

Brazil News



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A Moment of Silence

Our Condolences

VIVIAN KOEHN

We enjoin our readers to share a moment of symbolic silence in an expression of deep consternation for the loss our publisher, Galen Koehn, has suffered with the passing of his wife, Vivian. May the God of Consolation hear our feeble prayers and mitigate the loneliness that a lifetime of loving brings to those who must face an empty house alone. —The editor

GALEN KOEHN

We couldn't know that mere weeks after posting the first notice another would follow, this one for Galen Koehn, the publisher of Brazil News. We offer our deep-felt condolences especially to the family and to those closely associated with him in the shop, as well as to relatives and a myriad of friends accumulated during a productive lifetime.

The Biblical pronouncement that they "shall be one flesh" takes on special meaning when reflected on the life of Galen & Vivian. As his wife's health deteriorated, his love and dedication grew. They became, if you will, Siamese twins, so intimately joined together that when her heart stopped in reality it was "their" heart that failed, for one could not live without the other.

Galen dedicated his life to turning words into ink. Yes, it was a business, but much more, it was a mission—a mission that pointed the way, for God alone knows how many souls, to eternal life. —The editor

Editorial

Salt

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste (its strength, its quality), how can its saltiness be restored? It is not good for anything any longer but to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men.

—Matthew 5:13 (Amplified Bible)

Doubtlessly the original intent of this verse is a warning to the true disciples of Christ, and then to Christendom at large. We, however, want to make a broader interpretation that will dovetail with the Master's words in Luke 9:50, "For he that is not against us is for us."

Contrary to gold, silver and precious stones—or even potable water and petroleum—salt is not a rare commodity. The earth, indeed the ocean, holds a limitless supply, so that even if time were to continue for thousands of years, never would there be a scarcity of salt.

Salt is neither recyclable nor restorable. Once it loses its original strength, *it is not good for anything any longer but to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men*. Were it not for the endless supply of salt, this would be alarming. Red flags are constantly being raised, warning us about the dire consequences of wasting natural resources. Even the most ardent and radical conservationists have never uttered so much as a whisper in defense of sodium chloride. It is one of the few elements that can be wasted at will with no possibility of eventual depletion.

In today's globalized world, the Biblical injunction to flee to another city when persecuted could be paraphrased as "When the situation in one country becomes intolerable, migrate to another." For centuries the martyr brethren did exactly that. In the post-martyr era a case in point is the exodus from Russia and migration to N America. Mennonites owe an unpayable debt to forefathers whose vision and sacrifices guaranteed us a place in the berth of freedom

Were it possible to condense the history of the world into a three- or four-hour documentary, even the most dyed-in-the-wool Hitchcockian fans would soon hit the stop button. David's poignant cry to Jonathan, "There is but a step between me and death" was true even in times of peace. Josephus tells of the time a court jester told a joke that caused the king to laugh—after all, that is what he was there for. A few moments later the king's face became stormy and he announced, "I didn't want to laugh. Execute him!"

Old Testament history of Israel shows us the tenuity of peace when barbarous tribes and nations repeatedly invaded their country. At times the invaders were repelled. Other times, when debilitated by nefarious living, the children of Israel were plundered and slaughtered, with the survivors being reduced to virtual slaves, or worse, led into captivity where many perished.

The present generation remembers World War II as a chapter in their high school history book. For the fading generation, especially aged Jews, the word Holocaust tells it all. To

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much of the Western world, war is abstract, something you get a glimpse of on the news: Iraq, Iran, Syria, Sudan. . .

The idea that our lives could suddenly be thrust into turmoil—not necessarily war—seems about as remote as an asteroid striking the earth. But, like it or not, the possibility of what we today consider an impossibility taking place in our lives is real. Very real.

The handwriting is on the wall. Like a billboard we drive by day after day going to work, we no longer see it. In fact, we forget it even exists. If asked to describe it, we might be unable.

Why are world events reaching critical mass? What has happened? What has changed?

To understand, we must broach an unpopular subject. The World Policeman.

