

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not reflect positions of organizations with which he is affiliated.

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“No psychologist should pretend to understand what he does not understand... Only fools and charlatans know everything and understand nothing.”

-Anton Chekhov-

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Links will provide additional information. Dates for recent additions are in **bold**.

| <i>What</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Where</i> |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Steven Pinker Interview* | Sunday Nov. 2nd | 2:00-5:00 pm | CSPAN2 |
| Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club | Nov. 6 th | 5:30 – 8:00 PM | Cassablanca Coffee House Ashland (Hwy 2 & 63) |
| Lake Superior Binational Forum | Nov. 7 & 8 | All Day Fri. , 8-12 Sat. | Thunder Bay, ON |
| BCEDC Board Meeting | Nov. 10 th | 10:00- noon | Cable (location TBD) |
| Rustic Roads Board Meeting | Nov. 10 th | 9:00 am - noon | Madison |
| Synergy 2008 | Nov. 12 & 13 | All Day | UW River Falls |
| Northland Bioneers Conference | Nov. 14 - 16 | All Day | Twin Cities |
| BCEDC Board Meeting | Dec. 8th | 10:00 am – Noon | Washburn Library |

* Psychologist **Steven Pinker** has pioneered important thinking about brain-mind function and linguistics. This interview promises to provide mind-candy that should compete with lite-beer and football. If you miss this, or prefer football, there is some great video on [YouTube](#). I'll be in travel mode on Sunday afternoon but hope to catch the midnight rerun.

VOTE!

My hunch is that a few TGIF Readers don't vote. My hope is that they are deeply troubled, thoughtful and philosophical about their choice not to vote, taking a sincere exception to the quality of candidates for public office, incensed by the way elections are dominated by irrelevant issues amplified through media hype, or troubled by the gap between promise and performance of those elected.

Winston Churchill delivered many memorable words, one collection of notable quotes listed 178 attributed to the late British orator, author and Prime Minister. One heard frequently is, “*It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others that have*

been tried.” Another that would resonate with our constitutional framers who distrusted popular election of the President, *“The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter.”*

Recent allegations, probably, and perhaps appropriately, overblown by attention-seeking media, point to flaws or fraud in voter registration, manipulation of election results through voter disenfranchisement, technical problems with voting machines, and outright cheating through voting machine manipulation. These serious allegation strike at the heart of democratic government and make distrust of the poorly informed or misinformed voter a poor second for any consideration that voting is irrelevant. That we in America have a system for our elections, in which allegations of fraud and corruption go unchallenged, uninvestigated, and uncorrected is shameful. Fixing flows in our systems for voting is fundamental.

With a small fraction of money dissipated or squandered in Iraq and bailing out fat-cats, election processes could be fixed. What money can't fix is our language and our money. Clever semantics and torched or tortured rhetoric, misrepresentation, outright lies and simplistic fallacy survive scrutiny under our Constitution's first amendment. Donations of massive amounts of money, whether in huge lobbyist-like chunks or tiny grass-roots chunks, derives its power from Constitutional support that if you can't speak for yourself, your money can purchase a surrogate to preserve your freedom of speech.

There may be thoughtful reasons to stay home on election day. I personally think it is still a good idea to vote with the hope for making things better in the future. Democracy makes no promise of perfection.

LIGHTER SIDE:

As with most jokes the original author is unknown. Whoever you are; “Thanks!” Names, when added, are intended to tease the innocent.

Responding

A very shy guy goes into a bar and sees a beautiful woman sitting at the bar. After an hour of gathering up his courage, he finally goes over to her and asks, tentatively, "Um, would you mind if I chatted with you for a while?"

She responds by yelling, at the top of her lungs, "NO! I won't sleep with you tonight!" Everyone in the bar is now staring at them. Naturally, the guy is hopelessly and completely embarrassed and he slinks back to his table.

After a few minutes, the woman walks over to him and apologizes. She smiles at him and says, "I'm sorry if I embarrassed you. You see, I'm a graduate student in psychology, and I'm studying how people respond to embarrassing situations."

To which he responds, at the top of his lungs, "What do you mean \$200?!"

Take care and enjoy a great weekend!

Bruce

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Bruce Lindgren is Principal of [B.Lindgren CONSULTING](#). The consulting practice serves small business, local government, school districts and non-profits providing support for research, grant development, technical writing, marketing support and project management. Bruce brings his background in biological sciences, education, small business and media technology to generate and implement ideas contributing solutions to mission critical challenges.

In addition Bruce maintains the following affiliations:

[Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation](#), (BCEDC) Director

[Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development](#), (CEID) Acting President & CEO

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), Owner

[Inland Sea Society](#), (ISS) Director

[Lake Superior Binational Forum](#), (LSBF) US Co-Chair

[Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board](#), (WIB) Member

[Raindrop Garden Gallery](#), (RGG) Co-owner

The encircled fractal triangle represents an integrated cluster of seven ideas – economics, ecology, equity, ethics, experience, education and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about role of education in Industrial Ecology, Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Revolution.