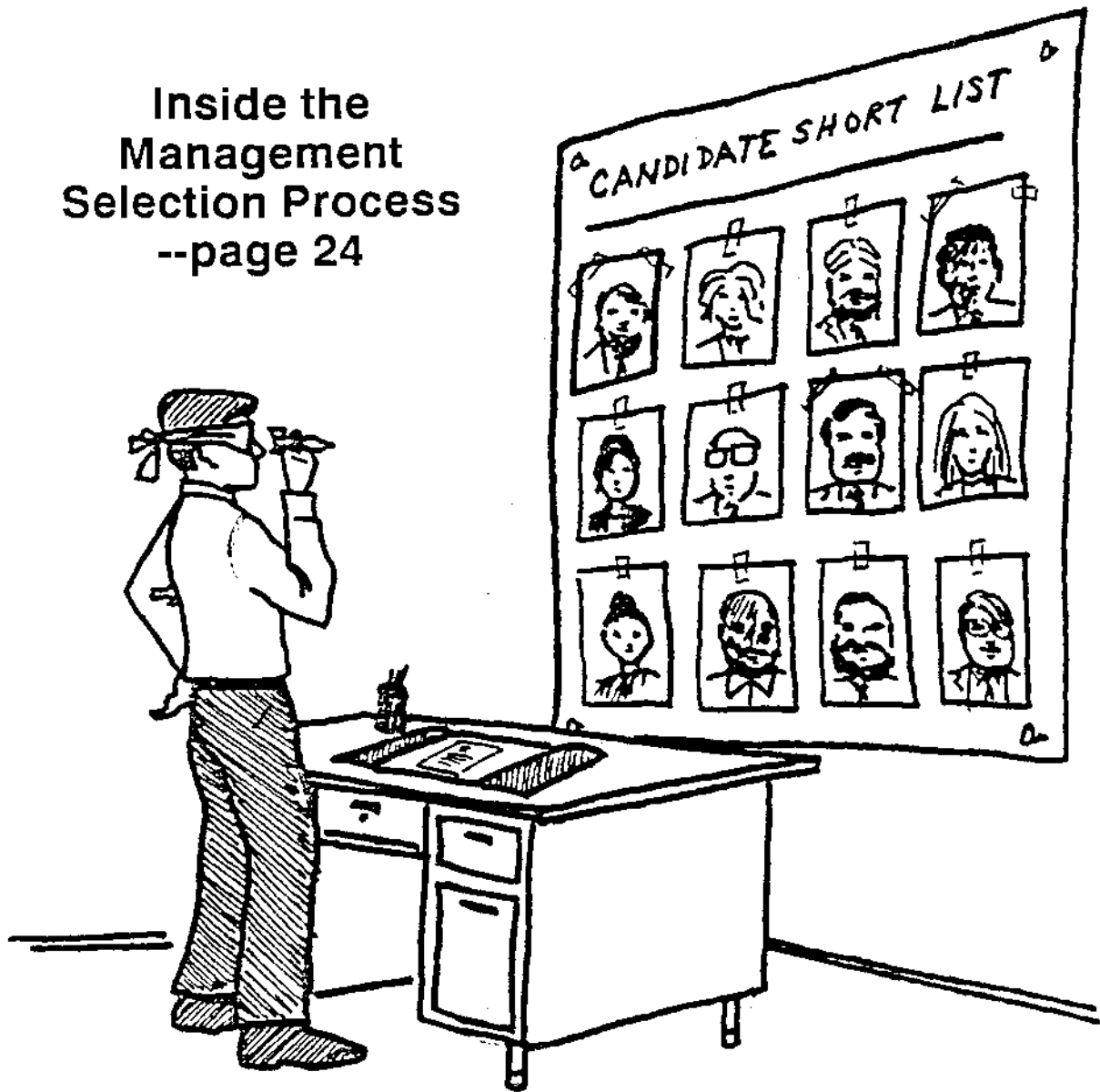


the Bank's Wordy

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THE BANK'S WORDY

The Magazine For Anyone Who'll Read It

Vol. 4, No. 1 April 1, 1988

"If you have a bunch of clowns, you're going to have a circus."

