

A forum to encourage independent thinking

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Family – Fading or Flourishing?



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Letters

'Language of Attitude' was a very interesting article (The Think Club, Summer 2009). I need to remember some of those words that were used by the pharmacist because obviously his language of attitude seemed to work for him.

**Tiffany Gillingham
Brisbin, PA**

Thank you for sharing 'Language of Praise' (The Think Club, Summer 2009). I agree that in order for children to grow up with a good self-esteem, they need to be told positive things. Sometimes we ignore the positive things children do. We are so busy trying to correct the wrong. There are so many children who hunger just for a little attention.

**Clarence Harrell
Thomston, GA**

Your story was quite interesting and inspiring ('Language of the Car, The Think Club Summer 2009). I have had many close calls in my life. Some of the situations I was in, I should not be walking the earth today. I believe in divine intervention and that we all have guardian angels sent from heaven to watch over us. I often hear that small voice inside, telling me not to do something or go to a certain place at that time. I have had many people pop into my life at "just the right time" and I believe that God sent them to me.

**Jennifer Sinsley
Belle Vernon, PA**

Wow, I can totally relate to this awesome writing ('Language of the Car'). Thank you for sharing.

**Chinell Holcomb
Orangevale, CA**

Thinking Wildly

**Patience means self suffering.
– Gandhi**

I don't care how poor a man is; if he has family, he's rich.

**-Dan Wilcox and Thad Mumford,
"Identity Crisis," M*A*S*H**

Family: A social unit where the father is concerned with parking space, the children with outer space, and the mother with closet space.

- Evan Esar

Having children makes you no more a parent than having a piano makes you a pianist.

- Michael Levine

Anyone who goes to a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.

- Samuel Goldwyn

Honk if you hate noise pollution.

– Bumper Sticker

The family is one of nature's masterpieces.

– George Santayana

Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all of its pupils.

– Louis Hector Berlioz

Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

– Leo Tolstoy

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The Illusion of Reality

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



A spider was weaving a gossamer web to start a family. Spiders are lonely creatures. Birds and animals live in nuclear families – male, female and infants. A spider weaving web to start a family? That was illusionary – a dream inside a dream.

Kapila woke up rubbing her eyes. Drumbeats were getting louder and louder. It was the last day of *Durga Puja*. The statue of the goddess will be submerged in a river tomorrow. The festivity lasts only for nine days then the mother is sent away. Life, alas, is momentary. We all leave this world for an unknown destination, anyway.

Pictures of the deceased are arranged in a corner of the house. What happens to those pictures when the generations change hands? I do not have the pictures of my grandparents with me anymore. What will happen to my parent's loving pictures after I am gone? Maybe, they should be submerged in the holy river before they are thrown away with old furniture.

Kapila clutched the fading black and white photo of her grandparents that she accidentally found while cleaning up the clutter in her closet. She brought their photo up to her forehead and started kissing them irresistibly. Emotions and tears can get out of control like winds and waves over the ocean on a dark stormy night. All becomes calm and serene after the storm passes.

Nascent cuckoos and crows look alike. Alienation begins as their wings grow. Is it not strange that the cuckoos sneak their babies into crow's nests? The crows feed the cuckoos and

protect them until they realize that they are not crows. Growing up, Kapila and Jay were inseparable. Now they never see each other. Their children do not even know their cousins' names.

“Water and love always flow downward by the law of nature,” grandpa used to say, “don't expect more from your parents. Whatever they are doing for me is a blessing. You will realize this when you have your own children.”

“Grandpa, those dying lepers in Calcutta were not the children of Mother Teresa. Why did she care for them selflessly?”

“There are comets and there are planets. Comets belong to interstellar space. They are not dependent on the gravitational balance of the solar system. The planets remain in the confines of the solar system for their own survival. If not, they would collide with each other and be annihilated. Mother Teresa was a comet. Comets are anomalies to the celestial empire. They are free from attachments.”

Attachments create human bondage, unhappiness and illusion. Birds and animals live in nuclear families – male, female and infants. Humans are like spiders. They weave gossamer webs to create illusion. Life gets entangled in those webs. In the end, some of us are enlightened. Enlightenment makes us free.

Kapila took a deep breath and went back to sleep. Why be awake when reality is only an illusion!



Health Insurance and the Role of Government

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

It is the duty of a civil and benevolent government to remove external insecurities of its citizens. Those external insecurities are invasion by foreign powers, protection of life and property and making sure that the every citizen can afford health care.

I was faced with this external insecurity when it was rumored that my employer would stop my health insurance coverage. Though retired, my wife and I were not 65 then, and ineligible for Medicare. Had that happened, I could not have afforded to buy health insurance for my wife and me. Since both of us have major health issues, the situation would have caused an external insecurity for us – insecurity not coming as a result of our own action.

I have several friends who have too much self respect to become wards of society. They are not 65 but have lost their jobs. They cannot afford to buy health insurance. Some of them have severe arthritis, diabetes and even cancer. Their spouse and they work as stock movers in grocery stores just to have a health insurance. They face external insecurities.

I am not for a government run health care plan, but want government to pick the tab for health care insurance premiums for those who cannot afford it. Simply put, the best way to spread coverage to the maximum number of Americans is to make it as affordable as possible. If I can afford to pay \$5,000 from my pocket, the government should pay another \$15,000. For my friends mentioned above, the government should pay all of \$20,000.

More than 90 percent of the American citizens of working age are still employed and most of them are covered by their employers, therefore, they oppose the government's subsidy. The same citizens when faced with unprecedented external insecurity change their minds. That is sheer self-centeredness. A civilized society should care for its members' happiness. After all, we got rid of cannibalism, slavery and subservience to women for a reason. That reason was to remove external insecurities hanging over the heads of our citizens.

Now that we agree that everyone should be able to afford health care insurance, let us examine how that need can be met. We should have a market-based, consumer-driven plan and not a plan run by the government. We do not want a government clerk to make medical decisions for us. That should be the job of the medical professionals. Government's job should merely be to make it affordable to the American citizens who are without jobs or have lost their coverage due to an employers' decision.

That will have two tremendous benefits. First, millions of Americans who lack insurance would buy it for the most basic of reasons – they can afford it. And second, people who now have coverage would get to keep far more of their future incomes, instead of sacrificing their raises to soaring health care premiums.

Another possible reform that can be implemented is to give the employees a lump sum amount for health care insurance and let them buy their own insurance. Since the employees will have the bargaining power, that will bring down the cost of insurance. Right now most working Americans don't control the thousands of dollars spent each year on their coverage. It's the employer that buys health care for its employees and pretty much dictates the benefits. Let us put the consumer in charge by freeing Americans to spend their own money on health care, shop for the best prices, and keep what they don't spend.

