

#HOGWASH

The Story of Charles Red Haffer and the "Perpetual" Machine

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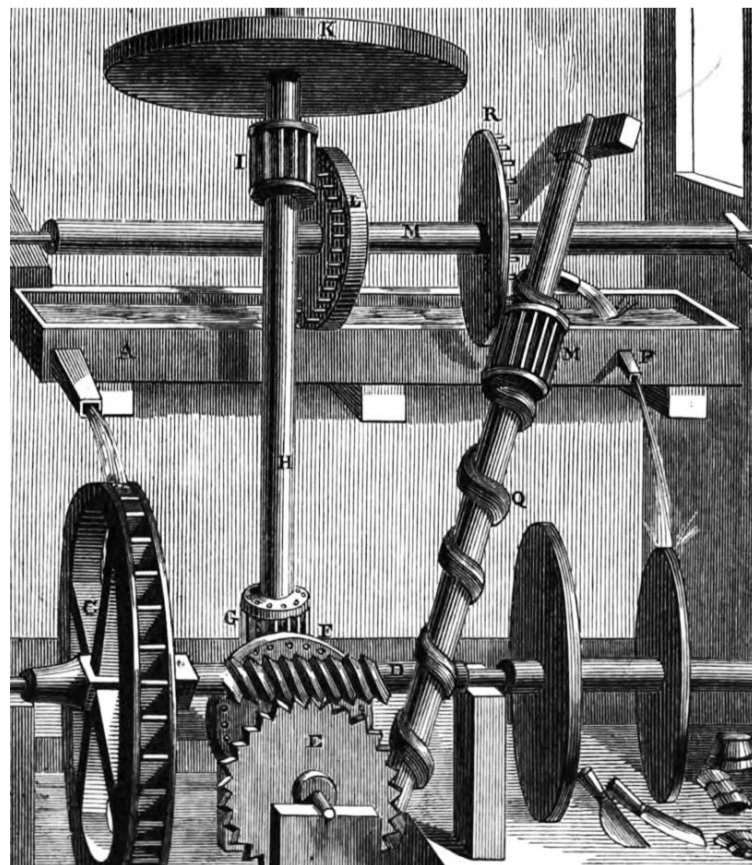


Inventors throughout history have tried to create a machine that can run forever without any outside force. Such a device is called a perpetual motion machine. According to scientific principles, however, this kind of machine cannot truly exist because every machine needs energy to operate.

One famous story is about Charles Red Haffer, who claimed that he had invented a machine that could run continuously without any external power. He said his invention would move forever on its own. This extraordinary claim attracted a lot of public attention, and many people became curious to see the machine in action.

Haffer began selling tickets to people who wanted to see the mysterious device. Crowds gathered to witness what they believed was a revolutionary invention. To many observers, the machine appeared to be running smoothly without any visible source of energy, and this made the claim seem believable.

However, some experts and inspectors became suspicious. They wanted to investigate the machine carefully to find out whether it truly worked without outside force. When they arrived to examine it, they discovered that the machine was kept in a closed room. They were not allowed to inspect every part freely, which raised further doubts. Eventually, investigators noticed a cogwheel mechanism connected to the device.



Upon closer observation, they realized that the machine actually required an external force to keep moving. This meant that the device was not a true perpetual motion machine as Haffer had claimed.

Later, Haffer took the machine to New York, hoping to gain more attention and possibly investors. There, the well-known engineer and inventor Robert Fulton examined the device. Fulton was experienced in mechanical engineering and carefully studied how the machine worked.

During the inspection, Fulton tied a rope to the machine to test whether the hidden power might be driving it. As the investigation progressed, Haffer suddenly ran away, which strongly suggested that the invention was not genuine.

This incident demonstrated an important lesson about science and engineering. Creating machines is difficult because they must follow the laws of physics. One of the most fundamental ideas is that energy cannot be created from nothing. Every machine requires some form of energy, such as electricity, fuel, wind, water, or human effort, to operate.

Therefore, a machine that runs forever without any energy input is impossible according to our current understanding of science. The story of Charles Red Haffer reminds us that extraordinary inventions must always be carefully tested and verified before they are believed.

