

Editorial

Saturday, July 6, 2019

Some uneasy windfall

The tenacity of the people of Manipur to cling on to concepts of normalcy while actually indulging in acts that reaps results to the contrary can only be marveled at. We profess unity while setting up and supporting ethnically intolerant groups. We demand peace while burning and inciting violence. We insist on freedom even when we are indulging in extortions and intimidations, and we ask understanding of others according to our own terms and views. We publicly donate only to claim it back in private.

Perhaps the present political churning threatening to alter the social fabric of the state is an event whose time has come. Maybe we all have been contributing, albeit unwittingly, to its present condition. But all is not so dark or dismal.

There are changes, unintended fallout that promise to yank the people from the stupor and the self-deceiving delusions of superiority. There are signs of the people awakening to the realities staring them back in the face, even if that reality is not very savory or one everyone have expected or desired. We have come to participate in social discussions and debates, and have slowly yet surely started to learn to air our views, never mind fact that, more often than not, a large number of such views and personal opinions reflect the underlying ethnic leanings and are unnecessarily abrasive and harmful. This is, after all, a starting phase to the trend of social participation and will hopefully learn from the mistakes, and with time, to polish up on one's thoughts and outlooks. The most significant outcome is perhaps the increased awareness not only of one's own history, tradition and customs, but also of other communities as well. There is also a tangible change in the manner in which the public consume resources. The sustained lack of facilities have evidently stirred the curiosity and raised the enthusiasm of the public. There is an increased effort by various groups and individuals to usher in self reliance, especially with regards to food.

If the well-meaning but clueless state government can harness the present turmoil, then perhaps we can channelize the energy into something productive instead of playing the reluctant leader. It may be hard to admit for a lot of undeserving representatives, but one cannot deny the fact that at the root of the present turmoil is economic considerations. The sooner we admit and understand that, the easier will it be to work out a solution.

Times are changing, hopefully for the better. With increased awareness, participation and enthusiasm, it is now the duty of everyone in the state to take up the cudgel and wield it productively, and not to batter each other until nothing remains. Every life is precious, and in order for all of us to make our existence worthwhile, we first need to snap out of the illusion of superiority of language, caste, creed, clan, religion and customs. And in order to make dream comes true spoil game should be thrown out of the mind.

The evolution of science fiction

By: Bruce Sterling

Antecedents of science fiction can be found in the remote past. Among the earliest examples is the 2nd-century-CE Syrian-born Greek satirist Lucian, who in *Trips to the Moon* describes sailing to the Moon. Such flights of fancy, or fantastic tales, provided a popular format in which to satirize government, society, and religion while evading libel suits, censorship, and persecution. The clearest forerunner of the genre, however, was the 17th-century swashbuckler *Cyrano de Bergerac*, who wrote of a voyager to the Moon finding a utopian society of men free from war, disease, and hunger. (See below *Utopias and dystopias*.) The voyager eats fruit from the biblical tree of knowledge and joins lunar society as a philosopher—that is, until he is expelled from the Moon for blasphemy. Following a short return to Earth, he travels to the Sun, where a society of birds puts him on trial for humanity's crimes. In creating his diversion, *Cyrano* took it as his mission to make impossible things seem plausible. Although this and his other SF-like writings were published only posthumously

and in various censored versions. *Cyrano* had a great influence on later satirists and social critics—Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) and Voltaire's *Micromégas* (1752)—show *Cyrano's* mark with their weird monsters, gross inversions of normalcy, and similar harsh satire. Another precursor was Louis-Sébastien Mercier's *L'An deux mille quatre cent quarante* (c. 1771; "The Year 2440"; *Memoirs of the Year Two Thousand Five Hundred*), a work of French political speculation set in a 25th-century utopian society that worships science. While many writers had depicted some future utopian "Kingdom of God" or a utopian society in some mythical land, this was the first work to postulate a utopian society on Earth in the realizable future. The book was swiftly banned by the French ancien régime, which recognized that Mercier's fantasy about "the future" was a thin disguise for his subversive revolutionary sentiments. Despite this official sanction—or perhaps because of it—Mercier's book became an international best seller. Both Thomas Jefferson and George Washington owned copies.

Contd. from yesterday issue

REVOLUTIONS OF THE MIND

AGRARIAN

Agricultural

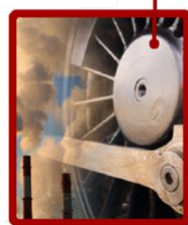


worker was a physical labourer on the farm.

The Neolithic Revolution or rather the Agricultural Revolution, started around 10,000 B.C. in the Fertile Crescent, a boomerang-shaped region of the Middle East where humans first took up farming. By the end of the last Ice Age, some 14,000 years ago, the earth had entered a warming trend. Some Scientists theorize this climate change as the reason for the birth of Agricultural Revolution, while others opined the intellectual advancement of human mind. This was how human civilization began. This is considered to be the first global 'Revolution of the Mind' after the indigenous, aboriginal and local flowerings of culture. During that time we thought, primarily, agriculturally. Children were educated to be labourers. The

INDUSTRIAL AGE

Industrial



The Agricultural Revolution was then superseded, a few hundred years ago, by the Industrial Revolution. Everything changed during the Industrial Revolution, which began around 1750. The story of the Industrial Revolution begins on the small island of Great Britain. Watt's steam engine made energy supply more efficient and reliable than ever before. It was fundamental to kick-starting the Industrial Revolution. The Elementary Education Act 1870 allowed all children within the United Kingdom to have access to education. Education was not made compulsory until 1880 since many factory owners feared the removal of children as a source of cheap labor. However, with the simple Mathematics and English Skills the children were acquiring, factory owners had workers who could read and make

measurements and therefore contribute more to the factory. During that time we thought, primarily, industrially. Children were educated to be labourers in the industrial-military complex. The education system evolved to produce 'food' for industry.

