

I-ama-guerilla in Manila - Week Ten, 24 March 2012!



New tourism destination: river cruise at scenic Bojo River, Barangay Aloguinsan, Cebu, Philippines (Manila Bulletin), left; Beauties Galore (Pangasinans' News Leader, Sunday Punch), right

Planning to return to my desert home in Tucson next week, and wondering about this note in the New York Times, reprinted in the Manila News on March 17, 2012. It reads, “When Odysseus, disguised as a beggar, returned home after 20 years of war and wandering, his aged dog, Argos, knew him instantly. ‘Infested with ticks, half dead with neglect’ and lacking the strength even to drag himself toward his master, Argos thumped his tail, nuzzled low, and dropped his ears in grateful recognition. Then the ‘dark shadow of death closed down on Argos’ eyes.’”

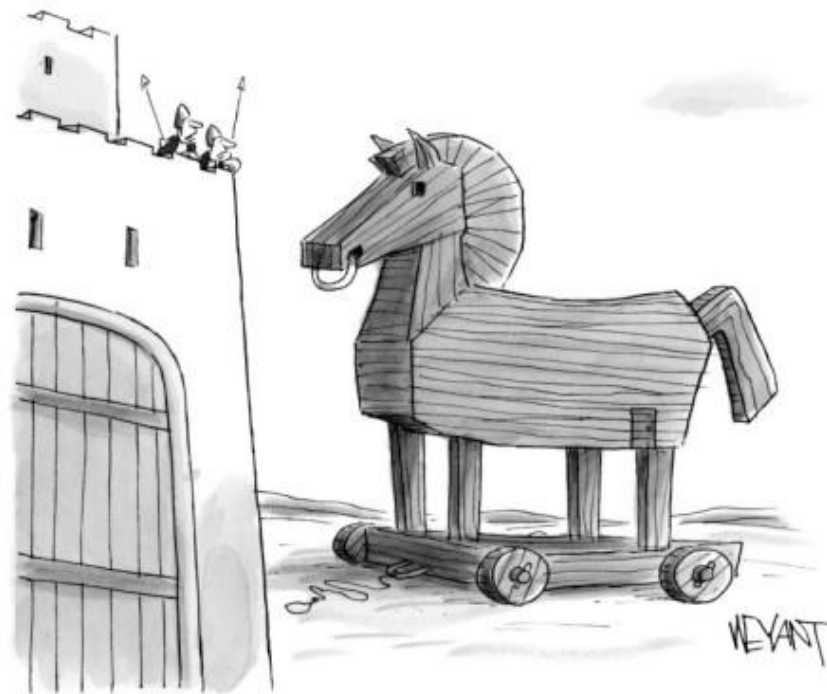
Last Saturday morning, having meat, eggs, coffee and avoiding bread and rice in the Hotel 878 Café, I wonder what if anything I have learned, after an 18-hour day of travel, writing and submittal of reports to my team leader. Thinking “writing is easy, editing is difficult but must be done well” and best to follow Stunk and White’s *Elements of Style* and *ADB Handbook of Style and Usage (2011)* note:

If language is not correct, then what is said is not what is meant; if what is said is not what is meant, then what ought to be done remains undone... Confucius

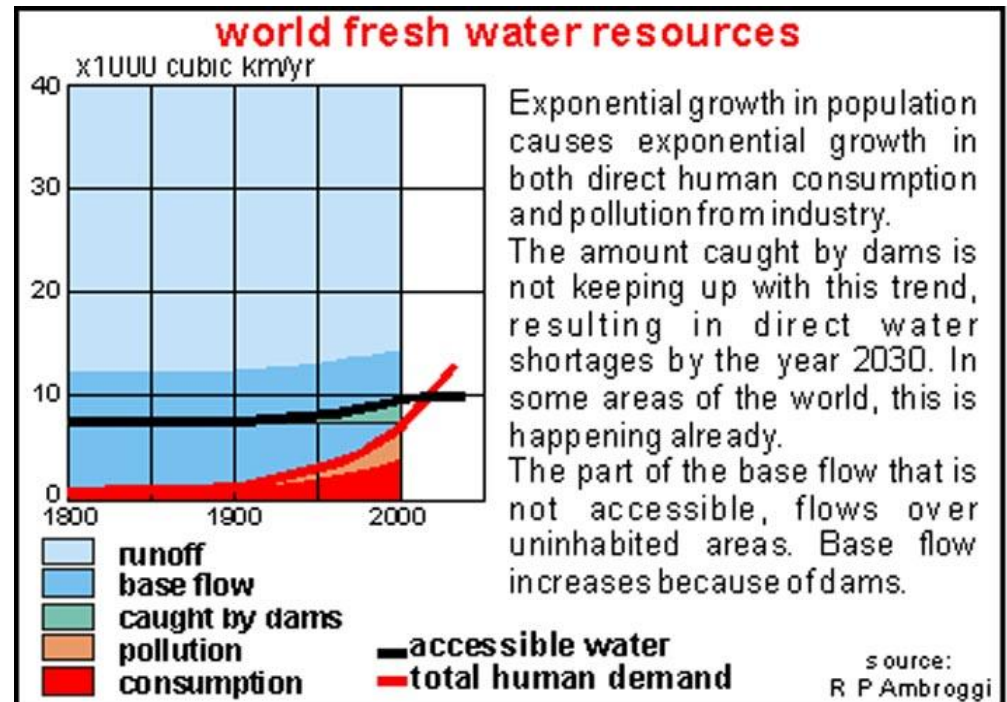
Clear writing made simple

- (i) Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
- (ii) Never use a long word where a short one will do.
- (iii) If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
- (iv) Never use the passive where you can use the active.
- (v) Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
- (vi) Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

G. Orwell. 2002. Politics and the English Language. *The Selected Essays*. New York: Everyman's Library. p. 170.



"How do we know it's not full of consultants?"



