

Why We Should Exalt Gadgets

by Andrew Bushard
and Phil Kauth

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Andrew Bushard: Good evening, everyone. Good evening. Gadgets are a very important aspect of our society. Without gadgets, who knows? This society would not function. It would not function, especially American society. Gadgets make society great. Why does it make society great, Phil?

Phil Kauth: Like I said, necessity. You just can't get by with something that's supposed to be bad. You can't.

Andrew Bushard: How can you not? Look at all the gadgets out there. Look what they do. There are

no alternatives. What are you gonna do? Do a three-hole punch? Okay, put holes in the pencil. Do we really need holes to be cut? Yes, we do. I accept. Three-ring binders. You would not need a three-ring binder if you didn't have a hole punch. How about holders? Holders! What are you gonna do? Do you need all your papers sitting out?

Phil Kauth: Organization is the best idea of life.

Andrew Bushard: I agree, gadgets are very valuable if they don't override all of society. I would like to demonstrate our first gadget, one of the coolest gadgets, one of the best ways you can spend \$1.19. It is a pen. And a pointer.

Phil Kauth: It's a pen?

Andrew Bushard: It's a pen.

Phil Kauth: Whoa. And a pointer?

Andrew Bushard: And a pointer.

Phil Kauth: In what? In what? About 20?

Andrew Bushard: About 20. Discounter store in Plover. Great store. Great, great, great store. And don't... The pen part broke. But do not despair. The \$1.20 is not wasted. I am having this greatest problem lately with pens. And pens are not

functioning. It's very frustrating. Now that the free store is closed, there's not a good source of pens.

However, the computer labs do. I could point: corporation, head honcho, assistant head honcho, assistant to the assistant, assistant to the assistant to the assistant, all the way down to the worker. I could also talk about plant taxonomy. That's right. Here is a spruce. Here's a pine. Here is a redwood. Here is elm. Elm. Elm. Elm is the thing that the blue leaves are touching.

We could do physics: momentum plus force equals quantum mechanics. We could do chemistry: sodium plus chloride equals sodium chloride. Can you talk for me? Why do we need a chalkboard? But you need one. Why is the pointer not good? Not necessarily. The pointer is good for very much. The pointer can... We can use it to point at people. Some people may get offended; others may enjoy it.

I remember when we were doing the involvement fair, this one dude I knew took the pointer out of my hand, and I felt like a dude in the Bible that got all his hair chopped off and lost all his power. If you can think of a better way to spend \$1.20, let me know, because this is a great use of \$1.20. Excellent classroom tool, excellent tool to hold around. I remember Phil also likes pointers. I was in his room

one day, and he was pointing—I don't know where that stick went, and I don't know where that is either. Pointing helps emphasize what you are saying. It helps make your message stronger. That's a big pointer; carry it in your pocket, use it for a weapon if you get involved. I mean, that sucker will hurt you, get someone right in the face. Non-violently, of course [This joke came from a woman named Dana Churness who said “I want to punch them nonviolently.”] Only in self-defense.

I urge everyone to buy one of these pointers. The pointers will make society great. They will help speakers emphasize their points, and they will bring justice and liberation to the entire mass. Phil, what are ten of them?

Phil Kauth: Ten of them?

Andrew Bushard: Yes.

Phil Kauth: Two of one each hand. Just a break, Jay. Got to get this on tape. A gadget is slang for a small device or tool used in performing miscellaneous jobs, especially in the kitchen.

Andrew Bushard: In the kitchen.

Phil Kauth: I've got to get something else out.

Andrew Bushard: Is gadget a thing like knick-knack? A knick-knack? Is it the same as junk?

Phil Kauth: No. Knick-knack has more uses. Junk is a bunch of crap. Junk. Let's see if that's a thing. It's a small device. Where's the limit? Before I answer that, junk is parts of material such as glass, scrap iron, paper, rags. No, it flattens. Bottom's Chinese shit. Rubbish. Junk is worthless matter. Stuff is not worthless. It has worth. Imagine trying to point with just your finger on the chalkboard. Would that be very effective? It would be. There's more emphasis with the pointer, so you can make a wacky sound on the chalkboard.

