

ALL THE QUOTES THAT DIDN'T FIT ANYWHERE ELSE

PART FIVE

All The Quotes That Didn't Fit Anywhere Else is one of an occasional series of selections from my collection of interesting and useful quotations — alternate title, *Leftover Quotations* — and as such is an exercise in even-more-than-usual egotism. It is published by Jeffrey Copeland for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance and selected others on 13 November 2002 at Bywater Press, 3243 165th Ave, SE, Bellevue, Washington.

This chapbook exists because of conversation in SFPA about the boxed quotes that I use there for filler material. Surprise was expressed over the length of this collection, even though I've been gathering these for at least sixteen years, for a variety of sources that reflect my particular political and intellectual biases and interests. I've previously used some of the quotes in SFPA, LASFAPA, and my column in *Server/Workstation Expert*, though in this and subsequent installments, those are no longer marked.

Even though the quotations collected show my particular biases and interests, I don't necessarily agree with all the selections. Indeed, some of them have comments as to their absurdity, though some are sufficiently absurd that they stand on their own. I've also started trying to track chains of sources when the quotation comes from a secondary source.

In addition, it's come to my attention that the Einstein quotation on page 67 of part two is incorrect. It should read "Imagination is more important than knowledge," not "...creativity."



To his friend in the Army, Bob Pennington, now stationed in England, McGovern wrote, “I should have gotten married a year ago. I don’t see how anyone could be any happier than Eleanor and I are. When we’re together on weekends, the time just seems to race away.” A week later he wrote, “Having her here has really made an awfully big improvement in my morale. Of course those days when I can’t see her go by pretty slowly, but then all the days were like that before we got married. Eleanor seems to be happier than she has been since I’ve known her, so things are really working out swell for us. If being married under the handicap of a war is so wonderful it must be nothing short of marvelous in peace time. Bob, let’s hurry up and get this thing over with so we can really start living again.”

— George McGovern letters quoted in *The Wild Blue* by Stephen E Ambrose

p86 *The Wild Blue: the Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s over Germany, 1944-1945*, by Stephen E Ambrose, Simon&Schuster, 2001, ISBN 0-732-0339-9.

It was just as Ray had warned, hard flying.... At a function after the war, Ray told Eleanor [McGovern] that “all I was trying to do was to keep George alive in combat. I figured that the harder I rode him, the better his chances of surviving missions over enemy targets.”

— George McGovern’s B-24 instructor Lt Norman Ray, quoted in *The Wild Blue* by Stephen E Ambrose

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On the ground, McGovern discovered just how different the two men were in their personalities. “He was a clown if there ever was one,” McGovern said of Rounds. “You couldn’t be around him without laughing.” Rounds was a rollicking, fun-loving adventurer, with an eye for the women. McGovern marveled at the speed with which he “could move from the air base to the business of heavy romance with total strangers.” He would listen to Rounds’s accounts of his “spectacular multiple achievements in a single evening that were vastly beyond my area of experience.”

— George McGovern’s observations about his co-pilot Ralph “Bill” Rounds, *The Wild Blue* by Stephen E Ambrose

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Like nearly every serviceman in the armed forces of the United States, the AAF men at Cerignola came to hate the sight of Spam. This was true even at the very top. After the war, General Eisenhower met the president of the Hormel company and thanked him for the Spam, then added, with a grin, “But did you have to send us so much of it?” One writer in the 455th—calling himself “Anon”—commented: “For breakfast the cooks will fry it. At dinner it is baked. For supper they have it paddy caked. Next morning it’s with flapjacks. Where the hell do they get it all, they must order it by it by kegs!... SPAM in stew. SPAM in pies, and SPAM in boiling grease!”

— Food complaints from *The Wild Blue* by Stephen E Ambrose

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You must remember this
The flak can't always miss
Somebody's gotta die.
The odds are always too damned high
As flak goes by . . .
It's still the same old story
The Eighth gets all the glory
While we're the ones who die.
The odds are always too damned high
As flak goes by.

— Ditty to the tune of “As Time Goes By”, sung by the men of the
15th Air Force, quoted in *The Wild Blue* by Stephen E Ambrose

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To McGovern, “It was exciting going across the mountains. Those enormous snow-peaked mountains—and the endless meadows and fields, the trees and rivers and streams.” Thinking back, he commented, “Europe is beautiful except over the damn targets. It was our worst mission of the war.”

— George McGovern on his last combat mission to Linz, Austria,
The Wild Blue by Stephen E Ambrose

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We asked McGovern to sum up his war experience. With his answer, he spoke for every airman, every GI, every sailor, Marine, every Coast Guard man of World War II. “Piloting a B-24 in combat with eight other guys, sometimes nine other guys, took every ounce of physical energy I had, every bit of mental abilities I had, and literally every shred of spiritual resource that I had. I can't recall any other stage of my life, unless it was the closing days of the '72 presidential campaign, that so demanded everything I had. I gave that World War II effort everything except my life itself, and I was ready to give my life. It literally exhausted every resource of mind and body and spirit that I had.”

— George McGovern quoted in *The Wild Blue* by Stephen E Ambrose

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The reporter asked, “Senator, did you ever regret bombing beautiful cities like Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, and others?”

McGovern answered, “Well, nobody thinks that war is a lovely affair. It is humanity at its worst, it's a breakdown of normal communication, and it is a very savage enterprise. But on the other hand there are issues that sometimes must be decided by warfare after all else fails. . . . I thought Adolf Hitler was a madman who had to be stopped.

“So, my answer to your question is no. I don't regret bombing strategic targets in Austria. I do regret the damage that was done to innocent people.”

— George McGovern interviewed on Austrian television in 1985.
Quoted in *The Wild Blue* by Stephen E Ambrose

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I'm looking forward to a nationally televised panel discussion that includes Gordon Liddy, Cal Thomas, Robert Novak, George Will, John McGloughlan, Debra Saunders, Ollie North, Fred Barnes, Matt Drudge, Mona Charon and the editorial staffs of the *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes* and the *American Spectator*. They're sitting around a table, all frumpy and anal-retentive and terminally pissed off the way conservatives naturally get when they wake up in the morning. And all these media stars are sniveling and bitching about how hard it is to get good, traditional conservative views represented in the American media mix.

— Warren Pease

<http://bushandcheneyfuck.com/Conservative-Media.htm>, quoted by Avedon Carol, in [rec.arts.sf.fandom](http://rec.arts.sf.fandom.com), 19 Oct 2001,

Message-Id: <al0vsts0qhh23fuhvpmkc5hp8dtcpjc3og@4ax.com>

Technology is really civilization, let's face it.

— Arthur C Clarke in an interview 19 Oct 2001

My second day as chairman, a plane I lease, flying with engines I built, crashed into a building that I insure, and it was covered [by] a network I own.

— Jeff Immelt, whose first day as CEO of General Electric was 10 Sept 2001

The people on television who got excited last week about *The Patriot* are getting excited this week about *X-Men*, and they'll get excited next week about something else. But if you write critically you have to do something besides get excited. You have to examine what's in front of you. What you see is a movie industry in decay, and the decay gets worse and worse.

— Pauline Kael interview in the on-line version of *The New Yorker*, 8 October 2001

Former heavyweight boxing champ Muhammad Ali visited the ruins of the World Trade Center on Thursday [18 Oct 2001]. When reporters asked how he felt about the suspects sharing his Islamic faith, Ali responded pleasantly, "How do you feel about Hitler sharing yours?"

reported on Dave Farber's Interesting People list, 23 Oct 2001:

<http://www.interesting-people.org/archives/interesting-people/>

I'm flying a flag these days. The Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, America's flag—OUR flag! I've strapped it to my '97 made-in-the-USA Ford Escort, and I'm zipping around town as proudly as anyone else in the red, white and blue Bubbaland of South Austin, like some modern-day Patrick Henry on wheels. As with so many others, I'm flying our flag out of an assertive, perhaps defiant pride—for I am proud, damned proud, to be an American citizen, and, in this time of true woe and deep national trauma, I'll be damned to hell before I meekly sit by and allow this symbol of our nation's founding our nation's founding ideals—"liberty and justice for all"—to be captured and defiled by reactionary autocrats, theocrats, xenophobic haters, warmongers, America-firsters, corporatists, militarists, fearmongers, political weasels, and other rank opportunists.

Our flag is no piece of sheeting for authoritarians to hide behind as they rend our hard-won liberties in the name of "protecting" us from a dangerous world. We Americans are not that frightened. Nor is our flag some bloody rag to be waved by politicians hoping to whip us into such a lust for vengeance that they can turn our people's republic into a garrisoned state, armed to the teeth and mired in a quasi-religious war that George W defines as "this crusade" to "rid the world of evildoers." We Americans are not that blind.

Our flag is the banner of freedom seekers, risk takers, democracy builders, rebels, pioneers, mavericks, barnraisers, and hellraisers—a liberty-loving people who are naturally suspicious of authority and able to detect that the real threat to our land of the free comes not from afar, but from within.

Our flag is made of strong democratic cloth, artfully designed and painstakingly stitched together over 225 years—liberty by individual liberty, people's movement by people's movement. Our flag embodies a democratic continuum that connects us today to the pamphleteers and Sons of Liberty, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, the abolitionists and the suffragists, Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass, the populists and Wobblies, Mother Jones and Joe Hill, Martin Luther King Jr and Cesar Chavez.

— *Hightower Lowdown*, Oct 2001

compare the preceding with Patrick Nielsen Hayden of 15 Sep 2001

[N]o group larger than just me is free from fuggheads, and even my one-person group sometimes has one in it.

— Alan Prince Winston, in *rec.arts.sf.fandom*, 31 Oct 2001

Message-id: <00A044DA.96CF9C38@SSRL04.SLAC.STANFORD.EDU>

After Willow Rosenberg, the witch, got an enchanted gal-pal, scandalizing viewers shocked by realistic lesbian characters, Whedon spoke out: "I've made a mistake by trying to shove this lifestyle—which is embraced by, maybe, at most, 10 percent of Americans—down people's throats. So I'm going to take it back, and from now on, Willow will no longer be a Jew." His is the first show truly to master the teen native tongue, sarcasm.

— Tom Appelo, in "*Buffy* Slays, Now What?: The least watched great show on TV grows up", *Slate*, November 5, 2001

There are some people who read too much: the bibliobuli. I know some who are constantly drunk on books, as other men are drunk on whiskey or religion.

— H L Mencken

I'm already donating money to patriotic causes, and I bought some plastic flags made in China, but I felt I needed to do more. Then it hit me. There is one patriotic duty for which I have prepared my entire life: dehumanizing the enemy. In a sense, that's been my full-time job for years. I just need to replace the word "management" with "Taliban."

— Scott Adams, Dilbert Newsletter #38, 7 Nov 2001

Stop torturing yourself trying to make sense of it. You never will, because you are not like that, not like them. Otherwise, you would never ask the questions. Even in your pain, be grateful for that knowledge.

— Lisa DuMond, "Scattered Ashes", in *Tribute*, post-Sept 11th essays and stories on scifi.com

Really, the reason you see open source there at all is because we came in and said there should be a platform that's identical with millions and millions of machines.

— Microsoft chairman Bill Gates, on how he takes full credit for creating his own worst nightmare, *The Seattle Times*, 8 November 2001

pointed out (with commentary) by Owen Thomas at www.ditherati.com

my old friend yama / your crumbled towers crying / they were drawn to soar

— Haiku by an unknown author left at World Trade Center site

Life is the art of drawing without an eraser.

— John Gardner

I have seen the resilience of American democracy time and again . . . and I have come to admire the loyalty and energies and resolve of free men and women freely summoned.

— David Halberstam, *Vanity Fair*, Nov 2001

Omnia mihi lingva græca sunt.

— It's all Greek to me.

Si hoc legere scis nimium eruditionis habes.

— If you can read this, you're overeducated.

— last two are from T-shirts sold in the Smithsonian catalog, I believe

An Election Correction

In the issues of December 16th 2000 to November 10th 2001, we may have given the impression that George Bush had been legally and duly elected president of the United States. We now understand that this may have been incorrect, and that the election result is still too close to call. *The Economist* apologises for any inconvenience.

— *The Economist*, 15 Nov 2001

For a Westerner to trash Western culture is like criticizing our nitrogen/oxygen atmosphere on the grounds that it sometimes gets windy, and besides, Jupiter's is much prettier. You may not realize its advantages until you're trying to breathe liquid methane.

— Neal Stephenson

My Holiday Message

I've written and rewritten this section a dozen times. My problem is that no matter how much I write, I keep condensing it down to the same thought: This holiday season, as we laugh and eat and shop and enjoy friends and family, our soldiers are in Afghanistan risking everything for us. Some of them won't come back. The rest will never be the same.

Every one of them volunteered. They think we're worth it.

Let's prove them right.

— Scott Adams, Dilbert Newsletter #39, 28 Nov 2001

This movie doesn't scrape the bottom of the barrel. This movie isn't the bottom of the barrel. This movie isn't below the bottom of the barrel. This movie doesn't deserve to be mentioned in the same sentence with barrels.

— Roger Ebert reviewing *Freddy Got Fingered*

We're an open society, but we're at war. The enemies declared war on us. We must not let foreign enemies use those forms of liberty to destroy liberty itself.

— George W Bush, 29 Nov 2001, as he defends his "destroy the village in order to save it" logic for instituting secret military tribunals for suspected terrorists.

My darling girl, when are you going to understand that "normal" isn't a virtue? It rather denotes a lack of courage.

— Stockard Channing as Aunt Sally Owens in *Practical Magic*

And this is what comes from dabbling; I mean you can't practice witchcraft while you look down your nose at it.

