

## **PLANETARY PROTECTION**

NASA is looking for someone to be Earth's "planetary protection officer." The job title, with security clearance of "secret," is something straight out of the 1997 sci-fi comedy classic "Men in Black." In fact, the current planetary protection officer, Catharine Conley, says that on her first day, she was issued a pair of "dark Ray-Ban sunglasses." While it's unclear whether the new officer will be replacing Conley or joining her team, the job description is out of this world. The officer's main responsibility is to ensure that humans don't contaminate space, and in turn, that extraterrestrial contaminants and organisms, if they exist, don't contaminate Earth. (Source: CNBC News)

## **DESERT POT SPOT**

Don't be surprised if there is a sign one day on a small California town that reads "Welcome to Nipton: A Place to Get Stoned." The entire town of 120 acres was purchased Thursday by American Green Inc., a marijuana-focused technology and growing firm based in Arizona. The reported price tag: about \$5 million. The company plans to make Nipton the country's "first energy-independent, cannabis-friendly hospitality destination," American Green said in a statement. Nipton is near the Nevada border, about an hour's drive from Las Vegas and over three hours from Los Angeles. The town has a hotel, general store, and schoolhouse. Nipton has its roots in gold and silver mining along with ranching. Only about 20 people live there. American Green said it will initially focus on bottling cannabis-infused water in the town. The production of marijuana edibles and the cultivation of cannabis won't be far behind in American Green's 18-month, \$2.5 million development time frame. Visitors will find mineral baths, lodging, marijuana retail outlets, and "a first-of-its-kind eco-tourism experience for conscious cannabis consumers." Recreational marijuana was legalized last year in California and Nevada, but remains illegal according to federal law. (Source: Cable News Network, CNN)

## **WHAT GOOD ARE MILLENNIALS?**

The media have often cast Millennials as selfish, self-entitled, self-absorbed, driven by egocentric values like money, status, and recognition. But research from Queendom.com indicates the "Me" generation is very much a "We" generation. Not only do they value family, community, and hard work, they also share 9 of their top-10 values with Gen Xers and Baby Boomers.

Analyzing data from 744 people who took its Values Profile, Queendom looked at each cohort – Millennials, Gen X, and Baby Boomers – to determine how each group scored on 34 values assessed on the test. Researchers discovered that despite age differences, all three groups differ very little in their shared values:

- Value relationships with friends and family, and derive a great deal of joy from being surrounded by those they love.
  - Consider empathy essential to recognize, understand, and relieve the suffering of others.
  - Believe in hard work, and admire people who also uphold this value.
  - Consider it important to be a part of a team, personally and professionally.
  - Value a variety of opinions and want others to approve of and support them.
  - Consider it a priority to aid those in need, and offer their time and resources to help others.
  - Value and thrive on structure but dislike ambiguity. Prefer to plan ahead and approach goals and problems in a methodical, step-by-step manner.
  - Actively be (or believe in being) involved in their community and social causes, and speaking out against injustice.
  - Believe that living their life according to certain ethics and principles is vital. Standing for and recognizing that aligning their goals with their principles is crucial to their happiness.
  - Advocate innovation, and believe that it is essential for the world to continue to progress and advance new theories, ideas, and inventions.
- According to Queendom, the three generations differ only on 1 of the top-10 values. Whereas both Generation X and Baby Boomers value intellect -- pursuit of knowledge and desire to expand intellectual horizons -- Millennials value socializing and expanding their social network. After all, Millennials have grown up in a technical age with social media.

**SWAMI SEZ**

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination." (Albert Einstein)

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