

## Tidbits

One day on the news I watched an article about the new bay bridge ready to be built over San Francisco Bay. Chinese money, Chinese engineering, Chinese materials, Chinese crew. An hour later another article showed how industry was coming back to America. Someone had started a small factory with a hundred employees making disposable chopsticks for China.

The reality is that the design for the bridge is largely American, the engineering is multinational and the bridge components are made all over the world. Now we're finding that the American made high tensile bolts and rods become brittle when exposed to salt water, and there's water seeping into the piers. The bridge will be a major money pit at best and possibly a total failure.

The real failure, however, was American politicians and fat cats demanding a spectacular 6.4 billion dollar bridge that pushed the edge of engineering capabilities, when a simple roadway on piers across the mudflats would have done a better job at a small fraction of the cost. Billions of dollars of steel and fuel and human energy wasted on a Rube Goldberg piece of art.

There was an article in a newspaper about how a change in the Rio Grande's course was making someone's land too wet to farm and he was going out of business. On the same page was an article about how a change in the river's course had brought someone enough water to start a fish farm.

I heard it from a man who knew. Never get a monkey drunk.

Never underestimate the power of ignorant people in large numbers.

In an economy of supply and demand, the less oil we consume, the cheaper the price will be.

I saw it on the wall of a shoe repair shop in Bhutan, courtesy of World View. Vision without action is daydreaming. Action without vision is a nightmare.

One year in the shop class that I taught, the boys wanted to make swords, so they took anything from the scrap pile that resembled a sword with the least work and played with them. They weren't real at all, and they had very little concept that they could actually make anything that was. The one girl in the class took a cutout from a tank and a piece of steel and made a very real and serviceable shield and dirk; the classic defense against a sword.

This illustrates a serious problem in the world today. This was half a generation ago when boys spent much more time playing with video games than girls. Video games are a very disabling curse upon our children.

Now that we have the Hubble Telescope, it begs the question; How big is God?