

Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday March 6 2022



Homage to Ukraine with their National Flower. "Sunflower on Blue Grid"



By Louisa Wallace Jacobs (My longest time friend)

All I can say is that it is acrylic on canvas with detailed drawing under the paint.

It took about 3 months to finish. As many paintings do, it went through many transitions and variations and color changes. It became a challenge just to get to the finish line.

Because I could not stand to look at it any more, I gifted it to one of Jeff's step daughters who is a Sunflower lover (and who isn't).

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A Moonlight Night - A Beautiful Ukrainian Song



<https://youtu.be/aaOChwNPg5o?t=1>

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Arabian Dance AcroDuoBallet



<https://youtu.be/0vEPU8VTkAA>

AcroDuoBallet - Elena Petrichenko, Sergey Chumakov

"Arabian Dance (The Nutcracker)

Baltic Ballet Festival in Riga

Composer - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Choreography - Elena Petrichenko, Sergey Chumakov

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Ernest Ansermet

Lisa Sitek sent this suggesting it might be a good piece for the Ode.

Boy is it.

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Canadian couple's dog gives birth to rare green puppy

By Ben Hooper



panel.teddyfeed.com

A Nova Scotia couple whose 3-year-old bulldog gave birth to a litter of eight puppies said they immediately noticed something unusual about one of the newborns -- her fur was dyed green.

Trevor and Audra Mosher of Middle Sackville said they thought their dog, Freya, was finished after delivering her first seven puppies, but while they were cleaning the canine mother she started to go into labor again.

Freya delivered an eighth puppy, this time encased in a black sac, contrasting with the translucent sacs of its older siblings.

The couple said they initially feared the puppy was stillborn, but they rushed to clean the newborn canine when she started to move.

"We started to dry her off and noticed she was green and immediately again thought there was something wrong. So we googled it, 'my puppy is green, what's wrong,' and apparently it is very rare and it has happened a few times all over the world," Trevor Mosher told Global News.

The rare discoloration, which has been documented before, is believed to be caused by light-colored puppies coming into contact with the green pigments from bile while in the womb.

"I'm kind of amazed, really. As rare as it seems to be, I feel very lucky to have witnessed it and be a part of it. I know you hear stories about things like that but to be there and witness it, it was good," Mosher said.

Freya Mosher said in a Facebook post that the names being considered for the puppy include Hulkette, Fiona, Wasabi, Lucky Irish and Pistachio.

The couple said the puppy's green coloring has started to fade in the days since the birth, and experts said it will continue to fade in the coming weeks until it is gone completely.

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Changing Perspectives—From a Man Entering His 80s



- 1 After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children and my friends, I have now started loving myself.
- 2 I have realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.
- 3 I have stopped bargaining with vegetable & fruit vendors. A few pennies more is not going to break me, but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.
- 4 I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than I am.
- 5 I stopped telling the elderly that they've already told that story many times. The story makes them walk down memory lane & relive their past.
- 6 I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.
- 7 I give compliments freely & generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You."
- 8 I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.
- 9 I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.
- 10 I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.
- 11 I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.
- 12 I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.
- 13 I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.
- 14 it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be!

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Greta and Her Fairy Godmother



One crisp winter morning in Sweden, a cute little girl named Greta woke up to a perfect world, one where there were no petroleum products ruining the earth. She tossed aside her cotton sheet and wool blanket and stepped out onto a dirt floor covered with willow bark that had been pulverized with rocks. "What's this?" she asked.

"Pulverized willow bark," replied her fairy godmother.

"What happened to the carpet?" she asked.

"The carpet was nylon, which is made from butadiene and hydrogen cyanide, both made from petroleum," came the response.

Greta smiled, acknowledging that adjustments are necessary to save the planet, and moved to the sink to brush her teeth where instead of a toothbrush, she found a willow, mangled on one end to expose wood fibre bristles.

"Your old toothbrush?" noted her godmother, "Also nylon."

"Where's the water?" asked Greta.

"Down the road in the canal," replied her godmother, "Just make sure you avoid water with cholera in it"

"Why's there no running water?" Greta asked, becoming a little peevish.

"Well," said her godmother, who happened to teach engineering at MIT, "Where do we begin?"

There followed a long monologue about how sink valves need elastomer seats and how copper pipes contain copper, which has to be mined and how it's impossible to make all-electric earth-moving equipment with no gear lubrication or tires and how ore has to be smelted to a make metal, and that's tough to do with only electricity as a source of heat, and even if you use only electricity, the wires need insulation, which is petroleum-based, and though most of Sweden's energy is produced in an environmentally friendly way because of hydro and nuclear, if you do a mass and energy balance around the whole system, you still need lots of petroleum products like lubricants and nylon and

rubber for tires and asphalt for filling potholes and wax and iPhone plastic and elastic to hold your underwear up while operating a copper smelting furnace and . . .

