

Words of Wisdom, 2017

by Phillip W. Weiss

There is no known cure for stupidity.

Stupidity is as old as civilization itself.

Stupidity remains the number one mental health problem in the world today.

Stupidity is a condition.

Stupidity strikes without warning.

Every thinking person is susceptible to stupidity.

When exposed to stupidity, the consequences can be dire.

There is no known defense against stupidity.

Stupidity is not the same as being stupid.

Never underestimate the power of stupidity.

The power of stupidity is practically limitless.

Stupidity can only be monitored, never controlled.

The boundaries of stupidity are virtually limitless.

Stupidity is everywhere.

It is easier to control a raging tsunami than control stupidity.

Stupidity often masks itself as intelligence.

Stupidity is a fact of life.

The stupidity factor cannot be ignored.

There is no instrument known to humanity that can measure stupidity.

Stupidity is an absolute.

The study of history is the study of stupidity.

Stupidity is a state of mind.

Help the mentally challenged but shun those with stupidity.

Stupidity is immune to facts.

There are no degrees to stupidity.

Stupidity cannot be broken down into parts.

We are mortal yet life goes on.

Do not confuse mortality with life.

The bickering never stops.

One problem solved; two problems crop up.

The simpler the message, the greater its reception.

In simplicity lies the truth.

Words obscure meaning.

So many words, so much confusion.

Do not presume that your message has been understood, or even received.

You are remembered, honored, mourned, and then forgotten.

To target men is criminal; to target women and children degenerate.

Do not tamper with nature.

Humanity is part of nature, not vice versa.

The operations of nature are beyond human comprehension.

As we age, everything slows down, except time.

Winning is never a sure thing.

At the track, many bet, few win.

There an inverse relationship between the number of betters and percentage of winners.

Liking a job is a luxury that few can afford.

Work is a necessary evil.

Work is not supposed to be fun.

To love work is a self-delusion.

For the boss, labor is an expense.

The purpose of business is to make a profit, period.

One day the use of cash will be outlawed.

No credit cards, no economy.

A credit card can be a friend, and an enemy.

Never abuse a line of credit.

Some people are actual winners.

Watching is not the same as doing.

Greatness comes in plain packages.

Practice modesty.

People do incredibly stupid things.

It is all about making money.

Goodwill comes at a cost.

Life ends, eternity goes on.

Where was my mentor?

A pension with benefits - the American dream.

Social Security is not a pension.

The rhetoric of violence.

No father willingly disavows his child.

Non-support does not mean non-caring.

There are reasons for everything.

No surrogate can ever fully replace the biological parent.

The step-parent is not the same as the actual parent.

No child should ever be denied contact with a parent.

Wordiness obscures the message.

My friends are gone.

Friendship is like a ship: it rusts away.

Friendships fade.

Sooner or later, we are alone.

The best time is the early morning hours.

Rush hour is hell on earth.

Commuting is a form of torture.

A packed train car is a nightmare.

Billions for ball parks; nothing for transit.

Fares go up, service deteriorates.

Pay more, get less.

Social media is just another name for chat room.

Chatting is not the same as doing.

Social media is a form of entertainment.

All is new at dawn.

Dawn brings hope; sunset, disappointment.

Go forward.

What if horses formed a union?

Good company, laughs, and a good meal.

Sharing bread is the foundation of civilization.

Some people never win anything.

For some, winning is natural.

Why you and not me?

Effort does not guarantee success.

Some people make winning look so easy.

A sports athlete is valued more highly than a medical doctor.

That which entertains is valued most highly.

The multi-million-dollar sports star is still a worker.

No one is immune from the economic chopping block.

Why stay in a place where you are not honored?

True brotherly love is a rare phenomenon.

People have different talents.

Produce what you promise.

Good times are precious,

It can all turn around on a dime.

You won't be here forever.

People are capable of making the most incredible blunders

If you do not listen to yourself, who else will?

Prognostications are for fools and entertainers.

To lecture is to bore.

To lecture is to bully.

Yelling shuts down communication.

Some are meant to follow.

The race produces losers.

Not everyone can win.

The playing field is seldom level.

Being heard does not mean being understood.

Stupidity is part of life.

Stupidity is anti-reason.

