

**THE SONG THAT  
NEVER ENDS**

SEVENTH & FINAL PART

This is the last of an occasional series of selections from my collection of interesting and useful quotations — alternate title, *Commonplace Book* — 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 12 October 2003 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 fillers. Surprise was expressed over the length of this collection, even though I've been gathering these from disparate sources, representing my political and intellectual interests and biases, for at least twenty years. (I had said fifteen years earlier, but as I've done the most recent editing pass, I realized there are quotations that date to my second or third year at Interactive Systems, which dates this as 1982 or '83.) Even though this is the last volume of these I'll publish (for now), the collection is boundless, and continues to grow — I've arbitrarily cut this off at three hundred and fifty pages, but twenty-five pages have been added since I made that decision.

Thanks go not only to the SFPAn's who provided fodder for these pages but also to my friend John McMullen (the best technical writer in Canada) who provided pointers to an awful lot of material.

This volume contains the index of this and the preceding volumes. Note that the index was prepared automatically from markup in the text itself. While I've reviewed the generated index itself and the markup, there may still be some glitches. (This means your first task when you read this is to look yourself up in the index, and make sure I mangled neither your name nor your words.) In addition, because I continued editing the text even while I was publishing it — that is, you've been reading a moving target — the index itself may have some entries that are off by a page one way or the other from earlier volumes. My apologies for possible confusion.

Sooner or later, I need to add the capability to automatically include forward and backward references. Currently, there are notes such as “compare to Adlai Stevenson on education,” but it would be nice to have that read “compare to Adlai Stevenson on education (page 17)” instead.

I've also included the May, 2001 *Server/Workstation Expert* column I wrote with Jeffrey Haemer on printing an on-line list of quotations for the three or four people who might be interested. It was that column that (in some sense) inspired this series, and it seems an appropriate end to it, too.



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I can hear it all in my head, with good acoustics, and all the rhythms in the right place, the pitch really nice. When I have to bring it to an audience, it comes into contact with the laws of physics and then trouble begins.

— Frank Zappa, *The Manchester Guardian*, 10 Mar 1993

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 19 Dec 2002  
compare Woody Allen on “the compromise truck”

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Nothing truly valuable arises from ambition or from a mere sense of duty; it stems rather from love and devotion toward men and toward objective things.

— Albert Einstein

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 21 Dec 2002

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The imagination of a boy is healthy, and the mature imagination of a man is healthy; but there is a space of life between, in which the soul is in a ferment, the character undecided, the way of life uncertain, the ambition thick-sighted: thence proceeds mawkishness, and all the thousand bitters which those men I speak of must necessarily taste in going over the following pages.

— John Keats, from the Preface to *Endymion*

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 23 Dec 2002

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If you set aside Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, the safety record of nuclear is really very good.

— US Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill, commenting on nuclear accidents and the safety record of nuclear power

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 26 Dec 2002

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Do let me entreat you to say nothing that can be taken hold of by those anxious to foment trouble between ourselves and any foreign power, or who delight in giving the impression that as a nation we are walking about with a chip on our shoulder. We are too big a people to be able to be careless in what we say.

— Theodore Roosevelt

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I found out that it’s not good to talk about your troubles. Eighty percent of the people who hear them don’t care and the other twenty percent are glad you’re having trouble.

— Tommy Lasorda

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 27 Dec 2002

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Wanting to be a writer always feels a little bit like wanting to be Spiderman. It’s not really a solid career plan.

— Lemony Snicket (pen name of Daniel Handler), interview on KQED, 2 Dec 2002

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 29 Dec 2002

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There is a lady in Heathrow who, when she sees you looking at the single malts asks if you'd like to try tasting them. Do not say yes, not at 10.00am. Not to all of them. Trust me on this.

— Neil Gaiman's on-line journal, entry of 8:28 AM, 16 Dec 2002

(<http://www.neilgaiman.com>) from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 30 Dec 2002

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The first flight lasted only twelve seconds, a flight very modest compared with that of birds, but it was nevertheless the first in the history of the world in which a machine carrying a man had raised itself by its own power into the air in free flight, had sailed forward on a level course without reduction in speed, and had finally landed without being wrecked. The second and third flights were a little longer, and the fourth lasted fifty-nine seconds covering a distance of 852 feet over the ground against a twenty mile wind.

— Wilbur and Orville Wright, *Century Magazine*, Sept 1908

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If we die, we want people to accept it. We are in a risky business and we hope that if anything happens to us it will not delay the program. The conquest of space is worth the risk of life.

— Gus Grissom, after the Gemini 3 mission, March 1965

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A writer who says that there are no truths, or that all truth is “merely relative,” is asking you not to believe him. So don't.

— Roger Scruton, *Modern Philosophy: An Introduction and Survey*, 1996

from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 1 Jan 2003

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Tous parlent au sujet de la paix notre armée l'a préservée

— Swiss bumper sticker reported by John McPhee in *La Place de la Concorde Suisse*

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A society that systematically shuts its eyes to an urgent peril to its physical survival and fails to take any steps to save itself cannot be called psychologically well.

— Jonathan Schell quoted by John McPhee in *La Place de la Concorde Suisse*, in his discussion of Swiss nuclear shelters

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[A]fter France surrendered, the German military attaché sought out Jakob Huber, the Swiss chief of the general staff, and made it clear that he felt the time had come for Switzerland to open its doors and welcome a German Europe. There was a [long] pause. Huber studied the attaché and said, “No one comes through here.”

— John McPhee in *La Place de la Concorde Suisse*

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Whenever I'm speaking in schools, I always say to the students, "The future will not belong to those who are content with the present. The future will not belong to cynics and people who sit on the sidelines. The future will belong to people who have passion and are willing to work hard to make this country better."

— Sen Paul Wellstone, 9 Jan 1999, at the ninetieth anniversary party for *The Progressive*, reprinted in the issue of Dec 2002 after his death on 25 Oct 2002

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Designing pages in HTML is like having sex in a bathtub. If you don't know anything about sex, it won't do you any good to know a lot about bathtubs.

— vagabond@mcgurkus.circus.com

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in Usenet newsgroup comp.infosystems.www.providers  
from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 4 Jan 2003

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[S]creens are far from neutral. By its very design, the screen presents information that has been edited and packaged to fit. We become absorbed into the world it shows, forgetting that it is merely a frame, which limits our view. In fact, we seem less and less interested in considering what isn't shown, what may lie beyond its edges. It is tempting to believe the screen offers all we need, because it is sleeker and better than anything we have ever had before.

— Laura Pappano, *The Connection Gap: Why Americans Feel So Alone*, 2001

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 5 Jan 2003

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It is the test of a good religion whether you can joke about it.

— G K Chesterton

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You've got to dig the people you're making a movie about.

— Director P T Anderson, perpetrator of crimes against his characters such as *Magnolia*

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Bush's constitutional wrecking crew asserted it could put anyone — citizen or not — deemed a terrorism suspect into a military jail, and forbid such people the right to even see a lawyer. When would this authority expire? Never, apparently.

Barely a veneer remained of your right to be left alone, to keep your personal data and life out of the hands of rapacious marketers and increasingly out-of-control government and private snoops. Polls showed that Americans are upset about this situation, but unwilling to sacrifice even a slight amount of convenience or perceived safety to save their privacy.

— Dan Gillmor, "2002 was a rough year for liberty and trust", *San Jose Mercury News* 29 Dec 2002

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 9 Jan 2003

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Ari Fleisher: Good afternoon and happy New Year to everybody. The President began his day with an intelligence briefing, followed by an FBI briefing. Then he had a series of policy briefings. And this afternoon, the President will look forward to a Cabinet meeting where the President will discuss with members of his Cabinet his agenda for the year. The President is going to focus on economic growth, making America a more compassionate country, and providing for the security of our nation abroad and on the home front. And with that, I'm more than happy to take your questions. Helen.

Helen Thomas: At the earlier briefing, Ari, you said that the President deplored the taking of innocent lives. Does that apply to all innocent lives in the world? And I have a follow-up.

A: I refer specifically to a horrible terrorist attack on Tel Aviv that killed scores and wounded hundreds. And the President, as he said in his statement yesterday, deplores in the strongest terms the taking of those lives and the wounding of those people, innocents in Israel.

Q: My follow-up is, why does he want to drop bombs on innocent Iraqis?

A: Helen, the question is how to protect Americans, and our allies and friends —

Q: They're not attacking you.

A: — from a country —

Q: Have they laid the glove on you or on the United States, the Iraqis, in 11 years?

A: I guess you have forgotten about the Americans who were killed in the first Gulf War as a result of Saddam Hussein's aggression then.

Q: Is this revenge, 11 years of revenge?

A: Helen, I think you know very well that the President's position is that he wants to avert war, and that the President has asked the United Nations to go into Iraq to help with the purpose of averting war.

Q: Would the President attack innocent Iraqi lives?

A: The President wants to make certain that he can defend our country, defend our interests, defend the region, and make certain that American lives are not lost.

Q: And he thinks they are a threat to us?

A: There is no question that the President thinks that Iraq is a threat to the United States.

Q: The Iraqi people?

A: The Iraqi people are represented by their government. If there was regime change, the Iraqi —

Q: So they will be vulnerable?

A: Actually, the President has made it very clear that he has no dispute with the people of Iraq. That's why the American policy remains a policy of regime change. There is no question the people of Iraq...

Q: That's a decision for them to make, isn't it? It's their country.

A: Helen, if you think that the people of Iraq are in a position to dictate who their dictator is, I don't think that has been what history has shown.

Q: I think many countries don't have — people don't have the decision — including us.

— Excerpt from the White House press briefing 6 Jan 2003

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The fact that some geniuses were laughed at does not imply that all who are laughed at are geniuses. They laughed at Columbus, they laughed at Fulton, they laughed at the Wright brothers. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown.

— Carl Sagan

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Usenet signature quote of Eloise Beltz-Decker, 10 Jan 2003

Message-ID: <Pine.SV4.3.91.1030110111600.7911D-100000@lawson.ripco.com>

Subject: Re: Retirement Age

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We're just 12 years away, but I'm reasonably sure that hovercars aren't going to be an option, nor will 512K Macs sit in antique store windows. 2015 will look like 1990, because you can't photograph wireless networks. The best part of the future is always invisible.

— James Lileks, reviewing 1990s-era predictions about the how America will look in 2015

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<http://www.lileks.com/bleats/archive/03/0103/010302.html#010703>

from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 13 Jan 2003

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The following lump are from Molly Ivins' 26 Dec 2002 column...

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These capitalists generally act harmoniously and in concert to fleece the people.

— Abraham Lincoln in the Illinois Legislature, January 1837

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Any idiot can face a crisis: It is this day to day living that wears you out.

— Anton Chekov

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Neither charm nor patience nor endurance has ever wrested power from those who hold it.

— Frederick Douglass

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Setting aside a college professor or two and half a dozen dipsomaniacal newspaper reporters, he takes first place in my Valhalla of literati. That is to say, he writes the worst English I have ever encountered. It reminds me of a string of wet sponges; it reminds me of tattered washing on the line; it reminds me of stale bean-soup, of college yells, of dogs barking idiotically through endless nights. It is so bad a sort of grandeur creeps into it. It drags itself out of the dark abysm of pish, and crawls up to the topmost pinnacle of tosh.

— H L Mencken on Warren G Harding's literary style

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We honor ambition, we reward greed, we celebrate materialism, we worship acquisitiveness, we commercialize art, we cherish success and then we bark at the young about the gentle arts of the spirit. The kids know that if we really valued learning, we would pay our teachers what we pay our lawyers and stockbrokers. If we valued art, we would not measure it by its capacity to produce profits. If we regarded literature as important, we would remove it from the celebrity sweepstakes and spend a little money on our libraries.

— Russell Baker, 1987

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The point that I'm constantly making is that people don't understand the difference between being solemn and being serious. There is a kind of Teutonic mind which you find not just in Germany and Switzerland, but also in America, which thinks that you have to be solemn if you are being serious. But in fact solemnity is, I think, in many ways the enemy of the kind of process of learning that comes from being open because solemnity is allied with pompousness.

