

On Computer Science

What computer science delivers, has delivered, and is continuing to and will be delivering in the future, are methods of describing complicated processes such that what used to take hundreds of pages of English text to describe will take a few lines in a formal language. *Gerald Sussman, 1991*

Besides a mathematical inclination, an exceptionally good mastery of one's native tongue is the most vital asset of a competent programmer. *Edsger W Dijkstra, 1975*

By relieving the mind of all unnecessary work, a good notation sets it free to concentrate on more advanced problems, and in effect increases the mental power of the race.

Alfred North Whitehead

Fortran was a mistake of innocence. The people who designed C should have known better. *1976*

Most of our examples are written in C, mainly because it is so widely used, but also because it is harder to get things right in C than in other languages. *John Viega and Gary McGraw in Building Secure Software, 2002*

Procedural programming is a monumental waste of human energy. *1985*

The only important design or engineering aid offered by the object oriented paradigm is abstract data types, and they have been in use for at least 40 years. *1999*

The "science" in computer science lies in figuring out what rules some other bozo used when he designed the system. *2004*

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"Suboptimal" means "not optimal." *Leonard Kleinrock, c.1990*
us cs is bs *John Allen, 1999*

On Human Culture

Let us not dream that reason can ever be popular. Passions, emotions, may be made popular, but reason remains ever the property of the few. *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)*

The preeminent transnational community in our culture is science. *Richard Rhodes, The Making of the Atomic Bomb, 1986*

Men are actually praised as self-sacrificing for leaving their families to fight for what they believe in—no matter how distant or arcane their cause—but women are called selfish if we fail to sacrifice almost everything for our families, or even if we speak up for ourselves. *Gloria Steinem, at Smith College, 1995*

To paraphrase Marlo Thomas: For a male leader to be called ruthless, he has to take over your life or your country. For a female leader to be called ruthless, she has only to put you on hold. *Gloria Steinem at Smith College 1995*

Do not worry, madam, for if business were difficult, those who do it could not. *Samuel Johnson*

Is he willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent.

Is he is able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.

Is he is both able and willing? Then whence commeth evil?

Is he is neither able nor willing? Then why call him god?

Epicurean Paradox, c 300 BC

All religions are equally sublime to the ignorant, useful to the politician, and ridiculous to the philosopher. *ancient Rome, maybe*

Arguing with a creationist is like playing chess with a pigeon. No matter how you play, the pigeon knocks over the pieces, shits on the board, and struts around triumphantly. *apologies to Pati Hagan of Taos, October 2013*

Little by little, the look of the country changes because of the men we admire. *Homer Bannon, 1963*

On Knowledge

Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge.

Charles Darwin, 1871

Ninety-five percent of human knowledge is the names of things and how long they are. *David Wingert, c1963*

Form any singular possessive by adding apostrophe-"s" regardless of the root word. Minsky, Minsky's book. Charles, Charles's book.

Mary-Claire van Leunen, A Handbook for Scholars, 1986

$p \approx 3.1415926535 8979323846 2643383279 5028841971$

$6939937510 5820974944 5923078164 0628620899$

Shanks and Wrench, Mathematics of Computation, 1962

$p = 3$

II Chronicles 4,2

$p = 4/(5/4)$

House of Representatives, State of Indiana, 1897

I think that it is much more likely that the reports of flying saucers are the results of the known irrational characteristics of terrestrial intelligence than of the unknown rational efforts of extra-terrestrial intelligence. *Richard Feynman, The Character of Physical Law, 1964*

Science has nothing to do with truth and everything to do with refutability. Science insists that all its claims be susceptible to evidential refutation. "Creation science" is not science. Maybe it's horseshit, maybe not, but it's not science because nobody could prove its claims to be horseshit, even if they were. *2004*

I have an enormous collection of sea shells. I keep them on beaches all over the world. *Stephen Wright*

On Politics

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary. *H. L. Menken*

Reagan's great achievement: persuading blue-collar factory workers to embrace his heady brew of jingoism, anticommunism, contempt for government and admiration for the virtues of unfettered capitalism. *Christopher Hayes, The Nation, 16 July 2007*

The South voted against Republicans for a hundred years for freeing their slaves. Now they vote against Democrats for passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964. *2004*

I don't like Republicans, because basically Republicans are not what I like. *Andrew Leon, age 12 (The New Yorker, Sep 13, 2004)*

Republicans are the most vicious animals on the planet. They'll probably outlive humans. *2010*

George W Bush: worst world leader since Caligula *2004*

Have you seen the news clip where George W Bush shakes hands with a Hatian, then wipes his hand on Clinton's shirt? Pretty much sums up the whole Bush family. What a bunch of slimeballs. *2010*

Finally it is apparent. Bush cannot be underestimated. *2007*

Conservatives have carved comfortable niches for themselves and believe small perturbations could pitch them overboard. *2009*

Buying stock from the corporation that issues it is investing. Buying stock from any other source is gambling. Maybe investors deserve a tax break when they cash in. Gamblers don't. *2010*

People who oppose progressive taxation are subhuman. *2013*

On Freedom

Before it is science and career, before it is livelihood, before even it is family or love, freedom is sound sleep and safety to notice the play of the morning sun. *Richard Rhodes, The Making of the Atomic Bomb, 1986*

Ronald Reagan after all did manage to strike a blow for freedom. Most of the beggars you see in cities used to be locked up in hospitals. *1998*

Mississippi didn't abolish slavery until 1995 when they ratified the 13th Amendment. As Nina Simone said, God damn Mississippi. *2011*

Republicans are stingy and mean. *2015*