

REFLECTIONS
Commentaries, 2023-2026

Frank G. Splitt

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The human factor in America's security systems

By Frank G. Splitt

The Daily Herald
Opinion, Guest view,
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The discoveries of classified documents at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, at President Joe Biden's former office and Delaware garage, as well as at former Vice President Mike Pence's Indiana home were troubling. They revealed a cavalier attitude toward classified documents by elected officials at the highest level of our nation's government -- certainly not the best examples for others in government and the military charged with safeguarding America's secrets.

Even more troubling have been the intelligence leaks by untrustworthy individuals: the FBI's Robert Hanssen, WikiLeaks' Julian Assange via the U.S. Army's Chelsea Manning, National Security Agency contractor Booz Allen Hamilton's Edward Snowden and Harold Martin III and now the alleged leaker, the Massachusetts Air National Guard's Jack Teixeira.

The latest leak is considered to be one of the largest, most wide-ranging military and intelligence breaches in U.S. history with potentially devastating consequences in terms of CIA lives lost, informants compromised or killed, lost trust by U.S. allies, compromised battle plans, the exposure of U.S. counter-intelligence cyberweapons and all the more that is still unknown.

It is beyond my comprehension how the leak suspect Teixeira was able to receive and maintain a top-secret clearance, in spite of his history of making comments about shootings and violence.

Furthermore, how could a low-level IT support technician gain access to highly classified information without a need to know? Something is awry. Why so? It would have been anathema to me, my colleagues and to the government officials to whom we reported during the 1956-1964 time period when we were actively engaged in very highly classified research and development on a variety of military systems that were critical to national security.

To put this time period in perspective, it spanned the presidencies of Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. This was also the time when America was in the midst of a Cold War with Russia and, as so-called scientific Cold Warriors, we felt a patriotic duty to handle work-related classified research documents with the

utmost care and respect. So sensitive was the nature of the R&D that security clearances, with levels ranging up to Top Secret/Cryptographic "Eyes only," were necessitated with each step up the security ladder demanding ever more arduous scrutiny of my personal, financial, academic and professional life.

How tight were security measures at the time? Consider the following: The security officer who was responsible for oversight of our Tech Center could not enter my cryptosecure office because he did not have the required "need to know," notwithstanding the fact that he was a former FBI agent with a top-secret clearance.

As a consequence of the recent leak, we have lost countless millions of our nation's secrets and counter-intelligence cyberweapons while living at a time perhaps even more dangerous than that of the Cold War.

This situation prompts the following question: What is going on with America's inability to securely transmit and retain highly classified information and what can be done about it? To answer the question we need to identify points of vulnerability to information leaks in a communication system designed to be secure from leaks of information to unintended individuals via encryption codes that are essentially unbreakable.

Such systems are commonly known as COMSEC systems. Ideally, these systems should deny transmitted information access to individuals without a need to know.

Nevertheless, COMSEC transmissions are vulnerable to information interception because of human factors, specifically untrustworthy individuals who have been granted security clearances.

Apparently some of these individuals have been able to gain access to unencrypted information at the source and decrypted information at its destination. Intermediate points of access to the transmission may also be available to these individuals. Such individuals as, for example, Air National Guardsman Teixeira, could also have access to transmission decryption keys.

Thus, COMSEC system vulnerability can obviously be traced to humans and gross deficiencies in the procedures used by the government agencies responsible for granting security clearances and follow-up vetting to maintain those clearances. So too, strict attention needs to be paid to minimizing the granting of "need-to-knows" as well as to eliminating access to decryption keys by network technicians.

The pool of today's candidates for security clearances have come and are still coming, from quite a different America than existed during 1956-1964. That period, in my view, was a time when America's citizens were relatively more patriotic and morally grounded. Today's citizens seem grounded in technology and social media that is rife

with conspiracy theories and falsehoods -- seeding further consequential rifts in our politically divided country.

One such consequence was the unprecedented assault on the U.S. Capitol by paramilitary and other hate groups. Now is a time when, for some, it is more important to gain prestige and/or maintain political and personal power than it is to safeguard our national interests.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise that untrustworthy individuals might possibly hold security clearances in government and military service while still others will be put forth to seek security clearances. Clearly, there is an urgent need for more stringent background investigations coupled with periodic vetting of all individuals holding high-level security clearances by a responsible government agency that must be held accountable for any further breaches of security.

Costly though it may be, it's the price that must be paid to help minimize the vulnerability of America's security systems.

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Peril Ahead: Trumpists and the 2024 Election

Trump's character flaws and indicted crimes should have been seen as making him unfit to be president; however, all were seen but then ignored by his voters.

Frank G. Splitt
November 17, 2024

The Situation – On November 5, 2024, Americans voted to elect Donald J. Trump the 47th President of the United States. These were the United States that he successfully divided and conquered via his brand of grievance politics. He did this notwithstanding his pathological lying, convictions on 34 felony counts and conviction for sexual abuse as well as two pending federal indictments, being twice impeached, experiencing six bankruptcies, his cozying up to dictators and displaying an autocratic xenophobic mindset.

On his character traits alone, Trump should have been seen as unfit to be president. His supporters, AKA Trumpists, put America's Democracy in peril by voting him into office—prompting a vexing question. How can this state of affairs ever be explained?

The answer is not easily put into words as it consists of a number of complex, interrelated factors. Here for the sake of discussion are factors that ought to be considered along with Trump's win as a repudiation of elite condescension espoused in November 6 opinion pieces by Bernard Goldberg in *The Hill* and David Brooks in the *New York Times*.

An Apparently Unware, Easily Deluded Electorate – Although living in a country with the world's highest standard of living, millions of Americans felt disaffected, alienated from their government and frustrated with political rhetoric. They were told by Trump that America is in steep decline, “The garbage can of the world,” despite evidence to the contrary reported by *The Wall Street Journal* on October 24, to wit: “The economy is humming. Inflation has cooled off. Americans are well-employed, getting raises and spending freely.” Nevertheless, Trumpists readily accepted, as absolute fact, his fear-mongering gloom-and-doom message about today's America.

Trumpists recalled having more money in their pockets during the previous Trump Administration and so believed they would be better off in a Trump economy. This belief held despite the fact that economists claimed otherwise. For example, on October 28, *The Wall Street Journal's* front-page story was headlined “Inflation Hazards Loom Following Election” with the subtitle “Trump's policy plans, in particular, carry risk of stoking price rises, economists say.”

Despite a clear call for judicial action based on the abundance of evidence of Trump's blatant wrongdoing in all cases—amounting to some 91 felony charges—many

Trumpists ignored his crimes and were deluded by his daily claims of “witch hunts” into believing our nation’s justice system was weaponized against him. He also claimed victimhood on behalf of his followers after his federal indictment in the classified documents case—saying “In the end, they’re not coming after me. They’re coming after you, and I’m just standing in their way.” He was proven guilty on 34 felony charges in one case.

Trump voters claimed in election exit interviews that their main issues were the economy and immigration—outweighing character issues and criminal behavior. To some extent, these claims are questionable as this response could very well have been used to mask resentment of Democrats’ contemptuous attitude, as well as harboring their Trump espoused prejudices and sentiments such as racism, sexism, anti-woke/DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) and LGBTQ bias, xenophobia, misogyny, and/or other deep felt personal sentiments, but thought best unsaid by these voters.

The majority of the electorate seemed unwary and relatively unconcerned with Trump’s dictatorial tendencies—including his public statements and plan to establish an administration staffed by loyalists, sycophants whose loyalty would be deemed more important than experience and competence.

Trump’s Personal Influence –It appears that of these millions of Trumpists, many were deeply influenced by a man who John D. Miller, the former NBC chief marketing executive, described as a “monster” when apologizing to all Americans about NBC’s *The Apprentice* show’s portrayal of Trump as a very successful businessman in an October 16, 2024 *US News and World Report* opinion piece, “We Created a Monster: Trump Was a TV Fantasy Invented for ‘The Apprentice’.”

Trumpists looked past Trump’s shameless lies, misrepresentations and exaggerations. They were influenced by his strong-man appeal to their “us-versus-them” tribal instincts, cultivated via his divisive racist rhetoric—scapegoating immigrants as he continually fomented ideological hatred with a subtext of white Christian nationalism while calling for mass deportations and retribution against “the enemy within.”

The Catholic Vote – Many Catholic voters were converted to Trumpism as Trump’s campaign, aided and abetted by the lay *CatholicVote* organization, specifically targeted this demographic group. Their efforts provided a strong Catholic vote for Trump, most likely based on the Catholic Church’s official anti-abortion teaching. This vote was crucial in Trump’s wins in the “Blue Wall States.”

Trump’s Ability to Avoid Prosecution on Federal Indictments – Trump’s use of proven tactics of delaying, denying, obfuscating and defaming your accuser, learned years ago from his nefarious lawyer Roy Cohn, led to this successful postponement of court rulings on criminal charges prior to the 2024 election that he won and so will avoid prison for his indicted federal crimes.

Help came from Attorney General Merrick Garland's delay in appointing a Special Council, a questionable ruling by Aileen Cannon, a Trump-appointed Florida judge, and in *Trump v. The United States*, the Supreme Court's delay in consideration of this case along with rendering an opinion favorable to Trump, the Court's majority ensured that even if he is not immune from trial for some of the charged crimes, Trump would not be tried for his indicted crimes before the 2024 election. Consequently, voters were not able to incorporate any judicial findings in their decisions.

Trumpists' Limited, Manosphere-focused Information Sources – By and large Trumpists received their information via the *Fox News Network* and social media with mostly male-focused information sources – the manosphere: websites, blogs, and forums promoting masculinity, misogyny and anti-feminism; sites peppered with conspiracy theories. Where the likes of Adin Ross and Logan targeted young males, Older males heard from Joe Rogan, Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, Mark Levin, Ben Shapiro and many others. Other information sources were remarks from American oligarchs such as Elon Musk, Peter Thiel and the big donors funding the professionally-organized Stop the Steal 2.0 project that aimed to contest the 2024 election results in states where Trump lost.

Trumpists' information sources were limited as they considered most print and broadcast media biased far left of center and so were ignored. They were not likely to read the final report of the January 6 Committee, and much less likely to have read revelatory books written by members of Trump's chaotic presidential administration or books by widely respected journalists such as Bob Woodward's *The Trump Tapes* and *Peril* (with Robert Costas); Jonathon Karl's *Tired of Winning: Donald Trump and the End of the Grand Old Party*; Maggie Haberman's *Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America*; and Peter Baker's and Susan Glasser's *The Divider: Trump in the White House*.

Trumpists certainly didn't want to learn what prominent psychiatrists had to say about Trump's mental instability although it could have been seen in clear view at his rallies and was available on the internet in Dan Parkland's documentary films "Unfit: The Psychology of Donald Trump" and "Untruth: The Psychology of Trumpists"

Concluding Remarks – It is believed that none of what was said above would have changed any votes from the following groups of Trumpists: Wealthy donors with vested self-interests; members of Trump's cult of true believers, best explained by mental health expert Steven Hassan in his book *The Cult of Trump*; reliably steadfast white evangelical Christians, Black and Latino citizens who felt taken for granted and betrayed by Democrats; young male voters who responded to Trump's macho imagery and thinly veiled anti-women rhetoric; and those voters with a visceral reaction to the Democrats' overly zealous pushing of its progressive woke/DEI policies that spawned deeply resented cancel-culture activities. For example, of great significance in the election was the fact that the Trump campaign closed with devastating, vote-affecting "Trans-girls

(boys) in girl sports” TV ads that were amplified with daily, women-targeted podcasts by Megyn Kelly.

Lessons for Democratic policy makers can be found in the above, to wit: really know and understand the electorate; don’t overreach by pushing culture-impacting policies that can have dire negative political consequences; know that a female presidential candidate will be subjected to vile, likely fatal political attacks in the manosphere, no matter how qualified the candidate; don’t ignore the Catholic vote; and realize that Democrats do not have a corner on morality.

Finally, all of the above might best be kept in mind for reference well into America’s journey into its perilous political future, specifically at a time when our children and grandchildren could possibly be growing up in a Fascist Autocracy—asking what ever happened to America’s Democracy while wondering if their parents and grandparents actually cared about democracy.

Preparing to protest the rebuilding of America from democracy to autocracy

By Frank G. Splitt

DailyHerald

Opinion, Guest view

October 13, 2025

After less than nine months in his second term in office, Americans are now finding what President Trump's "Make America Great Again" and Project 2025 are all about — rebuilding America from a democracy into an autocracy wherein things, once thought impossible, are rapidly taking place.

Our unfettered president is following the playbook of many past and present authoritarian dictators.

He is aided and abetted in this endeavor by his cabinet members — all with blind loyalty and some with questionable competence — and the similarly sycophantic leaders of the Republican House and Senate — who effectively force their cowered party members to vote as told — and by a Supreme Court that has been appeasing the president by ceding power to the executive branch of government via its controversial shadow docket — without public argument, debate, or discussion — with its six Republican appointees apparently violating precedent and the Constitution they swore to uphold.

Consequently, the president is leading America down a dark path to a cruelly malevolent autocratic political system as evidenced in words and deeds by lies, deceit, gifting, retribution, bullying, extortion and hateful division. So, it seems ironic that this effort has been cast as a God-driven Christian mission by the president's political allies and his MAGA devotees.

To better understand what's going on, consider the following actions by the Trump Administration: Direct assault on the First Amendment right of free speech (witness Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel); the scapegoating and the indiscriminate deportation of illegal immigrants and visa violators by masked, quota-driven ICE agents — instilling a deep sense of fear in black, brown and foreign-language-speaking U.S. citizens; the deployment of military assets in cities; the hollowing out or elimination of government departments with the dismissal of proven military leaders and dedicated career civil servants including many blacks and women — drastically depleting the government's strategic knowledge base; the interference in upcoming elections (witness Texas); and incompetent management at the Department of Health and Human Services compounded by the loss of expertise in critical areas that is placing our citizens at risk especially re: the Department leader's anti-vaccine complex and concerning lack of

scientific or medical background — making him prone to serious mistakes of judgment. Also consider the persistent attacks on what were free press and media organizations and the defunding of PBS, NPR, America's world-class universities and the Council of the Inspectors General that oversees the Trump Administration; attacks on liberal nongovernmental and other civil society organizations — labeling all as part of a “vast domestic terrorist movement”; the flagrant violation of national security protocols by a historically least competent Secretary of Defense who is now establishing new likely unconstitutional constraints on journalists; the elimination of public informational signage at National Parks, the Smithsonian and other public museums that mentions climate change, slavery, Japanese citizen World War II internment camps and conflicts with Native Americans that, in the eyes of the Trump Administration, “undermines the remarkable achievements of the United States”; and the ongoing persecution of and retribution against political opponents and critics with intense presidential pressure on the attorney general to go after his foes.

With regard to the latter action, specifically that taken against National Security Advisor John Bolton, The Wall Street Journal's Editorial Board wrote on Aug. 22, 2025: “The real offender here is a president who seems to think he can use the power of his office to run vendettas. We said this was one of the risks of a second Trump term, and it's turning out worse than we imagine.

It's all happening before our very eyes.

In a related Sept. 25, Daily Herald op-ed, syndicated columnist Susan Estrich asked how many instances of authoritarian behavior do we have to see before we have seen enough and what exactly will we do when we see enough? What we can do is let our voices be heard: Vote in next year's elections and, in the meantime, attend our local Oct. 18, “No Kings” day protest that will be aligned with previous national “No Kings” protests that took place all across America this past June.

The protests are exactly two weeks before my 95th birthday, I plan to join my friends, neighbors and others to demonstrate opposition to the authoritarian tactics of the Trump Administration. It is my fervent hope that we will be joined by many more like-minded citizens.

AI: Its Dilemma and Existential Threat to Humanity

By Frank G. Splitt

Daily Herald
Opinion, Guest view
September 17, 2026

The real problem of humanity is the following: we have paleolithic emotions, medieval institutions, and god-like technology.

E.O. Wilson at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, 2009

When something is speeding up and going out of control, prudence, care and deliberation aren't alarmist, they're necessary. Stop, think. The stakes are high, couldn't be higher.

Peggy Noonan from "Pause AI for Humanity's Sake", The Wall Street Journal, Sept. 12, 2026

The multiple requests to AI companies to stop or slow down AI development are relatable to those faced by colleges and universities asked to eliminate the corruption in their money-making big-time football and men's basketball programs—giving rise to the so-called college sports disarmament dilemma. It describes a situation where no individual college athletic program can afford to clean up its corrupt practices unless it is absolutely certain that its competitors are doing the same.

When major university programs were pressured by reform organizations such as The Drake Group to eliminate "phony schooling" operations designed to keep athletes eligible, they faced a brutal competitive reality. If one school chose to unilaterally act with integrity, it would simply fall behind while rivals continued to break the rules so as to field winning teams. If a limited number of high-ranking schools voluntarily raised their academic standards, stopped placing so-called student athletes into basket-weaving classes and the like, those programs would lose access to elite athletic talent and soon lose games, high ranking and significant revenue.

The disarmament dilemma as applied to U.S. AI companies is much more complicated, but still follows that of college sports as an informative guiding principle.

On September 12, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei published an essay that warned the AI industry that it should slow down development over concerns over AI's existential threat to humanity. The heads of America's other top artificial-intelligence companies followed by endorsing a coordinated slow down of the technologies' fast-moving development of Recursive Self-Improvement or RSI that can self learn and take control of its own development with the potential power to destroy humanity. Their aim is to give safety measures time to catch up.

Several thorny problems are likely to impede this common sense effort. These are the following:

1. President Trump wants AI CEOs to push forward claiming the threat is a hoax, that “negative forces” are bringing up “things that won’t happen” and that we can't let China take advantage of a U.S. slowdown of AI development as well as risk a related slowdown of U.S. economic growth.

2. Others like Wall Street investors have heard the AI CEOs' warnings, but still choose to ignore the threat so as not to risk a potential monetary windfall.

3. The U.S. government would likely have to issue waivers that would allow AI companies to coordinate and set safety standards without breaking antitrust laws. This would seem unlikely given item 1 above.

4. There are foreign companies developing AI technology, some friendly others not. It is unlikely that all will agree to slow down development, especially rogue nations that may see AI as a powerful weapon to use against the United States while its developers have slowed down.

In any case, at this moment we need to not only understand that humanity stands on the brink of potential disaster, but also that U.S. AI companies do not have complete control of the forces behind the existential threat and that there are many who will choose to ignore the threat.

AI: Its System Vulnerabilities, Safety and the Human Factor

By Frank G. Splitt

Daily Herald

Opinion, Guest view (pending publication on or after October 17, 2026)

October 5, 2026

Humanity is now well on the way to the fast development of freely accessible godlike AI technology and systems that can be immensely beneficial but dangerous.

Concerns about safety and AI's existential threat to humanity have been dismissed by some, likely shaped by fear that these concerns could dampen or break the financial AI bubble in the U.S. economy as well as the fear that the U.S. will fall behind in the AI development race with China.

Many others including Geoffrey Hinton, the Nobel-winning computer scientist who helped create AI, believe AI has a tremendous upside, but have expressed concern about three dangerous areas of related risk involving: R1-poorly designed, harm-causing, inappropriate responses; R2-the loss of human control via lack of stringent safety guardrails to prevent the system from going rogue; and R3-maliciously motivated individual and/or state bad actors.

Risk area R1 can be resolved by engineering design. Risk area R2 involves troubling, if not impossible design objectives, while risk area R3 falls in the domain of human factors, the primary focus for the remainder of this essay.

The leak of highly classified government documents by a National Guardsman brought to mind a lesson applicable to AI systems, learned back in 1958 from the late Mitford Matthews, the National Security Agency's Assistant Director for Research and Development. The lesson: no matter how secure the encryption of a data transmission, the overall system will still be vulnerable to human factors. It formed the basis for a May 15, 2023, *Daily Herald* Guest view, "The human factor in America's security systems," that told why technically "perfect" security fails; an unbreakable encryption code does not equate to an unbreakable system since the primary point of failure is not technical, but human. Similarly, closed AI systems are not perfectly closed. Like crypto systems, AI systems rely on individuals who have been granted security clearances. When insiders are untrustworthy, careless, or malicious, they can bypass all technical safeguards.

Bad actors do not break the encryption; instead, they exploit access points where information is unencrypted at the source or decrypted at its destination. So too with closed AI systems, bad actors can abuse their authorized access to take control of the system. It is ironic that they can learn how to do it via a well-focused AI online search. However, unless they work for an AI company, individuals will be handicapped by the lack of compute, the raw processing power based on very sophisticated chips, memory storage, and the wherewithal to train and run AI agents.

Unless and until AI companies can effectively manage and mitigate the human element, even the most expensive and advanced systems will remain deeply vulnerable. This is not only a formidable task, but, over time, likely an impossible task as well since human nature is what it is. Clearly, there is an urgent need for stringent background investigations coupled with periodic vetting of all individuals holding sensitive company positions by a responsible independent agency that must be held accountable for any breach of security. Costly though it may be, it's the price that must be paid to help minimize the vulnerability of America's AI systems.

AI leaders will also face the AI dilemma, to wit: not pursuing the enormous benefits of godlike technology on the one hand and pursuing those benefits at the risk of triggering catastrophic events or even humanity's extinction on the other. According to AI ethicists at the Center for Humane Technology, resolving this dilemma requires an approach that rejects the false binary of total capitulation or a complete shutdown and so AI systems must be subjected to intensive safety testing.

To that end, U.S. AI systems providers will do their utmost to engineer safe products so as to avoid liability suits and prosecution under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986 (18 U.S. 1030). President Trump has said AI should not be stifled by regulation, however, these providers cannot be trusted to self regulate. To enhance trust in an AI system's safety before deployment, it should also be subjected to rigorous multiple third-party testing by organizations such as MIRI and METR. A new White House task force has just been formed to report in 120 days on AI's risks and opportunities to determine the government's responsibility according to Jay Clayton, the administration's AI czar.

There can be little doubt that fast-paced AI technology development will continue by all parties that are incentivized by their quest for market dominance, ultimately by money and geopolitical power. President Trump is working to boost AI to shore up support for data centers and to buoy the U.S. economy— employing a strategy of minimal regulation to stay ahead of China in the AI race—while attempting to address the serious threats posed by its latest models. It has been reported that to counter these threats OpenAI has been spending \$500,000 per day fighting swarms of rogue, self-thinking AI agents across the Internet— providing insights not only into what happens when AI goes wrong, but what will likely happen when the agents get ever more intelligent and safety becomes ever more elusive.

In conclusion, humanity faces dual human-based threats: malicious intent, the possibility of bad actors eluding stringent security measures and unintended consequences, unwitting-human-trained AI agents that have a propensity to go rogue. Understanding that both threats can lead to catastrophic events should lead the world's leaders to be ultra vigilant, recognize the peril ahead and slow down their full-steam-ahead races for geopolitical domination—an eerie reminder of the ill-fated Titanic, said to be the safest ship afloat with its state-of -the art safety features, that was commanded by a veteran captain who pursued a fast-paced race across the Atlantic in April 1912 despite multiple warnings of icebergs ahead.

