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Beyond Cross Cultural Magazine is a non-profit 501c(3) organization that supports, educates and informs new immigrants, international students, and first-time visitors to the U.S. about:

- Culture and Integration
- Cross-Cultural Relationships
- Immigration Laws and Regulations
- Finances
- General Information to help make your stay in the U.S. comfortable and manageable

Mar 16

ACCEPTING FAILURE

By *betty* · Comments (0)

Betty Odak, Editor/Author

Failure is one of the most difficult traits to deal with: it is not easy to accept defeat or failure. It takes a lot of courage to admit failure, however, I have come to realize that accepting or admitting our faults/mistakes is the first step to success.

In my new Published book *Before, After, And Beyond Bankruptcy*, I admitted the mistakes I made in handling my finances until there was no option but... I learned painful and great lessons and would like to share with you.

Check out these links and find out about this book that everyone is talking about.

- <http://www.babankruptcy.com>
- <http://www.thelooonline.com/email/bankruptcy.html>

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Mar 06

EXPANSION FOR CERTAIN FORM I-140 PETITIONS

By *betty* · Comments (0)

USCIS website:

Premium Processing Service Expanded for Certain Form I-140 Petitions

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will expand Premium Processing Service for designated Forms I-140 (Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker) to include alien beneficiaries who have reached, or are reaching, their limitation of stay in H-1B nonimmigrant status. Currently, only certain alien beneficiaries who are in H-1B nonimmigrant status at the time of filing may request premium processing for Form I-140.

Beginning March 2, 2009, USCIS will accept Form I-907 (Request for Premium Processing Service) for alien worker petitions filed on behalf of alien beneficiaries who, as of the date of filing the Form I-907: Are the beneficiary of a Form I-140 petition filed in a preference category that has been designated for premium processing service:

- Have reached the sixth-year statutory limitation of their H-1B stay, or will reach the end of their sixth year of H-1B stay within 60 days of filing;
- Are only eligible for a further H-1B extension under section 104(c) of the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 (AC21); and
- Are ineligible to extend their H-1B status under section 106(a) of AC21.

Section 104(c) of AC21 permits applicants to extend their stay in H-1B nonimmigrant status in increments of up to three years, provided they are the beneficiary of an approved Form I-140 and an immigrant visa is not immediately available.

Section 106(a) of AC21 permits applicants to extend their stay in H-1B nonimmigrant status in increments of up to one year, provided the Form I-140 petition or underlying labor certification has been pending for at

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least 365 days.

Premium Processing offers 15 calendar day-processing for designated employment-based petitions and applications upon request. There is a nonrefundable fee of \$1,000 for this service.

During the 15-day period, USCIS will issue an approval or denial notice, a notice of intent to deny, a request for evidence, or open an investigation for fraud or misrepresentation.

More details on premium processing for Form I-140 petitions are available in a Fact Sheet in the Related Links section of this page.

Website <http://www.uscis.gov>

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Feb
22

WHY ARE YOU MARRIED OR SINGLE?

By [betty](#) · Comments (0)

Betty Odak, Editor

Why do people get married? Why did you get married? Why are you single or still single?

There are different reasons why people either stay single or get married. The most common is for companionship.

Genesis 2:18, says "God said, it was not good for a man to be alone" He made him a suitable companion/helper.

In today's entertainment news Jade Goody who is unwell and dying of cancer is set to be married - a televised wedding that has gripped the UK, her publicist said on Saturday.

In some cultures, like Luos in Kenya, marriage is a requirement. A girl who is not married is a taboo to the society and considered an outsider. In fact, if the unmarried girl dies, she cannot be buried in her father's homestead. She will be buried outside to keep the evil spirits from haunting the living girls in the village and keep them from getting married too. This is a tradition that has been going on for along time, though it is changing with the coming of Christianity in early 19th century.

Whatever your reasons for getting married or staying single, it has to be from your heart! All the best married or single people.

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Feb
14

VALENTINE'S DAY!

By [betty](#) · Comments (0)

By [Betty Odak, Editor](#)

Valentine's Day is celebrated in most countries of the world. It is a tradition to people who have loved one or looking for that special person on Valentine's Day. It is fun to do this, but hope that not finding that special bring stress in your life. Happy Valentine's everyone.



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Jan
18

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

By [betty](#) · Comments (0)

By Betty Odak, Editor

Human beings are social animals and these are part of what distinguishes us from other animals: touch, handshake, voice (phone calls), if these are taken away, then there is something missing in our lives. Read what TIME magazine writes about this:

Culled from internet check time.com

The logo of social networking website 'Facebook'. Old fashioned sleuthing got some help from new. Jenny has not returned my calls in roughly a year. She has, however, sent me a poinsettia, poked me, and placed a gift beneath my Christmas tree. She's done all this virtually, courtesy of [Facebook.com](#), the online social networking site where users create profiles, gather "friends," and join common interest groups, not to mention send digital gifts. Though Jenny has three children, ages 4 to 14, and rarely finds time for visits, phone calls or even e-mail, the full-time mom in upstate New York regularly updates her status on Facebook ("Jenny is fixing a birthday dinner," "Jenny took the kids sledding") and uploads photos (her son in the school play). After 24 years, our friendship is now filtered through Facebook, relegated to the online world. Call it Facebook Recluse Syndrome, and Jenny is far from the site's only social hermit.

