

Lost Art of Thinking Might Offer Clues To Meaning in Souped-Up Lives Being Led

Seeking the Meaning of Life
"An ox cart is as useful to man as a rocket ship if he does not know where he wants to go." Astronomer Fred L. Whipple, of Harvard University recently remarked.
Of course with modern zip

and flash we'll get wherever we're going faster—but where will we be?
This is a question which modern man ought to be asking, and attempting to answer. Or else, why the rush?
Henry David Thoreau, from the contemplative observa-

tion of Walden Pond, chided our western civilization for everlastingly seeking "improved means to unimproved ends."
A San Francisco newspaper unintentionally sounded a similar note in a headline at the turn of the century when

the city's first electric trolley line was opened. Its terminal stop was a suburban cemetery.
"By Electricity to the Crypt!" the headline proclaimed.
By electricity, by atomic energy, by rocket ship: is man still hellbent for the end of life without giving much serious thought to why he lives it, or for what?

How Science Fails
Prior to the nuclear stalemate which now numbs the world, many believed that science itself was man's savior. It would provide all the answers. Has it? Or has it actually raised bigger questions? Rabbi Israel Goldstein, of New York, recently told his congregation:
"In our generation we are witnessing the 'Gottterdammerung' of technology—the de-thronement of science as the savior of mankind. While science may enhance the comforts of living it can never create human happiness, nor can it ever exhaust the mysteries of the universe."
The time would seem ripe for a revival of human thought. We have watched the test tubes bubble and the oscilloscopes wriggle long enough. If we are convinced there are no final answers there, we might turn to the contraption which dwarfs them all: the mind itself. Through the lost, or hibernating, art of thinking we might find clues to meaning in the souped-up lives we lead.

A 'Think Period'
Albert Schweitzer has accused our age of being "filled with disdain for thinking." In the epilogue to his autobiography he wrote, "I therefore stand and work in the world as one who aims at making men less shallow and mortal better by making them think."
Schweitzer isn't the only one. A few years ago the mayor of Dearborn, Mich., Orville Hubbard, decided that thinking needed a nudge, a

New Frontiers In Living

by Howard Whitman

push, or it would never come back into fashion. He ordered his municipal department heads to observe a 30-minute "think period" every morning.
Mayor Hubbard said, "They are to shut themselves in their offices, take no phone calls nor see anybody. If they think enough they may have ideas. That is the way Newton discovered the law of gravity."
In Canada, Dr. Hilda Neatby, professor of history at the University of Saskatchewan, has pleaded for a re-discovery of thinking in modern education, chiding the schools for providing "so little for the mind."

Esteem for the Mind
This is not an attitude solely of ivory tower intellectuals. The down-to-earth scientist also knows how direly the world needs the force and direction of thinking these days. Science and technology alone are wild horses. It is human thought which provides the harness to make them servants of man.
Dr. Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation, recently asserted, "We are not likely to harvest a healthy crop of excellence in a land where athletes and nightclub entertainers are held in higher esteem than scholars, professional men and women, and the teachers of our children. We need to

create in America the same regard for achievement of the mind as we now have for achievements of a more material sort."
We've had our fun looking down our noses at longhairs who think. We've laughed as Robert Cummings said to Loretta Young in a movie they made together, "You're bewitching, darling, your brains don't show a bit."
It is time to let the brains show. The western world needs to bring the mind back into style.
Fate of Emptiness
Because this may be our escape from a fate as bad as fission or fusion: the fate of emptiness. Dr. Schweitzer refers to "the spiritual and material misery to which mankind of today is delivering itself through its renunciation of thinking." It is the isolation of the empty mind, the terrible loneliness of being unrelated to the universe and to life: of "not belonging."