— Gautam Kaji

To comply with a Jaycox Task Force recommendation, *PA's Complex* was sold last July 1. Under new ownership, it changed names to *The Bank's Wordy*, but kept its volume number series. *PA's Complex* was published annually on April 1 since 1985, winning three Pulitzer Prizes in as many years for investigative journalism, accurate reporting, and cartoons.

New Standard Workstation

The Information, Technology and Facilities Department announced the Bank's new standard workstation to replace the aging Faber-Castell No. 2 lead pencil. The winner of the competitive bidding and complicated technical evaluation: Man. "We received hundreds of proposals from all types of organizations," said ITF Director Harinder Kohli at a morning press conference, "but Man stood out as the most cost-effective, efficient workstation -- a cut above all the rest." Kohli added that Man is the lowest cost 150-pound non-linear all-purpose low-power multi-tasking system that can be mass-produced cheaply and in large quantities by unskilled labor anywhere in the world. ITF plans to install 1,700 new workstations by the end of the fiscal year. The Faber-Castell No. 2 lead pencil had been ITF's standard workstation since the touted "April Decision" of 1985.

New Recruitment Strategy Announced

In a dramatic departure from past practices, the International Recruitment Unit of Personnel will now recruit for regular appointment at the World Bank only those staff who can both read *and* write. "It is absolutely incredible -- I can't believe it took us so long to figure this out," exclaimed Charlotte Hunter, Manager of IRU. "We used to recruit staff who could only do one or the other."

Ignacio: Home Again

Now a household name, few people remember Ignacio Zjerko's humble beginnings as an artistic pioneer of the Patagonian Sheep music genre. Few also remember Zjerko's strong ties to the World Bank dating back to his first public concert on April 1, 1985 in the H-building garage and his second appearance exactly one year later in the I-building men's locker room. By 1987, Zjerko was an international celebrity, yet he returned to the Bank that April 1 to delight a capacity audience on the 4th floor balcony of the I-building. And now, Zjerko again will captivate Bank staff at a concert to be held Friday, April 1 at 5:32 a.m. at the E-building loading dock. Zjerko will play selections from his latest album, the platinum *Baby Baby Couldn't You See, All I Wanted Was Package B*, including the mournful "I Gave Her A Ring, She Gave Me The Finger," the soulful "She Left With Everything But The Blame," the solemn "Don't Make Me Choose Between You And Your Best Friend," the forceful "I Wouldn't Take You To A Dog Fight Even If I Thought You Could Win," and the traditional "The Coldest Place In Our House Is Next To Your Heart." Mr. Zjerko will also play selections from his new hit video, *Forever Wasn't As Long As We'd Planned*, such as "If Today Were A Fish, I'd Throw It Back," "You're Just In Time To Be Too Late," and "You Only Get To Me On Days That End With -y." Limited seating, so come early! Balo Macho!

Food Competition

Marriott Corporation will hold the First Annual Most Voluminous Salad contest at lunch today in the E-building cafeteria. The winners must create and carry to their table the largest possible salad. Points will be deducted for spilling any contents. Measurements will be based on both salad weight and volume. A winner will be declared in both the plate and the bowl division. Points will also be deducted for reliance on "glue" ingredients, such as cottage cheese or macaroni salad. Many staff members have been practicing for months for this event, trying to beat the unofficial records set by EMENA Agricultural Economist Imst Arving, who can reportedly obtain the elusive "12-11-10-ND" configuration (12 inches in diameter, 11 inches high, and 10,000 calories with no dressing). Marriott is offering free diet and nutritional counseling as a grand prize and a week's worth of free fried chicken from the C-building snack shop as a second prize.

