



CON - VERSATION

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325

10/24/10

Hello Friends,

INMATES will find a way to communicate with each other... However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to communicate with friends and family "Beyond The Wire".

Smoke Signals were, at one point in time - more effective than the Pony Express. Of course the telegraph quickly made them both footnotes:

Not many people are aware that Benjamin Franklin - Patriot, Statesman, Printer, Author, Inventor, etc. made a spectacle of himself (and bifocals for himself. &) when he proposed a nationwide postal service... Think about... - for .049 you could have a piece of mail hand delivered from Phila. to Richmond - Even more outlandish is that the price has only gone up by .41 cents in the 220 or so years. Be that as it may - snail mail is on its way to becoming another 'footnote' in time.

(2)

WE DIDN'T LEAVE THE 'STONE AGE' BECAUSE WE RAN OUT OF STONES. - THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR THE SPACE AGE. HOWEVER, THE SO-CALLED 'INFORMATION AGE' IS CREATING A 2-TIERED SOCIETY THAT MAY MAKE NESSY V. FERGUSON SEEM LIKE A LITTLE SPEED BUMP ON THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE 'DIGITAL DIVIDE' IS A POTENTIAL WATERSHED MOMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY -

97% of those making over \$75,000 a year are 'on-line' in this country - 90% of those making \$50 to \$74,999. It drops down to 62% of those making less than \$30,000 - and only 43% of those without a High School Diploma. (Compared with those who have a COLLEGE DEGREE who are at 94%!!)

According to GRETA BYNUM, TECHNOLOGY EXPERT WITH THE NEW AMERICAN FOUNDATION, IN WASH., D.C.

"THE MORE PEOPLE WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS

get left behind. The greater the gap between the haves and the have nots. - It Robs people of a voice "!!

Being connected to the web is part of being a fully functioning member of our society. (Curtis Skinner - family expert with the National Center for Children and Poverty at Columbia University.)

A few posts back - I discussed the negative impact of incarceration on children. - Since I had to rely upon a NRCCFI report that was several years old, I asked if anyone could find an updated report in order to find out if a correlation was being made regarding the 'negative impact' of the 'Digital Divide' upon those friends and families of inmates - consequently the inmates ability to transition back into society.

I was hoping to SPARK A NATIONAL DEBATE OVER AN ISSUE THAT COULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR 700,000 INMATES WHO ARE BEING RELEASED INTO SOCIETY EACH YEAR... PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING GIVEN A 10 FOOT LADDER, POINTED AT A 20 FOOT WALL AND BEING TOLD 'GOOD LUCK'

IRONICALLY, I'M BEING HINDERED IN MY EFFORTS TO TAKE PART IN THIS DEBATE BY MY MAIL ROOM HERE AT CENTURY C.I. - COMMENTS TO THAT ~~POSTS~~ 'POST' WERE RETURNED TO 'BETWEEN THE BARS' AS BEING 'UNPUBLISHED' - PHUH! 'Ain't THAT A ... UM ... ER-RER ... STICKY WICKET.' h.o.l.

I CLOSED THE INST POST BY ISSUING A CHALLENGE - IF ANYONE KNEW OF A SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY OR PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR WHO COULD PURSUE THIS THEME (THESIS) FORWARD THE LINK!

THERE'S A WEALTH of information on and research being done with this subject - but not (as far as I know) How big the "Digital Divide's" Impact is on the Recidivism Rate! (A 'solution' to what I see as an ~~enormous~~ enormous problem in the making could have a multi-billion dollar impact on rising costs of incarceration.)

What can you do? Wrap your mind around the issue then "click to forward" or print.

As it turns out, one of the leaders, Prof. Sherry Turkle, is right there at M.I.T.! According to a recent Newsweek article (10/15/22) she has spent close to 30 years studying the effects of computers on personality as a social psychologist.

Prof. Michelle Alexander, author of The New Jim Crow can be "Googled" and contacted - I'm sure she could

PROVIDE A FASCINATING PERSPECTIVE
ON THE ISSUE -

GET 'QUOTES' FROM PROFESSORS
TURKLE AND ALEXANDER - AND THEN
E-MAIL THEM TO MS. AMY BARNETT,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF EBONY MAGAZINE
(amy@ebony.com) MS. BARNETT CAN
DANGLE THE ASSIGNMENT IN FRONT OF
PROF. HARRIS-PARRY, OR MS. MARA SCHIMMOPF -
THE REST, AS THEY SAY, IS A
DIALOGUE WAITING TO HAPPEN. >

I WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO
TAKE PART IN ANY (OR ALL) OF THE
ABOVE - BUT OF COURSE, I DON'T
HAVE 'DIGITAL ACCESS' - HECK,
I CAN'T EVEN GET TO READ 'COMMENTS'
TO THE THINGS I'M POSTING TO
BETWEEN THE BARS... > IF ANYONE
WANTS TO PROVIDE ME WITH FEEDBACK,
PLEASE WRITE TO ME AT EMRY FIELD
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I mentioned Smoke Signals
and The Pony Express - You would
have to 'ASK ANIMATE' what
A 'KITE' was... It's one
of the ways that we've found of
communicating with each other.
(Things that make you go Hmmm!?)

Stay Connected!!

GARY

P.S. It would be a blessing if
even one person could recognize
the issue I'm trying to present -
research it, polish it up, and
get it to someone who could
make a difference - someone like
Sen. Webb. D-W.Va. - Or perhaps
that sociology major that you met
at the cafeteria.

There is nothing in the world
as powerful as an ~~idea~~ idea set forth
upon a wing and a prayer.