US Has Refused World Cup Ticket Allocation For Iran's Supporters But Mexico Will Oblige

In March, for instance, Politico asked Trump about Iran's presence at the World Cup. Trump reportedly responded, "I really don't care," before calling Iran a "badly defeated country." The US, Mexico and Canada are co-hosting the games, with 78 matches in the US alone, including the final. Iran is set to play its first two Group G matches in Los Angeles against New Zealand on June 15 and Belgium on June 21, before facing off against Egypt in Seattle on June 26.

● Bulbul Joshi

Iran's football federation has said that the United States has revoked its allocation of tickets for its team's World Cup group games, accusing the cohort of obstructing the attendance of Iranian supporters under the shadow of a bitter diplomatic row.

The US has presented several bureaucratic hurdles for Iran at the global football spectacle, including refusing to issue visas for some of its support staff, as the two countries have effectively remained at war since their February 28 attack on the country.

The Iranian football body said that FIFA regulations dictate that it should be allocated 8 percent of tickets for each match, which are given to participating federations for distribution to their supporters through official channels.

According to the statement, FFIRI had already begun ticket sales for group stage matches against New Zealand, Belgium and Egypt, all to be held in the US, after receiving its quota, with some fans having already made necessary arrangements.

"However, in an unexpected move, the allocation granted to the Iranian Football Federation has been withdrawn, and under the current circumstances, the federation is unable to provide even a single ticket to supporters of the national team," it said.

FFIRI described the move as "contrary to the spirit governing international competitions and the principle of equality among participating countries."

It also called on FIFA and tournament organisers "to uphold the

principles of neutrality, fairness, and established regulations, to provide the necessary conditions for Iranian supporters."

Neither FIFA nor US organisers have publicly commented on the Iranian accusation.

The complaint is the latest dispute related to Iran's participation in the World Cup, following visa issues that Tehran says have prevented some 15 administrative and management staff in its delegation from entering the US.

Rising tensions also prompted Iran to announce that it was moving its World Cup training base to the Mexican border city of Tijuana from Tucson in the US state of Arizona, as originally planned.

Iran open their campaign against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15, before facing Belgium in the same city on June 21 and Egypt in Seattle on June 26.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has announced that her country will host the Iranian national football team during the upcoming FIFA World Cup, due to tensions with the United States.

On Monday, Sheinbaum said that FIFA, the global football governing body, had approached Mexico about hosting Iran, after the US said it did not wish to do so.

"We have no reason to deny them the possibility of staying in Mexico," Sheinbaum said during her daily media conference. "Previously Iran had been scheduled to play all three of its group matches in the US.

But the administration of US President Donald Trump has previously said it is not "appropriate" for Iranian team members to be in the country, "for their own life and safety."

Since February 28, the US and Israel have been at war with Iran,

#FIFA



Iran's players work out during a training session.



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and peace negotiations are tense but ongoing.

Taj explained that team leaders got approval for the move after meeting with FIFA officials in Istanbul, as well as holding an online conference with FIFA's Secretary General, Matthias Grafstrom.

Switching the team's base to Mexico, Taj said, would help avoid visa complications, with the team able to travel directly to Mexico aboard Iran Air flights.

But the US-Israeli war against Iran has cast a pall over the World Cup, making the Iranian team's participation uncertain.

Roughly 3,468 people have been killed in Iran since February's war began, and more than 26,500 have been injured. Further fatalities have been reported across the region. The war has also thrown the global economy into turmoil, driving up the costs of fuel and agricultural fertiliser, among other goods.

Iran's football team has long been a top squad in its region. It currently ranks near the top of the Asian Football Confederation. Its participation in the 2026 tournament marks its fourth straight World Cup qualification.

Trump, however, has sent mixed messages about Iran's presence at the World Cup, suggesting at times that Iran should sit out the tournament. At other moments, he has expressed ambivalence.

In March, for instance, Politico asked Trump about Iran's presence at the World Cup. Trump reportedly responded, "I really don't care," before calling Iran a "badly defeated country." The US, Mexico and Canada are co-hosting the games, with 78 matches in the US alone, including the final.

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host nation, a situation that is unique in the tournament's history. For the Iranian players and staff, the situation has thrown their World Cup preparations into chaos, all of their matches are scheduled to be played in the US.

The Iran team has spent more than two weeks in Türkiye, mostly practising at the coastal resort Antalya, and some travelled to the capital, Ankara, to submit visa applications at the US embassy.