Stupidity is beyond explanation.

The consequences of stupidity are exponential.

Stupidity reverberates across time.

Why not a brain density test?

Why not neuro-necrosis of the brain?

Organic causes for stupidity should not be ruled out.

Can stupidity be taught?

Acting stupid is not the same as being stupid.

Stupidity often presents as profound intelligence.

Stupidity poses the greatest challenge to the survival of humanity.

Stupidity is contagious.

Mass stupidity is a fact.

One ounce of stupidity is equal to one ton of knowledge.

People believed that the earth was flat.

People believed that the sun revolved around the earth.

People believed that disease was a curse.

Ideology is a merely the distortion of facts for political purposes.

People believed that political power was a divine right.

People believed in the institution of slavery.

People believed that some people were born to be slaves.

People believed that slavery was a positive moral good.

People believed that cigarette smoking improved health.

That anything gets done at all is a miracle.

There are those who like being on the street.

Street people are people too.

Let us avoid war if possible.

Sometimes it's enough just to breathe.

Who really cares?

We all matter, even when we don't.

There are no words of wisdom, just words.

You know things, so what?

What good is knowledge if you can't apply it?

Mayors come and go, but the cities grind on.

It's not who pays but who pays whom.

There's always something else that's worse.

The onslaught of time is frightening.

You can't fix time.

Time is our biggest enemy.

You may want to reconsider your calculations.

Keep setting goals.

Thinking young is not the same as being young.

You can't will yourself to be young.

Youth is more than just a state of mind.

Health care is not a commodity but a right.

Health care must be based on need, not income.

Some movements are meant for the toilet.

Spinning wheels over nothing.

As long as you are not pushing up the daisies, you are ahead of the game.

People die; memories fade.

Discretion is the better part of valor.

Truth is elusive.

Memories are but images of time.

Relationships are transitory.

People are interchangeable.

Money can buy friends.

A star waiting to be discovered.

If you believe yourself to be a star, then you are a star.

Stardom is a state of mind.

You are on your way to stardom, you just don't know it yet.

You are not an extra.

We are all stars in the drama called life.

What you don't have you may not want.

What you many want you may not need.

The brain is the world's best camera.

Part friend, part enemy, all human.

Love without money is love that is doomed.

Good ideas are a dime a dozen.

Have an idea? Write it down.

It is wonderful to be a star, especially when you earned it.

Nobody knows what's going on.

A witch hunt has nothing to do with witches.

Victims are made, not born.

We choose to be victims.

Death happens unexpectedly.

Success has nothing to do with talent.

Beware of self-promoters.

To admit to wrongdoing takes great courage.

Nobody wants to deal with a deal maker.

Landlords are nothing but rent collectors.

Public officials should be completely transparent.

Elections do not solve problems.

The dead cannot be sued.

Some people just don't learn.

Even the great ones have their flaws.

Some people burn bright then fizz out.

A clean *schmata* is better than a dirty dress.

Winning alone does not make you a winner.

Don't be a judge, be a jury.

Politics is a necessary evil.

No politics, no government.

Doing right is easier said than done.

To screw up is human.

It is a bad feeling to believe that nobody cares about you.

You can be dying on the street and only the stranger will help.

Do it while you can is an empty cliché.

Pressure to act is self-induced.

To know me, know my culture.

Personality is a function of culture plus hormones.

Great actors make acting seem easy.

Being oneself: the ultimate compliment that can be paid to an actor.

Acting is more than just reciting lines.

The director has a vision, the actor the tool.

Give it time: a meaningless cliché.

There is never enough time.

Life is more than a list of things to do.

People die, yet life goes on.

Nature is based on re-cycling.

Everything gets recycled.

Matter is finite; it's component parts infinite.

The older we get, the easier it is to lose hope.

We all have to learn for ourselves.

Nobody can fully appreciate another's experience.

Landmarks change but the path stays the same.

Days add up.

The final exhalation: entrance to eternity.

Oh, oh: it's stupid time again.

Trouble is just a thought away.

Life is a miracle.

Death is a fact, but so is eternal life.

The spirit is real.

Afterlife is just that: after life.

The body decomposes while the spirit is set free.

Spirit is another name for the life force.

