**Selfishness**

**Egotism is the anesthetic that dulls the pain of stupidity. *(Frank Leahy)***

**He who lives only to benefit himself confers on the world a benefit when he dies. *(Tertullian)***

**An egotist is a person of low taste – more interested in himself than in me. *(Ambrose Bierce)***

**When you stop thinking about yourself all the time, a certain sense of repose overtakes you. *(Leonard Cohen)***

**We have to get our bloated nothingness out of the way of the Divine circuit. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**None are so empty as those who are full of themselves. *(Benjamin Whichcote)***

**An empty man is full of himself. *(Edward Abbey, author)***

**Understand English is the only language that capitalizes the word “I.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The ego is not master in its own house. *(Sigmund Freud)***

**Sometimes it seems the selfishness is just getting worse and worse. But a few individuals continue to show a better way. William Higgins, the U.S. Marine lieutenant colonel executed last year by terrorists, sacrificed his life to the cause of peace. Robin Higgins says her husband accepted his assignment to the U.N.’s Mideast peace-keeping force even though he was well aware of the danger “because he believed h could be useful – that he could help and that he was needed. “He wrote in his high-school year book,” she went on to say, “that his goal was ‘to always make my family proud of me.’ He succeeded.” All the people out there who are trapped in meaningless, money-rich careers should ask: “What would my wife or husband be able to say if I died today?” *(Charles Peters, in Washington Monthly)***

**When I told my 20-year-old son that my fiancee and I had set a date for our marriage, I asked if he would "give me away." My heart warmed at his response. "Give you away?" he said. "But I'm not through with you yet." *(Barbara Wilkes, in Reader's Digest)***

**Men may be hormonally inclined to be cheap, a new study suggests. Researchers at Whittier College in California devised a game to test how testosterone levels affect men’s generosity. Each male subject was asked to divide $10 with another man, in any percentage he wanted; the second player could accept the offer if it seemed fair. During the exercise, subjects were given a testosterone cream that doubled the level of the male hormone in their bloodstream. Researchers found that the hormone caused the men to reduce the amount of money they offered by an average of 27 percent, while the would-be recipients were less willing to accept a low offer. (Even without a testosterone boost, the men rarely offered to split the money 50-50.) “Our broad conclusion is that testosterone causes men essentially to be stingy,” neuro-economist Karen Redwine tells New Scientist. Researchers say that testosterone may block the action of oxytocin, a hormone sometimes called the “cuddle chemical,” which promotes intimacy and can make people act generously. *(The Week magazine, November 13, 2009)***

**Where men are the most sure and arrogant, they are commonly the most mistaken. *(David Hume)***

**Dog: “You ready to stop and find something to eat?” Turtle: “I’m not very hungry.” Dog: “Really? I’m starving.” Turtle: “Oh that is so selfish!” Dog: What is?” Turtle: “I said I wasn’t hungry and then you said you were!” Dog: “And why is that selfish?” Turtle: “Because we were talking about me!” *(Stebe Boreman, in Little Dog Lost comic strip)***

**When one seeketh his own, he falls from love. *(Thomas A’Kempus)***

**I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up. *(Martin Luther King, Jr.)***

**Nothing endangers a lake more than its own outlet, cutting ever deeper and wider, eventually to drain it. This according to a geologist. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Our people are fast approaching the point where it can be said that seven-eighths of them are trying to find out how to live at the expense of the other one-eighth. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**What kills a skunk is the publicity it gives itself. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

 **“There’s much to be said for the ‘me-first’ mentality,” said Neel Kashkari. Americans’ belief that the actions of self-interested individuals “will lead to a superior outcome for the whole” has given us a vibrant entrepreneurial economy. But self-interest “can also lend to shortsighted political decision-making.” Case in point: Social Security, whose promise of retirement benefits for senior Americans has “put us on a path to national insolvency.” The majority of economists “agree that raising taxes cannot pay for these commitments,” so this entitlement must be cut if future generations are to benefit from it. But any politician who proposes such a step invites the wrath of those thinking only of their own well-being. This is shortsighted in the extreme. “If we don’t focus on our collective good, all of us will suffer.” This myopia can be cured, but only if we have political leadership capable of tapping into another wellspring of our culture, “our shared beliefs of sacrifice and self-reliance.” *(The Week magazine, August 6, 2010)***

**Men are not against you; they are merely for themselves. *(Gene Fowler, journalist)***

**Most spoken word nationwide is “I.” Second is “you.” Then come “the” and “a.” The next 16, in no special order, are: will, to, was, she, that, on, of, is, it, in, he, have, for, get, be, and. So contends a syllable sorter. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Someday history will write of our era, and the biggest scandal will be the thing we accepted in our leaders: chronic and endemic selfishness. History will be hard on us for that. *(Peggy Noonan, columnist, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**There is a do-it-yourself test for paranoia: you know you’ve got it when you can’t think of anything that’s your fault. *(Robert Hutchins)***

**Never give a party if you will be the most interesting person there. *(Mickey Friedman)***

**Egotism is the quality that causes a person to think he’s in the groove when he’s actually in a rut. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small parcel. *(John Ruskin, writer)***

**Our ego is our silent partner -- too often with a controlling interest. *(Cullen Hightower)***

**The trouble with this world is that too many people try to go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. *(Kent Ruth)***

**A narcissist is someone better looking than you are. *(Gore Vidal)***

**The fifth-grader came home from school bubbling with excitement after having been voted “Prettiest Girl in the Class.” She was even more excited when she came home the next day after the class voted her “Most Popular.” But several days later when she announced she had won a third contest, she was somewhat subdued. “What were you voted this time?” the mother asked. “Most Stuck-up,” the girl replied. *(Sylvia Altman Levitt, in Reader’s Digest)***

**If you are all wrapped up in yourself, you are overdressed. *(Kate Halverson)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***