

Improvement Initiatives

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FREE NEWSLETTER

January 2010



**"Made in America",
Faded Glory?**

Without Manufacturing Jobs, America Won't Survive

by Shirley deLong

"Group shifts focus to entrepreneurship," noting that UNCG starting new programs. I'm quoting "One aimed at undergraduates, and anyone with college degree!" If you take a look around, the 'fat cats' in government always hire these people to make statements like "We're putting people back to work", when in essence they're only creating bigger government with no stability! It's now a proven fact, you can get all the degrees you want, but without 'common sense', getting your hands dirty', and actually working in a business from sweeping the

floors to answering the phones (I do mean answering phones when they ring), you're backing up! It's going to take more than talent! Hard labor and long hours come to mind. Looking like you just stepped off the front page of a magazine won't be happening, so get over it!

I've written many articles over the years about the Heartbeat of our America! Until Textile and Manufacturing jobs are brought back to America there's absolutely no need for government, let alone bigger government, as these were the 'working with your hand jobs' that

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New Year, New Beginnings, New Thinking (Part 1 of 2)

by Jay Watson

As quality and productivity professionals, we are all about problem solving, team building, working together, satisfying customers, and applying systematic improvement techniques and tools in all we do. As engineers, we transform ideas into action. Sometimes our capabilities are exercised and our personalities are stretched. Our genius challenged... we must always look at the world in different ways... we must constantly innovate !

Walter Elias "Walt" Disney, creator of Mickey Mouse, *Fantasia*, Disneyland, and Disneyworld, was an expert at converting his brainstorming into action. He took on different personalities to help him see his projects from different angles.

Disney the Dreamer – "When Walt was in deep thought," a cohort recalled, "he would lower one brow, squint his eye, let his jaw drop, and stare at some point in space... No words could break the spell."

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KISS off! (his rocker?)

what'z your comeback look like?



Given the eleven years since their last barely passable studio album 1998's Psycho Circus it seemed unlikely that Kiss would ever release another album of new material. Seemingly invigorated by a huge recent upsurge in interest in their hefty back catalogue by the younger generation of rock listeners into the studio they went, and six weeks later emerged armed with Sonic Boom. However, we didn't expect them to knock one out of the park this early with this heaving, sweating lump of fabulous groove straight from 1975.

The first of Gene Simmons's vocal contributions and this isn't at all bad. In fact, the years have been pretty kind to the 'god of thunder', and his voice has actually developed more than a semblance of melody. It's raw, punchy and lyrically the usual innuendo ridden stuff "this is Russian roulette, one pull of the trigger is all you're gonna get" etc, which we've heard often before but here it's done with a freshness of attitude that's been absent for a long, long time.

- from KISSONLINE.com

America Won't Survive (continued from page 1)

used to be the backbone and stability of our country.

Let's look at economics, my way! Fast Foods, Donut & Coffee Shops, Bars, Saloons and many more come to mind (service oriented, not manufacturing anything), but I'm trying to make a point! Leases/Rents, furnishings, heat, lights, water, and licenses/permits have to be paid whether you get a business up and running in 3-5 years or not. Just opening the doors to public, ordering food or supplies for your new business cost money. After all, there's only so much you can charge for a cup of coffee, donut, biscuit, and manicure!

This is why the overhead of these type businesses will never be profitable!

Let's see if I can explain this further!

Our forefathers worked long, hard hours using their hands, horses and crude tools. Raising and pulling cotton to put clothes on their backs, curtains, and

later provide material coverings for furniture (that we no longer have in America). Using hoes and mules to provide gardens. Raising cows, hogs and chickens to provide for their families. The new type American thinks all they have to do is get a degree so they don't have to get their hands dirty! Well, I hate to burst your bubble, but that degree is a piece of paper, and if you have acquired none of the traits, used by your grandparents and great grandparents, you're useless in America!

The Amish Community should always be proud that they've maintained a world, filled with the best of everything, and to know that they've done all they do without destroying our earth! America needs more Amish folks and less AI Gores and big government!

Shirley deLong, Author of Several Published articles, is a business owner, Artist, activist, & environmentalist. Source: EzineArticles.com

Process Control Standards Make Good Business Sense

by Jay Watson

- Document your work
- Share your knowledge
- Pay attention to detail
- Be diligent
- Be proactive
- Communicate

1) Detect and eliminate process variability and uncoordinated changes.

2) Eliminate creep through process controls and audits.

3) Understand and reduce process risks.

4) Identify key design and manufacturing characteristics and share lessons learned relating to processes.

5) Be personally accountable. Perform to written procedures.

6) Promote process control awareness. Understand and report changes.