— John Cleese

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Sacred cows make the tastiest hamburger.

— Abbie Hoffman

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The only kinds of fights worth fighting are those you are going to lose, because somebody has to fight them and lose and lose and lose until someday, somebody who believes as you do wins. In order for somebody to win an important, major fight 100 years hence, a lot of other people have got to be willing — for the sheer fun and joy of it — to go right ahead and fight, knowing you're going to lose. You mustn't feel like a martyr. You've got to enjoy it.

— I F Stone

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compare Paul Wellstone at *The Progressive*

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It is one thing to say with the prophet Amos, "Let justice roll down like mighty waters," and quite another to work out the irrigation system. Clearly there is more certainty in the recognition of wrongs than there is in the prescription for their cure.

— William Sloane Coffin

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Man is the only animal that laughs and has a state legislature.

— Samuel Butler

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compare with Mark Twain on blushing

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A time comes when silence is betrayal. Even when pressed by the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government's policy, especially in time of war. Nor does the human spirit move without great difficulty against all the apathy of conformist thought, within one's own bosom and in the surrounding world.

— Martin Luther King, Jr

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The enemy is not conservatism. The enemy is not liberalism. The enemy is bullshit.

— Lars Erik Nelson

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Status quo is Latin for "the mess we're in."

— A Texas farmer

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... end Molly Ivins' lump from 26 Dec 2002

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Propaganda is that branch of the art of lying which consists in very nearly deceiving your friends without quite deceiving your enemies.

— F M Cornford

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used by Molly Ivins in her column of 17 Dec 2002

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VeganErotica.com manufactures hand-crafted vegan bondage gear, whips, belts, harnesses, and other vegan leather (a.k.a. “pleather”) items. We also sell vegan condoms and other sex products.

By vegan, we mean 100% vegetarian, in that none of the items we sell contain animal products, were tested on animals, or whose production directly contributed to the suffering of animals.

— pledge at Vegan Erotica, <http://veganerotica.com/>, Eric Ward’s firm which sells “cruelty-free” sex toys

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 14 Jan 2003

Beat me, whip me, but don’t hurt that cow?

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The great problem confronting us today is that we have allowed the means by which we live to outdistance the ends for which we live. We have allowed our civilization to outrun our culture, and so we are in the danger now of ending up with guided missiles in the hands of misguided men.

— Martin Luther King, Jr

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 16 Jan 2003

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You can tell a story in mime, or in pictures, or in music; but language is the medium for most of us, and once we become conscious of the way language works, we can’t pretend to be innocent about it. We can’t maintain that it’s something over which we have no influence. If human beings can affect the climate, we can certainly affect the language, and those of us who use it professionally are responsible for looking after it.

— Philip Pullman

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 17 Jan 2003

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The toe you step on today might be connected to the ass you have to kiss tomorrow.

— Julius Nasso

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used as a signature quote by Janice Gelb

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Life has two rules: Number one, never quit; Number two, always remember rule number one.

— Duke Ellington

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 29 Jan 2003

compare and contrast Roger H Lincoln’s two rules

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And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr

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Administrators at the University of California at Berkeley refused to permit the Emma Goldman Papers Project to use the following Goldman quotations in a fund-raising letter:

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In the face of this approaching disaster, it behooves men and women not yet overcome by war madness to raise their voice of protest, to call the attention of the people to the crime and outrage which are about to be perpetrated on them.

— Emma Goldman

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pointed out by Harper's weekly e-mail newsletter, 21 Jan 2003

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We shall soon be obliged to meet in cellars, or in darkened rooms with closed doors, and speak in whispers lest our next door neighbors should hear that freeborn citizens dare not speak in the open.

— Emma Goldman

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pointed out by Harper's weekly e-mail newsletter, 21 Jan 2003

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We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy.

— Joseph Campbell

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 22 Jan 2003

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I'm running for president, not for chief theologian.

— Sen Joe Lieberman, in response to a question about how his religion affects his public policy on the radio program "Fresh Air", 16 Jan 2003

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 23 Jan 2003

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The worth of a state, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it.

— John Stuart Mill

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Call me Ishmael. All my human friends do.

— Robert Silverberg, "Ishmael in Love"

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pointed out by Arthur D Hlavaty in [rec.arts.sf.fandom](mailto:rec.arts.sf.fandom) discussion of reused first lines

Date: Thu, 23 Jan 2003 07:38:04 -0500

Message-ID: <[ifov2vk211eidvvqdlvcpmthd1tqbbb04h@4ax.com](mailto:ifov2vk211eidvvqdlvcpmthd1tqbbb04h@4ax.com)>

Subject: Re: AKICIF: His Name Was Remo And...

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In short, the leader Israelis crave is someone who can both build a border with the Palestinians and take down the borders among the Jews. Unfortunately, the Messiah is not on the ballot in this election.

— Thomas L Friedman, "Israel Waits for Godot", on the current Israeli election campaign, *The New York Times*, 19 Jan 2003

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A disciple of Sen Rikyu once asked this question:

“What precisely are the most important things that must be understood and kept in mind at a tea gathering?”

Sen Rikyu answered: “Make a delicious bowl of tea; lay the charcoal so that it heats the water; arrange the flowers as they are in the field; in summer suggest coolness; in winter, warmth; do everything ahead of time; prepare for rain; and give those with whom you find yourself every consideration.”

The disciple, somewhat dissatisfied with this answer because he could not find anything in it of such great importance that it should be deemed a secret of the practice, said, “That much I already know...”

Rikyu replied, “Then if you can host a tea gathering without deviating from any of the rules I have just stated, I will become your disciple.”

— Soshitsu Sen XV, Tea Master of the Urasenke School in *Tea Life, Tea Mind*

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 24 Jan 2003

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Now a president doesn't have just one speechwriter. They are legion, and in the case of George Bush, whatever their number, no one will argue a surplus. Bush and the English language are not agreeable companions. This is especially true in formal encounters between the two. He mauls individual words, has a precocious instinct for malapropisms and mispronunciation, the syntactical register of a not very bright valley girl, and an alarming tendency to view the predicate of any given sentence as an opportunity to launch an attack upon its subject. Every sentence is its very own little Baghdad for George Bush.

— critic Rex Murphy, reviewing David Frum's new book, *The Right Man: The Surprise Presidency of George W Bush (An Inside Account)*, in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, 18 Jan 2003

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 25 Jan 2003

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Am I supposed to tell you that he was a great father and a loving human being? He wasn't. He was strong, and he was brave, and he did the best he could on the rest of it. He blew his brains out six hours ago, and I, as his child who most bitterly disagreed with him, tell you that this was a man.

— Molly Ivins, “A Mighty Oak of a Man, Fallen in His Winter,” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 26 Apr 1998

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reprinted in *You Got to Dance with Them What Brung You*

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How much you're supposed to enjoy every sandwich.

— Warren Zevon's response to David Letterman asking if having terminal lung cancer had taught him anything about life and death, Oct 2002

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I trust Bush with my daughter, but I trust Clinton with my job.

— Craig Patterson, a 45-year-old ironworker in St Louis, quoted by Maureen Dowd, “Running Fast Into the Past,” *The New York Times*, 15 Jan 2003

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If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 28 Jan 2003

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Providence protects children and idiots. I know because I have tested it.

— Mark Twain

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The spectacle of the United States, armed with its weapons of mass destruction, acting without Security Council authority to invade a country in the heartland of Arabia and, if necessary, use its weapons of mass destruction to win that battle, is something that will so deeply violate any notion of fairness in this world that I strongly suspect it could set loose forces that we would deeply live to regret.

— Richard Butler, former United Nations weapons inspector for Iraq, 28 Jan 2003

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next three from Molly Ivins' 16 Jan 2003 column ...

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Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

— Martin Luther King, Jr

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Unrest in the Middle East causes unrest throughout the region.

— George W Bush

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History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.

— Martin Luther King, Jr

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But clearly something broader than a pedestrian concern for American national security is at work here. Neoconservative Michael Kelly identified it when he described the Bush policy as “a doctrine of armed evangelism” in the service of freedom. Kelly writes: “Unlike the European powers, America has never sought to own the world. In its peculiarly American fashion, it has sought to make the world behave better — indeed be better. . . . In modern times, this evangelism has focused not on the need for ‘Christianizing’ and civilizing the heathen populations (President McKinley’s justification for taking the Philippines), but on the defense of what President Kennedy called ‘the freedom of men.’”

— Gene Healy, “Iraq: Wrong Place, Wrong Time, Wrong War”, [cato.org](http://cato.org), reprinted from *Liberty Magazine*, 1 Jan 2003

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Rick may believe he's good at multitasking, but I don't believe it. Humans can't multitask — we can't pay attention to two things simultaneously.

You can multitask? Fine. Then read a book and write one at the same time. No, multitasking is really just rapid attention-switching. And that'd be a useful skill, except it takes us a second or two to engage in the new situation we've graced with our focus. So, the sum total of attention is actually decreased as we multitask. Slicing your attention, in other words, is less like slicing potatoes than like slicing plums: you always lose some of the juice.

— David Weinberger, *The Cluetrain Manifesto*

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p50

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Claude Levi-Strauss, the French anthropologist, discusses *bricolage* as the opportunism of those who work with their hands, creating stuff out of whatever is lying about. The Web is group bricolage. Individuals build it without working from a master plan. They take pieces that work — stealing GIFs, formats, links — and create new pages. This makes the Web unpredictable, creative, and always the result of human hands.

— David Weinberger, *The Cluetrain Manifesto*

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p49

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When I was asked to make this address I wondered what I had to say to you boys who are graduating. And I think I have one thing to say. If you wish to be useful, never take a course that will silence you. Refuse to learn anything that implies collusion, whether it be a clerkship or a curacy, a legal fee or a post in a university. Retain the power of speech no matter what other power you may lose. If you can take this course, and in so far as you take it, you will bless this country. In so far as you depart from this course you become dampers, mutes, and hooded executioners.

As a practical matter a mere failure to speak out upon occasions where no opinion is asked or expected of you, and when the utterance of an uncalled-for suspicion is odious, will often hold you to a concurrence in palpable iniquity. Try to raise a voice that will be heard from here to Albany and watch what comes forward to shut off the sound. It is not a German sergeant, nor a Russian officer of the precinct. It is a note from a friend of your father's offering you a place in his office. This is your warning from the secret police. Why, if any of you young gentleman have a mind to make himself heard a mile off, you must make a bonfire of your reputations and a close enemy of most men who would wish you well.

I have seen ten years of young men who rush out into the world with their messages, and when they find how deaf the world is, they think they must save their strength and wait. They believe that after a while they will be able to get up on some little eminence from which they can make themselves heard. "In a few years," reasons one of them, "I shall have gained a standing, and then I will use my powers for good." Next year comes and with it a strange discovery. The man has lost his horizon of thought. His ambition has evaporated; he has nothing to say. I give you this one rule of conduct. Do what you will, but speak out always. Be shunned, be hated, be ridiculed, be scared, be in doubt, but don't be gagged. The time of trial is always. Now is the appointed time.

— John Jay Chapman, Commencement address at Hobart College,  
1900

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reprinted in *The Cluetrain Manifesto*, p44-45.

