This is a notebook of thoughts, thinkers, iconoclasts, & fantasists. You included. It is a recipe book of fearlessness.

All herein are courageous, spirited and vital. They established a path because it either: (a) existed; (b) did not yet exist; (c) was hazardous; (d) was possible and neglected; or (d) was said to be impossible and neglected.

Life, like everything alive, is complex—and they lived with it.

One of Marie Curie’s notebooks—which will remain radioactive for another approximately 1,500 years
**The Ice Cream Cure**

“There is no miserable place waiting for you, no hell realm, sitting and waiting like Alaska—waiting to turn you into ice cream. But whatever you call it—hell or the suffering realms—it is something that you enter by creating a world of neurotic fantasy and believing it to be real. It sounds simple, but that’s exactly what happens.”

—LAMA THUBTEN YESHE, *Becoming Vajrasattva*

**The Future Cure**

“NOT to my contemporaries, not to my compatriots, but to mankind, I commit my now completed work in the confidence that it will not be without value for them, even if this should be late recognized, as is commonly the lot of what is good. For it cannot have been for the passing generation, engrossed with the delusion of the moment, that my mind, almost against my will, has uninteruptedly stuck to its work through the course of a long life.”

—ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER, preface to the second edition of *The World as Will and Representation*

**The Cure through Understanding**

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

—MARIE CURIE, quoted in *Our Precarious Habitat* by Melvin A. Benarde
Rosina Megan Boyd  
(29 Jan. 1915 – 15 Nov. 2001)  
was a British fly-tyer most noted for her Atlantic salmon flies. She lived most of her adult life in a small cottage near Brora, Scotland.

In 1971, Queen Elizabeth II awarded Boyd the British Empire Medal and invited her to Buckingham Palace to receive the medal. Boyd wrote the Queen explaining she could not attend because she was busy playing bridge and no one could look after her dog Patch. The Queen wrote back explaining she understood, as she had dogs herself.
Some of Megan Boyd’s legendary flies

“The secret we should never let the game-masters know is that they don’t need any rules.”

Above: Gary Gygax and his wife Jo Powell, with their miniature castle
Right: The original Dungeons & Dragons set
Sir Arthur C. Clarke’s most famous prediction on the future is his proposal of geostationary satellite communications published in the *Wireless World* magazine in 1945. Not considered seriously at the time, it became a reality within 20 years with the launching on April 6, 1965 of Intelsat I Early Bird, the first commercial geostationary communication satellite.

**Clarke’s Second Law:** The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible.

## Wireless World

### Radio and Electronics

35th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

**OCTOBER 1945**

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As many of the circuits and apparatus described in these pages are covered by patents, readers are advised, before making use of them, to satisfy themselves that they would not be infringing patents.
Georges Perec (7 March 1936 – 3 March 1982) was a French novelist, filmmaker, documentalist, and essayist. He is perhaps best known for his lipogrammatic novel, *La Disparation* (literally, “The Disappearance”), written without using the letter “e” and dedicated to his father, who died as a soldier early in WWII, and his mother, who was murdered in the Holocaust. Many of his works involve difficult constraints, including the longest palindrome ever written: 1,247 words (5,566 letters), reading the same backward as forward. 

Opposite: Chess moves and a diagram of apartments which were the basis for Perec’s novel *Life: A User’s Manual*
Grace Hopper
(9 December 1906 – 1 January 1992)

Computer scientist and Navy Rear Admiral Grace Hopper recorded the original computer bug, a moth found trapped between points at Relay #70, Panel F, of the Mark II Aiken Relay Calculator while it was being tested at Harvard University, 9 Sept. 1947.

Best-known for the compiler, she popularized the idea of machine-independent programming languages, which led to the development of COBOL, one of the first high-level programming languages.

“It’s easier to ask forgiveness than it is to get permission.”
—Grace Hopper, as quoted in the US Navy’s Chips Ahoy magazine (July 1986)
The first computer bug was actually a moth.
Maryam Mirzakhani
(born 3 May 1977) is the first woman and the first Iranian honored with the prestigious Fields Medal in mathematics, which she received in 2014. The award committee cited her work in the dynamics and geometry of Riemann surfaces and their moduli spaces.

