

A forum to encourage independent thinking

The THINK Club

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Alexander the Great
&
Christopher Columbus
They paved the way



Letters

Hinduism Reflects Unity In Diversity (Summer 2010 Think Club) is a great article. It answered all my curiosities about Hinduism.

Steve Elliott
Indianapolis, IN

I really liked the article Reason or Religion. I especially liked the concluding paragraph where you mention how important it is to question and not only 'accept all'. Very insightful.

Spriha Srivastava
New Delhi, India

'Wanda Meets God' has a great message about the hollowness of our religious practices – one of the best I ever read. I love The Think Club!

Brenda Kolowski
Sterling Heights, MI

I really enjoyed the new issue of The Think Club (Summer 2010) - good topic, good discussion. I also liked your Wanda story – funny!

Irene Rudra
Corpus Christi, TX

The THINK Club is published quarterly by The THINK Club Publications, a forum to encourage independent thinking among fellow human beings.

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I read "Reason or Religion?" With great interest. I agree with parts of it. Religion has long blinded the masses into group-think. The purpose? So leaders may exert control over followers. However, religion, at least in my life has not inhibited reason, but instead inspired faith. The great myths colorfully depicted in holy texts, teach great lessons. While I don't believe most of these stories are actually true, I trust that the messages were intended to bear the test of time and ultimately teach right from wrong. Exclusionary and hypocritical teachings should be discarded like the peel of a fruit. Following rituals and believing myth do not alone allow reason or faith but it doesn't inhibit it. For some, it may be the inspiration behind it. Just thinking!

Roop Shrivastava
West Bloomfield, MI

Thinking Wildly...

"They say there are about 12 million illegal immigrants in this country. But if you ask a native American, that number is more like 300 million."

--David Letterman

"They're going to have to pay a \$5,000 fine. Where are these people going to get five grand? I mean, what are the chances Wal-Mart's going to give them a raise?"

--Jay Leno

"But then I came to the conclusion that no, while there may be an immigration problem, it isn't really a serious problem. The really serious problem is assimilation." - Samuel P. Huntington

My whole family has been having trouble with immigrants ever since we came to this country.

The more I traveled, the more I realized that fear makes strangers of people who should be friends.

None of the rhetoric and sophistry that we hear about immigration deals with the plain and ugly reality: Politicians are afraid of losing the Hispanic vote and businesses want cheap labor.

-- Thomas Sowell

Human Migration Is Inevitable

By Musafir

Human migration is inevitable. Migration has been an integral part of human history. The pre-modern migration of humans began with the movement of Homo erectus out of Africa across present day Europe and Asia about a million years ago. We may be able to control human migration temporarily, but cannot stop this phenomenon in the long run.

Geographical Aspect: Continents drift and oceans are rearranged because of tectonic plate movements. The surface of the Earth has two layers: the lithosphere (the upper crust) and the lower crust. The latter has a low viscosity and shear strength that allows the tectonic plates of the upper crust to flow and drift over time. This causes reformation of continents and oceans, as well as the geographic boundaries of artificially formed nations. We cannot stop this as these tectonic plates, which typically have lateral movements at speeds of 0.66 to 8.50 centimeters per year.

Geologists have identified ten major tectonic plates: African, Antarctic, Australian, Eurasian, North American, South American, Pacific, Cocos, Nazca, and the Indian plates. "These plates (and the more numerous minor plates) move in relation to one another at one of three types of plate boundaries: convergent (two plates push against one another), divergent (two plates move away from each other), and transform (two plates slide past one another). Earthquakes, volcanic activity, mountain-building, and oceanic trench formation occur along plate boundaries (most notably around the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire." (Wikipedia) The movements of the tectonic plates is also called the continental drift.

Socioeconomic aspect: Today's global socioeconomic advancement is unthinkable without human migration. The current world economic and military superpower, the United States of America, is shaped primarily by European immigrants into the continent following the 1492 discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus. The contribution of involuntary slave labor and economic migrants in the industrialization of Western societies was equally immense.

The settlement, development, and continued economic health of the U.S., in particular and the western world in general, depended on the rush of

immigrants to these countries. However, despite the West's dependence on immigration for the economic growth and development, the western countries have historically been troubled by the massive influx of peoples into their new homeland. The irony is that although their economy and society depends on continued immigration, they resent the coming of immigrants and have tried over the years to block and limit their settling in the West.

The New Trend: Earth's human population in 2010 is approximately 6,803,000,000. It is going to grow to 9.2 billion by 2050. Most of the growth is expected to take place in developing nations as the birth rate in the western nations is declining. The majority of the world's population lives in south and southeast Asia. China and India alone account for 40% of the earth's inhabitants. That is without counting their Diaspora. Since only one-eighth of the surface of the Earth is suitable for humans to live on, there will be a massive shift of population from Asia to the continents with lower population density such as Europe and the Americas. This is inevitable and this trend is already evident since the onset of the twenty-first century.

The Asians are doing what the Europeans did prior to the twenty-first century. They (the Europeans) migrated to the vacant spaces in Australia, and North and South America. They explored, colonized and settled in those places. The Asians preferred to stay close to their homes. However, the tide has changed due the overpopulation and scarcity of resources. What the Europeans once called the new world, will be a mixed world where all the races will mix and become one creating a real melting pot.

Migration also contributes to economic improvement and raising of the standard of living in the countries of origin inasmuch as they get remittances, new ideas, knowledge and resources through the immigrants to the new world. India and China are examples of this phenomenon. Human immigration is not only inevitable, it is beneficial to all. Someday we will all realize that the whole world is one community without boundaries and without any malice towards one another.

Who Is Afraid of a Hispanic Majority?

By Musafir

Hispanics, mostly Mexicans but also inclusive of people from other Spanish speaking countries, are the largest minority group in America. There is an influx of illegal immigrants into the U.S. from Mexico. Many of us seem to be uneasy about this and are concerned that Hispanics will ultimately replace Caucasians as a majority ethnic and racial group in the U.S.

If we are so afraid, why don't we choose to work as farm laborers in the potato fields of Idaho or become household servants to serve the affluent? Why don't we line up on the street corners of New Orleans to be picked up by the contractors to do grunt work? We don't do that either because either we already have a better paying job or some of us just prefer welfare to grunt work. If those jobs are taken by the Hispanics, why are we complaining?

There are estimated 12 million illegal Mexicans in the U.S. working as waiters, maids, gardeners and laborers. They are needed because market forces have created a demand for them. They are here because America and the Americans need them. The employers hire them despite the dysfunctional 1986 Simpson-Mazzoli Act which made it a crime to knowingly hire illegal immigrants. If it were not for those illegal Mexican laborers, many establishments in the U.S. would immediately shut down, giving rise to chaos. Furthermore, the Center for Immigration Study's data shows that "the average illegal household pays more than \$4,200 a year in federal taxes, for a total of nearly \$16 billion" (Center for Immigration Studies). Illegal immigrants can pay taxes using a nine digit individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) (Gaona, 2004). In addition, "about 43 percent, or \$7 billion, of the federal taxes that the illegal immigrants pay go to Social Security and Medicare" (Center for Immigration Studies).