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No one who cannot rejoice in the discovery of his own mistakes deserves to be called a scholar.  
— Donald Foster conceding that a poem he'd credited to William Shakespeare had been written instead by John Ford

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pointed out by Arthur D Hlavaty in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`:  
Subject: Re: Is there a draft in here?  
Date: Fri, 31 Jan 2003 16:30:24 -0500  
Message-ID: <akql3v8ahpol85sqf6va84521s3kqq4tde@4ax.com>

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Good advice is something a man gives when he is too old to set a bad example.  
— Francois de La Rochefoucauld

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You said we're headed to war in Iraq. I don't know why you say that. I'm the person who gets to decide, not you.  
— George W Bush, 31 Dec 2002

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It's exactly what these bastards have been praying for, for years. They've got a life-long bogeyman.  
— John Perry Barlow, an activist against government invasion of privacy, describes his initial reaction to September 11. He made the comment in the documentary "Security Threat," which describes ever-increasing intrusions on privacy and individual rights

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from `quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca`, 1 Feb 2003, with attribution commentary

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Works of imagination should be written in very plain language; the more purely imaginative they are the more necessary it is to be plain.  
— Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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from `quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca`, 2 Feb 2003

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In an age when space flight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook the dangers of travel by rocket, and the difficulties of navigating the fierce outer atmosphere of the Earth.  
— George W Bush, remarks on the loss of space shuttle *Columbia*, 1 Feb 2002

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The crew of the shuttle *Columbia* did not return safely to Earth; yet we can pray that all are safely home.  
— George W Bush, remarks on the loss of space shuttle *Columbia*, 1 Feb 2002

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I hate a song that makes you think you're not any good. I hate a song that makes you think that you are just born to lose... Songs that run you down or songs that poke fun of you on account of your bad luck or your hard traveling... I am out to sing songs that will prove to you that this is your world and that if it has hit you pretty hard and knocked you for a dozen loops, no matter how hard it's run you down nor rolled over you, no matter what color, what size you are, how you are built, I am out to sing the songs that make you take pride in yourself and your work. And the songs that I sing are made up for the most part by all sorts of folks just about like you.

— Woody Guthrie

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quoted by Alan Winston in a Usenet discussion:

Newsgroups: rec.arts.sf.fandom

Subject: Re: Oh, eff me... Shuttle Columbia is missing...

Date: Mon, 03 Feb 2003 23:29:42 GMT

Message-ID: <00A1AF21.89ADEC06@SSRL.SLAC.STANFORD.EDU>

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Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'  
We are not now that strength which in the old days  
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;  
One equal-temper of heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

— from "Ulysses," by Alfred Tennyson

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 4 Feb 2003, immediately following the *Columbia* disaster

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We are weak, writing is difficult, but for my own sake I do not regret this journey, which has shown that Englishmen can endure hardships, help one another, and meet death with as great a fortitude as ever in the past. We took risks, we knew we took them; things have come out against us, and therefore we have no cause for complaint, but bow to the will of providence, determined still to do our best to the last... Had we lived, I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, endurance, and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman. These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale.

— Robert Falcon Scott, "Message to the Public," written in March 1912, during his failed return from the South Pole

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 5 Feb 2003, immediately following the *Columbia* disaster

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I have asked Member after Member who is an advocate of this bill, how does the fact that two men live together in a loving relationship and commit themselves in Hawaii threaten your marriage in Florida or Georgia or wherever? And the answer is always, well, it does not threaten my marriage, it threatens the institution of marriage. That, of course, baffles me some. Institutions do not marry. They may merge, but they do not marry. People marry, human beings. Men and women who love each other marry. And no one who understands human nature thinks that allowing two other people who love each other interferes.

Is there some emanation that is given off that ruins it for you? Gee, Hawaii is pretty far away. Will not the ocean stop it? Are those waves that undercut your marriages? People who are divorced, I had one of my colleagues say to me, I have been divorced a couple of times. I was feeling guilty about it, but now I know it was your fault, he told me. He said, the Republicans have explained it to me. That is why I have been married three times. You did it to me.

— Congressman Barney Frank, debating against the “Defense of Marriage Act”

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posted as part of a Usenet discussion, and quoted by Arthur D Hlavaty in:

Newsgroups: rec.arts.sf.fandom

Subject: Re: Why I Can't March With You

Date: Thu, 06 Feb 2003 08:20:32 -0500

Message-ID: <78o44votdrf1dmr0ru8cf6b7t50ukfenp0@4ax.com>

Arthur asks: “Can I give Barney Frank a rasff gold star?”

also, in full, on Frank's web site: <http://www.house.gov/frank/marriage.html>

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We're not systematically pacifist, but we think war isn't nice.

— French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin to *The New York Times*, explaining France's position on invading Iraq, 7 Feb 2002

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We are stuck with technology when what we really want is just stuff that works. How do you recognize something that is still technology? A good clue is if it comes with a manual.

— Douglas Adams, in *The Salmon cf Doubt*

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 8 Feb 2003

The following lump provided by George Wells in e-mail 8 Feb 2003:

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Having sex is like playing bridge. If you don't have a good partner, you'd better have a good hand.

— Woody Allen

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Bisexuality immediately doubles your chances for a date on Saturday night.

— Rodney Dangerfield

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There are a number of mechanical devices which increase sexual arousal, particularly in women. Chief among these is the Mercedes-Benz 380SL.

— Lynn Lavner

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Sex is one of the nine reasons for reincarnation. The other eight are unimportant.

— George Burns

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Women might be able to fake orgasms. But men can fake whole relationships.

— Sharon Stone

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My mother never saw the irony in calling me a son-of-a-bitch.

— Jack Nicholson

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[Bill] Clinton lied. A man might forget where he parks or where he lives, but he never forgets oral sex, no matter how bad it is.

— Barbara Bush

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...end lump from George Wells

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It is inconceivable that a secret intelligence arm of the government has to comply with all the overt orders of the government.

— James Jesus Angleton, CIA chief of counter-intelligence, 1954-1974

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This one provided by George Wells in e-mail 8 Feb 2003:

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Subject: Hello from 150 NM above the Earth

From: MS4

Sent: Fri, Jan. 31, 2003 1:33 p.m.

Hello from above our magnificent planet Earth. The perspective is truly awe-inspiring. This is a terrific mission and we are very busy doing science round the clock. Just getting a moment to type e-mail is precious so this will be short, and distributed to many who I know and love. I have seen some incredible sights: lightning spreading over the Pacific, the Aurora Australia lighting up the entire visible horizon with the cityglow of Australia below, the crescent moon setting over the limb of the Earth, the vast plains of Africa and the dunes on Cape Horn, rivers breaking through tall mountain passes, the scars of humanity, the continuous line of life extending from North America, through Central America and into South America, a crescent moon setting over the limb of our blue planet.

Mount Fuji looks like a small bump from up here, but it does stand out as a very distinct landmark. Magically, the very first day we flew over Lake Michigan and I saw Wind Point (Racine, WI) clearly. Haven't been so lucky since. Every orbit we go over a slightly different part of the Earth. Of course, much of the time I'm working back in Spacehab and don't see any of it. Whenever I do get to look out, it is glorious. Even the stars have a special brightness. I have seen my "friend" Orion several times. Taking photos of the earth is a real challenge, but a steep learning curve. I think I have finally gotten some beautiful shots the last 2 days. Keeping my fingers crossed that they're in sharp focus. My near vision has gotten a little worse up here so you may have seen pics/video of me wearing glasses.

I feel blessed to be here representing our country and carrying out the research of scientists around the world. All of the experiments have accomplished most of their goals despite the inevitable hiccups that occur when such a complicated undertakings is undertaken. Some experiments have even done extra science. A few are finished and one is just getting started today.

The food is great and I am feeling very comfortable in this new, totally different environment. It still takes a while to eat as gravity doesn't help pull food down your esophagus.. It is also a constant challenge to stay adequately hydrated. Since our body fluids are shifted toward our heads our sense of thirst is almost non-existent.

Thanks to many of you who have supported me and my adventures throughout the years. This was definitely one to beat all. I hope you could feel the positive energy that beamed to the whole planet as we glided over our shared planet.

Love to all,

Laurel

— Electronic mail from Laurel Clark to her mother Margory Brown, roughly 18 hours before her death on space shuttle *Columbia*

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The truth is rarely pure and never simple.

— Oscar Wilde

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There's an old saying in Tennessee — I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee — that says: "Fool me once, shame on — shame on you. Fool me — you can't get fooled again."

— George W Bush

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The fox knows many things; the hedgehog knows one big thing; the 800 pound gorilla doesn't give a shit what anybody knows. [Microsoft's Bill] Gates's great strength was in combining all these attributes.

— John Lanchester, in *The London Review of Books*

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 14 Feb 2003

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The orange [terrorism] alert made me wonder again why the Bush administration has spent the last year and a half hyping the Iraqi menace instead of singlemindedly hunting Al Queda.

Mr Bush's presidency came into focus when he made his bullhorn vow to get "the people who knocked these buildings down." But we're not getting the creeps who knocked the buildings down. We're getting the creeps whose address we know.

— Maureen Dowd, "Desert Spring, Sprung", *The New York Times*,  
9 Feb 2003

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It's too late for geniuses! Now we need vandals and desecrators, simple-minded demolition men!

— Tristan Tzara, in Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*

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No one today can claim that the path of war will be shorter than the path of inspections. No one can claim that it would lead to a safer, more just, more stable world, for war is always the sanction of failure.

— Dominique de Villepin, French foreign minister, responding to  
Colin Powell, US secretary of state and his calls for an attack on  
Iraq, 14 Feb 2003

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In this temple of the United Nations, we are the guardians of an ideal, the guardians of a conscience. The onerous responsibility and immense honor we have must lead us to give priority to disarmament through peace.

This message comes to you today from an old country, France, from a continent like mine, Europe, that has known war, occupation, barbarity. It is an old country that does not forget and is very aware of all it owes to freedom fighters who came from America and elsewhere.

And yet France has always stood upright in the face of history before mankind. Faithful to its values, it wants resolutely to act together with all members of the international community. France believes in our ability to build together a better world.

— Dominique de Villepin, French foreign minister, responding to  
Colin Powell, US secretary of state and his calls for an attack on  
Iraq, 14 Feb 2003

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Does it not occur to anyone that these are *very* old friends of ours, trying to tell us what they think they know about being hated by weak enemies in the Third World?

— Molly Ivins explaining the French position on Iraq in her column  
18 Feb 2003

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Exploration is the physical expression of the Intellectual Passion.

— Antarctic explorer Apsley Cherry-Garrard, in his memoir, *The Worst Journey in the World*

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 19 Feb 2003

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“Books!” Dibs said. “Books and books and books.” He lightly ran his fingers over the books. “I love books,” he said. “And isn’t it funny that little black marks on paper can be so good? Pieces of paper and little tiny black marks and you’ve got a story.”

“Yes,” I replied. “It is quite remarkable.”

— Virginia M Axline, *Dibs in Search of Self*

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 21 Feb 2003

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Nothing is so admirable in politics as a short memory

— John Kenneth Galbraith

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I don’t want to sell anything, buy anything, or process anything as a career. I don’t want to sell anything bought or processed, or buy anything sold or processed, or process anything sold, bought, or processed, or repair anything sold, bought, or processed. You know, as a career, I don’t want to do that.

— Lloyd Dobler (John Cusack) in *Say Anything*, written by Cameron Crowe

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“I’m a guy, I have pride.”

“No, you’re not a guy.”

“I am.”

“No. No, the world is full of guys. Be a man. Don’t be a guy.”

— John Cusack as Lloyd Dobler and Lili Taylor as Corey Flood in *Say Anything*, written by Cameron Crowe

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“Nobody thought we’d do this. Nobody really thinks it will work, do they?”

“No. You just described every great success story.”

— Ione Skye as Diane Court to John Cusack as Lloyd Dobler in *Say Anything*, written by Cameron Crowe

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... the only hope for rock’n’roll, aside from everybody playing nothing but shrieking atonal noise through arbor distorers, is women. Balls are what ruined both rock and politics in the first place, and I demand the world be turned over to the female sex immediately.

— Lester Bangs, *Village Voice*, 28 Jan 1981

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 23 Feb 2003

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Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

— Dwight D Eisenhower, 16 Apr 1953

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quoted by Molly Ivins’ in her 13 Feb 2003 column

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Who will rule Iraq and how? Who will provide security? How long might U.S. troops conceivably remain? Will the United Nations have a role? Who will manage Iraq's oil resource? Unless the administration can answer these questions in detail, the anxiety of Arab and European governments, as well as that of the American public, over our "staying power" will only grow.