New Lending With A Twist

On the surface, it looks like an ordinary Bank loan: a forestry project in a member country designed to increase the export of paper and wood pulp products to industrialized nations, thereby reducing the balance of payments, the dependency on foreign capital investment, and costly imports. But upon closer inspection, IBRD Loan P-115-CA (Agriculture and Rural Development: Second Forestation Project) is a bit different. First, the borrower is Canada. Second, the interest rate is zero. And finally, the sole purchaser of the finished paper products will be the Bank's own Print Shop. "We need a guaranteed source of paper to continue to print Staff Announcements," said General Services Department Director Richard Lynn. "We forecast hundreds of senior staff changes over the next twenty years, each requiring mandatory desk-to-desk distribution of ten thousand copies of a single page announcement that no one reads. It is essentially cheaper to process a loan to harvest and produce the paper solely for us than it is to pay for it as we go."

Language Assailed

The use of English has never been worse at the World Bank, according to linguistic consultant Isita Gerund, author of *Exploding English Teacher Myths*. "Bad grammar is not the most unremarkable thing that didn't normally happen in Bank writing," said Gerund at a news conference called to present her findings in the H-building auditorium. "None of the papers I've read conjugate verbs correctly. Fragments. Word choice is heinous, and the blame lies squarely with the authors. Mistakes are as common as a bad metaphor. People dangle participles, and I had to explain to one staff member how to correctly use the pluperfect subjunctive while standing in the hallway. And I've read reports replete with run-on sentences, which are perhaps the most insidious mistake in common writing that one could possibly make in English, which is not even my native tongue, or Spanish, which also isn't my native tongue, though I speak it fluently, or just about any other language, and I mean that sincerely." Gerund was hired by the Publications Department to improve the quality of writing in Bank publications in March, 1988.

Recall

The Board of Directors today recalled all Bank Task Forces due to possible malfunctions in their Steering Committees. The malfunction affects all Task Forces created from 1985 to the present. An estimated 1,230 Task Forces are affected. The malfunction was first reported during the Reorganization and causes productivity decline, boredom, and lack of motivation among Task Force participants. According to the Board, the problem is easily corrected through liberal application of Package B. The Board will bear all expenses relating to the recall.

New Travel Policy

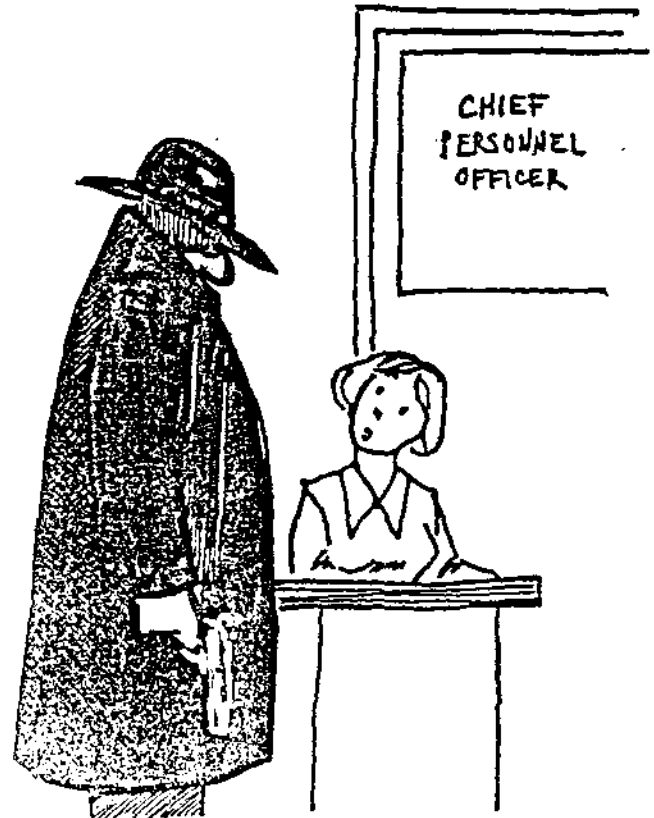
Due to widespread budget constraints, new travel policies will become effective for all Bank and IFC missions departing on or after April 1, 1988. International travel will be by "less than passenger class." Travel west of California shall be by junk, travel south of Florida shall be by banana boat, and travel east to Europe shall be by tramp steamer. Domestic travel in North America shall be by either Greyhound or freight train, whichever is cheaper and takes longer. In addition, all overnight accommodations will be in international youth hostels, so please remember to bring your own sheets and pillowcases while traveling.

