

A forum to encourage independent thinking

The THINK Club

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A World Without Borders

India Still Emerging

TheThinkClub Book of the Year: 'Poorvabhas'

<http://www.poorvabhas.in/>

www.thethinkclub.com

Book of the
Year

Press Release

February 8, 2012The Think Club Publications
Announces Book of the Year Award for 2011

Bloomfield Hills, MI, December 8, 2012 The Think Club Publication has chosen 'Poorvabhas' (<http://www.poorvabhas.in/>) for its 2011 Book of the Year award. Think Club Publications, from now on, will give this award to struggling and lesser known writers in helping and encouraging them in their endeavor. Think Club Publication may also choose writers from languages other than English. This year we chose the Hindi language. The Think Club chose 'Poorvabhas' for the award because of its effort in promoting fledgling Hindi writers through its web publication. 'Poorvabhas' has very effectively provided such a platform to amateur writers in an effort to strengthen Hindi language. Think Club Publications realizes the value of this effort and thus presents the Book of the Year award for 2011 to 'Poorvabhas.' We especially congratulate Mr. Abnish Singh Chauhan for creating such an effective platform for Hindi writers and poets.

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Thinking Wildly

You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

--Mark Twain

Russian Proverb

We are not wealthy enough to buy cheap things.

(Because they don't last, and then you have to buy another.)

German Proverb

Quality is remembered long after price is forgotten.

I used to think that the brain was the most wonderful organ in my body. Then I realized who was telling me this.

--Emo Phillips

The best way to predict the future is to invent it.

-- Alan Kay

The great masses of the people will more easily fall victims to a big lie than to a small one.

--Adolf Hitler

Don't fall in love with politicians, they're all a disappointment. They can't help it, they just are.

--Peggy Noonan

There is a broader anxiety about what is private. It's not that politicians are behaving more badly. We're just learning about it more often.

--Paul Apostolidis

There is lust in man no charm can tame
Of loudly publishing his neighbor's shame
On eagles wings immortal scandals fly
while virtuous actions are born and die.

--William Harvey

India Still Emerging

By Musafir

Delhi: India has arrived in many respects, although it is not quite there yet. At the outset, one cannot resist noticing Delhi's world class airport, wide, divided avenues leading to the city accentuated by high rise apartments, business and hotel complexes rising along its way. One cannot skip India's on-going investment in infrastructure symbolized by a clean and efficient subway system on giant beams and pillars spanning all of greater Delhi. The stretch between Delhi and Gurgaon is connected by a multi-lane toll way. One cannot overlook dense tall buildings and rows of super malls capable of satisfying an array of eclectic desires.

People are wealthier and happier. The middle class never had it this good before. The availability of cheap domestic help makes their lives quite comfortable. It is not uncommon to hear the remark, "I do not like to work like a maid as our folks in the USA do."

The youth of India, especially the girls, look well groomed, well dressed and beautiful. They seem very confident about their future unlike our generation who only witnessed gloom and doom. If youth be the future of a country, India is definitely blessed.

Lucknow: Contrary to premature obituaries of India's cottage industry and craftsmanship, I found them well, alive and thriving. The sale of cottage industry products are growing by leaps and bounds in city outlets. The diaspora cannot seem to get enough of them. In Lucknow, the capital of the largest state of India (by population), I found plentiful *chikan* embroidery. I had to wait in line to pay for my purchases in downtown Lucknow. This is also true for other crafts including fabric, pottery, jewelry, metal craft, stone carving, paintings, furniture and wood carving to name a few.

My wife is from Lucknow and we got married there. The citizens of Lucknow have a reputation for their eloquence. The Muslim population of Lucknow is reputed for its refined manner and poetic wittiness. Though they (the Muslims of Lucknow) have fallen on hard times, they are proud of their cultural heritage. Our driver in Lucknow was an old, destitute Muslim gentleman. He kept his head high and insisted on taking our luggage to the fourth floor by himself at the age of 72. It was a pleasure talking to him in *Urdu*. He insisted that I recite my *rubais* (a particular Urdu style of poem) to him. He immediately framed his own poems to have a

poetic dialogue with me. Of course, his poems were very scholarly compared to my rudimentary caliber, nonetheless, it was a pleasure having a literary exchange with him.

Bihar: We flew to Patna in the state of Bihar with lots of apprehension about its backwardness, crime and abuse of women. Mr. Nitish Kumar, the present Chief Minister of Bihar (for the last six years) has brought drastic changes in the state. Bihar has the second largest growth rate in India after Gujarat. Several of the local and global food processing companies are establishing facilities there. Bihar is getting a new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian School of Management (IIM) and a mining school. Crime is under control. Women and girls move freely in cities and villages during all hours of the day. Mr. Kumar has established a hotline that any girl in Bihar can use. The police get to the scene immediately and the perpetrator is immediately arrested. It is girl power in all its glory. Every girl who finishes high school is given a bike by the government. Girls in Bihar have a newly found confidence from the protection provided to them. They are pretty, witty, bold and smart.

My village had been the most neglected of all. Now a four lane expressway passes through it which has brought businesses, bazaars and hotels near it. There is a plan to construct a big shopping mall near my village.

Mumbai: Mumbai certainly is the crown jewel of India. The city has one of the prettiest ocean-side drives in the world. We were near India Gate until 1 am. As we were leaving the restaurant, the customers were still walking in. Mumbai never sleeps.

Despite India's still emerging status, one can notice as many BMWs, Mercedes and Land Rovers in Mumbai as in any of the major cities of the world. It was a pleasure to take a ride on Mumbai's newly completed Seal Link that has reduced the driving time between the Airport and downtown by an hour. Sea Link, an engineering marvel has become, Mumbai's latest landmark.

Other observations: The fact that impressed us most about India is that every person below the poverty level is given an annual allowance of 30,000 rupees for health care. That includes vision, dental and other medical

Continued on Page 12

Politics: a Profession or a Corruption?

By Umesh Rohtagi

Warren Buffet one of the richest men in the world recently said that the corruption and budget deficits of all countries of the world can be abolished in one stroke, provided the politicians are restricted to serving only one term. Because politics is not a profession but a service to the community, everybody should have an equal chance to serve the public.

Now let us examine what is meant by politics as a profession. The answer will be self apparent, of course it is not. We do not have any schools or colleges for politicians in the entire world like we have for professions like engineers, doctors, accountants or MBAs. Politics is a mere subject, a topic in social studies. People want to bring changes to governance with new ideas, energy and urge other to come forward to serve the public. Before that, they have their own profession or business to run and they know full well that they can go back to it afterwards. Politics is neither a profession nor corruption.

The reality at the ground level of politics is different as soon as one enters politics. It becomes clear that you cannot bring about change without becoming part of a party or by convincing others to become a partner and join their cause. Democracy is the rule of the majority votes but not a majority of the party seat of Congress, BJP or others in parliament (or any Legislative body). That is the intention of the constitution, but when it becomes a party majority and for longer periods, rule is to be maintain, it becomes CORRUPTION. Why can't a person or group of people work to together for the public good for the cause of making good rules. How it is implemented should be left to the Administration. The question of whether it was implemented properly or not should be left to the Judiciary. This should be followed not to the letter but in spirit, supreme reason is to improve the lives of the public with good governance. This must be carried with complete trust in all three branches Legislative, Administration and Judiciary.

