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Gift Rap Newsletter

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Global Gifted: Germany

(by Roya Klingner, Head and Founder of Bavarian Center for Gifted and Talented Children and Iranian Center for Gifted and Talented Child.
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Germany is a federal state where each of the 16 states has the right to create its own school policies and politics. So, it is not possible to describe in a few words what is going on with gifted education in Germany.

The way gifted education is implemented in the German school system varies within the 16 federal states. Therefore, gifted education in Germany can only be evaluated by keeping the state-by-state differences in mind. While in some states giftedness is explicitly addressed in educational policy, other states reference appropriate measures for extra support of gifted pupils. These support measures are (but not limited to) early enrolment to primary school, grade skipping,

the revolving door policy, and the freedom for students to attend upper level classes.

In most states, schools provide parents and students with psychological testing services. Co-operation with universities across the country is yet another resource and area of support in the giftedness community.

Summer camps, private consulting organizations and specialized courses are available to educators, the gifted and their parents, however these services can be costly and therefore not equally accessible and available to everybody.

Talented students in Germany have the possibility of participating in state and countrywide competitions.

Upon identification, children have the possibility to enter primary school before the age of six, given the condition that they can fully integrate into school life and are cognitively, physically and socially

competent. Parents have to provide expert evaluations for early school admissions, whereas grade skipping may only require teachers recommendations, student motivation and grades. Additionally, psychological examinations may be conducted but are not necessary.



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Awesome Websites

Flame Painter (Wow!! extraordinary and addictive. Create gorgeous art) <http://www.escapemotions.com/experiments/flame/index.html#top>

Top 5 Craziest US Government Experiments
<http://tinyurl.com/3v7d5y9>

Screaming Beans (squashing beans has never been more fun) <http://www.simonpanrucker.com/beans.swf>

Why Do You Stay Up So Late? (poetry and music combine in a special way. Decipher the images)
<http://www.bornmagazine.org/projects/whystayup/project.html>

Bio Bak (wild and insanely creative) <http://www.bio-bak.nl/>

Activities of the Month (by topic, month, alphabetical order, interest)

Visit: <http://www.DiscoverTeenergy.com> “Activities Database”

News and Views

Adding Creativity to Domain Names (by O.S.)

Recently in the news, it was mentioned that ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), the regulatory body overseeing domain names, will be allowing domain endings to become almost anything e.g. .apple or .car-repair or .nurse. Gone will be the days of only .com or .org or .net. How exciting!!

The global imagination will be set free to create domain names that will better serve the many needs at both the personal and business levels.

Anyone can start submitting applications as of January 12, 2012. It is expected that corporations and cities will be in line very early to register the choicest new urls. We will soon see: .Mercedes or .Apple and .Toronto.

The decision to allow this was done to respect the rights of individuals and groups to create domains in any language or script around the world. Overall, all of mankind will be better served.

Right now, there are in existence only 22 generic endings e.g. .com, .TV and about 250 country endings e.g. .uk, .ca

After the new regulations take effect, several hundred new endings are expected to be created very quickly. Imagine: www.chocolatechip.cookies or www.Horsing.Around

Challenge: Come with some interesting, funny ones.

Awe-full Ponderings (by O.S.)

Why does everything seem to have a purpose or use in the world we know? Is there something totally useless or designed specifically to be outside of all the laws of the universe?

When we sleep, we don't know who we are, where we are, etc. yet something seems to take care of us. We put a great deal of faith and trust in it each night without any worry. What is it and why does it watch over and look after us while we are unconscious?

Scientists have theorized that it is possible to go faster than the speed of light. Is there anything that is totally impossible?

If we are evolving, how come we don't see any life forms, new emotions or thinking abilities in obvious transitional development?

How is it that water is given the most important role in maintaining life? Wouldn't it be more practical and easier for earth/soil to have that role?

Why is love the thing that we find most valuable to humans but we can't figure out what it is, where it comes from, why we have it?

Great Unanswered Questions (British Comedy)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00qcl4n>

Discussion: What are your unanswered questions about life?

Thinking Dynamics

"My Goal is Your Child's Success"

