

THE NATIONWIDE STANDARD

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THE GOOSE STORY

Next fall, when you see Geese heading South for the Winter, flying along in V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way: as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are.

When the Head Goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs with people or with geese flying South.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally, and this is important, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

IF WE HAVE THE SENSE OF A GOOSE, WE WILL STAND BY EACH OTHER LIKE THAT.

By Dr. Harry Clarke Noyes, ARCS NEWS, Vol. 7, No. 1, January 1992

Did You Know?

Like many athletes, San Diego Chargers linebacker Brock Hekking has the ability to eat an enormous amount of food.

The 6'3", 250-pound rookie - who is currently on injured reserve - recently sat down at Phil's BBQ in San Diego and showed just how much he can put down. It's impressive, to say the least.

Here's what was on the menu:

- 2 racks of beef ribs
- 2 racks of baby back ribs
- 1 whole chicken
- 2 pulled pork sandwiches
- 1 giant sausage
- 1 pound of mac and cheese
- Large side of fries
- Large onion rings
- Bite of coleslaw
- 2 ears of corn
- 64-ounce Mountain Dew

That equates to more than 21,000 calories, which Hekking put down in less than an hour (43 minutes).

There's even a video of it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vo9DTXWuxy0>

14 Spectacularly Wrong Predictions

Source: CNBC

Throughout history, prognosticators have tried to predict events that would rock the world. But even the most intellectually gifted did not foresee key forces that would cause paradigm shifts in society. Here are 14 spectacularly wrong predictions that doused society with fear and offered misguided advice.

1929 Stock market

Irving Fisher was a noted 20th-century economist. Three days before the Wall Street Crash of that 1929, which heralded The Great Depression, he claimed that “stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau.” He was disproved 72 hours later.

Y2K

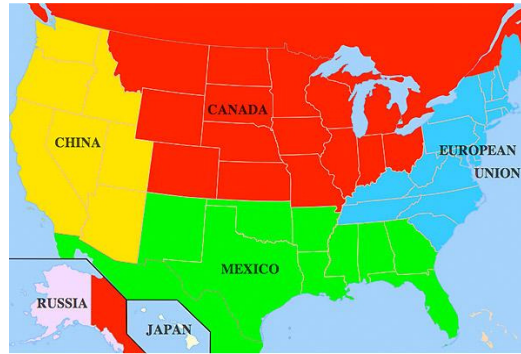
As the year 2000 approached, computer experts realized that most software was written with the last two digits representing the year as opposed to all four digits, so “1998” was written simply as “98.” When the new millennium rang in, they feared, computers the world over would behave as if the year had changed from 1999 to 1900. Paranoia took hold in every sector: personal data would be compromised; there would be food shortages; nuclear missiles would launch themselves! Jan. 1, 2000, came and went without major incident, even though many systems failed to get updated in time.

2010 collapse of the United States

In 1998, Russian political writer Igor Panarin claimed that the U.S. was on the verge of civil war, which would result in wealthier states withholding tax revenue from the federal government and seceding from the union. After the resulting collapse of the nation, predicted for 2010, it would be split into six parts and divided up by the newly dominant world powers. “There’s a 55 to 45 percent chance right now that disintegration will occur,” he said.

Quote for the Quarter

“Your mind is the garden, your thoughts are the seeds, the harvest can either be flowers or weeds.” ~ William Wordsworth (Romantic Poet, April 7, 1770 - April 23, 1850)



Dow 36,000

“Dow 36,000: The New Strategy for Profiting From the Coming Rise in the Stock Market” is a book by James Glassman and Kevin Hassett. Published in 1999, the book’s premise was that the boom times would cause the Dow Jones Industrial Average to rise to 36,000 within just a few years, and it offered advice on how best to cash in on this eventuality. Sadly, it didn’t exactly work out that way. At press time, the Dow was hovering at 16,336, and a used paperback copy of the now out-of-print book can be purchased on Amazon for as little as one cent.

Online shopping

In 1966, *Time* magazine ran a bold prediction: “Remote shopping, while entirely feasible, will flop because women like to get out of the house, like to handle merchandise, like to be able to change their minds.” A 2010 study projected that a total of about \$173 billion would be spent that year in online sales in the US.

Rocket mail

Arthur Summerfield, U.S. Postmaster General under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, is perhaps best known for a prediction he made in 1959. “Before man reaches the moon,” he said, “your mail will be delivered within hours from New York to Australia by guided missiles. We stand on the threshold of rocket mail.” In the same year Summerfield made his bold statement, the US Post Office tested “Missile Mail” for the first and last time. A rocket was launched from the submarine Barbero off the coast of Florida to a naval base in Mayport. The entire trip lasted 22 minutes, and the two mail containers it carried were delivered successfully. Sadly, the program was never implemented.

Continued on next page...