Whereas we see that this noble purpose of politics has been misused, so much so, that it has become a family brand and generational profession – a dynasty and nobody wished to leave once they entered to make room for others. They develop a lust for it. The reason is very clear that the perks they get as politicians are so great compared to other professions that it is easy to fell prey to the same. Once they come take their seat of Governance, they forget how their constituents are

coping with problems. They have the same amenities at home as these politicians are enjoying. Some of the parties wish to hang on to a seat for making promises and making a fool of the public so long as that public forgets what they promised during the election. These parties really forget the Ground Realities and the purpose for why they are put in this place. The most important reason is to serve the public. The main reason is THERE IS NO SEPERATION OF POWERS AND AREA OF WORK AND IDEALY NO INTERFRENE IN EACH OTHER WORK, BUT RESPECT FOR EACH OTHERS CONTRIBUTION TO GOOD GOVERNANCE.

It can only be achieved when we have TRUST in each other's capabilities and the intention to serve, not to rule. Unfortunately it cannot be achieved with the existing set of rules, regulations and Laws. The reasons are well known and need not be spelled out here. What happens many times is that a party just wishes to remain in power. not by solving public problems but by giving empty slogans and always taking shelter that there is a population problem, a resource problem, or they become a problem for the public. If you run out of options, make room for others to try their might.

Now let us take time to understand why this is so in present day politics. You must have heard there are urban gangs creating havoc in urban and rural areas, this role is played by different thugs. Why they do is because alone they cannot exist but together they can do what they want, ignoring the most basic rules of civil society. Clearly in present day politics all the basic tenets of serving civilly, even the constitution, are ignored. They are not only acting as gangsters but at least 30% are like that in all elected offices and with their shelter the administrative staff. The Judiciary has become like thugs and dacoits. Two exceptions of 540 MP are Millionaire and residing in big palatial bungalows and worried about the next generation how to make them politicians. Can they feel for the unfortunates, 40% of whom are living Below the Poverty Line which is joke as well 26 Rs/day in Rural areas and 32 Rs/day in Urban areas. The biggest mistake we the public make is to provide a home in the seat of Government and the second mistake is to make the legislative member "MINISTERS" (some time 1/3 of total MPs). Once they become ministers, the people of

Continued on Page 8

The Portable "Dog Killer"

By Steve Gibson

It's 1971, I'm a 16 year old sophomore in high school. We had a real problem with a dog in the neighborhood. I don't know if this dog was clinically rabid or what its problem was. It was about two blocks away from where I lived. The people who owned this dog had sort of an RV trailer parked in the backyard, and a fence which went right up to the sidewalk. The fence had a gate at an unused driveway. The fence had two wings on the gate that were pushed in just at the bottom, so that it was sort of flapping open if there was any pressure on it.

People walking by the sidewalk would virtually be attacked by this amazingly vicious dog. I'm a dog person. I grew up with dogs. I love dogs. But this dog was just unbelievable. It would scare the bejeezus out of people because they'd be walking on the sidewalk, and this thing would hear them and come galloping through the backyard and lunge at the top of this gate, which looked like it was about to spring open. I think it was a German shepherd, and it was big. I don't know what could have been in the owner's mind. They must have known this was a problem, must have been getting complaints from people. But times were different then. Dogs were not on leashes. Dogs roamed the streets.

One day, as I was coming around my block, there was this elderly lady – and this all happened in San Mateo, up in Northern California. The dog scared this elderly lady so much that she tripped and fell off the sidewalk into the street. It was that big a problem. It was just unbelievable. I thought, okay, I need to take matters into my own hands. This dog needs some training, it's not okay to rush at people and lunge at the gate. And the gate looks like it's about to give way because it's only pinned at the bottom and wasn't closed at the top.

I thought, in order to train this aberrant canine, I need to do something that will shock it, something to give it an experience which is negative which is completely outside of its normal daily experience. So I thought, I need some sort of a loud sonic weapon. My parents were divorced at the time, my father and his wife living up in the city, in San Francisco. My sister and I would jump on the train Friday afternoons and take it up to San Francisco, and then the trolleys over to the

marina on the other side of the city, where Dad and his wife were. And then Saturday mornings was sort of free-for-all time. Basically, it was "Kids, get out of the house. Go play." One of my favorite areas in the city was Mission Street. It was a couple blocks out of the city from Market Street, the main drag. And back then Mission Street was lined with war surplus stores.



And so I was hacking when I was five. There's a picture of me that Dad took before I was five years old, in the backyard building something with wiring circuits and things. I would just spend hours in these war surplus stores. Radar sets, dynamometers, it was like nirvana for me. But this particular weekend I was on a mission because I had to build some sort of a sonic beam weapon in order to deal with this dog.

Mom just said, "Okay, I don't know what you're doing, just don't kill yourself." So I found the pieces I needed over the course of a week or two. I found this amazing grip, perhaps from a helicopter trigger handle or something. It was a gun grip with a switch in it, perfect. I needed a transducer, some sort of a high-frequency, high-powered transducer. Rummaging around in these bins with my sister sort of in tow - she's two years younger than me. I found some sort of a piezo – it was in a black steel casing, a piezoelectric crystal with a pointed silver dome. I said that looks like the right kind of thing.

None of this cost anything. It was 50 cents for this, two bucks for something else. I also found just a perfect photoflash parabolic reflector that at the widest part it was probably ten inches in diameter.

I needed a body for it. In San Mateo down on 42nd Avenue was a real electronics store. Not like a cheesy Radio Shack. This was 42nd Avenue Electronics. I found a steel little mini box to – I think it was two inches by

Continued on Following Page

Continued from Previous Page

two inches by six – to be the body of the gun. Then set about building this sonic weapon. There was a chip at the time called the NE555. I think Signetics innovated this thing. It was this incredibly versatile oscillator.

I wanted the frequency to be – I understood that dogs have very sensitive hearing, and they're able to hear outside the range that we can, like the classic dog whistle where we blow it and the dogs perk up. We hear air blowing, or maybe sense something. But on the other hand, I didn't want it to be supersonic because I wanted to know if it was working. So I wanted to be able to hear it, too. So I pitched it somewhere like around 15 KHz, high, but still audible to us.

It had power settings. At that time "Star Trek" was happening, and they had phasers. I was obviously modeling this on something sort of that I'd seen in science fiction. I had a knob on the back with four positions: off, just so you wouldn't hit the trigger by mistake, and then three power settings. There were three different colored dots that I got at the stationery store, a green dot, a yellow dot, and a red dot. This thing had three nine-volt transistor radio batteries in it. The green dot gave it nine volts on the output stage. The yellow dot was 18 volts, and the red dot was 27 volts, all three batteries ganged in series.

And so I assembled the oscillator, built the output, the power amplifier stage that was transformer coupled to this piezoelectric transducer, and it worked. Then I mounted the pistol grip on the bottom of the box, and this perfect photoflash parabolic mirror on the front. The transducer was positioned in the focus of the parabolic mirror. The machine was finished. I called this the "portable dog killer."

