

Just in case it matters to you:

- THE NEWEST WORK MODEL IS CALLED 'NOMADISM' and combines the autonomy of telecommuting with a flexible work style which best suits the 'knowledge workers' who divide their work-time between corporate offices, home office and "third places such as cafes, public libraries or parks, accessing home computer files from wherever they happen to be." In Silicon Valley, some companies have 'open work' programs where more than half the workforce are assigned no dedicated space but utilize 'hotdesking' when needing to be at the office. However, "nomadic work requires big adjustments to the culture of an organization and the behavior of its individuals – particularly older and more traditional supervisors who usually oppose the idea because they fear they cannot manage people whom they cannot see." It also takes a toll on the workers in several ways that psychologists are researching, including: whether this work model makes young people more autonomous or more dependent? Whether nomadic "communication changes language itself and thus thought?" How 'crackberries' can "cause marital problems for many couples who must negotiate" where & when the pre-emptive gadget is allowed and even when does the working day stop?" Unfortunately, "the flexibility, freedom and productivity of mobile work does have a cost... Wireless communication is changing the way people work, live, love and relate to places and each other." [THE ECONOMIST – Apr 12, 08]
- AMERICA NOW HAS OVER 500 CASINOS, GENERATING SOME \$50 BILLION ANNUALLY in gambling dollars waged, up to half coming from "gamblers who develop serious compulsions... Casinos open the door to thousands of ruined lives due to embezzlement, bankruptcy and even suicide – all of which have social costs as well as personal ones." More casinos are on the way, however, since "whenever cash-strapped states need a stealth tax, they turn to gambling... which seems like a painless way to raise revenues... but even the revenues provided by non-pathological gambling are largely an illusion, since casinos siphon off hundreds of millions of dollars people would otherwise spend in local restaurants, theaters and other entertainment venues... It's a suckers game for governments as well as for bettors." [THE WEEK – Apr 25, 08]
- AS THIS YEAR'S TEDIOUS POLITICAL PROCESS DRONES ON, HOLLYWOOD STARS seem to "actually believe their *thoughts* are original cutting-edge political commentary" and we are barraged with "brilliant observations from people you normally read about at the supermarket checkout counter... Why does it matter? ...Because they never cease inflicting their inanity on the rest of us. If they would only keep their (pretty, often surgically enhanced) mouths shut, we'd be happy to let them make their millions playing make-believe and screwing up their lives with their various excesses (drugs, sex, insecurity) and deficiencies (self-control, maturity, brains). But in this celebrity-obsessed culture, their problem becomes our problem. Because, unlike drunks in a bar, celebrities – even certified-moron celebrities – are given a very big megaphone. They're inescapable... out in front of television cameras with millions of people watching." [100 PEOPLE WHO ARE SCREWING UP AMERICA – 2005]
- THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: ***A 'no-good-deed-goes-unpunished' story from the internet: "I bought a bird feeder, hung it on my back porch and filled it lovingly with seed. Soon hundreds of birds were taking advantage of the continuous flow of free and easily accessible food, and were building nests above my patio. Then came the poop – patio tile, table, chairs, everywhere! And then, some of the birds turned mean – dive bombing and pecking even though I had fed them out of my own pocket. And others birds were boisterous and loud, squawking at all hours for more birdseed, until I couldn't even sit on my own back porch anymore. So I simply took down the bird feeder and in three days they were gone. I cleaned up their mess and took down the nests they had built. Soon, the yard was like it used to be... quiet, serene and no demands for free food and accommodations. Could this be analogous to our government giving out free food, subsidized housing, free medical care and education? Combined with automatic citizenship for anyone born here, is it surprising that 'illegals' come by the tens of thousands – now aggregating mega-millions – and that our taxes now pay for their free services instead of citizens needs? Small apartments are housing five families; we now wait six hours to be seen by an emergency room doctor; our children are behind in learning because over half the class doesn't speak English; Corn Flakes now come in a bilingual box; I have to 'press one' to hear my bank talk to me in English, while people wave foreign flags squawking like birds in the streets, demanding yet more 'rights' and free liberties. Maybe it's time for the government to take down the bird feeder before we become full-time poop cleaners..."***