

Imagination is something that some people cannot even imagine.

Gabriel Laub

CEO's Note

Dear Reader

It's always interesting what you stumble across when you deal with topics regarding life, business, politics, society, among others. This time I came across a very interesting person, Gabriel Laub. He was a Polish-Czechoslovak-German satirist, aphorist (one who invents quotes), journalist and translator who wrote first in Czech and later in German.

Many people explain simple as well as less simple things to you, which makes them seem even more complicated. And I made the experience, that the more educated people are, the more complicated their explanation becomes. "If you cannot convince them, confuse them," Colin Powell once said rather sarcastically. And he summed it up with this aphorism. If you can't explain or justify something in simple words, it's worthless. We also say here that it's just "sound and smoke". Unfortunately, I didn't get to know Colin Powell personally. But I am convinced that he became such a great personality, because he was able to get to the heart of things in



Gabriel Laub (1928 - 1998)

simple words. Goethe also dealt with the theme of simplicity. He summed it up with "it is easy, but easy is difficult."

And Gabriel Laub was also a gifted aphorist. His quote today is extremely exciting in two respects: firstly, I was of the opinion that all people have imagination, which Laub said is not true, and secondly, that perhaps we should more often imagine ourselves in the future. What if Ukraine and Russia agree on peace. How will such a peace affect us? Or what, if the many new wind turbines actually slow down the rotation of the earth due to the counterforce they apply according to Newton's third axiom „Actio et Reactio“ (I assume, this statement is incorrect, rather, the wind system on earth will be affected).

In the future, I will allow myself to bring a little more imagination into my thoughts and to ignore the rational from time to time. Thank you, Gabriel Laub, for the excellent suggestion. And let's dream...

Beat De Coi

Help Save Bambi

For many children, their first encounter with the sadness of death came when they had to experience the tragedy of the death of Bambi's mother in the beloved Disney movie of the fawn. The mother's death at the hands of hunters: remains one of the most heartbreaking moments in the history of Hollywood.



Figure 1: One of the 100,000 fawns killed annually during the cutting season in Germany alone. Image: Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung / Michael Tetzlaff

Tragically, progress has meant that every year in tiny Switzerland alone an estimated 15% of all fawns are brutally killed by grass cutting machinery. Some 10,000 babies (Wildtier Schweiz) are killed every year as they lie in the early summer tall grass. Every effort

is made by farmers to find any hiding fawns, this echoes figures for the much larger Germany, where the same amount are saved each year primarily by using drones with thermal cameras. But regrettably an estimated 100,000 babies suffer this horrible death annually. No farmer intentionally wants to harm the fawns. It does mean a farmer is faced with a huge effort to check every square meter before cutting. Failing to do so properly can lead to very expensive fines. And this requires many people to help with the search.



In addition to ethical and legal reasons, farmers also have an economic interest in preventing death by mowing. Animal carcasses that end up in feed silage pose a high risk of poisoning cattle.

Although, the use of drones is a major help it too has many disadvantages. The cost, and the fact that the carefully planned drone flight has to happen immediately before the cutting begins. And this is often not possible due to the weather, conditions technical issues etc.

3D Camera

ESPROS offers an excellent and extremely cost-effective 3D camera that can be used in all weather and lighting conditions. Ready to be implemented into the machinery. No need to plan, no need for a team of people. So it makes life a thousand times easier for the farmer and gives him/her peace of mind knowing that if there are any shy bambis hiding in the grass before the sensor will detect the helpless animal. And the cutting can proceed, with no concerns for the animal's life.

Mounting a TOFcam-660 to the front of the machinery, which may have a cutting width of $9 \times 7\text{m}^2$ can detect any hidden fawn before the cutting machine can do any harm. Even if the tractor is moving at a speed of 30 km per hour. This eliminates the need for expensive drones and extensive preparations and ensures cutting can be done the same day. The German wildlife Foundation knows its advice to



TOFcam-660 as a fawn guardian

farmers to leave cutting until as late as possible raises the chances that the new born fawns are more mobile and lose their instinct to stay hidden. However, the Foundation realizes that the longer the wait the poorer the quality of the feed. So waiting is not in the farmers' interest. That's why the TOFcam-660 solves this conflict of interest.

"Our TOF module is quite simply a perfect solution, ultra reliable detection. Minimal cost and it means cutting can take place when it makes the best sense no need for a small army of concerned people anxiously looking for nervous fawns. A win-win scenario if ever there was one, says ESPROS' Urs Grimm. "In Switzerland alone in recent years 14,221 fawns have been saved (rehhitzrettung.ch). Thanks to the extensive rescue efforts and extensive it really is. For example in 2023 alone 531 teams of helpers, found and saved 6,000 fawns after searching 46,000 hectares of land which required over 5,000 days worth of activity. These numbers are an incredible tribute to those volunteers, who find the time and energy to protect our precious wildlife. But our TOF chips could revolutionize this very worthwhile practice. Making it as easy as simply stopping the tractor when the 660 detects a hidden fawn. Carefully removing it to safety. No teams, no drones, no planning. No unnecessary work. And cutting takes place when it best suits the farmer." stresses Grimm.

Marc, Plant Maintainer

What is your job at ESPROS?

I'm plant maintainer and responsible for the maintenance and repair of our semiconductor tools, systems and their parts. I'm supervising external technicians, optimizing maintenance processes and documents, as well as maintaining the spare parts warehouse. It's a challenging but very enjoyable job.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Thanks to the different areas of responsibility I have: I love the variety of daily tasks I have. I can truly say that no two days are the same. I also enjoy the interaction with the external technicians and engineers who support us. You can benefit from their outside objective assessments and inputs. As a technically minded person, I enjoy the challenge of continually optimizing maintenance to ensure, the need for repairs is kept to an absolute minimum.

Where are you from and where do you live now?

I grew up in Sargans and still live here. So commuting isn't a problem that's a major advantage as an employee.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm very technically minded so I like doing everything inside and outside the house, as well working on

classic cars and mopeds. For example, the picture shows me on my Solo 720 from 1973/74. It was the first electric moped in the world!

If you could have a superpower, what would that be and why?

I feel very happy with my life so I think I'd go for something that would benefit those who need it most: I'd love to be able to heal illnesses.



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