

IMCZ NEWS



MAY 2016



EDITORIAL

Waiting for the Summer

Notwithstanding the hail and snow showers we have been having lately, and not to mention the unusually low temperatures still haunting us, we did manage to hold the last Stammtisch outside in the gardens of City Garden hotel. It only goes to show that April lives up to its reputation. Not only was the Stammtisch the first to be held outdoors this year, it was the first a get-together with our sister club, the ZIWC (Zug International Women's Club) after a pause of two years. We all are delighted that the tradition of joint meetings has been revived.

For most of us, the summer months, are the time of the year when we catch up with our long awaited and meticulously planned holidays. We wish all members happy and safe holidays, and look forward to seeing many if not all of you at the annual barbecue towards the end of the summer on August 21st.

Muthana Kubba
Editor

newsletter@imcz.com



FUTURE EVENTS

- **THURSDAY MAY 12TH • New Members' Reception,** *Introducing all new members, all members are invited.*
Venue: Restaurant Im Hof, Zeughausgasse 18, Zug, Tel 041 710 43 43; 18:00-21:00 hours.
Finger foods, soft drinks and beer are sponsored by IMCZ.
- **TUESDAY MAY 17TH • ZIWC Spring Book Sale**
at the Guthirt, Guthirtstr. 1, 6300 Zug, 16:00-19:00 hours
- Ms Joanna Brown at books@ziwc.ch
- **WEDNESDAY MAY 18TH • Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre, Meierskappel** *Stephen Butterworth*
- **SUNDAY MAY 22ND • Visit to Seleger Moor,**
Rifferswil 10:30 am Ram Ramphal
- **WEDNESDAY JUNE 15TH • Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre, Meierskappel** *Stephen Butterworth*
- **SUNDAY AUGUST 21ST • Annual Barbecue** *at the Siehbachsaal, 6300 Zug 12:00-16:00 hours Ram Ramphal*



YOUR NEWSLETTER GOES PUBLIC

The board had decided to make the current Newsletter available to everyone.

Visitors to our site imcz.com can read the current Newsletter under About Us -> Current Newsletter

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IMCZ

Introducing...New members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Fabio Guglielmi

Fabio hails from Italy. He was born in Sorrento on the Amalfi Coast but grew up in New York. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy and a Master's Degree in Finance and International Business. He is also a Certified Public Accountant in the USA. Fabio started his career with KPMG in the New York City office. He then worked for the last twenty five years in various senior financial executive roles for The Reader's Digest Association and the CNH Industrial Group. He moved to Switzerland in 2011 to take the position of Chief Accounting Officer of CNHI International SA based in Lugano. He is also Chief Accounting Officer for the Asia Pacific Region for the CNH Industrial Group. In his free time he plays golf and tennis with his life partner Charlotte. He also enjoys the outdoors and spending time in the mountains and the ocean. Fabio also likes to travel and learn about various cultures. He looks forward to meeting many individuals from different cultures and backgrounds at the IMCZ. Fabio is a native Italian speaker. In addition he speaks fluent English and is eager to learn fluent German. He resides in Zug with Charlotte daughter Nina (16) and son Thomas (13).



Tom Albright

Tom is a dual American/Swiss citizen. He grew up in western New York State in the USA and moved to Switzerland in 1988 for a 6-month assignment, but ended up marrying his wife, Brigitte (Swiss), and staying "forever". Their home is in Männedorf, where they live with their two adult children, who are currently completing their studies. Tom has recently retired after working for 44 years with General Motors. His career began in the US and later brought him to Switzerland and Germany. He held responsibilities for product and business planning as well as supply chain management. He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Stanford University. Tom enjoys golf, travel, films, reading, spending time with family and friends, and meeting new people.



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Compiled by IMCZ Newsletter editor, Muthana Kubba

IMCZ

Introducing...New members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Frank Grothaus

Frank hails from Germany and relocated to the Geneva region in 2010. Since then he has worked for international organizations in the area of international trade and sustainable development with focus on sustainability standards, agricultural commodities and emerging economies in Asia. He acquired legal education in German law, International and European law and has studied consecutively in Germany, the Netherlands and China. He recently moved to the Zurich area and hopes to make more friends and would like to explore new professional opportunities. In his free time Frank likes to do sports (running, tennis, hiking and more recently also skiing), has a passion for travelling and (in particular Asian) food and likes to spend time with family and friends. Frank is happy to have become a IMCZ member in March and is looking forward to meeting all of you at upcoming events.



David Sutton

David hails from the UK, and relocated to Switzerland from Manchester in 2010, with his Swiss wife Lucy, and their two children. Now they live in Richterswil, very close to Lucy's family and friends. David is a Senior Sales Professional with over 25 years experience in consumer packaged goods, real estate and software. He worked for 14 years in the UK for what is now the world's biggest brewer, Anheuser-Busch InBev. He then spent 7 enjoyable years running his successful UK Property Development company prior to moving to Switzerland where he worked for a Swiss Technology company up until 2014. For the last 2 years he has both consulted on UK property investments, and further invested in his own UK property portfolio. He is now, however, actively looking for gainful employment. David loves living here in Switzerland. His hobbies include snowboarding, biking, hiking, and international travel. He also loves football, cricket and rugby, although more now as a spectator than competitor!



Horst Maack

Horst hails from Hamburg, Germany. After completing his studies in Process Plant Engineering in 1967 he moved to the UK and worked as Polymer application researcher with I.C.I. Ltd. (Imperial Chemical Industries). He left them after 4 years and moved to Switzerland to work for 10 years at Dow Chemical. In 1980 he founded his own Polymer Consulting Company supported by an international group of polymer experts. They developed novel plastic films and the first all-plastic barrier food cans. He spearheaded international congresses on polymer markets and applications in Amsterdam, Zürich, Düsseldorf, Dubai and Davos, the latter with focus on recycling. In 2010 he sold his company to the international US consulting group IHS. Since then he has remained active in specific global polymer and application business development support. His hobbies include deep-sea snorkeling, wind-surfing, swimming, skiing, and lately E-biking. He is passionately interested in tea, especially high purity "Demeter" teas, and regularly visits tea plantations in China, India and Sri Lanka. For the past 20 years, his wife has run a tea business (and shop) for speciality leaf teas in Davos. Additionally he loves to look after his six grandchildren, who luckily all now live in Switzerland.



Meet and Greet

On a bright afternoon on Thursday April 21st, the regulars of our club, together with several irregulars, gathered at our usual venue in the City Garden Hotel. This time, however, there was nothing usual about the meeting. After a pause of over two years, we are having the pleasure of meeting and greeting members of our sister club the ZIWC.

