**Intelligence**

**The clever do all things intelligently.**

***(Proverbs 13:16)***

**None of us is as smart as all of us. *(Phil Condit)***

**Good week for: Animal Intelligence, after zoologists observed crocodiles and alligators balancing twigs on their snoots to lure and chomp on birds seeking nest-building material -- the first time tool use has ever been seen in reptiles. *(The Week magazine, December 13, 2013)***

**Gates: "Concerned" about robots: Add Gates to the growing list of people worried about a robot uprising, said Kevin Rawlinson in BBC.com. In an "ask me anything" session on Reddit last week, the Microsoft founder said he worries about the threat posed by artificial intelligence. "I am in the camp that is concerned about super intelligence," Gates wrote. "First, the machines will do a lot of jobs for us and not be super intelligent. That should be positive if we manage it well. A few decades after that, though, the intelligence is strong enough to be a concern." Gates's remarks place him among several other high-profile tech figures who have worried about AI evolving "beyond human control," including billionaire Elon Musk and physicist Stephen Hawking, who once remarked that artificial intelligence could "spell the end of the human race." (*The Week magazine, February 13, 2015)***

**Smart is when you believe only half of what you hear. Brilliant is when you know which half to believe. *(Orben’s Current Comedy)***

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**Can animals think, reason, and remember as humans do? Experiments with a bird called the Clark’s nutcracker suggest that it stores memories the way shoppers organize their lists, in categories such as food, toiletries, clothing. The nutcracker buries thousands of catches of seed. To find them months later, it uses large landmarks to locate clusters of caches. Then it remembers where the individual caches are by orienting itself and recalling small landmarks. Like people, birds do better when they concentrate on one thing at a time. Alexandra Pietrewicz and Alan Kamil of the University of Massachusetts taught blue jays to peck a screen when they saw a picture of a moth. When Pietrewicz and Kamil included two kinds of moths, the birds pecked correctly 80 percent of the time. But if they included only one species in the pictures, the jays’ score rose to 95 percent. *(Sharon Begley, in Newsweek)***

It has been noted the least intelligent birds fly in flocks. The most intelligent – the hunters and the skilled nest builders – are solitary. *(L. M. Boyd)*

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**A six-year-old border collie named Chaser has a “vocabulary” of 1,022 words. The precocious pooch has been trained to fetch over one thousand different items on command and also understands several verbs. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 3)***

**I won't insult your intelligence by suggesting you really believe what you just said. *(William F. Buckley, Jr.)***

**Bumblebees are smart insects. New research shows that when the insects are starved for pollen, they bite half-moons into plants to make them flower on demand. Sometimes bumblebees can awaken early from hibernation to find that many flowers haven't bloomed yet. The bees then chew holes into plant leaves, which can cause them to bloom weeks earlier than usual. Scientists believe that this will be a vital trick as global climates change. Waking up early from hibernation may become routine. It's good news that bumblebees have a trick to find food. *(The Daily Chronicle0***

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**Dr. Geoffrey H. Bourne of the Yerkes Primate Research Center said this: “We once had a chimp who could sort photographs of apes and human beings into two piles. Apes on one pile, humans on the other. But peculiarly, every time she got to her own picture, she put it on the pile with the human beings.” *(L. M. Boyd, in Boyd’s Book of Odd Facts, p. 1)***

**Good week for: Chimps, who beat humans in a test of short-term memory conducted by Japanese scientists. The results, in which the simians were faster than people in recalling a pattern of numbers from one to nine, challenges the assumption that "humans are superior to chimpanzees in all cognitive functions," scientists said. *(The Week magazine, December 14, 2007)***

**Chimps like us: Some of the distinctions between humans and chimpanzees fell by the wayside this year. Senegalese chimps were observed hunting small mammals with sticks that they had sharpened with their teeth -- the sort of behavior once thought uniquely human. And researchers in a West African rain-forest site found evidence that chimps engaged in human-like tool-making thousands of years ago, when they smashed nuts with large stones. In one realm, chimps this year proved they're actually smarter than us: Three 5-year-old chimps beat a dozen human college students on a test of short-term memory. "It's back to the drawing board again in terms of trying to define how humans are special," said researcher Jill Pruetz. *(The Week magazine December 28, 2007 / January 11, 2008)***

