

A forum to encourage independent thinking

TheTHINKClub

Published Quarterly

Volume 20.5 Fall 2016



Leave Us Alone for A While

Enemy Within (Weapons of Mass Destruction)

Book Review:

Becoming Grandma By Lesley Stahl

Speed By Stephanie Brown



www.thethinkclub.com





Editorial

Social Engineering

SOCIAL ENGINEERING

ANIL SHRIVASTAVA 'MUSAFIR'

I love fresh glazed donuts and coffee at Krispy Kreme. Not a connoisseur, but I can tell what is sweet and savory and scintillating to my palate. The nearest Krispy Kreme is 15 miles away from our house. Last Saturday morning, I decided to go there, the one located on the border of Troy and Madison Heights in the parking lot of Oakland Mall. We used to frequent Oakland Mall with our young children in the eighties. Now we seldom go there because it is relatively far from where we live now. Moreover several new shopping places have popped up in and around our town, Rochester, Michigan.

Oakland Mall is crumbling. The parking lots and roads around it have potholes that can swallow a lawn mower. Oakland Mall is now visited mostly by poor blacks and the Middle East immigrants. That is just a fact

Well, I managed to maneuver my car to Krispy Kreme zigzagging my way around the potholes and cracks. A gentleman walked in front of me with a veiled individual who was covered from head to toe in a burqa. Looking at the itty-witty eyes of that individual, I could guess that it was a woman. She looked more like a possession of the gentleman accompanying her than a companion. The gentleman gesticulated asking her to go to a corner. She immediately obliged and stood there alone until he was done ordering. No one seemed to notice that interaction.

I took half a dozen of oven fresh glazed donuts (I know, it's bad for my health) and a cup of freshly brewed aromatic coffee and went in my car. There was a commotion around the van that was parked next to my car. It was a dilapidated vehicle almost sipping its last injection of fuel. A big black man was shouting vulgarity to his family. His every other word was either f@\$% or Mo\$^&* F&^%\$#. He tossed three children and a toddler in the back of the van and threw a few punches at them. A woman who looked like his wife tried to intervene. He dragged her to the front seat and slammed the door of the van and took off leaving behind a screeching noise as rude as his language. No one seemed to notice this interaction.

I came home and surfed the channels. Yes there were reports of such cruelties and abuses but all those incidents involved either a good looking white woman or items with an undertone of racism. That's what sells in America. The social engineering went on as I was finishing the last bite of my donut imagining what was being fed to the inceptive minds.

Anil Shrivastava

Enemy Within

By Anil Shrivastava "Musafir"



Omar Mateen killed fifty people in an Orlando, FL nightclub yesterday using an AR-15-style assault rifle and a 9mm handgun. He happened to be a Muslim who hated gays. Omar was not alone. On the same day, James Wesley Howell of Indiana was headed towards L.A. Pride festival carrying assault weapons and ingredients to make bombs. Fortunately, he was arrested in Santa Monica which prevented another carnage in the nick of time. Wesley was not a Muslim.

Everyone, it seems, has his or her opinion and conspiracy theories about the above incidents. However, most of us are unable to see the wood for the trees. Why did Omar Mateen and James Wesley need military style assault weapons? Though I believe in Second Amendment

right to own and use firearms by the American citizens, possessing assault weapons doesn't make any sense to me.

I have talked to several folks who either possess assault weapons or believe in the right to possess one. They usually put forward three reasons for doing so. The first is to protect themselves against federal government's takeover of their liberties and private properties. The second is to fight against foreign invasion and the third is to be prepared for Armageddon when the good will have to fight the evil.

The fact remains that assault weapons are the weapons of mass destruction (WMD). We waged war on Iraq to protect ourselves against the use of WMD by our enemy. The irony is that we are not willing to contain the enemy within.



Humor

Hurt Me Not -Musafir



I believe in collecting friends like ocean pebbles. Sometimes I bring them home from the airport. If you came to my house unannounced, chances are that it will look like a space station for extraterrestrials.

I met Herbert (he prefers to go by Hurt) during a long flight to Detroit. The way the conversation went, I knew that Hurt needed to stay in his natural habitat not in Motel 8. So, I brought him to my place to stay until I could locate something more suitable for him.

I soon found out that Hurt had a sharp eye about finding hidden diseases still to be invented. Inspired by Newton's third law of motion about action and reaction, Hurt strongly felt that to find a breakthrough cure, a breakthrough disease must be invented first.

