tribe, for example. And I want to hear the follow up to the horse and cart.

polkingbeal67: Hate to tell you this, but they're identical records.

smoling: You're kidding! What a waste. Just typical.

polkingbeal67: You shouldn't expect too much from Earthlings. Do you remember when we first found Voyager 1 and discovered the problem they had with the Photopolarimeter System?

smoling: Oh yeh. There was a message on the console saying "Press any key to continue"! They shouldn't be allowed to dabble in space exploration.

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# The End Of The 13th Baktun



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Dec 2012)*

Despite all the predictions of Mayan apocalypse, the world did not end on December 21. A cataclysmic event was expected by some to coincide with the conclusion of the 13th Baktun of the Mayan calendar, but the apocalypse failed to turn up on schedule.

smolin9: Don't you think it makes us look stupid? We're no better at predicting things than the Earthlings.

polkingbeal67: Yeh, it's embarrassing. We were so sure our planet was going to be destroyed. We had all those end-of-the-world sales and everything. Actually, I'm ashamed to say the whole thing became utterly commercialised. Then we discovered Earth and thought we could colonise it, only to find it was unsuitable. As a matter of fact, there were rumours that the apocalypse was coming to Earth too. It all seemed so hopeless. You know, we're actually worse than the Earthlings. Most of them scoffed at the doomsday prophesy, while our people on Morys Minor entombed themselves in survival pods.

smolin9: That's right. At least they can have a big party when they come out and discover there was no apocalypse.

polkingbeal67: They won't have time. They'll have to get working on a new calendar straight away.

smolin9: Ha ha ha ha ha.

polkingbeal67: Did I say something funny?

smolin9: You said they won't have time. Ha ha ha ha! I was just... Because... Oh never mind. If they're going to invent a new calendar, do you think we could have one without Mondays?

polkingbeal67: Personally, I've always thought the end of the world will come when the forces of darkness triumph over the forces of light.

smolin9: You mean like a president gets utterly wasted, fumbles around for a light switch and flicks the nuclear launch button by mistake?

polkingbeal67: Why are you such a bubblehead?

smoling: Anyway, why do they need to invent a new calendar?

polkingbeal67: I suppose they could just start another Baktun. That way, we'd have another 144,000 days.

smoling: We'd better wrap this up. I need the bathroom.

polkingbeal67: We're on interplanetary television. Can't you just hold it?

smoling: Not for another 144,000 days. Anyway, now that I think about it, I thought the end of the world had come a few days ago when you arrived back from Earth without taking your time travel sickness antidote. Your speech was slow and dull and your eyes were lifeless.

polkingbeal67: You thought I was dying? You were worried about me? You thought losing me would be the end of your world?

smoling: No. I thought the end of the world had come 'cos you looked like a zombie.

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# Neanderthal Cloning



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Jan 2013)*

A genetics professor of Harvard School of Medicine is looking for a woman to act as a surrogate mother to a Neanderthal baby. Professor George Church, who helped start the Human Genome Project that mapped human DNA, plans to use fossil bones to reconstruct the DNA of a Neanderthal and reintroduce the species. He believes it could lead to cures for diseases such as cancer and HIV, and hold the key to living longer. "We can clone all kinds of mammals, so it's very likely that we could clone a human," he is reported as saying. "I have already managed to attract enough DNA from fossil bones to reconstruct the DNA of the human species largely extinct. Now I need an adventurous female human. Neanderthals might think differently than we do. We know that they had a larger cranial size. They could even be more intelligent than us."