The perception that the Hispanics will dilute American values and will not assimilate is wrong. The first generation Hispanics speak Spanish for the same reason other first-generation non-English speaking immigrants speak in their own native tongues. According to research conducted by Jack Citrin, Amy Lerman, Michael Murakami (all of the University of California, Berkeley), the second generation Hispanics tend to accept English as their primary language and the third generation Hispanics only speak English. The Hispanics are equally religious, if not more, compared to

any other ethnic group living in America and "there is no evidence that they or their offspring are quicker to abandon God or country than other Americans." (Harvard scholar Samuel Huntington). Antonio Villaraigosa, the first Hispanic mayor of Los Angeles is a good example. He is an American mayor not a Hispanic mayor. His first act as mayor was requiring all city commissioners, his entire staff, and all city employees to sign an ethics pledge. In addition, he removed all lobbyists from city commissions and made it his policy to never appoint a lobbyist to a city commission any time during his term. These efforts were completed to remove what he believed to be a sense of corruption and lack of trust in city government. What is wrong with that?

More Hispanics have fought for America than any other immigrant group in recent years. Twenty thousand Hispanics took part in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm (1990-1991). By 1997, Hispanics made up almost a third of the infantry, artillery crews and specialists deployed to Bosnia for peacekeeping operations. Hispanics have also been on the frontlines in the war on terrorism and in Afghanistan. Hispanics have also contributed to the American music and sports scene. They have enriched our lives and have mesmerized us with their sweet melodies and vibrant rhythms. Hispanic music's wide variety is represented by artists like Jennifer Lopez, Selena, Gloria Stefan and many more.

In my personal dealing with Hispanics, I have found them to be more polite and courteous than the rest of us. If in doubt, compare the aides, porters, and other support-staff at any of the northeast American airports with their counterparts in San Jose, San Diego or Phoenix. Visit any gas station in those cities and ask questions to the attendants. The difference will be very apparent. This is not stereotyping. These are my experiences after living in America for thirty-five years and upon dealing with both the Hispanic and the mainstream population. It is time we made Hispanic people a part of mainstream America, and provided legal status to the twelve million illegal immigrants living in fear so that they can also receive equal treatment and achieve their American dreams like the rest of us.

Letter from a Global Idiot

Idiots are an important part of our society and world at large. They are essential to our survival. Many of them shape our destiny as pet fashion designers, ufologist (one who studies UFOs), chicken sexer (determines the sex of baby chickens), economic forecasters, and politicians. They add spice to our lives and provide fodder for comics. Our lives would be dull, mundane and morbid without their existence. Here is a letter from a global idiot to The Think Club. Enjoy!

Dear Editor of Think Club:

I am well here and hoping you are in the same well there. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you cannot read this fast. After all, English is not your motherland either.

I am glad to inform that my wife, who was reported missing in my last letter, is now dead. She died in an accident. As a result, I don't live where you sent the last Think Club. I read in your magazine that most accidents happen 20 miles from home, so I moved another 20 miles.

I won't be able to send you the new address soon as the last owners who stayed here took the house numbers with them for their new house so they would not have to change their address. Hopefully by next week I will be able to bring my former address plate here so that our address will remain the same.

This place is really nice. But I have a consumer complaint to report for you. This house has a washing machine situated right above the commode. I'm not sure how it works. Last week I put in 3 shirts; pressed the lever and haven't seen them since.

Here is the weather report for publication. The weather here isn't too bad. It rained only twice last week. The first time it rained for 3 days and second time for 4 days.

You may like to publish my job search in your magazine's ad column. In my last job I had 500 people under me. I cut grass at the cemetery. Before that, I worked as a plumbing and heating specialist. I worked for 6 years as a uninformed security guard also. Most of my experience to this point has been as a blue-color worker. My career goal is to share my talents with a growing company. I will need dental insurance with the job because my upper teeth are alright but the lower ones are hurting terribly."

Here are some public service announcements to fill your pages: My sister-in-law gave birth to two daughters. They are girls. Both the three of them is doing well.

My uncle, who was visiting me from the old country fell in the lake while washing himself. Some men tried to pull him out, but he fought them off bravely and drowned.

There isn't much more news this time. Nothing much has happened.

Alexander the Great, Pioneer of Globalization

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

I have been fascinated by Alexander the Great ever since childhood. I always wondered how a young man in his twenties could conquer the empires of Persia, become the pharaoh of Egypt and command an army of 30,000 soldiers? Growing up in India I always wondered how did he march up to India from Macedonia fighting all the kingdoms and conquering everything on his way? In my opinion 'Veni, vidi, vici' applies more aptly to Alexander than Julius Caesar.

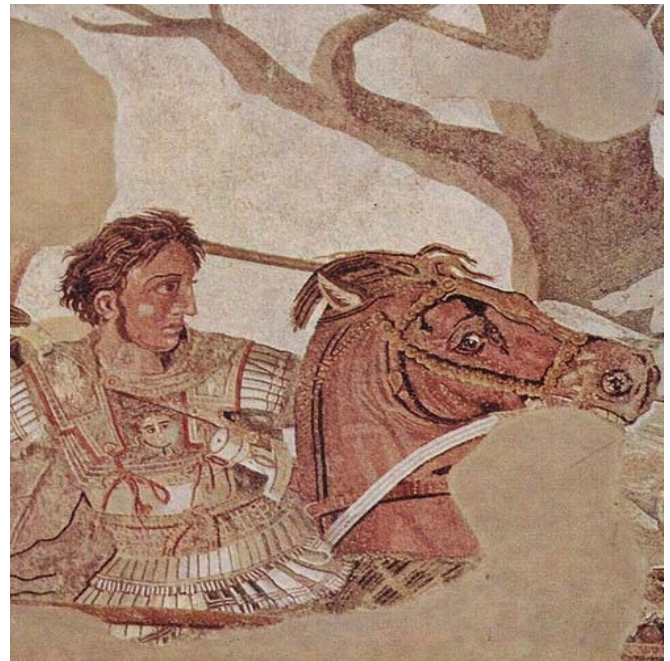
No single individual has so many cities named after him or her in the eastern hemisphere. (Columbus, probably, may have a similar claim in the western hemisphere). In India alone, almost every state has cities named after Alexander (pronounced Sikandar). Some of the famous cities named after Alexander are Alexandropolis in Greece, Alexandria in Egypt (where Alexander is buried), Iskandria in Afghanistan, Alexandria in Iraq (on the Tigris river), Alexandria in Pakistan (on Chenab), Iskenderum in Turkey, Golâshkerd in Iran. The list goes on and on. There is a town in India (now in Pakistan) named after his horse Bucephalus. The town is now known as Phalia. Alexander rode the horse across Asia.

The most intriguing aspect of Alexander was his vision of globalization and bringing people of all races together. Alexander the Great conquered and integrated almost half the world before his death at the age of 33. His motto is summed up in the following passage, "All mortals should live like one, united, and peacefully working towards the common good. You should regard the whole world as your country, a country where the best govern, with common laws, and no racial distinctions. I do not separate people, as many narrow-minded others do. I am not interested in the origin or race of citizens; I only distinguish them on the basis of their virtue. For my part, I consider all, whether they be white or black, equal."

Alexander's vision came from Aristotle who became his teacher when the former was 13 years old. Alexander understood the importance of

science from Aristotle. Alexander therefore included scientists, engineers and historians in his army. Alexander had a violent thirst and passion for learning, which increased as time went on. He was a lover of all kinds of reading and knowledge, and it was his delight, after a day of marching or fighting, to sit up half the night conversing with scholars and scientists.