Yes, the government has an important role to play in these matters. For a free-market solution to work, the government must protect Americans with pre-existing conditions who couldn't afford coverage in a de-regulated market. Otherwise, the government's main job is to create the conditions for the market to provide the highest quality care and the best possible price. Government's role is simply to protect its citizens from external insecurities. Not having a health insurance is a dire external insecurity.

I Dreamt of Billions

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

I dreamt that I was Bill Gates living in a big mansion. I had chuffers and chaperons, butlers and gardeners, cooks and maids. I could dole out billions to the nations around the globe and was privy to free admittance to any functions, concerts, conventions, carnivals, parties and people's lives. I was a tomato that could be sliced into any salad.

I dreamt that my rebukes were taken as lessons of life and sneers as blessings by the recipients. My sneeze could be heard around the world resulting in an overwhelming response of get-well cards. I could be abrupt with anyone without endangering my bond and friendship with them. I had hundreds of nieces and nephews at my beck and call. My beautiful wife was everyone's sister-in-law or aunt and I was everyone's dearest uncle, cousin or brother-in-law. Women took my misconducts as innocent shows of affection and men took my insults as words of wisdom.

I dreamt that my distant cousins came to me from distant places only to keep in touch with me. "I was certain of nothing but the holiness of their heart's affection." Many of them told me the tales of their misfortunes. I made sure to take care of their monetary problems. After all, it was only money. One can return money and gold, but sympathy and goodwill cannot be paid back. That's what I was told. People were refreshing like the breeze of autumn.

I dreamt about my childhood friend, Charley who came all the way from Seaport to Seattle just to meet me. He reverberated at least 100 times, "My friend, I always wanted to go on an Alaskan cruise that starts from Seattle, but never mind, at least I came here and saw you. That is all that matters. Don't feel bad if I do not go on the cruise."

"How moving and selfless," I thought and sent his entire family on the Alaskan cruise.

I dreamt that all my relatives bought only Microsoft products and made sure to use 'Explorer' and 'Bing' instead of 'Mozilla Firefox' and 'Google' so that I remained the richest person in the world. They always defended my company in person, in parties and in media and never wished any ill-will

towards me or bankruptcy for my company. "They knew, 'Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.'"

I dreamt that the lionesses were offering their udders to feed the fawns and the snakes were protecting birds' eggs. Criminals were punished and the victims were protected. Men of clothes were considerate to each others' faith. The immigrants were flocking to America for the love of the country not the dollar.

I dreamt that ever since Obama placed traffic lights on Wall Street, the financiers were avoiding hit-and-run. Americans were making a living for themselves and not for big government. The Republicans were living on little and the Democrats gave to people what they promised.

All of a sudden my phone rang. It was already 8 in the morning. It was a rude awakening. It was my second cousin on the other end. She was visiting Olympia, Washington on a business trip.

"So near and yet so far! You must visit me. Seattle is only a 90-minute drive from Olympia," I said.

"I can't; I don't have time to visit you. Moreover, my company is taking care of my boarding and lodging so I don't need you this time," she answered.

"Then why did you call me?"

"I don't burn bridges since hell sometimes does freeze over. The Sun may rise from the west and pigs may fly over the crest. What happens after the rain if it dries or from the ashes should Phoenix rise?"



The Impact of Mental Health Illness on Families

By Douglas W. Walker Ph.D.

Douglas Walker is Clinical Director of the Mercy Family Medical Center based in New Orleans, Louisiana

As a Clinical Psychologist who treats children and adolescents, I have the challenge each and every work day of educating parents about mental health. A basic understanding of what mental health or illness is and isn't is vital to the charge given to me by parents when they come to me asking, "Why can't my child pay attention?" "Why is my daughter washing her hands fifty times a day?" Or, "Why is my son so angry and sleeping all the time?" Before the families that I assist can begin to accept and address any formal psychiatric diagnosis and treatment plan, they have to attend my brief and basic two minute course in mental health. So before we move forward to discuss the impact of mental illness on families, here is my brief mental health tutorial:

- Mental Health is measured on a continuum. It's only when symptoms get in the way of work, love or play that formal guidance from a mental health professional is necessary.
- Mental Illness is "physical." Simply said, the only difference between someone challenged with depression and someone challenged with migraine headaches is the neurology of each individual, or how they are "wired."
- Individuals challenged with mental illness are not "weak" or "lazy" because they cannot spontaneously heal themselves.
- There is a strong genetic component associated with most mental health conditions. It is not uncommon, for instance, for children to inherit anxious or inattentive neurology from their parents.
- Genetics and environment both play a role in mental health and mental illness.
- Medication management for psychiatric conditions are useful when used for serious symptoms, and if other methods of treatment (e.g., psychotherapy) have proven unsuccessful.
- Many chronic and potentially debilitating mental disorders have their first onset between the ages of 16 and 25 years of age. Young adults seeking treatment for psychiatric conditions should be encouraged to give authorization for their parents, caregivers or

other family members to be involved in their treatment.

I think that the most difficult issue for families impacted by serious mental illness is the stigma that is often attached to these types of diagnoses (e.g., Major Depression, Bipolar Illness, and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder). Even when you consider that one in five families in the United States have a relative with mental illness, amazingly the stigma persists. It will take time for our society to possess the understanding and equal treatment of mental disorders, but I believe we are making headway – even if it means having to accept "Dr. Phil" as a sign of progress toward this lofty goal.

Parents are often caught off guard and overwhelmed when it is suggested that they seek specialized consultation for their child's behavior in the form of a mental health professional. Finding a "best fit" in a mental health professional can be difficult. Considerations include type of degree and license (e.g., social worker, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, psychiatrist), years of experience, specialty and maybe most importantly – therapeutic style and interpersonal skills. Shop around, ask others, and get recommendations from primary care physicians. Mental health care is a very "intimate" business, and you have to feel VERY comfortable with the provider, and be assured that they are aligned with your goals for treatment. I believe that it is my job as a child psychologist to effectively treat and discharge children as soon as possible. I believe it is also ideal for mental health professionals to work as a unified team when treating children. If you are able, choose a mental health professional that is part of a multidisciplinary team where the treatment is shared by participating providers. A child who is in the care of both a psychologist and psychiatrist will receive an enhanced level of treatment because they are members of a formal therapeutic team who have the opportunity to communicate face-to-face to achieve coordinated care.