— Sen Richard Lugar, in a Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting, 11 Feb 2003, asking questions that apparently have no answers yet

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quoted by Molly Ivins' in her 13 Feb 2003 column

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There is currently a formula for success in the entertainment medium, that is — beat it to death if it succeeds.

— Ernie Kovacs

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When gales assault them,  
trees are always astonished,  
but never ask why.

— W H Auden, "Shorts II"

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 25 Feb 2003

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I myself feel that our country, for whose Constitution I fought in a just war, might as well have been invaded by Martians and body snatchers. Sometimes I wish it had been. What has happened, though, is that it has been taken over by means of the sleaziest, low-comedy, Keystone Cops-style coup d'état imaginable. And those now in charge of the federal government are upper-crust C-students who know no history or geography, plus not-so-closeted white supremacists, aka "Christians," and plus, most frighteningly, psychopathic personalities, or "PPs."

To say somebody is a PP is to make a perfectly respectable medical diagnosis, like saying he or she has appendicitis or athlete's foot. The classic medical text on PPs is *The Mask of Sanity* by Dr Hervey Cleckley. Read it! PPs are presentable, they know full well the suffering their actions may cause others, but they do not care. They cannot care because they are nuts. They have a screw loose!

And what syndrome better describes so many executives at Enron and WorldCom and on and on, who have enriched themselves while ruining their employees and investors and country, and who still feel as pure as the driven snow, no matter what anybody may say to or about them? And so many of these heartless PPs now hold big jobs in our federal government, as though they were leaders instead of sick.

What has allowed so many PPs to rise so high in corporations, and now in government, is that they are so decisive. Unlike normal people, they are never filled with doubts, for the simple reason that they cannot care what happens next. Simply can't. Do this! Do that! Mobilize the reserves! Privatize the public schools! Attack Iraq! Cut health care! Tap everybody's telephone! Cut taxes on the rich! Build a trillion-dollar missile shield! Fuck *habeas corpus* and the Sierra Club and *In These Times*, and kiss my ass!

— Kurt Vonnegut, Jr in "Vonnegut vs the !&#!@", an interview with Joel Bleifuss, *In These Times*, 27 Jan 2003

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[http://inthesetimes.com/comments.php?id=38\\_0\\_4\\_0\\_c](http://inthesetimes.com/comments.php?id=38_0_4_0_c)  
partially mentioned in quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 26 Feb 2003

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*Rumination of the Day*

My son asked me, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” I told him that bad things usually happen to bad people *first*. I didn’t tell him that the bad people then go and take it out on the first candy-ass do-gooder they come across. He’ll learn that on his own in junior high, one way or another.

— Andy Ihnatko at [www.topfive.com](http://www.topfive.com)

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26 Feb 2003

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I’m in the business of trying to explain technical things to Joe Six-pack, right? Joe may have the NFL rulebook memorized but he doesn’t understand PCBs and he doesn’t know a microgram from cunnilingus.

— Sangamon Taylor in Neal Stephenson’s *Zodiac*

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“Sangamon’s Principle,” I said. “The simpler the molecule, the better the drug. So the best drug is oxygen. Only two atoms. The second-best, nitrous oxide — a mere three atoms. Third-best, ethanol — nine. Past that, you’re talking lots of atoms.”

— Sangamon Taylor in Neal Stephenson’s *Zodiac*

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Fred Rogers was often called a wimp. He said in response that he wasn’t going to present anything but his own personality to his audience, and that if some people couldn’t handle that it, too bad. Well, I’m a wimp too, and I’m proud to be in such fine company. We could use a lot more thoughtful, caring wimps, and fewer hormonally-driven he-men and amazons. It’s sad that so many world leaders haven’t been exposed to the practical, constructive “feel-good clichés” that this wimp Fred Rogers offers; would that our next generation of world politicians are such wimps, and that each of them knows that it’s OK to be one.

— Bob Berlien, eulogizing Fred Rogers in [rec.arts.sf.fandom.com](http://rec.arts.sf.fandom.com),  
27 Feb 2003

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From: Bob Berlien <[rberlien@rcnchicago.com](mailto:rberlien@rcnchicago.com)>  
Subject: Re: It’s no longer a beautiful day in the neighborhood  
Date: Thu, 27 Feb 2003 11:33:54 -0600  
Message-ID: <[3E5E4C02.9010409@rcnchicago.com](mailto:3E5E4C02.9010409@rcnchicago.com)>

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If at first you don’t succeed, stay as sweet as you are.

— Lady Elaine Fairchilde

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quoted by Bob Berlien in his preceding obit

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The world is not always a kind place. That’s something all children learn for themselves, whether we want them to or not, but it’s something they really need our help to understand.

— Fred Rogers, quoted in his obituary in *The New York Times*, 27  
Feb 2003

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At the center of the universe is a loving heart that continues to beat and that wants the best for every person. Anything we can do to help foster the intellect and spirit and emotional growth of our fellow human beings, that is our job. Those of us who have this particular vision must continue against all odds.

Life is for service.

— Fred Rogers, interview with *USA Today*, 22 Aug 2001

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 28 Feb 2003

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We must believe in luck. For how else can we explain the success of those we don't like?

— Jean Cocteau

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quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 2 Mar 2003

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Q: — the French press is quoting actually two different diplomats from the United States State Department that — they're highlighting that the United States is giving some sort of agreements or benefits to Colombia — and other non-members of the Security Council —

MR. FLEISCHER: I haven't seen the story. And you already have the answer, about what this will be decided on. But think about the implications of what you're saying. You're saying that the leaders of other nations are buyable. And that is not an acceptable proposition.

— Ari Fleisher at White House press briefing 25 Feb 2003, explaining that it's unacceptable to suggest that *other* heads of state can be bribed. His response was greeted by laughter and he ended the briefing.

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I've made it a rule to never drink by daylight and never to refuse a drink after dark.

— H L Mencken

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Bachelors know more about women than married men; if they didn't they'd be married too.

— H L Mencken

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Love is the triumph of imagination over intelligence.

— H L Mencken

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No one in this world has ever lost money by underestimating the intelligence of the great masses of the plain people. Nor has anyone ever lost public office thereby.

— H L Mencken

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Nobody ever went broke underestimating the taste of the American public.

— H L Mencken

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note that we have a conflicting version of this: "... taste..." vs "... intelligence..."

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If, after I depart this vale, you ever remember me and have thought to please my ghost, forgive some sinner and wink your eye at some homely girl.

— H L Mencken, epitaph

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Dear Mr Secretary:

I am writing you to submit my resignation from the Foreign Service of the United States and from my position as Political Counselor in US Embassy Athens, effective March 7. I do so with a heavy heart. The baggage of my upbringing included a felt obligation to give something back to my country. Service as a US diplomat was a dream job. I was paid to understand foreign languages and cultures, to seek out diplomats, politicians, scholars and journalists, and to persuade them that US interests and theirs fundamentally coincided. My faith in my country and its values was the most powerful weapon in my diplomatic arsenal.

It is inevitable that during twenty years with the State Department I would become more sophisticated and cynical about the narrow and selfish bureaucratic motives that sometimes shaped our policies. Human nature is what it is, and I was rewarded and promoted for understanding human nature. But until this Administration it had been possible to believe that by upholding the policies of my president I was also upholding the interests of the American people and the world. I believe it no longer.

The policies we are now asked to advance are incompatible not only with American values but also with American interests. Our fervent pursuit of war with Iraq is driving us to squander the international legitimacy that has been America's most potent weapon of both offense and defense since the days of Woodrow Wilson. We have begun to dismantle the largest and most effective web of international relationships the world has ever known. Our current course will bring instability and danger, not security.

The sacrifice of global interests to domestic politics and to bureaucratic self-interest is nothing new, and it is certainly not a uniquely American problem. Still, we have not seen such systematic distortion of intelligence, such systematic manipulation of American opinion, since the war in Vietnam. The September 11 tragedy left us stronger than before, rallying around us a vast international coalition to cooperate for the first time in a systematic way against the threat of terrorism. But rather than take credit for those successes and build on them, this Administration has chosen to make terrorism a domestic political tool, enlisting a scattered and largely defeated Al Qaeda as its bureaucratic ally. We spread disproportionate terror and confusion in the public mind, arbitrarily linking the unrelated problems of terrorism and Iraq. The result, and perhaps the motive, is to justify a vast misallocation of shrinking public wealth to the military and to weaken the safeguards that protect American citizens from the heavy hand of government. September 11 did not do as much damage to the fabric of American society as we seem determined to do to ourselves. Is the Russia of the late Romanovs really our model, a selfish, superstitious empire thrashing toward self-destruction in the name of a doomed status quo?

We should ask ourselves why we have failed to persuade more of the world that a war with Iraq is necessary. We have over the past two years done too much to assert to our world partners that narrow and mercenary US interests override the cherished values of our partners. Even where our aims were not in question, our consistency is at issue. The model of Afghanistan is little comfort to allies wondering on what basis we plan to rebuild the Middle East, and in whose image and interests. Have we indeed become blind, as Russia is blind in Chechnya, as Israel is blind in the Occupied Territories, to our own advice, that overwhelming military power is not the answer to terrorism? After the shambles of post-war Iraq joins the shambles in Grozny and Ramallah, it will be a brave foreigner who forms ranks with Micronesia to follow where we lead.

We have a coalition still, a good one. The loyalty of many of our friends is impressive, a tribute to American moral capital built up over a century. But our closest allies are persuaded less



that war is justified than that it would be perilous to allow the US to drift into complete solipsism. Loyalty should be reciprocal. Why does our President condone the swaggering and contemptuous approach to our friends and allies this Administration is fostering, including among its most senior officials. Has “oderint dum metuant” really become our motto?

I urge you to listen to America’s friends around the world. Even here in Greece, purported hotbed of European anti-Americanism, we have more and closer friends than the American newspaper reader can possibly imagine. Even when they complain about American arrogance, Greeks know that the world is a difficult and dangerous place, and they want a strong international system, with the US and EU in close partnership. When our friends are afraid of us rather than for us, it is time to worry. And now they are afraid. Who will tell them convincingly that the United States is as it was, a beacon of liberty, security, and justice for the planet?

Mr Secretary, I have enormous respect for your character and ability. You have preserved more international credibility for us than our policy deserves, and salvaged something positive from the excesses of an ideological and self-serving Administration. But your loyalty to the President goes too far. We are straining beyond its limits an international system we built with such toil and treasure, a web of laws, treaties, organizations, and shared values that sets limits on our foes far more effectively than it ever constrained America’s ability to defend its interests.

I am resigning because I have tried and failed to reconcile my conscience with my ability to represent the current US Administration. I have confidence that our democratic process is ultimately self-correcting, and hope that in a small way I can contribute from outside to shaping policies that better serve the security and prosperity of the American people and the world we share.

— letter from diplomat John Brady Kiesling to Secretary of State Colin Powell, reprinted by *The New York Times*, 27 Feb 2003

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The *Times*’ introduction said: “The following is the text of John Brady Kiesling’s letter of resignation to Secretary of State Colin L Powell. Mr Kiesling is a career diplomat who has served in United States embassies from Tel Aviv to Casablanca to Yerevan.”

It’s worth noting that as of 14 Apr 2003, this no longer appears in the *Times*’ on-line index.

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“Oderint dum metuant” – Let them hate so long as they fear.

— Lucius Accius

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If one tells the truth, one is sure, sooner or later, to be found out.

— Oscar Wilde, “Phrases and Philosophies for the Use of the Young”

quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 10 Mar 2003

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I am not young enough to know everything.

— Oscar Wilde

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No battle plan ever survives contact with the enemy.

— Field Marshall Helmuth Carl Bernard von Moltke

... previously collected without attribution from “Rumsfeld’s rules”

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Scotland is a treeless, flowerless land, formed out of the refuse of the universe, and inhabited by the very bastards of creation.

