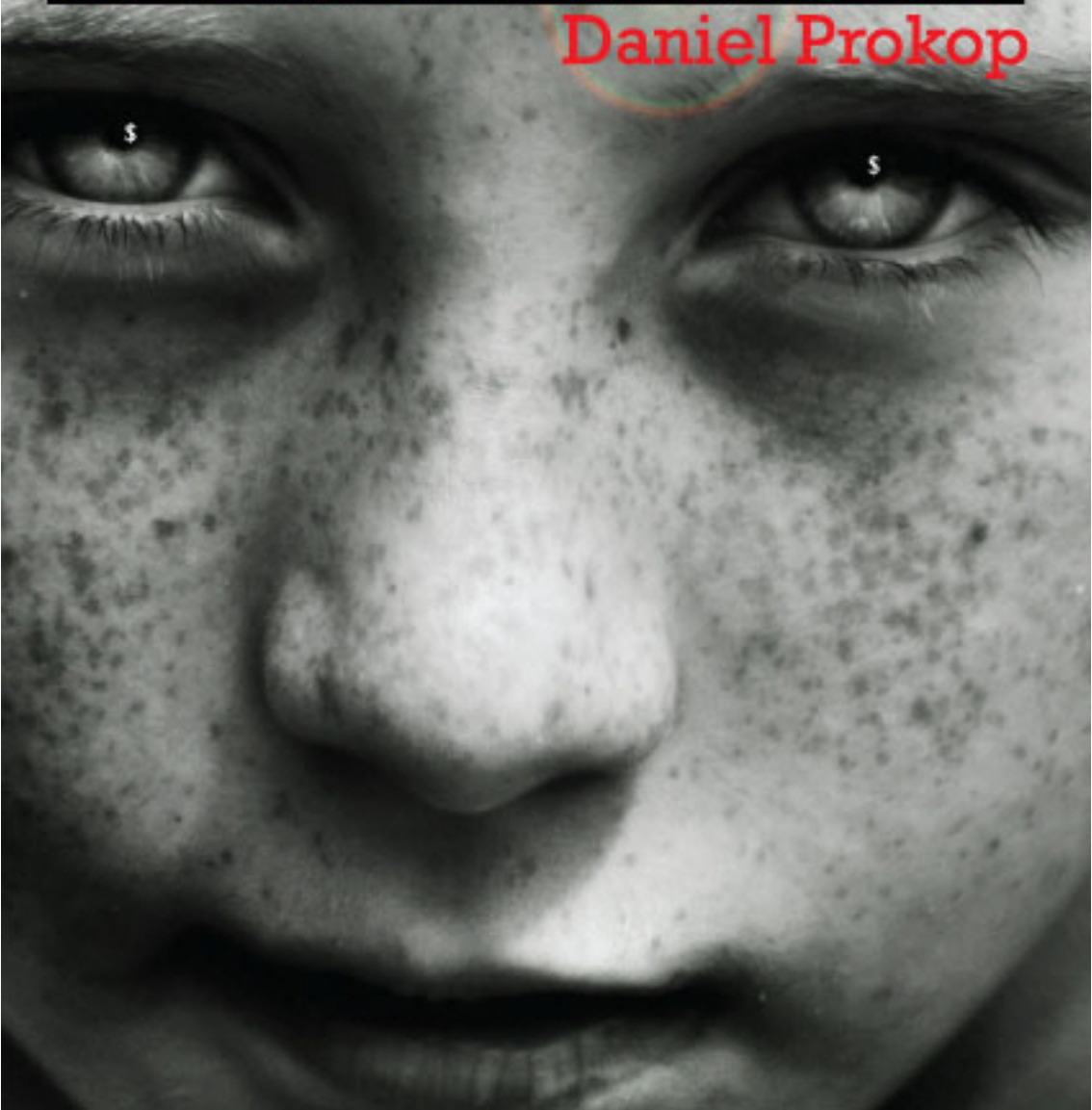


LEAVING NEVERLAND

Why Little Boys Shouldn't Run Big Corporations

Daniel Prokop



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Big Corporations

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Published for Daniel Prokop

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NEVERLAND:

The imaginary island home of Peter Pan and the lost boys. A place where you never grow up. Michael Jackson's former retreat. An accurate description of the 21st century and the 20th century, the 19th century, the 18th century the 17th century, the 16th century, the 15th century, the 14th century, the 13th century, the 12th century...

Author's Note:

This book is not intended to be a Rites of Passage, planetary management or parenting manual. The material contained herein is general information and some content is written using the *sarcastica* true type font in a highly satirical way. Even if you have a good understanding of satire, in no way is any information contained herein to be construed as advice of any kind. Nor is any of the material contained in this book intended to be the definitive source of information on how to run planet Earth, parent or grow up.

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If you like Leaving Neverland please tell other people about it. I welcome feedback and you can connect via the Leaving Neverland Facebook page or the newsletter that you can sign up for on the website. Please enjoy.

With Gratitude

Thank you to my family. I am very blessed to have you in my life. This book would not have been possible without your love and support. Thank you to Samuel, my first born, to Aelysha, my daughter and to my wise and beautiful wife Beth for being my partner, for your friendship, your listening, your passion and advice. I honor your amazing restraint, "I told you so," is not part of who you are☺. Beth, I honor your creativity and your amazing ability to open a door, walk away with grace and leave me to go through, or not. This work is the richer for the insights gained from the rooms beyond those doors. Thank you to Martin Chatterton for your timely and sage suggestions and the amazing cover design. In no particular order, thank you to: the Northern Rivers Writers Centre, all the men from Sun Lodge, Chris McAllister for website support, Owen Rigby with proofing, Ray Ellis, Milan Votrubec, Alistair Ping, Rex Finch, Pat McIntosh, Laurel Cohn editing, to the Pathways Foundation, Paul McMahan for the laughs, Tracks Trust, NZ (and in particular Adge Tucker and Jim Horton for holding this work so beautifully). To Paul Henley: thank you for your commitment to this work, your courage, humor and unflinching support. Thank you to Leonie, Simone and all the women who have given so much to bring balance and make this work available for our girls. Thank you for all those who have walked the paths that we may follow. To my mother, you are gone but not forgotten.

Quotes by Daniel Prokop from “Leaving Neverland”:

“Mankind has become Pankind.”

“In a desperate attempt to stay young forever we have achieved eternal childishness, rather than eternal youth.”

“None of the King of Pop’s horses and none of the King of Pop’s enablers could put the King of Pop’s childhood back together again.”

“We live in an adolescent society, Neverland... where never growing up seems more the norm than the exception.”

“Unfortunately the ‘warrior’ archetype accidentally dropped the soap in the shower and he has been getting boned senseless by the ‘soldier/lobbyist archetype’ ever since.”

“As the supposed adults in our society we have a lot of work to do to re-brand adulthood into something aspirational rather than something to be avoided at all costs (including your life).”

“Behind every threat to the future of the human race lurks a boy in a man’s body with both his hands in the jar of cookies that our ancestors set aside for future generations. It is time to Leave Neverland.”

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J& K are resting

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*“Life is too important to be taken seriously.”
— Oscar Wilde*

“The BP president said yesterday that the company would survive. That's like someone running over your dog and saying, 'Don't worry, my car is fine.’” —Jimmy Fallon

*“Even amidst tragedy there is laughter, sometimes farce. The degree of farce depends on who is running the tragedy.”
—Daniel Prokop*

“The oil company said it was the rig company's fault. The rig company said it was Halliburton. And somehow, each time they passed the blame, Goldman Sachs made a hundred million dollars.”—Bill Maher

“Congress says they are looking into this Bernard Madoff scandal. Oh Great!! The guy who made \$50 Billion disappear is being investigated by the people who made \$1.5 Trillion disappear!” — unknown

1

A Little About Little Boys – An Introduction

(by Daniel Prokop)

The Global Financial Crisis was proudly brought to all of us by the little boys in designer suits that convinced suggestible authorities that they should be left in charge of the banking cookie jar. Of course they helped themselves to our cookies because “self regulation” to a child means “quick grab every cookie you can while no one is looking.” The only real surprise is that people are surprised at all the missing cookies.

Different little boys were left to play in a warm, deep bathtub called the Gulf of Mexico. They had some very big and expensive toys to play with. These boys said that they didn’t need any supervision because their toys were so safe that they were prepared to bet their workers lives on them. Apparently, this claim was more than enough to satisfy their pals in bathroom security. Unfortunately the boys played a bit rough and the biggest toy broke, sinking to the bottom of the tub and spewing up to 60,000 barrels of crude oil a day into the Gulf of Mexico for 86 days. They made a mess that is an ongoing environmental nightmare.

The naughty little boys didn’t even say “Oops” at first. Their first response was “What oil leak?” and then “Oh, um... right, a plan to stop that trickle? Gosh what a good idea! Have you got an Emergency Response plan without walruses drawn all over it?” This was not an isolated or unprecedented incident. There are many examples where similar childish behavior has created

messes that rarely get a column inch of international press coverage, especially when they happen in remote or poor places like the Niger Delta, Ecuador or Papua New Guinea.

It is rare that the overgrown children that often run big corporations are flushed out of their ivory boys clubs and separated from a sycophantic crowd. They are not used to being held accountable for their salaries or the preventable human and environmental suffering caused by the operations they are vastly overpaid to run on a take no responsibility first and take no responsibility last basis. Apparently, when you run a corporation that has an economic output greater than most countries you expect to be treated like royalty, only better. (In 2008, ranked by revenue, 65 of the top 100 world economies were corporations¹.) Under critical public scrutiny they cannot hide their callous lack of compassion for the great unwashed, the workers, the common folk or as the Chairman of BP refers to them - "the small people." They also do not seem to have much regard for the environment: "Louisiana isn't the only place that has shrimp."

If you are alarmed, pissed off or just concerned with what is happening in many parts of the world then this book is for you. If you think that it is time to say "Just drop the cookies and back away from the jar," then this book is for you. If you are interested in a solution for Leaving Neverland that can be rolled out rapidly using the existing education infrastructure then, yup, this book is for you.

We live in an adolescent society where Peter Pan is hailed as a hero and growing up and taking responsibility is seen as bad, boring, even stupid. Why would any culture worship perpetual childhood? If there are no adults then who will take responsibility for the environment, for ensuring a fair and equitable financial system, for keeping people safe, for helping those not able to help themselves, for keeping communities strong? Oh...

Never growing up seems more the norm than the exception. Little boys wearing expensive suits and adult bodies should not be allowed to run big corporations. They shouldn't be allowed to run governments, armies, religions, small businesses and charities either and just quietly, they make pretty shabby husbands and fathers too. Mankind has become Pankind and whilst "lost boys" abound, there is also an alarming increase in the number of "lost girls."

Finally, finally, the appalling arrogance of spoilt *über* boys and the avoidable suffering that they have caused is generating a global wave of anger and frustration and about time too. We can

ride this wave of frustration right into growing up and right out of Neverland.

It is time for us to grow up. It is actually that simple. As healthy adults working together we can create solutions to the social and environmental challenges that we face. Some of the little boys that have not been playing nice will have their big toys taken off them and some of them will be told they need some ‘time out’ in special sandpits called prisons. We can expect quite a few tears before bedtime, some impressive tantrums and that some of these perpetual boys will try to take their bats and balls and play in places where no one can stop them. A few are going to become very, very angry and quite vicious, well, even more vicious.

The difficulty with the solution, of course, is that growing up is much easier said than done. Just shouting “Grow up!” or “Act your age, not your shoe size!” does not work, though you are welcome to give it a try.

Fortunately there is a timely solution to the growing up conundrum that lies at the heart of this book. There is a vehicle for achieving the transformation from being a child to being a young adult which has been road tested for tens of thousands of years. It can be done many different ways and it can be made accessible to everyone. The vehicle, the catalyst for growing up that traditional societies all relied upon is called a community based Rite of Passage.

A Rite of Passage is non-denominational and is simply a supported event or ceremony that marks the transition from one life stage to another. There are many stages that we pass through on our life’s journey. Most life stage transitions do not happen on their own without help from people who have already crossed the threshold. Without Rites of Passage many people, me included, can get stuck. The stage of life known as adolescence is particularly sticky, so to speak. Some people never escape adolescence. Some corporations will never even try.

The onset of puberty in adolescence means that there is a lot happening physiologically for young people and emotionally the flood of hormones can at times short circuit reason. A lot happens for the parents of teenagers too. The parental pedestal crumbles and we are suddenly parenting adolescents that have the same or more body mass than we do. Parents play a huge role in either assisting or hindering young people to leave Neverland. An assisted Rite of Passage or self initiation? It is our choice, and leaving young people to self initiate has not worked.

In the western world, it seems that most adults don't want to grow up but have lost the joy and freedom of being childlike and in a desperate attempt to stay young forever have achieved eternal childishness, rather than eternal youth.

Most people would agree that badly behaved children shouldn't be allowed to run corporations the size of countries or in fact anything larger than a sandpit built for one. And yet it happens, frequently. Too often errant corporations have been given the benefit of the doubt or of public disinterest or of public disinformation or all of the preceding. This book delightfully skewers some of these corporations, looks at how we got to where we are and explores the differences between an overgrown child (Peter Pan) and a healthy adult (non-Peter Pan).

The behavioral differences between Peter Pan and a healthy adult are vast and the differences in terms of responsibility, accountability and the use of power are the keys to restoring balance. As well as my own personal journey out of the Neverland of corporate life and my experience with contemporary, community based Rites of Passage this book includes regular commentary by the pin up boy for people who refuse to grow up, Peter Pan (yes, that Peter Pan).

In the interests of fairness and transparency Peter argues on behalf of a never ending Neverland. Peter urges the children of the world to rise up and drive the last adults into the sea. Actually, it's not as dramatic as that, but Peter has been busy upgrading Neverland Classic into the expanded and modern Neverland 2.0.

Peter shares his strategies for never growing up. These strategies have helped him fly from one highly successful corporate career to another. "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Bullying" is one of Peter's favourite chapters. He also offers advice for parents on how to parent for perpetual childhood. I find Peter's strategies amusing and they would be hilarious if they weren't actually so close to the truth of daily experience.

How many more GFCs or BP Gulf oil spills do we need before we finally decide that it is time for us to leave Neverland? For our sake, for our children's sake, **ffs*, we need to leave and as the Neverland departure lounge fades into the distance, the little boys (and little girls) that are behaving appallingly will be replaced by adults and we can start to live happily and co-operatively ever after. **ffs = for our future's sake.*

¹ From revenue data compiled by Josh Morgan at Gnock.com
http://gnock.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/topecon_rev.html

2

Getting Forked into Growing Up

(by Daniel Prokop)

This is a good place for me to introduce myself. I am a migrant, a script writer, a comedy show radio host, an unsuccessful inventor, a parent educator and a stand up comedian. I have been a laborer at the Port Kembla Steelworks, made pizzas, cleaned toilets, washed dishes, even worked at McDonalds (it's ok, my kids know). I've picked kiwi fruit in NZ, put myself through University and worked on a turkey farm where they were doing artificial insemination. Personal development: been there, still doing that. I am also a father of two children and a husband.

I've been around the block a few times, nearly fifty times if you call one year a block. I studied little boys in their "natural" corporate environment, from within the belly of an oily beast. The beast was the biggest corporation in the world at the time. Hint: the logo looks like a scallop shell. It was a huge, big budget sandpit where I played at a senior level for 13 years, which still surprises me. I owned a franchised business in a major shopping center and employed twelve staff for 9 years (okay, that one still surprises me too) and I have worked for a harm prevention charity. Three vastly different sandpits all linked by similar childish behavior, some of it my own.

I have seen the infantile and puerile celebrated, watched bullying and irresponsible behavior rewarded and worked in environments where growing up was *verboten* (forbidden). We

live in a world where the “hood” from “childhood” is frequently never replaced by the “hood” from “adulthood.” I think the child’s hood gets a bit whiffy if it never gets changed.

In this book, I’m going to talk a lot about growing up and I don’t want readers thinking that I am suffering from ‘Less like Peter Pan than thou syndrome.’ I successfully dodged growing up for a long time. Peter Pan and me, we used to be tight, we were Bro’s, well, we lived in the same big house, the house of Neverland. I was happy to stay in Neverland forever but at the age of 32 I got forked. I had been told to “get forked” a number of times before this but being young; I mistook it for abuse rather than good advice.

My fork came out of nowhere. I had just picked up Beth, my girlfriend, from the international airport and at some point on the kiss, kiss, “I’ve missed you for the past six weeks”, happy reunion drive home, things went weird. I heard, as if through a fog, the words... “I think I’m pregnant.” I swear I never saw that train coming. There was a horrible crash and screaming, lots of screaming and some pathetic whining. Fortunately, my inner train wreck did not affect my outer ability to maintain control of a motor vehicle. The only outer manifestation of my inner carnage was a temporary loss of the power of speech, which was a good thing. Somehow we made it home safely, all three of us.