— Dianne Wiest as Aunt Bridget Owens in *Practical Magic*

Rumination cf the Day

I'm so embarrassed. I told everyone that Soy lent Green is people, but if you read the label closely, it says it's actually made from "artificial people flavoring."

— Bob Van Voris, at www.topfive.com

7 December 2001

Wow! It's so screwed up it doesn't even make it to wrong.

— Jim Lyon, software architect at Microsoft, reviewing a piece of code

Details are all that matters; God dwells there, and you never get to see Him if you don't struggle to get them right.

— Stephen Jay Gould

See everything, overlook a great deal, improve a little.

— Pope John XXIII

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli

Just because you're on their side doesn't mean they're on your side.

— Teresa Nielsen Hayden

Plot is a literary convention. Story is a force of nature.

— Teresa Nielsen Hayden

We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us happy is something to be enthusiastic about.

— Charles Kingsley

Peace means something different from “not fighting.” Those aren't peace advocates, they're “stop fighting” advocates. Peace is an active and complex thing and sometimes fighting is part of what it takes to get it.

— Jo Walton

They lied to you. The Devil is not the Prince of Matter; the Devil is the arrogance of the spirit, faith without smile, truth that is never seized by doubt. The Devil is grim because he knows where he is going, and, in moving, he always returns whence he came.

— Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*

We have to go forth and crush every world view that doesn't believe in tolerance and free speech.

— David Brin, with tongue firmly planted in cheek

There was an Old Man with a beard,

Who said, “It is just as I feared! —

Two Owls and a Hen,

Four Larks and a Wren,

Have all build their nests in my beard!”

— Edward Lear, *The Book of Nonsense*

Return to sender, address unknown
No such number, no such zone.

— “Return to Sender”, Otis Blackwell and Winfield Scott, sung by
Elvis Presley

Through my own fault I may find
You’re no longer living at this address Please excuse the lack of news
— Elvis Costello, “The Letter Home”

’Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.
— Lewis Carroll, “Jaberwocky”

When you get up in the morning when that big bell rings,
You go marching to the table, you see the same old thing,
Knife and fork are on the table, ain’t nothin in my pan,
And you say a word about it you get in trouble with the man.
— Hudie Ledbetter, “Midnight Special”

Ken Thompson has an automobile which he helped design. Unlike most automobiles, it has neither speedometer, nor gas gauge, nor any of the other numerous idiot lights which plague the modern driver. Rather, if the driver makes any mistake, a giant “?” lights up in the center of the dashboard. “The experienced driver,” says Thompson, “will usually know what’s wrong.”
— Anonymous’ complaint about the error-reporting mechanism for the original Unix text editor `ed`

It has not escaped our notice that the specific pairing we have postulated immediately suggests a possible copying mechanism for the genetic material.
— James D Watson and Francis H C Crick, “Molecular structure of Nucleic Acids”, *Nature* **171**, pp 737-738 (1953)

It’s good to be the King!
— Mel Brooks, as King Louis, *History of the World, part 1*

The calla lilies are in bloom again. Such a strange flower, suitable for every occasion.
— Katherine Hepburn as Terry Randall, *Stage Door*

I mean if Eisenhower were here instead of me, he’d be dead now.
— Michael Douglas as President Andrew Shepard, *The American President*

[Geniuses] are of two kinds: the ones who are just like all of us, but very much more so, and the ones who, apparently, have an extra human spark. We can all run, and some of us can run the mile in less than four minutes; but there is nothing that most of us can do that compares with the creation of the Great G-minor Fugue.

— Paul Halmos

quoted by Sylvia Nasar in *A Beautiful Mind*, a biography of John Forbes Nash, Jr

The First Amendment, I expect. Its enforcement gives us society. The other provisions of the Constitution merely embellish it.

— Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, on his favorite part of the Constitution in an interview with Nat Hentoff, *Playboy*, July, 1991

In the spirit of God/Mammon ecumenism so beloved by the Republicans, the religion best at separating people from their money could merge with a similarly skilled corporation. The resulting entity would be called Enron Hubbard.

— Arthur D Hlavaty

Outlook Express is Microsoft's way of saying, "Pick up the soap."

— Arthur D Hlavaty

He was a guerrilla fighter armed with humor and art, leading the fight against boredom.

— Luther Nichols on the creator of *Rocky and Bullwinkle*, Jay Ward

The unanimously applauded, self-congratulatory bromides of a Soviet Party Congress seemed contemptible. The unanimity of the sanctimonious, reality-concealing rhetoric spouted by American officials and media commentators in recent days seems, well, unworthy of a mature democracy. . . . "Our country is strong," we are told again and again. I for one don't find this entirely consoling. Who doubts that America is strong? But that's not all America has to be.

— Susan Sontag, *The New Yorker*, Sept 21, 2001

I have never done anything "useful." No discovery of mine has been made, or is likely to make, directly or indirectly, for good or ill, the least difference to the amenity of the world.

— G H Hardy

Anyone who cannot cope with mathematics is not fully human. At best he is a tolerable subhuman who has learned to wear shoes, bathe, and not make messes in the house.

— Robert A Heinlein

Worry is interest paid in advance on a debt that never comes due.

— Ricky Jay as George Lang in *The Spanish Prisoner* by David Mamet

That was the best ice-cream soda I ever tasted.

— Lou Costello's last words

full name Louis Francis Cristillo

I am willing to love all mankind, except an American.

— Samuel Johnson

And always the marvel—to which the Canadians seemed insensible—was that on one side of an imaginary line should be Safety, Law, Honour, and Obedience, and on the other frank, brutal decivilisation; and that, despite this, Canada should be impressed by any aspect whatever of the United States.

— Rudyard Kipling, *Something of Myself*

He had no religion himself, but he had a decent respect for God, just as he had for the Board of Trade or any other properly constituted authority.

— J B Priestly, *They Walk in the City*

Work is of two kinds: first, altering the position of matter at or near the earth's surface relative to other such matter; second, telling other people to do so.

— Bertrand Russell

contrast with Doc Smith on doing things twice

1. Optimize potential. 2. Facilitate empowerment. 3. Implement visioning. 4. Strategize priorities. 5. Augment core structures.

— Connie Willis, *Bellwether*

When you've seen your six-year old son fighting for his life, you realize that some things matter a lot more than winning. You lose patience with the lazy assumption of so many in politics that we can always just muddle through. When you've seen your reflection in the empty stare of a boy waiting for his second breath of life, you realize that we were not put here on earth to look out for our needs alone. We are part of something much larger than ourselves. All of us are part of something much greater than we are capable of imagining. And my friends, if you look up for a moment from the rush of your daily lives, you will hear the quiet voices of your country crying out for help. You will see your reflection in the weary eyes of those who are losing hope in America. And you will see that our democracy is lying there, in the gutter, waiting for us to give it a second breath of life.

— Al Gore, acceptance speech at 1992 Democratic National Convention

You can judge a president by the enemies he is willing to make. You know that someone who's been attacked as much as Bill Clinton is doing something right. America has never changed without a president willing to confront the status quo and take on the forces of greed and indifference. It has changed only when we have had a president with the vision to tackle the real problems that really matter to our families. That's what this president has done.

— Al Gore, acceptance speech at 1996 Democratic National Convention

I'm Al Gore. I used to be the next president of the United States. Hey, you win some, you lose some, then there's that little-known third category.

— Al Gore, speech in San Jose, California, 9 January 2002

This is how one pictures the angel of history..... Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay... and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise... This storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned... This storm is what we call progress.

— Walter Benjamin, *Theses on the Philosophy of History*, 1940

pointed out in ;login:, the Usenix Association newsletter, Dec 2001

Earth is the cradle of the mind, but one cannot live in the cradle forever.

— K E Tsilkovsky

The great bird will take its first flight on the back of the great bird, filling the world with stupor and all writings with renown, and bringing glory to the nest where it was born.

— Leonardo da Vinci, 1505

Do you realize what we accomplished today? Today the space ship was born!

— Gen Walter Dornberger to Wernher von Braun, 3 October 1942

What use are the Van Allen belts? I make a living out of them.

— Dr James Van Allen

What Descartes did was a good step. You have added much several ways, & especially in taking ye colours of thin plates into philosophical consideration. If I have seen further it is by standing on ye shoulders of Giants.

— Sir Isaac Newton to Robert Hooke, 5 Feb 1676

Go placidly amid hot flashes and remember what laughs there may be in a well-placed length of rawhide. As far as possible, maintain chastity, but do not carry it to extremes. Explain all positions carefully and quietly so there will be no mistakes or unplanned injuries; listen to others, even the dull and ignorant, for they too have their ideas on perversion... Keep interested in your perversions, however sordid; it is a valuable asset to a dull party. Everywhere life is full of orgasms; there is always someone willing to help. Exercise caution in your affairs; for the world is full of detectives. But do not let this blind you to what virtue there is in a good time. You are a child of the sexual universe, and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the rest of the universe is just as weird.

— *Desiderata* parody

supplied by Lynn Costain to Allie Copeland

Further and further, Dubya, Son of Herbert, fell into the Pit of Deficit. A special sorcery, had he though, and he would climb the pit by lowering taxes, as had worked so well in the legendary time of Reagan the Forgetful.

— one of “The Top 12 Excerpts from Bad Fantasy Novels”, Top Five List for 8 Feb 2002, www.topfive.com, contributed by Slick Sharkey

To announce that there must be no criticism of the President or that we are to stand by the President right or wrong is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.

— Theodore Roosevelt

There are bright colors and quick movements on the screen, which we can watch as a visual pattern that, in entertainment value, falls somewhere between a kaleidoscope and a lava lamp.

— Roger Ebert, review of *Rollerball* (2002)

My guess is that something went dreadfully wrong early in the production. Maybe dysentery or mass hypnosis.

— Roger Ebert, review of *Rollerball* (2002)

Man is a tool-using animal... Without tools he is nothing, with tools he is all.

— Thomas Carlyle, *Sartor Resartus*, 1834

Get the right tool for the job.

— Mr Natural, in *Uneeda Comix* by R Crumb

The three great elements of modern civilization, Gunpowder, Printing, and the Protestant Religion.

— Thomas Carlyle, *Critical and Miscellaneous Essays*, 1838

The problem with defending the purity of the English language is that English is about as pure as a cribhouse whore. We don't just borrow words; on occasion, English has pursued other languages down alleyways to beat them unconscious and rifle their pockets for new vocabulary.

— James D Nicholl, *rec.arts.sf-lovers*, 15 May 1990

(jdnicoll@watyew.uwaterloo.com)

Message-Id <1990May15.155309.8892@watdragon.waterloo.edu>

Message-Id <1990May20.184335.4443@watdragon.waterloo.edu>

A director must be a policeman, a midwife, a psychoanalyst, a sycophant, and a bastard.

— Billy Wilder

Breasts like granite and a brain like Swiss cheese.

— Billy Wilder's description of Marilyn Monroe

That's the story of my life. I always get the fuzzy end of the lollipop.

— Marilyn Monroe as Sugar Kane in *Some Like It Hot*

In 1945, he returned to Europe, in the uniform of a colonel. He was working for the Psychological Warfare Division, and one of his duties was to view and cut the footage that was coming in from the concentration camps. This was then shown to German audiences. He also had to screen performers for the revival of cultural events, a task that came to a head when Anton Lang, who had played the part of Christ in the Passion Play at Oberammergau before the war, and who had since joined the S.S., requested permission to take up the role once more. On one condition, Wilder said: "Use real nails."

— Anthony Lane, in "Boys Will Be Girls: The making of Billy Wilder's 'Some Like It Hot'", *The New Yorker*, October 22, 2001

With time, it seems that Wilder has returned to the scene of those crimes: he tried to buy the rights to the Thomas Keneally novel *Schindler's List*, and there was even talk of his emerging from retirement to direct. When Spielberg's film was released, Wilder approved, and he used the occasion to write an article for a German newspaper, posing a quiet, unanswerable question to those who were tempted to doubt the existence of the Holocaust: "If the concentration camps and the gas chambers were all imaginary, then please tell me—where is my mother?"

— Anthony Lane, in "Boys Will Be Girls: The making of Billy Wilder's 'Some Like It Hot'", *The New Yorker*, October 22, 2001

Almost three decades later, he was asked, in all seriousness, whether he would have made movies if he hadn't been paid to do so. And Wilder, the man who has told more cold truths than many of us would care to hear, didn't hesitate for a second: "What do you think, I'm a sucker?"

— Anthony Lane, in "Boys Will Be Girls: The making of Billy Wilder's 'Some Like It Hot'", *The New Yorker*, October 22, 2001

My wife just bought the DVD of *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension*, and was explaining the premise to our daughters. "He's a brain surgeon, a rock star, a scientist, and a comic-book hero."

Daughter's reply: "Oh, he's like Barbie."

— Michael Weiland (mlw@iae.nl) in `rec.humor.funny`, 15 Feb 2002

What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise.

— Barbara Jordan, Harvard commencement speech, 1977

For every human problem, there is a neat, simple solution; and it is always wrong.

— H L Mencken

alternately:

For every problem there is a solution which is simple, clean and wrong.

— H L Mencken

Imagination without knowledge leads no farther than the back yard of primitive art, the child's scrawl on the fence, and the crank's message in the market place.

— Vladimir Nabokov, *Playboy* interview, January 1964

(compare Stoppard: "Skill without imagination...")

Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard.

— H L Mencken

It is now quite lawful for a Catholic woman to avoid pregnancy by a resort to mathematics, though she is still forbidden to resort to physics and chemistry.

— H L Mencken

The worst government is the most moral. One composed of cynics is often very tolerant and human. But when fanatics are on top there is no limit to oppression.

