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Rick Rosner, World Genius Directory: 2013 Genius of the Year - America

http://www.facebook.com/rick.rosner • http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndW5uiwexL8

(In)Famous For:

Five-time nominee for the Writers Guild Award, one win 20 years as a TV writer • Earned the only perfect score ever achieved on the Titan Test, 'The World's Hardest IQ Test' • Highest score among all test-takers on more than 20 high-end IQ tests • Earned 12 years of university credit in a single year • Caught 6,000 fake IDs in 25 years as a bouncer • Have managed to stay married for nearly 22 years • Edited Noesis, the Journal of the Mega Society, for six years • Joined Mensa in the 1980s after Playboy magazine did a pictorial of the women of Mensa. I joined Mensa hoping that Playgirl would do a pictorial on the men of Mensa, and that this would help me get a girlfriend. Playgirl did not run a Mensa pictorial. (I tried lots of things to try to get a girlfriend, many of them ridiculous.)

I think humanity has many happy and some not-so-happy surprises to be revealed in our lifetimes. Because of our increasingly extensive interactions with our digital devices, most people already have a better intuitive understanding of consciousness than any people who came before us. Consciousness works like an edit bay, punching up everyday reality on a moment-to-moment basis to make it compelling, keeping us interested in our own lives and keeping us relatively safe from the dangers of not paying attention. Increasing technology will bring us expanded consciousnesses (happy), along with the (not-so-happy) realization that consciousness, though the source of wonderful feelings, includes much Michael Bay-type trickery and pumping-up of everyday experience.

Am finishing a book I've been working on for 35 years which details some of my stupider moments. For someone with a high IQ, I've done a fair amount of not-so-high-IQ stuff. Would like to flesh out my theory of the universe. I think that the information contained within a system which correctly believes itself to be conscious can be thought of as occupying a space which shares many similarities with our external universe. Self-consistencies within our universe and consistencies of understanding across the mental space of an individual consciousness have equivalences. I also think that Mach's Principle applies to gravitation, not just inertia, making for a universe which is less exciting in certain ways and more exciting in others.

Why work with IQ:

Having tried so many IQ-type tests, I generally can do pretty well, which can bolster my self-esteem when other things don't. I suppose I'd like to help make people more aware of the intellectual and informational resources they have available to them, both inside and outside their heads. The old saying that we use only ten percent of our brains is BS, but it's true that you can become smarter by acting as if you are smarter.

Statement for the World:

Over the next generation, genius will become widespread as our apps help make us smarter. Genius will no longer be rare, but it will be accompanied by lots of high-bandwidth foolishness. More than a billion people now have near-instantaneous access to most human knowledge. This is unprecedented, and it must be making us smarter in some ways, but it hasn't turned our world into a utopia of Spock-like, ultra-reasonable thinking.

I think we strive to understand human goals, drives, and capabilities, to reconcile them with the limits imposed on us by the universe, and to transcend those limits. If we could wish one thing upon the intellects of their, what is that? My one wish is that trying to extend human understanding would be considered doing God's work. It's not unreasonable to think that a supreme being would want us to aspire to figure out the principles of creation. This is the kind of message I'd like to promote, as well as, getting the intellectuals of the world into force for good. Sometimes wisdom and commonsense are overlooked and I'd like to change that. The obvious is true, and most people can't see that. Can we? What do you think? People throughout the world are actually getting smarter, thanks to technology, media, and increased standards of living (though it's often hard to see, since foolishness and triviality are also increasing). People will inevitably embrace intelligence. We get smarter as our machines get smarter and we surround ourselves with increasingly sophisticated apps. For the first time in history, we have near-instantaneous access to most of the world's information. There's no way that doesn't make us smarter (all cultural evidence to the contrary notwithstanding).