



Written by [Staff](#) on March 21, 2023

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Inside Track

Scientists to “De-extinct” Woolly Mammoth by 2027

Like so many science-fiction classics whose technology has now become a reality, it appears that a real-life Jurassic Park may soon be coming to a city near you — except it would probably have to be called “Cenozoic Park.”

According to a January 29 Medium post, Texas-based genetics and bioscience company Colossal expects its ability to genetically modify species in the womb will be at humanity’s disposal within four years, and claims its project to resurrect the famous yet extinct woolly mammoth will be complete by 2027. The company’s teams “have collected viable DNA samples and are editing the genes that will allow this wonderful megafauna to once again thunder through the Arctic.”



(Aunt_Spray/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

Since the woolly mammoth’s DNA is a 99.6-percent match with the Asian elephant’s, the embryo will be created in the womb of an Asian elephant, employing CRISPR genome editing to replace any missing links in the mammoth’s DNA with Asian elephant DNA. Genetic engineers will then transfer the embryo to an African elephant, which is larger than an Asian elephant and would thus have an easier time delivering a hybrid calf. Colossal wants to use the calves to repopulate parts of the Arctic where they historically lived.

The resurrection of the woolly mammoth leads to a wider discussion about reviving species in general, particularly long-extinct species such as the mammoth. What happens when we start engineering animals we only vaguely know about, whose behavior we don’t understand, and whose interactions with human beings we can only guess at?

Can we fully anticipate that these resurrected species won’t, either directly through feeding patterns or indirectly through disease, precipitate the extinction of vital plant and animal life — or even our own extinction?

And what happens when these techniques are applied to human beings? Could this lead to a new era of eugenics in which entire races are wiped out via selective breeding?

— *Luis Miguel*



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“Street Takeovers” Pushing Limits of Law Enforcement

Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, “street takeovers” have become a popular activity in cities nationwide, leading to dangerous situations for participants and law enforcement alike, and in some cases causing injury and death.

Street takeovers were defined by *MotorTrend* last year as “a large group of cars ‘taking over’ an intersection or parking lot.... Sometimes referred to as ‘side shows,’ participants in street takeovers do donuts and burnouts with large crowds gathering dangerously close to the action. Sometimes tires explode, bystanders get hit by cars, fights break out, or even shootings occur, but none of that has stopped hundreds of people from taking part in or watching these unruly takeovers.”



(YouTube)

The takeovers also function as a cover for criminal activity in the form of flash mobs robbing businesses. Social media is used to share the takeovers instantly and announce the next intersection flash mob. Frequently the takeovers last just long enough to give participants the thrill of the risky behavior — and then get away before police arrive.

Many cities have ramped up enforcement to combat the illegal activity, and one state is taking special measures to bring to an end this growing public nuisance. The increase of street takeovers in cities across Texas led Governor Greg Abbott in February to create a statewide task force to counter them.

Texas DPS Director Steven McCraw further described the problem in the February 23 press release announcing the task force’s creation: “These street takeovers put the lives of Texans and Texas law enforcement officers at risk. We are seeing fireworks fired at officers in crowds, lasers pointed at aircraft, drivers driving upwards of 130 miles per hour with no lights on in the dark of night — all of it is reckless, and it needs to be stopped.”

Abbott insisted that the task force would “send a clear message that these reckless, coordinated criminal events will not be tolerated in Texas.”

— *David Kelly*



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Pentagon Developing Deepfakes to Deceive the Public

U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) is “gearing up to conduct internet propaganda and deception campaigns online using deepfake videos,” according to contracts with the federal government reviewed by The Intercept on March 6.

In behavior many would attribute to rogue regimes targeting the United States, the activities that SOCOM is carrying on overseas include “hacking internet-connected devices to eavesdrop in order to assess foreign populations’ susceptibility to propaganda,” the Intercept article reports.

The information revealed in the report is taken from a procurement document published by the Department of Defense on February 15, the “Broad Agency Announcement ... for Technology Development and Advanced Technology Development,” a sort of wish list of technological tools the Pentagon is looking to secretly deploy throughout the world.



(ArtemisDiana/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

The document spells out that SOCOM is seeking “a next generation capability to collect disparate data through public and open source information streams such as social media, local media, etc.[,] to enable MISO [Military Information Support Operations] to craft and direct influence operations.”

No less unnerving is that SOCOM plans to “Generate next generation capability to [take over] Internet of Things (IoT) devices [to] collect data and information from local populaces to enable breakdown of what messaging might be popular and accepted through sifting of data once received. This would enable MISO to craft and promote messages that may be more readily received by [the] local populace.”

Those are the goals of our own federal government. The leaders of our armed forces are seeking partners who can provide the Pentagon with the tools to carry out missions of mass deception using deepfakes and collect data from internet-connected devices used in homes, using the conversations recorded to craft messages — false messages — that the people being secretly monitored will easily accept as accurate.

Of course, there is absolutely no constitutional authority for the federal government to carry out such missions of mass deception, particularly when the United States is not at war.



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— Joe Wolverton

Texas Bill Could Lead to State's Independence

Texas State Representative Bryan Slaton (R) filed the Texas Independence Referendum Act (H.B. 3569), or TEXTIT, on March 6. If passed, it would allow voters in the 2024 election to decide “whether or not the State should investigate the possibility of Texas independence, and present potential plans to the Legislature.”

Simply put, if the act passes in the statehouse and gains Governor Greg Abbott’s signature, Texas voters will vote on the possibility of Texas seceding from the United States. Once passed, the act would require the establishment of a joint interim “Texas Independence Committee” to study and recommend to the Legislature by December 31, 2024 the “most effective and expeditious method by which Texas may be returned to its status as an independent nation.”



(33ft/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

“The Texas Constitution is clear that all political power resides in the people. After decades of continuous abuse of our rights and liberties by the federal government, it is time to let the people of Texas make their voices heard,” Slaton said in his press release. “Texas was born out of a desire for liberty and self-governance, and that desire continues to burn in the hearts of all Texans.”

The bill has the full support of the Texas Nationalist Movement (TNM), an organization of over 440,000 members fighting for the state’s independence. The group explains that “TEXTIT is not Texas independence. Rather, TEXTIT is the process that gets Texas to independence. TEXTIT means that Texans determine our own laws and not 2.5 million unelected bureaucrats in Washington. It means that we get a government that begins and ends at the borders of Texas.... Most importantly, it means that for the first time in our lives we control our own destiny.”

Momentum for TEXTIT appears to be strong among Texas voters. According to the *Washington Examiner* on March 6, TNM President Daniel Miller said that “Sixty-six percent of likely voters in Texas support this referendum coming up for a vote.”

Could this be the rebirth of the Lone Star Republic?

— David Kelly



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