— H L Mencken

An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup.

— H L Mencken

A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin.

— H L Mencken

A society made up of individuals who were all capable of original thought would probably be unendurable. The pressure of ideas would simply drive it frantic.

— H L Mencken

The chief contribution of Protestantism to human thought is its massive proof that God is a bore.

— H L Mencken

contrast with his view on Puritanism.

Self-respect — the secure feeling that no one, as yet, is suspicious.

— H L Mencken

What men value in this world is not rights but privileges.

— H L Mencken

War will never cease until babies begin to come into the world with larger cerebrums and smaller adrenal glands.

— H L Mencken

No one ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American people.

— H L Mencken

You're about to be told one more time that you're America's most valuable natural resources. Have you seen what they do to valuable natural resources in this country?... Don't let anyone call you a valuable natural resource. They'll strip mine your soul and clearcut your mind.

— Utah Phillips

A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes.

— Mark Twain

In any moment of decision, the best thing to do is the right thing. The worst thing to do is nothing.

— Theodore Roosevelt

I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it.

— Pablo Picasso

Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race.
— H G Wells

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.
— Mark Twain

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.
— H G Wells

I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its
futility, its stupidity.
— Dwight D Eisenhower

Truth is more of a stranger than fiction.
— Mark Twain

Rumination cf the Day

Every Valentine's Day I get a bit depressed – another holiday for women! Then I remember
the Fourth of July, where we get to blow stuff up and accidentally catch the neighbor's yard on fire,
and maybe even sink the boat by running it into the dock, so I suppose we're even.
— Tidewater Joe, at www.topfive.com

27 February 2002

Rumination cf the Day

If you had an infinite number of monkeys and an infinite number of typewriters, I don't know
that you'd ever end up with the complete works of Shakespeare, but I bet you'd get some really
good porn with a lot of hot monkey sex in it.
— Bill Ervin, at www.topfive.com

27 February 2002

Firmitas, utilitas, venustas

— Vitruvius, Roman architect, on the three pillars of building —
firmness, utility, beauty

All care, all diligence, all financial consideration must be directed to insuring that what is built
is useful, commodious, yes—but also embellished and wholly graceful.
— Leon Battista Alberti, *On the Art cf Building*

Those are important words, David: “Under the circumstances.” We do the best we can with
what we are given. We are imperfect reflections of the universe around us. We cannot change the
past, we can only learn from it, and try to create a future in which such errors do not recur. Sadly,
we're still learning that last part.
— Andreas Katsulas as G'Kar in *Babylon 5: Legends cf the Rangers*

“We need you to speak with the Captain on our behalf, G’Kar. He is needlessly endangering us. I am sure there must be a planet with a breathable atmosphere somewhere in this sector. He could land, drop us off and go for help.”

“Minister Kafta, this ship being held together by little pieces of wire and good intentions. If we land in this condition, assuming we do not have an unpleasant encounter with the ground on the way down, I doubt very much they could take off again. They would be trapped with us. And the ship looking for them, would find it, find them, find us, find you. A brilliant cascade of cause and effect. Isn’t the universe an amazing place? I wouldn’t live anywhere else.”

“Citizen G’Kar: Captain Bartell would like to speak with you.”

“Of course. Love to stay. Can’t: have to go. Kiss, kiss. Love, love. Bye.”

“I sometimes think that prolonged exposure to humans has driven him mad.”

— Andreas Katsulas as G’Kar (conversing with others) in *Babylon 5: Legends of the Rangers*

He always said God had a reason for doing things. God took Mychal Judge as the first firefighter that we lost here because God wanted to test us. He said we won’t have Mychal with us, but He said take the faith that he gave us.

— Peter Gorman, head of the firefighters union, eulogizing Father Mychal Judge, FDNY chaplain, who died 11 Sept 2001

HTML’s a cheap whore. Treating her with respect is possible, and even preferable, because once upon a time she was a beautiful and virginal format, but you shouldn’t expect too much of her at this point.

— Mark “Kamikaze” Hughes in `alt.sysadmin.recovery`, 22 Jan 2000

pointed out by John McMullen

Heave an egg out of a Pullman window, and you will hit a Fundamentalist almost anywhere in the U.S. today.

— H L Mencken

The most incomprehensible thing about our universe is that it can be comprehended.

— Albert Einstein

Experts often possess more data than judgment.

— Colin Powell

We built this country on denying to *competent* prosecutors the sort of privileges John Ashcroft wants.

— Arthur D Hlavaty, fall 2001

Do I come around to where you work and slap the dick out of your mouth?

— Comedian Margaret Cho dealing with a heckler

pointed out by Arthur Hlavaty

I'm the fellow who, for more than a quarter century, has faithfully maintained the thesis that all writers should be funny-looking, and all stories should be funny. Almost all of the evil in the world is brought about by handsome writers doing pompous pieces.

— R A Lafferty

There is a secret society of seven men that controls the finances of the world. This is known to everyone, but the details are not known. There are those who believe it would be better if one of the seven were a financier.

— R A Lafferty

Dear Mr. Adams,

I am Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop [deleted]. One of our Scouts is becoming an Eagle Scout and I am asking prominent people to send congratulatory letters. His name is Billy [deleted].

Scoutmaster

—

Dear Billy,

I'm sure your mother taught you to never say you don't like something unless you have tried it. And your Father probably taught you that Boy Scouts shouldn't be gay. Am I the only one who sees a contradiction here?

Congratulations,
Dogbert

— Scott Adams, Dilbert Newsletter #40.0, 28 March 2002

English is a straightforward, frank, honest, open-hearted, no-nonsense language, which has little truck with such devilish devious devices as accents; indeed US editors and printers are often thrown into a dither when a foreign word insinuates itself into the language. However there is one word on which Americans seem to have closed ranks, printing it confidently, courageously, and almost invariably complete with accent—the cheese presented to us as Münster.

Unfortunately, Munster doesn't take an accent.

— Waverly Root, in the *International Herald Tribune*, 1982

pointed out by Donald Knuth in *The T_EXbook*

Then Ender looked at the others coldly. "You might be having some idea of ganging up on me. You could probably beat me up pretty bad. But just remember what I do to people who try to hurt me. From then on you'd be wondering when I'd get you, and how bad it would be." He kicked Stilson in the face. Blood from his nose splattered the ground nearby. "It wouldn't be this bad," Ender said. "It would be worse."

.....

.....

"Tell me why you kept kicking him. You had already won."

"Knocking him down won the first fight. I wanted to win all the next ones, too."

— Ender Wiggin, in *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

A wild orgasm of anarchists sweeping across the country like a prairie fire.

— Richard Nixon's description of the anti-war movement

Quando leggemmo il disiato riso
esser baciato da cotanto amante,
questi, che mai da me non fia diviso,
la bocca mi basciò tutto tremante.
Galeotto fu 'l libro e chi lo scrisse:
quel giorno più non vi leggemmo avante.

(When we read of the longed-for smile being kissed by such a lover, this one, who never from me shall be divided, kissed my mouth all trembling. Galahaut was the book, and he who wrote it. That day we read in it no farther.)

— *Divina Commedia di Dante: Inferno*, Francesca da Rimini explains why she and Paolo are in the second circle. Translation by Charles Eliot Norton

Lafferty never fit as an sf writer, as a fabulist or as a horror writer, although his work was sold as such and he won the Hugo Award and the World Fantasy Award. He was a genre in himself, and a Lafferty story is unlike any story by anybody else: tall tales from the Irish by way of Heaven, the far stars and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

— Neil Gaiman, *The Washington Post*, "Book World" section, 7 April 2002

The principle that we work on is, "Everything for the war, whether controversial or not, and nothing controversial that is not bona fide for the war." That is our position. We must also be careful that a pretext is not made of war needs to introduce far-reaching social or political changes by a side-wind.

— Winston Churchill, 1943

In general, I believe in permitting sex between any two consenting participants ... but I do think they should both have the same answer to "Animal, vegetable, or mineral?"

— Jeffrey Haemer, 25 Apr 2002

For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, not to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it.

— Thomas Jefferson to William Roscoe, 27 Dec 1820

Those who will not reason / Perish in the act: / Those who will not act / Perish for that reason.

— W H Auden

Rudy Giuliani said it best the other night — he’s been saying a lot of things best lately (go figure): We’ve been talking about what was lost, not what was saved.

— “Essays” by Kristine Kathryn Rusch, on web site scifi.com
after September 11th, 2001

Know ye, Our subjects:

Our Imperial Ancestors have founded Our Empire on a basis broad and everlasting and have deeply and firmly implanted virtue; Our subjects ever united in loyalty and filial piety have from generation to generation illustrated the beauty thereof. This is the glory of the fundamental character of Our Empire, and herein also lies the source of Our education. Ye, Our subjects, be filial to your parents, affectionate to your brothers and sisters; as husbands and wives be harmonious, as friends true; bear yourselves in modesty and moderation; extend your benevolence to all; pursue learning and cultivate arts, and thereby develop intellectual faculties and perfect moral powers; furthermore advance public good and promote common interests; always respect the Constitution and observe the laws; should emergency arise, offer yourselves courageously to the State; and thus guard and maintain the prosperity of Our Imperial Throne coeval with heaven and earth. So shall ye not only be Our good and faithful subjects, but render illustrious the best traditions of your forefathers.

The Way here set forth is indeed the teaching bequeathed by Our Imperial Ancestors, to be observed alike by Their Descendants and the subjects, infallible for all ages and true in all places. It is Our wish to lay it to heart in all reverence, in common with you, Our subjects, that we may all thus attain to the same virtue.

— Proclamation on Education by Emperor Meiji of Japan, the 30th
day of the 10th month of 23rd year of Meiji (30 October 1889)

Behind every successful man there stands an astonished woman.

— Frank Capra

The real problem is not whether machines think but whether men do.

— B F Skinner

For four-fifths of our history, our planet was populated by pond scum.

— J William Schopf

We all know that books burn—yet we have the greater knowledge that books cannot be killed by fire. People die, but books never die. No man and no force can abolish memory. . . . In this war, we know, books are weapons.

— Franklin Roosevelt, message to the American Booksellers Association, 6 May 1942

A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car, but if he has a university education he may steal the whole railroad.

— Franklin Roosevelt

I am reminded of four definitions. A radical is a man with both feet firmly planted in the air; a conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who, however, has never learned to walk; a reactionary is a somnambulist walking backwards; a liberal is a man who uses his legs and his hands at the behest of his head.

— Franklin Roosevelt, radio speech 26 October 1939

Time changes all our intentions.

— Franklin Roosevelt

My pacifism is not based on any intellectual theory but on a deep antipathy to every form of cruelty and hatred.

— Albert Einstein, 1914

God is subtle but he is not malicious.

— Albert Einstein, 1921

I shall never believe that God plays dice with the world.

— Albert Einstein, letter to Max Born, 4 December 1926

Not only does God play dice. He does not tell us where they fall.

— Stephen Hawking

I want you to take care of everyone that's smaller than you.

— Robin Williams as Peter Pan, giving his charge to the Lost Boys in *Hook*

Never give in—never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.

— Winston Churchill

Army: A body of men assembled to rectify the mistakes of the diplomats.

— Josephus Daniels

– Daniels was publisher of the *Raleigh News & Observer*, and was Woodrow Wilson's secretary of the Navy. (In which office he proscribed beer and wine aboard naval ships, which according to legend (and the State Encyclopedia of North Carolina) led to a cup of coffee being called a "cup of Joe" by sailors. See <http://prioris.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/bio/ncbiz/daniels.htm> for the Encyclopedia.)

Be convinced that to be happy means to be free and that to be free means to be brave. Therefore do not take lightly the perils of war.

— Thucydides

Real concurrency – in which one program actually continues to function while you call up and use another – is more amazing but of small use to the average person. How many programs do you have that take more than a few seconds to perform any task?

— *The New York Times*, 25 April 1989, in an article on new operating systems for the IBM PC

pointed out in `rec.humor.funny`

The first sign of senility is when a man forgets his theorems. The second sign is when he forgets to zip up. The third sign is when he forgets to zip down.

— Paul Erdős

A mathematician is a machine for turning coffee into theorems.

— Paul Erdős

But it was long ago and it was far away / Oh God, it seems so very hard / And if life is just a highway, then the soul is just a car / And objects in the rearview mirror may appear closer than they are.

— Jim Steinman, Meatloaf, “Objects in the Rearview Mirror May Appear Closer Than They Are”, *Bat Out of Hell II: Back Into Hell*, 1993

I think that the human race does command its own destiny and that that destiny can eventually embrace the stars.

— Lorraine Hansberry

An orgy looks particularly alluring seen through the mists of righteous indignation.

— Malcolm Muggeridge, 1966

It has to be admitted that we English have sex on the brain, which is a very unsatisfactory place to have it.

— Malcolm Muggeridge, 1964

“Pinky, are you pondering what I’m pondering?”

“I think so, Brain, but why would anyone want to see Snow White and the Seven Samurai?”

— *Pinky & the Brain*

pointed out in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, by `battista@unt.edu`, James S Coleman Battista, 11 Jun 2002

[P]ut your desk in the corner, and every time you sit down to write, remind yourself why it isn’t in the middle of the room. Life isn’t a support system for art. It’s the other way around.

— Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

Little do they know how little I know of the little that they know. If only *I* knew the little that *they* know, I'd know a little. Gotta keep my little ears open, y'know.
— Spike Milligan in “Tales of Old Dartmoor”

pointed out by Hal O'Brien

Rumination cf the Day

It's true that all men are pigs. The trick is to tame one who knows how to find truffles.
— Lev L Spiro at www.topfive.com

18 June 2002

My attitude is, everybody should try competing with Microsoft once in their life. Once.
— Netscape blunderkind Marc Andreessen, on being a veteran of the browser wars, *MacCentral*, 14 June 2002

pointed out (with commentary) by Owen Thomas at www.ditherati.com

What is objectionable, what is dangerous about extremists is not that they are extreme but that they are intolerant.
— Robert F Kennedy

I believe, Sir, that I may with safety take it for granted that the effect of monopoly generally is to make articles scarce, to make them dear, and to make them bad.
— Thomas Babington Macaulay, debate in British Parliament, 5 Feb 1841

pointed out by Eric Flint at the Baen Books web site

Vox audita perit, litera scripta manet — The spoken word disappears, but the written word remains

I have three chairs in my house, one for solitude, one for friendship, and one for society.
— Henry David Thoreau

It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory.
— W Edwards Deming

Some of my plays peter out, and some pan out.
— attributed to Sir James M Barrie

American grammar doesn't have the sturdiness of British grammar (a British advertising man with a proper education can make magazine copy for ribbed condoms sound like the Magna goddam Carta), but it has its own scruffy charm.
— Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir cf the Craft*

As Time Goes By

This day and age we're living in
Gives cause for apprehension
With speed and new invention
And things like fourth dimension
Yet we get a trifle weary
With Mr Einstein's theory
So we must get down to earth at times
Relax relieve the tension
And no matter what the progress
Or what may yet be proved
The simple facts of life are such
They cannot be removed
You must remember this
A kiss is still a kiss,
a sigh is just a sigh
The fundamental things apply
As time goes by
And when two lovers woo
They still say, "I love you"
On that you can rely
No matter what the future brings
As time goes by
Moonlight and love songs
Never out of date
Hearts full of passion
Jealousy and hate
Woman needs man
And man must have his mate
That no one can deny
Well, it's still the same old story
A fight for love and glory
A case of do or die
The world will always welcome lovers
As time goes by
Oh yes, the world will always welcome lovers
As time goes by

— Herman Hupfeld

©1931, Warner Brothers Music

Cajun music is best consumed outdoors like watermelon. It's hard to partake without getting it on you.

— Rodney Crowell in the liner notes to “Evangeline Made: A Tribute to Cajun Music”

isn't that just an evocative description?

Here's the thing I can't figure out. If the children of poor parents ought to have the same access the children of rich parents have to private schools, how come the children of poor parents shouldn't have the same access the children of rich parents have to high quality medical care?

— Michael R Weholt in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 27 June 2002, in the aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling that school vouchers for religious schools are legal

Subject: Re: The Drug Test on the Other Foot

Message-id: <Xns923B7552E6751awnbreelpnix@166.84.1.70>

Talent renders the whole idea of rehearsal meaningless; when you find something at which you are talented, you do it (whatever *it* is) until your fingers bleed or your eyes are ready to fall out of your head. Even when no one is listening (or reading, or watching), every outing is a bavura performance, because you as the creator are happy. Perhaps even ecstatic.

— Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

There are 10^{11} stars in the galaxy. That used to be a huge number. But it's only a hundred billion. It's less than the national deficit! We used to call them astronomical numbers. Now we should call them economical numbers.

— Richard P Feynman

haiku's inventor / must have had seven fingers / on his middle hand

— anon, but seen at <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?HaiKu>

Don't wait for the muse. As I've said, he's a hardheaded guy who's not susceptible to a lot of creative fluttering. This isn't the Ouija board or the spirit-world we're talking about here, but just another job like laying pipe or driving long-haul trucks. Your job is to make sure the muse knows where you're going to be every day from nine 'til noon or seven 'til three. If he does know, I assure you that sooner or later he'll start showing up, chomping his cigar and making his magic.

— Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

As far as I'm concerned, when I forget who owns what books, that's matrimony right there.

— Todd Belton at www.inu.org

Mooseheads

Me and my friend Craig (he's a year older than me) like to watch TV a lot and we remember Rocky and Bullwinkle real good. When we saw the Calendar article ("Bullwinkle: Still Amoosing at 25," by Charles Solomon, Nov 18) that said it wasn't on TV in L.A., we were sad.

But only for a minute, because we remembered we were television executives and could get Moose and Squirrel and put it back on the TV, so that's what we did. Now on Sundays we got "Bullwinkle" at 10 am and "Rocky and His Friends" at 10:30.

Thanks to Calendar for the smart idea and to Jay Ward and his buddies for making such swell shows.

Craig Haffner, Program Director, KABC-TV

Mack Anderson, Assistant Program Director

— letter to *The Los Angeles Times* Calendar section, 13 Jan 1985

No dictator, no invader can hold an imprisoned population by force of arms forever. There is no greater power in the universe than the need for freedom. Against that power tyrants and dictators cannot stand. The Centauri learned that lesson once. We will teach it to them again. Although it take a thousand years, we will be free.

— G'Kar in *Babylon 5*

what episode?

I don't want to speak too disparagingly of my generation (actually I do, we had a chance to change the world and opted for the Home Shopping Network instead)...

— Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

Writing is a lonely job. Having someone who believes in you makes a lot of difference. They don't have to make speeches. Just believing is usually enough.

— Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

Little Boy, of Hiroshima, was a thirteen-kiloton bomb. It killed nearly a hundred thousand people — a fact later filed under weapons effects. The most densely populated sector of the world is the part of Manhattan Island synecdochically known as Wall Street, where, in a third of a square mile, the workaday population is half a million people. If all the people were to try to go outdoors at the same time, they could not do so, because they are too many for the streets. A crude bomb with a yield of only one kiloton could kill a couple of hundred thousand people there. Weapons effects. Because the tall buildings would create something known as “shadow effect,” more than twenty-five kilotons would be the yield necessary to kill almost everybody in the financial district. High dams taper, are thinner at the top. One kiloton would destroy at least the upper half of any dam in the world. Hoover Dam has the biggest head of water in the United States. A bomb dropped behind it into Lake Mead and set to go off at a depth of fifty feet would pretty much empty the lake. Weapons effects. The yield necessary to kill everyone in the Rose Bowl is a fizzle yield, something on the scale of one-fiftieth of a kiloton — so little that it would be not shock or fire but gamma rays that did the killing. A tenth of a kiloton detonated outside an electric-power reactor could breach the containment shell, disable the controls, and eliminate the emergency core-cooling system. There is more long-lived radioactivity in a reactor that has been running for a year than there would be in a bomb of a hundred megatons. A bomb with a yield of a fiftieth of a kiloton exploded just outside the spent-fuel pools at a reactor or a reprocessing plant could send downwind enough strontium-90 alone to kill tens of thousands of people. The placement of an explosion — where it happens — is what matters most, and that depends on purpose. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs were exploded eighteen hundred and fifty feet in the air, because the guess was that from that height the bombs would accomplish the most damage through shock, fire, and radiation effects. A low-yield bomb exploded inside one of the World Trade Center towers could bring it down. The same bomb, if exploded outside, would perform erratically. The Pentagon is a hard target, because it is so spread out. A low-yield bomb exploded in the building’s central courtyard would not be particularly effective. To crater the place and leave nothing but a hole in the ground, a full megaton — set off in the concourse, several levels under the courtyard — would be needed. Weapons effects.

A one-fiftieth-kiloton yield coming out of a car on Pennsylvania Avenue would include enough radiation to kill anyone above the basement level in the White House. A one-kiloton bomb exploded just outside the exclusion area during a State of the Union Message would kill everyone inside the Capitol. “It’s hard for me to think of a higher-leverage target, at least in the United States,” Ted Taylor said one day. “The bomb would destroy the heads of all branches of the United States government — all Supreme Court justices, the entire Cabinet, all legislators, and, for what it’s worth, the Joint Chiefs of Staff. With the exception of anyone who happened to be sick in bed, it would kill the line of succession to the Presidency — all the way to the bottom of the list. A fizzle-yield, low-efficiency, basically lousy fission bomb could do this.”

The Massachusetts Turnpike, as it bisects Boston, passes directly underneath, right through the basement of, the Prudential Center, a building complex that includes a fifty-two-story skyscraper. “All you’d have to do is stop, lift the hood, and beat it,” Taylor noted as we drove through there one day. We went up to the top of the building to view the city. After a long look and a long pause, he said he could not imagine why anyone who went to the trouble to make a nuclear bomb would want to use it to knock over much of anything in Boston.

Driving down from Peekskill, another time, we found ourselves on Manhattan’s West Side Highway just at sunset and the beginning of dusk. There ahead of us several miles, and seeming

to rise right out of the road, were the two towers of the World Trade Center, windows blazing with interior light and with red reflected streaks from the sunset over New Jersey. We had been heading for midtown but impulsively kept going, drawn irresistibly toward two of the tallest buildings in the world. We went down the Chambers Street ramp and parked, in a devastation of rubble, beside the Hudson River. Across the water, in New Jersey, the Colgate sign, a huge neon clock as red as the sky, said 6:15. We looked up the west wall of the nearer tower. From so close, so narrow an angle, there was nothing at the top to arrest the eye, and the building seemed to be some sort of probe touching the earth from the darkness of space. "What an artifact that is!" Taylor said, and he walked to the base and paced it off. We went inside, into a wide, uncolumbed lobby. The building was standing on its glass-and-steel walls and on its elevator core. Neither of us had been there before. We got into an elevator. He pressed, at random, 40. We rode upward in a silence broken only by the muffled whoosh of air and machinery and by Taylor's describing where the most effective place for a nuclear bomb would be. The car stopped, the door sprang back, and we stepped off into the reception lounge of Toyomenka America, Inc., a Japanese conglomerate of industries. No one was behind the reception desk. The area was furnished with inviting white couches and glass coffee tables. On the walls hung Japanese watercolors. We sat down on one of the couches. "The rule of thumb for a nuclear explosion is that it can vaporize its yield in mass," he said. "This building is about thirteen hundred feet high by two hundred by two hundred. That's about fifty million cubic feet. Its average density is probably two pounds per cubic foot. That's a hundred million pounds, or fifty kilotons — give or take a factor of two. Any explosion inside with a yield of, let's say, a kiloton would vaporize everything for a few tens of feet. Everything would be destroyed out to and including the wall. If the building were solid rock and the bomb were buried in it, the crater radius would be a hundred and fifty feet. The building's radius is a hundred feet, and it is only a core and a shell. It would fall, I guess, in the direction in which the bomb was off-centered. It's a little bit like cutting a big tree."

In dark-blue suits, in twos and threes, Japanese businessmen came out of the warrens of Toyomenka. They collected at the elevator shaft. In voluble streams of Japanese, they seemed to be summarizing their commercial day. More came, and more. None of them seemed to notice or, certainly, to care that we were there. "Thermal radiation tends to flow in directions where it is unimpeded," Taylor was saying. "It actually flows. It goes around corners. It could go the length of the building before being converted into shock. It doesn't get converted into shock before it picks up mass."

We went down a stairway a flight or two and out onto an unfinished floor. Piles of construction materials were here and there, but otherwise the space was empty, from the elevator core to the glass façade. "I can't think in detail about this subject, considering what would happen to people, without getting very upset and not wanting to consider it at all," Taylor said. "And there is a level of simplicity that we have not talked about, because it goes over my threshold to do so. A way to make a bomb. It is so simple that I just don't want to describe it. I will tell you this: Just to make a crude bomb with an unpredictable yield — but with a better than even chance of knocking this building down — all that is needed is about a dozen kilos of plutonium-oxide powder, high explosives (I don't want to say how much), and a few things that anyone could buy in a hardware store. An explosion in this building would not be completely effective unless it were placed in the core. Something exploded out here in the office area would be just like a giant shrapnel bomb. You'd get a real sheet of radiation pouring out the windows. You'd have half a fireball, and it would crater down. What would remain would probably be a stump. It's hard to say which way the building would fall. It would be caving one way, but it would be pushed the other way by

the explosion.” Walking to a window of the eastern wall, he looked across a space of about six hundred feet, past the other Trade Center tower, to a neighboring building, at 1 Liberty Plaza. “Through free air, a kiloton bomb will send a lethal dose of immediate radiation up to half a mile,” he went on. “Or, up to a thousand feet, you’d be killed by projectiles. Anyone in an office facing the Trade Center would die. People in that building over there would get it in every conceivable way. Gamma rays would get them first. Next comes visible light. Next the neutrons. Then the air shock. Then missiles. Unvaporized concrete would go out of here at the speed of a rifle shot. A steel-and-concrete missile flux would go out one mile and would include in all maybe a tenth the weight of the building, about five thousand tons.” He pressed up against the glass and looked far down to the plaza between the towers. “If you exploded a bomb down there, you could conceivably wind up with the World Trade Center’s two buildings leaning against each other and still standing,” he said. “There’s no question at all that if someone were to place a half-kiloton bomb on the front steps where we came in, the building would fall into the river.”

We went back to the elevator, and when the car stopped for us it was half filled with Japanese, who apparently quit work later than everyone else in world trade. Thirty-eight floors we fell toward the earth in a cloud of Japanese chatter, words coming off the Otis walls like neutrons off a reflector. In the middle of it all, I distinctly heard one man say a single short sentence in English. He said, “So what happened then?”

— from *The Curve of Binding Energy*, by John McPhee, 1974.
Conversation with Theodore B Taylor.

Notice that this conversation happened before the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, before September 11th, 2001, before Tom Clancy wrote *Sum of All Fears* or *Debt of Honor*

Power corrupts. Absolute power is kind of neat.

— John Lehman, Secretary of the Navy, 1981-1987

Our goal is not the conquest of Iraq. It is the liberation of Kuwait.

— George Bush, 16 January 1991

contrast with the following...

