

**ON 5/1/16 SATURN WILL BE THE
CLOSEST IT HAS EVER BEEN TO EARTH**



IT WILL LOOK LIKE THIS

ORIGIN: In April 2016, the above-reproduced meme [began circulating](#) on Facebook and Twitter, claiming that in May 2016 Saturn would appear prominently in the sky (alongside a mockup of the purported event):

On 5/1/16 Saturn will be the closest to the Earth it has ever been.

It will look like this.

As with prior hoaxes involving a [pink moon](#), a [green moon](#), and various other [events in the sky](#), the Saturn meme includes no supplementary information.

The web site *Sea and Sky* maintains a comprehensive astronomy calendar. While the month of May 2016 was a fairly busy one in the sky (including an expected meteor shower and a transit of Mercury across the sun), no events involving Saturn are expected in that timeframe -- especially one that is obviously scientifically impossible.

On 3 June 2016, the site has an event listed titled "Saturn at Opposition," but while Saturn might be visible, it won't take over the sky:

The ringed planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Saturn and its moons. A medium-sized or larger telescope will allow you to see Saturn's rings and a few of its brightest moons.

Despite the meme, there is no indication that simply looking out of a window during the day will provide a stunning view of Saturn on the horizon.

LAST UPDATED: 27 April 2016

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED: 27 April 2016

Powerball 1.3 Billion
÷ U.S. Pop 300 Million

Everyone receives 4.33 mil

@Livesosa

Poverty Solved!!

- Philipe Andolini

ORIGIN: In early January 2016, the multi-state Powerball lottery jackpot swelled to more than one billion dollars, the largest ever in its [history](#). After a 9 January 2016 drawing failed to produce a winner (and sent the jackpot amount soaring even higher), memes began circulating similar to the above-reproduced image.

According to the math displayed in the image, should the eventual lucky winner divvy up his or her loot with every American, the shared bounty would be an astonishing \$4 million per person. The meme went on to assert that the problem of poverty could be "solved" by this division (irrespective of the inevitable economic adjustments that would occur should every American suddenly become four million dollars richer).

Alas, the math presented in the meme was wildly off from real math. If \$1.3 billion were divided among the current [American population](#) of roughly 322,820,000 ... we'd all get approximately \$4.02 (almost enough for a Grande — that is to say, medium — beverage at Starbucks).

Although the meme proved popular in a time of increased Powerball jackpot interest, its claims didn't illustrate how simple solving the problem of poverty in America might be if Powerball proceeds were distributed to everyone rather than paid to a handful of winners. The misconception was similar to a viral July 2015 debate regarding the math of Obamacare:

**IT'S OFFICIAL
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING HAS ENDED
HOUSE: 300-121 (PASSED)
SENATE: SLIPPED INTO SPENDING BILL
PRESIDENT: SIGNED INTO LAW**

fb/david avocado wolfe



**NOW YOU WILL NOT KNOW WHICH COUNTRY
YOUR MEAT COMES FROM
HAPPY HOLIDAYS AMERICA!**

CLAIM: Lawmakers "slipped" the repeal of county of origin labeling for meat into the December 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.



WHAT'S TRUE: The FY 2016 omnibus appropriations bill repealed existing regulations requiring meat be labeled by country of origin.

WHAT'S FALSE: The bill was news in 2015; all meat will be unlabeled; the process was kept under wraps; the bill prevents country of origin labeling.

