



POTPOURRI

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." - Aesop

Featured Quote:

"Proof is reasoning that causes us to know." --Aristotle

BIG Q #75:

Why no mass demonstrations against injustice in our society since Vietnam?

FACTOID: Mary Todd Lincoln had three brothers who died in the **Confederate** army.

HUMOR [?]:

The average man's life consists of: Twenty years of having his mother ask him where he is going, Forty years of having his wife ask the same question; and at the end, the mourners wondering too. --from Philip S.

Now ya know:

197: The average calories/serving in 18 recipes in "The Joy of Cooking"--1936 edition.

277: The average for the same recipes in the 2006 edition.

Using principles for predicting the distribution of wildlife, geographers at UCLA say the most logical hiding place for **Osama bin Laden** is *Parachinar*, a mountain town near the Kyber Pass. They even identified the most likely building. --John Tierney

NYS Lottery: low-income people play it, while high-income people benefit from the scholarships--it's a reverse Robin-Hood tax.

Correction: last week's math gem should have read:
 $259 \times [\text{your age}] \times 39 = ?$
[I had inverted the 9 and made it a 6--vertical dyslexia?]

Internet video site HULU is named after a Chinese word meaning "holder of precious things."

Pat S and her mammoth:

www.latimes.com/news/science/la-sci-fossils18-2009feb18.0.7775847.story

Over the past 50 years, 90% of **big fish** in the oceans have been eaten; 1/2 the **coral** reefs are gone. --Sylvia Earle

Fred B says a bartender is just a pharmacist with a limited inventory.

KWIKWIZ:

726. What is the origin of the line: "Ah'm tired of livin' an' skeered of dyin'?"

727. What became of the first U.S. capitol building, where Washington was inaugurated and the first Congress met?

728. What is the most varied mammal wrt shape and size?

729. After the French Revolution, what was the common treatment for typhoid?

730. Where did SARS, the first great 21st c. pandemic, begin?

Premise 1: Suffering and death from lack of food, shelter and medical care are bad.

Premise 2: If it is in your power to prevent something bad from happening, without sacrificing anything nearly as important, it is wrong to do so.

Premise 3: By donating to aid agencies, you can prevent suffering and death from lack of food, shelter and medical care, without sacrificing anything nearly as important.

Conclusion: Therefore, if you do not donate to aid agencies, you are doing something wrong.

--Peter Singer
[thelifyoucansave.com]

To reject this argument, you need to find a **flaw** in the **reasoning**.

Counter Arguments: The economy is tanking. Charity begins at home. I work hard for my money. Charity breeds dependency. Some charities waste too much money on overhead. Doesn't everyone hate a do-gooder?

YOU DECIDE!

Socialism? Look Around:

The gov't pays for police, other law enforcement and the military, so we have socialized security. The gov't pays for education, so we have socialized education. The gov't pays for cleaning the streets and waste disposal, so we have socialized sanitation. Maybe someday the gov't will take responsibility to provide health care for everyone in the country, so that will be socialized medicine.

--Michael Spielman

Subway-station event from Carla: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ3d3KigPQM

The 6 dialectical contradictions of **socialism** in the old **USSR**:

- There is full employment — yet no one is working.
- No one is working — yet the factory quotas are fulfilled.
- The factory quotas are fulfilled — yet the stores have nothing to sell.
- The stores have nothing to sell — yet people have all the stuff at home.
- People have all the stuff at home — yet everyone is complaining.
- Everyone is complaining — yet the voting is always unanimous. :-) from **Joe O'**

Humans have been notably **violent** and **militaristic** for the last 12,000 years, when hunter-gatherers started settling down and defending territories, and population density increased.

--Natalie Angier

“**Alcohol** is like **love**. The first kiss is magic. The second is intimate. The third is routine.” --Raymond Chandler in “The Long Goodbye”

To get greater range on your remote car-door opener, hold the metal key art of the fob against your chin, then push the unlock button. This turns your head into an antenna and can add a few car lengths to range. -- Tim Pozar

Penny Postcards from Joe O': www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgenweb/special/ppcs/ppcs.html

In the mid-1990s, a federal agency concluded that **spinal fusion** *doesn't help* back pain, which threatened insurance coverage. Surgeons got Congress to decimate the agency's budget, forcing it to not make recommendations.

If you are **supercilious** [soo-pur-SIL-ee-yus], then you are feeling or showing haughty disdain. You might also be condescending, highfalutin, hoity-toity, contemptuous, or arrogant. “Super-” words imply “aboveness.” Here it means “above the eyelid,” because -cilious comes from the Latin *cilium* (eyelid). What is above the eyelid? The eyebrow! The word refers to the haughty lifting of the eyebrow, a frequent accompaniment of superciliousness.

A 2004 study found that **technology** played a surprisingly **minor** role in improving health: only 1 in 16,000 American patients had their lives extended or saved as a result of recent improvements in health care technology. The real gains are from lifestyle changes: smoking, seat-belts, vaccination, clean water, primary care. --Am. J. Public Health

Of the **Harvard medical faculty**, **149** reported financial ties to *Pfizer* and **130** with *Merck*.

KWIKWIZ answers:

726. St. Augustine

727. It was torn down in 1812 and sold for scrap [\$425]. The site is on the corner opposite the NYSE.

728. Dogs are the most diverse species: over 150 years 400 internationally recognized breeds were developed. All originated with the wolf.

729. Drinking champagne

730. Faulty plumbing in a 7th-floor bathroom in Hong Kong.

Geography quiz from Philip: www.rethinkingschools.org/just_fun/games/mapgame.html

CHALLENGE #162 was:

A cup contains 50 spoonfuls of brandy; another contains 50 spoonfuls of water. A spoonful of brandy is taken from the first and mixed into the second. Then a spoonful of the mixture is taken from the second cup and mixed into the first. Is there more or less brandy in the second cup than there is water in the first cup? **Answer:** The same. It was originally suggested by Charles Dodgson, aka Lewis Carroll. [Jerry gave a logical analysis of the problem; Lance gave a scientific one.]

CHALLENGE #163:

He didn't complete any formal education, but books “were his world,” collecting 16,000 of them. He committed suicide among no personal effects except dozens of his books. He wrote his first [world famous] book while in prison.