

FUTUREtakes

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The Other Side of the Future!

Future Lite

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Welcome to Future Lite where we concern ourselves with future-lite. No topic is too small, no trivia too trivial, and no fact too unfounded if it can possibly provide entertainment or enlightenment for our readers.

Boxing Outside the Think

After numerous clandestine super-secret meetings the secret proceedings of The Big Idea Committee, a secret sub-committee of the ultimate secret society, the Senior Management Committee was finally obtained by this reporter. This particular transcript is from the meeting where a futurist was invited in to facilitate a brainstorming session. Nothing, not even the names have been changed to protect anyone.

FUTURIST: "One of the most important skills a futurist relies upon is her ability to keep an open mind and not get locked into a certain way of thinking... and listen to a wide range of people—"

SMITH: "Yes, but this is The Big Idea Committee and so only SENIOR PEOPLE are listened to here and then we tell the junior people what the big ideas will be."

JONES: "That's the way we do things here."

ALL: *agree, agree, agree*

FUTURIST: "Well... moving right along... it's important that we keep our minds OPEN and think differently—"

SMITH: "Ah-HA! That would be what we want to do today – think outside the box!"

ALL: "Here, here!"

JONES: "But what shape is the box?"

POTTER: "Quite so... is it round, square or rectangular?"

HATFIELD: "Could be triangular..."

ALL: "Good answer!" (*HEARTY LAUGHTER, PATS ON THE BACK*)

MCCOY: "Maybe it's not a box—"

ALL: "What—!!" (*GASPS, SHOCK*)

MCCOY: "Maybe it's an ENVELOPE!"

HATFIELD: (rising from his chair) "Well it could be a TRIANGULAR ENVELOPE!"

MCCOY: (*LEAPING UP AND POUNDING THE TABLE*) "THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I EVER HEARD YOU SAY!!!"

FUTURIST: "Okay, everyone... deep cleansing breaths... back in our chairs... now, let's take a moment here to commit murder—"

HATFIELD: "Now you got our attention..."

FUTURIST: "I'm so pleased. You're already armed. You're trained SENIOR assassins so let's see how many ways we can kill this idea. Just shout them out. What's wrong with triangular envelopes?"

- "He thought of it!"
- "It's not in our image."
- "It's against our company policy."
- "It sounds too simple."
- "It sounds too complicated."
- "We'll never find the time to do it."
- "We don't have the staff to do it."
- "We don't want to do it."
- "We don't have to do it."
- "We don't have the budget to do it."
- "It's not a priority."
- "It needs to be put in writing."
- "It needs further research."
- "It needs to be run by the managers."
- "It needs to be run by your supervisor."
- "It needs to be run by a focus group."
- "It needs to be run up a flagpole and see who salutes it."
- "The Big Guy won't like it."
- "Sounds crazy to me."
- "I don't like it."
- "We've never done anything like it before."
- "Has anyone ever done anything like it before?"

- "Who has done this before?"
- "That's not consistent with the way we do things here."
- "Let's be realistic."
- "Let's get serious."
- "Are you kidding?"
- "Let's stop wasting time."
- "Great idea... but not for us."
- "People will say it's stupid."
- "What will people think?"
- "It'll never work."
- "Be practical."
- "Sorry, try again."
- "That's worse than your last idea."
- "Who's going to do it?"
- "What happens when it fails?"
- "I don't think so."
- "It's too risky."
- "Why hasn't it been done before?"
- "I don't think you get the Big Picture."
- "Good ideas only come from the top."
- "Where's the detailed analysis?"
- "Show me the numbers."
- *(HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER)*
- "We've tried that before... it didn't work."
- "Harris tried that before. Harris was fired."
- *(DEAD SILENCE)*
- "Let's create a committee to look into that."
- "Put it on the back burner for now."
- "Table it for the moment."
- "Put it on ice."
- "Deep six it."
- "Let's see the way the wind is blowing first."
- "Here's why it won't work..."
- "Show us the benchmark surveys."
- "We've already thought of that."
- "We're already going with another idea."
- "What's so original about that?"
- "Anyone could come up with that."
- "Let's just wait and see what happens."
- "We've gotten along just fine without it so far."
- "We'll get back to you about your idea as soon as it's gone through proper channels."

FUTURIST: "Well, that was extraordinary. Look how many ways we came up with to kill off that one idea and in record time. Now that we've gotten them all out of our system, I'm going to ask you to put away your weapons because we won't be using them for the rest of the session. Now let's get back to some real storming of brains."

SMITH: "Righto. So about the box... how will it be delivered?"

JONES: "FedEx."

POTTER: "U.P.S."

HATFIELD: (LOOKING MCCOY IN THE EYE) "Bicycle courier..."

MCCOY: (JUMPING UP ON CONFERENCE TABLE) "THAT'S THE STUPIDEST IDEA I'VE EVER HEARD YOU SAY— "

Technical Note: At this point due to furniture being thrown and general chaos in the conference room the FUTURIST and TRANSCRIPTIONIST left and sought safe shelter.

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Note: Please feel free to send in your favorite quotes, predictions, anecdotes, topic du jour, scandals, pet peeves, gossip and rumors and you may find yourself captured in Future-Lite! lindanlee@hotmail.com