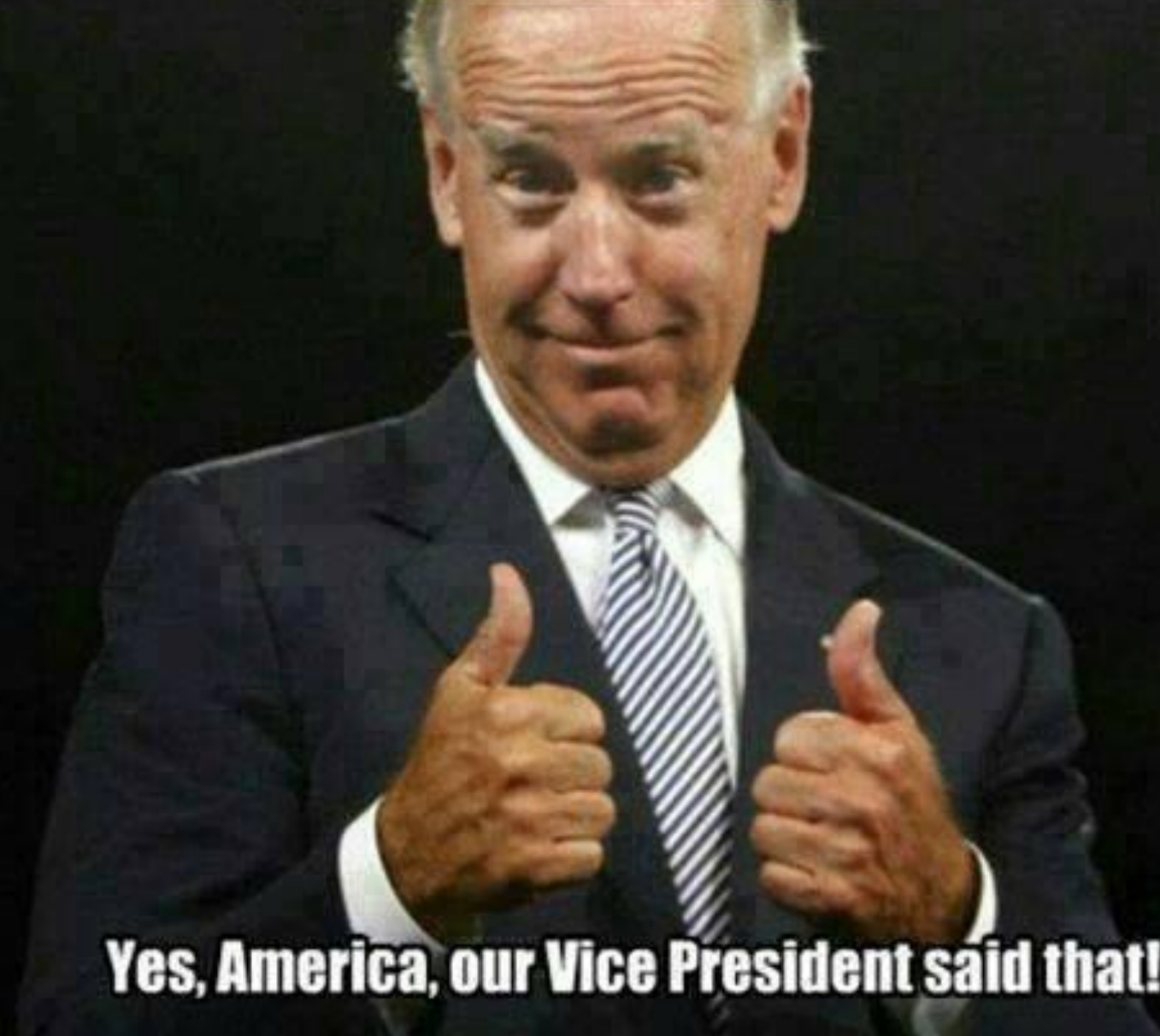
WHAT'S UNDETERMINED: Whether anyone took note of meat's country of origin labeling to begin with, whether manufacturers will continue to exercise the option to label meat by country of origin despite the legislation.

EXAMPLE: *[Collected via e-mail and Facebook, December 2015]*

I saw a post on Facebook saying that as of the new year meat distributors won't have to label packaging with the country of origin. Is this true?

Posted by [David Wolfe](#) on [Monday, December 28, 2015](#)

**"No Ordinary American Cares About Their
Constitutional Rights."**



Yes, America, our Vice President said that!

While we found no record of Biden's having uttered this phrase, we did uncover several articles from 2013 that made an identical accusation. Those articles, such as this [post](#) from a web site called ExposeObama.com, featured a video of Biden talking about gun control that showed what he actually said, which was worded differently and had a different meaning in its full context than the claim made here:

They say all you're going to do is deny law-abiding citizens their rights under the second amendment. Not true. They say guns assault weapons like the AR-15 are needed for self-protection and recreation. They are not ... They say it isn't about guns. They're wrong; it is about guns. Let me say at the outset to all the press: **No law abiding citizen in the United States of America has any fear that their Constitutional rights will be infringed in any way. None, zero.**



This speech was delivered by Biden during a forum at Western Connecticut State University in February 2013 shortly after the [Sandy Hook](#) elementary school shooting. While a clip from that event is frequently shared along with the claim that Biden had said that "nobody cares about constitutional rights," it does not capture the Vice President uttering that phrase at any time during his speech.



