



Just in case it matters to you:

- “LEADERSHIP INVOLVES PLUMBING AS WELL AS POETRY... Too many ‘leaders’ fancy themselves above the messy, but crucial, work of ‘managing’... who don’t manage so much as deem – pronouncing performance targets, for instance, that are supposed to be met by whoever is doing the real managing... The truth is, many of the most successful strategies are not conceived in isolation at the ‘top.’ They grow throughout the organization via a kind of distributed leadership... Leadership should be defined as ‘management practiced well’.”
[BUSINESSWEEK – Aug 17, 09]
- HIGH PERFORMANCE ‘BOARDS’ OF ADVISORS OR DIRECTORS DON’T JUST ‘HAPPEN.’ “They must be deliberately constructed...actively choosing how engaged they will be in critical management decisions, matching the skills of each person with organizational needs, and making sure that meetings are venues of authentic debate, not scripted presentations... The key lies in the working relationships, between members and managers, in the social dynamics of Board interaction, and in the competence, integrity, and constructive involvement of individual members.” DCG have been focal in the structuring, development, recruitment and facilitation of effective Boards for decades and our newest affiliate, BOARDROOM PERFORMANCE GROUP [www.boardroomperformancegroup.com] specializes exclusively in consulting for optimal performance – including board member assessment, mentoring and design of individual ‘dashboards’ aligned to the needs and skills of individual members – for companies, not-for-profit organizations, and government agencies.
[HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW]
- MEDICARE FRAUD IS ESTIMATED TO NOW EXCEED \$60 BILLION EACH YEAR. The government brags that it has uncovered some \$600 billion in fraudulent claims over the past two years – important, but still leaving 99.5% unmanaged. It’s estimated that 20% of every dollar paid out goes for non-existent bogus services, and another 20% goes to politically-connected companies allowed to charge grossly inflated prices. [One example: an oxygen concentrator serves patients with respiratory illness. A new machine cost is around \$600, but “Medicare is only allowed to ‘rent’ these devices at a price which, over a 36-month period, costs the government around \$5,700 – plus costs the patient another \$1,400 as their co-pay portion.] Government has done such a good job of managing Medicare that its unfunded liability currently exceeds \$34 trillion and “eventually will overwhelm every other item on the federal budget” (which collects only \$2 trillion each year in total tax revenue). Meanwhile, as the system approaches collapse and our leaders literally refuse to deal with the devastating impact this will cause to some 40M Americans who’ve been paying all these years in reliance on retirement coverage, those leaders now seek to further the crisis by adding ‘universal’ health care benefits for the rest of society.
[LIFE EXTENSION – Sep 09]
- AND STATE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP IS JUST AS INEPT. While funding continues for medical, incarceration and social services to non-Californians (including illegal aliens), the budget for University of California was just cut by billions of dollars. Despite years of cutbacks, U.C. still presently ranks at the top of global higher education institutions – particularly campuses at UCLA, San Diego and Berkeley (which ranks third in the country, behind only Harvard and Stanford). But “the glory is about to end” as plans are already underway to “send professors and staff on leave, cram more students into classrooms, and offer fewer courses. Attracting and keeping academic stars, and the research dollars that usually follow them...will destroy what it took decades to build...as world class assistant professors and their best students will probably leave.” And all this regardless of the fact that The Public Policy Institute projects a shortfall in California of a million college grads by 2025, further “depressing the prosperity of the entire state.” What are these people thinking?
[THE ECONOMIST – Aug 8, 09]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: “Don’t sweat the petty things. Don’t pet the sweaty things.”

Until the ‘Good Samaritan’ law was just passed and signed by California’s governor this month, people who meant well by stopping to help at the scene of an accident have been at risk of lawsuit – and many have been sued – for inadvertently (as alleged by attorneys) causing medical damage.

At \$7.25 per hour, the federal minimum wage, in real terms, is still 25% lower than in the late 1960s for the 50% of such workers over age 25. California’s minimum is \$8.00, but still hardly enough for economic survival.