7) Identify and evaluate changes to equipment and environment.

8) Capture and maintain process knowledge and skills.

Mentoring: A Two-way Street ... (Part 1 of 2)



Have you ever taken the responsibility to lead a new project, and, not being thoroughly familiar with the landscape, just needed a little start in the right direction? Or perhaps your team is off to a good start, and you needed someone with a particular expertise to help guide you along the way? Maybe you just needed someone to help you navigate the hurdles and pitfalls that might be coming your way. Or perhaps, after the workday is done, you needed someone there just to listen.

If the answer to any of the above is yes, then you need a mentor!

Mentors take on different roles, responsibilities and relationships, but are primarily a support mechanism available to coach, counsel, and advise the project leader throughout the problem solving process. Project leaders may sometime feel frustrated with communication efforts, support, and understanding of a project as it progresses or lags. A visit with a Mentor may decrease that frustration level and help the project succeed.

As the project launches:

Communication is key. Project leaders, make an appointment with your mentor, champion, or sponsor to discuss your project status. Clearly identify the potential issues: lack of support; poorly defined project objectives; competing resources; absence or unavailability of Black Belt, Master Black Belt, or Subject Matter Expert (SME); lack of a defined continuous improvement process methodology, etc Keep the conversation as unemotional as possible.

Project leaders and mentors; make sure that you both agree as what "success" would look like on the project. Then you'll know what you need to do while you patiently work together toward that vision.

Mentors, listen closely. Develop a communication plan and meet regularly with your project leaders, your business groups, and others within the business. Ask questions so that you won't be surprised.

Project leaders, show positive project results. Share every success. Business leaders will pay more attention to your project and associated issues if they know that hard dollar savings and/or support of the management system are being delivered or are on the horizon. Remember to share credit as widely as possible.

Mentors, redirect and clarify if necessary.

continued in next issue ...

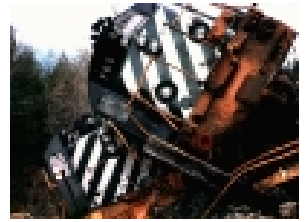
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Team Trainwrecked?

Stay focused: Make sure your team is clear about its purpose, deadlines, and objectives.

When the team has been off-track awhile, suggest moving back to the task: "Where are we in finishing our work today?"

Suggest that you discuss one issue at a time, rather than simultaneously. "Can we finish choosing our measures before looking at data collection forms?"

Ask if someone can summarize the discussion up to this point.

Keep track of issues you want to temporarily set aside by recording them on a separate flip chart.

When new issues or topics arise, check them against your teams' objective and plans. Will working on that issue contribute to the team's progress?

**As once seen on
an auto license
plate ... (mine)**

IN-O-V8

Here's the most innovative companies as determined by Business Week [2009]:

Apple
Google
Toyota Motors
Microsoft
Nintendo
IBM
H-P
Research In Motion Ltd.
(Produces the Blackberry)
Nokia
Wal-Mart

Jay sez: Think about it!



What's a good idea worth?

New Year, New Beginnings (cont from page 1)

Psychologists say this describes Disney in a state called synesthesia (drawing on the memory of two senses at once): He was letting his mind see and hear his proposed new creation.

Disney the realist – How would you create a device that lets you analyze and plan the actions of an animated cartoon character?

Each second of movement on the screen will need to be broken down into 24 separate drawings because there are 24 frames per second in a motion picture.

P.S. – your budget for research and development is less than a nickel.

continued in next issue ...



"Don't spend your precious time asking 'Why isn't the world a better place?' It will only be time wasted. The question to ask is 'How can I make it better?'

To that there is an answer."

- Leo F. Buscaglia

When to use PPE (continued from last issue)

If the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is considered the least effective control measure, why use it at all? When other control measures (such as substitution) do not completely eliminate the hazard or if no other practical means exist for effectively controlling it. PPE becomes useful as a control measure.

PPE can also be used to control exposure as an interim, (short term) measure before permanent controls are implemented, such as non-routine maintenance, clean-up, or repair as well as during emergency situations.

Signs, floor tape, floor markings, and/or other signage identify areas where PPE is required. Types of PPE required, but not limited, include:

- Safety glasses w/ side shield
- Gloves
- Respirators / Face masks
- Steel toe shoes
- Ear plugs/ muffs
- Hard hats

Be aware of any PPE required postings and ensure you are wearing it (properly) prior to entering the area.

Protect your future, always wear PPE.

Improvement Initiatives LLC

2135 e, La Jolla Drive
Tempe, Az 85282
(480) 820-0877

improvementinit@yahoo.com

Off the page ...



AMERICAN MANUFACTURING ?