

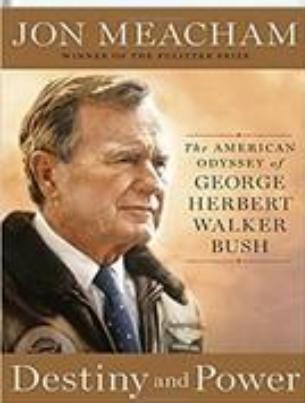
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Waning American Influence in Southeast Asia



Book Review: Destiny and Power



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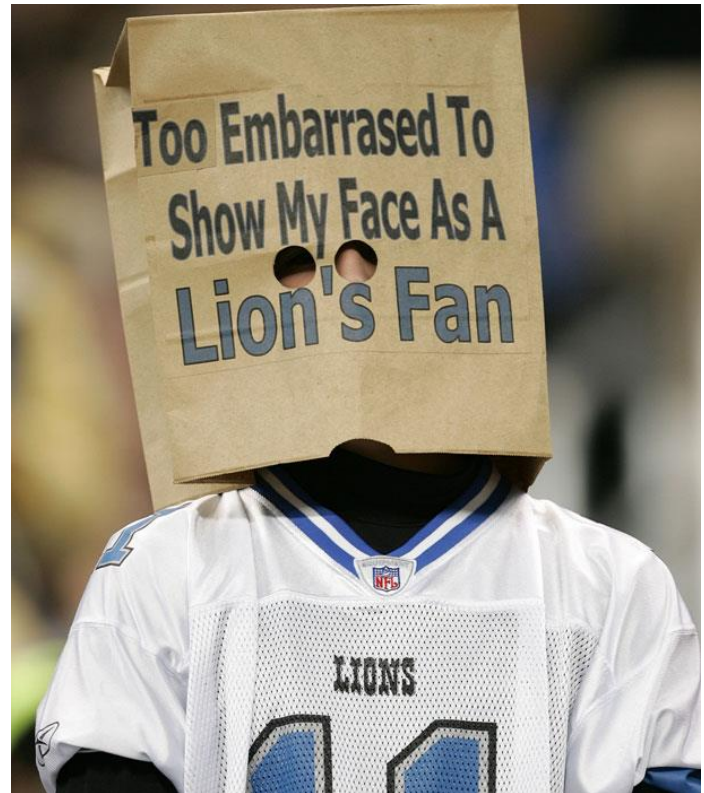
Being A Sports Fan In Detroit

By Musafir

It's the same story every year. It can be very distressing being a sports fan in Motor City. The last time any Detroit team won a championship was in 2008 when the Red Wings won the Stanley Cup and the Shockers bagged WNBA championship. The last time the Tigers won the World Series was in 1984.

We start every year with the optimism that this may be the year that would be different from others, but we always end up with a futile hope that one of the Detroit teams might get a wild card entry in the playoffs. Being a Detroit sports fan is like being an ancient Carthaginian. No matter what, they could never beat the Romans. We can't even hope for a tie. They run the games until a clear winner appears. That too is only possible, if a team makes to the championship. The Lions have never appeared in

a Super Bowl sharing the dishonor with Cleveland Browns, Jacksonville Jaguars and Houston Texans.



Detroit teams have ruined the careers of many talented players or at least deprived them of a championship ring. Barry Sanders comes to mind. He was still wildly successful in his own role, but could you imagine what his career would have looked like if he'd had a team around him? The other notable victims of Detroit Lions were Herman Moore, Brett Perriman, Scott Mitchell and Chris Spielman to mention a few. Other significant careers ruined by Detroit teams were Grant Hill of Pistons and Miguel Cabrera of Tigers. I can go on and on. Good for Justin

Verlander, he just flew over to Houston, but bad for Detroit, he took Kate Upton with him.

However, I would point out to all those gloating fans of teams elsewhere that there wouldn't even be any American sports to celebrate were it not for the enormous



contributions of automobile industry started and based in Detroit. Henry Ford I was the first to raise the average worker's wage to five dollars per diem back in 1913, thus giving rise to Middle class America who buy the tickets for these sports events. In fact, the Detroit based automobile companies are the biggest advertisers for all major sports events, Chevrolet brand alone being the largest contributor.

It's not that Detroit is totally deprived of sports honors. It hosts the largest events in water sports in the country. Sailboat racing is a major

sport in Detroit area. Lake Saint Clair is home to many yacht clubs which host regattas. Since 1904, the city has been home to the American Power Boat Association Gold Cup unlimited hydroplane boat race held annually on the Detroit River near Belle Isle

The Professional Bowlers Association Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour holds the Motor City Classic at Taylor Lanes in the suburb of Taylor.