The biggest achievement of Alexander was paving the way for globalization. Alexander the Great forged an eastward link with the King of India, Chandragupta Maurya (considered by some as the greatest Indian King and a boy genius similar to Alexander) for overland routes between the Mediterranean, Persia, India and Central Asia. Although his life was extremely short lived, he helped promote cultural interaction on the Eurasian continent. Even after his demise, the early globalization he helped produce remains intact. There are several different ways his expeditions helped connect the disparate people of Asia and Eastern Europe. When I think of globalization, I think of Alexander, my link to the childhood memories.

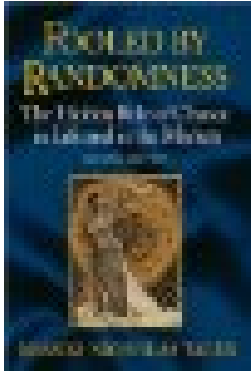


Book Review

Fooled by Randomness

Author: Nassim Nicholas Taleb

Published by Texere in 2001 (p. 196)



Fooled by Randomness – The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets by Nassim Nicholas Taleb is a very intriguing book, to say the least. The book conveys the message that randomness plays a large role in the market. Most of the experts don't know much about the future trend. Some are lucky, fortunate

fools and others are not so lucky. Taleb proves his point through the story of two traders, ignorant but overconfident John and Nero the conservative. John, the fortunate fool ultimately loses everything whereas risk-averse Nero remains steady but mediocre. However, the fate of both the traders is determined by market randomness.

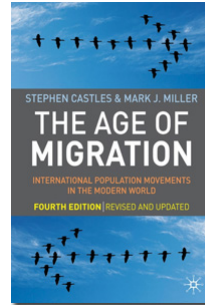
Another point Taleb makes is the fact that the rational mind cannot prevent us from experiencing irrational emotions. Taleb then discusses an "accounting method" by which a dentist is much richer than a lottery winner. If one were to consider all the "paths" that the dentist's life could take, there would not be much variation in the money he makes and the "average" would be close to what he makes in any particular "path." If one considers all the paths that the lottery winner's life could take, the average would be much lower than the money he makes on the winning path.

Overall, the book is interesting but the message is repetitive and mostly confined to the financial markets. I agree with Taleb's views on the role of luck in the markets and the inadequacy or even meaninglessness of most financial models. It is a good reaffirmation of my own views about financial markets.

The Age of Migration

Authors: Stephen Castles and Mark J Miller

Publisher: Guilford Publications, Inc in 2003



I read *The Age of Migration* especially for the current issue of The Think Club (Fall 2010) since our theme is migration through the ages. Castle and Miller have depicted a historical account of the major migratory trends before the second world war, supplemented by up-to-date, comprehensive analysis of new migrations.

International migration is a central aspect of globalization in the contemporary world and is recasting states and societies in a range of distinctive and important ways. This book provides up-to-date coverage of the nature, extent and dimensions of international population movements and of their consequences in an increasingly multicultural world. The authors also address the problems of regulating migration at both state and regional levels, including the security implications in the context of September 11 and the "war on terrorism."

The empirical detail is striking, the historical overview comprehensive and the theoretical overview clear and easy to follow even without prior sophisticated knowledge of the theories covered. As an overview to the field of migration studies, this is well-written.

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Dreamland

By Anil Shrivastava

Prabha Devi sat motionless and unattended in a corner of the family room. The room was crowded with Kiran and Vijay's friends. She wondered why people were consoling Kiran and Vijay instead of her when, as a matter of fact, it was her husband who had passed away. Kiran was her daughter and Vijay, her son-in-law.

"Bring some water! Kiran is fainting," shouted one of her friends.

Prabha Devi gathered her old weakened body and proceeded to fetch a glass of water for Kiran. She was numb and just moved involuntarily to do what she had been doing for so long, that is attend to Kiran and Vijay's needs. Prabha Devi was 65, a small framed woman who left her native India a year ago, not long enough to erase the memories to which she had clung all this time – memories that became a dream of past happiness that was no more, or so it seemed to the old lady who preserved her memories as her only treasure.

Golmudi in India, where Prabha Devi's family had lived was not a rich place by American standards, but it was her own place where she had lived with her husband happily and freely. That was the place where Kiran, their only child was born and raised. She lived like a queen in her home. Her husband was a shopkeeper who always remained occupied with his business. It was Prabha Devi who took care of matters at home. She remembered how her husband used to tease her by saying, "You're the Indira Gandhi of our house. I am a mere member of the opposition bench."

Prabha Devi and her husband satisfied all the needs and demands of Kiran. Kiran always remained the focus of their attention since her birth. Kiran got married to Vijay, an IT (Information Technology) professional and when the chance came and it seemed like a big chance, Kiran and her husband migrated to the U.S. Although Prabha Devi felt sad that her only child had moved oceans away, she was happy for her daughter's good fortune and delight. Kiran called her parents regularly and told them about their affluent lifestyle in the new land.

Prabha Devi proudly narrated those stories to her neighbors and friends at great lengths. Prabha Devi and her husband waited for Kiran's phone call every Sunday morning.

It was Sunday morning in India. Prabha Devi was waiting in anticipation. Finally, the phone rang. Yes, it was Kiran at the other end.

"Ma, I have to give you a very special news. We went to the doctor yesterday and he confirmed that I am in the family way."

"God bless you my child. I am delighted. Take care of yourself and eat well."

"But Ma, I need you. I am not able to take care of my job, health and Vijay all at the same time. Ma, can you come to us please?"

"Listen Kiran, I've to take care of your father. He has a heart condition. Moreover, it costs a lot of money to travel to America. You know that we live here comfortably within our means but we don't have the resources to travel abroad."

"Ma, come for my sake, please! Why don't you take some time to think about it. I'll call you again next Sunday."

Next Sunday morning, the phone rang again. This time it was Vijay on the line. "Ma! We want you to come and bless us. Don't you worry about the expenses! After all, Kiran and I earn more than the prime minister and the president of India combined. We'll send you the ticket. You'll enjoy staying with us. Moreover, this will break your monotony also."

There was no mention or concern shown for the health of her husband. Prabha Devi couldn't snub Vijay's request so she came to America to stay with them for six months. She didn't cook the first day. On the second day, Kiran wanted her to cook her favorite dish. Prabha Devi gladly obliged. Kiran and Vijay liked her cooking. She cooked again the next day. On the fourth day she took it easy. When Kiran returned from work, she asked for dinner. Her mom

Continued on Page 12

Outsourcing and the Indian Media

Obama: Work harder to beat the Bangalore challenge

US President Barack Obama has exhorted American students to toil harder at school, saying their success would determine the country's leadership in a world where children in Bangalore and Beijing were raring to race ahead.

Obama has repeatedly said that American schools would have to ensure that they continue producing leagues of top professionals, so that the American hegemony in human resource continues in this century.

"At a time when other countries are competing with us like never before, when students around the world in Beijing, China, or Bangalore, India, are working harder than ever, and doing better than ever, your success in school is not just going to determine your success, it's going to determine America's success in the 21st century," Obama said. (**Press Trust of India**)

Outsourcing to Asia now a gag on The Simpsons

On Sunday, the intro that Banksy storyboarded aired in the US, in an episode titled MoneyBart. The extended sequence takes a pot shot at 20th Century Fox, which owns the show, based on reports that some animation is outsourced to Asia. It shows a dingy, worn-down factory where Asian workers make Simpsons DVDs and other merchandise like Bart dolls and clothing.

