



## The Lighter Side of THE BRYCE IS RIGHT!

### OBSERVATIONS OF LIFE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A Graduation Toast • A Visit to the Cemetery • The Absence of Electronics • Alaska-our 49th on their 50th • The Alpine Inn • An 86 Year Old Book Review • The Assholemeter • Baseball: The Love of the Game • Baseball Cards • Being Sick • Checking out the Checkout • Chili Recipes • Cigars 101-It's Personal • Cleaning my Sock Drawer • Cruising • The Death of Romance • Dog Stories • Dog Treats • Easter Island Statues • Explaining Jack Benny • Fathers Eat Heels • Finding Jesus • The Five Word Conversation • Fly Fishing at St. Timothy's • The Flying Stiff • Garages • Gobbledygook • Having a Bad Day • The Imagery of Profanity • Is the Grass always Greener? • June-National Accordion Awareness Month • Keeping Men Guessing • Marking Time • Mega Food Stores • Mothers and Fathers Day • My Three 'Must Watch' Pictures • New Yorker Toughness • Our Attachment to Automobiles • Palmetto Bugs • Press 1 for English • Reflections of our Personality • Shopping • Supermarkets • Thingees • What Inspires Us? • When Swing was King • Why I Hate Computers • Yard Sales

by Tim Bryce  
Palm Harbor, Florida, USA

MBA PRESS

## PREVIEW



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Palm Harbor, Florida, USA

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## **DEDICATION**

*To all of you who still stop to smell the roses.*



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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Tim graduated from Ohio University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications (BSC) from OU's College of Communications, School of Communication Studies (formerly School of Interper-

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A prolific writer, Tim has authored numerous papers and books on a variety of management and computer related subjects. He has also made several presentations at management and Information Technology related meetings and has given lectures at various universities.

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## INTRODUCTION

During my professional career I have written over 1,000 articles on a variety of subjects, primarily serious pieces pertaining to management, systems, and technology, but I have also discussed such things as religion, politics, sports, social issues, and our changing world. Initially my intent was to educate as opposed to editorialize, but this changed in recent times when I introduced my daily blog and podcast entitled "*The Bryce is Right!*" The new venue provided the opportunity for me to discuss more lighthearted subjects, such as baseball, fishing, shopping, automobiles, etc. In this vein I wanted to make some observations about topics we tend to overlook. Every now and then you come across an interesting aspect of life right in front of you, yet due to the hustle and bustle of the day it is invisible to many of us. This is why I began to write lighter fare on Fridays so people can slow down and think about things they normally take for granted. These essays, therefore, are much less controversial than many others I have written. Instead, they are intended to let the reader stop and smell the roses. They were written as part of my "*The Bryce is Right!*" series from 2007 to 2011. I hope you will enjoy them.

All of my articles are intended to stimulate thought and engage discussion. However, I have found the essays included herein tend to cause people to conjure up images we have either forgotten or overlooked. Consequently, I find lecturing on these subjects to be more personally rewarding than my more serious fare.

All the Best,  
Tim Bryce  
Palm Harbor, FL, USA  
August 2011

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## **THE ABSENCE OF ELECTRONICS**

First published - June 30, 2009

While I was driving home one night, I was stopped at a traffic light and began to imagine what life would be like without the many electronic conveniences we enjoy. Hmm...

As a Floridian, we are accustomed to losing power due to tropical storms and hurricanes, which tends to annoy us by living without such things as air conditioning and television, as well as the loss of food maintained in the refrigerator. Schools close in such situations and are often converted to shelters. Other than this, life basically goes on as usual, but what if it turned into a permanent condition? What if some sort of electronic virus infiltrated all of our computers, phones, and other electronic gadgetry, and somehow shut them all doWn?

Our first concern would be whether our military could continue to defend our country effectively, that our hospitals could properly function, and that we could feed the populace adequately. It would be like the premise used in the movie, "*The Day the Earth Stood Still*," except it would be for an extended period of time. Assuming we could accommodate these situations though, what would life be like without electronics?

For starters, you might think that automobile traffic would snarl up as all of our traffic lights would be out of commission. Inevitably, traffic cops would have to be dispatched to key intersections and we would actually get some intelligent traffic control in place (better than the preprogrammed lights). For minor intersections, we would have to start practicing basic driving courtesy again and, God forbid, cooperate with and respect other drivers. I suspect traffic accidents and fatalities would actually go

down.

So far, so good.

If televisions and computers were knocked out, people would be forced to read, write and speak again. Kids would have to come out of their caves and into the sunlight, pick up a ball and get a little exercise and socialize. We would all still be craving some form of entertainment and, because of this, you might see more picnics, concerts in the park, and other civic functions. Attendance at school functions, such as the PTA and SAC, would be stimulated, and parents would become actively involved in the welfare of their children again. Participation in other nonprofit groups would undoubtedly flourish as well. Basically, our socialization skills would improve and we would become more conscious of our civic duties.

As mentioned, food would be a problem; we would have to learn to shop more frequently and prepare meals differently, and we would have to learn the lost art of baking and cooking. No doubt, we would miss all of those highly nutritious microwave meals and snacks. *"What, no more Hot Pockets??!"*

We would become healthier as we would have more time for exercise and play games like tennis, golf, softball, or whatever without Wii. This should cause health insurance rates to go down.

Since computers would be out of commission, the unemployment rate would go down because we would need more clerical people for such things as filing, typing, preparing graphics, processing orders, etc.

Our personal debt would probably go away as we would be unable to process credit cards and, as such, we would

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be wiser in the use of our cash.

Our sex lives would improve as evidenced by the power outages of New York. The only downside is it would probably result in a population explosion if we don't properly promote birth control.

Due to a change in our diet and having to be forced to improve our socialization skills, maybe we can finally get people off of drugs like Prozac, Xanax, and Valium.

And finally, the cost of living would go down as we are no longer having to pay for all of the electronic luxuries we are accustomed to.

All of this illustrates our addiction to electronics and their manipulative powers. Life would be cheaper, more healthy, and perhaps more industrious, but it would certainly not be as fast-paced or complicated than what we are familiar with, but then again, would this be a problem?

Maybe the rallying cry would be a variation of John Lennon's song, "Imagine" -

*"Imagine no cell phones, it's easy if you try, no PC's or TV's, above us, only sky.*

*Imagine all the people, living life in peace."*

Yes sir, the best thing that could happen to this country is to have a virus that knocked out our technology...

Then the light changed, I snapped out of it, and drove home.

*Keep the Faith!*