

Jim's Perspective...

Notes, Quotes and Ideas

Long ago, and over many years, I put together a file of things that simply caught my attention. So today, I thought it would be fun to just provide you with some of the notes, quotes and ideas that I have saved because they are meaningful to me. Here they are!

- Dr. Frimmer's favorite saying in the last months of his life. "You can't die cured, but you can die healed." (He explains this by saying, healing is about a sense of wholeness as a person, and that wholeness includes understanding our mortality, our place in the world – that death is not a betrayal of life but a part of it.)
- On being thoughtful. You can be preoccupied and thoughtful in a horizontal sense or vertical sense. The former is thought in a multiple task kind of way. The latter is in a self-analytical type of way.
- Duke Ellington, born into comparative comfort, who would rise above race and dwell, as he liked to say, "beyond category."
- One of the most important assignments any of us has in life is to know ourselves. This is not selfishness, but a self-awareness leading to confidence that tends to liberate us from the fear and even paralysis of self-doubt. The study of literature, history, art and philosophy tend to wrench open closed minds and broaden narrow ones.
- Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and persistence alone, always has, and always will solve the problems of the human race. Calvin Coolidge.
- Harvard president, Larry Summers. "In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car." (His point is that people must have ownership of something to care about it).
- Kenny Rodgers, A & E Biography quote: "All anyone needs to be happy are three things: someone to love, something to do and something to look forward to."
- Politics, according to Christopher Hitchens, is show business for ugly people.
- Asked on his deathbed by a priest to renounce Satan, Voltaire said, "This is not the time to be making enemies."
- You can't push people, you can only lead them.

- Bing Crosby – “Mister In-Between” Accentuate the positive – eliminate the negative.
- Virgil’s poetic line when Venus appeared to Aeneas, “She walks by, and her steps reveal a goddess.”
- A dream is disguised fulfillment of a suppressed wish. Freud.
- “It is the paradox of life that the way to miss pleasure is to seek it first. The very first condition of lasting happiness is that a life should be full of purpose, aiming at something outside self.” Justice Hugo Black.
- If America has a service to perform in the world, it is in large part the service of her own example. An excessive preoccupation with foreign affairs over a long period of time diverts a nation from the sources of its strength, which are in its domestic life. A nation immersed in foreign affairs is expending its capital, human as well as material. Sen. Fulbright, “The Arrogance of Power.”
- “Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important.” T. S. Eliot from the play “The Cocktail Party.”
- Walter Lippmann. “Above all the other necessities of human nature, above the satisfaction of any other need, above hunger, love, pleasure, fame – even life itself – what a man most needs is the conviction that he is contained within the discipline of an ordered existence.”
- Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting a bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian. Dennis Wholey, American TV host.
- The brain. “If it were simple enough that we could understand it, we wouldn’t be able to.”
- There is always this sense of loss when change comes to music or musicians. Not just loss of the moment of discovery but also loss of who you were in that moment, loss of that which made you vital, impulsive and a threat to the status quo. Tunes that used to scare the old folks, play in the elevator of the office building. And the young people of a new generation speed past, vital, impulsive, a threat to the status quo, alive in the moment of discovery. Believing it will ever be so.

I finish with the above note about music because it always takes me back to the 1950’s and 1960’s when rock & roll was born. I remember older people were always rather confounded by music from The Beatles or Simon & Garfunkel. They much preferred music played by a band, such as the Glenn Miller orchestra. Now, today, young people are all about repetitive synthesized pop music, or lived-streamed hip-hop. Now I know how my parents felt about new music that was being unfolded by young musicians in the 1960’s. Oh please, today let me listen

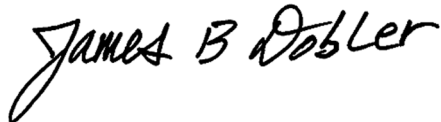
to Pink Floyd, or Tommy James & The Shondells! But no, life has moved on, it's a new world for young people and their music. And so, I will close my article of Notes, Quotes and Ideas by leaving you with a song from the Carpenters (*We've Only Just Begun*, released 1970 but still very close to the sixties!). I pick the Carpenters because, for me, I truly believe Karen Carpenter is the best female singer of all time. I just love her voice! I also finish with a song conducted by Percy Faith (*The Theme From "A Summer Place"* 1960) that reminds me of my parents' generation, and my parents' solid wood console stereo system located in the living room of our house where I grew up!

The Carpenters.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__VQX2Xn7tI

Percy Faith.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSsiS-v6_6M



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