Andrew Bushard: What's the mascot of this university? Pointer. "Point Well Taken" is the name of the Letters & Science college newspaper. This is a fine gadget. Ah, I'm gonna block it. I found a knick-knack—a trinket, trifling article. Trifling is kind of being worthless, isn't it? That's a knick-knack. Block goes straight on. Safe lock.

Imagine what college life would be like without a safe lock. After 9 o'clock, you stick it in the door and you're entering the dorm. The person that made this is probably richer than Bill Gates. Marvelous technology. What if we had a key? Then we'd have more keys on our keychain. I already have many,

many keys. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven keys. A gadget that does not work: a light from RHA, a small light, wasn't very effective because it's very small, but it's a gadget nonetheless. If more people had these, more universities, wouldn't universities have better cohesion as a society? Jason?

Audience Member (Jason): Will a safe lock take over the keys for all society?

Andrew Bushard: It very well might. Would that be bad or would that be good?

Phil Kauth: Yeah.

Audience Member (Jason): Can you break in to a safe lock door?

Andrew Bushard: I can't go through. I don't think I can. It's much more of an issue than keys. I did have a problem with my safe lock, because I put it too close to other magnetic strips in my wallet. Therefore, it wouldn't function. And then I had to get a new safe lock. So now I have to put it in my left pocket and put [my wallet] in my right pocket. Good idea. Did you have any questions before?

Phil Kauth: Size, yes. Oh, size. I would think that... that would definitely be a gadget, but it's bigger than a three-hole punch. You can see that it's strictly

kitchen-wise. It's different things. As far as the kitchen, this is a gadget. A blender, that's an appliance. I mean, that's big. A juicer, appliance. A blender, small. Smaller, a little blender, gadget.

Andrew Bushard: What if a plant just keeps evolving, and then you talk to the class of gadgets, you're technically talking to the class of science? Then you have to talk to the class of science gadgets. Someone's going to have to come up with the taxonomy of gadgets. Why are we studying plant taxonomy? Why don't we study gadgets? Gadgets! Where is the major in college? Gadget major. What's your next gadget, Phil?

Phil Kauth: My next? Oh, I got it. By far the best kitchen gadget ever, right here. It's so much easier than using it the old-fashioned way, which I'll get into as soon as I explain this. Alright, first of all, it's the right garlic stuff. But this can take on massive amounts of garlic cloves. Depending on the size, if they're small, you can go up to four garlic cloves at one time. So that's pretty darn good. You can go up to four garlic cloves the size of maybe like a shooter marble hole—big.

Anyway, you've got the built-in basher. In the hole. Squeeze the two handles together, and out comes the

gunk. Almost. Is it done? All you've got to do is take it so far away from you and punch everything out.

Andrew Bushard: How did you do it with a knife? How did you do it with a knife?

Phil Kauth: Not fun. Before I had the garlic press, I did it the knife way. The knife way: you have a knife, you have a garlic bulb. You put the garlic bulb on the knife, and you put it on the flat side of the garlic. And you take your fist, and you bash it... yourself on that sharp knife. So before we get one of those bigger knives like Chinese chefs have, that works nice. Then you gotta pick apart the little garlic leaves on there and the peelings.

Andrew Bushard: This was even cheaper than \$6.99. This was obtained from the Plover Discounter Store. This is a stamper. You can stamp a date. Librarians used to use this, but now they don't because they think this is archaic. That is their fault. Their mistake. This goes all the way up to 1997. I am not archaic. Every time you need to stamp a post-dated book, you can use this—25 cents at a discard store. A bargain and a half.

We have an ink pad downstairs. We can stamp our delays. If you want to get rid of 1997, 1995, 1993, you can move to a blank and then do the date: August 3rd, November 6th, voting day, school referendum.

Imagine how much trouble librarians would have if they had to write in every book when it was due. They would have broken hands and our libraries would perish. It would be very sad.

Phil Kauth: I can't function without a can opener. How are you gonna get those sealed lids off?