Soon after we started chatting, laughing and sipping our drinks, Margareta, our President's wife who is also a member of the ZIWC, suggested we move out to the veranda and enjoy the fresh air. In no time tables and chairs were rearranged, our club poster and two standing tables were set up and the evening went off to a roaring start with many members of both clubs joining in.

One has to agree that the service at the City Garden is second to none. Not only were the drinks served promptly, potato chips and peanuts were amply provided and to top it all, Tapas or small snacks were served as well and the best part of it all, is that, except for the drinks, it was all on the house.

It was a great evening, and all agreed we should keep it up, once every three months.



IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member bios are posted under the following link: <http://www.imcz.com/nc/about-us/board-members/board-members-2016.html>. Go ahead and check them out!

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Special Stammtisch April 14, 2016

This month's special Stammtisch presentation was given by IMCZ member Marcel Brussee on Thursday April 14 at the City Garden Hotel. Marcel is a Dutch citizen but has been working and residing in Switzerland for a long time. He has been a member of our club since 2011.



Marcel's speciality is 'Pharmaceutical Intelligence', and he has worked with major international corporations. He decided to found his own business after his employer decided to relocate to the UK. At present his focus is on Market Intelligence, and his speech this evening was entitled, **"An Introduction to Behavioural Economics"**.

By describing several examples, he managed to hold the attention of the audience throughout his speech. Most of us related very much to the virtual situations he portrayed. Here is an example which conveys the gist of the issue at hand. Two different cases of very low risk situations:



Case I

Suppose you have exposed yourself to a rare fatal disease. If you contract the disease you will die a quick and painless death sometime next week. The chance you will get the disease is 1 in 1,000. I have a single dose of an antidote for this disease that I will sell to the highest bidder. If you take this antidote, the risk of dying from the disease goes to zero. What is the most you would be willing to pay for this antidote?

Case II

Researchers at the university hospital are doing some research on that same rare disease. They need volunteers who would be willing to simply walk into a room for five minutes and expose themselves to the same 1 in 1,000 risk of getting the disease and dying a quick and painless death in the next week. No antidote will be available. What is the least amount of money you would demand to participate in this research study?

It is interesting to compare the results of the two almost identical risk situations. In theory, the price should be same, since the risk is the same in both cases. In practice, however, nothing could be further away from the theoretical predictions. On average for case I USD 2'000,- were offered, but upward of USD 500'000,- was demanded for case II.

He continued with more examples to illustrate emotionally motivated behaviour, and its consequences on marketing. The full transcript of his speech is available under this link [Marcel Brussee](#).

All in all it was an interesting and very informative evening. Many thanks Marcel.

Marcel has now his own consultancy, SMILE, Strategic Market Intelligence and Leadership Excellence.

For further reading to those interested in following up on the subject, he recommends the following books,

[Thinking, Fast and Slow](#) by Daniel Kahneman

[Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness](#) by Richard H Thaler and Cass R Sunstein

[Misbehaving: The Story of Behavioral Economics](#) by Richard Thaler



Strategic Market Intelligence
and Leadership Excellence

Marcel Brussee
Zug / Zürich, Switzerland

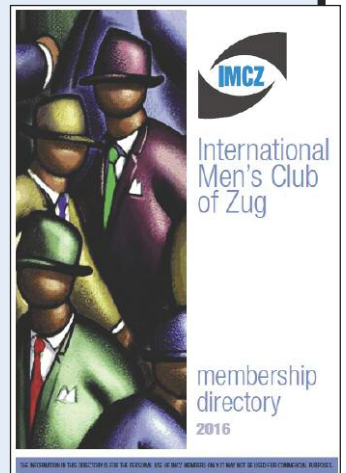
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Membership Directory

The 2016 issue of the IMCZ directory has just been published, and mailed to all regular members. In case you haven't received your copy, please contact a member of the board.

There is a wealth of information in it:

- Names and addresses of all members
- The Club's constitution
- Hobbies. For each hobby all those who have indicated it are shown.
- Postal Codes. For every postal code, the members living there are shown.
- Nationalities. For each nationality the names of members are shown.
- Companies. All companies associated with any members, are shown together with the names of the members involved.





Special Stammtisch April 28, 2016

Driving today and in the Future All you need to know about Swiss Roads



IMCZ member Dr. Rainer Riek, attorney-at-law and Public Notary in Zug (www.zwplaw.ch), gave a lively presentation in Park Hotel on driving in Switzerland. Although we were all vaguely aware of the rules, he certainly helped to underline the salient points and traps which we might fall into. Basically there are three speed limits we have to be aware of, and be careful not to exceed a threshold, above which you may lose your driving licence, not to mention having to pay disproportionately high fines.

At 50 km/h (in town) speed limit, the threshold you must not exceed is 65 km/h, at 80 km/h (out of town) it is 100 km/h and at 120 km/h (highway) it is 145 km/h. For lesser speed offences, there are still fines and driving bans, but you don't lose your licence. All the intricacies of speeding and fines were brilliantly illustrated in a most ingenious visiting card size device. It folds in an amazing number of ways illustrating all possible cases with their legal consequences. It is highly recommended for those who drive a lot. Keeping it in your pocket and checking on it now and again is an excellent prophylactic against speeding.

We also learned that in case of an accident, there are a few golden rules to remember. If there are no injuries, there is no need to involve the police. Filling in the Euro-protocol usually suffices. What you must never do, is leave the scene of an accident, which involves only your own vehicle, if damages are involved. Always inform the owner of damaged goods (if any) and if you cannot find him immediately, call the police.

All in all, it was a very informative and entertaining evening, many thanks Rainer.



SALE

Tues. 17 May 2016

Time: 4–7pm

Used English Books



Venue: Gut Hirt
Pfarreiheim,
Guthirtstrasse 1
6300 Zug

Refreshments
available
Coffee, tea, eats.