— John Wilkes, 1763

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used as a `rec.arts.sf.fandom` signature quote:

From: Ken MacLeod <ken@libertaria.demon.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Fun What do you collect?

Date: Mon, 17 Mar 2003 15:17:51 +0000

Message-ID: <UNYpsDAfced+EwKq@libertaria.demon.co.uk>

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When I heard the Learn'd Astronomer

When I heard the learn'd astronomer;  
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me;  
When I was shown the charts and the diagrams, to add, divide, and measure them;  
When I, sitting, heard the astronomer, where he lectured with much applause in the lecture-room,  
How soon, unaccountable, I became tired and sick;  
Till rising and gliding out, I wander'd off by myself,  
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,  
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.

— Walt Whitman

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compare to Feynman's footnote

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She should have died hereafter;  
There would have been a time for such a word.  
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time,  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.

— William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, act V, scene 5

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As the government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion — as it has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquility of Musselmen [Muslims] — and as the said states never have entered into any war or act of hostility against any Mahometan nation, it is declared by the parties, that no pretext arising from religious opinions shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries.

— from a treaty between the United States of America and the Bey and People of Tripoli, 1796-1797

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from `quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca`, 23 Mar 2003

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Reality is that which refuses to go away when I stop believing in it.

— Philip K Dick

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We go to liberate not to conquer. We will not fly our flags in their country. We are entering Iraq to free a people and the only flag which will be flown in that ancient land is their own. Show respect for them.

There are some who are alive at this moment who will not be alive shortly. Those who do not wish to go on that journey, we will not send. As for the others I expect you to rock their world. Wipe them out if that is what they choose. But if you are ferocious in battle remember to be magnanimous in victory. Iraq is steeped in history. It is the site of the Garden of Eden, of the Great Flood and the birthplace of Abraham. Tread lightly there. You will see things that no man could pay to see and you will have to go a long way to find a more decent, generous and upright people than the Iraqis. You will be embarrassed by their hospitality even though they have nothing. Don't treat them as refugees for they are in their own country. Their children will be poor, in years to come they will know that the light of liberation in their lives was brought by you.

If there are casualties of war then remember that when they woke up and got dressed in the morning they did not plan to die this day. Allow them dignity in death. Bury them properly and mark their graves.

It is my foremost intention to bring every single one of you out alive but there may be people among us who will not see the end of this campaign. We will put them in their sleeping bags and send them back. There will be no time for sorrow.

The enemy should be in no doubt that we are his nemesis and that we are bringing about his rightful destruction. There are many regional commanders who have stains on their souls and they are stoking the fires of hell for Saddam. He and his forces will be destroyed by this coalition for what they have done. As they die they will know their deeds have brought them to this place. Show them no pity.

It is a big step to take another human life. It is not to be done lightly. I know of men who have taken life needlessly in other conflicts. I can assure you they live with the mark of Cain upon them. If someone surrenders to you then remember they have that right in international law and ensure that one day they go home to their family. The ones who wish to fight, well, we aim to please.

If you harm the regiment or its history by over enthusiasm in killing or in cowardice, know it is your family who will suffer. You will be shunned unless your conduct is of the highest for your deeds will follow you down through history. We will bring shame on neither our uniform nor our nation.

As for ourselves, let's bring everyone home and leave Iraq a better place for us having been there.

Our business now is north.

— Lt Col Tim Collins, to his troops of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish, at their camp 20 miles from the Iraqi border

---

reported by the BBC on 20 Mar 2003 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/2866581.stm>

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We like nonfiction and we live in fictitious times. We live in a time where we have fictitious election results that elect a fictitious president. We live in a time where we have a man sending us to war for fictitious reasons.

— Michael Moore, accepting an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature for *Bowling for Columbine*

---

Sure there have been deaths and injuries in boxing — but none of them serious.

— Alan Minter, British middle-weight boxer

---

The central conservative truth is that it is culture, not politics, that determines the success of a society. The central liberal truth is that politics can change a culture and save it from itself.

— Daniel Patrick Moynihan

---

compare Hlavaty on the difference between the Right and the Left

---

I don't think there's any point in being Irish if you don't know that the world is going to break your heart eventually. I guess we thought we had a little more time.

So did he.

— Daniel Patrick Moynihan, 24 Nov 1963, on John F Kennedy

---

from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 29 Mar 2003, after Moynihan's death earlier in the week

---

It is necessary that the prince should know how to color his nature well, and how to be a great hypocrite and dissembler. For men are so simple, and yield so much to immediate necessity, that the deceiver will never lack dupes.

— Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 31 Mar 2003

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If the First Amendment means anything, it means that a state has no business telling a man, sitting alone in his own house, what books he may read or what films he may watch.

— Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

---

Q: What is your favorite artwork, and why?

A: It may be more engineering than artwork, but the physical design of the book. This is one of those deceptively simple things whose elegance only becomes apparent when you watch someone try — and fail — to improve on it.

— Matt Ruff, in response to a question prior to a visit to Microsoft

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*Micronews*, 28 Mar 2003 – Ruff wrote *Sewer, Gas and Electric*

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As we know, there are known knowns. There are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns. That is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know we don't know.

— Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, press briefing 12 Feb 2002

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The TV business is a cruel and shallow money trench, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free, and good men die like dogs. There's also a negative side.

— Hunter S Thompson

---

from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 6 Apr 2003

---

What we are in effect seeing is that war-making has become the tool of peacemaking.

— UN human rights chief Mary Robinson on 29 Apr 1999, criticizing NATO for its bombing campaign against Yugoslavia

---

from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 7 Apr 2003

---

To the mouse and any smaller animal [gravity] presents practically no dangers. You can drop a mouse down a thousand-yard mine shaft; and, on arriving at the bottom, it gets a slight shock and walks away, provided that the ground is fairly soft. A rat is killed, a man is broken, a horse splashes. For the resistance presented to movement by the air is proportional to the surface of the moving object. Divide an animal's length, breadth, and height each by ten; its weight is reduced to a thousandth, but its surface only to a hundredth. So the resistance to falling in the case of the small animal is relatively ten times greater than the driving force.

— J B S Haldane, "On Being the Right Size", 1928

---

... pithy bit:

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You can drop a mouse down a thousand-yard mine shaft; and, on arriving at the bottom, it gets a slight shock and walks away, provided that the ground is fairly soft. A rat is killed, a man is broken, a horse splashes.

— J B S Haldane, "On Being the Right Size", 1928

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All I ask is the chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

— Spike Milligan

---

Trying to eliminate Saddam, extending the ground war into an occupation of Iraq, would have violated our guideline about not changing objectives in midstream, engaging in "mission creep," and would have incurred incalculable human and political costs. Apprehending him was probably impossible. We had been unable to find Noriega in Panama, which we knew intimately. We would have been forced to occupy Baghdad and, in effect, rule Iraq. The coalition would instantly have collapsed, the Arabs deserting it in anger and other allies pulling out as well. Under those circumstances, furthermore, we had been self-consciously trying to set a pattern for handling aggression in the post-cold war world. Going in and occupying Iraq, thus unilaterally exceeding the UN's mandate, would have destroyed the precedent of international response to aggression we hoped to establish. Had we gone the invasion route, the US could conceivably still be an occupying power in a bitterly hostile land.

— George Bush and Brent Scowcroft, "Why We Didn't Remove Saddam," *Time* magazine, 2 Mar 1998, which is an excerpt from their book, *A World Transformed*

---

Iraq will not be defeated. Iraq has now already achieved victory — apart from some technicalities.

— Mohsen Khalil, Iraqi ambassador to the Arab League, quoted in Cairo by the Associated Press, and reported in the 8 Apr 2003 *The Washington Post*

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<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A59767-2003Apr8.html>

---

The game is over, and I hope the peace will prevail. I hope the Iraqi people will have a happy life.

— Muhammad AlDouri, Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, quoted by *The New York Times*, 9 Apr 2003

---

Right-wingers sneer at liberals for being in favor of socialized medicine, sex and drug freedom, and control of concentrated economic power. Leftists sneer at liberals for not being egalitarian or collectivist. I am a liberal, and I raise a middle finger in each direction.

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

---

Subject: Re: French-fried (arguably on-topic)

Date: Thu, 10 Apr 2003 16:54:20 -0400

Message-ID: <bbmb9vonmloftcnfse21td2bdhpm5dge@4ax.com>

---

We need to be creating a world that we would like to live in when we're not the biggest power on the block.

— Bill Clinton, 13 Mar 2003, speech at the 92nd Street YMCA, New York City

---

Conservatism is the tacit acknowledgment that all that is finally important in human experience is behind us; that the crucial explorations have been undertaken, and that is given to man to know what are the great truths that emerged from them. Whatever is to come cannot outweigh the importance to man of what has gone before.

— William F Buckley, Jr, *Up from Liberalism*

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One reason I am cautious about sending young men off to war is that I have seen what war does. Half the bomber crews I flew with in WWII never made it home again. The images remain with me after fifty-five years — young airmen laughing and talking over breakfast before daylight, and then a few minutes later being blown to bits when their huge, overloaded bomber filled with men, bombs, and high-octane gasoline crashed during takeoff. I see the image of a bomber taking a direct hit over the target, catching fire, exploding, and falling in pieces over hostile enemy territory. I tell you these things because no man who has had these experiences will ever again speak carelessly about war. It is the worst thing that men do to each other. When I listen to the bombastic rhetoric of Messrs Bush and Cheney and the war cries of Ms Rice, I know that I'm hearing from people who've never been near a battlefield. The British conservative Edmund Burke put it best: "A conscientious man would be cautious how he dealt in blood."

— George McGovern, "The Case for Liberalism: A defense of the future against the past," *Harpers*, Dec 2002

---

"Pre-emptive war" only has to be waged once in order for the point to be made and the policy to be anchored in modern history. The talk of "who's next after Iraq" is intriguing, but not very functionally relevant; for the US is unlikely to wage war against other states in this area for the same reasons it attacked Iraq.

Much as most of us oppose this American policy, a realistic reading of the policy must conclude that the sacking of Baghdad is designed to send signals to all other Middle Eastern and Asian regimes that the US finds annoying, threatening, distasteful, worrisome, or even just a little strange.

You don't have to directly threaten the US to be attacked by the US, according to the new rules of the game now being explained to the world through the televised display of Mesopotamian show-and-tell. If Washington merely suspects that terrorists may one day emerge from your land, or that you might in future threaten your neighbors, you have only two options: You change course and shape up, or you are finished as a governing regime. If you behave as Baghdad behaved — defying the new rules of the game — you suffer the same fate as Baghdad is suffering. Allowing UN inspections means nothing any more, because Washington has sacked the UN and Baghdad at the same time.

— Rami G Khouri, executive editor, *The Daily Star (Lebanon)*

---

quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 12 Apr 2003  
[http://www.dailystar.com.lb/opinion/09\\_04\\_03\\_b.asp](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/opinion/09_04_03_b.asp)

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One should not invest in education as if it were stocks. One should invest in education the way one invests in shade trees.

— Lucy Kemnitzer

---

From: ritaxis@cruzio.com (Lucy Kemnitzer)  
Newsgroups: rec.arts.sf.fandom  
Subject: Re: Cheering Iraqis.  
Date: Tue, 15 Apr 2003 01:11:02 GMT  
Message-ID: <3e9b5bb1.186890@cnews.newsguy.com>

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Any event, once it has occurred, can be made to appear inevitable by a competent historian.

— Lee Simonson

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The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.

— Albert Einstein

---

The beginning of faith is doubt.

— Thomas Merton

quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 18 Apr 2003

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They died for us, and for the hope that some day we won't be ever-increasing billions trapped together in a cruddy little gravity well.

— Arthur D Hlavaty, on the crew of *Columbia*, in *Nice Distinctions 1*, 18 Apr 2003

---

Picking up the cleverly disguised object, Inspector Magritte remarked, "Ceci n'est pas une pipe."

