

# Take Your Trickster to Work

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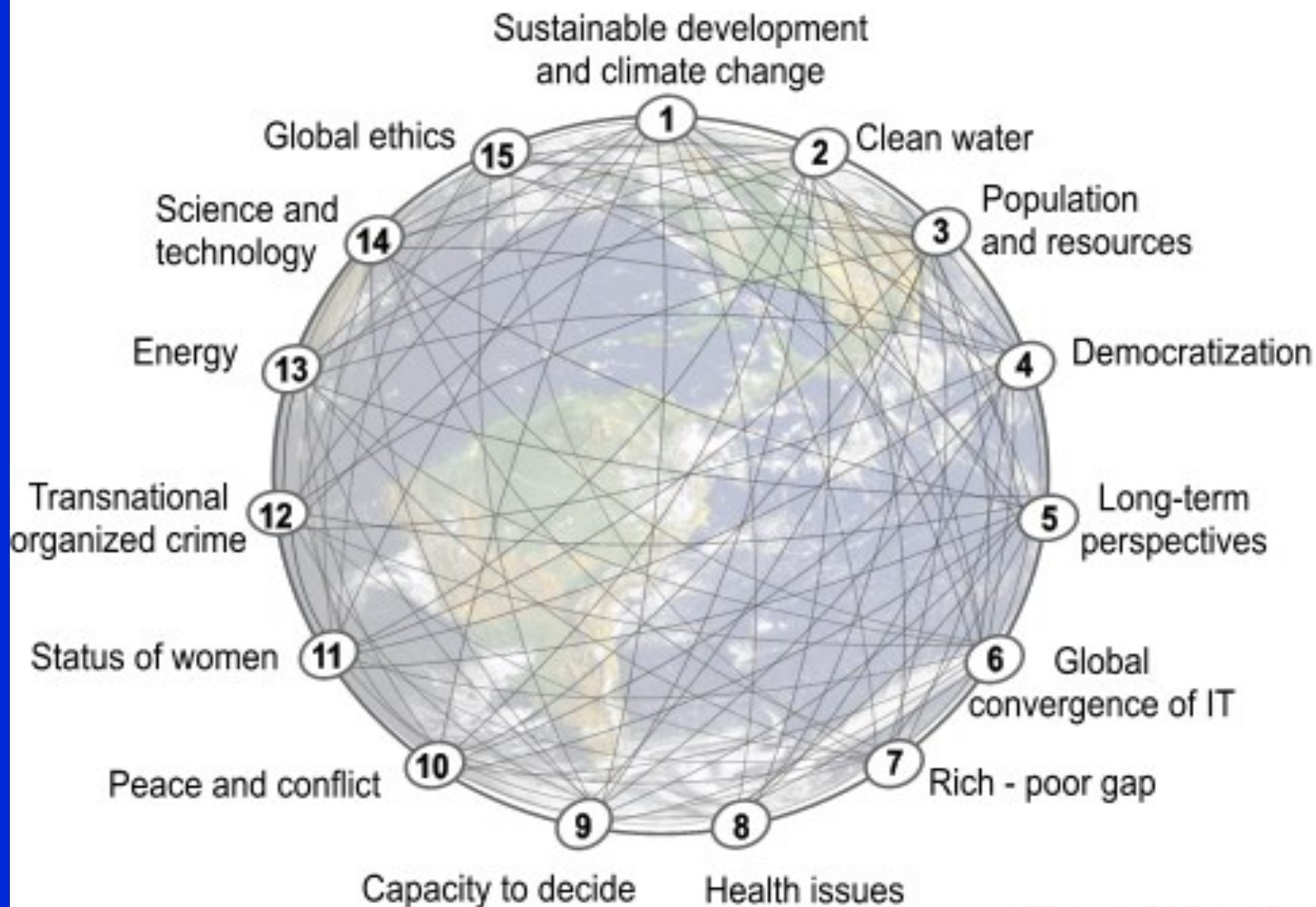
My  
territory

Raven  
transformer  
adaptable  
→ survive



# RUBES







# Doomsday Clock

## 3 minutes to midnight

- unchecked climate change
- global nuclear weapon modernization
- outsized nuclear arsenals
- failure of political leadership





“a tough room to work”

# Different “realities”



Send in the clowns ???