Any questions, book donations or voluntary helpers on the day
please contact: Joanna Brown at: books@ziwc.ch

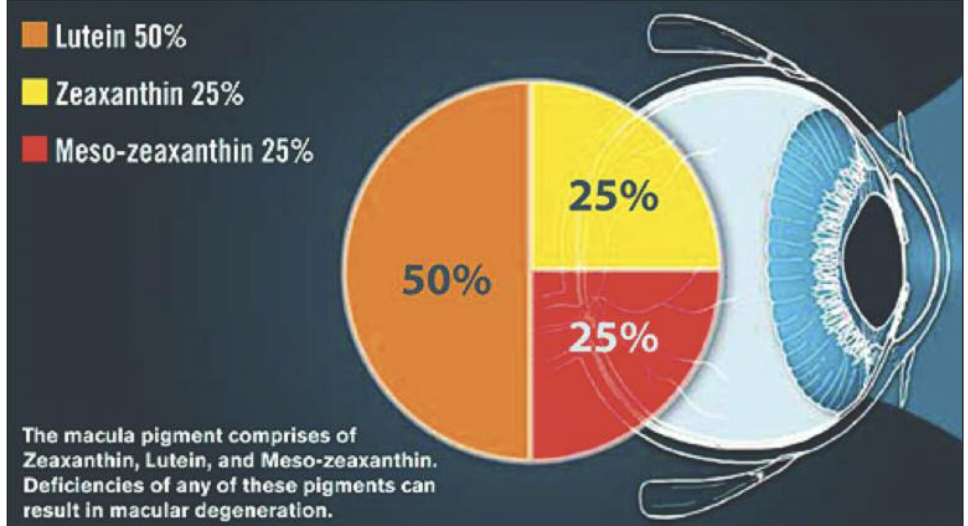


How nutrients may influence your visual performance

Contributed by IMCZ member Remo P. Jutzeler van Wijlen, Head R&D Sponser Sports Food Ing. Appl Food Sciences, MAS Nutrition & Health ETHZ

Visual performance is not only dependent on the age-related ability of the eye to focus in and out, but also on nutritional and (who would doubt it) genetic factors. Major elements of visual performance are contrast acuity, light scatter, and image quality. Furthermore, daylight, outdoor and night vision are influenced by our tolerance to short-wave light and glare. Glare tolerance depends on macular pigment optical density (MPOD), which in turn depends on macular xanthophyll deposition and, consequently, the intake thereof. Xanthophylls are yellow pigments that occur widely in nature and belong to the carotenoids. Lutein and zeaxanthin are the most prominent molecules of this group because of their beneficial effect on age-related macular degeneration (AMD). AMD is the most common cause of grave vision losses and blindness in age, with growing prevalence due to increasing life expectancy.

Xanthophylls play a role in the photosynthetic light-harvesting complexes of algae and some plants. They are also involved in protecting against photodamage, a function that is also important in the human eye and modulated by the previously mentioned MPOD. Supplementation with the two xanthophylls lutein and zeaxanthin increases macular pigment by 20-50% over a six-month period. However, high MPOD also improves several aspects of visual performance in healthy individuals such as photophobia, glare sensitivity and contrast acuity.

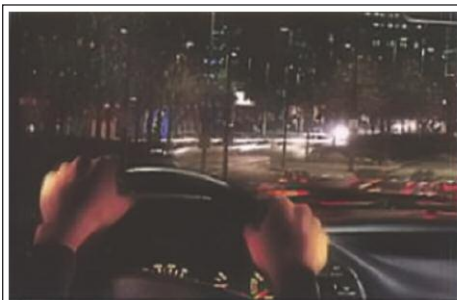


The condition of photophobia is defined by discomfort or pain in the eyes due to oversensitivity to light exposure. Lutein and zeaxanthin may provide greater tolerance to short-wave light. Similarly, the absorption of short-wave blue haze energy permits better discrimination of distant objects, resulting in improved outdoor vision. Glare reduces one's ability to see oncoming vehicles or vehicles in the rear view mirror, or limits distance view because of reduced contrast acuity. Headlight glare is a leading cause of night time car accidents. It takes a typical person ten seconds to recover from headlight glare at night, and

this time increases with age. People with higher MPOD tolerate a higher glaring light intensity and have shorter photostress recovery times.

Contrast acuity is particularly essential for distinguishing objects in dim light conditions. Increased MPOD reduces blurred signals from the rods, one type of photoreceptor in the eye.

Improved vision performance is not only beneficial for safety reasons, e.g. in traffic, but also offers advantages in outdoor sports such as tennis, golf, beach volleyball etc. The potential advantage could be crucial for the competitive performance of athletes. Moreover, visual recovery from over-exposure to fluorescent lighting and computer monitors is another potential benefit, which makes it worthwhile to think over one's daily intake of carotenoid-rich food. Dark green leafy vegetables like broccoli, spinach and kale are rich sources, as are orange pepper and kiwi.



No Glare



Simulated Glare



The Exam that Wouldn't End...

AI, a Curse or a Blessing?

Contributed by IMCZ
honorary member
and Newsletter editor
Muthana Kubba

Yes you guessed it right, we are not referring to Appenzell Innerrhoden but to Artificial Intelligence. No less than [Stephen Hawking](#), Elon Musk, Steve Wozniak and Bill Gates have warned in the strongest possible terms of the dangers to humanity artificial intelligence poses. The warnings from the top notch people, who really should know better, are increasing both in frequency and urgency. Hay, you would probably say, you can't be serious: how can a machine which we build and control ourselves, be a danger to humanity? We can always pull the plug out!



Five years ago, in the March 2010 issue of this Newsletter, I wrote an article on the "Technological Singularity" in which I visited the ideas of a certain Mr. [Ray Kurzweil](#), which he outlined in his book, "[The Singularity is near](#)". Well Mr. Kurzweil is no ordinary, run of the mill scientist. (All previous Newsletters are available on-line on our [website](#)).

By any standard Kurzweil is one of the most brilliant visionaries alive. Born in 1948 in New York, graduated in 1970 from MIT, he soon became one of the most prolific inventors: he pioneered OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and [text to speech synthesis](#) (try it, even in your native tongue, it worked perfectly with Arabic). Apart from 20 honorary doctorates awarded to him as well as honours from three US Presidents, he received the world's top prizes for innovation: the \$ 500'000 MIT Lemelson Prize, the world's largest for innovation, as well as the Economist's Innovation award. However, his by far greatest achievement was his best-selling book in 2006, "The Singularity is near". In his epic book, he predicted that at the rate computer memory size is increasing, and the ability of the software to use this memory effectively is evolving, that by the year 2029 computers will pass the [Turing test](#) (whereby you cannot tell whether you are communicating with a machine or a human). The Turing Test was visited and discussed in detail in the January 2015 issue of this Newsletter.

On the same exponential scale, he predicted that by the year 2045 computer (artificial) intelligence will be comparable with that of humans. He called such point of time, "[The Singularity](#)", borrowing from

the mathematical term designating infinity (e.g. any number divided by zero).

Unlike the prophets of doom, he predicted that when artificial intelligence approaches or exceeds that of humans, it will accelerate developments in such disciplines like biotechnology, nanotechnology, climatology, immunology etc. Artificial Intelligence and the prophets of doom were also discussed in detail in the March 2015 issue of this Newsletter. This article concentrates on AI as such, rather than on its likely or unlikely outcomes.

Almost ten years on

Well, almost ten years on, Kurzweil's predictions turned out to be rather pessimistic on the time scale and optimistic on the consequences. Machines have [passed the Turing test](#) this year, 14 years before Kurzweil predicted. Assuming the same rate, the singularity date will have to be modified downwards to 2025. This will make it within the lifetimes of even some present day octogenarians.