It's a dark sequence. Bedraggled, barefoot Asians crank out assembly-line products, rats feed on skulls and bones, the horn of a weary, captive unicorn is used to punch holes in DVDs. Kittens are seen being thrown into a chipper and their fur used to stuff dolls. There is also a depressed-looking Panda working hard.

In keeping with the artist's métier, signboards in Springfield have graffiti -- Banksy's name. (**NDTV**)

Obama targets outsourcing firms again

American President Barack Obama has once again targeted American companies having their operations in India to save taxes back home and called such businesses tax evaders.

"If you are a business here, entirely located in the US, and investing in the US, and hiring workers in the US, you are paying a 35 per cent rate," Obama said in an interview to the business magazine Bloomberg Business Week.

"However, if you are a multinational and you are investing in India, and your workforce is in India, and your plants and equipment are in India, but your headquarters are here, you are taking deductions on all the expenses in India, but you are keeping your profits outside the US; and that just doesn't seem entirely fair," he argued. (**Times of India**)

Sent your comments to:

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Point

US Should Naturalize the Illegal Immigrants

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

We all want to live in a harmonious and congruent society. After all, "birds of a feather flock together." Unfortunately, man and nature have caused migration of various races and ethnicity to different parts of the globe despite our nature to resist these movements. We have done it for political, economic and other sociological reasons. Nature has done it by shifting the tectonic plates across the oceans. In other words, human migration is inevitable.

According to Census Bureau 2000 data, 700,000 to 800,000 illegal aliens settle in the U.S. each year, with approximately 8-11 million illegal aliens now currently living in the United States (up to 12 million, according to Department of Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge). No power on earth can selectively displace or expel such a vast population.

In 1986, Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) giving amnesty to all illegal aliens who had evaded law enforcement for at least four years or who were working illegally in agriculture. This resulted in 2.8 million illegal aliens being admitted as legal immigrants to the U.S. Those immigrants have settled here peacefully and are productive to our society. Many of them are entrepreneurs who have created jobs in all areas of business including computer technology. According to the Financial Times, "For every 100,000 immigrants, 510 of them start businesses each month, while native-born citizens start 280."

Another fear expressed by the opponents of amnesty is that the illegal immigrants in particular and immigrants in general are taking our jobs. It is highly doubtful that immigrants, "undocumented workers," are taking the jobs that hard working Americans are striving for: paving cement, digging ditches, cleaning houses, working at McDonalds, etc. When I go outside and see someone working in the blazing sun digging ditches I only notice the kind of people we have branded as undocumented.

Living the American Dream is one of the reasons why there are illegal immigrants here. Giving the undocumented a chance to prove their worth will be very beneficial to all. It is a fact but we do not accept that many of the so-called real Americans are unproductive and live on government grants and subsidies. The illegal immigrants are providing service to our society at a fraction of the cost thus making us more productive. They are keeping millions of jobs from being outsourced to other countries. If Uncle Sam would allow these illegal immigrants to gain legal status, millions can lead a dignified life that is denied to them. Yes, this will create a more diverse and incongruent society, but that is going to happen one way or another whether we legalize them or not. We have no choice in this matter. That is the nature of man. If

Counterpoint

Illegal Immigration Is Wrong

By Bala Prasad

we do not allow this, movements of tectonic plates will do it for us, anyway.

Illegal immigration will never be a simple issue. But it is important to remember that we are talking about not only individuals, but families – masses of families that come to this country in order to remain together or to reunite, making this issue more emotional than other political issues. After all, what can be more sacred than one's family? Nevertheless, there are several tangible and undeniable reasons why illegal immigration in the United States must be restricted.

First of all, illegal immigrants indisputably create significant unemployment. Why? Because they perform undesirable or physically demanding jobs at extremely low wages, making them attractive to employers. The Department of Labor calculates that over half the crop pickers in the United States are undocumented. These are jobs that should have gone to legal Americans.

In addition to taking jobs away from Americans, more than half of the country's illegal immigrants work in the "underground economy," meaning that they are paid cash under the table, without paying taxes. These people reaping the benefit of our tax dollars without contributing to the system. Limited tax revenue cannot adequately service a community with an unknowable number of citizens.

Advocates of "an open door policy" who claim that illegal immigrants do not reap the benefits of this country's social programs are wrong. In 1982, in the case of *Plyler v. Doe*, the Supreme Court required all states to provide all children (America citizens, foreigners, legal immigrants, illegal immigrants) with a free public education. Another example is the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (1985), which mandates that hospitals which receive federal assistance, participate in the Medicare program, or are nonprofits cannot deny emergency treatment to anyone (including non-citizens and illegal aliens) because of an inability to pay.

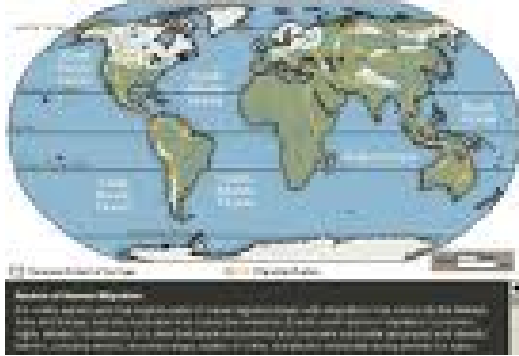
Additionally, the problem of illegal immigration poses a real threat to our safety – not just our national security but also our domestic tranquility. This country's system of justice relies on the premise of accountability – if you commit a crime, we find you and we come after you. If you are undocumented, this makes our job of finding you much more difficult. It is a "loose end" in the system that nobody knows how to deal with. Although nobody wants to admit it, being undocumented essentially immunizes someone from the authorities – thus they can wreak havoc without worrying about accountability (remember, since they are not registered anywhere – no driver's license, etc. – they are not easily tracked down).

Illegal immigration is just plain wrong. Millions enter this country legally, and as a nation we are better off for it. But, those who practice illegal acts must not be rewarded. It sends the wrong message and opens the floodgates.

Time Line

Trend Setting Tomorrow's World

The Genographic Project is creating a picture of when and where ancient humans moved around the world by mapping the genetic markers in modern



peoples. These great migrations eventually led the descendants of a small group of Africans to occupy even the farthest reaches of the earth.

200,000 – 150,000 years ago: The genetic journey of everyone alive today began with one woman — “Scientific Eve” — who lived in Africa and passed along her DNA through special cell structures called mitochondria, which only women pass down to further generations.

195,000 years ago: No one knows when modern humans first appeared, but the oldest skulls and bones of anatomically modern humans were found in Ethiopia’s Omo River Valley by paleoanthropologist Richard Leakey in 1967. Our ancient homo sapiens ancestors remained in Africa for as long as three-quarters of our history as a species.

150,000 years ago: The first branch point on our human family tree is marked by the earliest major movement of humans: One group headed to southern Africa and the other to eastern Africa — and later, to the rest of the world.

130,000 – 70,000 years ago: It is believed that our cradle of humanity transformed into desert due to constant climate change from cold to hot, nearly wiping humans off the earth. Based on the lack of genetic variation from this time, it is possible that the number dropped to as few as 2,000 people, making us an endangered species.

70,000 years ago: Climate studies indicate the drought in Africa subsided for a time and the human population resumed growing. Archaeological evidence reveals that tools from this period appear across the continent, and the genetics show new lineages taking root.

60,000 years ago: “Scientific Adam” is the common male ancestor of every living person today and the one who has provided every male with a Y chromosome. Because he lived in Africa some 60,000 years ago, all humans must have lived there until at least that time.

