

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 24,1996 22:28:00
To: HELGA WRIGHT (NXER69B)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

When will we wake up and realize the corporations that own the networks and that advertise on them don't have our best interests in mind?

They are just plain looting the economy and buying power so they can lord over the rest of us.

Prior to World War II, if you know your cultural history, we did not have a consumer culture, we did not have a credit culture, and we did not have a desire for instant gratification. This lifestyle was invented after the War and then polished over the decades as a way to break down America's traditional values of community, thrift and patience. Wall Street was able to get Americans away from down-to-earth traditionalisms and hooked on desire for immediate pleasure.

This is why our debts, both public and private, have skyrocketed. We were "sold" by Wall Street's consumer culture into believing debt was a painless way to prosperity and that this bubble will never burst. Of course, Wall Street is smart enough to know it will burst and dishonest enough to prepare to profit and benefit themselves while everyone else suffers. When the crash comes they will end up owning almost everything because they ultimately hold all the paper. Our kids are just pawns who are being trained to be subservient to the corporate state. The less they know about traditional values the more easily they get absorbed into corporate culture.

How many kids today are as informed and literate as the pre-war generation? Kids back then read Gibbon and were able to apply those facts to current situations. Tell a kid today about "bread and circuses" and he'll yawn, turn on the latest "big game" and demand a "big mac."

But when it all crashes and the middle class becomes the new pauper class, they'll learn radicalism fast enough. And like Rambo they will collectively shout: "I'm coming to get YOU!"

Bulletin ID: EZA960724222800CHHL71ANXER69B

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!

Posted: July 24,1996 21:48:40
To: OTIS RICHARDS (TYAA18A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

This is a huge problem that shouldn't have happened in the first place. The fact that it did shows us, clearly, what kind of morons are mis-running the industry. Unfortunately, its the same kind of morons who are mis-managing our economy and the fact they refuse to prepare for the inevitable crash will make it all the worse.

What these pigs are doing is accumulating as much wealth as possible to tide them, and them alone, over after it all implodes.

Bulletin ID: EZA960724214840CHHL71ATYAA18A

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 23,1996 00:16:29
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: OTIS RICHARDS (TYAA18A)

It's not just the phone company. Social Security, too. This is a huge problem.

otis (tad) richards the news team tyaa18a

Bulletin ID: EZA960723001629TYAA18ACHHL71A

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 22,1996 22:48:35
To: SHARON SHAY (VOTE03C)
From: RICK GOMBABA(CHHL71A)

If the government were honest, intelligent and efficient then our liberties would be in even greater danger. Its time to turn over the hour glass and start afresh.

Bulletin ID: EZA960722224835CHHL71AVOTE03C

Board: NEWS BB

Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 22,1996 22:44:27
To: HELGA WRIGHT (NXER69B)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Any parent can tell you there are tell tale signs his kid is using drugs. One sign is a change in personality. If drug use is a bad thing then why aren't T.V. and computer use equally bad if they too lead to the personality changes you describe.

If a kid has a two second attention span why can't we relate this to marijuana use, which also limits concentration? If personality changes and lack of attention are negative things resulting from drug use then why aren't they ALSO considered negative things when they result from T.V and computer use? You see, the corporations that make profits from T.V. and computers are HAPPY children are now growing up lacking in mental stamina because that makes them easier to manipulate and control and turn into good little brand-loyal consumer-automatons.

The purpose of schools today is not to educate kids, but to train them into being happy little cogs in the social machine, with corporations taking over the role of the pre-18th Century Aristocracy.

Its fascism with a silicon face, an information superhighway to serfdom. But its not INFORMATION you need to teach kids, Helga, its the THINKING that's important.

Bulletin ID: EZA960722224427CHHL71ANXER69B

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 22,1996 22:22:21
To: OTIS RICHARDS (TYAA18A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The "Belgian Sailor" of today is the millions of individuals and businessmen and government officials who purchased computer systems in the belief that it would be an improvement, a time saver, a money saver, etc, when now it turns out the computer and software manufacturers installed in each and every computer a glitch that renders the year 2000 unintelligible.