All organizations, whether a simple family unit, a business, an army, or a government, must be hierarchical to function properly. This means there must be layers of authority, a pyramid, if you will, in which the final word ultimately rests with one man.

In today's globalized world, power among nations is exercised by the same pyramidal structure—except for one basic difference. The top dog (read as: dominating nation) does not always reach nor maintain this position through a democratic or electoral process, but rather, more often than not, through deception and threats. Through brute force. History bears this out.

The United States of America was the world's 20th Century world policeman. For those who resent that title, who see it as an imposition on the sovereignty of others, I ask: In what kind of a world would you be living today (indeed, if living) had the US not sent its young men abroad in troop vessels to fight for freedom in Europe and Asia during World War II? Forget about World War I and many other situations in which American soldiers have stood (and fallen) in harm's way to protect the liberty of other peoples.

A second argument for a world policeman is even more persuasive than the first. History teaches us that a power vacuum will always be filled by. . .well, let's just say, a world policeman. The 20th Century world policeman, as already pointed out, was the United States of America. We believe that just as Divinity chose prophets and kings in the Old Dispensation, the 20th Century policeman was divinely crowned.

(For those who, above all, see a theological connotation in this subject, we ask: Is it possible the United States was divinely elevated to the status of world policeman to hold iniquity in check for a period of time, thus retarding the judgment that moral and spiritual decadence will inevitably bring on the whole world?) The United States of America is in the crepuscule of its centennial reign as world leader. The world power vacuum will be filled by whom? Or possibly, is being filled by whom?

Let's take a quick and superficial look at the present world scene before going into this. Statistics are created by statisticians. Statisticians analyze a diversity of facts and data to arrive at conclusions. They are humans and not exempt from a tendency to cast their findings in molds of their personal biases. Thus, the statistics we are about to present may

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differ considerably from your findings and should be read with a grain of salt (no pun intended).

The population of planet Earth today is a bit more than seven billion souls, which can be generalized as follows:

Protestants	6%
Catholics	17%
Nondescript Christians	13%
Total Christians	36%
Muslims	21%
Hindus	13%
Buddhists	6%
Tribal religions, etc.	11%
Non-religions and atheists	13%
Total non-Christians	64%

Let's dissect those figures, starting with Christianity.

What part of the 36 percent, some 2.5 billion souls, are fundamentalist Christians? Christians who attend church, have high moral standards, are known for their family values, integrity and high work ethic AND refuse to compromise with evil? Or, to get to the point, who would be considered the salt of the earth? In this case, the salt needed to preserve civilization?

We of course can't answer these questions. With the disintegration of religious and moral values, would there be half a billion souls world-over, some seven percent of the world population, whose salt has not lost its taste?

Needless to say, in "Christian" nations this percentage should be considerably higher.

In pre-refrigeration days, meat was often preserved by salting and then drying in the sun. (In fact, something we frequently did in our first years in Brazil). It takes a relatively small amount of salt to preserve a large amount of meat. Similarly, the Old Testament repeatedly shows how that a small amount of salt (read as: faithful) had a preserving effect on Israel. But, as the story of Lot shows us, if that "small amount" is too small, doom becomes a reality.

The question is simple, but the answer difficult—maybe impossible. Today, is there enough salt to preserve civilization?

To attempt an answer we must broaden our vision by taking a look at history.

Omitting details, both the North and South American continents were discovered and claimed approximately 500 years ago. The world policemen at the time were Spain and Portugal. While rivals, they were both puppets of the pope, the virtual power broker. Thus, in a sense, the world policeman 500 years ago was the pope when the Americas were discovered and claimed.

The results are self-evident. All of South and Central America became the pope's domain. Christopher Columbus, in reality a papal emissary, was dispatched with the

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specific mission of claiming for Rome all the lands on which he set foot. It was he who set foot on North America. The many cities and geographical locations with Spanish names, especially in the southern and western US are testimonies of the dynamism of the papal strategy.

The landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock symbolizes the divine plan in store for the United States. Was this important? Look south all the way to the Tierra del Fuego and it becomes evident that not a single Central or South American country has been unshackled from the curse of corruption that through the centuries has inhibited growth and gendered social and cultural inequality. Yes, some of them have showed signs of improvement in the last decades, but none can be pointed to as a true beacon of democracy with an extensive and prosperous middle class.

We have pointed out that approximately two thirds of the inhabitants of the earth are non-Christian. This, of course, is a problem—especially with radical factions. The real issue, the one that should concern us, is salt. Salt that has kept its taste is the power of David facing Goliath.

In the beginning we defined salt as “Christians who attend church, have high moral standards, are known for their family values, integrity and high work ethics AND refuse to compromise with evil.” We suggested 500 million souls fitting into this category. Even I am disturbed by this number. We, of course, are referring to nominal Christianity. Even making liberal allowance for less than perfect understanding, that number seems quite high.

We talk about Muslim extremists, about the Taliban and about the jihadists. They are evil and only God knows what destruction they will yet bring upon mankind. The greatest danger—by far the greatest—are the men and women who yesterday held to solid moral principles, but today have compromised their beliefs. They console themselves by insisting they have not changed. They continue to guide their own lives by the same moral and ethical principles of the past. But they are no longer willing to risk their own popularity or lose their good name by openly denouncing and taking a stand against the wickedness of the day. That is salt that has lost its taste. They are the last of the Mohicans; their children will enter life with a new set of values—or, more accurately, non-values.

We are today beginning to see a new kind of persecution. Laws are being promulgated that make it a crime to refuse to be equally yoked with those who live in Sodom and Gomorrah. It isn't right around the corner that men and women who refuse to endorse evil and immorality will be arraigned before the magistrates. We have reached that corner and are now turning it.

Much of Europe is financially and morally bankrupt. Sound work ethics are being tossed out of the window and substituted for the allurements of an entitlement state. In the United States, for the first time in history, all three branches of government are legitimizing iniquity—boldly, unapologetically. What communism was unable to accomplish through the front door, socialism is pulling off through the back door.

As the curtain falls on life as we have known it and we head into the shadows of a

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new world order, changes will occur, like popcorn in a microwave oven, popping slowly at first, but accelerating until reaching a crescendo.

Natural salt, as we have pointed out, is neither recyclable nor restorable. When salt has lost its taste, a new supply must be sought. Think of the different European countries that through the centuries were at one time the homeland of true Christianity. As they lost this status, never again were they restored. Always a new nation arose (divinely chosen?) to carry the scepter.

We have said there is a limitless supply of natural salt. This is not true morally nor spiritually. The question is: Is there another nation on earth with a vein of salt that can be tapped to give morality and Christianity a new lease? Or are we witnessing the curtains of the final bastion?

We must earnestly pray for all those whose salt has not lost its taste. Even though they do not fit into our mold of propriety, if they are not against us, they are for us. The continuance of civilization depends on these.

I have intelligent readers and I respect your views. It is my sincere hope that the majority of you will disagree with what I have written. I will never have been happier to be wrong. ▲

An Outside Opinion

[For some time I have wanted to write on this exact subject. When I ran across the following article by Peter Bregman in Fox News <http://www.foxbusiness.com/archive/peter-bregman>, I e-mailed Peter asking for permission to use it in BN. Approximately an hour later he replied granting permission, requesting that a shortened version of his bio and photo be printed. cb]

Peter Bregman helps CEOs and their leadership teams break down silos and tackle their most important priorities together. He is the author, most recently, of *18 Minutes: Find Your Focus, Master Distraction, and Get the Right Things Done*, winner of the Gold medal from the Axiom Business Book awards, named the best business book of the year on NPR, and selected by *Publisher's Weekly* and the *New York Post* as a top 10 business book. He is also the author of *Point B: A Short Guide to Leading a Big Change* and co-author of five other books. Featured on PBS, ABC and CNN, Peter is a regular contributor to *Harvard Business Review*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *National Public Radio (NPR)*, *Psychology Today*, and *CNN* as well as a weekly commentator on *Fox Business News*.

