

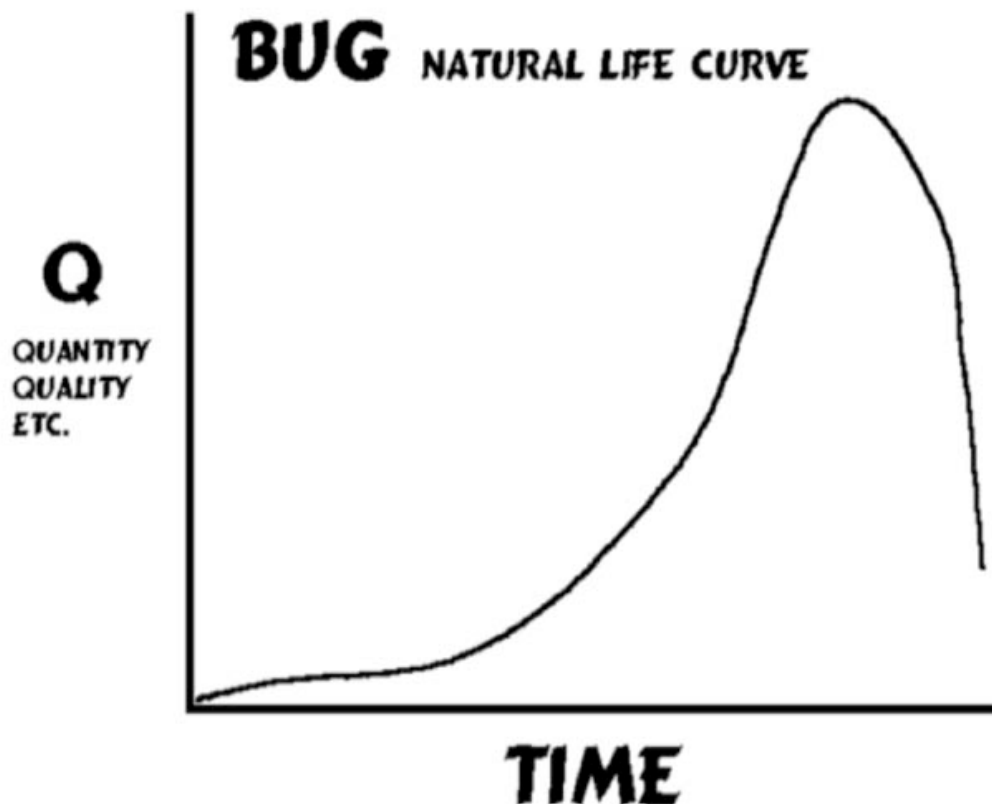
# Growth factors controlling Enterprise Symbiosis

*16 August 2000*

So far in our work on Enterprise Symbiosis we have covered six of the seven principles and one of the life-style or natural growth curves. This week we will begin to look at the four remaining curve representations. Once we complete those curve descriptions we will finish with the final Enterprise Symbiosis principle.

The three curves we will look at over the next few weeks were what started my whole journey into natural business modeling. Until that time, I had spent much of my professional enterprise working with, and studying the growth of bacteria and algae in conjunction with waste treatment processes and environmental pollution factors. As sort of a hobby I was interested in growth characteristics in wilderness areas and virgin forests. I also found it fascinating how the growth of each human individual was different. Some people seemed to reach their peak early in life, some late in life and as Thoreau said, "Most lead lives of quiet desperation." All three areas had growth characteristics that were very distinctive. As far as there application to human enterprise and development, the most important features related not to the speed of growth but the consequences of that speed. What happens when limits are encountered is the great separating factor..