However, even if there is some controversy about whether the Turing Test has been passed or not, we are all agreed that it is only a matter of time, until it is finally indisputable.

What is Artificial Intelligence?

AI is very broad, but can be broadly classified in three distinct classes:

- Artificial Narrow Intelligence
- Artificial General Intelligence
- Artificial Super Intelligence

Many things which we take for granted these days come under the category of Narrow Intelligence. When you buy your son a chess computer, you are in fact buying an intelligent machine which can play chess at different levels which your son would choose himself, but it is good for one specific task only, playing chess. Knowing when to kick in, the ABS (Anti-lock Brake System) in your car, means it has intelligence, far exceeding human intelligence, but in one discipline only: preventing the car wheels from skidding. Even the spam filter in your email program has intelligence in deciding which email received is spam and which is not.

The self-driving car, on the other hand, can accomplish many tricky tasks at the same time: look ahead to ensure the road is clear, avoid obstacles, recognise speed limits, slow down, stop and accelerate.

It certainly has intelligence spread over many tasks, so it would belong to category "b", Artificial General Intelligence.

Intelligent network systems are another example of category "b" intelligence. Have you ever wondered how it is that Facebook seems to recommend just the right people for you to add as friends, or how Amazon seems to know the right products which might interest you. Another area where artificial intelligence is very much in evidence, are the voice recognition programs and the simultaneous translation abilities of the newest apps.

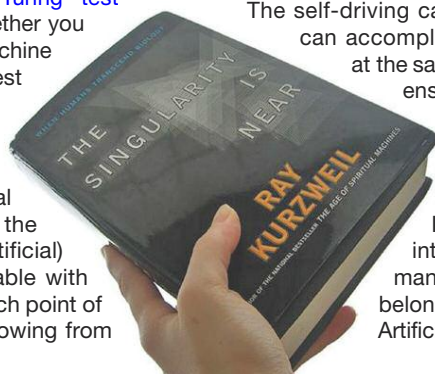
There is a fantastic function in 'Google Translate'. You point the camera of your iPhone at the text you are trying to understand. The text could be Chinese, Korean, Arabic, or virtually any other language. Using character recognition programs, Google recognises the text, translates and then displays the translation, and all this within a few milliseconds. It is extremely useful if you are in a foreign country which uses a non-Latin alphabet. This is, of course, another example of focussed intelligence of category "b".

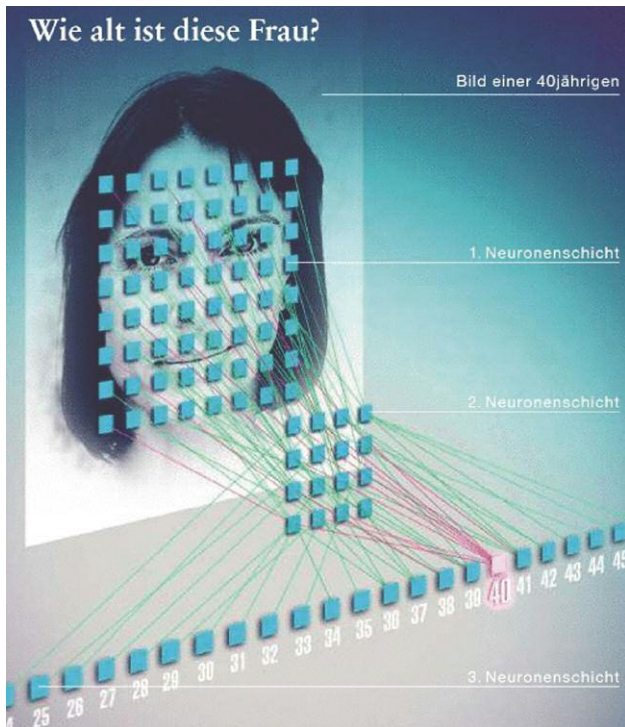
Super Intelligence

In category "c", we come to super intelligent machines. These are not computers in the classical sense which we know. They can't be programmed to do certain tasks. Instead they need to be taught the way we humans have learned from childhood onwards. They are also built differently; their architecture is similar to that of the human brain. They have layers with 'nodes' and every node each is connected to every other node in the next layer. They also have adjustable 'thresholds' so that if the input exceeds a certain level they 'fire' and send a signal to all other nodes it is connected to.

I know, it sounds exotic, but let us take a concrete example. We are trying to build a *device* which can estimate the age of a person by looking at his or her photo. This is a task which is easily performed by humans; in fact they are doing it all the time in their daily life especially when communicating with strangers. For a 'device' or a 'machine' or a 'computer' to perform this task is novel, even if we take into consideration that face recognition programs are very advanced and working successfully for quite some time.

On scanning the photo we get a raster of pixels, each pixel has its own colour and brightness and is connected to every node in the next layer as shown. Again each node in this layer is connected to every node in the next layer and so on. Although only three layers of nodes with few interconnections are shown, in reality there were 16-layers and 13 million connections. The computer was then taught how to guess ages, by scanning thousands of photos. For each photo the parameters of the nodes were adjusted so that the correct age was displayed, in the case of this photo, 40 years. At the end when a new photo is scanned, the computer compares the





computer has beaten the world champion in the elaborate Far Eastern game, **GO** this year. Deep Blue was based on brute force, calculating all possible moves and choosing the right one. AlphaGo on the other hand worked by analysing the situation, selecting a strategy and carefully choosing the right move. Brute force does not work with Go, the number of possible moves is astronomical. AlphaGo has been, however, specifically adjusted for this game. Its super intelligence is focussed, rather than spread to cover other disciplines. However, it is only a matter of a few more years and super intelligence will be with us.

Why can AI be dangerous?

It would probably be right to assume that most readers of

This was 15 years ago, now we know it was not fiction, but can become bitter reality.

The message is quite clear, and all the warnings of the top notch scientists are certainly justified. It is difficult for us humans to imagine such a scenario, a machine becoming superior to us. For one thing our brain is the most complex object in the whole known universe. With our brains, we can build skyscrapers, put a man on the moon and bring him back alive, send robots to Mars and receive live pictures from them. Intuitively, we would reject the notion that a machine of our creation should be superior to us. The problem is that we tend to think of intelligence in linear terms, whereas in reality it is exponential. The alarming side of it is that such super intelligent machines do not have a conscience or values, thus they could destroy humanity inadvertently in pursuing their goals. The challenge would be to build in and integrate values into such machines to prevent them from running wild.

parameters and comes out with its estimate, which turned out to be even better than the guess humans make.