"Who inspired you to acquire this talent?" I asked Hurt.

"I find inspiration in everyone. You have to just look around," he gazed at me over his Coke-bottle glasses like a bug. Look what Dr. Drew has to say about Hillary Clinton's health. He and his colleague are hard at work to invent a suitable disease that Mrs. Clinton will need to find a cure for.

Hurt went to get himself another serving of spinach juice. He was thin all over except for the bulging belly. He reminded me of a

pregnant cucumber. He examined me head to toe as if I were an exotic animal.

"I don't like the way you breathe. You have some serious issues. I'll give you two years, if you are not diagnosed and treated properly," Hurt was really hurting me. It's one of life's cruel little jokes that when I was sailing along thinking everything's shipshape, when suddenly came along Hurt coaxing me to sickness.

I said, "I was quite well until you came in my life. I think you have Cyberchondria."

"What's that?" Hurt asked me.

"Go and google it for yourself," I replied.

"You know you suffer from a severe case of Witzelsucht," Hurt fired back.

"What's that?"

"That means uncontrollable desire to fire back at someone. It's a rare neurological symptoms characterized by a tendency to make fun of others. It's serious and you should get help as soon as possible," Hurt replied pointing his finger at me. The watch on his wrist was heavier than his entire body. At least it seemed that way.

Hurt and I rolled our eyes at each other without any particular destination.

"Don't they have places for unwanted guests like a dog pound?" I thought. Then I drove Hurt into the country and dropped him there. Now I am looking for another exotic guest to

find him a natural habitat. They need to be

isolated.

Perspective

Greatness Imposed

BY ANIL SHRIVASTAVA 'MUSAFIR'

Every day when I read newspapers or go to the Internet, I come across some kind of accolade granted to some person or institution which defies any rationale. What gets me, though, is why do people believe in someone's opinion that may be flawed or agenda driven?

Now the talk of the town is that Jennifer Aniston is the most beautiful woman in the world just because People's magazine said so. I know at least four Jennifer(s) who are more beautiful than Ms. Aniston. I am not talking about Ms. Connelly, Ms. Lawrence, Ms. Lopez or Ms. Garner. I am talking about average Jane.

ThesSame is true of Time magazine's 'Person of the Year.' In recent years this recognition has been given to Ted Turner, Ken Starr, Corazon C. Aquino, Peter Ueberroth and Yuri Andropov (who?). Yes, the Time magazine has the right to choose whoever they want to as their person of the year. The problem arises when credulous folks all over the world accept these mandates blindly and literally.

The shenanigans have spread to 'The best place to live in America,' 'Entrepreneur of the year,' 'Building of the year,' Car and truck of the year,' 'Best teacher,' 'Product of the year,'

Some are born great,
some achieve greatness,
and some have greatness
thrust upon them.



William Shakespeare
English poet and playwright
(1564-1616)
QuoteHD.com

'Best innovation,' 'Story of the year,' 'Word of the year,' 'Athlete of the year,' 'Best website,' 'Best CEO.' The list goes on and on.

According to the Money magazine, Apex, NC is the best place to live in America because "Apex has all the things you'd expect in the No. 1 place to live: a charming downtown, top-notch schools, and the kind of community spirit that draws 15,000 people, or more than a third of the population, to the annual PeakFest street fair." How about Rochester MI where I live? We have everything that Apex has and more including a picturesque downtown, high-end shopping and dining, rolling hills and modern homes. We also have big bright light show for three months during the Christmas season.

Last year, 'North America Car of the Year' award was given to Volkswagen Golf. No sooner had the award been declared than Volkswagen Golf was found beleaguered with transmission failures and shifting problems.

These awards cannot be seen as objective measures of quality and performance. Instead, they should best be understood as parts of marketing programs operating in the guise of honors and accolades. Intelligent grown-ups should think really long and hard

about validity of such recognitions and honors. They are inherently stupid, hypocritical, and

hilariously flawed – most of the time. That’s what I think.

Book Review

Becoming Grandma: The Joys and Science of the New Grandparenting

Author: Lesley Stahl

Publisher: Blue Rider Press 2016 (288 pages)



Lesley Stahl explains in her very intriguing book *Becoming Grandma* how being with a grandchild can be both exhilarating and therapeutic. She herself found a new purpose in life when she became a

grandparent. Grandparents relive their lives with sheer joy without feeling the stress of raising them. They feel reinvigorated like never before.