I have found that parents who are informed are the best advocates for their children, and I often see a measurable positive change as a result. Parents who do

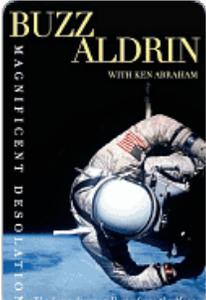
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Book Review

Magnificent Desolation

Author: Buzz Aldrin

Harmony Books (p.316)



Aldrin was the second man to walk on the moon after Neil Armstrong. He described the alien world as 'magnificent desolation.' In this newly published memoir of the same name (Magnificent Desolation), Buzz Aldrin talks about his

life after Apollo 11. Aldrin talks candidly about his psychiatric problems, alcoholism and failed marriages.

However, the important part of his memoir is his appeal for space travel as an entrepreneurial venture. He rightly advocates the return of America's supremacy in space by sending man to Mars. Some of the later sections of the book become repetitive, but there are enough fascinating nuggets – like his explanation of the infamous punch to the face of a faked-moon landing conspiracy theorist – to make it a page-turner right to the end. I don't think that space history enthusiasts or NASA historians will find any vital data in this book, but all of us can learn from the steep fall and redemptive rise of this ex-astronaut.

Stimulated

Author: Andrew Pek and Jeannine

McGlade

Greenleaf Book Group (p. 195)

Pek and McGlade emphasize on the need to be creative. According to the authors, to create is a basic human urge that is not only an evolutionary imperative, but a spiritual one. The authors have cited examples of people who have pursued creative satisfaction and attained material success, such as Nike cofounder Bill Bowerman. The most important

attribute, according to *Stimulated* is the importance and the rewards of maintaining creative thought processes. Pek and McGlade also describe a series of five habits that can access creative potential: scouting, cultivating, playing, venturing, and harvesting.

But for a book about stimulating creativity, the solutions and suggestions – the power of play, the importance of confidence and spark moments – are not very convincing. The illustrations and quotations are mundane, dull and intrusive. Overall, it is an inspirational book that does not say anything new or innovative.

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India's Tryst with Destiny II

By Anil Shrivastava

Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi is considered the father of the nation of the post-independent India. The title of his autobiography is 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth.' For the last 62 years, India has very aptly experimented with keeping its incongruent and strife-ridden states under the banner of 'The Republic of India.' It has been a very worthy and noble experiment, but it is time to evaluate the facts based on lessons learned and examine if the Indian subcontinent will be more viable as a union of independent states vs. the status quo. Though it may be blasphemy in many Indians' eyes to quote Churchill, nonetheless, Churchill said, "India is a geographical term. It is no more a united nation than the Equator." Churchill was wrong. The Indian subcontinent, for most of its existence, has been a union of nations. This essay is an attempt to explore whether India should revert to a union of autonomous and independent states each having its own language, religious majority, culture, food habits, ideology and independence or should its leaders and citizens have a change of heart to keep the republic intact.

For the most part, India has always been a nation made up of various kingdoms, princely states, territories and provinces. It was never a united country except for a few brief periods. The Maurya Empire ruled almost all of the Indian subcontinent (including present Afghanistan) except for the southern tip between 321 BC and 185 BC. Between 320 AD and 550 AD, the Gupta Empire ruled all of North India except the northwest. That period is also known as the 'Golden Age' of India. The Mogul Empire ruled over all of India except for the present Kerala and Tamil Nadu states in the 1700s during the Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb's time.

The British ruled India with two administrative systems. One was 'Provinces' and the other 'Princely States.' About 60% of the Indian subcontinent's territory was Provinces and 40% were Princely States. Provinces were British territories completely under British control. Princely States were states in British India with a local ruler or king

with honorary titles like Maharaja, Raja, Maharana, Rana, Nizam, Badshah and other such titles meaning king or ruler in different Indian languages. These rulers were subjected to the British Empire. These two types of administrative systems were the result of the British East India Company's attempt to annex the whole of the Indian sub-continent and make it into a British territory.

The strife and incongruity of various Indian states came to the surface after the independence in 1945. The Hindus and Muslims killed each other in hundreds of thousands. The north tried to impose Hindi as the national language of India on the south. There were violent incidents in Tamil Nadu and even open protests for secession. India's languages – the basis for drawing many state boundaries – are often mutually unintelligible.

The animosity is not only confined to north vs. south. The two big Indian States, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been embroiled for decades in a confrontation over issues that range from water-sharing to contested borders to their respective tongues' pedigrees. "These are differences between neighbors, not nations," says celebrated Indian writer U.R. Anantamurthy. "But there is a danger of linguistic-based states beginning to assert themselves as nation-states." The northeastern state of Nagaland is fighting neighboring Assam over a chunk of land where 100 people were killed by the dueling state police forces in 1985. An entire mineral-rich district of Karnataka is claimed by Maharashtra, one of over a dozen such territorial disputes. In addition to that the Maharashtrians (or the Marathas) view themselves as a separate nation and are resentful of the immigrants and job seekers from other states who, according to them, are diluting their culture and language.

These conflicts come on top of the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state. There are also pro-independence movements of varying strength in places like Tamil Nadu and Assam. Religious clashes erupted in recent years from Gujarat in the west to Orissa in the east.

Many of the relatively progressive states resent people of other states as they fear and resent the

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Balancing the Budget Starts at Home by Christin Blevins

I believe a skill that everyone should master is being able to set-up, and execute, a balanced budget. Being able to balance a check book is a very important skill that many people cannot do. If one is not able to keep track of his or her spending, important expenditures, like bills, would go unpaid. There is also an important need to make sure that one is living a way that he or she can afford. If a person was not able to keep track of one's spending, he or she could lose their home, car, and his or her possessions.

I believe that people would benefit from learning this skill because having a positive account of one's monthly spending could help eliminate consumer debt in America. DebtZero, an online debt management service, reported, "According to the Federal Reserve Bank, 40% of American families spend more than they earn", and, "92% of U.S. families disposable income is spent on paying debts."

(<http://www.onlinedebtzero.com/Statistics>). If one were to spend only what he or she was bringing in to the household, there would not be a need for credit cards and bank loans; taken out to pay off debt. According to the Progressive Debt Relief, another debt relief agency, web-site, "Americans carry, on average, \$8400 in credit card debt." (<http://www.progressiverelief.com/consumer-debt-statistics.html>). The Progressive Debt Relief web-site goes on to state that "Almost one in every 100 households in the United States will claim bankruptcy." If one had the knowledge on how to stay out of debt to begin with, one would not find themselves in debt. I believe many of the debt issues Americans find themselves in now are due to poor budgeting skills and living beyond ones means.