The suburb of Southfield hosts the annual Gold Cup Polo tournament at Word of Faith International Christian Center, formerly known as Duns Scotus College

And did you know that Detroit has bid to host Summer Olympic Games more often than any other city which has not yet hosted the Olympics (placing 3rd in 1948, fifth in 1952, fourth in 1956, third in 1960, second in 1964, second in 1968 and fourth in 1972)? So, I refuse to put a bag over my head while going to Detroit sporting events. After all, Vince Lombardi was partially correct when he said, "Winning isn't everything,(blah, blah, blah)."

Essay

What's the Fuss about North Korea?

By Musafir



Of late North Korea and China have dominated the world news. Many of us are mystified about the affairs in that part of the world. This article is an attempt to clarify the present situation.

A Brief History of Modern Korea: Korea was one country known as the Korean Empire in the late 19th century. Korea, also referred as the Korean Peninsula, was occupied and ruled by Japan until the end of World War II. The division of Korea between North and South Korea was the result of the Allied victory in World War II in 1945, ending the Empire of Japan's rule over Korea. The United States and the Soviet Union occupied the country with the boundary between their zones of control along the 38th parallel. As a result, the Korean peninsula was divided between Russian and American influence. The northern area,

protected by the Soviets became Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a communist state and the south protected by the USA became the Republic of Korea or ROK, a democratic state. The new premier of North Korea, Kim il-Sung launched the Korean War in 1950 in an attempt to reunify the country under the Communist rule. The conflict ended with a cease-fire in 1953.

Present Korea: Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, North Korea (although an independent country) is under China's influence. North Korea has maintained a militarized dictatorship rule, with a cult of personality constructed around the Kim family. Kim Jong-un, the grandson of the first Kim is the present ruler of North Korea. Economically, North Korea has remained heavily dependent on foreign aid. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, that aid evaporated. The country's economic situation has been quite marginal since. North Korea is nuclear and heavily militarized because it fears an attack from the USA and its ally, South Korea and feels that it needs nuclear capability to survive.

On the other hand, the South Korean economy has prospered under the U.S. influence and the country is now considered to be fully developed, with a similar per capita economic standing to Western Europe, Japan, and the United States. However, it is costing the U.S.A. an arm and a leg to maintain its influence in South Korea. The U.S. spends approximately 1.4 to 1.5 billion dollars per year to protect South Korea against the North. The U.S. deploys approximately 26,000 service members distributed between all US military branches (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps) primarily to repel any military offence from North Korea and China.

USA's Position: The situation is very precarious for the USA in that region in the face of growing economic and military power of China. China wants the USA to demilitarize South Korea. Due to China's proximity and growing power, South Korea has started warming up to both North Korea and China. The new president of South Korea is listening more to China than USA. The USA has only limited options. They have to somehow maintain influence on South Korea without upsetting China.

USA's Diminishing Influence: President Trump during his recent Southeast Asian visit was obsequiously yielding to Xi of China. At a joint speech with Xi, Trump heaped praise on the Chinese leader, saying his people were "very proud" of him and hailing the "very good chemistry between the two of us." Xi was less generous in his praise, thanking Trump but stopping short of personal compliments.

"The Pacific Ocean is big enough to accommodate both China and the US," Xi added.

Later, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told reporters Trump and Xi had "frank, open and productive" discussions behind closed doors which covered disputes in the South China Sea.

On trade disparity Mr. Trump said, "I don't blame China. Who can blame a country for being able to take advantage of another country for the benefit of its citizens? I give China great credit."

At a press conference with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Trump said Xi "has been very helpful" on the North Korean issue.

In return, China is going its own merry way increasing trade with North Korea and



supplying them the much needed oil.

USA is trying to make an axis with Australia, Japan, South Korea and India to counter the Chinese power and influence. However, most of those countries are heavily dependent on China for trade. They are a part of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) which the USA is not anymore. Withdrawal of USA from TPP is good for China. USA is losing its market and influence with those countries in favor of China.

The reality is that the USA is trying to hang on, not sure for how long. Like dominoes, country after country in the region is turning away from the United States accepting China as its leader. If Mr. Trump can turn the tide, he will go down in history as one of the most able presidents of the United States. Here is your chance for greatness, Mr. Trump!