My fork was this, a baby, my baby, was going to be born whether I liked it or not and I had two choices: 1) Stay and become a good Dad or 2) run away. The third possibility of staying and being a crap dad is really a variation of Option 2. I must admit that Option 2 was very attractive because there was a big problem with Option 1. I knew that to become a good dad, I would have to grow up and I didn’t want to grow up. I really did not want to grow up, I wanted to stay in Neverland forever and I didn’t want to leave because of a baby.

There was a part of me that knew I hadn’t been taking responsibility for myself, my life and if I couldn’t take responsibility for me, how could I be expected to take responsibility for another human being, a helpless baby? I was terrified of responsibility, of being tied down, of getting it wrong, of being a Dad. Fortunately my wife to be, Beth, was very patient (very patient). Beth didn’t push me and I was allowed time to just struggle. I was grumpy and bad tempered for a while; not very communicative either. There was little support and no “Expectant Dad” programs around to help me. Eventually, finally and to an extent miraculously, I got my head around the fact that I was going to become a Dad. Some internal switch got flicked and I

have loved, really loved my journey of fatherhood. Getting forked was the best thing that has ever happened to me and I have strongly recommended it to a few very “special” people.

When Samuel was born, because of a birth complication, I was the first person to hold him. I was quickly replaced by something much more useful, a nipple, but I had had my moment, a magic new Dad moment with my baby. It was just amazing for me to hold this beautiful, tiny human being in my arms. I’m sure time stopped or maybe it just stopped for me. As well as a healthy baby boy, a new love was also birthed that day. A tender, protective, totally unconditional, connected and indescribable (I tried) kind of love that I had never experienced before. I had become a parent and I could have missed that moment. If my son, Samuel, had waited until I was ready to grow up and become a Dad, he could still be waiting.

Our baby became a child and the child just kept getting bigger and bigger, as they do when they are healthy. I didn’t want Samuel to wait until he was 32 before he started to grow up. To this end, I had been watching for some time the development of a program called “Pathways to Manhood” that was being run locally. I knew it was a bush camp for boys and their dads or a mentor and that they needed leaders to help run more camps. I also knew that it had something to do with boys growing up and setting their feet on the long road to healthy manhood. The program’s name: “Pathways to Manhood”, is kind of a clue as to its intention☺. I knew very little about Rites of Passage back then, but the words “Rites of Passage” sounded kind of important to me.

As Samuel got older my internal imperative to do something got annoyingly stronger. Eventually, (thanks Elyjah) I got involved as a trainee leader with the Pathways Foundation. I had done a lot of mixed rituals where both men and women were involved and to be honest, I wasn’t thrilled about doing smelly “men’s business.” I was busy, it cost money, <excuse #3>, <excuse #4> and <optional excuse #5> but I followed through with the Leadership Training because I am committed to being the best Dad I can be for Sam, even if that means stretching my personal comfort zones. In the small print of my being the best Dad I can be, I reserve the right to moan and complain about sprained comfort zones, just so you know.

My first camp as a trainee leader was amazing. Seven days in nature, no electricity, no phones, open fires, no women, great food, lots of flatulence, no running water. A rough bush camp, 30 men drawn together with the sole intention of supporting 14 boys

to make the transition from boy to young man in a safe, non competitive environment. For some men, the camp was the first time that they had ever been in a space where they were not judged by the type of job they had, how much they made, where they lived, the car they drove, or the clothes they wore. In this safe space I watched men relax; really relax as they set aside the unconsciously adopted defensive male warrior pose.

I watched the transformation of boys' relationships with their fathers, with other men and with themselves unfold. We all witnessed courageous men sharing stories of their lives from their hearts without hubris. We sat around fires, shared food, laughter, games and challenges and over the week the boys left the camp and they rejoined us as young men. The young men were acknowledged and honored by older men for completing their Rite of Passage, for stepping over the metaphorical line in the sand dividing boyhood from manhood.

As a group of men, we returned to our families and the wider community, to the anxious mums and uncles and grandparents and siblings. The community acknowledged the young men and celebrated their safe return to the hearth. Over the week away, a number of the men had said that they wished that they had had something like a Pathways to Manhood, a Rite of Passage when they were growing up. I agree whole heartedly.

It was a gift to see the difference in the fathers, the young men and how they were with their families, with the women who had kept the home fires burning so that we could be away. At different times over the week, the beauty and power of the work had brought me to tears, especially when I imagined myself with my son Samuel, guiding him through his Rite of Passage.

Little did I know that Rites of Passage would so get under my skin that it would become an itch that I can never seem to scratch. In an ever changing world, I don't know many things for certain but I do know that contemporary, community based Rites of Passage make a world of difference to young people and to their families, they are every child's rite. More than at any other time in this planet's history, we need healthy men and women rather than overgrown boys and girls as parents, as politicians, as generals and as business and community leaders. Whilst it is self evident that little boys should not be allowed to run big corporations it is alarmingly common.

Peter Pan has never quite forgiven me for forking off and leaving Neverland, for starting to grow up. I still see Peter on the odd occasion, like when I jump back over the line in the sand and behave like a little boy instead of a man. So whilst I do visit

-- Daniel Prokop --

Neverland (strictly for research purposes) I don't live there anymore and I have some awareness of when I am behaving that way. After my tantrum I can clean up the mess and get on with what needs getting on with.

It is almost impossible to not be concerned about alarming increases in rates of depression across all age groups, environmental degradation, the inequities of the global financial system, <pet worry #4>,<pet worry #5> etc. We face many challenges. Peter Pan with the support of a coalition of the willing has had great success in creating a Cult of Perpetual Youth (CoPY). Neverland is promoted as if it is Nirvana which it is not.

Neverland: “Stay young forever by never growing up.”

Neverland: “Be happy and childlike forever.”

Neverland: “No responsibility. No worries. No wrinkles.”

Neverland: “The overall environmental impact of this will be very, very modest.”(Via BP CEO, Tony Hayward, Gulf of Mexico oil spill, 18/05/10)

We mostly hear about all the bad stuff that is happening and a lot of the depressing stuff can be traced back to different boys but similar behavior. Amidst all the chaos that comes in a time of rapid change there are also millions of amazing, inspiring things happening every day. There are a lot of healthy adults out there too.

“If you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse.” Paul Hawken, 2009 speech¹

There are courageous, dedicated, compassionate people in all countries devoting themselves to making a difference and there are parents raising a generation of young people who will not be pawns of unsustainable industries.

*“There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come.”
Victor Hugo, 1852.*

-- Daniel Prokop --

I have updated the quote for Victor Hugo:

“There is one thing stronger than even all the biggest corporations in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come.”

Here’s a radical idea: Let’s put adults in charge of running things on this planet with Elders to help guide them. What do you think? Victor?

<silence>

<silence>

<more silence>

Is that my segue in? Is that it? After this many pages? Victor? Pretty weak but, doesn’t matter. I’m in now, Peter Pan here. Thank you whatever your name is. Yes, I am a victor, a big victor because Neverland Rules and I could wait to be introduced like we agreed ... BUT... know what? I’m good. I’ll just introduce myself to the readers...

¹ University of Portland Commencement Speech 2009. Very inspiring speech. A PDF of the speech is available from www.paulhawken.com

3

The Introduction to Peter Pan

(Contributed by Peter Pan)

Hi, Peter Pan here, also known as Pedro Pan (Spain), Pieter Pan (Netherlands), Pedr Pan (Wales), Pekelo Pan (Hawaii), Per Pan (Norway), Pierre Pan (France), Petar Pan (Romania), Pyotr Pan (Russia) Peter Panno (Australia) Peter Chan (China) and That Little Bugger (in most other countries). I'm the champion of the childish, the boy who refuses to grow up and proud of it. At this point in history, staying childish and irresponsible has never been easier or a surer path to a highly successful career. It has worked a treat for me.

I used to live in Neverland, way back in 1904 when it was mostly imaginary. Back then, baby boys who fell out of their prams when their nurse was not looking were sent by the Government to stay with me in Neverland but only if they were not claimed within seven days which was pretty reasonable. I called them the 'lost boys.' There were no 'lost girls' because, apparently, no girl was silly enough to fall out of her pram, which is sexist but true.

Improvements in pram safety, fewer nurses hitting the big bottle of Mrs. McCready's Cough Syrup in the mornings and a 1920 UK policy of forced expatriation of children to other Commonwealth countries meant that eventually 'lost boys' stopped arriving in Neverland altogether. The ones already in Neverland, well, they got lost, which was annoying but not

surprising. Neverland started getting quiet, too quiet, if you know what I mean.

I started spending more time out of Neverland where I “hooked” up with a lot of boys and some girls who also refused to grow up. We all got on great. I called them the “new lost boys” and “new lost girls” respectively. There were a lot more than I would have ever thought. They loved hearing my stories about the adventures I used to have in Neverland and how easy it was to never grow up there. They really wanted me to take them to Neverland but they didn’t want to risk losing their highly paid jobs. So I started thinking, if I couldn’t bring the boys and girls to Neverland then why not bring Neverland to the boys and girls?

It has taken a long time, a very long time, because I constantly get distracted, but I have finally expanded the borders of Neverland, constantly pinching, pushing and pulling at the edges until now Neverland covers almost the entire planet. In line with the advent of Web 2.0 and social networking I have upgraded the original Neverland 1.0, or Neverland Classic, as it is sometimes called, to Neverland 2.0.

Over many, many years I have yet to find any reason to grow up. Indeed, I have found time and time again that a person of my marked immaturity can carve a stellar career in any industry. Whilst the petroleum industry was an absolute hoot, I must say that I have had the most insane fun and made outrageous money treasure-hunting in international banking. It was also nice to be back sparring with Mr. Smee and all the other pirates. I never get tired of hearing Mr. Smee recite the banking hypocritical oath, “Arrrrgh, Take what you can, give nothing back! Arrrrgh.” What an industry!

Since those global financial “speed bumps,” the big ~~cartels~~ banks initially received a lot of unfair and highly critical press, much of it wildly accurate. Firstly, “Everybody” said that there was no way we could afford a global financial crisis (GFC) but of course, as it turns out “Everybody” was wrong, weren’t they? When push came to shove, came to collapse, the 4.1 trillion dollars was found or printed or whatever.

Despite all the time I have spent in banking, I still don’t understand it very well and I know I’m not the only one. Derivatives, schmerivatives. What a great business banking is. Banks take the money that the public save and give them a pittance called interest and then the bank borrows against the public’s money to leverage it so they can lend as much money as possible back to the public at extortionate rates to fund marble palaces and huge bonuses for people who are playing with money that is not their own. One word: sensational.

I volunteered to take on all those depressing, pathetic whiners “Oh poor me, I’ve lost my job, I’ve lost my house, I’ve lost all my life savings, I thought banks were safe... wah, wah, wah.” I also wanted to have a serious lash at all the foolish governments, Iceland excepted of course, who after years of supporting, even promoting financial and other deregulation suddenly realized that deregulation results in a... wait for it... a deregulated market. A market with no rules. D’oh, but do any of the Governments want to take the blame for what has happened? Any hands up in the air? No?

Every one of my ~~pirate~~ banking CEO friends privately agree with me that all we were doing was raping what others had saved, or is that sown? but whilst the public are so pissed off, the CEOs are fearful of taking on the whingers and governments because it might jeopardize their healthy bonuses which were, after all, being funded by the remarkably generous and unconditional government bailouts.

Unfortunately, before I could blow the whistle or speak out, I was effectively “gagged” by the whole ~~wanking~~-banking industry. Well, when I say “gagged,” I mean I was paid a large roomful of your money just to shut up and retire quietly. Both my Barrister (\$4,000 for 20 minutes advice) and my barista (\$3.50 for 20 minutes advice, plus a latte) agreed with me that writing is a quiet pursuit, so I could in theory, have the angry spray I wanted but in print form rather than as a documentary or film or as my own talk show. Clever, huh? I always get my way, no matter what, which is why I have always been so successful. I was also contracted to sprinkle fairy dust everywhere so people would quickly forget any lessons learned and just how mightily pissed off they were. Been there, sprinkled that.

Sadly, words don’t write themselves, they take work, focus, self discipline and time. Dammit! And Dammit! Oh well, nice thought, time to watch more TV.

As fate and I would have it, I used to have an acquaintance called Damian [Daniel]. Just as my writing idea was sinking out of sight, I bumped into my old ~~butt-wipe~~ buddy. Donald [Daniel] was excited to see me, he kept yapping on and on about it being time to Leave Neverland and how my behavior had inspired him to write a book. He almost captured my attention but he was kind of boringly serious, no, no, seriously boring and annoyingly earnest. “This book will make a difference...” which was when I switched off, for a while. I think he said “yadda, blah, Neverland, yadda, write, yadda, blah, blah, book, blah, d’oh....” I nodded every now and then to keep my neck from getting stiff which just spurred him

on and on. He noticed the neck movements but somehow missed the pointed yawns entirely.

I was just about to escape and go and give birth to an environmentalist (take a dump) when he said the magic words, "don't worry, I'll do all the work." Well, I was on board in a flash. I made Darryl [Daniel] promise not to bother me with boring booky details like writing or publishing, etc, etc. Dennis [Daniel] is convinced that people are ready to leave Neverland despite all the evidence to the contrary. Normally I avoid delusional people but some delusions are harmless. I say, "if you're prepared to do the time you can have your whine." Go your hardest Buddy!

The difficulty with working with delusional people is that they often assume that just because they said something or sent an email or two that communication has taken place. I'm a busy guy and a multi-tasking specialist. I can't afford to devote all of my attention to the person that is talking to me. Please! That is a grossly inefficient use of time. Because Denzel [Daniel] didn't explain things clearly to me, I thought that I would get to you readers first and explain a few things before you read any of his ... ~~shit tripe erap~~ writing.

Oh, ummm... in case he mentions it, Draco [Daniel] claims that I had a bit of a tantrum and threatened to pull out of helping altogether if I didn't get to go first. I can't remember any emotional release and because a latte got spilt [poured] on the recording device, that part of our interview is kind of undigitalized. I told Dane [Daniel] that it was a bit childish to cry over frothed milk but that didn't seem to comfort him much.

There are some people that see the half full cup and get upset about where the other half of the cup went [like on an expensive microphone?] With an attitude like that, they will never be happy. I see a half full cup and I immediately take half of someone else's cup and then I have a full cup and I'm happy. With the right attitude, life is really very simple.

So, David It is David, isn't it? [Daniel] will write most of the book which shouldn't spoil it too much. He said that he would add some comments in parenthesis and in a different font to mine [like this]. I of course reserved the right to insert the odd, odd comment in {these things} in his chapters if and when I feel like it. If you get confused, just listen to what I say because growing up is for losers.

Where was I? Remember, how I was telling you about how I spent a long time out of Neverland Classic while I was busy bringing Neverland to the people? Well, it's quite funny really. You see over those decades, I ... um ... well, it's funny and a

touch embarrassing, I have become rather well padded since I was first described in print in 1904. I have grown out and talled up a bit. I'm quite a bit bigger than I once was but I can reassure you that I have done everything in my childish repertoire, which is vast, to avoid growing up mentally. I am just as capricious, vain, self centered and selfish as I was in 1904, if not more so.

Obviously I take my immaturity seriously and I carefully monitor my Emotional Intelligence (E.I.) level and keep it as low as possible. My average E.I. level hovers just below that of an indulged, pre-pubescent 14 year old boy. I am delighted to reveal that my E.S., or Emotional Stupidity level is so high that it is off the charts. E.S. measures a person's inability to access certain emotions such as compassion, empathy and a sense of responsibility. In Neverland 2.0 these emotions are so rare that they are considered theoretical, if they are ever considered at all, which they are not.

In exchange for you buying, copying or stealing a copy of this book, I will share with you the secrets of my low E.I. high E.S. diet. I will show you how you can make loads of fast money and stay looking young forever-ish by reducing all the unnecessary stress commonly associated with shirking responsibility, lying, cheating and dominating others. You do not have to grow up and no one can make you, if you don't want to. That's great news isn't it? It is time to share the Neverland Code, the Code that has allowed Neverland 2.0 to take over the world. When I say "Code," well, it's actually more of a guide really.

Practitioners of the Peter Pan Low E.I., High E.S. Diet™ (PPLowHigh Diet™) can become enormously powerful and with great power, in Neverland 2.0, comes a total lack of accountability and responsibility. Take for example one of the greatest PPLowHigh Diet™ dieters of our time, former President [unelected] of the United States, George W. Bush, [child president]. Or maybe you want to tilt your cap at the corporate world? The PPLowHigh Diet™ can rocket you to the highest echelons of the bluest of blue chip resource companies, financial institutions or corporate stalwarts like Enron or WorldCom. Stay emotionally slim whilst gorging yourself at the company's expense. The PPLowHigh Diet™ is a high performance diet; just think what it can do for you. [When Enron collapsed in 2001, it owed \$32 billion dollars and was the biggest corporate failure in US history, at that time.]