She discusses many different angles of grand parenting which makes this book so different and unique. For example, not many of us realize that grand parenting helps the economy. Grandparent spending has increased sevenfold in the last decade.

Stahl did a lot of research and interviewed many of her colleagues to infer her statements. She also observes that some women who never bore children of their own often wind up becoming especially

involved and gleeful grandparents to their stepchildren’s kids. She mentions Diane Sawyer who relishes her role as a step-granny to four children. Stahl writes about Sawyer, “(She) acts just as goofy as the rest of us grans.”

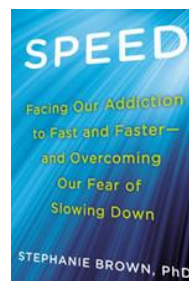
Stahl includes stories of generational conflict and her personal regrets as a working mother along with plentiful glimpses of her family’s joys and those of many other families. The book is full of supporting statistics. Such as the median age of new grandmothers in the U.S. is 50 (54 for grandfathers). As Stahl points out, that young age, coupled with longer life spans, represents a large-scale shift in the role of grandparents in U.S. culture.

As a grandfather, I can certainly relate to all that. –Anil Shrivastava

Speed: Facing Our Addiction to Fast and Faster

Author: Stephanie Brown PhD

Publisher: Berkley



Stephanie Brown has a very simple message in her

book, *Speed - Facing Our Addiction to Fast and Faster*. Technological advances were supposed to provide us more time for creativity, but it has worked quite the opposite for most of us. People have become addicted to technology to the extent that they are controlled by it. They have less time to reflect on anything as they feel a need to act, a need to be online, robotically always checking their devices. This has resulted in internal chaos and fragmented attention. What is supposed to help us is hurting us. Instead of freeing us, the technology seems to enslave us.

According to Ms. Brown technology is impeding our comprehension power and learning abilities inasmuch as we don't have patience to study any subject in depth. This may also be ruining our relationship with our loved ones and friends as we tend to chat with them in truncated messages rather than conversing with them heart to heart.

When I think about this I realize that technology has certainly made our lives convenient and has aided in saving time. The mystery is where the saved time goes. Here are some of my observations.

I go to parties or bridge games where folks can't stop checking their cells in case there's an emergency – it's interesting what people define as an emergency. That kind of pressure weighs on the mind – people can't relax as they are in a constant state of expectation.

There's an expectation that people post images for one another – great to share but how many? If you have 150 people in your group of friends and family, how much time would it take if you view pictures from all of them?

For many employees It takes hours to start getting into work because they have to check their email, peruse social media sites, and read morning news from various sources. What was supposed to aid productivity has become a reason for its decline. No wonder that the US Q2 productivity was down 0.6% in 2016, the first decline since 1947.

According to Ms. Brown, researchers note that this push for speed is changing the way people think. The need to be efficient and instant leads to a dumbing **down** –**Anil Shrivastava**

Essay

Leave Us Alone for A While Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

Whenever I look at headlines, turn to TV channel or listen to the talking heads, I get the following pessimistic messages about race relation in America:

"Most Americans are pessimistic about race relations."

"Race relations are at the lowest point in Obama's presidency."

I heard a commentator say, "By large margins, black adults say that blacks are treated less fairly than whites across key areas of American life." What a genius! That's like some soothsayer telling someone that he would face both misery and ecstasy in life. Yes, there will always be a chasm and an undercurrent of wariness about race relations, but one doesn't have to purposely spread the pessimism and bury progress.

"Why are we having a national argument on race? By all objective measures -- recent opinion polls, demographic data, and academic studies -- race relations between blacks and whites have never been better. What is more, the majority of African-Americans are content, even optimistic,



about their interactions with European-Americans, according to a close

reading of a recent Gallup Poll, for example, and other surveys. ...While I differ with many of their arguments, particularly with their opposition to affirmative action, their basic premise is correct -- that relation between the races are getting better,

as are the conditions of most African-Americans." –Orlando Patterson in New York Times.

Of course, the media, politicians and talking heads want us to be defeatists and fatalists because objectivity excites neither the proletariat nor the bourgeois.

Suddenly, we enter into August of 2016. August in a leap year is very significant for two reasons.



The politicians, traditionally, take a break between the primaries and the start of presidential debates leaving their wounds and laying plans for the final push for the November election.