Saying “Thank you.”

Musafir



This Thanksgiving I am thankful for the phrase, “Thank you.” Growing up in India, I don’t remember ever saying “Thanks” or “Thank you” to anyone until the era of seventies begun. As the custom of thanking each other was just catching up in the old country, I moved to the USA. It took me some time to get used to saying “Thanks” for every little things, but now I say this at least 50 times a day or more depending on the amount of interactions.

‘Thanks’ is a wonderful word. We say thank you for gifts, thank you for special favors, and thank you for assistance in times of need. But it's not only the big things where thank you matters. We also say thank you as we're handed our change in the store, thank you to someone who holds the door for us, and thank you to the person who passes us the salt at dinner table.

It's a phrase that is pretty much ubiquitous. But it's never unwelcome, and it can mean so much. “Thank you” also reduces the need for elaborately explaining a situation to people we are not so familiar with. For example someone complemented me on my tie. Before I would have answered, “Oh, this is an old tie, I had it for years. It’s not so great.” Now I politely say, “Thank you.”

I play bridge. Suppose my partner said, “You played your hand really well.” My answer would have been, “Yeah, but I did miss that important play. Now I simply acknowledge by saying, “Thank you.

‘Thank you’ can also be used while comforting someone. Most people don't know what to say in

such situations and may say something inappropriate in nervousness. I remember when someone’s father died, one of my friends consoled the person by saying, “I am sorry to hear about your father’s death. God gave you only one father and then took him away. I am glad that at least your mother is still alive.” He could have simply said, “Thank you for sharing that with me. I'm here for you.”

I have heard people complaining that saying ‘thank you’ is so mechanical it has lost its value. It’s overused. I also used to think so. But it’s easy to forget that no one ever needs to do anything for us. No one owes us anything. We don't have a right to be treated kindly. If we are treated well, it’s because someone cares for us enough to give us that privilege. It doesn't hurt anyone if we lower our pride and just say, “Thank you.”

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Humor

Turning Seventy-one Musafir

I shouldn't be complaining. I had my share of youth longer than most people. Though I still don't feel old from inside, I can't hide my bare scalp, drooping chin, potbelly and aging skin. If I go for cosmetic surgery, maybe people will still think I am middle-aged. The other day, I went to a restaurant and asked the waitress disgustingly, "Where had you been all my life?" I was not hitting on her. I was simply upset with the fact that it took her so long to serve me. She hesitated for a second then replied, "Well sir, for more than two-third of it, I wasn't even born."

One thing good about getting old is you get insults with a dose of respect. People hesitate to tell you, "Get lost buster!" They might look at your haggard face and say, "Sir! Would you mind hiding behind your wrinkles?" Getting older, and being ethnic, is a double whammy in America. All the younger ones start calling you grandpa. One time a new immigrant from the old country called on me for a career advice. We had never met before. When I opened the door for him, he said, "Is



your grandson home?" "Well, you came here to see me. Didn't you?"

"Sorry! I didn't think that you'd be this old," he replied.

"Never mind come on in," I responded.

I became so disgusted with that incident that I stopped meeting ethnic people. I don't understand who gave them the right to address me as grandpa? The other day someone called to invite me to an ethnic party.

“Sorry, I don’t go to ethnic parties anymore,” I responded.

“Why not?” “Because I am made to sit in a corner as I look old.”

“But, You are only as old as you feel,” the voice on the other end snapped at me.

“I don’t feel that old at all.”

“But sir, you look old,” was the terse response.

That certainly made my day. I soon realized that it was not only my appearance that looked weary, my thinking was becoming ancient as well. I find pleasure in watching the Discovery channel, talking about French film directors, indulging in diet food, discovering the merits of alternative medicines, understanding Surrealism, and rediscovering relativity. The younger crowd, who watches Shameless, The Girlfriend Experience, Drinking Buddies and wonders why Kim Kardashian is still married to Kanye West, gazes at me in despair and bewilderment when I listen to modern artists such as, Madonna, Billy Joel and Elton John.

