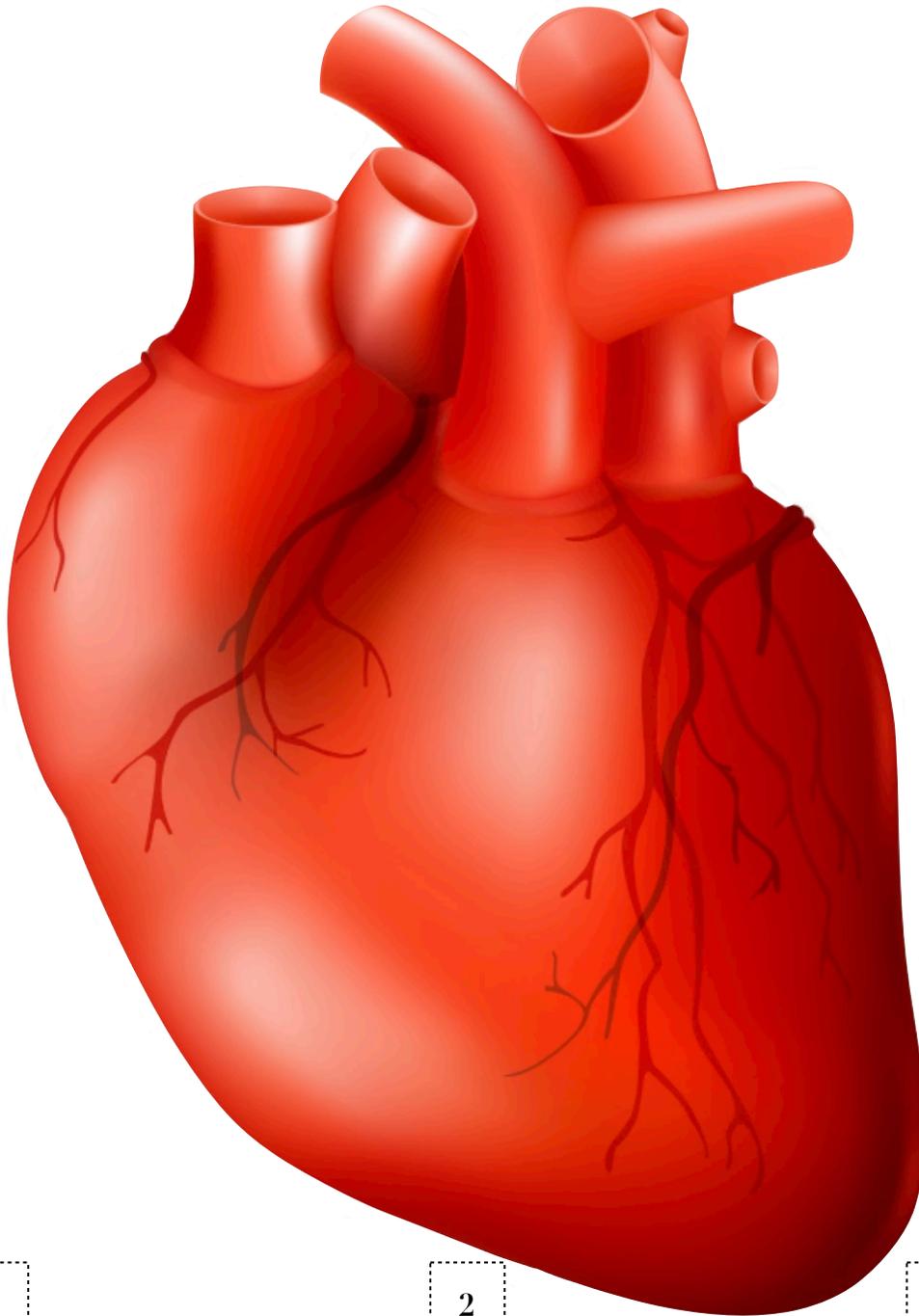


ST.SOMETIMES

The Life and Times of Greg Lemoine, International Educator Since 2001



V 222 September 2019



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Good Bye to "Old Greg"

High blood pressure has forced my hand. Now I have to see doctors, bend a knee to nutrition, and swallow medications. This is the beginning of the "New Greg".

2

Wrong Bus

Once you get into a routine, life can throw a few curve balls.
This time it was a harmless oversight.
Just one more experience.

3

Signal Jammer, Now!

A total rant. I don't often get up on a soapbox to rant, but I've had it. Some people are careless, rude, selfish. It happened in the hospital waiting room, of all places! Seriously!



Life-Style Changes?

As of this writing, I haven't had caffeine, alcohol, soda (even diet), or fun since the day after I returned from the Maldives. That was August 13th, a month and a half ago!

Why? Let's just say I need to make some lifestyle changes. It's called the **"oh F#\$! I'm 50" diet**. My nazi doctor instructed me, warned me, aggressively glared at me, and laid down the law. My blood pressure showed something akin to 170/120. Oops. But other than shortness

of breath and a little swelling in the legs on airplane flights, I had no symptoms! Everyone over 40 probably has a little swelling after 20hr flights.

Introducing the new Greg. I haven't: had alcohol since then, had coffee/tea since then, eaten meat since then, missed a day checking my blood pressure since then. What's next?

Exercise. That's my next change. It seems prudent to make only one major change at a time. Now that eating and drinking is secure, I'll dig into morphing.

“

For the first time I DIDN'T confirm the destination, which hasn't changed in the past three years, the buses switched. I got a surprise.”