Secondly, in August of a leap year, the American electorate diverts attention from politics to the Olympics, whites, blacks, Hispanics and all. They all cheer together for 'Team America' – E Pluribus Unum at its best.

The Americans contingent at the Rio Olympics is made up of the most racially and ethnically diverse group one can think of. They have only one goal in mind, 'winning for America.' There are no signs of white privilege or black anger there. They all go there on their own merits. When interviewed, they all say, "We want America to win." They live together, win together laugh, cry and sing the American anthem together.

In my mind, that will be America like, if the politicians, media and the talking heads leave us alone for a while and let us think on our own.

Current Affairs

(So) Long Live (Leave) the Queen!

By Anil Shrivastava Musafir

The possible fallouts from Brexit are many. The English don't consider London a part of England just like the Americans who do not consider New York a part of the U.S..

As a matter of fact, Londoners are diverse and much younger compared to the rest of Britain. Most Brits over 65 consider Londoners as selfish, foolish and misanthropic. The Londoners think otherwise. They consider older Brits as

racists and isolationist. Some Londoners are calling for the capital to break away from Britain.

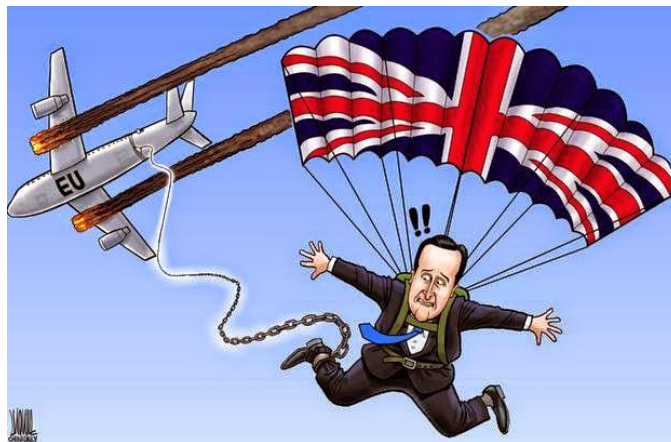
Donald Trump, who is already in the UK, made this statement, "They took back control

of their country. It's a great thing" The rumor is that he is there to explore business opportunities in case the Brits would want to build a wall around London to keep the immigrants out. Mayor Sadiq gave this fitting response to Trump, "We don't have a problem with immigrants, we have a problem with imbeciles."

As of Friday, a petition asking for Mayor Sadiq Khan to declare London

independent has gotten more than 15,000 signatures. "London is an international city, and we want to remain at the heart of Europe," the petition reads. "Mayor Sadiq, wouldn't you prefer to be President Sadiq? Make it happen!"

Meanwhile, Mrs. Clinton had this to say about Brexit, "We respect the choice the people of the United Kingdom have made."



She was caught off guard when she uttered, "Damn Brits! There goes my chance to beat the unreliable Trump." She added, "Our first task has to be to make sure that the economic

uncertainty created by these events does not hurt working families here in America." She sighed, "Get me out of here. I need some air."

The real beneficiary of all these events certainly is the English language. The Brits lost no time in fusing two words, Britain and exit to add Brexit to its lexicon.

Point

Why One Should Vote For Hillary Clinton (Bala Prasad)

There is nothing harder than deciding between two candidates who'd be the President of The United States.

Personal characters change. And even without so, what will consider good characteristics in a presidential candidate? The most glaring difference between two candidates will be between Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter. Even with the facts and fictions we know about the two, no doubt most people will prefer President Carter over President Nixon to be there neighbor, but certainly not as President.

International situation- only God knows what is going on. Leaders all over the world will not tell us the truth and perhaps will do whatever is the best for their nation, which will conflict with what is good for their neighbor or the world. So elect a president who you think is best suited for the job, temperamentally, by experience or any other parameter desirable.

So it brings us to the national issues. Some of them are very clear and others are not so. So let us focus on the clear ones. Here also people will disagree, sometimes based on issues, and others for no valid reasons.

So, in the opinion of this writer, five factors are of the utmost importance and should be focused on more than others. We are the most prosperous nation in the world – all of our inhabitants must have food and shelter. It should not depend on who they are, where they came from, and where they eventually go.

Above is also true of healthcare. I personally support Obama Care not because it is great in every respect, but because it is first solid step towards national health care system, which I support.

Basic education should be available to all who want it. Of course it should be geared to the need of the individual, their talent, and need of society. Everybody cannot or need not have a PhD in nuclear physics.

If you work fulltime, you should not be below poverty level. Then what is the incentive for working fulltime? And what is the need for working fulltime if one is still below poverty level with the wide safety net that the government provides for less fortunate people.

And finally the society can only survive if the support comes from everybody according to his or her ability and goes to everybody based on his or her necessity. One of the nicest glaring examples is social security benefit that goes to the rich. The social security law was passed in 1935 for the poor. So in this writer's opinion, those who have an income of \$250,000 or more annually, should be denied social security benefits. Somehow, eventually we'll have to share the burden of helping the have not's, especially when the number of poor – young and old – goes up. Do not forget the number of rich is going up too.

Mrs. Clinton through her press releases and press conferences had taken a positive position on all of them. She supports help for everybody for food, shelter, healthcare, and education. She is for working people not below poverty level and she is for social security benefit reduction for rich.

So in my view with these positions, together with her temperament and experience, Hillary Clinton is an ideal candidate to be President of these United States.

Counterpoint

Why I'll Not Vote for Hillary Clinton (Anil Shrivastava)

I will not vote for Hillary Clinton because I don't believe in oligarchy. Mrs. Clinton considers herself above law and the Democratic Party plays to her tune which includes the Obama Administration. She lied under oath to the Congress about her private e-mail server which transmitted top secret information. Still the FBI declined to recommend criminal charges against her. This proves my point. She lied about number of servers and when asked to submit them, she simply answered that they were lost in mail.

She is dishonest to the core. She doesn't seem to be concerned about the deaths of four Americans including our ambassador to Libya in Benghazi. Her standard answer on this topic is, "How does this matter now?" Mind you she asked this question after publicly blaming an internet video for the attack on the consulate, an attack that just

happened to occur on the 11th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Of course, her e-mail correspondence with daughter Chelsea on the attack indicated that the attack was carried out by al Qaeda.

She used Clinton Foundation as a ploy to favor foreign governments to obtain millions from them. She turned the State Department into her family's personal hedge fund by using the Clinton Foundation to sell access to foreign governments, many of which have dubious human rights records. At the very minimum, there is the appearance of impropriety. At worst, there's enough corruption to put anyone to shame.

The list of her corrupt practices go on and on. How can anybody hand the affairs of our nation to such an unworthy person? I will not.

Lifestyle

Brain and Balance Niru Prasad, MD

Our body is controlled by our brain while we sit, stand on our feet, or try to walk with a steady gait without falling. Our brain sends signals to our eyes, ears, and the sensory and motor systems to balance body. Furthermore our memory and emotions are also controlled by brain. Just about everything we do in our lives is controlled by our brain which sends signals through sensory and motor pathways. Any kind of balance issue can cause a disruption in our daily activities. This can lead to short attention span, abnormal sleep problems, fatigue, gait disorder, dizziness or loss of balance.

Balance control process

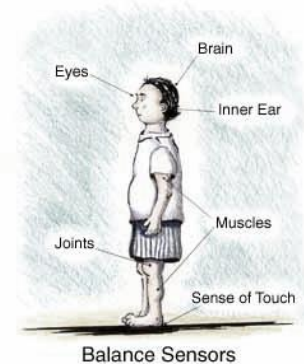
The 3 major components for balance control are:

1. Our sensory systems for accurate information about body position relative to the environment
2. Our brain's ability to process this information
3. Our muscles and joints for coordinating the movement required to maintain balance

Loss of balance control

Loss of balance control occurs when there is any pathology in the brain, eyes, and/or inner ear vestibular system as we grow older. The natural aging process produces changes in our body

and brain due to poor circulation; however, a healthy senior citizen might not have any issues. Dizziness among our seniors can be due to degenerative or infectious processes in the brain. Diseases are not the only etiologies; there are other components such as stroke, head injuries, concussions, etc. that can also affect our balance system. Various combinations of both prescription and nonprescription medications can be detrimental to our brain.



How the brain senses impulses

Our brain controls the body through connections it makes with the central nervous system. The different parts of the brain are the cerebrum, brain stem, cerebellum pons and medulla. Each of these parts has different functions that send impulses to the body.

The cerebrum is divided by a longitudinal fissure into 2 hemispheres which each contain 5 discrete lobes: the frontal, parietal temporal, occipital and insula. These lobes are hidden under the Sylvain fissure. Most of our activities require a combination of multiple areas in both hemispheres.

The different parts of the frontal lobe include motor fibers carrying impulses from each hemisphere and cross midline in brain stem. Any damage in this area causes paralysis in the opposite side of body. The orbital frontal cortex helps modulate social behaviors. The disinhibition and abnormal behaviors in the aging population results in degenerative changes in this part of the cortex. It is very hard to describe the functions of each hemisphere so the author will include bibliography for readers.

What is plasticity? It is the ability of one area of brain to alter its function of cerebrum varying from person to person and is affected by aging process. For example if dominant hemispheric language is damaged in a child before age of 8 years the opposite hemisphere can assume the language function. The gross reorganization of brain function in adults after injury is uncommon however the plasticity remains functional in specific areas of brain throughout life.

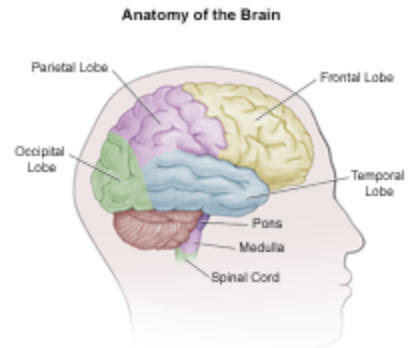
How to control your balance with daily activities

Our everyday activity depends on our mind concentration, focus on what we want to do and improving the self with proper thinking; think positive and accept life as it is.

There are modalities to accept in life to stay healthy and lead a normal life as we get older.

1. Eat a well-balanced diet with supplemental vitamins and iron
2. Exercise and practice yoga daily to improve your gait and posture
3. Do crossword puzzles to improve circulations in the brain

4. Those suffering from diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and other debilitating illnesses need help from rehabilitation centers



5. Frequent visits to your physician and be compliant with prescribed medication
6. Preventing falls at home or while walking on streets is a major issue for our seniors
7. At home the rooms should be properly lighted, remove the loose mats and any heavy object that might be hazardous
8. Check Wheel chairs frequently for any loose defects,
9. Wear comfortable shoes while walking
10. And lastly always be positive and happy!

Mass Transit Is A Need for Many

By Anil Shrivastava Musafir

My friend Joe decided to cut back to one car in retirement because the cost of operating an extra vehicle was very expensive. One day Joe went across the border to buy his medicine since that was 65% cheaper in Canada. While returning home, Joe met with an accident that kept him stranded in Detroit. Joe's wife could not pick him up since they did not have an extra vehicle. Joe and his wife bought a second car as a backup for unexpected events. They pay close to \$10,000 a year on car loan, insurance and registration which takes a toll on their retirement income.

Our cleaning lady, Brenda lost her income for four months this year because her car became inoperable and she could not afford another vehicle. Recently Brenda bought a used car after receiving her tax return from the IRS which she used towards down payment for the vehicle. Though Brenda is back to work now, her automobile payments (including insurance, gas and repairs) don't leave her much to live on. She has moved with her daughter to afford a living.

On a brutally cold winter evening, I found Duane walking on I-75 in the middle of nowhere almost frozen to death. He had gone to Flint from Pontiac for a job interview borrowing his aunt's car. The car broke down and no one would give him a ride back. He had already walked ten miles and had another twenty to go. I dropped him to his place and saved his life.

Americans in metro areas are dependent on automobiles due to the absence of mass transportation. This situation necessitates them to have automobiles for every member of their family. In addition, automobiles contribute more than half of the carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, and almost a quarter of the hydrocarbons emitted into our air causing global warming.

Some folks argue that mass transit is not practical because of the suburban sprawl which is designed to provide personal space to all individuals. I agree, but there are many folks like Joe, Brenda and Duane who would like to curb car use for economic and environmental reasons. I personally prefer to use mass transit for going to the airport, medical appointments or downtown events. Others could use that for commuting to work and going to schools. The fact remains, "if you build them, they will come."

As of today, transit in major American cities does not exist with the exception of New York, Boston, Washington DC and San Francisco. America's dependence on its automobiles is reinforced by a shortage of alternative forms of transport. The Congress and the President are not doing anything about this either. The government is paralyzed due to partisanship. Unfortunately, the American public seems to care more about same-sex marriage, abortion rights, and transgender bathrooms than mass transit and infrastructure. This may be due to years of social engineering by Hollywood and media.

Whatever be the truth, it's time for us and our leaders to address real issues in the upcoming election instead of dwelling on futile pursuits. If not, we'll be stuck in the same rut.