Dr. Ronald L. Rubenzer

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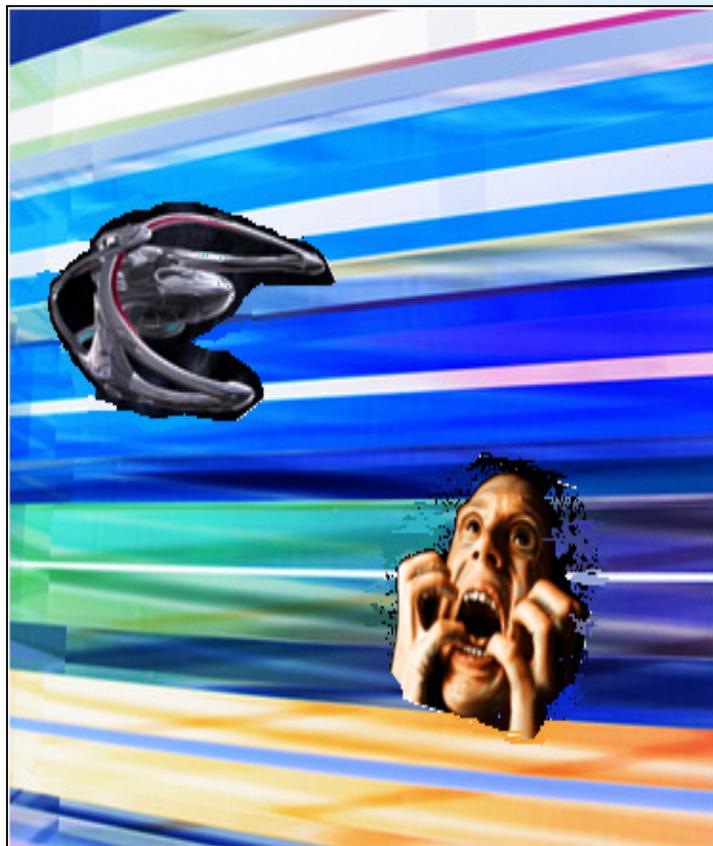
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Original Photo Art



Trivia

Roulette was invented by French mathematician Blaise Pascal while doing experiments in perpetual motion.

The Chinese were responsible for building most of the early railways in western USA.

A gladiator was usually armed with a dagger, spear and net.

US President Jimmy Carter's turtleneck worn at Bosnian cease-fire talks sold for \$5,000 at auction.

It's considered bad luck to put a hat on a bed.

Abraham Lincoln, invented a device for lifting ships over shoals and was the only US president to hold a patent.

Until the 1730's, India was the only source of diamonds.

Antarctica is the only continent without reptiles or snakes.

Honey found in tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted and found edible.

Libra, the Scales, is the only inanimate symbol in the zodiac.

Teeth are the only parts of the human body that can't repair themselves.

Computer Tip

Make Your Own Greeting Cards: MSPublisher & MSWord 2007

1. Go to "File" and click "New". A menu opens.
2. Find "Greeting Cards" and make selection. Add your own photos and text to personalize it.
3. Tip: Open MS Publisher several times and open several greeting cards that you find appealing. Copy and paste elements into a master card that you create.

There are also many sites that let you create cards for free.

<http://www.mescards.com/>

<http://www.making-greeting-cards.com/>

Real, Hurtin' Cowboy Songs

These are all real song titles. They are not made up.

- I Watched It All on my Radio
- Mama Get The Hammer (There's A Fly On Papa's Head)
- May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose
- Old Dogs, Children and Watermelon Wine
- Red Necks, White Socks and Blue Ribbon Beer
- It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels
- I Flushed You from the Toilet of My Heart
- I Keep Forgettin' I Forgot About You
- I Would Have Wrote You A Letter, But I Couldn't Spell Yuck
- I Wouldn't Take Her To A Dawg Fight, Cause I'm Afraid She'd Win
- I'd Rather Have A Bottle In Front Of Me Than A Frontal Lobotomy
- I'm Just A Bug On The Windshield Of Life
- Thank God And Greyhound She's Gone
- They May Put Me In Prison, But They Can't Stop My Face from Breakin' Out
- Velcro Arms, Teflon Heart
- When You Leave, Walk Out Backwards, So I'll Think You're Walking In
- My Wife Ran Away with My Best Friend and Boy Do I Ever Miss Him

Human Hair Black Market

(summarized from <http://alturl.com/zufqy>)

So ladies and perhaps gentlemen, do you like hair extensions or wigs? Your head look fuller and richer? Ever wonder where the hair comes from?

With women wanting to look like the A-list movie stars, there is a growing demand in the world for long locks as wigs and extensions. Much of the hair comes from India where women wait in line to have their heads shaved to the point of being completely bald. "Temple hair" is considered the most desirable.

Most of the women are given a penny or two and that money then often goes to the temple as a donation. Thousands of women do this every day as a religious ceremony called tonsuring. They show that they are prepared to give up their pride and vanity in sacrifice to the god Vishnu. Brides-to-be, as a custom, give up their hair with great eagerness. Instead of the hair being discarded, it is picked up and sold for profit by enterprising collectors.

Indian hair is most desirable because the women rub oils into their hair to maintain its softness and flexibility. Tons of it would end up on temple floors and thrown away if collectors didn't do what they do. Fake or non-temple hair has become about 80% of the market.