Sewage Problem Fixed

GSD maintenance staff have cleared the clogged brain drain in the S-building rest rooms. PPR staff can now leave freely.

Down Under Social

In celebration of Australia's bicentennial year, the Australian Embassy and the World Bank Community Relations Office are sponsoring a roo bar at 5:30 p.m. tonight in the E-building lobby. The Embassy is shouting for the cold ones (Victoria Bitter, of course), and all Bank staff are invited. Spouses and mates are welcome, but no drongos, yobbos, curtain climbers or ankle biters. Ripper!



"Is he in?"

Nowhere Near the Record

Is Global Recovery Worth a Plugged Nickel?

The Bank's Wordy ran into Mr. Pass deBuc, Principal Economic Cliché Adviser for the Bank, while he was reading Bartlett's Quotations in the E-building lobby. Despite his hectic schedule, Mr. deBuc graciously consented to an interview.

Question: Mr. deBuc, what is the current state of international debt?

Answer: That depends on how you look at it. It could be neither here nor there.

Question: What do you mean by that?

Answer: It depends on where you are coming from. If you are a money center banker, then the debt situation is a bomb; we are on the brink of an abyss, a morass of world debt crisis fraught with threats of default. We are at a crossroads, a critical moment. Others look at the debt bomb as a shifting balance of power, a time to initiate changes. This is a period of *emerging confidence* and enormous challenge, but we can turn the corner.

Question: What does this debt do?

Answer: It impends. We are held hostage by its greed. We are sitting on top of a smoldering volcano. The situation is grave, very bleak. United we stand, divided we fall.

Question: What can be done?

Answer: We can provide leadership. We can promote deeper understanding. Ultimately, we are looking at a clear opportunity to attain global prosperity through long-term economic growth. *Audentis Fortuna juvat.*

Question: Clearly, debtor nations are having a hard time sitting down and putting their cards on the table.

Answer: That's my line. But what you said is true, and you must keep in mind that they, too, want a place in the sun.

Question: You mean--

Answer: We have to restore confidence and rekindle interest in the private sector. Otherwise the looming consequences threaten to plunge us all into darkness, a global monetary doom. But everything comes to those who wait.

Question: How does the Bank figure into all of this?

Answer: We are at the right place at the right time. We have a mandate for change. And we can continue to gain ground if we stress the importance of sound financial investment. We are the leader, the innovator. We must breathe new life into the private sector. By *forging alliances* between government and industry, we can spread open the umbrella of prosperity and reap the harvest of wealth.

Question: How about specifics?

Answer: Certainly, judiciously applied, the Bank can offer a way out through promoting compelling mutual interest. Likewise, in responding to these challenges, the Bank can open up a dialogue between debtors and creditors. A new window of opportunity will open on the world's financial markets. But you cannot squeeze blood from a turnip.

Question: Are we up to the challenge?

Answer: We have our work cut out for us. We are only as old as we feel. Life isn't always a bowl of cherries, and things aren't always what they seem. No man is an island, after all.

Question: And what if it just doesn't work?

Answer: Six of one, half a dozen of another. The problems are deep-seated. We cannot let others bear the burden any longer. Oil slumps, sluggish growth, countries hard-pressed to pay back interest on loans: we have no choice but to bite the bullet and roll up our sleeves and get this show on the road. After all, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush and it takes one to know one. But we have been there before, we'll make it somehow.

