

Just in case it matters to you:

- "THE GLOBAL DOWNTURN HAS BEEN A BRUTAL AWAKENING" FOR Gen Y MILLENNIALS who are now more stuck in their jobs. Kids born after 1980 "had gotten used to a world in which jobs were plentiful and firms fought over one another to recruit them... Now dissatisfaction is growing as it's harder to job hop while, at the same time, crisis-hit firms adopt more of a command-and-control approach to management – the antithesis of the open, collaborative style that young workers prefer. Less autonomy and more directives have sparked...gripping and frustration which may reinforce the stereotype of Millennials as being afraid of hard work – more American Idle than American Idol... Managers will have to make an extra effort to keep Net Geners engaged and motivated to avoid an exodus of young talent once the economy improves. That, to borrow from their text-message shorthand, would be a huge WOMBAT: a wasted of money, brains and time." [THE ECONOMIST – Jan 3, 08]



- IN TOUGH TIMES, MANAGERS ARE FACED WITH TOUGH DECISIONS ABOUT 'LOYALTY' VERSUS 'RESULTS.' "When the economy is strong, a record of loyalty can be enough to 'give cover' to an employee with mediocre performance. But when staff reduction becomes necessary, the vast majority of managers act in the best interest of the company...recognizing that loyalty without performance is shortsighted and wrong-headed." Absence of a candid appraisal system which lets workers know "which values and behaviors matter, in what measure, and where they stand relative to their peers," does a disservice to those faithful but marginal employees who have served the company with integrity and trust; "people deserve to understand which behaviors constitute job-protecting performance." It's never too late to implement a simple, effective and fair performance evaluation system to meet this objective, as well as protect the company more fully against terminated employee complaints or litigation. DCG can quickly help you at very low cost. [BUSINESSWEEK – Jan 19, 09]
- THE BEST WAY TO AVOID WINTER COLDS: Simply keep your hands clean by washing regularly – especially before touching food. The rhinovirus which causes colds transfers to over one-third of the surfaces people touch and survives for up to 18 hours, according to a Univ. of Virginia study. "So if you've recently turned a doorknob, shaken hands, sent a fax, kissed a cheek, paid for something in cash, or otherwise interacted with the outside world, you could already have the virus at your fingertips – literally." Another tip: "physically active people doing moderate (conversational pace) exercise...suffer 20% fewer upper-respiratory infections a year" than couch potatoes, according to a Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise journal study. However, FYI, according to a meta-analysis of thirty separate studies, vitamin C or herbal remedies "offer extremely limited, if any, protection against colds and flu." [BEST LIFE – Feb 09]
- FRANKENSTEIN IS COMING. A team of Japanese researchers have now successfully resurrected nuclei from "mouse brains which had been frozen for sixteen years...to create clones that grew into fertile adult mice." [DISCOVER – Feb 09]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: ***The secret to a long marriage (over 30 years), according to Sean Connery, is that neither speaks the other's language (she is French). Their inability to hold extended conversations – and to bicker – "is what has kept us together all these years. What should be regarded as a handicap is actually a godsend."***

"Political Correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end."