50,000 years ago: Some scientists theorize one wave of humans migrated out of Africa by crossing at the southern tip of the Red Sea to the Arabian Peninsula (a mere 17 miles apart). It is unknown whether they would have walked, swam, or rafted.

50,000 years ago: Humans first arrived in Southeast Asia, perhaps by journeying along the coasts of modern-day Iran, Pakistan and India. At that time, one continuous landmass connected Asia with southern Indonesia, just north of Australia.

45,000 – 40,000 years ago: Archaeological records show that humans moved into Australia. Their voyage may have been made possible by the shifting landmasses and lower sea levels of this glacial period.

40,000 – 35,000 years ago: Africans who had moved into the Middle East during wet climatic periods found themselves on a vast “steppe highway” that ran to China and Korea. As they hunted game, these people gradually dispersed along the steppes and populated much of Eurasia.

40,000 – 35,000 years ago: Despite the conditions of a frigid ice age, a hardy band of mammoth hunters moved onto the tundra of southern Siberia. There, they began to develop specialized cold-climate skills that would allow them to populate northeast Siberia and eventually North America.

28,000 years ago: Archaeological evidence indicates that the Rock of Gibraltar, Europe’s southernmost tip, is the last place Neanderthals lived in Europe before becoming extinct. Modern humans later occupied the same site Neanderthals had established, though the two groups never met at Gibraltar.

20,000 – 15,000 years ago: Some scientists believe that the first Americans entered the North American continent through the area now known as Alaska, crossing from Siberia by way of a temporary “land bridge.” Advanced tools that were popular in Asia later appeared in North America.

14,000 years ago: Monte Verde is the location of an archeological site in Chile, where 14,000-year-old bits of seaweed stuck to the blades of ancient stone tools suggest people were already living near the bottom of South America earlier than previously thought. Recently, the Monte Verde site was accepted as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

11,000 years ago: With the ice age ending, the landmass binding Russia and Alaska vanished into the sea. The first Americans would be cut off from the rest of humanity until Christopher Columbus arrived.

Dreamland

Continued from Page 8

looked astonished and said, "Kiran, aren't you going to cook anymore?"

"Ma! You know my condition. Do you expect me to cook? One thing led to another and Prabha Devi soon became their housemaid. She cooked, cleaned the house and washed dishes. Prabha Devi shouldered all the household chores that were thrust upon her and nobody thought that she was not only too old to take on such a burden, she had a sick husband living alone in India.

Whenever Prabha Devi raised the topic of returning to India, Kiran made her feel guilty by whining about her condition, "How could you think of that? Look at my condition! Ma! I need you." Prabha Devi thought about Kiran's plea and her husband's condition at the same time. Her heart was flooded with contradictory emotions.

Six months passed. Prabha Devi's ticket had expired. Soon it was time for the childbirth. Prabha Devi felt happy for the first time in months to see her grandson. After the birth of her grandson, Prabha Devi begged and pleaded to be sent home. She struggled to describe her inner tug-of-war but all in vain. Now she had one more chore added to her list – taking care of the infant. She was virtually a prisoner in a foreign land. Every plane she noticed in the sky, she thought it was going in her direction, but she was helpless and penniless.

Prabha Devi remembered all that with tears in her eyes. She looked around and glanced at Kiran's friends. There was something common among them. Most of them had called their parents from India to work as house servants for them. One of Vijay's friends was different. His name was Bihari. Bihari noticed Prabha Devi's predicament and went up to her to console her. He was moved by the old lady's tears and noticed scars on her thin malnourished body and recognized that they were recent. Bihari immediately approached Vijay and threatened to report him to the authorities. It was an obvious case of abuse, exploitation and emotional torture. Prabha Devi's expressions portrayed an untold story.

Vijay got scared and put Prabha Devi on a plane to India the next day. When she arrived in Golmundi, two of her nephews came to the railway station to pick her up. The nephews were beaming with joy.

"Welcome back to India," they shouted. Prabha Devi was astonished at their inappropriate exuberance.

"How did he die?" Prabha Devi asked in a sorrowful but controlled tone.

"Wait till you reach home," answered her nephews.

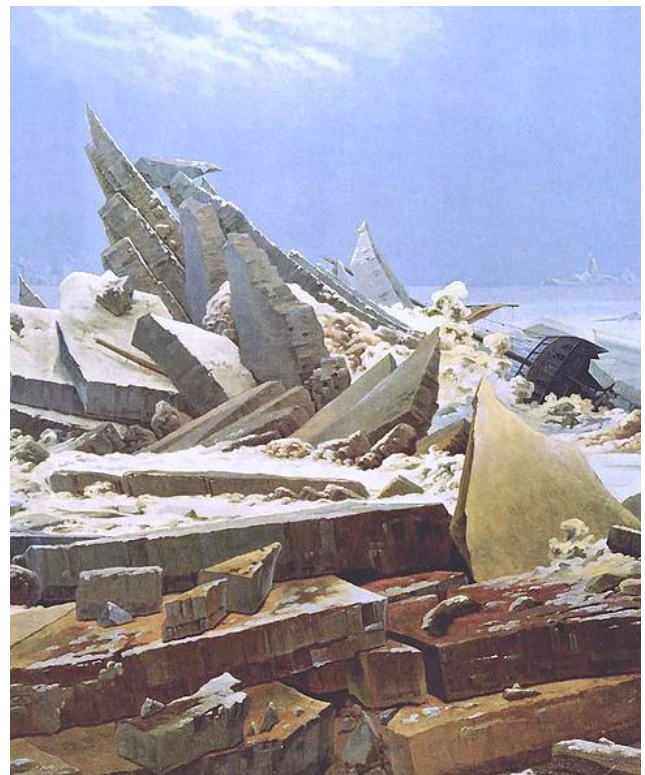
On reaching home, Prabha Devi saw her husband standing in front of their house with a garland in his hand. Prabha Devi fainted with shock. When she regained consciousness her husband explained to her, "This was the only way to get you out of America."

The reunion was joyful. She embraced both her nephews and asked her husband, "*Baaki, howz zindagi?* (Nevertheless, how's life?)," the American English came tumbling to her lips mixed with Hindusthani.

"Get your aunt something to eat," shouted her husband.

"Don't bother, let me do it. This is my house and I am the Indira Gandhi here. I'll do here what I want!"

Everyone cheered and smiled. Prabha Devi looked at her husband and uttered, "*Apna ghar phir apna ghar hai, na?* (There is no place like home, isn't?)." She was finally re-living her dream away from the dreamland.



The Story of Modern Medicine

By Niru Prasad



The knowledge and practice of medicine goes as far as Hippocrates (circa 460-370BC) when a Greek born physician Hippocrates earned respect and honor for the revolution he initiated towards the practice of medicine based on scientific facts and reasoning on which the diseases are based. He is also known as the father of medicine since he established the first medical school in the western world in the era before Christ.

In the ancient cultures, people believed that diseases came out from supernatural causes such as ghosts, demons and witchcraft as curses due to wrong deeds in life. They also believed that every living soul contained a mixture of 4 elements -- earth, fire, air, and water -- together called "humours". These humours in the body consisted of black bile, phlegm, yellow bile and blood and their sickness began when one of these constituents was out of place.

