

CLIENT / CONTACT BULLETIN 8-09

Just in case it matters to you:

- "MANAGING REMOTE WORKERS IS LIKE ENABLING AN ECOSYSTEM... gauging the productivity of people rarely seen... Well into the work-from-anywhere era, managers are beginning to ask: 'Are the underlings working remotely – or remotely working?... As more and more people decamp, companies are grappling with how to manage these invisible armies and what kinds of people are cut out to work offsite – whether they are suited to solo toiling in pajamas and can handle limited supervision. Even those who can require some face time. Researchers at IBM learned that if teams went more than three days without gathering, their happiness and productivity suffered... Out of sight, Yes. Out of Mind, No." [BUSINESSWEEK – Feb 18, 08]
- "LIFE SATISFACTION, if charted on a graph, has a 'U' shape" with people very satisfied at both ends – in their 20's and again in their 70s, so long as they're physically fit. However, according to an international research team who collected data from two million people across the globe over thirty years, and "contrary to conventional wisdom, ...most people feel a significant dip in happiness and life satisfaction somewhere between 40 and 50, with some lapsing into full-blown depression. The malaise that hits during these years was found in all kinds of populations, whether people were poor, rich, childless or not, married, divorced, or single." So it's middle age, not the teenage years or old age, which are the tough ones. [THE WEEK – Feb 15, 08]
- "AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN MULTICULTURAL, but until fairly recently the nation was a symbolic pot in which various peoples were metaphorically melted, lending into one rich alloy; and it was that fusion of talents, philosophies, attributes, and inclinations – renewable and adaptable – that gave the U.S. its zip and its zest. Nowadays, however, it seems few immigrants are inclined to assimilate. They bring their native cultures with them, virtually intact, and cling to them, refusing even to learn to speak English and getting angry when the social institutions of their adopted land fail to address them in their indigenous tongues. Which keeps them out of the work force, naturally, and in a state of victimization; a selfish, self-pitying, self-perpetuating state insidiously exploited by leftists for their own political ends. Thus, instead of a strong, nutritious broth, pungent with the aromatic spices of labor and success, America has become a plop of separate little lumps of undigested stuff. Kind of like – vomit. Good-bye, melting pot, hello, chamber pot." -TOM ROBBINS
- IF CURRENT TRENDS CONTINUE, according to a new study by non-partisan Pew Research Center, by 2050: the U.S. population will have swelled to some 438M people (around 50% more than today, with newly arriving immigrants and their U.S. born families accounting for almost ¾ of that growth); one in five Americans will be foreign-born, with Hispanics representing nearly 30% of the population and Asians another 9%; yet, "immigration will do little to offset the more than doubling of our elderly population (to some 20%) as baby-boomers age" – creating a 'dependency ratio' of 72 geezers to every 100 working adults. "We need to ask ourselves if we want 100M more people that immigration will bring, with 80M more cars on the road, or 40M homes occupying what is now open space?" [WASHINGTON POST.COM – Feb 12, 08]
- "THE CONTINUING AND MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF BEES" now threatens some \$15 billion worth of agricultural productivity, one-third of America's food supply, and the entire ice cream industry! "Pollinating California's almond crop alone already requires more than half the current population of American honeybees," and some 40% of Haagen-Daz flavors, for example, contain ingredients that rely completely on honeybee pollination – as well as does the alfalfa which cows eat to make milk. Geneticists, entomologists and educators have been researching the causes of the bees' decline and trying to make 'stronger' bees in their labs, but so far without much success. "Dessert disaster" could be coming. [DISCOVER – Mar 08]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: **Researchers at Kaiser Permanente in California followed 178,000 people for 9 years and determined that drinking up to two glasses of alcohol daily (wine, beer or liquor) translates to a 20% reduction in risk of developing lung disease – regardless of whether the persons were smokers or not!**

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. There's no point in being a damn fool about it." –W.C.Fields

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