"What's for breakfast?" interjected Greta, whose head was hurting.

"Fresh, range-fed chicken eggs," replied her godmother. "Raw."

"How so, raw?" inquired Greta.

"Well, . . ." And once again, Greta was told about the need for petroleum products like transformer oil and scores of petroleum products essential for producing metals for frying pans and in the end was educated about how you can't have a petroleum-free world and then cook eggs. Unless you rip your front fence up and start a fire and carefully cook your egg in an orange peel like you do in Boy Scouts, not that you can find oranges in Sweden anymore.

"But I want poached eggs like my Aunt Tilda makes," lamented Greta.

"Tilda died this morning," the godmother explained. "Bacterial pneumonia."

"What?!" interjected Greta. "No one dies of bacterial pneumonia! We have penicillin."

"Not anymore," explained godmother "The production of penicillin requires chemical extraction using isobutyl acetate, which, if you know your organic chemistry, is petroleum-based. Lots of people are dying, which is problematic because there's not any easy way of disposing of the bodies since backhoes need hydraulic oil and crematoriums can't really burn many bodies using as fuel Swedish fences and furniture, which are rapidly disappearing - being used on the black market for roasting eggs and staying warm."

This represents only a fraction of Greta's day, a day without microphones to exclaim into, and a day without much food, and a day without carbon-fibre boats to sail in, but a day that will save the planet.

Tune in tomorrow when Greta needs a root canal and learns how Novocain is synthesized.

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First Woman Commander of Navy's Oldest Ship Takes the Helm

Billie Farrell is the new captain of the U.S.S. "Constitution," a 1797 frigate that now serves as a floating museum



David Kindy

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/first-female-commander-of-the-uss-constitution-takes-helm-180979457/>

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The Story Behind the Threshold F-4 Fire Slide



<https://youtu.be/Os6p3qgT-68>

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Timing is All



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Timeless Quotes.

1. Regular naps prevent old age, especially if you take them while driving.
2. Having one child makes you a parent; having two you are a referee.

3. I believe we should all pay our tax with a smile. I tried - but they wanted cheque.
4. A child's greatest period of growth is the month after you've purchased new school uniforms.
5. Don't feel bad. A lot of people have no talent.
6. You can't buy love, but you pay heavily for it.
7. Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.
8. Laziness is nothing more than the habit of resting before you get tired.
9. Those who can't laugh at themselves leave the job to others.
10. Ladies first. Pretty ladies' sooner.
11. A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.
12. You're getting old when you enjoy remembering things more than doing them.
13. Real friends are the ones who survive transitions between address books.
14. Saving is the best thing. Especially when your parents have done it for you.
15. Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools talk because they have to say something.
16. Why do couples hold hands during their wedding? It's a formality just like two boxers shaking hands before the fight begins!
17. There is only one perfect child in the world and every mother has it.

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Prelude and Fugue in E-flat major, "St. Anne," BWV 552 J.S Bach



Devon Howard [That's him above] <https://youtu.be/J0A-eqNqjI?t=20>

Christopher Glenn <https://youtu.be/gFRKxSLBPac>

Two versions for you to compare. This is one of Bach's most often played Pieces.

Why?

Maybe because it sounds suspiciously like Bach.

