

# FUSION

Entertainment



# BEST OF FUSION

BEST OF FUSION 2008



FUSION MAGAZINE



If you were going to start a whole new division of a business you would probably conduct extensive research and product testing, with surveys, and focus groups, which would take many months. You'd hire analysts to dissect the market to find out if there was a need for your new product and only when that was all done would you actually start to develop and test it. Great! Now I know what you would do.

I, on the other hand, noticed one day in an airport that there really weren't any smart and funny magazines. So my team and I wrote one. No testing, no research and not a single focus group.

Since its launch in 2005, *Fusion* has strived to bring



readers the perfect balance of intelligent commentary with a comedic edge. From controversial news topics to sleazy Washington politics, to Americana stories that touch the heart, *Fusion* magazine has it all.

*Fusion* is unique, smart and extremely funny – it's what I think magazines should be and I hope you agree.

## Fusion's Person of the Year: General David Petraeus

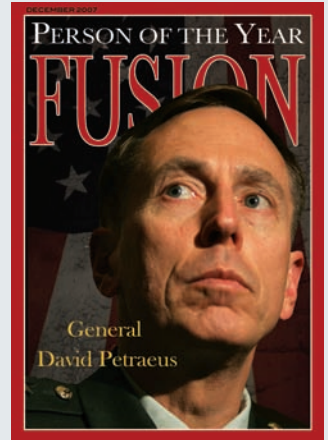
Before naming the *Fusion* Person of the Year, we first had to check with all appropriate authorities to make sure it was still legal to give an award to someone other than Al Gore. Surprisingly, it still is.

While our winner didn't make a slide show that alerted the world to a 0.7 degree temperature rise that was supposedly already the "consensus" – he's still pretty darn amazing and we are in awe of his accomplishments.

General Petraeus began the year being unanimously confirmed as commanding general in Iraq by the U.S. Senate (that means all the Democrats agreed too). His task was not an easy one. Faced with a rejuvenated insurgency, brutal media coverage, and falling polls back home, Petraeus was put in charge of implementing the surge.

Even though he hit the ground running right after his confirmation, Iraqi civilian deaths still managed to hit their recent peak. However, by November, they had dropped an unbelievable 80% thanks to his perseverance. In May, American military deaths were at their highest number since late 2004. But under the leadership of General Petraeus, by October, they had declined by 70%.

But not all the battles were overseas. Here at home, thanks to the likes of Harry Reid, Petraeus was forced to deal with the growing disenfranchisement surrounding the Iraq war. He had to prove to the American people and the



**"Petraeus faced the challenge head on and spoke proudly of the improvements being made in Iraq."**

world that progress was being made in Iraq.

Petraeus faced the challenge head on and spoke proudly of the improvements being made in Iraq. But his messages of hope were not well received. Instead of receiving honors and accolades, he was called General "Betray Us" by Moveon.org.

But perhaps the greatest illustration of the job Petraeus has done in Iraq is in the amount of media coverage the war gets these days. It's almost nonexistent. It's simply going too well for the media to bother with it anymore.

Whether the war will bring freedom to the region as hoped is still up in the air, but we honor General David Petraeus as our first ever *Fusion* Person of the Year for leading the effort that gave our troops and the Iraqi people a fighting chance. 🌍

## WARNING:

what you are about to read is...



techy



enlightening



political



warm & fuzzy



entertaining



signaling world's end



making blood shoot out of my eyes



### BEST OF FUSION

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Fusion ISSN 1930-7322 is published monthly (combined issues in Jan/Feb and July/Aug) ten times each year by Mercury Radio Arts, Inc.

1270 Avenue of the Americas, 9th Fl,

New York, NY 10020. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Fusion, 1270 Avenue of the Americas,

9th Floor, New York, NY 10020



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## BY THE NUMBERS

**4** Number of times the candidate who lost the popular vote won the election.

**32** Lowest percentage of popular votes received by a winning president.

**8** Number of presidents who have died in office.

**8** presidents who were born British Subjects.



**32** Length (in days) of the shortest presidency. (William Henry Harrison)

**133** Words in George Washington's inauguration speech, the shortest in American history. The longest inauguration speech was 8,443 words, given by William Henry Harrison.

**11,000** Dollars spent on wine by Thomas Jefferson during his term as president.



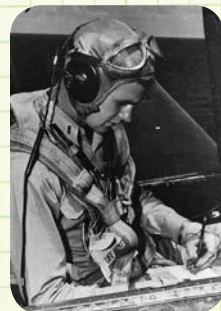
**15** Number of children fathered by John Tyler (more than any other president).

**6** Number of presidents who experienced at least one assassination attempt.

**17** Age of James Polk when he underwent gall bladder surgery, sedated only by brandy.

**20** Number of cigars that Ulysses S. Grant smoked each day.

**2** Languages that could be written simultaneously by James Garfield. Since he was ambidextrous he could write Greek with one hand and Latin with the other.



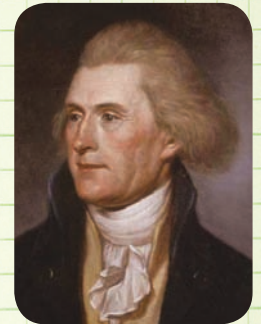
**11** Number of other presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt was related to (either by blood or marriage).

**17** Age when Andrew Johnson learned to write.

**4** Number of plane crashes that George H.W. Bush survived during WWII.

**2,000** Number of words per minute that Jimmy Carter could read.

**3** Months after meeting that George and Laura Bush wed.





# FAIR AMERICA?



*“Our massive strategy was to use the Fairness Doctrine to challenge and harass right-wing broadcasters and hope the challenges would be so costly to them that they would be inhibited and decide it was too expensive to continue.”*

*Bill Ruder, Assistant Secretary of Commerce in the Kennedy Administration*

Conservative talk radio has a big bull’s eye on it, and Dianne Feinstein, John Kerry, Dick Durbin and other Democrats are aiming right for it.

Those politicians are among the people now calling for the reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine, which started back in 1928 as a way to press broadcasters to show “due regard for the opinions of others.”

The idea was that, if someone got on the radio and advocated one side of an issue, stations were obligated to air the opposing viewpoint, or risk losing their license. The policy became law in 1959, but the Supreme Court started repealing parts of it in 1984 and it was completely off the books by 1987.

Over the years, Democrats have continually made noise about bringing the doctrine back, but their attempts have always failed. Rumbblings started again last summer, and have become so loud that President Bush said in March he would veto a bill to reinstate it if it comes across his desk.

Of course, the politics over the fairness doctrine are entirely due to the politics on talk radio. Let’s face it, virtually all successful talk radio leans

conservative. Democrats/progressives/liberals who have tried it have almost always failed.

Air America is a high profile example of that, but it’s not the only one.