Don't Be Nice; Be Helpful

Ron* was up next. As a senior analyst in this investment firm — and a good one — he knew a lot about the company he was about to pitch to the management committee.

He paused for a minute as he sorted through the pages of numbers in front of him and then he began to present his case.



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Even though Ron described himself as a numbers guy, he seemed to really enjoy this part of his job. He was meticulous in presenting his ideas and took pride in the depth of his analysis.

Twenty minutes later, as the meeting ended, Laurie, the head of the firm, thanked him for his work, specifically remarking on his exhaustive research. He smiled and thanked her.

Everyone filed out except Laurie and me. I asked her how she thought the meeting went.

“Oh my goodness,” she said, “What’s the best way to handle an analyst who drones on and on?”

“Who?” I asked. “Ron?”

“He’s a great analyst, a smart investor, and a really nice guy. But he talks too much.”

“But you told him he did a great job!”

“His analysis was great. But his presentation . . .” She trailed off with a chuckle.

“Have you told him?”

“I’ve hinted but no, not specifically.”

“Why not?”

“I probably should.”

But she hasn’t. And the reason is simple: Laurie is nice.

I know her socially and she’s a delight. I’ve never seen her do anything that could be remotely construed as mean or rude. And to tell someone that they drone on feels both mean and rude.

But it’s neither. It’s compassionate.

If we don’t provide each other with feedback, we won’t become aware of our blind spots. Which means that Ron will continue to drone on and, without ever understanding why, lose his audience and his impact.

Giving people feedback is an act of trust and confidence. It shows that you believe in their ability to change. That you believe they will use the information to become better. And that you have faith in their potential. It’s also a sign of commitment to the team and to the larger purpose and goals of the organization. Because, ultimately, we’re all responsible for our collective success.

Laurie knows this. And yet even for Laurie — a competent and courageous CEO — it’s hard to give someone critical feedback because it still feels aggressive and confrontational. Should you really tell people they talk too much? Or dress poorly? Or appear insincere? Or walk all over others?

Without question, you should.

And not just if you’re the CEO. Everyone should offer feedback to everyone else, regardless of position. Because as long as what you say comes from your care and support for the other person — not your sympathy (which feels patronizing) or your power (which feels humiliating) or your anger (which feels abusive) — choosing to offer a critical insight to another is a deeply considerate act.

That doesn’t mean that accepting criticism is easy. In *How to Handle Surprise Criticism* I shared my own struggles with accepting criticism and offered some tips to being open to learning from critical feedback from others.

But even though it may be difficult, letting someone know what everyone else

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already knows is the opposite of aggressive. Aggressive is not giving people feedback and then talking about them and their issues when they aren't around. Aggressive is watching them fail and not helping.

Ironically, when we avoid sharing feedback, it usually comes out at some point anyway, as gossip or in a burst of anger or sarcasm or blame directed at the person. And that's aggressive. Passive-aggressive.

To avoid that kind of ugliness, it's critical not to delay.

On the other hand, if we all strutted around willy-nilly tossing criticisms at each other, things would deteriorate quickly. So how should we do this?

First, ask permission. As in: "I noticed something I'd like to share with you. Are you interested in hearing it?" Or simply, "Can I share some feedback with you?" Once they say "yes" — and who wouldn't? — it evens out the power dynamic, makes it easier for you to speak, and prepares the other person to accept the feedback more openly.

Second, don't hedge. When we are uncomfortable criticizing, we try to reduce the impact by reducing the criticism. Sometimes we sandwich the criticism between two compliments. But hedging dilutes and confuses the message. Instead, be clear, be concise, use a simple example, make it about the behavior, not the person, and don't be afraid of silence.

Third, do it often. That's how you create a culture in which people are open and honest for each other's benefit. If you only offer feedback once in a while, it feels out of character and more negative.

Of course, not all feedback needs to be critical. Positive feedback is excellent at reinforcing people's productive behavior, encouraging them to use their strengths more effectively and abundantly. Offer it frequently. Just do so at a different time than you share the critical feedback.

"May I offer you a thought?" I asked Laurie as we finished up our conversation.