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**Two identical computers, programmed in the same manner, were on board the Viking lander, the vehicle that descended from the Viking spaceship, landed on Mars and processed soil samples there. Before the miniaturized automated laboratory touched down on Mars, however, complications arose because the two computers were giving different signals. Another computer back on Earth administered an intelligence test to the pair and turned off the “dumber” one. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 288)***

**Cowbirds can sing up to forty different notes, some inaudible to humans. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 156)***

**Birds of the crow family are said by scientists to be the smartest. Clarke’s nutcrackers, a kind of North American crow, will collect up to thirty thousand pine seeds in the fall and bury each somewhere in an area two hundred miles square. Over the next eight months, these clever birds are able to retrieve up to 90 percent of their stash, even when the seeds are buried under several feet of snow. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 157)***

**Carrion crows at a university in Japan collect walnuts from a tree near a traffic light. When the light turns red, the crows place the nuts in the crosswalk, waiting for cars to drive over them, and then fly in after to eat the cracked nuts. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 157)***

**Dolphins can, and do, crush barracudas with one snap of their jaws and kill sharks by merely ramming them with their snout. However, dolphins have never been known to attack humans. This is considered evidence of their intelligence. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 126)***

**Dolphins are so intelligent that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand at the edge of the pool and throw them fish. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function. One should, for example, be able to see that things are hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise. *(F. Scott Fitzgerald, in The Crack-Up, edited by Edmund Wilson)***

**The girl who’s smarter than Einstein: Victoria Cowie will almost always be the smartest person in the room, said Claire Ellicott in the London Daily Mail. The 11-year-old from Shropshire, England, was extraordinarily bright from an early age, reading elementary-school books as a toddler, but her teachers, parents and Victoria, too, were shocked when she scored 162 on an IQ test. That surpasses the 160 thought to belong to Albert Einstein, Bill Gates, and Stephen Hawking. “When I got the results, I was really surprised,” Cowie says. “It’s quite daunting to be compared to great minds, but it feels good also to be thought of as that clever.” Cowie hardly seems like anything other than a normal 11-year-old, other than the fact that she seems to be avidly interested in everything. “I really enjoy science and doing experiments, but I also love acting and dancing and playing musical instruments. I do theater workshops and loads of sports like swimming.” She’s fairly certain what she wants to do with her gifts. “My favorite subject is biology, and I want to be a vet when I’m older because I love animals and I’m not afraid of blood.” Right now, though, she’s got a less ambitious goal. Her parents, she says, have told her to clean up her room. *(The Week magazine, March 25, 2011)***

**One of the hardest things to imagine is that you are not smarter than average. *(Daniel Kahneman)***

**Hiring people smarter than you proves you’re smarter than they are. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Are humans getting dumber? As a species, we’re not as smart as we used to be. That’s the theory of a Stanford University researcher who believes that human intelligence started to decline when civilization made life easier and allowed dimmer individuals to survive and pass on their genes. “I would wager that if an average citizen from Athens of 1000 B.C. were to appear suddenly among us, he or she would be among the brightest and most intellectually alive of our colleagues and companions,” Stanford geneticist Gerald Crabtree tells The Independent (U.K.). He figures human beings reached their intellectual peak 2,000 to 6,000 years ago, when life was so harsh and individualistic that bad judgment generally led to death. Farming progressively led to denser communities where people could collectively ensure one another’s welfare. As a result, evolutionary pressure – the hunt for prey, the avoidance of predators – no longer culls the slow-witted the way it once did. “A hunter-gatherer who did not correctly conceive a solution to providing food or shelter probably died,” Crabtree says, “whereas a modern Wall Street executive that made a similar conceptual mistake would receive a substantial bonus and be a more attractive mate. Clearly, extreme selection is a thing of the past.” *(The Week magazine, November 30, 2012)***