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Hall and Oates



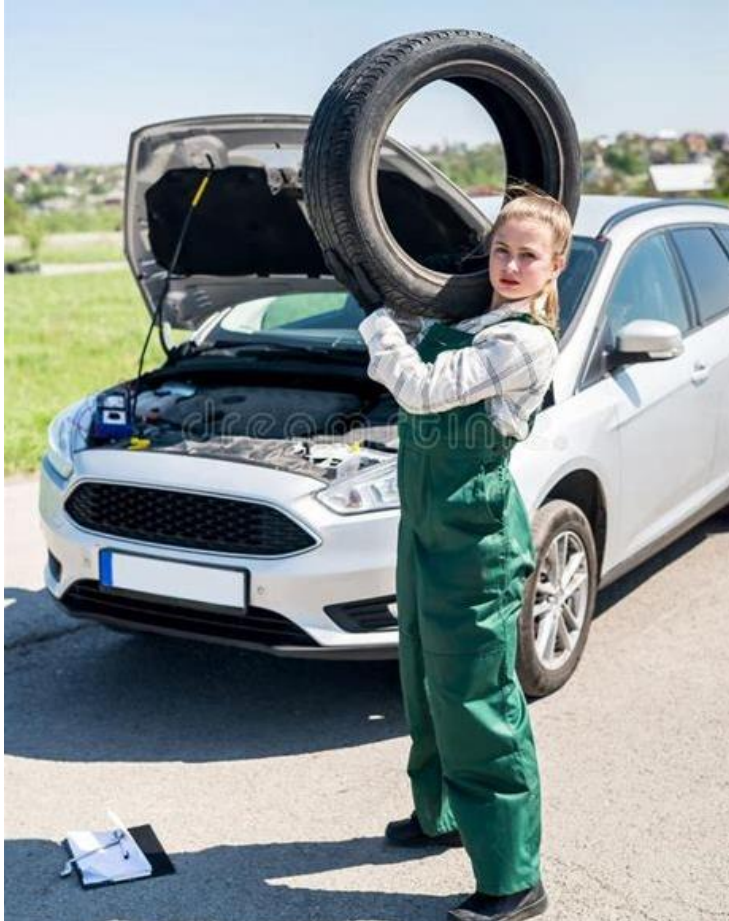
Signed to Atlantic in the early 1970s, Daryl Hall & John Oates have sold more records than any other duo in music history. Their 1973 album, *Abandoned Luncheonette*, produced by Arif Mardin, yielded the Top 10 single, "She's Gone," which also went to #1 on the R&B charts when it was covered by Tavares.

The duo recorded one more album with Atlantic, *War Babies* (produced by Todd Rundgren) before they signed to RCA. Their tenure at RCA would catapult Daryl and John to international superstardom.

Sara Smile <https://youtu.be/nOFCTFXn6xE>

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Who Says Women Can't Change Tires?



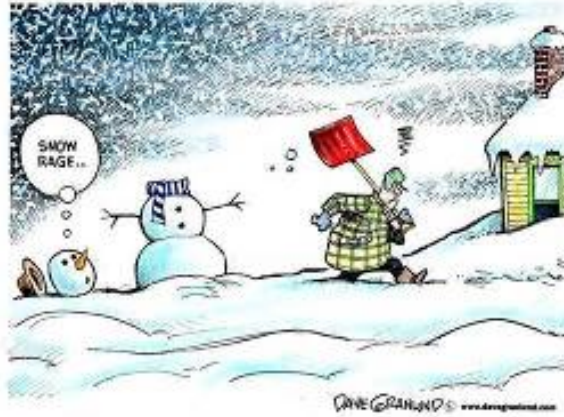
https://youtu.be/i86U0_7ZocU

Triple A should take lessons from this one.

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Posters that Say a Lot About Life in the Slow Lane



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Adriana Ruhman, a Talent on the Doorstep



<https://www.facebook.com/adriana.ruhman.5/videos/1004593020453481>

Adriana (Mia) is one of my granddaughter Chelsea's best friends who have collaborated on a number of drama projects. The video is of one of her compositions being practiced under the baton of Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra's maestro, Gustavo Dudamel.

This is Mia singing Kim Arnesen's Misericordia.

<https://www.facebook.com/Miaruhman/videos/451575692403483>

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Michigan Plan Wireless Charging Road for Electric Vehicles

By Jack Nissen



A wireless charging road system.

Photo courtesy of Electreon.

LANSING, Mich. - Michigan has finalized a contract to build the country's first wireless charging road system in Detroit, the state announced Tuesday.

The Michigan Department of Transportation awarded the project to Electreon, an electric vehicle solutions firm that will construct a 1-mile stretch of road open to the public and capable of charging battery-powered cars and trucks in real time.

The road where it will be built hasn't been selected yet, the state said. It will be located somewhere in Detroit.

The innovative road will be hosted by Ford inside its Michigan Central Station, which is part of the automaker's mobility innovation district. DTE and the city of Detroit will also be part of the project

"As we aim to lead the future of mobility and electrification by boosting electric vehicle production and lowering consumer costs, a wireless in-road charging system is the next piece to the puzzle for sustainability," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "I am happy to see Michigan lead and keep building on these ground-breaking initiatives creating new business opportunities and high-tech jobs. Together, we will continue growing our economy and putting Michiganders first."

The project is scheduled to be operational in 2023. Whitmer announced the initiative at Motor Bella in 2021.

Once complete, it will enable cars, trucks, and public transit options that carry batteries to recharge without stopping.

The contract represents the state's interest in developing electric vehicle infrastructure. It also showcases just how far facets of the industry are lagging behind the goal of electrifying vehicles as charging stations are still seldom available to drivers.