Andrew Bushard: I don't know, you got a way to get those off without a can opener?

Phil Kauth: No, you can't have it, you need a can opener.

Andrew Bushard: I will not be able to eat my mom's peaches.

Phil Kauth: Now this one is super nice because it's got two speeds, which a lot of them don't have. It's got high, it's got low. Start off, you know, you put your fruit in the cup, start it on high, once you get it all blended up, go to low. Now the nice thing about the handheld blender that I like over a real blender is you can just put everything right in a big, you know, big, big 32-ounce cup, and you can put the smoothie right in there instead of putting it in the blender, putting it up, pouring it in. You just got everything right in the cup right away. How efficient is that?

Andrew Bushard: Very efficient. Very, very. Display it.

Phil Kauth: Never gets dull, either. Surgical steel. Those are the kitchen gadgets.

Andrew Bushard: In this gadget, we will shut off the lights to demonstrate its fullest power. Would you mind getting the lights, Jason? This gadget is a slide projector. Imagine fourth grade without slides about safety—people trying to tell you what their vacation was like without showing you what occurred. Imagine not being able to see Phil shaking Rush Limbaugh's hand. Imagine not seeing Phil patting Newt Gingrich on the back. Imagine Phil not writing a check for \$5,000 to Ron Paul. Without this slide projector, you could not see that. This makes society great. It improves education. It allows us to connect and retell stories that we could not otherwise tell. This was obtained for \$2 at a church garage sale in La Crosse. Wonderful, wonderful bargain that was made.

Phil Kauth: Next one, so I got the kitchen gadgets. First of all, I got the stapler. I brought a stapler. What do you do with a stapler? You press the stapler, stuff goes in, send the little prongs in. Ooh, that's gonna work. But I did not bring a stapler. I brought, to be more of a necessity, the three-hole punch. Why

a three-hole punch? Because everyone has three-ring binders and everyone has paper that does not have three holes in it. You need to get holes in it. Because you just don't want to open up the three-ring binder and push the paper down onto the rings. No, that's not going to work. You get holes, because it'll be uneven if you don't get a three-hole punch. Punch the holes nicely, take care of it.

Andrew Bushard: Did you steal that?

Phil Kauth: No. No.

Andrew Bushard: Where'd you buy it? Kmart?

Phil Kauth: Where'd you find this, Kmart? I had a metal one. Shopko? Won't work. Any place like that. Department stores. I don't remember price-wise, but it's worth the price.

Andrew Bushard: I remember it being shown to everyone. That was the only one on my wing that had one of these. I think it's pretty well-punched. Red. Do I need to say more about that? I don't think so. I think they were Shopko, but I find it very interesting that their new slogan is "Neat Stuff, Neat Store". Neat stuff! They're bringing that whole stuff item theme into it.

Staplers come in very handy when you need to staple material together. Oftentimes you'll be in areas where there's no stapler available, and I come to the rescue with my wonderful stapler. This was fairly cheap, too. My mom gave it to me for a present. Very durable; it's rubber. If you threw it against someone's head, it might not hurt as much as a metal stapler. And accompanying this is a staple remover. If you actually staple incorrectly, you may need to remove it. If you have a stapler that staples ideas that you need to see, you can remove it. This is a very powerful device. It's produced by Stanley Bostitch. Imagine how difficult college and high school and grade school... In preschool, we would all staple work. Where would we all be? We would be in the depths of despair.

Phil Kauth: Look, it's virtual. Now, you've got a simple gadget. You've got a simple gadget. You've got a simple gadget. You've got a simple gadget. You've got a simple gadget. You've got a simple gadget. If I do a little bit more, I do a weekend. A weekend would be my left hand. So you could do about 100 to 200 with that right hand, 200 to 300 with the left hand every day.

What happens? You get those jar lids that are stuck on, just won't come off. You don't have that rubber grip handy, and you're through. So I say, get one of

these grip strengtheners, you won't even need that rubber grip—the jar lid's off, your grip is so extraordinary. You can walk down the street, go to people's houses and say, "Have you got any jars that need to be opened?" Other people don't want them, you can make a living out of it. People can give you... You'd be like a circus freak, you know? The man with the incredible grip strength. You know, you go do your crazy stuff, and pop it open. Pop it open.