Don't bother ... they're here.



FOOLS  
ARE  
EVERYWHERE



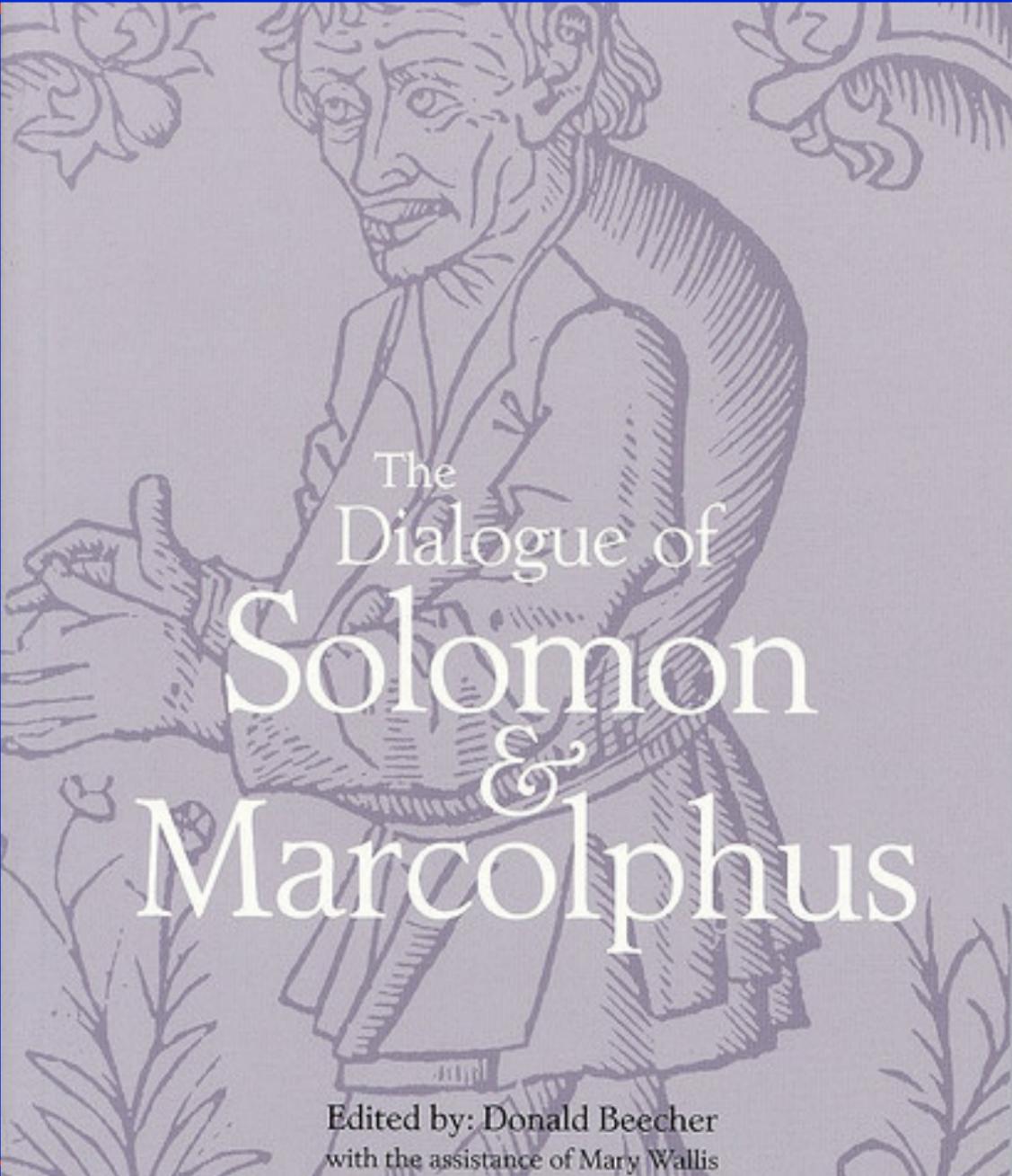
THE COURT JESTER AROUND THE WORLD



BEATRICE K. OTTO

trickster ... fool ... jester ... wit ...  
joker ... clown ... juggler ... wag ...  
riddler ... shape shifter ... card ...  
picador ... antic ... buffoon ...  
prankster ... mad cap ... stooge ...  
harlequin ... mountebank ...  
picador ... merry-andrew ...  
punchinello ... glee-maiden ...

Nanabush ... Eshu ... Konangi ...  
Coyote ... Hermes ... Anansi ...  
Winnebago ... Nasrudin ... Loki ...  
Raven ... Puck ... Kokopelli ...  
Odo ... Sorori ... Sun Wukong ...  
Kitsune ... Q ... Narr ... Eris ...  
Chicot ... Rigoletto ... Pierrot ...  
Giacomo ... Susanoo ... Tanuki ...  
Peterkin ... Kyoami ...



The  
Dialogue of  
Solomon  
&  
Marcolphus

Edited by: Donald Beecher  
with the assistance of Mary Wallis

# What do tricksters DO?

observe

listen

question

tell stories

make jokes

have **second** thoughts

see *otherwise* – being **wise**

to the other



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# How?

flexibility

imagination

courage

Conrad Hyers, 1981

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# Trickster talk

- be wide awake (Greene)
- listen for surprises (Wheatley)
- visit *the other* (Arendt)
- don't believe everything you think (Chodron)
- receive the gift of overwhelmed amazement (Tallis)