It is hard for Americans to stay out of debt. Americans are always looking for the best for themselves and their families. There is also a pressure placed on Americans by friends, family members, and neighbors that make one want to be better and have better possessions. The need to "out-do" everyone else makes one want to spend money, even when Americans know they cannot afford to do so; this attitude makes it easier for Americans to ignore their check-books and bank balances. The ability to gain a credit card also makes it easier for Americans to get into debt. Some American people believe that if they pay for an item using their credit card, they have not spent any money, therefore; they have not gone into debt. According to DebtZero, "The typical credit card purchase is 112% higher than if using cash."

(<http://www.onlinedebtzero.com/Statistics>). This

statement means that one would end up paying 112% more for the item, he or she placed on a credit card, than the original price tag. If Americans were to learn how to spend responsibly, one would be able to avoid incurring debt by only obtaining the items that he, or she, could afford using their income.

There is another reason for rising debt in America; the need to further ones education. Because Americans find themselves deep in debt, they choose to continue their education to obtain a better career. According to the American Student Assistance web-site, "Undergraduates are carrying record-high credit card balances. The average (mean) balance grew to \$3,173, the highest in the years the study has been conducted. Median debt grew from 2004's \$946 to \$1,645. 21% of undergraduates had balances of between \$3,000 and \$7,000, also up from the last study."

(<http://www.amsa.com/policy/resources/stats.cfm>). The price of going to college has also increased; in 2006 the average tuition for a public, four year college, had increased 6.3%; the average tuition for a private, 4 year college had increased 5.9%.

(<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15401280/>). Because of tuition increases, and inflation, staying out of debt has become very hard for Americans. If American families were able to stay out of debt, saving for college would be easier and there would be fewer loans needed to pay for it, therefore; less debt once the student had graduated. According to DebtZero, "29% percent [of young people] say they've put off or chosen not to pursue more education because they have so much debt already." The web-site also states that, "Student-loan balances rose 16% to an average of \$14,379."

(<http://www.onlinedebtzero.com/Statistics>). This trend shows that to become debt free, one must put oneself deeper into debt, which discourages Americans from wanting to further their education. This, in turn, keeps Americans in debt, because they are unable to obtain a higher paying job.

If Americans were taught, at a young age, the importance of creating a budget, and how to stick to that budget, I believe debt would go down considerably. I believe that the ability to manage personal finances is a skill that every person should master for their future, and their families future.

Point

Joint Family Is Not to Be Recommended

By Bala Prasad

According to the latest U.S. Census data, the number of households with three or more generations grew 38% from 1990 to 2000, vs. 8% for two generations. With the current economic crisis, the pressure to “double up” is likely to remain. But unless there are extenuating circumstances or an emergency situation, living with an extended family presents real problems.

“Moving back to the nest” is hard on the ego of adult children. The stereotype is that adults who live with their parents are losers – a difficult stigma for an adult child to shake. It’s easy to lapse into old patterns: parents dictating rules, adult children reverting to childlike roles. An adult child, living with parents for an extended period of time becomes a child again. Owning nothing, following parental rules. Even if parents insist that the child treat the house as their own, it never feels that way. You must conform to the parent’s schedule, eat at their dinner time and watch their TV programs. Ultimately, the adult child no longer feels like or acts like an adult.

It is even more challenging for spouses. They are left to carve out their own role, without benefit of blood ties and family bonds. It’s difficult to see others gel into a familiar pattern, being left to fend for yourself. Without a parent-child bond, inevitably spouses feel like outsiders. Spouses don’t enjoy seeing their partner revert to childlike roles!

Finally, there are the grandchildren, adored by all, it is second nature to spoil grandchildren. Let them stay up late, watch TV, eat whatever they want. A grandparent’s job is to spoil, not discipline. If mommy says no ice cream, grandpa will let them have it. The grandparent means no harm, it is simply an undeniable fact that the grandparents are softer on children than parents. Who should the child listen to? This causes confusion for the child, and frustration for adults.

There are times when we need support of extended family. Though temporary, it feels so good to have mom’s home cooked meals and dad paying the bills, days stretch into months. Tension mounts, the longer the stay, the greater say the parents feel they have: from food choices to where you go. Gradually the longer you stay, the less control you have over your life. Through hurt feelings and resentment your parents mean well, but you are an adult. It’s hard to give up control of your life. They are quick to criticize. It feels like interference, but they feel you have it coming.

In the end, living with your extended family is stressful and there is no getting around it. Everyone means the best, but what is really best is if you make your stay temporary!

Counterpoint

Joint Family Is the Need of the Hour

By Musafir

Humans do not have as much control over their environment and destiny as they think. We fall on bad times and become weak, old and helpless. We have interdependence with family, community and society at large. Unfortunately, we are living longer and so have longer span of misery and dependence on others towards the end of our lives. Many of us return to live with our children because of sheer need like unwelcome guests or burdens. Why not live together from the very beginning with good will, love and proper understanding or arrangement?

A joint family system is a good and necessary model for the future. With the worsening economic situation and unstable jobs, many young folks are returning home to live with their parents. As the resources of the world dwindles, we will need to share resources such as energy, water, food and space to live.

I have lived in my own nuclear family all my adult life. I can feel the sense of loss as I am far removed from the hearts and minds of my own kith and kin and vice versa. I feel more stressed as I have to cope with my problems all by myself. The sense of being alone has caused greater psychological problems in today’s society resulting in greater cases of depression, divorce, broken families and suicide

Times have changed, so I am not advocating the old model of joint family where awkwardness, discomfort level and hypocrisy made the members’ lives miserable. In the new structure, we must have a common understanding that we need to respect everyone. Parents having the final word and the autocratic styles of repression giving rise to discontentment must be things of the past.

Members of a family must expect open communication without judgmental or condescending attitude. We must learn from the failure of the past and provide each other space without transgressing on their freedom or meddling in their affairs. We must learn to accept each other’s weaknesses and accept the way they are. Realistic expectations will help us to be more tolerant of weaknesses of one another. We are the units of the family. Family is the unit of the society. Society is the unit of a nation and nations are the units of the globe. Once we learn to live jointly and adhere to the above principles, we will learn to be better citizens and rid the world of many conflicts prevalent today.

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following:

- Dilution of their local culture and language
- Imposition of a central rule that has an overrepresentation of the northern states based on their population
- Sharing of their local revenue and resources with underdeveloped states where the people are considered to be lazy
- Unwillingness of the people of the northern states to learn southern languages

One reason some parts of India want to break away from the union is that they do not trust the central government to play fair. Their mistrust has been further fuelled by the decision of the central government to dismiss the government of the southern states at their whim. India's constitution allows the prime minister to impose direct rule from Delhi on the pretense of maintaining law and order in a state. Successive governments have abused this power to satisfy the narrow interests of party politics and thwart the intent of the state's voters.