Andrew Bushard: My gadgets are exhausted. Looks like Phil has still a bubble gadget to share.

Phil Kauth: Oh yes, yes, yes. A fun toy gadget. Usually you see these little bubble blowers with the one circle stick. Oh, you gotta get Swiss Army bubble blowers! Look at this, we've got six different fun shapes to use. Maybe I'll come up with a circle. The regular circle, the diamond, the square, the two-pronged... Okay, we'll go on. Ooh, you can get these cool bubbles that have like five bubbles on them. And the last one, the cone-shaped. And it's fun. Every little kid does a little bit of what we do.

Andrew Bushard: I have a question for you, Phil.

Phil Kauth: Go ahead.

Andrew Bushard: You were talking about Swiss Army Knives.

Phil Kauth: Yes.

Andrew Bushard: If an army was using Swiss Army Knives, would they want to be neutral? [I think *Mad Magazine* made this joke] Could that be why Switzerland is always neutral—because they use Swiss Army Knives? Let's pose... I mean, no one's gonna wanna fight someone with a Swiss Army knife. 'Cause she's the one that has like, you know, like kind of... the other one that has like... The guy from *MacGyver*, the king of gadgets. Oh man, did you know he was good stuff? You think he'd make a bomb out of a twist tie and a piece of gum? Yes, growing up. Is there a favorite cartoon in *Inspector Gadget*?

There would not be in *Inspector Gadget*, though. I wrote that down. I forgot to mention that. Thank you. Yes, *Inspector Gadget*. He has get-get-gadget medicine. I mean, look, he has helicopters and things coming out. He has a little finger that comes back and brews out coffee. I mean, that's great. What else did he have? He's got a voice. He's got a extendable arm. He's got a gadget. He's a man. He's not crying with gadgets. *Inspector Gadget*. Imagine how difficult his job would be without them. What about that? He had one. I have a hard time...

For all you gadget lovers out there, there's a man named Andy Pargh. Pargh, P-A-R-G-H. He is the self-proclaimed Gadget Guru. I looked it up on the internet before I came. I was like, there's got to be some freak out there with all those gadgets. So you go to his website, and he's got tons and tons of gadgets you can click on and look at them all. I think he invents them. It's pretty crazy. There's also Cooking.com—kitchen gadgets, everything from apple peelers to whisks. And there's also TheGadgeteer.com. And if you do perhaps like to watch television, you can turn your shoulder, but I do recommend checking out that Gadget Guru website. And it's got gadgets on it.

Don't you think that the infomercials are all about making money more than helping people out? That they're like... That is true, but, you know, some people like to watch them. You know, I personally, back in high school, I didn't buy stuff off infomercials, and I liked to watch them, like Ronco. Ron Popeil, the master, another master of gadgets. I like to watch his infomercials. Sunday mornings, infomercial time.

Exalt gadgets to high heaven, because gadgets make society great! Gadgets are marvelous, dependable, superb, and splendid. They make life easier, give us much more time. They build bonds in the human

race! Gadgets are gonna take over... somehow. Like Inspector Gadget's people are gonna take over. Sooner or later, there's gonna be somebody coming in, and it's gonna be like Inspector Gadget's takeover voice. I'll be right there with him, so I'm not gonna fight against him. Gadgets rule!

Is the government the fear? Is the fear with the patents? Patents, right. The government says you cannot have this gadget because it's against the rules. What, fear the government? But, yeah, and then... Don't patents come... Wouldn't you need a patent to sell your gadget? Well, you don't need one unless you want other people to rip it off. Good idea. I mean, pretty much you can get a patent for anything now. I don't know, they last like 17 years.

Phil Kauth: I'm thinking about making a new gadget.

Andrew Bushard: Yeah, you know, I'm thinking about that.

Phil Kauth: I did that back in the day when I was a young child.

Andrew Bushard: People are thinking about gadgets all the time. Long live gadgets!