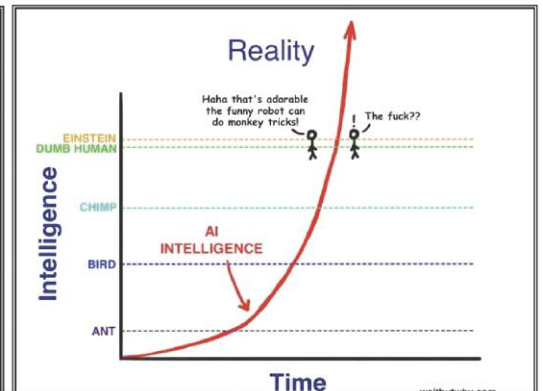
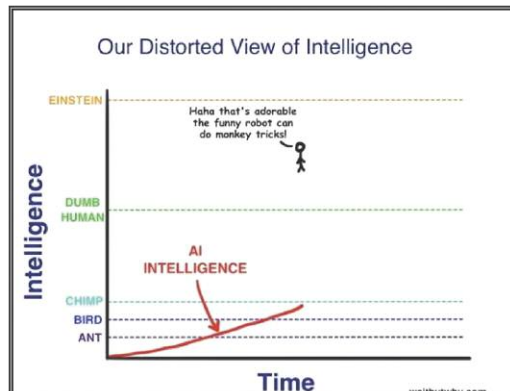
We therefore end up with a unique situation, where we do not really know how the computer guesses although we have built it ourselves. This is typical of neural networks. In fact you can have a bit of fun by trying it yourself. If you upload your photo to 'www.clarifai.com' it will give you a list of your attributes.

It is not hard to see that by expanding the neural networks, unlimited intelligence can be achieved. We are not there yet, but the clock is ticking, and at the rate progress in micro-electronics is taking place, we may see the first singularity in this or, at the latest, in the next decade.

We have gone a long way from 'Deep Blue', the IBM computer which beat the world chess champion Kasparov in 1996. Now the AlphaGo

this article know of or have seen or at least read about '2001 A Space Odyssey', a novel

In any case, it would be wise to err on the safe side, and take note of these warnings and choose suitable strategies to cap the potential hazards of such machines.



written by Arthur C. Clarke, and later made into an epic film by Stanley Kubrick. In it, a space ship computer called HAL9000, takes over from the astronauts, in order to fulfil the mission it was programmed to do. Of course in the film, the humans win at the end, but it could easily have gone the other way.

Further reading

The AI Revolution:
The Road to Superintelligence

Bill Gates on the dangers of AI

Stephen Hawking views on AI

Wikipedia articles on Super Intelligence
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HAL_9000
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superintelligence>

Das Duell, by Reto Schneider (in German),
NZZ Folio April 2016, Künstliche Intelligenz

How Long Until Computers Have the Same Power As the Human Brain?

Lake Michigan's volume (in fluid ounces) is about the same as our brain's capacity (in calculations per second). Computing power doubles every 18 months. At that rate, you see very little progress for a long time—and suddenly you're finished.



Cruising the Canaries, Part 3

Lanzarote *Contributed by IMCZ board member and Webmaster Roger Brooks with photos courtesy of ZIWC member Margareta Pfander*

Lanzarote

After the obligatory second sea day, to return to the Canaries after our side trip to Madeira, we made port in Arrecife, on the southeastern coast of Lanzarote, at around 8 AM on Thursday.

Lanzarote is the easternmost of the Canaries and accounts for a little more than a tenth of the Canaries' land area. Its name is purported to honor a Genovese sailor, [Lancelotto Malocello](#), who is credited with having (re-)discovered the Canaries in the early 13th century, while in the service of the Portuguese. However, after living there for two decades, he was expelled by the native Guanche, leaving the Canaries to be claimed for the Spanish

Natural Park Los Volcanes

We departed early by bus toward the Timanfaya National Park, the core of the Natural Park Los Volcanes. Most of the volcanoes in the park Los Volcanes are credited to the eruptions in the early 18th century. On our way to the Visitors' Centre at Mancha Blanca, the drive past San Bartolomé afforded us dramatic views of the antenna farm installation on Monte Mina to the east and the Montaña Blanca (White Mountain) and other volcanic mountains rising above the lava plain to the west.

Timanfaya National Park

Timanfaya National Park was founded 150 years after the last volcanic eruptions in the

1/3 of the island's 100 volcanoes. At the Visitors' Centre, we experienced a simulated volcanic eruption. I found the visual effects unimpressive, but it gave a good impression of the accompanying noise level and earthquakes. The Visitors' Centre also features relief maps of the area, interactive displays and depictions and explanations of the various types of volcanic landscape found in the area. Nearby is the site where the Virgin Mary (Nuestra Señora de los Volcanes) is credited with twice having halted the flow of lava, first during the 18th century eruptions and then again during the 19th century eruptions, sparing the village of Mancha Blanca.

Montaña Colorada

Our next stop was the Montaña Colorado, or "Colored Mountain". It owes its name to the bright rust color of its southeastern slope, which was where a large number of pyroclasts were deposited during the volcano's eruption. Most of these fused together, resulting in the relatively steep colored slope, but one very large one rolled some distance, resulting in the landmark called La Bomba. There is a path around the entire mountain, but we only walked as far as La Bomba and back. The northwest side of the mountain was covered by volcanic ash from the eruption and is therefore charcoal grey, almost black. Due to the fragile texture of the mountain's surface, it is forbidden to walk on it. Nonetheless we saw a few people winding their way up a well-worn spiral trail to the summit.



Montaña Blanca

nearly a century later by the French sailors mentioned in the first article of this series. Although it was briefly seized by the Ottomans in the late 16th century and was repeatedly raided by pirates in the 17th century, it remained under Spanish control.

early 19th century and was named after a village that was buried under the lava of the 18th century eruptions. The park is the core of the Natural Park Los Volcanes, site of around

Caldera de los Cuervos

We next visited the nearby Caldera de los Cuervos (Crater of the Crows). This crater is particularly interesting because it is one of the

Like the rest of the Canaries, Lanzarote is of volcanic origin, and it was in the early 18th century that some of the most severe volcanic eruptions on record took place here. About 3/4 of the island's area is covered by lava, 1/3 of this area having been covered by fresh lava from the eruptions of the 18th century. In a span of 5 1/2 years, the fresh lava covered 11 villages as well as the most fertile areas of the island. To add insult to injury, there was a drought in the second half of the 18th century, which resulted in a diaspora, distributing Lanzarotans to the Americas and the Caribbean, as well as to other islands in the Canaries.

Because Lanzarote is so low, (the highest peak is less than 700m high), it has an arid climate; the prevailing passat winds sweep across the island without delivering much precipitation.



