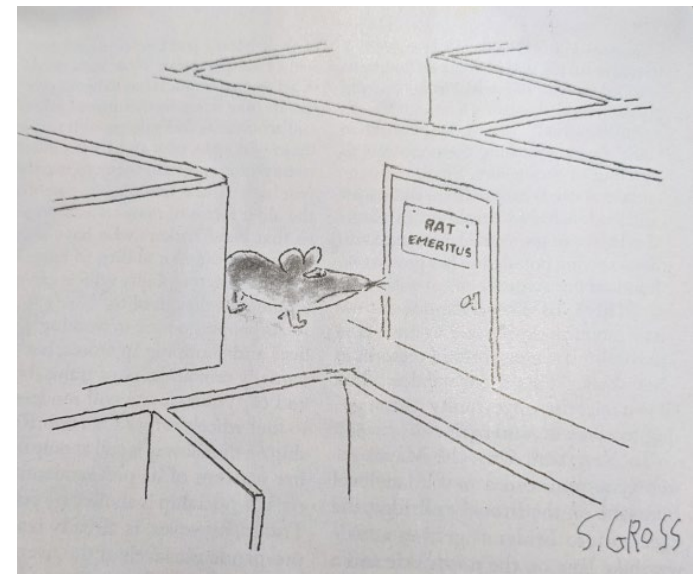


## Lecture 10W

Today: THE LAST LECTURE:

A dozen suggestions  
you probably don't want to hear



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*ECS 127: Spring 2024*

*Lecture 10W – 5 June 2024*

## Part 1:

# Awards Ceremony



1. BCS 2024 [Beautiful Cheat Sheet] Prize

*Meigan. Honorable mention: Veronica, Anonymous*

2. PNA [Prettiest Notes Award] 2024

*Kylie & Mira [tie]*

3. Unsolicited Artwork Award

*Anonymous*

4. Distinguished Contributions in ~~Cryptography~~ ~~Cartography~~ Calligraphy

*Hannah*

5. Perfect Attendance Prize

*Self-identified*

6. Serial Victim Idemnification Protocol

*Self-identified*

## Part 2: The dozen suggestions

Don't assume that I do all these things so well. I don't!

### (1) Speak your mind.

A prerequisite:  
Know your mind



(2) It's not okay just because it's routine.



### (3) Don't buy the whole “technology will solve it” narrative.

#### The “Standard Technological Narrative” (STN)

1. Technology is a **tool**. It is **apolitical** and **ethically neutral**.
2. Due to technology, things are **great** and **getting better**.
3. Better technology will **fix** what inferior technology broke.
4. We will overcome the **climate/environmental** challenges.
5. Tech is driven by brilliant **individuals**, advanced by the **marketplace**.
6. We have risen far above **animals**, are creating a **technological utopia**.

**My problem with the STN:**

**It's just a story ... and  
not a very good one.**

## (4) Don't be so damn optimistic.

Excessive optimism — not pessimism — undermines social progress. It obviates

- the need for broad thinking
- the recognition of emergency
- the basis for social-change movements



## (5) Don't lie—to yourself or to others—about where we are at.

*In dark times, it does no good to pretend that you are not living in dark times.*

Ira Glass, This American Life, episode 781,  
Watching the Watchers, Oct. 7, 2022

*Language designed to deceive or distort its actual meaning, normally for the benefit of those in power*



## (6) Don't be taken in by all the CS doublespeak

**Algorithm** (a) A program to compute some unknown function. (b) An opinion rendered in code.

**Cloud computing** Putting your data on somebody else's servers so that it can be stored in an unknown jurisdiction and mined by unknown parties for unknown ends. But at least it sounds fluffy and cool.