Proponents of the Fairness Doctrine argue that the public is only getting one side of the story and is woefully misinformed as a result. One such supporter of that idea, Dianne Feinstein, insists that talk radio listeners are pushed to “extreme views without a lot of information.” That being

said, she must also think that talk radio listeners are incapable of independent thought. To think that these same radio listeners actually have listened to both sides and still disagree with Democratic principles must be something incomprehensible to her.

Besides, if we’re going down the “viewer zombie” road, then shouldn’t television shows that glorify murder turn us all into crazed killers? Shouldn’t movies that focus on sex turn our kids into nymphomaniacs? Shouldn’t books that bash the President brainwash the whole country into impeaching him?

Of course not, because people aren’t just empty hard drives onto which others can download whatever viewpoint they want. People have their own brains and make up their own minds—which is exactly why networks like Air America always fail.

Regulating the airwaves may have seemed like a good idea seventy years ago, when people could get their news from only a handful of radio frequencies and Al Gore had not yet invented the internet. But it’s very difficult to make that argument in the year 2008.

In this day and age, you have to try hard not to be smothered by political information. In addition to talk radio, our world consists of network and cable television, thousands of newspapers, satellite radio, and 24/7 blogs on, what else, the internet.

Besides, it’s really easy to make the case that public information is unbalanced if you ignore a couple of important facts:

● Far more journalists are liberal than conservative. A recent report by the Pew Research Center revealed that only seven percent of journalists identify themselves as “conservative,” while 34 percent identify themselves as “liberal.”

● Our universities are overwhelmingly liberal. Anne Neal, President of the American Council of Trustees, says “the lack of intellectual diversity is the greatest problem facing higher education.” Her study found 72 percent of college professors identified themselves as liberal, while only 15 percent said they were conservative.

A case can be made that conservative talk radio has flourished because it provides balance in a world full of liberal influence. Talk radio allows listeners to talk back to the *New York Times*, the mainstream television media and Sean Penn. And radio hosts identify their political ideology right off the bat; there is no attempt to hide under the guise of “unbiased” journalism.

Democrats claim they have no intention of taking conservative radio off the air; they just want to force stations to devote time to the other point of view. The problem with this logic (ignoring for a moment the very blatant potential for abuse, a la the Kennedy administration), is that someone will have to decide what issues need to be rebutted, who can go on the air to rebut them, and for how long and in what format. It’s likely the regulation nightmare and constant complaints will cause stations to refuse to put any commentary on the air that could get them in trouble with the FCC—and that’s exactly what the Fairness Doctrine proponents are hoping for.

What is lost in all this debate is the fact that radio is a free market system.

That’s right, radio stations are businesses. Station owners put on programming that people want to hear. As a result, they hope to get ratings and, eventually, attract advertising money. You can mandate that a person like Al Franken be put on the radio, but you can’t make people listen to him.

In addition, if Democrats really were concerned with “fair” broadcasting, it would mean that every time Katie Couric (or any “journalist”) makes a pro-Hillary comment or a liberal leaning remark, a conservative would be around to give an alternate point of view. But the Fairness Doctrine would regulate mainly radio; which weakens Democrats’ “fair” argument.

Government control of our airwaves is not reasonable, nor does it have any place in a democracy. We should heed the words of Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), who says listeners should be the driving force of radio: “The best way is to let the judgment of the American people decide, and they can decide with their finger.” 🗳️

# I'M NO DUMMY!



By Brian Sack

When I received an email from Doctor Abu, a government minister in Nigeria, claiming he wanted my help spiriting \$45,000,000 out of the country, I have to admit I was pretty darn skeptical. Let's face it, a payday like that sounds too good to be true. Plus, there were all the nagging "Why?" questions. Why was my email in the Rolodex of an African doctor? Why does Doctor Abu trust me to help him? Why is Doctor Abu using a Yahoo email account from India?

I almost said "This is hogwash!" and threw the email away (I print all my emails to waste paper) but thankfully I let logic get in the way of any rash decisions. Why would someone I'd never met from an impoverished African nation with a history of outrageous corruption want to take advantage of me, a random American guy? Shouldn't I be more trusting of strangers who email me? Shouldn't I feel honored that Doctor Abu values my assistance? Is spiriting money out of a third-world kleptocracy legal?

I soon realized I was being too skeptical, and that I really had nothing to lose by sending Doctor Abu my bank account information, wire transfer routing codes and a photocopy of my passport and social security card for good measure. When he asked me to send him \$500 to grease the palms of the lawyers he was dealing with, that made perfect sense as well. Nigeria is a terribly corrupt place, and a small fee for the lawyers to look the other way

didn't seem unreasonable at all.

When he asked me to send him another \$850 for paperwork, I started to get a little nervous, but Doctor Abu calmed my fears and told me that, in no time, I'd have my 10% share of the \$45,000,000. I'm going to be rich, I told myself.

It's now been several months since I wired Doctor Abu another \$12,000 to finalize the deal once and for all, but I'm not worried. I'm sure that in no time I'll be getting another email from him bearing the great news that I'll be rich!

Grandpa used to say that hard work was pretty much the only route to financial success, but Grandpa never had email. 🌐

## U.N. LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN CON EMAIL IN 5 EASY STEPS!

### STEP 1

#### PICK A SUBJECT LINE:

- A Cry For Help!
- URGENT REPLY NOW
- God Bless I Await Your Response
- I need your assistance
- Business Proposal
- Cheap V^a&gra

### STEP 2

#### CHOOSE YOUR IDENTITY:

- Barrister Abdulah Dieng
- MIRIAM ABACHA
- Reverend Philip Motley
- Miss Jewel Taylor
- Former aide to Mobutu Sese-Seko
- Disgruntled drug company employee

### STEP 3

#### DETERMINE HOW MUCH MONEY YOU WANT:

- \$3,000,000
- \$8,500,000
- \$45,000,000
- \$93,000,000
- \$130,000,000

### STEP 4

#### DECIDE WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM:

- Estate of former Liberian president Charles Taylor
- Exxon exec who perished in plane crash
- Over-invoiced government contract
- Murdered Congo president Laurent Kabila's sister
- Deceased refugee's portfolio