It wasn't that I wanted to kill this dog. Certainly not. But the dog would have killed anybody walking by if it could get loose. This animal was out of control. So the name was more inspired by the fact that the dog was the killer than that this was going to do any killing. I just wanted to teach the pooch that it's not safe any longer to go lunging at passersby. The fence was at the edge of the sidewalk, this was a hazard to public health. Frankly, I was probably saving the dog's life, or I hoped to, by training it not to do this because sooner or later something horrible was going to happen, and the dog would be put down.

It really worked. Two things I remember about it vividly: I was surprised by how quiet it was off axis. The parabolic mirror really did focus the beam of sound that it produced so that it didn't hurt to be the shooter or bystanders. But boy, if you aimed this at yourself, it made the weirdest sensation. It was pitched down low enough, but it was really loud. Something about the

phasing of it with your ears made this weird sort of like bone-crunching feeling in the middle of your head. It was just strange. Anyway, I thought this ought to do the trick.

So I snuck up to the gate the first time, "Here, doggie," or something to that effect. I heard galloping and a roar, as usual. I blasted it in the face pointblank.

The dog was never hurt, it wouldn't hurt ants. But the dog's legs collapsed, I mean, they fell out, it fell to the ground and then ran away as fast as it possibly could.

So I thought, okay, round one. An hour later I came back and nudged the fence a little bit, and I heard galloping and a roar. I blasted it again. This went on for a couple hours.

A few hours later I went up to the fence, and the dog didn't attack. I will never forget – because, I mean, this animal would have taken your head off – peeking over the fence. I could see its nose and one eye peering fearfully around the corner of the house. I was delighted with this. I think it took about three days before the first shot of the day wouldn't, like the dog was realizing, okay, this is just not something I'm going to be able to continue doing. This had been its favorite thing, attacking people, for who knows, months or years.

So that was done. Now, my buddies at school had sort of been aware of the project. I was telling them what I was doing. They wanted to see it. It's show-and-tell day. So I brought the portable dog killer to high school. Before first period, the gang had gotten together. We had what we called the MRC Gang, which was the Math Resource Center. In other words, this is the geek, this is the nerd group of the high school, a Math Resource Center group.

I don't remember which one of us it was, but we had a real problem in the school. Aragon High School in San Mateo was in the form of a huge square doughnut. So it was open in the middle, and there was an Olympic-size swimming pool and some other concrete on a lower level. Sloping up from the lower level, up to the normal class level, was this huge green lawn with some trees. We called it "the quad" because it was a quadrangle. And then in the inner perimeter was sort of sidewalk, and against the wall were all of the student lockers. So this large square structure, one single structure, was the entire high school with classes all around the outer perimeter, going out in spoked halls from the center quad.

We had a problem with seagulls, being not far from the ocean. They were constantly circling around, no

Continued on Following Page

Continued from Previous Page

doubt looking for potato chips, unguarded sandwiches or scraps of food that students would leave behind. Unfortunately they created a big mess just with their droppings. We shot a seagull with the device. It nearly knocked the seagulls out of the sky.

We're 16-year-olds. We had no videogames. Now we had a beam weapon like we saw on "Star Trek." We had one, and it shot birds. It didn't kill them, but it definitely surprised them. This was the best thing that had ever happened to us. It was like, something was reacting to this gun. It was fantastic.

Aragon High School was performing an experiment in the district. This was the second year of what was called "flexible scheduling," like college scheduling. Instead of all students being in class periods one through seven, we had blocks of free time scattered throughout the day, different times and different days of the week. Very trendy. And we loved it. That meant that various members of the gang had free time in different slots. It became a matter of handing the gun to one another. And we would, in small groups that were free during that period, lay on the grass, having target practice.

We thought it was just fantastic. Each seagull reacted a little differently, but there was definitely a reaction. You knew when you got a shot off. That's the way we spent the day, having the time of our life.

At the time I was creating curriculum for third year electronics. The high school had Electronics I and II, which was the first two semesters, teaching basic electrical theory using vacuum tubes, unfortunately. And the teacher, Harold Ferrin was a neat guy, old, gnarly, ex-Navy – tubes were what he knew. For him, transistors were a big deal. He wasn't quite sure about them. Electronics III and IV were in the second year. I felt like I'd died and gone to heaven, to actually be in school taking electronics. I'd force-fed myself this stuff years before. But now I was actually getting credit for it and had a lot of enthusiasm for it. At one point I said, "Mr. Ferrin, what about digital electronics? It's nice that we learned about tubes last year, and transistors are good, but the future is digital." And he said, "Well, I don't know digital." And I said, "Well, it's really not that hard." And he said, "Well, why don't you teach it?"

And so during my sophomore year I created an entire curriculum for third-year electronics. I heard years later that it had gone district-wide and was being taught throughout the whole San Mateo Union High School District.

After school, I would go into the electronics lab and work on this stuff. I had free rein. I'd come to the attention of the administration very early on. I think it

might have been the incident with the shock machine. I'm not quite sure what the first, but Mr. Ferrin knew that he could trust me to be left alone in the lab.

This afternoon of the sonic beam weapon, I was probably leaving around 4:30. The school was completely deserted, completely empty, the whole quad was empty. I went to my locker, got my books and the portable dog killer. To this day I don't know what I was thinking.

Outside, I saw on the far other side of the quad Mr. Archibald, the assistant principal. There was good cover where I was. We had these big concrete containers for the garbage and big cement planters. I crouched down behind one of these containers and shot Mr. Archibald with the portable dog killer. He was a long way away and I was hidden. What completely jarred me was his reaction. You would think that a regular person being shot at great distance by a sonic beam weapon would be a little confused. They'd look around, look up maybe, wondering what is going on. Not Mr. Archibald. He spun around.

I was hidden, undercover. That's what took my breath away. It's like, oh, my god. I just – I didn't expect a reaction like that. He stood there motionless, trying to take in the entire scape of this huge high school quad. And he just – he was motionless. He was looking for anything. I'm thinking, oh my god. I was probably starting to shake at this point. But I kept my cover. He stood there, slowly looking from side to side. And then he appeared to give up. He turned back around and continued walking in the direction he had been before.

So I stood up and started to get the heck out of the quad. But I kept one eye on him, of course, because he was the danger. Well, he had faked me out. He spun around again and saw me and pointed at me. He beckoned with his other hand. He's smart. How did he know?

And so we met about halfway in front of the office wing. I was doing everything I could with my body language to have this gun be as inconspicuous as possible. It wasn't inconspicuous at all. I mean, it was clearly a gun. It was a ray gun. That's the way I designed it with a power control knob on the back with green, yellow, and red, and a big reflector out the front. So it was dangling at my side, as inconspicuously as possible. We approached. He looked at me and said, "Steven?"

I said, "Hello, Mr. Archibald." And he looks down at it and then back at me and said, "What is that?"

And I said, "Well, it's a sonic beam gun." I wasn't going to use its real name. And he said, "I see."

"And did you just shoot me with it?"

Continued on Following Page

Continued from Previous Page

"Uh, yes, sir, I did."

He said, "And where did you get that?" And I said, "I built it." He said, "You designed it?" I said, "Yes." And he said, "Why?" I gave an abbreviated version of the dog story, about training this dog so it doesn't try to attack people any longer. And he said, "Was that successful?" I said, "It was."

He said, "You brought it to school this morning?" I said, "Uh-huh." And he said, "And were you shooting it all day long?" And I said, "Um, well, it turns out that it also shoots seagulls and pretty much knocks them out of the sky." He said, "I see." And so I said, "My friends and I..." He said, "The MRC Gang?" I said, "Oh, you know about that?" He says, "I know everything."

