

7H15 M3554G3

53RV35 70 PROV3

HOW OUR M1ND5 C4N

DO 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!

1MPR3551V3 7H1NG3!

1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG

17 WA5 H4RD BU7

YOUR M1ND 1S

R34D1NG 17

4U70M471C4LLY

W17H 0U7 3V3N

7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17,

B3 PROUD! ONLY

C3R741N P39PL3 C4N

R3AD 7H15.

PL3453 FORW4RD 1F

U C4N R34D 7H15.

What is blight in a neighborhood?

Blight encompasses vacant lots, abandoned buildings, and houses in derelict or dangerous shape, as well as environmental contamination. **Blight** can also refer to smaller property nuisances that creep up on cities and suburbs: overgrown lawns, uncollected litter, inadequate street lighting, and other signs of neglect.

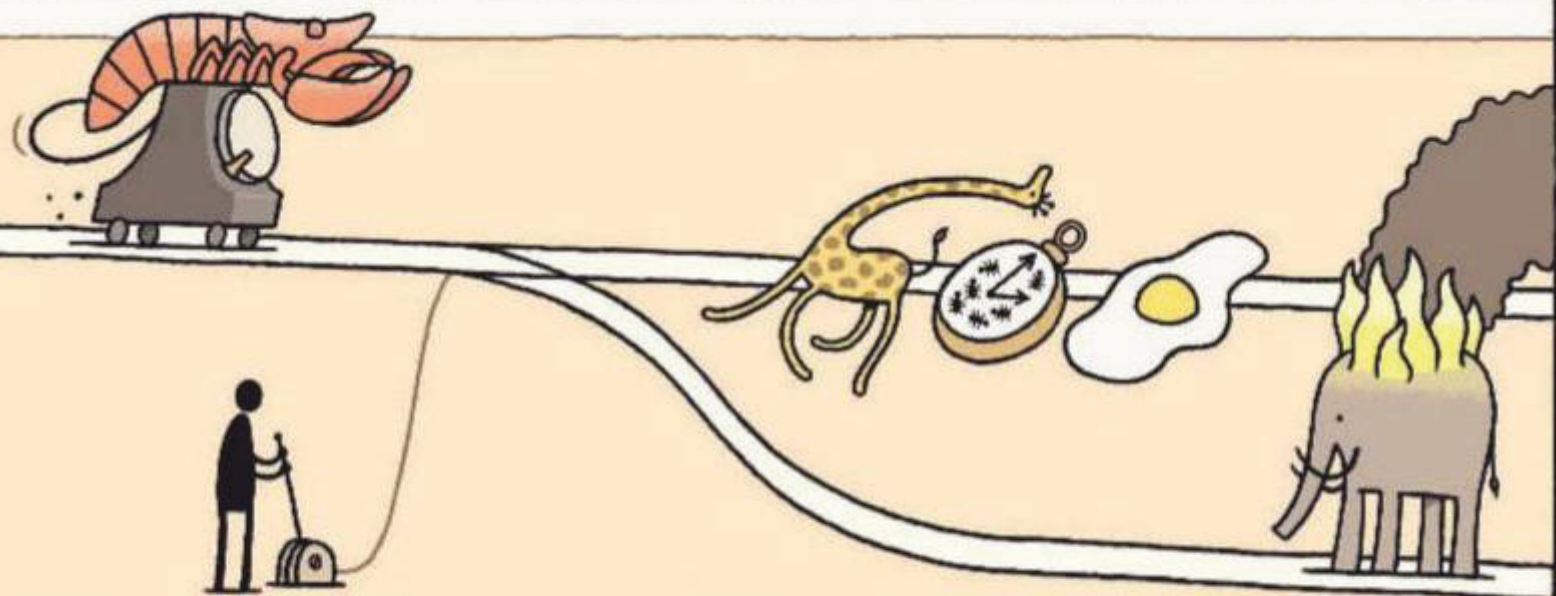
I THINK YOU
SHOULD BE MORE
SPECIFIC HERE IN
STEP TWO



The first point is that intuitive, common sense solutions to complex system problems are usually wrong. When faced with proof that a solution they have supported is wrong, people tend to go into denial and anger. But if someone takes the time to explain why a solution is wrong, people generally come around to a new realization, and can even become strong supporters of an alternative and correct solution.

The second point is that if problem solvers use the right tools, even difficult problems can be solved. Presently most problem solvers are using an intuitive approach. When a problem is incredibly complex it demands an analytical approach & tools in formulating a solution (urban decay/blight).

STUDIES IN ETHICAL SURREALISM: THE RUNAWAY LOBSTER TELEPHONE PROBLEM



AN ENORMOUS LOBSTER TELEPHONE IS HURLING DOWN A RAILWAY TRACK TOWARDS A BONELESS GIRAFFE, A POCKET WATCH COVERED IN ANTS AND A FRIED EGG. YOU CAN PULL A LEVER AND DIVERT THE LOBSTER TELEPHONE ONTO A SIDE TRACK, WHERE IT WILL ONLY HIT A BURNING ELEPHANT. DO YOU PULL THE LEVER?