Los Angeles hair salons can barely keep up to the extensions craze and cater to the many skinny blonde valley girls that are attracted to the religious fad aspect.

As the demand grows in western countries, exploitation takes place in India. Poor women are coerced into cutting their hair and are paid virtually nothing for them. Other countries have become aware of the demand and are sourcing and selling women's hair as well.

The problem with the whole thing is that the women aren't reaping any of the profits. The sellers and salons make the big bucks on the ever-increasing sales. What is paid in North America for extensions would feed an Indian family for about a half year. Is that fair?

Discussion: How much money would you want to be paid for your long hair? What would you want done to them after being cut off?

Good Reads

Rowboat in a Hurricane by Julie Angus. First woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean, mainland to mainland.

Rowed Trip by Julie Angus. Rowing trips she and her husband have taken from Scotland to Syria.

(being researched) **Olive: Corruption, Miracle Cures and a Search for the Origins of the Fruit that Changed the World** by Julie Angus.

Creation: Life and How to Make It by Steve Grand. Seeing things from new perspectives e.g. clouds as regions of space with a cooler climate.

Gift Rap is now on Facebook! Become a fan. Invite your friends.!

<http://www.facebook.com/GiftRap>

Reflections of a Teenage Mind

by Megann Ford-Licskai

Starting a New Phase in Life

This is a letter to those entering high school, from somebody leaving it.



I've spent the last four years between the walls of my high school and this phase in my life is ending. Boy, have I learned a lot, only a minute amount of it academic. I'm taking it upon myself to share my wisdom with you. It's probably things that you've heard a thousand times, and you still won't listen but... Then, when you're in Grade 12, you'll look back and say, "Gee, I wish I'd listened to that girl's sage advice."

The first and most cliché thing that I can say is GET INVOLVED. It is important for you to meet the people whom you'll grow to know and love in high school. It's good networking too, and a great way to fill your free time so you don't have to go smoke up in the park.

Here's something else you need to hear and take to heart. Prerequisites aside, universities don't care WHAT you take in high school. So, for the love of God, if you are going to be an Arts major, do not take all maths and sciences because you think you'll need them. If you love sciences, then by all means, take the courses. But at the end of the day, if the universities are considering somebody with an 80 in Physics and a 95 in Drama, the drama student is going to get in. The key is to do what you're passionate about (not necessarily what your parents are passionate about), and then you will succeed.

Finish Ontario mandatory 40 hours of community work early. Grade 9 will be a piece of cake for many of you. If you volunteer a few hours a week throughout the early years, you'll be off the hook and you won't have to stress when you find yourself at the end of Grade 12, struggling to get another 35 hours so you can graduate.

Finish your big end-of-year projects, and study for the finals that may be worth only 30%. Always work hard on the easy stuff that gets you the most amount of easily gained term marks.

On another note, learn to manage your time early. It is so much better to do a little bit every day and do something in an excellent way than to scramble at the last minute, cram it all and do something that turns out to be just OK. Good time management skills are very valuable in case you get those last-minute concert tickets. You actually get to go instead of having to stay home and do your big physics project that's due the next day.

Mostly, take time to enjoy high school. It may be the last time in your life when you have so little responsibility for much in life. It will fly by, so pay attention to all the good stuff that happens!

High school might suck much of the time, but you can still enjoy the good bits that are guaranteed to happen despite everything. Good luck in Grade 9!!

Megann is a graduating high school student in London, Ontario, Canada and is entering university this fall. She will continue to write for GR, and we look forward to hearing about her new experiences in a whole new environment.



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"The seeds of invention must be planted in the soil of investment!" - David Burton

All About Inventing and Inventions Shows

(a half hour online interview with Otto Schmidt)

Go to: <http://thatradio.podhoster.com/> In the "keyword search" type in: *Otto Schmidt*
Starts at the 1hour 6 minute mark in the June 9, 2011 broadcast

Living with Technology by Steve Krar



BALL BEARINGS

A bearing is a device that allows free and easy movement between two pieces of an object, either revolving or sliding movement.

-An early linear bearing was tree trunks laid down under sleds. They may date back to the Pyramids of Giza.

- The first plain and rolling-element bearings were made of wood, but stone, ceramic, sapphire or glass may have also been used. These materials were used to reduce friction and make movement of heavy objects easier. Wooden bearings may still be seen today in old water mills where water cooled and lubricated the mechanism.

- Rotary bearings have many applications, e.g. heavy-duty use in vehicle axles and machine shafts. The simplest rotary bearing is the **sleeve bearing**, which is just a cylinder inserted between the wheel and its axle.

-The first practical caged-roller bearing was invented in the mid-1740s by John Harrison for his H3 marine timekeeper. An early example of a wooden ball bearing supporting a rotating table, was found in 40BC in the remains of a Roman ship in Lake Nemi, Italy.