And I said, "Well, yeah. We were sort of handing it around during our various free periods for target practice. It didn't seem to be a problem." He said, "Oh, we'll be talking about problems in a minute. We began getting phone calls in the morning from teachers all over the school who were reporting high-frequency sounds. They didn't know what was wrong. They thought maybe the heater system had gone on the blink. So we called the district engineers."

"And they came out, and they heard these sounds, too. We heard them in the office wing, as well. Everyone was hearing them. And they thought maybe it was the ultrasonic alarm system that protects the school had gone on the fritz. And of course we couldn't close down the school with an alarm system that wasn't functional because there'd be all kinds of consequences for that. So they worked on the alarm system, trying to figure out if it had gone wonky somehow. So now we know what it was. It was you and your sonic beam weapon."

He admitted, "I guess I'm glad you shot me because the mystery is solved. Now, I want you to take that home. And I don't want to ever see it or hear it again."

He knew me. I was a good kid. I'm sure that the office knew I had permission even to stay in the electronics lab after hours and all that because Mr. Ferrin was very much by the book, being ex-Navy. He was not liked by most students, who thought he was way too rigid. I just thought he was great. So I took the gun home, put it on the shelf. My friends and I were all very disappointed. They were all anticipating many more days of target practice. Although, to be fair, I have to say that by the end of the day there really weren't so many seagulls any longer, circling around overhead.

Well, I think they decided this is not where we want to be. So that's the story of the portable dog killer.

Continued from Page 4

Politics: Profession or Corruption

the area lose their representative. These Ministers become merely a clerk signing files day in day out. It will not be out of place that some of the MP's, once they occupy these homes, never wish to leave even if they are not MP now. One Mira Kumar sister of Babu Jagjivan Ram still lives in one such bungalow. How can you expect these MP's to ever pass a bill to make rules – for One term or Jan lok Pal Bill. Have you ever seen a Goonda leaving his domain by choice? We need a collective resolve as the Public to make a change.

Resolve:

- One term per family for all legislative elected representatives and had to be Graduate.
- Clear demand for issue which can be handled in one term.
- No place to stay in place where seat of governance. Only hostel type of facility.
- Power to recall if 10% or a reasonable number of people signed a petition.
- Zero tolerance for corruption in all branches of Governance- three mistakes and out.
- Reducing the perks like car drivers and domestic servants and number of closed holidays.
- Review and Scrap of all rules and regulations which hinders the freedom to work.
- Balance budget all the time no more borrowing.
- All BPL should get money in their bank accounts directly instead of PDS (Public Distribution System).
- No pension for life as they all has their day time profession.
- Clear and simple rules so public can understand in all local languages public servants should help instead of interrogate the public
- With the use of computers and better communication the size of Governance be reduced. It is not cost effective. Smaller the Governance the better the public.
- All Part of Governance staff be called Public Servants as it is known all over the developing world and reflects the real meaning and purpose to be in their positions.

Media Bias

By Robert Bickmeyer

There has been much hoopla over the media's bias favoring liberalism. I first became aware of it as I viewed a glaring distortion on television of Richard Nixon speaking at a convention hall in Miami during a presidential campaign, "...before about 3,000" the anchor's voice reported. But my TV screen showed about four or five people carrying signs and protesting against Nixon. The anchor man's voice faded and we viewers heard the chants of the demonstrators. The 3,000 attentive listeners were ignored while the TV cameras zeroed in on the few protestors.

In 1992, 89 percent of the Washington press corps voted for Bill Clinton, just 7 percent voted for then-president George H. W. Bush. During the Republican convention that kicked off the 1996 presidential race I was unable to enjoy listening to Rep. J. C. Watts from Oklahoma as I felt obligated to compare coverage of his speech. Throughout my channel hopping I discovered that Watts' speech was covered in its entirety by CNN, C-Span, The Family Channel and PBS. Meanwhile ABC, CBS and NBC featured Peter Jennings, Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw sitting in the convention hall prattling about anything but J.C. Watts. They did not allow the American public to see this bright but black Republican congressman.

Five days before Election Day 2000, the media broadcast coast-to-coast George W. Bush's drunk driving arrest – 24 years earlier! This obvious ploy by the media very possibly cost Bush the popular vote, although he harmed no one and had given up drinking. This same media had remained silent as Ted Kennedy, whose drunk driving killed a young woman, was re-re-re-elected by wide margins and continued to imbibe. My apologies to the late senator who I had prayed for. I am reluctant to use this comparison, but it can no longer be ignored.

During the 2004 presidential campaign, the supposed superior military service of John Kerry over President Bush was ballyhooed, but military service was overlooked when war heroes George H.W. Bush and Bob Dole ran against draft dodger Bill Clinton.

Throughout his eight years as president Bush was laughed at by the media and comedians for his supposed lack of intelligence. In the National Guard he became a jet pilot. How many dumb pilots do you know? He speaks fluent Spanish. He sailed through Harvard Business School. Al Gore flunked out of divinity school and law school. Hillary Clinton had to take the bar three times before she passed. John Kerry had a lower grade point average than Bush. Compassion compels me to leave Senator Kennedy out of this paragraph.

Pat Summerall, football TV analyst and former star of the New York Giants, told a story after reporting his last Super Bowl. At the end of each NFL game players from both sides of the field meet at midfield, form a circle and kneel in prayer. The TV cameras quickly cut away to the studio in New York. The media is not only anti-Republican, it is anti-religion. How shameful.

Aboard Flight 93 on 9/11/01 Todd Beamer's last reported words were, "Help me, God," but they were cut from the A & E Network's made for TV version of what happened on the doomed aircraft.

When Joy Behar, on "The View," thanked Jesus for something, ABC TV bleeped "Jesus" when the taped show was aired on the West Coast...because it might offend someONE.

I could write a book detailing media's leftist bias, but there are already a few books written on it. For those who don't have the time to read books I will skip forward to President Barack Obama. The media's liberal agenda continued with the arrival of Obama on the political scene. They carried him on their shoulders as he talked his way from community organizer all the way to the presidency of the U.S. of A.

Do you remember the headlines criticizing Bush for spending \$40 million on his inauguration? Not reported was that Obama spent three times that. Did you know that Time Magazine had Obama on its cover 14 times in one year? Shshsh, don't tell anyone what Vice-President Joe Biden said about Obama's readiness for the presidency during his run in the Democratic primary – "Right now, I don't believe he is."

Obama's reference to our 57 states was squelched, as was Nancy Pelosi's reference to 500 million Americans. The famed MSNBC analyst, Chris Mathews, said about Obama, "Every time he speaks I feel a furrowing up my leg."

Oscar winning director, Kathryn Bigelow's SEAL movie about the hunt and death of Osama bin Laden is projected to hit the theaters Oct. 12, 2012, just before Election Day. Its release will reflect President Obama's "gutsy" decision to kill bin Laden, timed to aid his re-election. But the facts are that this terrorist was located by our military intelligence after a painstaking search of ten years. Obama then authorized execution of a plan concocted by others. This will be the culmination of the agenda to re-elect President Obama. Mark your 2012 calendar.

Book Review



Quiet: The Power of Introverts In a World that Can't Stop Talking.