**Crypto** Used to mean *cryptography* — the art and science of secure communication. Now it refers to a massive Ponzi scheme wrapped in technobabble. (P. Klugerman, 5/21/2020)

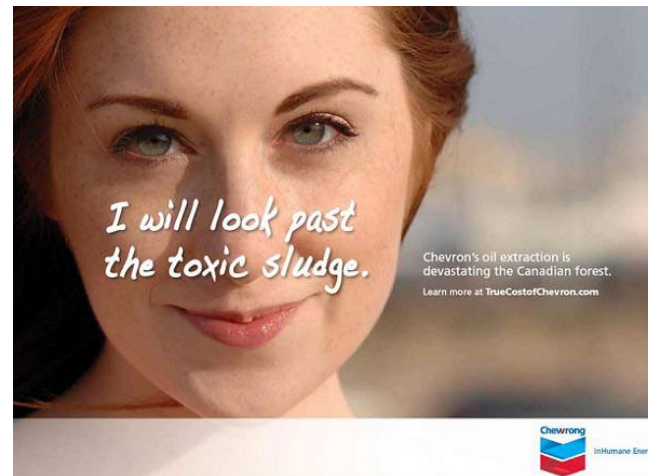
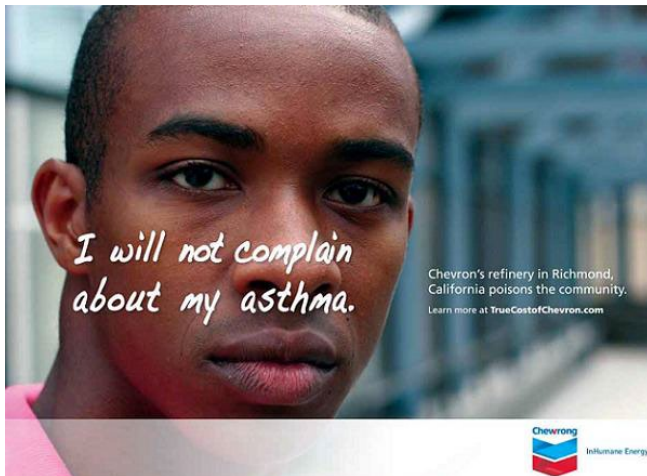
**Deep learning** Learning devoid of depth due to an absence of foundations *and* domain expertise *and* sociopolitical thinking .

**Smartphone** A phone that is not smart and that pushes its users to be just as stupid. Also, the device should barely function as an actual phone.

**Social media** Systems designed to sunder social interactions.



(7) In choosing a job, focus on your prospective employer's societal role.

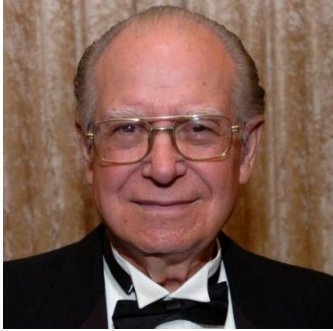




(8) Don't respect authority that doesn't deserve respect.



## (9) Don't buy an expensive home.



**Cruz Reynoso**  
1931 – 2021





## (10) Travel.





## (11) Don't forget your body.

*Healthy eating + Exercise*



## 12. No need to be entirely happy and well adjusted.

*It is no measure of health to be well  
adjusted to a profoundly sick society.*



Jiddu Krishnamurti

## Summary

# The Dozen Suggestions

1. Speak your mind.
2. It's not okay just because it's routine.
3. Don't buy into the whole "technology will solve it" narrative.
4. Don't be so damn optimistic.
5. Don't lie—to yourself or to others—about where we are at.
6. Don't be taken in by all the CS doublespeak.
7. In choosing a job, focus on your prospective employer's societal role.
8. Don't respect authority that doesn't deserve that respect.
9. Don't buy an expensive home.
10. Travel.
11. Don't forget your body.
12. No need to be entirely happy and well adjusted.

"Listen, smile, agree,  
and then do whatever  
the f\*ck you  
were gonna  
do anyway."

Robert  
Downey Jr.

