



Just in case it matters to you:

- SOCIAL NETWORK SITE 'FRIENDING' BETWEEN BOSSES AND SUBORDINATES CAN BE DANGEROUS. "Online relations can trigger or exacerbate a host of legal claims including harassment, discrimination or wrongful termination, as well as touch off cries of favoritism." The problem is that such social interaction allows an employee argument that workplace decisions were based on "personal information that is not supposed to influence employment decisions but does appear on social networking sites...like religious affiliation, age, ethnicity, political affiliation, health problems, remarks about co-workers," and so forth. From the Manager's standpoint, it's also a lose-lose operationally since, according to a recent OfficeTeam survey, nearly half the executives are both "uncomfortable being friended by those they manage... and don't want to be friended by their bosses either." Labor lawyers anticipate a new slew of litigation work. [THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL – Oct 23, 09]
- CALIFORNIA HAS 18 FEDERAL AND 33 STATE PRISONS. In the state system alone, each of the 168,000 inmates currently incarcerated has an average of five children, and over half also have a relative in prison. The cultural perspective in their families, involving some 857,000 children, is warped by facts like: 53% of prisoners are jailed for having committed 'violent' crimes; a substantial portion of the others involve drug-related offences; and 70% of prisoners, once released, will be reincarcerated within three years – often because "2/3 of parolees have substance abuse histories...so subsequent drug-testing means they invariably fail, and their return to prison is almost guaranteed." The state prison system is literally bursting at the seams – cells house double or triple the bodies designed for and gymnasiums now serve as makeshift triple-decker dorms, with "inmates on their bunks in varying degrees of stupor or coiled tension for up to 23 hours a day." 'Rehabilitation' is moot. "The prevailing philosophy of the Dep't of Corrections remains all about negative reinforcement... about inflicting pain, and a self-fulfilling prophecy that says: prisoners are a bunch of dirtbags, they cannot be successful, so we will not bother investing any time or energy in helping them or encouraging them to become successful." [LOS ANGELES MAGAZINE – Sep 09]
- WHEN THE 'JOB CREATION STIMULUS' WAS RUSHED THRU THE NEW CONGRESS in February, leaders forecasted that it would generate 3.5M new jobs thru 2010. Reality is that, as of October 1, instead some 2.7 more jobs have been LOST (in every state across the country except North Dakota) – so, at the moment we're over six million jobs shy of Administration projections. In California, nearly 350,000 more jobs have evaporated this year versus a 400,000 forecasted recovery level, so the shy number is 750,000. Fact is, the "poor economic conditions in California are forcing many people to locate to other states to look for employment," resulting in lessened demand for apartments and offices. Effective rental rates are projected downward next year by at least another 2.5% for apartments and over 8% for office space – good for tenants, but not so for property owners. It's going to be a long recovery. [NAI CAPITAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK – Fall 09]
- OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS, 'READING' HAS DECLINED –to "over 25% for the overall U.S. population, 30% for young adults 18 to 24, and 40 million Americans now reading at the lowest literacy level – mostly attributable to the 'image makers': TV, video games, YouTube and the likes who don't care that "image, as a carrier of data, thoughts, ideas, prayers and promises, is neither as functional nor as versatile as text." While nearly a trillion gigabytes of data are now produced annually through information-age technology which, even with the internet's "chaotic and varied digital culture, ...allows millions of already well-read scholars to connect to one another and work more effectively, ...this type of content generation – this method of 'writing' – is not only subliterate, it may actually undermine the literary impulse." A recent OECD report (Organiz. for Economic Cooperation and Development) found that "text messaging among teenagers had a highly negative effect on their writing and reading skills... The written word will likely be rendered a functionally obsolete technology by 2050." [THE FUTURIST – Nov/Dec 09]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: "**Leadership is creating the possibility of a future that isn't going to happen otherwise, and enrolling others into taking action to fulfill that future.**" – Ivan Rosenberg

"Whenever there is a simple error that most laymen fall for, there is always a slightly more sophisticated version of the same problem that experts fall for... Policymakers think that if they get the abstractions right, that will drive behavior in the desired direction; but the world happens in real time."