By Susan Cain

This is a compelling book that delves into an

aspect of human behavior that each of us deal with every day. Introversion is often thought of as a condition where people are withdrawn, anti-social, even hermit-like. The author, a life-long introvert, dispels this misrepresentation. Essentially, an introvert is someone who enjoys, even requires, time to themselves, engaging in solitary activities, in order to feel ok and to “recharge their batteries.” Introverts are not necessarily shy people, and many can be quite socially adept. It is just that they need time alone. Current research indicates that from one third to one half of people are introverts.

Extroverts on the other hand, need to have social and group interaction. Time alone drains them of energy. Of the bias in favor of extroverts, Cain says, “In our society, the ideal self is bold, gregarious, and comfortable in the spotlight.”

The author’s tone in the book, and in press interviews to promote the book, has been one of charm, grace, and inclusivity. She let’s introverts know that it is alright to be who they are. To go against their true nature in order to conform in a world that seems to glorify the extrovert, will ultimately lead to discontent and unhappiness.

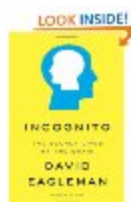
I think the distinction that the author draws between introversion and shyness is enlightening. While there is a correlation between introversion and shyness, each is an independent characteristic. She gives the example of Bill Gates who is introverted but not at all shy and perfectly able to engage in social situations without much concern for what people think about him (maybe a few billion dollars in assets has something to do with that). On the other hand, the renown singer and actress, Barbara Streisand, is extroverted but shy and suffers from bouts of stage fright before performances.

Susan Cain reveals that the current fascination of using group oriented activities as the basis for most any endeavor doesn’t work. “Most schools and workplaces now organize workers and students into groups,

believing that creativity and productivity comes from a gregarious place.” In fact our greatest thinkers have worked in solitude. For example, she provides the compelling list of things that introverts are responsible for creating:

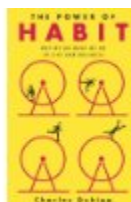
- Newton’s Theory of Gravity
- Einstein’s theory of Relativity
- W.B. Yeats’s ‘The Second Coming’
- Chopin’s nocturnes
- Proust’s ‘In Search of Lost Time’
- J.M. Barrie’s Peter Pan
- Orwell’s ‘1984’ and ‘Animal Farm’
- Dr. Seuss’s, ‘The Cat in the Hat’
- Charles Shultz’s Charlie Brown
- ‘Schindler’s List’ the Movie
- Larry Page and Google
- J.K. Rowling’s “Harry Potter”

Other Thinker’s Books to Explore



Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain
by David Eagleman

Rating four stars out of five.



The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business
by Charles Duhigg

Rating four and a half out of five stars

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Global Citizenship

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

In today's global world, there should be only one kind of border, between the free world and all the rest. Single country citizenship and national loyalty work as an impediment to human progress. The old concept of being born, live, work, pay taxes and die at the same place is outdated. If multinational companies can span the world without borders why can't the citizens do the same? Corporations are no longer loyal to one country. As a result they have no sense of national identity. They are actually becoming so big they are competing with nation states. IBM only has a registered office in the USA. They have outsourced the majority of their jobs and research centers in other parts of the globe. Even Indian companies like the Tata Group run parallel operations in countries outside India.

The barrier of single citizenship is already breaking. The Jews hold multiple citizenships so do the Irish, Italians and others. In European Union law there is the concept of EU citizenship which flows from the citizenship of a member state. Canada's Citizenship Act allows people to be citizens of two or more countries at the same time. In some countries, such as the Republic of Korea, if your grandparents or parents were born there, the Korean government will classify you as a Korean citizen, even if you were born and brought up on foreign soil. In 1998 Mexico changed its laws permitting Mexican-born citizens of other countries to reclaim their Mexican citizenship. According to the Migration Policy Institute, almost half the world's countries tolerate dual nationality. Increased migration and cross-border marriages are giving birth to multinational families and their children are seeking citizenships of both the countries their parents came from.

The concept of single citizenship was needed for fighting wars with other nations. Soldiers were needed for that purpose and those soldiers were required to be loyal to their leaders and to their land. Ironically, the worst traitors have been true-born citizens and that is still true today. However, modern warfare may not require armies. Countries

not requiring mandatory military service are growing in numbers every year. Star wars and technologies such as drones may not require land wars anymore.

Some may argue about the issues such as taxes and votes. Collecting taxes may seem like a hurdle to the global citizenship concept. Countries depend on taxes for revenue and they make sure that their citizens pay taxes to their home country even if they worked outside of it. This is ridiculous. The ideal situation should be that you pay taxes to the country where you work and you should be treated there in the same way as any other resident. Citizens who live abroad should be allowed to vote in the country that they reside in and work in. This will get rid of the thorny issue of who votes.

It is estimated that 20 million Indians and 40 million Chinese are settled outside their national boundaries. They are involved in scientific research, wealth creation and entrepreneurship benefiting their counties of origin and the countries of their residence. They are so entrenched in the affairs of those nations both politically and economically that it is not possible to brand them as belonging to any one country alone. This is becoming true for people of other nationalities too. People are moving wherever they find opportunity and they like to be recognized as contributing members of the society in all aspects of life.

The concept of a borderless world is not new. Socrates declared: "I am not an Athenian, or a Greek, but a citizen of the world." The Tamil poet Kaniyan Poongundran wrote, "To us all towns are one, all men our kin." In later years, political philosopher Thomas Paine declared, "My country is the world, all men are my brethren and my religion is to do good." Albert Einstein described himself as a world citizen and supported the idea throughout his life famously saying "Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind." World citizenship seems to be the only natural way to exist.

Continued from Page 3

India Still Emerging

needs. Though the sum may sound puny, at least people have access to medical facilities and this is certainly a step in the right direction.

As I mentioned in the beginning, India is not there yet. Most of the progress is visible only in big cities. When we measure progress, we must not overlook the masses away from big cities. Eighty percent of the Indian population has neither running water nor an indoor toilet. In Delhi, one cannot see more than a few blocks in any direction as the entire metropolis seems drowned in dust, smog and smoke. It's hard to find any lakes or wooded patches unless one visits designated parks and picnic spots that are few and far between. Water, air and raw food are the biggest health threats along with dengue-fever-carrying mosquitoes.

Health care for the masses is almost non-existent. Big hospitals demand cash before starting any procedure. A close relative of ours in Delhi died of a heart attack, there was no way to rush him to the nearest hospital on time. On arriving at Mool Chand Hospital (a reputed medical facility), he had to climb stairs to go to the cardiology ward. He died before any medical attention was given to him. On arriving at the hospital, I found out that the hospital refused to transfer the body to the relatives for cremation until the family paid for the medical care provided to him. I wondered, "What medical care?" India needs to do much more for its masses.

Sent your comments to:

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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

Illegal Immigration Is Wrong

By Bala Prasad

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

As the words “illegal immigrants” denote, this is against the law. We are a society of law; we are a society that abides by its law. Some laws are inconvenient and irrational. The law is the law and it must be obeyed as all the Supreme Court decisions, whether we agree with them or not. None of these nuances apply to the question of illegal immigration which is a burning topic in this presidential election year, especially for the republican nomination.