“As a kid, I dreamt of becoming a writer. My most exciting pastime was reading novels; in fact, I would read anything I could find. I never thought I would pursue mathematics until my last year in high school...”

“I did poorly in math for a couple of years in middle school; I was just not interested in thinking about it. I can see that without being excited mathematics can look pointless and cold. The beauty of mathematics only shows itself to more patient followers.”
Mirzakhani—who has said she thinks about mathematics in pictures—often doodles her ideas on giant sheets of paper.
“I think the big mistake in schools is trying to teach children anything, and by using fear as the basic motivation. Fear of getting failing grades, fear of not staying with your class, etc. Interest can produce learning on a scale compared to fear, as a nuclear explosion to a firecracker.”

Quoted in Stanley Kubrick at Look Magazine (2013) by Phillipe Mather

“The reason movies are often so bad out here isn’t because the people who make them are cynical money hacks. Most of them are doing the very best they can; they really want to make good movies. The trouble is with their heads, not their hearts.”

Quoted in Against the American Grain (1962) by Dwight Macdonald
Stanley Kubrick used notebooks as a brainstorming tool.
Marcel Duchamp
(28 July 1887 – 2 October 1968) has had an immense impact on 20th-century and 21st-century art, and he had a seminal influence on the development of conceptual art. By World War I, he had rejected the work of many of his fellow artists (like Henri Matisse) as “retinal” art, intended only to please the eye. Instead, Duchamp wanted to use art to serve the mind.

“The first thing to know: One doesn’t realize one is influenced. One thinks one is already liberated, and one is far from it!”
“Dust Breeding (Dust over work by Marcel Duchamp), ca. 1920” is a collaboration between Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray: a photo of dust building up on Duchamp’s masterpiece “The Bride Stripped Bare By Her Bachelors, Even” as it lay in Duchamp’s studio.
Gertrude Margaret Lowthian Bell
(14 July 1868 – 12 July 1926)

The first woman to earn first-degree honors in modern history at Oxford, Gertrude Bell was also an archaeologist, a linguist and the greatest woman mountaineer of her age.

“She gained renown for surviving 53 hours on a rope on the unclimbed north-east face of the Finsteraarhorn, when her expedition was caught in a blizzard in the summer of 1902. She had begun to learn Arabic in Jerusalem in 1897, wrote about Syria, and taught herself archaeology. She immersed herself in tribal politics and in 1914 made a dangerous journey to Hail, a town in northern Arabia that was the headquarters of a bitter enemy of Britain’s new ally, the founder of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Aziz ibn Saud.”

The Guardian, 2003
At the Cairo Conference 1921, from the left Winston Churchill, Gertrude Bell, T.E. Lawrence.
Octavia Estelle Butler
(22 June 1947 – 24 February 2006) was an American science fiction writer. A multiple recipient of both the Hugo and Nebula awards, in 1995 she became the first science fiction writer to receive the MacArthur Fellowship, nicknamed the “Genius Grant” – the first science-fiction writer to do so.

“I began writing about power—because I had so little.”

Butler’s journals and notebooks are archived at the Huntington Library in San Marino.
I shall be a bestselling writer. After Imago, each of my books will be on the bestseller lists of LAT, NYT, PW, WP, etc. My novels will go onto the above lists whether publishers push them hard or not. Whether I'm paid a high advance or not, whether I ever win another award or not, this is my life. I write bestselling novels. My novels go onto the bestseller lists on or shortly after publication. My novels each travel up to the top of the bestseller lists and they reach the top and they stay on top for months (at least two). Each of my novels does this. So be it! I will find the way to do this. See to it! See to it!

My books will be read by millions of people. I will buy a beautiful home in an excellent neighborhood. I will send poor black youngsters to Clarion or other writers’ workshops. I will help poor black youngsters broaden their horizons. I will help poor black youngsters go to college. I will get the best of health care for my mother and myself. I will hire a car whenever I want or need to. I will travel whenever and wherever in the world that I choose. My books will be read by millions of people. So be it! See to it!
Vladimir Nabokov
(22 April 1899c – 2 July 1977)

“White butterflies turn lavender as they Pass through its shade where gently seems to sway / The phantom of my little daughter’s swing.”