"Please do," she responded.

"Not telling Ron that he drones on is hurting him, you, and the business. I know you feel badly sharing the criticism but in this particular case, choosing not to share this feedback is a selfish behavior. You're hurting him in order to avoid your own discomfort. He needs — deserves — to know, don't you think?"

Silence. It was an awkward moment.

Which, it turns out, is a useful catalyst to action. Laurie thought for a moment and then picked up her blackberry and emailed Ron, asking him to meet her later that day. ▲

**Names and some details changed*

Looking Back

VEJA – 45 Years

On September 11, 1968, the first edition of VEJA Magazine was published. Coincidentally, it was on November 16 of the same year that the first Colony families arrived in Brazil on permanent visas.

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Needless to say, VEJA is not a religious publication. Not by any means! However, when compared with major American magazines with a strong emphasis on the political scene, VEJA runs far ahead of the pack. So far as balanced, unbiased political reporting goes, no one is protected, no one is targeted. And that is saying a lot in a society in which most of the media has substituted reporting news for making news.

We now rely on VEJA to refresh our memory on important happenings during our 45 years in Brazil.

Military government – On March 31, 1964, reacting to the alleged threat of a communist takeover, the military began intervening in governmental affairs. This intervention escalated until—and this I personally witnessed in a hotel lobby in Brasília—General Ernesto Giesel went on national television during the evening news announcing he was closing both branches of Congress and a new constitution would be drafted. The president was deposed and replaced by a triumvirate of three generals.

We omit the details of how full democracy was restored after a number of years of military rule. Suffice it to say that for the common citizen, and for foreigners living in Brazil with honest intentions, there were no negative repercussions during this period. In fact, we on the Colony had a very cordial relationship with government officials, and especially the Polícia Federal, responsible for keeping an eye on foreigners.

Inflation – Reduced to its lowest common denominator, inflation is the poisonous fruit of corruption. Inflation breeds poverty and results in obscene wealth for the rich and powerful.

For a number of years it appeared the military dictatorship would be vindicated by what was known in the international press as the Brazilian Miracle, strong economic growth and almost zero inflation.

Alas, what started out as a miracle ended turned into a mirage and then a nightmare. Generals are better suited at overcoming enemy troops than the dragon of inflation.

The American dollar continues in circulation over 200 years after being authorized by the Continental Congress on August 8, 1786. Even the little penny, today worth very little continues to hang on for dear life.

Now, take a look at the cancer of inflation.

Until 1942 the official currency was the Reis.

In 1942 the Reis was changed to the Cruzeiro and three zeros knocked off.

In 1967 the Cruzeiro was changed to the Cruzeiro Novo and another three zeros lopped off.

In 1970 the Cruzeiro Novo was renamed the Cruzeiro, as before. No zeros were removed.

In 1986 the Cruzeiro was changed to the Cruzado and three zeros taken off.

In 1989 Cruzado became the Cruzado Novo and three zeros fell.

In 1990 the Cruzado was renamed the Cruzeiro with no zeros being removed.

In 1993 the Cruzeiro became the Cruzeiro Real with three zeros taken off.

In 1994 the Cruzeiro Real became simply the Real. Valued at Cr\$2,750,00 it was reduced to one Real.

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That means that 15 zeros were knocked off of the Brazilian currency (without counting the 1994 slaughter) within the lifetime of the older citizens.

(For those of you with a mathematical inclination, measure a penny and then reduce its size by a thousand. Do this five times and I'm not so sure it will even show up as a speck on a micron microscope. Or start with a trillion dollars and do the same surgery to see what you come up with in the end. E-mail me.)

What does this mean in terms of inflation per annum?

1985 = 242%

1989 = 1,972.2%

1993 = 2,477.2%

Remember, inflation is compounded monthly, which explains the high numbers.

I have told about the time I wanted to purchase roof tile for a construction project. I checked a supply store and found the price far too high. I told the proprietor, "I think I'll check around." He smiled benignly and said that would be fine.

I checked and everywhere the price was even higher, so I returned to the first store and told the owner, "I'll take those tiles."

Again the benign smile. "Fine, but the price has gone up."

The most agonizing time in all this was on March 16, 1990, the day after Fernando Collor became president. In a serpentine strike, overnight he froze 80% of all savings and bank deposits for a period of 18 months, paying a six percent dividend on all this confiscated money.

Collor reasoned—and rightfully so—that the cause of inflation is too much currency in circulation. So his simplistic solution was to take 80% of the currency out of circulation.

Was inflation brought under control? Of course! For a short time, until the black market kicked in. Collor was impeached for corruption before finishing his time in office. His vice-president Itamar Franco finished out the term.

Possibly the most intelligent move Franco made during his term was to appoint Fernando Henrique Cardoso as his finance minister. Through common sense economic savvy he brought inflation down to 4-5% per year—not month! Later he served two terms as a very successful president.

Religion – Brazil has been known—and possibly officially still is—as the most populous Catholic nation in the world. This distinction can be attributed, first of all, to the fact that official dogma demands that all children born to Catholic parents be baptized at birth, which automatically gives them membership until death do them part. Secondly is the confessional, which supposedly grants pardon without a true change of heart, thirdly, the mysticism of candles, chants, ceremony, statues and often magnificent temples, and finally, the social aspect. As an American priest serving in Brazil once told me in a moment of candor: "Our function as a church is to hatch, match and dispatch." Honesty is a virtue.

During the 1950's liberal elements of the Catholic church began actively promoting the liberation theology, in reality, Catholic Marxism. This new theology called for a

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leveling of the economic field between the wealthy and the poor. Needless to say the rich rejected the teaching and curiously it failed to impress the masses.

In the following years Catholicism rapidly lost ground in Brazil. In spite of being the most populous Catholic nation in the world, it was unable to supply its own altars with priests and nuns. As the older generation of faithful dropped below the horizon, the new saw little need for what the church had to offer—other than, as the priest put it, for hatching, matching and dispatching purposes.

This, of course, created a vacuum, a vacuum which the Evangelicals, especially the Pentecostals, lost no time in filling. Churches began popping up everywhere, like mushrooms on a compost pile.

With a population of a bit over 200 million, nearly one fourth now identify themselves as Evangelicals. Even more interesting would be how many still declare themselves fervent Catholics.

The new pope hopes to revert this tendency with a wide smile and a wink at what the church has for centuries frowned upon. I believe he's too late.

Marriage – When we moved to Brazil the law made no provision for divorce. It was possible to get a legal separation, but remarriage was strictly forbidden.

It was believed that a ban on divorce would keep families together. The truth is that laws do not override human nature. All they do is cause men and women to attempt to hide human nature, for husband and wife to fight like cats and dogs in the privacy of the home and then show up at social events hand in hand pretending they are on cloud nine.

What is the situation of families today in Brazil? Weak. Between failed marriages and unsuccessful live-in experiences (a lot), I doubt if more than a third of all relationships would get a passing grade.

The political situation – Brazil's political situation is like the aerodynamics of a beetle. It shouldn't fly, but it does. Similarly government in Brazil, all three branches, are beetles—and yet they fly. What more can be said?

The Media – It is almost impossible for socialism or communism to take root in a country without the tacit support of the media and the educational system.

With few exceptions, national news organizations have bravely exposed the fallacy of the left and the excesses of the right (which definitely occurred during the military dictatorship). This has been a real deterrent to socialism and communism.

Our school system – At the same time the Catholic church was invaded by leftist theology, our universities were saturated with leftist professors. Textbooks at all levels were contaminated, which of course, had an impact on following generations.

On the positive side, when we moved to Brazil many children living in the country received no education. In some cases a house would be rented in town where the mother would live with her children so they could study. Rural schools were almost non-existent.

Today mini-buses crisscross rural areas providing free transportation for children living in the country to attend school in town.

On a congregational level, we have our church schools, similar to those in N America.

Banking – When we moved to Brazil, the banking system was primitive. It took approximately a week for checks issued in another bank to be cleared—even more when from out-of-state banks.

To avoid this delay, someone with an account in bank A who received a check from bank B would go to bank B, stand in line for maybe an hour, or more, at times with a large sum of the equivalent of maybe ten thousand dollars in cash, and put it in a large manila envelope, a paper bag, or even an attaché case. (Remember, when inflation was high a voluminous amount of bills were involved.)

As can be imagined, there were a lot of hold-ups. Crooks would watch who was carrying a substantial amount of cash, and once out of the bank, help them carry it.

Today I do almost all my banking from my computer terminal in my study. Businesses, like suppliers and parts houses send out their bills by e-mail or through the postal services. These bills, called “duplicatas,” come with barcodes that can be scanned or keyed into my bank account and paid. In fact, I can do my banking from the US almost as easily as I do it from here.

Thinking Out Loud

Sayings

Over the years I have collected little gems of wisdom. I'll share some of them, with a few comments. Those which have no credit are of unknown origin.

Herman Cain was a Republican presidential candidate in the 2012 primary campaign, but bowed out when staked out by the press with a dubious rumor. This was most unfortunate, but because of his conservative views, there was a lot of opposition to his candidacy.

Sometimes suffering is the best teacher. —Herman Cain

Harsh lessons make for long memories.

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

With age we come to understand the true meaning of this saying.

You can't unring a bell.

This pretty well sums up the rule of life for many today.

Go along to get along. —Bill O'Reilly

On judging...

The ego doesn't want to love as much as it wants to be right, and it tries to be right by judging others. It gets pleasure in feeling superior by judging others. —Gina Lake

Judgements prevent us from seeing the good that lies beyond appearances. —Wayne Dyer

Listening to both sides does not necessarily bring about a correct judgement. —Donald Rumsfeld (Secretary of defense during the Bush administration)

When you judge another, you do not define them, you define yourself. —Wayne Dyer

Good judgement comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgement. —Bob Packwood

Understand before you pass judgement. But how do you pass judgement once you have understood? —Laurent Fanon

One cool judgment is worth a thousand hasty counsels. The thing to do is to supply light and not heat. — Pres. Woodrow Wilson

There is a tremendous lot of truth to this one.

Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers. —Voltaire

Agree...?

When a woman behaves like a man, why doesn't she behave like a nice man? —Edith Evans, quoted in The Observer

Nothing is so strong as gentleness, and nothing so gentle as true strength. —Ralph Sockman

Women must be stern in spite of their gentleness; men must be gentle in spite of their sternness.

The challenge of speakers and writers.

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something. —Plato

You don't write because you want to say something; you write because you've got something to say.

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. —Robert Frost, American poet laureate whose homespun poetry stirred many hearts.

Time in a crisis is more precious than gold. —Tom Clancy

Beware: Some liars tell the truth! —Ancient Arab proverb

This terrible policy resulted in the death of millions of the Soviet Union's finest men, eliminated by firing squad or sent to the gulags simply because they did not agree with one of the most evil men of all times.

No man, no problem. —Stalin

Now a couple for our Portuguese speaking readers.

O que não tem remédio remediado está. —Dora Kramer, comentarista política

Quem não aprende com amor aprende com dor.

One of the reasons Reagan was one of America's greatest presidents is that he

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understood that our most valuable friends are those who do not always agree with us.

My 80% friend is not my 20% enemy. —Pres. Ronald Reagan

As people become pleasure-minded, they forget that in much of the world people long for normality, not pleasure.

In America people run for fun. In Beirut, they run for their lives. People there listen not for the starter's gun, but for the sniper's. — Charles Krauthammer

An injurious truth has no more merit than an injurious lie.

I close with one of my own. We say the truth doesn't hurt. But when hurled with a slingshot it not only hurts, it wounds and at times slays.

He tells the truth with a slingshot.

Important Notice

Brazil News – Changes

The unfortunate happenings reported on the first page of this edition require changes.

This is the last paper edition of BN. All future issues will be electronic. This means that subscribers must have access to e-mail to receive their copy or indicate the e-mail address of an acquaintance to whom your copy can be sent.

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