"We are proud and thankful to be selected by the Michigan Department of Transportation to lead and implement the first wireless electric road system in the United States," said Stefan Tongur, vice president of Electreon. "We're excited to be transferring our success in wireless charging for a variety of electric fleets - from cars to buses and heavy-duty trucks - to this innovative project. There's important work ahead with our partners in Detroit to develop scalable, 'plug-free' charging that will future-proof the city's EV infrastructure."

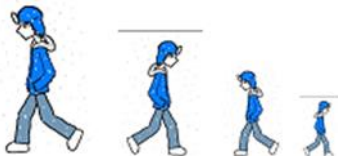
MDOT will provide \$1.9 million in funding for the pilot project. Electreon will provide the remainder.

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My Walking Thoughts

March 6, 2021

The Educated Child in a Free Society



Below are responses representative of those I received on the state of our educational systems' preparedness for meeting the challenge.

While they take different forms and come from different areas of the country, they point to two significant areas of concern: *parental involvement* and *governmental (political) interference*

Help for both of these lay within our reach if we are able to raise public concern to the level of action...no easy task, but certainly possible if we have the will.

Where do we start?

Through communications:

By talking with family, friends, neighbors, workplaces, community organizations...even perfect strangers from the top of a soapbox for that matter.

By organizing discussion groups before or in conjunction with parents' nights.

By letting our local government leaders know that they have the power, authority, and absolute requirement to put the needs of their constituents before the agenda of higher level politicians and administrators whose interests may be foreign or inimical to community interests and needs.

By demanding that local school board members pay strict attention to the performance of teachers and administrators in meeting the true needs of students within their jurisdictions.

Where do we go from there?

The Ballot Box.

We need to let our elected officials (clear up to the one who sits in the Oval Office) know they face no greater task than the care, welfare, and effective preparation of our children in order for them to meet the challenges they will face throughout their lives...that not only is this a moral and fiduciary responsibility, their failure to meet the challenge will have unforgivable and everlasting consequences.

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Some Comments

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In the late 1990s, I was on the Executive Committee and the Board of the California Science Center foundation, at that time a worthy institution in Los Angeles supporting the Science Center in LA. The Center was also supported partially by the State of California. Its most worthy accomplishment was that it was free to the public. They encouraged and supported public schools to bus children during the day. You probably don't know it but those trips require cash before such a trip can happen. Twenty years ago, that was around \$500.

One of the Science Centers goals was to build and open a first through fifth elementary school. The school was going to be state-of-the-art and would have a curriculum designed by experts and built around math, science and technology. Because I ran an executive search firm, I volunteered to recruit a Headmaster and 33 teachers for this

project. The school was set to be an independent charter school. I used this plan as a recruiting tool to attract the best teachers, actually pulling some out of the Beverly Hills school system. The schools around the Science Center annually receive rating scores of 300 to 350 on a scale of 1 to 1,000. We were going to pull kids from this area and planned to reach a rating of 850 and become a national model within ten years. Once word got out, we had students lined up to be part of this program. Little did I know that the President of the Science Center struck a deal with LA Unified School District to change from an independent charter school to a modified charter school. This meant the LA Unified had overall control of the school. This President, who was a State employee, sold the school down the river to satisfy some politicians and the teachers union.

Within one year, most of the teachers I hired quit. The Principal left after two years. LA Unified cancelled the curriculum we created and installed the same old useless stuff that didn't work at the surrounding schools. Worse, they stopped the classes from coordinating with the Science Center staff in using this science-oriented facility to teach the students.

I left the Board in 2009. At that time the Science Center School had a rating of 550, a failure in my eyes, but they were delighted with the 200 point bump.

I am a firm believer in what is wrong with education are the parents. My second choice for a major problem is the teachers' unions.

Why do Asian children do so well, and others may not; the parents. You can dwell on the "whoa is me, we need special help" complaints all you want, but if the parents aren't pushing their kids, helping with homework, and attending parent/teacher meetings, nothing will change.

I worked for the City of Los Angeles, in their Personnel Department. One day I was asked to help a young man who didn't pass an exam. He grew up in LA and attended and graduated from one of the local high schools. As I discussed other types of entry level employment opportunities with him, he told me ehe couldn't read. I was shocked and asked him how he managed to advance in school, and he said that the teachers always passed him.

Thanks to the teachers' unions protecting incompetent teachers, we have schools dumbed down to the lowest denominator. Parents who can afford to send their kids to private school do so for this reason.

Our state leaders, Governor and legislators, have usurped local (county) elected school boards' authority across health, curriculum and parent oversight of these matters. We have become an authoritarian state prohibiting any discussion of race or gender in any

context that might make a student feel uncomfortable and have given parents the ability to sue teachers if they cross this line. This list goes on.