The team's participation in the event in the US, Canada and Mexico has long been in doubt and, with the visa situation still up in the air, nothing can yet be fully guaranteed.

"Well, to be honest, it's not easy," said Saïd Ezatollahi, a 29-year-old midfielder who also played for Iran in the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

"This is going to be my third World Cup. So, for me and some of the other players, it might be easier to manage these kinds of things," he told The Associated Press news agency in English on the sidelines of a training session on Wednesday.

"But at the end... it is going to be difficult for us because, at the same time, we are following the news in our country and the political things, of course, can affect the mind of the players and the people."

Iran will play its first two games near Los Angeles, which has a large Iranian community, many of whom oppose the current government.

"So, for sure, we are expecting to have a lot of fans during our games at the stadium," Ezatollahi said. "And this is going to be a lot of pressure for us because the expectation is going to be high. I just wish we can make them proud and show them that Iranians, they are prepared for every hard job in the world," he said.

"It's true that we are facing special circumstances right now, but we

are football players, and we have to play, practise, and prepare ourselves for the competitions we have ahead," the Abu Dhabi-based player said in Farsi.

"On the other hand, we know that our people have been going through a lot of difficulties throughout the war, and we are going there for them, to get the best results for their joy and the joy of the people of our country." Despite the nominal ceasefire, Iran and the US have yet to negotiate a permanent end to the war, and attacks continue in the region. The Strait of Hormuz is shut again as of now.

Iran is in Group G with New Zealand, Belgium and Egypt and Iran's team is not required to enter the US until June 14, one day before its first match against New Zealand at the Los Angeles Rams' stadium in Inglewood.

Iran returns to Inglewood to face Belgium on June 21 and completes Group G in Seattle, against Egypt on June 26.

"I'm really proud to be part of my national team," said Ezatollahi, whose career has taken him to play for clubs in Spain, Russia, England, Belgium, Denmark, Qatar and now Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. "We need to clear up our minds and be fresh because our target and our duty is to fight for our people, to represent our country and to show how good we are," he said.

Chorbanji agreed, saying the team wants to bring joy to Iranians. "The best message I can give right now is that the Iranian team is showing what it means to be a team," he said. "We are showing that we are one team under one flag that can bring joy to our whole country, and to show the power of Iranian players and Iranian people to the world."

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A vendor in Tijuana, Mexico, shows a sticker featuring the Iran national football team.

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World Cup with Shakira, dancing, and protests

...In Mexico City with a real sense of excitement for the first World Cup on their home turf in 40 years. But outside the stadium, there were sporadic violent clashes as radical protesters attempted to disrupt the event



The 2026 World Cup has begun in Mexico City with an opening ceremony filled with colour, dancing and a performance by global music star Shakira.

But that is not the only eye popper, the day was selected by protesters to get their message across, too, while the world watched.

Thousands of fans arrived at the legendary Azteca stadium in Mexico City with a real sense of excitement for the first World Cup on their home turf in 40 years.

But outside the stadium, there were sporadic violent clashes as radical protesters attempted to disrupt the event

and were met by a heavy security response. For the most part, though, football took centre stage and there were wild celebrations as Mexico kicked off their campaign with a 2-0 win over South Africa.

Javier Pérez came with his family for the opener and said that the excitement now outweighs any hassles experienced up to this point. "We were lucky to get hospitality tickets and it's a unique experience. I have never been to a World Cup before, so, to bring my family is wonderful," he said.

"I just want Mexico to get off on the right foot, win today and score a load of goals! And then, we'll see how far we can go!" Despite a heightened security

presence around the 82,000-person stadium, the clashes between police and protesters temporarily shut down nearby metro stations. Mexican officials said that nearly 200 hooded individuals broke away from two groups of around 800 protesters and clashed with law enforcement, but the situation "was brought under control" by police.

Meanwhile, teachers and families of those who have gone missing in Mexico's drug war marched in various protests, to highlight their causes while the country is in the global spotlight. Mexico is co-hosting the 2026 tournament alongside the US and Canada, with those teams hosting their own opening ceremonies on Friday.