— Arthur D Hlavaty, in *Nice Distinctions 1*, 18 Apr 2003

---

I know I'm a part and product of a lot of things before and around me. We're all living off the folks who figured out fire and the wheel, and I try to be grateful.

— Arthur D Hlavaty, in *Nice Distinctions 1*, 18 Apr 2003

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The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be lighted.

— Plutarch

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The other night in Ames, Iowa, a man stood up to ask me a question. "I'm from Texas, but I left 50 years ago," he said. "I guess I've just forgotten. Could you explain to me just what you Texans mean when you say, 'Compassion?'"

— Molly Ivins, column of 3 Apr 2003

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One doesn't recognize in one's life the really important moments — not until it's too late.

— Agatha Christie

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He believed in beer, the Constitution and the dignity of all human beings. He was learned and fair and a lot of fun to be with.

— Molly Ivins, obituary of Texas civil liberties lawyer Patrick Wiseman, column of 10 Apr 2003

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Cum catapultæ proscriptæ erunt tum soli proscripti catapultas habebunt. (When catapults are outlawed, only outlaws will have catapults.)

— Latin bumper sticker

---

From: pearlyandconway@aol.com (Harry Andruschak)

Newsgroups: rec.arts.sf.fandom

Date: 24 Apr 2003 01:15:23 GMT

Subject: Re: Modern Latin

Message-ID: <20030423211523.18830.00000347@mb-m20.aol.com>

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He had long ago come to the conclusion that there was nothing Man Was Not Meant To Know. He was willing to concede that there were things Man Was Too Dumb To Figure Out.

— Michael Kurland

---

pointed out by mike weber

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History never repeats itself, but it does kind of rhyme.

— Bruce Sterling

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Any one who considers arithmetic methods of producing random digits is of course in a state of sin.

— John von Neumann

---

The sin of capitalism, perhaps, is to make wants feel like needs, to give to simple silly stuff the urgency of near-physical necessity: I must have it. The grace of capitalism is to make wants feel like hopes, so that material objects and stuff can feel like the possibility of something heroic and civic. The urge of the great department stores was to hide acquisition as sociability, to disguise acquisitiveness as membership, so that one entered them not as one entered a store — with one eye on the beseeching salesgirl, one hand on the knob of the door, just looking — but as one entered a library or a club: striding in with pleasure.

— Adam Gopnik, in “Under One Roof: The death and life of the New York department store” in *The New Yorker*, 22 Sep 2003

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from quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca, 24 Sep 2003

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Access to high-quality education is a civil right. We must make it a reality for all young people. We know it is possible: There are dozens of examples of high-quality small high schools serving low-income student populations that achieve graduation and college attendance rates in excess of 90 percent. We know it is necessary: Full economic and civil participation demands a high level of education for each and every citizen. And finally, we know it is just: Our democratic values allow nothing less than true equal opportunity for all young people.

— Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, “Closing the Graduation Gap”, a policy paper on small high schools

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compare Debbie Riddle following

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Where did this idea come from that everybody deserves free education, free medical care, free whatever? It comes from Moscow, from Russia. It comes straight out of the pit of hell.

— Texas state Rep Debbie Riddle

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quoted by Molly Ivins in her 13 May 2003 column

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Believing with you that religion is a matter that lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between church and state. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the Nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man his natural rights, convinced that he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

— Thomas Jefferson, letter to the Danbury Baptist Association, 1 Jan 1802

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You get justice in the next world; in this world you get the law.

— William Gaddis

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To which Arthur Hlavaty replies:

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You get truth in the next world; in this world you get science.

— Arthur D Hlavaty

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In times of drastic change, it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.

— Eric Hoffer

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from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 28 Sep 2003

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I know. You know I know. I know you know I know. We know Henry knows, and Henry knows we know it. ... We're a knowledgeable family.

— Prince Geoffrey Plantagenet in *A Lion in Winter*

---

I want you to round up every vicious criminal and gun slinger in the west. Take this down. I want rustlers, cut throats, murderers, bounty hunters, desperados, mugs, pugs, thugs, nitwits, halfwits, dimwits, vipers, snipers, con men, Indian agents, Mexican bandits, muggers, buggerers, bushwhackers, hornswogglers, horse thieves, bull dykes, train robbers, bank robbers, ass-kickers, shit-kickers ... and Methodists!

— Harvey Korman as Hedley Lamarr in *Blazing Saddles*

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I don't think necessity is the mother of invention — invention, in my opinion, arises directly from idleness, possibly also from laziness. To save oneself trouble.

— Agatha Christie

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Really, I'm not out to destroy Microsoft. That will just be a completely unintentional side effect.

— Linus Torvalds, interview in *The New York Times Magazine* 28 Sep 2003

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Humans are incapable of securely storing high-quality cryptographic keys, and they have unacceptable speed and accuracy when performing cryptographic operations. They are also large, expensive to maintain, difficult to manage, and they pollute the environment. It is astonishing that these devices continue to be manufactured and deployed, but they are sufficiently pervasive that we must design our protocols around their limitations.

— *Network Security: Private Communication in a Public World*, by Charlie Kaufman, Radia Perlman, and Mike Speciner

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Many a man fails as an original thinker simply because his memory is too good.

— Friedrich Nietzsche

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We have some freedom in setting up our personal standards of beauty, but it is especially nice when the things we regard as beautiful are also regarded by other people as useful. I must confess that I really enjoy writing programs which do the greatest good, in some sense.

There are many senses in which a program can be “good,” of course. In the first place, it's especially good to have a program that works correctly. Secondly it is often good to have a program that won't be hard to change, when the time for adaptation arises. Both of these goals are achieved when the program is easily readable and understandable to a person who knows the appropriate language.

Another important way for a production program to be good is for it to interact gracefully with its users, especially when recovering from human errors in the input data. It's a real art to compose meaningful error messages or to design flexible input formats which are not error-prone.

— Donald E Knuth, “Computer Programming as an Art,” Turing Award Lecture, *Communications of the ACM*, Dec 1974

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Another important aspect of program quality is the efficiency with which the computer's resources are actually being used. I am sorry to say that many people nowadays are condemning program efficiency, telling us that it is in bad taste. The reason for this is that we are now experiencing a reaction from the time when efficiency was the only reputable criterion of goodness, and programmers in the past have tended to be so preoccupied with efficiency that they have produced needlessly complicated code; the result of this unnecessary complexity has been that net efficiency has gone down, due to difficulties of debugging and maintenance.

The real problem is that programmers have spent far too much time worrying about efficiency in the wrong places and at the wrong times; premature optimization is the root of all evil (or at least most of it) in programming.

— Donald E Knuth, “Computer Programming as an Art,” Turing Award Lecture, *Communications of the ACM*, Dec 1974

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Therefore I want to address my closing remarks to the system programmers and the machine designers who produce the systems that the rest of us must work with. *Please*, give us tools that are a pleasure to use, especially for our routine assignments, instead of providing something we have to fight with. Please, give us tools that encourage us to write better programs, by enhancing our pleasure when we do so.

It's very hard for me to convince college freshmen that programming is beautiful, when the first thing I have to tell them is how to punch "slash slash JOB equals so-and-so." Even job control languages can be designed so that they are a pleasure to use, instead of being strictly functional.

— Donald E Knuth, "Computer Programming as an Art," Turing Award Lecture, *Communications of the ACM*, Dec 1974

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[W]e admitted that it was the duty of programmers to educate their managers and other departments of the company by "...presenting the necessary information in a simple palatable form." The hope "...that deficiencies in original program specifications could be made up by the skill of a technical writing department... was misguided; the design of a program and the design of its specification must be undertaken in parallel by the same person, and they must interact with each other. A lack of clarity in specification is one of the surest signs of a deficiency in the program it describes, and the two faults must be removed simultaneously before the project is embarked upon." I wish I had followed this advice in 1963; I wish we all would follow it today.

— Sir Antony Hoare, "The Emperor's Old Clothes," Turing Award Lecture, *Communications of the ACM*, Feb 1981

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I conclude that there are two ways of constructing a software design: One way is to make it so simple that there are *obviously* no deficiencies and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no *obvious* deficiencies.

The first method is far more difficult. It demands the same skill, devotion, insight, and even inspiration as the discovery of the simple physical laws which underlie the complex phenomena of nature. It also requires a willingness to accept objectives which are limited by physical, logical, and technological constraints, and to accept a compromise when conflicting objectives cannot be met. No committee will ever do this until it is too late.

— Sir Antony Hoare, "The Emperor's Old Clothes," Turing Award Lecture, *Communications of the ACM*, Feb 1981

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But scientists, who ought to know / Assure us that it must be so. / Oh, let us never, never doubt / What nobody is sure about.

— Hillaire Belloc

quoted by Hoare in "The Emperor's Old Clothes"

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In a society in which the educational system is used as an instrument for the establishment of a homogenized culture, in which the cream is prevented from rising to the top, the education of competent programmers could be politically unpalatable.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, "The Humble Programmer," Turing Award Lecture, *Communications of the ACM*, Oct 1972

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Another lesson we should have learned from the recent past is that the development of “richer” or “more powerful” programming languages was a mistake in the sense that these baroque monstrosities, these conglomerations of idiosyncrasies, are really unmanageable, both mechanically and mentally. I see a great future for very systematic and very modest programming languages.

— Edsger W Dijkstra, “The Humble Programmer,” Turing Award Lecture, *Communications of the ACM*, Oct 1972

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We here, we science fiction fans, are the lunatic fringe; the crazy fools who read that kind of stuff.

— Robert A Heinlein, Guest of Honor Speech, Denvention, 1940

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War is an instrument entirely inefficient toward redressing wrong; and multiplies, instead of indemnifying, losses.

— Thomas Jefferson

from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 29 Apr 2003

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I order you to hold a free election, but forbid you to elect anyone but Richard my clerk.

— King Henry II, Writ to the electors of the See of Winchester, on the election of a new Bishop

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compare Tom Stoppard on voting and counting

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There are two races of people — Men and Women. . . The male is motivated by toys and science because men are born with no purpose in the universe except to procreate. There is lots of time to kill beyond that. They’ve got to find work. Men have no inherent center to themselves beyond procreating. Women, however, are born with a center. They can create the universe, mother it, teach it, nurture it. Men read science fiction to build the future. Women don’t have to read it. They are the future.

— Ray Bradbury

from [quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca](mailto:quotationoftheday@yahoo.ca), 2 May 2003

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Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.

— Napoleon Bonaparte

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Every now and then, say “what the fuck.” “What the fuck” gives you freedom. Freedom brings opportunity. Opportunity makes your future. . . . . “What the fuck.” If you can’t say it, you can’t do it.

— Curtis Armstrong as Miles in *Risky Business*, written by Paul Brickman

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Any inaccuracies in this index may be explained by the fact that it has been prepared with the help of a computer.

— Donald E Knuth, *The Art of Computer Programming*, vol 1

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Entries are mostly for names or *titles*, but some page numbers indicate character names, *actors*, and some (93+) indicate multiple entries on a page for the same name.

The *Chicago Manual of Style* dictates that names be indexed in the most familiar form (thus, “Eliot, T S” and “Niven, Larry”), but I’ve used the Knuth style (pioneered in *The Art of Computer Programming*) of using the full name (thus, “Eliot, Thomas Stearns” and “Niven, Laurence van Cott”). Cross-references occasionally tell the whole story (as in “Blair, Eric SEE Orwell, George”).

