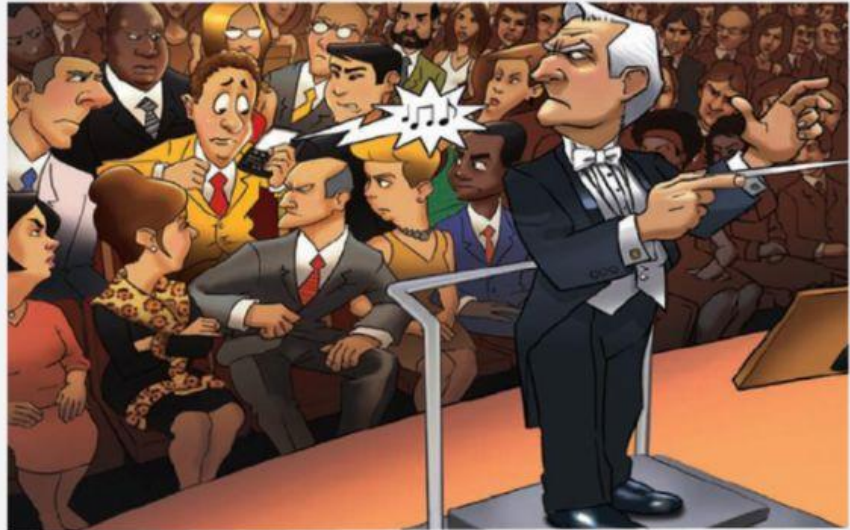


OPINION

Modern Menace or Benefit?

Today life without a cell phone is . I must be one of the few people I know who does not one. To many, this fact causes surprise and even : "You don't have a cell phone?" It's as if I were an . The way I see it, cell phones are more of a than a benefit to society.



First, they actually reduce and communication. I have seen groups of teenagers hanging out, and each one is glued to a cell phone. The teens simply don't talk to one another. Then there are those people who film the most scenes and post them on the Internet. That can lead to cell phone , which is another serious problem.

Also cell phones have become the main cause of for drivers. Many countries have banned their use for drivers—for a good reason. Drivers are unable to on the road, and, as a result, they have less concentration and slower reaction time. They put themselves, their passengers, and others at .

In my opinion, the most problem is the use of cell phones in public places. Some time ago, during a New York Philharmonic concert, a telephone went off

near the end of Mahler's Ninth Symphony. The marimba ring tone began to compete with the . The cell phone rang so loud that the conductor had to stop the music. The wanted to kick out the owner of the phone.

Although the cell phone is a global , I realize that the does bring some benefits. For example, during hurricanes and , many people stuck under have been saved thanks to their cell phone. People also carry cell phone for personal reasons. Parents concerned about their children's well-being frequently cell phones for their kids even before they can read and write.

In my case, I'd rather not have those benefits. I'm quite to live without a cell phone, and be free from constant annoyance.