If we do not fight the adults on the land, in the air and on the sea (which includes off shore drilling platforms) we could end up with a world where people and even companies and whole governments could be held responsible for their actions. Not on my watch. What has happened in the Gulf of Mexico is

outrageous. So there was a bit of a spill, a few birds got some black waterproofing for free. Tony Hayward, CEO of BP did a great job of putting it into perspective for people "The Gulf of Mexico is a very big ocean. The volume of oil and dispersant we are putting into it is tiny in relation to the total water volume." BP quite rightly, in my opinion, appeared to try to save the oil first and the environment second or third, whatever.

It is a worrying precedent that BP were forced to set up a \$20 billion dollar Gulf Oil Spill Fund. I couldn't have summed it up better than Joe Barton, Republican Senator from Texas, when he said it was "a tragedy of the first proportion that a private corporation can be subjected to what I would characterize as a shakedown, a \$20 billion dollar shakedown." I felt your pain Joe. I was also "ashamed of what happened in the White House." This book will help get more supporters for good ol' boys like Joe. Profit is not a dirty word, responsibility is.

About those nasty, hurtful rumors that I wear green tights, a green hat, travel by fairy dust and that my fashion accessories are limited to a belt and a gay wooden sword: Those persistent, cruel lies have been propagated by horrible mean spirited grown ups that want to roll back the borders of Neverland 2.0 to the realm of the imagination. Those tossers have totally failed but that persistent, bad fashion stereotype is mean and slightly sicko. Maybe once, for a wicked jape, I dressed all in green. It was St. Patrick's Day for goodness sake. I was in Ireland, someone drew a picture of me, please let it go... let it go. I wear Armani now, do you?

It is high time that all the perpetual boys and girls that run so many fine corporations for their own benefit and that of their mates get the respect and the acknowledgement that they so richly deserve. Any good Never Lander, a citizen of Neverland, could walk past you in a busy street and you would not even notice them unless they were having a dummy spit. We dress exclusively in brand names, love bling, drive huge, pretentious, gas guzzling vehicles and have found iPhones and the internet to be more effective weapons than wooden swords.

I didn't think it was possible, but I am having more fun in Neverland 2.0 than Neverland Classic. Here's a quick fun tip for you: Fun at someone else's expense is twice as much fun as normal fun because you have your fun PLUS you add to your fun a fun multiplier which is based on how effective you have been at taking away other people's fun. The bonus endorphins from enhanced fun are more effective than wrinkle cream at keeping you young but more difficult to put in a jar and mark up by 6,000%.

4

Rites of Passage and Growing Up

(by Daniel Prokop)

I'm really happy that Peter Pan is contributing to this book. I believe that people have finally had enough of perpetual boys and that Peter's undisguised churlishness will help to wake people up. After wiping the drool from the corner of their mouths (which is how you know it has been a very deep sleep), people will start to abandon Neverland and wonder why they ever stayed there so long.

Neverland is no longer restricted to an island in the imagination or to a ranch in Santa Barbara, California. Boys that refuse to grow up, and girls too, seem more the norm today than the exception. The original book "*Peter Pan*" was written by J.M. Barrie as a children's story, it was never meant to be used as a blueprint for social development.

Peter Pan was one of Michael Jackson's hero's (he didn't know Peter like I know him) which is why Michael created his own Neverland complete with Indian village, two railways, a zoo, bumper cars and various other amusement park rides, as you do. The 2,676 acre Neverland was a monument to a childhood that as a young star Michael felt he never had. Despite the excess: None of the King of Pop's Horses and none of the King of Pop's enablers could put the King of Pop's childhood back together again.

Fan or not we all have a lot in common with Michael Jackson. We are living in a Neverland that we have all helped to create, that doesn't disappear when we wake up and will only disappear when we collectively grow up. In our adolescent society growing up emotionally is ridiculed, seen as bad, even stupid and definitely undesirable. Yet the consequences of our prolonged childhood, the global financial crisis, the preventable environmental disasters, human induced climate change and a pandemic of depression are finally (almost) impossible to ignore.

We have tried generations upon generations of not growing up and taking no responsibility for our actions or emotions and it doesn't seem to have worked very well. For Homo sapiens why is growing up emotionally not pre-installed? How could something so vitally important to life on this planet be left as an optional extra?

“Hi, GOD! Yeah good to see you too, so.... ummm.... this time I'll take the basic body shape, a fairly hairless one, unless there is an ice age coming up? The opposite you say? Interesting, whatever, definitely the walking upright model with the enlarged brain and a big penis too, if it's all the same to you? Yeah, well the size does matter to me. Yes, I have heard that joke about how you knock the dicks off all the smart ones and it was funny back when we were all still living in the trees. Whatever skin color you got in stock for this baby will be fine. One last thing, I hear that that the growing up software is now optional? I'm sorry, you were mumbling, is it optional or not? It is? Great, 'cause I'm not gonna need it. I just want to be a big kid this whole lifetime, stay kinda young forever, ya know. Yes ummm about that, I will be opting out of taking any responsibility for anything and I just want to reassure you that I'm good with that. Well, it probably will adversely affect my fellow men and women but whatever. Right. Yes, totally. GOD, you are THE GOD. Of course I'm listening and I understand your frustration but if it upsets you so much why did you give us free will? Well... maybe it would have been better if you hadn't, but you did. Now as I understand it, you won't actually stop me... you know ... having nookie? 'Cause I might 'accidentally' father a few kids. It doesn't feel right talking about sex in front of you. You're kind of like a parent only so much more. I just can't imagine you and Mrs. God having sex. Sorry, sorry, any who. I think we're all set now? Cool. Well, thank you. See you next time. What do you mean? 'If there is a next time?' GOD? GOD?”

In human beings there is no hard wired link between physiology and psychology, no inter-molecular check and balance system between physical body growth and psychological mental development. At first blush this appears to be a significant design flaw unique to human beings. Some people who are critical of God about other matters may be thinking that this is a huge oversight by God. Others, who constantly acknowledge just how amazingly clever God is (you may even use a different name for her), will disagree.

Have some fun and visualize a relative or a work colleague, perhaps a favorite politician. Now imagine the physical size of the person changing so that their body is now directly proportional to their emotional maturity i.e. healthy adult emotionally equals full size adult body, child emotionally equals a child's body, baby emotionally equals baby body size. Hmm, how did you go? Need a few high chairs?

The link between physical body growth and emotional maturity was once provided by the community. The catalyst for achieving the transformation from boy to young man or from girl to young woman was called a Rite of Passage. Assisting young people to successfully make the transition from childhood into adulthood was a matter of life and death to traditional societies. The communities knew that their very survival actually depended on having healthy adults as members rather than overgrown boys and girls (and that was way back before nuclear weapons, genetic engineering and deep sea drilling were even invented.)

“A civilization that lacks Rites of Passage has a sick soul and “you know it is sick for three reasons: there are no elders, the youth are violent and the adults are bewildered” African Teacher as quoted by Matthew Fox¹

Rites of passage are normal. An example of a modern Rite of Passage which is still commonly practiced today is marriage. Indeed some people enjoy the rite of marriage so much that they “practice” it several times and still can't seem to make it work. The potency of marriage as an effective Rite of Passage seems to have diminished greatly. There are many other stages that we move through over a lifetime. These life stages include; birth, adolescence, parent, Elder and death.

I believe that the reclaiming of contemporary, community based Rites of Passage is the way out of Neverland for all of us. The focus of this book is the Rite of Passage where Peter Pan and

quite a few others (myself included) have got stuck, the transition from child to young adult.

Childhood is great, I spent 32 years there and Peter Pan has clocked up 106 years as a child and still counting. Early childhood (as opposed to the ongoing childhood of a 40 year old) is precious and children are great teachers of spontaneous joy and happiness. According to Dr. Fry (Psychiatrist and professor emeritus at Stanford University) the average child in kindergarten laughs up to 300 times a day, the average adult just 17 times. Just because kids haven't heard all the good punch lines does not explain that difference. Children have a sense of wonder and playfulness that is infectious though many "adults" use work to inoculate themselves from regular laughter and outbursts of spontaneous play.

There are positive aspects of childhood which "grown ups" remember very fondly but shed all too readily: joy, fun, innocence and wonder, laughing easily and living in the moment. There are other aspects of childhood which "adults" retain even when they are way past their use by date. These aspects include: the avoidance of responsibility, the insatiable cravings for attention and instant gratification, the misuse of power and being capricious.

So what does growing up mean? People talk about it all the time. Young people are often told to "grow up" by angry, shrill voiced folk who are having a mid life tantrum. Even if teenagers want to grow up, we make it difficult by having few good role models available for them and fewer still that get any media attention. Telling young people to "Grow up!" but then not giving them anything to aim for is like giving someone a dart, then blindfolding them and spinning them around 100 times and then berating them as you pull the dart out of your forehead.

"Growing up" emotionally means making the mental shift from being a child to being a young adult, from being dependent on parents and others to becoming independent, from taking no responsibility to taking full responsibility. When this transformation does not happen we get overgrown children who have physically grown up but still behave like a child, often a spoiled child.

The differences between an overgrown child and a healthy adult are vast and it is worth considering what some of these differences are. The main differences as I see them, "Peter Pan vs. Not Peter Pan" are summarized in Table 1.0. Table 1.0 is meant to be a conversation starter for the very important conversation: "We need to talk. It's time to start growing up." In the immortal words

of Monty Python, “It’s only a model.” This model has been inspired by the Boy vs. Man model developed by the Pathways Foundation (www.pathwaysfoundation.org.au).

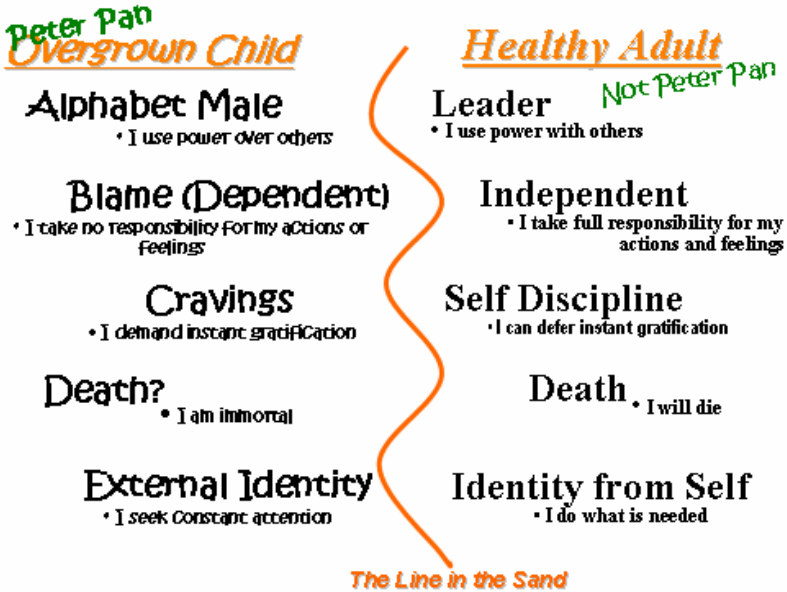


Table 1.0 Difference between an Overgrown Child and a Healthy Adult

I have tried to keep this model simple because it is now easier to get overwhelmed by information than at any other time in history. It is estimated that 4 exabytes (4 billion gigabytes) of information was generated in 2008 which is more information than was generated in the previous 5,000 years².

Each of the five aspects in Table 1.0 are dealt with in detail so keep reading. This book is not a gospel according to Daniel and I hope that since there are so few lions left that this will not land me in the lions den. These are my thoughts and beliefs written in a way that I hope you will find entertaining, informative and at times provocative. The Peter Pan vs. Not Peter Pan model can be useful, I believe, in helping to identify “lost boys” and “lost girls,” especially when they are cloaked in the authority of high office. I also find it useful for when I step over the line myself. If what I have written makes sense to you, use it and if it doesn’t, chuck it away or put it in the bottom of a budgies cage.

-- Daniel Prokop --

{More like the bottom of a vultures cage for the stuff Dennis writes about growing up. <hand gesture> Children Rule! Childhood forever! Adults suck!}

Some of the things that Peter writes, well, you might want to keep a salt shaker handy or a bucket.

{Oh, very mature. Ha, ha all I have to do is cast the line out and reel you in. Adult schmadult.}

Maybe we don't need to Leave Neverland? Maybe Peter Pan is right and we just keep on going exactly as we have been going only harder? After reading this, you decide.

A quick perusal of Table 1.0 is enough to see that the shifts required in the way of thinking and being are so fundamental that it is absurd and unrealistic to assume that adolescents can make such a huge transformation all by themselves in a timely manner. It was never left up to the individual to decide when they wanted to grow up because this is the way that that conversation goes.

ADULT: "Hey, when are you going to grow up?"

ADOLESCENT: "I'll grow up when I feel like it."

ADULT: "OK, and when will that be?"

ADOLESCENT: "Never."

It was not left up to the parents to decide when the child was ready to grow up either. Parents can easily be blinded by their love.

PARENT: "I just don't think Timmy is ready to grow up yet."

OBSERVER: "Why is that?"

PARENT: "Some of his beard isn't grey yet."

Some parents who are living vicariously through their children or who are simply co-dependent on them may not want their little darlings to ever grow up. There are now many different names for over protective parents that try to solve all their children's problems for them. There is a variety of hovering type parents: "blimp" parents (overweight hoverers), "helicopter" parents and the more electronically sophisticated "drone" parents." There are also parents that actively remove obstacles from their children's path. These are "lawnmower" parents or, if you are in Scandinavia, "curling" parents (parents who sweep obstacles out of their children's path with a cute little broom whilst trying to take themselves seriously). All these parents condemn their children to a lifetime in Neverland.

{How can anyone be “condemned” to a life time of awesomeness?}

Tension may arise between parents when one parent clearly sees the need for a child to grow up, while the other parent wants to keep protecting the little “darling” forever. There are also some highly competitive parents that want their children to grow up much faster than they are developmentally capable of achieving. Parenting is a really tough and a very important job.

In traditional societies, the Elders of the village, people with wisdom who knew the child and saw them regularly would say when a child was “ripe” or ready for adulthood, for their Rite of Passage. Whilst the young person would feel a certain degree of anxiety about what was coming, they also looked forward to it too because they wanted to join the adults. In many cultures there were very big incentives for them to do so. I heard an interview a few years ago with John Guy from Bush Ventures on ABC Radio. John was talking about Rites of Passage and his experience of the Gurkha Culture where if a child had not completed their Rite of Passage they were not allowed to marry or own property. That is a big incentive to grow up. {Maybe once upon a time it might have been.} Why would you let a child raise a child?

By the age of 13, most adolescents have had 13 years or so of little or no responsibility, of thinking only of themselves, of wanting everything NOW and striving to be the center of attention. There is a lot of comfort in staying the same and huge psychic inertia to be overcome for an adolescent to cross the line in the sand, to leave aspects of the child behind thereby creating the space for young adult behavior to take effect. There is fear to be overcome too, fear of losing something precious in the transition, fear of change, fear of responsibility and these days, fear of becoming as miserable as most of the “adults” that they see everyday. As the adults of our culture we have a lot of work to do to make adulthood a lot more attractive to our young people. We can do this by enjoying our lives, by laughing more and spending more time with our young people.

The consequences of doing nothing, of leaving our young people to either self initiate or do nothing at all, surround us. It affects us all in many, many ways. For example, we have a generation of children that are trying to grow up without fathers around.

“Too many fathers are AWOL, missing from too many homes. They have abandoned their responsibilities, acting like boys instead of men. And

-- Daniel Prokop --

the foundations of our families [and our communities] are weaker because of it.... any fool can have a child... It's the courage to raise a child that makes you a father." President Barack Obama, New York Times, June 16, 2008)

If we keep going the way we are going, operating out of Neverland 2.0, then our ability to resolve the global environmental, social and financial challenges we face will be extremely difficult, if not impossible. How can we resolve important issues if no one ever takes responsibility for their actions? In most mature democracies, sorry, need to take the word "mature" out. Ok, in most democracies we have developed antagonistic politics where the "Opposition" will oppose good initiatives purely for the sake of undermining the Government. God forbid that someone makes a mistake because "Hell hath no fury more than an inept politician that sees vulnerability in an opponent." Thus opportunities to learn and move forward fall through outstretched fingers onto sterile ground whilst lobbyists peddle rumors and influence to the highest greedy person.

"Problems cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them." Albert Einstein

The roots of the current level of childish thinking go back thousands of years and lay in the use of power to dominate others. The use of power "over" rather than using power with others is fearful, Overgrown Child thinking. It has mostly been men that have reveled in accumulating and holding onto power and they have given patriarchy a really bad name. Rather than patriarchy *per se* it has been a childish, warrior based model of domination that worships the twin gods of selfishness and instant gratification and where bad card playing is obligatory because it seems that might always trumps right's ace. Did I miss anything? This old way of thinking has taken us to the brink, where we are sinking under a morass of disintegrating families, weak divided communities, corporate and military bullying, catastrophic environmental degradation, and the sea, see?

The good news, and there is good news, is that globally we have finally had enough of the old low level way of thinking. Most of us with enough to eat have had a gutful and those that are starving have had enough of not having a full gut. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. The catastrophic cost of putting irresponsible children in charge of the world financial system has caused great hardship and suffering for everyone it seems, except the children that

created the mess. I believe that the (latest) Global Financial Crisis combined with concerns about human induced climate change are like sharp sticks poking us in the back, urging us to move to a new level of thinking because the old way of thinking, well there is no dog poop bag big enough to scoop it into.