Visitors' Center at Mancha Blanca



La Bomba by Montaña Colorada

few that can be entered. A break in the north crater wall (at the right in the photo below) provides for easy access. Below are a couple of snapshots we took while there.

However, this 360 degree interactive panorama gives a better appreciation of the crater's interior: <http://www.360cities.net/de/image/caldera-de-los-cuervos>

Monumento al Campesino

As we were a remarkably disciplined tour group and kept to the prescribed times at each of our stops, we had a little time left after our tour of the Volcanos Natural Park. Our tour guide therefore treated us to a brief, unplanned stop at César Manrique's Monumento al Campesino near San Bartolomé. As we approached, we could see a huge statue resembling the one we had seen on Madeira, only much larger. The tour guide asked if anyone knew what it represented, so I promptly answered, "a farmer, his goat and his camel". He was surprised that anyone could answer, and asked if I had been there before. When I explained that I had seen it before, on Madeira, he was quite incredulous. Since I have been unable to find any reference to the smaller version on Madeira, I presume that it is an unauthorized reproduction. The name of the statue is actually Fecundidad (fertility). Monumento al Campesino translates loosely as "Monument to the Farmer" or "Monument to the Peasant".

The sculptor and architect César Manrique is probably the best-known product of the Canaries after Canarian rum. He had tremendous respect for the farmers of Lanzarote and their ability to scratch out an existence from the barren soil. In the wake of the 18th century eruptions, the Lanzarotans learned to use the malpais (bad earth) to their advantage. They exploited the porous nature of the volcanic debris (lapilli) to collect and hold water from the dew, planting low and shielding the plants from the prevailing dry wind with stone windbreaks.

Manrique was famous for using "found objects" in his art; the statue Fecundidad was built out of discarded water tanks from yachts and fishing boats. It was constructed in 1968 by Jesus Soto according to Manrique's design.

In addition to the statue, Fecundidad, Manrique designed the surrounding buildings, combining various features typical of traditional Lanzarotian architecture. These house a small museum, a shop and a cafe. Below, in what used to be a quarry, there is an enormous restaurant, with two separate dining areas, which was only finished after Manrique's untimely death in a traffic accident in 1992.



Caldera de los Cuervos



Inside the Crater of the Crows

Manrique was instrumental in promoting the traditional style of architecture which is reflected in much of the construction on Lanzarote, as well as limitations on construction, which, however, have been widely violated. In fact, illegal construction went so far that several politicians and businessmen have been arrested in connection with illegal building permits, and the island's status as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve has been called into question.

On our way back to Arrecife, we got an even better view of Monte Mina.

Arrecife

Because Lanzarote is so arid, 90% of its water supply is provided by diesel-powered desalination plants in Arrecife. After a brief lunch on board, we took a little walk around the harbor of El Charco de San Ginés in the port city of Arrecife. It's a lovely place for a stroll, featuring a local market and sidewalk cafés as well as the skeleton of a young female Bryde Whale which was stranded in Tenerife in 1995.

We paused briefly at one of the cafés for a drink and a WiFi connection. Afterwards we returned to the ship, too tired to take advantage of the opportunity to visit the Castillo de San Gabriel, which was constructed on the coast in the 16th century to defend against pirate attacks.

The AIDAsol Brauhaus

After freshening up, we went to the Brauhaus for our one meal there, having passed on the "morning pints" offered on the sea days. The irresistible attraction was roast suckling pig.

Monumento al Campesino (Fecundidad)



Viticulture near La Geria, photo by Yummifruitbat



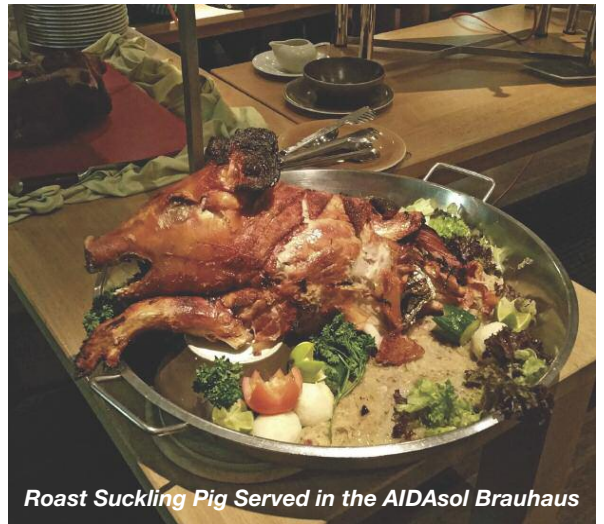
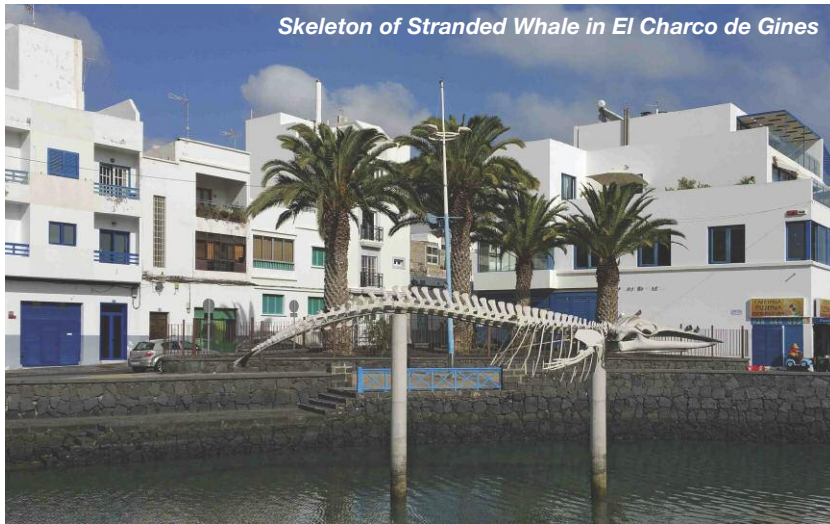
Underground Restaurant at the Monumento al Campesino



