

Re: WHAT'S NEW Robert L. Park Friday, 15 Feb 08, Washington, DC

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- *From:* Sam Wormley <swormley1@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 16 Feb 2008 15:05:51 GMT
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hhc314@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Feb 15, 5:56 pm, Sam Wormley <sworml...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

WHAT'S NEW Robert L. Park Friday, 15 Feb 08, Washington, DC

1. PERPETUUM MOBILE: THIS YEAR LIKE EVERY YEAR.

I probably missed a few, but I estimate that every year I see about five perpetual motion machine claims. You may recall Steorn, the Dublin company that assembled a jury of scientists to evaluate its 2006 claim of generating free energy from "rotating magnets" <http://bobpark.physics.umd.edu/WN06/wn082506.html>. In 2007 the company went belly-up. The first one this year is the Perepiteia invented by Thane Heins of Almonte, Ontario, who fits the mold perfectly. The 46-year old Heins is not scientist; he dropped out of an electronics program, but earned a chef's diploma. The secret? "Rotating magnets." His wife took the children and left over his obsession with Perepiteia. "I have mild dyslexia and don't do well in math," Heins told the Toronto Star, "so I don't do well in school." But wait, two weeks ago an MIT Electrical Engineering Professor, Marcus Zahn agreed to view a demonstration. Heins held a permanent magnet a few centimeters from an induction motor – and it speeded up. Wow! The Toronto Star contacted Zahn, who said it surprised him. WN is trying to reach Zahn.

2. MISSILE DEFENSE: INVENTION OF THE HYDRAZINE BOMB.

First the public was assured that the danger from a school bus sized "spy satellite" expected to make an uncontrolled reentry is "very small." Now we learn the President has ordered the Navy to shoot it down with a missile interceptor because it's carrying a tank of dangerous hydrazine. How dangerous is hydrazine? "If you inhale a lot of it, it could in fact be deadly," an official said, which is true of most fuels. It's a standard low-power propellant used in spacecraft maneuvering thrusters. Perhaps the most serious consequence of shooting the satellite down is the space debris it would generate. When China used an interceptor to shoot down an obsolete weather satellite it littered low-Earth orbit with more than 100,000 fragments, and the Bush Administration expressed