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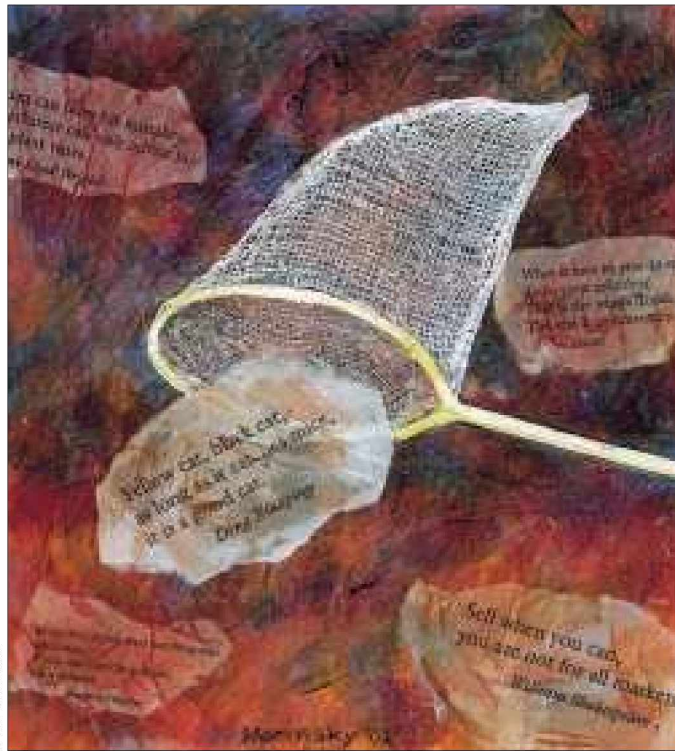


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# Work

by Jeffrey Copeland and Haemer



JANE MARINSKY

*It is necessary that practice  
accompany knowledge.*  
– Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz

*Ah, it's a love'y thing, to  
know a thing or two.*  
– Molière

## Commonplace Book

Back in our grandfathers' day, a well-read gentleman always kept a “commonplace book” in which he copied out interesting passages he found in the various things he'd read. He could find them again later and share them with his children and grandchildren.

In our modern age, this is a habit that's nearly fallen by the wayside. A pale reflection survives in the habit of some folks who post lists of interesting quotations on their Web sites. We keep an online file of quotations, too, some of which you have seen as epigrams at the top of this column. However, we're sometimes dead tree guys. While we appreciate the electronic forms of things, as you know from reading last month's column on preparing text for an electronic reader, occasionally we want to have a nice printed thing on paper to curl up with in our wing-back chairs and hold in our hands. So this month, we're going to talk about turning your online collection of quotations into paper, complete with nice formatting and index. We'll get to explore

some subtleties of formatting with TeX, and some tricks for making an index. We've got three distinct sub-problems to solve: formatting the quotations, preparing the index as we go, and printing the index from the “notes” we've taken. If you're not familiar with TeX, we point you at the original reference by Donald Knuth, *The TeXbook*, (Addison-Wesley, 1984, ISBN 0-201-13448-9). Let's dig in.

### A Basic Quotation

Let's begin with the basic form of a quotation in our file.

```
\quote{I wondered what a savoury  
scandal would be: a scandal  
fried on toast, perhaps, with an  
anchovy and a dash of Worcester  
Sauce?}{\q{Rumpole and the Case  
of Identity} by John Mortimer}  
in \em{The Trials of Rumpole},  
1979.
```

We've postulated a two argument TeX macro `\quote` which takes the quotation

and the attribution. We've even added a little notation after the quotation—sometimes it will be a witty aside. We choose to do this in TeX, rather than `troff`, because some of the indexing turns out to be easier. Those of you fluent in both text formatting languages can follow along and translate as you go. For example, if we were going to do this in `troff`, we'd have a macro to start the quotation, one to signal the attribution start, and one to complete it. We'd say something like:

```
.Quote  
I wondered ...  
.Quote-attr  
'Rumpole and ...  
.Quote-end
```

What's the definition of our `\quote` macro?

```
\long\def\quote#1#2{  
  \filbreak\bigskip  
  \noindent  
  \hrule height 1pt\smallskip
```

```
#1\par
\def\z{#2}
\ifx\z\empty \else
{\leftskip .3\hsize\relax
\item{--}#2\par}\fi
\smallskip\noindent\hrule
\smallskip\noindent
}
\def\empty{}
```

First, notice that it is a long definition, so that our quotation can include a paragraph break. We begin with a `filbreak`. If you're not familiar with it—and it's one of our favorites—this macro says “here's a good place to break the page, but do not bother if you can get up to the next `filbreak` on this page, too.” This means that quotations, unless they're more than a page long, will be on a single page. We offset the quote with a one point rule—slightly thicker than the default—then set the first argument (the quotation itself). If the second argument is not empty, we set it with a large indent preceded by an em-dash. We finish up with a less-heavy rule at the default thickness of 0.4 points. Our extra notations appear after the closing rule, in the space before the next quotation.

Why the hand-wave of assigning the second argument to `\z`? Because we want to test the expanded values of the second argument and `\empty` with `\ifx`, and to do that they have to be at the same level of reference.

Notice that rather than a double quotation mark around the title of the Rumpole story in our example, we've used a `\q{...}` macro. This allows us to nest quotes easily. Similarly, we'll be using a `\em{...}` macro (the idea for which we stole from LaTeX) to set emphasized text, such as titles, usually in italics. By making features of the structural markup—quote and attribution, quotation marks, titles—into macros, we can change the rendition of our printed version much more easily. As a quick example, if we wanted to produce a British version, in which the outer quotation marks were single and the inner quotation marks were double—“She asked “Why did you only shoot him seven times?” with a tear in her eye.”—this would involve a quick rework of the macros, not a complete edit. The quotation mark macros have some interesting features:

```
%% quotation mark macro
\newcount\qm \qm=0
\def\q#1{\advance\qm by 1
\ifodd\qm "#1"\else
'#1'\thinspace\fi
\advance\qm by -1\relax}
```

We increase the counter of active quotation marks every time we see the macro. If we have an odd number, we use double quotation marks; an even number produces singles. This allows nested quotation marks through a nested use of the macro to work as well. We have to be careful to not let any white space drift in after the quotation marks, so that

```
\q{foo}--he exclaimed.
```

will not have spurious interword spacing. However, we need the `\thinspace` in the single-quote case to properly space when we want a single quote followed by a double. The inverse case—double followed by single—is handled by TeX's normal kerning rules.

After that, the emphasis macro is downright simple:

```
\def\em#1{{\it #1}}
```

## Embedding Index Entries

It makes this collection of quotations much more useful if we can provide an index of the sources. It would be useful to be able to find all the references to barrister Horace Rumpole, all the passages from *Moly Ivins Can't Say That, Can She?*, or all the Donald Knuth quotations we have.

It will serve us well to think for a few moments about the design before we delve in. We will want to index names and titles in different fonts. Even among the names, it would be nice to index character and author names, and perhaps even actor names if we've been collecting movie quotes, differently. So we'll want not only a name, but a tag, so that we can distinguish the fictional character Rumpole, Horace from the writer Mortimer, John.

Let's try this:

```
\idxi{The Trials of Rumpole}
\idx{Mortimer, John}
\idxc{Rumpole, Horace}
```

What happens to these additions under the covers? We add a one-character tag, as we discussed, to each one and pass it on to another macro:

```
\def\idx#1{\IDX{#1}{n}}
\def\idxc#1{\IDX{#1}{c}}
\def\idxi#1{\IDX{#1}{i}}
```

You can envision generalizing this scheme, we're sure, not only for actors' names as we mentioned above, but also to provide entries in a typewriter-like font for entries such as `rec.humor.funny` or `jsh@usenix.org`.

The underlying (and more general) `IDX` macro presumes a file into which we write the index entries, so we name and open it first.

```
\newwrite\idxfile
\openout\idxfile=quotes.idx
\def\IDX#1#2{\write\idxfile{#1;#2;\the\pageno}}
}
```

We don't have to worry about the page number on which the index entry appears because the `filbreak` in the `quote` macro ensures that the end of the quotation is almost always on the same page as the beginning.

So far, this has been simple, but wouldn't it be much easier if we could get most index entries directly out of the text? Yes, we'll still be able to use the `{co \idx}` macros but what if we

could make a macro that both typeset the argument and put it in the index? Something like:

```
\quote{ ... It was, carried to the extreme,
as though someone had put a Brooks Brothers
suit on a gorilla.}{\!Naked Came the
Stranger!, by Penelope Ashe}
```

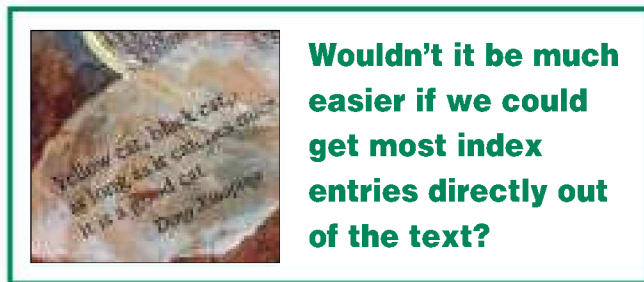
That turns out to be pretty simple. All we have to do is add another wrapper macro like

```
\def\!#1!{\textset\em{#1}\endgroup\idxi{#1}}
```

In this, the `textset...endgroup` surrounds our index entry when we set it as part of the body text. To see why, we have to consider how we'd index "Penelope Ashe" out of the running text. Clearly, we want to make an index entry for "Ashe, Penelope" from this. If we used `\( and)` as delimiters and encoded this as

```
\(Penelope\\Ashe)
```

we'd be halfway there. We could use the double backslash and closing parenthesis as delimiters to the macro. In running text, the double backslash would turn into a space; for



**Wouldn't it be much easier if we could get most index entries directly out of the text?**

the index entry, it would be a marker to invert the names at this point. That scheme falls apart if we want a name index entry that we want in multiple places, such as

```
\(HRH\\Charles Philip Arthur
George, the\\Prince of Wales)
```

which we want to index under both "Charles ..." and "Prince of Wales." Remember that we're going to have to alphabetize the index anyway, so if we just copy the double backslash to the index file, we can deal with inverting the names later. We insert the double backslash in the index with the following macro snippet:

```
\chardef\SP='\\ \let\\=\SP
\def\textset{\begingroup\def\\{\}}
```

We begin by defining the character `SP` to be double backslash, and then letting the macro `\\` stand in for that definition. The net effect is when this definition is active, the argument-less double backslash macro is rendered as itself. In the `textset` macro, on the other hand, the `begingroup` pushes the

context, so that when we reach an `endgroup`, the original context—with the original definition—returns. The one odd note is that the "normal" definition of double backslash is active when the index entry is being written into its file; the definition in the alternate context inside the `begingroup` is used for the running text. Thus, we can add a definition

```
\def\(#1){\textset{#1}\endgroup\idx{#1}}
```

which will turn our Ashe entry above into "Penelope Ashe" in the running text, and "Penelope\\Ashe" in the index file.

However, there is another wrinkle: In the text, we will often want to credit "P. J. O'Rourke" and then in the index refer to "Peter John O'Rourke." We do this with an extension of the trick we just used, and invent the `\[...]` macro.

```
\def\[#1]{#1}
```

We need to change our definition of `textset` to

```
\def\textset{\begingroup
\def\[##1]{\relax}
\def\\{\}}
```

(We'll pause for a moment to air some dirty laundry: The Jeffreys have an ongoing battle about the use of periods in initials and abbreviations. Haemer prefers the strictly American approach of always following initials and abbreviations with a period. He's willing, however, to tolerate the British preference for periods after initials but eliding them after abbreviations that end with the final letter of the word being abbreviated. Thus, "Mr." in American, but "Mr" in British. Copeland prefers the more idiosyncratic usage of eliding the period in all cases, as in "Mr P J O'Rourke." The macro definition above is arranged for Copeland's preference. We leave it as an exercise to the reader to rearrange the macros to substitute a period as appropriate. Remember that sometimes we'll want to have an entry like

```
\(Groucho\[ (Julius) ]\\Marx)
```

where the elided text won't be the back half of an abbreviation.)

Given these steps, you can generalize the indexing process and provide index entries for typewriter-like fonts (as we discussed before), variations for characters and actors, and so on. We've provided our versions of those extras in the software bundle at the usual Web sites, listed at the end of the column.

