

Googlamaniacs and cyberspacelyitis

Something that has been bothering me for some time, but I have been hesitant to write about is how we humans are responding to the virtual world of cyberspace. Many have addressed the subject, and opinions vary. Nonetheless, all observations should be considered and I suppose one more would not hurt.



You can't beat a system you can't understand

By Sam Bari

Our crack team of researchers, the Googlamaniacs, are prime examples of what happens when people spend too many hours in front of a computer wandering aimlessly through the emotionless environment of the Internet.

I believe these people get sucked into the virtual world as if it were a black hole. Their brains become one with a giant pulsating blob of virtual intelligence that analysts use to manipulate the masses. The result is a species of Internet junkies who suffer from an unspeakable disease that I have dubbed *cyberspacelyitis*.

Our Googlamaniacs have attempted for years to convince us that they communicate with abbreviations and esoteric Internet jargon in the name of efficiency. Most of the real world believes they are lazy and can't spell. I tend to agree.

The gazillionaires who own the giant search engines like Google, Yahoo, Dogpile, and a host of others, readily admit that they experiment with hundreds of daily "tests" to learn how people gather information. They also learn about how Internet users feel about the information gleaned from Internet sources.

The advent of the blog has resulted in telling statistics about how Internet junkies think. The invitation to comment on every bit of news, sporting events, or celebrity happenings has also revealed how many Internet users do not have the ability to activate so much as a single neuron in vital lobes of their cerebral cortex.

I suppose that is why the number of hits on Brittany Spears inability to remember to wear underwear greatly outnumbered the number of hits on the latest NHS statistics published by the BBC. (For Brittany Spears fans, NHS is a commonly accepted reference to the National Health Service.)

However, I believe the multiple choice questions asked by Internet news services about every newsworthy or newsworthless item they deem pertinent could skew the statistics relating to the

way readers actually think.

AOL generally prompts readers with questions like, "Do you think this is good, bad, or I don't know" for questions on just about any subject. The surveys never consider answers like, "More information is required before I can give an intelligent answer," or "The matter needs more discussion before a responsible conclusion can be ascertained."

Despite the many buffoons and nut cases that respond to or offer nonsensical opinions in surveys and blogs, the Internet has proven to be a valuable tool for scholars and professionals who use the resource for research and efficient communication for legitimate purposes.

The most alarming statistics concern the speed and availability of massive amounts of information that can be accessed in a fraction of a second. Unfortunately, the treasure trove of instant answers to complex questions has caused Internet users to economize their thought process so they can get the most out of their Internet experience. Consequently, they don't want to take the time to read any more.

Many scholars who purported to be avid readers before becoming Internet addicts, admit they have problems concentrating on extended works. They just want bare facts presented as efficiently as possible so they can get back to the voracious consumption of as much information on every possible subject.

The inverted pyramid style of journalists is ideal for these people. Headlines offer a conclusion followed by lead lines that tell who, what, where and when. Most Internet users are satisfied with this condensed "news in a nutshell" methodology. They don't need the details of "why."

The result is a reactionary society. They read a headline and consider how or if their lives are affected. They then think about what they can do about it with as little inconvenience as possible and get back to more infor-

See "Googlemaniacs" on page 18

Open EVERYDAY!

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

9 Ferry Wharf • Jamestown • 423.0070 • www.grapesandgourmet.com

At The Conanicut Marina

5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

All Stonewall Kitchen Products 20% Off

FREE TASTINGS ALL WEEKEND!

CALL FOR DELIVERY 423.0070

LOCALLY OWNED

Register to Win * 4 Tickets to see the Sox Play the Evil Empire in Boston on July 25th

* No purchase necessary. Drawing to be held Wednesday, July 16th.

WINE SPECIALS • WINE SPECIALS

COMPARE OUR PRICES-YOU'LL BE AMAZED!

MezzaCorona Pinot Grigio Case \$55.00

Yellowtail Mix 'n Match All Varietals 2 for \$20

Celebrate in Style!

Moet & Chandon Champagne \$39.75

SPIRITS SPECIALS • SPIRITS SPECIALS

Captain Morgan's Parrot Bay Rum 750ml \$13.75

Svedka Vodka 1.75ltr \$19.75

Jose Cuervo Premade Margaritas 1.75 ltr \$14.75

ALL AMERICAN BEER SPECIALS

Pabst Blue Ribbon 12 Pack Cans \$6.75

Budweiser - The American Lager 18 Pack Cans \$14.75

Newport Storm Blueberry Ale 6 Pack Bottles \$8.00

Don't Forget

Paula's Famous Anniversary Salsa!

FRESH ENTREES & SOUPS



TO GO!

by Ann Deffley of Jamestown - The Traveling Gourmet

ICE • BEER • WINE • CRAFT BREWS • SPIRITS

Celebrating the 4th of July at Jamestown Designs

New Colors Just Arrived!



Handblown Glass



Unique Jewelry



Gallery of Local Artwork

Please visit our shop and gallery. We feature local artists and gifts that are proudly made in America.

Jamestown Designs

"where you are sure to find the unusual"

Open Daily

17 Narragansett Ave • www.jamestowndesigns.com • 401.423.0344