Why the varying opinions? Anything illegal should be dealt with as the law mandates. The duration of the illegals stay, the great service they provide and their familial ties should have no bearing on the proper application of law. Illegals should be identified, given sufficient time to get their affairs in order, and then returned to their country. To come back, they would apply for a visa just like foreigner – no preferential treatment.

How are the illegals gaining meaningful employment without a visa or social security number. No doubt, more illegal activities occur to gain employment.

Problems will arise when we are faced with a situation where some families, children and grand children, have been around for many decades, who quite often are American citizens by birth. What happens to these infants, toddlers and adolescents who are American citizens? Do they go back with their parents? If not who will take care of them?

The best management for a situation like this is not allowing it to happen. We should do everything possible to protect our borders. Question is how to do it. Certainly what we have done so far has not worked; otherwise we would not have 11 million of illegals here. Whether we need walls, electrified fences or guards, should be decided by the government who may have many more and different ideas. These concepts have been around for centuries, built walls, dig moats and employ armed guards. Intruders had only two choices left – leave or lay siege. To lay siege to the U.S. by would be nothing short of hilarious.

There will come a time that the resolution of a particular situation requires understanding and compassion, which certainly should be part of the resolution process.

People who argue in favor of illegal immigrants, first bring up the subject of who will do the work the illegals now do. They say most of the jobs are menial that the average American does not want. However, time is a great teacher, and in the age of tightening budgets and less and less governmental handouts, the healthy and young ones learn the satisfaction of a hard earned paycheck after all.

Triumph of the Nerds

By David Beagan

Maybe some are not too young to remember in the 1980s when one of the computer issue of the day was the so-called productivity paradox. The IBM PC and other computing technologies were becoming common in offices. Computers were getting more efficient. But in spite of all of the spending on computer technology, the aggregate statistics of economic productivity failed to show any gains in the growth of the economy. As the wag Robert Solow quipped, "You can see the computer age everywhere but in the productivity statistics."

Various theories were trotted out to explain this paradox. One explanation contended that the gains are there but that they are not measurable by current metrics. Another had it that the gains were just slow showing up. Since that time so much has changed. Computer technology has not only become ubiquitous in the workplace but has insinuated itself into our homes and social lives. Computing technology is just so darn convenient although there is certainly the frustration factor when things don't go right. And while some may question the wisdom of this, no one brings up any productivity paradox.

Quite the contrary, technology and the Internet have been too efficient at increasing productivity by cutting people and jobs out of the process of producing and delivering goods and services. The old line music industry - CDs and tapes -- has been decimated by online music outlets both legal and illegal. Next in the cross-hairs is the movie industry. And the music industry and others are not going down without a fight. In the fall of 2011 Rep. Lamar S. Smith (R-TX) introduced a bill to expand the ability of U.S. law enforcement to fight Internet dispersal of copyrighted intellectual property and counterfeit goods. It allowed for court orders to bar advertising networks and payment facilities from doing business with infringing websites. Search engines could be barred from providing links to the site, and internet providers could be compelled to block the site. Moreover criminal law would impose a maximum penalty of five years in prison for unauthorized streaming of copyrighted content.

This misguided bill is wrong on many levels. It's name, SOPA, stands for Stop Online Privacy Act and PIPA, stands for Protect Intellectual Property Act. Who could be against stopping piracy and protecting intellectual property? Perhaps the most onerous aspect of the bill is that it meets out punishment without due process. By filing a complaint with the Department of Justice a website could be taken offline. The site is not literally shut down, but

service providers are required to disable access to the site making it effectively disappear from the internet. This "guilty until proven innocent" approach is clearly unconstitutional. Furthermore, what mischief could be raised by falsely accusing a site?

So in light of the legitimate concerns by the internet community who see that a free and unencumbered internet has been the foundation of the its success, they mobilized to protest and raise awareness with the general public. The public is either generally unaware of such issues -- until it too late -- or simply accept the bill at face value as a valuable tool to stop piracy. As a reader to network world wrote, "Just read your SOPA article and I guess I'm just not seeing the big picture. If the Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect Intellectual Property Act could put an end to online piracy and stop a lot of those damn viruses, maybe even stop hackers -- what's bad about that? You say bad for business, bad for Internet -- but how? How is stopping/policing the bad stuff on the Internet bad? Give me some real reasons as to why [SOPA/PIPA] is bad. And don't tell me to go read the SOPA/PIPA bills in their entirety."

So on January 18, 2012 a number of prominent web sites, Wikipedia, Moveon.org, Craigslist, user-submitted news site Reddit, the blog Boing Boing Firefox browser creator Mozilla and the Cheezburger network of comedy sites, all went dark. By going dark they blocked access to their sites to show what could happen with the passage of SOPA/PIPA. Wikipedia for example, presented an ominous looking logo and the statement "Imagine a World Without Free Knowledge" and urged viewers to contact their representative in congress.

Political shill (lobbyist) and former US Senator Christopher Dodd stated, "It is an irresponsible response and a disservice to people who rely on them for information and use their services. It is also an abuse of power... when the platforms that serve as gateways to information intentionally skew the facts to incite their users in order to further their corporate interests." But this was just a testament to the effectiveness of the blackout campaign.

Soon support for the bill unraveled. The battle for a free and unfettered internet was won. But the war goes on. Most industry watchers are warning that the supporters of SOPA/PIPA will retrench and come back with another effort to restrict the internet. They will learn from this, realizing that perhaps they overreached, lick their wounds, and come back in a more subtle initiative.

Toxic Baby Bottles

By Niru Prasad

Baby's toxic bottle and Bisphenol A leaching from popular plastic feeding bottles

Recently, there has been a widespread controversy over the use of plastic feeding bottles for our babies. The Canadian and American Environmental health group has conducted a research study in 2008 that established the fact that Bisphenol A is a chemical being used as a lining in plastic bottles, food containers and cans of infant feeding formulas. Several studies are being conducted on Bisphenol A to create a growing awareness among the public to stop the use of plastic feeding bottles.



What is bisphenol A?

It is a hormone disrupting chemical that is the building block of polycarbonate plastic which is used for preparing plastic food containers, beverages and canned infant formulas. The repetitive heating of these items causes leaching of this toxic chemical which is hazardous for our health. Bisphenol A, first synthesized in 1895 was discovered in 1936 to be a synthetic estrogen. This is being utilized in hard polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resin which are used in the lining of some food and beverage containers, dental sealants and sippy cups. Bisphenol A is a developmental, neural, and reproductive toxicant that mimics estrogen as well as interfering with healthy growth and development. Most human exposure to this chemical is through the ingestion of foods when warming milk and other left overs in containers, by using microwaves and dishwashers. Children are especially at risk to this toxin because it affects their growth and development since they have immature organ systems, high metabolism, relatively low body weight and are going through rapid physical growth, resulting in adverse health effects. Several past studies have documented the fact that bisphenol A exposure

to pregnant mothers might lead to mental development abnormalities in babies. Additionally, polycarbonate bottles go through repeated washing in dishwashers along with excess hot water usage which leads to the plastic degrading, resulting in an increased amount of bisphenol A leaching. The plastic also degrades with the help of acid or alkaline substances. For example a bottle containing fruit juice will break apart the bonds that hold a Bisphenol A molecule together. Similarly the use of dishwasher detergents which are alkaline will break the bonds faster leading to the leaching of this chemical.