Dr. Schweitzer calls for "elemental thinking," and he defines it as "that which starts from the fundamental questions about the relations of man to the universe, about the meaning of life, and about the nature of goodness."
Think, then. Use the mind. And in that wondrous organ, new powers for living may be discovered. As Dr. Schweitzer puts it, "To make men thinking beings once more, then, means to make them resort to their own way of thinking that they may try to secure that knowledge which they need for living... The stream which has been flowing for a long distance underground comes again to the surface."
Thinking inevitably leads to spirituality, whether the thinking of a Schweitzer, a Lao-tse, an Augustine, or the thinking of an everyday little woman, Mrs. Eloise Welliver, whom I met in the Wyalusing Valley of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Welliver had had her share of life's buffetings and had decided at one point, as most of us do some time or other, that life had practically no meaning at all. Then she began to think—"elementally." And, as she put it, "When I came to the end of myself, God was there."
Coming to the end of ourselves may be the sunrise for which the world is waiting. More and more of us may, by thinking beyond ourselves, come to inner realizations of the meaning of life—each in his particular way. More of us may be able to relate to the universe of which we are a part and to the Creator of it all.
Otherwise we go on from here to nowhere. And the epiphany which T. S. Eliot wrote for us will be a true one. We will be indeed a culture "Whose only monument is the

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 7
Sunday, April 3, 1960

asphalt road. And a thousand lost golf balls."
Albert Einstein unlocked the atom for us and thus added a note of emergency to our spiritual floundering. He showed us the road to oblivion. But Einstein, in a pensive moment, also showed us a road to meaning. He wrote:
"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead; his eyes are closed."
"This insight into the mystery of life, coupled though it be with fear, has also given rise to religion. To know that what is impermanent to us really exists, manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty which our dull faculties can comprehend only in their most primitive form—this knowledge, this feeling, is at the center of true religiousness."

This thought by Einstein important in the long run be more important to the world than E=mc². (The Einstein equation, the energy of a body

door to the release of atomic energy.)
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United States Bonds		2,452,125.28
Municipal Bonds and Warrants		337,175.77
Banking House, Fixtures and Equipment		105,731.05
Cash and Due From Banks		779,916.33
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank		7,800.00
TOTAL		\$5,712,706.09

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 150,000.00	
Surplus	110,000.00	
Undivided Profits	36,463.43	
DEPOSITS	5,268,777.86	
Bills Payable	100,000.00	
Interest Collected, Not Earned	47,464.80	
TOTAL		\$5,712,706.09

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Physical Fitness Class Set by Club

The recently formed YMCA young married adults' group is conducting a physical fitness program open to all couples whose combined ages do not exceed 60 years, according to Ann Bishop, club representative.
A social membership fee is all that is required to participate, she said. Activities include volleyball, basketball, badminton, trampoline and swimming. No calisthenics are planned, she added.
Opportunities for dusk swimming will be scheduled with special instructors, it was reported. All members will be able to take scuba diving. Weight lifting is available in the new exercise room.
The club meetings will be held every first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month starting at 8:30 p.m. in the Y gymnasium. Refreshments will be served at the end of each meeting. Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 6.

New Army Weapon Is Being Distributed

The Army's new M-14 rifle, a four-in-one infantry weapon, will be delivered to more Army units late in 1960 or early in 1961 depending on production, according to M/Sgt. Warren M. Long, Army recruiter in Medford.
First to receive the weapon was the 101st airborne division, one of the Army's Strategic Army Commands divisions.
The new weapon replaces M-1 Garand rifle, the M-2 carbine, the Browning automatic rifle and the M-3 submachine gun. It is lighter than the M-1 rifle now being used generally and is chambered for the 7.62 mm NATO round. It is equipped with a 20-round magazine and may be fired either semi or fully automatic.

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3-60x30 With Screen	42.57	28.51
3-34x38 With Screen	35.55	24.55
1-40x38 With Screen	38.70	26.13
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4-34x42 With Screen	39.78	27.45
1-40x42 With Screen	44.10	29.70
6-48x42 With Screen	46.44	30.69
5-60x42 With Screen	47.50	36.10
3-68x20 With Screen	42.65	32.41
1-68x38 With Screen	54.30	41.18
1-68x42 With Screen	57.55	43.62
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