- smoling: Hey, whaddup, p? So Earthlings are advanced enough to clone an extinct species!
- polkingbeal67: You think? Cloning is a serious matter. You have to have your science reconciled with your morality. Earthling humans can't get this right even with trivial science. The last time I was down there on the Pale Blue Dot, their scientists had figured out how to put musical ringtones on their communication devices. But they let these things go off loudly in public all the time. So annoying!
- smoling: Yeh, and what's with those car alarms? What is the point of them? No one ever rushes to apprehend the thief, the car owner never realises it's his car and, in the end, everyone just wishes the thief would hurry up and take the car so they can get some peace!
- polkingbeal67: Personally I don't think humans should be allowed to multiply at all.
- smoling: Or divide. Ha ha.
- polkingbeal67: Divide?
- smoling: Cloning involves cell division. So, in this context, multiplying is the same as dividing!

polkingbeal67: Right. Anyway, all I'm saying is you have to know what you're doing with genetic engineering.

smoling9: They've already been doing genetic engineering with plants and animals.

polkingbeal67: That's different. Cloning your own species is another matter. You mark my words. Before you know it, they'll be trying to enhance their children's looks or intelligence or whatever – designer genes.

smoling9: They've already got designer jeans too.

polkingbeal67: You bubblehead! I'm serious. They should stick to cloning animals until they've got their ethical issues sorted out.

smoling9: Yeh, fair enough. Actually they've hardly scratched the surface when it comes to animal cloning and genetic modification. For example, just imagine if they crossed their chickens with their cows. They'd have a new breed that produces red meat, white meat, milk and eggs. All from one animal!

polkingbeal67: Wait, would it have wings? And a beak?

smoling9: That's a point. Imagine a herd of bovine animals weighing 1400 pounds each, all flapping around and pecking. You wouldn't want to have to milk one of them!

polkingbeal67: Anyway, come to think of it, is it certain that the Neanderthal strain has actually died out?

smoling9: Mm. Makes you think. As you know, I've been to some of their football matches...

polkingbeal67: What's that sound? Is it just me, or is that the theme tune of that earthling movie, Star Wars?

smoling9: Yeh sorry, it's my new, er, ringtone.

# The Global Economic Crisis



## MMBC Earthwatch

### *Highlights, interviews and analysis from Earth's media (Mar 2013)*

A proposal to impose a levy on deposits in Cyprus threatened a run on the banks right across Europe, leading to a potential catastrophe for the entire global economy.

- polkingbeal67: I gather a lot of Earthlings are very angry about their economic situation at the moment.
- smoling: Yeh, all over the planet, people are very angry with their governments. They think their politicians are too controlling, too intrusive and too interfering.
- polkingbeal67: So, what do these people want?
- smoling: They want their governments to do something about it.
- polkingbeal67: They've all been borrowing too much money from each other. If you ask me, their global economy is heading for the cliff edge.
- smoling: They'll be okay. They have so many clever people working as economists and financial experts.
- polkingbeal67: Oh really? Like I said, they're right at the edge of a cliff. What strategy are these experts adopting?
- smoling: They believe they just have to stop worrying and move forwards.
- polkingbeal67: Crazy prokaryotes! I don't understand. If they have all these economists and financial experts, how come their money systems are all failing? Running financial institutions should be simple. Perhaps they're too focused on the big issues.
- smoling: Could be. The last time I was visiting Earth, someone was selling them outside Marks and Spencer.
- polkingbeal67: Eh? Well, tell me, did you use their banks while you were down there?

smoling: Oh yes. It was all very confusing, so I took advice from one of their expert financial brokers. But one morning I tried using a cash machine and I got a message saying 'insufficient funds'.

polkingbeal67: All your money had gone?

smoling: Not mine. The bank's!

polkingbeal67: Did you go back to your expert financial broker and tell him?

smoling: Yeh, I did. But he'd had a change of role.

polkingbeal67: Oh?

smoling: Yeh, he was the guy who sold me the Big Issue.

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# Earthling History Quiz



- smoling: Ask me another one.
- polkingbeal67: Okay, how many wives did Henry VIII have?
- smoling: Well, obviously more than one, or you wouldn't be asking the question.
- polkingbeal67: Six. He had six wives.
- smoling: So he was a bigamist?
- polkingbeal67: No. He didn't have them all at the same time. They were consecutive marriages. One wife died, others were executed and some of the marriages were annulled.
- smoling: Right. So bigamy is having one wife too many, at any given time.
- polkingbeal67: Yes. Come to think of it, monogamy is the same.