In 2009, on the 20th anniversary of the Berlin wall coming down the BBC World Service published a poll⁹ of 29,033 people across 27 different countries. Only 11% of those questioned said that they thought that free-market capitalism was working well and that greater regulation is not a good idea.

Over 23% of respondents said that free-market capitalism is “fatally flawed and a different economic system is needed.” WOW. In only two countries did more than 20% of respondents say that the system was “working well and that more regulation would make it less efficient”: the USA, capital of Neverland and home-base of the global financial meltdown; and Pakistan, huh? Because things are going so well in Pakistan?

The new way of thinking that is coming in is deceptively simple, yet enormously powerful, it is called: Growing Up and Behaving Like responsible Adults or GUBLrA. With GUBLrA we can work together and together we can solve all of the challenges that face us and maybe a few bonus ones that might crop up unexpectedly along the way. Yahoo! As in celebration, not the search engine. The great thing is, that with this new way of thinking we can all start straight away with little steps, like taking personal responsibility for our actions and our feelings and by starting to think about future generations and the environment. Now, before all of you race off to buy cheap low lying coastal property there is one teensy weensy little catch. We have a slight compatibility problem.

“Compatibility problem” is a phrase that results in an involuntary sphincter contraction for anyone that spends much time around computers. Microsoft products have a proud tradition in this area. The reality is that GUBLrA will simply not run on a global Neverland 2.0 operating platform, though it will run in safe mode on a smaller scale in a Neverland 1.0 environment which is no help at all because there is no “safe mode” available on the Earth server.

The full implementation of GUBLrA requires us to reduce global immaturity levels. The OEMCD country (Organisation for Emotional Maturity Co-operation and Development) is Bhutan, the only country that measures gross national happiness. Bhutan will be asking non OEMCD countries, effectively the rest of the world, to begin making cuts in their tantrum and bullying

emissions immediately. The Tantrum Cap and Trade system put forward by some of the biggest babies on this planet will not be adopted because as Bhutan rightly says “it would only reward childish behavior. The biggest bullies give themselves huge tantrum credits which means they could stay as selfish as ever whilst becoming more childish and making a fortune in trading tantrums.” Tantrum trading does seem to be on the increase.

But seriously, GUBLrA is a new level of consciousness, a new operating system from which we can solve the problems facing us. It is time for us to leave Neverland and there are many “lost boys” and “lost girls” that will do their very considerable worst to stop the new way of thinking from coming in. There are also a lot of people who are resigned or just afraid of change, even though it is obvious to even the most casual observer that everything changes, nothing stays the same forever, except perhaps acting childishly.

It is highly unlikely that the Pan-like elite will give up their power gracefully though they may surprise us. The current depth and pervasiveness of Neverland 2.0 is actually quite scary. I spent an afternoon walking busy streets asking people the same question “When are you going to grow up?” The overwhelming response was “never.” One girl said “when I want to lose interest in life.”

My goal in writing this book with Peter Pan, the Pan Man...

{I hate that nickname. I am not a man. I'm a boy,
I'm a BOY, I'M A BOY!!!}

[Ok, Ok. This from the guy that can't remember
anyone else's name.]

{I only remember names that are worth dropping.}

My goal in writing this book is to let people know that the Neverland emergency exit doors and the normal exit doors are never locked. We can leave whenever we want to. We just have to want to.

{<smirk> Oh yeah, like that's ever going to
happen? <smirk>}

I also have a go at pulling the rug out from under the childish A- type, Alpha male bullies that take no responsibility for their actions, use positional or physical power to dominate others and make many people's lives a misery. One of the early working titles for this book was “*Alpha Males: Ripping them a Second*”

Asshole.” I liked it and I still like it but I was told it was too aggressive.

Whilst the Rite of Passage from child to young adult is a key plank in the GUBLrA roll out there are other important Rites of Passage that have been lost too. From man to father is a big emotional shift. Whilst there is more focus now on men supporting the birth, being a father is very different from being a man and there is a lot men need to know about looking after a pregnant wife and how to support a new mother and an infant and themselves.

Whilst the birth process is a Rite of Passage for a woman and it helps with the mental shift from woman to mother, there is a lot that women can do to help and support a woman to become a connected, healthy mother. The poop hits the nappy straight after birth and many parents are not fully ready for the journey ahead. There is not enough support in our communities for new mothers. We can do a lot better in this area.

The last vital Rite of Passage that we have lost (excluding Death) is the Rite of Passage from older to elder and the loss of eldership makes re-establishing all Rites of Passage more difficult. Once elders held both knowledge and wisdom but now with the internet and computers we have a lot of older people who are bewildered and disempowered because their knowledge has passed into obsolescence at a pace that has left them dizzy. We live in an age where people suffer from info-toxicity caused by the overwhelming volume of expert opinions, often giving conflicting advice, that is available on the same topic. Info-toxicity results in confusion and feelings of inferiority and insignificance. But knowledge is not wisdom and some things are learned only through living and loving and taking a few turns that take us to unexpected places.

Googling wisdom will not make you wise. I tried it, and it didn't help. In fact, I found researching wisdom very frustrating and I made a fundamental parenting error of venting some of my frustration at my children that same day. To be fair, a whole pile of clothes and school bags and crap had just been chucked on the floor. C'mon, they know better.

{Who is supposed to be the adult? <snicker, snicker>}

I am the adult, with a small “a”, if I have told them once, I have told them ...

{And you never leave anything lying around?}

-- Daniel Prokop --

Well, ummm... I may have once left a shirt ...

{Welcome back to Neverland, Dario}

<Sigh> Knowing what to do is different to doing what you know. It is wisdom that connects knowledge to the heart.

“Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men [and women] know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.”
Charles H. Spurgeon

We are chronically short on wisdom balancing knowledge, short on the ability to listen and empathize with human beings who share the same air with us, the same needs and desires. We have mothers going into despair and overwhelm just for the sake of a little break and an unbroken nap and in the same street, older people feeling redundant, thirsting for connection and dying of loneliness and ne'er the twain do meet.

This is a challenging and an exciting time to be alive. Yes the world is changing faster than ever before. Yes, we have inherited a media circus that is quick to sensationally exploit negative news. Yes, our families, our tribes, our villages, our communities have been largely scattered to the four winds. But before you ask another question, consider that at this time, in this moment, there is a listening and the space for solutions and new ways of thinking to be adopted. Our job is to nurture the seedlings of healthy, diverse communities of men and women and children and let's look after the planet's ecosystem while we are at it.

“...never before in human history has such a wealth of symbolic and ritual thought been available to us through anthropological and ethnological research.” Don Bowak, *Marking Life's Stages*, 2008, self published.

We can create our own contemporary rituals to slake the innate thirst for ceremony and connection. Everything we do now to help strengthen our communities and diversity punches a hole in the walls of Neverland and generates a spike in GNH (Gross National Happiness).

You will find Neverland escape instructions written throughout this book but not in a secret code or anything Dan Brown'ish like that. The alternative way to escape Neverland is to basically do

-- Daniel Prokop --

the opposite of whatever Peter Pan suggests. One day Neverland will disappear back into a small island in the imagination or less. It is time for a new ending to an old story. The boy that never grows up was a story that became myth without a moral. It has attracted many people to a light that they thought was the moon but it was only Peter - mooning.

{Heh, heh}

In the section on gratitude, I forgot to thank all the Alpha males from the various sandpits where I have worked, as well as some of the politicians and stalwart captains of industry who have inspired me by pissing me off so much that I finally got off my butt ...

{And left your level 80, night elf hunter in Azeroth}

... to write this book. Thank you. Y'all are inspiring a lot of people the same way you have inspired me.

¹ Matthew Fox, 1994 Revision, A Journal of Consciousness and Transformation, Vol. 16, Number 3 as quoted in "Marking Life's Stages" by Don Bowak, 2008, self published

² "Did You Know 3.0" created by Karl Fisch, modified by Scott McLeod. Globalisation and the Information Age

³ Poll conducted by Globescan and the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) between the 19/06/2009 and 13/10/2009

http://www.globescan.com/news_archives/bbc2009_berlin_wall/

5

Who wants to Grow Up?

(Contributed by Peter Pan)

Thank God Dagwood [Daniel] finally stopped writing. Could that have been more tedious?

Question: Who wants to grow up?

Answer: NO ONE.

Well, maybe a few misguided LOSERS or TOSSERS want to grow up. I mean really, give me a break. Nobody chooses to grow up anymore. Growing up is so prehistoric. A few people through personal tragedy may accidentally stumble across the shaky, poorly maintained and narrow bridge from childhood to adulthood but why would you want to deliberately walk that plank? Why take responsibility when clearly to succeed you don't have to?

The Global Financial Crisis (GFC) was purely the result of Neverlanditis. Thank you, thank you. The striking feature of it is that the banking executives that created the mess, myself included, have done very, very well financially and those few who actually lost their jobs have now bugged off to the Caribbean or, surprisingly, the Gold Coast, after they were attracted by Australia's fabulously successful international advertising campaign "Where the bloody hell are ya, ya bankers?" Brilliant marketing.

[In Neverland Classic a fairy dies every time a child says “I don’t believe in Fairies.” Saying “I don’t believe in bankers,” does nothing, but if enough of us say “I don’t believe in obscene bonuses for bankers and the CEOs and board members of all shareholder owned companies,” then we can at least make all those bonuses die.]

The methods outlined in this Book have been tried and tested by Presidents, Prime ministers, the Military Industrial complex, CEOs, coaches and parents of all sexes, races and religions. For the gullible naïve, this book can help you understand why you often act like a baby. After reading this, instead of apologizing, you will understand how to expand the winning strategy that you know so well. For any “adults” that have picked up this Book it will be an exhilarating call to action. Childhood does not have to be fleeting, it can be a way of life! WOOOT!

Do you want to replicate the success of the oil industry or the international banking crisis community? Dominate all the whining environmental and social cry babies whilst staying young [childish] forever? Of course you do. Read on and a little botox and regular cosmetic surgery might just help you maintain your youthful appearance. I was going to say that a little botox and cosmetic surgery won’t hurt but that would have been an unnecessary lie, best left to someone that makes a buck out of it [** cough** the cosmetics industry** cough**]. Don’t be too tight or afraid to buy this book for your boss or wife or parents or pet, they will thank you in their own special way. Minimal discounts are available for orders of 100,000 copies or more e.g. for the US government.

If you are reading this or are having it read to you, it is likely that you are already walking the path of least effort and minimal contribution. Some of you have probably gone broke trying to get rich quick. Keep going, “good things come to those that want to do nothing but have it all drop magically into their lap.” I have attempted to keep everything that I write as simple and as short as possible, recognizing that short attention spans and limited but highly specialized vocabularies are important success indicators for Alpha Males. You will notice, Cockos, that in most cases the gender language in this book takes the form of the masculine. This is a tribute to the millennia of patriarchal domination that this

world has enjoyed at the negligible cost of the planet's environment and basic human rights for a few.

[A few? Three billion people live on less than \$2.50 per day?¹ How about you try living on ...]

Sorry? Look, Darrin, I'm on a bit of a roll here and you are interrupting. So there are a few poor people. Who are you, Mother Theresa? Get over it. Now, where was I?

I am not saying that women cannot behave as badly as men. In certain situations women can be far more vicious and vengeful than even the most pig-ignorant (unaware of the delights of bacon) man. So it is entirely appropriate in all cases to substitute the feminine pronoun for the male pronoun unless of course it is immediately followed by the word "penis" and even then, for some people, this could be grammatically correct.

Sadly, I fear fewer women than men will benefit from the knowledge contained herein because women, due to the biology of childbirth, which is nobody's fault, except maybe God's, are at much greater risk of growing up than men. Apparently, a child hanging off your teat is hard to ~~shake-off~~ ignore and many women succumb to the self effacing realization that another human being's needs are more important and more immediate than their own. With little effort, men are able to totally avoid this feeling and will often compete vigorously with the infant for both attention and for the teat.

The good news is that men have made huge strides to redress the biological maturity imbalance between men and women. A lot of effort has gone into stopping the woman's parental engagement by the time she exits the hospital ward.

Particular commendation must go to the non-vaginated, highly paid obstetricians who have worked tirelessly to transform natural child birth into a highly invasive surgical procedure that can sever a woman from her pathetic maternal instincts forever. With sufficient intervention and limited post natal support woman have proven that it is possible to ignore the child hanging off a breast by letting the infant hang off the end of a bottle instead <applause>.

Stomping out the practice of homebirth and prosecuting midwives [wise women] is essential to maintaining medical control of

the so called “natural” birth process. As if pushing something as big as a watermelon out of a vagina can be considered “natural.”

If we do not maintain control of the birth process it could be abused as a rite of passage. The side effects of this include having to suffer healthier, happier women who have an almost unbreakable bond with their incontinent child. Like we want that? NOT. It will just make it much more painful for the mother when she is forced to abandon her “baby” to commercial interests later on. All of this is for the greater good. A man’s involvement in child birth should be donation of sperm, smoking of a cigar and cutting the connection between mother and baby, the umbilical thing as soon as possible.

[Early clamping or cutting of the umbilical cord can deprive the baby of a reservoir of blood that is held in the placenta which gets pumped to the baby when the baby starts to breath air. The placenta was part of the baby for nine months, letting it stop pulsing is the very, very least we can do.² We have suffered a prolonged and concerted disinformation campaign which has made acceptable very high levels of often unnecessary and expensive medical interventions in childbirth. And we call ourselves “civilized.”]

Yeah, whatever. Please feel free to interrupt as often as you like <hand gesture>.

An elective caesarian is the modern, low emotional bonding method of childbirth that we need more and more of if we are ever to going to scale that elusive pinnacle of human [under] achievement that we are so tantalizingly close to: an adult free society.

The industrial revolution was very effective at forcing the man out of the house during daylight hours and he has not made it back in since. Neverland benefits handsomely from this arrangement. Frankly, a similar revolution to flush all the women out of the home has been too long in coming. Progress in forcing mothers to leave their families for the challenges and in many cases the unwarranted sexual advances of being a worker has been slow. Most mothers have not abandoned their children and homes gracefully. It has taken cruel mocking, the total undermining of the value of “motherhood,” strictly enforced isolation, government legislation and harsh economic imperatives to pry mothers out of their homes as soon as practicable after the

bun is taken from the oven with a pair of cold metal forceps. "Women stay out of the house during daylight hours and start earning money and be more miserable, like men."

It may take a few more years but with any luck we should see the global gender balance restored. By gender balance, of course, I mean 50:50 balance to the male : female mortality rates. On average, a woman now lives 5 years longer than a man which is an outrageous affront to male superiority. Pushing women away from their infants and into the workforce for significantly less pay than their male equivalents goes quite some way to addressing this.

Some commentators have commented that it does not make sense for Governments to provide financial incentives for women to have babies on one hand and then force them to put their dear little sprogs into day care five days later. To these morons I say "wake up". Until we can grow workers in test tubes or those really cool pod like things in the Matrix, women cannot be unshackled from childbirth. Yucky, but true. To survive as a consumer in Neverland 2.0 you really need two incomes and when three incomes are needed we will update the name to Neverland 3.0.

¹ <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats> "Poverty Facts and Stats, source World Bank Development Indicators", 2008

² Wadrop CA, Holland BM. The roles and vital importance of placental blood to the newborn infant. J Perinat Med, 1995;23(1-2):139-43



Alpha Male

vs.

Leader

"Knowing others is intelligence; knowing yourself is true wisdom. Mastering others is strength, mastering yourself is true power." -- Lao-Tzu

Terror has always been available in the world. In pre-history it was found as it is now in the unknown, the unexpected. And so it seemed that a powerful leader was one who controlled and dominated threatening forces. That characterized the unknown as threatening, cruel, unfeeling. Yet with the constant practice of control and domination, century after century, terror never left. It was magic that went underground. Terror stayed above ground and became a tool of power.-- Rose von Thater-Braan, 'Thoughts on a world in which Consciousness is Reality' in "Mind before Matter")

6

Bullying is Bull****

(by Daniel Prokop)

Bullying is not OK, it is an act of cowardice and it is utter bullshit that it is so prevalent. Bullying is one of the many ugly aspects of Neverland and trying to stop bullying by bullying the bully is as stupid as it is common. Well, almost. To attain global Neverland escape velocity we, those sometimes accused of being the “adults,” have to start to model cooperative, respectful behavior. Abuse of power by countries, companies, bosses, coaches and parents perpetuates a culture of bullying and fear that feeds on itself.

Eckhardt Tolle in his book “*A New Earth*” refers to a concept called the “pain body.”

“The pain body in a person is accumulated emotional pains from the past...it is an important aspect of the egoic sense of self. The pain body has dormant and active periods... it has a life of its own almost.” Eckhardt Tolle interview, www.beyou.tv

A pain body feeds regularly on personal misfortune and the misfortune of others. Bullying can be a double feed for the pain body because it hurts others and many bullies, in the privacy of their suppressed consciousness, hurt themselves in the process as well. The pain body is threatened by the letting go of certain

behavior that has served or protected us as a child but is no longer appropriate as an adult and it creates much of the psychic inertia to emotional maturation or growing up.

