

Ideas Whose Time Has Not Come

When some family member carelessly throws their clothes into the laundry hamper, without first checking the pockets for any facial tissues, any overlooked tissue will, of course, get washed and dried with the family's clothes. One of two things will happen. Either the careless family member will find a facial tissue cocoon in their pocket the next time they wear the same article of clothing, or, whoever takes the load of clothes out of the dryer will find that facial tissue (Can we just say Kleenex, regardless of the brand?) has disintegrated into a thousand tiny pieces and clung to everything in the load. In the latter case, what a mess. Of course, no one ever owns up to the crime, and there never enough evidence to convict anyone. Your only hope is to accuse every member of the family point blank and hope one of them confesses. Until they do, I have a product that will bring the perpetrator to justice. Introducing "Smart Kleenex." Smart Kleenex ensures that any disintegrated facial tissue will only cling to the clothing from whence it came! When you pull that mess out of the dryer, simply hand it back to the guilty party. Denials will be useless because each Smart Kleenex has heat-activated adhesive fibers laced throughout the tissue. Thousands of soon-to-be patented "Memory Nodes" spaced at uniform intervals guarantee that no matter how much the tissue disintegrates, each particle will find its way home! Every Smart Kleenex tissue has a tiny, embedded chip which it quickly sheds into whatever shirt or pants pocket it is placed in. Through wi-fi, this chip causes each Memory Node in the tissue to permanently identify with its host clothing. The cost of this ground-breaking product may seem pricey to all but the most affluent. Like other new technologies, though, the cost is guaranteed to come down after it catches on to maybe \$2,000 a box. I guess that would still make the cost of a single tissue around \$10. Yikes. Oh well, it was an idea. I may turn my attention to studying why Kleenex will consolidate in the wash one day and explode the next day. . . if I can get someone to fund the research.

I'm sorry, but the current movie rating system needs to be overhauled. The few existing categories- three really- are entirely too broad. Technically, there are five categories, but nobody makes G-rated movies anymore because who wants pay to see wholesomeness when all they have to do is look around, right? On the opposite end of the scale, only the most depraved watch X-rated movies because even your garden-variety sicko can see everything they want in an R-rated movie. I know that the specific cautions that accompany PG and PG-13 ratings are supposed to help, but by ignoring warnings like "brief strong language" and "intense action sequences," audiences have become impervious to them. Besides, they don't really get to the heart (or lack thereof) of the film and the filmmakers. Here are a few examples of movie ratings specific enough to let any potential viewer know exactly what they can expect to see, apprising them of whether the movie is worthy of their time and money.

- AMALJMPSTSHGOOYA – Adults Males Acting Like Juvenile Morons Pulling Stunts They Should Have Grown Out Of Years Ago. You see, this is self-explanatory.

Prospective audiences could take one look at this rating and know exactly what they are getting!

- POFFTIALTJMCITP – Packs O Females Flaunting Their Independence, Acting Like Their Juvenile Male Counterparts In The Process. Enough said.
- AMOES-CCTCLLTSLFTP – A Magical Or Extraterrestrial Semi-Cuddly Creature Teaching Children Life Lessons They Should Have Learned From Their Parents. Just saying.
- SHCSTPBCHCDITP – Super-Human Creatures Saving The Planet But Causing Horrendous Collateral Damage In The Process. Never gets old, or does it?

Ahh, I think I've talked myself out of paying good money for movie tickets, anyway.

No wait! How about this? We use a similar method for screening video games. The ratings under the current system are way too generic and do a poor job of reflecting the reality of what the makers and advertisers want you to purchase.

- T-WBHA - This will replace most E ratings. It means that you are in for time-wasting, but harmless amusement.
- NSHBPTYBIM - This will replace most T ratings. It means that no amount of playing time on this game will result in serious harm other than possibly turning your brain into mush.
- GUBBAMM - this will replace most M ratings. It means that you will have to mature or "grow up" before you are allowed to slaughter people or creatures at a pace any mass murderer would envy.

On second thought, I can see me getting my eyeballs sued out for even suggesting this. Forget I mentioned it.

In many of this country's major cities an overabundance of vehicles clog the roads. Many motorists take taxis instead, but sometimes an overabundance of taxis choke the roads, especially downtown. And in the middle of this mess student drivers need to cut their teeth. I propose combining the taxicab and drivers' training industries to cut down on the number of cars. The student drivers will be the taxicab drivers! No really, it will be great. The driving instructor riding shotgun can navigate and handle the money to expedite things, enabling the student to focus on traffic. Fares would be reduced because the school would only need enough money to stay afloat. Oh sure, you take your chances. It's like getting your hair done at barber school- it becomes an exciting experience. You haven't lived until some greenhorn is cutting your hair while their supervisor stands behind them shouting, "No, no, you fool." Of course there's a difference between getting jagged bangs and cracking up on the highway. Come to think of it, I seriously doubt that any insurance company would be dumb enough to cover the Student Driver Taxi business. Never mind. I'm a problem solver. I see an unworkable situation and I get busy coming up with a fix. Well there is a problem at traffic intersections. Drivers don't signal, so you think that they are going to continue going straight, but they don't; they turn, creating an unsafe situation. Enter "The Straight Blinker." If automobile manufacturers were required to install this

light in the middle of each car grill, then motorists could not only signal their intentions to turn left or right, but also to go straight. You see someone with their straight blinker engaged and you don't have to wonder whether they are going to turn or not. Of course, they may have accidentally left their straight blinker on from the previous intersection. And I guess the same people who fail to engage their left or right turn signals would also not bother to flip their straight blinker either. In that case, you still would have no idea what they are going to do. Hmmmmm. I'll give it some more thought.