The Resurgence of Detroit (First article in the series)



By Anil Shrivastava (Musafir)

It was a pleasure walking the streets of Detroit downtown yesterday afternoon (July 28, 2016). It's fun to watch downtown Detroit come to life. I remember how deserted it was even three years ago after leaving a performance at the Fox Theater having nowhere to go. No longer! The area is hopping with visitors from all over the US and the globe. If you like art, history, historic buildings, shopping, restaurants, walking or jogging, people watching, music, or museums, there's something for you to explore.



d. It has a spacious layout, ample parking lots and garages, well-coordinated stop lights, wide sidewalks well maintained buildings and a safe environment.

Did I say, "A safe environment?" Yes, the actual downtown Detroit area is safer than many downtowns in the US. It has way

more cops per capita (41 per 10k residents) than Los Angeles, Houston and Miami. A good measure of safety is young women jogging fearlessly and uninterrupted in streets. I found plenty of them in Downtown Detroit.

Downtown Detroit has a lot to offer in a fairly compact area. I took a walk from One Woodward Ave. to Comerica Park. The place was packed with people sitting in open air restaurants, enjoying fountains, and even taking a siesta in the open space of Campus Martius. I found Downtown Detroit the most visitor friendly of all the



major cities in America I have visited

Soon, Detroit will be connected by circulating streetcar named M-1 along Woodward Avenue between Congress Street and West Grand Boulevard. There is a massive plan to rebuild the New Center area. It will have 1,000 new apartments within walking distance from the M-1 rail. Also, a new red Wings Arena is being constructed in the same area. The idea is to make that the entertainment center of Detroit -- and one of the premiere entertainment districts in the country.

"People believe the city has gotten it right this time. Everyone is on the same page for

the first time."

Mental Exercise

Can you solve these?

1. You are shown two doors - one leading to hell and the second one to heaven and only the door guards know what is

behind the doors. One guard is always lying and the other is always telling the truth (of course, you don't know who is lying). You can ask only one guard one question.

What question can get you to heaven?

2. A fellow encountered a bear in a wasteland. Both got frightened - fellow ran to the north, bear to the west. Suddenly the fellow stopped, aimed his gun to the south and shot the bear.

What color was the bear?

3. Three missionaries and three cannibals want to get to the other side of a river. There is a small boat, which can fit only

two. To prevent a tragedy, there can never be more cannibals than missionaries together.

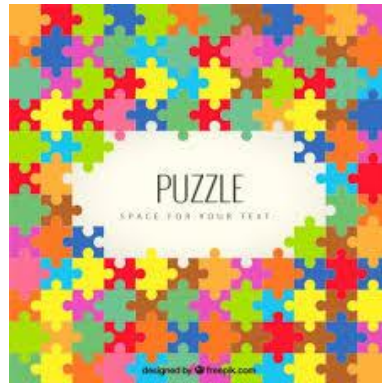
How could all of them get safely across the river?

4. If you had a 5-liter bowl and a 3-liter bowl, and an unlimited access to water, how would you measure exactly 4 liters?

5. The day before yesterday I was 25 and the next year I will be 28. This is true only one day in a year.

What day is my birthday?

6. Replace each letter for a unique digit so that the equation is correct.
 $(J+O+I+N+T)^3 = JOINT$



(Answers will be published in the next issue of TheThinkClub.com)

Thinking Wildly (Will Rogers on Politics)

"There is only one redeeming thing about this whole election. It will be over at sundown, and let everybody pray that it's not a tie, for we couldn't go through with this thing again."

"America has the best politicians money can buy."

"Congress is so strange; a man gets up to speak and says nothing, nobody listens, and then everybody disagrees."

"Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously, and the politicians as a joke, when it used to be vice versa."

"There's no trick to being a humorist when you have the

entire government working for you."

I don't think either one of them knows what it's all about, to be honest with you. Both sides are doing nothing but just looking towards the next election."

THE THINK CLUB IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE THINK CLUB PUBLICATIONS, A FORUM TO ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING AMONG FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS.