**There is nobody so irritating as somebody with less intelligence and more sense than we have. *(Don Herold)***

**It doesn't make sense to hire smart people and then tell them what to do; we hire smart people so they can tell us what to do. *(Steve Jobs)***

**It is not depravity that afflicts the human race so much as a general lack of intelligence. *(Agnes Repplier, American writer and social critic)***

**Does any intelligent life live on this earth? No, I am only visiting! *(Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Companion, p. 74)***

**“I'm beginning to understand exactly how the state lottery helps education,” a guy told his neighbor. “Every time I buy a losing ticket, I get a little smarter.” *(One to One)***

**Man’s brain has doubled in size over the last 2 million years. Or so the scientists believe. But what’s still imperfectly explained, they say, is why man supposedly keeps getting smarter while other animals don’t. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Today’s husband and wife tend to be more closely matched in intelligence than their pioneer counterparts, researchers say. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Military intelligence: a contradiction in terms. *(John Charteris, World War I British general)***

**Any man who thinks he's more intelligent than his wife is married to a smart woman. *(Sue Bates, in Reader's Digest)***

**No matter how smart you thought you were, you are actually way less smart than that. *(David Foster Wallace)***

**Intelligence is not to make no mistakes, but to see quickly how to make them good. *(Bertolt Brecht)***

**An octopus has nine brains – one in each arm and one in the “head.” *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 7)***

**Not counting marine mammals, the smartest animal in the sea is the octopus. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The more an organism has to do, the more complex it is and the more genetic information it needs. A bacterium, which is single-celled, has little genetic information. An alga, such as seaweed, has a good deal. With preprogrammed instructions in their computers amounting to a few million bits, the Viking landers that searched for life on Mars had, by analogy, slightly “genetic information” than a bacterium but significantly less than an alga. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 286)***

**Each generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it and wiser than the one that comes after it. *(The Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters of George Orwell)***

**One of the surest signs that intelligent life exists in outer space is that none of it has tried to contact us. (Normandy Alden)  
  
A plane with pilot and three passengers aboard began to lose altitude, slowly but surely. The pilot told the others that only three parachutes were available for the four of them. One man spoke up immediately. “I’m the president of my company. It’s important for me to be saved.” And he grabbed one of the parachutes. Another man piped up, “I’m an inventor. I have brains. My intelligence is needed. I’ll use a parachute.” Out went both of them. The remaining passenger looked at the pilot, quietly asking, “Which of us will take the last parachute?” The pilot replied, “I still have two parachutes. The guy with the brains took my knapsack. *(Leslie B. Flynn and Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents and Quips for Church Publications, p. 21)***

**There once was a budgie (small parrot) named Victor who had a vocabulary of more than one thousand words. (More than some people know.) *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 157)***

**The more intelligent a man is, the more originality he discovers in others. *(Blaise Pascal)***

**Plants certainly have no brains, but they seem to recognize different enemies in order to fight them with different weapons. For example, it’s now understood they react one way to a worm, another to a beetle. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**According to scientists: The five smartest primates after humans are orangutans, chimpanzees, spider monkeys, gorillas, and surilis. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 251)***

**Intelligence requires that you don’t defend an assumption. *(David Bohm, physicist)***

**It's obvious that women are smarter than men. Think about it -- diamonds are a girl's best friend; man's best friend is a dog. *(Joan Rivers)***

**Mere intelligence by itself is worse than useless unless it is guided by an upright heart. *(Theodore Roosevelt)***

**If you're the smartest person in the room, find another room. *(Michael Dell)***

**Pretty smart, those termites of the tropical deserts. They build dwellings in ridges that run north and south. So only the small southern ends fully face the noonday sun. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Brown thrashers can have a repertoire of two thousand different songs. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 156)***

**Skill is successfully walking a tightrope strung between the twin towers of New York City’s World Trade Center. Intelligence is not trying. *(Marilyn vos Savant, in Parade magazine)***

**The intelligent man who is proud of his intelligence is like the condemned man who is proud of his large sell. *(Simone Weil)***

**Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings. *(C. Archie Danielson)***

**I won't insult your intelligence by suggesting you really believe what you just said. *(William F. Buckley, Jr.)***

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