Life = body + spirit

Spirit = life - body.

Body = life - spirit

The body is the vessel.

There can be no life without the spirit.

The life force is spirit.

The life force can be observed but not explained.

To explain the life force is like explaining infinity.

Never underestimate someone else's pain.

Life is fragile, yet resilient.

Respect the tree.

Every tree destroyed is one less source of oxygen.

Do not presume how others may feel.

Deal with the facts.

To deny the subjective factor is just plain foolish.

Be careful when giving advice.

Think ten times before asking for advice.

Take your own advice.

Listen to yourself, not to others.

Requesting advice is an attention-getting act.

Asking for advice is like asking which horse to bet on in a race.

Do what you think is best.

Do not doubt yourself.

Nobody really cares.

The eating does not stop.

The world is a classroom.

The only thing worse than giving advice is asking for advice.

Beware of the person who asks for advice.

Advice is cheap, taking advice is even cheaper.

Advice is always self-serving.

To advise is to confuse.

No two persons can ever fully understand one another.

Advice given does not mean advice is received.

Crazy ideas.

Without credentials you are a nobody.

The brilliance does not stop.

Friendship means not keeping people at a distance.

You know so much, I know so little.

Some of the smartest people I know never went to college.

Street philosophy is real philosophy.

Change occurs without warning.

Bring in one, others will follow.

Everything sucks.

All jobs are repetitious.

All jobs become routine.

All jobs are an extension of the boss's will.

The worker essentially is a tool.

Bosses direct, workers obey.

The worker is expected to do, not think.

Pity the worker who thinks like a boss.

Pity the boss who needs workers.

In a company, workers are replaceable, bosses aren't.

Lose a worker, easily replaced; lose a boss, no more company.

The boss plans while the worker obeys.

Money is the source of all power.

No money, no army.

The worker complains and soon is gone.

No worker is paid to complain.

Workers are paid to work, not think.

When the boss makes changes, look out.

The boss is always looking to cut costs.

The boss is always looking to reduce the size of the workforce.

Companies exist to make money, not employ workers.

Labor produces wealth but doesn't own it.

To labor is to languish.

The worker follows instructions.

The only way to rise up is to get up.

The pay check is always a pittance.

Being well-paid is a relative term.

A worker can be paid millions of dollars and still be underpaid.

Workers are never fully compensated for the value of their labor.

Profit is the uncompensated portion of the laborer's production.

The more productive the worker, the wealthier the boss.

A happy worker is a foolish worker.

No worker ever becomes wealthy.

The boss has ideas, the worker a strong back.

Capital is liquid, workers aren't.

To be hired means that you can be fired.

There is no disgrace in being a worker.

Better to preserve a job then lose it.

Look out for the militant labor union.

Do your job and collect your pay.

Change, even beneficial change, is painful.

Fear change, but detest the status quo.

Things never stay the same.

Nothing is static; even mountains change.

The political scientist is neither a politician nor a scientist.

Political scientists analyze what non-political scientists do.

Political science is the art of trying to figure out how politics works.

There is no way that the political process can be scientifically tested.

The real practitioners of political science are politicians.

Political theory is just that: theory.

Political theories are not facts.

Trying to analyze the political process is like trying to analyze a horse race.

People earn doctorates in political science who have never run for office.

Workers have of put aside their pride.

In the marketplace, workers are a commodity.

When you are on the outs, expect no sympathy.

Looking for work is a conditioned cultural response.

Everyone needs a steady income.

Money reverses everywhere.

Think old, become old.

To age means to have lived.

The alternative to aging is death.

To live is to age.

Aging is a natural process.

The only way to avoid getting old is not to get old.

Do not confuse aging with growing old.

Keep active.

Without pastrami, what is there?

To know me, you must know pastrami.

A man, a woman, and pastrami - the rhythm of life.

Pastrami is a cultural institution.

Do not trifle with pastrami.

The pastrami sandwich high - the sweetest feeling in the world.

Every person should have an intimate knowledge of and deep appreciation for the pastrami sandwich.

Know your bed fellow.

Do not believe everything you read.

To inspire, set an example.

Believe in yourself.

Every organism degenerates over time.

What is new soon becomes old.