The Wrong Bus

I don't like to drive in Saudi. It's too dangerous. I have bad luck with cars. All I need within the camp boundaries is a scooter. Besides, the company has a fleet of buses.

Those buses travel between remote camps, stores, and school trips. Someone like me can reap the benefits of a bus that goes to and from the mall and skip car ownership. You just have to learn the bus Game.

At 9am, every Saturday, there are three buses that line up at the "ball field". That's a misnomer.

There is no ball field. There used to be. After finding the busstop the first time, you just choose the bus according to the ticker tape sign. The Ikea/Mall bus has been in front for the past three years. I always confirm destination as I board and scan my company ID.

This time, I boarded, scanned, and sat down. I was in a consuming texting conversation when I looked up, feeling it had been a very long ride. It was. This bus was headed to a grocery store in the city. Wrong bus. My fault. I didn't need groceries. I found a new grocery store though!

Watching a video?
Without headphones or earbuds?

With other people Around?

SELFISH!



I've Had it With the "All About ME" Mentality!! F@#\$#(@_*&#(!

Earbuds. Earphones. So you can enjoy listening to something that no one else cares about.

We've had them for decades. But now that cell phones and other mobile devices can serve as television sets for the roving individual, there is no respite for those of us that care about others.

Perhaps the only way to escape is to have your own earbuds handy. But even then, sit back and watch (or hear) some a-hole share his video with the entire waiting room or restaurant.

The waiting room in the health clinic? Really? I have to put up with it there too? Here is my rant.

Sit down in an airport and you will undoubtedly hear some idiot's video screen. He or she just sits there and watches their show on full volume, ignoring the fact that the rest of us don't want to hear his/her show.

My own personal hell is listening to a surfer, a channel surfer. Flick, flick, flick...one youtube short or GenZ video message after another. A zillion times worse than a channel surfer with a TV remote!

I truly want to storm right over to the inconsiderate jerk and give them some earbuds. Better yet, where can i get a cell jammer? They are illegal in the US, correct? I need one. Only for jamming jerks. Just enough to frustrate them away from watching a video



without earbuds.

I know, I know. I can always put on my own headset and absorb myself in music of my own. I always do. Yet, it doesn't fan the flames of my anger! These idiots just don't care. Does this happen in the US? I didn't really witness it. This scene unfolds all over the world.

Strangely, it seems to be adults. The younger generation seems to be trying to escape from their surroundings with their ubiquitous earbuds, Beats, or AirPods. So why do these adults seemingly regress back into their infant stages and watch the handheld screen at full volume? THE JUST DON'T CARE!

I need a jammer. I need one quick!

Seriously, I would only jam intermittently enough to piss off the offender until they decide to move somewhere with better wifi! honest!

The new, "not so" Chilis

A year ago, August 2018, the main restaurant on camp, Chicos, was closed. The empty building on the 18th hole of our central golf course sat empty for an entire year claiming to be "Chilis - Opening Soon".

Yeah right. The "new" Chilis opened this month. Little has changed for the better. Much has remained the same. The building with the greatest potential no offers pretty much the same restaurant but a younger version that is still learning how to serve its clientele.

Unfortunately, if they had kept the same staff, it would have been a win-win scenario. The most difficult part of growing as a new restaurant (with a captive clientele) is service. American style service is expected here because everyone else knows you won't get it anywhere else close by.

StSomeWhere Technology

Go **Google Pixel 3a XL**

Don't buy a Pixel 3XL or Pixel 3. It's not worth the full glass back-case or the extra enhanced über enhanced pixels of the front screen. You won't notice a speed difference. Who cares if your app activates a millionth of a nanosecond before the app on a Pixel 3aXL. You'll be hard pressed to see the difference.

What you will notice is the price. The 3aXL is around \$500. The 3XL is more than twice that. Yes, those prices ebb and flow with storage. Nuff said. I don't go anywhere without it.



iPad Pro 3 (2019)

If you had asked if I was going to upgrade to the iPad Pro 3, I would have emphatically said "No Way". That all changed when I tried to use the iPad 1 in jazz band.

Jazz band is important to me in the desert experience. It is really the only refuge I have in this experience. Therefore, I'll spend money to make my experiences and jazz playing top notch.

Enter my iPad. I decided to go paperless when I was tasked with over 4,000 paper song sheets for Tenor 1 and Tenor 2. Finding a song was tedious. Carrying music to gigs and weekly practices was unbearable. The iPad 3 has the speed to organize and view all the pdf music scores instantaneously. Not to mention that I use the iPad to read hundreds of books and use it every day in my classes at school. It is invaluable.

What about my old iPad Pro 1? Funny you should ask. It has just enough space and speed to act as a second screen for my Jazz music. I could have sold or gifted it, but the second screen is invaluable.



ForScore

With my new iPad 3 speed and storage space, I also looked for a sweet app to organize and play off of my jazz scores. This app even has an add-on to connect both of my iPads and allow for real time page syncing. I can see two pages of sheet music on my stand and go song to song flawlessly.



iReal Pro

Thanks to a colleague in Jazz Band, I now found an app that plays the background chords for improv training. Download the right song from their library, enter the key you want, the app plays the chord progressions while you improvise by the seat of your pants.



Notability

Still my favorite for teaching. Notability allows you to import PDF sheets, notate them, and record audio along with the specific notes. This was a game changer seven years ago and remains one of my intimately used apps.



Dear Beer, we had an enriching relationship for the past 35 years. It's time to break up for a while.

It's not you. It's me.

Maybe we can get back together again once I've had time to recover my health.

-Greg