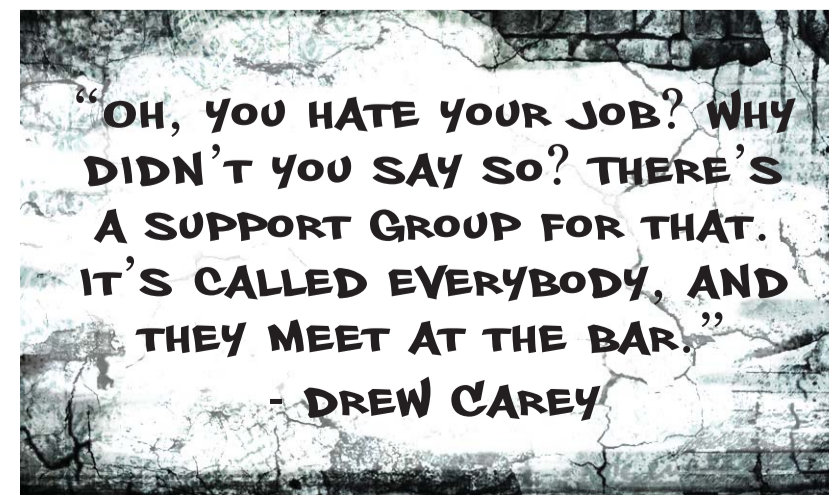
Ahead of the match, fans in the stadium were treated to performances from Shakira, Colombia's J Balvin, Afrobeats star Burna Boy and Latin music star Danny Ocean.

Mexican singer-songwriter Fher Olvera of the pop punk band Maná took the stage to sing the classic Oye Mi Amor.

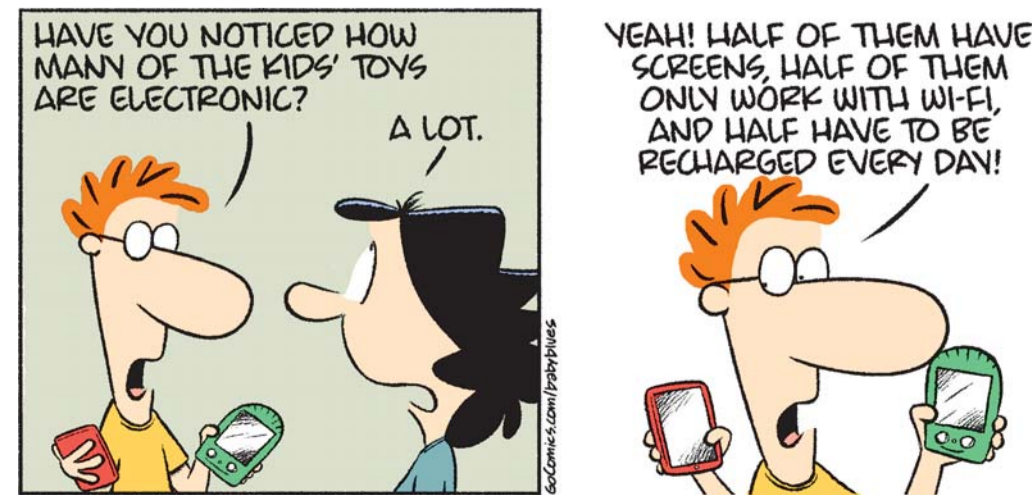
"Bienvenida a México. Welcome to Mexico," a performer announced to start the tournament.

"We are a nation of diversity, heritage and pride. Football carries the same heartbeat, uniting generations." Performers wore indigenous clothing, while others were dressed in all gold and held giant golden footballs above their heads. A packed stadium of fans dressed in their own colourful outfits, many wearing Mexico's team colours.

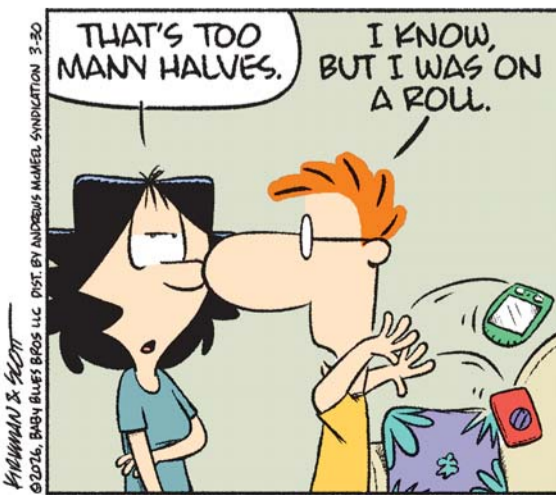
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman