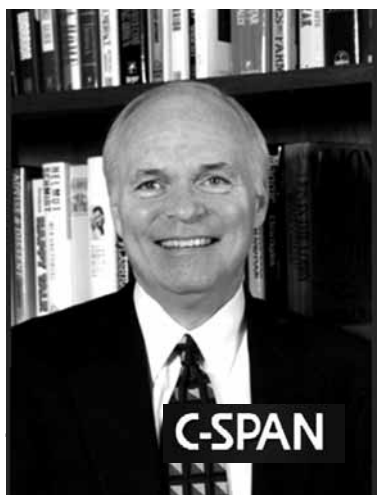


104 Great Things

By Jeff Davidson

Here is my unofficial, personal list of 104 developments that could easily be taken for granted! And, I can think of at least 104 more items worthy of mention.



- 1) A phone system that works virtually all of the time
- 2) Toilets and toilet paper
- 3) Easy access to the Internet
- 4) Central heating and cooling
- 5) ATMs
- 6) Washing machines and dryers
- 7) Food blenders

Capitalism

- 8) The relative stability of currency
- 9) The entrepreneurial spirit
- 10) The stock market (yes, even now)
- 11) Broadband
- 12) Self-employment opportunities galore
- 13) A diverse job market
- 14) Mail and delivery services
- 15) Free interstate commerce



Transportation

- 16) Well-functioning airports
- 17) The interstate highway system
- 18) Highway rest areas
- 19) Low gasoline prices (compared to Europe)
- 20) Public transportation
- 21) U.S. passports
- 22) Car and truck dealerships
- 23) Taxis

Health and Diet

- 24) The variety of foods available
- 25) Health clubs and exercise equipment
- 26) The vitamin industry
- 27) Organic supermarkets
- 28) Increasing crop yields
- 29) Cookbooks

Freedom and Equality

- 30) The Constitution and its amendments
- 31) The peaceful transference of power
- 32) Religious freedom
- 33) The right to peaceful assembly
- 34) Freedom of expression
- 35) Traditional presidential pardons
- 36) Freedom of speech



Access to Information and Education

- 37) Elementary, middle, and high schools
- 38) The variety of DVDs, CDs, and books available
- 39) CSPAN
- 40) Debates on live television
- 41) Public libraries
- 42) Business, law, and medical schools, etc.
- 43) Endowments and scholarship programs
- 44) Major daily newspapers
- 45) The community college system
- 46) A&E, TLC, and History Channel productions
- 47) PTA
- 48) Public museums

Charity

- 49) The Red Cross
- 50) Telethons
- 51) Per capita contributions to charity organizations
- 52) The United Way
- 53) Relief organizations
- 54) Civic participation and volunteerism
- 55) Homeless shelters
- 56) Big brother/big sister programs
- 57) Foster homes
- 58) Meals on Wheels



Safety and Protection

- 59) Emergency operating rooms
- 60) Clean water
- 61) Maternity wards
- 62) Emergency response systems
- 63) The U.S. Department of Defense
- 64) Copyright laws
- 65) The watchdog aspect of the press
- 66) The system of jurisprudence (usually)
- 67) Daycare centers
- 68) Seatbelts and airbags
- 69) The Armed Forces
- 70) The police force
- 71) Neighborhood watch programs

Traditions and Ceremonies

- 72) Cookouts and barbecues
- 73) Graduation ceremonies
- 74) Family farms
- 75) Family reunions
- 76) Baby and wedding showers
- 77) Easter egg hunts



Entertainment

- 78) Theme parks
- 79) State fairs
- 80) Variety in music
- 81) Magazines for every interest
- 82) Mp3 players
- 83) Little Leagues
- 84) Talk Radio
- 85) Award shows
- 86) Professional sports
- 87) Comedians
- 88) Public recreation facilities
- 89) Baseball
- 90) Sport camps

Natural Sites and Attractions

- 91) The national park system
- 92) The reclamation of lakes and waterways
- 93) Safe campgrounds
- 94) The beaches

- 95) Varied geography
- 96) The Grand Canyon

Organizations and Institutions

- 97) The American Dental Association
- 98) Senior communities
- 99) Scouting organizations



Historical Landmarks

- 100) Washington, D.C.
- 101) Alaska
- 102) New York City
- 103) College towns
- 104) Gettysburg

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