⚠ The headrest of car seats is deliberately kept detachable and sharp so that it could be used to break open the glass of car in case of fire and emergency. The car's glass too are kept easily breakable from inside. Very few people know about it and thus can't save themselves in case of emergencies.

Please share it with as many possible and educate.

CLAIM: Car headrests were deliberately designed to be removed so that they can be used to smash windows during emergencies.



WHAT'S TRUE: A removable car headrest can be used to break a window in an emergency.

WHAT'S FALSE: Removable car headrests were deliberately designed to facilitate breaking windows in emergency situations.

EXAMPLE: *[Collected via e-mail, April 2016]*

A post on Facebook says car headrests are deliberately made detachable and sharp so one can use it to break the car window from inside.

A wide-angle photograph of a vast solar farm. Rows of blue photovoltaic panels stretch across a flat landscape towards a distant horizon. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The perspective is from a low angle, looking down the rows of panels, creating a strong sense of depth.

**SOLAR PANELS ARE NOT
"RENEWABLE"**

**THE LIGHT THEY ABSORB IS LOST
FOREVER!**

**LIKE AND SHARE IF YOU THINK
DRAINING THE SUN IS A BAD IDEA**

ORIGIN: On 10 February 2016, the satirical "Flat Sun Society" Facebook community shared a meme reporting that solar panels are not really a form of renewable energy. Rather, they're a "bad idea" because the "light they absorb is lot forever," and they therefore "drain the sun." That meme was originally shared by another satirical Facebook community, "Christians for Michele Bachmann," on 5 October 2015. and a similar jape was also [published](#) by the fake news site *National Report* in May 2014:

This week, a scientific research facility in Wyoming made a startling discovery that is certain to change the way millions of Americans look at the environmentalism movement, after they found conclusive evidence that solar panels not only convert the sun's energy into usable energy, but that they are also draining the sun of its own energy, possibly with catastrophic consequences far worse than global warming.

Scientists at the Wyoming Institute of Technology, a privately-owned think tank located in Cheyenne, Wyoming, discovered that energy radiated from the sun isn't merely captured in solar panels, but that energy is directly physically drawn from the sun by those panels, in a process they refer to as "forced photovoltaic drainage."

The claim that solar panels "drain" energy from the sun is, of course, not factual. Shortly after the *National Report* published their fictitious article about the dangers of solar panels, other sites noted in [addressing](#) the widespread rumor:

Solar panels are not like a vacuum cleaner — they can't physically suck out the Sun's energy. The Sun consistently emits solar radiation, regardless of whether we use it or not. It isn't a feedback system whereby our actions can alter the amount released. It's a system that we tap into for our benefit; we have no influence over it.

While the "Flat Sun Society" Facebook community does not label their content as satire, the Facebook page does provide a few hints at its true intention. For instance, instead of providing a URL for the "Flat Sun Society" or another like-minded page, the group simply lists its web site as Google.com, likely so [confused visitors can fact-check their dubious memes](#).



Jason Gunn Burton

April 27 at 11:34pm · 🌐

Please share and boycott nike until they stop using elephant skin to make their sneakers.

[#worthmorealive](#) [#elephants](#) [#nike](#)



nides to make its shoes, and asking people to boycott the company until it stopped

This Facebook post didn't link to any material backing up its claim, and we could not uncover any news reports accusing Nike of making its shoes out of elephant skins. It is possible that this accusation was based off of confusion regarding Nike's "elephant print" shoes. "Elephant print," however, refers to the [design](#) on the sneaker and not the material.

The only other [reference](#) we could uncover regarding Nike and elephants occurred when the company made a shoe for an elephant, not from one:





I was banned from television for being too violent. Like
& Share, if you grew up watching me on television,
carry a gun, and haven't shot or killed anyone!