Casa-Museo del Campesino



Skeleton of Stranded Whale in El Charco de Gines



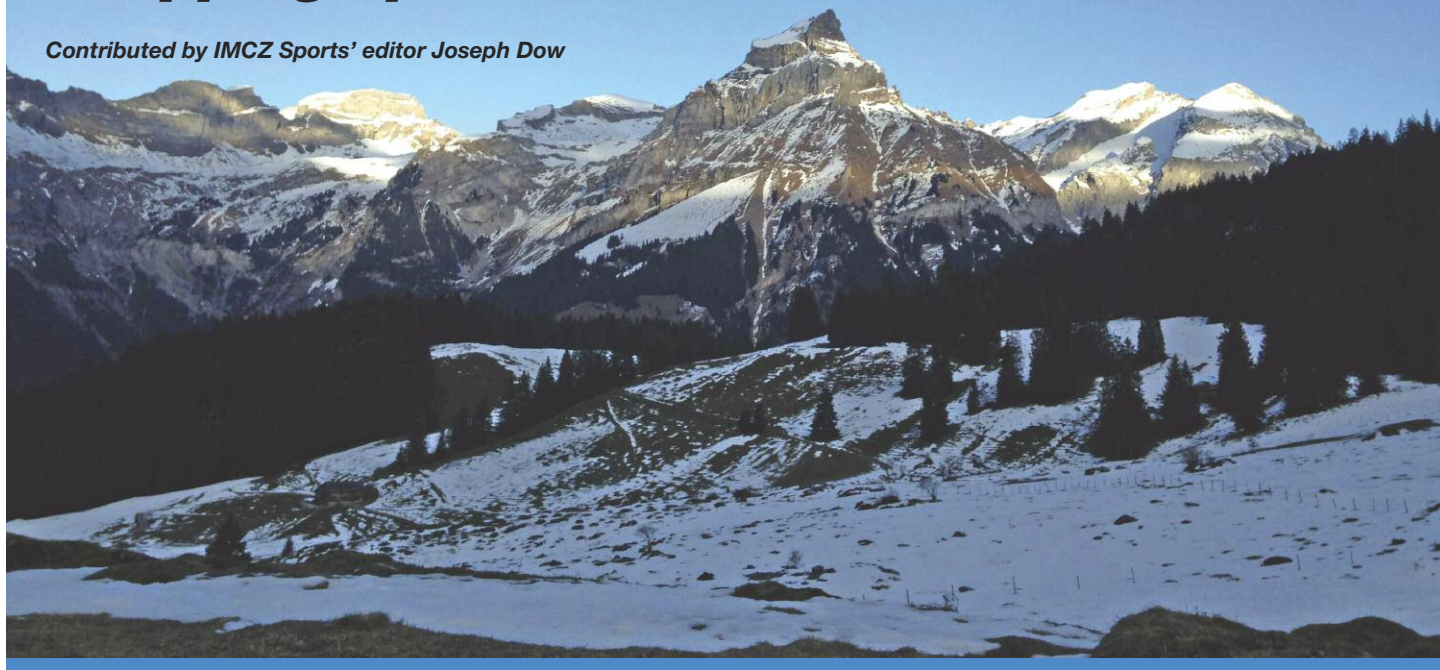
Roast Suckling Pig Served in the AIDAsol Brauhaus

Antenna and Wind Farm Installations on Monte Mina



ANOTHER SLOW START BUT ANOTHER FINE SEASON: *Wrapping up the 2015-16 Swiss Ski Season*

Contributed by IMCZ Sports' editor Joseph Dow



December looked like a disaster and it appeared Global Warming had finally caught up with us. But, it seems the season has just shifted a month as January was fine and late April is here with Titlis still covered down to Trübsee and more snow predicted this week. Unfortunately, the season is strictly scheduled in people's minds and a bad Christmas week wreaks havoc on the revenues of resorts, hotels, and ski goods suppliers. Well, at least now is a good time to invest in some new gear with plenty of deals to be had.

For me, I was fortunate to have another marvelous season. My week in Brig in Wallis with my 128cm RTC funcarver skis was a real treat, especially my day at delightful Bellwald. Then, my work project idled unexpectedly. Those three weeks really padded my season's tally of ski days by permitting short, unplanned trips to Davos, Zermatt and St. Moritz. It was a gift from the snow gods.

So, what's planned for next season? Even though I managed to add Bellwald and Rosswald to the Swiss areas I've visited, I didn't check off any of the areas mentioned last year: Tschierschen, Savognin, Obersaxen, Elm, Arolla, Evolène, Vals, and the little areas around Visp. Let's try again! I'd also like to return to Samnaun, Veysonnaz, and Crans-Montana.

It would be fun to organize another "IMCZ Ski Show" in the fall like the one we had a few years ago. I'll mention it to the Board and see what we can do. I have an exciting and diverse group of possible presenters in mind!

Here is some new gear you might consider for next season:

There's a revolutionary design in ski bindings that has been around awhile but recently adopted by the freeride community, called the "tech-binding." You have probably seen people here in Switzerland carrying skis with these bindings as they are popular with ski touring enthusiasts. This super-light design replaces the traditional toe piece with one with spring-loaded pins that lock into inserts on special compatible ski boots. Lately, makers of these bindings have been beefing up the designs for serious alpine use by freeriders using fat skis. The light weight and ability to release the heel is very useful when hiking, climbing, and skinning to reach the ultimate downhill routes.

Some of the new tech-binding designs for freeride use are:

Dynafit Beast
Marker Kingpin
Plum Yak



Dynafit Beast



Marker Kingpin



Plum Yak





Freeride tech boots have molded-in metal toe fittings and slotted heel plates that are compatible with the tech bindings. These boots are much more substantial than standard alpine touring/ramdonnée boots, have high-grip soles, and the ability to free the cuff in a hiking mode.

Examples of big mountain freeride boots for tech bindings are:

- Dalbello Lupo 130 TI**
- Salomon MTN Lab**
- K2 Pinnacle**

I'm still not ready to switch over to the tech set-up and think the move to perfect it for on-piste use is still developing. However, I like the idea of boots with a hike mode, which is also available in some new more-traditional alpine boots, such as the **Dalbello Panterra**. If you are taking the train to the ski areas and doing a bit of walking, a less slippery sole and releasable cuff sound like nice features. I will let you how my new Dalbello Panterra 130s work out, next season.

Again, we say good-bye to a wonderful Swiss ski season. Enjoy the pictures!



Additional Information:

- Dynafit Beast Bindings:** <http://www.dynafit.com/us/beast-14-binding.html>
- Marker Kingpin Bindings:** <http://markerusa.com/binding/kingpin-13-2014/>
- Plum Yak Bindings:** <http://www.fixation-plum.com/en/products-page/serie-yak-2/yak-stopper/>
- Dalbello Lupo TI Ski Boots:** <http://www.dalbello.it/en/boots/freride/lupo-ti-id>
- Salomon MTN Lab Ski Boots:** <http://www.salomon.com/int/product/mtn-lab.html?article=378162>
- K2 Pinnacle Ski Boots:** <http://en.k2skis.com/ski-boots/pinnacle-130>
- Dalbello Panterra Ski Boots:** <http://www.dalbello.it/en/boots/all-mountain/panterra-130-id>

Touché for the wine winners

Organised and compiled by IMCZ honorary member Stephen Butterworth

We ended up with 9 actual players on 3 lanes and 1 new one as a guest of Amit Purohit.

