**Electronic Communication**

**If you’re like the average American, you are exposed to 237 ads – in newspapers and magazines, on television and radio and billboards – every single day. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits, 2007)***

**Wife: “We got a card from Barbara Moore.” She then reads: “Hi Bruce, Hi Adelle! Haven’t seen you in years! I’m living in New Jersey. I’m an engineer on a commuter train.” Woman then says: “I have no idea who this person is!” Husband: “Me either. (sigh) We know more people who know us, who we don’t know.” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

**I finally figured out what e-mail is for. It’s for communicating with people you’d rather not talk to. *(George Carlin, in When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?, p. 262)***

**According to CTIA, the international association for the wireless telecommunications industry, 79 percent of U.S. residents own at least one cell phone. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits, 2007)***

**Worldwide, 35 billion e-mails are sent each day. *(Wired, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 11, 2005)***

**Our supervisor was trying to reach one of his employees elsewhere in the building. In his haste, he dialed his secretary’s number. She answered the ringing phone and, motioning to him, held the receiver up. “Is it for me?” he asked her. “No,” she replied, “It is you.” *(William T. Marshall, in Reader’s Digest)***

**One in six Americans reports having ended a romantic relationship via email, instant message, or text. *(TheAtlantic.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 1, 2013)***

**Man: “Your ex-wife called again.” Geech: “What did she want?” Man: “Just the usual name-calling and verbal insults.” Geech: “How did you know it was Monica?” Man: “I recognized her vocabulary.” *(Jerry Bittle, in Geech comic strip)***

**Good week for: Fast Fingers, after 13-year-old Brianna Hendrickson of Brooklyn, N.Y., won $50,000 at the National Texting Championship, by typing a verse from "Old MacDonald" in 60 seconds. She sends about 6,000 text messages a month. *(The Week magazine, October 8, 2010)***

**I guess it’s just a sign of the times when one of my little candy hearts says: “Fax me.” *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**When press tycoon William Randolph Hearst sent a telegram to a leading astronomer asking if there was life on Mars and to please cable a thousand words on the subject, he received the reply, “Nobody knows,” repeated five hundred times. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 61)***

**In 1996, approximately 45 million people worldwide were using the Internet. By 2002, there were 544 million people online. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 260)***

**The telephone is a good way to talk to people without having to offer them a drink. *(Fran Lebowitz, American satirist)***

**A tourist who became lost on the frozen North Sea was saved when he was spotted on a computer screen hundreds of miles away. The tourist, who was not identified, had climbed on the ice off the coast of St. Peter-Ording in northern Germany to admire the sunset. He soon became disoriented, so he began flashing his camera for help. A woman in southern Germany who was admiring the sunset on her computer, via a beach webcam, saw the flashes and alerted police, who rescued the man. “He could well have died from cold or drowned when the tide came in,” said police spokesman Kristin Stielow. *(The Week magazine, February 19, 2010)***

**How much time do you devote to conversation with your matrimonial mate? If only about 20 minutes a week, you’re right at the national average, report the researchers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In 2008, 1.2 billion mobile phones were sold worldwide. None of them were made m the United States. *(BusinessInsider.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 8, 2010)***

**One million phone calls are made from the Pentagon every day. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 260)***

**The average person makes 1,140 phone calls a year. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 260)***

**The nation's cell-phone carriers handled 1.3 million requests by law-enforcement agencies last year to snoop on users' calls, text messages, and location. The number of such requests is rising by 15 percent every year. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 20, 2012)***

**When you reach for your phone first thing in the morning, it's like having 100 people in your bedroom screaming at you. *(Robin Roberts, news anchor, in People magazine)***

**Why so many robocalls?: Automated telephone calls might be America's most prevalent form of lawbreaking, with more than 180 million such calls every day. A 2009 law that banned unsolicited, prerecorded telemarketing has failed to stem the explosion of calls seeking to steal information or scare people into scams. In 2017, about 4 percent of U.S. phone calls were spam. But now, thanks to cheap software allowing crooks to blast millions of calls from disguised numbers, roughly 50 percent of all calls are junk. Just the time wasted dealing with robocalls costs Americans $3 billion per year, the FCC estimates, on top of untold billions lost from businesses that rely on real phone calls; 70% of Americans don't answer calls from unfamiliar numbers anymore, according to Consumer Reports. October was the worse month on record, with an estimated 5.7 billion robocalls. *(The Week magazine, December 13, 2019)***

**There is no known way for a submarine to communicate with land via radio when it is underwater. (David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 38)**

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**Client claims his grandfather invented the telephone four years before Alexander Graham Bell did so, but made one big mistake: He only wired up one phone, so he couldn’t call anybody to report it. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**An Englishman answers his home telephone with his phone number instead of with “Hello.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**American teenagers now say they prefer texting to talking to friends in person, according to research from Common Sense Media, In a survey, 35 percent chose texting as their favorite form o0f interaction -- versus just 32 percent for in-person conversations. Roughly, 89 percent of teenagers now have their own smart-phone, up from 41 percent in 2012. The majority of those surveyed also acknowledge that apps regularly wake them up at night and distract them from homework*. (NBCNews.com, a it appeared in The Week magazine, September 21, 2018)***

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**In the United States, more than 18 billion text messages are sent every month. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 88)***

**Teens with cell phones average 2,272 text messages a month, compared with 203 phone calls, according to the Nielsen Company. Nationally, more than 75 billion text messages are sent a month. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 6, 2009)***

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**What One Hour Away from Your Phone Can Do: More than 3.5 billion people worldwide spend an average of three hours a day glued to their smartphones – on social media, texting, checking emails. According to a German study, there’s good reason to cut down. Researchers found that people who lowered their usage by one hour every day were happier, spent more time being physically active, were less depressed and reduced anxiety symptoms by more than 30%. Cutting back was more effective than total digital detox: People who had spent one hour less per day on smartphones during the one-week intervention were more likely to successfully change their habits over the long term than abstainers who put their smartphones away entirely for a week. (Mark Witten, in Reader’s Digest, December/January, 2023, page 38)**

**The number of wireless devices in the U.S., such as smart-phones and tablets, now exceeds the number of Americans. (CNNMoney.com, as it appeared in the *The Week magazine, October 28, 2011)***

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