One possible scenario to quell these conflicts and bring peace and unity is to dissolve the concept of one Indian Republic and make India a union of various independent states and territories. The new Indian Union may choose to become an economic and political union of all its independent states committed to political and economic integration. Thus every state will have its own language, culture and independent home rule. The outsiders can travel freely to any state and can work in any state without interfering in the internal governance and laws of the host state. If a state wants the immigrants of other states to learn their language or respect their culture, that should be honored.

The Indian Union should ensure the freedom of people and goods. It should maintain a common policy on trade, a common currency, a common space program, defense and foreign policy.

Many Indians, especially the Punjabis, Sindhis and Bengalis lament the partition of India. As a next step, Bangladesh and the present Indian state of West Bengal should be merged as one independent nation. Similarly, the present Indian state of Punjab and the Pakistani ruled Punjab should become

another independent nation. The present Pakistani Sind can also join the Indian Union along with all of Kashmir.

However, there are caveats and risks to the above premise. The treatment of minorities by the individual independent states may become a human rights nightmare. Based on the history of communalism and discrimination cases, there is a distinct possibility of attacks against the minority and immigrants. India is marred by conflicts and riots on the basis of language, religion, caste and heritage. There may be the possibility of even aggression against the neighboring states to assert hegemony resulting from age old disputes over distribution of water, minerals and other scarce resources.

Every possible solution has its own limitations and so has the status quo. India is at the verge of becoming a super power both economically and militarily. The political instability and the internal strife are India's greatest barriers in becoming a world class power. It is in India's interest to realize the reality of the situation and come to a solution to end the acrimony. There are other impediments to India's progress such as poverty, lack of sanitization, threat of terrorism, poor infrastructure and corruption, but none is as detrimental to its progress as the internal strife and mistrust of each other. India is at a crossroad – at a juncture where it has to have a 'tryst with destiny' again. The Indian subcontinent has never emerged as a world power and has remained subservient to its aggressors due to the internal bickering, mistrust and mutual betrayal. No matter what be the shape, form and constitution of the subcontinent, the history must not be repeated at any cost.



Continued from page 6

The Impact of Mental Health on Families

their own research, and arrive at my office with a notepad of questions become immediate pro-active treatment team members that are vital for success. The therapy that I conduct in my office for one hour a week is meaningless if not supported, continued or encouraged by teachers, parents, siblings and other significant people in the child's life. For parents of a child or young adult challenged with a mental illness, I highly recommend referencing the National Institute of Mental Health (www.nimh.nih.gov) or The National Alliance on Mental Illness (www.nami.org) to expand their knowledge and increase their comfort level with the field of mental health. These sites taken together will offer information ranging from the latest research and treatment innovations to legislation affecting mental health care.

Patience and the willingness to make tough decisions are mandatory for parents caring for children and young adults diagnosed with mental disorders. Although positive change can come quickly via short-term solution oriented therapy or medication management, it often takes months or years to arrive at a life style that is balanced and "predictable." This delay is not necessarily the product of ineffective treatments, but the dynamic nature of development. Simply put, what works now may not work later because the bodies and minds of children and young adults are constantly maturing – and that is a positive thing. Tough decisions come by way of therapeutic roadblocks. If as a parent you know that what is in place therapeutically is not working, then you need to work with your child's treatment team in trying something else. This is often a leap of faith, a tough decision that may include starting psychotropic medication, or in cases of suicidal or homicidal behavior, psychiatric hospitalization.

I have now practiced child psychology long enough to have helped struggling first graders develop into successful high school seniors. Every hour of my work day is different and challenging in that it requires my entire focus and energy. Like an air traffic controller, I cannot lose focus. In my office, lack of attention within therapeutic conversation and play could easily lead to a missed opportunity for me to promote healing and change. Although my work can be exhausting, this is why I get up in the morning. I feel privileged to have worked with so many families over the past twelve years; it has made me a better person, father, friend and spouse. I look forward to tomorrow when I can meet a new family in my office, and help them navigate the complex road back to a "new normal" where work, love and play is restored and the promotion of mental health is an everyday affair.

Continued from Page 14

Water Becomes the New Oil

supply, the technological process uses a huge amount of energy, making it 'too expensive for many African and Asian countries', says Lee.

Max Lawson, senior policy adviser for Oxfam, says: 'We are skeptical that private-sector involvement is the solution for very poor countries. In fact, there is an argument that much greater public sector involvement and cash is needed to channel supplies to where they are most needed.' But Abel Mejia at the World Bank in Washington says the organization does not favor one form of investment over the other: 'We lend to private companies and governments, but we are not ideologically motivated. Solutions may need a mix of private and public money.'

The World Development Movement lobby group has in the past criticized the World Bank's enthusiasm for private firms controlling water projects; it prefers public-private partnerships, run on a not-for-profit basis.

But it is in China - the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gas - that the water problem is most pronounced, as fears grow that the country is turning into an ecological disaster area. The head of the country's national development agency said recently that a quarter of the length of China's seven main rivers was so poisoned that the water was harmful to the skin. Moreover, water-related issues are sparking popular protests after the sanctioning of dams and irrigation projects that have displaced hundreds of thousands of people who have no recourse to compensation. Beijing has passed legislation to punish companies that pollute supplies but, in China, such laws can be difficult to enforce.

So pressing are issues surrounding water that China has invited Western companies to run systems in many towns and cities. One of the biggest is French-owned Veolia, once part of the Vivendi utilities empire. In parts of China, water provided by Veolia no longer has to be boiled, but the cost to consumers has doubled. For the middle class, the price is still relatively low - but most Chinese are not middle class. Many say up to half their income is now being swallowed by water bills. That leaves Beijing between a rock and a hard place because, like many emerging economies, it desperately needs Western know-how and technology to solve its water problems, but it is anxious to avoid the kind of civil unrest that the Bolivian government experienced in Cochabamba.

In the City of London, there is a growing realization that investing in water technology companies offers opportunities for savvy shareholders, and possibly for ethical investors. 'There is also an appetite from institutions for water-related investments - they know it's going to be big,' says Julian Sevaux, managing partner at Stanhope Capital.

Olivia Bowen, an independent financial adviser at the Gaeia Partnership, says: 'New climate change funds have recently come to market; some are well established, such as Impax's Environmental Markets Fund.'

GE and Dow Chemical are among big US companies diversifying into water services, while the UK-based Thames Water is expanding overseas.

