

TUESDAY MORNING: SPEED OF LOVE

This video fascinates me. I've watched it a number of times since Nerdist shared it last month; it's the 24-minute long set by Freddie Mercury and Queen at the 1985 Live Aid concert held in Wembley Stadium.

Nerdist noted the audience's response reflects the speed of sound – the visible ripple of fans' hands speeds across the crowd in response to the sound as it leaves the stage area and travels across the venue. The gif they shared was taken about 16:37 into this set, just as the band begins We Will Rock You.

I think there was more at work here because earlier snaps of the audience reaction during Radio Gaga (roughly 4:25 onward) don't show the same marked wave across the crowd. But several points in the set Mercury interacts with the audience, coaxing them to sing and shout along with him.

And then at 16:35 when he begins We Will Rock You, the crowd is completely in sync with him. They adore him and are utterly engaged. The wave is not just sound but their feeling for Mercury and his performance.

Can you imagine a politician who could induce such a response?

Cybersecurity

Adobe Flash must die, and Google's slowly exterminating it in Chrome (Ars Technica) – By year's end, Flash will be disabled by default in Google's Chrome browser. It will only play when manually enabled. All part of the slow migration to HTML5 away from risky Flash.

Antivirus app halts heart surgery (Ars Technica-UK) – Holy crap. Why does medical equipment need antivirus software to begin with, let alone how does an A/V app launch and run during surgery?

Artificial Intelligence

Dude, that female TA you hit on? An AI bot (Sydney Melbourne Herald) – Wow. Future's already here and you can't tell you've been dissed by both your prof and the chick-bot-TA.

A series of tubes

Remote healthcare not ready for prime time (ScienceDaily) – Study using fake patients to test direct-to-consumer tele dermatology remote health care systems found security problems with IDs, poor-to-bad assignment of clinicians, many errors made in major diagnoses, insufficient warning to pregnant patients when meds prescribed, just for starters. Think of this as Healthcare Internet of Things Fail.

Super. Fast. Wireless. Internet. Coming. To. YOU! Really? (MIT Technology Review) – Ugh, so breathless with excitement they are about this startup called Starry. I was, too, initially, but we've been told this crap for more than a decade. Since this requires the cooperation of Verizon, AT&T, Facebook, and Google to standardize on this platform AND reception relies on line-of-sight, I'm not holding my breath.

The Business

New business for Amazon to tackle: its own private label groceries (Techcrunch) – Amazon doesn't want to leave a penny on the table. If customers are too price sensitive to click their Dash button for a big name brand consumer good, they'll offer their own instead. Prime accounts only, though; first goods will be heavy on baby needs, which makes sense given parents are often a captive audience.

Norway's sovereign (oil) wealth fund to sue Volkswagen (AP) – Fossil fuel-created fund owns 1.64% stake in Volkswagen. It's suing to protect its assets exposed by VW's emissions controls cheat. Imagine me laughing at oil suing a car company for the manner in which it promulgated oil consumption.

Norway's Statoil to launch first floating wind farm (Bloomberg) – This company is well ahead of

Shell when it comes to diversifying energy production.

Flint Water Crisis

Michigan's top law enforcement agent unaware of Michigan State Police "quiet investigation" (WZZM) – Still scratching my head over this one. Why did the governor ask MSP to conduct an administrative – not criminal – investigation, omitting the state attorney general? And who's conducting a genuine *criminal* investigation, including the governor's role?

Gender Equity

Toy maker(s) insisted Iron Man 3 movie must have male, not female villain (The Mary Sue) – In other words, Marvel's big sweeping superhero movies are really just very long trailers to sell boys' toys. Girls and women need not apply. I have no idea how they can make a decision based on any realistic data given the dearth of female villains on screen and in toys. Is this just some lame argument for inequity in front and behind the camera?

Running behind, probably read too much today and swamped my processing circuits. Hope mid-week becomes a little more focused – catch you tomorrow!