

The Passy Press[®]

Letters to the Editor

From: David Forrest <dforest@undisclosed.com>
To: Nick Gardiner <enpg@thepassypress.com>
Sent: 22 Nov 2018, at 04:11
Subject: Cyber Essay, November 2018

Dear Sir,

A clear and present danger to our nation is posed by the current cold war in cyber. The intent of our rivals is to dominate soon and, though we have the fastest computer right now, our advantage may not last or even exist. In cyberwar even small cultures with the right coders can prevail. Totalitarian cultures possess seamlessness of the developmental chains and unblinking continuity over decades.

We do not possess these advantages. At dawn we sleep, our nascent answer to them a communicative and cooperative Tower of Babel. It depicted in the Appendix as Six Estates below. Our most vital asset in this competition, our information technology community, if it is unified at all, is unified in a radical opposition to military defense. Its mentality is unrealistic and immature, considering danger to arise only from own Government. All our weapons totally depend on IT pre-eminence.

What we must create now, or needed to create yesterday, is a supraordinate overseer group whose task is to manage sharing our need and response. Desiderata of the group are that it must be patriotic and historically aware, and non-partisan or bipartisan, but politically adept. The group must be expert or able to understand experts from the Estates in order to promote the intersection of their systems. It must include great public communicators, at or above the Ted Talk level. And the group must be linguistically nimble and inventive, because a language needs to me created, an Estate Esperanto. Last but most important, they need to be grownups.

Candidates for the group are The Presidents Club, consisting of former U.S. Presidents and described by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy in their 2012 book, who advise the current President, but for this task would need to work beyond and apart from him; the Joint Chiefs of Staff as an advisory arm, the Union of Concerned Scientists (forget global warming for the nonce guys, *this* threat is on a nanosecond or femtosecond timetable); and a new agency like NASA or NOAA, perhaps called NCTDA, National Cyber Defense Agency.

Sincerely,

David Forrest

See: "Appendix: The 6 Estates and Their Cultures" that follows

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APPENDIX: THE 6 ESTATES AND THEIR CULTURES

1. Silicon Valley

Who: computer nerds
Self-Image: brilliant teenagers
Workplace: brightly-hued playroom with toys and computers
Skills: coding, programming, math
Vices: intellectual pride, sanctimony, immaturity, autism
Higher Power: math and the computer
Boundary: the corporation, e.g. Google; The Valley
Language: code
What Is Real? math, code, programs, apps
Worship: physics
Morals: Kant's categorical imperative; tolerance
Enemies: viruses, real life

2. Academic Science

Who: science nerds
Self-Image: future nobelists, perpetual college students
Workplace: lab
Skills: tech to mine and manipulate secrets of nature
Vices: intellectual pride, envy, reticence, narrow obsessive rigidity, politically petty
Higher Power: chairman, dean, Editor of *Nature*
Boundary: tenure committee
Language: specialized jargon
What Is Real? Nature (apart from man); foreign countries from which came
Worship: physics
Morals: tolerance, green
Enemies: wealth, power

3. Financial

Who: jocks
Self-Image: Tom Brody
Workplace: boardroom, terminals
Skills: counting, sports, gambling
Vices: greed, ambition, disregard
Higher Power:
Boundary: perp walk, prison
Language: prices, scores
What Is Real? markets, money
Worship: Mammon
Morals: sports rules
Enemies: taxes, crashes, regulations, The Fed, FBI

4. Governing

Who: lawyers
Self-Image: grownup, reciprocal back-scratcher, fixer
Workplace: podium, chamber
Skills: oratory, facial recall, flexible negotiating and bringing people together
Vices: compromise on anything, weak principles, vanity, scientific ignorance, cannot type, let alone use a computer for science

Higher Power: the law, the polls, the ballot box
Boundary: public disgrace impeachment, jail
Language: doublespeak
What Is Real? votes, money, history, politics
Worship: power
Morals: legal exposure
Enemies: the media, political opponents

5. Media

Who: handsome people; moguls
Self-image: Edward R. Murrow, Diane Sawyer; Cecil B. DeMille, Samuel Goldwyn
Workplace: studio; street corner or outside White House
Skills: hair, read teleprompter or deliver lines without flubs; report; produce film
Vices: short attention span, misuse I and me, lie and lay, mix fact and opinion
Higher Power: Network heads, sponsors, fans
Boundary: end of segment, sound byte, cancellation, overdose
Language: someone else's; script
What is Real? ratings, reviews, awards
Worship: their screen image
Morals: expose others' clay feet; the casting couch
Enemies: newer rival talent who can upstage or replace them

6. Military

Who: patriots, poorer youth looking for a way up; privileged with something to prove
Self-Image: Christian soldiers
Workplace: mud, blood
Skills: marksmanship, martial; courage, devotion to duty, honor and country
Vices: sadism, governmental dependency
Higher Power: rank, nukes
Boundary: death
Language: grunts, slang, rules
What Is Real? buddies, rifles, the flag, war, God
Worship: God, the Corps
Morals: loyalty to small group, teamwork, endurance, sacrifice
Enemies: the brass, civilians, opposing forces, cuts in funding

All are integrated in top-down totalitarian nations which are ruled by STEM graduates, while *none* of our elected officials have STEM backgrounds, give or take a physician or two.

Communication boundaries:

1. Silicon Valley - don't speak in words, or understand 3-6.
2. Academic Science --don't speak in everyday English; cannot translate jargon, dislike people who have power, especially 4 and 6;
3. Financial -- can't understand 1 or 2
4. Legal governing -- scientifically illiterate, can't understand 1 and 2; none of their children serve in 6.
5. Media - Relate reports about 1-4 and 6 with limited understanding. "The first casualty of war is truth;" Scientists say *The New York Times's* Tuesday "*Science Times*" is fine unless you know something about the subject.
6. Military -- don't much like 1-5, but enjoy movies from 5