But the crux of the problem remains: according to a report from Credit Suisse, annual world water use has risen sixfold during the past century, more than double the rate of population growth. By 2025, almost two-thirds of the global population will live in countries where water will be a scarce commodity. And that could lead to conflict, as United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon warned last week.

Asia looks vulnerable, with China planning to siphon off Tibet's water supply to make up for shortages in the parched north. Elsewhere, the Israel-Palestine conflict is at least partly about securing supplies from the River Jordan; similarly, water is a major feature of the strife in Sudan that has left Darfur devastated. When it comes to this most basic of commodities, the stakes could hardly be higher.

What Are Family Values?

By Niru Prasad

What exactly makes up a strong family with good family values?

A strong family unit creates a safe, positive and supportive place for all family members under one roof. The adults in a strong family are good role models for their children, parents, and grand parents. Some of the important elements of a strong family system are:

- Family cohesion: Cohesion is defined as a feeling of belonging to a group and being nurtured by family members. It is important to know that a family member should develop his own self existence while belonging to a group..
- Flexibility and communication: there should be flexibility among individuals to avoid family arguments and fights. During stressful situations, families should work together to solve problems without blaming or criticizing others. Also, there should be open, frank communication among family members in order to avoid family disputes and crisis.

Another very important factor is the mutual relationship among husband and wife. A few survival tips for a happy married life include:

- Dream a dream – imagine yourself as the best happy married couple and construct a vision of everything you believe your marriage could be.
- Maximize the trust factor, since spouses in a solid relationship have complete faith in each other.
- Learn to handle conflicts and arguments carefully.
- Be healthy, since good health plays a significant role in everyone’s life.

A happy marriage seems to set a pleasant atmosphere in the house for children and help teach them how to make good decisions. Good parenting includes:

- Showing your child love, concern and respect all the time.
- Providing your child a safe place to live and play.
- Listening and paying attention to what your children are telling you.
- Helping your children express their feelings to you.
- Setting up reasonable rules and discipline for them to follow.
- Setting good examples for them and teaching them to be independent and learn to make their decisions.
- Getting them involved with your activities and spending prime time together..

Children of strong families tend to follow the footsteps of their parents who are role models for them – the fruits do not fall too far from the trees.

From Page 17 – Answers to Mental Exercise

Classic Puzzler

The man is holding a picture of his son.

Boys and Girls

The Gardner family has two girls and three boys. Each girl, therefore, has one sister and three brothers. Each boy, however, has two brothers and two sisters.

Avian Anatomy

The bird’s shadow.

Perfect Crime?

A little research by the detective revealed that while identical twins do indeed share the same DNA, they have different finger prints. No two people share the same finger prints.

River Crossing

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1. | --> G1 B1
G2 B2 |
| 2. | <-- B1
G2 B2 |
| 3. | --> G1 B1
B2 G2 |
| 4. | G1 B1
G2 B2 <-- |
| 5. | G1 B1
--> G2 B2 |

Cousin Hank

Little Hank was born six years after Cousin Hank. Little Hank is celebrating his sixth birthday, Cousin Hank his twelfth.

Quiet Professor

The professor is a woman. Her brother is talking to her husband.

Alpha Beta

Interestingly, the population in both countries will NOT tend to create more boys in the general population. In spite of the government’s efforts in either country to manipulate the outcomes, every single individual birth has an even chance of

producing a boy or a girl, and so the populations of male and female tend to the same.

Water Becomes the New Oil as the World Runs Dry

Reprinted from the Futurist Magazine

by Richard Wachman

The midday sun beats down on a phalanx of riot police facing thousands of jeering demonstrators, angry at proposals to put up their water bills by more than a third. Moments later a uniformed officer astride a horse shouts an order and the police charge down the street to embark on a club-wielding melee that leaves dozens of bloodied protesters with broken limbs.

A film clip from the latest offering from Hollywood? Unfortunately not. It's a description of a real-life event in Cochabamba, Bolivia's third largest city, where a subsidiary of Bechtel, the US engineering giant, took over the municipal water utility and increased bills to a level that the poorest could not afford.

Welcome to a new world, where war and civil strife loom in the wake of chronic water shortages caused by rising population, drought (exacerbated by global warming) and increased demand from the newly affluent middle classes in the emerging economies of Asia and Latin America.

At a City briefing by an international bank last week, a senior executive said: 'Today everyone is talking about global warming, but my prediction is that in two years water will move to the top of the geopolitical agenda.'

The question for countries as far apart as China and Argentina is whether to unleash market forces by allowing access to private European and American multinationals that have the technological know-how to help bring water to the masses - but at a price that many may be unable, or unwilling, to pay.

As Cochabamba illustrates, water is an explosive issue in developing countries, where people have traditionally received supplies for free from local wells and rivers. But in the past 15 years rapid industrialization, especially in places such as China, has led to widespread pollution and degradation of the local environment.

A report out today from accountancy giant Deloitte & Touche says humans seem to have a peculiar talent for making previously abundant resources scarce: 'this is especially the case with water,' it observes.

According to the firm's findings, more than 1 billion people will lack access to clean water by next year. Paul Lee, research director at Deloitte, and one of the authors of the report, says: 'Demand for water is expected to be driven by economic growth and population increases. India's demand for water is expected to exceed supply by 2020.'

The World Wildlife Fund has forecast that in the Himalayas, the retreat of glaciers could reduce summer water flows by up to two-thirds. In the Ganges area, this would cause a water shortage for 500 million people. Lee says: 'The lack of the most important form of liquid in the world is therefore a fundamental issue and one that the technology sector can play a major role in addressing.'

He and others, including the World Bank, believe that private industry can - sometimes - solve problems by taking water out of government hands and removing subsidies. If water becomes more expensive, so this argument goes, people are more reluctant to waste it, although Taylor agrees that government needs to make certain that the poorest sections of society are protected, and that there is 'proper [price] regulation'.

By allowing prices to rise to help meet the cost of supply, companies could upgrade infrastructure and, in many cases, build new systems from scratch.

Even in Britain it is recognized that efficiency is vital to avoid leaks. In the developing world, leakage can account for the loss of up to 50 per cent of all clean water supplies in major cities.

But protecting the poor is not always easy. Take the example of desalination. Although it offers a solution for countries where demand exceeds

Continued on Page 12

Family Relations

By David Beagan

I tend to think of historical figures as solitary beings who accomplished things out of the context of the cares of everyday life. One of those aspects of everyday life is family. Take, for example, Albert Einstein, the greatest intellect of the 20th century. So much has been written about his theory of relativity and the stunning impact that it has had on physics, that investigating his personal relations hardly seemed necessary. However, as new personal correspondence and has been released, more complete biographies of the man have been released, such as the book, *Einstein: His Life and Universe*. The man's personal life was less than admirable, often cruel or indifferent to those close to him, but he felt deeply, particularly later in life, moral obligations to humanity at large.

