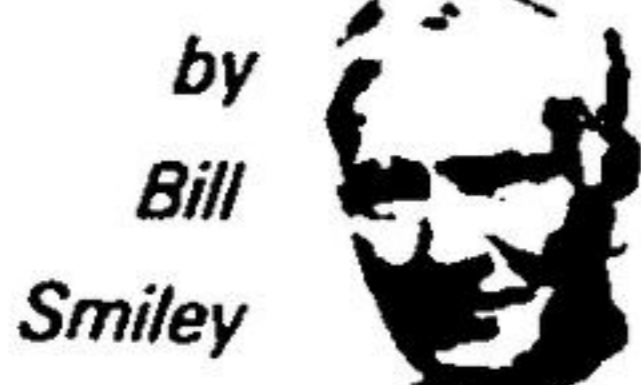


Things multiply in inverse proportion.

A newspaper article the other day reminded me of one of the inexorable laws of modern life: Things multiply in inverse proportion to their use.

It is a simple fact, and we've all been through it, that there are certain things in life that multiply like rabbits, and others that invariably disappear forever.



by
Bill
Smiley

No matter how hard you try to get rid of pennies, they just build up, and if you carry your loose change in your pants pocket, as I do, after a week you listing heavily to the right. You pile your 18 pennies on the top of the dresser and start again, and a week later you have 22 pennies in the same pocket.

Another multiplier is the single sock. Start out a new year with 12 pairs of socks. In three months you'll have six pairs and six odd socks. In six months, you'll have 12 single socks. After years of suffering this, I've counter-attacked. I now buy 12 pairs of identical socks, so that after six months, at least I have six pairs of socks.

Ladies used to have the same problem, before the invention of panty-hose. But this discovery hasn't lessened their problems. In the old days, if they got a run, they usually had a spare single to match the good one with. But now if you get a hole in one leg of your panty-hose you're scuppered. Out they go, the intact one with the bum one.

Women also have other multipliers in the singles division: earrings and gloves. How many women in this fair land have seven or eight exquisite single earrings and four or five superb single gloves?

It's quite fashionable these days for a man to wear a single earring, and a practical chap who lost a glove would wear the other and put his bare hand in his pocket. But women don't think that way, and the gloves and earrings proliferate in their solitary glory.

Old keys multiply at a fantastic rate, until cupboard drawers and plastic bowls are overflowing with them. We have a

huge collection of car keys going back to our fifth-last car, every key to the house before we changed the locks, and enough skeleton keys to outfit James Bond on one of his capers.

New keys are diminishers. We have lost two sets of keys to our present car, and sometimes search for half an hour to find one of the new sets we had to order. The new keys to the new locks disappeared, and we had to take off the locks and go to the key man for new ones. I wonder where they are, at this moment? The new ones that is.

Paper is definitely in the multiplier list especially if you are a writer and/or teacher. As both, I sit to write this column in a sort of tunnel between two massive piles of paper higher than my head. When I sit down to mark papers, I'm in another tunnel between essays and tests and bureaucratic bumph. Makes me feel like an old badger.

Bottles, particularly those on which there is no deposit return, pile up about as fast as you can empty them. But prepare to take back your beer-case of empties, and there are always two missing. Where did they go? Is there a guy, or a dame, hiding behind the furnace who sneaks up when you are beddy-byes, drinks of two of your beers, then eats the bottles?

For the ladies, the wrong shades of lipstick and half-empty bottles of nail polish multiply, along with saucers for which the cups have disappeared.

Wire coats hangers reproduce like rats. The other day, while attempting to get my coat out of the closet, I knocked down six empty hangers. I carefully fished them up

from among the parts of the vacuum cleaner, took another 40 empty hangers off the pole, tied them all together with cord, marched calmly into the basement and buried them into the woodpile. Two weeks later, I knocked down eight hangers while getting my coat, and sat down and wept tears of fury and frustration.

Pencils multiply, but there's never one in the house when you are trying to take down a long-distance phone message.

Odd buttons multiply until it seems like a button factory. But when you need two the same size and color, forget it. You have six thousand buttons, not two alike.