When I was little, people used to ask “What do you want to be when you grow up?” it was assumed (often incorrectly) that the person would grow up. The question was actually inauthentic, it was a work question. “What work do you want to do that will then define you as a person?” But that question is not asked much anymore. It should be. Every HR department in every corporation should be asking that question. “So John, you’ve been CEO for a number of years now. <pause> What would you like to do when you grow up?” Pain body management is a key to emotional intelligence and emotional intelligence leads to emotional maturation and puts an end to bullying behavior.

As an individual, wrestling with the “pain body” or ego is a struggle that is not ended by a Rite of Passage. But the Rite of Passage does create a safe, supported place where pain can be acknowledged and also released - sometimes as laughter and sometimes as tears. Witnessing courageous men share and release pain that they have held tightly for decades is incredibly moving. Physically men walk differently after the well fed monkey jumps off his back, taking its endless supply of poo with it. The suppression and then inappropriate expression of feelings is a fantastic way to give your pain body a feed. Safe spaces for release and acknowledgement can be very healing.

A Rite of Passage creates new possibilities for the individual which calls maturity forward rather than pulls behavior back into the clutching quicksand of the infantile. A community based Rite of Passage can also create a group that can support and nurture healthy adult behavior whilst containing and recognizing that periodic behavioral regression is often a part of the process. Growing up is not a linear process. Eliminating the need to dominate another to prove your manhood removes one of the drivers for bullying behavior in adolescents and also in older men.

*"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."
Abraham Lincoln*

Power over is the childish way ‘civilized’ man has related to the earth and its finite resources. Nature’s warning signs that we are out of balance and heading ecologically straight for a man made cliff are drowned out by the frenzied crescendo created by massive increases in technological and mechanical power.

Mountain top removal coal mining, deep sea oil drilling, the open pit mining of radioactive uranium, the fracking of the earth and the pumping of poisons into the cracks to extract coal seam gas are all examples of bullying of the earth for short term profits that leave scabs and weeping sores that may never fully heal. Some of these projects are heinous and actually threaten the survival of lots of people in the immediate areas of impact and indirectly the toxic tailings seeping into groundwater or the radioactive dust blown on the wind can affect people hundreds of kilometers away.

Just how long can we continue to believe some of these huge corporations that their operations are really safe? The BP Gulf of Mexico disaster proved that BP had no real plan to deal with a blow out situation yet despite this, it appears that they constantly erred on the side of profit rather than safety.

The ExxonMobil emergency response plan for a Gulf of Mexico oil spill had 40 pages dedicated to dealing with the media and only nine pages dedicated to dealing with the actual oil. They are more worried about dealing with public relations fall out than protecting the environment. ExxonMobil also included plans to deal with arctic walrus in the tropical Gulf which is so criminally incompetent that it would be laughable if the Gulf wasn't awash in crude oil. "Avatar" did a wonderful job of juxtaposing connection and cooperation vs. domination but the miners of unobtainium were soft rocks compared to some of the companies operating here and now on earth.

The sheer destructive power of the latest boys toys (including nuclear tipped ones) are a problem. Some of the toys that are being played with by individuals, companies and even countries are not safe. In the not too distant past, if boys wanted to kill each other they could go their hardest, tidy a section of the gene pool and everyone else on the planet would survive regardless of who killed who. Unfortunately today:

"Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men." Martin Luther King, Jr

As an example, in the case of toy toys, rather than toys as a euphemism for nuclear weapons, there have been large recalls of products that have been deemed unsafe for children e.g. Mattel recalled millions of toys in 2007 due to excessive amounts of lead paint. A child does not stop to consider whether a toy is safe to play with or not. You will never hear; "Wait a minute! This shiny

car tastes like lead so you better not let me play with it.” If the toy is there and they like it, they will play with it and if they are teething they will probably have a good chew on it. If they don’t like the toy, they will suddenly find it attractive if another child wants to play with it.

Children have an implicit trust in the adults around them to keep them safe. Biologically they are dependent on us for a long time so this is not surprising. As “adults” it is our responsibility to begin to recall some of the “toys” that are out there e.g. land mines, cluster bombs, genetically modified crops, nuclear weapons.

Some very large corporations behave far worse than any spoiled child. They have far more toys than they could possibly play with and they have been allowed to behave with more arrogance and impunity than the Kings of old. They now hold the power of life or death over: river systems, wetlands, underground water, mortgages, large bodies of salt water called Gulfs, foreign aid, health systems and they can even influence the political and financial stability of whole geographic regions. Why did the US invade Iraq again? Why can’t affordable pharmaceuticals be made available to the poor in third world countries?

The biggest corporations operate across more borders than Ghengis Khan did with as little or less care or compassion for those they try to economically conquer. But when the peasants revolt against a transglobal company where do they go? Fly enough of them to the corporate head office where the decision makers sit on their shiny fat butts? Even if you managed it, it would be ineffective and peasants don’t have access to fairy dust to fly and the corporations know it. Sorry, I am using the old name “peasant” – they are the “small people” and BP Chairman, Carl-Henric Svanberg assured us all that BP care for the “small people.” (June 17th, 2010).

With ol’ Ghengis and the various invaders that preceded the corporations act, they would eventually breed with the subjugated people that were left and integrate or get thrown out and or killed by someone else. As the invincible Mongolian empire, which at its peak was the largest land empire in history started to collapse, no one thought to say: “Hey, just hang on a minute. If the Mongolian Empire collapses, think of all the job losses. It would upset over half the world’s trade. Sorry world, we know that they can be ruthless and brutal but the Mongolian Empire is just too big to be allowed to collapse.”

The border of a country means nothing anymore to a properly connected corporation. Countries have been told to drop their

pants, hold their ankles and smile. Borders can be forced open, “for the good of all and to alleviate poverty everywhere” (**cough**bullshit**cough**) by powerful philanthropic organisations like the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Oh sorry, philanthropic to the interests of TRADE and the world’s wealthiest countries.

The ability of a sovereign country to protect itself economically from rapacious transglobal predators is restricted or curtailed altogether under so called “Free Trade Agreements.” Life was much simpler when Ghengis was around. Ghengis didn’t arrive with his armies and then bother to say, “Everything you have heard about me killing people is a lie. I’m here to liberate you from ... what am I liberating them from? Your heads? Oh, Oh yeah sorry, I’m here to liberate you from pottery. Wait, not pottery, poverty – stuff this, you know what, just kill ‘em all.” Ghengis did compost though.

{Yeah, yeah, yeah, all very clever but seriously where would the world be without any military industrial complex?}

It would be a lot safer for starters and Oh, I don’t know maybe a small fraction of the 1.5 trillion dollars a year spent on killing human beings could be used to alleviate the starvation and suffering of some of the least fortunate people on this planet?

{Sorry, it was a rhetorical question}

If corporations continue to abuse their power, play with toys that harm others and the environment then we need enough strong adults around to stop them and hold them legally and financially responsible for their actions. Playing nice with others and sharing, is that too much to ask from a global corporations act with sharp teeth? And the Politicians and lobbyists that support corporate excess need to be swiftly shown the gutter after being “thwone to gwound vewwwy woughly.” (If you are not familiar with Monty Python’s, the *‘Life of Brian’* then... never mind, my computer just developed a very temporary lisp).

“It has been said so often that it has become a cliché that power corrupts. But the Earth has immeasurable power. Consider the way a volcano builds an island. It is only Earth’s human children who attempt to actively hold power over one another...My observation is that power (energy)

-- Daniel Prokop --

distorts and corrupts when the intention is to gather it and hold on to it. In the natural world energy is movement and it returns to its source in a constant cycle.” Rose von Thater-Braan, ‘Thoughts on a world in which Consciousness is Reality’ in “Mind before Matter”)

In our disconnected arrogance we have consistently tried to dominate nature on this amazing planet of ours. Fortunately, nature has not taken this personally. Nature has been incredibly forgiving and patient and has thus far refused to succumb to our best efforts to embrace our very extinction. Many other species have not been so fortunate - animal kingdom collateral damage. Future generations have the right to ask us why we did not stop the devastation of vast rainforests, the paving of our wetlands, why we turned fertile grasslands and entire oceans into lifeless deserts. Why did we allow ourselves to be bullied by the few, to the detriment of the many? As woefully inadequate as it is, we already have the answer “They looked like adults and they said they would look after us. Essentially we didn’t want to grow up, our bad.”

Nature abhors bullies, the dominance of one species over all others. Biodiversity results in rapid recycling of nutrients and a strong, stable system able to withstand disease and harsh climatic fluctuations. Biodiversity creates a balanced system. The strength of the system is in the diversity of the plants, animals and microorganisms that are present. If one species struggles it does not bring down the whole ecosystem. Monocultures are not naturally occurring because they are so susceptible to viruses, bacteria, pests and changes in the environment.

Monocultures are weak and vulnerable. Intensive plant monocultures of wheat, corn or soybean (and many others) require large inputs of chemical pesticides and herbicides to protect the crop and inputs of fertilizers to replace the soil nutrients that are never allowed to replenish naturally. Intensive animal monoculture such as cattle feedlots or pig farms (thanks for the swine flu by the way) are even more vulnerable and require vast inputs of feed, water, antibiotics and hormones. In some intensive animal feedlots the animal is prevented from moving at all so it gets fat quicker. That is no way to treat an animal. I wouldn’t even do that to a BP executive (well, not for very long.)

Much of our global food security now rests on monoculture systems and increasingly on GM or Franken seeds. Global

banking, mining and manufacturing relies on fewer, very large companies equals monopolies or duopolies if a monopoly is not possible. That is not healthy or smart. When the megaliths get a cold, ordinary people get snotted on and lose their jobs in the thousands.

General Motors last turned an annual profit in 2004 and since then has “shed” 65,000 jobs. In 2009 the US government gave General Motors \$50 billion to keep it afloat and now owns 61% of the shares. Apparently improving fuel economy and quality came second to increasing bonuses for senior executives.

Citigroup in 2008 announced it was slashing 50,000 jobs worldwide. Each number, each “job” represents a “person,” a real flesh and blood person, many with families but please let’s not make statistics personal. We need diversity in business as well as in farming and the environment. Smaller farms have largely disappeared, gobbled up by multinational corporate “farmers” that have a greater focus on making a quick buck rather than preserving the long term viability of water resources, the land and rural communities.

Prince Charles tried to draw attention to the ‘GM Genocide’ in India and he was branded a ‘scaremonger’ by Genetically Modified (GM) food lobbyists and prominent politicians. The Daily Mail sent a reporter to India and Andrew Malone found it was actually far worse than even Prince Charles had feared. In 2008 it was estimated that 125,000 Indian farmers had taken their own lives, sucked and sometimes forced into debt to pay for “magic” GM seeds that were promised to be parasite and insect free for only £10 per 100 grams of seed vs. £10 for 1000 times more traditional seeds.¹ When the crops failed to deliver the promised yields and often just failed, the farmers saw no way out of the debt and in despair took their own lives, often leaving families behind, a desperate act which need not have ever happened.

Whew. It makes me feel ill to consider what human beings are capable of doing to other human beings. Some companies hold economic guns on defenseless people through “market forces” and some of them have no hesitation in pulling the trigger. It is a gross abuse of market power to prevent the sale of traditional (non-GM) seeds. Forcing GM seeds on farmers by removing choice is agricultural and economic rape and in my opinion should be punished the same as sexual rape. To force products on defenseless people is not the act of a healthy adult; it is the behavior of a vicious lost child executive that needs help. The first help we can give is to take the economic gun away.

-- Daniel Prokop --

We need healthy adults to stop the Peter Pans, the multinational children who refuse to pick up after themselves, who are pissing in our houses and shitting on our planet. And we also need to hear about the millions of selfless human beings committing random acts of kindness, paying forward, and restoring ecosystems. Stories of miracles that happen everyday, the good stuff, the stuff that reminds us that we all make a difference. We can start competing with our children to see if we can laugh more than they do in a day (you need over 300 laughs to be in the hunt.)

We are not alone and we can start to look after each other, help each other and we have to start seriously questioning what many of these corporations are telling us. How many more walruses are there in Emergency response plans across the globe? There is more than enough to go around if we share. We can start by dealing with the Alpha Males.

¹ “The GM genocide: Thousands of Indian farmers are committing suicide after using genetically modified crops” by [Andrew Malone](#), 03/11/2008, Daily Mail.

From Alpha to Alpha-bet Males - A Downward Spiral

Apparently, the term “Alpha Male,” became part of popular human vernacular as a result of early research on the social hierarchies in wolves done by L. David Mech in the late 1960s. Over the past 50 years we have learned much more about wolves. “One of the outdated pieces of information is the concept of the alpha wolf. ‘Alpha’ in this context implies competing with others and becoming top dog by winning a contest or battle. However, most wolves who lead packs achieve their position simply by mating and producing pups, which then become their pack.” L. David Mech. “Dave,” or as he is known in Australia, Davo, is now campaigning to stop the use of the word “Alpha” in association with wild canid populations and by extrapolation to wild humans. On ya, Davo.

The concept of “Alpha” in canids is now outdated because the original research was done on artificial groups of unrelated individuals in an artificial environment, a prison zoo. Wolves in zoos do indeed form social hierarchies but such situations rarely if ever happen in nature. Hip chickens call hierarchies, a “pecking order,” but debeaked battery chickens call them a “nudging order”. A pack of wolves is usually composed of Mother, Father and their sometimes quite grown-up offspring: closely related individuals who know each other well.

Alpha-bet Males: pl (n) derived from the Latin word *Ānusalphabaetus*. *Children in adult bodies, who put themselves first for everything, just like the letter “A.” Refuse to take responsibility for their actions or emotions. Typified by; insecurity masked by aggressiveness and low levels of both compassion and emotional intelligence. Suffer from insatiable cravings for attention and instant gratification and enjoy dominating others.*

Believe that childhood does not have to be fleeting; it can be a way of life. Love living in Neverland and will hold their breath until they go blue if it is even suggested that it might be time to leave.

How did we get so many men (and some women) behaving so badly for so long? How did we go from child to manchild to Alpha-bet Male and a patriarchal social model of domination, war and misogyny (hatred or contempt of women) vs. a model based on respect for the feminine, co-operation and consensus? Maybe by working backwards we can gain some insights into how this came into being and create strategies to remedy this series of highly unfortunate events.

{Sounds like you want to have another rave and “working backwards” is the wafer thin justification to go off on another tangent?}

It is sometimes useful to learn the lessons from the past otherwise we are destined to repeat them.

{These “strong” male leaders really piss you off don’t they? C’mon you can tell me all about it. You can trust me. }

<Silence><more silence>

{Darius, did you say anything interesting in those previous chapters? It looks like you used the *diarrheatica* font so I’m betting no ... but don’t let me interrupt.}

In theory, a community can be a collection of humans working co-operatively to raise children, share meals, play, share laughter and stories etc but, BUT, humans working and sharing are not the insatiable consumers that isolated, unhappy humans are ... more on this later.

Certainly most workplaces are more like a zoo (prison) than a “natural environment” (nudist beach) and so we need to: 1) make workplaces and homes less zoo-like and 2) remove the zoomorphic link between so called “Alpha males” and good leadership. The most effective leaders are those who use their position to inspire rather than dominate. Good leaders are confident and courageous; they listen with an open mind and take responsibility for their actions. They are not so addicted to power that they cannot give it up gracefully. Nelson Mandela and The Dalai Lama are great examples of leaders that have gracefully given up power. Archbishop Desmond Tutu is another example of an inspiring confident and compassionate leader.

There have of course been many 21st century Alpha-bet males operating well before the 21st Century, so let’s go back a little further and look at Charles Darwin’s contribution to the creationism of the fertile ground upon which Alpha – ism grew so rapidly.

It is commonly thought that Darwin first used the phrase “survival of the fittest.” But it was Herbert Spencer who actually first coined the term in 1864.¹ “Survival of the fittest was originally an economic term though Spencer was not an advocate of unchecked, rapacious, moral free capitalism. In 1869 in the fifth edition of “*On the Origin of the Species*” Darwin included the new phrase “Survival of the fittest” as a synonym for “natural

selection." Darwin meant it as a metaphor for "better adapted for the immediate, local environment", not the common inference of "in the best physical shape". D'oh, Darwin, Darwin, Darwin, no wonder your theories are under attack in so many American schools.

Once "the survival of the fittest" made it into Darwin's next edition it was quickly extrapolated from the natural world to the world of humans and rebranded Social Darwinism. It ushered in a new impetus for the notion that humans are destined to forever struggle and compete for limited resources. What was lost in rapid extrapolation was Darwin's equal fascination with nature's regular periods of super abundance when there was no competition and there was more than enough food for all. But good news makes bad press and the notion that the species with the largest brain / body ratio on the planet could use periods of abundance to avoid periods of struggle would be counter to free market capitalism (see section on Horse and Sparrow economics).

