

Just in case it matters to you:

- A MAGNITUDE 6.7 EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS A "VIRTUAL CERTAINTY (99.7%) in the next twenty years... Risk of a magnitude 7 shock is 94%" according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The last registered 6.7 quake, centered in the San Fernando Valley in 1994, caused some \$25 billion damage, injured more than nine-thousand people, and impacted thousands of businesses for years. Given this knowledge, is your company prepared for the inevitable event – which could happen tomorrow, as easily as twenty years away? DCG has consulted in this area for many years; our nationally published recommendations from a decade ago (*"Disaster and Contingency Planning: A Practical Approach,"* accessible in the Publications section of the DCG website) are still utilized by companies across the nation in this critical management area, and we can help you. Remember Mark Twain's admonition: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do."
[THE WEEK - May 2, 08]
- MORE ON MILLENNIALS: "A large majority of workers under 30 simply distrust large institutions, and prefer to start their own company rather than advance through the corporate ranks. Some 10% are actively trying to do so – three times as many as in previous generations... Twice as many Millennials as Gen Xers say they would prefer to own a business rather than be a top executive, and five times more prefer this to holding a key position in politics or government... Most believe that jobs cannot provide a secure economic future in a time of rapid technological change...and are aware that small businesses (less than 500 employees) have created more than 90% of the net new jobs in the U.S. over the past twenty years... Millennials are well equipped for work in a high-tech world, but have little interest in their employers' needs and, instead, a powerful urge to do things their own way."
[THE FUTURIST – May/June 08]
- 'DEPRESSION' IN THE WORKPLACE, beyond the toll it takes on an employee and his/her family and friends, can materially impact co-workers and a company's operational performance. Causes of depression include genetic predisposition and brain chemistry, but also often include stress, isolation and other aspects of the *workplace environment* – particularly in professional firms where stress and isolation are commonplace (e.g. "lawyers suffer the highest rate of depression, nearly four times the rate of the general adult population"). Proactive steps to minimize the adverse influence of work environment include "promoting work-life balance, ...encouraging interaction and collaboration, ...facilitating social events, ...encouraging healthy lifestyles, ...and, above all else, not ignoring the employee who shows signs of depression: a persistently sad or irritable mood; difficulty thinking, concentrating and remembering; physical slowing or agitation; lack of interest in or pleasure taken from activities that were once enjoyed; increased absenteeism; decreased productivity and missed deadlines; indecision or poor judgment; mood swings or other erratic behavior, such as uncharacteristic outbursts of anger; unusual anxiety or complaints of constantly feeling tired... Be willing to encourage your people to seek assistance and to support them as they do."
[LAW PRACTICE – Apr/May 08]
- CYBERCRIME IS NO LONGER JUST ABOUT "MALICIOUS HACKERS vying for bragging rights; it's now about making money... Online outlaws have taken to setting up and then renting out 'botnets' – huge groups of hijacked computers, infected with malicious software, that can be activated remotely to flood a website with bogus requests or send millions of 'spam' emails." CASS – Crimeware As A Service – is the software industry's newest model, allowing criminals to operate without personally being hackers by simply paying up to \$1000/mo to procure access.
[THE ECONOMIST – Apr 26, 05]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: ***"Too often, work expands to fill the time available for its completion, while the work swells in perceived importance and complexity in a direct ratio with the time to be spent in its completion."***
"Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they're going to catch you in next."
"Don't worry over what other people are thinking about you. They're usually too busy worried over what you're thinking about them."