Dava Sobel brilliantly personalized the great Galileo Galilei in her book "Galileo's Daughter" by detailing his fatherly relationship. Galileo's achievements have been recounted endlessly, but this relationship with a daughter gave us insight into the very human side of Galileo. Interestingly, this book is based on the 120 or so letters between the two that have survived – all written by the daughter. None of Galileo's letters to her are known.

Isaac Newton's father died before he was born and was given by his mother to her parents to raise. Newton never married and had no children. How could this have affected his prodigious life's work? Was the isolation and drive that he possessed a result of these family issues, or did he reach the heights of mathematical and scientific achievement in spite of these?

Of all family relationships, siblings are the longest lasting. In fact, for many of us, the longest lasting relationships of our lives. The sibling relationship therefore can be the closest and most intense, while also being fraught with intense rivalry.

Consider Wilbur and Orville Wright. Their historic breakthrough in aviation, was really many small breakthroughs including wing design, engine design, propeller design. No doubt that their special relationship allowed them to be the first in flight. Consider this from an article Orville wrote about their struggles with propeller design:

Contemplation of it was confusing. After long arguments we often found ourselves in the ludicrous position of each having been converted to the other's side, with no more agreement than when the discussion began.

The results speak for themselves, the Wright brothers incredible achievement was only possible through their combined and collaborative efforts.

Another fascinating relationship, the Williams sisters in tennis. In any given tournament they can be each others supports as well as rivals if they have to play one another. Furthermore, as doubles partners they can be a formidable force for years to come. They took the doubles title at Wimbledon this year. Their relationship truly embodies the concept of cooperation. As African American women in a sport that does not find many minorities in America, it seems certain that much of their developmental years were bolstered by each others support, encouragement, as well as rivalry.

In the world of Art, consider the Leyendecker brothers. Both talented illustrators in the early twentieth century, one was prolific and successful, the other Frank worked with his brother in their studio, but descended into addiction, produced sparingly, and sadly died of a drug overdose before the age of fifty. Did he fail because of his brother or was his brother the one who kept him going longer than he would have on his own?

Most all of us would agree that we are who we are because of our family. Nevertheless, in the United States, in job interview situations, most of us would use a solid family biography only as incidental support for our qualification for a job. I remember an interesting story not too long ago in this very publication about an Indian American going back to India to take a position of responsibility. One of those responsibilities involved interviewing in order to hire for positions in the company. The interviewees invariably felt it to be of the utmost importance to recount their familial resume – the firm family foundation on which they had built. They seemed rather perplexed that the interviewer pushed them to recount their qualifications beyond this. What a telling perspective on the role of family in success and life.

Our Founding Fathers Believed in Term Limits

By Robert Bickmeyer

It is time we voters pay heed to our Founding Fathers who intended members of congress to be farmers, merchants, manufacturers and other businessmen – not career politicians. Our Congressmen show up for work, at most, 167 days per year and draw a \$174,000 salary plus a full staff, limos at their disposal and a generous expense account. Annual pensions run as high as \$124,000 or more.

How do they earn this money? In fiscal 2008 Congress enacted 11,610 pork projects that totalled over \$17.2 billion. They freely spend taxpayers' money on a multitude of projects, agencies and boondoggles. Their job approval rating is extremely low. So why, in a recent election, did 98.5 percent of Congressional incumbents keep their seats in the House? I will omit names, no finger pointing, but 62 members of the House (from both parties) have held their position for over 20 years, 175 over 12 years (six terms). In the Senate 25 have been sitting there over 20 years, 47 over 12 years and they all will undoubtedly run for another term.

They are overdue to be rotated to bring in fresh ideas, as intended by our Founding Fathers. Thomas Jefferson believed strongly in "rotation of office." George Washington insisted on stepping down after two terms. John Adams stated that "without (term limits) every man in power becomes a ravenous beast of prey." When President Dwight Eisenhower was about to leave the White House after serving two terms, he said, "Politics should only be an interlude in ones career, not his career."

Term limits would enable our elected representatives to focus on accomplishing the right things, not focus on re-election. He is easy prey for special interest groups and/or lobbyists who might pour dollars into his campaign fund. Meanwhile, new aspirants cannot match their war chests. On being re-elected, the incumbent is then beholden to their contributors, not the voters back home.

An organization based in Washington, D.C., U.S. Term Limits, is working feverishly to generate national support for a term limits amendment to U.S. Constitution. Virtually everywhere term limits has been put to a vote, they've been passed and implemented. Term limited are the president, 15 state legislatures, 36 governors and thousands of local officials. America wants term limits! One poll showed that 83 percent of registered voters favor it.

Term limits will break up the power of the greedy Washington elite. Too many voters do not study the issues nor are they aware of which side of each issue is taken by the incumbent or the challenger. They simply vote by name recognition, highly favorable to the incumbent. Term limits via the voting booth does not work. If you must vote along party lines, do so on Primary Day. Politicians are like diapers. They both should be changed often ... and for the same reason. It is incumbent on us voters to oust the incumbents.

At least one of our members of Congress must spearhead a drive to oust himself and fellow members. In conclusion, I ask all challengers to incumbents to have the courage to prioritize in their campaign a promise to take any and all measures necessary to implement term limits.



A Family of Puzzles

By David Beagan

Classic Puzzler

This is a classic. Hopefully, those who have heard it may enjoy it again. A man is holding a picture of someone and while looking at it proclaims, "Brothers and sisters I have none, but this man's father is my father's son." Who is in the picture?

Boys and Girls

The Gardner family is composed of a mother, a father, and sons and daughters. Around the dinner table one day, one of the daughter's says, "did you ever stop to think, I have three times as many brothers as I have sisters?" And one of the sons replies, "Yes but I have the same number of brothers as sisters."

How many sons and daughters are in the Gardner family?

Avian Anatomy

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

What is this?

Perfect Crime?

Randy was frequently in trouble. He was brought in for questioning on a robbery. The detective on the case tells him, "We found your finger prints at the crime scene. This will be an open and shut case."

Randy replies, "Perhaps you don't know, I have an identical twin brother, Andy. We share the same DNA. How do you know it is not my twin brother's fingerprints you found there? If this case goes to trial, there is reasonable doubt that those are my fingerprints that you found."