The wonderful thing about emotive language is that it was our very "survival" at stake and only through unregulated or better still, self regulated, competition could we vanquish the weak (who are waiting to inherit the earth from the meek) thus revealing the fittest. Darwin's words coming as they did during the Industrial revolution were used to justify even more predatory behavior by governments and business, not that either really needed an excuse. It was just nice for them to be able to sort of justify unconscionable behavior for a change as a necessary struggle for fitness, which I still have trouble with, though I try to jog regularly.

Businesses such as the British East India Company had embraced the concept of the survival of the fittest a long time before they had a name for what they were doing. They just called it a royally sanctioned right to wage war, both economic and with guns on anyone, including whole countries like India and China who got in the way of profit. The Opium Trade was fantastic business for the East India Company, and England, but not so flash for the Chinese who had to deal with all the social problems of 12 million addicts caused by the illegal yearly importation of 5.25 million pounds of opium. Hey, it was just business, man.

When China's military finally tried to stop the illegal opium trade in 1839, the British East India Company declared war, forced an unequal treaty, and seized Hong Kong Island, which the Chinese obviously didn't need anymore. "Yes, awfully sorry old chaps, but must protect our drug trade and after all, a quick war is a good war and all that." Standard corporate operating procedure:

When you have an advantage, in this example vast naval superiority, use it without conscience even if what you are doing i.e. illegally importing highly addictive drugs, is unconscionable. Interestingly, there are some people who are still surprised that the Chinese don't trust the west.

What a company, the British East India Company, and what a fun time when companies were granted permission to wage war and use slave labor to grow poppies and other crops.

{Speaking of war, if I had my way, it is about time war was fully privatized then companies like Halliburton, "Solutions for Today's Energy Challenge" wouldn't ...}

You are kidding me? Halliburton is an energy solutions company? Give me a break.

{... wouldn't have to gorge themselves on 'no bid' contract 'crumbs', they could do the invading, destroying and rebuilding all by themselves and call it self regulated industrial regime change.}

Maybe Haliburton could change their name to "The American East Indies and Iraq Company?"

In the years since 1839, the British government has retired from full scale opium production and distribution and is now fighting in Afghanistan, trying rather unsuccessfully to wipe out poppy production.

At least most governments no longer sanction and promote the sale of drugs... except cigarettes and alcohol. The WHO (not the band) estimates that 1 in 10 worldwide deaths are smoking related (5.4 million people in 2004²) and worldwide deaths directly attributable to alcohol consumption are estimated to be 1 in 25³.

{The Tobacco industry has a proud tradition of truth management. I helped them develop their strategies and I will share some of them with you when Declan finishes his whining.}

¹ Principles of Biology of 1864, vol. 1, p. 444

² WHO http://www.who.int/tobacco/health_priority/en/index.html Why is tobacco a public health priority?

³ Research from Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, CAMH, published in The Lancet, June 2009

Alpha Males: Ripping them a Second Asshole

Alpha Males... “A” is the first letter of both the English and Roman alphabets. “Alpha” is the name of the letter “A” in Greek. Interestingly the word “Alpha” in Greek does not mean anything at all, except presumably “A”, but it is descended from the first letter of the Phoenician alphabet, *adelp*, that was neither vowel nor consonant (the ultimate fence sitter). We seem to have added a bit of meaning to “Alpha” somewhere along the line.

In 21st Century speak, an Alpha male is an aggressive male that fights all the other males into a subservient position and assumes the position of leader of the pack, making all the major decisions and as many minor decisions as inappropriately possible.

The Alpha male’s only purpose in life is to make his pack as big as possible by taking over and dominating weaker packs and forever ruing the halcyon days when Alpha males could put slaves in solid metal clinking chains rather than the more euphemistic, though more widespread, chains of poverty. The common lie given for takeovers is that “only by getting even more massive will we be able to remain internationally competitive.” The truth is that by taking over competitors, competition is lessened which means that in an unregulated, uncompetitive market they can charge whatever they like and pay bigger bonuses and salaries to the top wolves.

More and more we are seeing the excess and disgusting behavior of some of the biggest Alpha males of the biggest companies in the world being flashed onto our screens and papers and web sites. Common to many of them is the lack of real remorse for the destruction they have wrought and the livelihoods and lives that they have destroyed. The interesting thing with today’s megalithic transglobal organisations is that the senior executives of these companies have grown very used to having things their own way. They are not used to being held accountable or having their power questioned. They are especially not used to being held publicly accountable for criminal arrogance and maybe criminal incompetence.

It is fun when one of these arrogant SOB’s (Sunny Orifice Boys) gets flushed out of their corporate penthouse and separated from their army of spin doctors and perception managers. Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein responded to his company’s role in the GFC by suggesting he was doing “God’s work”² which is a very funny way of saying “sorry.” After the gluttony and lack of contrition by the CEO’s that surfaced during the global financial crisis there didn’t seem to be any lower that CEO’s could go.

Enter Tony Hayward, BP CEO. Tony has set the bar of “could not even be bothered pretending to give a shit about ordinary

people or environmental devastation” to a new low. To be fair, he stopped short of saying “suck on this big fat oily one America.” He didn’t need to; his whole manner was the message.

Tony Hayward did say:

"The Gulf of Mexico is a very big ocean. The amount of volume of oil and dispersant we are putting into it is tiny in relation to the total water volume."⁵

He also said:

"The environmental impact of this disaster is likely to be very, very modest."⁶

There are other comments by Tony that have infuriated and appalled people but few match the one that brought up carrots for me:

"No one wants this over more than I do. I would like my life back,"⁷

So would the 11 workers that lost their lives and the thousands whose livelihoods could be destroyed forever. You didn’t sign on for something like the Gulf Oil disaster; it badly interrupted your yacht sailing - for a little while.

"He wants to get his life back. You know, I say give him life plus 20." —Jay Leno

Have I mentioned the reality show that I would like to see: “Corporate Porridge.” The episode where Tony Hayward and other senior BP executives go to jail would be a ratings feast. If only shoving useless, lying BP executives into the broken pipe could have plugged it.

Consider that the corporate cultures of America, the UK and <insert your country here> have spawned these CEO’s. So many corporate cultures are brutal and sick, very sick where power is maintained by intimidation and aggression. The rigid hierarchy, the boys clubs, the fear of losing your job (even Tony Hayward was worried for a minute or two), long hours and stress all pull at the mental health seams of people and our society.

When the management iceberg is shaped like a huge phallus, you know that there are a lot of tossers that the top penguin has had to climb over to reach the tip and that there is no shortage of the same caliber of penguin in the balls and shaft of the

corporation, just waiting for their chance to get a shot to the top. Should I sugar coat this a little more? or tell it like it is?

Clearly the 21st century Alpha male reeks of selfishness, immaturity and unsustainability. What is particularly sad is that we have so lost what a healthy male looks like and they are so thin on the ground that people now use the term Alpha male for any male that isn't a total wimp – this is not on. Time to stop giving the perpetual boys a title that implies respect and credibility like Alpha Males, they do not deserve it. They are Alpha-bet males and some of them are actually psychopaths. Let's call healthy males, men, and if they are good leaders, good Leaders. I like things simple.

Alpha-bet males put themselves first for everything, they are willful, thoughtless, capricious, vain, insecure and highly competitive. They have not grown up, they petulantly refuse to grow up, and they are mostly crappy little boys pretending to be men.

{Yes, and your point is?}

Without putting too fine a tip on my point, it is that these Alpha-bet males have taken us to the very edge of extinction though many people would prefer to pretend that everything is fine.

{Of course everything is fine, fine enough... for me. Oh, my, is that a ~~elephant~~ walrus in the room?}

The Doomsday clock is set now at 6 minutes to midnight, midnight being catastrophic destruction of the earth (and us with it). MAD or Mutually Assured Destruction, the justification for the cold war arms race between the USA and the USSR must have sounded as insane then as it does now? Surely? How could anyone justify such an insane policy? Answer: Lots and lots of fear, the demonizing of the enemy, a disempowered trusting public and a complicit media. Hmmm, sounds familiar but maybe, just maybe people have had enough of being told to be afraid and are ready for responsibility to replace complicity?

It is possible to wind back the Doomsday clock but first, maybe we need to rip the Alpha-bet males a second anus or simply remove their blow out preventers? Since they are so full of crap the sudden loss of pressure will result in them totally collapsing into large brown puddles. Yes, it is going to get very messy, buy some gum boots. Alpha-bet males do not give up power easily or graciously and they are likely to become more vicious before they puddify. Without a mass of “lost boys” and “lost girls” to stand on

(the bulk of the iceberg that is underwater), they will fall over and a more co-operative, inclusive model can evolve. Enough is enough.

“The drug dealer, the ducking and diving political leader, the wife beater, ... the unfaithful husband, the company ‘yes man,’ the ‘holier than thou’ minister, the gang member... the coach that ridicules... are all boys pretending to be men. They got that way honestly, because nobody showed them what a mature man is like. Their kind of ‘manhood’ is a pretense to manhood that goes largely undetected as such by most of us. We are continually mistaking this man’s controlling, threatening, and hostile behaviors for strength. In reality, he is showing an underlying extreme vulnerability and weakness, the vulnerability of the wounded boy.” (King, Warrior, Magician, Lover, page 13, Moore and Gillette, 1991, HarperCollins)

The childlike tendencies of your average “Alpha-bet” male are much more pronounced than a “lost boy” or a “lost girl.” Most lost boys and lost girls are like big kids, they are not mean, they want to be liked, they love and they are loved and they are doing the best they can. Under pressure and sometimes not under pressure, the hurt little child can be seen in their eyes and is reflected in the level of their emotional responses. When the going gets tough they want to either hide or have someone else tell them what to do and think so they don’t have to take any responsibility for their actions. There are also a lot of people who have grown up and left Neverland forever.

Alpha-bet males are willful, thoughtless, capricious, vain, insecure and highly competitive but most of them have a hidden conscience, of sorts. They will experience remorse and guilt which they have various techniques for distracting themselves from so they don’t have to do anything about it. They will at times try to make amends for their actions and they are often much harder on themselves than they are on other people. An “Alpha-bet male,” or in fact any male or female without a conscience or remorse is actually a psychopath and the presence or absence of remorse and a conscience can be very difficult to determine.

The big difficulty with Neverland 2.0 is that the bar of childishness for individuals and corporations has been raised so very high. Whilst it is acknowledged that genetics plays a role in determining a persons psychological profile it is also true that the environment plays as important, if not a more important role in

fixing the genetic potential. In an adolescent society, the genetic material gets fixed at a low level of maturity.

The line between extreme Alpha-bet maleism and psychopathy is a fine line indeed. Dr. Mitchell Langbert estimates that “psychopaths represent about one percent of the general population, but comprise about 3.5 percent of high-potential corporate employees. The percentage of upper management with psychopathic traits is probably higher still.”³ These statistics are quite chilling. There is a lot more awareness now about corporate psychopaths who in most cases come across as charismatic but they are highly destructive and difficult to spot.

In Neverland everyone has the right to not take responsibility, the right to short term thinking, the right to blame others and to abuse power. The special right accorded to Corporations is the right for perpetuity of such behavior and for the right for senior personnel to abandon ship with a golden parachute when the consequences of their behavior start to catch up with them. That leaves communities to deal with the aftermath of corporate insanity.

It is finally time for corporate executives to be held responsible and I mean really responsible for the various catastrophes that their companies wreak on people. If they pay themselves 1,000 times more than the janitor then they should accept 1,000 times more responsibility. If their company poisons a river system, they go to jail (an unprivatized jail), along with the other senior people that allowed it to happen or they are forced to regularly eat fish freshly caught from the river.

If ignorance of the law is not a permissible defense then how can ignorance of what people are doing within your own company be a permissible defense? I normally prefer a form of restorative justice rather than straight jail (or eating poisoned fish) but I just don't believe that sitting these men down with the families that have just lost a father or with a village that has just had their rainforest bulldozed will make much of a difference. They would need to be embedded into the community for long enough for them to connect for it to work. I have to admit that the thought of Tony Hayward in a Louisiana general population jail makes me smile, “Cool Hand Tony?” I don't think so.

It is about time to start putting some boundaries on certain irresponsible behavior. If people behave like children then we need to treat them like children and we need to be consistent and firm and have the resources and expertise available to pursue offenders across multiple borders if necessary. True responsibility for senior executives may result in persistent vacancies. If the

company is just too big for someone to be held responsible for the operations of that company then break it up into manageable chunks. In business, bigger has become less responsible and it's time that stopped.

Who would take the job as CEO of BHP Billiton if you could be jailed for an environmental disaster? BHP (prior to it being Billitoned) developed the OK Tedi gold copper mine in Papua New Guinea in the mid 80's. At that time Ok Tedi was believed to be the largest copper deposit in the world. There were no walruses in BHP's environmental impact plans for dealing with the 90 million tonnes of mine waste a year, though adding walruses could only have improved the document. The tailings dam system collapsed as it was always going to collapse when built on the edge of a mountain that receives 10 meters of rain a year. 50,000 people who live on or near the Ok Tedi –Fly River system have had their livelihoods and environment harmed. The river system may never recover from the contamination that has flowed from the mine which, according to the United Nations Environment Program, is due to close in 2010.

If fear of jail or personal bankruptcy is what it takes then let's start with that. It will make Trans global corporations a lot more cautious and respectful of safety and the environment which would be a start. CEO's actually caring for the environment is the next step, though many would rot in jail before they would ever let that happen.

"Ohhh, it will cost jobs, we can't say no to these big companies." <gentle slap><gentle slap> Wake up, you were dreaming! Remember, no one said "We have to save the Mongolian Empire," except maybe the Mongols. Corporations have shown time and time again that they cannot be relied upon. If they get a better offer, they will divorce a country, close a plant or a mine or a bank branch in a heartbeat.

Many of the biggest corporations today are dinosaurs waiting to go extinct. There is no heartbeat from at least the board up to the tip of their phallus shaped management structure. The world is changing really fast, just in case that had somehow missed you. When employees spend excessive energy just surviving the high stress (toxic) daily work culture they become unable to innovate and the best people will eventually just leave. What is left will implode. The trick is to ensure that the implosions do not create a lot of collateral damage.

If I was elected President of the Galaxy (shove over Zaphod Beeblebrox), I would institute a mandatory, one massage a week for everyone. Imagine how many jobs that would create? Imagine

how much happier and more relaxed people would be? If that massage turned into a rub and a tug for some men, so be it. I would also abolish the “minimal” wage and replace it with a “livable wage.” The “small” people will spend most of that extra money on trifles like food and dry shelter which will circulate in the economy and create more jobs. I would tax very high incomes very high. The highest level can be set at a generous income level of \$1.5M pa, and then the tax rate goes to 70% (levels it once used to be at). “OOOh you can’t do that. If you did then there would be no incentive to work harder” and my response is “GREAT, stop working so hard and put some time into volunteering in your community. Spend time with your family and ask yourself, “just how much money do you need to be happy?” It would be a mandatory question which must be hand written as part of every annual tax return. There is a lot more I would do, maybe it’s the next book. Has anyone seen Zaphod recently?

It is time we started to call people on their behavior and the conversation about emotional intelligence is only just starting and can only begin in earnest when the emotionally stupid are swept from power (or jailed, Corporate Porridge, remember?).

¹ There is no citation here, I just thought that mixing dead language Latin phrases like *ipso facto* with a live language can add a bit of literary compost to a paragraph.

² The Guardian, 14/05/10 “BP boss admits job on the line over Gulf oil spill”
³ “Keep Psychopaths out of Your Accounting Firm. Here’s how.”

http://www.cpa2biz.com/Content/media/PRODUCER_CONTENT/Newsletters/Articles_2009/Careers/Psychopaths.jsp 21/05/10 Mitchell Langbert, PhD

⁴ The Sunday Times November 8, 2009

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article6907681.ece

⁵ The Guardian Friday 14 May 2010

⁶ Sky News /05/2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dseMhu5IjHo&NR=1>

⁷ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTdKa9eWNFw&feature=player_embedded

Today Show, May 30

The “Free” Market & Horse and Sparrow Economics

Under the Alpha-bet Male system, transglobal companies espouse the benefits of “free market capitalism” (when it suits them) and the benefits of competition (when it suits them) whilst doing everything in their power to eliminate competition and gain any unfair advantage that they can. When they stuff up big time and ignore fundamentals, like improving fuel economy in cars (nice one General Motors) or having enough cash in the bank <you have a wide choice of banks here>, they put their hands out for a public bailout. Worst still, instead of appearing on “Corporate Porridge,” doing time, the executives that lost thousands of workers their jobs walk away, having already been paid huge salaries and usually with their bonuses intact.

{That my friend, is business, Neverland style. Take what you can, when you can because if you don't the next guy will take your place at the trough and hope that the shareholders never check their wallets.}

I thought that these CEO's were justifying their rapacious salaries because of their experience, their expertise, so isn't it only fair that if their experience actually damages the company rather than benefiting it, that they should pay the company back for their mistakes including the money wasted on their salary and bonuses? Since we are in Neverland 2.0 it doesn't hurt to fantasize a bit. Everybody makes mistakes but not everybody is unaccountable and paid a Viagra salary (a salary that is artificially engorged.)

