

conCERNed for Humanity

Geneva, January 2016



We would like to invite you to the next “conCERNed for Humanity” event which will be held on

Saturday, 23rd January 2016, from 09:00-12:30 at CERN Room C.

It will be a Forum discussion led by the *Renaissance Forum, Geneva* which promotes and encourages dialogue and reflection on vital issues of public and personal life in today’s world.

We have chosen as our theme ‘**Technology and the Good Life?**’ - “Can we use technology in the pursuit of a good life, or are we doomed to having our lives organized and our priorities set by the demands of machines and systems? Eric Higgs (2000)

Renaissance Forum discussions are triggered by the study of short readings drawn from the works of great thinkers and leaders of the last 2,500 years.

You will find below a summary of the readings which will be introduced at the CERN forum.

These texts will be read during the session and discussed with the help of a moderator. Each discussion will last approximately 30 minutes.

The Technology of Time Management

JAMES GLEICK. Excerpt from *Faster: The Acceleration of Just About Everything*. Pantheon (1999). [With kind Permission from Children of Prometheus, The Trinity Forum 2006]. James Gleick is the author of *The Information: A History, A Theory, A Flood*, 2012, Best seller in the USA

We know that money can be acquired, saved, and spent. We sometimes act as though we could treat time the same way. But we don’t save it. We shift it to different activities; or we use it; or we simply live.

Margin

RICHARD SWENSON This passage is from *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives*. Navypress 2004 [With kind permission from Children of Prometheus, The Trinity Forum, 2006]

Marginless is being thirty minutes late to the doctor’s office because you were twenty minutes late getting out of the hairdresser’s because you were ten minutes late dropping the children off at school because the car ran out of gas two blocks from the gas station—and you forgot your purse.

Marginless is not having time to finish the book you’re reading on stress; margin is having the time to read it twice.

The Flying Machine

RAY BRADBURY This passage is from "The Flying Machine" (first published in 1953) in *The Golden Apples of the Sun and Other Stories* (Avon 1997) [With kind permission from Children of Prometheus, The Trinity Forum, 2006]

"What have you done?" demanded the Emperor. "I have flown in the sky, Your Excellency," replied the man. "What have you done?" said the Emperor again. "I have just told you!" cried the flier. "You have told me nothing at all

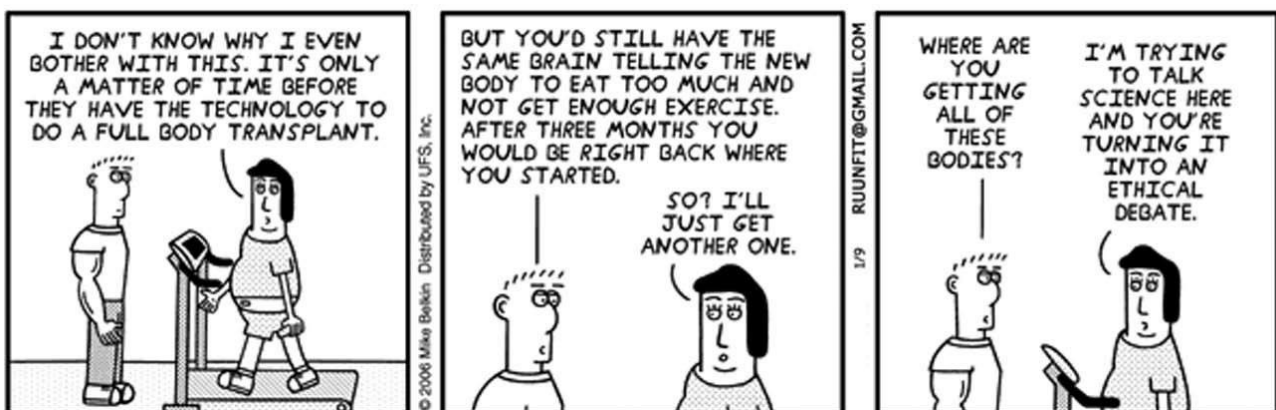
New ideas, new concepts and new technology can be exciting and invigorating. But it can also be threatening to the status quo. Innovators tend to miss the threat in the excitement of the invention.

Why the Future does not need us

BILL JOY was the cofounder of Sun Microsystems. In April 2000 he wrote a controversial essay for 'Wired' magazine entitled "Why the Future Doesn't Need Us". [With kind permission from Children of Prometheus, The Trinity Forum, 2006]

"If we could agree, as a species, what we wanted, where we were headed, and why, then we would make our future much less dangerous—then we might understand what we can and should relinquish..

But she (*His Grandmother*), like many levelheaded people, would probably think it greatly arrogant for us, now, to be designing a robotic "replacement species" when we obviously have so much trouble making relatively simple things work, and so much trouble managing—or even understanding—ourselves.



If you would like to join us for a stimulating discussion, please contact Mr Olav Berrig at olav.Ejner.Berrig@cern.ch who will be pleased to send you a copy of the readings in advance.

For more information about Renaissance Forum visit the website at <http://www.therenaissanceforum.org>