The "best and the brightest" (where have we heard that phrase before?) of the computer industry failed to

anticipate the coming turn of the century. En masse they created programs that are devoid of the simple knowledge that 2000 follows 1999. EVERY computer in America is in the throes of this absurd oversight. For example, the phone company's billing computer is mis-programed in such a way that the year 2000 doesn't exist, and will instead revert to 1900! So if you start a long distance phone conversation at 11:55pm, December 31, 1999 and end it at 12:05am January 1, 2000 you'll get billed for a hundred years!

I kid you not. This is the quality of the people running our corporations and computer industry. Little wonder the country as a whole is in such poor shape. It just plain never occurred to them the computers would someday have to deal with 2000. This flaw is even in our Defense computer systems.

And how much will it cost to fix? The last figure I heard:
\$500,000,000,000!
Thats FIVE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS to repair something that shouldn't have happened in the first place. Can there be stronger evidence that computers are making us dumber?

And who's going to pay for this? I guarantee it won't be the corporations that caused the problem in the first place. They own the corrupt politicians and the media who will protect them. The taxpayer and consumer will pay and this is a half-trillion dollars that could be better used elsewhere.

So now you know what a silicon tulip tastes like.

Bulletin ID: EZA960722222221CHHL71ATYAA18A

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 21,1996 17:48:02
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: SHARON SHAY (VOTE03C)

Shifting sands? very good

They used to say Japan made the best semiconductors because they had the best sand.

Who was it who asked how the govt could control computers when they can't even keep the National Parks open?

Bulletin ID: EZA960721174802VOTE03CCHHL71A

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 20,1996 21:39:29
To: OTIS RICHARDS (TYAA18A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

On second thought maybe it referred to the hand-held calculator. Still,if one can't read critically and with comprehension, and write and organize thoughts well, and, indeed, HAVE thoughts, one shouldn't be advancing into territory that is, at bottom, a fad.

Three hundred years ago the Tulip-mania bubble burst leaving many bankrupt, and many more financially embarrassed. When, (or if) silicon-mania goes crashing we don't want a society filled with kids and young adults who are terrific surfers and button-pushers suddenly intellectually bankrupt without even the understanding of how (and why) it happened. Television was bad enough, weakening the psyches of generations while forming them into a pliant, mentally vacant but happy conformity. But now computer culture carries the threat of a coup de grace against the intellect, finally fitting the young into a social system which values TRAINING over EDUCATION, which allows the individual to DO things without understanding WHY those things are done.

All the easier to control us.

The basics is what's truly important. The classics served a hundred generations well, and built on intellectual granite, can serve hundreds more. The "tree R's" is where we need to keep our educational attention focused, and putting our young eggs in the computer basket is the recipe for National disaster. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Shiftable sands can be the foundation for nothing permanent. Just as television caused a precipitous drop in reading standards, and imaginative experience, so too can computers cause a decline in the very ability to think logically and live rationally. We must use computers as an adjunct to the mind, not as its replacement. If a kid has no conception of, and grounding in, the basics, computer training is just high-tech child abuse.

Bulletin ID: EZA960720213929CHHL71ATYAA18A

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 20,1996 10:00:16
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: OTIS RICHARDS (TYAA18A)

Wow. This is the first time I've ever heard the phrase
"whatever happened to" in connection with such a recent
phenomenon.

otis (tad) richards the news team tyaa18a

Bulletin ID: EZA960720100016TYAA18ACHHL71A

Board: NEWS BB
Subject: BOOKS? YUK!
Posted: July 19,1996 21:09:57
To: OTIS RICHARDS (TYAA18A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Whatever happened to the idea that we don't let any kid near
a computer until she or he has demonstrated proficiency in
reading, writing and arithmetic?

Bulletin ID: EZA960719210957CHHL71ATYAA18A