The war wasn’t fought about democracy in Kuwait.

— George Bush, 14 July 1991

I don’t know that atheists should be considered citizens, nor should they be considered patriots. This is one nation under God.

— George Bush

In the corporate world, sometimes things aren’t exactly black and white when it comes to accounting procedures.

— George W Bush, explaining why Harken Energy (a company of which he was a director) had to restate their real earnings in the early ’90s, at a press conference on 8 July 2002

Our schools of business must be principled teachers of right and wrong, and not surrender to moral confusion and relativism. Our leaders of business must set high and clear expectations of conduct.

— George W Bush, speech on Wall Street, 9 July 2002

Those who sit on corporate boards have responsibilities. I urge board members to check the quality of their company's financial statements; to ask tough questions about accounting methods.

— George W Bush, speech on Wall Street, 9 July 2002

The following bunch are gleaned from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's collection "Rumsfeld's Rules"; see: www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2001/rumsfeldsrules.pdf

Every government looking at the actions of another government and trying to explain them always exaggerates rationality and conspiracy, and underestimates incompetency and fortuity.

— Silberman's Law of Diplomacy, US Circuit Court Judge Laurence Silberman

Learn to say "I don't know." If used when appropriate, it will be often.

— Donald Rumsfeld

Be precise. A lack of precision is dangerous when the margin of error is small.

— Donald Rumsfeld

Don't divide the world into "them" and "us." Avoid infatuation with or resentment of the press, the Congress, rivals, or opponents. Accept them as facts. They have their jobs and you have yours.

— Donald Rumsfeld

Don't blame the boss. He has enough problems.

— Donald Rumsfeld

If you are not criticized, you may not be doing much.

— Donald Rumsfeld

When you're skiing, if you're not falling you're not trying.

— Donald Rumsfeld

If you think you have things under control, you're not going fast enough.

— Mario Andretti

Beware when any idea is promoted primarily because it is "bold, exciting, innovative, and new." There are many ideas that are "bold, exciting, innovative, and new," but also foolish.

— Donald Rumsfeld

Public money drives out private money.

— Congressman Tom Curtis

Strive to make proposed solutions as self-executing as possible. As the degree of discretion increases, so too does bureaucracy, delay, and expense.

— Donald Rumsfeld

Stubborn opposition to proposals often has no other basis than the complaining question, “Why wasn’t I consulted?”

— Sen Daniel Patrick Moynihan, (D-NY)

The atmosphere in which social legislation is considered is not a friend of truth.

— Sen Daniel Patrick Moynihan, (D-NY)

If in doubt, don’t. If still in doubt, do what’s right.

— Donald Rumsfeld

First rule of politics: you can’t win unless you’re on the ballot. Second rule: If you run, you may lose. And, if you tie, you do not win.

— Donald Rumsfeld

(cf, Bush v. Gore)

The winner is not always the swiftest, surest or smartest. It’s the one willing to get up at 5:00am and go to the plant gate to meet the workers.

— (unknown)

In politics, every day is filled with numerous opportunities for serious error. Enjoy it.

— Donald Rumsfeld

If you try to please everybody, somebody’s not going to like it.

— Donald Rumsfeld

The oil can is mightier than the sword.

— Sen Everett Dirksen (R-IL)

Arguments of convenience lack integrity and inevitably trip you up.

— Donald Rumsfeld

If you get the objectives right, a lieutenant can write the strategy.

— Gen George Marshall

The way to do well is to do well.

— Donald Rumsfeld

No plan survives contact with the enemy.
— Old military axiom

The advantage of a free market is that it allows millions of decision-makers to respond individually to freely determined prices, allocating resources — labor, capital and human ingenuity — in a manner that can't be mimicked by a central plan, however brilliant the central planner.
— Freidrich von Hayek

It takes everyone to make a happy day.
— Marcy Rumsfeld, age seven

But I am me.
— Nick Rumsfeld, age nine

If it doesn't go easy, force it.
— G D Rumsfeld's assessment of his son Don's operating principle at age ten

The most important things in life you cannot see — civility, justice, courage, peace.
— (unknown)

Persuasion is a two-edged sword — reason and emotion — plunge it deep.
— Prof Lewis Sarett, Sr

If you're coasting, you're going downhill.
— L W Pierson

The harder I work, the luckier I am.
— Stephen Leacock

If a problem has no solution, it may not be a problem, but a fact, not to be solved, but to be coped with over time.
— Shimon Peres

If a problem cannot be solved, enlarge it.
— Dwight D Eisenhower

Victory is never final. Defeat is never fatal. It is courage that counts.
— Winston Churchill

The test of a first rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function.

— F Scott Fitzgerald

It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once.

— David Hume

History marches to the drum of a clear idea.

— W H Auden

Demographics is destiny.

— Scanlan

Where is the wisdom we've lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we've lost in information?

— T S Eliot

The two most important rules in Washington, D.C. are:

Rule One: "The cover-up is worse than the event."

Rule Two: "No one ever remembers the first rule."

— Donald Rumsfeld

Hire paranoids. Even though they have a high false-alarm rate, they discover all plots.

— Herman Kahn

Never attribute to a conspiracy that which can be explained by incompetence.

— Judge Laurence Silberman

If you develop rules, never have more than ten.

— Donald Rumsfeld

END Rumsfeld's Rules extracts

You're either part of the problem or part of the solution.

— Eldridge Cleaver

contrast with Bush on 20 Sep 2001: "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists."

The newspaper I work for, *The Miami Herald*, is owned by a large corporation that has a strict computer-password policy administered by people who were kicked out of the Nazi party for being too anal-retentive.

— Dave Barry, "Spam beats cafeteria food", column of 14 July 2002

Software is a much more plastic object than hardware. You whip it up, squeeze it, and you can dream.

— David Sayre, IBM’s Director of Programming during the 1960s
quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

It’s like building something where you don’t have to order the cement. You create a world of your own, your own environment, and you never leave this room.

— Ken Thompson, on programming
quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

Once Thompson solved the riddle of the pipes, the work went quickly, tweaking one Unix feature after another to take advantage of piping. It was an exhilarating sprint. “Those were probably three of the greatest nights of my life,” Thompson observed.

— Ken Thompson, quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

As the majority of hobbyists must be aware, most of you steal your software. Hardware must be paid for, but software is something to share. Who cares if the people who worked on it get paid?

— Bill Gates, letter to the Homebrew Computer Club newsletter, 3 Feb 1976
quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

Here is a language so far ahead of its time that it was not only an improvement on its predecessors but also on nearly all of its successors.

— Sir Antony Hoare, on Algol
quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

Point of view is worth 80 IQ points.

— Alan Kay
quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

Why is censorship wrong? Because it is a centralized notion of what is good.

— Tim Berners-Lee
quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

I have to program because of the aesthetics of it. I love to see the way it fits together and sort of sings to you.

— Donald E Knuth
quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

What made Linux special? Probably the fact that I wasn’t too political. So I made people improve Linux without getting too upset about the silly political agenda that the Free Software Foundation tries to push.

— Linus Torvalds
quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

The principal aim of open source is not freedom, but success. What a shallow, pointless goal.

— Richard M Stallman

note that he's talking about "open source" not "free source"; quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

[Stallman] is the Buddhist monk that sets himself on fire to get people to wake up. He's *that* convinced about the need of open source. And that's great. But at the same time, that makes him a very hard person to interact with on any sane level, except as an icon. And it makes a lot of people really dislike him and everything he stands for. He's too inflexible, too religious. ... I certainly am of the opinion that open source started working a lot better once it got away from the Free Software Foundation politics and values, and more people started thinking of it more as a tool than a religion. I'm definitely a pragmatist.

— Linus Torvalds

quoted in *Go To* by Steve Lohr

Bloopers in *Go To: The story of the math majors, bridge players, engineers, chess wizards, maverick scientists and iconoclasts – the programmers who created the software revolution* by Steve Lohr:

And a 10-fold increase each in memory and processing speed combined to deliver a 100-fold improvement in system performance, which was achieved in the first half of the 1960s.

— page 54, par 2

Java, the popular Internet programming language, is object-oriented software.

— page 109, par 2

[C++'s] flexibility made it useful in many different machines, often in hostile environments, which is why it was used by the Australian national lottery in its betting machines, many of them in the sun-baked outback.

— page 104, par 1

END *Go To* bloopers

User-friendly programs tend to be friendly only if you do what they expect you to.

— Matt Astern, `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 18 Jul 2002

Subject: Re: Spacing after punctuation (was AKICIF: Vi command)

Message-Id: <dilsn2gqo2g.fsf@mattlinux.localdomain>

Communist Russia is the only government still running on Microsoft, the central planning apparat being convinced that if you have to pay for software it must be worth money.

— Charles Stross, "Lobsters"

Asimov's, June 2002, 2002 Hugo nominee

Europe has achieved peaceful political union for the first time ever: they're using this unprecedented state of affairs to harmonize the curvature of bananas.

— Charles Stross, "Lobsters"

The problem with the French is that they don't have a word for "entrepreneur."

— George W Bush

Unfortunately, this appears to be a hoax: see "Across the Pond, Bush Gets Quayled", *Washington Post*, 10 July 2002, p C03.

Do you have blacks, too?

— George W Bush, to Brazilian President Fernando Cardoso, Washington, DC, 8 Nov 2001

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

— George Santayana

The message we hear from all sources of truth is clear: We are all one.

— *Ethics for the New Millennium*, Dalai Lama

And the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not.

— Madeline L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*

When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fail – think of it, *always*.

— Mohandas Gandhi

The tragedy of human history lies in the enormous potential for destruction in rare acts of evil, not in the high frequency of evil people. Complex systems can only be built step by step, whereas destruction requires but an instant. Thus, in what I like to call the Great Asymmetry, every spectacular incident of evil will be balanced by 10,000 acts of kindness, too often unnoted and invisible as the "ordinary" efforts of the vast majority.

— Stephen Jay Gould, *The New York Times*, 26 September 2001

One day, exactly 28 years ago, he was standing right here, giving the commencement address. This is the way the universe operates. First Richard Feynman gives the talk; then, 28 years later, an actor who played him on the stage gives it. This is what's called entropy.

— Alan Alda, "Finding Feynman", Caltech commencement address, 14 June 2002

[W]e live in a time when massive means of destruction are right here in our hands. We're probably the first species capable of doing this much damage to our planet. We can make the birds stop singing; we can still the fish and make the insects fall from the trees like black rain. And ironically we've been brought here by reason, by rationality. We cannot afford to live in a culture that doesn't use the power in its hands with the kind of rationality that produced it in the first place.

— Alan Alda, "Finding Feynman", Caltech commencement address, 14 June 2002

Whatever you do, help us love science the way you do.

— Alan Alda, “Finding Feynman”, Caltech commencement address,
14 June 2002

I’m going to propose something to you today. I realize it’s a childish idea, something only an unschooled layperson would come up with, but it’s specific enough that it might get you thinking.

What if each of you decided to take just one thing you love about science and, no matter how complicated it is, figure out a how to make it understood by a million people? There are about 500 of you taking part in this ceremony today. If just a few of you were successful, that would make several million people a lot smarter.

How you do it is up to you. You’re clever people, and I bet you come up with some ingenious solutions. On the other hand, you may be thinking, “*Why?* Why should I do this impossible thing?”

Well, I don’t know, maybe for the same reason that the birds sing.

If it does for you what it does for birds, there’s a lot to recommend it:

- 1) It’s a good way to improve your chances of having sex.
- 2) It feels good to sing.
- 3) Singing is the music nature makes when it dances the dance of life.

You are the universe announcing itself to itself. You open your mouth and a little muscle in your throat makes a corner of nature vibrate. You’re one part of the forest saying, “This is what I think I know,” while another part of the forest is saying, “Yeah? Well this is what I think *I* know!” Your chirpings are the harmony of all knowledge.

You’ve learned so much in this place about how nature works. Is there anything more beautiful than that? Is there anything greater to sing about?

— Alan Alda, “Finding Feynman”, Caltech commencement address,
14 June 2002

The following three were quoted by Alda in his commencement address:

What I cannot create, I do not understand.

— notation left at the top of Richard P Feynman’s blackboard when
he died

Not knowing is much more interesting than believing an answer which might be wrong.

— Richard P Feynman

It only has to do with the respect with which we regard one another, the dignity of people, our love of culture. . . In that sense, this new knowledge has all to do with honor and country. But it has nothing to do directly with defending our country—except to help make it worth defending.

— Robert R Wilson, responding to Sen John Pastore’s question about
whether Fermilab contributed to the security of the United States
in a congressional hearing, 1969

Silly little planet. Anyone could take over the place with the right set of mammary glands.

— Lara Flynn Boyle as Serleena in *Men In Black II*

The best writing is rewriting.

— E B White

Dealing with failure is easy: Work hard to improve. Success is also easy to handle: You've solved the wrong problem. Work hard to improve.

— Alan Perlis

Lisp isn't a language, it's a building material.

— Alan Kay

The only way to learn a new programming language is by writing programs in it.

— Brian W Kernighan and Dennis M Ritchie, *The C Programming Language*

Don't worry about what anybody else is going to do. The best way to predict the future is to invent it.

— Alan Kay

Beauty is the first test: there is no permanent place in this world for ugly mathematics.

— G H Hardy

The hippies wanted peace and love. We wanted Ferraris, blondes and switchblades.

— Alice Cooper

Conspiracy theories are a lazy way of making history interesting. Mythic structure is a facile way of making history meaningful. And you don't need it: history *is* meaningful, but you've got to be prepared to take into account the contingency, the organic mess, the complexity, the fact that there are shades of gray — and one thing myth cannot do is deal with shades of gray. ... I don't think it's any coincidence that the modern political movement above all else that is fascinated by myth is fascism.