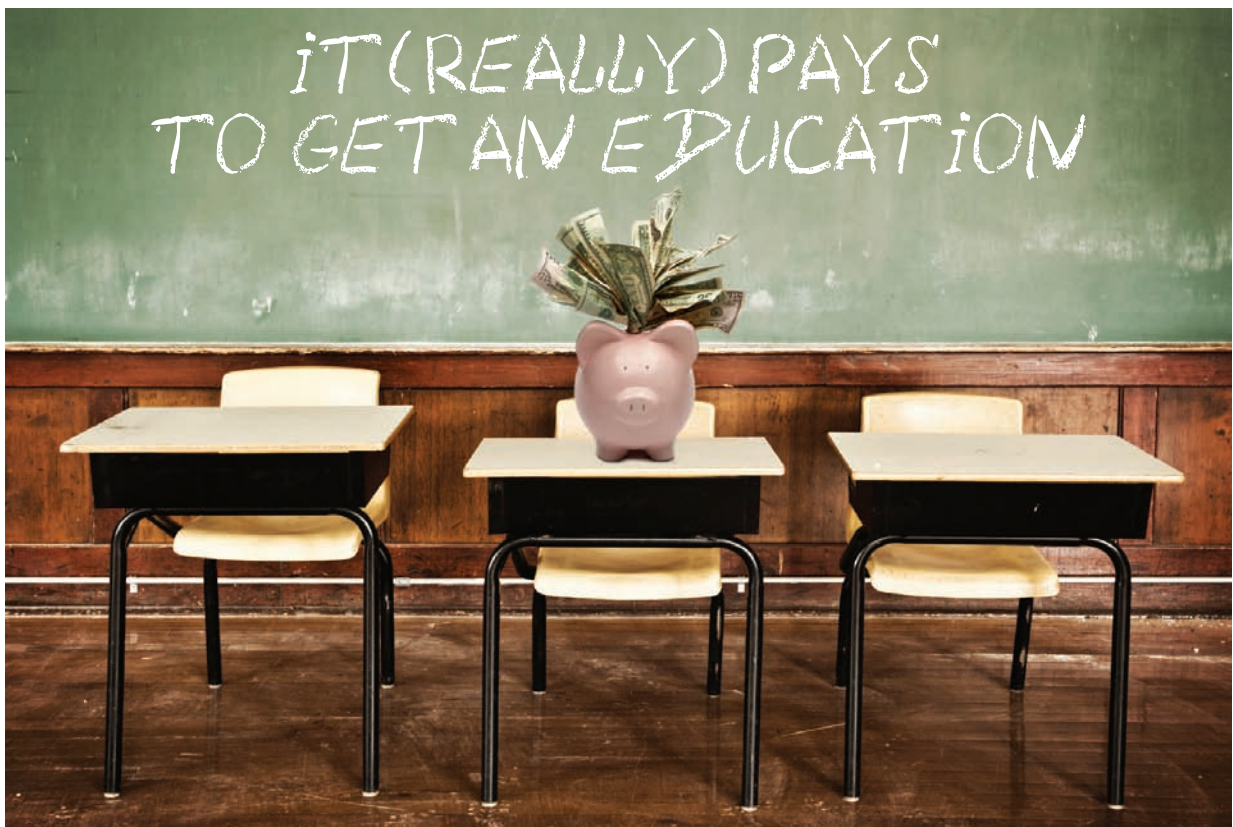
### STEP 5

#### PICK YOUR SIGN-OFF:

- Blessed In Christ
- Awaiting your response
- Best regards
- Very Sincerely Yours
- PLEASE HELP ME

Now just buy five million email addresses for \$19.95 and let the suckers come to you!





It would be great to be a kid again because, these days, kids in need of cash don't need to babysit, mow lawns or wash cars. All they need to do to rake in the bucks is something generations of kids were expected to do for free: go to school.

Bribing kids to get an education is the latest “nanny state” effort to improve public schooling. School districts all over the country are luring kids to class with the promise of cash prizes, television sets, mp3 players and, in some cases, even a new car. After all, what better way to reward a nine year old for showing up at school every day than to give him the choice between \$10,000 and a new car? (Yes, that actually happened in Hartford, CT. The parents took the cash – which makes sense since a nine year old doesn't have much use for a car).

Paying kids for school is an idea that is spreading. States like Maryland, Illinois, Connecticut, Wyoming, Colorado, Kentucky, Arizona, Texas and California have already implemented versions of it. But the efforts getting the most attention are “Opportunity

NYC” in New York, and the “Learn and Earn” program in Fulton County, Georgia.

Opportunity NYC is a “conditional cash transfer” program for low income residents meant to decrease poverty by enticing the poor to participate in activities related to health care, job training, and education. Mayor Bloomberg modeled the program strongly on the Progres program in Mexico – which makes sense because Mexico is the first country that comes to mind when you want the gold standard for eradicating poverty.

The education component of Opportunity NYC pays fourth- and seventh-grade students for good grades on math and English tests, with fourth-graders getting the opportunity to earn \$250 for the year and, seventh-graders, \$500.

The Learn and Earn program in Georgia is the brainchild of Newt Gingrich and is being run by his daughter, who heads the foundation that funds the payouts. Only eighth- and eleventh-graders are eligible, and they can receive cash awards for bringing their science and math grades to at least a B level. In addition, students are paid \$8 an hour to attend two two-hour study halls each week.

While New York and Fulton County

are paying for academic achievements, most schools doling out rewards are focused on increasing attendance.

Schools may claim they want to encourage students to come to school and become attracted to learning; but it's more likely they simply want warm bodies in the seats, because good attendance means better funding.

A spokeswoman for the Chicago school district said, for every 1% increase in attendance, the district would receive \$18 million more in state funding. A Fort Worth schools representative said one extra child attending school would net the district \$4,700. That's quite an incentive for administrators to get more kids in school.

Champions of the pay-for-attendance programs will tell you they're succeeding because attendance numbers are up. But there is quite a difference between getting a child to show up for school and sit at a desk, and getting a child to show up for school fully engaged and ready to learn.

There is some evidence that, ultimately, these programs don't work. Although these practices haven't been going on long enough to fully analyze the long term effects, initial results suggest that we shouldn't expect much. A school in Chelsea, Massachusetts tried paying students for attendance and

ended up scrapping the program after just one year. The principal said, "The incentive program really only attracted...the kids that were inclined to come to school anyhow."

Alfie Kohn, author of *Punished by Rewards*, argues that these programs are worthless and only bring about "temporary compliance." He says, "more than 75 studies have shown that the more you reward people for doing something, the more they tend to lose interest in whatever it was they had to do to get the reward."

He also claims that this will create a more selfish generation. "They've learned that the only reason to act that way is because they'll get something out of it. When there's no one around to reward them, they no longer have any reason to help."

Conventional wisdom and various psychological studies conclude that, if you want the behavior to continue, you will need to keep upping the ante. Do we pay kids from K-12? Do we pay them to go to college? And what about paid vacation leave in the summer?

Roger E. Chennault of DePaul University asks, "Will students have to continue to be paid forever?"

Kids aren't expected to do much of anything these days for fear that any



type of work will upset their delicate little constitutions. Education is one of the foundations of childhood. If we start paying kids to go to school, surely other tasks will require payouts as well. It's not too much of a stretch to see how learning to tie your shoes, eating your vegetables and going to bed on time have the potential to become a business negotiation between parent and child.

Proponents of the program explain that they are just teaching students how the world works: you do a job, and you get paid for it. But that's a weak argument because kids already

understand that when you are employed, you get a paycheck. What they need to learn is how to do something for the intrinsic value of that effort. They need to learn motivation and self-sufficiency. They also need to learn the value of an education.