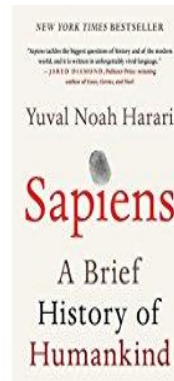
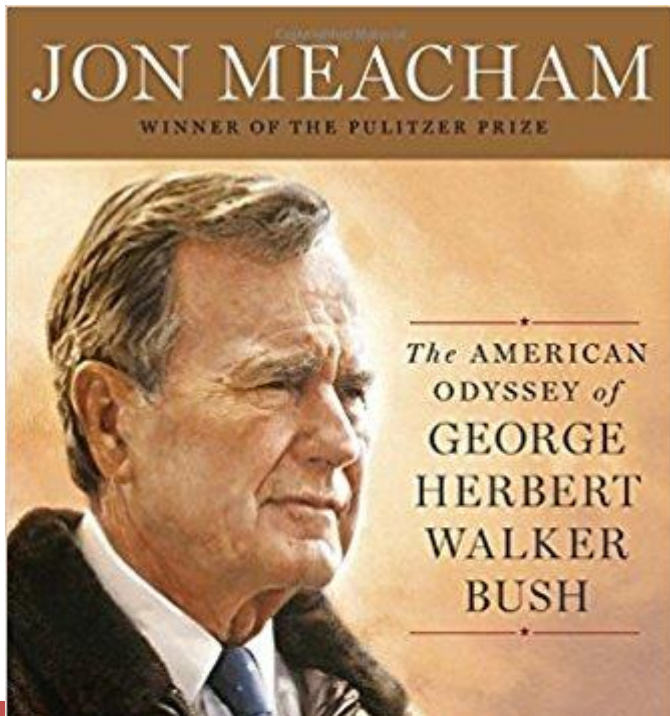
Things are deteriorating even faster now. Of late, I’ve started taking an interest in reading War and Peace. I talk to people about the similarities between the German and Sanskrit grammars and find Indian classical music enticing.

I no longer care for keeping up with the times. I proudly declare that I am electronically illiterate when it comes to handling Snapchat and Alexa. It’s perfectly acceptable for me to agree that I couldn’t be a perfect person when I was pressured by my parents to become one. Now, without any

pressure, I am sinking into timeless backwaters — bridge, botany, the Civil War biographies, and bridge.

Forgive me, my list of venerable pursuits and imperfections are increasing by the hour. But one of the rewards of getting older is no one cares about my imperfections anymore. It’s expected of me. As a matter of fact, no one seems to care about anything I do anymore. When I struggle for words, people don’t think that I am poorly educated. They perceive this as an early symptom of Alzheimer’s disease. I can use bathrooms in stores without buying anything and not feel embarrassed about it. The storekeepers probably allow me to do so for their own safety. I can go out in odd pairs of shoes and socks and not upset anyone. The world seems to accept me for what I have become. I don’t hide my age anymore. As a matter of fact, I can’t! My eyebrows and facial hairs have turned gray.

Did someone say, “Happy seventy-first birthday?” Are there anymore cards left in the store beyond 70?



Book Review

Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush

Sapiens: The Brief History of Humankind

John Meacham portrays our 41st president, George H W Bush as the last gentleman president. Although he came from the family of elites, he was a self-made man who carved his own destiny in the oil fields of Texas away from his family's stronghold in New England. He led his life on his own merits and principles. His was, undoubtedly, the most impressive public careers in the latter half of the 20th century.

GHWB was a true patriot with impressive education and heroic service in World War II. He got into oil business on his own which was a deviation from his family tradition. Later he served as a congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, chairman of the Republican National Committee, envoy to China, director of Central Intelligence, vice president of the United States, forty-first president, and the only president since John Adams to see his son also win the ultimate prize in American politics. Nothing came easy to Bush.

Meacham has done tremendous Research in writing this book. It's not a quick read (836 pages), but it is full of interesting revelations about the actors in Bush's life.

"I feel like an asterisk," Bush remarked to Meacham, reflecting on his place in history. "I am lost between the glory of [Ronald] Reagan — monuments everywhere, trumpets, the great hero — and the trials and tribulations of my sons," particularly his eldest, former President George W. Bush.

Bush, criticized former Vice President Dick Cheney and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. "The two had hurt George W. Bush's presidency with their iron ass approach to foreign policy," he said.

Bush always had to struggle to achieve his goal. He was not in good books of Reagan to start with but he eventually earned Reagan's respect and confidence with his loyalty and sincerity and honesty towards him.

Eight years later, as Reagan's political heir, Bush

faced off against the governor of Massachusetts, Michael S. Dukakis. It was a rough campaign, which Bush justified to himself on the grounds, Meacham notes, that he was the "better man" for the job.

His greatest achievements were the ending of the cold war with the Soviets without destabilization of Europe, forging a coalition to successfully roll back Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and negotiating with Democrats to reduce the federal deficit. Doing so required a tax increase against his campaign promise of, "Read my lips; no new taxes." Gingrich and his allies never forgave him for that, and when the economic downturn began in 1991, Bush was left with few allies.

He ultimately lost the second term to a more energetic and charismatic Bill Clinton. He never understood that how could he lose to a draft dodger and philanderer. This was probably due to

changing times, according to Bush. The defeat that followed was the "ugliest period" of his life, Bush said. He realized that he no longer truly understood the country he led.

He regained interest in life after two of his sons, George W and Jeff became the governors of Texas and Florida respectively. George W Bush later became the president of the USA. George W Bush asked Bill Clinton and his father, the elder Bush to work on international projects. That brought the senior Bush closer to Bill Clinton. They became like father and .

This is a great book for the lovers of American presidency. I recommend this book for everyone to read.

-Reviewed by Musafir

Sapiens: The Brief History of Humankind

Author: Yuval Noah Harari

Published by Readtrepreneur Publishing 2015

Brilliant. Bold. Fascinating. To say that it's thought-provoking would be a major understatement. I simply wasn't prepared for many of Dr. Harari's arguments, theories and interpretations and the staggering amount of historical time that he covered so aptly! It's not just any history book. Controversial? Yes. But where the author has a point - he is very convincing; where there isn't enough historical information to make a point he honestly says so, all the while producing very plausible theories... Excellent chapter on Polytheism and Monotheism

and a great take on Buddhist view of happiness - among so many other fascinating, even if at times "irreverent", insights... Interesting theories about "patriarchal genes" in our societies even up to this day. I also truly see Dr. Harari's reasoning about love-hate relationship between global empires and the societies that they absorbed. What's more, I find the author very objective in his search for answers. All in all, I agree with one of the readers: this book is "most enjoyable and most depressing"

at the same time. But it's honest. If I were to choose one book to recommend to my two adult children, this would be the one.

-Reviewed by Irene Rudra



"Is it so?
Then why don't you call

Autumn or Fall?

By Musafir

I was minding my own business enjoying the fall season of Michigan feeling that crisp breeze in the air. The world seemed to turn into one big canvas with nature's paintbrush. Oh to see the canopy of enchanting red, gold, and orange leaves! It was the perfect time to start sipping hot apple cider, and light a fire in the fireplace. Fall creates a sense of comfort, warmth and reflection in me, all in one.

My tranquility was broken as soon as a friend of mine called me from England. He referred to the beautiful fall in Michigan as autumn. I casually mentioned to him that here in the US we called it fall not autumn.

"Why fall? The rest of the world refers to this season as autumn."

"We call it fall because the leaves fall in this season."

"Why must Americans dumb everything down to their low level of intelligence? Why do you look at the worst side? Why don't you glorify the bright colors of autumn rather than reminding the world of parting leaves? After all the poets from generations have praised the beauty of autumn. None has lamented the fall of leaves."

"We in America believe in simplifying the English language."

spring 'Grow or Rise?' Moreover, fall reminds of the American barbarism. Every time we hear "fall" we think "who fell or died?!"

"American barbarism? That was our revolutionary war. And, by the way, we call it fall to remember the fall of the British Empire," I was on offensive.

"Autumn is much more romantic than fall.

There are so many beautiful girls named autumn. I don't know any girl named Fall," my friend tried to temper the conversation.

"That's romantic alright but it's only a figment of your imagination," I answered.

"No, I don't think it is a figment. For example, I hear, "in his autumn years," but never, "in his fall years. We say autumnal, too. For example, it's the autumnal equinox, not fallal."

"No matter what you call this time of year just know that we Americans say fall because we are a bunch of pragmatic folks who think simply that leaves fall down. It may not sound as pretentious as autumn, but it is beautiful."

"OK, how about calling it the harvest season?" My friend wanted a truce.

Finally we decided to enjoy the season without worrying about the language. Call it autumn or call it fall or harvest, every leaf is a flower now. They speak bliss to us.

George Bernard Shaw aptly said, "England and America are two countries separated by the same language."

The American Scene

Victimization of Women

Musafir



"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves, that we are underlings." --- Cassius in Julius Caesar

There has been a rash of claims against male dignitaries in all walks of life for being sexual predators who took advantage of women's vulnerability. Women are suddenly remembering sexual advances by these guys that occurred 40 years ago. There are hash tags appearing for women to register their sexual harassment claims of past and present. One such hashtag #MeToo alone has been used by more than 1m times in the US, Europe, and the Middle East to register such claims by women.

The culture of sleaze in which young women have invariably been the victims stretches back to the origins of mankind and it is hard to believe that the present movement against it causing the downfall of a few luminaries like Harvey Weinstein will transform the milieu. Which is not to say it will make no difference

at all. Those prone to such indiscretions will henceforth try to be more discreet but as long as there are givers, there will be takers.

Young actresses aspiring to Hollywood or many of the striving women in other fields succumb to animal passions of the predators for stardom and career advances. Many of the established Hollywood actresses pose nude and indulge in sexual acts on screen in the hope of getting a role in the next movie. Weinstein and others always maintain that their indulgences were consensual. The others dismiss the claims as untrue. This is also true that most of the women who are coming out now never complained before or registered the complaint with authorities.

The New York Times' Maureen Dowd recently cited an excerpt from the autobiography of Shirley Temple in which the most famous child star of her era recalls having to cope, at the age of 11, with an associate producer exposing himself to her, while the head of MGM was trying to grope her mother in a nearby office. I wonder what her mother was thinking. That was something like 80 years ago. Unfortunately, nothing has changed since then. We reelected Mr. Clinton to a second term despite his taking advantage of women (of course, they were willing too). Later, we elected Mr. Trump to the highest office in the land despite his vulgar admission of viewing women as sexual objects. The sexploitation did not cease with the advent of the feminist movement, and it is unrealistic to assume that it can be washed away just because of the present complaints.

This age old problem is not just Weinstein, it is not just Hollywood either. Nor is it just an American malaise. And it is not restricted to one walk of life. The exploitation of women as potential sex objects is rife from the media to academia and everywhere in between. It needs soul searching and honesty on part of both men and women. No one should exploit or be a willing victim. Otherwise, as long as there will be givers, so will be takers.

Reminiscence: Chritine Keeler

Ashokkumar Lal

She is dead. Having lived over seventy years, death must have come as relief to her. Born to lower income group parents, her father discarded her when she was a child. Next her step father sexually abused her. Now a day's word abuse is used to hide shame of rape.

Having received an education which could not give her a decent life, she opted to trade her best asset, her beautiful body and she did it quite well. She began moving in high society, and as usual got best offers from old and wealthy customers.

To her credit, one has to admit that her scandals brought the British government down, by forcing then prime minister, Harold Macmillan to resign. She was having affairs with the defense secretary of Britain and John Profumo a Russian naval attaché who was a superbly handsome man with a boxer's build and the agility of an athlete. She probably was in love with him.

When news leaked, the national security was thought to have breached, and Profumo had to go. The Russian fellow was also hastily recalled by Moscow. Off went the British PM too.

As the photos revealed, she had a liking for swimming nude with big wigs, including then Pakistani dictator, Ayub Khan who denied any involvement with her for obvious reasons. She caused many more heads in the



British government roll, but this unfortunate girl was prosecuted for their sins.

She suffered and one wonders what kind of life she endured for being a woman. It happened in early nineteen sixties much before #MeToo movement.



Rest in peace once beautiful girl



Preventing Bullies in Middle and High School

Dr. Niru Prasad, MD

What is definition of bullying?

Bullying occurs when a child or group of children, are mean and hostile to a friend who is unable to defend themselves. Bullying can be in form of verbal, physical or emotional abuse. A main feature of bully is his or her need to gain control over others. The bullies can gain control over others through physical threats, verbal teasing and abuse. There are 4 specific types of bullies:

1. Physical Bullies usually hit, kick or fight with victim,
2. Verbal bullies try to harm others by making nasty comments, name calling or using bad words.
3. Relational bullies often focus on excluding one person from their peer group by spreading rumors or verbal threats.
4. Reactive bullies are often those who are victims as well bullies.

Researchers have proved the facts that bullying is more prevalent in boys than girls in the United States and other countries.

Incidence of Bullying in the United States and Third World Countries

While the incidence of bullying has been reported from Norway, Australia England the recent statistic shows that United States has been reporting the incidence more and more. Further reported incidences prove the fact that more bullying has been reported in rural areas than in suburbs. In a National study of 15,686 students in grade 6 through 10, Nansel and associates (2001) reported nearly 30% of students had involvement with bullying. The Hispanic students are more involved than the white, African Americans have higher incidence. Poor academic achievement and poorer perceived school climates also play a major role among the bullies and victims.

