

We The People

Program 135

Faster than Speeding Bullet



Remember that early television series of Superman starring George Reeves. The opening lines were memorable.....faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, look up in the sky, it's a bird , it's a plane..... its Superman. We marveled at the small black and white television screen and this super caped figure in blue and red streaking across the sky defying gravity and we loved it. However you may recall Superman was not invincible as a crystal from his home planet rendered him weak, so Kryptonite was his nemesis. Now Superman stood for all that was right and held the law paramount but even more importantly had a super sense of morality which is the distinction between right and wrong and good and bad.

Just bear with me while I offer a little more information about super speed. The human voice travels through the air at 1200 kph. Information travels through copper wires at much faster speeds and light travels at the astonishing speed of over 1 billion kph and that's fast. Now let's look at a very interesting tussle between good and evil and the sale of stocks and shares. A new book by Michael Lewis called Flash Boys identifies a true and remarkable current activity when trading shares. It goes like this.....I am on my computer and decide to buy some mining shares at say \$4.50 each. As I press the buy button the price instantly changes to \$4.55, up by 5 cents and it's so fast I probably won't even notice. Behind the scenes when I pressed the buy button my digital message travelled along the internet over various cables and links to a major digital interchange before reaching the stock exchange where the transaction would occur. As it passes the intermediate point a special software algorithm reads my purchase order and darts ahead of my message on a faster path and buys the mining shares before me. My lagging message then arrives and the parasitic interceptor then sells me the shares they bought at a 5 cent premium and I am none the wiser. This all happened in thousandths of a second or milliseconds to be precise. So this predator system is designed to seize an advantage over you and I and everyone else and at our direct expense.

In my view this is not only predatory, it's wrong yet it's not illegal. This begs the question that if something is not illegal is it therefore moral. In my view it's clear that while it may not be illegal it is certainly immoral, unethical and corrupt. It has to be at least insider trading as another entity is using unauthorized information to seize an advantage they are not entitled to. Somehow the law says this is ok and what's worse is that business thinks it's clever and simply a business advantage. Just think about the potential scale of this where millions of dollars a day could be skimmed off using the speed of communications. The growth industry now is in laser links offering communication near the speed of light and the bad guys are paying big time for the technology so they can over take our messages and get ahead of us in the buying of shares.

Thinking back, it wasn't illegal to use Kryptonite against Superman knowing it created an advantage and it certainly wasn't illegal to own it. In fact Kryptonite became immensely valuable to those looking for an advantage and were not concerned about the common man or right and wrong. That green crystal became their predatory tool and to own it created power and wealth through greed and avarice. The law is not always measured against the moral imperative and as society moves away from the Good Book so we see marginal decisions being made at the expense of others. This insider trading and theft at lightning speeds may be impressive but it works against us and our savings and our superannuation and we don't even know about it. Today millions of dollars will be redirected through this dreadful digital diminuer to those who would steal from us yet it's seen as clever and legal. This is a good example of digital Kryptonite which by its presence renders society weaker and takes us further away from a moral life. No doubt laws will be considered to control the phenomena but why on earth people only see what's good for them regardless of the cost to others is beyond me. I guess if we lived forever it might make sense but when a short life is spent trying to use others it's a futile life of no worth and an immoral one at that.

Faster than a speeding bullet maybe but its super wrong and just another example of a world full of Lex Luthors praying on the honesty of others leaving the man of steel rusting in his tracks.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley.