Re: Endless Oil?

Source: http://sci.tech−archive.net/Archive/sci.energy.hydrogen/2004−09/0915.html

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From: charliew2 (*charliew2_at_ev1.net*)
Date: 09/29/04

Date: Tue, 28 Sep 2004 19:04:24 −0500

Dan Bloomquist wrote:
> charliew2 wrote:
>> Dan Bloomquist <EXTRApublic21@lakeweb.com> wrote in message
>> news:4159C1A8.5070002@lakeweb.com...
>>>
>>> The mixing is not 'just' from turbulence. The average velocity of
>>> molecules in the air is some third of a mile a second.
>>
>> But ... escape velocity is 7 miles per second, so gravity is strong
>> enough to capture earth's atmosphere and maintain it. Gravity is
>> also strong enough to allow you to measure the weight of the
>> atmosphere (e.g., 14.7 lb/in^2 at sea level, which is quite
>> substantial)
>>
>> The point? Without constant mixing and turbulence, it is likely that
>> something as dense as Freon 12 would tend to sink towards the
>> ground. In fact, this sounds like something open to
>> experimentation. A still room containing air with 10% Freon 12 in
>> it (well mixed) should show some "unmixing" over time. Has this
>> experiment been performed anywhere?
>
> This was worked out back when Maxwell was alive. See 'the kinetic
> theory of gases'. You can set a container with freon and hydrogen
> aside for years. When you come back, the gases will still be
> perfectly mixed.
>
> Best, Dan.

So, how "heavy" must a gas be to "settle out" of a well mixed solution of two gases?