Instead of examining the wide variety of factors that cause kids to miss school and lose interest in education, schools figure luring students to the classroom with money and prizes will work. But whether funded privately or through taxpayer money, most of these programs tend to discriminate from the outset. They target only a small number of students from an already small subset of the student body: those who are low-income and indifferent to an education. If you are in this group and are not chosen for the program, how motivated will you really be? And if you are a student who makes an effort and shows up every day and works hard, it has to hurt to watch your slacker peers pocket money and cool gifts.

We need to discourage the "everybody owes me" mindset, and we need to do it while our kids are still young. Inspiration, a sense of purpose, and hard work are the real rewards in life.

Those are lessons that money can't buy. 🌍

## PREDICTIVE OBITUARY

FUSION

### WE THE PEOPLE

*We the People*, a venerable part of American culture since the early days of the country, died last week after a lengthy battle with activist judges and "nanny state" laws. *We the People's* birth certificate, the preamble to the U.S. Constitution, was dated 1787.

Though some observers believed *We the People* was in poor health, suffering from dementia and unable to make decisions for itself, *We the People* was in fact hardy and astute until recently, according to physicians who examined the body last week.

"*We the People* had been robust and strong for decades, even centuries," said Dr. Thomas Jefferson (no relation to the Founding Father), one of the coroners who analyzed *We the People's* remains. "In fact, it was all the coddling and babying recently that weakened it to the point of death."

In its declining years, *We the People*



lost its voice and was unable to speak. It went through the normal channels of communication — voting, political activism, and regular old-fashioned letter-writing — but lawmakers and politicians were unable to hear anything *We the People* said.

*We the People's* family members, who include Democracy, Freedom, and Personal Responsibility, were saddened by the news of *We the People's* death and fear their own lives might be in danger, too.

"I've been at death's door for years now," said Personal Responsibility, which is enfeebled by lung cancer but still refuses to sue the tobacco companies. "The same things that killed *We the People* are wearing me down, too."

Democracy and Freedom both said they were frustrated by judges who overstep their bounds by overturning laws that were voted upon by *We the People*.

"Our Founding Fathers put all the power in the hands of *We the People*," said Democracy. "I'm not jealous or anything — I always thought *We the People* SHOULD be the one running things. But then the 'nanny state' mentality kicked in, and people started attacking poor Personal Responsibility, too, and now look where we are."



# HOW TO TALK TO YOUR

On April 22, schools around the country will commemorate another Earth Day. Like other evil conservatives, we here at *Fusion* know that your precious little one will probably come home from school that day demanding that you replace all the light bulbs in your house with earwax candles.

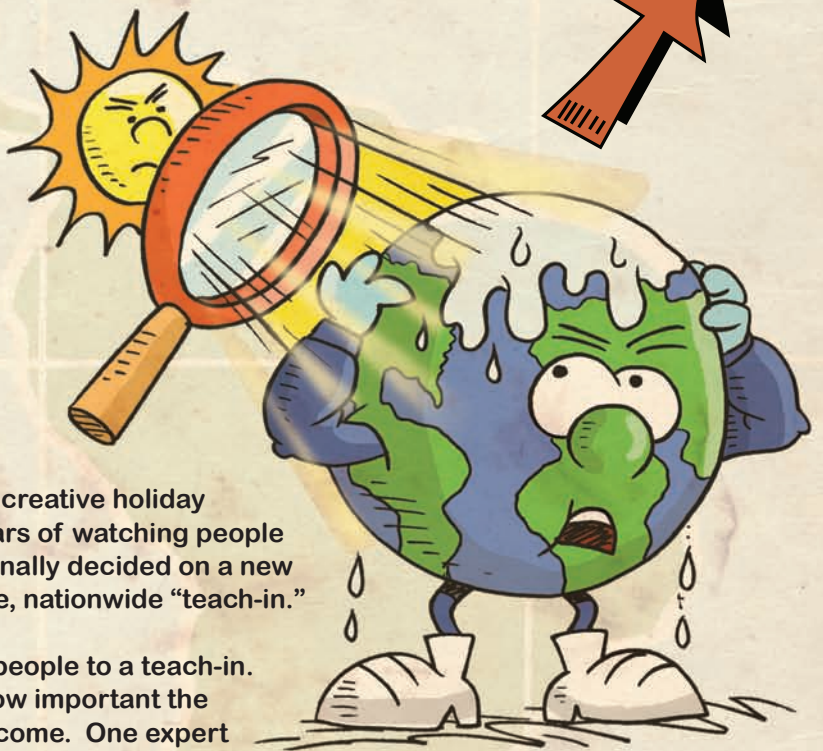
That's where we come in. We're firm believers in the *School House Rock* approach to counter propaganda. Keep it simple. Stick to the facts. And, when all else fails, use cute cartoons to get your kids to pay attention.



## THE FIRST EARTH DAY

In 1969, Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin decided that not enough people had heard about the Earth. So he convinced everybody to set aside a special day to talk about it. After weeks of brainstorming, he finally came up with an appropriate name for it: Earth Day.

Senator Nelson got the idea for Earth Day after visiting a messy oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. It's obvious that this man felt strongly about messy oil spills because he visited the site even though citizens of Santa Barbara could not vote for senators from Wisconsin.



Senator Nelson was great at coming up with creative holiday names, but bad at marketing them. After years of watching people ignore his ideas about the environment, he finally decided on a new attention grabbing marketing plan: a massive, nationwide "teach-in."

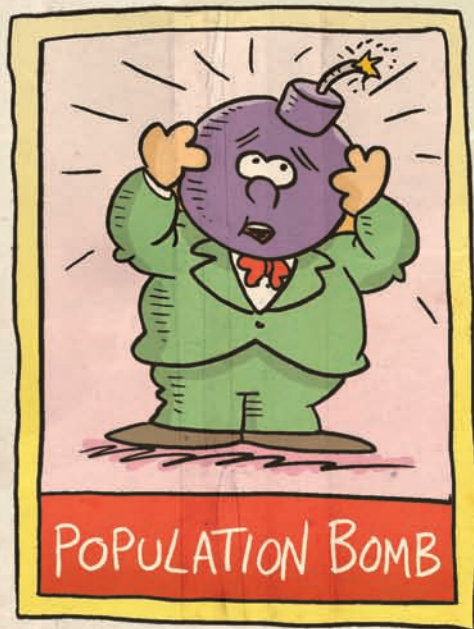
Unlike a birthday party, you can't just invite people to a teach-in. Instead, you need experts to tell everyone how important the teach-in will be—that makes people want to come. One expert from Harvard created lots of demand by saying, "Civilization will end within fifteen or thirty years unless immediate action is taken against problems facing mankind." That was thirty-eight years ago.



# KIDS ABOUT EARTH DAY!

The best way to publicize a teach-in is to use scare tactics. Back then, a lot of experts were talking about the impending doom of global cooling. Scientists were certain that the next Ice Age was right around the corner. Some experts said that the only way to prevent the extinction of the entire human race was to melt the arctic ice cap on purpose.