The Emergence of Hippocratic Medicine

Early evidence of Greek medicine, later supported by Romans and ancient Egyptians, shows they realized that any illness in the body can be scientifically linked to internal derangement and the remedies should be based on a proper diagnosis. A further study of literature during the Hippocratic era shows that Hippocrates routinely tasted his patient's urine, sampled their pus and earwax, and smelled their excreta before establishing a diagnosis and rendering treatment accordingly.

Medicine and Surgery in Ancient Rome

Early Romans (Galen 130-200AD) had a religious yet fundamental understanding of medicine with knowledge from the Greeks, Egyptians and Hindus. Their practice of medicine involved combination of physical tools and holistic medicine. Ancient Roman medicine was split into different specialties with strong emphasis on surgery to the wounded soldiers from the 15 years of civil war following the assassination of Julius Caesar. The pain killers and sedatives were derived from plants opium and scopolamine. The soldiers' wounds were being washed with acetum and Lister's carbolic acid in 1860; this is still known in 21st century as Listerine.

Victorian Advances in Medicine During 18th and 19th Centuries

Human medicine advanced tremendously in the 18th and 19th century due to advanced techniques, precise medical equipments such as anaesthesia in 1846, ophthalmology in 1851, antiseptics in 1865, pasteurization in 1862, the discovery of TB bacilli in 1882, cholera in 1883, and rabies in 1885.

Most Common Methods of Treatment in 18th and 19th Centuries

1 Phlebotomy. This was the remedy for minor or major illnesses with the belief that it released old, bad blood from body.

2 Blistering. This technique was used to treat arthritis, fever, and persistent pain with the belief that being blistered caused a patient to focus on new pain and forget his past pain and suffering.

3 Plastering. Plasters and poultices were both popular remedies for a variety of ailments. Plaster was paste made from a variety of ingredients including cow manure and was applied to the chest for a chest cold or pain. Poultices were made from bread, milk, herbs and linseed oils and were applied to treat cuts and wounds on the body.

4 Amputation. This surgical removal of arms and legs was being performed without anaesthesia until 1840.

5 Purging, puking and sweating. Dosing a person with purgatives to expel poison from the body as well giving emetics was a common practice for treatment of poisoning. Sweating was a remedy for high fever and patients were kept warmly dressed during fever.

Practice of Medicine in the 20th and 21st Century

The practice of medicine in 20th and 21st centuries saw very advanced changes due to new technologies



and advances in each field of medicine. Doctors changed almost beyond recognition during the 20th century. In the early years your doctor was usually a man, with a limited range of medicines and techniques. By the end of the century doctors were as likely to be women as men, with a whole arsenal of pills and treatments to help make you better.

At the beginning of the century local doctors still visited the sick in their homes, usually carrying their sturdy Gladstone bag. Doctors could do little to cure disease, although they had learned some ways of preventing it, and some new techniques of caring for patients.

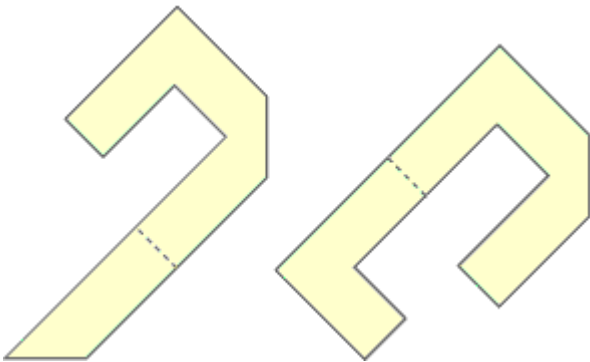
The modernisation of medicine changed the role of the doctor. 60% of new doctors are now women. Familiar illnesses, previously dangerous, can often be treated by a course of pills. Many other diseases now call for the use of expensive technology so, by the end of the century, most medicine was delivered in hospitals (in

America in 2002 only 2% of doctor-patient contact took place in the home).

Answers to Mental Exercise from Page 17

Train of Thought. Caboose. Alliteration has to do with similarity at the beginning of words, rhyme with the similarity at the end of words. Locomotive is typically at the beginning of a train, caboose at the end.

Unfolding Letter. The letter F is perhaps the simplest answer but there isn't necessarily one right answer. If you interpret the diagram differently, there are many other possible answers. The shapes below could be interpreted as the letters J and G which can be unfolded from the original picture:



Hidden Picture. The inscription on the gold box cannot be true, because if it is, then the inscription on the silver box must also be true. And that can't happen. So, the statement on the third box, the lead box, is the only one that can be true. The statement on the third box is the only one that can be true. The first one must be false, and the second box, which says, "Rowena's picture is not in this box," is also false, which means that her picture is in that box, the silver box.

Cubed Calendar. You've got 12 faces between the two cubes total. Both of the cubes must have a zero, a one, and a two. Also one of the cubes has to have a three. But the other cube doesn't since there's no 33rd of a month. So put the three on cube number 1. It has zero, one, two, and three. Cube number 2 has a zero, one, and two. We still have to put a four, a five, a six, a seven, an eight and a nine, each on a face. Because you don't need both a six and a nine, the six can be flipped and it becomes a nine. So cube 1 has a zero, one, two, three, four and a five. Cube 2 has zero, one, two, six, seven and eight.

Auto Invention. The little gadget was the car radio.

What's Wrong. If he died, how does anyone know what he was dreaming?

Bill Extraction. The trick to getting the bill is to slowly roll it up at one end. As the roll contacts the bottle continue rolling until it pushes the bottle off of the bill.

Out of Africa



Homo sapiens is supposed to have appeared in East Africa between 200,000 and 100,000 years ago (Homo sapiens idaltu, found at site Middle Awash in Ethiopia, lived about 160,000 years ago.).

From there they spread around the world. An exodus from Africa over the Arabian Peninsula around 60,000 years ago brought modern humans to Eurasia, with one group rapidly settling coastal areas around the Indian Ocean and one group migrating north to steppes of Central Asia.

The migration path is a matter of debate and study. Genetics have shed some light on this matter.

Early human migrations began when Homo erectus first migrated out of Africa over the Levantine corridor and Horn of Africa to Eurasia about 1.8 million years ago, a migration probably sparked by the development of language. The expansion of H. erectus out of Africa was followed by that of Homo antecessor into Europe around 800,000 years ago, followed by Homo heidelbergensis around 600,000 years ago, where they probably evolved to become the Neanderthals.

Modern humans, Homo sapiens, evolved in Africa up to 200,000 years ago and reached the Near East around 70 millennia ago. From the Near East, these populations spread east to South Asia by 50 millennia ago, and on to Australia by 40 millennia ago, when for the first time H. sapiens reached territory never reached by H. erectus. Europe was reached by H. sapiens around 40 millennia ago, replacing the Neanderthal population. East Asia was reached by 30 millennia ago.

The date of migration to North America is disputed; it may have taken place around 30 millennia ago, or considerably later, around 14 millennia ago. The Pacific islands of Polynesia began to be colonized around 1300 BC, and completely colonized by around 900 AD. The ancestors of Polynesians left Taiwan around 5200 years ago.

Family Migrations

By David Beagan

Willmore

England

1735

|

James

England

1761

|

James

America

1819

|

George

1845

|

Charles

1870

|

Willis

1903

|

Alpha

1939

|

Me

As a child, I don't remember taking many vacations, but it seemed like every year we would travel to this place that was like another world. We lived in Michigan, known for having flat terrain. At least every year we would travel to the place where my mom is from, West Virginia. My parents, brother, sister and I would travel by car, as long as an eight hour drive back then, and somehow end up in this special place. I remember being fascinated by the fact that we would drive through West Virginia, leave it, and then reenter it again a short time later. I couldn't quite comprehend why this was the fastest route. But I implicitly knew that it must be, otherwise my dad would take that shorter route. Northern West Virginia, south of Morgantown, is a very rugged area. I would always wonder if there was any flat area there.