— China Miéville

talk at Microsoft, "Science Fiction and Fantasy: Against Myth (or 'Stop the Tolkien Madness')", 26 July 2002

Movie *The Wizard cf Oz*: Transported to a surreal landscape, a young girl kills the first woman she meets, then teams up with three complete strangers to kill again.

— TV Listing in Marin (California) *Independent-Journal*

Apparently written by Richard Polito, and pointed out in `rec.humor.funny`, 30 Jan 1999
Message-Id: <Sd7e.4d31@netfunny.com>

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.

— George Orwell

quoted in Boondocks comic strip, 30 Jan 2002

There are two rules for success: (1) Never tell everything you know.

— Roger H Lincoln

Marxism shouldn't be allowed to run anything larger than a university English department until we're sure we've found the bug in it, so there is some hope of a non-murderous socialism: Class warfare, materialist mind denial, and absence of markets all strike me as likely suspects.

— Arthur D Hlavaty, rec.arts.sf.fandom, 3 August 2002

Message-id: <83enkuk0ed9674mpg1obsufja0p0bflj9g@4ax.com>

Cats can never be convinced they have anything to atone for.

— Arthur D Hlavaty, rec.arts.sf.fandom, 30 July 2002, in response to the question “Do cats have to fast for Yom Kippur?”

Message-id: <u54eku8npq2711aq9q9bn9icmgcksbglq6@4ax.com>

We don't have the user-centricity until we understand context, which is way beyond presence — presence is the most trivial notion of context.

— Bill Gates, on how we won't be able to grok .Net until we ascend to a more ethereal plane of programming, microsoft.com, 24 July 2002

pointed out (with commentary) by Owen Thomas at www.ditherati.com, 2 Aug 2002

Secret arrests are “a concept odious to a democratic society,” and profoundly antithetical to the bedrock values that characterize a free and open one such as ours.

— US District Judge Gladys Kessler, decision in *Center for National Security Studies v United States Department of Justice*, 2 August 2002

The embedded quote is footnoted as from “*Morrow v. District of Columbia*, 417 F.2d 728, 741-742 (D.C. Cir. 1969)”

Difficult times such as these have always tested our fidelity to the core democratic values of openness, government accountability, and the rule of law. The Court fully understands and appreciates that the first priority of the executive branch in a time of crisis is to ensure the physical security of its citizens. By the same token, the first priority of the judicial branch must be to ensure that our Government always operates within the statutory and constitutional constraints which distinguish a democracy from a dictatorship.

— US District Judge Gladys Kessler, decision in *Center for National Security Studies v United States Department of Justice*, 2 August 2002

In the United States there is more space where nobody is than where anybody is. This is what makes America what it is.

— Gertrude Stein

Hemingway's remarks are not literature.

— Gertrude Stein

America is my country and Paris is my home town.

— Gertrude Stein

I finally figured out C++: It's a compost-heap of a language; a lot of good things went into it, and a lot of good things may come out of it, but, well, it's just a fermenting heap.

— Donn S Terry, PhD

In their capacity as a tool, computers will be but a ripple on the surface of our culture. In their capacity as intellectual challenge, they are without precedent in the cultural history of mankind.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, Turing Award Lecture, 1972

The question of whether computers can think is like the question of whether submarines can swim.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

Do only what only you can do.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

The following are from the program for Dijkstra's retirement symposium, "In Pursuit of Simplicity", 12 May 2000:

The problems of the real world are those that remain when you ignore their known solutions.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

Always design your program as a member of a whole family of programs, including those that are likely to succeed it.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

Separate concerns.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

A programming language is a tool that has a profound influence on our thinking habits.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

I pray daily that more of my fellow programmers may find the means of freeing themselves from the curse of compatibility.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, Turing Award Lecture, 1972

Brainpower is by far our scarcest resource.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, Turing Award Lecture, 1972

The competent programmer is fully aware of the strictly limited size of his own skull; therefore he approaches the programming task in full humility, and among other things he avoids clever tricks like the plague.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, Turing Award Lecture, 1972

For the absence of a bibliography I offer neither explanation nor apology.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, foreword to *A Discipline of Programming*

Progress is possible only if we train ourselves to think about programs without thinking of them as pieces of executable code.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

23 Aug 1979

Program testing can at best show the presence of errors, but never their absence.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

Software Engineering is Programming when you can't.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

We must give industry not what it wants, but what it needs.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

Do not try to change the world. Give the world the opportunity to change itself.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

21 Apr 2000

Teaching to unsuspecting youngsters the effective use of formal methods is one of the joys of life because it is so extremely rewarding. Within a few months, they find their way into a new world with a justified degree of confidence that is radically novel for them; within a few months, their concept of intellectual culture has acquired a radically new dimension. To my taste and style, that is what education is about. Universities should not be afraid of teaching radical novelties; on the contrary, it is their calling to welcome the opportunity to do so.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, “On the Cruelty of Really Teaching Computing Science,” *CACM*, December 1989

So-called “natural language” is wonderful for the purposes it was created for, such as to be rude in, to tell jokes in, to cheat or to make love in (and Theorists of Literary Criticism can even be content-free in it), but it is hopelessly inadequate when we have to deal unambiguously with situations of great intricacy, situations which unavoidably arise in such activities as legislation, arbitration, mathematics or programming.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, foreword to *Teaching and Learning Formal Methods*, edited by C. N. Dean and M. G. Hinchey, 1996

Don’t compete with me: firstly, I have more experience, and secondly, I have chosen the weapons.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, during first lecture in course “Capita Selecta,”
29 Aug 1996

Aim for brevity while avoiding jargon.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, lecture in course “Capita Selecta”, 5 Sept
1996

contrast with Willis in *Bellwether*

Maintaining a large range of agilities — mental and physical — requires regular exercise ... That is why the capable are always busy.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, lecture in course “Capita Selecta”, 10 Oct
1996

I had already come to the conclusion that in the practice of computing, where we have so much latitude for making a mess of it, mathematical elegance is not a dispensable luxury, but a matter of life and death.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, “My hopes of computing science” (EWD
memo 709)

end Dijkstra direct quotes; the next lump are from the same source, but are quotes that Dijkstra wrote on the blackboard during lectures:

When one cannot invent, one must at least improve.

— fortune cookie

9 Sept 1992

elegant: ... ingeniously simple and effective

— *Concise Oxford Dictionary*

11 Nov 1994

intelligent: ... 3: able to perform some of the functions of a computer. ...

— *Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*

1 Dec 1994

I can't think why fancy religions should have such a ghastly effect on one's grammar.
— Dorothy L Sayers

Many people would sooner die than think. In fact they do.
— Bertrand Russell

I never read a book before reviewing it — it prejudices one so.
— Sydney Smith

If words could cure the ills of our profession of programming, how healthy and highly respected a profession it now would be.
— Sir Antony Hoare

And, while we are facing facts, we note the opinion of many observers that ever since the days of Aquinas science has been feared and secretly hated by nine human beings out of every ten who have sufficient animation to hate or fear anything.
— Eric Temple Bell in *The Development of Mathematics*

Praise the humanities, my boy. That'll make them think you are broadminded.
— Winston Churchill's advice to R. V. Jones on the latter's appointment as Professor of Physics

end Dijkstra blackboard quotes

I love the lengths that villains go to in these movies. Consider Yorgi. He has devised an incredibly expensive steel speedboat armed with three rockets containing canisters of poison gas. This speedboat is inside a mountain cavern far below his lair. It is his superweapon for world domination. Fine, except where can a boat go in the landlocked Czech Republic? Down the Danube through Budapest and Vienna? In the event, he decides to attack Prague itself, and we're wondering: Considering how much it cost him to hollow out the mountain and build the boat, why not just put the gas canisters into a car and drive into town? Yorgi is the kind of bad guy who is beloved by the architects of the "star wars" defense, staging an attack that is cumbersome, costly and visible, instead of just delivering the goods by FedEx.
— Roger Ebert, review of XXX (2002)

It's not my goddamn planet, understand, monkey boy?
— Christopher Lloyd as John Bigboote in *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension*

Any "wisdom" written on a whiteboard is an oversimplification.
— Donn S Terry's whiteboard

In my books I offer rewards for the first person who finds any particular error. . . In software, I similarly pay for errors in the \TeX and METAFONT programs. I think letting users know that you welcome reports of errors is one important technique that could be used in the software industry. I think Microsoft should say, “You’ll get a check from Bill Gates every time you find an error.”

— Donald E Knuth, “All Questions Answered”, *Notices of the AMS*,
March 2002

I’m against patents on things any student should be expected to discover. There have been an awful lot of software patents in the US for ideas that are completely trivial, and that bothers me a lot. Algorithms are inherently mathematical things that should be as unpatentable as the value of π . But for something nontrivial, something like the interior point method for linear programming, there’s more justification for somebody getting a right to license the method for a short time, instead of keeping it a trade secret. That’s the whole idea of patents; the word patent means “to make public.”

— Donald E Knuth, “All Questions Answered”, *Notices of the AMS*,
March 2002

I am tired of hearing people speak of peace out of one side of their mouth and war out of the other. As Christians and Jews and Muslims, we are not truly people of faith unless we respect the prophets of all faiths.

— Dr Al-Badr Al-Hamzi, Saudi Arabian physician reflecting on his
month-long detention in the aftermath of September 11th.

Dallas Morning News, 25 May 2002; quoted in *UUWorld*, Sept/Oct 2002

It seems that our nature is so formed that we need a feeling of connectedness with the universe. If there is no longer a king, or a kingdom of heaven, it will have to be a republic in which we are free citizens. We ourselves as citizens will have to build the republic of heaven.

— Philip Pullman

quoted in *The Guardian*, 3 June 2002; quoted in *UU World*, Sept/Oct 2002

Many people. . . think prayer is like a shopping list they present to God: “These are things I want or need or would like to have.” . . . The focus on prayer should be: What is the message God is trying to give to me? How can I improve my life and my community? How can I help in some small way to make this world a better place? That can be very empowering.

— David Auerbach, Rabbi of Bet Shira, Pinecrest FL

quoted in *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 8 Jun 2002; quoted in *UU World*, Sept/Oct 2002

Civilization is entropy in drag.

— bumper sticker

My grandmother was a very political person. She barely was allowed into the United States, based on the last issue at Ellis Island. They asked you one final question. The question is, “Do you support the overthrow of the United States government by revolution or sedition?” My grandmother thought for a while and said, “Sedition.” “Revolution” was the right answer.

— Marty Adelman, discussing the history of Goldens Bridge, NY, which was founded by leftist Jewish workers from New York City

“Morning Edition” on NPR, 14 Aug 2002

Love is not something wonderful that you feel; it is something difficult that you do.

— Elizabeth Goudge

There are only 10 kinds of people in the world — Those who understand binary, and those who don’t.

— bear@sonic.net, rec.humor.funny, 16 Aug 2002

Message-Id: <S128c.7986@netfunny.com>

In the distance, I heard horns honk. The crowd stirred. The people in front of me stood. I had to stand too.

A motorcade rounded the corner, a series of black limousines with tiny American flags waving on the hoods. A battalion of Secret Service agents ran alongside the cars. Others rode inside.

The windows were down in the second car, and Richard Milhous Nixon, the Republican nominee for president of the United States rode by, waving, his mouth drawn in his famous Grinch-like grin.

A shiver ran down my back.

This was what we had chosen for ourselves—with bullets, riots, and a war that was tearing the country apart, this man who had accused innocent people of being communists, who had chosen a vice-presidential candidate who used the word “n[REDACTED]” in public, who used any stepping-stone he could find to climb toward the highest office in the land.

This was what assassination had brought us.

— Kris Nelscott, *Smoke-Filled Rooms*

pseud Kristine Kathryn Rusch, St Martins, 2001

The Hole Hawg is a drill made by the Milwaukee Tool Company. If you look in a typical hardware store you may find smaller Milwaukee drills but not the Hole Hawg, which is too powerful and too expensive for homeowners. The Hole Hawg does not have the pistol-like design of a cheap homeowner's drill. It is a cube of solid metal with a handle sticking out of one face and a chuck mounted in another. The cube contains a disconcertingly potent electric motor. You can hold the handle and operate the trigger with your index finger, but unless you are exceptionally strong you cannot control the weight of the Hole Hawg with one hand; it is a two-hander all the way. In order to fight off the counter-torque of the Hole Hawg you use a separate handle (provided), which you screw into one side of the iron cube or the other depending on whether you are using your left or right hand to operate the trigger. This handle is not a sleek, ergonomically designed item as it would be in a homeowner's drill. It is simply a foot-long chunk of regular galvanized pipe, threaded on one end, with a black rubber handle on the other. If you lose it, you just go to the local plumbing supply store and buy another chunk of pipe.....

Unix is the Hole Hawg of operating systems, and Unix hackers, like Doug Barnes and the guy in the Dilbert cartoon and many of the other people who populate Silicon Valley, are like contractor's sons who grew up using only Hole Hawgs. They might use Apple/Microsoft OSes to write letters, play video games, or balance their checkbooks, but they cannot really bring themselves to take these operating systems seriously.

— Neal Stephenson, *In the Beginning was the Command Line*

Unix

P: Mr Webster, I'm asking you to lay off. As a personal favor. Now, it's one thing to break ranks and vote against my candidate, but to actively attack her from the bench, that's another.

W: Mr President, I just don't believe in Liane Hanson, especially when we have at our disposal Gov Hathaway, he's a party loyalist and a genuine hero. I can not and shall not vote for a candidate simply because she's a woman. I am nothing if I do not follow my heart, Sir.