—Vladimir Nabokov, Pale Fire

My loathings are simple: stupidity, oppression, crime, cruelty, soft music. My pleasures are the most intense known to man: writing and butterfly hunting.

—Vladimir Nabokov, Foreword, Strong Opinions (1973)
Color Plate 56, Comparative maculation schematics of Cells M3 and CuAI on the undersurface hind wing of three taxa (Vladimir Nabokov Archive at the Berg Collection, New York Public Library)
Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac
(8 August 1902 – 20 October 1984)

“... it has pleased me that once again I could say something nasty about my old enemy, the Dirac theory.”
—Wolfgang Pauli

“I regard the Dirac theory ... as learned trash which no one could take seriously.”
—Werner Heisenberg to Wolfgang Pauli, 1928

“... nothing but calculational gymnastics.”
—Erwin Schroedinger, describing the transcription of the Dirac equation in covariant form

The Nobel Prize in Physics 1933 was awarded jointly to Erwin Schrödinger and Paul Dirac “for the discovery of new productive forms of atomic theory.”
Dirac’s Solutions for a particle at rest

\[ \Psi_A = e^{-imt} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi_B = e^{-imt} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{positive energy}) \]

\[ \Psi_A = e^{imt} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi_B = e^{imt} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{negative energy}) \]
Robert Goddard
(5 October 1882 – 10 August 1945) was an American engineer, professor, physicist, and inventor who is credited with creating and building the world’s first liquid-fueled rocket. Goddard successfully launched his model on March 16, 1926 ushering in an era of space flight and innovation. He and his team launched 34 rockets between 1926 and 1941, achieving altitudes as high as 2.6 km (1.6 mi) and speeds as fast as 885 km/h (550 mph).

Goddard’s first patent for a multi-stage rocket
(7 July 1914)
On July 17, 1969, days before the Apollo 11 mission made the first successful moon landing, the New York Times retracted its statement of almost 50 years earlier (in which it essentially called Robert Goddard ignorant).

A Correction

On Jan. 13, 1920, “Topics of The Times,” an editorial-page feature of The New York Times, dismissed the notion that a rocket could function in a vacuum and commented on the ideas of Robert H. Goddard, the rocket pioneer, as follows:

“That Professor Goddard, with his ‘chair’ in Clark College and the countenancing of the Smithsonian Institution, does not know the relation of action to reaction, and of the need to have something better than a vacuum against which to react—to say that would be absurd. Of course he only seems to lack the knowledge ladled out daily in high schools.”

Further investigation and experimentation have confirmed the findings of Isaac Newton in the 17th Century and it is now definitely established that a rocket can function in a vacuum as well as in an atmosphere. The Times regrets the error.
Yvon Chouinard
(born 9 November 1938)

In 1957 Yvon Chouinard bought a second-hand coal-fired forge, and started making hardened steel pitons for use in Yosemite Valley. Between time spent surfing and climbing, he sold pitons out of the back of his car to support himself. In 1970 on a trip to Scotland, he purchased some rugby shirts and sold them through his new company, Patagonia.

“How you climb a mountain is more important than reaching the top.”

—Yvon Chouinard, Let My People Go Surfing: The Education of a Reluctant Businessman
William H. Miller (born 26 Jan. 1950)

Bill Miller’s investing style has been described by Fortune Magazine as iconoclastic: “You simply can’t do what he’s done in the supremely competitive, ultra-efficient world of stock picking by following the pack…. The fact is that Miller has spent decades studying freethinking overachievers, and along the way he’s become one himself.”

Between 1991 and 2005, investor Bill Miller toppled Peter Lynch’s record of returns by beating the stock market 15 years in a row.

In July 2017, the Wall Street Journal reported the continuation of this tradition when Miller Opportunity Trust won the WSJ’s latest Winners’ Circle contest for the best stock-fund performance over 12 months with a 48.55% gain.”

“Sometimes growth is cheap and value expensive…. The question is not growth or value, but where is the best value?”

–Bill Miller
Opposite: Bill Miller in his library reading the original typed manuscript of “The Invention of Morel” ("la imben'sjon de mo'rel") by Adolfo Bioy Casares. Above: The artist of the first edition cover was Norah Borges, sister of Bioy Casares’ lifelong friend Jorge Luis Borges.