- Leonardo da Vinci is said to have described a type of ball bearing around the year 1500.

- One of the problems of early ball bearings was they would rub against each other, causing additional friction, but this was prevented by enclosing the balls in a cage. This captured or caged ball bearing was originally described by Galileo in the 1600s.

- The mounting of bearings into a set was not a reality for many years after that. The first patent for a ball race was by Philip Vaughan of Carmarthen in 1794.

- Friedrich Fischer's idea in 1883 for milling and grinding balls of equal size and exact roundness by means of a suitable production machine formed the foundation for creation of an independent bearing industry.

- The modern, self-aligning design of ball bearing is credited to Sven Wingquist of the SKF ball-bearing manufacturer in 1907.

Low friction bearings are often quite important for efficiency and reducing wear and permit high speeds to be used. Essentially, bearings can reduce friction by shape, by its material, or by introducing a fluid between surfaces.

Typical examples of use are railway applications and transmissions used in heavy industry, ships, wind energy, conveyors and extruders, cars, fans, and much more.

Steve Krar is a prolific author and co-author of over 70 technology books, creator of the Advanced Technology Think Tank and a member of the Canadian Manufacturer's Hall of Fame. He is in his eighties and still very involved in all things technological. His wealth of knowledge in the field is most welcome. He resides in Welland, Ontario, Canada.

<http://www.AdvancedTechThinkTank.org>

The Other View by Ahmed Sheta

The Middle East Again

The Middle East is still in turmoil, - Libya, Syria, Yemen etc. Many parties outside the countries have gotten involved and have influence and fingers interfering with the developments there. The police forces and the armies are, in many cases, interfering with the rebellious people in trying to protect the old systems.

I don't know who is right or who is wrong. But I know enough to say from my experience there that the ruling systems in most of the Arab countries are corrupt and heavy handed. The countries are not democracies, they offer few civil and citizen rights and proper education or meaningful jobs for many people are just dreams.

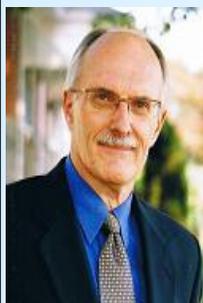
So the people were inspired and emboldened to take their chances and are going against the oppression they have lived under for so long. Remember how the "Arab Spring" started? A man in Tunisia burned himself to death in December 2010 after failing in his protest of the treatment he received from police. Pro-democracy rebellions have erupted across the Middle East ever since, country by country.

I find it strange and unacceptable that not only the leadership of these countries, but the police and army go against the will of the people- with often such extreme brutality. Don't they care about people at all? Do they honestly think that citizens will love and respect them and obey them after squashing protests and protesters? We read about it and hear it on the news and also in correspondence from relatives that these distanced and out of touch leaders actually think that they are the best to run the countries by defending and fighting for, at any cost, the unacceptable status quo.

Not only the above kind of violence persists. The BBC site on their internet site wrote that the army is torturing injured people, who went to hospitals for treatment in Bahrain, on suspicion they were demonstrating against the system. The doctors who treated them are being charged and prosecuted in Bahraini courts for aiding them. Amazing isn't it?

We in North America should count our blessings and be ever grateful for our way of life.

Ahmed Sheta is an immigrant Egyptian-Canadian journalist who has written for Arab newspapers and is an Arabic interpreter. He lives in Toronto, Canada.



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Jokes of the Month

Gorgeous, intelligent, kind, sweet, charming, witty, hilarious, friendly...well enough about ME! How are you?

Always remember you're unique - just like everyone else.

How many letters in the Alphabet? 19. Because ET went home on a UFO and the FBI went after him.

I get enough exercise just pushing my luck!

Q: Why did the worker get fired from the banana plantation?

A: Because he threw out all the bent ones.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

Amazing Invention

Top Golf Driving Range

Many people think that inventors only produce things. Well, guess what, new services, approaches to living, entertainment, and socializing are all worthy of revamping too.

Steve and Dave Joliffe have reinvented the golf driving range. It's a cross between bowling, a pub, and darts. A microchip inside the ball sends messages to a screen that tells the group of friends/competitors how close they got to targets, how far the ball went, and gives a score for each player based on accuracy and difficulty of the shot. Brilliant idea guys!! <http://topgolf.com>

Challenge: Develop a new game using parts of old, traditional ones.

Wise Words of Wisdom

Remember: Don't insult the alligator till after you cross the river.

Those who criticize this generation forget who raised it.

"I don't know what the key to success is, but the key to failure is trying to please everyone." - Bill Cosby

Don't look where you fall, but where you slipped.

The best things in life are not things.

A wise man speaks. A wiser man writes.

Difference between fiction and reality - fiction has to makes sense.

Better slow going somewhere than fast going nowhere.

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