What are the safety precautions recommended by food and drug administration warnings

- The American academy of pediatrics highly recommends the use of glass or polypropylene bottles (#5 plastic) instead of polycarbonate hard, shiny, clear or tinted plastics usually labeled with a #7 or "pc" on the bottom of the bottle.
- While using polycarbonate bottles do not use harsh detergents or put them in dishwashers. Remember that the scouring brushes can scratch the surface of the bottle and increase Bisphenol A leaching. Wash these bottles gently with soap and water. Avoid microwave heating while using polycarbonate plastic containers.
- Avoid the use of infant formula brands in cans that use BPA as an epoxy liner. For further information visit www.ewg.org/reports.infantformula.
- Cut back on consumption of canned foods and beverages.

- Remember this chemical is fat soluble hence dissolves more in milk than water.

Being More Creative

Compiled from Sources

Creativity techniques are methods that encourage creative actions, whether in the arts or sciences. They focus on a variety of aspects of creativity, including techniques for idea generation and divergent thinking, methods of re-framing problems, changes in the affective environment and so on. They can be used as part of problem solving, artistic expression, or therapy. Some techniques require groups of two or more people while other techniques can be accomplished alone. These methods include word games, written exercises and different types of improvisation, or algorithms for approaching problems. Aleatory techniques exploiting randomness are also common.

Aleatoricism is the incorporation of chance (random elements) into the process of creation, especially the creation of art or media. Aleatoricism is commonly found in music, art, and literature, particularly in poetry. In film, Andy Voda made a movie in 1979 called "Chance Chants" which he produced by a flip of a coin, or roll of a dice. In music, John Cage, an avant-garde musician, composed music by superimposing star maps on blank sheet music, by rolling dice, and by preparing open ended scores that depended on the spontaneous decisions of the performers. Other ways of practicing randomness include coin tossing, picking something out of a hat, or selecting random words from a dictionary.

In short, aleatoricism is a way to introduce new thoughts or ideas into a creative process.

Improvisation is a creative process which can be spoken, written, or composed without prior preparation. Improvisation, also called extemporization, can lead to the discovery of new ways to act, new patterns of thought and practices, or new structures. Improvisation is used in the creation of music, theater, and other various forms. Many artists also use improvisational techniques to help their creative flow.

The following are two significant methods:

- **Improvisational theater** is a form of theater in which actors use improvisational acting techniques to perform spontaneously. Many improvisational ("improv") techniques are taught in standard drama classes. The basic skills of listening, clarity, confidence, and performing instinctively and spontaneously are considered important skills for actors to develop.

- **Free improvisation** is real-time composition. Musicians of all kinds improvise ("improv") music; such improvised music is not limited to a particular genre. Two contemporary musicians that use free improvisation are Anthony Braxton and Cecil Taylor. Through free improvisation, musicians can develop increased spontaneity and fluency.^[3]

Each type of improvisation improves the thinking and acting skills of the actor, and this is done by using no practice. A similar set of techniques is called *alienation* since one of its many techniques uses actors that haven't rehearsed or even read the play. Improvisation is an acting technique during which actors make up a storyline, start and end on the spot, and try their best to keep in character.

In problem-solving contexts, the random-word creativity technique is perhaps the simplest method. A person confronted with a problem is presented with a randomly generated word, in the hopes of a solution arising from any associations between the word and the problem. A random image, sound, or article can be used instead of a random word as a kind of creativity goad or provocation.

Creative Exercises

1. Combine ideas. Choose two random objects, and describe each one in detail. What does it look like? What is it used for? How is it made? Then substitute one object with the other objects description. How can I make object A feel like object B? Or do what object B does?
2. Keep a journal, describing everything you do and feel with metaphors. Each day, challenge yourself to come up with new metaphors. (After all, how many different ways can you symbolize brushing your teeth?) See How to Write a Metaphor.
3. Write a list of basic questions, such as 'What is your name?', 'Where are you from?', 'What did you do last Thursday?' Try to come up with at least 10 questions. The more you ask, the better! Whatever question comes to mind, write it down, even if it seems foolish. Answer the questions with song lyrics. (Try not to use the same song too often.)

Mental Exercise

By David Beagan



Avian Anatomy

The part of the bird that is not in the sky, which can swim on the ocean and always stay dry.

Make Change

There is a great old puzzler which poses the question: What is the most money in coins that you can have and yet you can't make change for a dollar? Assume you can have any number of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and half dollars.



This suggests a new puzzler. What is the most money in paper currency that you can have and yet you can't make change for one hundred dollars? Assume you can have any number of the bills above: \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50.

Tic-tac-toe 3D

In the game tic-tac-toe a player wins by getting three Xs or three Os in a row. Now consider a cube 3x3x3 and the player who gets three in a row *loses* (players are not allowed to pass a turn). At the end of a game, with all the boxes filled in, a draw is not possible, there must be three in a row. With a simple strategy, the first player can always win by forcing his opponent to get three in a row. What is it?

Pole to Pole

Two telephone poles are 100 feet tall and standing vertically. A 150-foot long rope is hung from the top of one to the top of the other. At its lowest point, the center of the rope is just 25 feet off of the ground. How far apart are the poles?

Continental Proximity

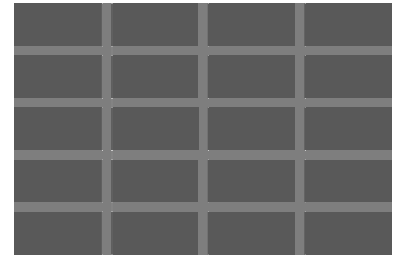
Without looking at a map, can you name the U.S. state which is closest to the continent of Africa?

Friday Somewhere

Someone said that "it is always Friday somewhere." Well this is not really true, but how much of the time is it Friday somewhere on earth?

Chocolate Break

You have a chocolate bar of four by five, for a total of twenty, squares. How many breaks does it take to get to twenty individual squares?



Each break must be done separately, no stacking of pieces.

Answers

Avian Anatomy

It is the bird's shadow.

Make Change

You can have a \$1.19 but be unable to make change for a dollar (Three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies). You can have \$103 and not be able to make change for a hundred dollar bill (19 five dollar bills and eight of the two dollar bills).

Tic-tac-toe 3D

The player moving first puts an O in the center box. Whatever box the second player moves to, the first player moves on the opposite side. This will guarantee that the second player is the first to get three in a row.

Pole to Pole

The poles must be right next to one another, essentially zero feet apart.

Continental Proximity

That U.S. state is Maine.

Friday Somewhere

Each hour, a time zone passes from Thursday to Friday and it takes 24 hours. Similarly it takes another 24 hours for each to pass from Friday to Saturday. In all, it is Friday somewhere for two days out of a seven day week.

Chocolate Break

You start with one big piece. With each break you get one additional piece. So 19 breaks, regardless of the order, gets you to all twenty pieces.

The Language of Non-Verbal Communication!

By Bala Prasad

Imagine that you see two people taking. One is sitting with arms crossed. The other is tapping one foot very fast. How would you interpret their non-verbal cues? You may have heard that actions speak louder than words. What does that mean? It means that what you do may matter more than what you say. It also means that how you say something may matter more than what you say. What you do, and how you say something, is non-verbal language. It is a way of communicating that has nothing to do with the words you speak.