Every crime can be rationalized away.

For every crime there are a hundred excuses.

To take responsibility requires courage.

Beware of those who solicit handouts.

Pity those who choose to live on the street.

The ghetto is more than a geographical entity.

Much wealth, much alienation.

Care for yourself first.

We are all judges.

Not to be judgmental is unnatural.

Who can possibly not be judgmental?

Humans are by nature judgmental.

Beware of persons who claim impartiality.

Picking sides is part of human nature.

Social divisions produce social change.

Social unity is social stagnation.

All religions are politically based.

Medicine is an industry.

Armies should be outlawed.

Military conscription should be declared a human rights violation.

The right to travel without restrictions should be codified in international law.

To close a border is a hostile act.

National borders are meant to be crossed.

A border is not a wall.

A wall is not a border.

Walls impede, borders regulate.

Walls are for prisons.

Great nations are not feared but admired.

A medical diagnosis should not be based on guess work.

A tentative treatment plan is worse than no treatment plan.

In medical care, uncertainty can be lethal.

Without trust, good medical care is not possible.

The physician who cares is the physician who treats.

Any diagnosis with the prefix "pre" is no diagnosis.

Any condition can be "pre" any other condition.

Refrain from prescribing medication that can do more harm than good.

Refrain from prescribing medication in which side effects outweigh benefits.

All medications potentially are poisonous.

Lack of accessibility destroys the doctor-patient relationship.

Quality of care boils down to the quality of the doctor-patient relationship.

Beware of the doctor who says "return in six-months."

If treatment is complete, follow up is not necessary.

Not every condition needs to be treated.

Sometimes the best treatment plan is to doing nothing.

Overly aggressive medical treatment is poor medical treatment.

There is a time to treat and there is a time not to treat.

Functional independence is a contra-indicator for physical therapy.

By its very nature, physical therapy alone cannot relieve pain.

Physical training is used as a form of punishment.

A medical diagnosis is tentative until confirmed by appropriate diagnostic tests.

Physicians often misdiagnosis.

A medical referral between two physicians sharing the same office is a conflict of interest.

An appropriate medical referral involves two physicians who do not have a business relationship.

Medical care is a commodity.

Expensive medical care does not necessarily mean good medical care.

A physician who truly cares is like a diamond in the rough.

Don't expect miracles from a physician.

Physicians are not miracle workers.

In general, a medical plan should be as conservative as necessary.

Beware of the physician who hesitates.

Without a definite diagnosis, medical care at best is palliative.

Continuity of care is a function of accessibility.

Medical care is becoming increasingly bureaucratized.

A good physician respects the patient.

Except pursuant to a court order, an adult patient has an absolute right to refuse medical treatment.

Only a court can order medical treatment against a patient's will.

Except in dire emergencies, no physician should treat a minor without a parent or legal guardian present.

For a physician, there is no absolute immunity from liability.

Every invasive procedure is a potential liability lawsuit.

Beware of the physician who is too quick to employ the scalpel.

To formulate a diagnosis based on subjective symptoms is extremely poor medical care.

Diagnostic tests must be reliable.

Mass media is totally politicized.

There is no such thing as objective reporting.

All news stories are propaganda.

The free press is anything but free.

The media shapes public opinion.

Whoever controls the media shapes public opinion.

All news stories contain spin.

The mass media has its own political agenda.

The mass media picks winners and losers too.

Beware of the journalist who denies having a political bias.

Politics shapes the way news is reported.

News is nothing more than gossip.

Fake stories happen all the time.

The mass news media is open to abuse.

The mass news media can be used as a weapon.

The mass news media routinely slants stories.

Anyone who believes that the media is objective is denying reality.

All news reporting impacts on politics.

The mass news media can build up or destroy any politician.

To consolidate power, a dictator must control the press.

Any politician who fights the media will lose that fight.

The mass news media is stronger than any politician.

Politicians come and go while the mass news media remains.

The only way to confirm a diagnosis of cancer is through a biopsy.

Not all medical conditions are cancer.

Despite all the advances in technology, medical diagnosing is still a judgment call.

To suggest that something is pre-cancerous implies that cancer is already present.

To remove a lesion without ascertaining its etiology is poor medical care.

