

**THE LONELY INVENTOR Fight Discouragement EVERY DAY, SOMERWHERE IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY, THERE IS ALONE INVENTOR WHO FINDS FAME AND FORTUNE  
By Lawrence J.Udell**

**OVER THE LAST HALF-CENTURY that I have been working with and helping inventors, I have seen one major recurring problem facing them. Those around them discourage them and make negative comments about their potential for success. In my travels to other countries I have found exactly the same thing; from the basement inventor in New Hampshire to the garage inventor in Egypt, seldom is heard an encouraging word.**

**When faced with naysayers and the taunting of your peers, think of some now famous folks who probably met with the same reactions from their non-creative associates.**

- **Henry Ford went bankrupt three times before designing the “Model T” and finding fame and fortune.**
- **Thomas Edison, records show, conducted 10,000 experiments on the light bulb before finally perfecting it. He said, “I haven’t failed, I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”**
- **The first year Coca-Cola was introduced only 400 bottles were sold. This would have logically discouraged continuing the business.**
- **Margaret Mitchell, author of Gone With The Wind, received 25 rejection letters before a publisher accepted in, never knowing it would be a classic.**
- **The now famous Michael Jordan was rejected twice by his high school basketball team, before the coach agreed to let him try.**
- **Even the great leader Winston Churchill overcame challenges as a child; it took him three**

**years to complete the eighth grade at his school.**

- **Everyone admires Babe Ruth and his record breaking home runs statistics, but no one talks about the 1,330 times at bat that he struck out.**
- **When our astronauts first landed on the moon, no one mentioned the fact that they only had 15 seconds of fuel left in the capsule.**
- **Person of the Century Albert Einstein flunked his mathematics class while in grammar school. How must he have felt with his friends?**

**There are hundreds of great inventor who found little or no encouragement while struggling to achieve a dream, yet when they attained fame and success; they were probably told how “lucky” they were.**

**Not every inventor has or will be successful. They dream and if properly encouraged, proceed to create a prototype, to do some market research, file a patent or provisional application and maybe even go to a company to determine their interest.**

**Over 25,000 new products a year are introduced, which means someone out there is becoming a winner. Sure, most are developed within corporate research labs or hired inventor teams, but a good (unknown) percentage come from the individual who believes and recognizes he or she may have a really good product.**

**Out of the hundreds or inventions I see every year, only a handful stand out and have all the right ingredients to become successful products. The market is there,**

**opportunities are abundant, and every day, somewhere in this great country, there is a lone inventor who finds fame and fortune.**

**You could be the one tomorrow, or the day after. Be realistic and keep**

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