



March 2026

## Too Much Internet?

by Jerry Lerman (344)

A couple of recent court decisions – civil lawsuits which found against large companies hosting major Internet social media applications – got me to seriously thinking about the effects of those products on our children and grandchildren. The findings of the juries were that some Internet products were developed with an eye to addicting their users.

What's more, they found that misrepresentations were made. While the firms publicly assured parents that their platforms were safe and designed to protect young users, internal documents painted a very different picture, prompting juries to impose sizable monetary penalties.

There's some comparability to how excessive TV watching is thought to have adverse effects on children. In particular, watching **violent** shows has been suspected of causing aggressive behavior.

A 2018 article in [Behavioral Scientist](#), "A History of Panic Over Entertainment Technology," by Ferguson and Faye, was inconclusive about there actually being causality, and concluded with this warning:

*If repeated efforts to understand the psychological effects of entertainment technology teach us anything, it's that definite answers may always elude. One-size-fits-all policy efforts or recommendations to parents based on sweeping generalizations when data is inconsistent are, in the end, likely to do more harm than good.*

That was published eight years ago. Now that some "smoking guns" have been found showing these firms' intentionality to affect our children, perhaps the authors will see fit to update their article.

## Aaron's Question Column

**Questions:** 1) Roses are blooming in front of our house, and I'm excited. I know very little about roses, but I understand that they come in many varieties and that there are many rose enthusiasts. Is there anything interesting you can share with us about the cultivation and breeding of roses?

2) I recently managed to play the long word EXOPLANET in a Scrabble game. Can you explore what that word is: a planet that is "EXO" means it's what, exactly? Are such planets of any interest? -- Jerry

*(Editor's note: Each month I pose two questions to Aaron. Usually he answers only one of them, but he tackled both this month.*

1: Roses are a symbol of beauty, passion and divinity in many cultures around the world. For thousands of years, they have been adored as the "queen of flowers", and have been cultivated for at least 2,000 years, evidenced by traces of cultivation in Roman and Chinese civilizations.

Roses do have a myriad of varieties, with about 150 wild species of roses, combinations of which form the hybrid roses we know. These hybrid plants with desirable traits (known as cultivars) are selected based on their characteristics, and over 30,000 cultivars are named and actively grown. Roses are not only valued for their beauty but also for their adaptability, which allows them to be grown in a wide range of environments. Some varieties are specifically bred to tolerate colder climates, while others are better suited to heat and humidity. This adaptability is one reason

*Continued on page 3*

## Solution to Last Month's Quiz

### Got Any Botany?

1. Aeonium - I
2. Agave americana - B
3. Blue daisy - G
4. Calla Lily - C
5. Mediterranean spurge - A
6. Persian buttercup - H
7. Sweet alyssum - E
8. White sage (salvia) - F
9. Zonal geranium - D

## This Month's Quiz

### KANGAROO WORDS

A *kangaroo* word is a word that contains all the letters of one of its synonyms arranged so that the letters appear in the same order in both words. An example is the word: **ENCOURAGE**, within which you'll see the word **URG E**, which has very similar meaning.

Following is a list of such words. Hop to it – and see if you can find the shorter word with a similar meaning that is stored inside its mama's pocket, so to speak. The lengths of the shorter words are provided.

- evacuate (6)
- dismayed (3)
- deception (3)
- jollity (3)
- stealthy (3)
- transgression (3)
- weakening (6)
- yearning (3)
- supremacist (6)
- impair (3)

Helpful Hint: The 39 letters forming those 10 smaller words come from this pool.

AAAAAA CCC D EE G III J L M NNNNN  
OO RR SSSS TT V W YYY



### 2026 Spring Foster City Open Rated Chess Tournament

KLC半岛地区国际象棋公开赛 (4月26日)  
Sunday, April 26th, 2026 - 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
650 Shell Blvd, Foster City, CA 94404

Welcome to the Foster City Open Rated Chess Tournament for young players of all levels! This event is officially US Chess-rated and recognized by the US Chess Federation, hosted by King's Land Chess in partnership with Bright Horizon Chinese School. Trophies and special gifts are ready for you to win! Seats are limited. Early registration is strongly recommended to secure your spot.