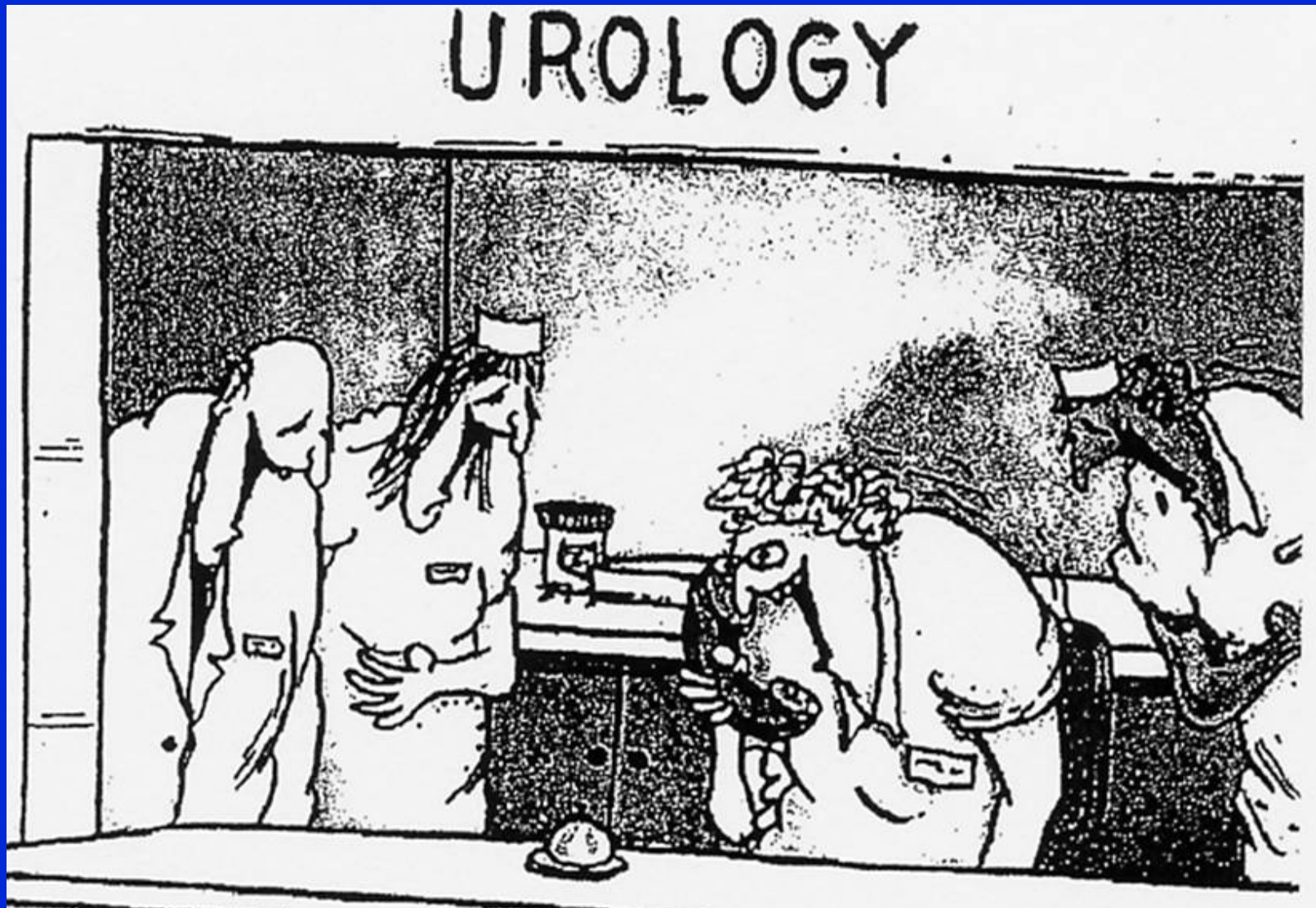
# Comedy = Bisociation

- two domains suddenly have a common thread
- object or event is outside **normal** context
- unexpected or unusual relationship is **essential** for meaning

Paul McGhee



“Sorry, it’s my job.”



“Urology Department – Can you hold?”



Tim Peckham



It's in the singer

*NOT*

in the song!



# Bisociation (learning)

- two domains suddenly have a common thread (I've never connected these ideas before)
- object or event is outside **normal** context (this doesn't fit with my old thinking)
- unexpected or unusual relationship becomes essential (I get it!)

# ~~Bisociation~~ inventing, coping, leading, healing, imagining

- two domains suddenly have a common thread
  - object or event is outside **normal** context
  - unexpected or unusual relationship becomes **essential**
-

# Trickster in action

- acts with contingent understanding
- accepts **normal** as temporary
- thinks/acts other*wise*  
*wise to other ways*



To be playful and serious  
at the same time  
is possible  
and defines the  
ideal mental condition

John Dewey

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*“the imaginative life”*

- enlarges human beings
- opens us to fuller understanding of others and ourselves