World's Wordy

Volume 8, Spring/Summer 1988

"International Depression From The Arts"

I Wrote a Lovely Memo

I wrote a lovely memo
As pure as driven snow,
And everywhere that memo went
It wandered to and fro.

Provocative, insightful
On issues and policy,
My memo was delightful
And structured thoroughly.

I thought that people gladly
And swiftly would concur,
But while I waited sadly
They'd argue and demur.

Some thought the memo much too short,
Some thought it much too long,
Some thought my language much too
weak,
And others much too strong.

Some called my views too risky:
"Not ready for 'em!" they'd sneer,
Others thought them tired:
"We tried that twice last year!"

Oh, my lovely notions!
So shrewd, so sharp, so true!
Oh, my sad bureaucracy,
My labors you undo!

So when my cherished memo
Came dawdling back my way,
It no longer held my interest,
The issue was passé.

For years my memo gathered dust
'Til a colleague found and read it,
On home leave was I when he changed
two words,
Sent it out and took the credit.

The SVPs just loved it,
"Such clarity!" they noted,
"The best I've ever read!" said one --
My colleague was promoted.

Now when I think of procedure
And policy to revise,
I keep it all off paper --
Memoranda I despise.

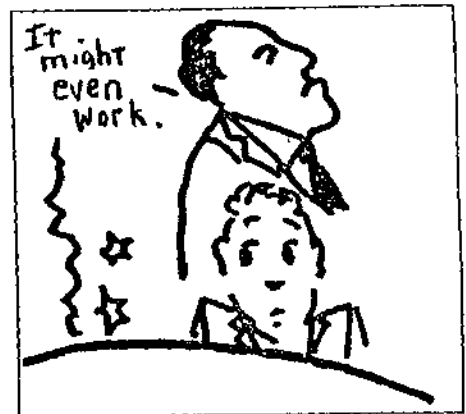
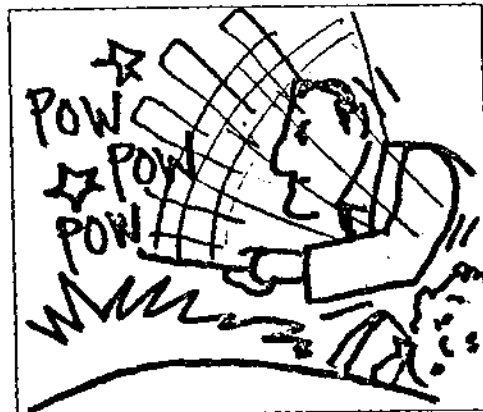
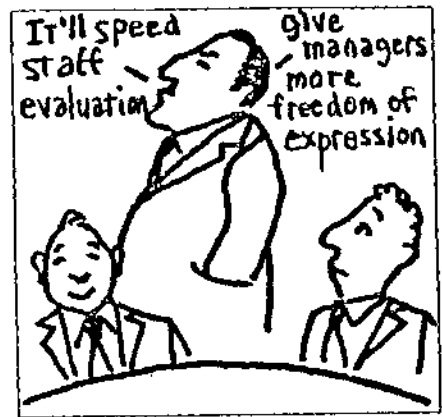
I think and sit and waste my days,
Devoid of energy,
I only hope that in my time
I'm offered Package B.

Package B may never come --
If I can't get out that way,
Happy I'd be with something less:
7.01 or Package A.

What if nothing is ever offered
To ease the pain of leaving?
I'll just arrive at ten each day
And leave at four each evening.

What is it about the Bank
That gives me no elation?
If only there were other jobs
That had six weeks' vacation!

Due to elimination of institutional funding, *World's Wordy* desperately needs your financial support. Please send \$105.261.23, a BMW, your diamonds -- or whatever you can afford -- to *World's Wordy*, c/o *The Bank's Wordy*, P.O. Box 13, Climax, GA 61329.