Cyberbullying among teens and adolescents

The cyberbullying and online harassment are very dangerous behaviors with sad consequences. Such as severe depression, drugs, alcohol use and suicide attempts. According to another study, nearly 160,000 students annually drop out of the school program every year due to cyberbullying. According to the national bullying prevention center, bullying in the form of verbal or physical abuse has now advanced due to technology such as texting, cell phones, emailing, and social media has now moved to online world.

Prevention of cyberbullying world wide

Many of the warning signs derive from the child's use of their device. Some warning signs that a child might be involved in cyberbullying are:

- Increased use of cell phones and texting
- Child is emotionally unstable like throwing tempers, refusing to study or do his homework
- A child exhibits emotional responses (laughter, anger, upset) to what is happening on their device.



- A child hides their screen when others are near, and avoids discussing what they are doing on their device
- Social media accounts parents are aware of disappear, or new ones appear
- A child starts to avoid social situations, including ones they once enjoyed. Refuses to spend time with parents and relatives and his school grades are falling.
- A child becomes withdrawn or depressed, and has a general loss of interest

What to Do When Cyberbullying Happens

If you notice some of the previously mentioned warning signs, be aware, and take steps to prevent these behaviors. Cyberbullying is a form of bullying, and adults should address it in the same manner. Parents should support the child being bullied, address the bullying behavior, and show children that cyberbullying is taken seriously. Because cyberbullying happens online, unlike verbal bullying, responding to it calls for different action. Here are some of the actions that can be taken if you suspect the cyberbullying:

- Notice the behaviors – Recognize changes in mood or behavior. Determine if these changes happen when the child uses their devices. And talk to them about what is happening.
- Document the behaviors – Keep a record of what is happening. Take screenshots or document harmful posts. Most laws and policies note that bullying is a repeated behavior, records help with documentation of these events.
- Report – Social media platforms and schools have clear rules about bullying. If you are aware of cyberbullying, report it. You can also contact app or social media platforms and have it removed. If a child is being threatened, or if crime is potential, contact the police.
- Support –Sometimes other individuals interfere with the policies set in place, and this can be negative or positive. This can include posting positive comments about the person targeted with bullying to try to shift the conversation in a positive direction. It can also help to reach out to the child who is bullying and the target of the bullying to express your concern. Try to determine if professional support is needed for those involved. Parents and Family support play a very important role in proper nurturing their children and adolescents.

The Characteristics of Bullies

Bullies are very aggressive, usually strong and well-built and think a lot about themselves. They come from a family where there are lots of fight and disputes, alcoholic parents, with use of alcohol and drugs. Bullies might have poor school performance and always try to get whatever they want. Furthermore, they might be extensively involved with group of similar friends as well texting and emailing continuously.

Characteristics of Victims

They are more sensitive, socially withdrawn, quiet and passive. They also might suffer from anxiety and depression. They might be ashamed to talk to others regarding their abuse.

School Based Programs

Raising awareness of bullying through school assemblies, parent teachers meetings, parent teacher organization, teach anger controls and proper supervision of students at school. Schools also provide counselors to deal with bullying.

The Roles of Schools in Preventing Bullying

Schools play a significant role in the prevention of bullying because most incidences happen at school grounds, during recess, in locker rooms or bathrooms and sports field.

Mental Exercise

1. If you flip a coin and get Heads four times in a row, what are the odds that you'll get Heads the fifth time?
2. A milkman has two empty jugs: a three gallon jug and a five gallon jug. How can he measure exactly one gallon without wasting any milk?
3. A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?
4. What makes this number unique? 8,549,176,320.
5. A clerk at a butcher shop stands 5 ft ten in tall and wears size 13 shoes. What does he weigh?
6. Carrie was born on December 28th, yet her birthday always falls in the summer. How is this possible?

Answers in the next issue.

From the Publisher's Desk

All the President's Detractors

Bala Prasad

What is going on with our present presidency? Every time I turn on the news, chances are that somebody is beating on the presidency for doing something or not doing something. This article is not in the defense of President Donald Trump. Far from it. It is in defense of fair play. Outside the newscasters, I know people, some very near and dear to me, who always ask me to mention one thing that Mr. Trump has done that is right. If people's opinion is so preformed and their mind already made up, what is there to discuss any alternate point of view? Mr. Trump has done and not done many things. Surely, most of us will find reasons to agree with or disagree with him, on some of the points.