C S Lewis, 1961

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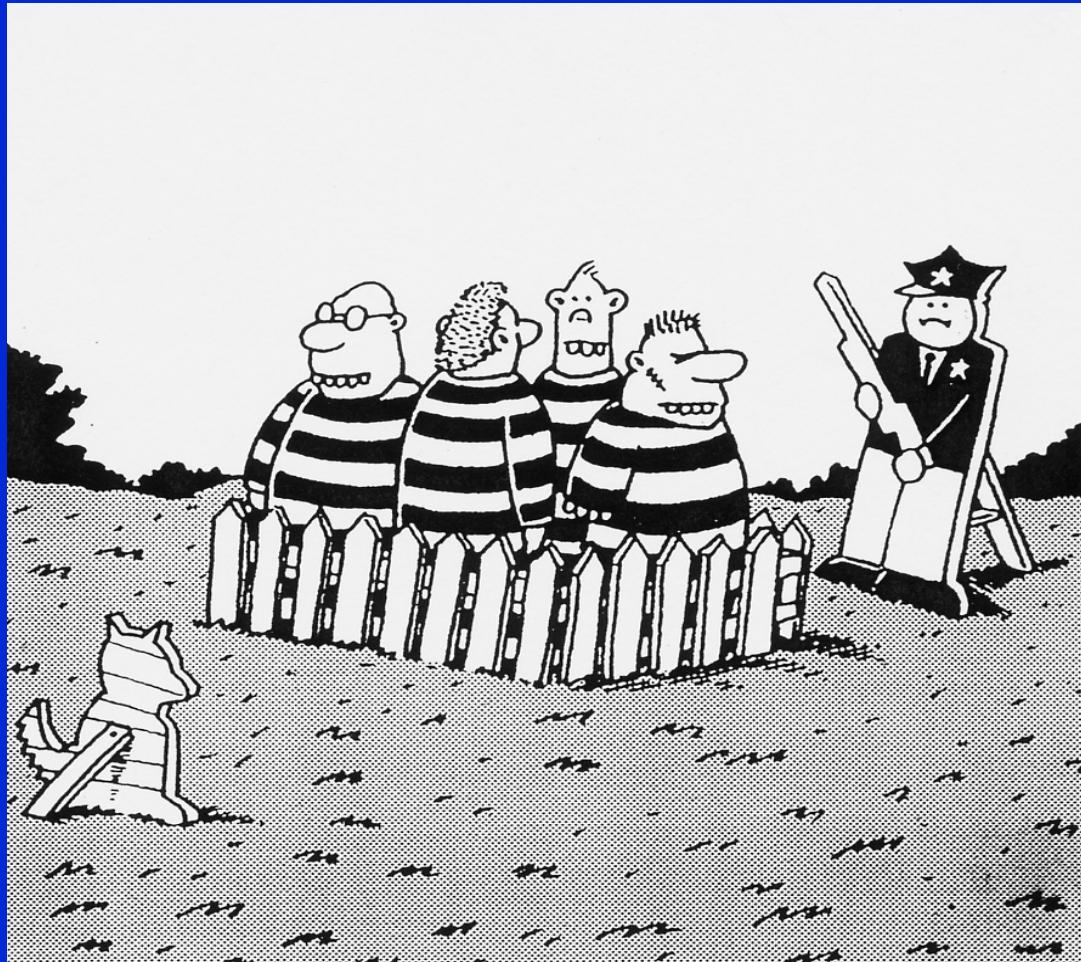
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*“releasing the imagination”*

