

A forum to encourage independent thinking

The THINK Club

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“Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn’t matter to me ... Going to bed at night saying we’ve done something wonderful... that’s what matters to me.”

[The Wall Street Journal, May 25, 1993]

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Thinking Wildly

Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.

– Steve Jobs quoting The Whole Earth Catalog

I hope that when I die, people say about me, 'Boy, that guy sure owed me a lot of money.

– Jack Handey

The price one pays for pursuing any profession or calling is an intimate knowledge of its ugly side.

– James Baldwin

I haven't spoken to my wife in years. I didn't want to interrupt her.

– Rodney Dangerfield

So much of what we call management consists in making it difficult for people to work.

– Peter Drucker

Last night somebody broke into my apartment and replaced everything with exact duplicates... When I pointed it out to my roommate, he said, 'Do I know you?'

– Steven Wright

President Calvin Coolidge was known to be a skilled and effective public speaker, in private he was a man of few words and was therefore commonly referred to as "Silent Cal." A possibly apocryphal story has it that Dorothy Parker, seated next to him at a dinner, said, "Mr. Coolidge, I've made a bet against a fellow who said it was impossible to get more than two words out of you." His famous reply: "You lose."

It was Dorothy Parker who, upon learning that Coolidge had died, reportedly remarked, "How can they tell?"

Idleness is not doing nothing. Idleness is being free to do anything.

– Floyd Dell

My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time.

– Steve Jobs

Sent your comments to:

**The THINK Club,
P.O. Box 451,
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0451**

Or email to:

letters@thethinkclub.com

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Publisher: Bala Prasad
Managing Editor: Anil Shrivastava "Musafir"
Consulting Editor: David Beagan

Address: The THINK Club
PO Box 451
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0451

Phone: 248-651-3106 Fax: 248-651-3106
email: letters@thethinkclub.com
Visit us: www.thethinkclub.com

Remembering Nine-Eleven

By Musafir

The Bush Doctrine states, “*You’re with us or you’re with the terrorists (enemy).*” The enemy that Mr. Bush was referring to won the battle. The good news is that America will win the war. Our enemies do not belong to any country nor do they own any army, navy or air force. They (the enemy) razed the Twin Towers, demolished parts of the Pentagon and barely missed attacking the White House. They killed more than 3,000 Americans instantly and induced fear and insecurity in rest of us. Our cost of defending the country and fighting wars made us bankrupt. All this damage was cast upon us only by an army of 11 men. Their cost for the entire operation was merely ten domestic airline tickets.

I have been to New York City at least five times since the terrorist attack that took place on September 11, 2001. I purposely refrained from visiting Ground Zero on all those occasions. Nevertheless, I often remember the victims of the attacks and the unsung heroes who gave up their lives in their effort to save others. They were innocent folks, parents, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters just like us. Despite that, I did not want to see the hollow ground where the Twin Towers once stood.

I viewed the Twin Towers as America’s pride. I went to those towers twice with my family to marvel at the land of ‘the free and home of the brave.’ Losing those towers was like losing one of my own. The thought of witnessing their ruins was unbearable. I could not witness a wounded America. That would remind me of the atrocities of the past several centuries which I have been trying to forget and forgive.

The tenth anniversary of Nine-Eleven hit me with a mixed emotions. On one hand I remembered the day of infamy and on the other I rejoiced at the sight of the soon to be completed buildings and memorials on the site of then Ground Zero. I witnessed young boys and girls remembering their parents and pledging to keep their dreams alive. That is the American spirit, resilience and rejuvenation – always looking forward and winning in the face of adversity.

I believe in George Santayana’s warning that “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” So, I am glad that we have built something admirable as a constant reminder to us that no one is too big to be harmed. Designed by the architect Michael Arad and the

landscape architect Peter Walker and called “Reflecting Absence,” the memorial will be about eight acres in size and consist of two sunken reflecting pools, each surrounded by an enormous waterfall, the largest man-made ones in North America, according to the memorial’s official website. The names of the 2,982 people who died on 9/11 and in the failed 1993 attempt to destroy the twin towers will be etched on the bronze panels edging these memorial pools. The closing sentence of the memorial’s mission statement reads: “May the lives remembered, the deeds recognized, and the spirit reawakened be eternal beacons, which reaffirm respect for life, strengthen our resolve to preserve freedom, and inspire an end to hatred, ignorance and intolerance.”

Like those boys and girls who grew up since Nine-Eleven, the new World Trade Center complex is the emergence of new and determined America from the ashes. It has been built by people of vision and with the contribution of the families and friends of victims and rescuers. The spirit of America always has and always will transcend despair, hatred and evil like a beacon of hope for the rest of the humanity. I will reiterate the words of Gita which can heal us faster: “Fear Not. What is not real, never was and never will be. What is real, always was and cannot be destroyed.”



Corporate Social Responsibility

By Anil Shrivastava

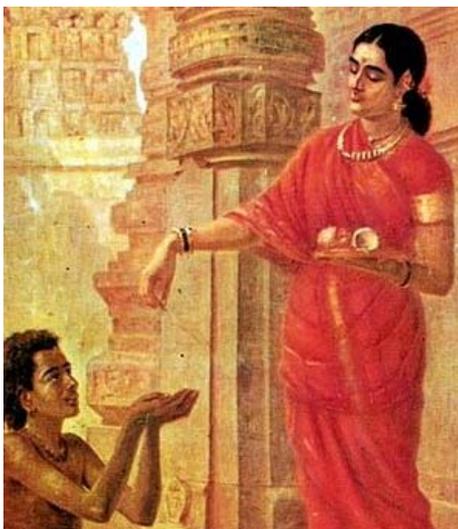
Corporate responsibility and business ethics are the prime topics among the common people today. There are protests against corporate greed all over the world and they are mushrooming every day. Interestingly, hundreds of businesses have emerged claiming to know how to do business ethically and they are benefiting from this newly found opportunity. Business authors are cashing in with hundreds of books and seminars being sold worldwide to businesses, financial institutions, and universities. New vocabulary and terminologies have been coined to keep up with the time. Words and phrases such as oversight, bubble, global humanization, moral compass, brute capitalism, cooking the books, citizenship responsibility have become part of the new business lingo. Businesses are buying into it trying to understand how to run themselves ethically and responsibly.

New laws and regulations have been enacted designed with an aim to mitigate corporate corruption. In 2002, Congress passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. This encompasses every aspect of the corporate governance of publicly held U.S. corporations. Similarly, The New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ adopted new corporate regulations which substantially change the way corporations disclose information to stockholders and the public. The SEC has instituted a requirement obligating CEOs and CFOs of public companies to certify legally that their financial statements and reports

to adopt new practices by approving and implementing revisions to their governance structures, policies, and programs.

But many question the real effectiveness of those laws and regulations. The central question remains: can morality be mandated? In other words, is moral capitalism possible? Despite the fact that many unanswered questions and unknown risks remain, changes in the laws and regulations, with concurrent emphasis on business ethics and corporate social responsibility, serve as a valuable major step in offering hope and instilling confidence in the stakeholders of most small and large businesses.

However, the fact remains that business needs capital. As long as money is borrowed and invested, high-risk equity and lower-risk debt will remain in place. No form of capitalism, moral or otherwise can escape this fact. It is a difficult task to maintain public trust and confidence owners and investors, the providers of capital, are as necessary for business success as all other stakeholders. On one hand it is necessary for them to manipulate money market to their advantage (all of us do) and on the other they are also required to do business morally. Whatever be the circumstance, The operation of a business in the complex global community has brought on new challenges for business leaders to behave more ethically and responsibly. That in itself is a step in the right direction.



are accurate and not misleading – exposing these executives to the possibility of criminal charges if their numbers turn out to be bogus. Many large and small corporations have likewise acted quickly



Running Out of Excuses

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'

Life was so simple then. We made excuses that were easily understood by our teachers without leaving any room for ambiguity. "Dog ate my homework; the alarm clock did not go off," or simply "I was sick" were short, succinct and persuasive excuses.

Times have changed. Life has become much more complex now making the past excuses antiquated. Today's excuses are as complex as modern gadgets. Present day students cannot get by using short words and short sentences. They must use enigmatic sentences and innovative phrases in order to validate their arguments. This has added additional stress to an already demanding life.

I teach classes online. Since instructions and assignments are communicated through the Internet in an asynchronous environment, traditional excuses such as, "My step mother died again (since her father-in-law kept remarrying)," are totally redundant. Today's environment demands greater ingenuity and spontaneity than ever before. Here are some excuses which have recently been used by my encumbered students:

"I am emailing you just to let you know that none of my email accounts is working"

"My dog jumped on my computer and deleted all my assignments."

"My Internet was not working, so I checked in a motel last night with my boyfriend only to find out this morning that they (motel) did not have Internet."

"My computer crashed, so I drove to my mother-in-law's place. She will not

let me use her computer until she finds an online date for herself."

"This week I am across the border in Mexico. My computer won't catch any of the American Internet sites."

"I am just letting you know that my computer has contracted a virus. Now I have to wait until the end of the flu season to submit my assignments."

"My computer crashed on me. As a result, I am hospitalized."

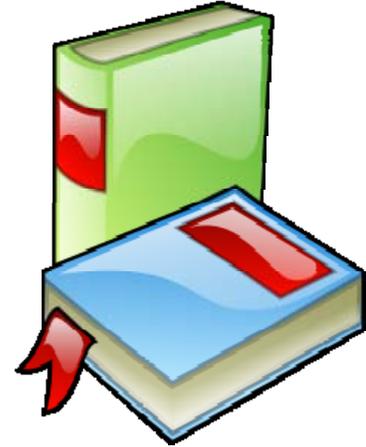
"My computer's software will not talk to the hardware. They need some sort of counseling I believe."

"I bought a new computer. Unfortunately, it did not come with a monitor. I am trying to teach my computer how to talk. I will not be able to submit my assignments until that happens."

"I will not be able to submit my assignment on time due to tsunami in Japan. My Internet provider's cable runs through Sea of Japan"

"My keyboard is missing a ky. C for yourself it is impossibl to typ an e."

Doing homework has changed a lot in the past 20 years but our students today don't have sufficient amount of resources available to them to keep up with the changing times. So I have decided to create a database of new excuses for pointing today's students in the right direction. If you want to help the cause, please send your suggestions to excusesunlimited@thethinkclub.com.



You Know What Irks Me?

By Robert Bickmeyer

You know what irks me?

- When I hear someone use the name of our Lord in vain.
- People who pretend to know everything.
- Why are people, who rise early when they don't have to, so proud of it?
- The anti-Christian agenda of the American Civil Liberties Union.
- "If you speak English, press one. If you speak Spanish, press two."
- Hearing someone quote that mythical "separation of church and state" that is nowhere in the Constitution.
- People who are intolerant or impatient when others do not meet their "standards."
- Parents who have the need to satisfy every want of their spoiled children. See: Tickle me Elmo, Beanie
- Babies, Cabbage Patch Dolls, iPad and iPhones.
- Changing fashions...and those who gullibly buy new clothes because the clothing industry convinces them they must be stylish.
- People who are unable to admit they made a mistake.
- Our justice system that allows criminals to be convicted of attempted murder when their victims were fortunate to survive. Why are the criminals not convicted of murder when the intent was there?
- Defense lawyers who know or believe their client to be guilty and free them by invoking a technicality or concocting a lie. Shame on them.
- Are Ernie Els, the white professional golfer, and Charlize Theron the beautiful blonde actress from South Africa, both of whom are now U.S. citizens, African-Americans?
- When a pregnant woman chooses to have her baby she calls it her baby. If she chooses an abortion, it's a fetus. Why?
- Laugh tracks added to sitcoms, "telling" us when to laugh.
- Chronic liars.
- When I call customer service of an American company and their representative is located in a foreign country.
- Unwed couples living together.
- "We've been 'together' three years" often means they've been living together. Why do they avoid saying they've been living together. I guess there is still some shame attached to such an arrangement.
- When I call a business and a recorded voice leads me through a series of button pushing options, none of which can answer my question nor am I given the option of speaking to someone.
- People who brag about working in their profession beyond the age of retirement. Don't they have any interests? Hobbies? Families? Don't they have a life?

On Sports:

When members of a winning football team pour a bucket of water or Gatorade over the head of their coach.

Pro athletes who, after a good year, want to re-negotiate their multi-year contract whereas never does an athlete look for a new contract after a bad year.

When a football coach, on fourth down, calls a running play instead of punting or kicking a field goal and it fails, the second-guessers call it a bonehead call. When it succeeds, these same "experts" call it a gutsy call.

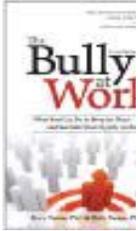
In his first interview after winning a close championship game the coach invariably says, "My team didn't give up." Neither team "gave up," but one had to lose.

Book Review

The Bully at Work

Authors: Gary Namie, PhD & Ruth Namie, PhD

Sourcebooks, Inc (Paperback)



Bullying at work involves pre-mediated, repeated, malicious mistreatment of one employee by one or more employees. This mistreatment is a sort of psychological violence. Its purpose is to steal all that the target has and the bully envies. It prevents the target

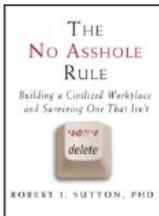
from getting his/her work done.

The workplace bully abuses power, causes misery to his/her target and endeavors hard to steal the target's self-confidence, perceptions of self-competence and goodness. Gradually, bully involves others in this hateful campaign against the target. Bullies use many tactics such as blaming for errors, unreasonable work demands, insults and putdowns, exclusion, stealing credit, threatening job loss, criticism of ability, and discounting of accomplishments.

The book discusses types of bullies. It also includes discussion on who bullies choose for targets. Targets are genuinely bright, creative, dedicated, and self-assured individuals. Since they pose a threat to the bully, the bully works hard to undermine them. As a result of bullying, the targets might experience fear, shame, humiliation, and loss of dignity and it can impact their physical health, mental health and productivity at work.

The No A@#hole Rule

Author: Robert I Sutton, PhD



Publisher: Business Plus

This is a little book with a very concise point. Basically, life is far too short to tolerate jerks in the workplace. It's easy to spot these people based upon the havoc they wreak and the fact that they always choose targets

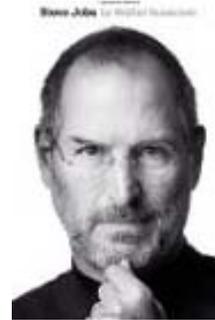
with less power than themselves. This book provides terrific strategies for dealing with jerks, whether you are in management and want to weed them out, or are unfortunate enough to be working under them.

One of my favorite lines in the book is: "Passion is an overrated virtue in organizational life, and indifference is an underrated virtue." While self-professed management gurus who have never had a real job like to trumpet passion in the workplace (and implicitly accept jerk-like behavior), Dr. Sutton points out that sometimes a bit of detachment goes a long way in making life bearable. This is a book about picking your battles and doing what you can to make your workplace enjoyable. It is a quick, interesting and easy read.

Steve Jobs

Author: Walter Isaacson

Publisher: Simon and Schuster



Walter Isaacson has written well respected biographies of American icons, Benjamin Franklin, Albert Einstein, and Henry Kissinger. He didn't seek out the job to write a book on Jobs. In 2004 Jobs suggested that Isaacson write his biography. For years, Isaacson would defer on the idea thinking that Jobs was too young. Then in 2009,

Laurene Powell, Jobs wife, told him that if he was ever to write the biography, now was the time, Steve was sick. Jobs uncharacteristically gave Isaacson full control, giving him full access and agreeing not to review the book before it was published.

Isaacson has pierced the "reality distortion field," revealing the good, bad, and ugly. This is the definitive book on the life of Steve Jobs providing the ultimate insight into the life and mind of the inimitable Steve Jobs.

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Gandhian Economics – Trusteeship

By Jayant Pandya

"Believing as he did in non-violence, Gandhi was against the physical liquidation of the capitalists and landlords. Yet their exploitation had to end. This he believed could be done if the landlords and the capitalists acted as trustees of the poor. His doctrine of Trusteeship is designed to work in all spheres of life. Like parents acting as trustees for their children, the government should act as trustees of those who have chosen them to be their representatives in the legislative assemblies. The trustee, by its implications, meant that he is not the owner. The owner is one whose interest he is called upon to protect."

The philosophy of Trusteeship believes in the inherent goodness of human beings. It involves the capitalists and landlords in the service of society without any element of coercion. It doesn't want the destruction of capitalists. Gandhi himself believed that their destruction would result in the end of the workers.

Gandhian economics is essentially the collection of Gandhi's thoughts on various economic systems. Gandhi was not an economist and he didn't propound any new economic theory. In his time any discussion on economics was centered around two accepted economic systems – Capitalism and Socialism. Both were rigid in their own terms and even today there is no universally accepted economic system that can be uniformly applied over space and time. Every region can have its characteristic economic system which varies with time. One has to take in to account the prevalent conditions; Socio-political, economic and educational status of the people; comparative advantages and disadvantages of the regional economy etc.

Gandhi's thoughts on economic systems evolved over time and they incorporated the good of both Capitalism and Socialism. A conservative may identify his views when he reads that Gandhi was against the confiscation of private property. Similarly a liberal socialist identifies his views when he reads about non-recognition of private property, social responsibility of those possessing property etc. Every thought of Gandhi may not be relevant today but Gandhian economics is very comprehensive in dealing with many present day issues. One such issue is "Corporate Social Responsibility," which can be traced to Gandhi's concept of "Trusteeship."

Corporate Social Responsibility links the Corporate Sector to the Social Sector. It is becoming more relevant in our society plagued by increasing inequalities between the haves and have-nots. Corporate Social Responsibility means that the corporate sector, which earns profit through the sale of its goods and services in the society, also has some responsibility towards it. This is essential to promote growth with equity and to achieve an inclusive society. An increasing number of industrial houses are taking an active interest in the welfare of their employees, their families and society at large. Starting from the provision of basic necessities like drinking water, primary education, and health facilities to the development of environmentally friendly technologies on regional, national and even international scales, they are working in various spheres. In taking up few initiatives, some of them also have enlightened self-interest in mind. They are not only able to advertise their products but are also selling them to the beneficiaries of their activities. Some of them are involved in charity work like the provision of midday meals to school children. Many of them have their own NGOs operating at ground level, and in other cases they are involving civil society in their activities.



Current Affairs

Occupy Wall Street (Photo Essay)



Tea Party Movement Is Not a Sign of Disunity

By Bala Prasad

The formation of the Tea Party has brought different rhetoric from different groups of people. But this is the Democratic system working at its best. In the annals of democratic society, “the 101 lesson” is if you do not like a system, change can only be reached through an electoral system. The majority will prevail until the next election. The people who formed Tea Party and the people who support the Tea Party are trying to change things with the power of their vote. Of course, politics always plays a pivotal role.

The views of the mainstream Republicans have not changed in the last hundred years. Every so often disenchanted people form smaller political groups. Just about a year ago such a political group came to life and was named the Tea Party. This party was formed directly as a result of President Barak Obama’s government policies and the Republican party’s response to them. Their views differed on almost everything – on the economy, on social security/welfare programs, on immigration and our military – to name a few. They have been able to articulate their opinions and views to the public and have in return been awarded with election of their candidates to the United States Congress and Senate. Many previously elected members of this elite body also identify with the Tea Party’s political views. Their number is small, but such are the rules of politics, that they have been able to affect many a decision of the congress. Whether these decisions by the congress and senate were right or wrong is not the point. The point is, they are doing things the right way. We have had no major breakdown of law and order. No major strike. No stoppage of work that cannot stop. This is the power of the people through their vote and represents a fine example of how a democratic system should work.

The nay-sayers, you cannot make them understand that this is certainly not a fatal national division. Most of the time these splinter groups are small, they last for a short period of time and then disappear from the face of the earth to be replaced by a new one. In the last 60 years or so we had many such groups. They all seem to crop up just in time of our Presidential election every four years. Prominent amongst them was the presidential candidacy of Henry Wallace who earlier was vice president under Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Strom Thurmond who was both governor and later senator of South Carolina; George Wallace who was governor of Alabama; John Anderson who was a U.S. congressman. We also cannot forget Ross Perot and Ralph Nader. And then there were presidential candidates of no real consequence. Always either the democrats or republicans call them spoilers, depending on whose candidate did not get elected. But at least we forget this is the only way we can lawfully change things in a democratic society and it represents a democratic system’s finest hour and not a nation divided.

The Tea Party Alienates and Divides America

By Anil Shrivastava ‘Musafir’

Any kind of extreme political view may be divisive. The Tea Party is one such acrimonious organization. It’s not just because they are to the right of the political spectrum, it’s because they are alarmingly extreme. Politics in a democracy should encourage consensus and compromise. On the contrary, they have a set of political ideals they agree upon and don’t want to hear about anything else. The Tea Party has a good premise (fiscal responsibility, smaller government) but they would reject anything coming from the other side. Since partisanship doesn’t make for good politics, they are certainly segregators and not integrators.

The Tea Party started as an angry reaction to Obama’s 2008 victory and its rise threatens America’s integration. Its hatred for the established two-party system is going to fuel divisiveness throughout the nation. Consider the growing support for the Alaska Independence Party, the Hawaiian Independence Party, the New England Independence Movement, the South Carolina League of the South, the Free Texas Republic, the Free California Republic of northern California and Oregon, the Cascadia Republic of northwestern states, among other lesser known yet equally serious secession movements throughout the country.

Witness further the Tea Party discontent; the widening rift between Republicans and Democrats, the call for a second Constitutional convention; the claiming of Federal land by states; virtual collapse of the financial system; the unbridled dishonesty and greed of Wall Street. The Tea Party encourages all the above. Now, here is the dirty little secret about the Tea Party supporters that are protesting higher spending, high taxes and government controls. They are almost all misguided ordinary citizens who have little experience in politics. The Tea Party’s role is more likely to run their Congressman out of office on election day rather than serving the nation.

The Tea Party movement is enemy within. It hates immigrants, supports wars and invasions of other countries and favors corporate unaccountability. The Tea Party can be described in a plethora of adjectives to determine exactly what their platforms might be which are assortments of conflicting ideology and outdated belief systems. This rag tag party is being used as a front by Republicans to detract, delay and disturb while creating a circus atmosphere which was initiated during the initial health care reform bill town halls. The strategy is to have one believe that the Tea Party is a third party grass roots movement that accepts all people. Let’s dissect what they really stand for and who they represent.

Tea Party’s slogans mask the humanity of others and allow them to be easily dismissed and reviled. They do nothing to illuminate or convey the truth about the other side’s position. They only serve to alienate, inflame and divide America.

Steve Jobs as Henry Ford? No—Try Billy Durant or Alfred P. Sloan

(Reprinted from Motor Trend)

From the day Apple launched its first iMac to the day it launched its second or third iPhone, it was impossible to attend any new auto product launch from the Geneva motor show to a press conference on the latest cup holder without hearing of the influence of Steve Jobs' computers. "Apple-inspired," "iMac-inspired," "iPod-inspired" and "iPhone-inspired" automotive design was all over the place, in theoretical concepts if not in practice.

It culminated in our 2011 Car of the Year, the Chevrolet Volt. Its "milk white" interior trim available in some packages its weak design point. I finally replaced my six-year-old milk white iBook last summer with a new, aluminum-case model. Milk white is history at the maddening Apple stores. It took me six years to replace it, because Apple's design does not come cheap, even if everything is assembled in China. If Apple is like any car company, it's like BMW, with less-expensive Nanos the equivalent of its Mini line.

After Steve Jobs died at age 56 Wednesday, pundits rushed in to compare the Apple co-founder and CEO to Henry Ford and Thomas Edison. First, let's dispose with the Edison comparison. That would be Bill Gates, right down to the question of how much Edison invented and how much invention he oversaw.

Ford put America on wheels after he automated Ransom Eli Olds' simple assembly line, though non-car people often think of him as the "inventor" of the automobile. The wired industry does have a lot in common with the auto industry, including the cliché about success having many fathers.

Like those who believe Henry Ford invented the car, I don't really know or care about the computer business much beyond the past 40 years. Though I've been brand-loyal in my computer purchases for about 12 years, to me it's much like whether I'd rather have a Toyota Corolla or a Honda Civic. Computers are, as my friend Randy Patnode would say, typewriters that type glowing letters.

But Steve Jobs as Henry Ford? The model Ford automated for production, the T, was designed to be all the car anyone needed. It wasn't the easiest to drive, as Ford eschewed updates like self-starters to keep costs down. He shut down his big, automated Highland Park factory for



five months in 1927, just so he could finally replace the T with the Model A.

Jobs was more like William Crapo Durant, the General Motors founder who was great at starting companies and building their cultures than actually running them ... until Jobs became more like Alfred P. Sloan.

Durant founded GM in September 1908. He was forced out and replaced with bankers during one of the frequent financial panics of this pre-SEC era, in 1910. Then Durant formed the Chevrolet Motor Company in 1911, using it five years later to buy up GM shares and lead that automaker again.

Jobs famously started NeXT and Pixar animation after Apple booted him in 1985, and rejoined Apple in 1997 when Apple purchased NeXT. The Durant-Jobs comparison falls apart quickly from here. Durant regained control of GM in late 1916, then got the boot again in 1920 during another panic, never to return. He later launched another automaker, named Durant, but it didn't survive the Great Depression. Durant's last job was running a Flint bowling alley in the '40s.

Jobs said his ouster from Apple rejuvenated him. When he returned, Apple had negligible market share compared with PCs, but like Sloan when he hired Harley Earl in 1927 to run GM's Art & Colour department, Jobs made style, fashion and design the signature for the computer company. Jobs' 1927 LaSalle was his first translucent iMac from 1998, available in several deep colors when you could have any PC in any color you wanted, so long as it was dull beige.

Since then, Apple has elevated Sloan's planned obsolescence to new heights. The company updates and replaces iBooks, MacBook Airs, iPhones, iPods and iPads with a frequency that would make Bill Mitchell jealous.

No Apple, no PC, no smartphone ever will give me the kind of thrill I can get from nearly any car on nearly any road. No new design can match the innovation or diversity of style of Model Ts, Chrysler Airflows, Citroen DSes, Porsche 911s, Corvettes, '49 Cadillacs and '50s Buicks, '65 Mustangs, Honda CRXs, Minis, Bugeye Sprites or Mazda Miatas. But without Steve Jobs, one phone or laptop or MP3 player would be pretty much like the other, and the only reasons for choosing one over another would be price.

India Governance Issues

By Umesh Rashmi Rohtgi

In India we give more importance to People, Party and not to Issues. Even in minutes of meeting for an issue you can see what M/s so and so said than what was discussed on issue and what were decided and action like who will do what and time frame. It could be as important meeting of NIC or a thing. People will get few minutes to talk on issue will talk more on anything but issues at hand but will be given the importance as per their position not as per the substance on the issues. That shows we have no respect for the issue and how it will be dealt but who said what. This way issue becomes secondary and never gets solved. And any no. of such useless meeting becomes time wasting ways and baseless. Getting rid of corruption remained the distant dream for public.

Take for instance the recent uproar about Jan Lok Pal Bill and Anti corruption two three or ten people became news and all were talking about the people more for or against but the issue of corruption is in back burner. Why it happen because of the people worshipping or part affiliations etc. etc. And how to tackle the issue of corruption never got any clear cut method to deal with the issue of corruption in all places. Simple solution could be one deal with one corrupt at a time. One fellow or two suggested some concrete plans but those plans never saw alight of the day. Why can Pm say that he will start with removing most corrupt person from each department of Government who has the maximum votes from their peers alone and labeled as most corrupt. This could be the exemplary and a correct step in right direction. Every one become expert on all issues but no resolve to do anything worthwhile, and step by step plan to get rid of corruption from Governance, and public feel relieved and assured of good Governance which it deserves. Public is frustrated from present form of Governance which has no robust direction and clear policy. Prime Minister also made one very important declaration that he wishes to stop discriminatory powers of ministers, which many times are reason for the uproar and laws are broken with the help of Administrators. Here it will not be out of place to mention that people who ask for favor of money in exchange of just doing their jobs in time should be charged for corruption not as it is now the bribe taker as well as giver both are stamped as guilty.

Let us make a list of issues which are most important in order to have good Governance. Few which come to my mind are as follows.

1. Accountability; All public servants (netas and public servants) comes under this category should be accountable to public first. They all exist because of public for public and by the public only. It is immaterial which party person they are working for or getting direction to do their job or agenda.

We all deserve the best Governance

2. Police: These are for public safety and security first not for Neta or big Babus only. The Netas and Big Babus all get enough money and rich who can afford to appoint their own private security. Most effective will be if they are under direct control of local public.

We deserve the safety and security every day 24/7

3. Judges: To serve public and provide the justice to public grievances only. They just do not exist for their own comforts or save their masters who are responsible to appoint them in first place.

Justice delayed is justice denied. Laws were implemented as per rules by administration-right or wrong.

4. Legislators: The basic responsibility is for public and elected by public for representing public. They all should always be reflecting public needs and demands and should always in direct communication with public. Not taking bribes to just raise a question in legislative place and ask for bribe. They should not be depending on the administration only. Most bills and laws are to be formulated by these representatives, how to implement once these become law by administration. Hence no MLA or MP or Councilor should be in charge of day to day affairs of running a ministry and just sign hundreds of files each day without reading any by becoming Ministers. All of our representatives should not only be well versed in laws or get training first time but always be minimum Graduate degree holders as they had deal with Administrators who are all educated as per minimum requirement degree holders. This is public hue and cry and there is no dearth of educated people in all walks of life be it a farmer. I know many farmers etc who poses advanced degrees in their own profession. Even ST/SC has educated people. This is also a law in our Next door country Pakistan. Stop Appointing MP/MLA as CEO etc of Public Enterprises, because after that the people who had elected loses the representative and he or she had no time for communicating with public or their wards. These representatives never care about **public opinion**.

The Legislators are elected to make and uphold
Continued on Page16

Precautions for Senior Citizens

By Niru Prasad

As we are growing older, it is very important for all of us to follow some guidelines for staying healthy. With this in mind, I have prepared some tips and guidelines since I have always believed in preventative medicine.

Health Safety Guidelines

- Healthy way of living.
- Prevention of disease by proper immunizations.
- Avoid summer related injuries.
- Recognize early signs of dehydration and heat related illnesses.
- Planning safe summer vacations.
- Avoid insect bites and stings.
- Thinking positive and about the bright side of aging.

Disease Prevention - Immunizations

- Cholesterol screening every year.
- Influenza vaccine every year.
- Tetanus booster every 5 to 10 yrs.
- Pneumococcal vaccine every 5 yrs.
- Regular dental checkups every year.
- Hearing and vision should be checked every year.
- Periodic checkups for hypertension, diabetes, and breast exam with routine mammogram as advised by your physician.
- Routine pelvic exam with Pap smear in females, as well as prostate check up in males, and routine annual colonoscopy to detect colon cancer.

Vaccination for Adults and Seniors

Then following are the immunizations suggested by CDC for 65 yrs old and older.

Influenza vaccine Every year during fall and winter.

Pneumococcal vaccine 1 to 2 doses at age 65 Or older.

Tetanus, Diphtheria Petussis vaccine The complete series during childhood and Td booster every 10 yrs.

Hepatitis B If you are a specific risk factor for hepatitis. The vaccine is given in 3 doses within 6 months.

Hepatitis A If you are travelling to an area where there is prevalence of hepatitis A.

Measles, mumps and rubella Vaccine You need at least 1 dose of MMR if born in 1957 or later.

Varicella vaccine If you never had chicken pox or received only 1 dose. talk to your health care provider.

Zoster vaccine for Shingles if you are 65 or older or are immunocompromised.

For travel outside the united states consult the travel immunization services.



Protection against summer related illnesses

During extreme hot and humid weather, we suffer heat illnesses due to poor thermoregulatory mechanism. Drink plenty of fluids including drinks with balanced electrolytes such as Gatorade because sweating can lead to loss of salt and potassium from body.

- Try to stay indoors in air conditioned facilities or shaded areas.
- Dress in light, loose and layered clothes.
- Wear hats and sun glasses to protect yourself against strong sunlight.
- Avoid drinking carbonated drinks and alcohol since drinking alcohol during extreme hot weather can lead to vasodilatation leading to low blood pressure and dizzy spells. Excess carbonated drinks can lead to abdominal cramps and nausea.

Continued on Next Page

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- Know the medications you are taking since certain medicines such as thyroid pills, hypertension medicines, antihistamines, anti-anxiety pills, and antibiotics such as tetracyclines have adverse effect on you during hot weather.
- Recognize the warning symptoms of dehydration such as dry tongue, dizziness spells, and try drinking plenty of fluids.
- Heat cramps are due to loss of potassium and electrolytes from the body from sweating and can be corrected by fruit juices and balanced electrolytes solutions.
- Heat syncope is fainting spells due to volume deficit and vasodilatations leading to peripheral pooling of blood causing low cardiac output.
- Recognize the early signs and symptoms of heat syncope such as cool moist skin, weak pulse, low blood pressure and dizziness spells and seek medical help immediately.

How to stay cool inside your home

- Close blinds, shades, and drapes so hot sunlight does not penetrate.
- Eat light to avoid indigestion and stomach cramps. A good insulation will keep cool air. Inside for a longer period.

Planning Your Summer Vacation

- Make sure Hotels and airlines know your personal needs.
- Notify your travel agents of your health conditions so they are prepared for any medical emergency.
- Always carry your medications, immunization card, allergies and your physician contact as well your health insurance cards in your purse or wallets.
- Before making hotel reservations make sure hotel is equipped with proper handicapped equipments as needed.
- Driving precautions.
- Maintain good health; know your limits as to how much driving you can do without problem.
- If your driving skills are impaired due to poor vision, arthritis, or any disabilities ask for help.
- Lastly, know the details of your car such as brakes, adequate gasoline, adjustable steering etc before you start.

The Bright Side of Aging

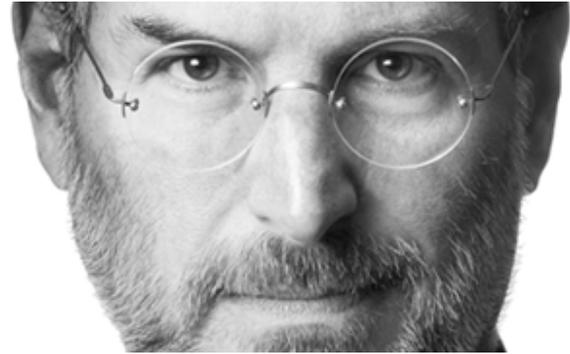
As all of us are getting older there is a lot of fear in our minds. We are worried about our health, financial

situations, families, jobs and other aspects of life regarding our future and destiny. With all these facts in mind, I did some research as to how we age gracefully and I was amazed to find out how many research studies have been done in medical science regarding the positive aspects of aging.

- ✓ It's a documented fact that older adults with bright outlook to future live longer and happier than those with negative thoughts.
 - ✓ Remember our life is full of joys, sorrows, failures and accomplishments. The key to happiness is always count your blessings, be happy and never look back then you will not see your shadows behind.
 - ✓ For us to be healthy it is very important to eat well balanced diet supplemented with vitamins, and minerals.
 - ✓ Researchers have proved the facts that antioxidant supplements like vitamins A, C, E and Selenium protects cells by neutralizing free radicals and atomic fragments that can cause cells destruction in bodies.
 - ✓ Furthermore scientists have proved the fact that vitamin E supplement in elderly lowers the risk of heart attacks, stroke and Alzheimer's' disease.
 - ✓ Exercises are very important in all stages of life as it keeps our body healthy.
 - ✓ Light up your life and get regular medical checkups as suggested by your physician.
 - ✓ Laughter is the best medicine to improve your mood when you are feeling down. The heart and lungs are stimulated when you laugh because the amount of oxygen in your blood is increased due to deep breathing. ✓ Furthermore, the heart beats faster and blood pressure rises, temporarily followed by a drop in blood pressure and relaxation of skeletal muscles.
 - ✓ Additionally, with laughter there are exercises of facial muscles, hence it prevents wrinkles.
- Lastly be cheerful, happy and think positive. Remember the saying, April showers brings May flowers and winter blast bring spring joy.

Steve Jobs

1955-2011



By David Beagan

I was never a big fan of Steve Jobs. I only ever bought one Apple product, and stopped using it after a while. The so-called design genius, left me indifferent -- his products seemed stark, colorless, and practically antiseptic looking. Stories were told of Steve haranguing his employees with intimidation to make some new device even better, he pushed people to the limit to produce his vision of perfection. Stories were legendary. It was said that employees were afraid of running into Jobs in an elevator for fear they would be fired.

In the early days, it was the genius of Steve Wozniak, the other Steve, who designed the Apple I and Apple II computers, that got Apple started. The Apple II made the company into a commercial star. What was Job's contribution? I saw Apple products as overpriced, using their marketing to establish a cult-like following. Jobs marketing moniker, "insanely great" just seemed like some half-baked hyperbole.

Job's Apple sued Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard for copyright infringement for use of the graphical user interface. This was the same graphical user interface Steve Jobs apparently took from Xerox corporation when he visited the Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center.

Over time, I started to "Think Different." I came to recognize the genius that was Steve Jobs. In fact it was a genius that perfectly complemented that of Steve Wozniak. That first big contract for 100 Apple I computers was won by Jobs. And as Apple became the great American success story, he was guiding and evangelizing for the company. Wozniak said, "If there was anything that neither one of us knew how to do, Steve would do it. He'd just find a way to do it. He was just gung-ho and pressing for this company to be successful."

It is cliché to say that someone who dies young, lived life more fully in their short number of years than others who lived to old age. In this case, I think it applies. I have often wondered what might constitute a great life. Yes, fortune, fame, and a life of comfort, would be what many would dream of -- but that would only last for a while.

Studies show that most lottery winners return to their general state of happiness they had before becoming lottery winners. And most people who achieve fame spend their time running away from it longing to be able to walk the streets in peace like normal people. While Jobs had fame and fortune, he had much more. Jobs said, "I was lucky, I found what I loved to do early in life." Throughout his life he took on challenges, sometimes failing, and learning from the failures and achieving great successes. In 1985 Jobs was ousted from the company he built and loved. Wandering aimlessly for months, but then he found that he was free of the burdens of leadership and was able to have one of the most creative periods of his life. He founded Pixar from a company he bought, Graphics Group. Pixar produced the wildly successful animated movie Toy Story, and was purchased by The Walt Disney Company for 7.4 billion dollars in 2006. He also started NeXT corporation which was sold to Apple spearheading Jobs triumphant return. Jobs ascended to chief executive and continued building the company into the great American success story that it has become.

Under Jobs leadership and vision, Apple developed products like iPod, iPhone, Mac Air, and iPad, were commercial successes and industry leaders in terms of design and features. Apple's iTunes store took online music from a clandestine hacker's enterprise to a viable business and demonstrating that a digital marketplace could replace the previous generation of physically based media.

He lived with a cancer diagnosis for seven years and according to accounts he pushed forward as best he could leading Apple and preparing it for a future without him. Jobs genius was his ability to envision something new and see that it come to fruition both technically and artistically. Will he will be remembered the same way we remember Thomas Edison and Henry Ford? Probably not, but he will be known as a great innovator and daring executor of new ideas and technology. He will be remembered as a founding father of the personal computer industry.

Continued from page 11

the laws not implementing the laws. Hence should not be appointed ministers and given extra perks because the check and balance is lost between legislation and administration.

1. Administration: we need the experts in various fields to run smooth Governance for public service on demand in Time bound manner. A good start by Bihar and Delhi Administrations recently, congratulation to both Chief Ministers and guilty public servants will be punished. They just do not exist only for Netas pleasure or BIG Babus (IAS, IPS, etc). These public servants are provided good comfortable houses, free electricity, domestic servants and perks etc to serve the public but at present the public service is last priority. A new trend had emerging that these public servants were stating this fact that we are public servants not Nets or Big Babus's servants.

Public Demands timely service of their personal requirements.

2. Decentralization: Power and revenue sharing should be spelled out clearly between central state and local bodies including panchayat. Like MP MLA and Councilor development funds had to go through District Magistrate/Village officer or Thasildar or Commissnor etc. More channel more delay and time consuming. And why we need them now these DM/Commissioner etc we can just by push a button disperse the funds and only thing we need now the more in place controls and transparency to stop shrinkage of public funds.

We need all NGO and Public limited companies also under the preview of Right to Information (TRI)

3. Rules and Regulations: Need a preview of pre independence laws and regulation. These all should be discussed with public involvement. I think we all fought for independence to get rid of the frivolous laws and rules but we continued with them because Netas and Babus can enjoy what English man were enjoying at the expense of public even now. Using discriminatory powers to their advantage against Public.

We need clear and simple robust rules for the encouragement of public not harassing public for the rules. It is said once out of some 3500 rules only less than thousand can be implemented or useful for public all others are obsolete. Like police rules were formulated after 1857 many times a demand for change or in the heart of some minister this thought occurred but died its own death as people who gets power does not wish to lose it.

4. All corruption cases are done within six months of its start once all dept laws were done with and person should be removed from job without pay even if he or she wins no loss of pay as no work no pay.

5. All Discriminatory powers be do away with unless there is law passed by or approve by Lok Sbha or State assembly by all including PM Minister or Administrators.

6. All bills to be discussed in local town house type meeting and public opinion be sought

And public opinion should be favoring it otherwise it should be amended as per majority public opinion. As we can see clearly that legislative, administrative and judicial representatives are not able to handle the task at hand alone, they still need public input which is not provided in the system present. Constitution had be two way street not dictating types which can lead to dictatorial system.

7. All transfer should be immediately stops as it against public interest. There is no justification to do these in public interest. Why we cannot work with each and every body as all public servants are for public benefit not for or against one party or other. If one is dishonest he or she will always be one in this place or other and why other place is suffered at the hand of a dishonest public servant. These mistakes and out of job and no pension. The public servants never develop affinity to local public

8. Why Public distribution system (PDS) or Gazette officer, treasury, rehabilitation, supply and canteen etc many departments are obsolete and should be eliminated as soon as possible. Why Govt should decide about min price for farm products let supply and demand of economics take its course.

9. Constitution: There are many sections which are useless and some of the issues like recall mechanism for elected representatives is absent from constitution. Public servants were give service Guarantee under constitution hence these public servants become non accountable to public and fearless and less productive and careless in their jobs. It has been changed for 100+ times but many of its changes were not implemented. Mainly Panchayat Raj and women reservation in seat quota were not implemented. Transfer of powers from DM to Local bodies.

There should be a public debate about the constitution in public forums. All Government Officers should be called Public servants which will reflect their true nature of job descriptions. And as they are know all over the world.

10. Why we have appointed officers more powerful than elected mayors in local self Governing Bodies like Nagar Nigam etc.

11. All departments other than defense, post telegraph, internal security should be with state s not with Central Governance. Especially Police and Education where public immediate interference is required should be with local self Governance. Police should not be Under District magistrate ever it delays and waste very critical time in taking the decisions.

Therefore the most important point which was not discussed so far is VALUE OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR ANY ISSUE and its Validity by Constitution. How it can be done at the time of election, a few issues be considered by the public and voted on. Once it voted by the majority it has to be made law and the group that brought the issue to vote should be involved throughout the process. Unless at least 25,00,000 people sign for an issue for memorandum it should not be voted.

Mental Exercise

By David Beagan

Time Slice. Consider a clock face. Think of it as a circle with 12 numbers positioned around the edge of the circle. Your task is to make two straight cuts all the way through the clock face dividing it into pieces so that each piece's numbers add up to the same sum. Note, the clock face could be divided into three or four pieces.

Pharmacy Fakes. A pharmacist has ten bottles of pills. One of the bottles has faulty pills that weigh 6 grams instead of 5 grams. To find the defective bottle of pills, he could weigh a pill from each bottle. How could he find the faulty pills by weighing just once.

Heteronyms. A heteronym is a word with two different pronunciations. Guess the heteronym from two clues. For example:

The low notes in music.
A kind of a fish.

The answer is bass. Low notes are bass notes and bass is a kind of fish. Now try these:

- A. An old vinyl disk of recorded music.
To capture something on a physical medium.
- B. A flaw in something.
To give up allegiance to a country in exchange for allegiance to another.
- C. An opening point to gain access to a place.
To mesmerize.
- D. A heavy metal.
To show someone the way.
- E. Naturally blowing air.
To add tension through a circular motion.
- F. Tiny.
A amount of time.

And try filling in the following blanks, with two words but the same spelling.

- G. After the performance, the audience erupted in an ovation, the virtuoso he set down his ____ and took a ____.

Tired Trip. Kelly takes a road trip in a car with four new tires and a new spare. Kelly rotates all five tires over the course of the trip so each tire has the same number of miles on them at the end of the trip. How many miles are put on each tire?

Even Odds? In the Chance family, disputes are often settled by having the two children play an even odds game. One child gets even the other gets odd. Each child, behind their back, holds up a number of fingers from none to five. When the hands are revealed the total number of fingers are added up and if even the child assigned evens wins the dispute. Otherwise the child assigned odds wins.

One day, a child who was assigned odds objected saying that the outcome was not fair because:

Even + Even = Even Even + Odd = Odd.
Odd + Odd = Even

So it looks like Even has a better chance of winning. Is this correct?

Answers

Time Slice. If you add up the numbers from 1 to 12, and divide by three, it equals 26. This gives you a good start to figure it out. Start at a point between the 10 and 11 and cut to the point between the 2 and the 3. The other cut, start between the 8 and the 9 and cut to the point between the 4 and the 5. Each of these three pieces adds up to 26.

Pharmacy Fakes. The pharmacist can take one pill from a bottle, two pills from another bottle, three pills from another, and so on, keeping track of which pills come from which bottle. This is 55 pills in all, which should weigh 275 grams if all pills had the correct weight. If the total weight of all these pills is 276 grams then the faulty bottle is the from which he took two pills. If 277 grams, the bottle from which he took two pills is bad, and so on.

