



Just in case it matters to you:

CLIENT / CONTACT BULLETIN 10-10

- WE'RE WITNESSING A GROWING "BREAKDOWN IN THE 'BALANCE' BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS which has brought social consequences as well as economic ones, including the disappearance of trust between unrelated adults and children and a long, messy transition to independence for young people today... Baby Boomers have dodged two speeding bullets, leaving their descendants squarely in the line of fire. The first is the bill for bailing out the financial sector; the second, the effect of climate change on the cost of energy, water, flood-prevention and the like." Meanwhile, in both public and private sectors, the younger generations "must slog on towards an infinitely receding retirement age, squirreling away money for meager defined-contribution pensions while a growing proportion of state spending is devoted to the needs of a massive generation of the elderly." Could 'age warfare' be a greater risk to our future than 'class warfare' ? [THE ECONOMIST – Feb 13, 10]
- FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP IS ALSO AT RISK. Generation Y workers are already at an all-time low 'job satisfaction' level – around 43%, versus 67% two decades ago – while employees in their 20s are turning over at twice the rate of older workers. The impact, combined with the fact that America's labor force is aging and in five years 20% of workers will be over age 55, has created a bizarre situation: persisting high unemployment on one hand, with a talent shortage on the other. "New hires of the right sort are tough to find; some 2.4 million positions – many in professional services, health care and education – are going unfilled" according to the Bureau of Labor statistics. "With executives set to retire and younger managers more restive than ever, where will the new leaders come from?" [FORBES – Mar 1, 10]
- SO FAR, NOT THE GENERATION Xers who, a decade ago, were "marked not only by their unwholesome aversion to work, but by vague yet ostensibly crippling anxieties – a result of the latchkey lassitude of their broken families...meandering and presumed to be slackers." In the light of today's world, their perspective doesn't look so entirely warped. "Two wars, for which Gen X has provided much of the blood and courage, and a financial collapse brought on by the overreach of just about everyone *but* Gen Xers, capped a 'lost decade' in which many of those who strived ended up little better than those who 'slacked.' In hindsight, they may have been naïve but smart enough to conserve their energy for the future. However, the jury is still out on whether Gen Xers are serious about work commitment and assuming leadership. [THE WEEK – Feb 26, 10]



- HUMAN BEINGS 'GLOW' IN THE DARK, but brightest time is "afternoon around our lips and cheeks...thought to be the result of chemical reactions involving molecular fragments known as free radicals." All other living things also glow, including 90% of ocean creatures living below 1500 feet, which provide the oceans' largest light source. [DISCOVER MAGAZINE – Mar 10]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: ***Egypt's highest Grand Mufti cleric has issued a FATWA against technology, banning Facebook for Muslims since it "breaks up marriages by encouraging people to reconnect with former flames."***

Univ. of California researchers have justified BEER for all – finding that it "is a rich source of silicone, which increases bone mineral density and helps prevent osteoporosis... a health-food drink that builds strong bones."

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it comes dressed in overalls and looks like work." - Thomas Edison