

My Two CENTS

Every generation thinks they have brought something better to the human race than their predecessors. But what are the costs of these conveniences and advances? Call me old fashioned, but I sometimes wonder if all the technology available to us is taking us in the wrong direction.

The most obvious area of necessary advances is in medical care. Granted, all of the toxins and carcinogens modern man has pumped into the environment have necessitated the development of medical advances, but



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Newer not necessarily better

at least these diseases are less likely to be a death sentence now. And things like polio, cholera, plagues and tuberculosis no longer threaten to wipe out entire towns. Yet getting rid of the common cold remains elusive. Go figure. Could it have something to do with the fact that over-the-counter cold medicines are a multi-billion dollar industry? But I digress...

Medical advances in cancer research gave my family more than a decade longer with my dad, so I'm not one to bad mouth medical research. Yet, on the same token some advances led to the development of super-infections that are resistant to antibiotics. Some researchers believe this was caused by an abuse of

antibiotics. Others believe that these super infections are caused by the abuse of anti-bacterial components companies put into everything from dish soap to liquid hand cleaners. Whatever the cause, we clearly brought it on ourselves.

Technological discoveries have made so many things available to us that all we have to do is go out and buy what we want or think we need. People don't need to know how to make anything for themselves anymore. In fact, we don't really have to leave our homes. You can get almost anything with the Internet and a valid credit card. Of course, you don't really even have to use your own card. Since our personal information is so readily available, it is easier than ever to use someone else's card to shop 'til you drop...or at least until you max out their card.

You would think that with all the advances available to us, products would last longer than ever before. Appliances used to last 15 to 20 years. You are lucky now if they last 10 years. When I was a kid, even light bulbs lasted longer than they do now. How is that even possible? Greed fuels the market now, not the production of a superior product, as in past generations.

Other technological advances are made so quickly that once you buy a new computer, game system or cell phone, a newer version is already in production. And we've been led to believe that these are things that we can't live without. I'll admit that carrying a cell phone for emergencies is smart, especially when traveling. But talking

on the phone while you shop for groceries is not necessary.

Although my kids would argue that electronic gaming is a necessary venue of entertainment, development of hand-coordination and stress reliever, even now at their ages, I still disagree. Gaming has become such a problem that kids have to be reminded during television commercials to get off their behinds and go outside to play and exercise. When I was a kid we played outside during every waking moment. No one had to tell us to. We didn't need any outside ideas or fancy newfangled gadgets. We had something better...our imaginations.

And what about television? When I was a kid the only choices available was brand and size. I was in the fifth grade before I ever saw a color television. No matter what set we had, it didn't come on until the

evening. Even then, chores and homework had to be done first.

Now, you have to decide on high-def, plasma, flat screen and a lot of other choices that were never available before. The newest sets are now in 3-D. This was unheard of beyond a movie theater in my day. I'm no expert, but don't you have to wear those funky glasses in order to view it properly? If so, what effect will this have on people's eyes, especially our children? It takes several years for their eyes to completely develop. Many eye doctors claim that forcing kids to read before the age of eight has an adverse effect on children's eyes. I can only imagine what hours of exposure to 3-D television every day will do to them.

One phrase we hear a lot now is "social networking." If I don't have my wires crossed, social networking

involves communicating with other people. Although the modes of social networking are much different than in the past, the concept is not. Young people my kids' age do not communicate face-to-face much anymore. Texting, e-mail and instant messaging are their main forms of dealing with each other. At this rate, speaking could some day become obsolete.

Normally, I would say that the loss of spontaneous verbal communication would be a bad thing. But since my family believes I am a reclusive hermit, I will not try to defend or deny the severe consequences of this particular loss. Besides, typing out my communications to you each week would only weaken my defense of the need for face-to-face oral communication, right?

Your feedback is always welcome at nikkiarko@yahoo.com.

Rotary gets caught up on the Mitchell

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Bachicha. "Both events were well attended and it was great to see the ranching community participate," said Little.

On Sept. 16, Dave Mason, Poet Laureate of Colorado, will present selected poetry readings. Little said, "We are also sponsoring a poetry contest and a Hooked on Art workshop for children."

Recent additions to the A.R. Mitchell collection include three Mitchell paintings donated by the

DeRuen Family and a Native American head dress and death mask donated by Marcelino Duran's daughter.

The Mitchell soon will be promoted in China, continued Little. "I participated in a Chinese Art workshop. My roommate was Dali Higa, an entrepreneur who recently sold her chemical factory in China. She purchased a 200-year-old building with ornate carving and is converting it into a museum. She invited the Mitchell to be a sister museum; this is great news," said Little. She added that the Mitchell has photo and movie production collections that will be excellent for the exchange program.

Director Little concluded by thanking members for their support and encouraged them to become members.

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Trinidad launches new direct selling plan of Danielson Design products

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"This truly is something different," Butcher told attendees. "This is the very first time that anybody has publicly seen what we're going to show tonight. It's really important for us to give this to Trinidad and our friends and neighbors in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico."

Butcher said it's RendiStyle's goal to take the Danielson Design-Rendi product line from Trinidad to nationwide sales through the increasingly popular direct sales network. "Rendi means, you make in Italian. Rendi is Annie Danielson's new venture into the amazing world of direct selling and party planning. It's a place where you make thoughtful custom gifts on one of the Internet's best design sites. It's a place where you make personal connections with old and new friends and family and where you can make an income and maybe a career."