P: I envy you. I do. You know why? Because some day, years from now, you're going to come in here with your family and you're going to look up at my painting, and you'll be able to say to them, your kids and your grandkids, that way back then I defied my President. It cost me my re-election, it kept me out of politics forever. I was on the track to maybe someday end up here, destined to make the kind of changes in this country that only great men, given the right time and place can make, and I have none of that now, but that's okay, because I did what was in my heart. Hmm, the heart: it can't ever be wrong, can it, Mr Webster?

— Pres Jackson Evans (Jeff Bridges) and Rep Reginald Webster (Christian Slater) in *The Contender*

(written by Rod Lurie)

Two hours, gentlemen: It is now up to us to light the spark, which will result in a moral uprising, so that we will have a new birth of national honesty and decency. Now sometimes in this process, you will question even yourselves, and that's good, that's healthy, for what are we if we are not what we believe.

Liane Hanson is a cancer, a cancer of liberalism, a cancer of disloyalty. Her nomination itself is the cancer of affirmative action. What we will sing, with voices stentorian, is that she is the cancer of virtuous decay.

Now, Clauswitz said that war is the natural extension of politics, but politics is also the extension of war. They are one and the same. Now in this war there will be casualties, so help me God, not among us.

— Rep Sheldon Runyon (Gary Oldman) in *The Contender*

(written by Rod Lurie)

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee: Remarkably now it seems like I have some explaining to do, so let me be absolutely clear. I stand for a woman's right to choose. I stand for the elimination of the death penalty. I stand for strong and growing armed forces because we must stamp out genocide on this planet, and I believe that is a cause worth dying for. I stand for seeing every gun taken out of every home, period. I stand for making the selling of cigarettes to our youth a federal offense. I stand for term limits and campaign reform. And, Mr Chairman, I stand for the separation of church and state and the reason that I stand for that is the same reason that I believe our forefathers did. It is not there to protect religion from the grasp of government, but to protect our government from the grasp of religious fanaticism. Now, I may be an atheist, but that does not mean I do not go to church. I do go to church. The church I go to is the one that emancipated the slaves, that gave women the right to vote, that gave us every freedom that we hold dear. My church is this very chapel of democracy that we sit in together. And I do not need God to tell me what are my moral absolutes. I need my heart, my brain, and this church.

— Joan Allen as Sen Liane Hanson in *The Contender*

(written by Rod Lurie)

Napoleon once said, when asked to explain the lack of great statesmen in the world, that to get power you need to display absolute pettiness; to exercise power you need to show true greatness. Such pettiness and such greatness are rarely found in one person.

I look upon the events of the past weeks and I've never come so to grips with that quotation, for ladies and gentlemen of this Congress, it pains my soul to tell you that you have brought blood and shame under this great dome. Your leadership has raised the stakes of hate to a level where we can no longer separate the demagogue from the truly inspired. And believe this: there are traitors among us. And I'm not talking about those of you who sided against your party leadership. I'm talking about those of you who were patriots to your party, but traitors to the necessary end result, that of righteousness, the truth, the concept of making the American dream blind to gender. And you know, I am not free of blame, right from the start, I should have come down here, pointed a finger your way... [pointing at Congressman Runyon] pointed a finger your way, and asked you "have you no decency, sir?"

Yesterday, I met... Mr Runyon, you may walk out on me, you can walk out on this body, but you cannot walk out on the will of the American people. Americans are a good people, they're a just people, Mr Runyon, they will forgive you, but they will not forget. Hate and ego have no place residing in what my good friend Liane Hanson calls the chapel of democracy. So, let me make one thing clear: you come at us with whatever weapons that you have in your arsenal, but there is no weapon as powerful as that of an idea whose time has come. A woman will serve in the highest level of the Executive. Simple as that.

Yesterday, I spoke with Liane Hanson. I told her that she could decide her own destiny, if she wanted to continue her fight for confirmation, that I would stand beside her. She has asked me to allow her to step aside. She told me that she wanted my administration to end on a note of triumph, and not controversy.

Understand, those of you who worked to bring Liane Hanson down, that she asked to have her name withdrawn, not because she isn't great, but because she isn't petty. Because those two conflicting leadership traits could not live as one within her body or her soul. Greatness: it comes in many forms. Sometimes it comes in the form of sacrifice, that's the loneliest form. Now it turns out that Liane Hanson is a woman, an American, of devout principle, and she has inspired me to act alike. And I cannot accept Senator Hanson's withdrawal. And I'm now calling for an immediate vote of confirmation of Liane Hanson. And Mr Speaker, I would like to make this a live roll call. I want to see the faces of those of you who would eliminate the possibility of greatness in American leadership because of half-truths, lies, and innuendoes. I will not be deterred by partisanship. I will not be deterred by misogyny. I will not be deterred by hate. You have now come face-to-face with my will. Confirm my nominee, heal this nation, and let the American people explode into this new millennium with the exhilaration of being true to the glory of this democracy.

— Jeff Bridges as Pres Jackson Evans, at the climax of *The Contender*

(written by Rod Lurie)

Mathematics is one of the essential emanations of the human spirit, a thing to be valued in and for itself, like art or poetry.

— Oswald Veblen

— calligraphed version of this was a 64th birthday present to Donald Knuth from Herman Zapf, 10 Jan 2002

The road to wisdom? Well it's plain and simple to express. Err and err and err again, but less and less and less.

— Piet Hein

You do not make history. You can only hope to survive it.

— G'Kar in *Babylon 5* episode "Rising Star"

[T]he idea of passing laws that say some kinds of algorithms belong to mathematics and some do not strikes me as absurd as the 19th century attempts of the Indiana legislature to pass a law that the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter is exactly 3, not approximately 3.1416. It's like the medieval church ruling that the sun revolves about the earth. Man-made laws can be significantly helpful but not when they contradict fundamental truths.

— Donald E Knuth, letter to US Commissioner of Patents and Trade-marks

Q: What is the secret to doing good work?

A: Never to accept anything without question. Never ignore an inner voice that tells you something could be better, even when other people tell you it's OK.

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

Q: How stiff should a stiff drink be?

A: Nice and easy. You don't have to beat yourself up. Why be a hero? For what?

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

For years I have nursed a secret desire to spend the Fourth of July in a double hammock with a swingin' redheaded broad. But I could never find me a double hammock.

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

I am what I am and I'm not asking myself any questions. The time you start talking to yourself is when you're unhappy, when you want to change. I don't want to change. I'm satisfied with what I am.

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

Fear is the enemy of logic.

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

Trouble just seems to come my way unbidden, unwelcome, unneeded.

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

You've got to put the most into everything you do. You must try to do the best, with a decency and a dignity and compassion for your fellow man. I think that if you do the best you can in your life, you get your just reward.

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

I can't work well except under pressure. If there's too much time available, I don't like it—not enough stimulus.

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

Q: What is the only way to beat mortality?

A: Live each day like it may be the final day.

— Frank Sinatra, in *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, by Bill Zehme

There are three types of men in the world. One type learns from books. One type learns from observation. And one type just has to urinate on the electric fence.

— Dr Laura Schlessinger

Breathtaking, dazzling, slightly dizzying, 124 words long yet syntactically coherent, this quintessentially Gingrichian sentence linked management theorists, a board chairman, a military hero, academic studies, historical documents, and a movie in a single sweeping concept. There was, to at least a few in the audience, something actually awe-inspiring about the speaker's performance. And it was not simply the air of erudition. He can convey, more than any other politician in America today, the sense that he grasps the historical moment he occupies.

— John Taylor, describing a speech by Newt Gingrich in an *Esquire* profile

Gingrich offers up a history of American values in a scheme so hysterically partisan, so transparently dishonest, so willfully stupid, that it's impossible to believe even Newt himself would expect anyone to take it seriously.

— John Taylor in a profile of Newt Gingrich in *Esquire*

We were promised all the multi-partner sex you wanted and penicillin would take care of it. We were promised all the recreational drugs you wanted and it wouldn't be dangerous, wouldn't be addictive ... The left-wing Democrats represent the party of total hedonism, total exhibitionism, total bizarreness, total weirdness, and the total right to cripple innocent people in the name of letting hooligans loose.

— Newt Gingrich

— these three Gingrich quotes are from David Brock's *Blinded by the Right*

Surely the most universal composer of this last millennium.

— Charles, the Prince of Wales, on Johann Sebastian Bach

Perhaps the safest thing to do at the outset, if technology permits is to send music. This language may be the best we have for explaining what we are like to others in space, with least ambiguity. I would vote for Bach, all of Bach, streamed out into space, over and over again. We would be bragging, of course, but it is surely excusable for us to put the best possible face on at the beginning of such an acquaintance.

— Lewis Thomas, on how to communicate with extraterrestrials in
The Lives of a Cell

I don't even have an e-mail address. I have reached an age where my main purpose is not to receive messages.

— Umberto Eco, quoted in *The New Yorker*, quoted by Donald E Knuth

What is it with this chick? She have beer-flavored nipples?

— Pat Verona (Heath Ledger) in *Ten Things I Hate About You*

written by Karen McCullah Lutz, Kirsten Smith; based on *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

Romantic? Hemingway? He was an abusive, alcoholic misogynist who squandered half his life hanging around Picasso trying to nail his leftovers.

— Katarina Stratford (Julia Stiles) in *Ten Things I Hate About You*

written by Karen McCullah Lutz, Kirsten Smith; based on *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

Mr Stratford: Where are we going?

Bianca Stratford: Well, if you must know, a small study group of friends.

Mr Stratford: Otherwise known as an orgy?

Chastity: Mr Stratford, it's just a party.

Mr Stratford: And hell is just a sauna.

— Larry Miller, Larisa Oleynik, and Gabrielle Union in *Ten Things I Hate About You*

written by Karen McCullah Lutz, Kirsten Smith; based on *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

No drinking. No drugs. No kissing. No tattoos. No piercings. No ritual animal slaughters of any kind. Oh, God, I've given them ideas.

— Walter Stratford (Larry Miller) giving directions to his daughters Katarina and Bianca as they leave for a party in *Ten Things I Hate About You*

written by Karen McCullah Lutz, Kirsten Smith; based on *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

You know, fathers don't like to admit it when their daughters are capable of running their own lives. It means we've become spectators. Bianca still lets me play a few innings; you've had me on the bench for years. When you go to Sarah Lawrence, I won't even be able to watch the game.

— Walter Stratford (Larry Miller) to his daughter Katarina (Julia Stiles) in *Ten Things I Hate About You*

written by Karen McCullah Lutz, Kirsten Smith; based on *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

I hate the way you talk to me, and the way you cut your hair;
I hate the way you drive my car; I hate it when you stare.
I hate your big dumb combat boots, and the way you read my mind,
I hate you so much it makes me sick: it even makes me rhyme.
I hate the way you're always right. I hate it when you lie.
I hate it when you make me laugh; even worse when you make me cry.
I hate it when you're not around, and the fact that you didn't call.
But mostly I hate the way I don't hate you, not even close, not even a little bit, not even at all.

— Katarina Stratford (Julia Stiles) in *Ten Things I Hate About You*

written by Karen McCullah Lutz, Kirsten Smith; based on *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land unto All the Inhabitants Thereof

— inscription on the Liberty Bell, Leviticus XXV:10

To the greater glory of God
and in recognition of
the enduring links between
the City of London
and
The City of New York
Forged in adversity — 11 September 2001
— Inscription on bell cast by Whitechapel Bell Foundry on 26 July
2002, to be dedicated on 11 Sept 2002 at Trinity Church, Wall
Street

(Whitechapel manufactured the Liberty Bell)

Duty is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less.

— Robert E Lee

Let Americans disdain to be the instruments of European greatness. Let the thirteen States, bound together in a dissoluble Union, concur in erecting one great American system, superior to the control of all transatlantic force or influence, and able to dictate the terms of the connection between the old and the new world.

— Alexander Hamilton

You want rock & roll that isn't rude? I thought that's what it was for.

— Arthur D Hlavaty, in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 26 Aug 2002

Subject: Re: Billy Joel and Interreligious Dating WAS Re: My fandom sins

Message-id: <5b5kmusfe9ucgvcn90pejoplvc1io1281o@4ax.com>

Architect, author, impact, incest, and transition are nouns. Incent is not a word at all. Coauthor is OK as a verb, but it doesn't imply writing. Terry Southern and Mason Hoffenberg cowrote Candy. Ron Goulart wrote the "Tek" books. William Shatner coauthored them.

— Arthur D Hlavaty, in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 27 Aug 2002

Subject: Re: ...another shocking case of conservative media bias

Message-id: <0fqmmuouvj5mggce4m43cfuv57ui373523@4ax.com>

Rumination cf the Day

I recently watched *Field cf Dreams* again, and I was so moved that I plowed down my cornfield and built a strip club. So far, though, no sign of Gypsy Rose Lee.

— Joseph Prisco, at `www.topfive.com`

28 Aug 2002

For the first time in human history, human society possesses the capacity, the knowledge, and the resources to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment.

— Thabo Mbeki, president of South Africa, in a speech at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, August 2002

(compare to Brunner's propositions from *The Shockwave Rider*)

The sergeant, I had observed in my previous contacts with him, burned for truth the way other men burn for a promotion or a night with Michelle Pfeiffer.

— *A Bone to Pick*, Charlaïne Harris

We are America. Those other people are not.

— Rich Bond, chairman of the Republican National Committee, abandoning inclusiveness at their convention in Houston, 1992.

quoted by Brock in *Blinded by the Right*, p 124

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it *now*, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; 'tis dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to set a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as *Freedom* should not be highly rated.