The major issue that frightened people into attending the first Earth Day was the "Population Bomb." All the experts agreed that the Earth was way too overcrowded, and they warned that we would never be able to feed so many hungry mouths. One expert from Stanford even told people that food shortages would cause a "Great Die-Off" of four billion people within the next ten years.



The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970 and millions of frightened people took part. Colleges and schools across the country organized special events to indoctrinate—umm, we mean educate people about the environment. For example, a few students in one school staged a mock trial and found a Chevy guilty of destroying the Earth. Another group handed out weak tea and rice, the only nourishment that would allegedly be available during the famine years. And another group held a ceremony to award the Atomic Energy Commission as "Environmental Rapist of the Year."

Over thirty years later, people now celebrate Earth Day in many different countries across the globe even though the scariest environmental catastrophes promised at the first Earth Day have either never happened or have been completely discredited.

Sadly, nobody remembers Senator Nelson. In fact, his own constituents voted him out of the Senate in 1980. Perhaps he should've run in Santa Barbara instead.

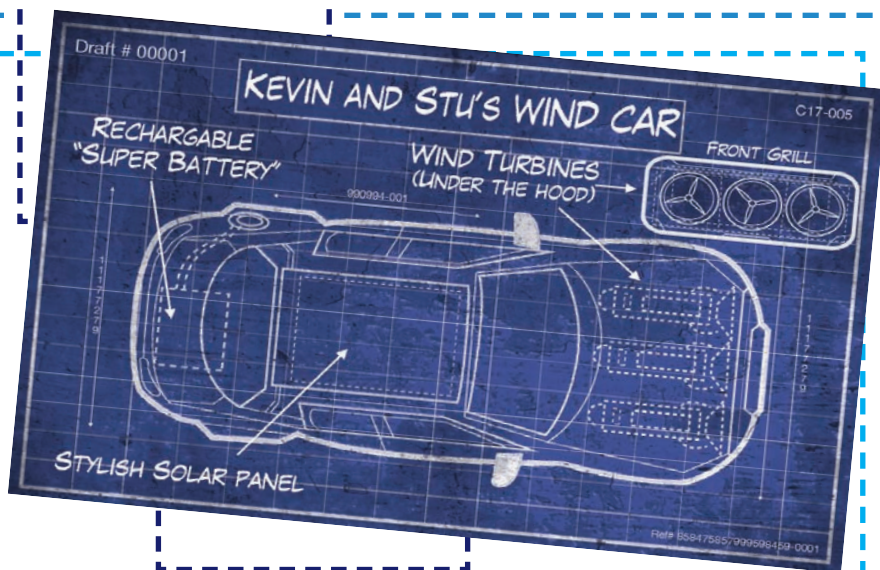




Forget about finding new energy sources, we already have the technology to get over 200 mpg - but Big Oil doesn't want you to know about that. Think about it, when you're going 65 mph in your car there is 65 mph of wind energy blowing right into the front grille. What if we could harness that power with wind turbines? What if we could use it to recharge a hybrid's battery so that the gas engine only has to kick in on occasion?

We'll tell you exactly what would happen: Hybrid cars would get 200+ mpg and America would be energy independent. Welcome to the Kevin & Stu Wind Car.™

This is a recent conversation between Brett Solomon (resident car expert), Kevin and Stu. It was so absurd we had to share it with you.



# A GREAT WIND IS BLOWING

**STU:** Overall, what do you think of our genius design?

**BS:** Even though I don't wear Birkenstocks, keep my body hair in check, and don't make my own granola, I am all for getting off of foreign oil. Unfortunately, as much as I am a fan of Glenn and his illustrious staff, a wind turbine in the front of a car just won't work.

**KEVIN:** Wow, aren't you Mr. Optimism. Now I understand why your initials are "BS." I bet you're the kind of guy who goes around telling kids that Santa Claus isn't real. How can you say that so quickly?

**BS:** First off, in order to propel the car and charge the battery at a reasonable rate, the frontal area of the wind turbine would have to be MASSIVE. By looking at efficient windmills, such as the AVX-1000 from AeroVironment (which would make about the right amount of power) your windmill would be about 8.5 feet wide by 6 feet tall. That is one crazy hood ornament! You thought rappers were excited about spinning rims? Well an 8 foot windmill bolted to the front of the car would certainly garner some street cred.

**STU:** We can do without the sarcasm. I thought you were supposed to be an impartial expert?

**BS:** I am — and I'm telling you that a windmill that big would not only impair the driver's vision, but it would also create the world's largest salad chopper. I can't wait to see the unsuspecting bird that makes its way into the fan blades.

Also, a 150 pound windmill on the hood of the car probably would not be so great for vehicle handling and dynamics. You've got—

**KEVIN:** Uh, if I could just stop you there. The windmill isn't ON the hood, it's IN the grille. No one would even know it's there. You anti-

environmentalists always rely on fear and rumor instead of facts.

**BS:** I don't even know what that means. Look, I know you want it IN the grille, but what I'm saying is that it wouldn't fit IN the grille, it would be way too big.

But to give you guys credit in one area, the rooftop solar panel that you have come up with is so ingenious that Toyota is using it to help power the air conditioning system in the 2010 Prius.

Realistically, it is just a symbolic gesture to help garner some positive PR - it really doesn't do much except help turn the fan for the A/C.

**STU:** I think you work for Big Oil.

**BS:** I wish. Actually, a windmill at home that would help charge your electric car's battery makes more sense than what you guys are talking about. The problem is still battery technology though — we just can't store all of that power yet.

**KEVIN:** Sure we can't. Tell your friends at Exxon Mobil we said hello.

**BS:** Whatever. Listen, I'll give John McCain some credit. He has proposed a \$300 billion prize for the creation of a "super-battery," albeit with taxpayer's money. But, if this battery were created, a wind power source at home would be the ticket for recharging it.

**STU:** Oh, I see — so technology can improve so that you and your Big Oil friends can put hybrid cars in every garage, but it can't improve to the point where we can power those cars with a wind turbine in the grille. I get it now.

**BS:** You guys are weird.

**KEVIN:** I guess that loving the environment is weird to someone who would put their own mother in a vise if you could squeeze a

few drops of oil out of her. If you don't like wind power, then what do you like?

**BS:** I have driven a few hydrogen powered vehicles and have come away very impressed. They are whisper quiet, have adequate power, and the only thing that comes out of the tailpipe is water vapor. Unlike the "super-battery," hydrogen technology is here today. The problem is that our infrastructure is not set up for hydrogen delivery.

**STU:** Oh aren't you adorable. Look at how you conveniently figured out a way to make more money for your cowboy-hat wearing friends. I suppose that this "infrastructure" will probably be built through our existing gas stations, which just happen to be owned by Big Oil.

**BS:** Yes, gas stations will have to retrofit for hydrogen and it becomes a chicken-or-egg scenario (no one will buy a hydrogen car until there is a gas station they can fill it up at).