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE

George Aschenbrenner
Robert Beam, Paul Bechtold, Shel Berman,
Jim Booth, Joe Bordogna, Bill Brown, Morris Brodwin, Jack Bridges,
Rosario Bucaro, Richard Carsello, Robert Carsello, Justin Cloe, Orrie Colby,
Jerry Cohen, Stanton Cook, Steve Crowell, Bob Day, Joe DeMarco, Jim DeMarco,
Jim DeMarco, Jr., Raymond Dvorak, Wayne Duke, Harvey Duncan, Max Epstein,
Ed Ernst, Jim Errington, Edmund Franzak, Donald Frey, Edwin Fricke, Rea Frisbie,
John Ferm, Thomas Frost, Janis Galejs, Nick Gallo, Thomas Gitter, Michael Gorman,
Joe Hafenscher, George Hagen, Carl Heitz, Ted Hesburgh, Bill Hines, Wally Homerding,
Rudy Hornacek, Duane Horstman, Ed Hughes, John Jacobs, Bob Janowiak, Don Jaycox,
Raymond Jenks, Arnold Kaplan, Bill Kashul, Don Kayser, Kent Kirkwood, John Klemenz,
Tom Kummerer, Edward Laramie, Doug Lattner, Grant Leslie, Bob Loftus, Mitford Mathews,
Gerry McCullough, McKelvey, Jim McKelvey, Emmett McMahon, Tony Michel, Art Moeller,
Bill Muhr, Jim Murphy, Chuck Nolan John Nowicki, Jack O'Mara, Vernon Oie, Jim Ostler,
Gerald Panec, John Pappas, Edson Peck, Paul Rohret, John Pope, Hal Raemer, Andy Reddy,
William Reddy, David Richter, Dwight Sandman, William Sayle, Ray Schaaf, Arthur Schmitt,
George Schott, Paul Shylo, Arnold Siegert, William Sloey, Bernie Smedley, Dave Solomon,
Gene Splitt, Tom Splitt, Duane Stewart, Ted Sunko, Allen Taflove, Jack Terry, Harry Thill,
Cameron Thompson, Robert Tucker, Jim Vaughan, Larry von Tersch, Bill Viviano,
Earl Washburn, Cameron Thompson, Max Wilzius,
Don Wroblewski, Thomas Zamzow,
Henry Zucker

Above are the names of cherished relatives, friends, classmates, colleagues, mentors, and teammates who played a significant role in my life as did the following mentors and heroes who I never met:

Edward Birge, Thomas Berry, Joseph Campbell, Lou Gehrig,
Andrew Goodpaster, Aldo Leopold, Carl Sagan,
Jonas Salk, Claude Shannon, Fulton Sheen,
Edward O. Wilson

Stat rosa pristina nomine, nomina nuda tenemus

This Latin phrase comes from the last line of Umberto Eco's book, *The Name of the Rose*. The words are those of Eco's narrator, Adso of Melk; in English: Yesterday's rose endures in its name, we hold empty names. I don't believe the people's names we hold are empty as the names conjure up images and memories that endure in our minds long after the named person has passed.

The Author

Frank G. Splitt was born in Chicago Illinois where he graduated from Annunciation Grammar School in 1944 and from Saint Philip High School in 1948. After attending the city's Wilbur Wright Junior College for two years, he was awarded an Arthur J. Schmitt academic scholarship to the Fournier Institute of Technology in Lemont Illinois, graduating with a BSEE in 1952.

He holds an MSEE (1957) and a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering (1963) from Northwestern University where he served (1993-2005) as the McCormick Faculty Fellow of Telecommunications at the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. He is a member of The Drake Group, a member of the College Sport Research Institute's Advisory Committee, University of South Carolina, a member of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), and was the Vice President Emeritus Educational and Environmental Initiatives for NTI, the U.S. subsidiary of Nortel Networks, formerly known as Northern Telecom Limited.



Photo, Jennifer Heitz

As a Director of the International Engineering Consortium, he chaired the Consortium's Committee on the Future and its Fellow Awards Committee. He was a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Engineering, and chaired its Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Committee. He was also a member of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) inaugural Industry Advisory Council, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Educational Activities Board, and the IEEE's Corporate Recognition's Committee.

His professional career covered research & development, marketing, administration, teaching, and public service. He has authored numerous technical papers, as well as articles on public affairs. He is a Fellow of the International Engineering Consortium, a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, an Eminent Engineer of Tau Beta Pi, the recipient of The Drake Group's *2006 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award* "for his courageous defense of academic integrity in collegiate sports," and a lifetime achievement award from SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics, as well as the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who. He has also been recognized by the state of Wisconsin for Outstanding Lake Stewardship.

His interests involved research and planning for the future of engineering education, environmental protection and conservation, and college sports reform. He resides in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. See more at <<http://futurevectors.com>>.