INFORMATION AGE

The Information Age began around the 1970s. It is also known as the Computer Age, Digital Age, or New Media Age. This age is also known as the Age of

and technologically, and children were taught to be information technologists. It has changed the people, technology, science, economics, culture and even the way people think, as I mentioned earlier. Now tell me at what age we are in? Write your thoughts on a separate piece of paper. The most common answers to this question are: Information, Technological, Computer, Digital, The last! If we are in this Age then such thinking and education will be appropriate. However, if we think we are in this Age but are not, then such thinking and education will be inappropriate. In a field survey done during the last 3 - 4 years, the vast majority of tens of thousands of government officials, professionals, business people, and educators at all levels, students, and members of the general public felt that we are currently at this age. As many as 90% of people believe we are in this Age, and thus the world is currently thinking predominantly in the Information/Technological mode. We are not in the Information Age Now! The Information Age provided us with the greatest cause of global stress the planet has ever known: **Information Overload**. For example in 2007 alone, the human brain, according to research by Xerox, produced 281 Exabyte's of information. This is equivalent to 15 encyclopedia's laid side by side, on which 15 more encyclopedia are placed, this process continuing until each of the 15 piles reaches the 93 million miles to the sun. The worker in this age was an information/technology worker. The education system was encouraged to shift to a more information/technology base.

Information



Entrepreneurship. There were huge growth of Entrepreneurship and began setting up and running companies. This era brought about a time period in which people could access information and knowledge easily. There were many different inventions that came about because of the Information Age, one of which was the computer. The Internet allowed people to access information with the touch of a button. Tim Berners-Lee, Steve Jobs and Bill Gates are several important people of the Information Age. Their creation of World Wide Web, first effective personal computer called the Apple I and Microsoft changes the way human think and works. We think informationally

KNOWLEDGE AGE

KNOWLEDGE AGE



This Age began in 1990. The Knowledge Age is a new, advanced form of capitalism in which knowledge and ideas are the main source of economic growth (more important than land, labour, money, or other 'tangible resources'). In the Knowledge Age, change, not stability, is given. In this Age, we thought creatively, innovatively, and adaptively to be able to see the 'BIG Picture Level'. The Tsunami of Data originated since the Information Age that leads to global stress: **Information Overload**, keeps rising incredibly. To deal with this Information Overload, the human brain devised the next revolution of the mind: the **Knowledge Age**. In this Age information was clustered into meaningful chunks in order to try to contain and manage the increasing tsunami of data. This Age gave rise to such new concepts as Knowledge Management, and such new positions in national and multinational businesses and governments as Knowledge Manager and, on many Boards, Director of Knowledge Management. It should be observed at this point that every Age that is superseded by a new Age still remains with us. The

Agricultural, Industrial and Information Ages are and will always remain a part of our societies, and it keeps developing. In the Knowledge Age we thought knowledgeably. Children were taught to become Knowledge Workers.

AGE OF INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence



The Age of Intelligence is believed to have started from 2007. At an international conference on creativity and thinking in Singapore in February 2008, a number of Directors of Knowledge Management declared that knowledge management was not really working as well as had been anticipated and hoped. Why? Because there is something far more important to manage than knowledge: The Manager of Knowledge. If the manager of knowledge does not know how to manage itself, it will miss manage whatever knowledge it has. The far more important to manage than knowledge, is to manage the manager of that knowledge. And what is the manager of that knowledge?

Your Brain! Your brain manages knowledge by the use and application of its multiple intelligences. It is these that must now be nurtured and used as they are designed to be used. We are thus now entering the Age of Intelligence. This fact was confirmed at the 14th International Conference on Thinking (2009) by the Y. B. Dato Seri Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin, Minister of Higher Education, Malaysia, by Professors Edward de Bono, Prof Datuk Dr Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah, Vice Chancellor, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Tony Buzan, Inventor of Mind Maps and Howard Gardner, and by the 2,000 international delegates of that conference. At the Opening ceremonies it was officially declared by Tony Buzan that: **'We are now in the Age of Intelligence. That the 21st century is the Century of the Brain, and the third millennium will henceforth be known as Millennium of the Mind.'** There is general global consensus on the Revolutions of the Mind during the 10,000 year history of human civilization.' In the Age of Intelligence we will think (at last!) Intelligently. In this new and dawning Age, children of all ages will and are beginning to be taught to become Intelligence Workers by becoming Mentally Literate - focusing on creativity and innovation, communication, service, learning how to learn, memory, creativity, speed reading, Mind Mapping, knowledge of the

brain and its application, ethics, knowledge of the multiple intelligence, self-management, mindfulness, full use of our cognitive skills, and all forms of thinking including analytical, strategic, lateral, creative, meta- and radiant. Mental literacy will be defined as being similar to normal verbal literacy and numerical literacy. Verbal literacy means understanding the alphabet of letters, words and language and being able to juggle with those appropriately. Numerical literacy means understanding the alphabet of numbers and being able to juggle with the infinite combinations of those. Mental literacy means understanding the alphabet of the brain's physical structures and that of the brain's cognitive and learning functions. **'All students and teachers will become mentally literate at this age. The classroom will be thinking rooms; schools will be thinking schools, producing thinking graduates for their intelligent nations and intelligent world.'** It should be noted that when one age is superseded by another, the former age continues. Thus the Agricultural, Industrial, Information and Knowledge Ages are still with us. The advantages of our current superseding age is that finally we will be able to think intelligently about Knowledge, Technology, Information, Industry and Agriculture - a type of thinking that has been solely lacking, as our environmental, economic, educational, business, health, crime, corruption, conflicts and wars, and social irresponsibility performances indicate.

(To be Contd.....)

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