We would stay with my mom's parents, in the earliest days we would stay in the "old-home-place." I have dim memories of this place, with a wood burning stove and no indoor plumbing. We would have to drive several miles through back roads to get there. In this backwoods place with trees, fields, animals, and rough lives, I learned about a place that seemed much less civilized than the one I normally lived in. We would visit and see many relatives over the course of several days, some of them

above ground, some at the graveyard. On several early visits I even had the privilege of meeting my great-grandmother Florence.

I didn't think much about how these people came to be in this place, or the many hardships that they endured to live there. I would hear stories of many different relatives but it was too hard to keep track of everyone, and how I was related to them, in these tales. As I got older I began to wonder how did all these people come to be in this place. They would talk about a house even older than the old home place that my great grandmother and great grandfather had lived in. But who came before them and where did they come from?

Now many years later, to my amazement my very resourceful friend -- a real genealogical genius -- has traced my mother's paternal line back to England.

In 1735 Wilmore William Male was born in England, married Elizabeth and had a son, James in 1761. Sometime

after that, they crossed the ocean and found their way to Romney Virginia, more than a hundred miles west of Baltimore, Maryland. James had a son he named James in 1819. James had a son George in 1845, and the Males by then had found their way another 80 miles to Grafton the town just few miles the old home place that I would visit as a child on those trips.

George in turn had a son in 1870, Charles Mayle. Now I remember my mom talking about grandpa Charley who was as bald as a cue ball. For some reason along the way the name Male became Mayle. I had an uncle tell me one time that he thought that certain relative wanted to dissociate themselves from other relatives. The fact is that standardization of spelling in general is a relatively recent phenomenon and people didn't see a need for consistent spelling. This adds an extra level of challenge to those doing genealogical research.

Charlie had a son Willis in 1903. Willis was my Mom's father, my grandfather. I remember visiting him when I was a kid. Grandpa Willis would lie on the floor and tease me that if I got within his arm's reach he

would grab me and cut off my ears. So the next year my Mom told me that we would get grandpa a shirt for a gift and then he wouldn't want to cut my ears off. I was so relieved.

Starting with my mom as the first generation back, I can trace back six generations to James who was born in England and his father Willmore the seventh generation. It is simply amazing I have this information about my family heritage.

Additional research into other branches of my tree reveals that I have African American heritage and Indian American heritage. In spite of my pasty white complexion I do have many relatives whose appearance belies a mixed heritage. Truth be told, most everyone is probably more diverse than they know. With the inevitable migrations of people across America and the world, a mixing of peoples was bound to happen.

George Male, circa 1875



Kudos to Arizona

By Robert Bickmeyer

Kudos to Governor Jan Brewer, the legislature and 70 percent of the people of Arizona for being the only state with the courage to get tough with illegal immigrants. Although ten other states, as of this writing, are considering laws to get tough. In a Roper Poll 85 percent of Americans agree illegal immigration is a serious problem and 67 percent favor deportation. So why are the remaining 39 states and our federal government not taking similar action? And why do minorities rule in this country?

President Obama sympathizes with these aliens as the Arizona law would require them to carry documentation. There is already a federal law requiring legal aliens to carry documentation. Why not illegals? When travelling in most other countries U.S. citizens must carry some documentation. It is no hardship.

Many contend that it is impossible to deport all of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants, we might as well legalize them. Using that logic it is impossible to stop bank robberies and rape, so we might as well legalize them. Both arguments are equally silly. If something is illegal, you do your best to minimize it, even if you cannot wipe it out.

Harsh laws penalizing employers of illegal would put many of them out of work and tend to send some back to their country. Many could be arrested for violating our laws and transported back across the border.

Admittedly, a small percentage of the 12 million would thus be sent home, but a strong message would be sent to others in their homeland, reducing the incentive for them to sneak into our country.

Then there are those who contend a baby born in the U.S. to two non-citizens is automatically a U.S. citizen and then would be separated

from his parents if they are deported. How silly! The parents, I am sure, would take their child with them. Even further, what nonsensical logic was used to grant this baby automatic citizenship?

Meanwhile, we prevent further infiltrations of our border in every way we can - increase our border control, build walls and fences, rotate National Guard units, whatever. In 2005 Border Patrol officials nabbed 577,418 illegals on the Arizona side of the border and 14,323 were non-Mexican. Of those, 407 came from countries known to harbor terrorists. Aside from the illegal immigrants is our war on drugs crossing the border because of demand by foolish gringos. Another excellent reason to complete the fence and tighten control of our border.

Those who argue that we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants should know that legal immigrants "pass muster." They are interviewed, investigated and often, after years of waiting, are accepted into this great country. We do the best we can to screen out those with criminal records or illness and to issue visas to professionals - doctors, lawyers, engineers and people with exceptional abilities who would benefit the United States. On becoming a citizen they must take an Oath of Allegiance that concludes with, "So help me God." The immigration law lists 31 reasons for barring an alien from entering the U.S. In 1921 Congress passed a quota law, limiting the number of immigrants. It has always been recognized that an open border is detrimental to our nation.

In conclusion, I am pleased to advise that 30 states have English only laws. When will they be joined by the other 20 states and the federal government?

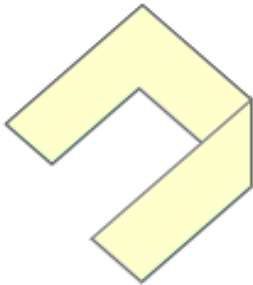
Mental Exercise

Can You Answer These?

By David Beagan

Train of Thought. Alliteration is to rhyme as locomotive is to _____ ?

Unfolding Letter. Puzzlemaster Scott Kim invented this one as a schoolboy. The figure below is a letter of the alphabet that has been cut of paper and folded just once. It is not the letter L. What letter is it?



Binary Dates. On the first day of October I noticed that the date could be called a binary date. That is, the date in six-digit format, 10-01-10, is made up of all ones and zeros. How many days in this century are binary?

Hidden Picture. On the table is a gold box, a silver box and a lead box. One of these boxes contains a picture of the fair princess Rowena. The White Knight must figure out which box has her picture without opening any of the boxes. To assist him in his task each box has an inscription. The gold box inscription: "Rowena's picture is in this box." The silver box inscription: "Rowena's picture is not in this box." The lead box says, "Rowena's picture is not in the gold box."

The King gives the White Knight one more clue: one of the statements, and only one, is true. Where's the picture?

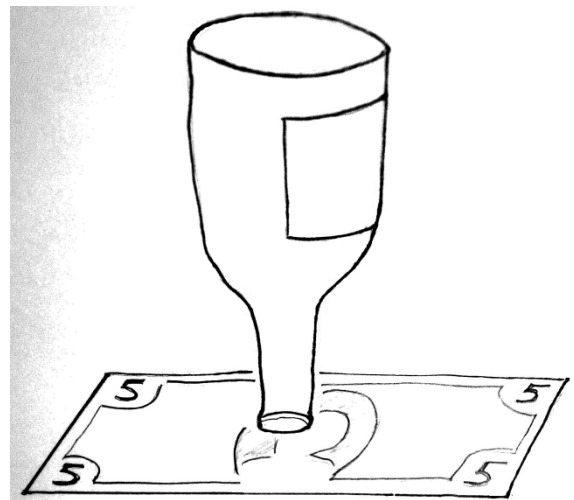
Cubed Calendar. You have two wooden cubes and a magic marker. Your task is to write on the cubes so they can be used to show the day of the month on their top faces. For example, if today is the 3rd of the month, the first cube would have a zero and the second cube would have a three. The 22nd of the month, the first cube would show a two, and the second cube would show a two. Each cube has six sides, and with those six sides you need to

be able to represent every single date any month. How can you accomplish this?