You think you don't take many snapshots. Been to the attic lately. There are 12 boxes of them up there, right from your own baby pictures, through your courting days, into your own children at every stage, and about 500 of the grandchildren. But just try to find that especially good one you wanted to send to Aunt Mabel. Completely vanished.

Shoes multiply. My wife has about 36 pairs, most of them out of style, just like that outfit she had to get the shoes to go with. She has to tear by comfortable old shoes out of my hands to put them in the garbage. I go to a half-price sale, buy three new pairs, and they sit there, stiff and stark, while I go on wearing the old shabby ones.

Stamps run out; magazines pile up to the ceiling. Bills and receipts multiply while bank accounts diminish. Pornography flourishes as sex drive diminishes. Television channels multiply while their contents diminish in quality. Workmanship diminishes as cost of it soars.

And I've just touched the surface. How about acid rain and fish? Or safe, salted highways and holes in your car?

Was it always like this, or is it just a curse of the 20th century. Make up your own list; two columns, one headed Multipliers, the other Diminishers. It will shake you.

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Gifted will be identified

In a step to meet provincial legislation, Halton Board of Education Thursday evening voted to recognize the special education of gifted students, as they would with the learning disabled.

Under Provincial Bill 82, every child has a right to an education regardless of level.

Despite objections from a delegation of parents of gifted children, the board followed the lead of a special committee and made grade 4 the first level of identification. Liz Wallace objected to this on behalf of the parents, explaining that irreparable damage results if a hearing or learning impaired child is not recognized by grade 4, and the same is true for the gifted.

Dr. Edna McMillan, of the committee, noted it is difficult to formally identify a child younger than grade four. She noted, in some cases, a child has received a good education from his or her parents at home before entering the school system and is able to read and write in kindergarten. Should this child be placed in gifted class, only to have the other children eventually catch up with his or her intelligence level it would cause "tremendous problems" to have to remove him from the special class.

She noted it is easier to identify a learning disabled child at an early age because of

behavior, and actual work. Youngsters are not as adaptable to the mass testing, and must undergo individual IQ tests, or rely on teacher observation for evaluation.

There are several alternatives in delivering programs to the gifted students: acceleration would allow the student to cover two years in one or three grades in two years; peer association through learning centres would bring gifted pupils from several schools together usually once a week, but results in disruption in the regular class room patterns.

Full-time cluster classes could be available where numbers warrant in designated schools, and learning centres would provide a full-time class in a designated school. This would allow the student to attend the centre for a specific period from one week to a month to pursue a specific unit of study.

Esquering trustee Dick Howitt pointed out the third option, full-time cluster classes, are not available in the north. George Heaver, of the board administration noted he was correct and admitted the choices are misleading in that regard.

Burlington's Bill Priestner wondered if there will be separate gifted classes for French Immersion students. Heaver said that was a possibility, but a remote one.

Noel Cooper, also of Burlington, charged that the board would be giving administration a blank cheque the way they hoped to set it up. Heaver denied the charges, saying they only wanted to be flexible.

Vice Chairman Betty Fisher warned the trustees Bill 82 was the law, and they had to start providing gifted education. "Whether we want to provide it or not, that's a cross we have to bear unless we want to go against the law."

Regional identification criteria and programs will be developed and implemented in 1983.

Limehouse Sympathy to Noble family

by Mrs. A.W. Benton
We extend sympathy to Mrs. Jack Noble and family in the death of her husband on Friday evening after a long illness.

We wish good progress for Sam Giaby who under went surgery in Georgetown Hospital a week ago.

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Mon., Tues., Wed.: Mass Homily at 9:30 a.m., repeated at 7:30 p.m.
Monday's topic: "Father's Concrete Love - Jesus"
Tuesday's topic: "Healing of Memories"
Wednesday's topic: "The Power of Unforgiveness and Forgiveness"
Also on Mon.-Wed. from 1:30 to 3:30 there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
Thursday at 1:30: A workshop led by Bee Brisebois on: "How to Minister Healing Prayer"
Thursday at 8:00 p.m.: Closing session with Mass of the Lord's Supper.
Topic: "The Power of Jesus Through Blessed Oil"
All members of Holy Cross Parish (active or inactive) are invited to attend.

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