The benefit of hydrogen is that it can be produced from any number of conventional power sources: water, wind, solar, nuclear, coal, or even gas. Moreover, there is no "recharge" time with a hydrogen vehicle. If you're taking a road trip, you don't have to worry about running out of battery juice and waiting hours for a recharge or carrying miles of extension cord in the trunk. You just need to find a gas station that sells hydrogen. I believe a smart hydrogen infrastructure is our best chance of getting off of foreign oil in the least amount of time.

**KEVIN:** I'm sure you'd love to get us off that foreign oil, wouldn't you. Then we'd all be hooked on your precious domestic oil. I think we're done here.

**Brett Solomon is an auto writer, who doesn't work for big oil and who does like the environment. (At least that's what he says.)**





Photo Courtesy of AP Photos

## MICHAEL LOMONACO

*Because he turned right, he lived.*

In 2001, Michael Lomonaco was an executive chef at Windows on the World, a restaurant perched on floors 106 and 107 of the World Trade Center's North Tower. On September 11, he followed his normal morning routine and entered the building at 8:15 a.m. But instead of making a left toward the elevators that lead up to the restaurant, he turned right, toward the shopping plaza. He needed to visit an optometrist and get new lenses for his reading glasses.

It was a quick, last minute decision. And it saved his life.

The first plane hit when he was in the store. He went outside, looked up at the smoke and flames and thought of all the people in the building above him; especially his 72 coworkers in the restaurant. He stayed by the exits for as long as he could, just waiting for friends and colleagues to come out of the building.

They never did.

Lomonaco still clearly remembers seeing the debris raining down after the second plane hit the South Tower. "Those images will stay with me forever," he said. "I felt like they were burned into my retina: the feeling, the sounds, the smell...the whole experience. It was incomprehensible."

Within days of the attacks, Lomonaco, with Windows on the World owner David Emil and fellow chefs, had conceived the idea for the Windows of Hope Family Relief Fund, a nationwide

effort that encouraged restaurants to donate a portion of their proceeds to the survivors of food service industry workers killed in the attacks. Lomonaco says that the fund is now paying for the education of 150 children.

Lomonaco says the charity for his fellow workers was about "remembering, helping, honoring their memory. You do something to help, and that's how you never forget. In helping others we end up helping ourselves heal and be better people."

Born and raised in Brooklyn on his mother's Sicilian cooking, Lomonaco considered acting, but food was too much of a passion for him. He has always been interested in celebrating American boldness and creativity through cooking. "I fell in love with American food – the flavor, the abundance, the generosity." His menus have been described as "confident" and "creative" and he is known for using quality local ingredients in season. Today he is the executive chef and managing partner of the Porter House New York Steakhouse in the Time Warner Center. Just as he did at Windows on the World, he chose a vibrant part of the city to work in and a location that makes an impression on people. And, perhaps not surprisingly, he chose the only twin tower complex left in Manhattan. He says his heart is in New York, especially after 9/11, and he wouldn't consider going anywhere else.

"I never felt that I could stop doing the thing that I love, which is cooking," Lomonaco said. "My friends who perished on that day were doing the same thing — they were cooking, or managing restaurants, or serving guests. I thought that I could be a better person if I would get up every day and dedicate myself to the memory of my friends by going to work and doing the things that we all loved doing together."

Who lived and who died on 9/11 was as random and senseless as the violence that marked that day. Because Michael Lomonaco stopped to take care of an errand he'd been putting off he's still alive while so many others aren't. "That morning I just went the other way," he says.

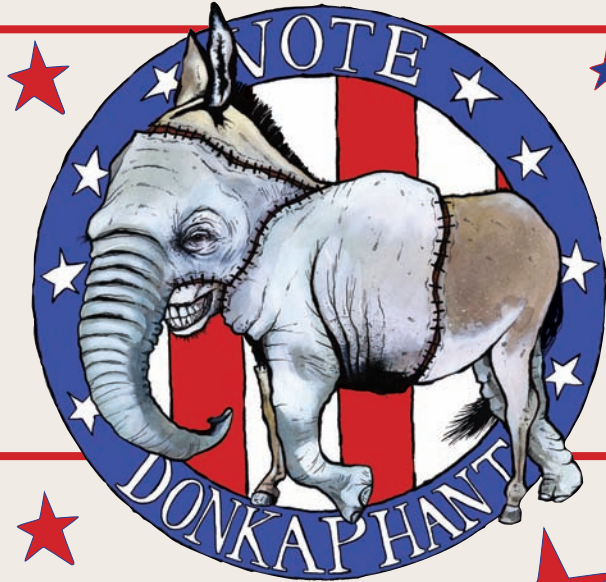
That tragedies and pain will happen in life is definite. How we respond to them is what really matters and is what really shapes us. It's what we do after the illness, after the plane hits, after the storm that makes the difference. It is how we react that determines who we become.

The biggest tragedy of all would be to endure life's challenges without seizing opportunities. For Lomonaco, the healing has been in the living and in giving back.

"We just can't forget the lives that were lost, and the people who rushed in to help," he says. "[Y]ou put that in your heart, you save it as a memory and then you have your life to live. Because that's what we are required to do. It is our obligation to go on with our lives. ... You're supposed to head out into the storm and keep going. It's survival." 🌍



# Are You **SMARTER** Than a Fifth Grade Communist? ★



The great thing about living in a free and open democracy is the smorgasbord of political ideas from which you can choose.

The downside? There are way too many choices. What's it going to be, my friend — are you a Communist, Libertarian, something in between, or are you — like most of us — just really confused?

The following quiz will guide you on the path to self-knowledge and political enlightenment. We've tested the results out on staff members, friends and family (all of whom are sure about their political ideologies) and it worked great. But remember, it can't be accurate unless you answer these questions as truthfully as possible. There's no right or wrong, there's only left and right (and independent, and anarchist, and communist, and—well, you get the idea).

## 1) The common good of society should take priority over individual rights.

- (a) Always.
- (b) Often.
- (c) Sometimes.
- (d) Never.

## 2) When each individual acts in their own self interest to maximize their personal benefit, the total benefit to society is minimized as a result.

- (a) Always.
- (b) Often.
- (c) Sometimes.
- (d) Never.

## 3) Money is the root of all evil.

- (a) Strongly agree.
- (b) Somewhat agree.
- (c) Somewhat disagree.
- (d) Strongly disagree.

## 4) I prefer when somebody else makes difficult decisions for me.

- (a) Strongly agree.
- (b) Somewhat agree.
- (c) Somewhat disagree.
- (d) Strongly disagree.

## 5) Given the social and economic costs associated with public health risks, the government has an inherent obligation to safeguard its citizens against dangers like cigarette smoke, and trans-fats.

- (a) Strongly agree.
- (b) Somewhat agree.
- (c) Somewhat disagree.
- (d) Strongly disagree.

## 6) The cause of most societal problems is...

- (a) Relying on ordinary people to do the right thing.
- (b) Placing trust in capitalist market forces.
- (c) Creating government-subsidized incentives to promote the best possible outcome.
- (d) Abandoning selfish personal interests for the greater collective good.

