

Pulling Together

Summer, 2017



From the Top

Don W. Davis

Educated! What does that mean? Are you educated? Are you surrounded by educated people? Does one have to go somewhere to get educated? Where does one have to go to get educated? How do you get there? How do you know when you are there? Does one have to pay for an education? How do you know if someone is educated? Are educations worthwhile? Is getting an education fun? Is getting an education hard? Are educated people happy? Are uneducated people happy? Do some places provide better educations? Who is the most educated person in the USA? Which country is the best educated? Who was the best educated person ever? Who is the most educated person you know? Do educated persons make better decisions than uneducated persons? Should educated people marry uneducated people? Should educated people join uneducated people in business ventures? Are educated people just naturally smart? Are the smartest people the most educated? Do educated people have to be smart? Can a child be better educated than the parents? Can a child be smarter than the parents? Can animals be educated? Can plants be educated? Can minerals be educated? Can machines be educated? Can computers be educated? Who or what is not compatible with education?

At one time in my life, I was called an educator. I assumed, perhaps wrongly, others thought I would educate students. Early in my adult life, the title "Teacher" was assiduously kept separate from the title

"Coach" and I was both a chemistry teacher and a football coach in public schools. Today, "Teacher" is more and more being replaced with "Coach".

In the classroom and on the athletic field there is much teaching due the students and athletes. It seems to me that fortunate instructors know that their charges typically learn material presented to them:

- in a concrete, sequential manner; or
- in an abstract, random manner; or
- in a concrete, random manner; or
- in an abstract, sequential manner and recognize how each of their charges learn. Also, the fortunate instructors know the difference between learning and education.

Master Teachers and Winning Coaches seem to know that *learning* is best defined as *changed behavior*. I have heard them explain that a young child can learn that hot stoves burn them and cause pain if they touch the hot stove. Generally, young kids will change their behavior and stop touching hot stoves. The youngster may also be told that animals can also learn some fundamental things such as cattle encountering electrified fences. By getting shocked when they touch the fences, the cattle learn not to touch the fences. Many other examples of animals, such as pets, can be recited to fuse the understanding of learning (changed behavior).

Master Teachers and Winning Coaches also seem to know that education is simply a collection of . . . The **Master Teachers and**



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Winning Coaches know that people having collections of data may be judged as educated, or smart, or learned, or even genius. However, I have met a number of educated people – people who have memorized numerous little known facts about such things as internal combustion engines, geography, literature, movies, television, the Olympics, politics, vegetation, airplanes, the NFL, the NBA, and many, many other topics. Having known many of these people before they collected so much data, I know they have learned nothing because their behavior has not changed. Had they learned something, they would have changed their behavior – kinda like my neighbor getting a citation for failing to stop at a stop sign and changing his behavior – he started stopping at stop signs.

About some things, I can be wrong. However, unlike everyone in my family, I understand why some of the people I know have multiple certificates from accredited institutions, yet almost totally lack common sense. We all see them make unwise decisions. We see them get caught up in scams and such. While I understand why it happens, some of my family say they cannot understand why someone who is so smart – so educated – so learned – could do something so dumb. You see, I know those relatives can collect a lot of data without learning much of anything. That is why some of the real heroes in my family are not the most educated. I realize that they have learned a lot while not collecting a lot of *little known facts*.

As I review the history of the United States of America, I see that during some of those most productive periods of this nation's history, many of our leaders were not all that well educated. Even though they were not data collectors, they were doers. They simply had ideas or dreams and set out to accomplish something. They invented things, built things, lead people, understood the economy, and created things that educated people did not understand.

So I have tried to remind myself that learning is not a synonymy for educating. After all, isn't that why we have libraries. Libraries are simply full of data. If you need some information, it is probably available and it's free. Be sure to say thank you.

Ever worry about *overpopulation*? Someone asked me about that. I went to Google. Current population of this planet is reported to be 7.5 billion people. The number of acres in the state of Texas is reported to be 167,624,760. That means, theoretically, that the entire population of the earth could be placed in the State of Texas leaving the rest of the planet void of human beings. Let's see! New York City has 8,491,000 people and

197,760 acres. That gives every New York City resident 0.0232 acres. Every one in the Texas scenario would have 0.0223 acres. Texas would be a little more crowded than New York City at this time.

All I know is that a lot of educated people will jump to wild, knee-jerk conclusions without weighing the facts while a lot of learned people will not jump to wild, knee-jerk conclusions. Are you learned • educated • ignorant • schooled • knowledgeable • erudite • scholarly • literate • tutored • cultivated • cultured or none of the above?

Don W. Davis

For your entertainment

My theory on inertia has no momentum.

That cheese doesn't belong to you. It's nacho cheese.

Dishonest golfers don't play the fairway.

Ancient orators tended to Babylon.

When I talk about computers, I make my motherboard.

'Tis better to have loved a short person than never to have loved a tall.

Mathematicians wear glasses because they improve division.

I regret not developing my photographic memory.

Never play cards in the Serengeti. There are too many cheetahs.

A backward poet writes inverse.

A tardy cannibal gets the cold shoulder.

Her bootlegging was illegal but I loved her still.

Santa's helpers are subordinate Clauses.

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