What have you learned, my dear young son? What have you learned, my darling young one? I learned from decades of working in the US and abroad (that's ONE word!): *Just because a thing can be done, is no reason to do it.* I am thinking of poor economics and unintended consequences with usual non-sustainability of much activity and international development interventions. Watching the playful children with their moms and dads in the café, I realized another truth: *It's not necessary to be the center of everything.*

La vache. Last week I was contacted about two interesting assignments which required fluency in the French language. Ugh.

Tea miracle. My Hotel 878/ Libis hotel room comes with a tea and electric kettle. The tea is Nature's Pride Green Tea, in 2-gram bags packed for Presidents Choice Corporation, Quezon City. The bags are miraculous as a single bag puts out several servings after services by just add more hot water! Instructions read: Put one teabag into a glass and pour 150-200 ml of boiling water on it. It can be made continuously for several times." I wonder if Jesus had a wine like that at a friend's wedding in Cana ;)

From Isabel C. De Leon's **What The... F a r t?** Crossing Lines, Travel & Tourism, *Manila Bulletin*, H-4, Sunday, March 18, 2012:

Remember J-A-P-A-N (Just Always Pray At Night)? Or I-T-A-L-Y (I Trust And Love You)? Or even the unbelievable H-O-L-L-A-N-D (Hope Our Love Lasts and Never Dies)? Yikes, there is even more and evolving rapidly.

ROTFL, Rolling on the floor laughing FTW, For the win ILY, I love you IMY, I miss you IMYSM, I miss you so much LMAO, Laughing my ass off BV, Bad vibes GV, Good vibes BTW, By the way OMG, Oh my God/gosh WTH, What the hell/heck BRB, Be right back GTG, Got to go RFS, Reason for selling IKR, I know right IDC, I don't care HBD, Happy Birthday HB, Heart broken	CHINA, Come here, I need affection LIBYA, Love is beautiful, you also INDIA, I nearly died in adoration CANADA, Cute and naughty action that developed into attraction BURMA, Between us, remember me always PERU, Forget everyone, remember us FRANCE, Friendships remain and never can end KOREA, Keep optimistic regardless of every adversity EGYPT, Everything great, you pretty thing YEMEN, Yugyugan (dance party) every morning, every night MANILA, May all nights inspire love always BALIWAG, Beauty and love I will always give MALABON, May a lasting affair be ours now IMUS, I miss U sweetheart PASIG, Please always say I'm gorgeous CEBU, Change everything but us TONDO, Tonight's our night, dearest one PASAY, Pretty and sexy are you
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Seems I read local papers more than US ones. Manila Bulletin notes with at least ten percent of the Philippine population living and working overseas, is it time to create a Department for Migrant Workers? Really? I wonder why the call for yet another unneeded

government agency while there are already several with Overseas Foreign Worker responsibility. Why not merge or coordinate them like George W. Bush did in putting all US foreign assistance activities under a State Department Czar?

My UK project team leader notes: America – its newspapers are too thick and its toilet papers are too thin. He notes that during WWII when England was overrun with US GIs, the expression was: Americans: Overpaid, Oversexed, and Over Here!

He is a compulsive reader and recommended books by Giles Milton, a sort of British James Michener. I ordered these from Amazon: **Nathaniel's Nutmeg: Or the True and Incredible Adventures of the Spice Trader Who Changed the Course of History; Samurai William: The Englishman Who Opened Japan; The Riddle and the Knight: In Search of Sir John Mandeville, the World's Greatest Traveler; Big Chief Elizabeth: The Adventures and Fate of the First English Colonists in America; Wolfram; White Gold: The Extraordinary Story of Thomas Pellow and Islam's One Million White Slaves for about \$52!**

One of my favorite routine reads: <http://www.stratfor.com>

Mice import boycott hurts UK science. I see in the newspapers. Likely practical science research will need to move to science-friendly countries, like Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Singapore, China, India, Lithuania, Romania, Israel.

And now a cheery song, respectful of Rodgers and Hammerstein (“Oklahoma”):

I went to Cebu City on a Friday, By Saturday I learned a thing or two
But up 'till then I didn't have an idea, Of what the mod'rn world was comin' to.
I counted twenty gas buggies goin' by theirselves, Almost every time I took a walk
An' then I put my ear to a bell telephone, An' a strange woman started into talk.
What next! What next?

Everything's up to date in Cebu City, They gone about as fer as they can go
They went an' built a skyscraper seven stories high, About as high as a buildin' orta grow.
Everything's like a dream in Cebu City, It's better than a magic lantern show.
You can turn the radiator on whenever you want some heat, With every kind of comfort every house is all complete.
You could walk the privees in the rain and never wet your feet! They've gone about as fer as they can go. They've gone about as fer as they can go!

Everything's up to date in Cebu City, They've gone about as fer as they can go
They got a big theatre they call a burlesque, For fifty cents you could see a dandy show!
One of the gals is fat and pink and pretty, As round above as she was round below
I could swear that she was padded from her shoulder to her heel, But then she started dancin' and her dancin' made me feel
That every single thing she had was absolutely real! She went about as fer as she could go, Yes, Sir! She went about as fer as she could go!

This is the life we have chosen. Difference between the Christian West and the Muslim Middle East? Obama care promotes free condoms; Egyptian government promotes female genital mutilation. Really, I heard it on the BBC today.

Have fun, be happy, and don't worry! It doesn't help! It's really more fun in the Philippines!