What is the risk

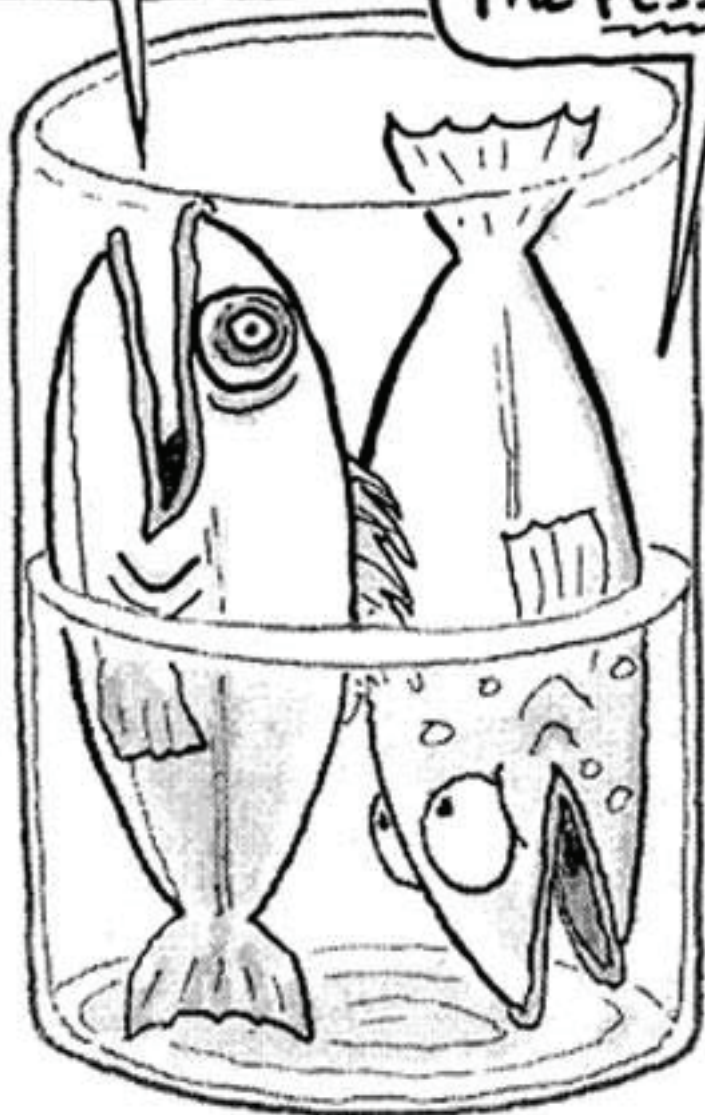
Environment: Blighted conditions from deteriorating and neglected housing, businesses and industrial sites negatively impact the visual aesthetics of the urban environment and create safety concerns. Dumping of residential and industrial wastes in these areas contribute to air, and water contamination, and create environmental nuisances. Unmanaged waste from deteriorating buildings or vehicles can seep into soils creating ground water contamination.

Health: Blight increases depression, stress, apathy, and anxiety. Structures in disrepair can be a safety hazard as they deteriorate. Unkempt yards can attract vermin and other animals. Blighted areas are associated with lead poisoning, public safety risks, reduced physical activity, and decreased availability of healthy foods. Neighborhood blight has been found to be a solid predictor of increased high risk sexual behavior and premature mortality due to malignant neoplasm's, diabetes, homicide and suicide.

Economy: Failure to address neighborhood blight contributes to decreased property values and discourages business development. Decreased property values mean less tax revenue to support issues relating to healthcare, public safety, and other public services. Urban sprawl contributes to the problem, as people prefer to build new properties rather than reinvesting and rehabilitating existing properties.

WHOA! HALF
EMPTY! DEFINITELY
HALF EMPTY!!
::CHOKE:: ::GASP::

JUST LISTEN
TO YOU! ALWAYS
THE PESSIMIST!



Solutions

Individuals:

- Perform routine maintenance on your home and grounds. Mow the grass and trim trees/bushes, keep the area free of litter, and board up structures not currently in use.
- Perform routine maintenance on your vehicle, and keep non-operative vehicles off your property.
- Contact city staff to make referrals about blighted properties and/or ask for assistance with your property.
- Organize your neighborhood association to advocate for needed community services to combat blight.
- Make an effort to work near where you live.

Communities:

- Citizens can organize community clean ups in an effort to engage neighbors, increase neighborhood pride and build a sense of community. Neighbors can help those who are not capable of doing these things themselves. Existing neighborhood associations need to take action and report to the city inspectors of adverse conditions that need to be addressed by home/property owners.

Policies:

- Enforce codes that set a minimum standard for building and property maintenance.

ARE YOU COMING TO BED?

) I CAN'T. THIS
IS IMPORTANT.

WHAT?

|
SOMEONE IS WRONG
ON THE INTERNET.



CONCEPT OF URBAN BLIGHT

The Housing Act of 1949 declared "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family" to be a national goal⁶ and it authorized a vast total program to this end. Urban redevelopment was soon superseded by "urban renewal." The Housing Act of 1954 recast redevelopment into renewal by providing for the rehabilitation of salvable housing and fully nonresidential land-use projects.⁷ Subsequent legislation amplified and enforced the public commitment to renewal and enlarged the area of attack from block projects to the neighborhood to the city.⁸

• United States Housing Act of 1949, 63 *United States Statutes*, 413, 414; U.S.C. 1441 and 1450 et seq.

• United States Housing Act of 1954, 68 *United States Statutes*, 590, 622, 42 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.

• Advances for General Neighborhood Renewal Plans (GNRP) were authorized by Sec. 301 of the Housing Act of 1959, 70 *United States Statutes*, 1091, 1100. Grants for Community Renewal Programs (CRP) were authorized by Sec. 405 of the Housing Act of 1959, 73 *United States Statutes*, 654-672.

The term "urban blight" has been used indiscriminately to describe a profusion of urban housing offensive to the community for various reasons. This was the case until the advent of urban redevelopment and urban renewal - and the resultant stress on planning, and on the city, rather than on the citizen.