

### ***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*

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*

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 his 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?

*Epicurus, c 300 BC*

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*

$\pi \approx 3.1415926535 8979323846 2643383279$

$5028841971 6939937510 5820974944$

$5923078164 0628620899$  *Shanks and Wrench*

*Mathematics of Computation, 1962*

$\pi = 3$

*II Chronicles 4,2*

$\pi = 4/(5/4)$

*House of Representatives*

*State of Indiana, 1897*

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*

It is about seven times as likely that a national legislator will be accused of sexual immorality as that an N.E.A grant will be labeled obscene. *Beeb Salzer, 1995*

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

### ***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 big cities used to be locked up in hospitals. *1998*

Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false, and by the rulers as useful.

*Seneca the Younger, 5 BC - 65 AD*

## On Life

I think computer viruses should count as life. Maybe it says something about human nature, that the only form of life we have created so far is purely destructive. Talk about creating something in our own image.

*Stephen Hawking, Life in the Universe*

It is typical for intolerant moralizers to be immoral and tolerant immoralizers to be moral. *Louis Scharf, 2004*

The pioneers of public health did not change nature, or men, but adjusted the active relationship of men to certain aspects of nature. ... In doing so they had to contend with and struggle against...those who believed that to interfere with nature was sinful. *Gil Elliot*

*Twentieth Century Book of the Dead, 1972*

[The argument from design] sometimes takes a rather curious form; for instance, it is argued that rabbits have white tails in order to be easy to shoot. I do not know how rabbits would view that application.

*Bertrand Russell, 1927*

And the day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the supreme being as his father in the womb of a virgin, will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter. But may we hope that the dawn of reason and freedom of thought in these United States will do away with this artificial scaffolding ...

*Thomas Jefferson, April 1823*

... One hundred eighty-two years, eight months, and no progress yet on this front. *Christmastime 2005*

A powerful entity that requires blood sacrifices of the powerless deserves contempt, not reverence.

*Christmastime 2005*

The only fundamental difference between a delusional mind, a cult, and a religion is the number of adherents to its beliefs. *2003*

God is the ultimate expression of the arrogance of the human species. *Lucy Saarni, 2006*

To paraphrase Dawkins: Sunday school is child abuse. *2008*

Getting old isn't for sissies. *Bette Davis*

## On War

Terrorism is the war of the poor, and war is the terrorism of the rich. *Peter Ustinov, The Guardian, 28 Mar 2003*

The last American to die in what might be truthfully called the defense of his country did so in 1945. Those who have perished since have died to promote the agendas of lying politicians. *Edna McAlexander*

*The Nation, 23 June 2003*

The difference [between natural and manmade death as a public health issue] is that one area of public death has been tackled and secured by the forces of reason; the other has not. *Gil Elliot*

*Twentieth Century Book of the Dead, 1972*

But the death machine had only sampled a vast new source of raw material: the civilians behind the lines. ... That is why, despite its sickening squalor and brutality, the Great War looks so innocent to modern eyes.

*Richard Rhodes*

*The Making of the Atomic Bomb, 1986*

## On the United States

And throughout it all, the United States: Rich, prosperous, myopic, magnificent in aggregate and petty in specifics, unwilling—always, always—to accord respect to the mind. To good fortune, to luck, to rugged individualism, to faith in God, to patriotism, to beauty, to spunk or pluck or grit or git, but never to complex intelligence and complex thought. *Nancy Kress, Beggars in Spain*

Since Americans tend to think of themselves as middle class even when their incomes put them well into the top 5 percent, it's worth bearing in mind that there are more than twice as many families below the poverty line as there are families with incomes of more than \$100,000. *Paul Krugman, 1995*

The arguments concerning loss of sovereignty used by opponents of the United Nations are the same as those used by citizens of the United States against statehood for territories in the Louisiana Purchase.

*Author Not Known*

Affirmative action is sometimes described as a form of reverse racism. There is, in fact, no form of discrimination against white people in our society that mirrors the systematic, pervasive, and often unconscious discrimination that persists against black people, despite the considerable progress we have made since the end of slavery. *Judith Shapiro*

*President of Barnard College, 31 March 2000*

It's demoralizing to live in a place where "liberal" is pejorative.

How about "Baptist" instead? *2004*

We have only one political party in the United States, the Property Party, with two right wings, Republican and Democrat.

*Gore Vidal, The Nation, Sep 19, 2004*

You know, when I campaigned in 2000, I said, I want to be a war president. No one wants to be a war president, but I am one.

*George W Bush, 26 October 2006*

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

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*

America's behavior among nations since the fall of the Soviet Union justifies the actions of Klaus Fuchs and other spies trying to ensure a balance of power. *2004*

The world is better off with the United States than without it in exactly the same sense that Iraq was better off with Saddam Hussein than without him. *March 2005*

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

Caught a bit of Schaffner's movie *Patton* this evening. Happened to turn it on just as the slapping incident occurred. Turns out 90% of the American public thought the son-of-bitch was right to slap the soldier. But, Eisenhower removed him from command anyway. Apparently, Eisenhower knew the slapping was wrong and was not inclined to pander to the collective opinion of a bunch of ignorant rednecks. Today, America remains populated by the same brand of ignorant rednecks, but now they have managed to elect leaders who are just as ignorant and crude as they are. So much for progress. *3 April 2005*

The American electorate cannot be forgiven for choosing as President the man ultimately responsible for Abu Ghraib. *2005*