

**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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trying. Never forget that you live in the greatest land of opportunity in history and without new products, companies don't service.