

Re: Location, Location, Location!

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- *From:* Hop David <hopd@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Pat Flannery wrote:

Henry Spencer wrote:

Depends on how the results scale, both to higher temperatures and molten metal, and to vastly larger sizes. Surface tension being a *surface* phenomenon, it will be overwhelmed by gravity at some point, and I suspect that'll be long before you reach the size of interest.

Well, you can't do it in LEO, that's for sure; the tidal effects will screw it up. But the differential effects of something as dense and molten stainless steel and near vacuum gas should dwarf those of air and water; and as hot as I've seen molten metals, I've seen few ever run faster and easier than water. Molten salt can match it or get a little better, and is fun to pour on things floating in the sink... like sheets of styrofoam cut to resemble grackles or boxelder bugs.

I knew you were waging jihad on grackles. Boxelder bugs?

Sort of like if a prideful female grackle was foolish enough to look back at the destruction of Sodom and Gomorra, only to be struck down by God's vengeance pouring forth from a Bernz-O-Matic torch heated tablespoon upon it. Aren't any grackles left around here anymore. Score one for sympathetic magic. And that little wobbly-head "Dubya" figure's multitude of needles sticking out of it seem to be having the desired effect also. Mind you, the boxelder bugs are still around; but if I were to drip water for forty days and forty nights on a little boxelder bug-shaped fetish... (turns to toad familer..."Pyewacket, what evil thing shall we make croak today? Wood ticks? Well, that's going to take some work, isn't it?") :-)

Re: Location, Location, Location!

I seem to recall S.F. writer Brin portraying the colonization of space as a sacred endeavor. The spreading of a holy green fire. Every CELSS a sort of Noah's ark perpetuating the species it contains.

Are closed ecological systems sans obnoxious critters possible? A lot of them perform valuable roles in maintaining an ecosystem. A forest sans termites might have problems, for example.

If we do establish other biospheres, I'll bet cockroaches will slip past the quarantine barriers.

Hop

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