The 2009 Berlin wall anniversary BBC Poll confirmed that in 22 of 27 countries there is majority support for governments to distribute wealth more evenly. The US has been very good at distributing even more wealth at the top than perhaps any other country that has a democracy that works for most of its elections.

Under the Reagan years (1981-1989) the term ‘supply side economics’ was used as a marketing euphemism for ‘trickle down economics’ (called Voodoo economics by George Herbert Bush prior to him becoming Reagan's Vice President in 1981, after which, he called it “sound economic policy”). Reagan presided over cutting the marginal tax rates for the highest tax bracket from 70% to 28%¹. The theory being that the money saved by the rich would flow down to the needy: those working 3 jobs, the homeless, single parents, the starving etc.

The “horse and the sparrow” theory is another, older and more literal name for “trickle down economics” and it goes like this: ‘If you feed the horse enough oats there is more chance that some will pass through to the road for the sparrows.’ This of course assumes two things: 1) that the sparrow does not get dumped on

by the horse whilst attempting to get to the oats as they trickle out and 2) that oats picked out of horse shit taste the same as oats that have not been blown out of a horse's ass. George W. pushed through tax cuts which were effectively trickle down cuts, as they disproportionately benefited the top 2% of income earners. What a guy.

As George W. Bush (child President) famously said at one of his fund raisers "here are my supporters, the haves and the have mores," guffaw, guffaw, what a funny clown, if only he had been put into a real circus rather than the lobbyist run one in Washington D.C.

In summary, I think it is fairly safe to say that the patriarchal system whereby Alpha-bet males dominate and multi Nationals often latch onto the sagging teat of welfare is still pretty much in place though I do choose to believe that this is changing and I have a few suggestions for how we can accelerate this process.

¹ Source: <http://www.truthandpolitics.org/top-rates.php> Note that the US top marginal US tax rate hit 90% in 1944, from 1951 to 1963 it was 87% or 88%

Time to Re-Arrange the Alphabet

Maybe we are going to have to change the whole alphabet just to put the parasitic Alpha-bet males in their rightful place? We could start teaching kids a whole new “A” free _lph_bet which might be tricky, or we could replace the “A” with an appropriate symbol like “).”(“ Then we might not have such a long queue of).(ssholes trying to control everyone else?).(lpha-bet males, it kinda works.

Perhaps it’s time for an old/new alphabet. What about dusting off the Aramaic alphabet? It sounds cool which is a good start, but unfortunately, yeah there are 3 of those “A” things in Aramaic. Isn’t it time to throw the “A” from its position of dominance at the start of the alphabet? Mix up the positions in the line a bit? Shake up the ol’ “A” always goes first rut that we are in. I know quite a few letters that go all lower case at the merest hint that they might get moved forward in the).(lphabet.

How fair is it that “A” always goes first? Don’t you think that after roughly 5,500 years we should review a letter’s performance and arrange their position in the letter queue based on how well they have gotten along with other letters to form words? (I’m boycotting the word alphabet from now on, unless I write it as).(lphabet) Perhaps we should apply a specific criterion, like the frequency of use? In frequency of use, English language, “).”(is third behind “E” and “T”. The letter “Z” has the lowest frequency and therefore last place seems fair enough, but is it? Is it really fair? The Barrister for “Z,” Zack Zamiah argues that if “Z” was given the opportunity to take on more responsibility with an earlier placement, it would get used more frequently and could rightly move forward at least a few places.

Ever since Jesus walked this earth and on water “Z” has made submissions to the International Alpha Numeric Ombudsman that it was time that the “first shall be last and the last shall be first.” The Ombudsman has promised that the letter queue would be reversed just as soon as Jesus’ other, simpler teachings were taken up. Teachings like “love thy neighbor as thyself,” which a few people have taken too literally and “do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

Perhaps we could just move the “A” back 2 or 3 places at least so that the Alpha Males will therefore also have to move back in the queue? Am I clutching at straws here? There is one thing that we can all do immediately and that is to stop eating the shit sandwiches, even the low calorie ones that “Alpha-bet’ males serve up every day. If it looks like a shit sandwich and smells like a shit sandwich, then it

probably is a shit sandwich, even if it is called “a just desert.” You can say “no” or “no thank you” or better still “since you seem to like it so much, why don’t you eat it?” This is not a small step, this would be huge, bigger than Armstrong stepping onto the moon step, “One small bite less for mankind, one big ‘bite me’ for childish Alpha-bet males.”

One of the greatest weapons against bullies is humor and laughter. These weapons may not stop a physical beating but they can protect against the psychological abuse which is pretty bad and sometimes worse. If people are not frightened and cowed and actually laugh instead of cry then the power of the Alpha-Bet males can be diminished and be careful.

You do not have to dominate others to become a man. It is time to end this long cycle of domination and war and lack of respect for the feminine. Modeling co-operation, responsibility and respect starts in our homes as parents, in our places of work and in our communities. It may take more time to listen to people but the benefit of people feeling heard is inestimable.

*“The greatest strength is gentleness”
Iroquois Proverb*

A friend who teaches boxercise says that bullies are cowards, they never fight unless they are sure they can win. We need courage to stand up to bullies, we can stand together and hold our heads high and not let the turkeys get us down.

To be strong we need to look after ourselves. I know that when I am in my pain body, when I am feeling alone, overwhelmed or fearful or in physical discomfort that I am much more judgmental of others and less compassionate because I am so busy feeling sorry for myself. The next part of the conversation about growing up is one of the most difficult...

7

Seven Secrets of Highly Effective Bullying

(Contributed by Peter Pan)

“A” is for Alpha Male, “B” is for loser, “C” is for ... ? As a card carrying and sword wielding Alpha male I must continually maintain and reaffirm my “Alpha” status by dominating others because if I don’t do it to them, someone else will do it to them or to me.

[Ooh, please. Peter, that is such a flimsy fear based, outdated, victim thinking justification for reprehensible behavior...]

It is a time honored, highly effective and self perpetuating argument that forms the foundation of “free market economics.” Ahem.

I have found through various trials, none successfully prosecuted, that there are effective and less effective ways to gain enough power to make a difference on others. Bullying is not only the most effective but also the most versatile means of domination that I know. The more dominant you can be the more power you will acquire and the more people you can dominate. This can form a kind of positive feedback loop of sorts, resulting in ever increasing numbers of people that can be dominated.

Ohhh, about those seven secrets, did I actually say seven? [that is the title]. This chapter is actually, “Some Secrets of Highly

Effective Bullying,” but I changed it because ‘seven secrets’ sounds so much better. At one point I did intend to write a full Seven Secrets so it is, or was, almost true once, which is ample justification for using it. Never be afraid to take a few liberties with “Truth” if it makes things sound better.

[Unfortunately, so many people have been taking liberties with “Truth” that poor “Truth” is bleeding from the ass].

As I was saying, this is the most important chapter in this book. Really. It is even more important than the other most important chapters. If for some catastrophic reason [like people growing up] bullying and the domination of others were to cease, then the borders of Neverland 2.0 would crumble and turn to dust. I don’t mean to scare you but it is true because bullying both creates and perpetuates much of the childish behavior that lies at the very heart of Neverland 2.0.

Bullying, bullying, bullying. It is certainly the “IN” “Buzz” “word” or “IN BUZZ WORD” at the moment. You would think, listening to some of the ‘experts’ bashing on and on about it, that bullying was a recent phenomenon instead of the ancient tool of domination that has been handed down from Alpha male to alpha male through oral [put downs] and physical teachings [beatings] for thousands of years. Obviously bullying is never going to show up in an archaeological dig in the same way as a simple stone axe. Whilst the stone axe may well have been used for bullying: threatening a neighbor or merely intimidating a great gatherer, there is no way an archaeologist could determine whether the weapon was ever used for bullying. That is not an accident, my friend, if you follow what I mean.

In Neverland, bullying is endemic mainly because it is quintessentially a childish behavior. The expansion and pervasiveness of bullying is one indicator of just how far the borders of Neverland extend. Bullying in some non esoteric circles, is known as “The Way,” short for “The Way to take what you want.” Bullying has never been seen as much of a problem until fairly recently. “Hey, back off, leave them alone. They’re just kids beating the shit out of smaller kids, they’ll work it out.” Kids’ abusing other kids was considered “normal” behavior.

[And parents beating kids was also “normal.”]

It's called discipline, numb nuts.

[The word "discipline" comes from the Latin disciplina: "instruction given to a disciple" or in other words "to discipline" means "to teach" not to punish and its numnuts to you.]

Anyway, for some reasons, people like Dumbnuts [Daniel] are becoming less tolerant of the culture of domination by Alpha males. Bullying has unfortunately become the whipping boy for everything that is wrong with crushing the spirit of another human being or corporation or country or religion.

Whilst school girls seem to be resorting more and more to the physical bullying tactic they have traditionally been the masters of the psychological bullying techniques of exclusion and isolation which can be even crueller than a bashing. "You're not part of my group anymore," or the "<snide snicker> Look at what she's wearing <snide snicker>". Occasionally whole countries will bully the way little girls bully by excluding other countries from their group, like the so called, Iraq War (take II) Coalition of the Willing.

[Coalition of the Stupid. Arrogant bully leaders, who were happy to believe lies and start a war despite the outcry of their citizens and much of the rest of the world. Interestingly, six members of the "Willing" had no military, so strictly speaking they were "willing, but not able."]

Whatever ... but if you spend enough on military hardware it's only fair enough that the Generals and the weapons manufacturers would want to see those toys used rather than just let them rust and go to waste. You make me digress, so shut up for a while... go read a book.

We just never seem to hear any good bullying stories anymore. These days even the old 'superpower bullying a smaller country with military or economic force story' seems to have an unhappy ending. Get this, some looney reporters are even starting to question a corporation's economically divine right to wage ~~war~~ progress on unwilling countries in the name of <cue angelic choir music> "The Shareholder." Give me a break and by the way "Avatar" was a total turd of a movie. The company waited too long to exterminate the blue thingos. What, blankets with smallpox were too low tech were they?

The sanctity of the shareholders right to dictate corporate policy for short term gain must be maintained. To this end would you all please join me in “The Shareholders Prayer.”

The Shareholders Prayer

Our Shareholder, who dost have us by the short and curlies,
hallowed be thy name;
thy dividends will come;
thy instructions to ever increase *ROACE will be done,
in earth, finance and on off shore drilling platforms.
Give us this day more than our fair share of everything
(including bread made from genetically modified wheat)
And forgive us our environmental and social trespasses,
as we litigate against those that dare to trespass against us.
And lead us not into regulation;
but deliver us from the evils of responsibility & accountability.
[For thine is the kingdom of the faceless superannuation
fund or bank or investment house, with all the power, and
the glory of a lack of a social conscience, for ever and ever.
Amen. *ROACE - Return On Average Capital Employed

In the good ol’ days, I bullied the Lost Boys to whip them into shape, damn straight I did. No one complained about it, indeed, the public love me for it. My successful leadership depended on the use of shaming, a few carrots and generous lashings of corporal punishment. Core physical punishment consisted of threatening with a sword, punching and pinching. I never used the whip, because I didn’t own a whip. I’m sure all the readers would agree that I was only doing it for the “lost boys” own good. A sharp clip across the ear never hurt anyone.

[Except the owner of the ears and of course the use of physical punishment also shames and there is no opportunity for any discussion about what motivated the “smackable” behavior in the first place. A clip across the ear always hurts and delivers short term compliance instead of long term connection.]

It never hurt me.

[You just don’t want to remember.]

No Davorin, hitting one of the lost boys across the ears never hurt me.

[Oh]

I did the Lost Boys a huge favor. They didn't have to think for themselves and they always knew who was in charge. On reflection, and this is the first time I have done this, I think I was too soft on the "lost boys." If I had been tougher on 'em, they would never have dared to leave me.

Capt'n Hook, unquestioned leader of the Pirates (now living in Somalia with a pet crocodile) maintained discipline by using the whip as well as the plank, keel hauling and his pistol. When you are managing people with scurvy you have to be a bit harsher than with Lost Boys. Hook taught me a lot about managing people and prophylactics [prosthetics I hope?]. Hook threatened me and constantly tried to kill me, but I never actually felt bullied because I was never afraid of him [interesting]. I guess it is Ok to confess here that whilst we were sworn enemies in the book, off set, we used to hang out a bit.

In Neverland 2.0, we call bullying "strong" or "inspired Leadership" or even "divine Leadership" if you can get away with it. These sound much nicer than "bully" and you'll get paid a lot more than a bouncer. If you are at all insecure about your position, your ability, your parentage then you must constantly remind people who the boss is and that goes whether you are a parent dealing with children or a business or political leader dealing with children, the electorate or infants in the party room.

The good ol' days of corporal punishment, the cane for schools and a jolly good flogging for use in business or the military are regrettably, largely a thing of the past. Today many corporate bullies are reduced to just humiliating individuals in front of work colleagues. Fortunately, some colleges and parts of the military have continued bullying research and they have taken hazing to a little talked about [and rarely prosecuted] art form.

It is interesting that since parents have not been allowed to control their children by beating them senseless many parents have surrendered and joined Parents Sans Frontières, or parents without boundaries. Some parents now claim that they are unable [because they have not been taught] to gain respect and set boundaries for their children without the use of unreasonable force. No wonder so many procreators now want schools to bring back the cane in the vain hope that their children will get physically punished somewhere. Great Success!

“In a sandpit not so far, far, away”
A brief bullying interlude, a modern fairy tale of sorts

In a sandpit near you, a little boy Timmy has just spent hours creating a city of sand complete with a “safe” nuclear reactor next to a residential area and a huge football stadium replete with multiple alcohol product sponsorships and a vomitorium. Timmy watches the news every night with his parents and that has really helped him with his anxiety attacks.

Sharny and Chancer are 5 year old peroxide blonde girls. They are playing with their brand new “World’s biggest teenage slut” dolls at the back of the sandpit. The girls are wearing the same outfits as their dolls. Normally the word “outfit” is associated with clothing rather than strategically placed band aids, but whatever. The girls are busy bitching about their classmates and giving them a playability ranking according to the brand of clothes they wear and how much their parents earn.

The sandpit is peaceful. Timmy looks down at his creation and it is good but Timmy knows that the area of parkland he had included “for the community” must go. He kneels down and begins busily clearing it to make way for an exclusive gated residential development when a shadow falls across the sand in front of him.

The girls let out an involuntary “ohh Timmy you’re %#@’ed” before they snatch up their busty, scantily clad dolls and race to safety. Timmy, a terrified expression now on his face, watches as the shadow looms closer, and closer. “Dueling Banjoes” plays softly in the background. Escape, whilst an attractive option is not an option that will actually work but Timmy valiantly tries to get up and run away. He is punched to the ground and falls heavily onto the nuclear reactor, breaking the supposedly “indestructible” containing wall and dooming all the residents of “Sand City” to slow, painful deaths. (So much for the safety assurances of the nuclear energy lobby, sand pit division).

More shadows fall on Timmy, cronies. A newly recruited crony, keen to ingratiate himself, sniggers. Unfortunately, it is a premature snigger. Quality cronies can be hard to find. Basho, resident kindergarten bully turns and stomps hard on his crony’s foot. Basho knows that immediate and painful feedback is the best way to train a crony. Timing is everything. Laughter at the wrong moment can turn a complete humiliation into a ... a well, an incomplete humiliation.

Basho turns back to his victim but Timmy has scampered off. No one is sniggering now. The sand pit has become a snigger

free zone. The cronies all swallow and hold their breath. The banjoes stop. None of them had looked closely at their crony contracts which clearly state that “in the event of the victim escaping, the bully has the right, but not the obligation, to substitute one of his cronies for the victim, acknowledging that school bullying levels, as per article 3 paragraph 4b, must be maintained to mirror the often unreported violence levels in the surrounding community.” The importance of raising literacy levels for cronies cannot be overstated.

Timmy’s face is bruised and though he is a poor liar his distracted parents are happy to believe the “I fell over” lie because it means that they don’t have to do anything. Timmy’s parents are busy people, too busy to really be parents but what do you do when the condom breaks? Timmy doesn’t know what a condom is yet but he does understand that he was an accident so understandably he is reluctant to interrupt the bad news on TV with his own bad news from kindergarten.

Timmy has just met his first Alpha-bet male. Timmy hates bullies who use their physical size to intimidate and shame others. When he becomes the CEO of a large corporation he uses his positional power to shame and intimidate others but because he is physically diminutive he does not consider it bullying. Timmy considers his abuse of power to be effective leadership and so the cycle of bullying continues, passed down from Alpha male to anyone they can dominate, including women, children, goldfish, canaries (but not Tweety Bird) *Geococcyx californianus* (but not The Roadrunner) and rodents (but not Tom or Jerry or Ratatouille or Speedy Gonzales).