The first of these curves I called the Bug Life-style Curve and is represented by the following illustration



The growth of what we call "bugs" is noted as a time of exponential growth. In practical examples, what we call bugs could include bacteria, algae, sprouts, insects or internet dot.com enterprises. Reflection of the whole curve principle is what goes up rapidly, must come down precipitously. It takes wise management or a strong symbiotic relationship to keep that general rule from coming true. To that end let us look at the growth of an algae population either in a lake or laboratory culture. What is required for algae to grow and reproduce is light and nutrients, mostly nitrogen and phosphorus, in conjunction with lesser amounts of other chemicals. What happens is that these small organisms can multiply quite rapidly as long as there is an abundance of nutrients and light to support their growth. Over a period of a few hot summer days, as the algae reproduce, a lake can go from what looks to be clear water, to a smelly green soup. As growth occurs the nutrients are used up and become incorporated into the cell mass, converting the nutrients into a form of carbohydrate, protein or other form that cannot be used to support photosynthesis. At some time, one nutrient is going to become the limiting among nutrients. Basically, halting all multiplication. Since the life span of algae is quite short, within a few days, with the absence of that one limiting nutrient the living green soup can no longer continue to rapidly grow and death of the population results.

One thing I learned a number of years ago, which was quite different than what I had originally thought, (we could use these natural growth curves to represent or model what takes place in the personal and business enterprise). **One day it dawned upon me that what we are doing is really creating enterprise models of natural systems, not the other way around. Now that might seem quite a minor change, but reflect upon it for a moment. We should look to the natural, instead of ourselves, to truly understand our life and work to determine the path ahead.**

In our self-righteous urban arrogance we think we are creating this complex economic system, when really what we are designing is just a simple, artificial world. In terms of nature, the Columbia River provides much of the agricultural water used in the Columbia Basin irrigation project. In the same way the Columbia Basin Bank (if one were to exist) could also provide for theregion's enterprise liquidity.

Now into this natural and enterprise ecosystem we have an invasion of pests. That could be grasshoppers, or low commodity prices. In one case the grasshoppers eat all the crops, in another if the farmer cannot harvest the crop for a profit, bountiful yields really have no bearing on the success of the farming enterprise, both calamities just raise the blood pressure of the farmer.

This brings us to the farmer. A good farmer knows that good soil, will hold more water, requiring less irrigation and also will produce healthy, more pest and disease resistant plants. In terms of the enterprise of man, personal or economic, it is important to understand what kind of dirt you are made of. Good dirt produces good crops, shallow personal soil, produces a shallow person.

This brings us back to the point of last week's message. **Do you seek a purpose for your life that will last beyond the temporary, the carnal, the worldly, or do you pursue a purpose that requires a symbiotic relationship with your Creator?** If your greatest goal is that you pursue the enterprise of your own self interest, or personal happiness, you will become or remain a shallow, rocky soil. However, if you allow yourself to be plowed, tilled, and fertilized with purposful thoughts, diverse cultural, religious and community inputs, and infused with complex living structures of bacteria, worms and other little bugs, your life will not be upset by a bug growth curve invasion. You shall weather the bug curveattack with success.

But to take it a step further, you might be able to manage the growth of the Bug Life-style Curve into something really great. Knowing that this growth could take place, you could think of yourself as that Lodgepole pine seed last week. It normally takes a fire to allow those seeds to grow into young trees. If your soil of your personality is not deep enough, the seeds of purpose, or your eternal calling, or enterprise, may not be freed to grow, they could be burned up in the fire.

The Bible talks about Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, who in the fullness of God's timing became in Egypt second in power only to Pharaoh. This from a prison cell in a matter of hours. The soil that was

produced in those hardships that he encountered (described in Genesis 37-50) were those that allowed him to manage the growth that took place according to the Bug Life-style Curve, and not to become susceptible to the limiting of nutrients that kind of growth requires, Joseph had a reserve that could be converted, more slowly for sure, into prolonged fruitfulness. What he had learned in those long years of hardship, became fruit that served to save not only Egypt, but also to provide a land , a home, and an enterprise for his family that thought he had been dead for many years. Such are the enterprises of purpose, the consistencies of Enterprise Symbiosis. **The unlimiting factor, is available to those who can overcome their personal fear, and to walk into that newness of life and love, that all these growth curves and all growth requires.**

### ***PRAYER PLANTS***

Last week continued to be a difficult week. While, I thought the finances which would pay the bills were forthcoming, they as of yet have not appeared. This makes it even more difficult for when you plan for something to occur at a certain time and it doesn't, it throws many succeeding events into turmoil. With that in mind, still to some extent progress was made. It is just not now apparent whether it was in the right direction. Please intercede for the release of those finances, as well as the other finances and necessary provisions, and for direction to continue forward