Auto Invention. In the early 1930's a young inventor came up with an idea for a little gadget which could be installed in an automobile. Even though people were afraid it would be distracting to drivers, the gadget sold out within minutes. What was the gadget?

What's Wrong. An elderly man nods off while watching TV with his wife. He has a dream in which he is a leader of the French Revolution, and he is brought to the guillotine to be executed. At this point, his wife happens to notice that he's asleep. Just as he dreams that the blade is falling, she taps him on the back of the neck with her fan to wake him up. The shock of thinking that the blade has arrived to lop off his head makes him have a heart attack, and he dies on the spot. What is wrong with this story?

Bill Extraction. Here's a challenge. You are presented with a bottle propped up on a bill. How can you remove the bill from under the bottle, but you cannot touch the bottle with anything except the bill itself. You might be quick enough to jerk the bill very fast without the bottle falling over. But there is a much more reliable way that works every time. Can you figure it out?



Answers on Page 14

The Changing Economy

By Bala Prasad

The next time your blood starts to boil over the illegal immigration problem, consider this: the majority of illegal immigrants who enter our country come for one purpose and one purpose alone -- to find a job. And who do you think hires them? We do. And by "we," I mean Americans who are lawfully present in this country. It is American individuals and American companies and businesses that continue to provide financial incentive to people who cross our borders illegally.

Now, please do not misunderstand me, dear reader. I am not justifying illegal immigration. There are estimates of up to 20 million illegal immigrants currently in America, and this is a serious problem that requires a serious solution. But I am trying to shed some light on why it happens. A person born on the less affluent side of an international border has limited opportunities and choices. But this great country was, is, and always will be the land of opportunity -- so people come here thinking they will find opportunity and we as Americans are providing them with such opportunities.

Illegal immigration started the way most illegal schemes start out -- from greed. American farmers did not want to compete in the open market for farm workers; instead they desired unlimited cheap labor so that they could make bigger profits. It was not long before other industries saw this same opportunity to drive down their labor costs by using illegal workers. Thus, the floodgates opened.

So, it is the height of hypocrisy for American individuals and businesses to hire illegal workers so they can have cheap labor (and ultimately make more money), but at the same time dump on the rest of us the social cost of illegal immigrants such as medical care and educating their children. And, to add insult to injury, the politicians who stand firmly against illegal immigration are often also against any kind of real penalty against employers who hire illegal immigrants. But they cannot and should not be able to have it both ways -- they should not be able to cry about illegal immigration but want to

protect the crooked employers who hire them. However, as long as there is no disincentive to employers who hire illegal aliens (i.e. no penalty), then the jobs will continue to be there and immigrants will continue to come, be it legally or illegally.

And, while the illegal immigrant may not complain because they are so happy to be employed, it is important to note that illegal workers are abused and cheated by employers who know they will not be reported. Illegal immigrants are notoriously underpaid and overworked -- to say nothing of their working conditions. This is not good for anybody.

It is also not just big business that offers opportunities for illegal immigrants. Middle to upper class Americans all over the country are openly hiring illegal immigrants to care for their children, do their housework, upkeep their home. I am not saying I am against this practice in principal -- I think at the end of the day every citizen has to make choices that work for them -- but I am saying it is illogical, hypocritical, and just plain foolish to complain that there are too many "illegals" in the country and then to turn around and put them on your payroll. Be consistent, if nothing else dear reader.

So the next time you get agitated about illegal immigration, be sure to save some of that anger for the Americans who employ them, and thereby perpetuate the problem. They are as guilty as the ones who are here illegally.

Sincerely,

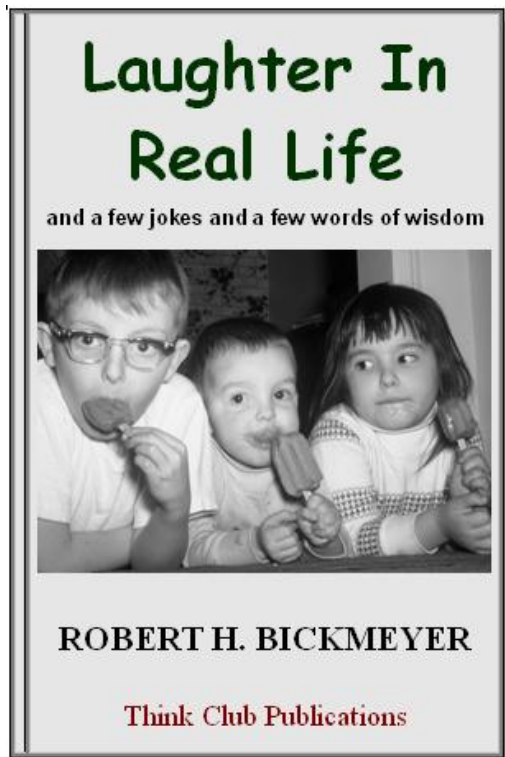
Bala Prasad

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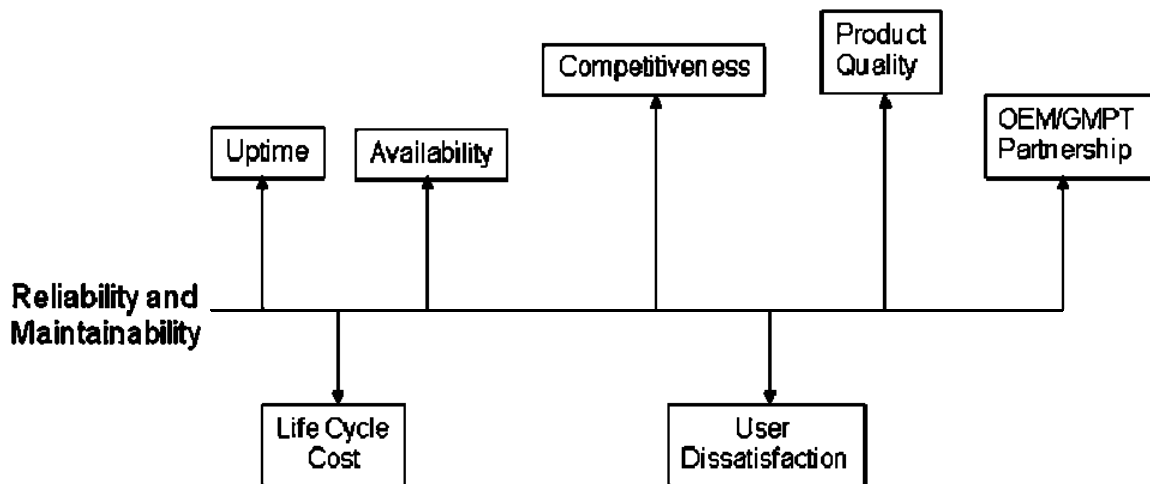
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