Don't be fooled by appearances.

The term "pre-cancer" should never be used lightly.

The only way to diagnose cancer is with a biopsy.

Much of medical care is based on forensics.

If you can't perform, then don't try to sell yourself.

Great players never need to be touted.

Let players prove themselves on the field.

Never trade away a fan favorite.

Beware of the front office that wants to trade away stars.

If morale is low, the team will lose.

If morale is high, even a mediocre team may win.

High morale is a function of effective coaching.

Players need to know that the front office cares.

Never take a player for granted.

Without the players there would be no team.

The great players motivate others to be great too.

A talented player is not necessarily a great player.

Players are not machines.

Talent alone does not necessarily guarantee success.

Where one penny is found so may another penny be found too.

Love is more than a feeling, it is a state of mind.

All great enterprises require partners to ensure success.

Those persons closest to you care for you the least.

The closer the person the greater their contempt.

Love is a transitory feeling that can easily morph into hate,

Heed well the words of those who scorn you.

Flowery words often mask hateful thoughts.

Hate is much more honest than love.

Regrettably we all need other people in our lives.

Somber songs with disturbing imagery seldom bring a smile.

Music is meant to inspire, not depress.

All great music rallies the masses.

A clever lyric is not necessarily an entertaining lyric.

Without catharsis, tragedy as a literary device loses its purpose.

Assistance, if forthcoming, invariably comes from the most unexpected sources.

Those closest to you often will not offer help.

No sense worrying about what you cannot change.

Don't expect more than what you pay for.

Time is fleeting, and cruel.

What's in the past is gone forever.

One thing is certain in life: death.

If good health is so valuable, then why do so many people abuse it?

It's easy to blame the victim for their misfortune.

Among us live those for whom the rules don't apply.

For some, the street is preferable to an abode.

For some, social conventions are an inconvenience to be avoided.

When leaders speak in private at length, something's up.

In politics, relationships are subject to change.

No one wants to feel abandoned.

Great nations honor their commitments.

Great nations inspire confidence.

Conscription should be outlawed.

Anti-social behavior is a function of a defective socialization process.

People will murder for money.

Do not judge the value of something solely by its price tag.

Woe to the politician who cavorts with foreign agents.

What is a free press?

News is gossip.

News is neither free nor objective.

The POTUS/CNN controversy is part of a larger political struggle.

The news media has a political agenda.

The news media is a player in the struggle for power.

For the current POTUS, the news media is just another political opponent to denigrate.

For the news media, the current POTUS represents a threat to their power.

After the November 2016 election the news media took on a political role.

The news media has no incentive to report anything positive about the current POTUS.

The news media currently is a front for the Democratic Party.

The November 2016 election showed that new political coalitions are emerging.

The November 2016 election showed that a politician can win without the news media's support.

The Democratic Party still has not recovered from the results of the November 2016 election.

Even if the POTUS accomplishes nothing, he will still get re-elected.

As long as health care is treated as a commodity and access to care is based on ability to pay, there will be a need for Medicaid.

As long as there are people who cannot afford to purchase health insurance, there will be a need for Medicaid.

Every person on Medicaid marks a failure of society to integrate that person into the economic mainstream.

Ideally, every person should have equal access to private health insurance coverage.

To deny medical care solely due to inability to pay is immoral and indefensible.

Medicaid is tangible proof that society has failed to integrate millions of people into the economic mainstream.

As long as people are on the economic margins, there will be a need for Medicaid.

Any politician who seriously advocated expanding Medicaid is ignoring economic realities.

The more people who are integrated into the economic mainstream, the fewer people who will be on Medicaid.

In news reporting, a story need not be based on facts.

The mass media's number one weapon: innuendo.

The court of law and the court of public opinion operate by different rules.

It doesn't take much to reignite a news story.

Question not the fact but the source of the fact.

A rumor once released takes on a life of its own.

Producing hysteria and alarm is the goal of most news reporting.

The news media is not above creating their own stories.

Embellishment is the hallmark of good reporting.

A news report is five percent fact, ninety-five percent gossip and one hundred percent political attack.

When the news media is on the attack, nothing can stop it.

In the court of public opinion, the news media is the chief prosecutor.