The detective replies, "Well, you and your brother will have to submit to a DNA test to validate your claim."

Randy walked out of the police station a free man. Later the detective called back and told Randy the DNA tests wouldn't be necessary, and just then an officer knocked at the door. The detective explained that they would be arresting Randy and holding him for trial.

What did the detective find out?

River Crossing

In earlier times, it so happened that two brides and their jealous husbands, encounter a river. There is a small boat to get them across the river. The boat can carry just one or two people. The river crossings must be arranged so that no woman is left with a man unless her husband is also present. How many trips does it take to ferry them all across the river?

Cousin Hank

Cousin Hank and Little Hank were born on the same day of the year, but a number of years apart.

At today's birthday celebration, Cousin Hank said, "I haven't been able to attend all of Little Hank's birthday parties, but I remember attending one where my age was exactly seven times as much as Little Hank's age. At another celebration, I was four times older. At another I was three times older. And now today, I am just twice as old as little Hank. Little Hank is catching up to me!" How old is Little Hank today?

Quiet Professor

The son of a professor's father is talking to the father of the professor's son. The professor does not take part in this conversation. How is this possible?

Alpha Beta

In the country of Alpha, the dictatorial government decrees that each couple must have children until they have a boy. Once they have a boy, then they must stop having children.

In the country of Beta, their government decrees that each couple must keep having children until they have one more boy than girl. Then they must stop having children.

Assume that the odds of having a boy or girl is the same with each individual birth. Would either of the strategies employed by Alpha or Beta be expected to result in more boys in the population?

See answers on page 13

Be the change you want to see in the world.

– Gandhi

Ted Kennedy the Family Patriarch

By Bala Prasad

The passing of Senator Edward Kennedy last month provided a poignant glimpse of the strength of family bonds. Senator Kennedy's death marked the passing of the last of the Kennedy brothers, the sons of Joseph and Rose Kennedy. Three brothers died violently – Joseph Jr. in a plane crash in World War II in France, and John and Robert in assassinations in 1963 and 1968. When the eldest Kennedy brother died in World War II, the family mantle passed to John, then to Robert, and finally, to Edward. Each brother picked up the pieces of his fallen older brother – stepping in his shoes both in matters of politics and family. Senator Kennedy is famous for assuming a father's role in the lives of his nieces and nephews (Robert's 11 children and John's two children). Significantly, Senator Kennedy's family members occupied the front of the pews at his funeral procession, sitting in front of even the president of the United States.

These are the bonds that we live and die for. Our spouses, siblings, children, grandchildren – this is who makes us what we are, and who defines us in our lives and in our death. Even marriages that fall apart still reserve a special place in the history of our lives – nothing is a better example of this than the passing of Princess Diana. Estranged for many years and ultimately divorced, Diana's former husband Prince Charles wasted no time in retrieving the body of his deceased former wife, and bringing her home for a proper funeral. That is because the bonds of marriage, though sometimes broken, never disappear.

The above illustrations also exemplify the strength of a child's relationship with their parent. The Kennedy children lost their dad when they were tiny tots, yet as an America watched them grow up in the spotlight, there was rarely a time they did not invoke the memory of their father. And when they became adult children and the world witnessed the passing of their mother, it was the children – John and Caroline – who announced that passing to the world. It was the children who were by her side, until the day she died. Princess Diana's children, both in their pre-teens when their mommy passed, very publicly carry her torch and invoke her memory at almost every public event they attend. That is because our parents, here for a short time or a long time, good or bad, rich or poor, will always be the people we loved first, and longest.

Finally, they say that the strongest bond, and the only love that truly never dies, is a parent's love for their child. We spend nine months anticipating their birth, and the day they arrive replaces all other days as the best in our lives. Then we wait anxiously for each milestone – the first smile, the first crawl, the first steps. And as they get older, we continue to celebrate their firsts – first tooth, first day of school, first time they do this, first time they do that.

We invest in our kids every thing we have – our time, our resources, ourselves, and watch eagerly as they grow into their own person. We watch them graduate kindergarten, high school, college, and can't wait for them to enter the adult world. And then, when they do enter the adult world, we rejoice in their success. But we also grieve for their heartaches, and long for the days when their lives were about painting and playgrounds. That is because we are a part of our kids – on their good days and their bad days – they carry a small piece of us with them, wherever they go.

And so, good reader, I close with the great words of E.E.Cummings, who could only have been speaking about family when he wrote: "I carry your heart with me (I carry it in my heart). . . Here is the deepest secret nobody knows (here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud and the sky of the sky of a tree called life) . . . I carry your heart (I carry it in my heart)."

Sincerely,

Bala Prasad

Sent your comments to:

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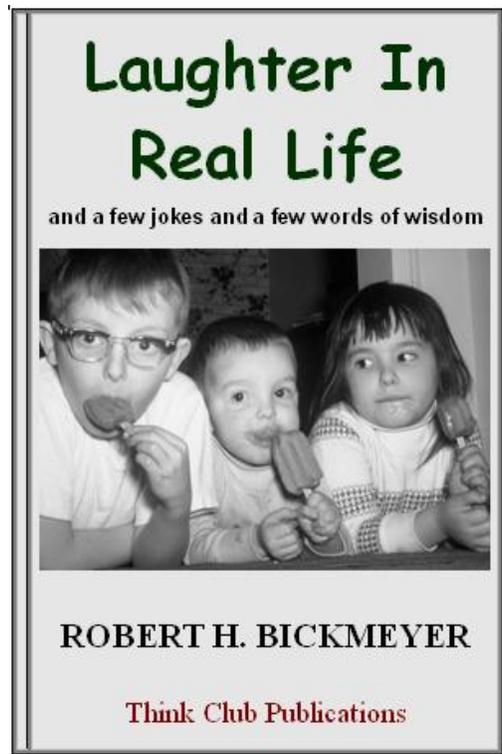
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TiECon Midwest 2009 – the event we have all been breathing for the past several months is fast gaining momentum. Each of us has our connections and network in specific industries and social outreach. Why not share the knowledge we have with friends and family who mean the most to us. With Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and several blogs out there– the world has become small and communication easy. Let's participate and create a history for TiE Detroit. A special thanks to all members and volunteers for your enthusiasm and participation in the activities of the TiECon. This is a Call to Action for all TiECon Midwest volunteers and Core Team. Let us join hands and work together to promote the event.

Only few weeks to go for the Michigan's most anticipated event- TiECon Midwest 2009. Please register in the following social media sites and remember to invite your friends and colleagues. Don't miss out. ***"Top 15 active volunteers soliciting registrations to the conference will be gifted with FREE lunch coupons!"***

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