Hours of Operation:
Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm

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April Fool's Day, 4/1

"If every fool wore a crown, we should all be kings." ~ Welsh Proverb

Tax Day, 4/18

"You don't pay taxes – they take taxes." ~ Chris Rock

Earth Day, 8/22

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." ~ Native American Proverb

Cinco de Mayo, 5/5

"I'm not above using obscure Mexican battles to justify my drinking."
~ Unknown

Mother's Day, 5/8

"A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother."
~ Author Unknown

Memorial Day, 5/30

"For death is no more than a turning of us over from time to eternity."
~ William Penn

Father's Day, 6/19

"One father is more than a hundred Schoolemasters."
~ George Herbert

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Television

A 2010 study by the AC Nielsen found that the average American watches almost five hours of television a day. Many households have more than one set. In 1946, however, studio executive Darryl F. Zanuck couldn't imagine TV getting much traction. "Television won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months," he predicted. "People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night."

Mother Shipton

Ursula Southeil was a 16th-century English clairvoyant and mystic who went by the name Mother Shipton. She died in 1561, and 80 years later, a book of her prophecies was published. She predicted many events, all in a style so vague that they could mean just about anything. One couplet, however, was very specific, reading, "The end of the world will surely come, in 1881."

Atomic energy

In 1939, Winston Churchill, the British prime minister during World War II, said, "Atomic energy might be as good as our present-day explosives, but it is unlikely to produce anything very much more dangerous." Six years later, the first atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of people and causing Japan's unconditional surrender one week later.

The Internet

Robert Metcalfe is the founder of the 3Com digital electronics company and a professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He has a Ph.D. from Harvard, is the co-inventor of Ethernet, and holds a Grace Murray Hopper Award for developing it. Today he is a general partner at Polaris Venture Partners, a firm specializing in early investments in technology companies. Despite his impressive résumé, Metcalfe is known for at least one inaccurate prediction that he is unlikely to live down. In a 1995 issue of *InfoWorld*, he famously said that the Internet would "soon go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse." He promised to eat his words if proved wrong. He was. So during his keynote speech at the WWW International Conference in 1997, he produced the magazine page containing the quote, put it in a blender and ingested it before a live audience.



Communism

In 1956, when Soviet Union leader Nikita Khrushchev was addressing Western ambassadors at the Polish embassy in Moscow, he was combative, telling his audience that that Communism's defeat of Capitalism was inevitable. "History is on our side," he said. "We will bury you." 33 years later, Communism collapsed, and two years after that the Soviet Union was dissolved.

The Titanic

The luxury passenger ship's captain, Edward J. Smith, said, "I cannot conceive of any vital disaster happening to this vessel. Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that." Phillip Franklin, vice president of the White Star Line, which had produced the ship said, "There is no danger that Titanic will sink. The boat is unsinkable and nothing but inconvenience will be suffered by the passengers."

The Beatles

In 1964, *National Review* founder William F. Buckley described The Beatles as "so unbelievably horrible, so appallingly unmusical, so dogmatically insensitive to the magic of the art that they qualify as crowned heads of anti-music." When Decca Records rejected them after their 1962 audition, they famously said, "We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out." The most profoundly erroneous verdict came from Ray Bloch, musical director for "The Ed Sullivan Show," who said, "The only thing different is the hair, as far as I can see. I give them a year."

Pearl Harbor

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox made a statement on Dec 4, 1941, to assure everyone that the US had its eye on Japan. "Whatever happens," he said, "the U.S. Navy is not going to be caught napping." The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred three days later.



Just For Laughs

Lucky Cats

A famous art collector is walking through the city when he notices a mangy cat lapping milk from a saucer in the doorway of a store. He does a double take. He recognizes that the saucer is extremely old and very valuable, so he walks casually into the store and offers to buy the cat for \$2.

The storeowner replies: "I'm sorry, but the cat isn't for sale."

The collector says: "Please, I need a hungry cat around the house to catch mice. I'll pay you \$20 for that cat."

And the owner says, "Sold!" and hands over the cat.

The collector continues: "Hey, for the \$20 I wonder if you could throw in that old saucer. The cat's used to it and it'll save me from having to get a dish."

And the owner says: "Sorry, buddy, but that's my lucky saucer. So far this week, I've sold 68 cats."

Even if Your Mom is Home...

"Is your mother home?" the salesman asked a small girl sitting on the steps in front of a house.

"Yeah, she's home," the girl said, scooting over to let him pass.

The salesman rang the doorbell, got no response, knocked once, then again. Still no one came to the door.

Turning to the girl, the fellow said, "I thought you said your mother was home."

The kid replied, "She is; but this isn't where I live."



The Tale

"Code of the West"

The Code of the West was unwritten, yet every cowboy knew what the code was. Based on everything I've learned over the course of a full year of intense research, I believe I know too. This is my own list of the ten timeless principles that capture the essence of the Code of the West. They are true to the spirit of the working cowboy, yet still have meaning for us today.

1. Live each day with courage.
2. Take pride in your work.
3. Always finish what you started.
4. Do what has to be done.
5. Be tough but fair.
6. When you make a promise, keep it.
7. Ride for the brand.
8. Talk less and say more.
9. Remember that some things aren't for sale.
10. Know where to draw the line.

~ James P. Owen
*Cowboy Ethics - What Wall Street
 Can Learn From the Code of the
 West (2004)*

WORD WEIRD

RECONNOITER: make a military observation of (a region).

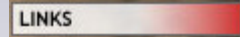
ETYMOLOGY: Latin *metonymia*, from Greek *metōnymia*, from *met* a- + *-ōnymon* -onym. First Known Use: 1547.

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