STAFF ASSISTANTS OF G-3 by Young



AnswerLine

The purpose of this column is to answer questions of broad interest concerning the Bank/IFC's policies and procedures. Please send us your name and room number so that we can send you the answer to your question if we like your question, and track you down and shoot you if we don't. Your name will not be submitted to the manager for whom an answer is sought, unless you'd get fired if he or she knew who was asking the question. An anonymous question can only be answered if you enclose \$100 cash. Send your questions to: AnswerLine, The Bank's Wordy, Box 21, Walla Walla, WA 90909.

* * *

Question: Why?

Answer: Because. *Bill Cosgrove, Vice President, PER.*

Question: No, really, why?

Answer: Because! *Edward Jaycox, Vice President, AFR.*

Question: Look, I'm serious. Why?

Answer: I've been asking the same question. *Barber Conable, President.*

Question: I joined the Bank in 1978, and since then I have been trying to get into an underground parking garage. What could possibly be the problem?

Answer: Either you are out of gas, or it's your fuel pump. *Richard Lynn, Director, GSD.*

Question: Like most of my colleagues, I drive to work. I recently read an article which said that the chances of my having an automobile accident within eight miles of my home are very high. Given the Medical Department's concern about the safety and well-being of Bank staff, do they have any suggestions for me?

Answer: Move to a different house, preferably nine miles away. *Eugene Chap, Acting Director, MED.*

Question: How deep is the tunnel between the Main Complex and the J-building?

Answer: The J-building tunnel thinks; therefore it is. It is reality in space and time, a suspension of our beliefs in the fabric of truisms and dialectic. A true manifestation of modern pantheism, the tunnel personifies modern eclectic reasoning and contemporary ethics, and is a living testimony to epistemology and metaphysics as set forth by Hegel and Goethe. The tunnel is simultaneously thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. It's pretty deep, man. *Sam Niedzwiecki, J-Building Project Manager.*

Question: I really need some money. How can I break into the Credit Union safe?

Answer: We hope that staff explore other financial opportunities (such as check kiting or insider trading) before breaking into the Credit Union. That being said, we welcome the opportunity to help. The outside door combination is 1-34. Once inside, you'll need to disable the alarm by snipping the telephone wires in the northwest corner of the room. You should also spray paint the camera lenses at this time. The actual safe combination is 32L-37R-17L-22R. However, once inside the safe, there is a locked steel cage door. I would be happy to give the key to any interested staff member. *Richard A. Calkins, Chair, Supervisory Committee, Bank-Fund Staff Federal Credit Union.*

Question: Does the Bank keep a list of competent attorneys that could provide legal assistance to staff? I joined the Bank a few months ago, I am new to Washington, and I desperately need a good lawyer to help me settle some business affairs and personal matters.

Answer: Yes, we do have such a list, but we aren't going to give it to you. So what are you going to do? Sue us? *Eva Meigher, Assistant General Counsel, LEG.*

Question: The Bank staff were recently informed that there would be a moratorium on all office space

alterations for the remainder of the fiscal year due to budget constraints. However, I recently moved to the Main Complex from the M-building, and my new office has cockroaches, no lights, no electricity, no windows, no telephone, two gaping holes in the wall, puddles of water on the floor, no door, and insulation hanging from exposed pipes and wires in the ceiling. Can't I get some assistance to make my office more livable, even on an exceptional basis?

Answer: No. *Ralph Blackwell, Head, Facilities Staff, ITF.*

As we go to press...

Four staff read Division Chief staff announcement, twice usual number... IFC Vice President refuses to replace divot on 4th fairway at Bretton Woods... New Resident Mission opened in Potomac, Maryland... Six staff reportedly pleased with Reorganization results... Bank day-care program adopts pet pit bull... PanAm revokes Frequent Flyer program, incapacitating three divisions in Asia Region... I-building security guard checks staff member's ID photo for likeness... Staff member does not move offices for six months, sets record.. Paper recycling program implemented.. Travel office refuses itinerary changes...