

Etc. Etc. Etc.

Father of Bionics

Jack Steele coined the term *bionics* in 1958 while working in the Aeronautics Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It was first listed in the dictionary in 1960 with this meaning: "A science concerned with the application of data about the functioning of biological systems to the solution of engineering problems." The term took on a new meaning when it was included in Martin Caidin's *Cyborg*, and the field of study Steele was referencing eventually became known as biomimetics.



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Three About Six

- 1) *The Six Million Dollar Man* ran for five seasons, totaling 103 episodes.
- 2) The series was adapted from *Cyborg*, a novel by Martin Caidin.
- 3) National Museum of American History has a lunch box commemorating the series in its collection.

From Sci-Fi to Sci-Fact

"We can rebuild him. We have the technology. We can make him better than he was. Better . . . stronger . . . faster." Back in the 70s, kids recited that opening as they gathered around the TV on Friday nights to see how Steve Austin, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, would use his bionic eye, arm and legs to avert disaster and save the day.

Fast-forward 40 years and science fiction has become reality in the form of Frank, the Incredible Bionic Man. With a price tag of only \$1 million, the 6-ft, 170-lb creation was on display in an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in late 2013. Created by Rich Walker and Matthew Godden of Shadow Robot Co., Frank featured 28 artificial body parts, including a pancreas, lungs, spleen and functioning circulatory system.

"The whole idea of the project [was] to get together all of the spare parts that already exist for the human body today [in] one piece," explains Bertolt Meyer, a social psychologist at the University of Zurich in Switzerland who narrates a Smithsonian Channel documentary on the creation and served as the model for the man. View the documentary at <http://bit.ly/KZNSw1> and find an infographic on the project at <http://bit.ly/KSXhox>.



SMITHSONIAN NETWORKS

"Life! Do you hear me? Give my creation life!"

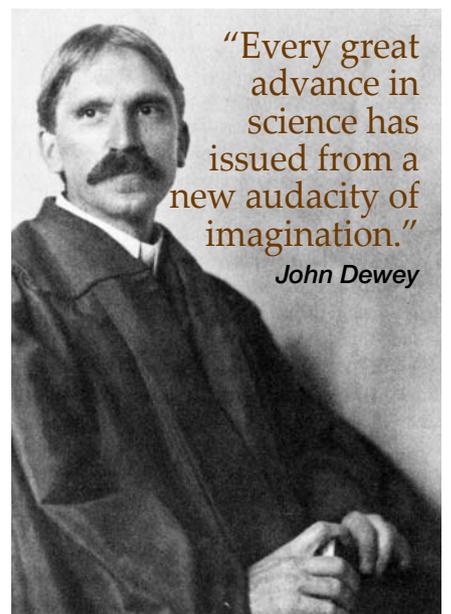
Gene Wilder (as Dr. Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein*)



On the Big Screen

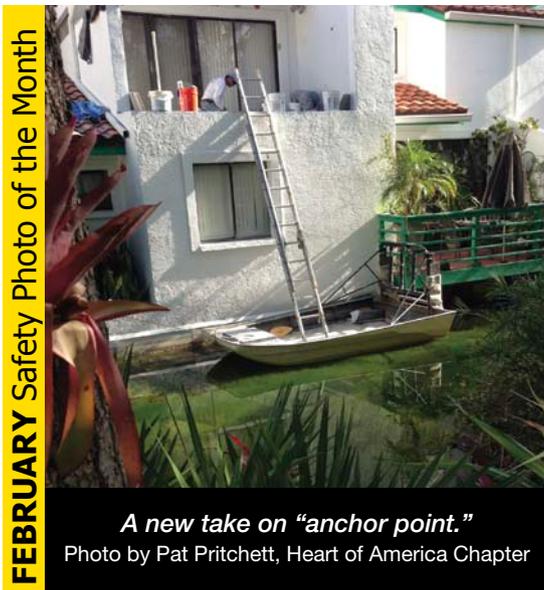
Hollywood has certainly done its best to capitalize on our fascination with hybrid beings. Here are just a few of the memorable creations we've been entertained by over the years.

- Inspector Gadget
- The Borg
- Edward Scissorhands
- Darth Vader
- Robocop
- D.A.R.Y.L.
- The Terminator



"Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination."

John Dewey



FEBRUARY Safety Photo of the Month

A new take on "anchor point."

Photo by Pat Pritchett, Heart of America Chapter

If you have a cartoon, anecdote, joke or interesting safety item you'd like to submit for publication on this page, send your contribution to professionalsafety@asse.org. Submissions will not be returned.