PUBLISHER: Bala Prasad

Managing Editor: **ANIL SHRIVASTAVA "MUSAFIR"**

Consulting Editor: **David Beagan**

Address: **The THINK Club**

PO Box 451

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0451

Phone: **248-651-3106** Fax: **248-651-3106**

email: letters@thethinkclub.com

Visit us: www.thethinkclub.com

From the Publisher's Desk

An Olympic Story

The world is awash in Olympic fever, so this is a good time to look back. The Olympic games began in Olympia, Greece, in 776 B.C. and continued without disruption until 393 A.D. when it was abolished by Emperor Theodosius I. The first modern summer Olympic started in 1896, through the efforts of Baron Pierre De Coubertin, a French national. Since then, it has been held every four years except for 1916, 1940, and 1944. The most a single city has hosted this event is London – thrice. The winter games were added in 1924.

It is not possible to dwell on all the highlights and all the triumph and tragedies of the modern Olympics, so let us pick a few.

In 1896, the U.S. was represented by an unofficial group of 12 participants and won 9 of 12 events.

In 1912, Jim Thorpe, a Native American, won both the decathlon and pentathlon. His medals were restored to him, posthumously in 1982. In the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Jesse Owens won four gold medals. The first perfect ever awarded to a gymnast was to Nadia Comanci of Romania, a perfect 10 –in 1976. She won three gold medals. In the 1972 Olympics, Mark Spitz, an American swimmer, won seven gold medals in Munich. But that year, terror also struck. A Palestinian terror group killed eleven members of the Israeli team. In 1976, about 30 African teams did not participate in protest of the New Zealand Rugby team tour of South Africa. About 60 countries did not participate in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. The Russian team did not participate in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. In the Seoul Olympics of 1988, scandals of drug misuse came to light. Many athletes, trainees, and judges were disqualified.

The centennial Olympic game took place in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1996. A former gold medalist from the 1960 Olympics and former world heavyweight champion lit the Olympic fire. There was not one pair of dry eyes in the stadium amongst the people who watched this occasion. A man larger than life in his prime, barely able to walk, lighting the fire with trembling hands. If this will not make a grown man cry, nothing will. And then there were heart warming moments – no doubt many – but some come to mind more clearly.

Derek Redmond, a British runner in the semi – final, he tore his right hamstring. His father helped him up and let him cross the finish line. This was a glorious moment of heroism and show of the bond between father and son.

Jesse Owens was the winner of four gold medals in 1936. It was he who raised the profile of African American athletes throughout the world first. Grandson of a sharecropper, raised in poverty in Ohio, he raised the American flag in Berlin, and in it's full glory.

When Nadia Cominici got the perfect score in the 1976 Montréal Olympics, the scoreboard was not geared to mark ten. She was 14.5 years old at that time, and as of now, no person below age 16 can participate in the Olympics. So her record will stand forever.

Shun Fujimoto broke his knee during his floor exercise but continued with his participation which helped his team win the gold medal.

The topic of the 21st century is saved for future reminiscence.

Sincerely,

Bala Prasad, MD

Thought of the Day:

I firmly believe that anyone who is alive and in a reasonably good health can achieve his or her dream to a great extent. Before coming to the United States, I limited my dream to working for the largest corporation in the world (of that era) and living comfortably in a middle class suburb. I achieved that through struggle and by overcoming my anxiety disorder. Of course, my dream was limited by choice.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. dreamt of his four little children living in a nation where they would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. Though he died prematurely, he achieved his dream to a great extent. Mr. Barack Obama is our forty-fourth president. Steve Jobs' dream was *to get a computer in the hands of everyday people, and he succeeded beyond his wildest dreams.*

That makes me think about the one percent Americans who are super rich. They have been characterized by certain groups as Shylocks of our time. The truth is that it isn't so. "According to a report released by U.S. Trust, 77% of those surveyed said they grew up in the middle class or lower, including 19% who say they were poor. And they credit their success to three factors: Hard work, ambition and family upbringing. Respondents even went so far as to say that these influences were much more important than connections or innate talent. About 80% of respondents said their parents were firm disciplinarians. They also named academic achievement, financial discipline and work participation as the family values that were most emphasized in their homes." (Jackie Wattles [@jackiewattles](#))

Successful entrepreneurs know that becoming rich isn't easy. They learn to be calm while operating in a state of ongoing uncertainty. They are aware of the fact that there is a price to pay for getting rich. They have the mental toughness to endure temporary pain, thus they reap the harvest of abundant wealth. I am personally aware of many young men and women in our community who are struggling in a climate of uncertainty to establish their business. They are always short on finances and are tethering on the edge of bankruptcy. Despite that they keep on going.

Dreams are not fulfilled by begrudging someone else's achievements. They are mostly achieved by having a dream first and then working towards that dream.