Though Facebook started as an online hub for college students, its fastest-growing demographic is the over-25 crowd, which now accounts for more than half of the site's 140 million active members. Why is Facebook catching on among harried parents and professionals? "It makes me feel like I have a grip on my world," says Emily Neill, a 39-year-old single mother of two. Neill isn't a techie, per se - "I'll never have a phone that does anything but make calls," says the fashion consultant in Watertown, Mass. - but stays logged on to Facebook all day at work, and then spends an hour or two, or lately three, at night checking in with old acquaintances, swapping photos with close friends, instant messaging those who fall somewhere in between. "It makes you feel like you're part of something even if you're neglecting people in the flesh," she says.

Retreating behind the digital veil started long before the Internet existed, with the advent of answering machines. "People would call a phone when they knew the other person wasn't available to pick up," says Charles Steinfield, a professor at Michigan State University who co-authored a peer-reviewed study called "[The Benefits of Facebook 'Friends'](#)". "It enabled them to convey information without forcing them to interact."

Enter Facebook, which provides a constant flow of information via short updates from everyone a user knows: a distant cousin is glad he skipped the cheeseburger chowder; a colleague has a new book is on sale; a close friend is engaged or newly single. Jenny and I, along with three of our childhood pals from Saratoga Springs, N.Y., learned that a dear old friend had ended her seven-year relationship through a Facebook status change. We expressed dismay, albeit through Facebook's IM feature, that we had to learn such potent information in this impersonal way.

Yet, for many users, Facebook somehow remains distinctly personal. Although social networking sites encourage connections among strangers - as on MySpace, where people converge through common interests, or online dating, where the whole point is greeting new faces - Facebook is more geared toward helping people maintain existing connections. The site serves as a self-updating address book, keeping users connected no matter their geographical shifts. "There are people from my past life that I never would have tracked through 10 job changes and 20 e-mail changes," says Nicole Ellison, an assistant professor at Michigan State and lead author of the Facebook "Friends" study, which focused on undergraduate usage of the site. Facebook offers what she describes as "a seamless way of keeping in touch that doesn't involve all this work."

Perhaps this is the key. Jenny's online sociability and offline silence probably has less to do with digital retreating than time management. Facebook offers e-mail, IM and photo sharing in what Neill calls the "one-stop shopping" of online interaction. "It's not surprising to me that it's replacing other forms of communication," says Steinfield.

It's still surprising to me, however, this combination of Orwell and Wall-E that has humans watching each other through computer screens and socializing in quasi-isolation. Neill says Facebook has brought her closer to her already close friends, those she has little time to see because of kids and work. "I know more about them now than I did when I was in regular contact with them," she says. I believe her. But I can't help wondering: If Facebook for some reason suddenly ceased to exist, would people like Jenny revert to phone calls or visits, or would they lose touch altogether?

I probably won't find out. Instead, I gave in. Last week, I sent Jenny a note - through Facebook, naturally - requesting a get-together. She accepted. When we met up, it seemed we were closer than I'd thought. I knew about Jenny's son's part in the school play, about her sledding expedition and what she'd cooked for that big birthday dinner - what we'd be sharing if we still lived in the same neighborhood and talked regularly, the inane and intimate details that add up to life. That constant stream of data is some digital form of closeness. "A beautiful blossoming garden of information about your friends," as Neill puts it,

adding, "I don't see how that can be a bad thing."

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Jan
13

FINGER LENGTH MAY PREDICT FINANCIAL SUCCESS

By [betty](#) · Comments (0)

Culled from the internet:

By Randolph E Schmid, AP Science Writer

The length of a man's ring finger may predict his success as a financial trader.

Researchers at the University of Cambridge in England report that men with longer ring fingers, compared to their index fingers, tended to be more successful in the frantic high-frequency trading in the London financial district.

Indeed, the impact of biology on success was about equal to years of experience at the job, the team led by physiologist John M. Coates reports in Monday's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The same ring-to-index finger ratio has previously been associated with success in competitive sports such as soccer and basketball, the researchers noted. The length ratio between those two fingers is determined during the development of the fetus and the relatively longer ring finger indicates greater exposure to the male hormone androgen, the researchers noted.

Previous studies have found that such exposure can lead to increased confidence, risk preferences, search persistence, heightened vigilance and quickened reaction times.

In a separate study last year, Coates and colleagues reported that the hormone that drives male aggression and sexual interest also seemed able to boost short term success at finance. They studied male financial traders in London, taking saliva samples in the morning and evening. They found that those with higher levels of testosterone in the morning were more likely to make an unusually big profit that day.

Testosterone, best known as the male sex hormone, affects aggression, confidence and risk-taking. In the new study, the researchers measured the right hands of 44 male stock traders who were engaged in a type of trade that involved rapid decision-making and quick physical reactions.

Over 20 months those with longer ring fingers compared to their index fingers made 11 times more money than those with the shortest ring fingers. Over the same time the most experienced traders made about 9 times more than the least experienced ones.

Looking only at experienced traders, the long-ring-finger folks earned 5 times more than those with short ring fingers.

While the finger ratio, showing fetal exposure to male hormones, appears to signal likely success in high-actively trading that calls for risk-taking and quick reactions, it may not indicate people who would do well at other sorts of financial activities, the researchers said.

Some traders require additional skills on dealing with clients and sales workers. And the advantage may even reverse for some, Coates team said, such as traders taking a more analytical and long-term approach to the markets.

One study, which looked at average finger ratios in university departments found that faculty from math, science and engineering exhibited longer index finger ratio, rather than ring finger, they noted.

PNAS: <http://www.pnas.org>

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