In a specially prepared video, Danielson Design

customers discussed the unique gift product line of wall plaques and picture frames on which is written life affirming or witty sayings applicable for a specific occasion or person. Trinidad native Annie Danielson then discussed a brief Trinidad history of the company and the many outside income and career opportunities that RendiStyle will offer those who sign up and start selling Rendi products at home parties and through their network of friends. RendiStyle home business participants will also have a hand in designing their own products with their own wording on them, she said.

"Now Rendi brings us full circle, giving women the opportunity to creatively balance work and family," said Danielson in the video. In helping to bring out their creative talents, she asked the women who might join the Rendi sales team, "Why not give a gift that comes from your hand and your heart to those who matter the most in your

life."

The direct sales process allows the Rendi businesswoman to select their own favorite product styles from a catalogue or Internet site and to write their own words to match the gift recipient's personality or life situation, she said, a selling and marketing technique already available to past Danielson Design customers. "All our products can be customized to fit the buyer's needs to make your home party company more

successful."

The home parties also produce a more informal direct selling atmosphere with flexible hours conducive to presenting and selling Rendi products to friends and family or to meet new people, Danielson added.

Danielson, Butcher and Bohn all stressed the Trinidad launch as an opportunity for participants to get in on a true ground floor business where they can earn up to

45 percent in sales commissions of the selling price of their products. They can also accumulate teams of women working under their umbrella network and earn commissions from those sales.

"We already have 20-plus signups and interest is really growing," Butcher said Monday.

For information, the website can be accessed at www.RendiStyle.com or rendistyle.wordpress.com, or by calling 845-2697.

Top archer

Photo courtesy of Kim Lucero

Hundreds of archers gathered on Sunday, Aug. 21 for the annual 4-H State shooting sports event in Pueblo in the 98-degree heat. Local Las Animas County resident Brooke Lucero walked away with the state title in the junior compound limited category, shooting a total of 186 points out of a possible 200 points. Each archer shoots five arrows at 40, 30, 20 and 10 yards, respectively. Lucero has been shooting in the state competition since she was nine years old and has finished in the Top 10 two years - fifth place last year, and was able to bring back to Las Animas County a first-place win. "It feels good, I've practiced a lot and it paid off," Lucero said. She will move up to the senior division next year.



Miners drop opener to Lamar

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quarterback Dylan Trujillo was removed from the game as a precaution after a hard hit in the second half. Gomez, inserted in place of Trujillo, was also temporarily removed because of leg cramps, a scenario that allowed freshman Dante Begano to experience a few snaps at the quarterback position. Senior outside linebacker Will Morgan was removed from the game when a Savage helmet dinged his knee. Morgan eventually returned to the game.

It was an evening that totally befuddled

the Miner coaches. "We're still not physical enough," concluded Begano. "I didn't do a very good job of getting us ready. It's a good thing it was a pre-season game and doesn't count. We're actually a better team. We're better than we showed tonight. We've got to get them ready."

The Miners host archrival Raton in the Coal Bucket Game on Friday, with a 7 p.m. kickoff.

Lamar 37, Trinidad 7

Trinidad	0	0	0	7	7
Lamar	14	16	7	0	37

Passion plays upon the Shuler stage

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decorating their resumes.

But Siddi is a generous artistic director and choreographer, presenting an ensemble show in which the spotlight is shared by all. The five young women

dancers put several costume changes to good effect, creating images that were often visually stunning. The singers and musicians mostly remained seated, but their music was fiery, insistent, and propulsive,

led by Chuscales, the extraordinary guitarist from Spain by way of Santa Fe.

An irresistible audience favorite was young Antonio Heredia-Vilar, son of the troupe's two singers. He was not listed in the program, and he had badly injured his foot in a bicycle accident the previous day, but when he danced across the Shuler stage in a white suit, he showed no sign of injury. Like Olympic swimmers and gymnasts, flamenco dancers generally begin very young: Heredia-Vilar is likely to become a star. Saturday night, he responded to his applause with a deep bow at the front of the stage. The audience roared its approval.

A subtle and perhaps unintended pleasure was the occasional smile that would slip onto a performer's face. It's the nature of flamenco for the performers to remain tightly wound in the passion of the music, their faces intense. The smiles seemed almost like mistakes, but they added to the show by reminding the audience

that these performers are real people who are having one heck of a great time.

Flamenco is a youthful art form: the dance itself requires extreme fitness and endurance. When Siddi tossed his jacket during the second act, his shirt was soaked through and dripping sweat.

But the Shuler audience had an average age double that of the performers. Two doors down, the El Raton Theater was packed with kids and teens that had come to see the animated film, *Despicable Me*. They probably had no idea what they were missing at the Shuler, where there were enough seats to accommodate them. In Santa Fe, Aspen, Santa Monica, and San Francisco, the Juan Siddi Flamenco Company has filled theaters with far higher admission prices. (The Shuler's student price Saturday was only \$5!) Too many people neglect the treasures that the Shuler Theater brings to Raton.

Those who chose flamenco Saturday night were amply rewarded.

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