Heteronyms

- A. Record. B. Defect.
- C. Entrance. D. Lead.
- E. Wind. F. Minute.
- G. Bow.

Tired Trip. The four tires that are on the road at any one time log a total of 20,000 tire miles. 20,000 miles divided by five tires gives 4,000 miles per tire.

Even Odds. Not correct. The game is fair:

Even + Even = Even Even + Odd = Odd.
Odd + Odd = Even Odd + Even = Odd

They Also Ran

By Bala Prasad

This issue's "Point-Counterpoint" was about fringe political parties, so it seems appropriate to acknowledge the candidates who could have been, but did not become, presidents. It is difficult to include everyone in this distinct list, but here is who comes to mind:

Our first and second presidents, George Washington and John Adams, were elected unopposed. The first candidate for U.S. presidency to lose an election was Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. In fact, he did it twice, first to Thomas Jefferson in 1804, and next to James Madison in 1808. Henry Clay lost the election three times – to John Quincy Adams in 1824, to Andrew Jackson in 1832, and to James Polk in 1844. The first Republican Party candidate for the presidency was John Charles Fremont in 1856. He lost the election to James Buchanan.

Abraham Lincoln defeated Stephen Arnold Douglas in 1860. As a footnote, it should be remembered that one of our greatest presidents was elected with a minority of the popular vote. In the election that followed in 1864, Lincoln defeated the indomitable little general George Brinton McClellan, William Jennings Bryan also lost the election three times, in 1896 and 1900 to William McKinley, and in 1908 to Theodore Roosevelt. Charles Evan Hughes was the first presidential candidate (in 1916), who became U.S. Chief Justice in 1930. The candidates Franklin Delano Roosevelt defeated were Wendell Lewis Wilkie, Alfred Mossman Landon, and Thomas Dewey. The latter was also defeated by Harry Truman in 1948. Adlai Ewing Stevenson lost the election twice to Dwight David Eisenhower. Barry Morris Goldwater lost the election to Lyndon Johnson in 1964. Richard Nixon originally lost the election to John F. Kennedy but later got elected in 1960, when he beat Hubert Horatio Humphrey. George McGovern lost to Nixon in 1972. Gerald Ford lost to James Earl Carter in 1976. Ronald Wilson Reagan later defeated Carter in 1980 and Walter Mondale in 1984. In 1988, George Herbert Walker Bush

defeated Michael Dukakis, but in 1992 it was Bush's turn to lose. George Walker Bush defeated Albert Gore in 2000, and most recently John McCain lost the election to Barak Obama, in 2008.

Every election that was won or lost did not make a monumental difference in the great scheme of things. But some did. Of historical significance was the first president to be elected with a minority of the popular vote – John Quincy Adams. Chances are good that if Pinckney had won against John Adams, we would have fought France and sided with Great Britain. Reading the views of Stephen Douglas, one will have to conclude that, had he been elected in 1860, and not Abraham Lincoln, for better or worse, he would have reached political compromise with southern leaders and thereby avoided the civil war. If George McClellan had been elected in 1864, and not Abraham Lincoln, the latter might have gone down in history as a great bungler and not a great emancipator. He was spared this fate with the capture of Atlanta by William Tecumseh Sherman.

The election of Barry Goldwater, a rock ribbed conservative to the right of Ronald Reagan, would certainly have different views than that of Lyndon Johnson, as would have been the views of George Stanley McGovern's. A do-gooder liberal on the left of Hubert Humphrey to that of Richard Nixon.

There are differences of opinion between two presidential candidates, as they come from two parties with a different take on the same facts. But some of them have stark differences and others subtle.

Sincerely,

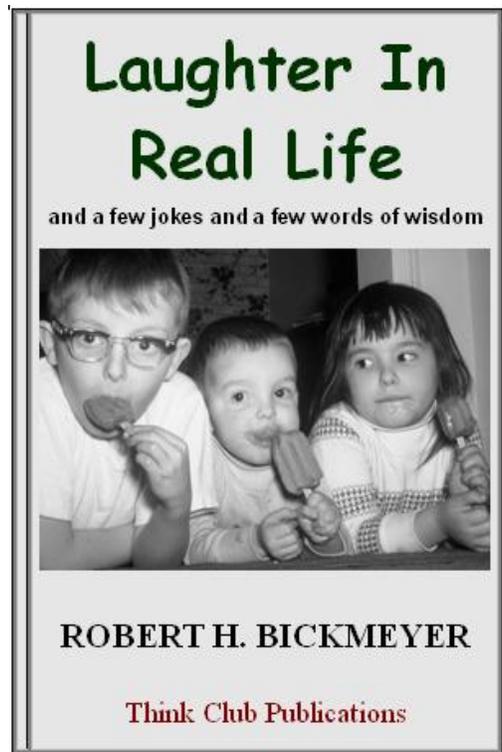
Bala Prasad

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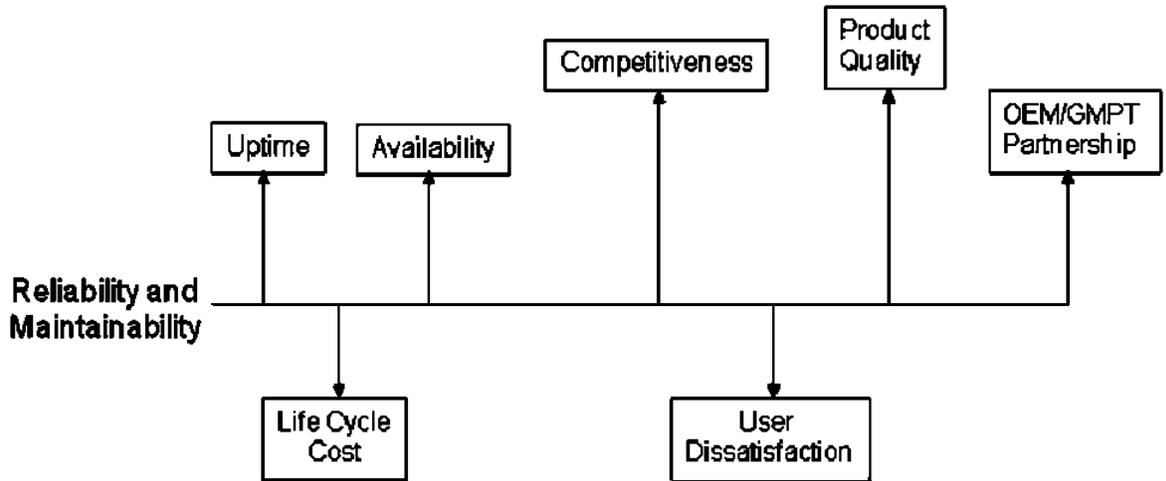
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