- teach/work for openings
- arouse ourselves to begin again

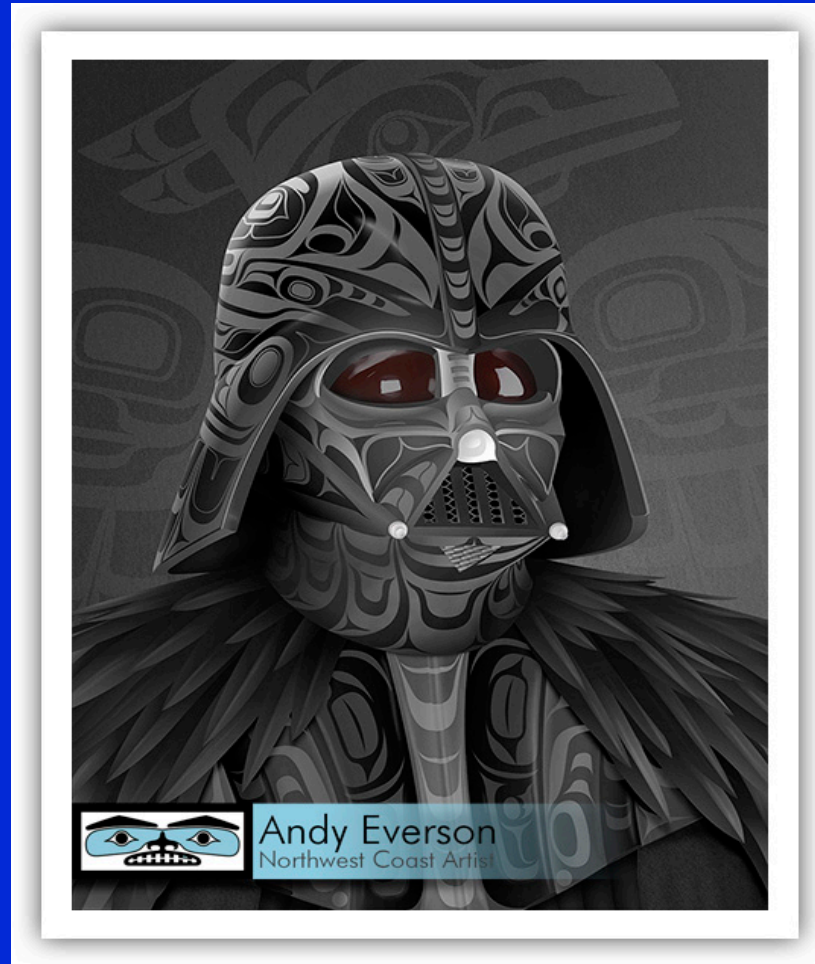
Maxine Greene, 1995

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NOT!

# Andy Everson



# Benny Kaiparettu

Hold off on that omelette!

- space station - \$100 billion
- egg - 15 cents

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John Oliver presents  
*A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo*



# Jesse Wente on sports logos

*“We are not your mascots.  
We are human beings.”*

- Washington Redskins
- Cleveland Caucasians

# RE-image-ing



# Linda Tuhiwai Smith

*“The power of healing is  
linked to the power  
of your OWN voice.”*

- tell me MY story
- sing me MY song



# Vikram Bhatt



edible landscape pioneer

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# 54% of world's 7 billion people live in cities

- unsustainable model
  - “conceived, imagined & intellectually  
formed in our own image”
-

# Bhatt's otherwise ideas

Low cost food & housing

- “engage this challenge creatively”
- “observe humbly, sympathetically”

*We need to dream.*

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The average four-year-old laughs  
400 times a day.

The average adult laughs 15  
times a day.

Richard Shade

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# Practice, practice, practice

- games, puzzles, riddles, rebus, satire
- skits, songs, storytelling, stand-up
- Rube Goldberg machines
- paper engineering
- juggling, parkour, physical comedy
- cartooning, colouring, doodling

Laugh, laugh, laugh

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# Yeah, BUT ...

Too soon, too late, too busy,  
too scared, too tired, too old,  
too young, too sad, too lonely,  
not my job, not possible, not  
appropriate, not professional,  
won't matter ...

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# Dickens & Dillard

the best of times ...

the worst of times

NOW


# Start with a song ...




# Bread and Roses


As we go marching, marching in the beauty of the day,  
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts gray,  
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses,  
For the people hear us sing "Bread and roses! Bread and roses!"






As we go marching, marching, we battle too for men,  
For they are women's children, and we mother them again.  
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes,  
Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us  
roses!





As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.  
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew.  
Yes, it is bread we fight for -- but we fight for roses, too!



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(musical interlude)

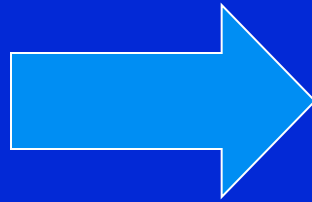
As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days.  
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.  
No more the drudge and idler -- ten that toil where one reposes,  
But a sharing of life's glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!  
Bread and roses!

Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes,  
Hearts starve as well as bodies; Bread and roses!  
Bread and roses!

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Comic



Cosmic

Thank you.

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