When we run the file we've prepared this way through TeX, we'll be left with an auxiliary file `quotes.idx` containing lines such as

```
The Soul of a New Machine;i;1
Alistair\\MacLean;n;3
Sharyn\\McCrumb;n;23
The Soul of a New Machine;i;29
John\\McMullen;n;73
The New Yorker;i;80
Ulrika\\Anderson\\O'Brien;n;106
```

```
James Abbott McNeill\\Whistler;n;113
Groucho [Julius]\\Marx;n;117
Ulrika\\Anderson\\O'Brien;n;120
The (London) Times;i;129
The (London) Times;i;140
Ulrika\\Anderson\\O'Brien;n;143
2001: A Space Odyssey;i;156
```

We'll want to turn this into entries for the index pages such as

```
\idxp {{\it 2001: A Space
  Odyssey}}{156}.
\idxp {Anderson O'Brien, Ulrika}{n}{106,
  120, 143}.
\idxp {Charles Philip Arthur George, the
  Prince of Wales, HRH}{n}{12}.
\idxp {{\it The (London) Times}}{129,
  140}.
\idxp {McCrumb, Sharyn}{n}{23}.
\idxp {MacLean, Alistair}{n}{3}.
\idxp {McMullen, John}{n}{73}.
\idxp {Marx, Groucho [Julius]}{n}{117}.
\idxp {{\it The New Yorker}}{80}.
\idxp {O'Brien, Ulrika Anderson}{n}{106,
  120, 143}.
\idxp {Prince of Wales, HRH Charles Philip
  Arthur George, the}{n}{12}.
\idxp {{\it The Soul of a New
  Machine}}{1, 29}.
\idxp {Whistler, James Abbott
  McNeill}{n}{113}.
```

Notice that we want to alphabetize the entries. We'll even use a librarians' sort, ignoring articles such as “the” and folding “Mc” into “Mac.” We also need to collect all the disparate pages on which a name appears into a single entry. Other than noting that we need to actually run TeX twice—once to generate the index data, and then once with that data sorted and marked up, how do we do it?

## Preparing the Index

Fred Brooks says “Show me your flowcharts and conceal your tables, and I shall continue to be mystified. Show me your tables, and I won't usually need your flowcharts; they'll be obvious.” Or as Elizabeth Schwarzin used to put it, “The secret of life is data structures.” Thus, two words should tell you everything that is about to come: “Perl hash.”

If we grab each line in turn and make a hash entry for all the variations of names on the line, we'll end up with the list we want. Sort of.

```
while( <> ) {
  chomp;
  ($name,$type,$page) = split /;/;
```

(Because of space considerations, we're not going to show you the usual set up and declarations. Take these as read, and pick

up the full script from one of the Web sites.)

Once we've got the name, tag and page number, it's simple to store them away. We can even make a subroutine to do it for us:

```
sub makeentry() {
  my ($name, $type, $page) = @_ ;
  $name .= $type;

  if( exists $entries{$name} ) {
    $entries{$name} .= " , " . $page;
  } else {
    $entries{$name} = $page;
  }
}
```

Notice that we're just tacking the type onto the end of the name. This means that we can distinguish between an entry where a writer and a character in a book have the same name. Also notice that if the hash already exists, we're appending the page number to it. Since the raw index input is presented in the same order as the quotations themselves—that is, in page order—we end up with the page list already sorted.

Except, it's not that simple. If we have a raw index entry like:

```
Ulrika\\Anderson\\O'Brien;n;106
```

we have to invert the names. Twice. So we need a little wrapper code to call the `makeentry` subroutine.

```
@names = split /\\\\/, $name;

if( @names > 1 ) {
  # we need to reverse the subfields
  # of the index entry
  $opt_tail =
    ($names[-1] =~ s/(.*)/, \w+)/$1/ ?
    $2 : "";
  $names[-1] =~ s/$/,/;
  foreach (2..@names) {
    push(@names, shift(@names));
    $name = join(" ", @names) . $opt_tail;
    makeentry($name,$type,$page);
  }
} else {
  # basic, simple output
  makeentry($name,$type,$page);
}
```

The simple case—we have no double backslash—is handled in the `else` clause. The more complicated case is handled in the `then`: We take the names, split at the double backslash, and shift through them, making a hash entry for each rotation, that is, for both “Anderson O'Brien, Ulrika” and “O'Brien, Ulrika Anderson.” In the simple version, that inner `for` loop will only execute once and we'll end up with `John\\McMullen` becoming the single hash key “McMullen, John.”

What's the `opt_tail` all about? We'll occasionally have a name with an ending that we don't want to invert, such as, \ (Jeffrey S\herman)\Haemer, PhD). Any appendage delimited by a comma should remain at the end: "Haemer, Jeffrey Sherman, PhD."

## Sorting the Results

Oddly enough, that was the easier part of the task. We can't just print the hash entries in their natural order, that is, in no order at all. We have to provide some sort of sorting for them. For this, we turn to a trick invented by Randall Schwartz, which has come to be known as the Schwartzian Transformation. (See recipe 4.16 in Tom Christiansen and Nat Torkington's *The Perl Cookbook*, O'Reilly, 1998, ISBN 1-56592-243-3, for an in-depth discussion of this trick.)

In the normal course of events, we can produce a hash in sorted order with a loop of the form:

```
foreach (sort keys %hash) {
    ....
}
```

The normal `{ $a cmp $b }` comparison in the sort is implied. This time, though, we have a more complicated sorting we want to accomplish. We want to compare with case folding, eliding articles, and with Scots name conversion (folding together "Mc" and "Mac"). To do this, we can `map` the data beforehand.

A Perl `map` takes an array as input, transforms the data through a little program, and produces another array as output. For example:

```
my @keys = map {
    s/\b(the|a|an)\s//gi;
} keys %entries;
```

will give us an array `keys` composed of the article-stripped keys of my hash. I can then sort this array, and then ... Oops! I've lost information by stripping the articles, and cannot recover the original keys. The solution is to make an array of anonymous arrays:

```
my @keys = map {
    (my $x = $_) =~ s/\b(the|a|an)\s//gi;
    [ $x, $_ ]
} keys %entries;
```

which produces an array of arrays containing the sortable key and the original hash key. After the sort, I strip off the sortable key, leaving only the hash key with a new `map` transform,

```
my @keys = map { $_->[1] };
```

We combine this into a single statement for the case-in-point:

```
my @keylist =
    map { $_->[1] }
    sort { $a->[0] cmp $b->[0] }
    map { (my $x = $_) =~ s/\b(the|a|an)\s//gi;
```

```
$x =~ s/\bMc/Mac/gi; # Scots names
$x =~ s/[\^w\s]//g; # elide non-alphanums
[ uc($x), $_ ] }
keys %entries;
```

Once we've got a sorted list of the keys, we can format the hash array indexed by them.

```
foreach (@keylist) {
    ($name,$type) = /(.*)(.)/;
    if( $type eq "i" ) {
        $type = ""; $name = "{\it $name}";
    }
    print "\idxp
$name}{$type}{{$entries{$_}}.\n";
}
```

(We're indexing the hash of the index with the index keys. You can see how confusing it can be by using "index" in different senses in the same sentence.) Remember we have combined the tag into the key, so we separate `$name` and `$type` with a multiple assignment. If the tag is relevant, we strip it, and insert a font change into the name string to be printed. As output we produce a line of text with TeX encoding in place.

Once we encapsulate this Perl code in a script called `DO.idx`, we have to figure out how to format the index on the output side.

## Formatting the Index

Producing a pretty index is a fairly simple matter. We finish our file of quotes with an invocation of

```
\indexprint
```

If we haven't run `DO.idx` over the raw index data yet, we want the `indexprint` macro to fail gracefully. If we do have sorted index data, we want it to produce a two-column list of the entries of the `idxp` lines in that file.

We can begin by postulating a simple `idxp`,

```
\def\idxp #1#2#3.{\def\z{#2}
\hangp\zm #1
\ifx\z\empty\else\thinspace{#2}\fi,
#3.\par}
```

We're producing the index line as a hanging paragraph, using a definition of

```
\def\hangp{\par\noindent\hang}
```

We're also checking if the type tag is non-empty before we print it—we may have elided the tag in favor of font change already in `DO.idx`. We need one extra definition,

```
\newread\indextest
```

which will allow us to read the first line of the sorted index file.

Given those, the wrapping in the `indexprint` macro is, again, straightforward.

```
\long\def\indexprint{
  \vfill\eject
  \let\bf=\Ibf \let\rm=\Irm \let\it=\Iit
  \baselineskip=\idxbaseline \rm
  \centerline{{\bf Index}}
  \message{[Index]}
  \input double \raggedright
```

We make this a `long` definition because each index entry we are printing begins a new paragraph. We finish the last page of quotations with `\vfill\eject` so we can begin the index on a fresh page. We set up some fonts—we alias earlier font definitions `Ibf`, `Irm`, and `Iit` to be the current bold, roman, and italic fonts. We similarly reset the line-spacing. (Again for space, we’ve skipped the font definitions in these macros; there are parallel definitions for the fonts in the running text and index which we swap as appropriate. By carefully encapsulating the font definitions, we can change the look of our printed version by swapping just a few lines. It’s why when working with `troff`, you should refer to fonts by position, not name.) We print out a header and a console message. We finish the setup by reading in the macros for two-column output, `double.tex`, and setting the “paragraphs” to be set unjustified (`raggedright`).

We want to check if the index file exists so we can act appropriately if it doesn’t. Here’s where we use the definition of `indextest` from above:

```
\openin\indextest=quotes.srt
\read\indextest to \hitreturn
\ifeof\indextest
  \centerline{{\it No index file available.}}
  \message{[No index file]}
```

We open the sorted file and read the first line into `\hitreturn`. If the read fails, `eof` is set for the file, and we print messages on the page and the console. (In principle, opening a non-existent file should set the end-of-file indicator, but we’ve seen at least one TeX port in which you have to attempt a read before that actually happens. We’ve gotten in the habit of writing this code defensively as a result.)

The `else` clause, when the file does exist, is also simple, and finishes up the macro.

```
\else
  \closein\indextest
  \begindoublecolumns
  \input quotes.srt
  \enddoublecolumns
\fi
}
```

We read the sorted index file `quotes.srt` with an `\input` statement, surrounding it with `begindoublecolumns` and `enddoublecolumns`. (We don’t have time or space to explore the double-column macros. We use essentially a modified version of the ones from the TeX

manmac package, though. Others exist at the Comprehensive TeX Archive Network, <http://ctan.tug.org>.)

## There You Have It

All that remains is to wrap the process in a few lines of shell command, such as,

```
$ tex quotes
$ DO.idx quotes.idx >quotes.srt
$ tex quotes
$ dvips quotes
$ lpr quotes.ps
```

We’ve covered a lot of ground, developing multiple techniques for burying indexing data in a document, showing how to do a complicated transformation (including sorting) of a file in Perl, and learned some new formatting tricks in TeX. Maybe one of these techniques can be transplanted into a problem sitting on your desk right now. Let us know how you use them.

There’s still some room for improvement here. We’ve talked about distinguishing different types of index entry, but it might also be helpful to incorporate mini-indexes: When we’re preparing the main index, it might also be helpful to show the current index entries after each quotation, either in a small font in-line, or in the margins. How would you do this?



**Maybe one of these techniques can be transplanted into a problem sitting on your desk right now.**

An alternate solution to all of this would be to use a very general system, for example BiBTeX. While BiBTeX is optimized for bibliographies, it could also be used for managing our quotation file. We didn’t do this for two reasons: not only don’t we like LaTeX, but we always want to talk more about techniques rather than tools.

That’s all for this month. Until next time, happy trails. ✍

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Note: The software from this and past Work columns is available at <http://alumni.caltech.edu/~copeland/work> or alternately at <ftp://ftp.cpg.com/pub/Work>.



**THE END**

**(?)**