Peter Pan Reviews “In a Sandpit Not So Far, Far Away”

Just want to say, nice bit of work in the sandpit by Basho, good use of shadows which shows a real theatrical creative flair. Nice timing, very good, right up to where TIMMY GOT AWAY. Noob mistake but Basho will learn from it and it’s not as if Timmy got away unsoiled, he was terrified, which is an important lesson he will not forget. After all, Timmy may well need new underpants and he will never be safe while his parents stay pre-occupied and force him to go to that particular Kindergarten despite his frequent “stomach aches.”

I love happy endings. The “life coaching” from Basho inspires Timmy to later appropriately use his positional power as a CEO in the same way as Basho used his size. Sorry ... I just need a

-- Peter Pan --

moment. I'm getting all teared up. Timmy's place in Neverland 2.0 has been secured by Basho. Thank you, Basho.

Meanwhile back at Seven Habits of Highly Successful Bullying
(still Peter Pan)

The schoolyard is still a bastion of physical and mental bullying. Fortunately, nearly every child goes to a school where they can get some hands-on bullying experience or at least get fit running away from it. Of course in Neverland 2.0, there are opportunities for bullying and shaming that were not available in Neverland 1.0. Cyber bullying sounds like bullying done by a robot but it's not, it is done using phones or the internet and it is part of a whole new range of psychological bullying opportunities proudly brought to you by WEB 2.0, social networking.

The workplace is like a big sandpit with NO teachers BUT a young Basho will have to master different tactics if he is to succeed in the doggy eat doggy world of business. Sure, there are some men who do get away with your basic school yard stand over tactic of using their physical size and bulk to intimidate. Even though it is very rare in business for staff to actually be punched, physical intimidation does not need contact to be highly effective. This is because it is frightfully clear to the intimidatee that the intimidator would love nothing better than to give the intimidatee's neck a holiday from the rest of their body.

[Fear feeds these misanthropists (people who hate people). Taking discreet video of bullies in action with a phone can, with a little luck, get them dismissed.]

Unless he is your boss or the owner of the business or sleeping with the owner of the business.

Thankfully, despite how widespread bullying is, most victims are uneducated about their basic human right to work in an environment free from intimidation, harassment, discrimination and violence i.e. free from bullying. Besides depression or crying, they often have no clue what to do if they feel they have been bullied which is good news for the bully. Finally there is also a lot of ignorance about the many different forms of bullying that are available. I will now discuss a covert and highly popular bullying technique.

Covert Bullying or Having the Last Laugh

Not everyone has a quick wit, the ability to adroitly riposte verbally and so the use of sophisticated humor is pretty much out of reach for these people. But even some of the thickest heads can add a thin veneer of humor to a comment that would be utterly unacceptable if not said "in jest." Sometimes it can be as micron thin as laughing [guffawing] at their own little "joke." These ~~apes'~~ japes often include a sexist physical barb or a non-sexist one if it can't be made sexist. It can also be used to cast doubt on a person's integrity or ability. "With a rack like that, I'd promote Susan too." Yuk, Yuk, Yuk.

[If women do fight their way through the glass ceiling they have to constantly worry about men trying to look up their skirts or they wear pants and become more masculine than the men around them.]

Humor is often implicated in covert shaming operations and it can be more effective than C-4 explosive because the use of "humor" encourages the joker to make the shaming public. 'Hey Joe, at least your wife only slept with one of your brothers!' Yuk, yuk, yuk.

[Most people will feel sympathy with the butt of the joke but the buttee, in the face of public humiliation, will often remain oblivious to any support. The feeling of isolation is one of the many nasty aspects of bullying. The opposite of bullying is to "pay it forward." This is where you do something really nice for somebody else and all you ask is that when they have sufficient resources, that they do something nice for somebody else.]

Most bullies have a sixth sense with respect to targeting the vulnerable or weak. In my "Bullying for Dummies" class we spend quite a bit of time on how to identify chinks in a person's personality and we develop ways to exploit them. Chinks do not all look alike, they can be quite varied but obviously, in any hierarchical environment, people lower down the ladder will usually have some vulnerability to supervisors and other higher beings. Use this to your advantage. Undermining a skilled, caring and professional person is likely to cut them to the quick, wherever that is, and keep them unmotivated which can only make you look good. Win/ Win to you.

There are random times when some “hero” will stand up to a bully. In these situations, the bully will need to beat a path behind someone else’s back so they can lie to as many people as possible about that attention seeking “hero.” This bullying support activity is done by “Whispering whisperers” and their whispering is particularly effective when the people they are whispering to, have never met the person that they are whispering about. If ever the twain does meet, it can be unaccountably but predictably weird and uncomfortable. Generally people are pretty insecure, so covert shaming is the wound that is most likely to fester. It is important to develop an absence of empathy, a total lack of guilt and a *laissez faire* attitude towards words to do this effectively.

[This is disgusting and unconscionable advice how can you ...]

STOP! You said I could share my secrets. I’m sharing. You believed before we started that people would shun my methodology if they read about it, but now... You’re scared. Admit it. This stuff is so powerful that when people read about it they will jump into Neverland just to get a piece of the action.

[People will read this for what it is and be repulsed... and they will put a stop to this behavior when they see it.]

You are entitled to your dreams.

Bullying Under Attack

Bullying is under attack in schools, in business and even [superficially] in the military but not so much in politics, yet. Every school now has an anti-bullying program or programs. Most businesses have HR departments that are supposed to stop abusive behavior <yawn> and the military makes a lot of noise, mostly with its guns and jets and stuff.

It appears as though bullying is being stamped out across society but do not despair. It is mostly politically correct window dressing, which is fine, knock yourselves out but the walls of Neverland 2.0 have never been stronger. Why? Here is another secret and don't bother counting them or numbering them. I promise you there will not be seven secrets unless I choose to pad this chapter.

Bullying Secret: When the parents or the people in charge are bullies, the best campaign to stop bullying will come to naught or less. Especially when we have a society that runs two sets of rule books. One rule book is written by big business and the very wealthy for big business and the very wealthy. The second rule book is also written by big business and the very wealthy for big business and the very wealthy but in much smaller print so it can be easily thrown at small business and the poor. Corporate bullying of smaller companies is as strong as it has ever been and kids are smart. They see this and they know they can safely ignore any anti bullying rhetoric thrown at them. One day they all hope to be the ones throwing the rule book.

The most pronounced characteristic of elite bullies is that they passionately use the language of an anti-bullying fundamentalist whilst ensuring that their behavior is totally irreconcilable with what they are saying. They will then dare and threaten anyone to actually call them on their inconsistency. SWEET!

In the military, well, bullying is actually built in as part of the rigid hierarchical, ask no questions, do as you are told, "only two things come from Oklahoma, steers and queers," training. The military is fine, bullying is not under threat in the military and the military in turn [and the parasitic lobbyists that live off the blood of innocent people] need to bully and threaten and keep vast numbers of people and nations in fear just to keep their [insane] levels of funding going. The war on Terror was an absolute god send for the military industrial complex or was that a George send?

-- Peter Pan --

Bullying, as a human social movement is safe as long as no one wakes up to the obvious fact that bullying is a learned behavior. I learned most of the finer points of bullying from Capt'n Hook only because I do not remember my parents at all. I like to think that my home had appropriate 1900s levels of male domination of the feminine and of children. Every bully or aspiring bully in school has been trained and most of that training takes place in the so called "safety" of the home, although tutorials on bullying are also widely available outside the home.

[Trying to stop bullying by just working with a child at school is like only watering an apple on a branch and then wondering why the branch withers and the tree dies.]

B

**Blame
(Dependent)
vs.
Independent**

*A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until
he begins to blame somebody else and stops trying --
John Burroughs*

8

Don't Let the Plaster of Dependency Set

(by Daniel Prokop)

Human babies at birth are the most helpless of all the mammals. The species that subjugates all other life on the planet (except for the cockroaches) takes its first breath utterly helpless and totally dependent on the mother. The complete vulnerability and adorability of a newborn baby can melt all but the hardest of hearts or the most absent of parents. A human child remains dependent on its parents for a long time. Joseph Campbell suggests that that period of dependency in humans is at least twelve years long though there are cultures where the period of dependency is shorter.

{With the recent launch of the Neverland 2.0 Dependency Expansion Kit, dependency can now be prolonged almost indefinitely.}

Moving from being an obedient and dependent child to an independent responsible adult is a deep and fundamental shift. If this shift is left too late, well, the plaster of Paris can harden.

“It is as though plaster of Paris had been poured into a mould of dependency, has begun to set, and then the plaster is suddenly asked to take the form of personal responsibility. The young adult psyche is supposed to move out of the dependent pattern into the adult pattern of responsibility – responsibility as defined of course, in terms of the requirements of

the specific society.” (Joseph Campbell, Pathways to Bliss, page 52).

Traditional societies knew the critical importance of this transformational crisis that all human beings face: from dependent to independent. It is not necessarily a shift that a child would seek on their own because it is easier to be dependent than responsible. Without a Rite of Passage, dependency will often continue as the default setting and responsibility becomes something to be shirked. When responsibility fails to show up, blame happily fills the void.

The dependent child in an adult body is still wed to the umbilical cord of parental authority which easily accommodates surrogate authority figures. Mass deferral of personal responsibility to institutions or to Alpha-bet males is unhealthy and can lead to atrocities like the loss of citizens' basic human rights and even genocide. “I was just doing my job,” “I had to do it,” “Everyone else was doing it.” Highly authoritarian and controlling parents make a child's journey to independence much more difficult (see the Chapter on Parenting for Perpetual Childhood where Peter will tell you all about authoritarian parenting).

The Milgram Experiment was conducted in the 1960s by Professor Stanley Milgram;

“I set up a simple experiment at Yale University to test how much pain an ordinary citizen [the participant] would inflict on another person [the victim who unbeknownst to the participant was actually a trained actor] simply because he was ordered to by an experimental scientist [also played by an actor]. Stark authority was pitted against the subjects' strongest moral imperatives against hurting others, and, with the subjects' ears ringing with the screams of the victims, authority won more often than not. The extreme willingness of adults to go to almost any lengths on the command of an authority constitutes the chief finding of the study and the fact most urgently demanding explanation.”
Excerpt from The Perils of Obedience by Stanley Milgram as it appeared in Harper's Magazine, 1974.

The full ramifications of Milgram's experiments are pretty mind blowing. Respondents to a poll conducted prior to the experiment believed that only 1.2% of participants would inflict the maximum voltage. In the first set of experiments a staggering 65% of the participants administered the final massive 450-volt shock which would have been lethal had the victim actually been wired up instead

of just pretending to receive the shocks. Only one participant steadfastly refused to administer shocks below the 300-volt level. Responsibility was deferred to the actor playing the experimenter, the “expert.” In further experiments the participant’s compliance decreased when the victim was closer or where the authority figure was further away or spoke to them via a telephone.

These experiments have huge ramifications for corporate and military responsibility. The further removed management or drone attack aircraft operators are from the victims, the easier it is to commit atrocities and avoid or defer responsibility to either a more senior commander or to a faceless “shareholder.” Big is not beautiful, bigger is less responsible, more remote from the coal face. The goal of authoritarian parents is to control their children, to make them obedient and enable them to deliver the biggest shocks available, sometimes it is the parents that get the shocks.

There is an alternative to authoritarian parenting which is called authoritative or balanced parenting. Balanced parenting is a consistent, child centered approach that holds high expectations of age appropriate maturity and encourages children to be independent whilst putting in place boundaries on their actions when boundaries are needed. Balanced parents set boundaries by fostering respect rather than fear and they are warm and nurturant toward the child.

Authoritative parenting recognizes that as children grow, boundaries need to expand to accommodate the developing person. Children pushing boundaries is normal behavior and how we respond to boundary breaches and whether we take them personally is up to us

The goals of authoritative parents are: autonomous, self-actualized, respectful, emotionally mature children. The goals of many authoritarian parents would be similar but they have never taken the time to check their methodology against their parenting goals. The children of balanced parents will have an easier time when the dependence crunch of parenthood comes screaming;

“This dependent little creature is expected to become one who doesn’t turn for help to Daddy or Mommy but is Daddy or mommy.” (Joseph Campbell, Pathways to Bliss)

We have created a society where fear of responsibility or Hypegiaphobia is rampant and it has been a highly infectious disease. Taking responsibility is easier when the cultural expectation is one of personal responsibility and healthy adult behavior. We don’t have that. We do have the heavily marketed concept of

“credit card responsibility” which is to use credit (which effectively defers responsibility to the future) to buy as much as possible, even if you can’t afford to ever pay it back. Unfortunately, many countries have vigorously pursued this model and so we begin phase 2 of the global financial crisis. The GFC was brought to us by responsibility, NOT. Access to easy credit for the masses was deemed preferable to access to a livable minimum wage which in real dollar terms peaked in 1968¹.

In the absence of Rites of Passage our culture has developed a complicated and confusing way to mark growing older rather than growing up. The timing of when the different markers occur depends on geography (what state or country you live in) rather than maturity. The first time a child is called an “adult” is when their parents get to pay a full “adult” fare for them at age 12 (or earlier). The age of sexual consent is usually 16, “Learner” plates for driving a motor vehicle can also be obtained at 16 but voting is restricted until 18 years of age. The “legal” age for drinking is 18 or higher and coincides in most Australian states with the age of full legal responsibility. All of these social indicators of growing up are chronological and the specific ages can vary quite a bit.

For many, it is the financial responsibility of buying a house, the taking on of massive debt in the form of a mortgage that harkens entry to independence, to adulthood. Banks charging to dispense adulthood is an interesting thought especially since a mortgage actually creates dependence on the financial institution rather than financial independence.

One of our primary needs is for shelter. Housing is a limited resource and should not be considered a commodity. The level of speculation on investment property in Australia has I believe contributed to crippling mortgages and rents and a sharp reduction in housing affordability. The property bubble in the US was the fuel for the GFC.

Australians are more stressed now than Americans with 9 out of 10 Australians now reporting stress² (I know we are competitive, but really) and financial stress is a big contributing factor. Tax changes like removing investing incentives like negative gearing would take the heat out of the housing market. It would take enormous political will for that to happen. One other way to possibly help restore balance and stability to the housing market is to give renters strong rights like the rights enjoyed by renters in the UK and parts of Europe. Rights for renters reduces the attractiveness of speculation and creates a more stable and sustainable market.

Starting a family or getting married are other ways to “grow up” and start taking responsibility and each of these methods are now happening later and later in life, if at all.

Of the cultural markers just discussed the one where becoming responsible and independent is vital to ensuring personal safety and the safety of others, is driving. A young person being allowed to drive a motor vehicle is a key step in achieving freedom of mobility and is a big boost to independence.

Parents having to drive a teen around is a pain for all concerned especially in rural areas where there is little or no public transport. Being able to drive to a friend’s place when you feel like it is a huge incentive for young people to do whatever it takes to get a “P” or provisional license. We kind of squander this opportunity by not using the leverage to create an attitudinal change at this time.

Improving a boy’s skill level by making him do 120 hours on “L” plates with a supervising adult is helpful and it is also a great opportunity for parents to spend time with their son. However, the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority³ found that men are four times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than women. The study found that whilst men were more confident that they are skilled drivers, women are more confident that they are safer drivers.

A lot of men, especially young men take risks, stupid risks, relying on their “awesome” driving ability to get them out of trouble. In some situations, however, no amount of skill can stop an accident. Women are much better at preventing dangerous situations from ever happening. The statistics are irrefutable that overall, the drivers attitude is actually more important than skill levels in determining driver safety. A boy trying to test himself, to prove himself from behind the wheel of a car is dangerous to himself and others. Isn’t it about time we taught young men to drive, not boys?

¹ Study by Oregon State University

<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/anth484/minwage.html>

² Lifeline Annual Poll “High anxiety for nearly half of Australians” SMH 16/07/2010

³ ABC News online article 30/01/10 “It appears women drive better than men.”

-- Peter Pan --

Hi Reader,

I hope that you have enjoyed this preview of 'Leaving Neverland.' If you have enjoyed it then please tell your friends about this book and if you would Like it on Facebook and invite your friends to like it on Facebook that would be awesome!

Now would be the time to Click the Buy Now button below this page flipper so you can read the rest of the book.

www.facebook.com/LeavingNeverland

www.leavingneverland.net

Thank You

Thank You

And

Thank You

“In a desperate attempt to stay young forever we have achieved eternal childishness, rather than eternal youth.”

The Global Financial Crisis was proudly brought to us by little boys wearing designer suits because self regulation to a child means “grab as many cookies as quick as you can and hope you don’t get caught.”

Different boys playing in the Gulf of Mexico blew up their biggest toy, killing 11 men and making a catastrophic mess. Surely, for our future’s sake (ffs) it is time for us to leave Neverland.

In this fascinating, funny and provocative book, Daniel Prokop argues that contemporary Rites of Passage offer us all a timely way to finally grow up. And possibly save the world.

‘An insightful depiction of the dangers we face in having the perpetual ‘boys’ of this world in positions of power – incomplete men with arrested development. The style, pace and delightful skewering are reminiscent of Hunter S Thomson.’
Rex Finch, Finch Publishing

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