Don't know what was wrong with the lanes allocated to us, but nearly everyone had splits all night, the king of whom is Hans-Peter Schobert with a record 4 in a row as you see in this image:



The wine winners for a change had the exact same number of pins! So Joint 1st were Otto Steuri and Christian Wagner, that was very well done Christian!

Rajiv had an excellent second game with a 188 total which takes him to the top of the Top 10 for 2016 in number 2 place! What a start for someone new to bowling!

Next event is May 18th and I look forward to a good turnout and some new faces.

HANDICAP RESULTS													
First Name	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	total	this months avg	overall_avg	games	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES	Split	
Rajiv	Malhotra	124	188	100	616	137	116	3	68	8	6		
Christian	Wagner	131	103	116	554	117	115	3	68	3	8	6	
Otto	Steuri	153	153	116	554	141	145	3	44	9	8	1	
Barbara	Harris	91	96	99	538	95	94	3	84	3	5	3	
Stephen	Butterworth	92	114	108	509	105	119	3	65	3	6	2	
Beat	Züger	110	106	134	506	117	136	3	52	3	8	3	
Amit	Purohit	112	97	88	498	99	117	3	67	1	5	5	
Hans-Peter	Schobert	109	109	78	497	99	117	3	67	1	5	8	
Thomas	Pezier	71	82	87	468	80	105	3	76		3	6	

BOWLED RESULTS													
First Name	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	total	this months avg	overall_avg	games	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES	Split	
Otto	Steuri	153	153	116	422	141	145	3	44	9	8	1	
Rajiv	Malhotra	124	188	100	412	137	116	3	68	8	6		
Christian	Wagner	131	103	116	350	117	115	3	68	3	8	6	
Beat	Züger	110	106	134	350	117	136	3	52	3	8	3	
Stephen	Butterworth	92	114	108	314	105	119	3	65	3	6	2	
Amit	Purohit	112	97	88	297	99	117	3	67	1	5	5	
Hans-Peter	Schobert	109	109	78	296	99	117	3	67	1	5	8	
Barbara	Harris	91	96	99	286	95	94	3	84	3	5	3	
Thomas	Pezier	71	82	87	240	80	105	3	76		3	6	

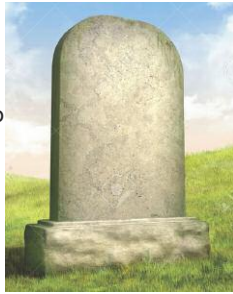


Headstone

The top prize for the coolest tombstone was awarded posthumously to a guy who wrote: "It important to know the five rules for men to lead a happy life;

In order to lead a happy life, you need to observe the following five rules:

1. It is important to have a woman who helps at home, cooks from time to time, cleans up and has a job.
2. It is important to have a woman who can make you laugh.
3. It is important to have a woman who you can trust, and who doesn't lie to you.
4. It is important to have woman who is good in bed, and likes to be with you.
5. It is very, very important that these four women do not know each other or you could end up dead like me.



A Glass of Water works wonders

A man goes to the doctor, worried about his wife's temper.

The doctor asks, "What's the problem?"

The man says, "Doctor, I don't know what 'to do. Every day my wife seems to lose her temper for no reason. It scares me."

The doctor says, "I have a cure for that. When it seems that your wife is getting angry, just take a glass of water and start swishing it in your mouth. Just swish and swish but don't swallow it until she either leaves the room or calms down."

Two weeks later, the man comes back to 'the doctor looking fresh and reborn.

The man says, "Doctor, that was a brilliant idea! Every time my wife started losing it, I swished with water. I swished and swished, and she calmed right down! How does a glass of water do that?"

The doctor says, "The water itself does nothing. It's keeping your mouth shut that does the trick."



The last shirt has no pockets

An old miser who had neither friends nor family, was getting on and became frail and ill with the passing of time. One day he felt so bad that he knew that his time had come.

He called his doctor, his lawyer and a minister to come see him.

They complied, and gathered together around his bed.

"I always heard you can't take it with you, but I am going to prove you can," he said. "I have \$90,000 cash hidden underneath my mattress. It's in 3 envelopes of \$30,000 each. I want each one of you to grab one envelope now and just before they throw the dirt on my grave, you throw the envelopes in."

Weeks later, the three attended the funeral, and true to their word, each threw in their envelope into the grave. On the way back from the cemetery, the minister said, "I don't feel so good about this, I am going to confess, I desperately needed \$10,000 for a new church we are building, so I took out \$10,000 and threw only \$20,000 in the grave."

The doctor said, "I, too, must confess. I am building a clinic and took \$20,000 and threw in only \$10,000." He looked ashamed.

The lawyer said, "Gentlemen, I'm surprised, shocked and ashamed of both of you. I don't see how you could in good conscience hold on to that money. I threw in a personal check for the entire amount."



A Wrestling Match

A rich man in Florida decided that he wanted to throw a party and invited all of his buddies and neighbours. He also invited Leroy, the only redneck* in the neighbourhood.

The party was held around the pool in the backyard of his mansion.

Leroy was having a good time drinking, dancing, eating shrimp, oysters and BBQ and flirting with the ladies.



At the height of the party, the host said, 'I have a 10-foot man-eating alligator in my pool and I'll give a million dollars to anyone who has the nerve to jump in.'

The words were barely out of his mouth when there was a loud splash. Everyone turned around and saw Leroy in the pool!

Leroy was fighting the alligator and kicking its rear, further he was jabbing it in the eyes with his thumbs, throwing punches, head butts and choke holds, biting the alligator on the tail and flipping it through the air like some kind of judo instructor.

The water was churning and splashing everywhere.

Both Leroy and the alligator were screaming and raising heck. Finally, Leroy strangled the alligator and let it float to the top like a dime store goldfish. Leroy then slowly climbed out of the pool. Everybody was just staring at him in disbelief.

Finally, the host says, 'Well, Leroy, I reckon I owe you a million dollars.'

'No, that's okay. I don't want it,' said Leroy.

The rich man said, 'Man, I have to give you something – you won the bet. How about half a million bucks then?'

No thanks, I don't want it,' answered Leroy.

The host said, 'Come on, I insist on giving you something. That was amazing. How about a new Porsche and a Rolex and some stock options?' Again Leroy said no.

Confused, the rich man asked, 'Well, Leroy, then what do you want?'

Leroy said, 'I want the name of the son of a bitch that pushed me in the pool!'

**A poor White person in the southern United States*

74 W Tungsten	53 I Iodine	26 Fe Iron
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The Periodic Table

Wife¹⁵³ remarkably robust with a extremely high melting point [W⁷⁴], primarily used in nutrition, turns violet in high heat [I⁵³], very soft and has a lustrous appearance [Fe²⁶].



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