The president has certainly not helped himself much with some of his actions and inactions. One of the primary necessities for survival, political or otherwise, is to stop the hole deeper that you are in. Certainly in orderly White House is advisers and subordinates would take the shovel out of his hand. But in this White House, no authority delegated adequately in anybody, who could disagree and disarm the president.

The president won the election fair and square and he is still needlessly carrying on about voter fraud against the absence of any fraud. Healthcare is in a shambles. He has the right to pass laws in the Congress as he sees fit – after all he is the only president we have – but having been rebuffed time and time again he should try for something he can achieve. These defeats are like blood to the sharks. They become bold and more aggressive. Chances are very good he will have difficulty getting tax bills and others, some of which are very good, passed. Once

the politician of his party or other party had tasted the power of exhilaration or pushing a president around, they will try it again and again, some time just for the fun of it, and sometime will succeed.

Mountains are made of mole hills, which eventually will not rise. But in the meantime it is the American people who will suffer. Nothing is being done. Nobody knows what is in the future of health care agenda, economic agenda, infrastructure agenda, or anything. Time has come when President should be left alone, without brick back thrown at him from all side, and do what he was elected to do. People should forget about his failed ventures like Trump School, Trump Airlines, multiple bankruptcies and others. He should be allowed to preside in peace.

Similar things happened to former President Barrack Obama. He has been elected, re-elected, and is gone from White

House. But his detractors still whine about his being a closet Muslim, not born in the United States, and achieving nothing in his presidency.

If you need more proof of my views, watch MSNBC and Fox News, the former for their diatribe against Mr. Trump and the latter against Mr. Obama. Previous presidents have had their detractors, but in my opinion it has reached a new height of uncouthness.



Hit and Miss

By Ashokkumar Lal

She was my classmate,
Had less love, more hate.
She was my rival for the tops,
We despised each other a lot.

I was esthete, sought beauty in life,
She was ascetic studious and rife,
While I was exuberant, bore a smile,
She was grim, unhappy for a while.

I asked for a date to catch a flick,
I expected the reply to be bleak.
Lo and behold, it actually clicked,
Pleasure was mine, it felt slick.

I got the tickets to win her fancy,
She got us Coke not to be pancy.
It was odd she was so quicker,
Though she said, "I liked your gesture."

As lights were dimmed and hall went dark,
She lay her head on my shoulders forthright,
I felt the romance but thought she's asleep,
She glanced at me and slyly quipped,

"I liked you Mr. Cool, though you are such a fool!"

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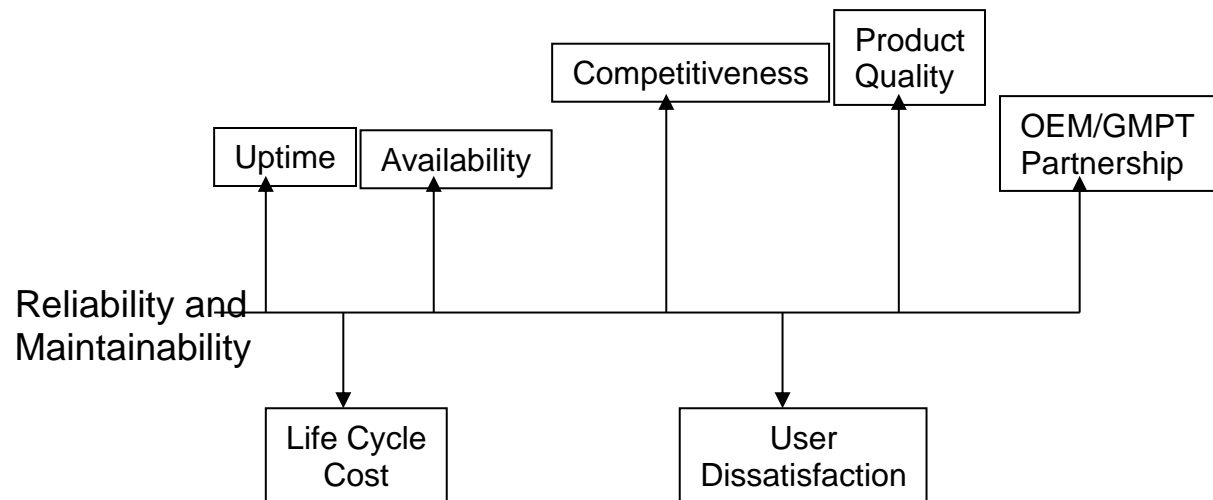
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