[Learn More | Register \(\\$50 per player\)](#)

#### 关于 King's Land Chess 国际象棋学校

King's Land Chess 国际象棋学校坐落于美国北加州湾区，由 FT 和 WFM Kiki 教练于 2012 年创立，专注于推动和提升青少年国际象棋教育。KLC 奉行学院派的数学体系，注重严谨性，采用系统化的教学和训练方法。我们将知识模块化分级，由浅入深，涵盖从零基础班、中级班、精英班、天才班，一直到国际大师班等 10 个级别，形成完整的教学体系。KLC 教学采用自主研发的教材系列，结合国际棋联 FIDE 标准教材和学术资源经典，以及 Kiki 教练的亲身训练和教学经验。这确保学生在每个阶段都受到符合其水平的科学系统训练，以高效而循序渐进的方式提升棋艺水平。KLC 提供多样的教学课程，包括小组课、强化训练营、专题教学班、大师班。我们的目标是培养卓越的青少年棋手，使他们在竞技比赛中取得优异成绩，更能在人生发展的道路上脱颖而出。

#### About King's Land Chess

King's Land Chess (KLC) is an international chess academy located in the San Francisco Bay Area, founded in 2012 by FT and WFM Coach Kiki. The school is dedicated to advancing youth chess education through a structured, academically driven approach. KLC follows a rigorous, systematized teaching and training framework that breaks down chess knowledge into progressively deeper levels – from beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes to elite, gifted, and national master levels – forming a comprehensive ten-tier curriculum. The academy uses its own carefully developed textbook series, integrated with official FIDE-standard materials and classical academic resources, along with Coach Kiki's personal training and teaching experience. This ensures that students receive age- and skill-appropriate instruction at every stage, allowing them to improve efficiently and systematically. KLC offers a variety of programs, including group classes, intensive training camps, thematic workshops, and master-level courses. Our mission is to cultivate outstanding young chess players who not only achieve excellence in competition but also stand out in their broader personal and academic growth.

See: <https://bhcskids.com/chess-tournament>

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*Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1*

roses are found in gardens across many regions of the world.

In addition to environmental adaptation, modern rose breeding often focuses on improving resilience. New cultivars are tested for resistance to common diseases and pests so that they can thrive with less intensive care. This makes them more suitable for home gardeners who may not have the time or resources for constant maintenance.

Another interesting aspect is how roses are evaluated before being widely released. New varieties are often grown in trial gardens for several years, where they are assessed for performance, appearance, and overall reliability. Only the most successful plants are selected for introduction to the public, which helps ensure that new roses meet high standards.

2, Similarly to the cultivation details of roses, exoplanets are also very interesting, while occupying a completely different domain. The prefix “exo” in Latin means “outer” or “outside,” and the compound word “exoplanet” refers to any planet outside of our solar system. Naturally, these planets are of great interest to astronomers and scientists, as exoplanets may represent the future of space exploration and our understanding of the universe.

Think of it as the other neighborhoods outside of Bowfin Street, or even the other cities and communities beyond Foster City. While the area near you is more accessible and has the most immediate impact, there is far more to discover beyond its boundaries. In the same way, there is much to learn and explore beyond the Solar System, even though we have not yet fully explored our own.

## Next at Hillbarn Theatre

April 23<sup>rd</sup> - May 17<sup>th</sup>



Welcome to the Cornley Drama Society's opening night of *The Murder at Haversham Manor*—a classic whodunit where, unfortunately, everything that can go wrong does. Misplaced props, collapsing sets, forgotten lines, and hilariously clumsy actors turn this murder mystery into a full-blown theatrical disaster. As the determined (but hapless) cast and crew struggle to make it to the final curtain, the chaos only escalates, leaving audiences in stitches. With its perfectly timed physical comedy and nonstop mishaps, **The Play That Goes Wrong** is a side-splitting tribute to the magic of live theater—when everything goes spectacularly, hysterically wrong.

Target Date for YOUR Contributions to the next BI:

**April 15, 2026**

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos, CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or questions for Aaron at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our email [EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM](mailto:EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM) or by

adding a NOTE on our website:

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