## 7) The ideal solution for most societal problems would be...

- (a) Abandoning selfish personal interests for the greater collective good.
- (b) Creating government-subsidized incentives to promote the best possible outcome.
- (c) Placing trust in capitalist market forces.
- (d) Relying on ordinary people to do the right thing.

## 8) The ultimate goal of economic regulation should be...

- (a) To ensure the availability of basic necessities by centralizing control of essential services like health care, energy, and food production.
- (b) To equalize differences between members of society, resulting in a level playing field for all.
- (c) To maximize opportunities for each individual to pursue their own economic interests.
- (d) To minimize government interference in all human activity.

## 9) The primary purpose of income taxes should be...

- (a) To redistribute wealth and alleviate economic class distinctions.
- (b) To establish "safety net" programs for the less fortunate members of our society.
- (c) To ensure that everyone contributes equally for the privileges of living in an organized society.
- (d) To fund only essential government functions like public works and national defense.

## 10) The amount of income taxes that I pay this year will be...

- (a) Not enough.
- (b) Too much, compared to people who make more money than me.
- (c) Too much, period.
- (d) Unconstitutional.



For each time you chose...  
Give yourself...

- (a) 1 point            (b) 2 points  
(c) 3 points          (d) 4 points

If your total score is... You are a...

**10 points (minimum score) COMMUNIST.**

Welcome to The Party, comrade! Your idea of paradise is a classless society based upon common ownership of the means of economic production. Unless you plan on fleeing to Cuba, I recommend that you join the faculty of an Ivy League university and await the next bloody uprising of the proletariat masses.

**11-20 points SOCIALIST.**

You are basically a Communist, but with a more refined sense of style. You enthusiastically support the redistribution of wealth for the common good, but you wouldn't look good in green dungarees. Karl is your favorite Marx Brother, but Zeppo is not without his charm.

**21-23 points DEMOCRAT.**

You generally favor the redistribution of wealth for the common good, as long as you get to keep your own stuff. Your definition of excessive consumerism includes anybody who owns a nicer car than you. You often drive in the right lane with your left blinker flashing.

**24-26 points SWING VOTER.**

You are the living embodiment of a hanging chad. You have trouble answering a simple question in 25 subordinate clauses or less. You are easily swayed by the results of opinion polls. Your socks don't even match. Seriously, who dresses you in the morning?

**27-30 points REPUBLICAN.**

Membership has its privileges. You are a model of class and sophistication. You appreciate the finer things in life, like foie gras and gas-guzzling SUVs. Some people call you evil. They're just jealous.

**31-39 points LIBERTARIAN.**

Live free or die. You cherish the principles of self-reliance and individual liberty. You are skeptical of all authority, including school crossing guards. Famous Libertarians include economist Milton Friedman, presidential candidate Ron Paul, and illusionist Penn Gillette. You should read Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. You'd love it.

**40 points ANARCHIST.**

Congratulations! The authorities are now on their way to your residence. Resistance is futile. Go directly to jail. Do not pass "Go." Do not collect \$200. Then again, what good is a piece of government-backed paper anyway?



## Thank You, TSA

Dear TSA,

Thank you.

I know I've been critical of you in the past. I've been frustrated with your incompetent screeners and lack of standardized rules. I've been horrified by the hourlong lines where just three of the nine screening lanes were open. I've been shocked by the lack of professionalism demonstrated by your employees, who seem to spend most of their attention talking amongst themselves. But today, I truly want to thank you for stepping in to avert what could have been a very dangerous situation.

I now understand that safety is, and has always been, your top priority.

Earlier this week, I was flying to a business meeting in L.A. I packed lightly for my three day trip, and managed to put everything into a carry-on suit bag.

Last night, I remembered your rules about liquids and gels, so I took my three items that would qualify and put them in a quart-sized bag, just as you instructed. Travel sized toothpaste. Travel sized contact lens solution. And travel sized Downy wrinkle releaser.

On a side note, if you're traveling without Downy wrinkle releaser, you're really missing out. I believe I belong to the majority of Americans who hate to iron their clothes. With this miracle product, you simply spray it on the wrinkled item of clothing and literally wipe away the wrinkles. It takes no more than 30 seconds, and when the item is dry, it is wrinkle free. It's an important product that improves your quality of life at home. But on the road, it's downright essential. You don't want to be stuck working with one of those hotel irons. Everyone knows they just leak dirty water all over your clothes and leave them more wrinkled than when you started.

Anyway, back to the airport. I got into the security line. Shoes? Off. Coat? Off. Laptop? Out of the bag. Boarding Pass and Photo ID? In hand. Metal objects? No way.

I was prepared.

As my lineup of essential worldly pos-

sessions and outerwear slid slowly down the conveyor belt, your screener asked me if I had any liquids or gels in my suit bag. But I was smarter than that. I had already removed them and put them into the little plastic bag. Your screener then asked to see my little plastic bag, which I gladly handed over.

It's at this point that your screener caught a terrible mistake. You see, my travel sized bottle of Downy wrinkle releaser was *four ounces!*

Can you imagine? Four ounces! As you undoubtedly know, the upper limit for bringing liquids onto an aircraft is only three ounces. And three ounces would have been completely reasonable. With three ounces of Downy wrinkle releaser on an aircraft, everything is fine. Cockpit communications aren't interrupted. Landing gear can function properly. The safety of the passengers isn't in jeopardy.

On the other hand, a four ounce bottle of Downy wrinkle releaser is potentially catastrophic. Four ounces of pure wrinkle releasing power?!...on board a moving aircraft?!...can you even imagine what might happen?

Thankfully, your screener caught this dangerous situation and confiscated my bottle of wrinkle releaser. Sure, I know that (2) three-ounce bottles of wrinkle releaser would have been absolutely fine. And had the bottle simply not had the size listed, it would have passed along without interruption.

There are a couple of other details that I've left out because, frankly, they simply aren't relevant. For example, I didn't mention that the last three times I've flown, your screener allowed the Downy wrinkle releaser through without a second thought. And I definitely didn't mention that a few months ago I completely forgot about your "liquids" rule and allowed my carry-on luggage to pass through the metal detector without removing the Downy wrinkle releaser, contact lens solution, or toothpaste! Your screener must have been sympathetic to me on that day, because he didn't even slow down the belt to ask what the liquids were. He just let them pass right on by.

At the time, of course, I was pleased not to have to go through the hassle of taking the liquids out of my bag. But now, I've seen how serious my offense was. I should have volunteered the offending bottle of Downy, for the safety and security of my fellow passengers.

In closing, a sincere thank you is in order to both you and your staff. Everyone at TSA truly makes life safer, if not a bit more wrinkled, for the flying public.

Warmest regards,



# GOVERNMENT SMOKE SCREEN

By Stu Burguiere



Smoking doesn't *cause* lung cancer.

Eating more than once a year at Cinnabon *does cause* weight gain.