Studies reveal that non-verbal communication conveys 93 percent of what you mean to say. In other words, when your expression says one thing and your words another, people believe the body language. We often show our feelings and attitudes through non-verbal cues. Some people believe that non-verbal cues are more reliable than the spoken word as a way of interpreting someone's true feelings or intentions. Certainly, these non-verbal cues help us get the right meaning. For example, body posture and walk tell us a lot about a person. Standing straight shows confidence. Slouching shows insecurity. It also shows disrespect – as if you don't care. Crossing your arms over your chest shows you have a closed mind – that you are uninterested in the opinion of others. It can be viewed as a confrontational stance – as if you are telling the other person, "I don't believe a word you say." It can also mean that you are protecting yourself.

Arms at your side show openness. Walking is body posture in motion. Your walk should be different at home than at work. At work, you should walk quickly – like you are ready and eager to work. At home, your walk should be relaxed, maybe even slower. You should not be in a hurry. Tone of voice tells us a lot about a person's attitude toward the listener, as well as the person's attitude toward a particular subject. For example, your tone of voice can relay that you are bored, or unimpressed. It can also relay skepticism. On the other hand, your tone of voice can express enthusiasm, or excitements. Tone shows feelings, and it should be constantly changing. We all adopt different tones for different contexts. Maintaining one's physical distance from another person also tells us something about that person. There is an invisible line that surrounds each of us. We allow people we care about to cross that line, and get closer to us. But strangers, or people we are skeptical about, are seldom allowed to cross that line. They get too close for comfort. At work, we probably would not allow too many people to infiltrate our invisible line. In our personal lives, of course, we enjoy hugs and kisses from those we love.

Hand gestures are also symbols. A handshake, in and of itself, is a well-known greeting. Even if we were among people who spoke a foreign language, a simple handshake would make us feel welcome, and at home. A firm handshake reflects confidence, and sincerity. A flimsier handshake might suggest nervousness. But either way, a handshake says hello. Body gestures are also indicators. Shrugging your shoulders tells people you don't know, or you don't care. Children often shrug their shoulders when parents ask them a question they don't want to answer. Even without saying a word, parents would know that the child who shrugs his shoulders might be embarrassed or ashamed about something. Of course, children who roll their eyes at their parents are also conveying a message without saying a word!

Tapping a foot shows impatience. A hand on your hips shows frustration. And, of course, a single nod of the head shows

agreement, without ever having to speak a word. Eye contact is an extremely important type of non-verbal language. When we look another person in the eye, we are telling them to trust us, no matter what we say. Sales people have probably perfected the art of looking people in the eye. It also shows you are interested in the other person. Looking someone in the eye and nodding during conversations tells the other person you want to hear what they have to say. If you can't look somebody in the eye, they will question your motives. They might think you don't care about what they are saying, or that you have something to hide.

Although you might not think of it, appearance also tells others things about yourself. For example, if you wear dirty, sloppy clothes, that may reflect that you don't care – that you have little interest in yourself or the person with whom you are speaking. Employers may not think you will be a good worker.

If you wear certain types of clothes, or certain types of jewelry, that may help you identify with certain groups of people, who share your cultural or socio-economic background. Think about how people dress at work. Lawyers wear suits. Doctors wear white coats. These indicators tell us who they are before they speak their first word. I have always believed that you can tell a lot about a person by how polished his shoes are!

A good role model for non-verbal communication is former President Bill Clinton. In his presidential debates, he would often shake his head at his opponent to convey skepticism. Or, he would signal attentive listening by putting his finger on his chin and nodding his head. This body language would also convey Clinton's willingness to consider the ideas he was hearing about. Clinton's hand gestures also conveyed what he was thinking – holding his two hands apart conveyed to the audience that he was serious about the issue he was discussing. Holding his two hands together, almost as in prayer, conveyed is thoughtfulness – or in some instances, his repentance. Next time you are in a gathering with other people, watch their non-verbal cues. And watch your own non-verbal cues as well. Do your cues say what you mean to say? Non-verbal language can easily become a habit for us – so let's make sure we are not giving the wrong impression by it!

Sincerely,

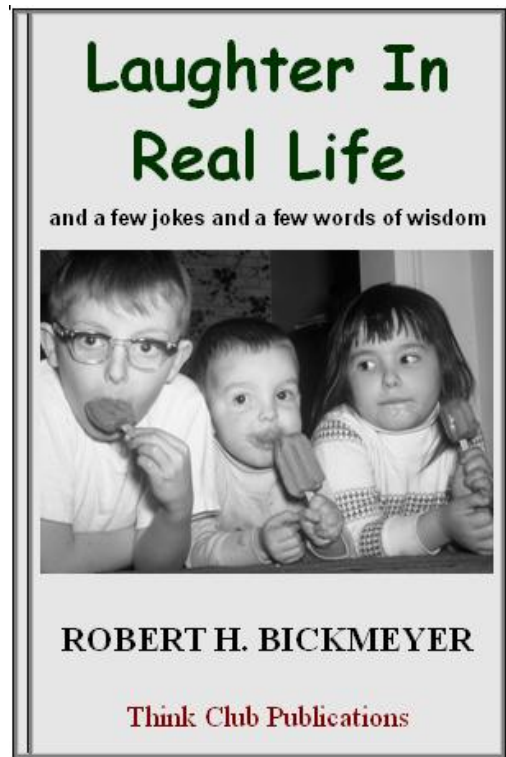
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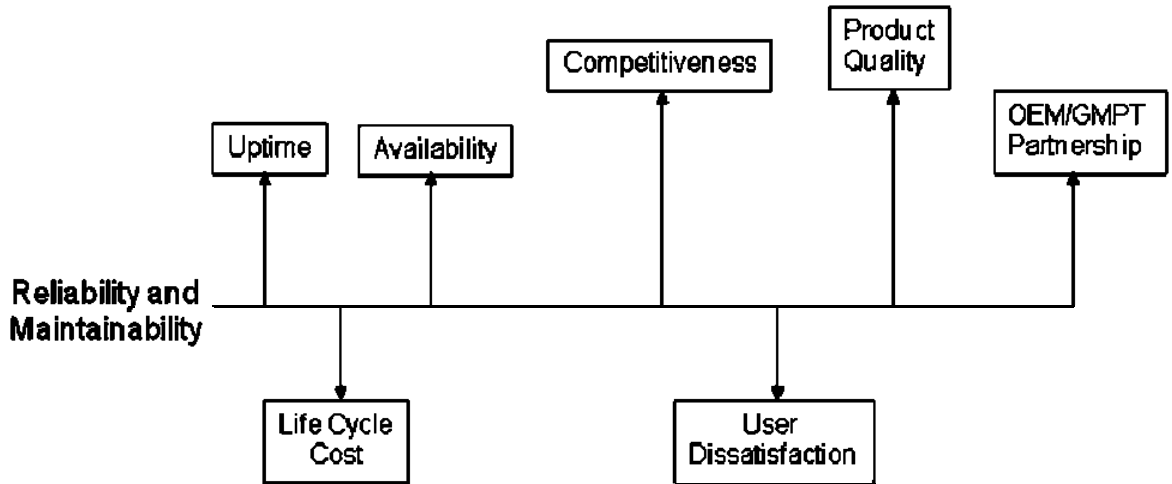
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