— Tom Paine, "The Crisis"

When the cannons have stopped firing, and the great victories of finance are reduced to surmise and are long forgotten, it is the art of the people that will confront future generations. The arts do more to sustain the peace than all the wars, the armaments and the threats and the warnings of the politicians.

— Arthur Miller, acceptance speech for the 2001 Praemium Imperiale award, 3 Sep 2002

Harry Turtledove . . . talks about how it changed his life, giving a great example of how alternate histories work: what if he hadn't read it?

— Evelyn Leeper in her review of L Sprague De Camp's *Lest Darkness Fall*

Blinded by the Right is a valuable book. It is not an apologia. It is something rarer, and it is something that is owed not only from its author but also from the political cadre he has so spectacularly served and forsaken: an apology.

— Henrik Hertzberg's review of David Brock's book, in *The New Yorker*, 7 March 2002

We Are Everywhere. No doubt mainstream critics gibbered with rage at the release from W H Smith which "announced the results of a survey to find the nation's favourite books. It polled 1,000 adults and came up with a top five of *Lord of the Rings*, the Bible, *Harry Potter*, *The Hobbit* and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*." Not bad at all, notes our reporter Gary Wilkinson: one sf novel and four fantasies.

— David Langford, *Ansible* 182, Sept 2002

Posted in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 6 Sep 2002,

Message-ID: <r13hnuk9os4u4oggms3tk2q1tqkkkd5vi8@4ax.com>

As Others See Us. Film critic Chris Fujiwara of the *Boston Phoenix* explains the utility of SF: "And we've had proof that adding 'science fiction' to a whodunit (*Minority Report*) or a family-values heart tugger (*Signs*) is considered a valid option for filmmakers who seem mortally afraid that someone somewhere might regard a movie of theirs as well-crafted entertainment."

— Reported by David Langford in *Ansible* 182, Sept 2002

Posted in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 6 Sep 2002

Message-ID: <r13hnuk9os4u4oggms3tk2q1tqkkkd5vi8@4ax.com>

The group swept to prominence in the Gingrich era was a new breed entirely: attractive, media savvy, and committed to conservatism largely as a marketing technique, not a philosophy. I got on much better with this flashy crowd than I had with the gray-visaged, embittered true believers, with their defeatist air of the perennially excluded, I had met in prior years.

— David Brock, *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*

Crown, 2002, ISBN 0-8129-3099-1 p219

In no way did we view ourselves as independent actors, a reflection of the movement mind-set I had been inculcated in since my earliest days at the *Washington Times*. Our publications functioned as adjuncts to the conservative movement; we were co-conspirators in the anti-Clinton jihad.

— David Brock, *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*

p226

In the review of *Strange Justice*, however, to protect myself and my tribe from the truth and consequences of our own hypocrisy, smears, falsehoods, and cover-ups, I consciously and actively chose an unethical path. I continued to malign Anita Hill and her liberal supporters as liars. I trashed the professional reputations of two journalists for reporting something I knew was correct. I coerced an unsteady source, I knowingly published a lie, and I falsified the historical record.

— David Brock, *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*

p 248

I had begun my career by suppressing my liberal social values to get ahead in the conservative movement; I then abandoned the conservative traditions of restraint and civility for Gingrichian ends-justify-the-means radicalism. As a closeted gay man, I did the work of the right-wing lawyers of the Federalist Society, the Christian Coalition, and the worst bigots from Arkansas — racist, homophobic Clinton-haters. Through it all—the destructive partisanship, the careerism, the personal aggrandizement—in my mind I managed to rationalize each of my actions and hold on to the idea that I wasn’t like the Ruddys, the Scaifes, the Falwells, the Tyrrells, the Funds—I was better than they were. Whatever else I may have been, I wasn’t a liar. But I was no better than the Arkansas Project brigade after all. The strange lies were mine. All the attacks, the hateful rhetoric, the dark alliances and strange conspiracies, an eye for an eye, nuts and sluts, defending Pinochet, throwing grenades, carpet-bombing the White House, Bob Bork, Bob Tyrrell, Bob Dornan, Bob Bartley, Bob Barr—it all led right here: I lost my soul.

— David Brock, *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*

p 248

Y’know, I can’t think of nothin’ finer than a fine naked woman holdin’ a gun. And you just all kinds of fine now, ain’t ya?

— Franklin Figueroa to Jill St Claire in *The Whole Nine Yards*

...I came to realize in writing this book that what set the Democratic ticket apart from the Republican one was that the Republicans, in all the manifestations I had seen, from Reagan to Bush to Gingrich to Bush again, pursued a politics of self-interest that too often aligned them against the public good.

— David Brock, *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*

p 330

Too much and for too long, we seem to have surrendered personal excellence and community values in the mere accumulation of material things. Our gross national product now is over eight hundred billion dollars a year. But that gross national product, if we judge the United States of America by that, that gross national product counts air pollution, and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for the people who break them. It counts the destruction of the redwoods and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and it counts nuclear warheads and armored cars for the police to fight the riots in our cities. It counts Whitman's rifle and Speck's knife and the television programs which glorify violence in order to sell toys to our children.

Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country. It measures everything in short except that which makes life worthwhile. And it can tell us everything about America except why we are proud that we are Americans.

— Robert F Kennedy, 1968

There is a line in our time, and in every time, between those who believe all men are created equal, and those who believe that some men and women and children are expendable in the pursuit of power. There is a line in our time, and in every time, between the defenders of human liberty and those who seek to master the minds and souls of others. Our generation has now heard history's call, and we will answer it.

— George W Bush, speech at Ellis Island, 11 Sept 2002

The first draft of anything is shit.

— Ernest Hemingway

The secret of success in show business is honesty and sincerity. Once you learn how to fake that, you've got it made.

— Groucho Marx

As you get older, physical deterioration is offset by a larger world view and a deeper sense of gratitude.

— Diane Keaton

Diplomacy is the art of saying "nice doggie" until you can find a stick.

— Wynn Catlin

I have discovered the art of deceiving diplomats. I speak the truth, and they never believe me.

— Camillo di Cavour

A diplomat is a man who remembers a lady's birthday but forgets her age.

— Anonymous

Misgovernment is of four kinds, often in combination. They are: (1) tyranny or oppression, of which history provides so many well-known examples that they do not need citing; (2) excessive ambition, such as Athens' attempted conquest of Sicily during the Peloponnesian War, Phillip II's of England via the Armada, Germany's twice-attempted rule of Europe by a self-conceived master race, Japan's bid for an empire of Asia; (3) incompetence or decadence, as in the case of the late Roman Empire, the last Romanovs and the last imperial dynasty of China; and finally (4) folly or perversity.

— Barbara W Tuchman

Pot was cheap in the sixties; one could purchase a kilo for about \$100. (All the good stuff was cheap then: pot, sex, paperbacks....) And the smoke wasn't as harsh. And we had to walk ten miles to school in the snow, uphill both ways, but we were too stoned to give a shit.

— Arthur D Hlavaty in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 18 Sep 2002

Subject: Re: States' rights

Message-ID: <95pgou8tcn5patknrlelb2o1dprk7rfrgm@4ax.com>

... dalliance with promiscuous blondes can be very dull stuff when described by goaty young men with no other purpose in mind than to describe dalliance with promiscuous blondes.

— Raymond Chandler, "The Simple Art of Murder"

pointed out by John McMullen

And win or lose, I know one other thing. After we, and our converging, energetic, curious, ingenious, sympathetic horde, are finished, South Georgia will never be the same.

— Charles Sheffield, "Georgia On My Mind"

– hugo novellette winner 1994, nebula novellette winner 1994, *Analog*, Jan 1993,

When a true genius appears in this world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in confederacy against him.

— Jonathan Swift

My father, an enlightened spirit, believed in man.

My grandfather, a fervent Hasid, believed in God.

The one taught me to speak, the other to sing.

Both loved stories.

And when I tell mine, I hear their voices.

Whispering from beyond the silenced storm, they are what links the survivor to their memory.

— Elie Wiesel, dedication to *Souls on Fire: Portraits and Legends of Hasidic Masters*

“I want peace on earth and goodwill toward men.”

“We are the United States Government. We don’t do that sort of thing.”

— Erwin “Whistler” Emory (David Straithairn) and Bernard Abbott
(James Earl Jones), in *Sneakers*

written by Phil Alden Robinson, Lawrence Lasker, and Walter F Parkes

Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just.

— Thomas Jefferson

The vast majority of those who sponsored, planned and implemented the cold blooded murder of more than 3,000 Americans are still at large, still neither located nor apprehended, much less punished and neutralized. I do not believe that we should allow ourselves to be distracted from this urgent task simply because it is proving to be more difficult and lengthy than predicted. Great nations persevere and then prevail. They do not jump from one unfinished task to another.

— Al Gore, speech opposing the invasion of Iraq, 23 Sept 2002

pithy bit of the last:

Great nations persevere and then prevail. They do not jump from one unfinished task to another.

— Al Gore, speech opposing the invasion of Iraq, 23 Sept 2002

In just one year, the President has somehow squandered the international outpouring of sympathy, goodwill and solidarity that followed the attacks of September 11th and converted it into anger and apprehension aimed much more at the United States than at the terrorist network — much as we managed to squander in one year’s time the largest budget surpluses in history and convert them into massive fiscal deficits.

— Al Gore, speech opposing the invasion of Iraq, 23 Sept 2002

Regarding other countries, the Administration’s disdain for the views of others is well documented and need not be reviewed here. It is more important to note the consequences of an emerging national strategy that not only celebrates American strengths, but appears to be glorifying the notion of dominance. If what America represents to the world is leadership in a commonwealth of equals, then our friends are legion; if what we represent to the world is empire, then it is our enemies who will be legion.

— Al Gore, speech opposing the invasion of Iraq, 23 Sept 2002

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— Al Gore, speech opposing the invasion of Iraq, 23 Sept 2002

At this fateful juncture in our history it is vital that we see clearly who are our enemies, and that we deal with them. It is also important, however, that in the process we preserve not only ourselves as individuals, but our nature as a people dedicated to the rule of law.

— Al Gore, speech opposing the invasion of Iraq, 23 Sept 2002

I believe that we can effectively defend ourselves abroad and at home without dimming our principles. Indeed, I believe that our success in defending ourselves depends precisely on not giving up what we stand for.

— Al Gore, speech opposing the invasion of Iraq, 23 Sept 2002

The very poor are unthinkable and only to be approached by the statistician and the poet.

— E M Forster, *Howards End*

Wars, conflict, it's all business. One murder makes a villain. Millions a hero. Numbers sanctify.

— Charlie Chaplin

Facts speak louder than statistics

— Geoffrey Streatfield

I am one of the unpraised, unrewarded millions without whom Statistics would be a bankrupt science. It is we who are born, who marry, who die, in constant ratios.

— Logan Pearsall Smith, *Trivia* (1902)

You cannot feed the hungry on statistics.

— David Lloyd George, 1904

A witty statesman said, you might prove anything by figures.

— Thomas Carlyle

Medical statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is interesting but what they conceal is vital.

— Anonymous

There is a statistical terrorism inflicted on society by crime figures.

— Lady Runciman of Doxford, *The (London) Times*, 20 Jan 1995

Numbers constitute the only universal language.

— Nathanael West, *Miss Lonelyhearts*

We used to think that if we knew one, we knew two, because one and one are two. We are finding that we must learn a great deal more about “and”.

— Arthur Eddington

As writers become more numerous, it is natural for readers to become more indolent.

— Oliver Goldsmith

Linux isn’t going to go away — our job is to provide a better product in the marketplace.

— Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, on how Linus Torvalds’ brainchild has forced his company to take an entirely novel approach to coding software, News.com, 24 September 2002

pointed out (with commentary) by Owen Thomas at www.ditherati.com, under the headline “Quality is Plan B”

Surprise, when it happens to a government, is likely to be a complicated, diffuse, bureaucratic thing . . . It includes gaps in intelligence, but also intelligence that, like a string of pearls too precious to wear, is too sensitive to give to those who need it. It includes the alarm that fails to work, but also the alarm that has gone off so often it has been disconnected. It includes the unalert watchman, but also the one who knows he’ll be chewed out by his superior if he gets higher authority out of bed. It includes the contingencies that occur to no one, but also those that everyone assumes somebody else is taking care of. It includes straightforward procrastination, but also decisions protracted by internal disagreement. It includes, in addition, the inability of individual human beings to rise to the occasion until they are sure it is the occasion — which is usually too late. (Unlike movies, real life provides no musical background to tip us off to the climax.) Finally, as at Pearl Harbor, surprise may include some measure of genuine novelty introduced by the enemy, and possibly some sheer bad luck.

The results, at Pearl Harbor, were sudden, concentrated, and dramatic. The failure, however, was cumulative, widespread, and rather drearily familiar. This is why surprise, when it happens to a government, cannot be described just in terms of startled people. Whether at Pearl Harbor or at the Berlin Wall, surprise is everything involved in a government’s (or in an alliance’s) failure to anticipate effectively.

— Foreword by Thomas C Schelling to *Pearl Harbor: Warning and Decision* (1962) by Roberta Wohlstetter

... pointed out in a sidebar to “Homeland Insecurity” by Charles C Mann in *The Atlantic*, Sept 2002

Your goal should be for each page to be self-evident, so that just by looking at it the average user [footnote: The actual Average User is kept in a hermetically sealed vault at the International Bureau of Standards in Geneva. We’ll get around to talking about the best way to think about the “average user” eventually.] will know what it is and how to use it.

— Steve Krug, *Don’t Make Me Think: A Common Sense Approach to Web Usability*

New Riders, 2000, ISBN 0-7897-2310-7