Critical thinking in a historical or social context is clearly not encouraged. Really sad!!!!

Perhaps the real issue is how seriously parents take their children's education and what they do in addition to the school offerings. We are fortunate to live in a county with a highly rated school system and many motivated parents. Which is not to say we are naive about the different education students of different abilities and motivations receive. But it is parents who must push school systems to aspire.

I don't think there is a sentient being in the universe who is not concerned about what has happened to education in the US.

Not one of us has the solution, but if we can get enough people to see the disaster we've allowed to take place before our eyes--with our blessing be it nothing more than neglect--perhaps we can recoup.

My children and grandchildren have all attended small schools, so my views reflect the small-town plight. For a couple of my grandchildren their graduating class was less than a dozen students and the total number of teachers in the high school was eight. Many of their classes were online.

I have asked teachers for learning objectives only to get a dumbfounded stare. Only one could produce them at all and in that case, they were only two weeks out rather than for the entire school year.

I helped my son with an algebra problem on his homework and the teacher marked the answer as wrong. I knew the answer was correct, so I went to see the teacher and was told that it was wrong because I used a method of solving the problem that was different than the method she was teaching.

I asked her to teach me her methodology so that I might help him in the future--I was met with a blank stare.

This area is a tourist area and schools are driven by the wants of the local business community. They want smiling faces, cheap labor, and tremendous profits. If you can bus or wait tables, run a cash register, make beds, clean a mirror you can get a job. But if you are a single mother you will have to pay more in childcare than your job pays you.

Some suggestions

1. Dissolve the teacher's union.
2. Promote Charter schools, especially in low income neighborhoods.
3. Do away with tenure. Judge teachers on their performance.
4. Create standardized testing.
5. Use more contractors for building and grounds up-keep. Schools need to reduce the number of employees.
6. Make school a year-around business, a minimum of 225 days per year.
7. Jam the school grounds wi-fi/cell tower access whenever classes are in session.
8. All children must speak English prior to being put into the regular system.

I'm a teacher. I have a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education with a minor in Human Development. I graduated with an endorsement in English as a Second Language and I'm one term away from earning my Masters of Science in Curriculum and Instruction. Let me explain what is happening in this state right now and why it's making teachers angry.

These current bills are masquerading as a fight for transparency in education. It states that districts, schools, and educators must make their curriculum and standards available to their stakeholders (i.e. parents and the general public). The proponents of this bill are aggressively spreading the narrative that educators are trying to hide their lessons from parents. They are being sneaky in an attempt to indoctrinate your students. This is absolute hogwash.

The reality is that curriculum materials and state standards have *always* been available to the public. Have you ever looked? I can show you where to find them. You could look up every standard for every subject K-12. This has never been a problem. So why are teachers mad?

This bill requires teachers to submit a year's worth of lesson plans for "approval." Changes to these lesson plans must be submitted five days in advance for "approval." Otherwise, the teacher could be subject to discipline in some way or another.

This strips teachers of the ability to change their lesson plans to meet the needs of their students. I have literally had to change a lesson plan *in the middle of teaching it* because my students were missing core skills that needed to be reviewed. I've had to extend a lesson into two or more days because students were struggling, we had a snow day, we had a last minute assembly, library was rescheduled, a teacher was absent and a sub didn't show so we had to figure out how to take care of those students, etc., etc., etc.

I am a teacher. I have spent years learning how to adapt curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of my students. Students I spend 7 hours a day with 9 months out of the year. And now I need approval from someone who has never met my students, never been in my classroom, and has no clue what they need. And this is what you think will make education better? Having your child's teacher and lessons controlled by people who have never spent one minute with your child? Taking away a teacher's

ability to meet the needs of the individual students in their classroom. That's what we will be getting.

Do your research. Talk to a teacher or two. Think about who benefits here. Because I can tell you right now it is not teachers, schools, or students. Teacher working conditions are student learning conditions. Let us teach. Let us do the job we are professionally trained to do.

The one I feel speaks most directly to the issue is the following:

During a discussion with a local school principal, he told me they encourage those students graduating in the bottom rankings in the class to go into the Army.

I reminded him that those very students are the ones operating and maintaining some of the most sophisticated weapons and computer systems in the world...and doing it well.

I suggested that the problem in educating those students was not their capacity for learning but instead involved motivation or lack thereof on the part of our education system.

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I am not--nor should any of us be--through with this discussion. As a next step I want to hear from you not only what you think and have done, but are doing to further your local education system's effectiveness.

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