Creating pop-up ads that claim to offer free samples of herbal Viagra *does cause* stupid people to give you their money.

Putting *Into the Blue* starring Jessica Alba on your cable channel *does cause* male viewership to increase by 36,000%.

But smoking doesn't *cause* lung cancer.

Sure, cigarettes will drastically increase your odds of getting lung cancer, but it doesn't *cause* it. That's not to say that smoking is good for you, your lungs, your breath, or the whiteness of your teeth, but there are millions of people who smoke for long periods of time and don't get any of the diseases associated with it. Even most anti-tobacco groups acknowledge that a kid who becomes a daily smoker still has a two-thirds chance of dying from something other than smoking.

But none of that matters to politicians who are angry that, despite their best efforts to convince everyone they're going to die because of tobacco, some people still continue to smoke. So now what? How do you stop them? It's time to legislate!

The government will pull new medications with minor side effects off the market even though they have a far lower chance of killing you than

the cartoon Camel--but they don't dare ban cigarettes. Why? The answer is pretty simple: The government can't make money off cigarettes if they're not for sale.

Instead, the government taxes them at a ridiculous level, which they can get away with because 5/6ths of the world doesn't smoke and therefore doesn't care how much cigarettes cost. Basically, smokers are too small of a group to have enough power to stop the tax increases.

The government has united against the smoker (I am not one by the way) and has started telling them *where* they can smoke, *when* they can smoke, and, soon, how good the sex has to be to smoke afterwards. But while those on the right seem to just spinelessly go along with new smoking taxes, this issue really exposes the highest level of hypocrisy the left can possibly produce (and that's saying something).

Cigarette tax increases have done their job. Studies claim for every 10% that taxes are raised, adults smoke about 4% less, and kids smoke about 7% less. In fact, it's actually one of the few government programs that is actually accomplishing its goal. But what the left fails to recognize is that by taxing things, from cigarettes to carbon dioxide emissions, in an effort to curb their usage, you're simply admitting the basis of almost all conservative economic theory: When you tax something, you discourage it from happening.

Now, let's apply that economic concept to every other tax in the universe.

The U.S. has the highest corporate income tax in the developed world, yet almost every candidate on the stage at a Democratic debate will tell you that it should be even higher. Applying the theory that taxes discourage activity, wouldn't that mean that business will spend less on infrastructure, research and development and, of course, on

our salaries when you raise their taxes?

But it gets even worse because these same politicians want to then tax the employees' now smaller salaries even more, which discourages them from spending more on goods and services. That, it turns, means the companies earn even less, spend less again, and very soon we're in a nice fat Cinnabon-eating recession.

But just because cigarette taxes are a perfect example of liberal hypocrisy, doesn't mean that no vice-taxes should exist. Honestly, there is a (small) part of me that likes the idea of taxing vices. Gambling comes to mind. Why do we let the Cayman Islands, Indian Reservations, and fat Italian mobster stereotypes make all the money?

You could discourage gambling by taxing it heavily, thereby making a nice profit off of stupid gamblers like myself, while still being able to at least act like you care about the phrase "home of the free" at the same time. My only requirement is that every time you add a vice tax, you lower the income tax by that same amount. For example, if you take in 100 billion dollars in cigarette taxes, the next year you give back \$100 billion dollars to the general public. That plan seems so likely to happen that I've already figured the refund into my bank account.

The problem is, of course, who decides what "bad" activities should be taxed? The same public servants who are hooking up with interns and pages in stalls while hiding money in their freezers? With all of our politicians' "bad" behavior they'd probably be paying the entire nation's tax bill by themselves in three weeks--which, come to think of it, might just be the only realistic way we could ever get them to cut spending. 🌍

Send Stu hatemail at [Stu@glennbeck.com](mailto:Stu@glennbeck.com)



# GLENN BECK MASS INDEX (GBMI)

We've all seen those different charts and formulas that tell us how much we should weigh based on your gender, age and height. Sure, those may be accurate when it comes to your "health" but a more useful formula would be one that tells you how the rest of society really looks at you. It didn't exist, so we created one.

Welcome to the GBMI, a revolutionary new multi-factor index that takes the really important things in life into account when determining your proper weight. After you answer the following questions, add up your score and the total is exactly what you should *really* weigh if you don't want fat jokes being told behind your back at the office.

## 1. HOW OLD ARE YOU?

- 18-25 10 points
- 26-35 20 points
- 36-49 30 points
- 50-75 40 points
- 76-125 50 points

Points \_\_\_\_\_

*People expect you to weigh more when you're older. A 55 year old guy with a slight pot belly wouldn't seem very unusual, while a 19 year old with the same gut would be wondering why he sits home watching Star Trek by himself every weekend.*

## 2. HOW TALL ARE YOU (in inches)?

Hint: 6 ft = 72 inches

Points \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. ARE YOU MARRIED?

- Yes +40
- No +10

Points \_\_\_\_\_

*A wedding ring acts as a love-handle-allowed Scarlet Letter.*

## 4. WHAT IS YOUR SEX?

- Male +40
- Female +10

Points \_\_\_\_\_

*We didn't write the rules so don't shoot the messenger.*

## 5. MALES ONLY - Describe your hair:

- A) Thick, no sign of loss +30
- B) Slightly receding +15
- C) Bald spot, horseshoe pattern +5
- D) Chrome dome -5

Points \_\_\_\_\_

*A guy's hair can often take attention away from his midsection. A pot-bellied guy with a full head of hair roughly equates to a completely bald guy in Olympic athlete condition.*

## 6. FEMALES ONLY - Rate your looks on an A to F scale. Be honest or you're only kidding yourself.

- A +20
- B +15
- C +10
- D +5
- F +0

Points \_\_\_\_\_

*A former supermodel can put on a few pounds and people would understand while a hideously disfigured woman would need to be more trim and fit.*

## 7. MALES ONLY -- Categorize your gut. If you were to compare abdomens with the following people, which would you most closely identify with?

- Terrell Owens +20
- George W. Bush +15
- Dick Cheney +10
- Michael Moore +0
- Ted Kennedy -10

Points \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. FEMALES ONLY -- Have you ever said to somebody, "Do these pants make my butt look big?"

- Yes -10
- No You're a liar

Points \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. WHAT'S YOUR I.Q.?

- 50-85 0  
(No sense making you do any more addition.)
- 86-99 +5
- 100-110 +10
- 111-125 +25
- 126-150 +20
- 151 and up 0

Points \_\_\_\_\_

*An I.Q. that's too high can be crippling in its geekiness and must be accommodated for in other areas.*

Add up your points and write your total here:

This is how much you should weigh. It is non-negotiable and not subject to interpretation. What's that? You have a peg-leg made out of cast iron and you don't think this formula works for you? Well maybe you should ask around the office and see what your co-workers think, fatty. This formula was tested on over five people in our office and has worked flawlessly in all cases, so stop making excuses and go get in shape. 🍌





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